S. T. WALTON.

CARD FILE.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 19, 1907. RENEWED SEPT. 19, 1908.

901,856. Patented Oct. 20, 1908.

Fig. 1.

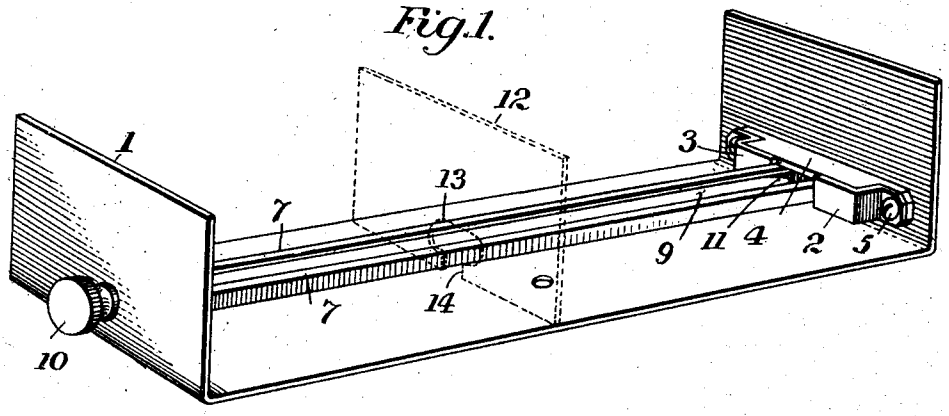


Fig. 2.

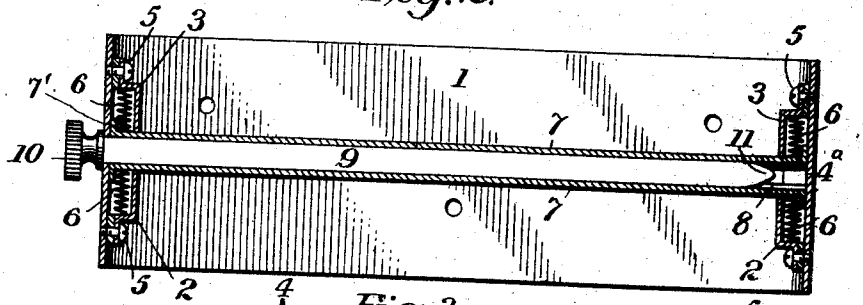


Fig. 3.

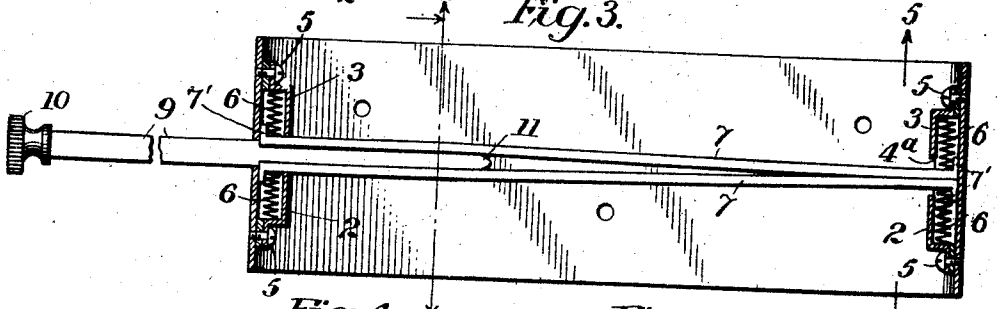


Fig. 4.

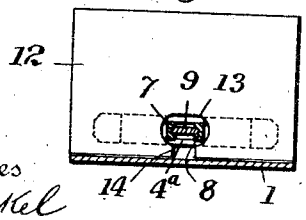
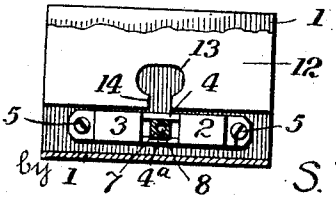


Fig. 5.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CARD-FILE.

No. 901,856. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Oct. 20, 1908.

Application filed October 19, 1907, Serial No. 398,167. Renewed September 19, 1908. Serial No. 453,826.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SAMUEL T. WALTON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Card-Files, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to card files and particularly to means for holding or securing the cards in the file drawer.

The object of the invention is to provide a simple, cheap and effective card-locking device which may be operated from the end of the drawer, and which, when released, will permit of the withdrawal of any one, or all of the cards.

With the above and other objects in view, my invention consists in the construction and arrangement of parts hereinafter described, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my complete card file showing a card in dotted lines; Fig. 2 is a plan view of the same, the locking bars being shown in section; Fig. 3 is a plan view showing the parts in a different position; Fig. 4 is a transverse section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3; and Fig. 5 is a transverse section on the line 5—5 of Fig. 3.

Referring to the drawings in detail, my improved file is preferably formed of a single piece of sheet metal 1 bent up at the ends as shown. To the inside of each of these ends near the bottom of the same I secure a box or casing, comprising the two side pieces 2 and 3, secured in position by means of screws 5, a top or cover 4, and a bottom 4^a. Within the box or casing thus formed I arrange a pair of helical springs 6, as clearly shown in Figs. 2 and 3.

Extending throughout the length of the drawer and having their ends projecting into the spring casings and bent outwardly as at 7′, are a pair of locking bars 7. These rest on the bottoms 4^a of the spring casings, and are thus maintained a short distance above the bottom of the drawer. The springs 6 bear against the ends of these guide bars on opposite sides thereof adjacent the bend and normally urge them into engagement with each other, as shown at the right-hand side of Fig. 3. On their adjoining faces, the bars 7 are formed with longitudinally extending grooves 8.

Extending through an opening in the end of the drawer and adapted to slide within the grooves 8 formed in the bars 7 is a spreader 9 having a head 10. This spreader consists of a slender bar of substantially the length of the drawer, having its edges formed to fit the grooves 8, and having a pointed or tapering end 11.

The cards 12 adapted for use in connection with my invention are provided near their bottom edge with an elongated opening 13, and from this opening to the bottom of the card extends a comparatively narrow slot 14.

It will be observed that when the spreader is in the position shown in Fig. 2, the locking bars are forced apart and practically fill the oblong opening in the cards, (see Fig. 4) thus preventing their removal. When, however, the spreader is wholly or partially withdrawn, the springs 6 force the locking bars together as shown in Fig. 3, and thus permit the slot 14, in the card to be slipped over the locking bars, and the card withdrawn, as shown in Fig. 5.

It will be noted that the bars 7 are somewhat flexible and hence it is possible to withdraw a number of cards from one end of the drawer without entirely removing the spreader. In other words, a number of the cards will remain locked in position, while others may be withdrawn.

The bars 7, it will be seen, move laterally with a strictly parallel motion, and hence the opening in the cards may, if desired, be rectangular.

It will thus be observed that I have provided a very simple mechanism for locking the cards in position, and one which is clearly preferable to any arrangement in which the cards have to be provided with supplemental locking means such as lugs or tabs. It is therefore thought that the numerous advantages of my invention will be readily appreciated by those skilled in the art.

What I claim is:

1. The combination with a card file, of a pair of parallel bars mounted therein so as to be capable of movement toward and away from each other, and means adapted to engage and move said bars at points throughout their length.

2. The combination with a card file, of means for locking the cards therein, such means comprising a pair of locking bars arranged to pass through openings in the

cards, and a spreader adapted to slide in between said bars, and engage the same throughout their length.

3. The combination with a card file, of means for locking the cards therein, such means comprising a pair of paralled locking bars, and a spreader adapted to slide in between the same, said parts being so disposed that the cards embrace both said bars and spreader.

4. The combination with a card file, of means for locking the cards therein, such means comprising a pair of parallel, spring-pressed locking bars, and a spreader adapted to slide between and engage said bars throughout substantially their whole length, and thus force them apart.

5. The combination with a card file, of a pair of parallel bars mounted therein so as to slide toward and away from each other, springs normally urging said bars together, and a spreader adapted to be inserted between said bars and force them apart, said bars being so formed as to engage and guide said spreader.

6. The combination with a card file, of a pair of parallel, flexible, bars mounted therein so as to slide toward and away from each other, and means adapted to engage and move said bars at points throughout their length.

7. The combination with a card file, of means for locking the cards therein, such means comprising a pair of parallel, flexible bars, adapted to engage the cards, springs urging said bars together, and a member adapted to slide between said bars throughout their length, and separate the same.

8. The combination with a card file, of a pair of locking bars extending longitudinally thereof and mounted to move in the same plane, parallel to themselves, springs urging said bars together, and means for engaging said bars throughout their length, and forcing them apart.

9. The combination with a card file having mounted therein a pair of parallel, laterally movable locking bars, springs for urging said bars toward each other, and a spreader for engaging said bars throughout their length and forcing them apart, of cards provided with openings adapted to embrace said bars, and also with slots extending from said openings, and through which said bars may be slipped when said spreader is removed.

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

SAMUEL T. WALTON.

Witnesses:
THEODORE KEMPENAAR,
F. B. WILLIAMS.