

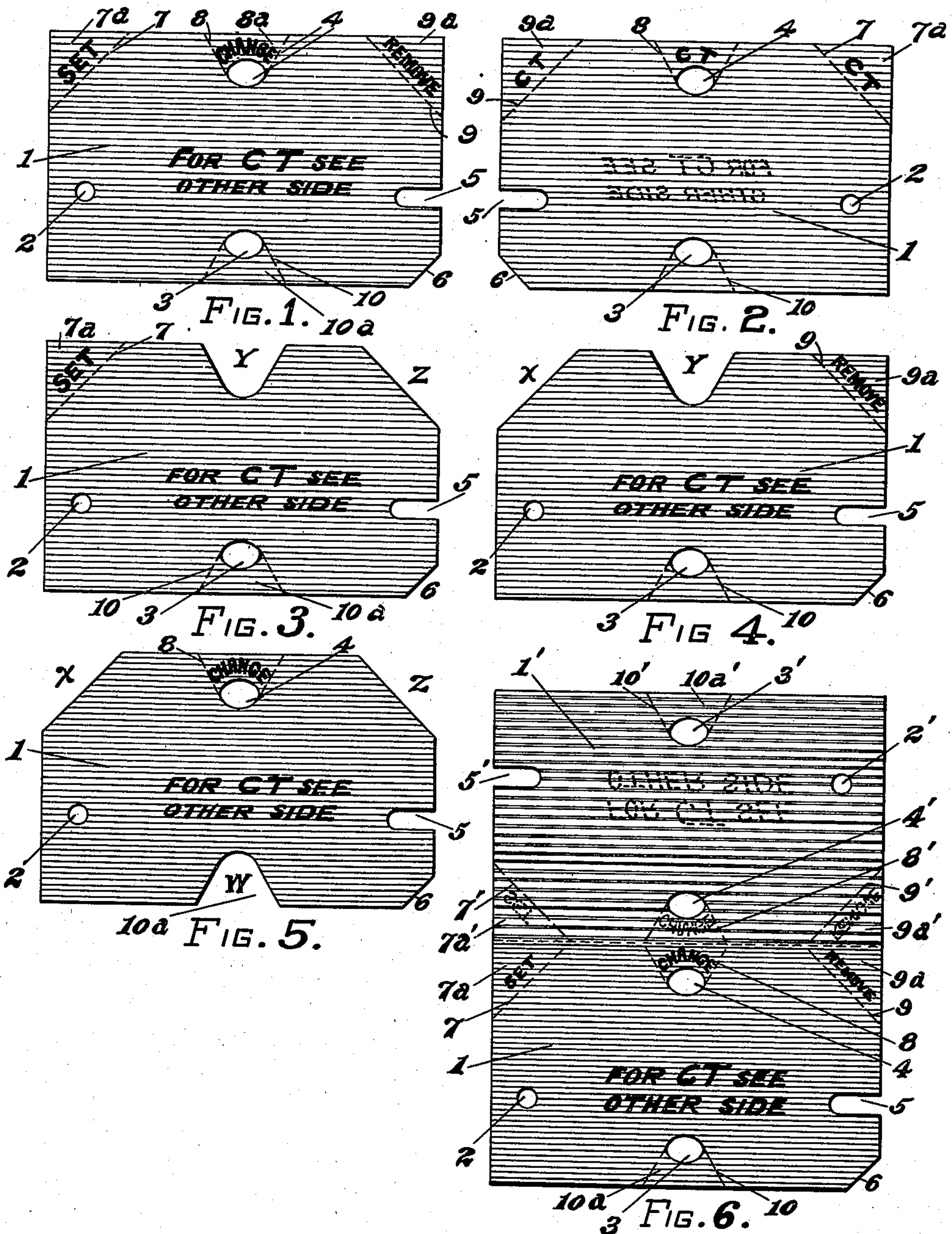
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G. C. ANDERSON.

CARD SYSTEM.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 24, 1907.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## CARD SYSTEM.

No. 885,826.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented April 28, 1908.

Application filed June 24, 1907. Serial No. 380,580.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, GEORGE C. ANDERSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Springfield, in the county of Sangamon and State of Illinois, have invented a certain new and useful Card System, of which the following is such a full, clear, and exact description as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use my said invention.

This invention relates to card systems of that kind used in filing and preserving in an orderly and convenient manner, data relating to business or affairs of any kind to which the system may be applicable.

The purposes of this invention are to provide cards or sheets of such original configuration that the configuration of the card or sheet will serve to indicate the character of the data or information contained on or furnished by said card or sheet; and to provide cards so constructed and arranged that parts of said cards may be readily removable to the end that the change in configuration of said cards by reason of the removal of one or more of said removable parts will serve to indicate that cards of different configurations contain data or information of different kinds; to provide cards or sheets of such form that when they are placed indiscriminately in even piles, a glance at the piles will disclose any disorder or irregularity in the arrangement of the cards in said piles respectively; to provide cards or sheets of such configuration that all inverted or misplaced cards or sheets in any pile may be simultaneously withdrawn, and then properly placed without disturbing the arrangement of the other sheets of the pile; to provide cards of such configuration that all the cards of one form may be simultaneously separated from all of the cards of the other form, or forms, and to provide cards of such configuration that when duplicate cards are used all of the duplicate cards may be simultaneously separated from the original cards; and to provide cards having on their faces an inscription referring to data or information contained on the reverse side of said cards.

With these ends in view my invention consists in a system comprising cards of changeable configuration substantially as shown in

the drawing, hereinafter set forth, and finally recited in the claims.

Figure 1 is a plan of the face of a card of the preferred configuration; Fig. 2 is a plan of the back or reverse side of a card of preferred configuration; Figs. 3, 4 and 5 illustrate modified configurations of the card resulting from the removal of certain detachable parts of the card as hereinafter set forth and Fig. 6 is a plan of a card comprising an original member and a complemental duplicate member.

The word card or cards will hereinafter be used to designate cards, sheets, or other movable articles, shaped substantially as described and adapted for the uses set forth.

The purposes of this invention I accomplish by means of cards substantially such as are shown in the drawings and which I will now describe; it is to be understood however that I do not confine the invention to cards having the precise configurations herein set forth, as it is obvious that cards of different configurations may be adapted to indicate at a glance the character of the facts contained on the cards respectively, and having perforations or notches, or perforations and notches, or removable parts; or parts cut away to indicate the allocation of the cards and the data supplied thereby, may be used within the scope of my invention. To illustrate I have shown in the drawings a set of cards adapted to be used by a gas company for the arranging and preserving of records of the setting of, changing of, and removing of gas meters; and records of the changing of tenants, affecting the business of the company using the system. It is to be understood however that this particular application of the system is merely for convenience in illustrating and describing the same, and that the system is equally applicable to many different kinds of business.

I will first describe the structural features of the cards composing the system and will then describe the system as applied to the business of a gas company.

The card 1 has holes 2, 3 and 4, a slot 5, an inclined edge 6; lines of perforations 7, 8, 9 and 10; and removable parts 7<sup>a</sup>, 8<sup>a</sup>, 9<sup>a</sup> and 10<sup>a</sup>, bounded by the lines of perforations 7, 8, 9 and 10 respectively. I have indicated lines of perforations bounding the detachable



parts of the cards; but the perforations themselves are not an essential feature of the invention; since it is obvious that the detachable parts may, within the scope of my invention, be removed by any suitable instrument such as shears, or a suitable cutting blade.

The reference letters X, Y, Z and W respectively indicate spaces previously occupied by removed detachable parts 7<sup>a</sup>, 8<sup>a</sup>, 9<sup>a</sup> and 10<sup>a</sup> respectively.

On the face of the card, on the part 7<sup>a</sup> is inscribed the word "Set"; on the part 8<sup>a</sup> is inscribed the word "Change"; and on the part 9<sup>a</sup> is inscribed the word "Remove". On the reverse side of the card on the parts 7<sup>a</sup>, 8<sup>a</sup> and 9<sup>a</sup> is inscribed "C. T.", in each place, signifying change of tenant. The terms "Set", "Change" and "Remove" refer to the character of the information supplied by the card relating to the setting, changing, and removing of meters; and the term "C. T." refers to matter supplied by the card relative to the change of tenant of the premises where the meter is situated. Records of the class described are usually made in duplicate, the original going to one department and the duplicate going to another department of the business. In the course of a days business a large number of cards in duplicate will be used, and it is necessary to provide means whereby the duplicate cards may be quickly separated from the original cards, without the necessity for handling each card separately. I effect this result by an expedient which I will now explain.

The original card 1 has the notch 5 at the right hand end of the card and the hole 2 at the left hand end of the card, and the complementary or duplicate card 1' has the notch 5' at the left hand end, and the hole 2' near the right hand end of the card; hence when all of the cards are piled face upward the holes 2' of the duplicate cards will be in registry with the notches 5 of the original cards, and the holes 2 of the original cards will be in registry with the notches 5' of the duplicate cards. If it be desired to separate the duplicates from the original cards, a pencil inserted through the holes 2 will catch all of the original cards and a pencil inserted through the holes 2' will catch all of the duplicate cards; and merely by moving the pencils away from each other the duplicates may be separated from the originals, all of the duplicates being on one pencil and all of the originals on the other pencil.

In practice the detachable parts bearing the proper designation to indicate the character of the work described on that particular card will remain on the card and the detachable parts bearing the other designations will all be removed, for example; if the card

contains instructions relative to the setting of a meter the part 7<sup>a</sup> bearing the inscription "Set" and the part 10<sup>a</sup> (which has no inscription) will remain on the card and the parts 8<sup>a</sup>, 9<sup>a</sup> will be removed: If the instructions relate to the changing of a meter the part 8<sup>a</sup> bearing the inscription "Change" will remain on the card and the parts 7<sup>a</sup>, 9<sup>a</sup> and 10<sup>a</sup> will be removed, and if the card contains instructions relative to the removal of a meter the part 9<sup>a</sup> bearing the inscription "Remove" and the part 10<sup>a</sup> will remain on the card and the parts 7<sup>a</sup> and 8<sup>a</sup> will be removed. In case of change of tenant, the part 10<sup>a</sup> will be removed and the parts 7<sup>a</sup>, 8<sup>a</sup> and 9<sup>a</sup> will remain upon the card; the inscription, "For C. T. see other side", will be stamped or inscribed upon the face of the card to indicate that the instructions relative to the change of tenant will be found on the back of the card.

If all the cards after being cut as described, be piled in a single pile the holes 4 of the "Change" cards and the "C. T." cards will register with the spaces Y of the "Set" cards and the "Remove" cards, caused by the removal of the part 8<sup>a</sup> of the "Set" and "Remove" cards, and the holes 3 of the "Set" cards and the "Remove" cards will register with the spaces W of the "Change" and the "C. T." cards; and the parts 10<sup>a</sup> of the "Set" and "Remove" cards lying one above the other, may be seized between the thumb and finger, the "Set" and "Remove" cards may be separated from the "Change" and "C. T." cards, the former being held between the thumb and finger of one hand and the latter between the thumb and finger of the other hand. When the "Change" and "C. T." cards are separated as described from the "Set" and "Remove" cards, the parts 7<sup>a</sup> and 9<sup>a</sup> of the "C. T." cards will be adjacent to the spaces X and Z previously occupied by the parts 7<sup>a</sup> and 9<sup>a</sup> of the "Change" cards. In order to separate the "Change" cards from the "C. T." cards it is only necessary to grasp between the thumb and finger the corners of the "C. T." cards which project beyond the upper inclined edges of the "Change" cards, and shake the cards slightly, when all of the "Change" cards will fall by gravity into a single pile and all of the "C. T." cards will remain between the thumb and finger.

The members 7<sup>a</sup>, 8<sup>a</sup>, 9<sup>a</sup> and 10<sup>a</sup> serve as pulling members; that is to say when the cards are arranged in a pile with the associated members 7<sup>a</sup>, 8<sup>a</sup>, 9<sup>a</sup>, or 10<sup>a</sup> as the case may be adjacent to the spaces X, Z or W, as the case may be, the parts 7<sup>a</sup>, 8<sup>a</sup>, 9<sup>a</sup> or 10<sup>a</sup> may be seized between the finger and the thumb and used as handles, or pulling members, for separating the cards.

For convenience in description the parts



bearing the inscriptions "Set", "Change", "Remove" and "C. T." are called designating members, but they may also serve as pulling members. As indicating the relative position of the designations and the spaces, the designation "Change" is called a central designation; the designations "Set" and "Remove" are called corner designations; the space Y is called an upper space; the spaces X, and Z are called corner spaces; and the space W is called a lower space.

To separate the "Set" and "Remove" cards from each other it is only necessary to grasp between the thumb and finger of one hand the parts 7<sup>a</sup> of the "Set" cards; and to grasp between the thumb and finger of the other hand the part 9<sup>a</sup> of the "Remove" cards, and move the hands apart; whereupon all of the "Set" cards will remain between the thumb and finger of one hand, and all of the "Remove" cards will remain between the thumb and finger of the other hand.

From the foregoing it will be seen that cards having the original configuration disclosed, and having detachable parts as shown and described; are adapted to supply in duplicate, data of four different kinds; and all of the cards containing data of one kind are readily and simultaneously separable from the cards containing data of the other different kinds, and the duplicate cards are simultaneously separable from the original cards. In practice I prefer that the detachable parts 7<sup>a</sup> and 9<sup>a</sup> be triangular, because a large number of the triangular parts may be easily and quickly removed by a straight blade adapted to cut the cards; and I prefer that the detachable parts 8<sup>a</sup> and 10<sup>a</sup> be of substantially the parabolic form shown, for the reason that a blade of that form will cut into the holes 3 and 4 without leaving a ragged edge and for the additional reason that the spaces W and Y of that form are well suited for the use of the fingers in grasping the parts 10<sup>a</sup> to separate the "Set" and "Remove" cards from the "Change" and "C. T." cards.

In practice I also prefer that the transverse dimensions of the slots 5 and 5' shall be equal to the diameter of the holes 2 and 2'; for the reason that when that relation subsists the pencils passing through the holes may slide outward lengthwise through the notches without crosswise disarrangement of the cards.

The purpose of the inclined edge 6 is to indicate the reversal or change (end for end,) of any card in a pile, for example: if a "Set" card be turned end for end so that its member 7<sup>a</sup> instead of being at the left hand end of the card, in association with the members 7<sup>a</sup> of the other "Set" cards; will be at the right-hand end of the card and will be associated with the members 9<sup>a</sup> of the "Remove" cards. This displacement of the card will be indi-

cated by the lower corner of the misplaced card projecting beyond the inclined edges 6 of the other cards with which it is associated.

In case any card is turned up side down, the body of said inverted card will lie across the holes 2 and notches 5, and the inversion of the card will clearly appear upon inspection of the holes 2 and the notches 5.

Having fully described my invention what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A card system comprising plural cards each having a designating member and a part removed; complementary cards each having a designating member bearing a designation differing from the designation of said first named cards; the designating members of all of the complementary cards being adjacent to the space previously occupied by the designating members detached from said first named cards.

2. A card system comprising cards having designating members, pulling members, and spaces in such relation to each other that all the designating members of one class will be associated together, all of the designating members of another class will be associated together and all the cards of one designation may be separated from all of the cards of another designation by grasping between the thumb and finger of one hand the members of one designation, and grasping between the thumb and finger of the other hand the members of the other designation, and moving the hands apart to separate all the cards of one designation from all of the cards of the other designation.

3. A card system comprising cards having a corner designation, a central space, a corner space, and a pulling member; complementary cards having a corner space, an upper central space, a corner designation differing from the corner designation of said first named cards, and a central pulling member; and cards having a central designation matching the upper central spaces of said first named cards and said complementary cards and having a central lower space matching the central pulling members of said first named cards and said complementary cards.

4. A card system comprising cards each having a central designating member, upper corner spaces, and a lower corner space; and complementary cards each having a central designating member, corner designating members matching the corner spaces of said first named cards, and central lower spaces matching the central lower spaces of said first named cards.

5. A card system comprising cards each having a notch and an inclined edge at one end, and a hole near the other end of said card; and complementary cards each having a corner and a hole near one end of said card;

the notches, the holes, the corners and the inclined edges of said cards being so arranged that if any one of said cards is turned end for end the corner of that card will project  
5 across the inclined edge of the associated cards.

In witness whereof I have hereunto sub-

scribed my name at Springfield, Illinois, this 20th day of June, 1907.

GEORGE C. ANDERSON.

Witnesses:

FORDYCE W. BROWN,  
W. K. HALE.