

Oct. 1, 1946.

L. B. GREEN

2,408,626

PROTECTING ORIGINATIVE MATTER

Filed Aug. 28, 1943

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

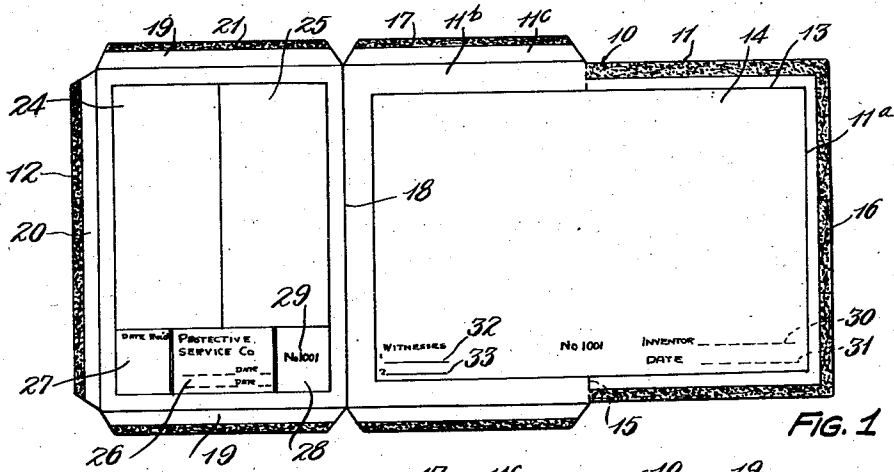


FIG. 1

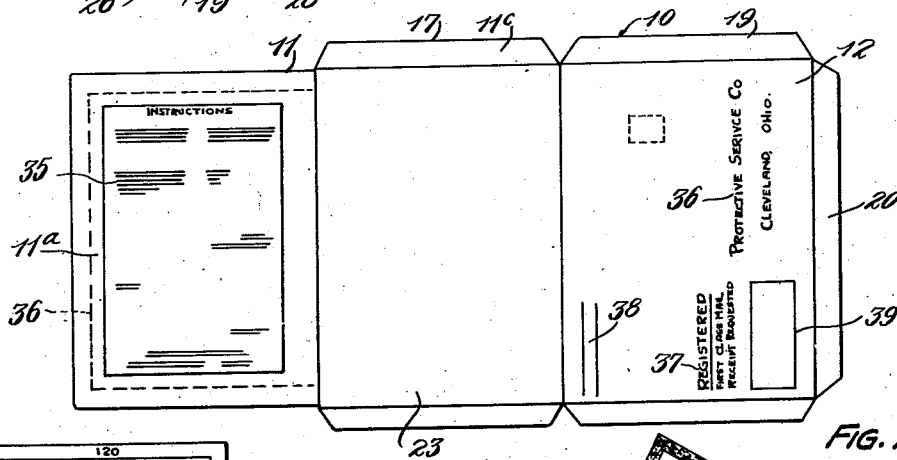


FIG. 2

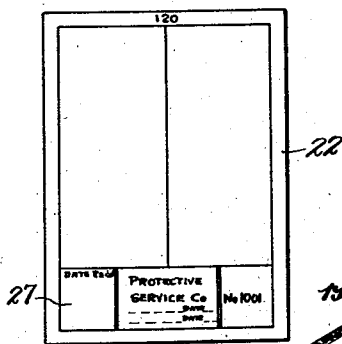


FIG. 3

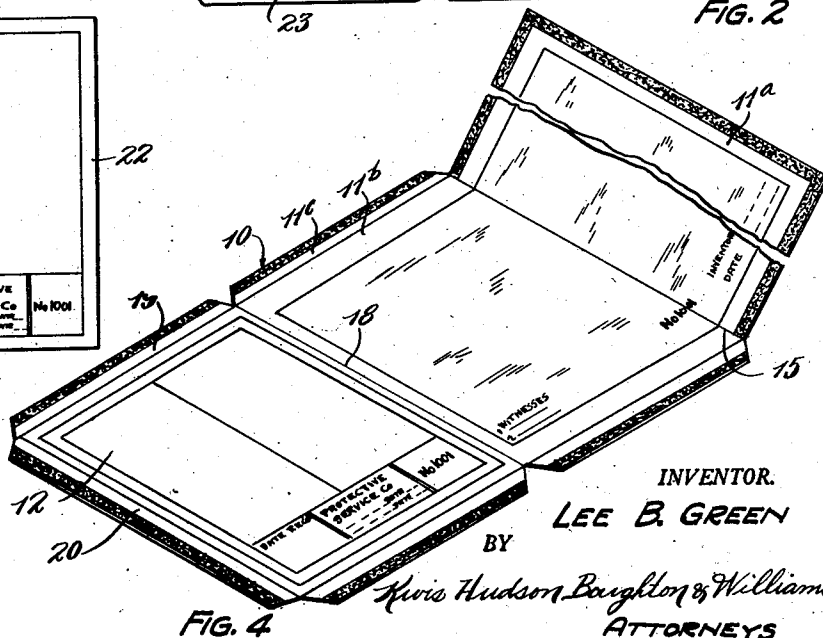


FIG. 4

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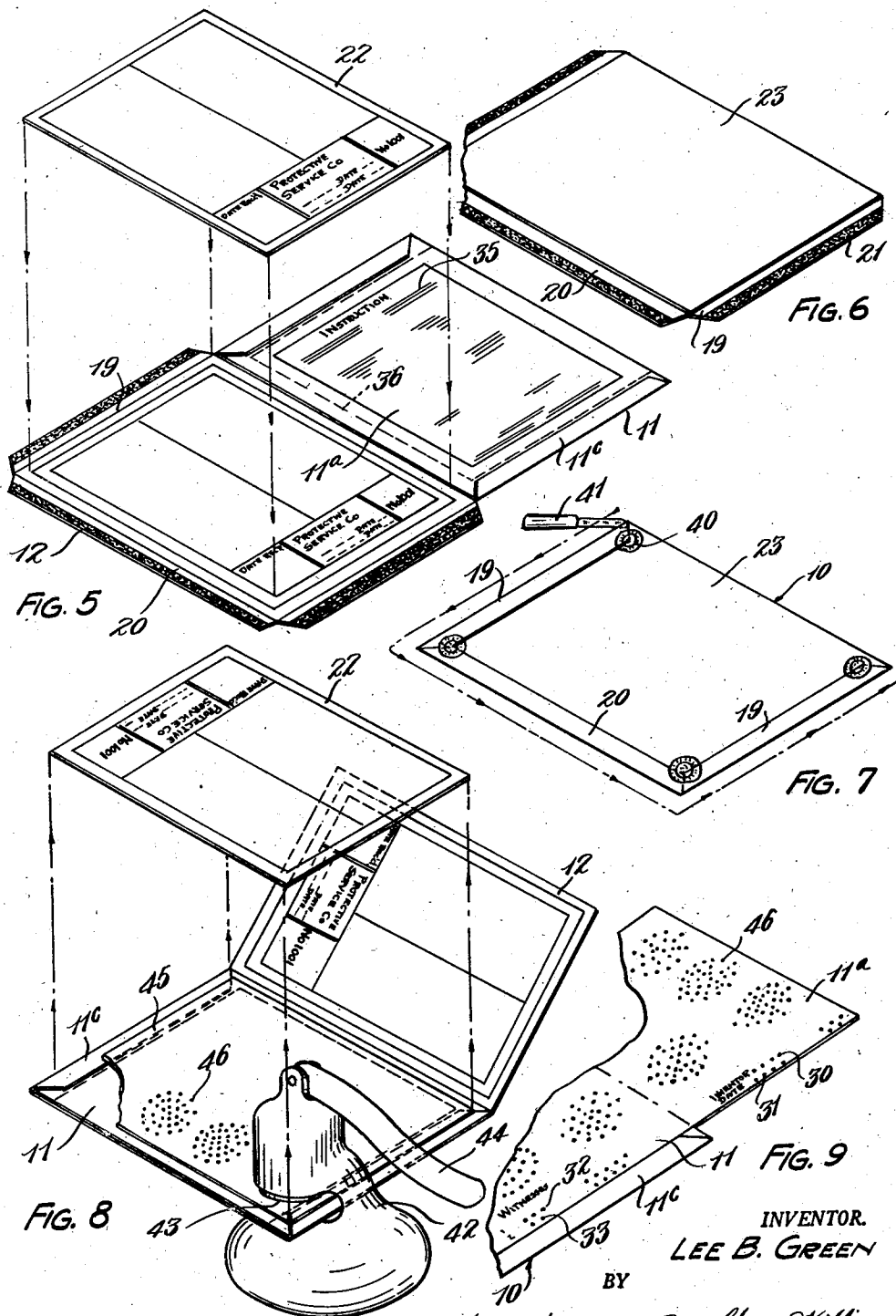
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2 Sheets-Sheet 2



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2,408,626

PROTECTING ORIGINATIVE MATTER

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8 Claims. (Cl. 283—9)

1

This invention relates to the protecting of originative matter and aims to provide a novel device for this purpose.

An object of this invention is to provide a novel device for protecting originative matter and by which the existence of such matter as of a certain date can be reliably proved.

Another object of this invention is to provide a novel device by which a date, capable of being reliably proved, is obtained on then existing originative matter and in which such matter is perforated in a manner to prevent its subsequent alteration without detection.

A further object of this invention is to provide a novel device for the purpose mentioned, wherein originative matter and a record sheet are perforated simultaneously and the record sheet is preserved out of access of the originator for subsequent comparison with said matter to determine whether alteration of the latter has occurred.

Still another object of my invention is to provide a protective device of the character mentioned having a portion adapted to receive originative matter and to be folded and sealed for concealing such matter and to be perforated for preventing subsequent alteration of such matter without detection.

The present invention also aims to provide for the protection of inventive ideas by placing a dated disclosure of such an idea on sheet material and perforating the sheet material after such disclosure has been placed thereon.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying sheets of drawings in which,

Fig. 1 is a plan view showing the inside of a folder made according to the present invention, such folder being shown in a flat condition;

Fig. 2 is a similar plan view of the folder showing the other or outer side thereof;

Fig. 3 is a plan view of a record sheet adapted to be used as a part of my protective device;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view showing the folder partially folded;

Fig. 5 is another perspective view showing a portion of the device folded and sealed for concealing the originative matter and also showing the record sheet being placed in the folder;

Fig. 6 is a perspective view showing the device after the sealed portion containing the originative matter has been folded against the flap portion or cover section;

Fig. 7 is a perspective view showing the sealed

2

device with date stamps thereon and indicating how the cover section can be cut for opening the device without exposing the originative matter;

Fig. 8 is a perspective view showing the step of simultaneously perforating a record sheet and the sealed portion containing the originative matter; and

Fig. 9 is a partial perspective view showing a portion of the device unfolded after it has been perforated.

Further reference will now be made to the accompanying drawings for a more detailed description of my novel protective device. Figs. 1 and 2 show the folder part 10 of the device in a flat or expanded condition. This folder comprises a sheet of paper or other suitable sheet material having a portion or section 11 adapted to receive on the inside thereof the originative matter to be protected, and a flap portion or cover section 12 for closing the folder after it has been prepared as hereinafter explained.

The inner face of the folder portion 11 preferably has a marginal line 13 printed thereon and enclosing a space or area 14 in which a drawing, design, written composition, or other originative matter can be drawn, written or otherwise depicted. Instead of being drawn or written directly in the space 14, the originative matter can be in the form of, or carried by, a separate sheet which is placed against the area 14 and may be glued or otherwise attached thereto. The end portion 11a, which comprises approximately one-half of the folder section 11, is adapted to be folded transversely at the point indicated by the dotted lines 15, that is to say, folded transversely on a line extending across the folder section 11 at approximately the mid-point thereof.

The end portion 11a has a marginal strip of glue or other adhesive 16 thereon lying outside of the marginal line 13 and extending from one of the dotted lines 15 to the other as shown in Fig. 1. The portion 11b of the folder section 11 is provided with oppositely extending flap portions 11c which have marginal strips 17 of glue or other adhesive thereon. As shown in Fig. 1 the flap portions 11c project outwardly beyond the side edges of the end portion 11a and extend along the folder section 11 from the fold lines 15 thereof approximately to the junction or fold line 18 connecting the folder section 11 with the cover section 12.

After the originative matter has been placed on or against the inner face of the area 14 of the folder section 11, the outer end portion 11a is folded inwardly at the dotted lines 15 and, as

indicated in Fig. 4, such folding of the end portion 11a causes the folder section 11 to be doubled or folded upon itself so as to conceal the origina-
 tive matter between the folded portions. As a
 part of the operation of folding the end portion
 11a, the marginal adhesive strip 16 is moistened
 and pressed firmly against the folder portion 11b
 so that the folder portions 11a and 11b will be-
 come sealed together on three sides of the area
 14. After the end portion 11a has been thus fold-
 ed and sealed against the portion 11b, the flaps
 11c are folded inwardly toward each other and
 after moistening of the adhesive strips 17 thereof
 are pressed firmly against the back or outside
 face of the folded end portion 11a. These flaps
 form an additional holding and sealing means for
 retaining the end portion 11a in its folded con-
 dition. In Fig. 5 I show the folder section 11 in
 the folded and sealed condition resulting from
 the above described procedure. It will be seen
 that when the folder section 11 has been thus
 prepared, it forms a strong envelope or enclosure
 for retaining and concealing the origina-
 tive matter.

The cover section 12 of the folder 10 has side
 and end flaps 19 and 20 thereon and, as shown in
 Fig. 1, the inner faces of these flaps have mar-
 ginal strips 21 of glue or other adhesive thereon.
 After the folder section 11 has been folded and
 sealed as shown in Fig. 5 and above explained, it
 is ready to be folded against the cover section 12
 to form a second enclosure or envelope in the
 folder 10. The enclosure or envelope formed be-
 tween the cover section 12 and the previously
 folded section 11 serves to conceal and carry any
 desired data relating to the origina-
 tive matter, such as one or more record sheets 22.

In Fig. 5 I show one of the record sheets 22 in
 the act of being moved into position against the
 inner face of the cover section 12 of the folder
 preparatory to the folding of the sealed section 11
 against the cover section or vice versa. In Fig. 6
 I show the sealed folder section 11 as having been
 swung or folded on the fold line 18 against, and
 in overlying relation to, the cover section 12 and
 with the record sheet 22 disposed between the
 folder sections 11 and 12. The marginal flap por-
 tions 19 and 20 of the cover section 12 are now
 folded inwardly and, after moistening of the ad-
 hesive strips 21 thereon, are pressed against the
 back or outer face 23 of the folder portion 11c
 to seal the sections 11 and 12 together with the
 record sheet 22 concealed and retained there-
 between. Fig. 7 shows the folder 10 completely
 folded and sealed, that is in the condition after
 the flap portions 19 and 20 of the cover section
 12 have been folded inwardly and sealed against
 the back of the portion 11c as just explained
 above.

As shown in Fig. 1, the inner face of the cover
 section 12 of the folder 10 may have lines printed
 thereon outlining a number of areas or spaces in
 which data or information pertaining to the
 origina-
 tive matter may be written or printed.
 These spaces may include the area 24 in which
 may be placed the name and address of the ori-
 ginator or inventor of the origina-
 tive matter, the title or subject of such matter and any other
 desired data or information such as assignments
 of such matter, the name and address of the
 attorney of the originator, and the name and
 address of the originator's employer or assignee.
 The space 25 may likewise be used for data or
 information pertaining to the origina-
 tive matter and, when such matter is made the subject of a

patent application, this space may be used for
 maintaining a record of the events or develop-
 ments which occur during the prosecution of the
 patent application in the Patent Office.

The space 26 may have the name and address
 of the service station or agent to whom the pre-
 pared folder 10 is sent for purposes hereinafter
 explained. This space may also include lines for
 the dated signatures of employees of such service
 station who receive and handle the folder. The
 space 27 may be provided for the dated receiving
 stamp of the service station named in the space
 28. Such receiving stamp will show the date, and
 if desired the hour, when the folder was received
 by such service station. The space 28 may con-
 tain the serial number 29 of the folder and any
 other data or information considered pertinent to
 the origina-
 tive matter such as the name of the
 city or postal station from which the folder is
 being sent to the service station and the date on
 which it is prepared for transmission to the serv-
 ice station.

The inner face of the folder section 11 may also
 be provided with printed lines 30 and 31 thereon
 for the signature of the originator or inventor
 and the dating of the origina-
 tive matter which
 has been placed in the space 14. In addition to
 the lines 30 and 31, the folder section 11 may
 also have lines 32 and 33 thereon for the dated
 signatures of witnesses. The lines 30 and 31 are
 located in the lower right-hand corner of the area
 14 and the lines 32 and 33 are located in the lower
 left-hand corner of this area so that when the
 folder section 11 is folded or doubled on the dot-
 ted lines 15, the lines 30 and 31 will be in super-
 posed or overlying relation to the lines 32 and 33.
 This is an important feature in connection with
 the perforating of the folder as will be explained
 hereinafter.

In Fig. 2 I show the back or outside of the
 folder 10 from which it will be seen that the
 back of the folder portion 11a may have a set of
 instructions 35 printed thereon which explain in
 detail the steps and procedure to be followed in
 using my protective device. The back of the por-
 tion 11a may also have a dotted line 36 printed
 thereon which line is used as a guide in cutting
 open the sealed folder section 11 when access to
 the origina-
 tive matter is to be had. The back of
 the cover section 12 may have printed thereon
 the name and address 36 of the service station
 to which the prepared folder 10 is to be sent.
 This space may also carry instructions 37 relative
 to the sending of the folder by registered mail and
 may also have lines 38 for the return address
 of the originator or sender. In addition, the
 back of the cover section 12 may have a desig-
 nated space or area 39 at which the registry
 receipt can be subsequently glued or otherwise
 attached to the folder for safe keeping after the
 folder has been returned to the originator or
 sender by the service station.

In Fig. 3 I show the record sheet 22, the face
 of which may be similar to or identical with the
 inner face of the cover section 12 of the folder.
 That is to say, the record sheet 22 may have the
 same areas and lines thereon as the inner face
 of the cover section 12 for the receipt of similar
 or identical data and information pertaining to
 the origina-
 tive matter to be protected. The de-
 sired data, such as that mentioned above, is placed
 on the record sheet 22 by the originator or sender
 after which this sheet is enclosed in the folder
 before the latter is sent to the service station.

After the folder 10 has been fully prepared as

above explained, it is transmitted to the service station or agent in a manner such that date stamps will be placed on the folder, for example, by sending the folder by registered mail. When the folder is sent by registered mail such date stamps 40 are placed on the folder at appropriate points, usually on the sealed flaps 19 and 20 as shown in Fig. 7. These date stamps become a part of the protective device 10 and serve to prove that the sealed folder was transmitted through the mails on the date indicated by the stamps 40. When the prepared folder is received by the service station, it is promptly opened as by cutting the cover section 12 around the sides and ends 19 and 20 thereof so that the cover section can be opened with respect to the sealed folder section 11. Such cutting of the cover section 12 can be accomplished by a suitable instrument 41 used in the manner indicated in Fig. 7. Immediately upon the opening of the cover section of the folder, the dated receiving stamp of the service station is placed in the spaces 27 of the cover section and the record sheet 22. It should be clearly understood that the opening of the cover section 12 does not expose the origina- tive matter because the folder section 11 containing such matter remains sealed.

An important part of my protective device is the use of perforations in the sealed folder section 11 with the origina- tive matter therein so that such matter can not be thereafter altered without detection. The step of perforating the sealed folder section 11 is illustrated in Fig. 8 wherein I show a suitable perforating device 42 embodying perforating dies 43 and having an operating handle 44. In perforating the folder section 11, one or more record sheets 45 are placed in overlying or coextending relation to the folder section 11 and are perforated simultaneously with the latter. The simultaneous perforation of the record sheet or sheets 45 and the folder section 11 produces numerous small openings or groups of openings 46 in such record sheets and folder section. The perforations 46 can be distributed in a random or promiscuous pattern over a substantial portion of the area of the record sheet 45 and the folder section 11 so that substantially all portions of the origina- tive matter contained in the folder section 11 will receive the perforations 46. These perforations are preferably very small pin-prick openings formed by needle-like points on the perforating dies 43 and if any attempt is made to alter the origina- tive matter subsequent to its perforation, such alteration can be readily detected by careful inspection and by comparison of the perforated origina- tive matter with the perforated record sheet 45.

Instead of using an additional record sheet 45 in the perforating step, I can use the record sheet 22 which is described above and which is shown in Fig. 8 in the act of being removed from the folder 10 upon the opening of the latter at the service station. When the record sheet 22 is used in the perforating step, it is left in overlying relation to the sealed section 11 of the folder and both the record sheet 22 and the sealed section are perforated simultaneously. It will be understood of course that the perforating step can also be carried out by perforating the folder 10 with the record sheet 22 therein and prior to the opening of the folder in the manner shown in Fig. 7. In the latter case the perforations 46 will also be formed in the cover section 12 of the folder.

After the perforating of the record sheet and the sealed folder section 11, the record sheet or

sheets are retained by the service station but the folder 10 is returned to the sender, that is to say, to the originator or inventor, or to his assignee or employer, as may be desired or specified. At this time one or more dated signatures are placed in the spaces 26 of the record sheet 22 and the cover section 12 by employees of the service station who have handled or inspected the protective device 10 and who could be later called as witnesses. The record sheets 22 and 45 are filed and retained at the service station where they are out of access by the originator or inventor and are preserved for future reference in the event that it becomes necessary or desirable to prove or establish the date on which the origina- tive matter in the folder section 11 was perforated, or to prove that such matter existed as of the date of perforation. By comparing the perforated record sheet and the perforated folder section 11 containing the origina- tive matter it can easily be determined whether such matter has been altered in any respect since the date of perforation because, if alteration has occurred, it will be revealed by the condition of the perforations 46.

In describing the folder section 11, I have stated above that the lines 30 and 31 for the signature and date of the originator or inventor are located so that when the folder section 11 is folded they will be in overlying or superposed relation to the lines 32 and 33 which receive the signatures of the witnesses. This is a very desirable feature because the signatures of the originator and witnesses can then be perforated simultaneously, with the same perforations extending through the overlying signatures, and subsequent alteration of any of these signatures cannot be made without detection. The perforating of the signature portions of the folder section 11 can be accomplished either with the perforating machine 42 or manually by means of a prick-punch.

After the above described perforating of the folder and record sheet has taken place and the record sheet or sheets have been filed away at the service station, the folder 10 is placed in a suitable envelope and is returned to the sender preferably by registered mail. When the folder is received by the sender, he can file the same away for safe keeping without opening the sealed folder section 11, or if he wishes to do so he can open the sealed section 11 by cutting along the perforated line 36 of the folded end portion 11a. Fig. 9 shows the folder after the end portion 11a has been thus cut and unfolded to enable the originator to disclose his origina- tive matter to interested manufacturers and others or to use such matter for reference purposes. It will be understood of course that since a dated record of the perforations is on file at the service station and since the date of transmittal through the mails as well as the receiving date stamp of the service station appear on the folder 10, the originator will be protected against theft or copying of his origina- tive matter because he will be able to prove the existence of such matter as of the dates established by such stamps and records.

For convenience in maintaining proper and accurate records at the service station, it is desirable to have the identifying number 29 appear on the folder section 11 as well as on the cover section 12. It is also desirable to have this number appear on the record sheet 22 and on the record sheet 45 if the latter is used. It will be

understood moreover that in printing the folders 10 and the record sheets 22, the numbers 29 are placed thereon so that the folders and record sheets are all numbered serially or consecutively and the originative matter of any particular folder can thereafter be identified or referred to in the records of the service station by such serial number.

From the foregoing description and accompanying drawings it will now be readily seen that I have provided a novel device by which inventive ideas, designs, drawings, written compositions, or other originative matter can be safely protected and the existence of such matter as of a particular date can be reliably proved. It will likewise be seen that the novel perforating step and the manner in which it is carried out affords additional protection and prevents alteration of the originative matter without detection.

While I have illustrated and described my novel protective device in considerable detail, it will be understood of course that I do not wish to be correspondingly limited but regard my invention as including all changes and modifications coming within the spirit of the invention and the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. An invention record folder or the like comprising a disclosure sheet and a cover sheet integrally connected therewith, said disclosure sheet having thereon an appropriately designated space for receiving a disclosure of an idea and being foldable to conceal said disclosure, means on said disclosure sheet for sealing the same in its folded condition for preventing access to said disclosure, said cover sheet being foldable against the folded and sealed disclosure sheet, and means on the cover sheet for sealing the same to the folded disclosure sheet for retaining the folder in a closed condition for transportation, said cover sheet being capable of being cut open while said disclosure sheet remains sealed for maintaining said disclosure concealed.

2. An invention record folder comprising a disclosure sheet and a cover sheet integrally connected therewith, said disclosure sheet having thereon an appropriately designated space for receiving a disclosure of an idea and being foldable to conceal said disclosure, means on said disclosure sheet for sealing the same in its folded condition, said cover sheet being foldable against the folded and sealed disclosure sheet, means on the cover sheet for sealing the same to the folded disclosure sheet, and a removable record sheet in the folder between said cover sheet and said folded disclosure sheet and having an appropriately designated space for receiving indicia thereon providing a record of data relating to said disclosure, said cover sheet also having an appropriately designated space for receiving indicia on the inner face thereof providing a record of data relating to said disclosure and being capable of being cut open to reveal the data thereon and permit removal of said record sheet while said disclosure sheet remains sealed.

3. An invention record folder comprising a disclosure sheet and a cover sheet integrally connected therewith, said disclosure sheet having thereon an appropriately designated space for receiving a disclosure of an idea and being foldable to conceal said disclosure, means on said disclosure sheet for sealing the same in its folded condition, said cover sheet being foldable against the folded and sealed disclosure sheet, means on the cover sheet for sealing the same to the folded

disclosure sheet for retaining the folder in a closed condition for transportation, said cover sheet having an appropriately designated space for receiving indicia on the inner face thereof providing a record of data relating to said disclosure and being capable of being cut open to reveal said data while said disclosure sheet remains sealed for maintaining said disclosure concealed, said folded disclosure sheet having numerous perforations formed therein so as to extend through both layers thereof and distributed over the major portion of said disclosure and disclosure sheet to prevent subsequent alteration of the disclosure without detection and also having a weakened portion for facilitating the opening thereof.

4. An invention record folder comprising a disclosure sheet and a cover sheet integrally connected therewith, said disclosure sheet having thereon an appropriately designated space for receiving a disclosure of an idea and being foldable to conceal said disclosure, means on said disclosure sheet for sealing the same in its folded condition, said cover sheet being foldable against the folded and sealed disclosure sheet, means on the cover sheet for sealing the same to the folded disclosure sheet, and a removable record sheet in the folder between said cover sheet and said folded disclosure sheet and having an appropriately designated space for receiving indicia thereon providing a record of data relating to said disclosure, said cover sheet also having an appropriately designated space for receiving indicia on the inner face thereof providing a record of data relating to said disclosure and being capable of being cut open to reveal said data and permit removal of said record sheet while said disclosure sheet remains sealed, said folded disclosure sheet having numerous perforations formed therein so as to extend through both layers thereof and distributed over the major portion of said disclosure and disclosure sheet to prevent subsequent alteration of the disclosure without detection and said record sheet having similar perforations formed therein to provide a record of the perforations of said disclosure sheet.

5. An invention record folder comprising a disclosure sheet and a cover sheet integrally connected therewith, said disclosure sheet having thereon an appropriately designated space for receiving a disclosure of an idea and being foldable to conceal said disclosure, means on said disclosure sheet for sealing the same in its folded condition, said cover sheet being foldable against the folded and sealed disclosure sheet, means on the cover sheet for sealing the same to the folded disclosure sheet, said cover sheet having an appropriately designated space for receiving indicia on the inner face thereof providing a record of data relating to said disclosure and being capable of being cut open to reveal said data while said disclosure sheet remains sealed, said disclosure sheet having appropriately designated spaces thereon for signatures and dates and located so that the latter spaces are in overlying relation for the folded condition of the disclosure sheet and said folded disclosure sheet having numerous perforations formed therein so as to extend through both layers thereof and distributed over said disclosure and said latter spaces to prevent alteration without detection.

6. A folder of the character described comprising a sheet having a foldable portion and a cover portion integrally connected, said foldable portion having an appropriately designated space

for the reception of originative matter and being foldable to conceal said matter therein, means on said foldable portion for sealing the same around its edges while in the folded condition for preventing access to said matter, said cover portion having an appropriately designated space on the inner face thereof for the reception of data and being foldable against the previously folded first-mentioned portion for concealing said data, and means for sealing said cover portion against said previously folded first-mentioned portion, said cover portion being capable of being opened to reveal said data while said first-mentioned portion remains sealed.

7. A folder of the character described comprising a sheet having a foldable portion and a cover portion integrally connected, said foldable portion having an appropriately designated space for the reception of originative matter and being foldable to conceal said matter therein, means on said foldable portion for sealing the same around its edges while in the folded condition for preventing access to said matter, said cover portion having an appropriately designated space on the inner face thereof for the reception of data and being foldable against the previously folded first-mentioned portion for concealing said data, a removable record sheet between said cover portion and said previously folded first-mentioned portion, and means on said cover portion for sealing the same against said previously folded first-mentioned portion for retaining said record sheet in the folder and preventing access to said data, said cover portion being capable of being opened to reveal said data and permit

removal of said record sheet while said first-mentioned portion remains sealed.

8. A folder of the character described comprising a sheet having a foldable portion and a cover portion integrally connected, said foldable portion having an appropriately designated space for the reception of originative matter and being foldable to conceal said matter therein, means on said foldable portion for sealing the same around its edges while in the folded condition for preventing access to said matter, said cover portion having an appropriately designated space on the inner face thereof for the reception of data and being foldable against the previously folded first-mentioned portion for concealing said data, a removable record sheet between said cover portion and said previously folded first-mentioned portion, and means on said cover portion for sealing the same against said previously folded first-mentioned portion for retaining said record sheet in the folder and preventing access to said data, said cover portion being capable of being opened to reveal said data, and permit removal of said record sheet while said first-mentioned portion remains sealed and said folded first-mentioned portion having numerous perforations formed therein so as to extend through both layers thereof and distributed over said matter to prevent subsequent alteration of the matter without detection and said record sheet having similar perforations formed therein to provide a record of the perforations of said first-mentioned portion.

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