June 15, 1926. 1,589,225

J. H. RAND, JR

CARD INDEX DEVICE

Filed Oct. 26, 1923

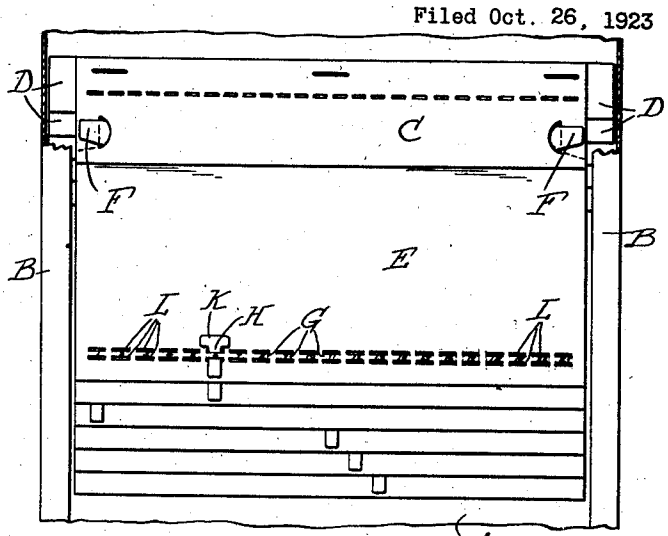


Fig. 1.

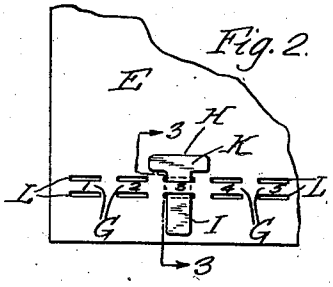


Fig. 2.

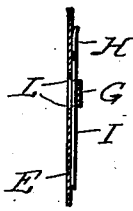
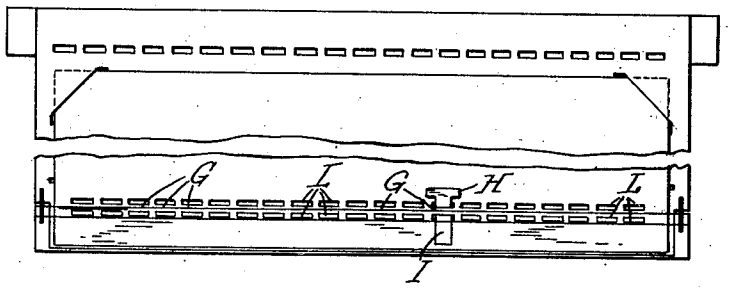


Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.



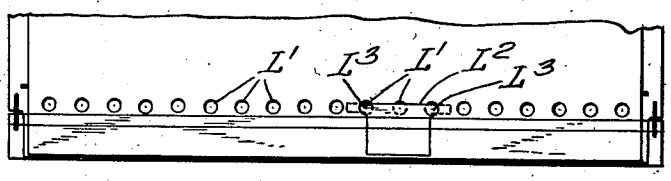


Fig. 5.

INVENTOR.
James H. Rand Jr.
by Parker & Prickett.
ATTORNEYS.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES H. RAND, JR., OF TONAWANDA, NEW YORK.

CARD-INDEX DEVICE.

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This invention relates to index devices, and more particularly to devices having signals for directing the attention of the user of the index to certain cards at certain times. Heretofore index devices which have comprised, generally, a plurality of cards or card-holders which may be secured in overlapping relation on a suitable holder with the edges or portions of the several cards or holders visible one above the other, have been provided with various forms of signals. Included among these devices there have been movable tabs or members adapted to be placed in the pocket or sheath at the bottom of the card and which may be shifted transversely on the card. The devices of this kind have been movable crosswise or transversely of the cards and being readily shiftable, have been impractical to signal or call attention to any particular item on or portion of the cards, as they cannot be relied upon to maintain the positions in which they are placed and have been relatively difficult to insert and remove.

In the use of card index systems it is often desirable that attention be directed to the accounts or data appearing on the different cards of the index at different times, as, for example, it is sometimes desirable that the accounts for data appearing on certain of the cards be considered for one purpose or another on the first day of each month, or upon any of the succeeding days of the month, depending upon the character of the accounts and data and the nature and character of the business in which the index is used. These signals should preferably be displayed so that the proper cards may be selected at a glance when the cards are lying flat in overlapping relation without the necessity of lifting any of the cards.

The objects of the present invention are to provide card indexes in which cards or card-holders are normally held in overlapping relation and provided with signalling means which may be placed and which will remain in definite predetermined positions on the cards; also to provide a card index of the type referred to having signal devices so displayed as to enable cards to which attention should be directed at any time to be readily selected without the necessity of swinging or lifting any of the cards or card-holders; also to provide an index having an improved signal and signal-holding means, whereby the signals will not become misplaced; and also to provide improvements in card index devices in the other respects hereinafter set forth and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a portion of an index illustrating the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary plan view of a card illustrating the invention, on a sligthly enlarged scale.

Fig. 3 is a section on line 3—3, Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary plan view of a card-holder and card of slightly modified form.

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary plan view of a card-holder showing a modified form of card and signal.

Generally stated, the present invention provides signal devices and cards or card-holders arranged in overlapping relation with their edge portions exposed one beyond another and said cards or card holders having parts for firmly but releasably holding the signal devices in operative relation to such portions.

In Fig. 1 of the drawings, there is shown a portion of a card index installation comprising a part of a usual tray A having side flanges B and a plurality of holders C for index data cards or the like. As shown in Fig. 1, these holders are provided with means for removably retaining them on the tray, as for example, the tongues D which take under the side flanges B of the tray. The helders are provided wtih separate cards or the like adapted to receive and display index data or material. With the form of holders illustrated in Fig. 1, there is shown a card portion E which is releasably held on the holder portion C by the tongues F. The cards are provided with means for directing the attention of the user of the index to certain of the cards at any desired predetermined time. This may be done by displaying on the cards notations designating the days of the month, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, and combining with these designations means for releasably holding a signal member or device. In the form of the invention shown

in Figs. 1 to 3, the card is provided with a plurality of numbered straps G, and signal devices are provided which are adapted to be held in place on the card by the straps G to direct the attention of the user of the index to the card on which the signal devices are displayed. These signal devices are so positioned and are of such form that the devices or portions of them are visible when the cards are lying one upon the other in the index, as for example, in Fig. 1, it will be noted that ends of the signal devices project on the overlapping portions of the cards and may be readily viewed. In Figs. 1 to 4 inclusive, this signal device is shown as a tab or member H having a shank or portion I adapted to extend under the tongue G and a head K by means of which it may be handled and which prevents the signal devices from slipping through the tongued portion of the card. As shown, the shanks I of the signal members are preferably of such length that they extend adjacent to the outer edge of the card or holder and are thus visible when the cards are in their operlapping relation.

It will be apparent from the description thus far, the cards being properly supplied with signal devices, that the user of the index, by glancing at the cards in the index tray or drawer, may readily and expeditiously pick out those cards requiring attention on any given date.

In Fig. 4 the invention is shown as applied to a card which is held at its lower edge in a celluloid or other transparent sheath on a holder. As the device shown in that figure is essentially the same as described in Figs. 1 to 3, it requires no separate description further than that in such form the shank of the signal tab extends under a portion of the sheath or pocket and is visible therethrough.

As illustrated in Figs. 1 to 4, the straps G are provided in predetermined spaced position and may readily be formed as by pairs of slits or apertures L. The straps are preferably of just sufficient length to accommodate the shank of the signal device and effectively hold the signal device in position and prevent any unintentional shifting of the devices transversely of the card. In order to move a signal transversely of the card when desired, it is only necessary to withdraw the signal from the strap under which it is inserted and place it beneath another strap.

The slits or apertures L which provide the straps may be readily formed in the cards by means of a simple stamping operation and are very economical to produce and the signal devices may likewise be produced at a relatively small cost. The straps, or portions of the card adjacent the straps, may be provided with any designations desired, other than indications of the days of the month, and the signal members may be of any desired color, thus, for example, different colors may be used for signals to call attention to different kinds or characters of accounts.

In the modified form of the invention shown in Fig. 5, the tongues G and slits L are replaced by round spaced perforations L′ and a signal device L^2 having oppositely disposed lateral ears or lugs L^3 adapted to enter two of the perforations L′ is used. The shank portion of this signal member is preferably formed of substantially the same width as the distance between the perforations receiving the ears L^3 so as to prevent lateral displacement of the signal member. The ears L^3 passing under the intermediate portions or parts of the card between the perforations, prevent the unintentional displacement of the signal member.

I claim as my invention:

1. In an index device comprising a plurality of index members disposed in overlapping relation with the edge portion of each member projecting and exposed beyond an adjacent member, the combination of a plurality of signal-holding parts on each card disposed so as to be concealed by an adjacent card, a signal tab having a part adapted to be releasably engaged by any one of said holding parts to secure it in place on said card, and said tab having a part projecting beyond said adjacent card to act as a visible signal.

2. In an index device comprising a plurality of index members disposed in overlapping relation with the edge portion of each member projecting and exposed beyond an adjacent member, the combination of a plurality of fixed, spaced, signal-holding parts on each card, each part comprising a strip extending substantially parallel with said edge portions and said card having an aperture formed on each side of said strip, a detachable signal comprising a straight shank portion adapted to pass through said apertures beneath any one of said holding parts so as to project beyond said part to act as a signal, and a part on said signal for engaging said holding part to prevent displacement of said signal.

3. In an index device comprising a plurality of index members disposed in overlapping relation with the edge portion of each member projecting and exposed beyond an adjacent member, the combination of a transverse series of signal-holding parts on each card disposed so as to lie beneath an adjacent card and adapted to releasably hold signals in predetermined positions on said card, signal tabs adapted to be engaged with any one of said holding parts, and each tab having a signal portion adapted, when said signal is secured in place to extend

upon the exposed portion of the card to act as a signal.

4. In an index device, a record card, a plurality of signal designating and holding parts located in predetermined positions on the card, and said card having a series of pairs of signal-receiving apertures adjacent said designating and receiving parts, a signal tab having a part adapted to engage in a selected pair of apertures so as to project upon said card and be releasably held in position by one of said holding parts adjacent its designation.

JAMES H. RAND, JR.