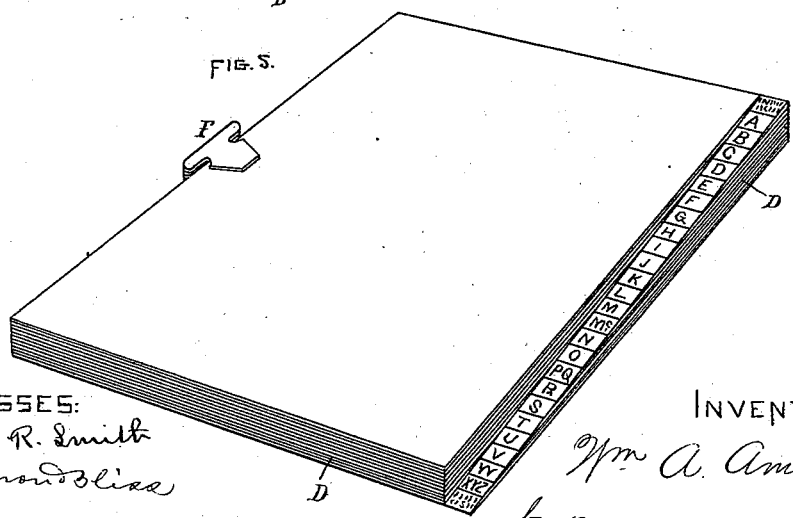
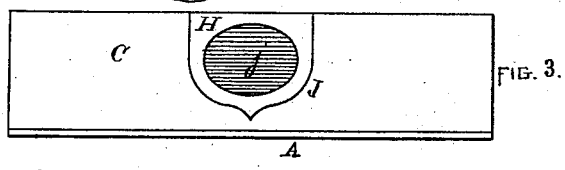
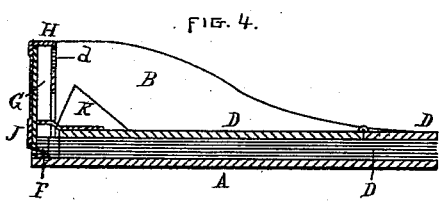
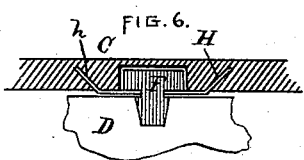
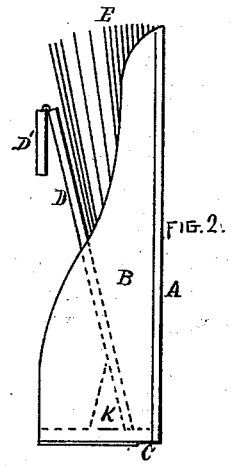
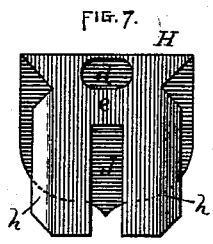
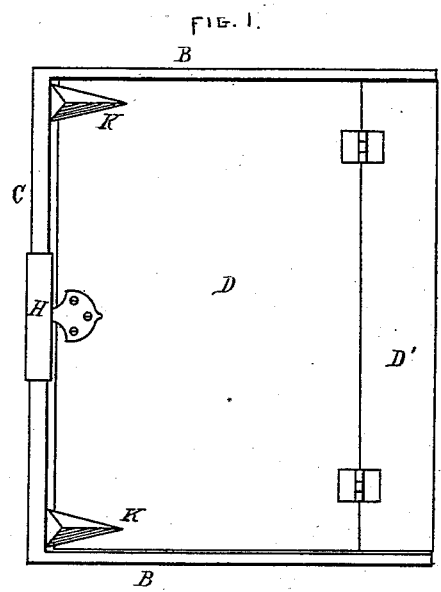


W. A. AMBERG.
 Temporary Binder for Letters and Papers.
 No. 208,220. Patented Sept. 24, 1878.



WITNESSES:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

WILLIAM A. AMBERG, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

IMPROVEMENT IN TEMPORARY BINDERS FOR LETTERS AND PAPERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 208,220, dated September 24, 1878; application filed December 26, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM A. AMBERG, of Chicago, in the State of Illinois, have invented certain Improvements in Letter-Files, of which the following is a specification:

In the accompanying drawing, which forms a part of this specification, Figure 1 is a top or plan view of the improved file. Fig. 2 is an end view of the same. Fig. 3 is a back view of the same. Fig. 4 is a section of the same. Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the expansible index removed. Fig. 6 is a fragmentary section upon a larger scale of the indexing contrivances. Fig. 7 is a view (detached) of the metal slide, label-plate, &c., upon a scale to correspond with Fig. 6.

The file-case, which gives stability and support to the index and guards the contents from dust, consists of a bottom piece, A, sides B B, a back, C, and cover D. The bottom serves as a level smooth resting-place for the index and contents. The sides serve as guides in placing the letters and as guards to prevent them from slipping out, and the back serves as a guide and a guard, and also as a point to which the cover and index may be hinged. The cover serves as a protection against dust, as a weight to press the contents down smoothly to keep the index in shape, and also when the file is placed upright, as at Fig. 2, as an inclined rest for the index in examining the contents.

This file-case I prefer to make of well-seasoned wood; but of course it may be made of other material without departing from my invention.

As usual in files of this character, the index is an expansible one, and I prefer that it should be perfectly expansible by having the sheets entirely disconnected from each other, as it sometimes happens that a large proportion of the letters to be filed come from a single correspondent, and no predetermination of the place they will occupy in the alphabet is possible to the manufacturer. Hence a file to meet all requirements should be perfectly expansible; but nevertheless many of the advantages of my invention may be secured even with an index not perfectly expansible.

The index shown in the drawing consists of a number of sheets, E, wholly disconnected from each other, cut at their front margin col-

lectively with an alphabet, and provided, each individual sheet, at the back edge thereof, with a tag, F, projecting to the rear. These tags are made of a T shape, or of some shape equivalent to a T shape, larger at their extreme back edge than at their junction with the sheet, in order to run in a slot in the case, or they may be made of an L or hook form. They may consist of separate tags secured to the sheets, or they may be cut from the material of the sheet itself; or, in lieu of being tags projecting to the rear of the sheet, they may be replaced by T-shaped slots cut in the sheets, in which case a T-shaped projection may be used on the case.

These tags serve to hinge the index to the case, and I prefer that there should be but one hinge to each sheet, placed in the center thereof, not only because it is less expensive than several, but also because it is more easily operated and the index is more perfectly self-adjusting.

In the back of the case is a vertical slot, G, formed to receive the tags. This slot may be either cut in the wood bodily of a T shape, or shape to correspond to the tag, or it may be made a simple recess to receive the larger part of the tag, and a supplemental slotted plate placed down over the shank of the tag. The latter construction is the one shown in the drawing, H being said plate. This plate H may have two angling wings, *h h*, which slide down into angling slits sawed at diverging angles into the wood of the back, serving thus to hold the plate in position. The slot in the plate terminates before reaching the top, leaving a stop or bar, *e*, to prevent the tags from coming out at the top. Above this bar may be cut a finger-hole, *d*, by which it may be pulled up when it is desired to remove the index. This plate H affords a convenient support for a shield, J, which may be made in one piece with said plate. The shield sets over the back, and, being made with a sunken medallion, *j*, serves as a label-holder, the label of paper to denote the contents of the file being pasted in the sunken space *j*.

The advantages of this label-holder are several: It guards the label from being rubbed off or defaced and torn at the edges; it is more certain to hold upon the metal than upon the varnished and polished wood; and, finally, it

enables the manufacturer to readily change labels to suit the requirements of his customers, thus saving the necessity of carrying a large stock of ready-labeled cases by simply providing himself with a stock of assorted label-holders, which are interchangeable with any of the cases. The label may be cast, stamped, or cut in the metal, if desired.

The cover D is furnished at its front margin with a folding strip, D², which, when the file is used lying down with the index horizontal, can be raised up to disclose the alphabet, so that the finger may be placed upon the desired letter at which the index is to be separated, and the upper leaves of the index and the cover raised simultaneously to insert or withdraw a paper from the file. The cover is hinged to the case in the same manner as the index, to rise and fall with the index to adjust itself to the varying contents, and is in like manner removable.

Instead of operating the file with the index in a horizontal position, it may be more convenient for some persons, and for some uses, to stand it upright, resting upon the back, with the alphabet edge of the index uppermost, as shown at Fig. 2, or to hold it in the lap in this position, with the cover D toward the body of the operator. To facilitate this kind of use, I provide stops K, which only permit the cover to open to a certain angle, in order that when thus opened it may afford a resting-place for the index and contents in examining the file. These stops may be applied either to the case or to the cover; but I prefer to apply them to the cover, because then the stops move with the cover as the file fills, and the angle of farthest opening of the cover is always the same, whether the file contain much or little.

The unfolding margin D¹ upon its reverse will be found to be a convenient place upon which to paste a list of contents of the file, or a reference-list for previously-filled files. The

list will be there guarded from dirt and always readily accessible.

Having thus fully described my apparatus, I claim as of my invention—

1. The file or case and index, in combination with a self-adjusting cover hinged at its back edge, and stops to prevent the cover from opening beyond a certain angle, substantially as specified.

2. The index made with hinging-tags, substantially as shown, projecting backward from the rear edges of the leaves.

3. The combination, in a letter-file, of the adjustably-hinged index and adjustably-hinged cover, substantially as specified.

4. The combination, in a letter-file, of the case, the removable self-adjusting hinged index, and cover, substantially as specified.

5. The combination of the case, the centrally-hinged removable self-adjusting index, and cover, substantially as specified.

6. The combination, with the case, having a slotted recess in the back, of the index and cover, both provided with hinging-tags projecting backward from the rear edge, substantially as specified.

7. The self-adjusting cover, hinged centrally to the back of the case, and provided with two stops, one at each side of the hinge, substantially as specified.

8. The file-case cut with a recess at the back, and provided with the slotted metal slide, substantially as specified.

9. The file-case provided with a removable metal label-holder or name-plate, hollowed to receive the label, and secured to the back of the case by means of the slotted metal slide, which forms a part of the hinging device, substantially as specified.

WILLIAM A. AMBERG.

Witnesses:

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FORDE R. SMITH.