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SLIDING WRITING BOARD FOR DESKS

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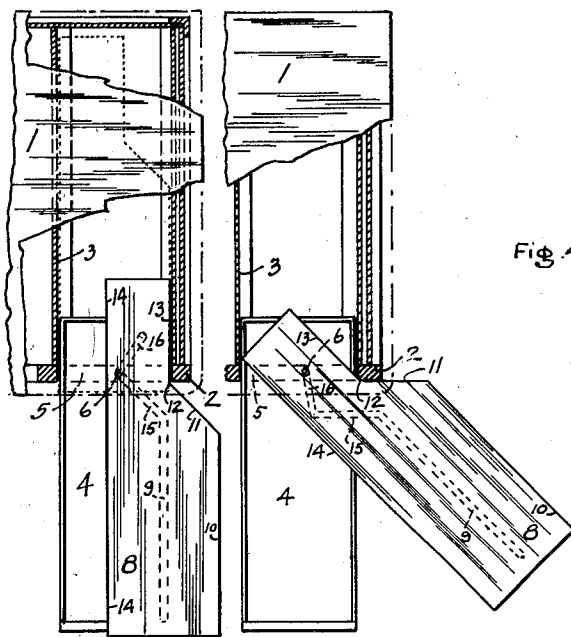


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 4.

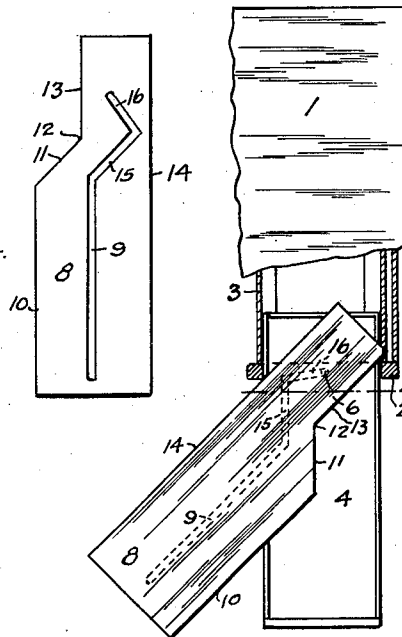


Fig. 3.

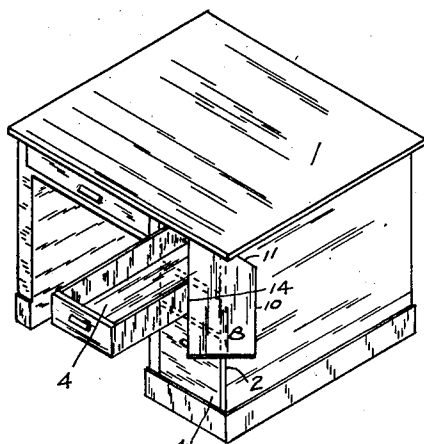


Fig. 6.

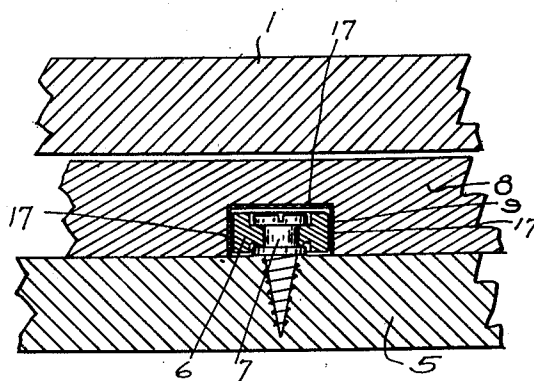


Fig. 5.

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SLIDING WRITING BOARD FOR DESKS

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8 Claims. (Cl. 45—90)

My invention relates to office and other desks and especially to the sliding writing boards usually mounted thereon. It has been customary to provide office desks with a sliding writing board located immediately above the stack of drawers, and below the top or cover of the desk, for the purpose of holding papers, or of writing or signing papers. This sliding board has been adapted to be pulled straight out from the desk when in use, and to be slid in under the top of the desk and over the top drawer thereof, when not in use. The result of this construction has been that while the sliding board is in use, the top drawer, which usually contains all those appliances which are most often used, is practically useless when the board is in use, and it becomes necessary to remove the papers from the said board and to slide it back into its retrieved position in order to use the drawer. Further, the customer or client is often seated beside the desk and, if it is necessary for him to sign papers, it is quite usually required for him to move his chair in order to bring himself into a writing position, with the result that this action interposes a psychological resistance detrimental to the completion of the deal.

The objects of my invention are to provide a sliding board which will, first, permit the complete use of the upper drawer without disturbing any papers on the sliding board; second, permit the sliding board to be swung around in front of the customer or client; third, permit the sliding board to be swung in either direction from over the drawer, and fourth, be controlled in all its positions. A further object of my invention is to provide an improved guiding means for a sliding board.

I attain these and other objects by the devices and arrangements illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a portion of a desk, the top thereof being broken away to reveal the sliding board thereunder, the upper drawer being pulled open, and the sliding board having been pulled out to its first extended position;

Fig. 2 is a similar view with the said sliding board having been swung to the right;

Fig. 3 is a similar view, in which the said sliding board is swung to the left;

Fig. 4 is a plan view of the underside of the sliding board, showing the guide groove therein;

Fig. 5 is a vertical section of a portion of the desk and sliding board, showing the guide roller in the groove in the sliding board; and

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of a desk showing the parts in the positions shown in Fig. 2.

Similar numerals of reference refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

The desk is provided with a top 1, suitably supported by the usual construction comprising, in part, a corner post 2, and a dividing partition 3, between which a stack of drawers 4 is mounted. A cross bar 5 extends across between the said post 2 and partition 3 immediately above each of the said drawers. The upper cross bar 5 is spaced a sufficient distance below the top of the cover 1 to permit the hereinafter described sliding board to pass under the said cover 1. A roller 6 is mounted on a vertical axis, comprising a pivot 7 15 mounted substantially in the center of the upper cross bar 5. The said roller 6 turns freely on the pivot 7 and is held in position thereby.

The sliding writing board 8, is of substantially the same size as is usual in such boards, except that its inner end is extended as hereinafter described. The above described roller 6 is received in a groove 9 in the underside of the writing board 8, and this groove 9 extends in a straight line rearward from the front end of the board, parallel with its side edges, a distance substantially equal to the distance which the writing boards at present in use may be pulled out from the desk. In other words, so long as the roller 6 is in this straight central portion 9 of 30 the groove, the said board acts exactly as the boards at present in use. As shown in the drawing, it will be seen that the right hand edge 10 of the board 8 is cut inward at about 45° angle, to form the inclined edge 11 which extends to a point 12 substantially in line with the central axis of the outer part of the board; and from that point 12 rearward, the right hand edge 13 extends parallel with the left hand edge 14 of the said board to the end thereof. Similarly, the 40 groove 9 turns toward the left, as viewed from above, at a point slightly rearward from the junction of the right hand edges 10 and 11, and proceeds parallel with said inclined edge 11 along the portion 15 to a point near the left hand edge 14 45 of the board, and proceeds thence at an angle substantially tangent to a line drawn from the point 12 to the said groove, said portion 16 lying between the edges 13 and 14 of the rearmost end of the board. These grooves 9, 15, and 16 are 50 shown as straight lines, but it is to be understood that they may be curved and may vary in angle and length in accordance with the desired motion of the sliding board. I prefer to line the several grooves with a metal lining 17 as shown 55

in Fig. 5, in order to reduce the wear of the roller thereon, and to facilitate the motion of the sliding board.

Thus it will be seen that if the board is pulled out a distance such that the roller 6 is in the straight portion 9 of the groove the motion of the board is exactly as at present in common use, but that if the board is pulled out straight from such position so that the roller 6 travels in the groove 15 to the junction of the grooves 15 and 16, the board not only travels outward but also sideways, to the position shown in Fig. 1, thus exposing about 40% of the drawer on the left hand side thereof. In this position if it is desired to swing the board away from the desk, the angle 12 of the right hand side thereof, between the edges 11 and 13, engages the corner of the post 2, and forms the center of the turning movement so that the roller 6 rides in the groove 16 until the left hand rear corner of the board engages the partition 2, separating the board space from the rest of the desk, and in this position the board 3 may make an angle of about forty-five degrees with the usual straight-out position, exposing about 85% of the drawer as shown in Fig. 2. If, however, it is desired to swing the board inward from the position shown in Fig. 1, it is pulled further out till the roller 6 engages the end of the groove 16, and it is then swung toward the left until its left side 14 engages the partition 3, and its inner right hand corner engages the right hand side of the space for the board, as shown in Fig. 3, in which position about 76% of the drawer is exposed. Thus it will be seen that only a very small area of the drawer is permanently covered by the board so long as it is in use. Such area may well be proportioned at less than 3% of the drawer area. Also, it is evident that the board may be moved around, with its full load of papers, in accordance with the conditions, without disturbing the papers, so that it may be removed out of the way of persons passing, or it may be swung to a position in front of the chair of the client for the purpose of securing his signature or for his inspection of papers thereon.

It is obvious that the sliding board may be made the reverse of the illustrated form, adapted for use on the left corner of the desk, and that many variations in the details may be incorporated therein without departing from the spirit of my invention as outlined in the appended claims.

My improved writing board may be considered as being composed of a rectangular front section, corresponding with the usual writing board as at present in common use; a rectangular rear section which has the two-fold function of (a) engaging the side of the compartment into which the board slides to act as a stop or limit for the turning of the board when pushed to one side or the other, and (b) to form the back-brace to hold the board horizontal against the leverage of the load thereon. These two functions call for opposing solutions, in that the closer the two

corners, of this rear section, are together the greater degree of angle the board may be turned and, the further they are apart the greater the bracing action. I conceive that a satisfactory compromise is arrived at if the width of the rear section is about one-half that of the front section. The front and rear sections are joined preferably by a trapezoidal section as shown.

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

1. A sliding board adapted to be slid into and out of a compartment, comprising a board divided into a rectangular front section and a narrower rectangular rear section, said front and rear sections being joined by a non-rectangular intermediate section; and means adapted to guide said board as it is being drawn out of the compartment and to permit it to be swung laterally to one side or the other after the front and intermediate sections have been drawn from the compartment.

2. A sliding board as set forth in claim 1, wherein said rear portion is positioned to one side of the center of said board.

3. A sliding board as set forth in claim 1, wherein said intermediate portion is trapezoidal in form.

4. A sliding board as set forth in claim 1, wherein the edge joining said front and rear portions forms a straight line.

5. A sliding board as set forth in claim 1, wherein said guiding means comprises a groove formed in the underside of said board and a fixed roller mounted on the compartment and positioned within said groove.

6. A sliding board, comprising a board having a straight edge on one side and an irregular edge on the opposite side, and being adapted to be slid into and out of a compartment; together with means adapted to guide said board whereby the board is moved bodily laterally to keep the irregular edge closely adjacent to the corner of the compartment as the board is moved therepast.

7. A sliding board, comprising a board having a straight edge on one side; a wide front edge at right-angles thereto; a shorter rear edge parallel to said front edge; and an irregular edge opposite to said first straight edge; together with means to guide said board whereby the board is moved laterally to keep the irregular edge closely adjacent to the corner of the compartment as the board is moved therepast, and is permitted to turn around the said corner to swing the front portion of the board laterally out of position.

8. A sliding board as set forth in claim 7, wherein said means for guiding said board comprises a groove formed in the lower side of said board, said groove following substantially parallel to said irregular side as far as the point where the board may be turned around the corner, and thence at an angle to permit the board to be thus turned; and a fixed roller mounted on the compartment and positioned within said groove.

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