June 17, 1930. E. RAVIGLIONE 1,764,580

ABSTRACT CARD SYSTEM OR INDEX

Filed May 22, 1928 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1

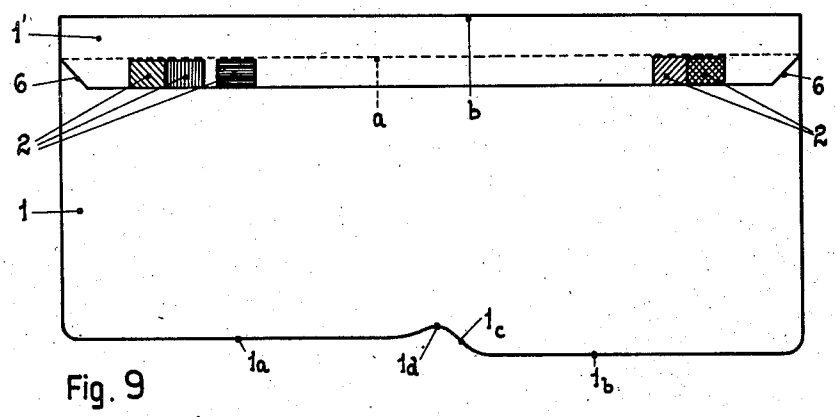


Fig. 9

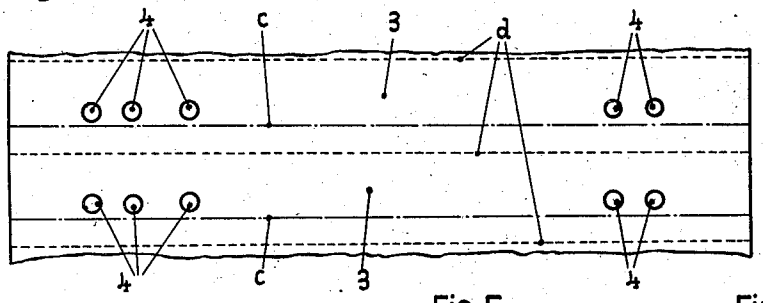


Fig. 5

Fig. 7

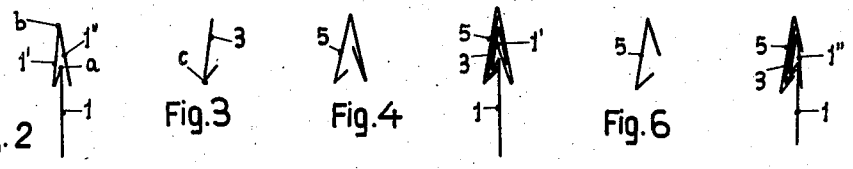
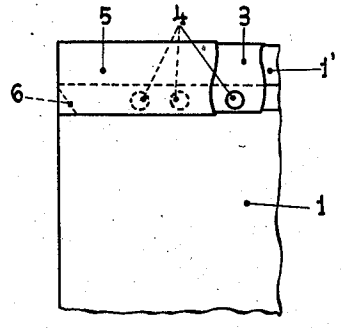


Fig. 2 Fig. 3 Fig. 4 Fig. 6

Fig. 8



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Fig. 10

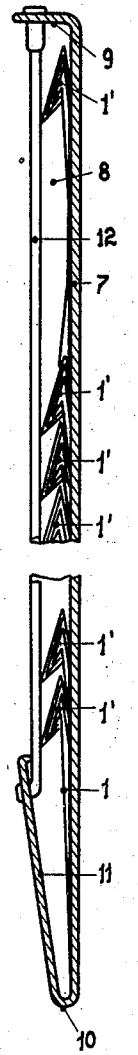
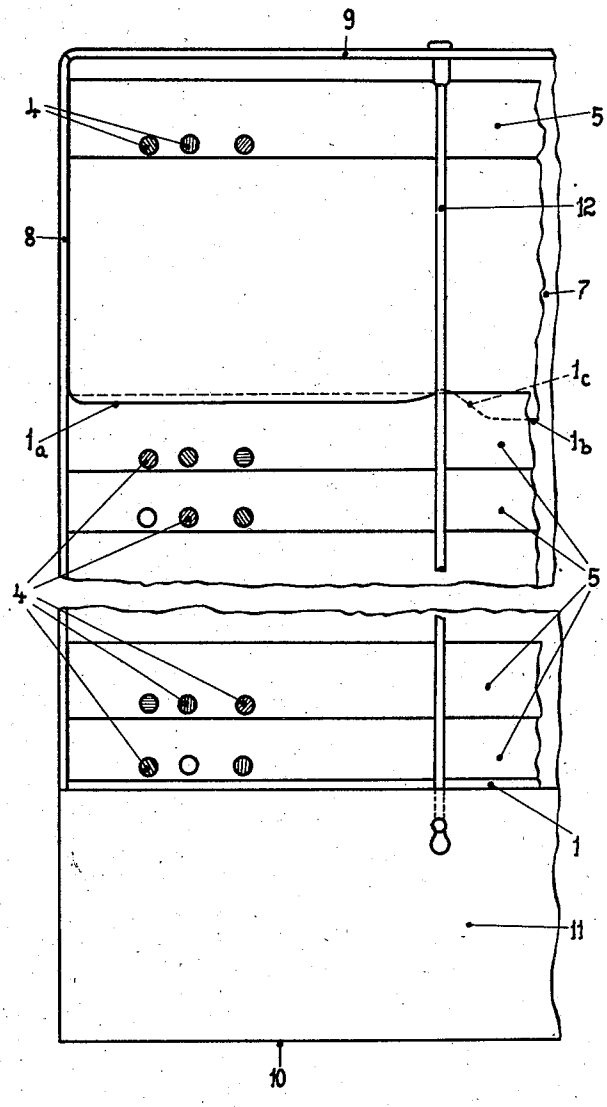


Fig. 11



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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ABSTRACT-CARD SYSTEM OR INDEX

Application filed May 22, 1928, Serial No. 279,815, and in Italy January 30, 1928.

This invention relates to an abstract card system or index more particularly for large card files in which division of work is realized by employing a main card system e. g. with vertically laid cards for records of all kinds, and summary or abridged card files or indexes for the purpose of making searches and statistics, as in bureaus of vital statistics.

The chief feature of this abstract card system consists in that the cards or indexes have a three-fold bending at their upper edge and the bending lines subdivide the upper card portion into three folds of which the first is somewhat narrower than half the second fold and the third or end fold is somewhat wider than the difference between the first two; in bending, the first fold is folded on to the card body, the second is folded down in the opposite direction so that it forms a top portion a little raised above the body of the card, the third fold being folded down against the rear face of the card.

The middle fold bears the conventional index marks as well as any sorting and reference words or inscriptions when these latter are not written on a separate label strip conveniently held within a transparent covering.

The invention further relates to a particular label strip covering system.

The cards according to this invention folded as above, have under their top portion a stop for the next card, so that the indicia written on the top portions are visible, as they are carried by the uncovered portion which may be more than two-thirds the height of the top portion.

According to this invention the cards are arranged one behind the other, without using any card-carrier and fitted in a suitable frame, this being a further feature of this invention. This frame allows of the full vision of the cards and of easily and readily inserting and removing the card from the file, by simply utilizing the resiliency of the cards, as there are no points of attachments of the cards to separate card carriers which are omitted, the cards being reliably held in place by the elasticity imparted by the three-fold bending.

According to this invention the label adapted to carry the indexing words is provided with holes, through which the colored signals drawn on the card are visible; it is thus possible to obtain a perfectly uniform size of the colored mark on the cards and the marks may be drawn rapidly without being too particular about shape and size, as they are made visible in their strictly exact form through the holes of the superposed label.

In practice, in making the labels, sheets suitable for typewriting are used on which the cut and fold lines are drawn and the holes cut at the right point in order to write quickly the desired words or indicia even on several copies at a time.

The labels have an inwardly extending edge. When assembling the parts, this edge is underneath the first fold and is held in place by a protecting covering the upper and lower edges of which are bent backwards when the covering is made of celluloid or other resistant elastic and transparent material similar to celluloid, but not inflammable like this latter. Transparent paper may be employed for the covering and in this case a third fold is made in the covering in order to embrace the rear end fold of the sheet forming the card.

The card fold underlying the index label is beveled at the ends of its lower edge in order to facilitate pulling out the covering and the paper strip, when this is necessary for adding or changing any colored marks.

Moreover the lower edge of the card is cut along a broken line comprising two portions at different heights connected by a

short inclined portion. When a card is raised, the higher portion of the lower edge may rest on the top of the next card, while the lower edge portion remains below the top portion of the next card, the higher portion, owing to the elasticity of the paper, projects forward and comes to rest on the top portion itself. The card is pushed by the hand in resuming its position in the file.

The accompanying drawing shows by way of example an abstract file according to this invention.

Figure 1 is a front view of a card on which the colored signal portions are denoted by conventional hatching.

Figure 2 is a sectional view of the top portion of a card.

Figure 3 is a sectional view of the label strip on which the index words are written.

Figure 4 is a sectional view of the protecting covering made of transparent paper.

Figure 5 is a sectional view of the card, label and covering unit.

Figure 6 shows a modified form of the covering, particularly suitable when this latter is made of transparent material such as celluloid or the like.

Figure 7 is a sectional view of the card, label and protecting covering unit, when the covering is of the type shown in Fig. 6.

Figure 8 is a front view of a portion of the card, label and protecting covering.

Figure 9 shows a portion of the paper sheet, previously perforated and on which the cut and fold lines are printed and the label strips thereafter cut from said sheet.

Figure 10 is a longitudinal section of the card frame, broken away for simplicity's sake in the middle and fitted with the cards.

Figure 11 is a partial front view of the same.

1 denotes the card body of which the upper portion is folded three times, as shown in Figure 2, in order to form by its middle, folded strip 1′, the index or top portion of the card, on which the conventional colored marks 2 are applied along its lower edge, in pencil or otherwise. The end folded strip 1″ is folded down on the rear face of the card, and the first fold line *a* forms a stop against which the next card below is pushed, while the third fold line *b* forms the upper edge of the card which is slipped underneath the top portion or index of the next card above.

The disposition of the two fold lines, *a*, *b*, allows any two cards to be brought close against each other in the stop position, while leaving the middle fold 1′, namely the top portion or card index with the label and covering fitted thereon almost entirely free.

3 denotes the label, of which the lower edge is folded along a line *c* (Figs. 3 and 9) in order to form a small tongue that is held under the lower edge of the top portion 1′ of the card. The label 3 is provided with holes 4 in correspondence with the positions of the colored marks of the top portion 1′ of the card in order to limit the visibility of said marks to the areas of said holes.

In practice, the labels 3 are obtained from a paper sheet, (Fig. 9) of suitable width, on which the holes 4 have been previously cut and the fold lines *c* and cut lines *d* have been drawn. The sheet is cut along the lines *d* in order to separate the labels after the necessary inscriptions have been typewritten on each of them.

On the labels 3 are fitted a transparent protecting covering 5, e. g. of the construction shown in Fig. 6, where it has but two fold lines for embracing only the edges of the portion 1′ (forming the card top).

In order to pull out the covering 5 and the underlying label 3 readily and easily by lateral displacement from the card, when colors on the top portion 1′ of the card itself have to be added or changed, the lateral ends of said top portion are beveled, as shown at 6 on Fig. 8 while the label and covering are left uncut, so that when the covering is seized by its lower right end or left end edge the card is not caught and the covering and label are readily pulled off.

The lower edge of the card is stepped, the steps 1^a and 1^b being connected by a short gradient 1^c and a notch 1^d for the purpose hereinafter described.

The card frame according to this invention shown in Figures 10 and 11 comprises a flat bottom 7, small side walls 8 sufficient for laterally retaining the cards, two head portions 9 and 10, respectively, for retaining the cards, in the longitudinal direction and a lower partial cover 11 for the body of the lower card.

A thin bar 12 is secured in a central longitudinal position parallel to the sides 8 for holding the cards in place, without hindering vision of same. When a card is raised for reading or recording it rests with the notch 1^d on the top portion of the next card, the step 1^a projecting forward from the step 1^b owing to the flexibility of the paper. In returning the card again to normal position after slightly raising it in order to clear the step 1^a from the top portion of the next card, this step 1^a is pressed rearward with the hand until it has been caught behind the top portion. This greatly facilitates handling the cards. In case of very large cards, more than one bar 12 may be employed. The cards are pulled in and out by slightly bending and causing them to pass under the bar 12.

The desired card is easily withdrawn by displacing it upwards with all the preceding ones, so that the last card comes to rest with its edge against the top 9. In this position the lower edge of the desired card is free of

the next card and by putting a finger under said edge and pulling outwards and laterally the card bends and can slide under the bar 12. The opposite process is carried out for inserting the card again always in an easy and ready manner without spoiling the card.

The card body is used for abridged records or abstracts. When same are unnecessary, the card body is made just long enough for seizing it by the hand and the card becomes a sorting or reference index having the above described features.

The shape and constructional details of the frame may be varied from the above description and the accompanying drawing, and so may the card details, without departing from the spirit of this invention.

I claim:

1. A file card comprising a body portion and three upper approximately parallel folds, the inner fold being less than half the width of the middle one and bent downwardly towards the front face of the card body, the middle fold being bent upwardly and approximately parallel to and positioned forward of the front face of the card so as to form the card top, the outer fold being somewhat wider than the difference in height between the first two folds and bent backwards in contact with the rear card face.

2. A file card comprising a body portion and three upper approximately parallel folds, the inner fold being less than half the width of the middle one and bent downwardly towards the front face of the card body, the middle fold being bent upwardly and approximately parallel to and positioned forward of the front face of the card body, the middle fold being bent upwardly and approximately parallel to and projecting forward from the front face of the card so as to form the card top, the outer fold being somewhat wider than the difference in height between the first two folds and bent backwards in contact with the rear face of the card, colored index marks on the middle fold or top portion, and a label of opaque material fitted on the top portion and having holes in correspondence with the colored index marks.

3. A file card comprising a body portion and three upper approximately parallel folds, the inner fold being less than half the width of the middle one and bent downwardly towards the front face of the card body, the middle fold being bent upwardly and approximately parallel to and positioned forward of the front card face so as to form the card top, the outer fold being somewhat wider than the difference in height between the first two folds and bent backwards in contact with the rear face of the card body, coloured index marks on the intermediate fold or top portion, and a label of opaque material fitted on the top portion and having holes in correspondence with the colored index marks.

4. A file card comprising a body portion and three upper approximately parallel folds, the inner fold being less than half the width of the middle one and bent downwardly towards the front face of the card, the middle fold being bent upwardly and approximately parallel to and positioned forward of the front face of the card so as to form the card top, the outer fold being somewhat wider than the difference in height between the first two folds and bent backwards in contact with the rear face of the card, colored index marks on the intermediate fold or top portion, a label of opaque material having holes corresponding to the colored marks and also space for recording, and a covering of transparent material for protecting and holding said label in place.

5. A file card comprising a body portion and three upper approximately parallel folds, the inner fold being less than half the width of the intermediate fold and bent downwardly towards the front face of the card body, the middle fold being bent upwardly so as to be approximately parallel to and positioned forward of the front face of the card body thus forming the top portion of the card, the outer fold being somewhat wider than the difference in height between the first two folds and bent backwardly in contact with the rear face of the card, bevels at the lateral ends of the top portion, colored index marks on top portion, a label of opaque material fitted on the top portion and having holes corresponding to said colored marks, and a covering of transparent material for protecting and holding the label in place.

6. A file card comprising a body portion cut below to form steps and having three upper approximately parallel folds, the inner fold being less than half the width of the middle one and bent downwardly towards the front face of the card body, the middle fold being bent upward and approximately parallel to and positioned forward of the front face of the card so as to form the card top, the outer fold being somewhat wider than the difference in height between the first two folds and bent backward in contact with the rear face of the card.

7. A filing system comprising cards each having a body portion and three upper approximately parallel folds, the inner fold being less than half the width of the intermediate fold and bent downwardly towards the front face of the card, the middle fold being bent upwardly so as to be approximately parallel to and positioned forward of the front face of the card, thus forming the top portion of the card, the outer fold being somewhat wider than the difference in height between the first two folds and bent back-

wardly in contact with the rear face of the card, bevels at the lateral ends of the top portion, colored index marks on the top portion, a label of opaque material fitted on the top portion and having holes corresponding to said colored marks, a covering of transparent material for protecting and holding the label in place, and a frame comprising a bottom, two head portions, two side walls and a bar secured parallel to the side walls for holding the cards in position.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention, I have signed my name.

EUGENIO RAVIGLIONE.