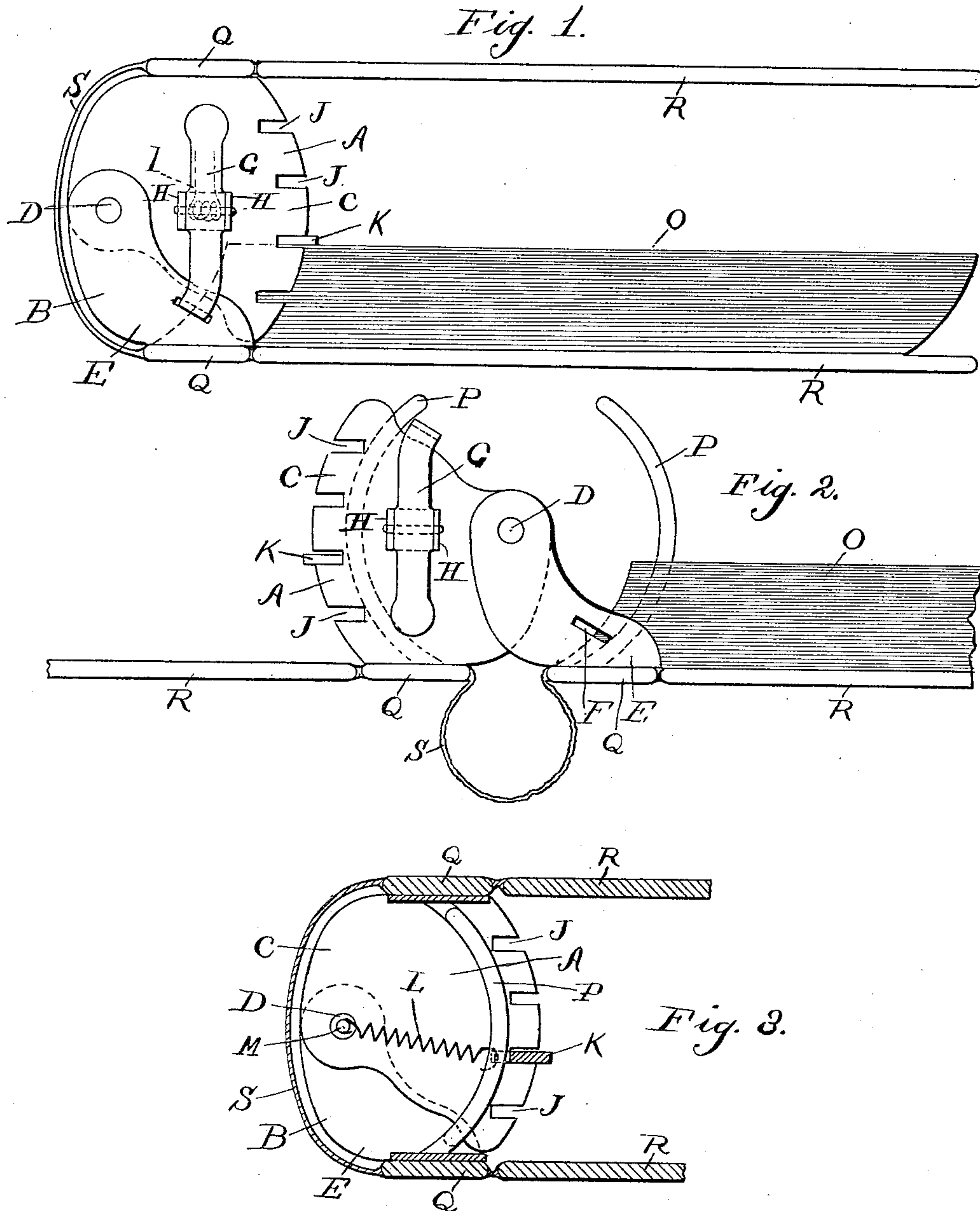


No. 638,726.

Patented Dec. 12, 1899.

F. KORSMEIER.
LETTER OR BILL FILE.
(Application filed June 26, 1899.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses:

E. F. Wilson.
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Inventor:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRED KORSMEIER, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR, BY DIRECT AND MESNE ASSIGNMENTS, TO THE CHICAGO BINDER AND FILE COMPANY, OF SAME PLACE.

LETTER OR BILL FILE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 638,726, dated December 12, 1899.

Application filed June 26, 1899. Serial No. 721,854. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRED KORSMEIER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Letter or Bill Files; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to a novel construction in a letter or bill file or a book with removable leaves, the object being to provide a device of this character of simple, durable, and efficient construction; and it consists in the features of construction and combinations of parts hereinafter fully described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, illustrating my invention, Figure 1 is an end elevation of a device constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a similar view showing it opened to receive or remove leaves. Fig. 3 is a sectional view of same.

My device consists, primarily, of a back comprising two members A and B, pivotally connected together in the manner of a hinge. Said member A consists of a strip of metal provided at its ends with parallel flanges C of greater width than the strip and of irregular shape, one edge forming the front edge of each of said flanges being curved and forming the arc of a circle having the pivotal connection between said members A and B for its center. The rear edges of said members A and B are so formed that when in the position shown in Fig 1—that is, closed to prevent insertion or removal of the pages—said edges form the outline of a book-back, the pivot D of said members being adjacent said rear edge and midway between the metal strips. The flanges E of said member B are of less area than said flanges C and have receding front edges adapted to just overlap the lower rear edges of the flanges C. One of said flanges E is provided with a slot F, adapted to receive and engage the end of a lever G, pivotally mounted between two ears H on the adjacent flange C to lock said members A and B in their closed position. Said lever G

is normally held in position to engage said slot F by means of a spring I, encircling the pin forming the pivot of said lever. The front edges of said flanges C are provided with a plurality of recesses J, adapted to receive a bar K, held therein by means of springs L, connected at one end with said bar K and at their other ends with pins M on the rivets D, forming the pivotal connection between said members A and B, said bar being adapted to retain the leaves O in a block when they number less than enough to fill the entire space between the strips of the members A and B. Said strips of said members A and B each carry pins P between their ends, curved to form arcs of circles having said pivotal connection between the members A and B as centers, said pins being adapted to enter perforations in said leaves O to hold the same against removal. Covers are mounted on said members A and B, each comprising a strip Q, rigidly mounted on the strips of said members, to which the covers proper, R, are pivotally secured. Said strips Q are also connected by a strip S, of flexible material, passing over the rear edges of the flanges C and E and adapted to form the back of the device, which thus has the shape and general characteristics of a book.

When it is desired to insert or remove leaves, the free end of the lever G is pressed inwardly, thus releasing the members A and B and permitting them to be relatively turned on their pivots and opened to the position shown in Fig. 2, thus leaving an open space between the ends of the pins P and permitting the leaves to be removed and replaced.

My device is very efficient and cheap, besides being very durable.

I claim as my invention—

1. A letter or bill file comprising two members each consisting of a metallic strip provided at its ends with parallel flanges of greater width than said strip and curved on their rear edges, perforations adjacent the rear edges of each of said flanges, pins passing through said perforations to pivotally connect said members with each other, a spring-actuated latch carried by one of said flanges of one member, a perforation in the

adjacent flange of said other member adapted to receive said latch, pins on each of said members parallel with said flanges and curved concentric with the pivotal connection between the same, a flexible book-back carried by said members, and covers pivotally connected with said book-back, whereby said binder is given the appearance of and can be opened like a book without releasing said members to permit removal of the leaves, substantially as described.

2. A letter or bill file, comprising two members, each comprising a metallic strip provided at its ends with parallel flanges projecting rearwardly from the rear edges of said strips and pivotally secured to each other adjacent their rear edges to form a book-back, pins on each of said members parallel with

said flanges and curved to be concentric with the pivots of said members, perforated leaves adapted to be mounted on said pins, recesses in the front edges of the flanges of one of said members, a bar adapted to enter said notches to retain said leaves in a block, springs for retaining said bar in said recesses, covers on said members, a flexible back, and a latch on one of said members adapted to engage the other thereof to hold said members relatively in position to prevent the removal of said leaves, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

FRED KORSMEIER.

Witnesses:

RUDOLPH WM. LOTZ,
THEODORE KAUDNY.