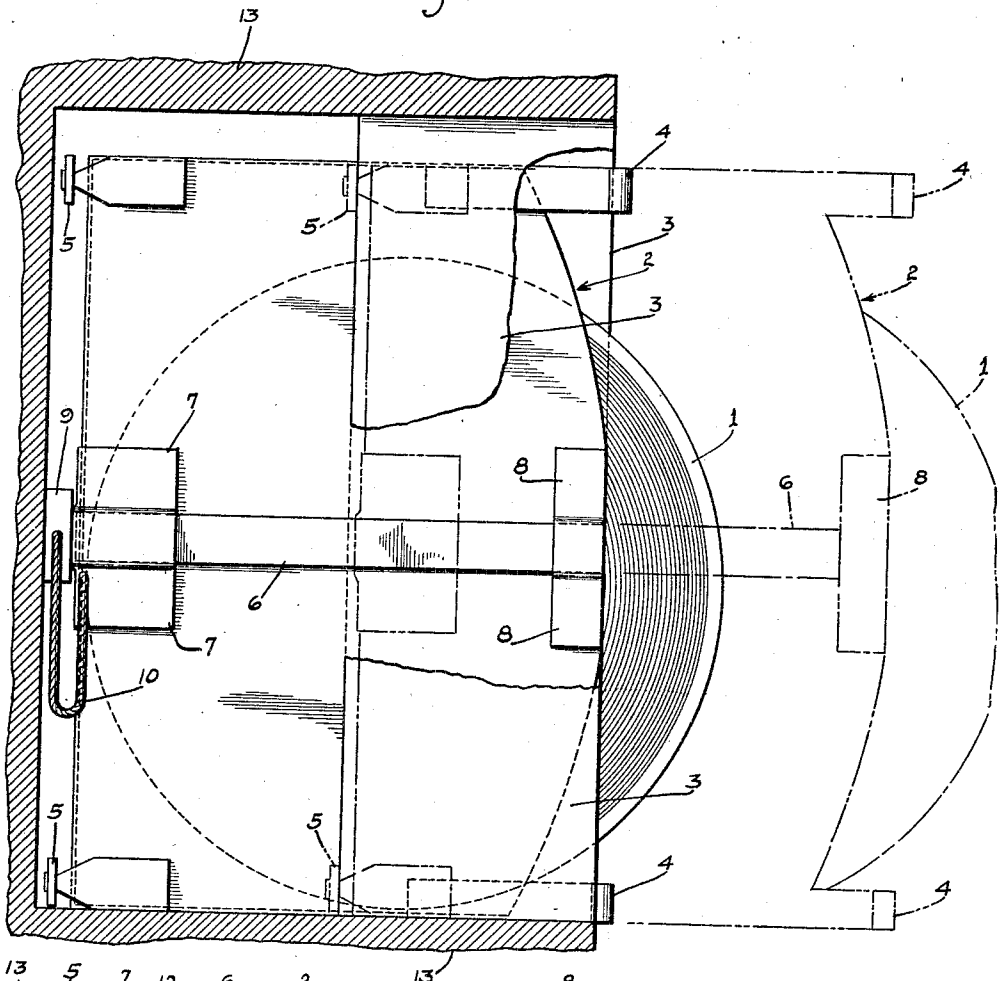
March 22, 1932. L. L. CUNNINGHAM 1,850,790

FLAT OBJECT CONTAINER

Filed Oct. 30, 1925

Fig. 1



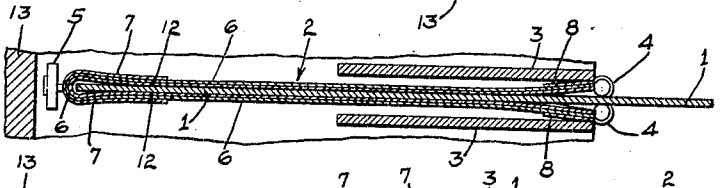




Fig. 2

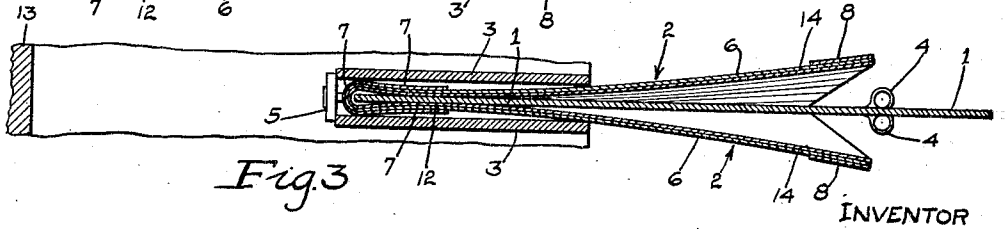



Fig. 3

INVENTOR
LEWIS L. CUNNINGHAM
By Paul, Paul & Kilroy
ATTORNEYS

Patented Mar. 22, 1932 1,850,790

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

LEWIS LEVI CUNNINGHAM, OF MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

## FLAT OBJECT CONTAINER

Application filed October 30, 1925. Serial No. 65,854.

For the purpose of making it more clear the description in this specification is confined to an arrangement for gramophone records but it is to be understood that the use of the device is not confined to these articles, but may be extended to any articles of a nature permitting its use.

In connection with gramophones there is usually provided a receptacle to contain the records when they are not in use. This receptacle assumes various forms, an important example of which is that wherein numerous dividing walls are placed vertically and at a distance apart sufficient to permit the easy insertion of the records between them. The records thus stand on edge and one side projects outwardly beyond the dividing walls far enough that it is easily taken hold of and withdrawn. Ordinarily each space to receive a record is numbered and it is intended that a number be assigned to each record and that when a record is returned to the receptacle that it be placed in the correspondingly numbered compartment. If the number of the compartment from which the record is withdrawn is kept in mind and the record is replaced under that number when the record is returned to the receptacle then the original arrangement is preserved and the situation is satisfactory. Ordinarily, however, the number of the compartment from which the record is withdrawn is forgotten, or sufficient care is not taken and the record is placed in some other compartment. After this happens a number of times the original arrangement is entirely destroyed and the only way to find a desired record is to hunt for it. When the record is eventually found the temper of the searcher is usually disturbed to such a degree that the music is not enjoyed. My invention consists of a container so made that it automatically marks the compartment from which the record is withdrawn and also by reason of its shape it facilitates the return of the record to that particular compartment from which it was taken.

Referring to the drawings:

Fig. 1 shows a side elevation of the device containing a gramophone record and Fig. 2 shows a horizontal section passing through the centre of the container and also of the record. Fig. 3 is a section of the device in another position, hereinafter described.

The record 1 is shown inserted in the container 2 which container is of the nature of an envelope closed on three sides and open on the fourth, which in the drawing is on the right-hand side. The envelope is made of any suitable material, preferably heavy paper or light cardboard. The container 2 is supported between the dividing walls 3 which are built as part of the structure of the receptacle. At 4, suitably attached to the container 2 are devices to limit the motion of the container 2 into the receptacle 13 and at 5 are devices of a nature similar to the motion limiting blocks 4 to limit the motion of the container 2 in a forward direction, or out of the receptacle 13. The limiting blocks 4 and 5 are likely to be different with different kinds of receptacles and an alternative arrangement is shown by the block 9 and the cord 10. With this arrangement the cord 10 limits the forward motion of the container 2 and the block 9 limits its motion in the reverse sense. These motion-limiting devices are not a part of the invention but are shown to make its action clear.

Passing around the back and on both sides of the container 2 is the spring member 6 which is secured to the container 2 by suitable fastening devices at 7 and 8. These fastening devices 7 and 8 are preferably made of cardboard or paper and glued over the spring member 6 to the container 2 so as to hold these two parts securely in their proper relative position. The spring member 6 is so formed that it exerts a pinching action at

the point indicated at 12, so that when the record 1 is inserted into the container 2 and shoved all the way back, the two sides of the spring 6 must be forced apart at the point 12. Due to the pinching pressure of the spring 6 at the point 12 the container 2 is frictionally secured to the record 1 so that when the latter is withdrawn from the receptacle 13 the container 2 tends to come out with the record. Accordingly when the record 1 is withdrawn the container 2 is drawn out with the record until the motion of the container 2 is stopped by the motion limiting device 5 or 10 as the case may be. As the record is still further withdrawn the container can go no further and it remains in the position indicated by the dotted outline in Fig. 1 and also in the position sectionally shown in Fig. 3. In addition to being formed as already indicated at the points 12 the spring 6 is formed at the points 14 so that when it is not retained between the dividing walls 3 the two arms of the spring 6 tend to spring apart to a considerable degree, and since the spring 6 is attached to the container 2 by the fastening devices at the point 8 it follows that when the extremities of the spring 6 spring apart at the point 14 that the edges of the container 2 are also carried apart so that the record may be very easily reinserted into the container. When reinserted the record is pushed as far back as it will go and when this is done the spring 6 is again forced apart at the point 12 so that when the record is again withdrawn the container will also be drawn out with it again.

The advantages of the device will now be apparent. When a record is added to the collection with the gramophone it is classified in any desired manner and placed under a number in order in a compartment. This index is preserved in any convenient manner, preferably on a proper cardboard and kept within the record receptacle. The record is then placed in a compartment under a number corresponding to its number in the index. When a record is withdrawn for use, as hereinbefore described the container 2 is carried out with it to a definite limited distance which is far enough so that it is not only easily visible, but in fact very prominent. If it is desired its colour may be made such as to increase its prominence and since the container 2 will usually be invisible when in its normal position any colour which might be used to attract attention will not be objectionable. In addition to actually marking the compartment from which the record is withdrawn the container 2 by means of its flaring edges, due to the shape of the spring 6 at the point 14, actually facilitates placing the record back in its proper compartment, for since the flaring edges of the container 2 at the point 14 are much further apart than are the partitions 3 of the receptacle it is clear that it is much easier to replace the record in its proper compartment than in any other. From this it follows that only by the grossest neglect, or intentional mis-arrangement, will the records ever be replaced in other than their proper order, and therefore to secure any desired record it is only necessary to consult the index and then remove the record from the properly numbered compartment.

The use of this device is not necessarily confined to gramophone records but it may be used with any similar flat objects which it may be desired to classify. It is also clear that its use is not confined to cases where there are dividing walls as shown in the drawings, and also that any suitable motion-limiting devices may be used to limit the motion of the container forward and backward.

I claim as my invention:

1. A receptacle having a pair of spaced partitions, an open end container lying between said partitions, a resilient element having arms arranged and adapted to spread the walls of the container against the spaced partitions, and also to spread the sides of the container, before introduction into the receptacle, to facilitate introduction of an object into the container, said container having means to engage the partitions to limit outward movement and having means to engage the partitions and limit inward movement, said arms being spaced to frictionally engage an inserted object to cause the container to be entrained during withdrawal of the object.

2. A container having an open side and a U-shaped resilient element having an arm arranged in each of the opposingly related walls, and normally causing the walls to spread to facilitate introduction of an object, said spring being further adapted to act upon the walls and cause them to frictionally but yieldably engage an introduced object.

3. A narrow receptacle, an open end container lying within the receptacle and having a resilient element exerting a constant pressure to force opposite sides of the container against the corresponding sides of the receptacle, the arrangement being such that when the container is so positioned the resilient element is under tension to secure an object within the container, and the arrangement further being such that upon withdrawal of the container the resilient arms act to spread the walls of the container.

4. An envelope-like container for flat objects open at one side, a spring member arranged to spread the walls at the open side to permit free introduction of an article, but to act upon the walls and cause them to frictionally but yieldably engage an introduced object, and cause the container to partake of the motion of the object when the same is grasped and moved in withdrawal direction.

5. A flat flexible-walled container open at one side, a resilient element bent upon itself and having arms arranged to normally spread the open end of the container sufficiently to facilitate introduction of an article, said resilient element being arranged to cause compressive engagement of the walls of the container at a point more remote from the open side, and being separable to receive and yieldably frictionally engage an article during introduction.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 25th day of August, 1931.

LEWIS L. CUNNINGHAM.