

M. A. BROWN.  
CARD INDEX.  
APPLICATION FILED APR. 12, 1909.

956,475.

Patented Apr. 26, 1910.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

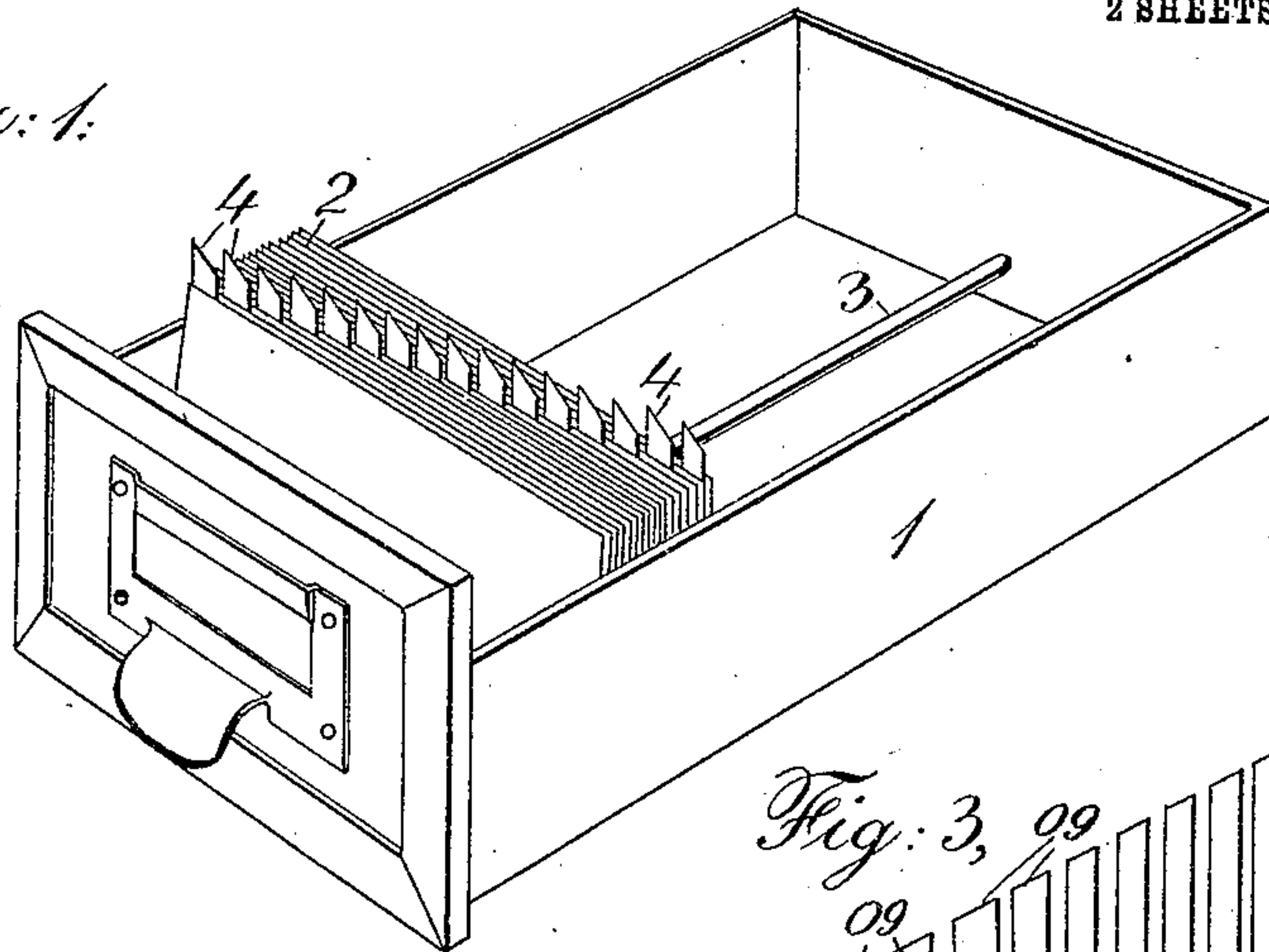


Fig. 2.

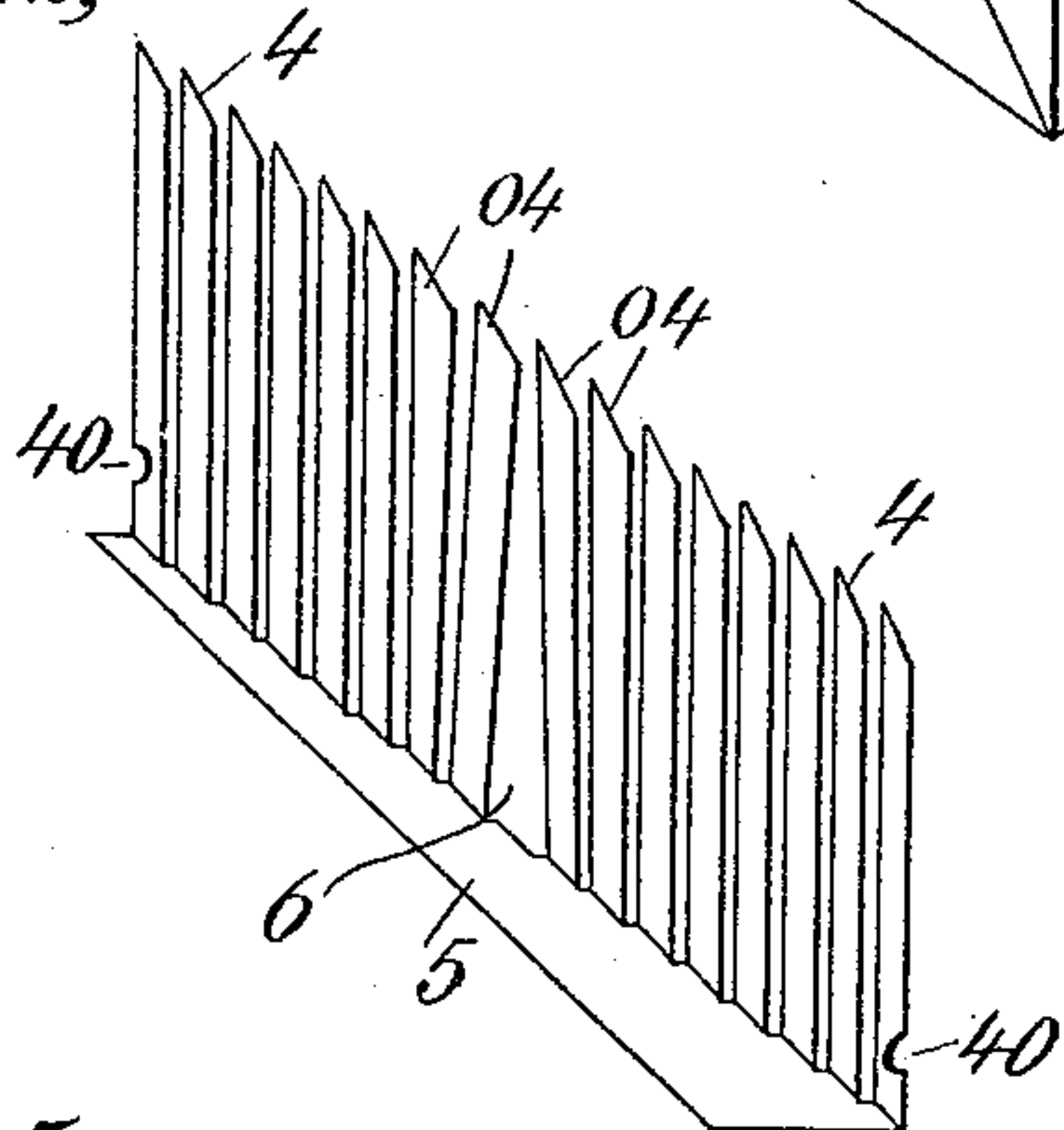


Fig. 3.

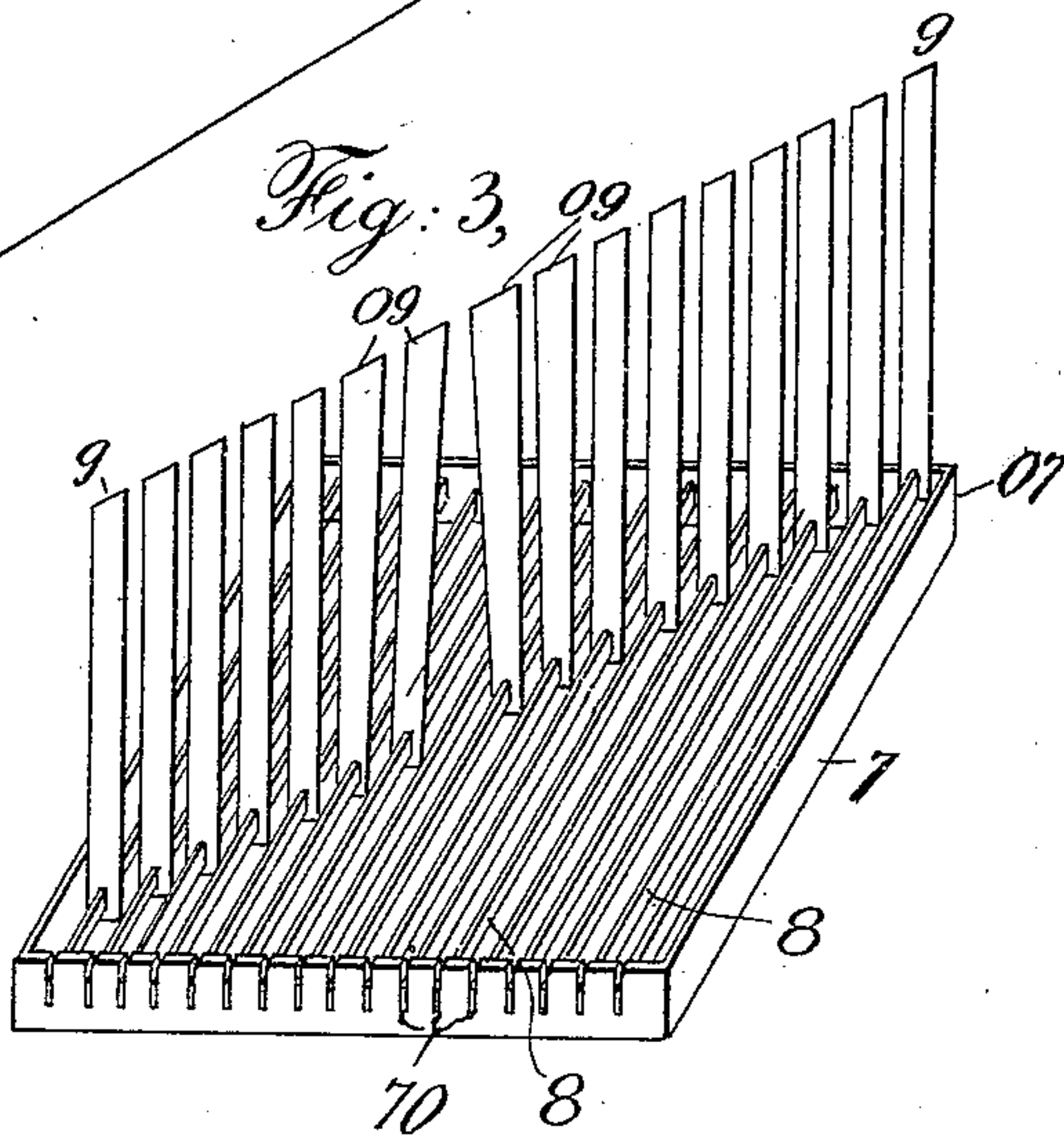


Fig. 5.

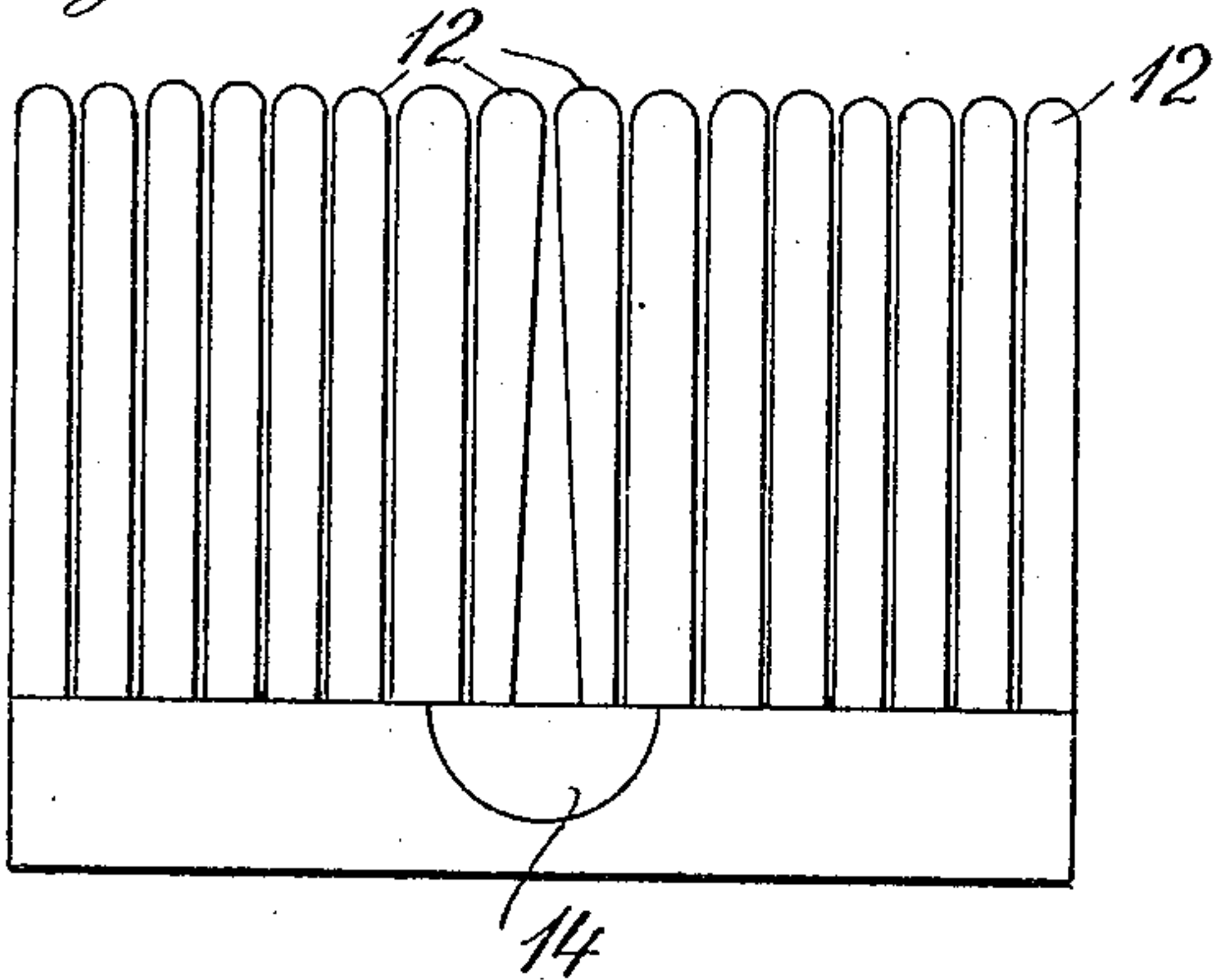


Fig. 4.

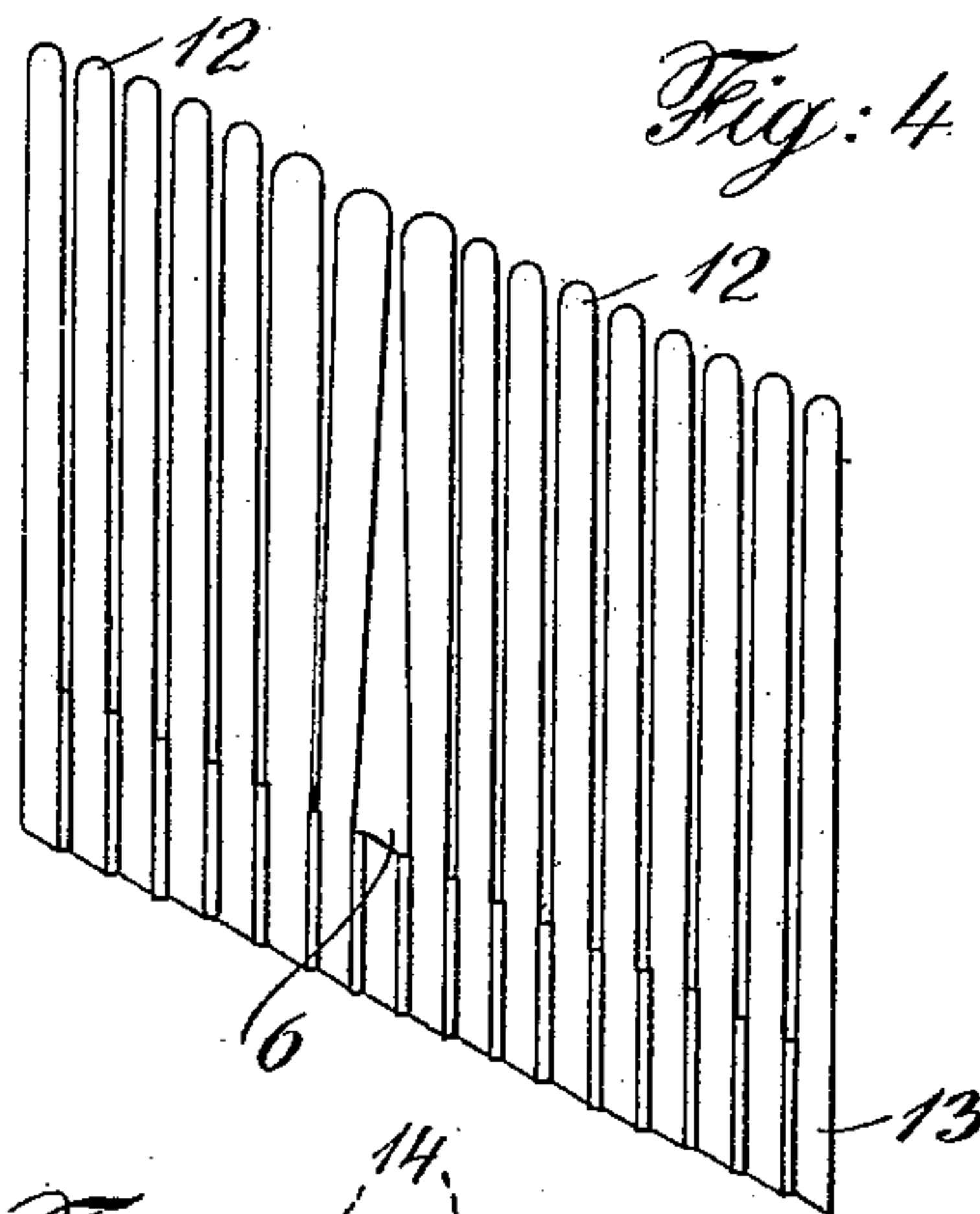


Fig. 6.

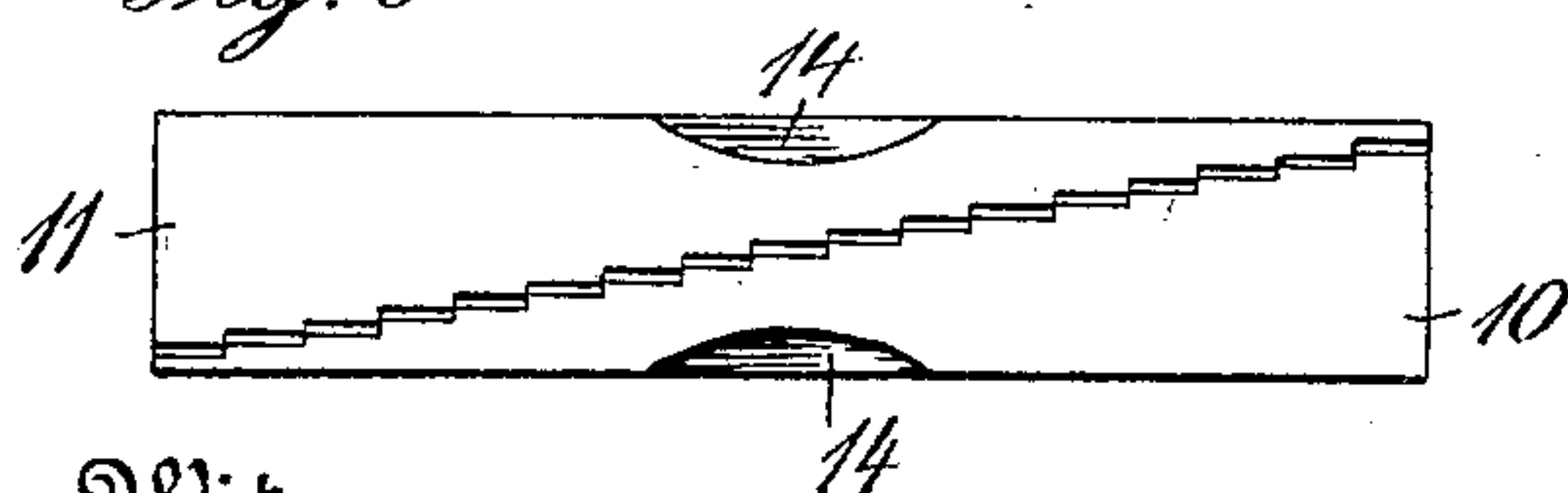
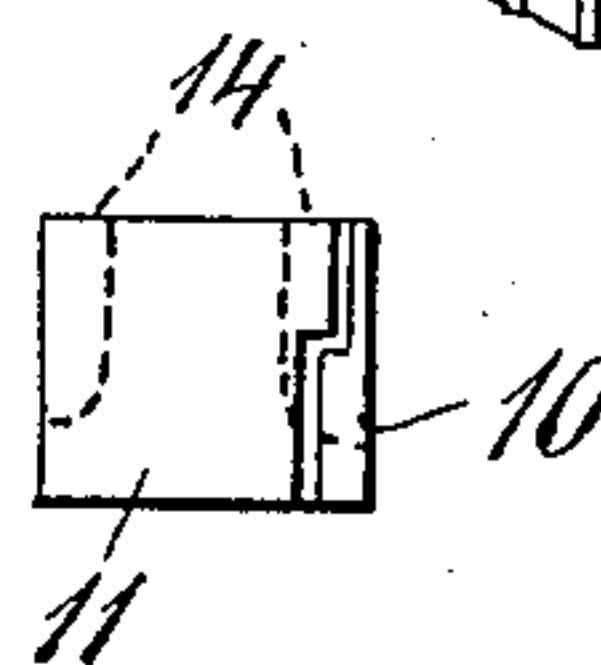


Fig. 7.



Witnesses:  
Max P. A. Doring  
Anna Buchner

Inventor  
Mary A. Brown  
By her Attorney Augustus T. Burling

M. A. BROWN.  
CARD INDEX.  
APPLICATION FILED APR. 12, 1909.

956,475.

Patented Apr. 26, 1910.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig: 8,

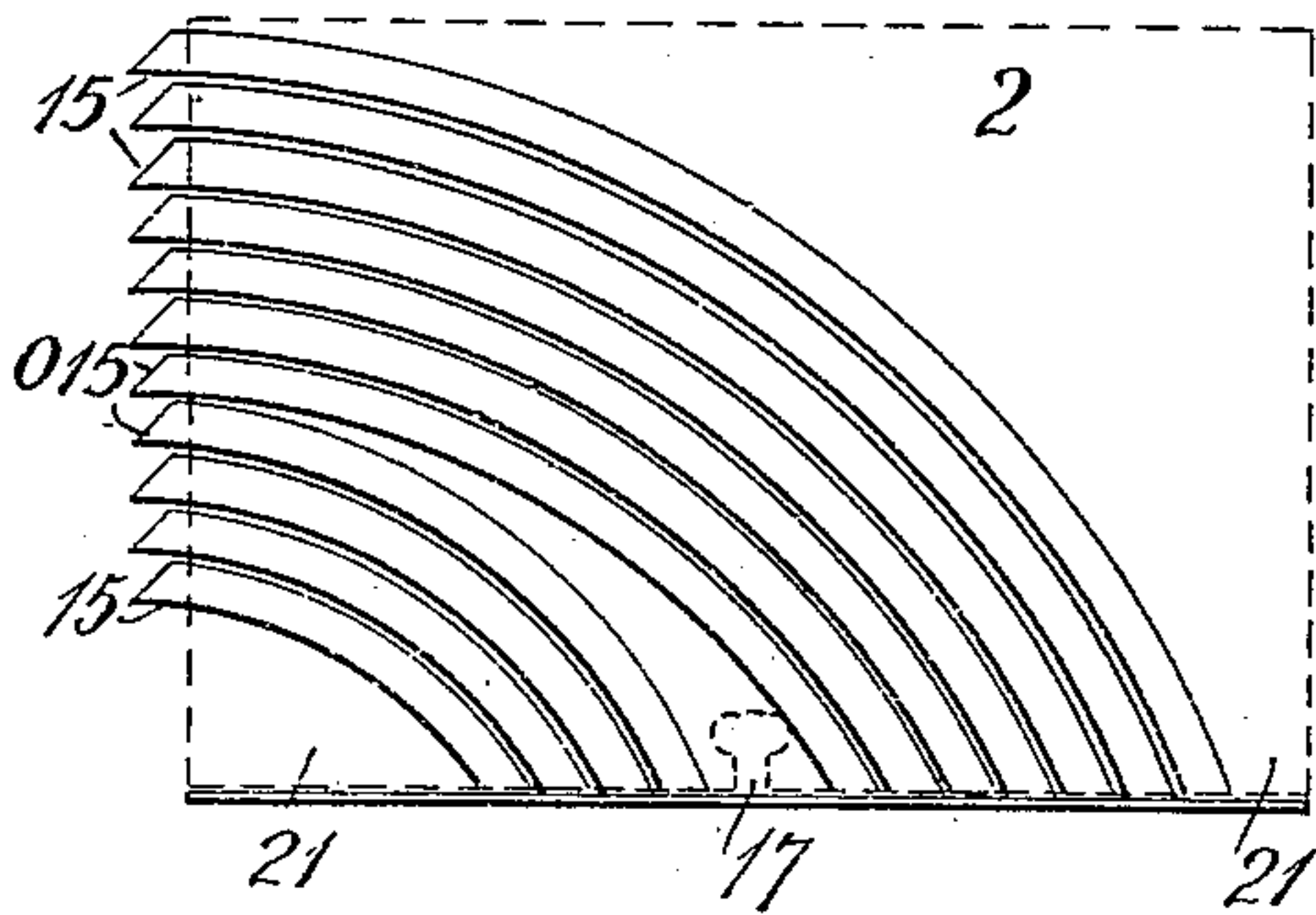


Fig: 9,

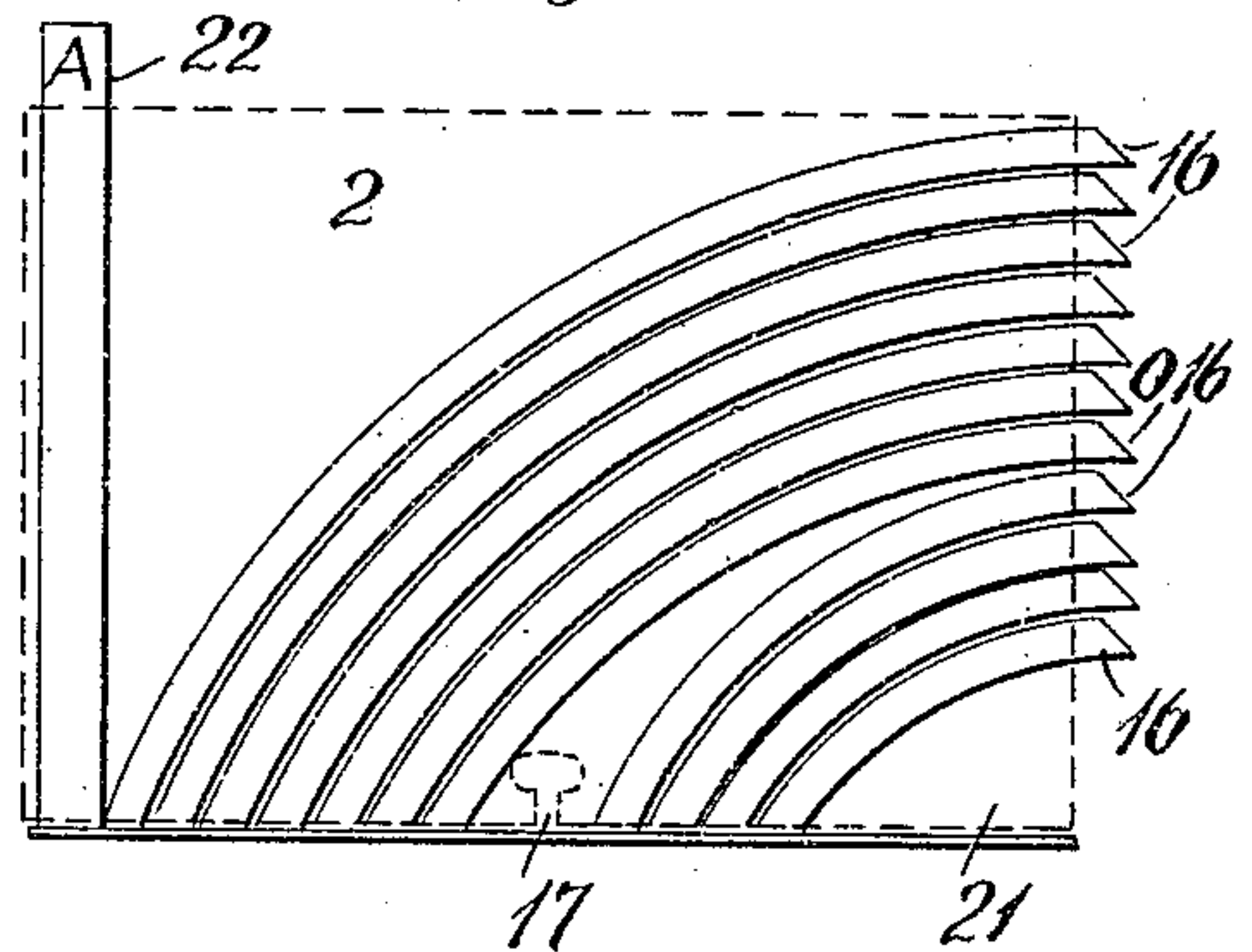


Fig: 10,

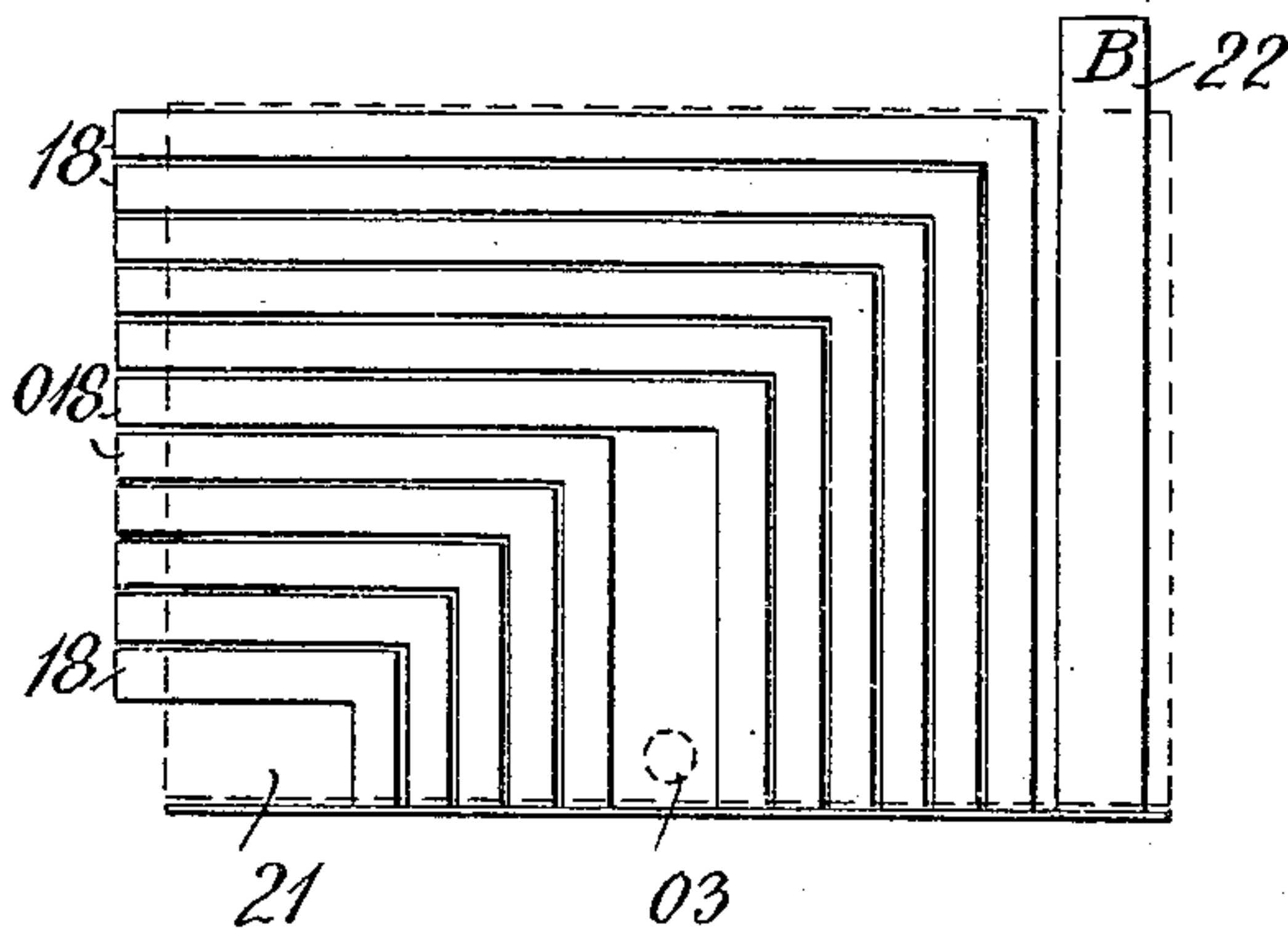


Fig: 11,

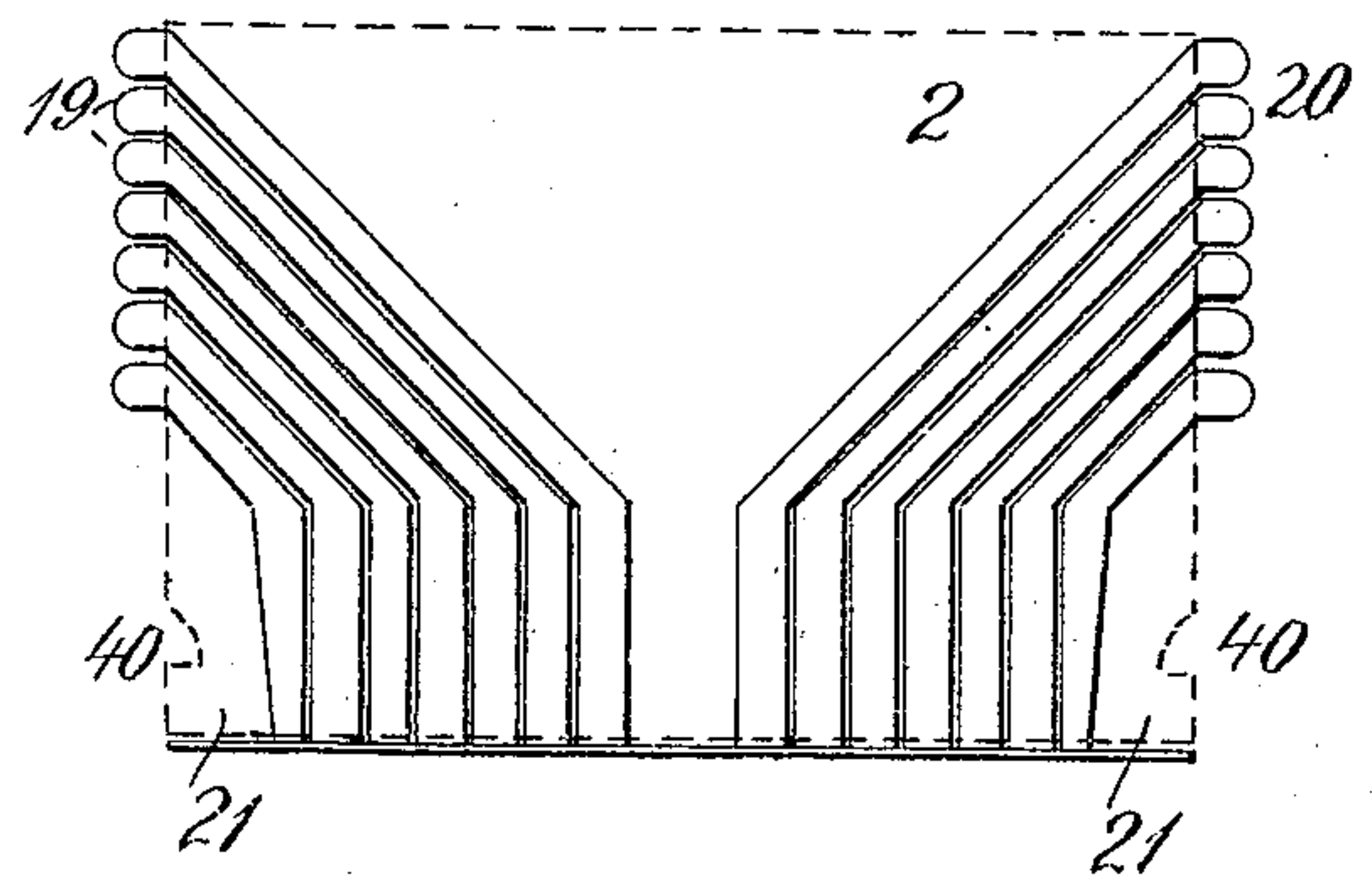
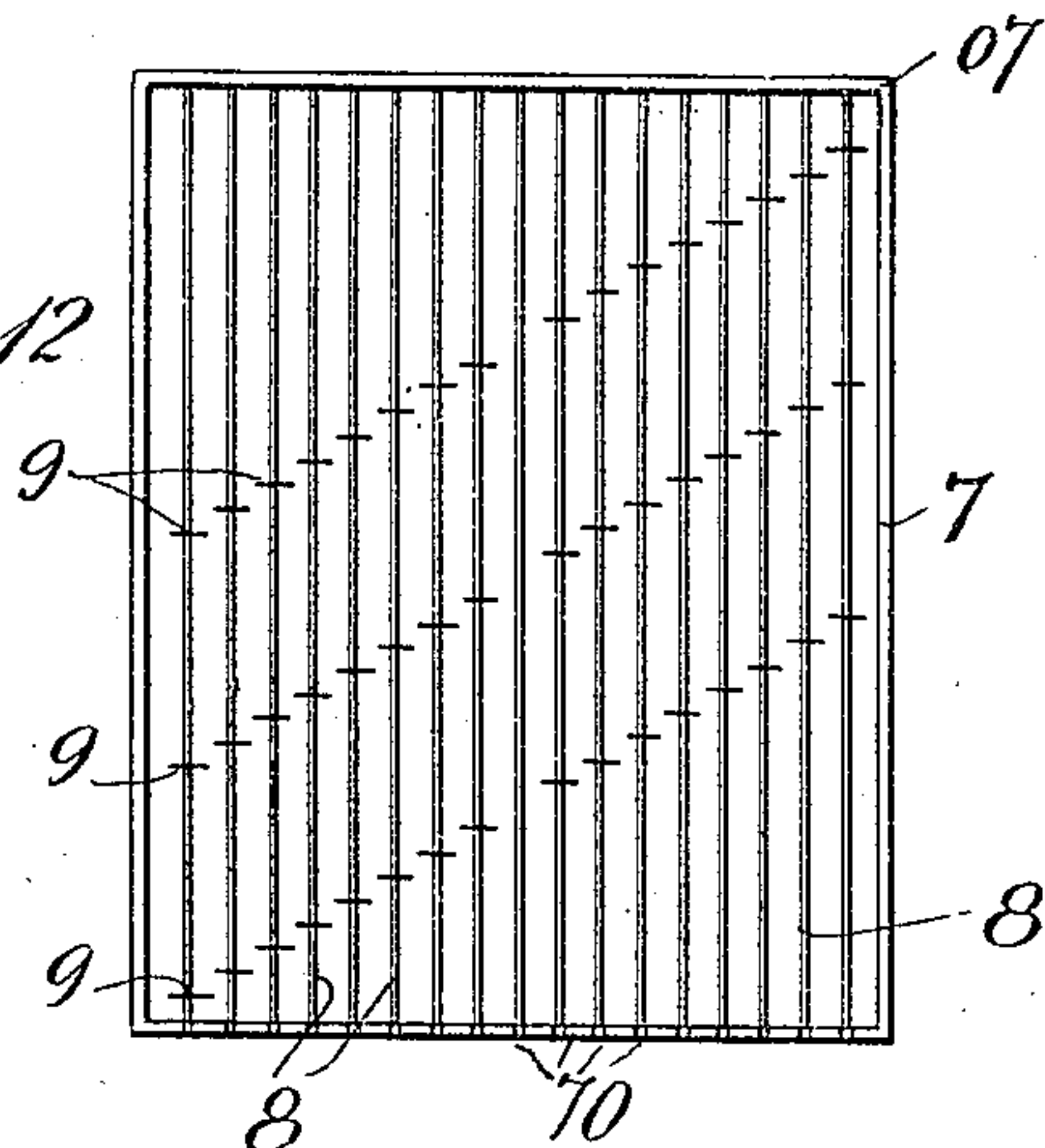


Fig: 12



Witnesses:  
Max B. A. Doring  
Anna Buchner

Mary A. Brown Inventor  
By her Attorney Augustus T. Kurlitz



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MARY A. BROWN, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## CARD-INDEX.

956,475.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Apr. 26, 1910.

Application filed April 12, 1909. Serial No. 489,492.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, MARY A. BROWN, a citizen of the United States, residing in the borough of Manhattan, in the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Card-Indexes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in indexes which are composed of separate cards upon each of which a name, subject, date, or other information is inscribed, and which are then arranged in boxes, drawers, etc., and disposed in order chronologically, alphabetically or otherwise, according to the uses for which they are designed. As these cards are arranged for use the upper part, sides and corners of them are accessible, and they are separated, or "run over" by applying the finger either at the top or at the side or corner of the card, and in using the cards it is often tedious and difficult to separate them because of the tendency of the cards to stick together. Furthermore, often two cards stick together, and when it is desired to use them in haste, two cards are often passed over as one, and in that way mistakes are made. The corners of the cards, which to most users are the convenient parts for separating them, also soon become worn, and increase the difficulty of using the cards quickly and accurately.

The object of my invention is to provide separators by which the index cards are kept apart from each other, and by means of which they may be "run over" quickly without touching the index cards at all, and furthermore, if the cards have been once properly placed, by means of which two cards can not easily be run over as one.

In the drawings several illustrations of my invention are shown.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a drawer partly filled with index cards to which my separator has been applied. Fig. 2 is a view of the separator fingers attached to or forming a part of a retaining edge adapted to lie on the bottom of the box or drawer. Fig. 3 is a view of an arrangement of the separator fingers as sliding on little rods or flat wires. Fig. 4 is a view of a perpendicular body portion from which the separator fingers project. Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the sheet and fingers of Fig. 4, inserted in a suitable support. Fig. 6 is a plan view of the support shown in Fig. 5.

Fig. 7 is an end view of the blocks 10 and 11. Figs. 8, 9, 10 and 11 show various forms of fingers. Fig. 12 is a top plan view of Fig. 3.

In the example of my invention shown in Fig. 1, the drawer containing the index cards is marked 1, the index cards 2, and the rod which passes through the index cards when a rod is used, is marked 3. In this example of my invention the fingers 4, 4, by which the index cards are separated, are cut out of a blank of suitable material, and bent upward, leaving a portion, as 5, of the blank which is to lie flat horizontally on the bottom of the box or drawer, and on this rest the cards, 2. In case a rod is employed to keep the cards, 2, in place, a suitable opening, 6, may be provided in the middle of the finger portion. This can conveniently be done without interfering with the orderly appearance of the fingers, 4, 4, as they project above the cards, by narrowing some of the fingers, as 04, 04, near the middle, and shaping them in a sloping position, so that no open part will appear at the top. In this way also all the space at the top will be utilized and equally distributed between the fingers, 4, 4, as shown in Fig. 1. The fingers, 4, 4, are conveniently bent up from the horizontal portion, 5, in progressive advance, so as to leave a convenient space for an index card between every two fingers, without packing the cards too tight between the fingers. As the fingers need not overlap each other they do not take up much more space than several thicknesses of the material of which they are composed, instead of 16 times such thickness, which is also an advantage.

In Fig. 3, another example of my invention is shown. In this, 7, 7, is a suitable frame, in which a series of thin rods or flat wires, 8, 8, are secured in any convenient manner, as for instance, one end of each rod, 8, may be fastened into one end of the frame, 07, as shown in Fig. 3, and the other end of the frame, 7, may be provided with a notch 70 for each rod, 8, into which the rod is to be pushed after the fingers, 9, 9, have been mounted thereon. In the frame shown in the Fig. 3 example of my invention there are three fingers, 9, 9, mounted upon each rod, 8, which is a convenient number for some purposes, but of course the frames may be made of any size desired, as one frame may be made to fill the whole of the



box or drawer, or sets of frames may be made, of suitable size, when a designated set is inserted, to fill up a box or drawer. If a rod, such as 3, is used in connection with  
 5 this example of my invention, the rod may be disposed above the frame, 7, and the fingers, 09, 09, toward the middle of the frame may also be inclined, if desired, to allow the rod to pass along the middle without leaving an opening in the top of the  
 10 row of fingers. If no rod 3 is to be used, then of course there need be no sloping of the fingers, 09, 09, in the middle of the set.

In Figs. 4, 5, and 6 I show another example of my invention. In this a pair  
 15 of blocks, 10, 11, is employed for each of a set of fingers, 12 12. These fingers may be cut out of a suitable blank, leaving a strip, 13, at the lower part uncut, as shown in Fig.  
 20 4, in which case all the fingers in the set would be joined at the bottom, as indicated. The blocks 10 and 11 may be notched and recessed near their upper part only, and in such manner that a projecting part from one  
 25 of the blocks fits into a recess opposite thereto in the other block, leaving the lower portion of the blocks 10 and 11 smooth. Then when the finger piece, 12, 13, is inserted between them, the bottom portion, 13,  
 30 will be clamped between the smooth sides of the lower portion of the blocks, and the fingers, 12, 12, will be twisted by the projecting portion of one block into the recessed portion of the other block, so as to  
 35 assume an upright position along the diagonal line shown in Fig. 6. Of course, it will be understood that each notch and each recess is of a size and shape to take in one of the finger parts, 12, 12, and hold the same  
 40 twisted in place, so as to allow one of the index cards to rest on the blocks, 10, 11, between each pair of the fingers. If desired the notches and recesses in the blocks, 10, 11, may extend along their entire meeting  
 45 faces, and fingers as 12, 12, may be cut, each entirely separate from the others, and each attached to one of the recess parts cut into the blocks, 10, 11, and there secured, either by a pin or by being glued thereto, or  
 50 in any other convenient manner, and supported exactly in place by the opposite meeting face of the other block. The blocks, 10, 11, may be fastened together by screws, pins, clamps, or in any convenient manner, and  
 55 thus form units of sets of fingers to be used in the boxes or drawers, and they may be provided with thumb notches, as shown at 14, in Figs. 5 and 6.

In the example of my invention shown in  
 60 Fig. 8, the fingers, 15, 15, are curved sideways toward the left side of and beyond the cards, 2; and in the example of my invention shown in Fig. 9, the fingers, 16, 16, are curved sideways toward the right side of the  
 65 cards, 2; and the lower ends of the fingers,

015, 015, and 016, 016, are so spaced as to permit the insertion of a holding device, through the opening, 17, 17, in each case, and also to preserve the uniformity of the projecting portions of the fingers. 70

In Fig. 10 another example of my invention is shown, in which the fingers, 18, 18 are formed angularly to project beyond the left margin of the cards, 2, and the fingers, 018, 018, are spaced to permit the insertion  
 75 of a retaining rod, as 3, in the hole 03, without interfering with the uniformity of the projecting ends of the fingers, 18, 18. Of course, it will be understood that the projecting ends of the fingers, 18, 18, may like-  
 80 wise be reversed, and used to project beyond the right margin of the cards, 2, as in the case of the fingers, 16, 16, shown in Fig. 9.

In Fig. 11, another example of my invention is shown, in which there are two sets of  
 85 fingers, the ends, 19, 19, of one set projecting beyond the left side of the cards, 2, and the ends, 20, 20, of the other set projecting beyond the right side of the cards, 2.

The lower ends of the fingers, 15, 015, 16, 016, 17, 017, 18, 018, 19, and 20, may be secured in place by a horizontal portion, 5, as are the fingers, 4, 04, shown in Fig. 2; or they may be disposed on rods, 8, 8, as are the fingers 9, 09, shown in Fig. 3; or they  
 95 may be arranged between suitable blocks similar to blocks, 10, 11, shown in Fig. 5; or they may be singly cut out and glued or otherwise secured to suitable blocks similar to blocks 10 and 11, as desired. 100

For securing the cards, 2, 2, in place any suitable rod or holder may be employed, and the cards perforated or notched to take in the same, and a suitable opening provided in the cards between or on the side of the fin-  
 105 gers. In Fig. 1, a rod, 3, is shown employed for that purpose, and in Fig. 10, a hole, 03, for the purpose of taking in such rod. Another holding device indicated is that in which rods or strips are arranged in the  
 110 side of the box or drawers, which may be turned flush with the side of the box or drawer, and inward to take into notches, 40, 40, as shown in Figs. 2 and 11. Another form of holder is a flat rod adapt-  
 115 ed to be in position to permit the withdrawal of a card when the flat side is in a vertical position, and to have the flat portion turned horizontally to hold the cards in place in an opening of the mushroom form,  
 120 17, 17, as shown in Figs. 8 and 9. But it will be seen that, in addition to the holding devices mentioned, any other form may be used for the cards, 2, 2, in the free spaces, 21, 21, in Figs. 8, 9, 10 and 11. Any of the  
 125 forms of finger parts may be adapted to conform to such holding devices without distorting the projecting ends of the fingers, by merely leaning the adjoining finger portions as shown at 04, 04, 09, 09, 018, etc. 130



The finger arrangements shown in Figs. 8, 9, 10 and 11 permit use of both hands at the same time in running over the index cards, and they also have the advantage of not projecting so as to obscure the topic or classification cards which, as usually made, project above the upper margin of the index cards.

For the boxes and drawers which are made to contain thin cards about 3x5 inches in size, I have found that a finger set consisting of from about 12 to 16 fingers is a convenient division for the size of the fingers, but of course, if desired the fingers may be increased in size, say about 8 to 10 in a set. For sets of smaller cards it will be better to use a small number of fingers in each set, and this should be done for cards which are made of heavy card board; for sets of larger cards of course the number of fingers in a set may be increased, if desired. I do not limit myself to any particular number of fingers in each set. If desired, the projecting portion of the fingers, or some of the fingers, may be inscribed with a letter or numeral, as a guide to the cards inclosed between them, and the tops of the fingers may be either square, rounded, pointed, &c., as desired. The fingers may be made of thin sheets of celluloid, aluminum, tough card board, or any other suitable material.

The blanks may consist of tough, stiff paper, the whole of which may be strengthened by a suitable woven fabric or similar material.

In those instances of my invention in which the fingers are arranged to project on one side of the cards only, as illustrated in Figs. 8, 9 and 10, there is a portion of the finger blank on the side opposite to that from which the fingers project, which may be extended above the index cards, and on the projecting ends of which a letter of reference or a numeral may be inscribed, as shown at 22, 22, in Figs. 9 and 10.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A separator adapted to separate the individual cards of a card index, consisting of a part adapted to be placed beneath the index cards, such part provided with narrow finger strips or levers arranged laterally one back of another in step like position and adapted to be interposed between the individual cards and to project beyond the margin of the same, substantially as described and shown.

2. A separator device consisting of a series of narrow fingers or levers adapted to be placed between the individual cards of a card index and to project beyond the margin of such cards, such finger strips or levers secured in suitable holding devices beneath the cards, substantially as described and shown.

3. A separator adapted to be applied to a card index to separate the individual cards, consisting of a suitable holding device disposed beneath such cards and a series of narrow finger strips or levers attached thereto and projecting therefrom laterally in step like arrangement, the upper portions of such finger strips or levers being free to pass beyond the margin of such cards, substantially as described and shown.

4. A card index separator, consisting of a series of narrow finger strips or levers disposed in step like arrangement, and adapted to be placed between the individual cards and project beyond the margin of the same above the bottom of the cards, such finger strips or levers suitably secured in position beneath the index cards, substantially as described and shown.

5. An improved card index, consisting of a series of index cards in combination with a series of narrow separator strips or levers adapted to be interposed between the index cards to make them separable from each other, substantially as described and shown.

MARY A. BROWN.

Witnesses:

BENJAMIN H. NEWELL,  
WILLIAM D. PECK.