

(No Model.)

C. F. LOMB.
LETTER FILE.

No. 470,062.

Patented Mar. 1, 1892.

Fig. 1.

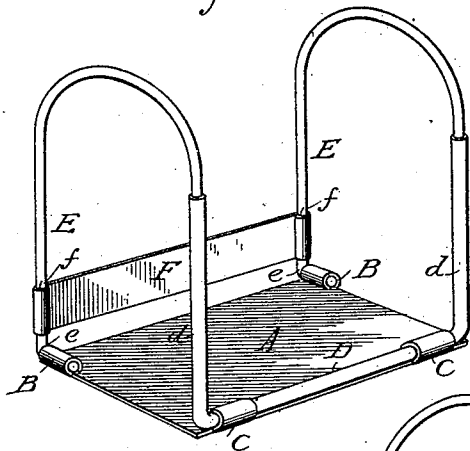


Fig. 2.

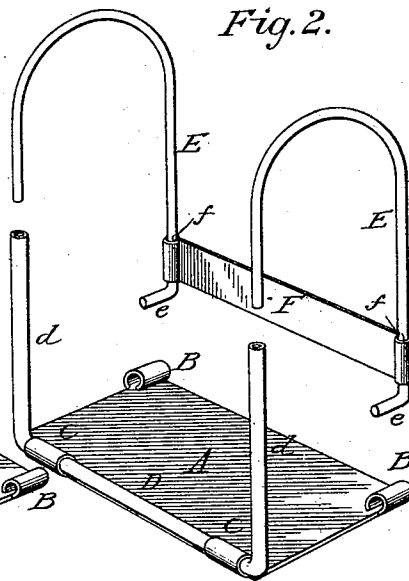


Fig. 3.

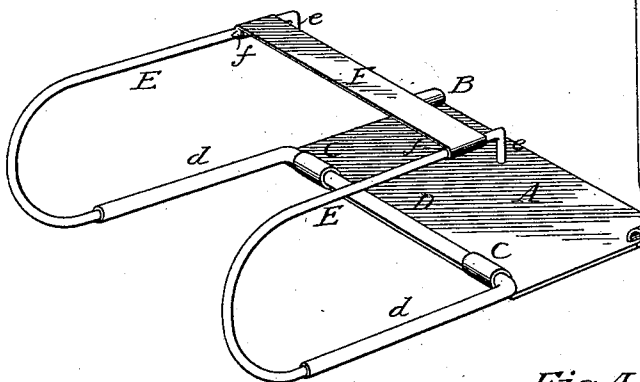
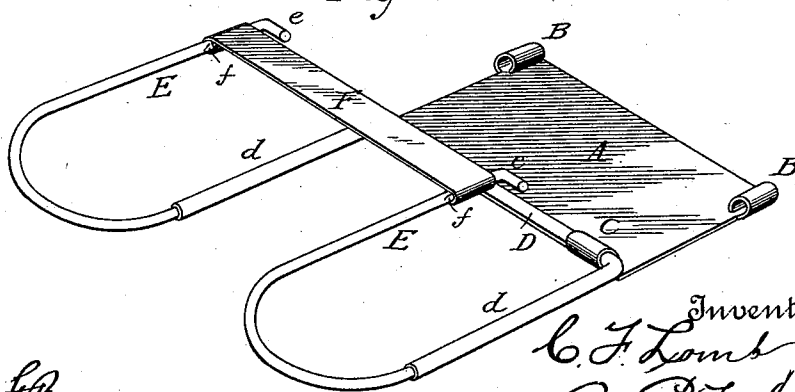


Fig. 4.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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LETTER-FILE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 470,062, dated March 1, 1892.

Application filed January 2, 1892. Serial No. 416,828. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CARL FERDINAND LOMB, of Rochester, county of Monroe, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Letter-Files, of which the following is a specification.

This invention has reference to that class of letter-files generally known in the art as "Shannon files," and which consists of two upright arches, each composed of separable parts, in order that the perforated letters or sheets may be slipped on and off at will between the separated members.

The present invention consists in an improved construction whereby the filing-arches are adapted to be folded down flatwise upon the supporting sheet or base when not in use, to the end that the files may at such times be stored or transported in compact shape.

I am aware that the folding of the arches is not broadly new. The construction herein presented and claimed is advantageous, however, because of its extreme simplicity and cheapness, the ease with which the parts may be manipulated, and their extreme rigidity when erected in operative position. The construction herein represented is intended more particularly for use in what are known as "transfer" or "storage" files, on which the letters are permanently filed; but it is also adapted for use in the ordinary files to which letters are applied and from which they are removed during the course of daily correspondence.

In the drawings I have represented only the filing-arches, as the remainder of the file may be constructed in any ordinary or suitable manner.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the device in operative position as it appears when the sheets are filed thereon. Fig. 2 is a perspective view showing the manner in which the parts are separated or the arches opened to permit the application and removal of the sheets. Fig. 3 is a perspective view showing the first movement or action in preparing to fold the file. Fig. 4 is a perspective view showing the file in its folded condition.

Referring to the drawings, A represents a base plate or support, which may be of any

appropriate form and construction, but which, as herein shown, consists of a single plate of sheet metal having lips turned over inward at opposite ends to form the eyes or sockets B, and also having at the front edge lips turned over to produce the two sockets C, standing in line with each other on the front edge of the plate.

D represents a U-shaped member, preferably made of tubular form, its middle portion forming in effect a rock-shaft, being extended permanently through the sleeves C from the front of the base-plate, while its two ends are bent upward at a right angle to the remaining portion, forming parallel filing-arms *d*. In their receiving or operative position these arms stand vertically, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, so that the perforated letter-sheets may be slipped on and off.

E E represent two U-shaped wires, having their forward downturned ends adapted to enter the tubular upper ends of the arms or standards *d* and their rear ends carried downward and bent at a right angle, as shown at *e*, in order that they may be sprung into the sockets B of the base-plate. Near their rear ends the two arms E are connected by a cross-plate F, having its end clasped around them, so that they may turn therein.

When the file is in use, the front ends of the arms or arches E are seated in the tubular filing arms or standards D and their rear ends *e* engaged in the sockets B, as plainly shown in Fig. 1, the engagement being maintained by the elasticity of the arms. In this arrangement of the parts they are all maintained rigidly in position and the two arches kept in parallel positions, so that the letter-sheets may be transferred to and from the arms *d* to the wires E, and this to the end that the series of sheets on file may be separated at any desired point and any selected sheet exposed for removal when the wires E are detached. This detachment is effected, as shown in Fig. 2, by springing the feet *e* out of the sockets B and then lifting the wires bodily.

When the empty file is to be packed or stored, the feet *e* are simply disengaged from the sockets B and the standards *d* turned backward and downward flatly upon the base-

plate, carrying with them the arch-wires E, after which the arch-wires are turned over sidewise until they rest flatly upon the base. During the last-named action the forward ends of the wires E, turning in the standards *d*, serve as journals or pivots around which the folding motion occurs.

I believe this to be the first double-arch file in which the folding is effected by first turning the arches backward and downward bodily around a common axis and then turning one part of each arch around the remaining part as a center until it lies flat.

It is to be understood that the bar F, although desirable, is not a necessary feature of my file. It is also to be understood that the rear ends of the wires E may be arranged to interlock with the base in any form and manner the mechanical equivalent of that herein shown, the only essential requirement in this regard being their adaptation for convenient engagement and disengagement.

In order to prevent the cross-bar F from moving on the two arms E, I provide the latter above and below the ends of the cross-bar with stops *f*, as plainly shown.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

1. In a letter-file, the combination of a base-plate, the U-shaped member D, hinged thereto to fold bodily downward, and the arched wires

E, detachably engaged at one of their ends with the base-plate and having their opposite ends removably seated and arranged to turn within the arms of the member D, whereby the ends of the arched wires may be disengaged from the base-plate, the U-shaped member turned bodily downward, and the said arched wires subsequently turned over sidewise.

2. In a letter-file, the base-plate provided with sockets B, in combination with the U-shaped member D, hinged to said plate to turn bodily downward, and the arch-wires E, adapted at one end to enter the arms of the member D and at the opposite end to removably engage the sockets B.

3. In a letter-file, the combination, with the base-plate, of the U-shaped member D, hinged thereto to fold downward, the arched wires E, removably engaged with the base-plate at one of their ends and arranged at their opposite ends to turn on the arms of the member D as axes, and the bar F, connecting said arched wires, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I hereunto set my hand, this 28th day of December, 1891, in the presence of two attesting witnesses.

CARL FERDINAND LOMB.

Witnesses:

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ELIZABETH A. WEBER.