Feb. 14, 1928. 1,659,137

R. N. FELLOWS

SELECTOR TAB

Filed July 23, 1926

Fig. 1

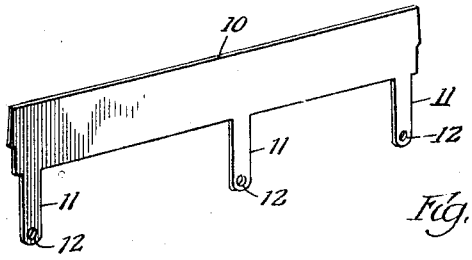


Fig. 2

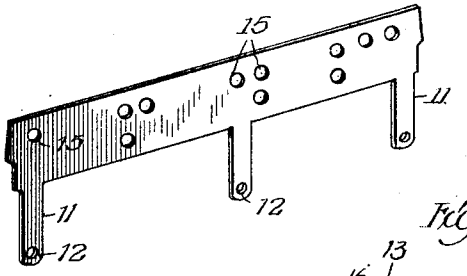


Fig. 3

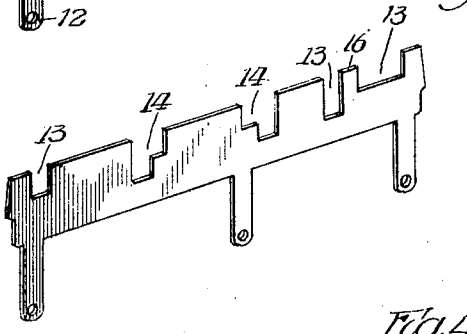
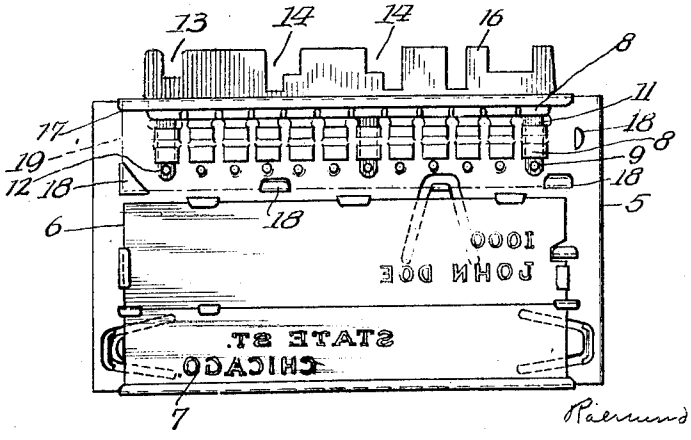


Fig. 4



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RAEMOND N. FELLOWS, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR, BY MESNE ASSIGNMENTS, TO ADDRESSOGRAPH COMPANY, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, A CORPORATION OF DELAWARE.

SELECTOR TAB.

Application filed July 23, 1926. Serial No. 124,314.

This invention relates to printing devices of the kind which are stored in accordance with a card index system and are adapted to be run through a machine for taking impressions therefrom. These printing devices have been made in the form of one-piece plates bearing type characters, and they have also been made in the form of frames carrying detachable plates bearing type characters. It has been customary heretofore to supply both forms of printing devices with tabs for index purposes according to some classification system and also for operating the selector mechanism of the printing machine. Sometimes the machine is operated because of the presence of a tab, called the present tab system, and sometimes the machine is operated because of the absence of a tab, called the absent tab system. With both systems it has been customary to provide one or more tabs adapted to be detachably engaged with the printing device, and the latter has been provided with a plurality of keepers to receive the tabs. It involves considerable labor and careful attention to arrange the individual tabs in proper position on the printing devices and the extent of a classification and selector system provided by individual tabs is necessarily limited by the size of the printing device, the size of the tabs, and the capacity of the printing device to receive individual tabs. Furthermore, it is not practicable to employ combinations of individual tabs to any considerable extent for enlarging the classification and selector system.

The object of this invention is to provide a single tab of relatively large size capable of being detachably engaged with a printing device for supplying an extended classification and selector system.

A further object of the invention is to provide a tab which can be formed in combinations to greater extend the classification and selector system.

And a further object of the invention is to simplify the work of classifying a stock of printing devices to an extended classification system.

In the accompanying drawings I have chosen a printing device comprising a frame carrying plates bearing printing characters to illustrate a selected embodiment of the invention, and referring thereto:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the long tab blank.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the tab provided with perforations.

Fig. 3 is a similar view of the tab provided with notches.

Fig. 4 is a front plan view of the printing device with the notched tab engaged therewith.

Referring to the drawings, 5 is the frame of the printing device carrying the type bearing plates 6 and 7 which are engaged with the frame in any suitable manner. The frame is provided with a plurality of keepers 8 arranged in pairs across the frame adjacent the upper edge thereof to receive the tab, and below each pair of keepers there is a projection 9 on the frame. The tab is formed from a blank 10 which may be of any desired length, not longer than the length of the frame and preferably somewhat shorter than the frame for convenience in storing and handling the device and for operation of the selector mechanism. The tab is provided with a plurality of stems 11 projecting from one edge thereof to engage keepers in the frame and in the outer ends of these stems there are openings 12 to engage the projection 9 for holding the tab securely on the frame.

In one form of the invention the tab is provided with notches and these notches may be of the symmetrical form indicated at 13 in Fig. 3 or they may be in the offset form indicated at 14 in Fig. 3, or they may be otherwise formed as found desirable to cooperate with particular selector mechanism and devices. In the other form of my invention the tab is provided with perforations 15, Fig. 2 and these perforations may be variously arranged on the tab and they may be of any size and shape.

In practice the tab is provided with notches or perforations to classify the printing device and to operate the selector mechanism. One form of selector mechanism provides a pin adapted to engage the tab according to the present tab system or to enter a notch or perforation in the tab according to the absent tab system. For the present tab system I would use a notched tab and in a simple classification system the tab may be notched to provide a single projection, such as 16, Fig. 3, which may be located at

any position lengthwise of the tab, its position indicating its particular classification. All the printing devices belonging to a particular division of the classfication will have tabs with a single projection in the same location, and other divisions will be indicated by single tabs in other locations. If it is desired to print from devices in a single division only of a classification the selector pin, according to the present tab system, will be set to engage the tab projections indicating that particular division and those printing devices only will be printed. By changing the selector pin the printing devices in any other classification division may be printed. According to the absent tab system the divisions of a classification are indicated by notches or perforations and the selector pin will be set to engage the notch or perforation indicating a certain division of the classification to print that division only of the printing devices when they are run through the printing machine. While combinations may be employed to some extent with the present tab system it is possible to employ combinations to a far greater extent in the absent tab system. It will be readily observed that with a tab such as shown in Fig. 4 selector pins should be provided according to the absent tab system to enter all of the notches to operate the machine for taking an impression from this printing device, and unless the tab has all of these notches arranged as shown the selector system will not operate and the device will run through the machine without printing. This will indicate how greatly a classification system may be enlarged by the use of notches, or perforations, according to the absent tab system. And in this connection it may be observed that the notches may vary in depth or in width in extending the classification system. In preparing to tab a stock of printing devices the classification would be laid out as desired, and a stock of tabs prepared according to the classification. For each division of the classification a sufficient supply of tabs all alike would be provided and the tabs would be applied to the printing devices according to the classification divisions. The printing devices may be arranged in storage drawers or trays, for example, alphabetically, or geographically, but the tabs may indicate some other classification, such as subscription expiration dates. With such an arrangement and classification, if it is desired to circularize all of the subscribers whose subscriptions expire at a certain time, the selector system would be adjusted accordingly. The entire stock of printing devices will then be run through the printing machine and only those printing devices will print in the division of the classification for which the selector system has been adjusted. This practice is followed at the present time with the individual tabs of the kind heretofore referred to but my invention is designed to enlarge the classification system and to simplify the use thereof. The elongated tab makes it possible to provide a greatly enlarged classification and at the same time it simplifies the use of the tab and facilitates the operation of tabbing a stock of printing devices. It is customary to provide a card bearing printed information which is arranged over the keepers on the front of the printing device and held in place thereon by suitable means such as the bead 17 and lips 18 as indicated by broken lines 19.

I do not limit the invention to use with a printing device of any particular construction except in so far as it is constructed or adapted to receive the tab, for it will be understood that the invention can be used with a variety of printing devices and the one shown in Fig. 4 is selected for illustration only. It may be desirable to make changes in the tab to accommodate it to different printing devices and different selector systems and I reserve the right to make all such changes as fall within the scope of the following claims in which I have used the word "opening" to include a notch or a perforation.

I claim:

1. The combination with a printing device of the character described and having a series of tab keepers arranged in a row adjacent one edge of the device, of an elongated tab of approximately the length of said row of keepers and having a plurality of stems to engage said keepers, said tab being formed to indicate a certain classification and to operate corresponding selector means of a printing machine.

2. A tab for a printing device of the character described and having a plurality of openings therein to indicate in combination a certain classification and to operate corresponding selector means of a printing machine.

3. A tab for a printing device of the character described and comprising a strip having a plurality of stems projecting from one edge thereof to engage the printing device and having a plurality of notches in its other edge to indicate in combination a certain classification and to operate corresponding selector means of a printing machine.

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