E. W. BAUER.

DOCUMENT FILE.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 12, 1910.

996,695. Patented July 4, 1911.

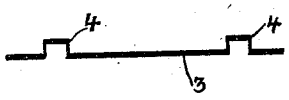


FIG. 4



FIG 5

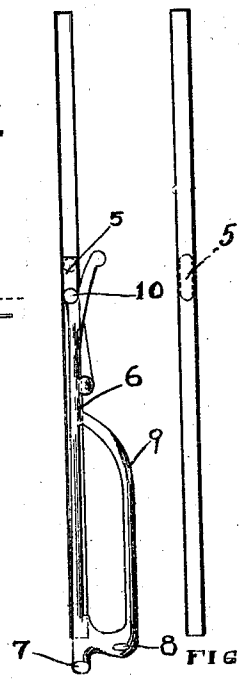


FIG 3

FIG 2

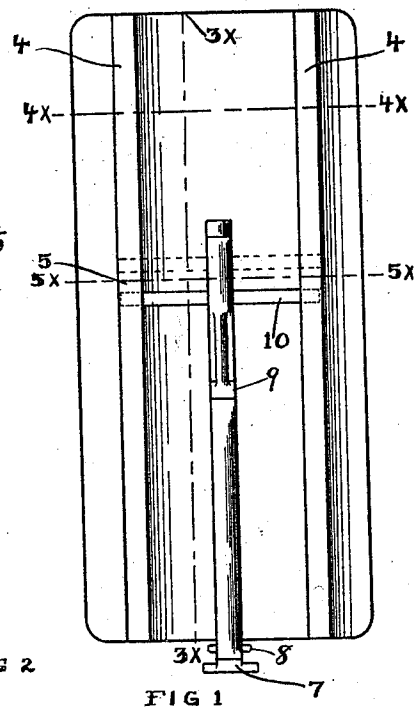


FIG 1

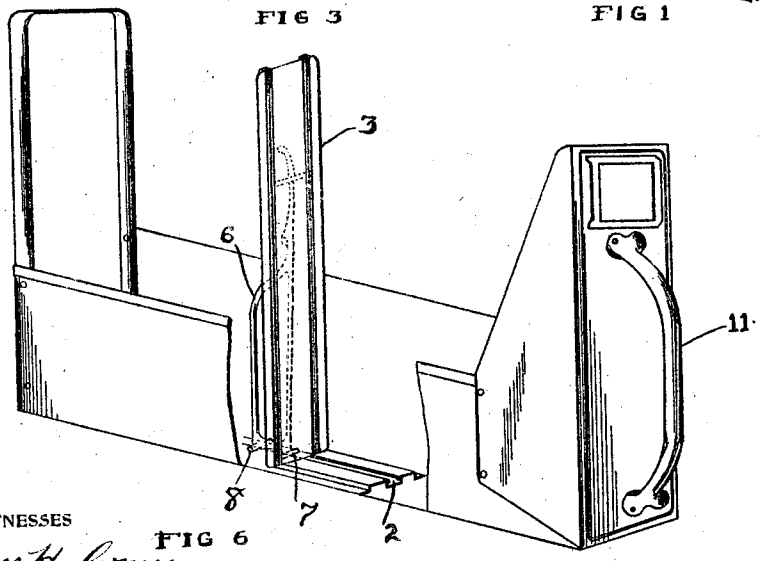


FIG 6

WITNESSES

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DOCUMENT-FILE.

996,695. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented July 4, 1911.

Application filed March 12, 1910. Serial No. 548,998.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD W. BAUER, citizen of the United States, residing at Jamestown, in the county of Chautauqua and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Document-Files, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to document files and has for its object to improve and simplify the construction of document files, and more especially the follower thereof, so as to lessen its cost of manufacture and simplify its construction, at the same time making the follower lighter, stiffer and stronger, and make it more easily handled to compress and release the papers of the file.

With this and other objects in view, the invention consists of the construction and novel combination of parts hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawing and pointed out in claims at the end of this specification.

In the drawing, Figure 1 represents a rear elevation of the follower or compressor. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the compressor only. Fig. 3 is a vertical section on the line 3^x, 3^x in Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a section on the line 4^x—4^x in Fig. 1. Fig. 5 is a section on the line 5^x, 5^x in Fig. 1. Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the document file showing the compressor and its clamp in position, the papers compressed thereby being omitted.

Like reference numerals refer to like parts in the several figures.

Reference numeral 1 indicates a document file made in this instance preferably of sheet metal, having in the bottom thereof a guide 2 running the full length thereof. The document file is provided with a follower 3. This follower is made of a single piece of sheet metal bent to the form shown in cross section in Fig. 4. It has two channels 4, 4 running the full height of the follower. Each of these channels is slotted at 5, 5, said slots being formed in one side only of each of said channels, namely the side facing the compressor. The follower is provided with a compressor 6, which compressor has a foot 7 with lugs thereon capable of engaging with the guide 2 in the bottom of the file. It also has a shoulder with lugs 8 thereon capable of engaging the bottom of the file above the slot. The flanges forming the top of the guide 2 are engaged below by the lugs 7, 7 and above by the lugs 8, 8 when the compressor stands in a vertical position, and will thereby prevent the compressor 6 from being tilted backward at the top but will not prevent its being tilted forward at the top. The compressor also has formed thereon the handle 9 by which it may be readily moved forward and back.

At the top the compressor is formed with a cross bar 10 which is long enough to enter into the slots 5, 5 in the channels 4, 4 of the follower with which it maintains a sliding engagement. The compressor 6 with its lugs 7 and 8, handle 9 and cross bar 10 is preferably formed as a casting and is also preferably formed in a single piece.

The slots 5 in the follower permit of a limited movement of the follower and compressor relative to each other. With the compressor in the position shown in Fig. 6, the compressor is in engagement with the guide 2, and the follower 3 is standing upright, the position it naturally would take when all the space between it and the front of the file was filled with folded papers. In this position the cross bar 10 is substantially at the top of the slots 5, 5 in the follower. This permits the follower to have a limited vertical movement on the compressor. When papers are put in the file, more or less of which are usually folded, the follower is pressed up against these papers. The pressure of these papers against the follower will in turn press the compressor backward at the top, thus gripping and locking it on the bottom or guide. The follower and its compressor will then be practically immovable at the bottom. The papers have a tendency to press it out at the top as well, which only tends to make it bind more firmly at the bottom, thus holding all the papers in the file tight and secure. If, however, the follower is pressed in at the top sufficiently, it will no longer bind at the bottom and the expansion of the papers pressing against the bottom will tend to make the follower move back at the bottom and release the papers confined thereby. If the document file is grasped by its handle 11 by one hand and the follower 3 is pressed forward at the top with the other hand, the compressor will be released at once, permitting the follower to move back at the bottom, giving ready access to the papers in the file, or when the file is held by one hand by the handle

11, if the top of the follower 3 is pressed against a desk or chair, etc., the compressor will be released at once, making the papers accessible.

The compressor may be assembled with the follower as follows: One of the channels may be bent up completely, leaving the other channel bent to the form shown by dotted lines in Fig. 5. The compressor may then be placed on the follower with its cross bar 10 inserted in the slots 5, 5. The part shown by dotted lines in Fig. 5 is then bent forward, which locks the cross bar 10 in position, after which the follower may have its free end bent at right angles to line up with the contact surface of the follower.

It will be obvious that slight modifications may be made in the construction of my follower and the process of the assembling of it, without departing from the spirit of my invention.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and patentable is as follows:

1. A follower for a document file composed of a single piece of sheet metal, channels bent in said follower for the purpose of stiffening the follower, slots cut in said channels, a compressor with cross bar engaging said slots.

2. A follower for a document file composed of a single piece of sheet metal, channels bent in said follower for the purpose of stiffening the follower, slots cut in said channels, a compressor with cross bar engaging said slots, said slots being positioned opposite to and facing each other.

3. A follower for a document file composed of a single piece of sheet metal, channels bent in said follower for the purpose of stiffening the follower, slots cut in said channels, said slots being positioned opposite to and facing each other, a compressor with cross bar engaging said slots, said follower and its compressor having a limited movement relative to each other.

4. A follower for a document file composed of a single sheet of metal having two channels bent therein extending the full length thereof, a compressor with a cross bar thereon, said cross bar engaging said channels.

5. A follower for a document file composed of a single sheet of metal having two channels bent therein, slots cut in said channels, a cross bar engaging said slots.

6. A follower for a document file composed of a single sheet of metal having two channels bent therein, slots cut in said channels, said slots facing each other, a cross bar engaging said slots.

7. A follower for a document file composed of a single sheet of metal having two parallel channels bent therein, compressor foot slots cut in the inner walls of said channels, said slots facing each other.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

EDWARD W. BAUER.

Witnesses:
LINCOLN M. STRAUSS,
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