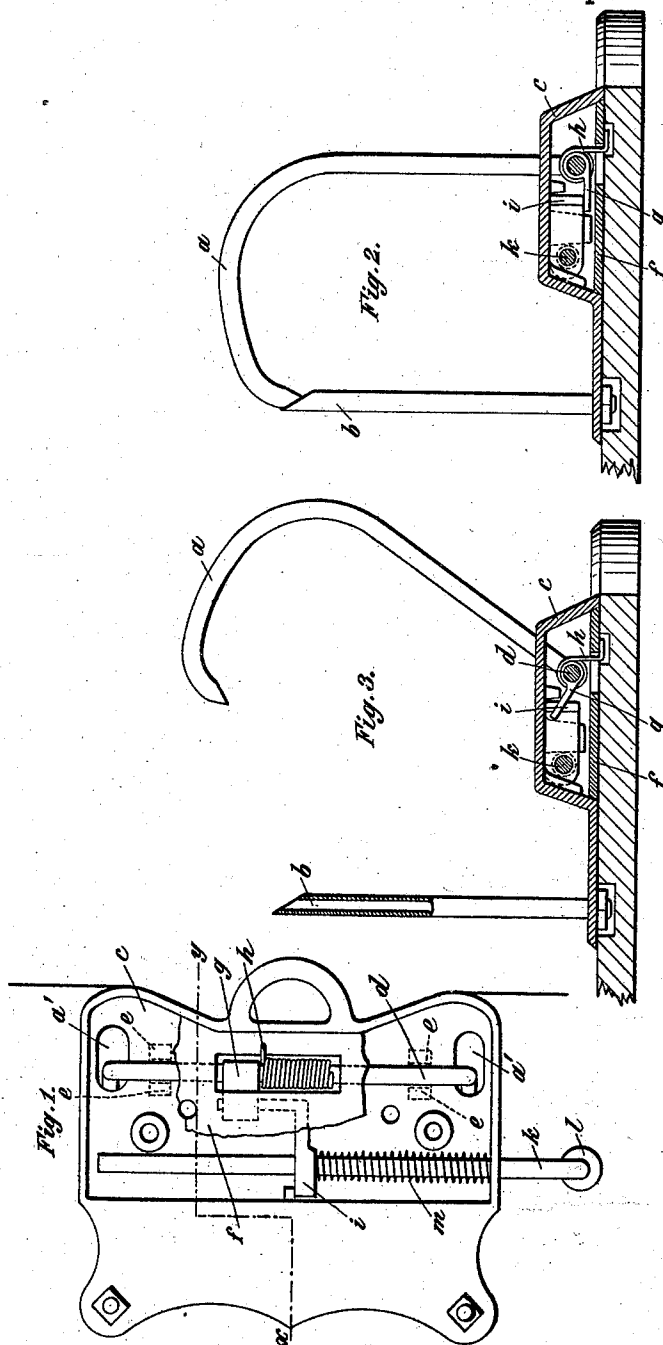


(No Model.)

F. MÜLLER.
FILE FOR LETTERS OR THE LIKE.

No. 558,657.

Patented Apr. 21, 1896.



Witnesses,
George H. Sonneborn,
O. H. Meinerke

Inventor,
Friedrich Müller,
by *W. H. R. M. M. M.* atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRIEDRICH MÜLLER, OF FRANKFORT-ON-THE-MAIN, GERMANY.

FILE FOR LETTERS OR THE LIKE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 558,657, dated April 21, 1896.

Application filed March 1, 1895. Serial No. 540,228. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRIEDRICH MÜLLER, merchant, of 13 Gutleutstrasse, Frankfort-on-the-Main, in the Empire of Germany, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Files for Letters or the Like, of which the following is a description, referring to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to letter and document files wherein the papers to be filed are impaled upon two pins or impaling-posts; and the object of the invention is to simplify and improve such a device throughout.

In my apparatus the hooks that constitute the closing device can be quickly moved out of engagement with the pins on which the letters or other sheets of paper to be filed are placed by simply pulling a rod which is connected with the bolt that locks or fixes the hooks, so as to allow any desired sheet to be removed.

The essential feature of this file as compared with what is already known consists in the mode of locking the hooks, while at the same time allowing of easily and quickly opening the file and insuring a safe closure of the same.

One form of the invention is illustrated in the accompanying sheet of drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a bottom view of the file. Fig. 2 is a section on the line *xy* of Fig. 1, the apparatus being shown closed; and Fig. 3 is a similar section, the apparatus being shown open.

When the file is closed, the hooks *a* engage with their pointed ends in the hollow filing-pins *b* (which latter are beveled or otherwise suitably formed at their points) and thus constitute the closure of the file. These hooks *a* extend through suitable apertures *a'* in the top cover-plate of the casing *c*, which incloses the locking mechanism, into the interior of said casing and are connected together at their lower ends by means of a cross-piece *d*. The latter is pivoted in suitable bearings (as for instance the lugs *e*, fixed on the bottom plate *f* of the casing) and has a projection or tongue *g*, which when the file is closed is prevented by means of a bolt *i* from turning or being turned upward by the action of the spring *h*, mounted on the cross-piece *d*, so that

the hooks *a* are thus rigidly held in engagement with the filing-pins *b*. The bolt *i* is fixed on the rod *k*, which passes out through the wall of the casing and is there bent so as to form a handle *l*.

The rod *k* and with it the bolt *i* may be drawn back, moved by the handle *l*, in opposition to the action of a suitable spring, such as *m*, which is or may be arranged between the bolt *i* and the wall of the casing. This withdrawal of bolt *i* releases the tongue *g*, causing the hooks to spring out of engagement with the filing-pins *b*, opening the file as in Fig. 3. In this position of the file the bolt is held back by the tongue *g*, as seen in the figure, against the action of spring *m*; but when the apparatus is again closed by forcing the hooks into engagement with the filing-pins, as in Fig. 2, against the action of the spring *h*, the tongue *g* releases the bolt *i*, letting it spring back into its position of rest, thus automatically locking the hooks in their closed position.

From the preceding description it is clear that the hooks can never move either by themselves or unintentionally away from the filing-pins, but are always securely held in engagement therewith, and that they can be easily and quickly raised by simply pulling the handle *l* outwardly, when they will fly up as described.

I have now described the preferred form of my invention. I have purposely omitted certain minor details and modifications that may be made without departing from the principles, because to set them forth at length would obscure rather than make clear the more essential features; but

I claim and desire to secure by these Letters Patent of the United States, together with all such modifications as may be made by mere skill in the art and with only the limitations and restrictions as expressed or by law implied, as follows:

1. In combination in a file for letters, papers, documents, and the like, the filing or impaling pins *b*, the hooks, *a*, provided with a projection or nose *g*, a spring for opening the said hooks, a spring slide or bolt *i* engaging the said projection or nose *g* and holding the said hooks closed, and means for withdrawing the said slide or bolt *i* in opposition

to its spring, the said nose *g* retaining the said slide or bolt in its withdrawn position while the said hooks *a* are open, substantially as set forth.

- 5 2. In combination in a file for letters, papers, documents, and the like, the filing or impaling pins *b*, the hooks *a*, provided with a projection or nose *g*, a spring for opening the said hooks, a spring slide or bolt *i* engag-
10 ing the said projection or nose *g* and holding the said hooks closed, and means for withdrawing the said slide or bolt *i* in opposition to its spring, the said bolt *i* and nose *g* being

so designed that when the hooks are opened the nose *i* holds the said bolt retracted; where- 15
by, upon closing the said file it is automatically locked by the said bolt and whereby upon releasing the bolt it is automatically opened, substantially as set forth.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my 20
hand in presence of two witnesses.

FRIEDRICH MÜLLER.

Witnesses:

ALVESTO S. HOGUE,

JEAN GRUND.