

(No Model.)

W. A. COOKE, Jr.
FILE FOR LETTERS, &c.

No. 379,367.

Patented Mar. 13, 1888.

FIG. 1.

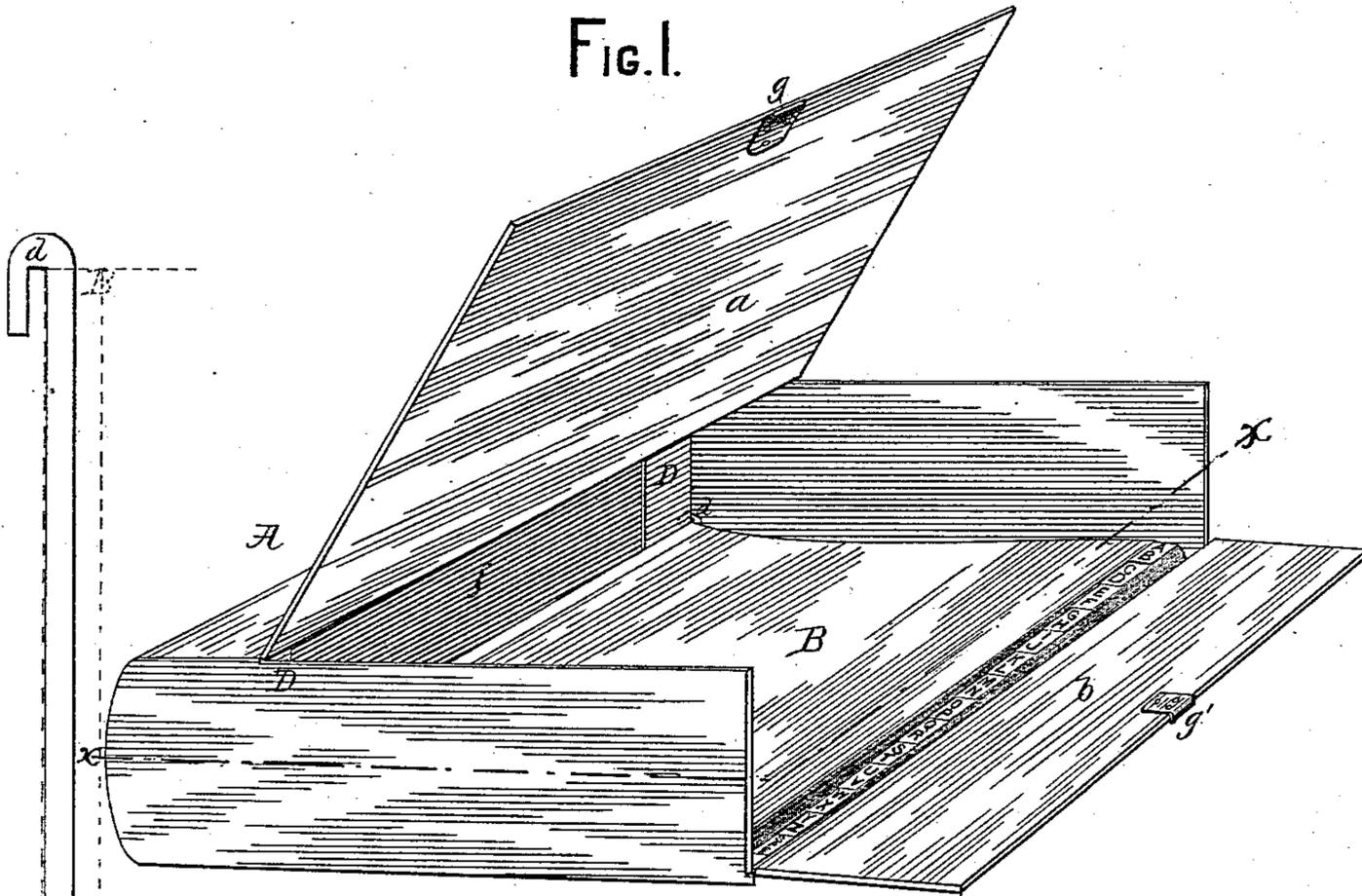


FIG. 2.

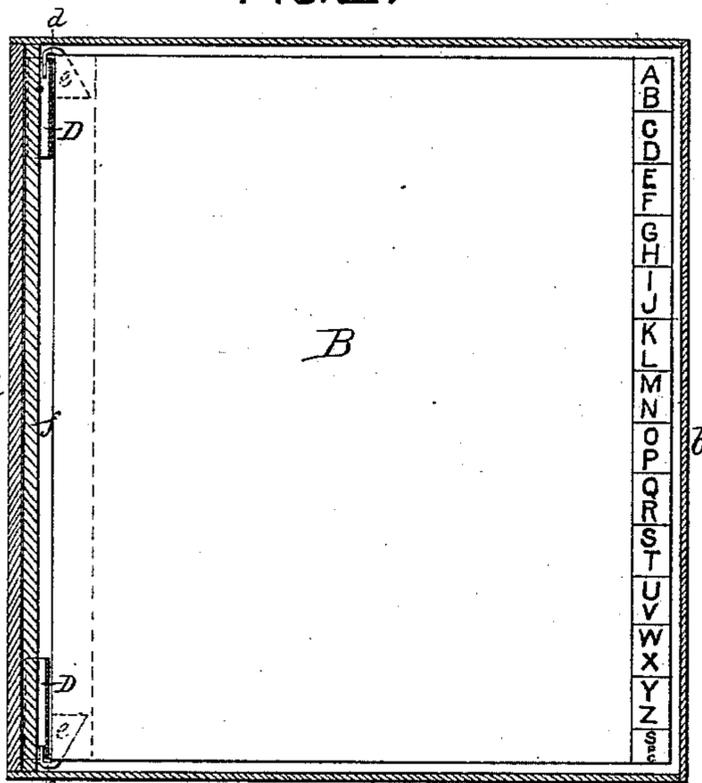


FIG. 3.

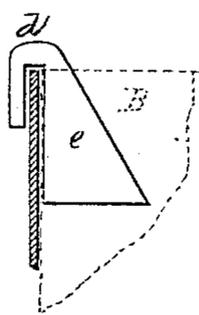


FIG. 3^a.

Witnesses:

A. B. Dodge.
E. C. Fernald.

FIG. 4.

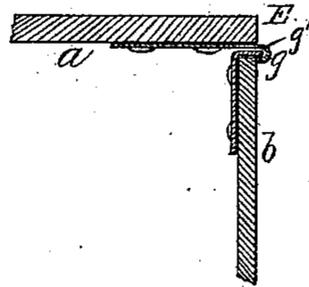
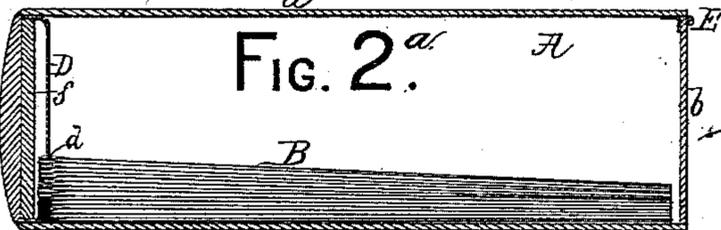


FIG. 2^a.



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FILE FOR LETTERS, &c.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 379,367, dated March 13, 1888.

Application filed October 17, 1885. Serial No. 180,206. (No model.) Patented in England November 10, 1885, No. 13,663, and in Canada December 11, 1885, No. 22,948.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM A. COOKE, JR., of New York, in the county and State of New York, have invented a new and useful File for Letters, Invoices, and the Like, (for which I have obtained a patent in the Dominion of Canada, No. 22,948, dated December 11, 1885, and a patent in Great Britain, No. 13,663, dated November 10, 1885,) of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to receptacles for the filing and classification of letters, invoices, bills, and other papers, memoranda, &c., and particularly to that class of receptacles wherein the leaves or partitions which separate and indicate the class are placed in a box or case. Heretofore the leaves or partitions have been connected by one edge with the box or case by rods passed through holes in the leaves or partitions, and having their ends fastened in the sides of the box, or by a dovetailed piece of metal or a hook attached to the middle of the leaf and engaging a groove or bar in the back of the case, or by rods or wires attached to the edge of the leaf and held in grooves in the ends of the box. These several constructions being defective in some particulars, my invention has reference to improvements thereof.

The objects of my invention are, first, to facilitate raising the index leaves or partitions when opened for the filing, removing, or inspection of papers; second, to prevent the leaves or partitions from becoming disconnected when bent or twisted or raised unevenly.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents the file and its case in perspective. Fig. 2 is a horizontal section of the file and case, taken on line *xx* of Fig. 1. Fig. 2^a is a sectional end elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is an enlarged detail view of the devices which connect the partitions or leaves with the back of the case. Fig. 3^a is a modification of the connecting device or hooks connected with the partitions. Fig. 4 represents the fastening (in section) by which the hinged front and side of the file are held together.

Referring to the drawings, A is the file case or box, having hinged side *a* and front *b*, by means of which the file box or case is opened. B represents the leaves or partitions having on their free edges index-letters or class-titles,

as may be desired. On the rear edges, at top and bottom, are fixed backwardly turned or projected hooks *d d*, which are turned so that the ends are parallel to the rear edges of the leaves or partitions. These hooks are made preferably from sheet metal by stamping them out, as thereby they can be made thin and avoid increasing the thickness of the partitions materially on the rear edges; but they may be made of wire, if desired. The hooks may be formed on the ends of narrow flat strips of metal of the same length as the leaves or partitions, and attached to the same by fastening them under the turned-over rear edge of the partitions, as shown in Fig. 3^a. Another and preferred mode is that shown in Figs. 2 and 3, consisting in forming the hooks in the end of a triangular plate, *l*, one of which is fastened to each of the rear corners of the leaves or partitions by posting it under the turned-over rear edge of the same. This is the cheapest mode of fastening the plates and through them the hooks; but the plates may be riveted to the leaves or partitions, if preferred. When pasted in, the triangular form of the plate prevents it from pulling out, the two thicknesses of paper being pasted together against the diagonal edge of the plate. The hook *d* is in one piece with the plate, being stamped out of sheet metal. The hooks may, however, be formed and connected with the partitions in various other ways, the only essential being that they shall project backward and parallel to the rear edges of the partitions or leaves, so that the hooks at opposite ends open toward each other. Suitable devices are connected with the back of the case to engage the hooks.

As represented, the engaging device consists of plates D D, of tin or other sheet metal, parallel to the back, and a sufficient distance from the back to allow play or motion to the hooks between the plate and the back. The plates are also fixed a short distance from the ends or top and bottom of the box or case, to allow play for the hooks at these points. The plates D are fastened by bending the ends at right angles and inserting and fastening them between the edges of the back plate *f* and the sides of the case, as shown in Fig. 2^a. The plates can be fastened by nails or other means. A single plate, D, may be used, if preferred,

extending along the back with its ends a short distance from the top and bottom of the case; or rods or staples shaped like plates D may be substituted for said plates. The hooks *d* engage the outside edges of plates D D and slide freely up and down when the leaves or partitions are raised and dropped.

The above-described connections afford a secure fastening between the leaves or partitions and the case, allowing the former perfect freedom of motion so far as opening them for the insertion of papers is concerned, but holding them squarely in place, preventing them from twisting; and when raised or opened the weight of the contents of the file draws the hooks more firmly against the connecting devices, and it is impossible for the leaves or partitions to break connection with the case. Furthermore, the papers can be inserted far enough for their inner edges to lie evenly with the connected edges of the partitions or leaves, and there is consequently less liability of their slipping out when the file is turned up edgewise.

The hinged side and front of the case are fastened together, when the case is closed, by a lock, E, composed of a plate attached to the side having a projecting lip, *g*, which engages a lip, *g'*, on a plate attached to the front, as shown in Fig. 4.

The box or case A may be made in the form of a draw for cabinet use, if preferred, or otherwise varied in construction and appearance.

I claim—

In a file for letters, invoices, and the like, the combination of the case or box, plates D, leaves or partitions B, and hooks *d*, said hooks being attached to the leaves or partitions at the rear edge and corners thereof and projecting from the same backward and parallel to the said rear edge, so that the hooks at opposite ends open toward each other, substantially as specified.

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Witnesses:

A. B. DODGE,
JAMES RIDGWAY.