

(No Model.)

A. L. PURDY.  
BILL FILE.

No. 461,046.

Patented Oct. 13, 1891.

*Fig. 1.*

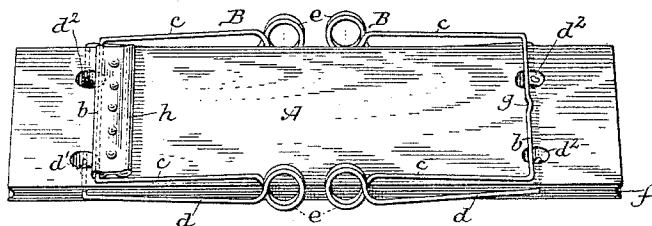


*Fig. 2.*

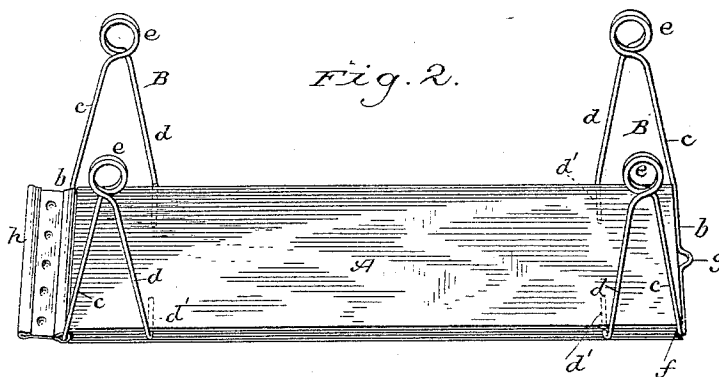
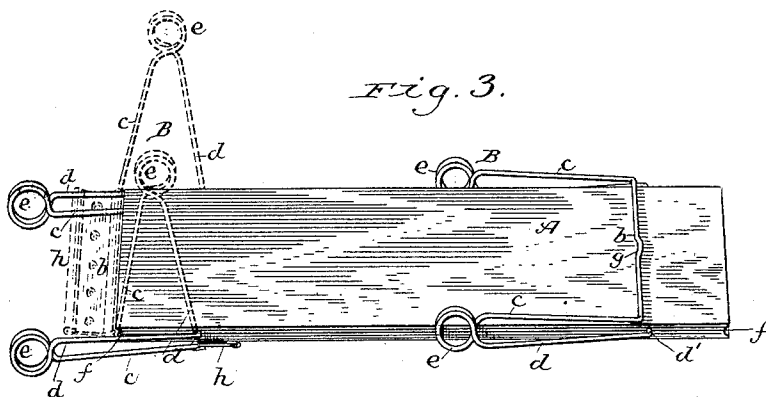


*Fig. 3.*



Chas. Buckheit.  
Theo. L. Popp. } witnesses.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## BILL-FILE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 461,046, dated October 13, 1891.

Application filed February 2, 1889. Serial No. 298,485. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ALBERT L. PURDY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Wells-  
ville, in the county of Allegany and State of  
5 New York, have invented new and useful Im-  
provements in Bill-Files, of which the follow-  
ing is a specification.

This invention relates to that class of bill  
files or holders which consist of a back plate  
10 or board and a spring clasp or clasps attached  
to the board, whereby the bills or other pa-  
pers are clamped against the board.

The object of my invention is to construct  
the clasps of the holder in such a manner that  
15 they can be wholly swung out of the way, so  
as to leave the entire surface of the board or  
back plate clear and unobstructed, so that the  
bills can be conveniently placed in the file, and  
so that the clasps may be manipulated inde-  
pendently of each other, in order to release the  
20 bills at one end and clasp them at the other  
end in looking over the same.

My invention consists of the improvements  
which will be hereinafter fully described, and  
25 pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is  
a perspective view of the bill-file, showing the  
clasps against the back board in the position  
in which they clamp the bills. Fig. 2 is a  
30 similar view, showing the clasps swung away  
from the board to clear the same. Fig. 3 is a  
similar view, showing one of the clasps closed  
against the board and the other thrown over  
the end of the board and resting against the  
35 back of the same.

Like letters of reference refer to like parts  
in the several figures.

A represents a narrow board or back plate  
forming the support against which the bills  
40 are placed, and which is preferably construct-  
ed of wood.

B B represent two spring-clasps arranged  
near opposite ends of the board A, and where-  
by the bills are held against the board A.  
45 These clasps each consist of a cross-bar *b*,  
adapted to rest upon the bills and provided  
with lateral arms *c* and two branches *d d*, ar-  
ranged nearly parallel with the arms *c*. The  
branches *d* are connected at their outer ends  
50 to the arms *c* by spring-coils *e* and are piv-

oted at their inner ends to the lateral edges  
of the board A. The inner portions of the  
branches *d* are bent inwardly at right angles  
to the remaining portions of the branches, as  
shown at *d'*, and are journaled in openings 55  
formed in the lateral edges of the board A,  
near the ends thereof. At the inner ends of  
these pivot-openings are formed holes *d*<sup>2</sup>, ex-  
tending through the entire thickness of the  
board and at right angles to said pivot-open- 60  
ings. The inner ends of the wire pivots *d'*  
are clinched or bent over in the holes *d*<sup>2</sup> and  
are in this manner securely held in place. If  
desired, the ends of the wire pivots may be  
flattened or enlarged in the openings *d*<sup>2</sup> to 65  
prevent withdrawal thereof. The coils *e* tend  
to draw the arms *c* and branches *d* toward  
each other and the cross-bars *b* against the  
board A. The arms *c* and branches *d* prefer-  
ably cross each other where the ends of the 70  
coils *e* connect with these parts, as by this  
construction the clasps retain their elasticity  
for a longer time. The clasps are attached  
to the board A solely by the pivots *d'* and are  
capable of swinging upwardly and outwardly 75  
over the ends of the board, as shown by full  
lines in Fig. 3, so as to entirely clear the front  
side of the board A, the cross-bars *b* of the  
clasps resting against the under side or back  
of the board and thereby holding the clasps 80  
in an open position. If desired, the clasps  
may be held in this position by engaging their  
cross-bars in transverse grooves or depressions  
*f*, formed in the ends of the board A, as shown  
in Fig. 2. When the clasps are swung over 85  
the ends of the board and rest against the  
back thereof, the face of the board A is free  
and unobstructed and the bills or other pa-  
pers can be conveniently placed upon the  
board. After the clasps have been thrown 90  
over the ends of the boards the arms and  
branches *c d* may be swung at right angles  
to the board, as shown by full lines in Fig. 2  
and by dotted lines in Fig. 3, in which posi-  
tion they serve as guards or guides, which 95  
hold the bills squarely and evenly upon the  
board. After the papers have been put in  
the file the cross-bars *b* are swung forwardly  
over the ends of the board, when the coils *e*  
by their reaction will draw the cross-bars in- 100

wardly against the package of bills and cause the cross-bars to clasp the bills and assume the position shown in Fig. 1. This inward movement of the cross-bars when released also causes the arms *c* and branches *d* to swing inwardly toward the board *A* and occupy a position adjacent to the lateral edges of the board, as shown in Fig. 1.

When it is desired to refer to the indorsements on the bills without withdrawing them from the file, one of the clasps is swung over the end of the board to release the bills at one end, while the bills are held at their opposite ends against the board by the other clasp, so as not to be withdrawn or displaced in the file.

While examining the bills the arms *c* and *d* are turned parallel with the edges of the board, so as to be out of the way.

By my improved construction the inner portions of the clasps formed by the arms *c*, branches *d*, and coils *e* are rendered capable of swinging rearwardly beyond the board *A*, giving the clasps considerable range of movement and enabling the same to receive and clasp a large number of bills, while at the same time possessing sufficient elasticity to firmly clasp a small number of bills.

To enable the clasps to be conveniently manipulated the cross-bars *b* are preferably formed with a projection, bend, or loop *g*, as shown in the right-hand clasps of the drawings, or, if preferred, the cross-bars may be provided with a plate or finger-piece *h*, as shown in the left-hand clasps in all the figures.

If desired, the cross-bars *b* may be inclosed in a thimble or sleeve to strengthen and stiffen the same, which permits the use of lighter or thinner wire in the construction of the clasps.

The clasps are each preferably constructed of a single piece or length of spring-wire bent to the form shown.

It is obvious that the bill-file may be provided with a single clasp, if desired, but two are preferably employed, as shown.

I claim as my invention—

1. In a bill-file, the combination, with a board or back plate, of a spring-clasp composed of a cross-bar bearing against the face of the board, and lateral arms extending from opposite ends of said cross-bars lengthwise along the sides of the board and having return branches arranged below said arms and pivoted at their outer or upper ends to the sides of the board near said cross-bars, substantially as set forth.

2. In a bill-file, the combination, with a board or back plate, of a spring-clasp composed of a cross-bar bearing against the face of the board, lateral arms extending from opposite ends of the cross-bar lengthwise along the sides of the board, branches pivoted at their outer or upper ends to opposite sides of the board, and coils connecting the lower inner ends of said branches with the lower or inner ends of the arms, substantially as set forth.

3. In a bill file or holder, the combination, with a board or back plate provided in its end with a groove or depression *f*, of a spring-clasp pivoted to the board and composed of a transverse bar *b*, adapted to engage in said groove and having at each end a lateral arm *c*, branches *d*, pivoted at their inner ends to the lateral edges of the board, and spring-coils *e*, connecting the free outer ends of the lateral arms *c* and branches *d*, substantially as set forth.

4. In a bill file or holder, the combination, with the board or back plate *A*, of the clasp *B*, formed of a single length of wire and composed of a cross-bar *b*, having lateral arms *c*, branches *d*, attached to the board *A* and having their inner ends bent inwardly to form pivots *d'*, and coils *e*, connecting the outer ends of said arms and branches, substantially as set forth.

Witness my hand this 21st day of December, 1888.

ALBERT L. PURDY.

Witnesses:

ALFRED S. BROWN,  
SAML. THORNTON.