J. H. RAND, JR.

GUIDE FOR INDEX SYSTEMS.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 8, 1914.

1,140,480. Patented May 25, 1915.

Fig. 1

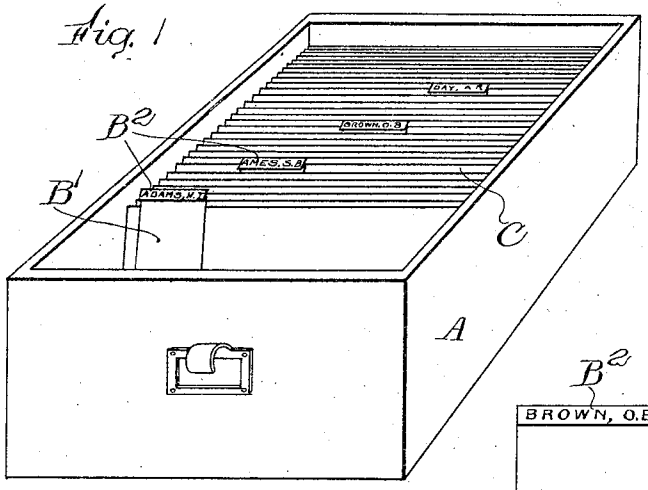


Fig. 3.

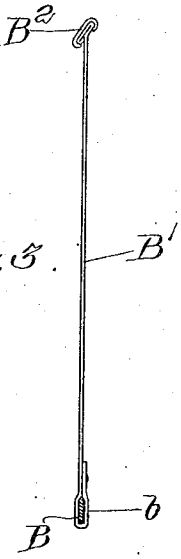


Fig. 2.

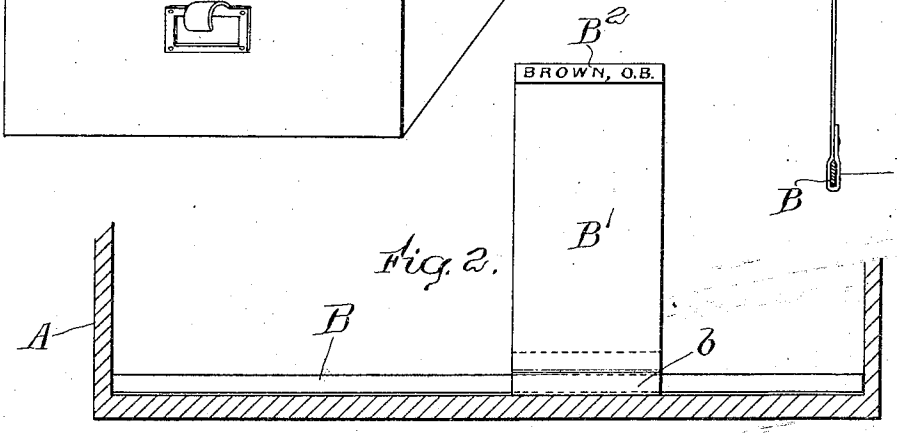


Fig. 4.

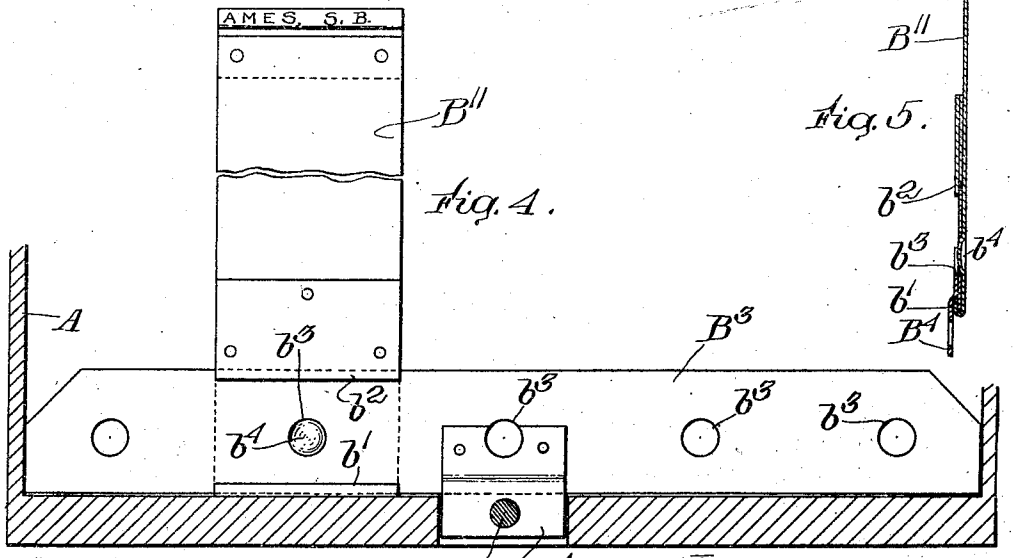


Fig. 5.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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GUIDE FOR INDEX SYSTEMS.

1,140,480. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented May 25, 1915.

Application filed May 8, 1914. Serial No. 837,305.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES H. RAND, Jr., a citizen of the United States, and resident of North Tonawanda, in the county of Niagara and State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Guides for Index Systems, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to index systems, and more particularly to the construction of the stiff dividers or guides used in index systems; and its object is to provide dividers or guides, preferably metal dividers or guides, so constructed as to effect a substantial saving in weight and material, and to permit lateral adjustments of the guide or character-bearing members of the dividers or guides, whereby the user is enabled to arrange the guide members according to any method or scheme of indexing best suited to the requirements of use for indexing his particular subject matter. These and other features will hereinafter be more specifically described and pointed out in the claims.

The invention is applicable to card index systems, filing systems for letters and other papers, and in fact any form of index system in which dividers or guides are employed in a series of indexed elements, whether such elements are cards, folders, or other forms of units. And while I have shown in the drawings a card index system it is to be understood that this is for the purpose of illustration merely, and that the invention is applicable to index systems generally, irrespective of the particular character of the indexed elements.

In the accompanying drawings which illustrate certain embodiments of the invention,—Figure 1 is a perspective view of a card index system containing the preferred form of dividers embodying my invention; Fig. 2 is a front elevation, enlarged, of one of said dividers in place in a drawer or similar container; Fig. 3 is an end elevation of said divider, showing the base member in section; Fig. 4 is a front elevation of a modified form of divider containing the invention; and Fig. 5 is a vertical cross section of the divider shown in Fig. 4.

Referring to the drawings, A represents a drawer, box or other container, such as is commonly used for index systems of this character, and C represents a series of cards or other indexed elements, arranged one behind another in the drawer A in the usual way.

The dividers, as shown in Figs. 1 to 3, consist each of a base member B, consisting of a narrow steel bar, the length of which is substantially the same as the width of the indexed elements C, and a guide member B′, of sheet metal, which extends upward from the base B and is materially narrower than the width of the indexed members. At the top of the guide members B′ is a tab B^2 which displays the index characters, or whatever form of inscription is appropriate to the particular system. The tab B^2 projects a little above the top edges of the indexed elements C. The lower end of the guide member B′ is folded over the base B, as shown at *b*, to form a guideway embracing the base B, and slides lengthwise of the base, but engages it sufficiently snugly so as to make a frictional contact therewith, and to hold the guide member B′ against angular movement on the base. Thus the guide member B′ is adjustable along the base to any desired position, and when adjusted will be held in adjusted position by frictional engagement with the base, which is sufficiently firm to prevent it from becoming accidentally displaced; and if any lateral pressure is applied to the top of the guide member B′ the guideway *b* only tends to cramp and hold the guide member B′ the more firmly in its position on the base B.

In the form of the invention shown in Figs. 4 and 5, the base B^3 consists of a narrow sheet metal strip, and the upwardly extending guide member B″, formed of sheet metal as before, is bent over at its lower end to form a lip *b*′, engaging the bottom edge of the base B^3, while another lip b^2 is secured to the face of the member B″, to engage the upper edge of the base B^3. Said lips *b*′ and b^2 form the guideway to embrace and slide upon the base B^3 and are preferably made to fit the base B^3 sufficiently tightly to effect a frictional engagement therewith. As further security against accidental displacement, and to insure the uniform lateral adjustment or spacing of the several guide members in the system, the base B^3 may be provided with a series of apertures b^3, which are engaged by a corresponding rounded knob or boss b^4, pressed up from the sheet metal guide member B″. There is sufficient resiliency in the sheet metal of

the parts to permit the guide member B'' to be slid lengthwise of the base B^3, causing the knob b^4 to spring out of the hole b^3 which it engages, until it comes opposite and snaps into another hole b^3. Said holes in conjunction with the knob form a series of yielding stops.

The base B^3 may be provided with a downwardly extending tongue B^4, made with a hole, through which passes a lock rod R, such as is often used in index systems of this sort.

With this invention not only is there a substantial saving of material over the usual metal dividers or guides which are substantially coextensive with the indexed elements, but the elimination of so great an amount of metal materially lightens the dividers and consequently the index system; and the making of the guide members B' narrower than the indexed elements leaves the faces of the card or other elements C immediately behind the guides, exposed throughout substantially their whole extent, so that they can readily be inspected and read without swinging the guides out of the way. Moreover, the lateral adjustment of the guide members on their bases enables the user to arrange the guide tabs in vertical or diagonal rows, or in any position, on in any relation, best suited to the subject matter of the index.

I claim:

1. In an index system, in combination with a series of indexed elements, a divider comprising a base, the length of which is substantially the same as the width of the indexed elements and the breadth of which is substantially less than the height of the indexed elements, and a materially narrower guide member extending upward from said base beyond the tops of the said indexed elements.

2. In an index system, in combination with a series of indexed elements, a divider comprising a base, the length of which is substantially the same as the width of the indexed elements and the breadth of which is substantially less than the height of the indexed elements, and a materially narrower guide member extending upward from said base beyond the tops of the said indexed elements and adjustable thereon.

3. In an index system, in combination with a series of indexed elements, a divider comprising a base, the length of which is substantially the same as the width of the indexed elements and the breadth of which is substantially less than the height of the indexed elements, and a materially narrower guide member extending upward from said base beyond the tops of the said indexed elements and having at its lower end between the indexed elements and covered thereby a guideway embracing said base and adapted to slide lengthwise thereof.

4. In an index system, in combination with a series of indexed elements, a divider comprising a base, the length of which is substantially the same as the width of the indexed elements and the breadth of which is substantially less than the height of the indexed elements, and a materially narrower guide member extending upward from said base beyond the tops of the said indexed elements and having at its lower end between the indexed elements and covered thereby a guideway embracing said base and making close frictional engagement therewith but adapted to slide lengthwise thereof.

5. In an index system, in combination with a series of indexed elements, a divider comprising a base formed of a narrow bar, the length of which is substantially the same as the width of the indexed elements and the breadth of which is substantially less than the height of the indexed elements, and a materially narrower guide member formed of sheet material mounted at its lower end upon said bar between said indexed elements and covered thereby and slidable lengthwise thereon.

6. In an index system, in combination with a series of indexed elements, a divider comprising a base formed of a narrow metal bar, the length of which is substantially the same as the width of the indexed elements, and a materially narrower guide member formed of sheet metal mounted at its lower end upon said bar and slidable lengthwise thereon, said base having a series of stops by which the guide member may be yieldingly held in any one of several predetermined positions of adjustment on the base.

Signed by me at Boston, Massachusetts, this 6th day of May 1914.

JAMES H. RAND, JR.

Witnesses:
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CHARLES D. WOODBERRY.