

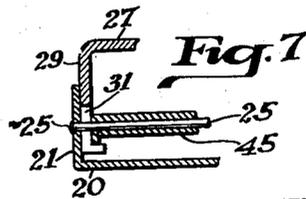
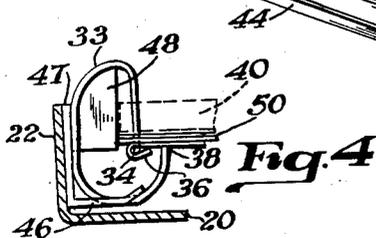
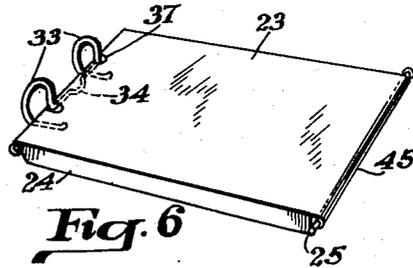
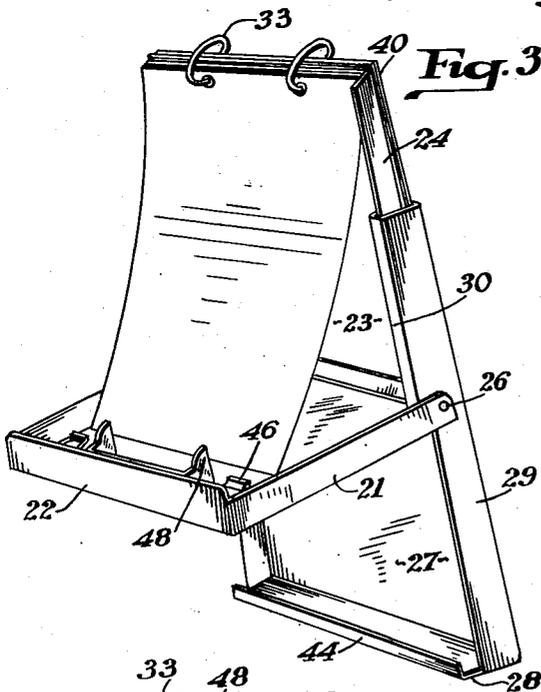
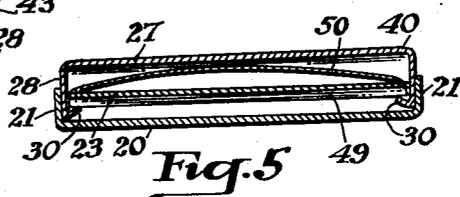
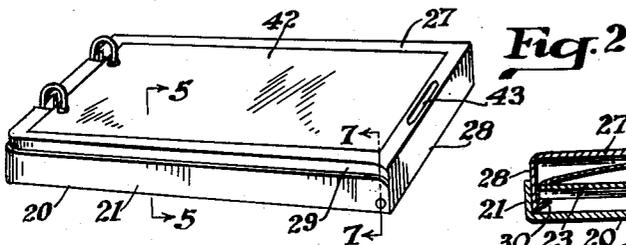
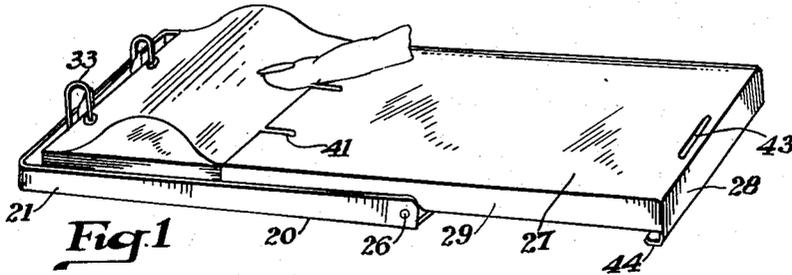
Oct. 17, 1950

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SALESBOOK HOLDER

2,526,090

Filed July 2, 1946

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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Oct. 17, 1950

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SALESBOOK HOLDER

2,526,090

Filed July 2, 1946

2 Sheets-Sheet 2

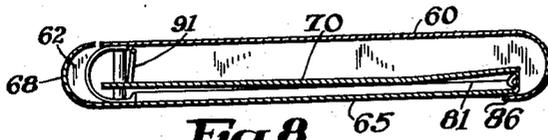


Fig. 8

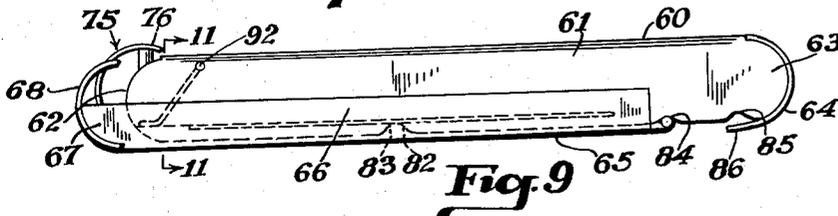


Fig. 9

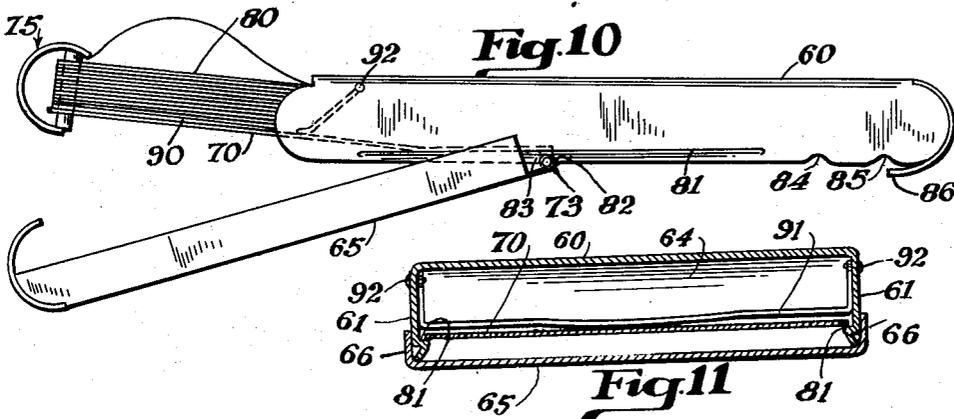


Fig. 10

Fig. 11

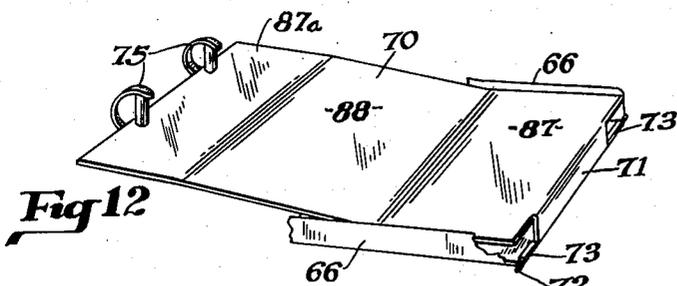


Fig. 12

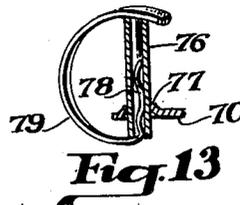


Fig. 13

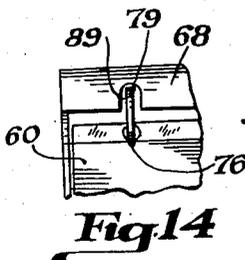


Fig. 14

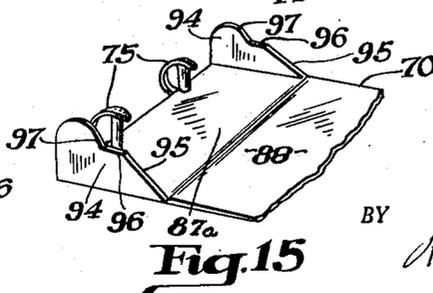


Fig. 15

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,526,090

SALESBOOK HOLDER

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Application July 2, 1946, Serial No. 681,012

22 Claims. (Cl. 282—8)

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This invention relates to sales book holders and includes provisions for the retention of so-called "loose leaf" sheets, the storage of carbon copies thereof and the provision of a hard firm surface upon which to write.

Although many types of sales book holders have been developed heretofore, none of the holders meet all of the requirements of all sales people, since there are certain prerequisites unique to the delivery men and other outdoor workers which are not in common with requirements of a shop keeper. The deficiencies of sales book holders now available have been a great factor in promoting the use of the so-called "autographic" registers where portability is not essential. These devices are provided with a firm writing surface, and a convenient holder for unused and carbon copies, but are impractical of use except as a fixture.

This invention is directed to the provision of a holder for sales books, invoice sheets, or any other type of form upon which information is to be tallied, a structure which is compact and light in weight, a holder which may be readily carried about on the person and a holder which possesses advantages of the more cumbersome and more expensive autographic registers, such for example as the provision of means for the protection of the sheets against mutilation, the provision of a firm writing surface, and the provision of means for the retention of duplicate sheets.

An object of the invention is to provide a sheet holder which is designed with a compartment for the storage of carbon copies or duplicates of the order blank.

Another object of the invention is to provide a sheet holder which is formed with a firm writing surface for the invoice or order blank.

Another object of the invention is to provide a holder from which sheets or order books may be detached or inserted with facility and dispatch.

Another object of the invention is to provide a holder which may be manipulated with a minimum loss of time and effort when adjusting the sheets for use, when handling the sheets for storage or adjusting the holder into its closed position.

Further objects of the invention reside in the provision of a holder which is economic of manufacture, durable of structure, light in weight and small and compact in size.

Other objects and advantages more or less ancillary to the foregoing and the manner in which all the various objects are realized will appear in the following description, which, considered in

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connection with the accompanying drawings, sets forth the preferred embodiment of the invention.

Referring to the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of one form of sales book holder embodying the invention and illustrating the manner of use thereof;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the sales book holder with a sheet in writing position thereon;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view illustrating the disposition of duplicate copies;

Fig. 4 is a detailed view of the sheet holder and a fragmentary section of the holder;

Fig. 5 is a cross section taken on a plane indicated by the line 5—5 in Fig. 2;

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the sheet holding plate;

Fig. 7 is a cross sectional view of the holder, the section being taken on a plane indicated by the line 7—7 in Fig. 2;

Fig. 8 is a longitudinal section of a second form of a sales book holder;

Fig. 9 is a side elevation of the holder illustrating the position of the parts for writing;

Fig. 10 is a side elevation of the holder when adjusted to its open position;

Fig. 11 is a cross section taken on a plane indicated by the line 11—11 in Fig. 9;

Fig. 12 is a perspective view of the sheet holding plate and a fragmentary portion of the back plate;

Fig. 13 is a detail view partially in section showing a sheet mounting post;

Fig. 14 is a plan view thereof; and

Fig. 15 is a perspective view of a modification of the holder of Fig. 8.

Both embodiments of the holder illustrated herein are adapted for the retention of loose leaf sheets of the type that are used for sales slips and the like, particularly those having a carbon applied to the back thereof for the production of duplicate copies. It will be understood, however, that the holders may be used with sheets of various other types, including those in which no record copies are to be made, and it will be further understood that the advantages of the holder according to the present invention may be realized under any circumstances in which it is desired to retain the sheets, make entries thereon, and subsequently remove or retain some or all of the sheets.

The form of holder illustrated in Figs. 1 to 7, inclusive, comprises a bottom plate 20 having its sides and end turned upwardly to form flanges 21 and 22, respectively, the structure thus formed

constituting a shallow trough open at one end. An intermediate plate 23 (Fig. 6) overlies the bottom plate and is disposed in its operative position in parallel relation thereto. The sides of the plate 23 are turned downwardly to form flanges 24, and one end is folded around a wire 25 which extends beyond the flanges 24. The ends of the wire 25 are received in holes 26 formed in the flanges 21 adjacent the open end of the bottom plate, thus forming a hinge between the bottom plate 20 and the intermediate plate 23. The ends of the wire may be peened or upset in any other manner to effect the retention thereof between the flanges 21. A top plate 27, which normally overlies the intermediate plate, is formed with a depending end flange 28 and side flanges 29. The width of the plate 27 is designed to facilitate the free sliding movement thereof between the flanges 21 of the bottom plate. The flange 28 in the top plate is disposed in opposed relation to the flange 22 in the bottom plate, the two plates when arranged in superposed relation forming a shallow box of prismatic configuration.

The portions 30 of the flanges 29 are folded for sliding movement over the edges of the flanges 24 of the intermediate plate; hence, when it is desired to file a copy sheet within the storage compartment defined by the bottom plate and the flanges thereon, the top plate 27 may be moved outwardly relative to the intermediate plate (Fig. 3) until the shoulder 31 (Fig. 7) in the flange 29 engages the wire or hinge pin 25, the bottom plate 20 may then be swung from the intermediate plate 23 and the copy sheet revolved into contiguous relation with the inner face of the plate 23. Rings 33 for the retention of loose sheets are provided in the end of the plate 23 opposite the hinge pin 25. While these rings may be of any of the various types, one suitable form comprises a single strand of wire formed with a slightly bent transverse intermediate portion 34 which is retained by folded tabs 36 of the plate 23. The end of the plate 23 is formed with notches 37 disposed in such spaced relation as is customarily employed in punched sheets of the size and type contemplated herein. The strand of wire beyond the anchored portion thereof is disposed within the notches 37 and bent upwardly and outwardly to form rings 33 which envelop the end of the plate and terminate with the free ends 38 thereof in spring-pressed relation with the lower face of the plate. Through the compressive effort of the loop 36 on the intermediate portion 34 of the wire, which has a slight arch bend in it, the rings are normally retained in closed position. However, they may be rotated to free ends 38 from the plate so that a pad 40 of loose sheets, a sales book, or the like may be engaged by the rings. The cover plate 27 is formed with slots 41 therein for clearance with the rings 33 so that the holder may be completely closed as shown in Fig. 2.

From this position, the cover may be retracted to the position of Fig. 1, and the sheet or sheets to be written upon may be pushed toward the rings 33 and arranged to overlie the upper surface of the plate 27, and the plate 27 may then be pushed inwardly to its closed position with the sheet or sheets in superposed relation with the cover plate as at 42 (Fig. 2). A firm writing surface is thus provided, and there is no possibility of transfer of the writing impressions to sheets other than those required for use. The cover plate 27 is formed with a depression 43 in its outer end to facilitate manipulation thereof.

The lower portion of the end flange 23 is bent inwardly to form a flange 44 which is frictionally engaged with the rolled end 45 of the plate 23 when the plate is adjusted to its closed position. The bottom plate 20 is locked against outward swinging movement by the coaction of catch fingers 46 with the ends of the flanges 30 of the top plate, which are received between the fingers and the plate 20 when the top plate is in its closed position. The fingers 46 are disposed in parallel relation with the bottom plate 20 and preferably formed as an integral structure from plates 47 which are spot welded or otherwise secured to the flange 22. The plates 47 are further provided with inwardly directed wings 48 which are adapted to engage and align the adjacent end of the sheets 40 when the holder is closed.

After entries have been made on the sheet 42, the top plate is pulled outwardly for a short distance to release the catch 46, then the bottom plate is allowed to drop back and the sheets are turned back into contiguous relation with the lower face of the intermediate plate, after which the bottom plate may be adjusted to its closed position. It will be understood that where it is the practice to issue customer slips, some of the sheets may be torn off before the record filing operation. The unused sheets 40 are retained between the intermediate and top plates and used sheets 49 between the intermediate and bottom plates. The unused sheets may be held in position by a spring steel plate 50 compressively engaged with the sheets and the bottom plate 23. The spring plate is held in position by the rings 33 which pass through holes in the upper marginal edge thereof.

The embodiment of the invention illustrated in Figs. 8 to 14 is of the same general character as the form described above. Like the other form, the holder embodies top and bottom plates, which form a box or enclosure for the sheets, and an intermediate plate upon which the sheets are mounted. In this embodiment, the top plate 60 is formed with depending side flanges 61 having rounded ends 62 and 63. One end of the plate is bent into a semi-cylindrical form abutting the rounded ends 63 of the side flanges, thus forming an end 64 for the sheet enclosure. The bottom plate 65 is formed with upwardly directed side flanges 66 of about half the depth of the flanges 61, the ends 67 of the flanges 66 being in the form of a quadrant of a circle. The bottom plate is bent to form a semi-circular portion 68 adjacent the ends 67 of the side flanges, the curved portion 68 forming the opposite end of the sheet holder, and being adapted to fit around the curved ends 62 of the top plate flanges when the sheet holder is closed. The intermediate plate is formed with a depending flange 71 at one end thereof, the length of the flange being less than the width of the plate 70, and the lower portion thereof being folded over a wire which serves as a hinge pin 72. The end of the bottom plate 65 is fabricated with tabs 73 on each side of the flange 71 which are likewise folded over the wire 72 to form a hinge joint between the intermediate and bottom plates.

The sheet holding posts 75 are secured to the end of the plate 70 opposite the flange 71 in order to retain both unused and used sheets on the plate 70. These posts are preferably of the form illustrated in Fig. 13, consisting preferably of a hard fiber or metal tube 76 held in crimped engagement within a hole 77 pierced in the plate

70. The ring portion of the paper holder is formed of a single strap of spring steel having an end portion 78 which slides in the lower end of the tube 76 and is fluted for frictional engagement with the inner wall of the tube. The remaining portion of the spring is bent to form a semi-circular arm 79 which extends from the lower end of the tube and is adapted to overlie the upper portion of the tube and exert a slight compressive effort thereon. When it is desired to insert or remove papers from the improved binder post, the arm 79 may be flexed from the upper end of the post and the perforate sheets then passed through the opening. Two such posts are preferably provided, the unused sheets ordinarily being retained by the upper portions of the tubes 76 and the used sheets by the lower portions thereof. The curved arms 79 serve to retain and guide the sheets as they are transferred from the upper to the lower face of plate 70. The height of the tubes 76 and the diameter of the semi-circular arms 79 of the binding posts are of such proportion as to accommodate the enclosure thereof within the box when it is closed.

In order to retain the top plate in operative engagement with the bottom and intermediate plates, the side flanges 61 of the plate 60 are die struck adjacent their lower edges throughout the greater portion of their length to form ledges or ribs 81 (Fig. 11) the outer edges of the intermediate plate 70 being formed to ride upon the upper surface of such ledges. The lower edges of the flanges 61 ride on the hinge portion 73 of the bottom plate, the top plate thus being retained between the other two plates, but being slidable relative thereto from the closed position illustrated in Fig. 8 to the open position illustrated in Fig. 10. A notch 82, having a vertical end wall 83 therein, is formed in the lower edge of each flange 61 to engage the rolled hinge tabs 73 and delimit the movement of the top plate when it is adjusted in its distended position. In this position, the sheets 80 are exposed to accommodate the adjustment thereof from the upper face of the plate 70 to the top of plate 60 for writing thereon. When the sheets are in writing position, the top plate may be moved back to the position shown in Fig. 9, where a detent notch 84 adjacent the end thereof will engage the rolled tabs 73 in the bottom plate. In order to retain the holder in its completely closed position, a third pair of detent notches 85 adjacent the end of the flanges is engaged by the flange 73 of the bottom plate. The outer portion 86 of the end flange 64 of the top plate underlies the end of the bottom plate 65 in this position. Also, the rounded forward end portion 62 of the top plate flanges are received within the end portion 68 of the bottom plate to restrain oscillation thereof about the hinge pin 72.

The intermediate plate 70 is preferably made of a resilient material such as spring steel, and is bent as shown in Fig. 12 to form parallel upper and lower lands 87 and an inclined body portion 88. Normally the angle formed by the inclined portion 88 rides on the shoulder 81, and the intermediate plate by virtue of its resilience tends to elevate itself slightly as shown in Figs. 9 and 10, thus causing the tubes 76 to extend above the surface of the top plate, when the top plate is retracted. The end portion 68 of the bottom plate is formed with two slots 89 (Fig. 14) for clearance over the spring arms 79 of the binding posts when the plate is elevated. A heavy sheet of cardboard or fiber 90 is preferably mounted

on the tubes 76 immediately above the intermediate plate 70 to support the blank sheets 80. To depress the intermediate plate in order to facilitate the reentrant engagement of the binding posts beneath the cover plate, a bail 91 (Fig. 11) is hinged to the top plate by rivets 92 passing through the flanges 61 adjacent the inner end of the top plate. The lower transverse portion of the bail 91 is adapted to slide between the plate 70 and the cardboard 90. As the top plate is moved toward closed position, the bail engages the inclined portion 88 of the plate 70 and effects the depression thereof.

In the use of the sheet holder, the top plate is pulled back the extent limited by detent notches 83, a sheet or sheets are next drawn from the enclosure below the top plate and arranged in superposed relation thereof, then the plate is pushed back to the position limited by the detent notches 84. After the entries are completed, if it is desired to remove the sheets this may be done by merely slipping the sheets out between the upper ends of the tubes 76 and the free ends of the spring arms 79. If it is desired to retain duplicate sheets, the top and intermediate plates are elevated and the sheets are turned about the spring arms 79 to the rear face of plate 70. This may be most conveniently done with the holder elevated to a position wherein the plate 70 is approximately vertical, after which the bottom plate 65 may be closed upon the duplicate sheets and the top plate 60 retracted to its closed position. During the latter operation, the intermediate plate will be depressed thus effecting the retention of the holder in its closed position.

With the form of posts 75 illustrated herein, when it is desired to remove a sheet from the tube 76, it is pulled upward and toward the lower end of the sheet, causing it to slip out between the top of the tube 76 and the spring 79. This can be done without tearing out the perforations in the sheet. When it is desired to transfer a sheet to the rear of plate 70, the sheet is pulled upwardly, and slightly in a direction away from the holder so that the springs 79 are flexed outwardly by the tension of the sheet so that the overhanging ends of the springs are aligned with the tops of the posts, permitting the sheets to be transferred from the posts 76 to the springs 79.

The form of sheet holder illustrated in Figs. 8 to 14 inclusive may be modified as illustrated in Fig. 15 to provide it with an alternative method of depressing the sheet-holding plate as the holder is closed. The plate 70 adjacent the rings 75 is formed with laterally extending ears 94 which are turned up to form a pair of cams which are engaged by the forward end of the top plate 60 to cam the plate 70 downward as the holder is closed. The ears 94 are formed with an initial rising edge 95 which depresses the plate 70 and with a land 96 against which the top plate 60 bears when the holder is in writing position, as in Fig. 9. The additional cam surfaces 97 further depress the plate 70 when the holder is adjusted to its completely closed position. When the cam arrangement of Fig. 15 is adopted, the detent notches 84 may be omitted, since, as the top plate is slid over the sheets from the position of Fig. 10 to the writing position of Fig. 9, resistance is encountered when the forward edge of the top plate engages the cam contour 97 which thus defines the normal writing position of the top plate.

Although the foregoing description is neces-

sarily of a detailed character, in order that the invention may be completely set forth, it is to be understood that the specific terminology is not intended to be restrictive or confining, and that various rearrangements of parts and modifications of detail may be resorted to without departing from the scope or spirit of the invention as herein claimed.

We claim:

1. A sheet holder comprising a bottom plate, a top plate, an intermediate plate therebetween, the intermediate and bottom plates being flexibly joined together at one end thereof, and means at the other end of the intermediate plate for holding sheets so that the sheets may be turned to either side of the plate, the top plate being slidably mounted on the intermediate plate so as to be movable away from a position covering the sheets to a position in which the portion of the sheets adjacent the holding means is exposed.
2. A sheet holder comprising a mounting plate, holding means at one end of the mounting plate whereby sheets may be retained on one side of the plate and may be turned to the other side of the plate without detaching the sheets, and cover plates adapted to protect the sheets, the cover plates being movable relative to the mounting plate to provide access to the sheets, one cover plate sliding over the mounting plate, and means whereby the sliding cover plate in its closed position maintains the mounting plate and the other cover plate in closed relation.
3. A sheet holder comprising a bottom plate, an intermediate plate, and a top plate, means for maintaining the three plates in spaced approximately parallel relation, means for mounting sheets on the intermediate plate, the space between the top and intermediate plates being adapted to contain the sheets, and the space between the intermediate and bottom plates being adapted to contain used sheets, the top plate being mounted for sliding movement relative to the intermediate plate to provide access to the sheets, the intermediate and bottom plates being joined for relative angular movement to provide access to the space therebetween.
4. A sheet holder comprising a bottom plate, an intermediate plate, and a top plate, means for mounting sheets on the intermediate plate, the space between the top and intermediate plates being adapted to contain the sheets, and the space between the intermediate and bottom plates being adapted to contain used sheets, the top plate being engaged with the intermediate plate for sliding movement relative thereto to provide access to the sheets, the intermediate and bottom plates being adapted for relative angular movement to provide access to the space therebetween, and means interlocking the bottom plate with the top plate, when the top plate is in closed position, to prevent the said angular movement.
5. A sheet holder comprising a first part, a second part, the first and second parts being slidable relative to each other, and forming a box to contain the sheets when slid to closed position, the first part including the bottom of the box, and the second part including the top of the box, and limiting detent means limiting the relative sliding movement of the two parts and defining a position facilitating access to the sheets contained in the box.
6. A sheet holder comprising a bottom plate, a top plate, an intermediate plate therebetween, a hinge between the intermediate and bottom plates

at the first ends thereof, and means at the second end of the intermediate plate for holding sheets so that the sheets may be turned to either side of the plate, the top plate being slidably mounted on the intermediate plate so as to be movable away from a position covering the sheets in the direction of the first end.

7. A sheet holder comprising a bottom plate, a top plate, an intermediate plate therebetween, a hinge between the intermediate and bottom plates at the first ends thereof, means at the second end of the intermediate plate for holding sheets, the top plate being slidably mounted on the intermediate plate so as to be movable away from a position covering the sheets in the direction of the first end, and means on the top plate engaging the hinge to limit sliding movement of the top plate.

8. A sheet holder comprising a first plate, means at one end of the first plate for holding sheets thereon, a cover plate adapted to overlie the first plate and the sheets thereon, and slidably relative to the first plate to expose the sheets, a back plate joined to the first plate for relative angular movement therebetween, and means on the cover plate to restrain the back plate against angular movement when the cover plate overlies the first plate.

9. A sheet holder comprising a resilient first plate, means at one end of the first plate for holding sheets thereon, a cover plate adapted to overlie the first plate and the sheets thereon, and slidable relative to the first plate to expose the sheets, and a back plate joined to the first plate, the first plate being formed so as to be urged toward the cover plate by its own resilience so as to spring away from the back plate when the cover plate is slid to expose the sheets.

10. A sheet holder comprising a bottom plate, an intermediate plate and a top plate, means for maintaining the intermediate and top plates in spaced approximately parallel relation, means for mounting sheets on the intermediate plate, the space between the top and intermediate plates being adapted to contain the sheets, and the space between the intermediate and bottom plates being adapted to contain used sheets, the top plate being mounted for sliding movement relative to the intermediate plate to provide access to the sheets, the intermediate plate being resilient and being mounted so as to be biased by its resilience away from the bottom plate to urge the sheets against the top plate.

11. A sheet holder comprising a first part forming the bottom and a first end of a box and a second part forming the top and the second end of the box, a spring plate joined to the first part at the second end and curved so as to be biased from the first part at the first end, the second part being mounted for sliding movement relative to the first part to expose the first end of the spring plate, and means at the first end of the spring plate for retaining sheets.

12. A sheet holder comprising a first part forming the bottom and a first end of a box and a second part forming the top and the second end of the box, a spring plate joined to the first part at the second end and curved so as to be biased from the first part at the first end, the second part being mounted for sliding movement relative to the first part to expose the first end of the spring plate, means at the first end of the spring plate for retaining sheets, and a bail depending from the second part adapted to engage

with and depress the spring plate as the second part moves to cover the spring plate.

13. A sheet holder comprising a first part forming the bottom and a first end of a box and a second part forming the top, the sides and the second end of the box, a spring plate joined to the first part at the second end and curved so as to be biased from the first part at the first end, the second part being mounted for sliding movement relative to the first part to expose the first end of the spring plate, inwardly directed ribs on the sides of the second part against which the spring plate bears to maintain clearance between the spring plate and the first part, and means at the first end of the spring plate for retaining sheets.

14. A sheet holder comprising a first part, a second part, the first and second parts being slidable relative to each other, and forming a box to contain the sheets when slid to closed position, the first part including the bottom of the box, and the second part including the top of the box, limiting detent means limiting the relative sliding movement of the two parts and defining a position facilitating access to sheets contained in the box, and intermediate detent means to retain the parts in substantially closed position facilitating the use of the cover as a platen on which sheets may be laid for writing thereon.

15. A sheet holder comprising a first part, a second part, the first and second parts being slidable relative to each other, and forming a box to contain the sheets when slid to closed position, the first part including the bottom of the box, and the second part including the top of the box, a sheet mounting plate flexibly joined to the first part, limiting detent means limiting the relative sliding movement of the two parts and defining a position facilitating access to sheets mounted on the plate, and intermediate detent means to retain the parts in substantially closed position facilitating the use of the cover as a platen on which sheets may be laid for writing thereon.

16. A sheet holder comprising a resilient first plate, means at one end of the first plate for holding sheets thereon, a cover plate adapted to overlie the first plate and the sheets thereon, and slidable relative to the first plate to expose the sheets, and a back plate joined to the first plate, the first plate being formed so as to be urged toward the cover plate by its own resilience so as to spring away from the back plate when the cover plate is slid to expose the sheets, and cam means on the first plate adapted for engagement with the cover plate to force the first plate toward the back plate when the cover plate is slid to cover the sheets.

17. A sheet holder comprising a first plate, means at one end of the first plate for holding sheets thereon, a cover plate adapted to overlie the first plate and the sheets thereon, and slidable relative to the first plate to expose the sheets, and a back plate joined to the first plate, the first plate being formed so as to be urged toward the cover plate by its own resilience so as to spring away from the back plate when the cover plate is slid to expose the sheets, and cam means on the first plate adapted for engagement with the cover plate to force the first plate toward the back plate when the cover plate is slid to cover the sheets, the cam means being formed with a broken edge, engagement of the cover plate with the break in the cam edge de-

fining a writing position of the holder with the cover plate adjacent its closed position.

18. A sheet holder comprising a normally closed receptacle having a top member and a bottom member spaced one from the other to receive a pile of sheets between them, a sheet retaining device supported in said receptacle and having means to engage one end portion of said pile of sheets and prevent the movement of said pile lengthwise of said receptacle, and means for connecting said top member with said bottom member for movement with relation thereto from its closed position to a position which permits the free end portion of the uppermost sheet of said pile of sheets to be withdrawn from said pile and then toward its closed position to a supporting position beneath the withdrawn portion of said uppermost sheet.

19. A sheet holder comprising a normally closed receptacle having a top member and a bottom member spaced one from the other to receive a pile of sheets between them, a sheet supporting member in said receptacle extending lengthwise of and connected with said bottom member and having means remote from its connection with said bottom member for engaging the adjacent end portion of a pile of sheets supported thereon and preventing the movement of said pile lengthwise of said bottom member, and means for slidably connecting said top member with said bottom member for movement with relation thereto from its closed position to a position which permits the free end portion of the uppermost sheet of said pile of sheets to be withdrawn from said pile, and then towards its closed position to a supporting position beneath the withdrawn portion of said uppermost sheet.

20. A sheet holder comprising a normally closed receptacle having a top member and a bottom member spaced one from the other to receive a pile of sheets between them, a sheet supporting member in said receptacle extending lengthwise of and connected with said bottom member and having means remote from its connection with said bottom member for engaging the adjacent end portion of a pile of sheets supported thereon and preventing the movement of said pile lengthwise of said bottom member, means for slidably connecting said top member with said bottom member for movement with relation thereto from its closed position to a position which permits the free end portion of the uppermost sheet of said pile of sheets to be withdrawn from said pile, and then towards its closed position to a supporting position beneath the withdrawn portion of said uppermost sheet, and then to its fully closed position, and means controlled by said slidable member for releasably retaining the same in each of said positions.

21. A sheet holder comprising a normally closed receptacle having a top member and a bottom member spaced one from the other to receive a pile of sheets between them, a sheet supporting member above and extending lengthwise of said bottom member and having at one end thereof means for engaging the adjacent end portion of a pile of sheets supported thereon and preventing the movement of said pile lengthwise of said bottom member, means for pivotally connecting said bottom member and said sheet supporting member on a transverse axis remote from said pile engaging means, and means for slidably connecting said top member with said bottom member and said sheet supporting member for movement with relation thereto from a closed

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position to an open position to permit a sheet to be partially withdrawn from said pile, and then to a position beneath the withdrawn sheet.

22. A sheet holder comprising a top member, a bottom member and a sheet supporting and retaining member between said top and bottom members, and means for pivotally connecting adjacent ends of said bottom member and said supporting member and for pivotally and slidably connecting said top member with said bottom member.

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