

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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FILE.

963,446.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ASA E. LANDON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Elmira, in the county of Chemung and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Files, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in filing devices such as described in Letters Patent No. 800,858, of October 3, 1905, granted to Warren F. Beck and myself, and in Letters Patent No. 832,549, of October 2, 1906, granted to myself; and the object of my present invention is to provide certain improvements in such filing devices whereby the sales slips will be held more securely in their respective compartments, and whereby the exposed portions of such sales slips will be concealed when the file is not in use.

I attain my object by constructing the file in the manner illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 presents a plan view of one leaf of a filing case embodying said improvements, with a second leaf hinged thereto at the left hand side, and shown in longitudinal section; Fig. 2, a transverse section of the same on the line $x-x$ in Fig. 1; and Figs. 3 and 4, details showing the manner of constructing the individual compartment flaps or partitions.

Like numerals designate like parts in the several views.

The file, as herein illustrated, consists of leaves 1, 1, hinged together, each leaf comprising a shallow rectangular tray or receptacle formed of wood or other material of suitable lightness and strength. Running longitudinally through the center of each leaf is a division strip 2, upon each side of which there are arranged series of compartments formed by overlapping flaps 3, each flap in a series projecting a short distance beyond the next overlapping flap, and forming a compartment in which may be placed the sales slips belonging to any given customer, as they may be added from time to time in the course of business transactions. These flaps are preferably formed from cartridge paper, and applied to the receptacle in the manner described in the aforesaid Letters Patent, by having the return bends 4, (see Fig. 4), fastened to the back of the receptacle, the lower ends being

bent outward at right angles to provide a flat bottom for the compartment, and the body of the flaps being then bent over to lie loosely upon one another.

To more effectually hold the several sales slips in their respective compartments, I further provide the upper ends of the flaps with outturned right angle bends or flanges 5, said flanges being reinforced in any suitable manner to give them the necessary strength to maintain their shape under usage. These projecting flanges also stiffen the upper ends of the flaps and add very materially to the convenience and rapidity of manipulating the file when inserting the sales slips therein, as they are more readily grasped when lifting the flaps. At the right hand side of the flaps these flanges are cut away; and a portion of the body of the flap may also be cut away, as on the diagonal line 6, although this is not necessary.

Retaining bars 7 in the form of bails are hinged at 8 at opposite ends of the leaves, by means of outturned projections slipped into corresponding sockets provided in the ends of the leaves; the bails being hinged at such points that, when thrown downward upon the flaps, the bails will rest upon the right hand side of the flaps, where the flanges 5 have been cut away. The bails are provided with longitudinal plates 9, rigidly fastened thereto in position to rest upon the flaps, and to conceal the items of accounts exposed opposite the customers' names, as they appear on the sales slips in each compartment. By this device, when the file is open, nothing appears except the names of the customers; and if the file be left open nothing of this confidential nature appears to the casual observer. Only by lifting the bails will these accounts be disclosed. The bails are held in locked position upon the compartments by means of snap latches such as shown at 10, or other suitable devices.

When one in authority desires to examine a customer's account, or to open the files for filing the sales slips, the bail for the particular series of compartments, in which the customer's name is to be found, will be released from its latch, and thrown over to the left, as shown at the left hand side in Figs. 1 and 2. The bail and the concealing plate 9 are thereby moved to one side clear

of the compartment, thus fully disclosing the customer's accounts, and leaving the flaps free to be lifted for inserting or removing the sales slips.

5 Without confining myself strictly to the construction, as herein shown, of the several parts of the device, what I claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent is—

10 1. A file comprising a receptacle containing a plurality of expansible filing compartments arranged in series with each compartment in a series projecting beyond the next overlying compartment, and a retaining
15 bar adapted to be laid over the series of compartments at one side and to conceal from view certain portions of the contents of the compartments there exposed to view.

20 2. A file comprising a receptacle containing a plurality of expansible filing compartments arranged in series with each compartment in a series projecting beyond the next overlying compartment, a retaining bar
25 comprising a hinged bail adapted to be swung over and away from each series of compartments, said bail being so positioned as to engage the series of compartments at one side and being provided with means
30 for concealing certain portions of the contents of the compartments there exposed to

view, and means for fastening the bail in closed position.

3. A file comprising a receptacle containing a plurality of filing compartments arranged in series, said compartments being
35 formed by flaps fastened at one end to the back of the receptacle and turned over to lie loosely one upon another, each flap in a series projecting beyond the next overlying
40 flap and having an outturned flange across its exposed end, said flanges being cut away at one side of the flaps, and a retaining bar adapted to be laid upon the flaps where the
45 flanges are cut away.

4. A file comprising a receptacle contain- 45
ing a plurality of filing compartments arranged in series, said compartments being formed by flaps fastened at one end to the back of the receptacle and turned over to
lie loosely upon one another; each flap in a
50 series projecting beyond the next overlying flap and having an outturned flange across its exposed end.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature, in presence of two witnesses.

ASA E. LANDON.

Witnesses:

M. E. VERBECK,
EUGENE DIVEN.