J. S. DUNCAN.

PRINTING PLATE.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 24, 1909.

959,725. Patented May 31, 1910.

Fig. 1

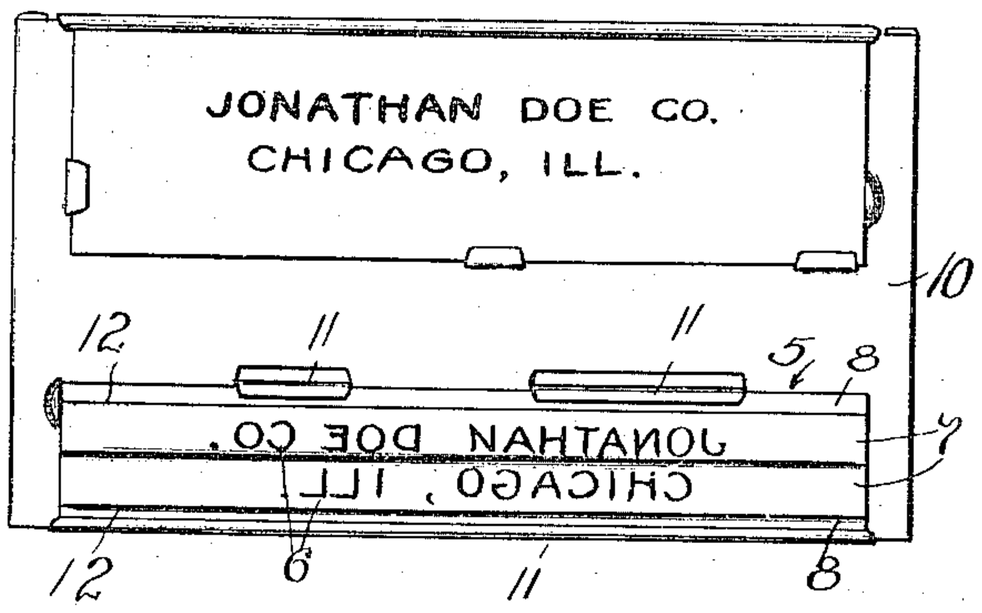


Fig. 2

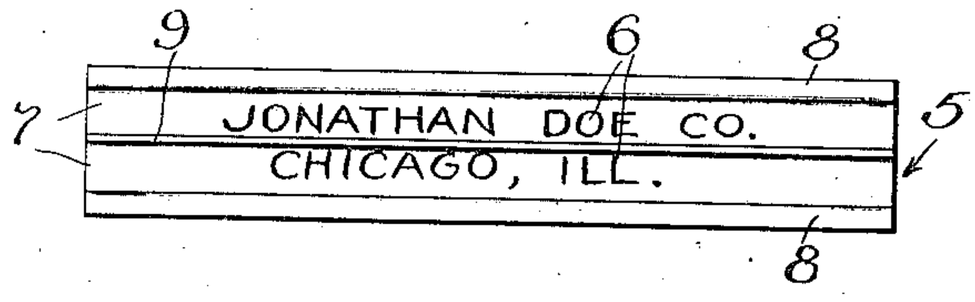


Fig. 3.

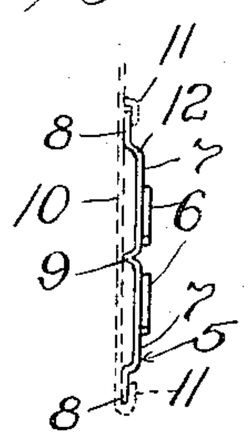
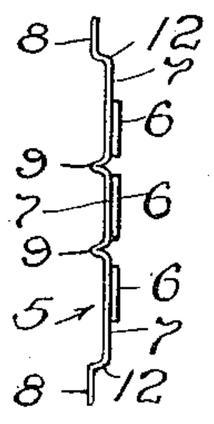


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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PRINTING-PLATE.

959,725. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented May 31, 1910.

Application filed May 24, 1909. Serial No. 497,922.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH S. DUNCAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented new and useful Improvements in Printing-Plates, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in printing plates which are largely used by gas companies, telephone companies and other corporations who send out many bills regularly to the same customers, for printing the addresses on the bills and envelops. These addresses are stamped on the plate and the latter is removably mounted in a suitable frame which may also carry a card bearing an impression of the address and any other useful information. The frames are generally arranged in drawers in accordance with a regular card index system and they are run through addressing machines and returned to the drawers without disturbing their arrangement. Lips, flanges or other engaging means are struck up or otherwise provided on the frames for holding the plates thereon. Examples of these plates and frames are found in my Patents No. 692,994 dated February 11, 1902, No. 853,538 dated May 14, 1907 and No. 856,452 dated June 11, 1907. It sometimes happens that the projecting parts on the frame which are employed to removably secure the plate thereon become inked and smudge or mark the letter or envelop during the printing operation. To avoid this my present invention provides a plate of novel construction which raises the face of the type thereon sufficiently above the projections on the frame to enable the inking device to apply ink properly to the type without touching these projections.

In the accompanying drawings illustrating my improved printing plate Figure 1 is a plan view showing my improved plate in a frame. Fig. 2 is a plan view of the back of the plate. Fig. 3 is an end view of the plate showing the frame in broken lines. Fig. 4 is an end view of a three line plate.

Referring to the drawings, 5 designates, generally, a metal plate provided with type characters 6 for an address or other desired matter. The lines of type are located on panels 7 extending longitudinally of the plate and elevated above the edge flanges 8. Between each pair of panels there is a rib 9, the back of which lies in the same plane with the back of the flanges.

The plate is arranged on the frame 10 with the back of the flanges 8 and the rib 9 in contact with the face of the frame and the holding devices 11 of the frame engaged with the flanges. The raised type panels elevate the type sufficiently to enable an inking device to apply ink properly to the face of the type without engaging any part of the frame and this avoids the liability of the frame becoming inked and marking the letter or envelop. The longitudinal shoulders 12 and rib 9 strengthen the plate which is important when the type are to be stamped because the plate must then be made of soft metal.

If the plate has only one line of type there will be only one panel and the rib 9 will be omitted; if it has several lines of type a rib is provided between each pair of panels. In Fig. 4 I have shown the plate provided with three lines of type and with two ribs. The edge flanges 8 may be continuous, as shown, or broken, as illustrated in my Patent No. 856,452 dated June 11, 1907.

What I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A printing plate comprising a plurality of elevated panels provided with printing characters stamped thereon, and a strengthening rib integral with the plate and disposed longitudinally of and between the panels at the back of the plate to form a strengthening support for the plate between the panels.

2. A printing plate comprising a plurality of elevated panels provided with printing characters stamped thereon, and a rib integral with the plate and extending longitudinally thereof between the panels, said rib being adapted to serve as a strengthening rib for the plate and a support for the panels.

3. A printing plate comprising a plurality of elevated panels, provided with printing characters, flanges at either edge of said plate, and a strengthening rib, said rib and flanges adapted to engage a printing frame and support said panels above the face of said frame.

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