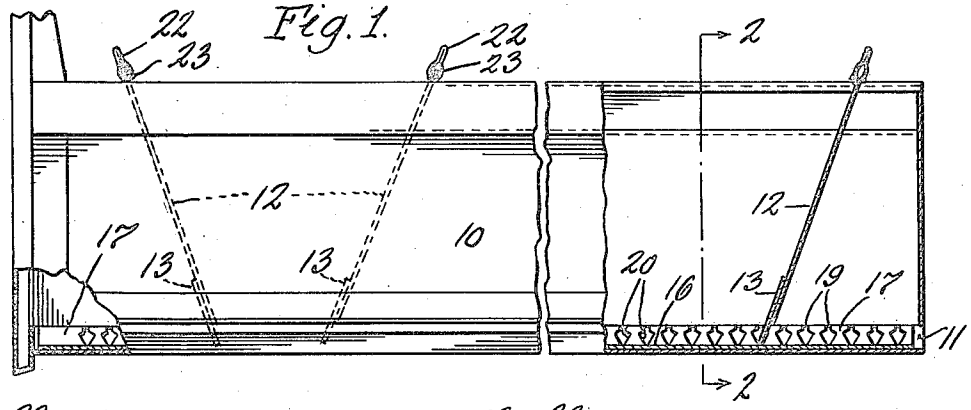
March 4, 1941. J. R. JONES 2,233,938

DIVIDER MEANS FOR FILE RECEPTACLES

Filed May 3, 1939

Fig. 1.



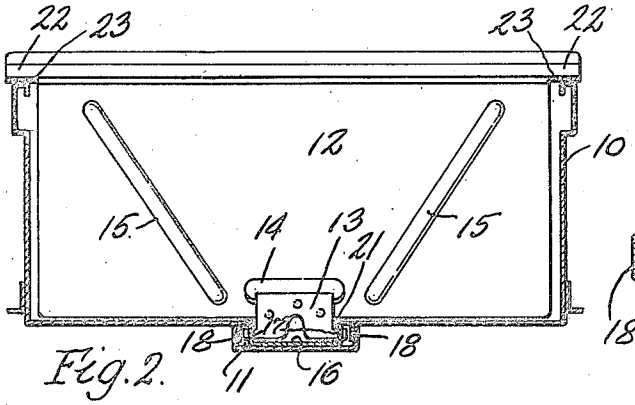
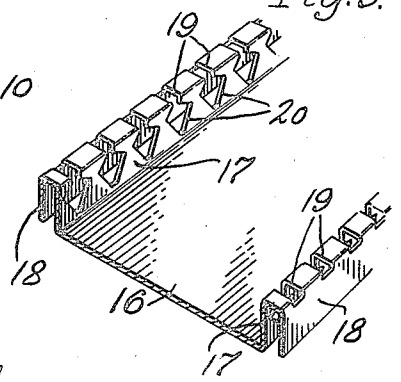


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.



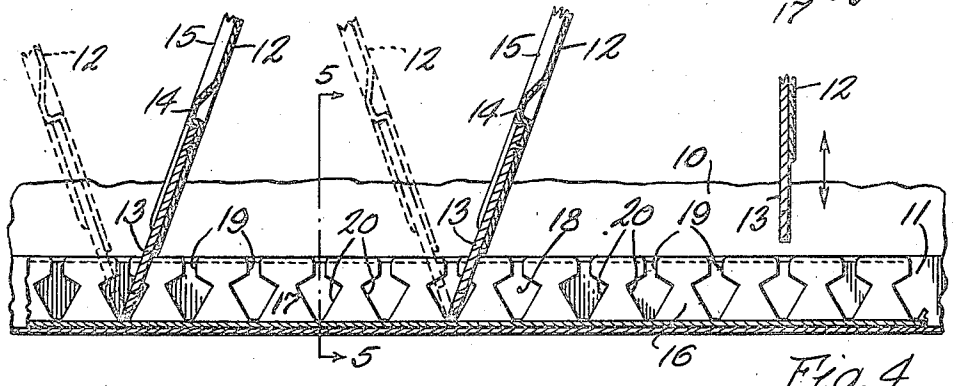


Fig. 4.

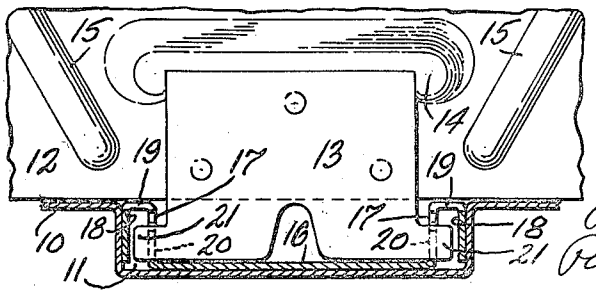


Fig. 5.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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DIVIDER MEANS FOR FILE RECEPTACLES

James R. Jones, Lakewood, N. Y., assignor to Art Metal Construction Company, Jamestown, N. Y.

Application May 3, 1939, Serial No. 271,538

4 Claims. (Cl. 129—16)

This invention relates to improvements in filing devices of that kind in which a drawer, tray or receptacle, in which letters, documents or other articles are filed in standing position, is equipped with dividers or partition plates for separating the file contents into groups to better facilitate the filing and examination thereof. Such dividers are commonly arranged so that they can be adjusted to different positions in the receptacle to divide the contents into groups of desired size and number, and so as to properly support the filed articles when they do not fill the receptacle. Also, the dividers are usually mounted so that they can tilt or swing to inclined positions to better enable the examination and handling of the file documents.

One object of my invention is to provide a desirable and convenient filing device with divider means of this character which are of exceedingly simple, practical and economical construction.

Another object of the invention is to provide means for adjustably mounting file dividers in receptacles, of a construction, which enables the dividers and their mounting means to be furnished for drawers or receptacles already in use and to be quickly and easily installed in the receptacles by unskilled persons without the use of tools.

With the above and other objects and advantages, which will hereinafter appear, in view, a preferred embodiment of the invention, illustrated in the accompanying drawing, is hereinafter described and the novel features of the invention are set forth in the appended claims.

In said drawing:

Fig. 1 is a view of a drawer or receptacle, partly in side elevation and partly in longitudinal section, equipped with file divider means embodying my invention.

Fig. 2 is a transverse section thereof on line 2—2, Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary, perspective view of the slotted channel member or device for mounting the dividers in the receptacle.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged, fragmentary, longitudinal section of the device showing two dividers in place in the channel member and another divider spaced above the channel member in position for insertion therein.

Fig. 5 is an enlarged, transverse section thereof on line 5—5, Fig. 4.

10 indicates a drawer, such as used in file cabinets, desks or the like, and which is equipped with file dividing means according to my invention, but my improvements are not restricted to use in drawers, but are applicable also to filing trays or receptacles of various constructions, irrespective of the manner or purpose of use of the same, and the term "receptacle" is employed herein to include drawers, trays or other filing containers of tray or box-like form.

The receptacle 10 may be of any usual or suitable construction, that shown being made of sheet metal and having a bottom and vertical side, front and rear end walls. Filing receptacles of this sort are commonly made with a channel or groove 11 extending lengthwise in the receptacle bottom between the side walls thereof, and my improvements are more particularly intended for use with receptacles provided with such longitudinal bottom grooves or channels 11.

12 indicates the dividers or partition plates, of which any desired number, one or more, may be provided, depending upon the number of groups into which it is desired to divide the contents of the receptacle. Each divider is formed or provided at its bottom with a downwardly projecting foot or extension 13 adapted to project down into the channel 11 of the receptacle. The divider shown is formed of a thin plate of sheet metal and the foot 13 is formed by a separate plate spot welded to the divider plate, the foot being made of metal of sufficient thickness to withstand the bending strains encountered under ordinary conditions of use. As shown, the divider plate is preferably stamped or embossed to provide it with a rounded stiffening and strengthening rib 14 which projects out from the surface of the plate and embraces the upper end of the foot plate, and also with stiffening ribs 15.

A channel member 16 is preferably seated and removably retained in the bottom groove 11 of the receptacle for adjustably mounting the divider plates in the receptacle. This channel member 16, as shown, has a horizontal web or bottom and upwardly projecting, hollow side flanges formed as by bending the side portions of the metal strip from which it is made, first upwardly, then outwardly and then downwardly, so as to provide at each of the opposite sides of the channel, an upwardly extending inner wall 17 and a downwardly extending outer wall 18 spaced outwardly from the inner wall 17. These hollow sides or flanges of the channel member ar slotted, as shown, at relatively closely spaced intervals throughout the length of the member so as to form slots in the inner side walls 17 having narrow necks 19 which open upwardly through the top edges of the flanges, and com-

municating, broadened, lower slot portions **20**, preferably of V-shape, having narrow, bottom ends and forming shoulders at opposite sides of the narrow neck portions **19**.

The foot extension of each divider is provided at its opposite side ends with lateral projections or lugs **21** adapted to be inserted into and seat in registering slots **20** in the opposite flanges of the channel member, the lugs being insertable downwardly into the slots through their narrow necks **19**. These lugs are adapted to bear in the narrow bottom ends of the slots, and the V-formation of the slots permits the lugs to swing or pivot about their lower edges as fulcrums forwardly and rearwardly in the slots, thereby permitting the divider to be swung back and forth between forwardly and rearwardly tilting positions, indicated in Fig. 1 of the drawing.

The channel member **16** is removably seated in the bottom groove of the receptacle and can be inserted in place therein and removed without the use of tools. It is preferably releasably retained in the groove by frictional engagement between the downturned flange walls **18** of the channel member and the side walls of the groove, for which purpose the flange walls **18** may be formed so that when inserting the channel member into the groove, said walls are deflected or sprung inwardly somewhat, and by their tendency to resume their initial positions, press against the side walls of the groove and thus firmly hold the channel member by friction in the groove, while nevertheless permitting the channel member to be pulled out of the groove. Thus, any drawer or receptacle made with a bottom groove **11** can be readily equipped with dividers simply by inserting a channel member of proper width into the groove and putting one or more dividers, as desired, in place in the channel member, as explained. The provision of the numerous spaced slots in the channel member enables the dividers to be adjusted to any desired positions lengthwise of the receptacle. The channel member could be secured in the bottom of a receptacle in other ways.

It will be noted that with the channel slots formed as described, the bottom edges of the foot lugs of the divider bear in the narrow bottom ends of the slots, and thus serve as pivots or fulcrums on which the divider is adapted to swing freely from one to the other of its tilted positions. While the slots enable the ready insertion of the foot lugs for mounting the dividers in place in the receptacle, the downwardly facing shoulders formed at opposite sides of the narrow necks of the slots by the V-portions of the slots prevent the removal of the divider from the slots except when the divider is in an upright, central position. Thus, accidental disengagement or displacement of the dividers from their retaining slots in the use of the device is not apt to occur.

The divider, mounted in the receptacle in connection with the slotted channel member, as explained, is adapted to be supported either in a forwardly or rearwardly tilted position by the engagement of the foot lugs in the slots and the engagement of the bottom edge of the divider plate against the upper edges of the side flanges of the channel member, or against the bottom of the receptacle at the sides of its bottom groove. Preferably, however, the divider plate is provided at the upper portion of its side edges with lateral projections **22** adapted to engage the upper edges or other suitable portions of the side walls of the receptacle to limit the tilting of the divider and thus reduce strain on the divider foot extension. The stop projections **22** are preferably equipped with pads **23** or felt or other suitable material for preventing noise and marring of the receptacle walls by the striking of the projections thereagainst. The pads may be secured in place by folding over the upper edge of the divider plate and clamping the pads between the parts of the fold, which reinforce the upper edge of the plate and form the lateral projections.

I claim as my invention:

1. The combination with a file receptacle having an upwardly facing groove in its bottom, of a channel member seated in said groove and having upwardly projecting side flanges formed with inner walls and downwardly extending outer walls spaced from said inner walls and frictionally engaging the sides of said groove for releasably retaining the channel member in the groove, said inner walls having spaced slots therein, and a divider having a foot extending downwardly into said channel member between said flanges and having lateral projections seated in opposite slots in said flanges, said slots having narrow upper ends extending through the upper edges of said side flanges and through which said projections are adapted to enter the slots, and said slots being widened below their upper ends whereby said projections are adapted to pivot therein to permit the tilting of the divider to inclined positions.

2. The combination with a file receptacle, of a channel member removably secured at the bottom of the receptacle and having upwardly projecting side flanges provided with out-turned top edges, said top edges having outer portions which frictionally engage fixed receptacle walls at opposite sides of the channel member and releasably retain said member in place, said flanges being provided with spaced slots having V-like lower portions and narrow necks between downwardly facing shoulders and opening upwardly through the top edges of said flanges, and a divider having a foot with extends downwardly into said channel member between said flanges and has lateral projections removably seated and adapted to pivot in the V-like portions of opposite slots in said flanges of the channel member and adapted to pass vertically through the narrow necks of the slots.

3. The combination with a file receptacle, of a channel member reasonably retained in the bottom portion thereof and having upwardly projecting side flange walls formed with top edges which project laterally outward therefrom, said top edges having outer portions which releasably engage fixed walls of the receptacle located at opposite sides of said channel member and releasably hold said member in place and space said flange walls inwardly from said fixed walls, said flange walls having spaced slots therein, and a divider having a foot extending downwardly into the channel member between said flanges and having laterally projecting rugs removably seated in opposite slots in said side flange walls, said slots having narrow upper ends extending up through the top edges of said side flange walls and through which said lugs can enter and be removed vertically from said slots, and said slots being widened below their upper ends whereby said lugs can pivot therein to permit the tilting of the divider to inclined positions.

4. A channel member adapted to be seated in the bottom of a file receptacle for supporting file dividers in the receptacle, said member consisting of a sheet metal channel having upwardly projecting side flange walls with top edges which project laterally outwardly therefrom and have outer portions adapted to releasably engage fixed walls of the receptacle located at opposite sides of said channel member for retaining the channel member in position and spacing said flange walls inwardly away from said fixed walls, said flange walls having spaced slots therein for the reception of lugs projecting laterally from the feet of dividers adapted to extend into the channel of said member, said slots having narrow throats extending through said lateral top edges of said flange walls and through which the divider lugs can pass into and out of said slots, and said slots being widened below their throats whereby the divider lugs can pivot therein to permit the tilting of the dividers to inclined positions.

JAMES R. JONES.

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION.

Patent No. 2,233,938. March 4, 1941.

JAMES R. JONES.

It is hereby certified that error appears in the printed specification of the above numbered patent requiring correction as follows: Page 2, second column, line 5, for "or felt or" read --of felt or--; line 47, claim 2, for "with" read --which--; line 67, claim 3, for the word "rugs" read --lugs--; and that the said Letters Patent should be read with this correction therein that the same may conform to the record of the case in the Patent Office.

Signed and sealed this 3rd day of June, A. D. 1941.

Henry Van Arsdale,
Acting Commissioner of Patents.

(Seal)