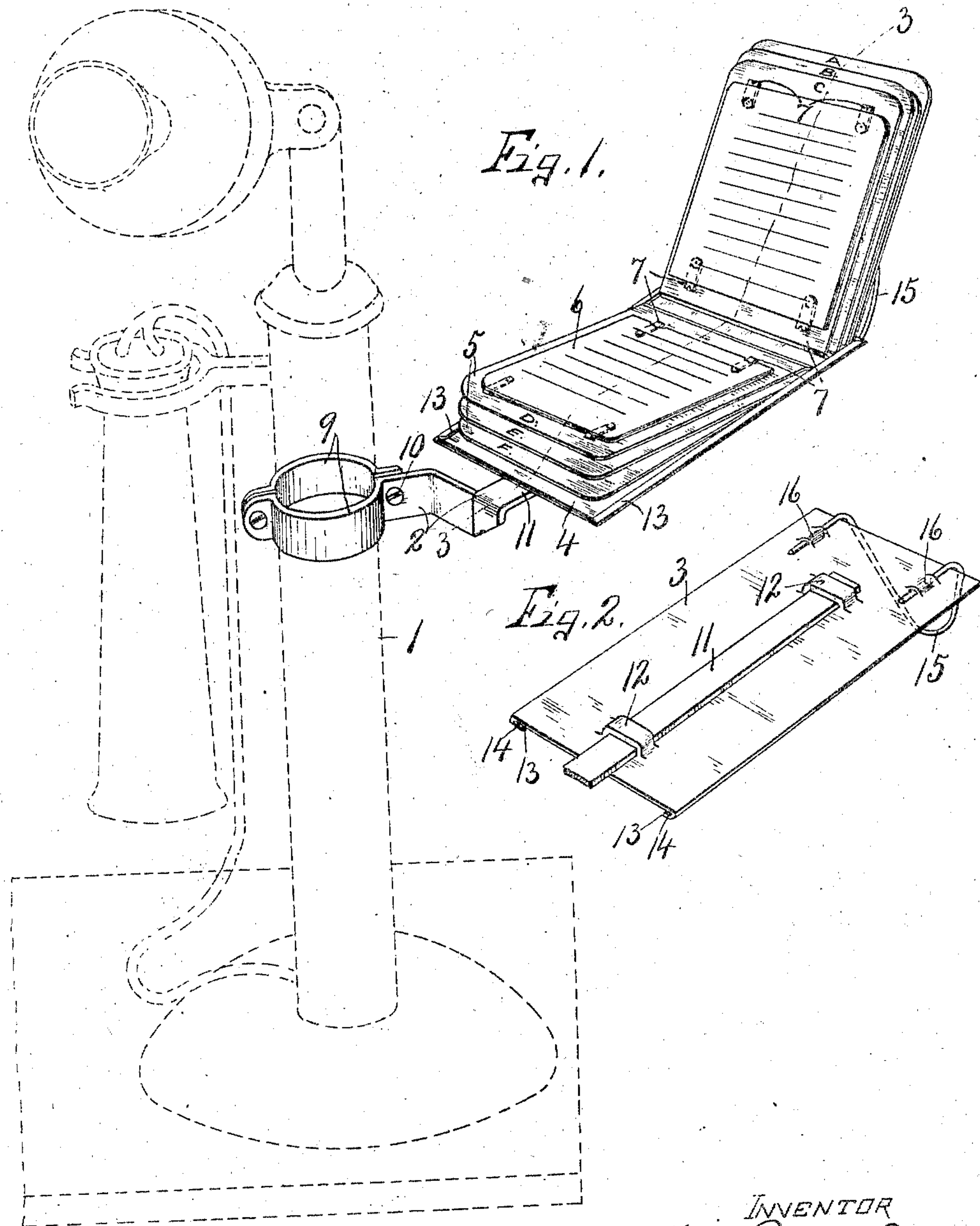


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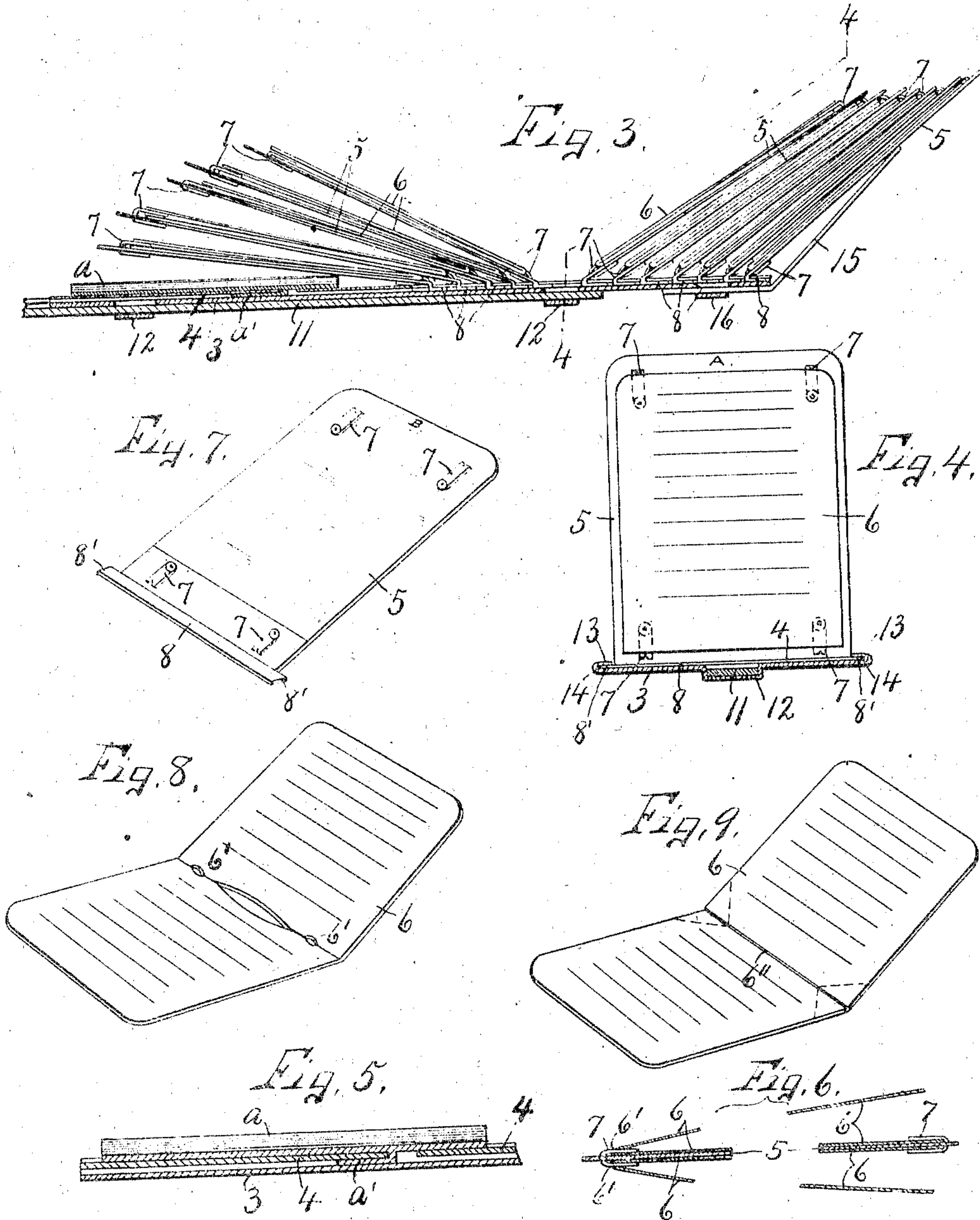
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Patented Aug. 16, 1910.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

967,438.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## REFERENCE-FILE.

967,438.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Aug. 16, 1910.

Application filed February 26, 1909. Serial No. 480,111.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, FRANK E. RICHARDSON, of Cazenovia, in the county of Madison, in the State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Reference-Files, of which the following, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to certain improvements in reference files and is particularly useful as an index for telephones and similar relations where it is necessary to frequently refer to different names, addresses or items of information.

One of the objects of my present invention is to provide a loose leaf ledger or reference book in which the loose leaves are folded and detachably attached at the folds and end edges to suitable index leaves which are detachably mounted upon and hinged to a substantially flat back or support so that the loose leaves having information corresponding to the indexes of the different leaves may be readily inserted in the proper place and folded relatively to each other with the index leaves to which they are attached.

Another object is to provide simple means for attaching the main supporting back of the ledger to a telephone or other support in such manner that the back may be readily removed or replaced without disturbing its supporting bracket.

Other objects and uses relating to specific parts of the reference file will be brought out in the following description.

In the drawings—Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved reference file shown as operatively mounted upon the standard of an ordinary desk telephone, the latter being shown in dotted lines. Fig. 2 is an inverted perspective view of the supporting back of the reference file and an adjacent portion of the bracket upon which it is mounted. Figs. 3 and 4 are respectively longitudinal and transverse sectional views taken respectively on lines 3—3, Fig. 1 and 4—4, Fig. 3. Fig. 5 is an enlarged sectional view through a portion of one end of the back showing the pocket and pad supported therein. Fig. 6 is a longitudinal sectional view partly broken away through one of the index leaves showing portions of the folded loose sheets operatively mounted thereon together with the retaining means for said sheets. Fig. 7 is a perspective view

of one of the detached index leaves. Figs. 8 and 9 are perspective views of modified forms of loose leaves; that in Fig. 8 consisting of a single sheet folded transversely at the center and provided with perforations at the folds for receiving the fastening devices, while that shown in Fig. 9 is made up of two sheets arranged end to end and united at their meeting ends by flexible hinges spaced apart leaving an open slit or space between the hinges for the reception of the same fastening means.

In Fig. 1 I have shown my improved reference file as operatively mounted upon an ordinary desk telephone—1—(indicated by dotted lines) and consisting of a bracket—2—having one end provided with a flat metal back piece—3—, a plurality of one or more pocket plates—4—, index leaves—5— and loose leaves—6— which are temporarily retained upon the index leaves—5— by suitable clasps 7.

One end of the bracket—2—is provided with a divided or sectional clamping head—9— adapted to fit around and upon the standard of the telephone—1— and tightened by suitable clamping screws—10—. The other end of the bracket is provided with a substantially flat elongated arm or bar—11— disposed in an inclined plane for supporting the back piece—3—. This back piece preferably consists of a flat piece of sheet metal having loops—12— cut and pressed outwardly therefrom at or near its longitudinal center for receiving the bracket arm—11— which latter is, therefore, slidably interlocked with said arm to permit it to be readily removed or replaced when desired without disturbing the position of the bracket—2— on the standard of the telephone. The opposite longitudinal edges of the back piece—3—are overturned or bent inwardly toward each other at the upper side of the plate forming lengthwise parallel flanges—13— and interposed lengthwise grooves—14— for receiving and retaining the inner hinged ends of the index sheets—5— and also the pocket plates—4—, said flanges being comparatively narrow transversely leaving a clear space between them of substantially the width of the index leaves—5—.

The pocket plates—4—are preferably made of comparatively stiff but thin card board or similar material having their ends inserted into the grooves—14— where they



are temporarily retained by the flanges —13—, although capable of sliding lengthwise in the grooves when placing them in operative position, the flanges being afterward pressed tightly against the plates to hold them in such position.

The bases of the leaves —5— are hinged to comparatively narrow strips —8— of slightly greater length than the transverse width of the leaf forming laterally projecting shoulders —8'— which enter the grooves —14— and are, therefore, held in operative relation to the back piece —3—, by the flanges —13—.

The back piece is of substantially twice the length of the leaves —5— which are attached thereto, one in advance of the other in close juxtaposition near one end until substantially half of the back piece is filled with leaves leaving the other half unprovided with leaves so that the entire series of such leaves may be folded backwardly or downwardly upon themselves within the area of the back piece.

A leaf rest —15— is detachably secured to the end of the back piece to which the leaves are applied and is disposed in an inclined position or at an obtuse angle with the back piece to form a rest for supporting the leaves in an inclined position relatively to the back piece. This rest —15— preferably consists of a U-shaped piece of wire having its ends detachably interlocked or slidably engaged in suitable loops —16— which are cut and stamped from the main body of the back piece —11— and are similar to the loops —12—.

The clasps —7— are preferably attached to the leaves —5— in pairs, one pair near the inner end of base and another pair near the outer end, each clasp preferably consisting of a U-shape metal clasp passed through an aperture in the leaf and having its opposite arms movable toward and from and preferably spring-tensioned toward opposite faces of said leaves so as to effectively retain one or more loose sheets which may be inserted between said arms and the adjacent faces of the leaf.

When this device is used as a telephone index or for similar purposes, the loose sheets are preferably made in book form or folded substantially midway between their ends either by attaching two sheets together or creasing a single sheet, each sheet being provided with a slit or slot at its fold for receiving corresponding arms of the clasps —7— thus permitting the sheets to be readily attached or detached from their supporting leaves —5—.

The outer end edges of the sheet —6— may be further retained by passing it under the corresponding arm of the outer clasp —7— as clearly shown in Fig. 6. It is now clear that one-half of each sheet is held in

place by the inner and outer clasps and the other half of the sheet is free to be folded backward and forward thus permitting both sides of the movable half and the exposed side of the other half to be used for the reference names of other items. It is also clear upon reference to Fig. 6 that by passing the clasps —7— through the leaves —5— leaving their opposite arms at opposite sides of said leaf, the loose sheets may be fastened to both sides of each leaf and both sheets of each leaf are, therefore, readily available for the reception of reference names or other items making a very compact reference file which is particularly adapted for telephone use but may be used with equal advantage in other relations as a ready reference file.

In Fig. 8 I have shown one of the leaves —6— as provided at the fold with apertures —6'— for receiving corresponding arms of the inner clasps —7—.

In Fig. 9 I have shown two separate sheets as fastened together by flexible hinges leaving the central portion open to form a lengthwise slit —6''— which also receives the corresponding arms of the inner clasps —7—.

The pocket members —4— have their opposite edges inserted in the grooves —14— and are held in place by the flanges —13— and are preferably made of card board or similar material which is stiff yet sufficiently yielding to permit its central portion to be sprung outwardly away from the back piece —3— to receive a portion of a pad —a—, the pad in this instance provided with a tongue —a'— which is slipped over one of the edges of and between the pocket member —4— and back —3— to temporarily hold the pad upon the back piece.

In practice the bases —8— of the leaves —5— are adhesively or otherwise secured to the plate —4—, the latter being slidable lengthwise of the back piece —11— and being held against lateral displacement by the flanges —13—. This permits the plate —4— with the several leaves —5— thereon to be removed by simply withdrawing such plate from one end of the back piece —11—. It is evident, however, that in either case the leaves —5— are removable from the back piece —11—.

The operation of my invention will now be readily understood upon reference to the foregoing description and accompanying drawing.

What I claim is:

1. In a reference file, a back piece, index leaves hinged to the back piece, clasps on the index leaves, and loose leaves having portions thereof fastened by the clasp and other portions free to turn backward and forward.

2. In a reference file, a back piece, an in-



dex leaf hinged to the back piece, a clasp on the leaf, and a loose leaf folded upon itself and provided with a slit at the fold through which a portion of the clasp is inserted to retain the loose leaf on the index leaf.

3. In a reference file, a loose leaf composed of two parts hinged together and foldable one upon the other, the joined parts having openings at their junction one with the other, an index leaf and a clasp attached to the index leaf and having a portion thereof passed through one of said openings for fastening the loose leaf to the index leaf.

4. A reference index comprising a bracket, a back piece slidably interlocked with the bracket, and a series of index leaves hinged to the back piece one in advance of the other, each index leaf being provided with a spring clasp, and loose leaves held by said clasps.

5. In a reference file, a back piece, a series of index leaves hinged thereto one in ad-

vance of the other near one end of the back piece, and a pocket plate supported on the opposite end of the back piece.

6. In a reference file, a back piece, an index leaf hinged at one end to the back piece, a pair of clasps attached to the inner end of the index leaf, additional clasps attached to the outer end of the index leaf, and a loose leaf held by one of said clasps.

7. In a reference file, a bracket having a clamp at one end and its opposite end disposed in an inclined plane, a back piece slidably interlocked with the inclined portion of the bracket, and a series of index leaves hinged to the back piece one in advance of the other.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 23d day of February 1909.

FRANK E. RICHARDSON

Witnesses:

H. E. CHASE,  
JESSIE M. HOES.