(No Model.)

P. J. SCHLICHT.

BILL FILE.

No. 338,788. Patented Mar. 30, 1886.

Fig. 1.

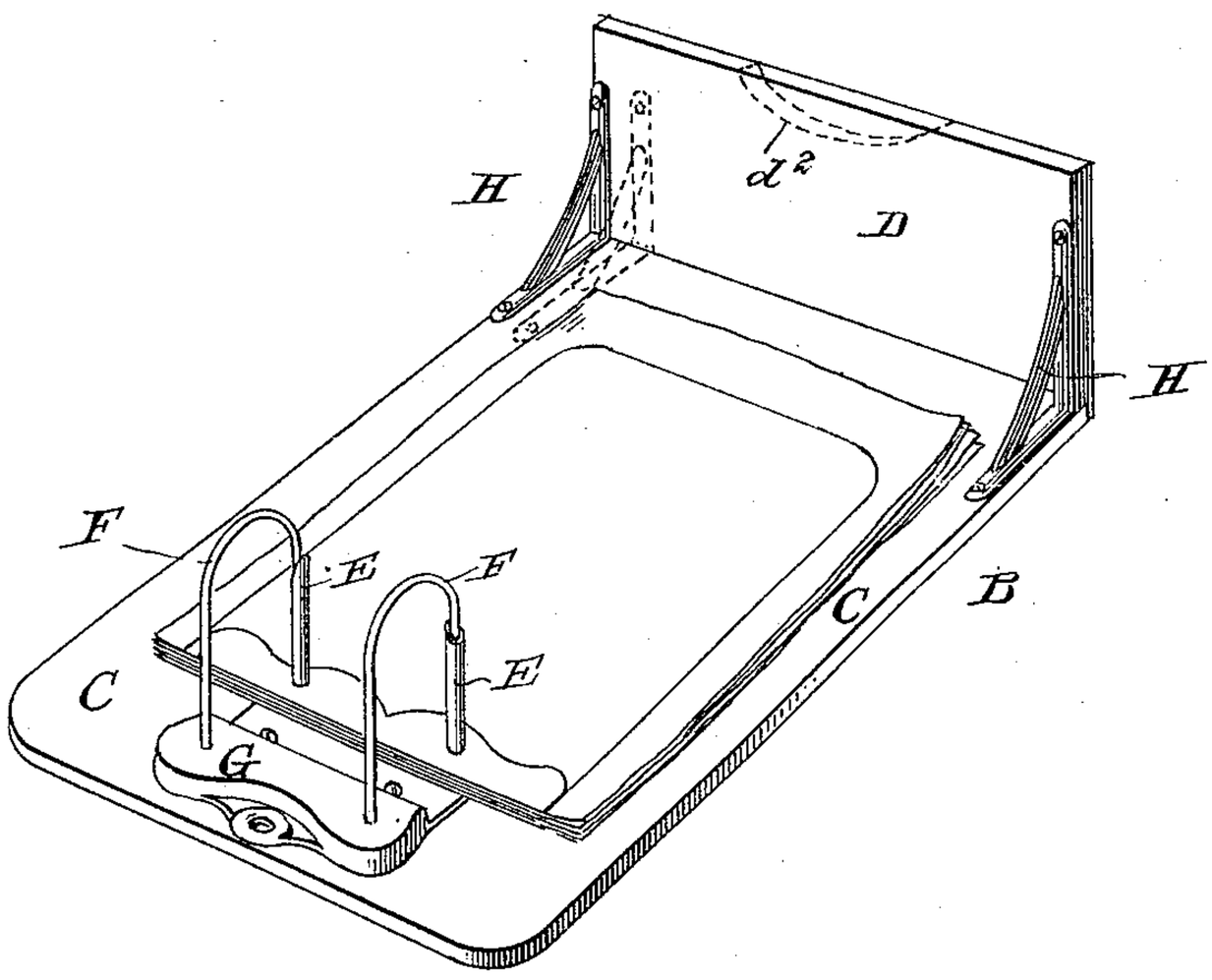


Fig. 2.

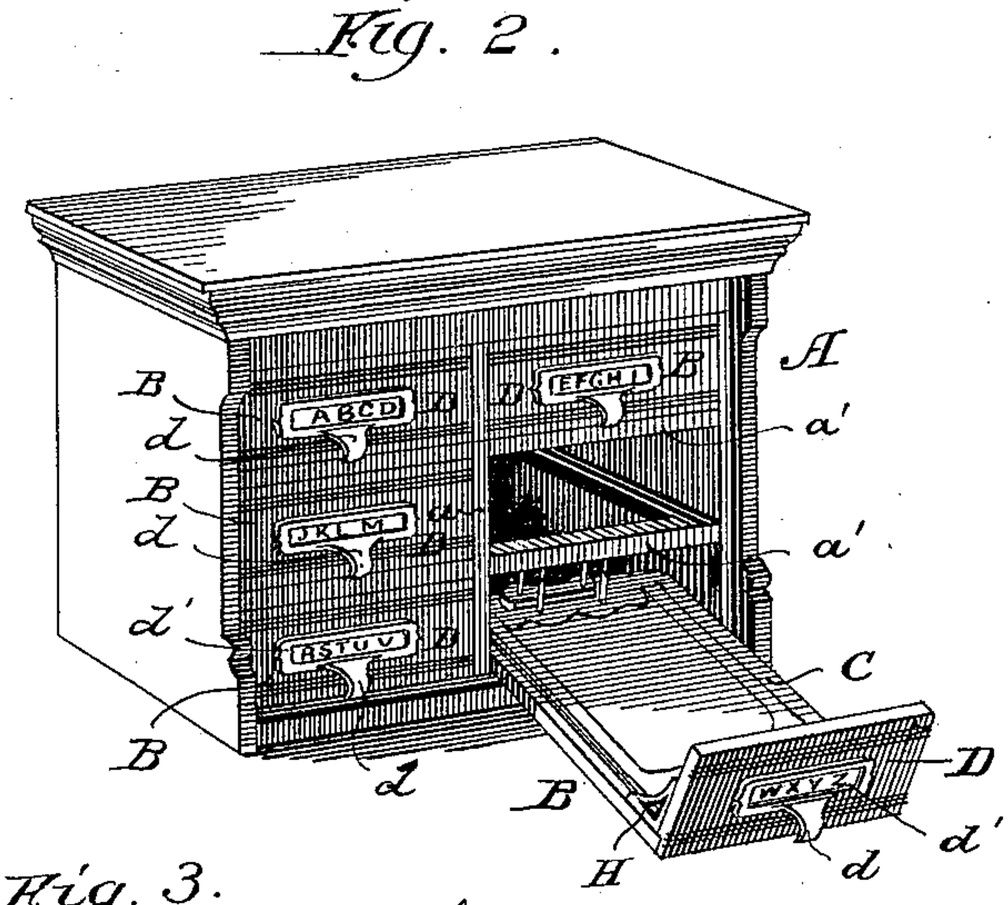
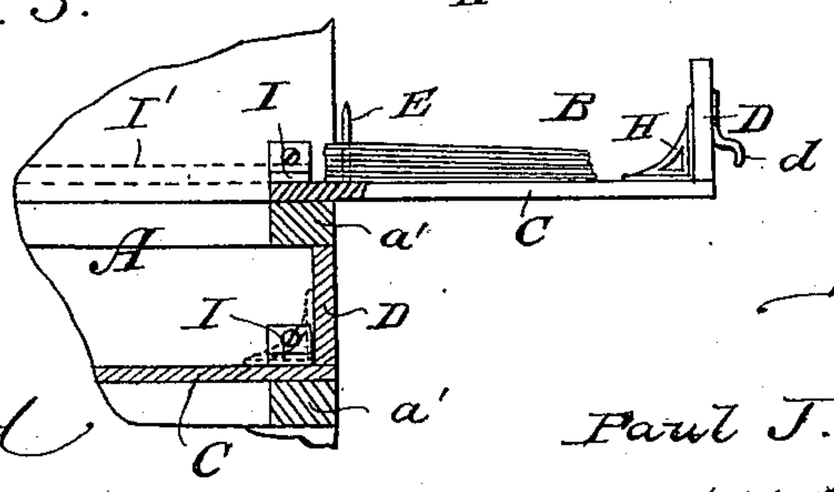


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

PAUL J. SCHLICHT, OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR TO SCHLICHT & FIELD, OF SAME PLACE.

BILL-FILE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 338,788, dated March 30, 1886.

Application filed October 1, 1884. Serial No. 144,491. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, PAUL J. SCHLICHT, of Rochester, in the State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Filing-Cabinets; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

The object of this invention is to provide an improved construction in filing cabinets or cases for letters or papers adapted to receive a number of filing-receptacles or files; and it consists in the matters hereinafter described, and pointed out in the claims.

The invention is herein illustrated in connection with that class of files having a flat base-board, which is provided with two vertical wires secured in the said base-board near one end thereof, and with two arched and movable transfer-wires arranged end to end with the vertical wires, so as to form therewith two equal arches in parallel planes, and in which the arched wires are so constructed that the curved or arched portions may be swung away from the vertical wires to open the arches and admit the papers, as hereinafter more particularly described.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a temporary file constructed in accordance with my invention as it appears when removed from the cabinet with which it is used. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a cabinet for holding six files, showing one of the latter removed from its place, and another partly drawn out. Fig. 3 is a detail section illustrating a form of cabinet havings stops upon the side walls of the file-compartments thereof for holding the file when drawn partially out.

As shown in the drawings, A is a cabinet or filing-case, which is divided by suitable horizontal and vertical strips or partitions, *a a'*, into a series of compartments, each of which is adapted to receive a file, (indicated in the drawings by B,) the cabinet shown being provided with six of such compartments. The said file B consists of a base-board, C, made of approximately the same width as the compartments of the cabinet, so that it may freely enter the latter, and provided at its end that is toward the back of the cabinet when the file is inserted with suitable paper-holding devices, and at its opposite or front end with a vertical board, D, attached to the front edge of said base-board at right angles thereto, and adapted to close the outer end or opening of the compartment when the file is inserted to its full depth, the purpose of said board being to exclude dust from the compartment, and to give a neat and finished appearance to the front of the cabinet when the files are in place therein. The boards D are desirably provided with knobs or handles *d*, to be grasped by the hand in drawing the files from the receptacles, and said boards may be provided also with suitable frames or receptacles, *d*, for cards indicating the contents of the files.

The paper-holding device illustrated in connection with the file shown in Figs. 1 and 2 comprises two vertical parallel receiving-wires, E E, which are rigidly secured in the base A, and two rigid transfer-wires, F F, located back of the wires E E, and rotatably mounted in a base-plate, G, attached to the base-board C. The upper portions of the transfer-wires F F are bent or arched, as shown, so that the ends of the said arched portions meet the ends of the wires E, and the wires E and F together form two equal arches in parallel planes adapted to be opened and closed by a rotary motion of the vertical parts of the wires F in the base-plate G, by which movement the said wires F may be swung laterally away from or toward the wires E. The ends of the wires F are preferably constructed to swing outward away from the receiving-wires E, means being provided for connecting the said files F within the base-plate G, which are so constructed that when one arched wire is turned the other will also be turned in the opposite direction.

The wires arranged as described operate in a well-known manner to enable a portion of the papers held upon the file to be thrown backwardly from the wires E to the transfer-wires F, so that the latter wires may be rotated to open the arches, and additional papers inserted between those upon the file or a portion

of the papers removed from the file at any place desired.

Other means than the particular holding devices herein illustrated and before described may obviously be used for securing the papers to the base-board C with advantageous results; but the said holding devices are preferred in practice for several reasons.

An advantage exists in the use of two receiving-wires, as E E, for holding the papers, either when said holding-wires are used in connection with the arched transferring-wires herein shown or without said transferring-wires, for the reason that the papers are held by such receiving-wires centrally upon the board, so that they are not liable to become disarranged, and to thereby project beyond the edges of the board, so as to encounter the sides of the compartments when inserting the files therein.

When the vertical receiving-wires are used without the transferring-wires, as above mentioned, transfer-tubes or other similar well-known devices may be used in removing a portion of the papers from the said wires and replacing them thereon when it is desired to remove a paper from, or insert one in, the papers upon the file.

In the use of my device, when constructed with arched transferring-wires, as herein shown, the file is usually withdrawn entirely from the cabinet and placed upon a flat surface, so that a portion of the papers thereon may be thrown backwardly upon the receiving-wires in a well-known manner when taking a paper from or placing one on the file. When, however, it is desired to only inspect a paper or letter upon the file, the latter may be drawn outwardly, as shown in Fig. 2, and supported at its front end with one hand, with its rear end resting upon the horizontal cross-piece *a*, dividing the compartments, and the papers may be conveniently manipulated with the other hand.

In examining the papers upon the file in the manner last above described, said file will usually be drawn out farther than is shown in Fig. 2, and the papers above the one that it is desired to inspect are thrown backwardly upon the arched part of the transferring-wires and allowed to rest against the front of the cabinet.

In Fig. 3 the side walls of the compartments are shown as provided with L-shaped bent metal guides or stop-pieces I, located near the front face of the cabinet and adapted to rest against the upper surface of the side margin of the base-board C when the latter is inserted within the compartment. The said stop obviously serves to sustain the files in an approximately horizontal position when the latter is drawn nearly out of the compartment, the stop in such case resting against the upper surface of the base-board at or near its rear edge, and operating, in connection with the horizontal cross-piece *a*, to support the file. By the use of said guide-pieces I the file may obviously be drawn out and its contents examined without removing the file entirely from the cabinet, and in case a construction of the holding device in which transfer-tubes or other devices are used instead of the arched wires shown in Figs. 1 and 2 the papers may be placed upon and removed from the file when held by the said stop in the manner above described.

Horizontal strips secured upon the side of the compartments, as indicated by dotted lines at I′ in Fig. 3, will obviously serve the same purpose as the metal stop I, above described, and the said stop, or the strip, when the latter is used, may be located at one or both sides of the compartments. One only of such stops or strips in each compartment is found to be sufficient to properly support the file. In all cases the stop or strip is located at a sufficient distance inwardly from the front of the cabinet to permit the board D to enter the compartment a desired distance, as is clearly shown in the lower part of Fig. 3.

In the use of the stop or strip the bracket H at the side of the base-board adjacent to the said stop or strip may be absent; or, when said bracket is present, it may be set in from the edge of the board a sufficient distance to prevent its contact with the said stop or strip when the file is thrust inward, such position of the bracket being indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 1.

Instead of providing the board D with knobs or handles *d*, as before described, the said board may have at its upper edge a curved or other shaped recess, as indicated in dotted lines at b^2 in Fig. 1, through which recess the fingers may be inserted in order to grasp the said board D in removing the file from the cabinet.

The form of the device in which the board forms a close joint at its edges with the sides of the compartments, as illustrated in Fig. 2, is preferred, however, for the reason that the compartments are thereby entirely closed when the file is thrust inwardly, and access of dust to the papers therein thereby entirely prevented.

In the class of paper-files heretofore usually used in connection with filing cases or cabinets containing compartments for a number of such receptacles, a receptacle has been used for containing the papers, having a bottom and three sides and provided with index-leaves secured to the side or wall of the receptacle which is toward the front of the cabinet when the file is inserted therein, so that it becomes necessary to remove the file entirely from the cabinet and turn it around before the papers can be conveniently taken out or inspected. In my construction, the papers, being fastened to the base-board at the rear end of the latter, are obviously in position for inspection when the file is drawn out, and the absence of any side pieces upon

the base-board C enables the papers to be much more readily manipulated and inspected than is possible in files of the character described as heretofore constructed.

A construction of the file in which only one standard or receiving-wire, or one receiving-wire and a corresponding arched wire are used instead of two of each of such wires, as herein shown, may sometimes be used with advantage in connection with the file constructed in other respects as above described. A construction in which two receiving or receiving and transfer wires are used, or an equivalent single wire made thin and broad, so as to prevent the papers from becoming displaced laterally at their free ends, is, however, usually preferred, for reasons above stated.

I claim as my invention—

1. The combination, with a filing case or cabinet, of a file comprising a base-board provided with a paper-holding device at its inner end and a vertical board at its opposite or outer end adapted to close the front opening of the cabinet when the file is inserted therein, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. The combination, with a filing case or cabinet, of a file comprising a base-board having one or more receiving-wires at its inner end and a board at its opposite or outer end adapted to close the front opening of the cabinet when the file is inserted therein, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. The combination, with a filing case or cabinet, of a file consisting of a base-board provided with a vertical board at its outer end adapted to close the front opening of the cabinet, and with a paper-holding device at its opposite or inner end, comprising one or more stationary receiving-wires and one or more arched transfer-wires, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

PAUL J. SCHLICHT.

Witnesses:

GEO. B. SELDEN,

W. H. H. CLAGUE.