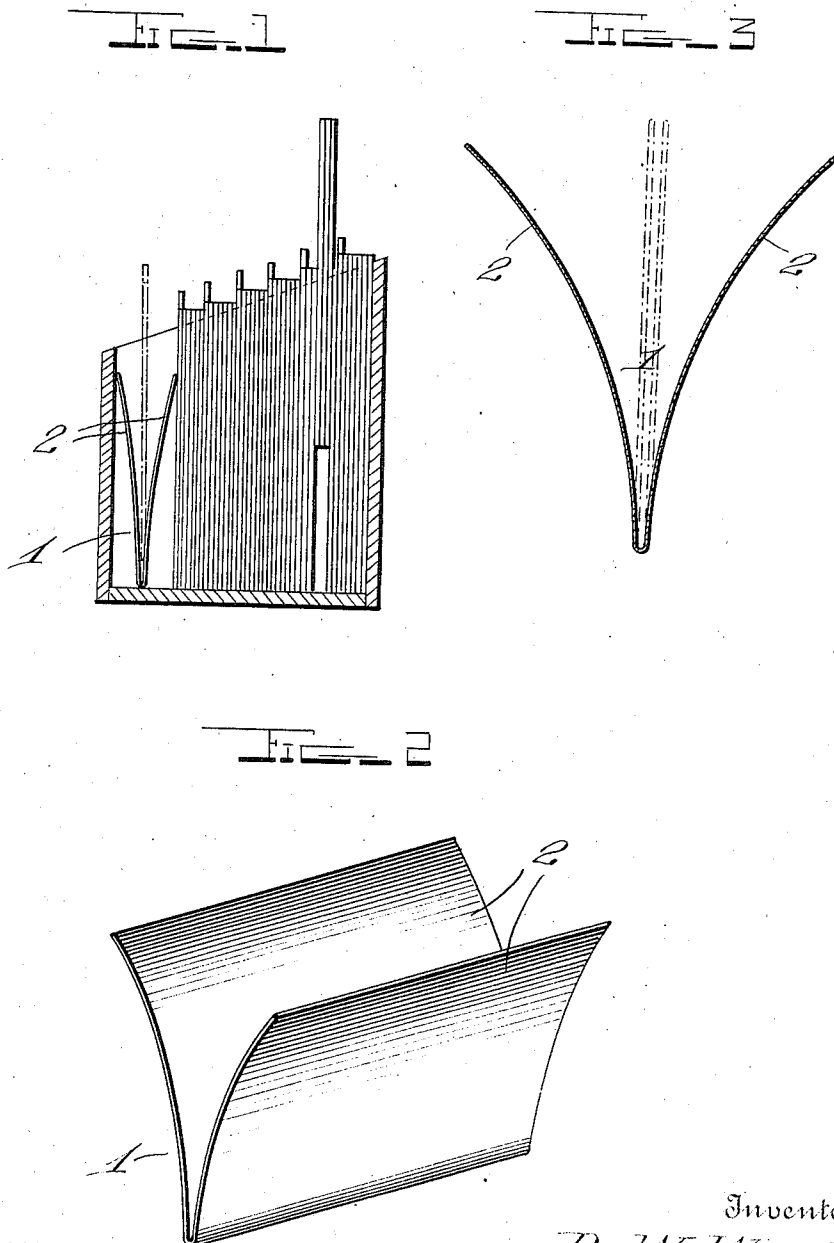


R. W. WOOD.
FILE CABINET.
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1,038,703.

Patented Sept. 17, 1912.



Witnesses

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RICHARD WM. WOOD, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

FILE-CABINET.

1,038,703.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Sept. 17, 1912.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RICHARD WM. WOOD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Bronx, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in File-Cabinets; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to improvements in compressors or followers for use in filing cards, leaves or the like in boxes, drawers or cabinets and the general object of the invention is to provide an article of this character of simple, strong, durable and inexpensive construction which may be used in any ordinary cabinet, box, or drawer in which such articles are to be filed.

The principal object of the present invention is in the provision of a device of the character described which is adapted to temporarily receive and bindingly hold any particular card in a conspicuous manner and thus separated from the remaining cards in the cabinet, whereby particular attention is directed to the information contained on said card.

Heretofore compressors or followers for the specified purposes have been made of many forms, all of which have proved to be more or less objectionable. Such compressors have been made of single springs fastened at their mid-length to either the box or a partition and bearing on the cards or leaves near both side edges, or near both top and bottom edges. Such engagement caused unsatisfactory operation, the cards or leaves sticking, or frictionally engaging each other so that they were not easily or freely withdrawn one at a time.

A compressor or follower of this general class has been made of a single piece of spring metal doubled at its mid-length and formed with outwardly facing curved wings with their convex sides outward, but this was objectionable inasmuch as the tendency of the wings was to bind upon the cards, or leaves, at or near their mid-width, and it was also found that the two leaves of the spring could not be pressed by the cards into close contact with each other, so that the capacity of the box, drawer or cabinet was greatly decreased. Springs which, at a glance, appear like mine have

also been made and used in pneumatic musical instruments but in every case these springs are constructed on irregular curves and are made at their outer ends for attachment to the parts they operate upon. These also are defective and objectionable in many respects.

The special object of my invention is to remedy all of these defects and to provide a compressor or follower which will always bear upon the front card at substantially the same distance from its edge, and which may be compressed until the leaves of the spring contact with each other, thus utilizing the full capacity of the card receptacle.

With this object in view the invention consists in the improved compressor herein-after fully described and afterward specifically claimed.

In the accompanying drawing, in which I have illustrated a preferred embodiment of my invention:—Figure 1 represents a sectional view of a card receptacle, full of cards and containing my improved compressor or follower in operative engagement therewith. Figs. 2 and 3 represent respectively, perspective and edge views of the compressor removed from the receptacle.

Like reference characters mark the same parts in all of the figures of the drawing.

Referring specifically to the drawing, my improved compressor or follower 1 is formed from a single sheet of spring metal bent or folded upon itself midway between its ends to form diverging wings 2 which are curved with an unvarying radius from the bottom upward and outward thereby increasing the spring tension or resistance thereof and evening the same at all times.

As clearly shown the card receptacle 1 is completely open at the top for the convenient insertion and removal of the cards from the same and the construction of the compressor and its particular position within the cabinet, not only holds the cards in the manner described, but, as before stated, a card can be guided and inserted between the opposite curved faces of the diverging wings 2, of the compressor 1, and its lower edge brought in contact with the contracted curved portion which slides upon the bottom of the receptacle as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1. Thus it will be seen, that the card removed from the other and desired to be conspicuously displayed is held yieldingly in a vertical position between the wings and

out of contact with the upper free ends of the same and the remaining cards in the cabinet, whereby the information contained can be legibly read without removing the card by pressing the upper edge of the same toward and against the remaining cards within the receptacle.

By the particular construction of the card holder as shown and described the opposite outer edges of the similarly curved converging wings are adapted for yielding and vertical adjustment with the front wall of the cabinet and the contents therein.

In applying the compressor it is inserted in a box, cabinet or drawer between the front end of the same and the cards, with the folded edge of the compressor downward and resting on the bottom of the receptacle and with the concave sides of the wings outward. In this position only the smooth upper edges of the wings will engage the front of the box, and the cards near their upper edges, and thus, while holding the cards or leaves in an upright position, these will not cause them to bind at their lower edges nor prevent any of them being removed. When it is desired to remove a card or leaf and to later return it to the same place, one or more of the cards adjoining or immediately in rear of the card to be extracted are drawn up a slight distance with said card and left projecting thus marking the place from which the card was removed. The cards thus drawn up will be held in their projected position by the pressure of the wings of the compressor or follower. Whenever there are more cards to be placed in the receptacle, or the compressor is for any reason compressed, bringing the upper edges of its wings nearer together, the pressure will be exerted entirely against the upper edges of the wings and as a consequence the wings will gradually approach

each other until, under sufficient pressure, they will assume the relative position indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 3, and resting against the end of the box. Owing to the fact, due to their improved form, that the wings when compressed in this manner, only occupy a space equal to their own thickness, all of the rest of the interior of the receptacle may be occupied, thus greatly increasing its capacity.

While I have herein shown and described one application or use of my improved compressor or follower, it will be obvious that the same may be employed for other uses such as holding letters or papers in position in files or other receptacles.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new is:—

The combination with a rectangular shaped file cabinet completely open at its top, of a combined compressor and card holder comprising a strip of spring sheet metal doubled closely upon itself forming thereby two similarly curved converging wings, their opposite outer terminal edges being adapted for yielding and vertical adjustment with the front wall of the cabinet and the contents thereof, the lower round portion of the device being adapted for movable contact with the base of the cabinet, whereby a card may be guided by the inner curved surfaces of the wings and yieldingly and temporarily held in a vertical position with the edges of the wings located below the upper edge of the cabinet for the purposes described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

RICHARD WM. WOOD.

Witnesses:

BERNARD J. KAPLAN,
JOSEPH YADEL.