

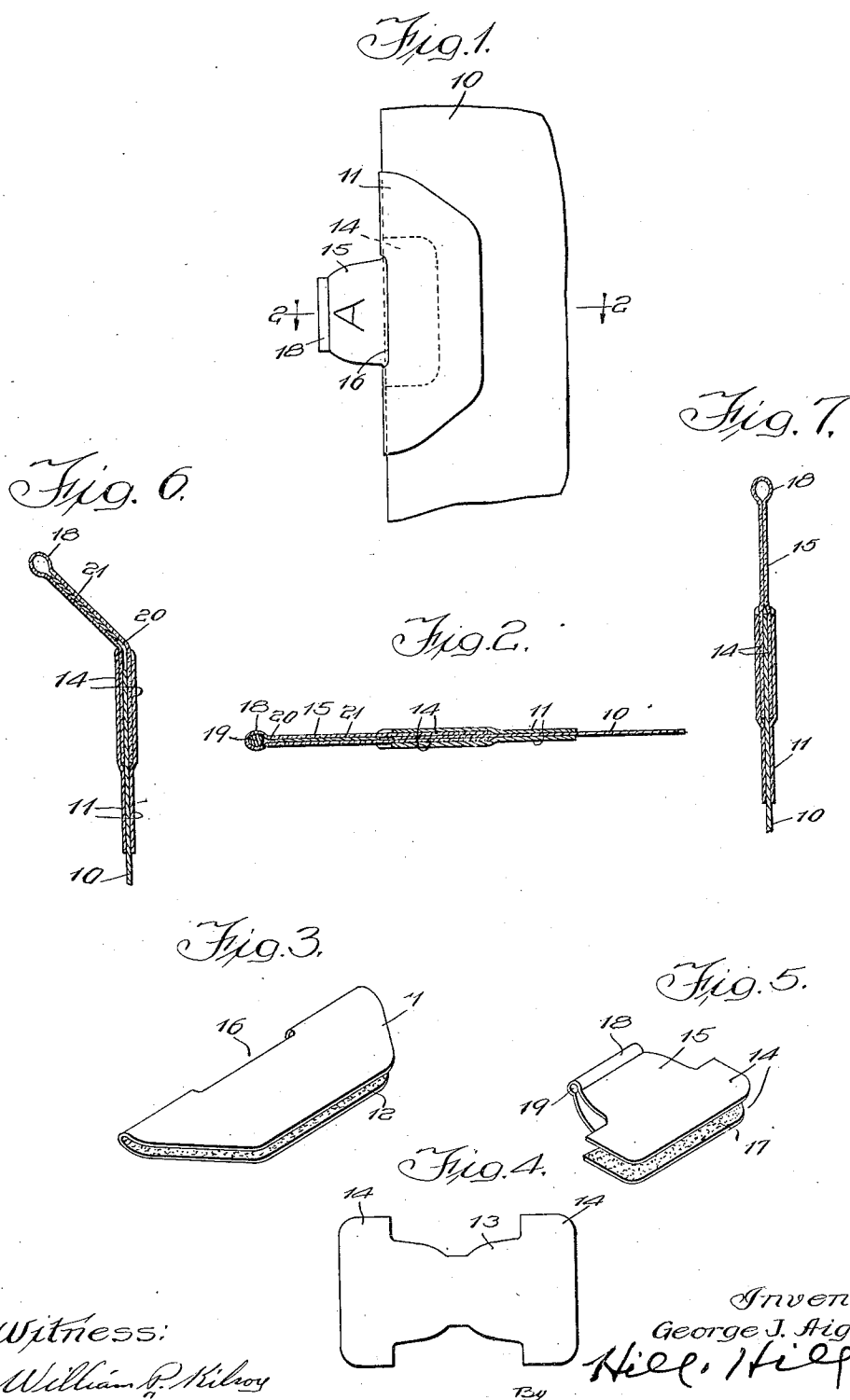
March 8, 1932.

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1,848,098

INDEX TAB

Filed Dec. 21, 1929



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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INDEX TAB

Application filed December 21, 1929. Serial No. 415,845.

My invention relates to improvements in index tabs and has among its other objects the production of index tabs of the kind described which are simple, convenient, compact, durable, reliable, efficient, and satisfactory for use wherever found applicable.

The invention contemplates the provision of complete sets of index tabs, each tab being individually complete and ready for use, thereby avoiding the necessity of removing the tab from a block of similar tabs or of assembling the tab, or of the user taking other slips to complete the tab, as is the case with such tabs as heretofore constructed.

A particular object of the invention is to provide index tabs of the kind described which are complete and ready for attachment to ledger leaves, card index leaves, and the leaves of loose leaf books of various kinds without any preliminary assembly or other steps preparatory to mounting.

Another object of the invention is the provision of improved tabs of the kind described especially adapted for mass production by stamping and folding from sheets of material.

Another object of the invention is to generally improve index tabs of the kind described.

Many other objects and advantages of the construction herein shown and described will be obvious to those skilled in the art from the disclosure herein given.

To this end, my invention consists in the novel construction, arrangement and combination of parts herein shown and described, and more particularly pointed out in the claim.

In the drawings, wherein like reference characters indicate like or corresponding parts,

Fig. 1 is a view of a fragmentary portion of a leaf showing my improved tab attached thereto;

Fig. 2 is a sectional view along the line 2-2 of Fig. 1, drawn to a larger scale;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a strip of flexible material forming a portion of the tab;

Fig. 4 is a plan view of a sheet of material

which is arranged to cooperate with the sheet shown in Fig. 3 to form the tab;

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the sheet of material shown in Fig. 4 after folding the same along a transverse axial line;

Fig. 6 is a sectional view of another embodiment of the invention; and

Fig. 7 is a sectional view of a slightly modified form of the device shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

Referring now more particularly to the drawings, the numeral 10 generally designates a loose leaf ledger sheet or the like, upon which my improved tab is mounted. The tab is preferably constructed from two sheets of material adapted for mass production by cutting or stamping and folding separately. The two sheets thus formed are assembled by telescoping one within the other.

The assembled tab comprises a sheet 11, preferably formed of flexible material and within which is positioned a sheet 13 preferably formed of transparent material. The sheet 11 has a surface coating of adhesive material 12 on one face thereof. The sheet 11 is preferably made symmetrical about its longitudinal and transverse axes and is shown as folded along its longitudinal axis. The sheet 11 has its corner portions cut away so that the ends of the sheet are substantially shorter than its length along the middle folded portion, thereby producing a neat appearance and a saving of material.

The transparent sheet 13 is shown in plan in Fig. 4 and in perspective in Fig. 5, the sheet being preferably formed symmetrical about its longitudinal and transverse axes with its middle edge portions converging inwardly, thereby making the sheet relatively narrow along the transverse axial line of fold. The bounding edges of the middle portion of the sheet 13 may be formed as desired, but I prefer to use the form shown in Fig. 4, inasmuch as the sheet 13, when so folded then takes the shape shown in Fig. 5 wherein the projecting end portions 14 are connected by a folded tapering stem 15. The sheet 11 has a slot 16 cut on its line of fold, the length of the slot being slightly in excess of the widest portion of the stem 15.

The tab is assembled by positioning the folded transparent sheet 13 within the sheet 11 with the stem 15 projecting through the slot 16 with the inner edges of the portions 14 contacting with the folded edge of the sheet 11, as best shown in Fig. 1. The folded sheets 11 and 13, after assembly, are fastened together by a coating 17 of adhesive material on the inner face of the portions 11. The assembled sheets 11 and 13 are then secured to the leaf 10 in part by the adhesive coating 17 and in part by the uncovered portion of the adhesive material 12 on the inner faces of the sheet 11. The sheet 13 forms a substantially closed oval shaped member 18 along the line of the fold. The member 18 may be stiffened by the insertion of a rod 19 therein.

The oppositely positioned layers forming the stem 15 provide a pocket 20 above the leaf 10 as shown in Figs. 2 and 6. The pocket 20 is adapted to receive a strip 21 of paper, cardboard, or other suitable material, on which legends are stamped or otherwise formed. The legend or characters may be one of the letters of the alphabet as illustrated in Fig. 1, or they may be numerals, the days of the month, abbreviations of the months, or in fact, anything desired. The pocket 20 formed in the stem 15 is suitable to receive and hold strips 21 of different thicknesses by reason of the flexibility of the transparent material comprising the stems.

In Fig. 6 I have shown the stem 15 as extending forward at an angle of substantially 45°. By thus extending the tab forwardly the label is more easily read. The device shown in Fig. 6 is otherwise similar to that shown in Fig. 2, and the angle of inclination can be varied to suit the particular installation.

In Fig. 7 the tab is shown with the layers forming the stem 15 in close contact, thereby omitting the pocket 20 which is provided in the other forms of the device to receive a strip 21 containing the legend or characters. The pocket 20 and strip 21 are dispensed with in this embodiment by stamping or embossing a legend or character on the material comprising the stem 15. The stem 15, as thus arranged, can be extended forwardly at an angle in the same way as the construction shown in Fig. 6.

It is obvious that the tab can be economically constructed and assembled ready for use by stamping the two main parts from sheets of material and pasting the parts together, thereby providing a complete assembled individual tab requiring no fastening means other than the adhesive material contained on the inner face of the sheet 11. Each of the individual tabs equipped with a pocket 20 is suitable for having any desired character or legend printed or otherwise formed thereon. A supply of such strips of material contain-

ing a great variety of legends or characters most frequently used can be made available for use with tabs, or if desired, special labels can be made by typing or the like on strips of material of suitable size. In the embodiment of Fig. 7 where the stem 15 has the character stamped or embossed on its outer surface this interchangeability is lacking, but such tabs possess the desirable features of permanency and the avoiding of the time and attention requisite for inserting label strips in the pocket 20. Thus it will be seen that I have provided an improved tab which is adapted to be economically manufactured and assembled and which is easily mounted on a card index leaf or the like, as desired. By keeping a supply of the tabs and of the printed strips of material on hand, the labor of indexing is minimized.

Having thus described my invention, it is obvious that various immaterial modifications may be made in the same without departing from the spirit of my invention; hence, I do not wish to be understood as limiting myself to the exact form, construction, arrangement, and combination of parts herein shown and described or uses mentioned.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

An index tab comprising two integral strips of material, each folded about a transverse axial line, one of said strips having a slot in its line of fold and its inner faces coated with adhesive material, the other of said strips having its intermediate folded portion of a width to fit in said slot and having a substantial length of its end portions wider than said slot and providing shoulders bearing against the folded portion of said first mentioned strip adjacent said slot when the strips are assembled, said end portions having their inner faces coated with adhesive material, the folded edge of said other strip taking substantially the form of a hollow cylinder.

In witness whereof, I hereunto subscribe my name this 9th day of December, A. D. 1929.

GEORGE J. AIGNER.