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MARKER FOR FILING SYSTEMS
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2,185,696

FIG. 1.

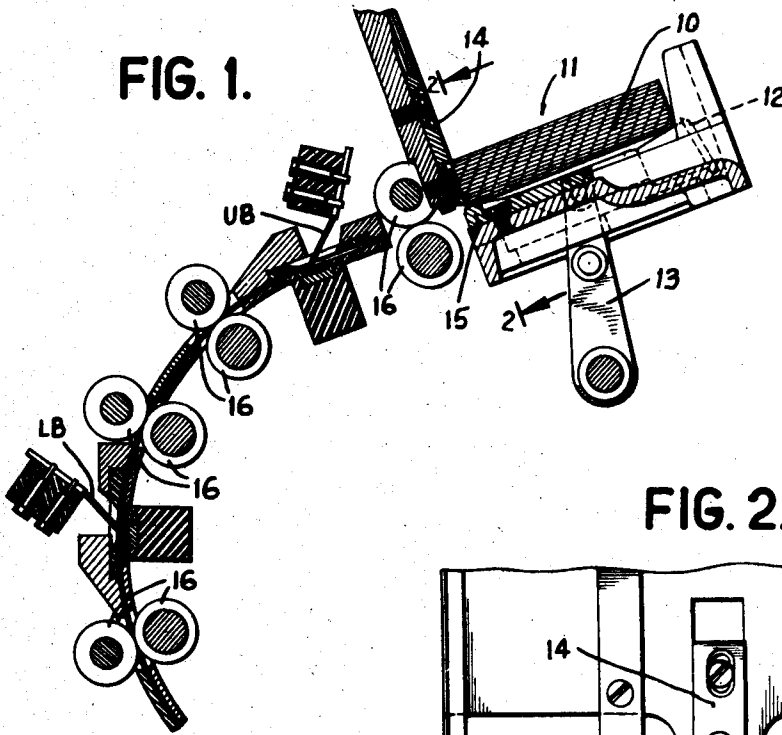


FIG. 2.

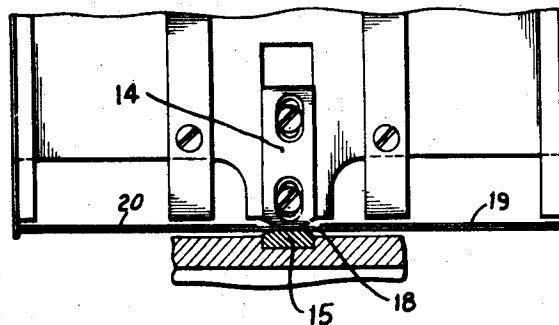
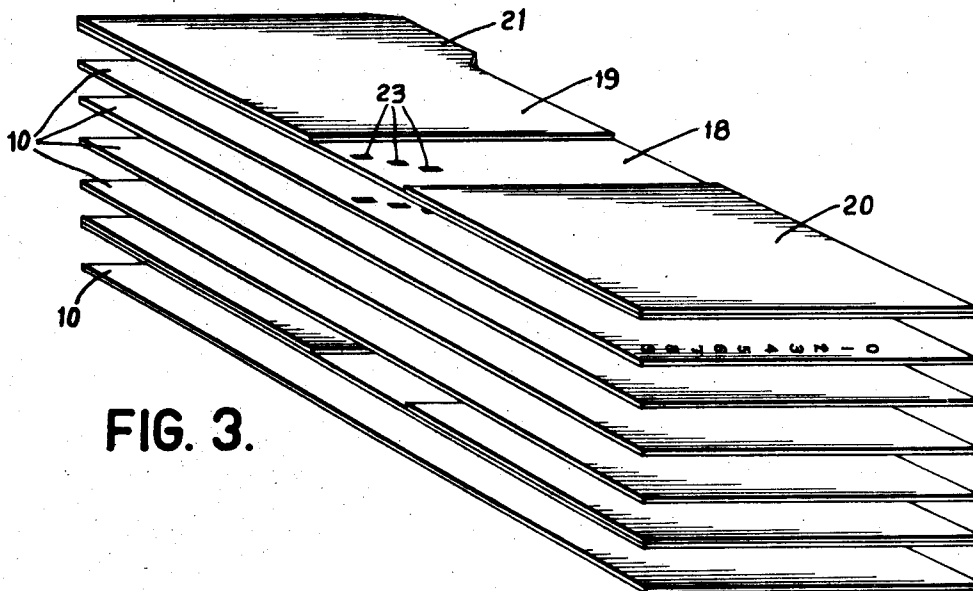


FIG. 3.

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2,185,696

MARKER FOR FILING SYSTEMS

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1 Claim. (Cl. 235—61.12)

This invention relates to a perforated record card and more particularly to a marking card used in the separation within a file drawer of groups of related tabulating cards. Tabulating cards known as the "Hollerith" cards are divided into columns which are sub-divided into index point positions in which data may be represented by perforations in selected index point positions. These cards are automatically fed through the feeding mechanisms of various accounting machines to control operations, such as sorting, accumulating, printing and punching, when the cards are sub-divided into related groups and when they are not used for controlling machine operations they are generally kept in file drawers. In order to keep the cards of one group separate from another, a so-called marker card is inserted in the drawer between the cards of one group and those of another, and such card is usually provided with a tab or extension extending beyond the top edge of the tabulating cards for ready identification.

In order for the tabulating cards to feed successfully through the various accounting machines, it is required that they be accurately constructed as to thickness. If the marker cards are made of the same thickness as the tabulating cards, they may be fed through the accounting machine along with the tabulating cards but it has been found that a card of such thickness has a more limited period of usefulness than is required of the marker card. To overcome this, marker cards have been provided of a greater thickness than the tabulating cards, but in such case, it has been necessary before feeding the cards through the machines to remove the marker cards as they could not be handled by the machine, and to replace them afterwards.

It is accordingly an object of the present invention to provide a marker card which is of sufficient thickness and rigidity for the purposes for which it is required but which can be fed through the accounting machine along with the tabulating cards between which it is inserted in the file drawer.

Further objects of the instant invention reside in any novel feature of construction or operation or novel combination of parts present in the embodiment of the invention described and shown in the accompanying drawing whether within or without the scope of the appended claim and irrespective of other specific statements as to the scope of the invention contained herein.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 represents the essential elements of the card feeding mechanism of a tabulating machine.

Fig. 2 is a section taken along lines 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 shows a group of cards arranged in the order in which they are to feed through the mechanism of Figs. 1 and 2.

Figs. 1 and 2 show the main elements of the card feeding mechanism such as disclosed in Patent No. 1,827,259 granted October 13, 1931, to J. R. Peirce. In such mechanism record cards generally designated 10 are placed in a hopper 11 and from the hopper they are advanced singly by a picker knife 12 which is reciprocated across the bottom of the stack by an arm 13. As the lowermost card is advanced by the picker, it passes between a throat formed by plates 14 and 15 which are both adjustable each in the direction of its length, so that a throat opening only sufficient to permit passage of a single card is provided. The adjustability of plates 14 and 15 is due to the usual construction which comprises screws passed through elongated openings in the plates, that for plate 14 being more clearly shown in Fig. 2. After the card passes through the throat, it is engaged by pairs of rollers generally designated 16 which cause the card to traverse a set of upper brushes UB and a set of lower brushes LB in succession. Perforations in the record cards as they pass the sensing brushes will permit the completion of circuits for controlling the various operations of the machine. As shown in Fig. 2, the throat plates 14 and 15 are located substantially at the mid point of the card feeding mechanism so that a card is required to have no more thickness at the center than is required by the adjustment of the throat.

In Fig. 3, there is shown a number of cards the uppermost one of which constitutes a so-called marker card and which is made up of a card 18 of substantially the size and thickness of a regular tabulating card 10 and two end sections 19 and 20 which are suitably secured to the card 18 as by cementing. The section 19 is provided with a tab 21 upon which identification data may be placed. The marker card may be placed between groups of tabulating cards 10 to separate a group of one classification from that of another and it may be kept in such order in suitable file drawers. When it is desired to run the cards through the machine, the marker card may remain in its position and will in turn be advanced by the picker knife 12. Due to the area of reduced thickness at its center, this card will properly feed through the throat plates 14 and 15 and

the card will pass through the feeding mechanism in the same manner as the tabulating cards. The marker card of such construction has been found to be very durable and saves considerable time in the handling of cards in that it need not be removed from the file of cards preliminary to their feeding through the machine. This marker card may also be provided with perforations differentially positioned in various columns so that, as the card passes through the machine, it may control the closure of circuits through the sensing brushes in the same manner as the regular tabulating cards.

While there has been shown and described and pointed out the fundamental novel features of the invention as applied to a single modification, it will be understood that various omissions and substitutions and changes in the form and details of the device illustrated and in its operation may be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit of the in-

vention. It is the intention therefore to be limited only as indicated by the scope of the following claim.

What is claimed is:

In a tabulating card filing system in which a plurality of tabulating cards of like, uniform thickness are stacked for feeding through the restricted throat of a statistical machine, which throat permits only passage of cards of said uniform thickness, a marker card comprising a tabulating card to which are cemented sections of another card, said sections covering the entire surface of the card, except a narrow strip extending across the entire card in the direction of its feeding, said strip being located so as to be in line with the restricted throat of the statistical machine, so that the marker card may be fed through the machine together with the tabulating cards and in the order of its filing.

CHARLES H. TOMKINSON.