W. B. SEWELL.

ACCOUNT FILING SYSTEM.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 18, 1915.

1,219,175. Patented Mar. 13, 1917.

Fig. 1.

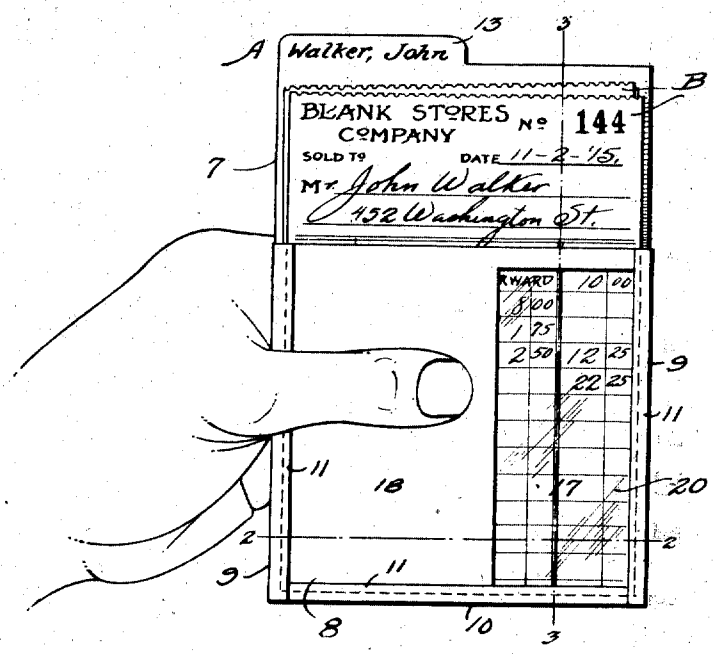


Fig. 6.

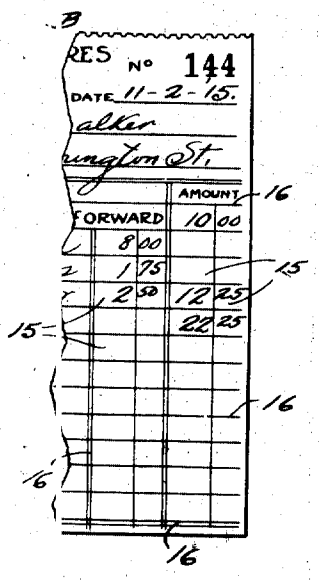


Fig. 2.

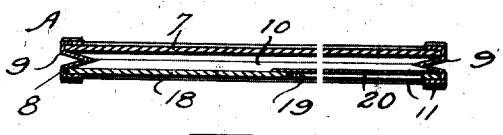


Fig. 3.

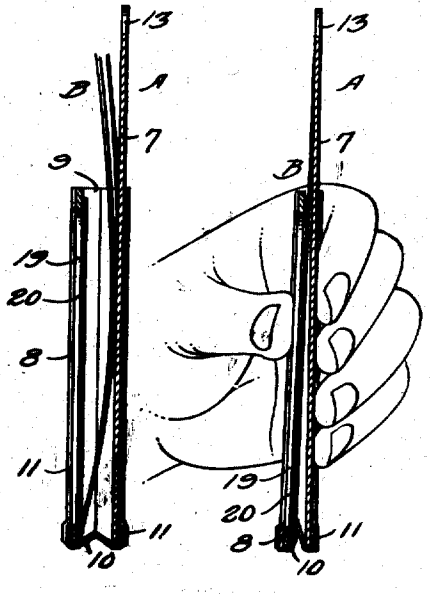


Fig. 4.

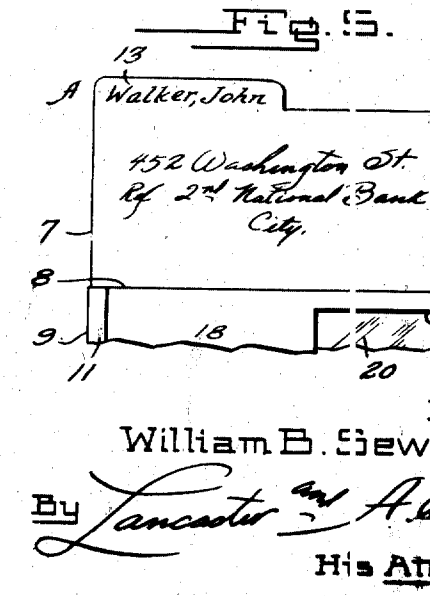


Fig. 5.

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ACCOUNT-FILING SYSTEM.

1,219,175. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Mar. 13, 1917.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM B. SEWELL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Agricultural College, in the county of Oktibbeha and State of Mississippi, have invented a new and useful Account-Filing System, of which the following is a specification.

My present invention relates to account filing systems where suitable slips of paper are used to keep a record of debits or credits, from day to day, a suitable container being provided for the slips of each customer.

The principal object of my invention is to provide a system of the character described where the container and slip coöperate to display the essential matter for quickly gaining information, such as the total debit or amount any particular customer owes, his address, amount of last debit, etc., the container being of that character that it may be filed, either in a vertical filing cabinet, or to be received by suitable racks, to lie in a horizontal position.

Other objects of the invention are to provide a container for account slips which is simple in construction, and inexpensive to manufacture; and such a container as is durable although made of inexpensive flexible material, such as cardboard or linenboard.

It has already been proposed by others to provide containers for slips, such containers being made of metal or cardboard and adapted to display portions of the slip, however, they have been found either cumbersome, if made of metal, or lack durability when made of flexible material because of the disposition of sight openings which either causes the slip to become disarranged or mutilated, or portions of the front of the container to become bent and broken. Another object of my invention is to provide a collapsible container for slips in which the slip, where accounts have been entered, is covered by transparent material at the front of the container, to enable the user to gain the information he desires without removing the slip, a suitable portion of the front of the container being of more durable material so that by the natural holding of the container, the user may, by pressure of his thumb upon the front, but to one side of the transparent material, collapse the container to bring the front slip into intimate contact with the transparent material to more clearly display the items entered thereon.

Other objects of the invention will appear in the following detailed description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, forming a part of this specification, and in which drawing;

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a container constructed according to my invention, a plurality of slips being retained thereby, and showing the user's hand in position, bringing pressure upon the front of the container.

Fig. 2 is a cross sectional view on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 3 but showing the operator's hand in the act of collapsing or bringing pressure upon the front wall of the container.

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary view in elevation of the upper portion of the container, the slips having been removed.

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary front elevation of one of the slips.

In the drawing where similar characters refer to similar parts throughout the several views, A designates the container and B the account slip or slips to be contained therein.

Referring first to the container, it comprises a back wall 7 front wall 8, and collapsible side walls 9 and bottom 10. The side walls and bottom are made collapsible, or adjustable, so that the container will occupy a minimum space in the cabinet, according to the number of slips B contained therein, it being understood that the slips for any one customer are accumulated, from day to day, in the container, each succeeding slip being placed in front of those already within the container. The adjustable features may be accomplished by plaiting the side walls and bottom, as clearly shown in the drawing, any practical number of plaits being provided to accomplish the end in view. The elements 9 and 10 may be formed of stiff cloth, heavy paper or other suitable material, and in the example shown have flanges 11 secured, as by an adhesive

to the adjacent walls 7 and 8. It is preferred that the side walls and bottom have an inherent tendency to collapse although, as will hereinafter be described, the several parts of the container are so arranged and constructed that the user may quickly bring pressure upon the walls 7 and 8 causing the container to collapse should the side walls and bottom become weak through constant use.

The rear wall 7 is considerably higher than front wall 8, and is preferably provided with an index tab 13, to contain the name of the customer, and below which, but above the upper margin of the front edge is a plane 14 which may contain a permanent record of the address, references etc. of the customer.

Referring now to the account slip B, which is slightly narrower than the width of container A, so that it may be easily disposed therein, it has a plurality of item spaces 15, defined by delineations 16, these spaces to contain such figures or data as are desirable for reference, when rendering a statement or computing the debit or credit of a customer. In the example shown, the foremost slip within the container shows that the debit, prior to the time entry was made on the slip, amounted to ten dollars, and that the sales entered on the foremost slip amounted to twelve dollars and twenty-five cents, making a total debit of twenty two dollars and twenty-five cents. In this way, at any time, the user can determine the status of any customer's account.

With the principal object of this invention in view, the front wall 8 is made transparent, as at 17, at that portion comprehending the slip at the item spaces 15, defined by the delineations 16, the major portion of the front wall being opaque. As disclosed in the drawing, this may be accomplished by forming the front wall of an opaque major portion 18 provided with an elongated sight opening 19, disposed inwardly of but adjacent its right hand margin, with its major axis upright, and a transparent closure 20 for said opening. The transparent closure may be of any suitable material, such as celluloid or mica, or of an efficient but inexpensive material, such as wax paper, it having the dual function of permitting the data on the slip to be visible exteriorly of the container, and also to guide the slip, so that its lower margin may be placed adjacent the bottom of the container, without meeting obstructions, such as the lower wall of the opening 19, the transparent closure being disposed on the inside of the container and secured in place as by an adhesive.

As before stated, by constant use, the elements 9 and 10 may lose the inherent tendency to collapse, it being understood that the slips are accumulated until settlement, whereupon they are removed and the accumulation again started. Also, in the construction of the container, in order to make it as inexpensive as possible, material such as wax paper may also be used for the closure of the sight opening and, while not possessing the same degree of transparency as celluloid, is not so liable to crack or become scratched in constant use. The sight opening 19 is therefore disposed inwardly of but adjacent the right hand margin of the container, so that the major, or opaque portion of the front wall lies to the left of said sight opening, and upon which the thumb of the user may be placed, as clearly shown in Figs. 1 and 4 facilitating the collapsing, or bringing of the account slip in intimate contact with the transparent closure 20, making the data, which have been placed within the item spaces 15, more visible, or clearly visible if made obscure by their disposition remote from the closure 20 when such is made of a material semi-transparent.

When bringing the system into use, the containers are disposed within a suitable cabinet or holder, the container for any particular customer being located by reference to the index tab 13. The account slips are accumulated so that the one bearing the latest data is disposed directly behind the front wall 8, and is preferably of such length with respect to said wall that a portion of the slip displays the name of the customer, and his address, as clearly shown in Fig. 1, the more vital data, such as the account record being protected by the front wall of the container, yet the essential data, such as is required in the completing of a new slip, being clearly visible through the transparent portion 17 of said front wall. The operator has merely to select the desired container and raise it from the remaining containers, and in the natural holding of the container may bring pressure upon the front and rear walls, as hereinbefore described. The container falls back in position, when released, due to the force of gravity. While being held in the operator's left hand, his right hand is free to enter items on any new account slip which is to be placed within the container.

Changes in details may be made without departing from the spirit of my invention; but,

I claim:

1. In an account filing system, the combination of an account slip having a plurality of spaces to contain amounts representing itemized debits or credits defined by delineations thereon, and a container therefor slightly wider than said slip, including a closed front wall transparent at that portion comprehending the slip at all of said item spaces, and opaque at other portions,

substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. A container for account slips comprising in combination, a front wall, a rear wall, and adjustable side walls and bottom, said front wall comprising an opaque major portion, provided with an elongated sight opening disposed inwardly of but adjacent its right hand margin and bounded on all sides by material of said front wall, said opening disposed with its major axis upright, and a transparent closure for said opening, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

WILLIAM B. SEWELL