

May 19, 1931.

J. F. DIXON

1,805,939

FILE FOR LETTERS OR OTHER PAPERS

Filed Sept. 16, 1929

3 Sheets-Sheet 2

FIG. 3.

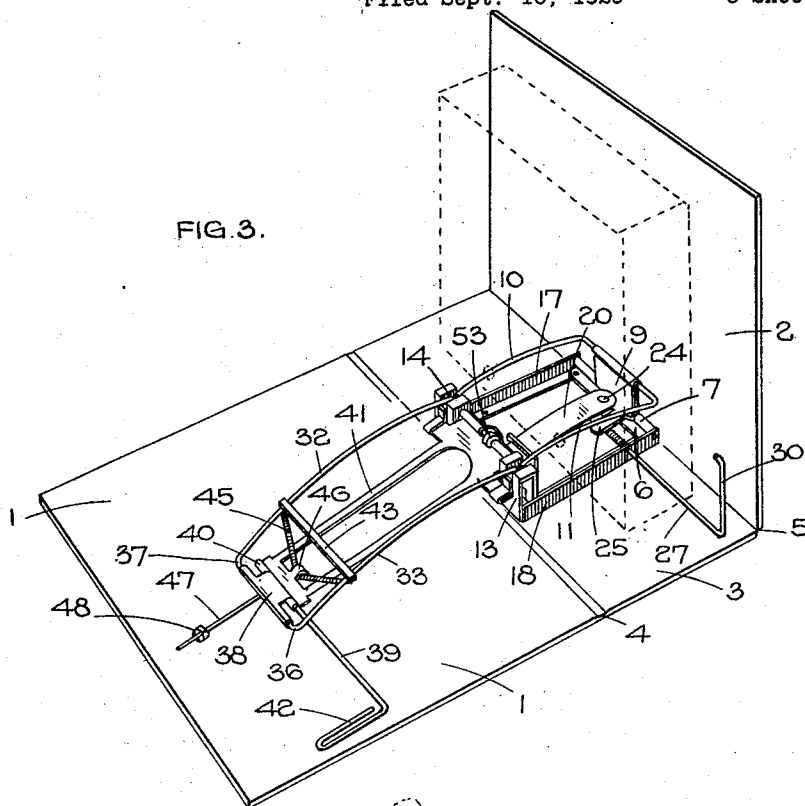


FIG. 4.

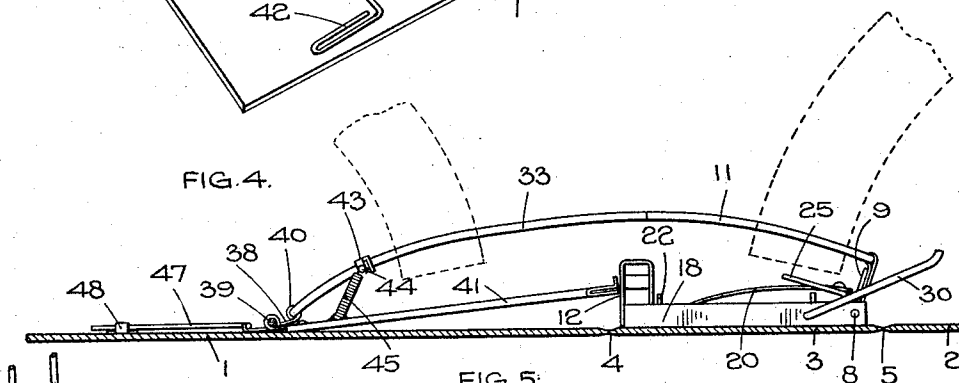
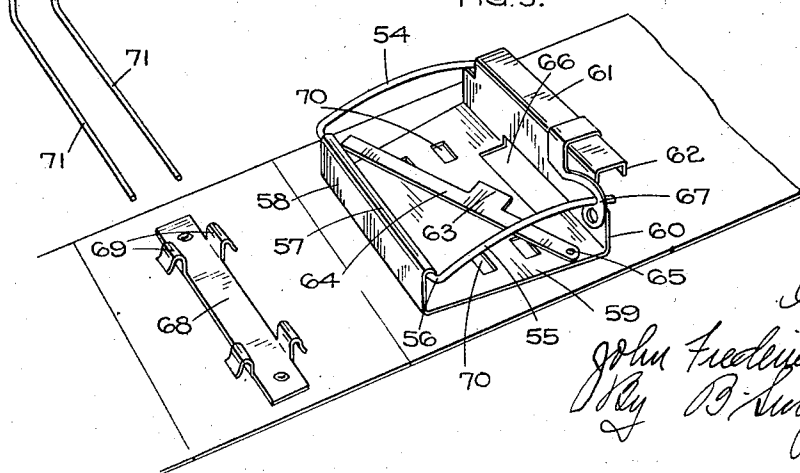


FIG. 5.



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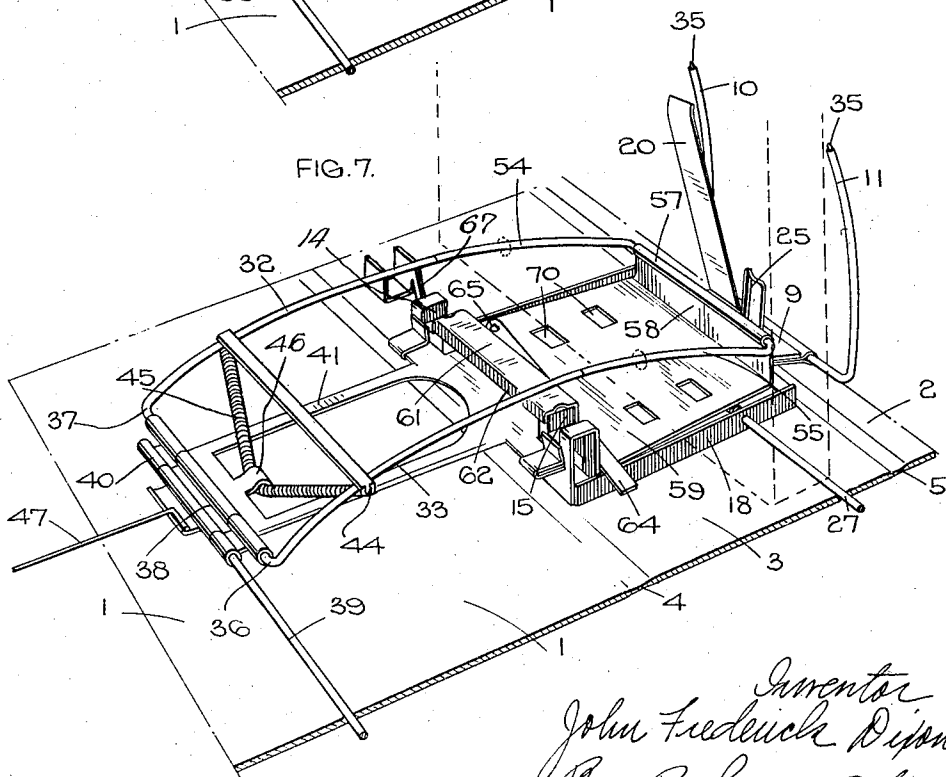
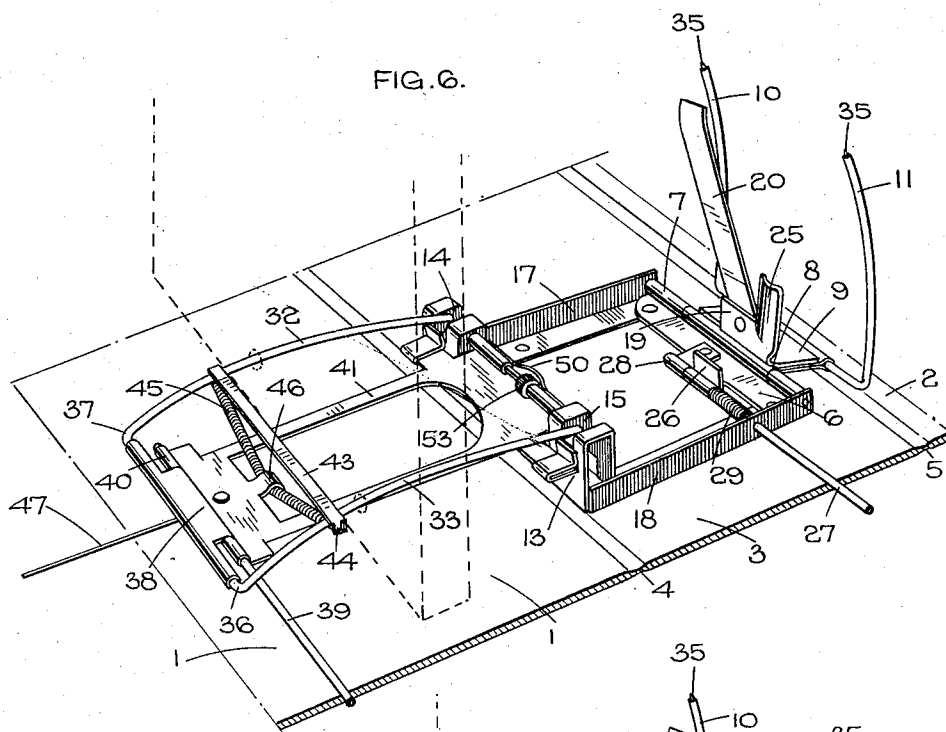
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3 Sheets-Sheet 3



Inventor
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By B. Singer, atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

JOHN FREDERICK DIXON, OF WYLDE GREEN, ENGLAND

FILE FOR LETTERS OR OTHER PAPERS

Application filed September 16, 1929, Serial No. 393,017, and in Great Britain September 19, 1928.

This invention relates to files, binders, and the like for letters, loose leaves, or other papers, and refers more particularly to that type of file provided with one or more metal prongs attached to a base or cover part of the file, the letters or papers to be filed being punched with one or more holes and adapted to be placed upon the said metal prongs, the arrangement being such that the said prong or prongs is or are movable relative to the cover or base of the file to provide an opening to permit of papers being placed on, or removed from the said prong or prongs when desired.

One of the objects of the present invention is to provide a generally improved file which will permit of more complete access to the papers for examination while in the file, and a further object of the present invention is to construct the file so that it can be easily manipulated for the insertion or removal or transfer of papers.

Referring to the drawings:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a part of a file constructed according to this invention.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of another part of the file constructed according to this invention.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the same file showing the parts illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 assembled together.

Figure 4 is a longitudinal section showing the parts illustrated in Figure 3 in a different position.

Figure 5 is a perspective view of a transferring device for use with the file shown in Figures 1 to 4.

Figure 6 is a perspective view of the file with its parts positioned ready for the application of the transferring device to it.

Figure 7 is a similar view to Figure 6 but showing the transferring device applied to the file.

In the embodiment of my invention shown in the drawings I provide a file having a cover comprising two back portions 1 and 2 connected together by an intermediate end portion 3, and the cover portions 1 and 2 being

suitably hinged to the end portion 3 along the inner transverse edges at 4 and 5.

A bracket 6 is fixed to the end portion 3 of the file cover at or about the centre of such end and near the edge 5 thereof; the bracket 6 is provided with turned-over parts 7 which carry a spindle 8 arranged transversely of the length of the open cover of the file and this spindle is provided for the pivoting of a hinged arm 9 to the upper end of which is fixed a pair of primary prongs 10, 11. The primary prongs 10, 11 are spaced apart and are arranged to extend longitudinally of the cover of the file and are formed from a length of metal wire bent into U-shaped form in plan and curved upwardly from their ends as seen in side elevation.

Cooperating supporting guides 12 and 13 are provided for the prongs 10 and 11 respectively and these supporting guides are arranged at the opposite edge of the end portion 3 of the cover of the file to the bracket 6. The supporting guides 12 and 13 are each provided with a recess marked 14 and 15 respectively in the drawings for the reception of the free ends of the prongs 10 and 11.

The two supporting guides 12 and 13 are preferably formed from a sheet-metal blank and are connected together by a transverse part 16.

The supporting guides 12 and 13 are also preferably connected to the bracket 6 by longitudinal angle-section members 17 and 18.

The hinged arm 9 is provided with an arm 19 to which is fixed one end of a blade spring 20, the other end of this spring being adapted to engage in a slot 21 in a bracket 22, fixed to the end part 3 of the cover of the file somewhat as shown in the drawings. This bracket 22 preferably forms an integral part of the blank from which the supporting guides 12 and 13 are formed, but alternatively the bracket may be made separate from the said blank.

The slot 21 in the bracket 22 is preferably open ended at 23 to permit of the spring being engaged in or released from the slot by swinging it about the rivet 24 by which the spring is attached to the arm 19.

The arm 19 is provided with an extension

25 which is preferably dished longitudinally so as to be substantially V-shaped in cross-section. This extension is adapted to be engaged on its under side by a lever arm 26 fixed on a spindle 27, carried in bearings in one of the members 18 and in a bracket 28 fixed to, or forming an integral part of the bracket 6. The lever arm 26 is retained in engagement with the projection 25 by means of a coil spring 29 mounted on the spindle 27 and having its opposite ends engaged respectively with the lever arm 25 and the member 18, this spring tending to turn the spindle 27 in a clockwise direction as seen from the operating handle end of the spindle.

The spindle 27 is provided with an upturned end 30 which forms an operating handle. The file is opened so that papers can be placed thereon or taken therefrom, by turning the spindle 27 through the medium of the handle 30, the opening of the prongs being accomplished by the lever arm 26 engaging the projection 25 and turning the arm 9 carrying the prongs upon its pivot.

When the prongs 10 and 11 are in a partly open position for placing papers on them the handle 30 on the spindle 27 occupies a position somewhat as shown in dotted lines at 31. The prongs are closed after the papers have been put on them, either by taking hold of the lever 30 and turning it in a direction opposite to that in which it is turned for opening the prongs or by closing the cover of the file and so causing the part 2 of the cover to engage the handle 31 and turn the spindle 27.

The parts for opening and closing the primary prongs of the file are disposed so that there is an over-dead-centre arrangement between the projection 25 and lever arm 26, whereby in cooperation with the spring 29 the prongs are retained in either their open position or their closed position depending upon the position of the lever arm 26.

In order to facilitate the inspection of the papers on the file or the removal of papers from the file or the placing of papers on the file, a set of secondary prongs is provided which cooperate with the primary prongs as will hereinafter be described.

Each file may be provided with secondary prongs but it is only considered necessary in practice to employ one set of secondary prongs with each 10 or 12 files and to this end the secondary prongs are detachable from the file in addition to being movable for engaging them with, or disengaging them from the primary prongs.

The drawings illustrate at Figure 2 a set of secondary prongs 32, 33 and the parts connected therewith, detached from a file. The secondary prongs 32 and 33 are provided with sockets or recesses at their free ends 34 and the primary prongs 10 and 11 are provided with spigots 35 which are adapted to

engage in the sockets in the secondary prongs.

The secondary prongs form part of a U-shaped frame 36 having a transverse part 37 hingedly mounted on a hinged arm 38.

The hinged arm 38 is fixed on a spindle 39 carried in bearings 40 provided on a bracket 41 adapted to be secured to the cover 1 of the file. The spindle 39 extends in one direction beyond one of the bearings 40 and is provided with an operating handle or lever arm at its outer end.

The secondary prongs 32 and 33 are braced together by a transverse member 43 which is provided with hooks 44 at opposite ends to which hooks are connected the ends of a coiled spring 45 engaged at or about its centre with a hook member 46, carried by the bracket 41. This spring is so disposed that it tends to retain the prongs in either a forward or rearward position. The prongs are shown in Figure 2 in a rearward position and to advance the prongs the spindle 39 has to be turned in its bearings through the medium of the lever 32.

The bracket 41 is attached to the file by means of a projection 47 carried by the bracket 41 and which may conveniently take the form of a length of wire adapted to engage in an eye 48 provided on the cover 1 of the file as is shown clearly in Figure 3 and by means of a bolt arrangement adapted to engage with the supporting guides 12 and 13.

The bolt arrangement comprises a fixed pin 49 secured to an upturned portion 50 of the bracket 41 and which pin is adapted to engage in a hole 51 formed in the supporting guide 12 as is clearly shown in Figures 1 and 3.

A slidable pin 52 is also provided and is adapted to engage with a hole in the supporting guide 13, which hole is exactly like the one in the supporting guide 12. The slidable pin 52 is spring-pressed in an outward direction and is provided with a collar 53 by which it can be slidden in its bearings and so disengaged from the supporting guide 13.

The bracket 41 is fixed to the file by first engaging the projection 47 with the eye 48 and then engaging the fixed pin 49 with the hole 51 in the supporting guide 13.

This arrangement of mounting the bracket 41 in the file is such as to permit of the file being closed whilst the secondary prongs are in position on the file, the movement of the file during the closing thereof causing the projection 47 to slide in the eye 48 and the bracket 46 to be rotated about the pins 51 and 52. When the wire is in its opened position the bracket 41 occupies an inclined position as is shown in Figure 4, whilst when the file is closed with the secondary prongs in position the bracket 41 lies substantially parallel

and adjacent to the part 1 of the cover of the file.

When the secondary prongs are attached to the file their inner socketed ends rest in the
5 recesses 14 and 15 adjacent to the spigoted ends of the primary prongs 10 and 11.

When the secondary prongs are so disposed, by turning the spindle 39 through the medium of the handle 42, these prongs can be
10 engaged with the primary prongs and continued movement of the handle 42 causes the two sets of prongs to rise clear of the supporting guides 12 and 13 so that they form a complete or continuous arch or bridge over
15 such supports so that papers can be slidden from the primary prongs on to the secondary prongs and opened out substantially flatly so that they can be inspected or new papers may be placed on the file, or papers may be taken
20 from the file. If papers are to be added to or taken from the midst of the papers on the file, some of the papers on the file are moved on to the secondary prongs whilst these prongs are engaging the primary prongs to form the
25 continuous bridge, the secondary prongs are then lowered and then the new papers are placed on the primary prongs or are taken from the latter.

When the secondary prongs are lowered as
30 just described, the primary prongs remain in their raised position by virtue of the lever arm 26 supporting the projection 25. It will be understood that when the primary prongs 10 and 11 are raised by the secondary prongs
35 32 and 33 the spring on the spindle 27 causes the lever arm 26 to engage under the projection 25 which projection rises with the prongs 10 and 11.

When the new papers have been added to,
40 or the old papers have been removed from the primary prongs the latter are lowered and the secondary prongs 32 and 33 will advance to again form the continuous bridge and the papers on the secondary prongs are
45 transferred to the primary prongs. The secondary and primary prongs are then lowered in turn. The secondary prongs may be removed from the file or not as desired before the file is closed.

50 To facilitate the transferring of papers from one file to another a set of transfer prongs 54 and 55 are provided, and these prongs are conveniently formed from a length of wire as shown in Figure 5, and the
55 prongs 54 and 55 are connected together at one end by means of a transverse portion 56 which is pivotally mounted in a turned-over part 57 of an upturned end 58 of a detachable bracket 59.

60 The bracket 59 is provided with a turned-up part 58 at one end and at the opposite end is provided with a turned-up part 60 having a horizontal extension 61 with a downwardly extending lip 62, the parts 60, 61, and
65 62 forming a portion of approximately hook

form. The parts 61 and 62 and the upper part of the portion 60 are not quite so wide as the lower portion of the part 60. The bracket 59 is wider adjacent the upturned end 60 than at the end adjacent the upturned portion 58.

70 The bracket 59 is adapted to be attached to the file for the transfer of papers from the primary prongs and this cannot be accomplished until the primary prongs have been moved in a raised position such as is shown in Figure 6 of the drawings. In order to
75 enable these prongs to be raised the blade spring 20 is rotated upon the rivet 24 and disengaged from the slot 21 in the bracket 22 and the arm 9 carrying the primary prongs
80 is rotated upon the spindle 8.

The bracket 59 is then placed on the file by engaging the hook-like end of the turned-up part 60 over the supporting guides 12 and 13 as shown in Figure 7 so that the transfer
85 prongs are in a position such that they can be engaged with the secondary prongs to form a continuous arch or bridge as also shown in Figure 7.

The bracket 59 is locked in the position
90 shown in Figure 7 by means of a projection 63 on a lever 64 pivoted at 65 to the bracket, which projection is adapted to engage in the slot 21 in the bracket 22 in which slot the blade spring 20 normally engages.

95 The bracket 59 is cut away at 66 to permit of the engagement of the projection 63 with the slot 21.

To transfer papers from one file to a transfer file the papers are first moved on to the secondary prongs in the manner hereinbefore described, the secondary prongs are lowered into the position shown in Figure 6 and the primary prongs are raised as also shown in Figure 6. The transfer prongs 54 and 55
105 are then engaged with the secondary prongs as illustrated in Figure 7 and the papers initially moved on to the secondary prongs are now moved on to the transfer prongs. The secondary prongs are then retracted and the transfer prongs are also lowered and are
110 locked in this lowered position by means of a pivotal locking clip 67 shown clearly in Figure 5 which is provided with a somewhat spiral path in which one of the transfer
115 prongs is adapted to be engaged. The transfer prongs are then removed from the file and the papers are transferred to another file by a reversal of the operations already described for transferring, or the transfer prongs together with the bracket 59 are mounted in a cover.

A cover for receiving the transfer bracket 59 is shown in Figure 5 and provided with a plate member 68 provided with spaced loop members 69 adapted to pass through holes or apertures 70 in the bracket 59 and to receive locking rods 71 after the transfer bracket 59 has been placed on them.

120 While in accordance with the provisions of 130

the statutes, I have illustrated and described the best form of embodiment of my invention now known to me, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that changes may be made in the form of the apparatus disclosed without departing from the spirit of my invention as set forth in the appended claims, and that in some cases certain features of my invention may be used to advantage without a corresponding use of other features.

What I claim then is:—

1. A file for letters, sheets, papers and the like comprising one or more primary prongs, mounting means therefor, a supporting guide with which the primary prong or prongs is or are adapted normally to engage, and a secondary or extension prong for each primary prong adapted to be engaged with the corresponding primary prong in a manner such that the latter is raised from the supporting guide and a continuous bridge is formed over the latter by such engaged primary and secondary prongs.

2. A file for letters, sheets, papers and the like comprising one or more primary prongs, mounting means therefor, a supporting guide with which the primary prong or prongs is or are adapted normally to engage, a secondary or extension prong for each primary prong, said secondary prong, or prongs being mounted in a movable manner for attachment to cover of the file and each being adapted to be engaged with the corresponding primary prong in a manner such that the latter is raised from the supporting guide and a continuous bridge is formed over the latter by such engaged primary and secondary prongs.

3. A file for letters, sheets, papers and the like comprising one or more primary prongs pivotally associated with the cover of the file, a supporting guide for each primary prong and with which the primary prong is adapted normally to engage, said supporting guide or guides being mounted on the cover of the file so as to be capable of receiving the end or ends of said prong or prongs, a secondary or extension prong for said primary prong, said secondary prong or prongs being adapted to be engaged with the corresponding primary prong or prongs and mechanical means for advancing or retracting said secondary prongs in relation to the primary prongs in a manner such that the latter is or are raised from the supporting guide and a continuous bridge is formed over the latter by such engaged primary and secondary prongs.

4. A file for letters, sheets, papers and the like comprising one or more primary prongs hingedly associated with the cover of the file, a supporting guide for each primary prong and with which the primary prong is adapted normally to engage, said supporting guide or guides being mounted on the cover of the file so as to be capable of receiving the end

or ends of said prong or prongs, a secondary or extension prong for each primary prong, a secondary crank pivotally carrying said secondary prong or prongs, and itself pivotally associated with the said file cover, an operating member adapted to turn said secondary crank about its pivot, said secondary prong or prongs being movable thereby to or from the primary prong or prongs, said secondary prong or prongs being adapted to interengage with the primary prong or prongs in a manner such that continued advancement of the secondary prong or prongs towards the primary prong or prongs causes all the prongs to rise and form a bridge or bridges over the supporting guide or guides, such bridge or bridges enabling the letters, sheets, or papers on the file to be spread out on or moved on to the secondary prongs.

5. A file for letters, sheets, papers and the like comprising a cover primary prongs, a pivotal primary crank carrying said primary prongs, a primary crank operating lever arm, operating means therefor, spring means adapted to retain said primary prongs in a closed position or in cooperation with the said lever arm, in an open position, said primary crank operating lever arm being adapted to control the movement of said prongs into said two positions, means associated with the said file cover adapted to carry said primary crank and primary crank operating lever arm, a supporting guide for said primary prong and with which the primary prong is adapted normally to engage, said supporting guide or guides being mounted on the cover of the file so as to be capable of receiving the end of said prong, a secondary or extension prong for each primary prong, a pivotal secondary crank carrying said secondary prongs, an operating member adapted to turn said secondary crank about its pivot, a bracket detachably associated with the file and adapted to carry the said secondary prongs and the parts connected therewith, said secondary prongs being movable to and from the primary prongs through the medium of said secondary crank and operating members and being adapted to interengage with the primary prongs in a manner such that continued advancement of the secondary prongs towards the primary prongs causes all the prongs to rise and form bridges over the supporting guide or guides, such bridges enabling the letters, sheets, or papers on the file to be spread out on or moved on to the secondary prongs.

6. A file for letters, sheets, papers and the like comprising a primary prong, mounting means therefor, a supporting guide with which the primary prong is adapted normally to engage, a secondary or extension prong for said primary prong, mounting means for said secondary prong, the secondary prong being adapted to engage nor-

5 mally the supporting guide, said secondary
prong being adapted to be engaged with the
corresponding primary prong in a manner
such that the latter is raised from the sup-
porting guide and a continuous bridge is
10 formed over the latter by such engaged pri-
mary and secondary prongs, detachable
means carrying one or more transfer prongs
adapted to be mounted on the file in a man-
ner such that each transfer prong can engage
15 a secondary prong in place of a primary
prong and so form a continuous bridge over
the said supporting guides, said primary
prong or prongs being adapted to be moved
into an out-of-the-way position to allow of
the mounting of the said transfer prongs on
the cover of the file.

7. A file for letters, sheets, papers and the
like comprising a cover, one or more pri-
20 mary prongs, pivotally associated with said
cover, a supporting guide for each primary
prong and with which the primary prong is
adapted normally to engage, said supporting
guide or guides being mounted on the cover
25 of the file so as to be capable of receiving the
end or ends of said prong or prongs, a sec-
ondary or extension prong for said primary
prong also adapted to engage normally the
supporting guide, said secondary prongs
30 being adapted to be engaged with the cor-
responding primary prong or prongs, me-
chanical means for advancing or retracting
said secondary prongs in relation to the pri-
mary prongs, in a manner such that the
35 latter is or are raised from the supporting
guide and a continuous bridge is formed over
the latter by such engaged primary and sec-
ondary prongs, a detachable transfer bracket
carrying prongs adapted to be mounted on
40 the file in a manner such that each transfer
prong can engage a secondary prong in place
of a primary prong and so form a continuous
bridge over the said supporting guides, said
primary prongs being adapted to be moved
45 into an out-of-the-way position to allow of
the mounting of the said transfer prongs on
the cover of the file.

8. A file for letters, sheets, papers and the
like according to claim 7, having in combina-
50 tion therewith a transfer cover adapted to re-
ceive said bracket carrying the transfer prong
or prongs, and means for securing said
bracket in said cover.

9. A file for letters, sheets, papers and the
55 like comprising a cover, primary prongs, a
pivotal primary crank carrying said primary
prongs, a primary crank operating lever arm,
operating means therefor, spring means
adapted to retain said primary prongs in a
60 closed position or, in cooperation with the
said lever arm, in an open position, said
spring means comprising a blade spring piv-
otally connected at one end to said pivotal
primary crank, a bracket associated with the
65 said cover and having an open-ended slot in

which the non-pivoted end of said blade
spring is adapted normally to be anchored,
said spring being releasable from said an-
chorage to permit of the primary prongs be-
ing moved into an out-of-the-way position,
70 said primary crank operating lever arm being
adapted to control the movement of said
prongs into said two positions, means asso-
ciated with the file cover adapted to carry
said primary crank and primary crank oper-
75 ating lever arm, a supporting guide for each
primary prong and with which the primary
prong is adapted normally to engage, said
supporting guide or guides being mounted on
the cover of the file so as to be capable of re-
80 ceiving the end of said prong, a secondary or
extension prong for each primary prong, a
pivotal secondary crank carrying said sec-
ondary prongs, an operating member adapted
to turn said secondary crank about its pivot
85 and a bracket detachably associated with the
file and adapted to carry the said secondary
prongs and the parts connected therewith,
said secondary prongs being movable to and
from the primary prongs through the med-
90 ium of said secondary crank and operating
members, said secondary prongs being
adapted to be interengaged with the primary
prongs in a manner such that continued ad-
vancement of the secondary prongs towards
95 the primary prongs causes all the prongs to
rise and form a bridge or bridges over the
supporting guide or guides, such bridge or
bridges enabling the letters, sheets or papers
on the file to be spread out on or moved on
100 to the secondary prongs, and a detachable
transfer bracket carrying transfer prongs
adapted to be mounted on the file in a man-
ner such that each transfer prong can en-
gage a secondary prong in place of a primary
105 prong and so form a continuous bridge over
the said supporting guides, said primary
prongs being adapted to be moved into an
out-of-the-way position to allow of the
mounting of the said transfer prongs on the
110 cover of the file.

10. A file for letters, sheets, papers and
the like, comprising one or more prongs, a
support with which these prongs are adapted
to engage, said prongs being adapted nor-
115 mally to form an arch of short span on which
the sheets are adapted normally to be filed,
additional means adapted to cooperate with
said prong or prongs for forming an exten-
sion of said prongs and providing a continu-
120 ous bridge or arch extending over said prong-
engaging means having a long span and on
which the sheets can be moved.

11. A file for letters, sheets, papers and
the like, comprising one or more prongs, a
125 support with which these prongs are adapted
to engage, said prongs being adapted nor-
mally to form an arch of short span on which
the sheets are adapted normally to be filed,
additional secondary means adapted to co-
130

operate with said prong or prongs for forming an extension of said prongs and providing a continuous bridge or arch extending over said prong-engaging means having a long span on which the sheets can be moved, and transfer means adapted to cooperate with said secondary means instead of said primary prongs to form a continuous bridge over which the sheets can be moved for transferring them from said secondary means to the transfer means and said transfer means being detachable from the file.

12. A file for letters, sheets, papers and the like, comprising one or more pairs of prongs, means for carrying the prongs, each pair of prongs comprising a primary prong and a secondary prong, one prong of each pair of prongs being pivotally associated with the said carrying means, the other prong of the same pair of prongs being mounted movably on said carrying means and movable to and from the other prong, and means for effecting such movement, the advancing movement of the said prong being adapted to cause the pair of prongs to rise and form a continuous bridge of relatively wide span, whilst the said retraction movement causes the disengagement of the prongs.

13. A file for letters, sheets, papers and the like, comprising in combination a cover having an end portion and two side portions hingedly attached to said end portion, primary prongs, a pivotal primary crank carrying said primary prongs, a primary crank operating lever arm, an operating handle therefor, an extension on said pivotal primary crank with which said operating lever arm is adapted to engage, spring means for retaining such operating lever arm in engagement with said extension, spring means adapted to retain said primary prongs in a closed position, or, in co-operation with the said lever arm, in an open position, said spring means comprising a blade spring pivotally connected at one end to said pivotal primary crank, a bracket associated with the cover of the file and having an open ended slot in which the non-pivoted end of said blade spring is adapted normally to be anchored, said spring being releasable from said anchorage to permit of the primary prongs being moved into an out-of-the-way position, said primary crank operating lever arm being adapted to control the movement of said prongs into said two positions, the disposition of said operating handle being such that if, when moving one of the side portions of the file cover from an open to a closed position, the primary prongs are in a raised position, the said side portion of the cover is adapted to engage the said operating handle and effect automatically the lowering of the primary prongs, means associated with the file cover adapted to carry said primary crank, primary crank operating lever arm,

and operating handle, a supporting guide for each primary prong, said supporting guide or guides being mounted on the cover of the file so as to be capable of receiving the end of said prong, and a secondary or extension prong for each primary prong also normally adapted to engage the supporting guide, a pivotal secondary crank carrying said secondary prongs, a bracket by which said secondary crank and operating levers are carried, an operating member adapted to turn said secondary crank about its pivot, and means for detachably associating said bracket with the parts of the file, said secondary prongs being movable to and from the primary prongs through the medium of said secondary crank and operating members, said secondary prongs being adapted to be interengaged with the primary prongs in a manner such that continued advancement of the secondary prongs towards the primary prongs causes all the prongs to rise and form a bridge or bridges over the supporting guide or guides, such bridges enabling the letters, sheets, or papers on the file to be spread out on, or moved on to, the secondary prongs, a detachable transfer bracket carrying transfer prongs adapted to be mounted on the file in a manner such that each transfer prong can engage a secondary prong in place of a primary prong and so form a continuous bridge over the said supporting guides, said primary prongs being adapted to be moved into an out-of-the-way position to allow of the mounting of the said transfer prongs on the cover of the file, a transfer cover adapted to receive said bracket carrying the transfer prong or prongs, and means for securing said bracket in said cover.

14. A file for letters, sheets, papers and the like, comprising in combination a cover having an end portion and two side portions hingedly attached to said end portion, primary prongs, a pivotal primary crank carrying said primary prongs, a primary crank operating lever arm, an operating handle therefor, an extension on said pivotal primary crank with which said operating lever arm is adapted to engage, spring means for retaining such operating lever arm in engagement with said extension, spring means adapted to retain said primary prongs in a closed position, or, in cooperation with the said lever arm, in an open position, said spring means comprising a blade spring pivotally connected at one end to said pivotal primary crank, a bracket associated with the cover of the file and having an open-ended slot in which the non-pivoted end of said blade spring is adapted normally to be anchored, said spring being releasable from said anchorage to permit of the primary prongs being moved into an out-of-the-way position, said primary crank operating lever arm be-

ing adapted to control the movement of said prongs into said two positions, the disposition of said operating handle being such that if, when moving one of the side portions of the file cover from an open to a closed position, the primary prongs are in a raised position, the said side portion of the cover is adapted to engage the said operating handle and effect automatically the lowering of the primary prongs, means associated with the file cover adapted to carry said primary crank, primary crank operating lever arm, and said operating handle, a supporting guide for each primary prong, said supporting guide or guides being mounted on the cover of the file so as to be capable of receiving the end of said prong, and a secondary or extension prong for each primary prong also adapted to engage normally the supporting guide, a pivotal secondary crank carrying said secondary prongs, a bracket by which said secondary crank and operating lever are carried, an operating member adapted to turn said secondary crank about its pivot, and means for detachably associating said bracket with the parts of the file in a manner such that the file can be opened or closed with the said bracket in position in the file, said secondary prongs being movable to and from the primary prongs through the medium of said secondary crank and operating members, said secondary prongs being adapted to interengage with the primary prongs in a manner such that continued advancement of the secondary prongs towards the primary prongs causes all the prongs to rise and form a bridge or bridges over the supporting guide or guides, such bridges enabling the letters, sheets, or papers on the file to be spread out on, or moved on to, the secondary prongs, spring means adapted to retain the secondary prongs in either an advanced or a retracted position, a detachable transfer bracket carrying transfer prongs adapted to be mounted on the file in a manner such that each transfer prong can engage a secondary prong in place of a primary prong and so form a continuous bridge over the said supporting guides, means for locking the said transfer bracket to a part of the file, said primary prongs being adapted to be moved into an out-of-the-way position to allow of the mounting of the said transfer prongs on the cover of the file, a transfer cover adapted to receive said bracket carrying the transfer prong or prongs, and means for securing said bracket in said cover.

In witness whereof I affix my signature.

JOHN FREDERICK DIXON.