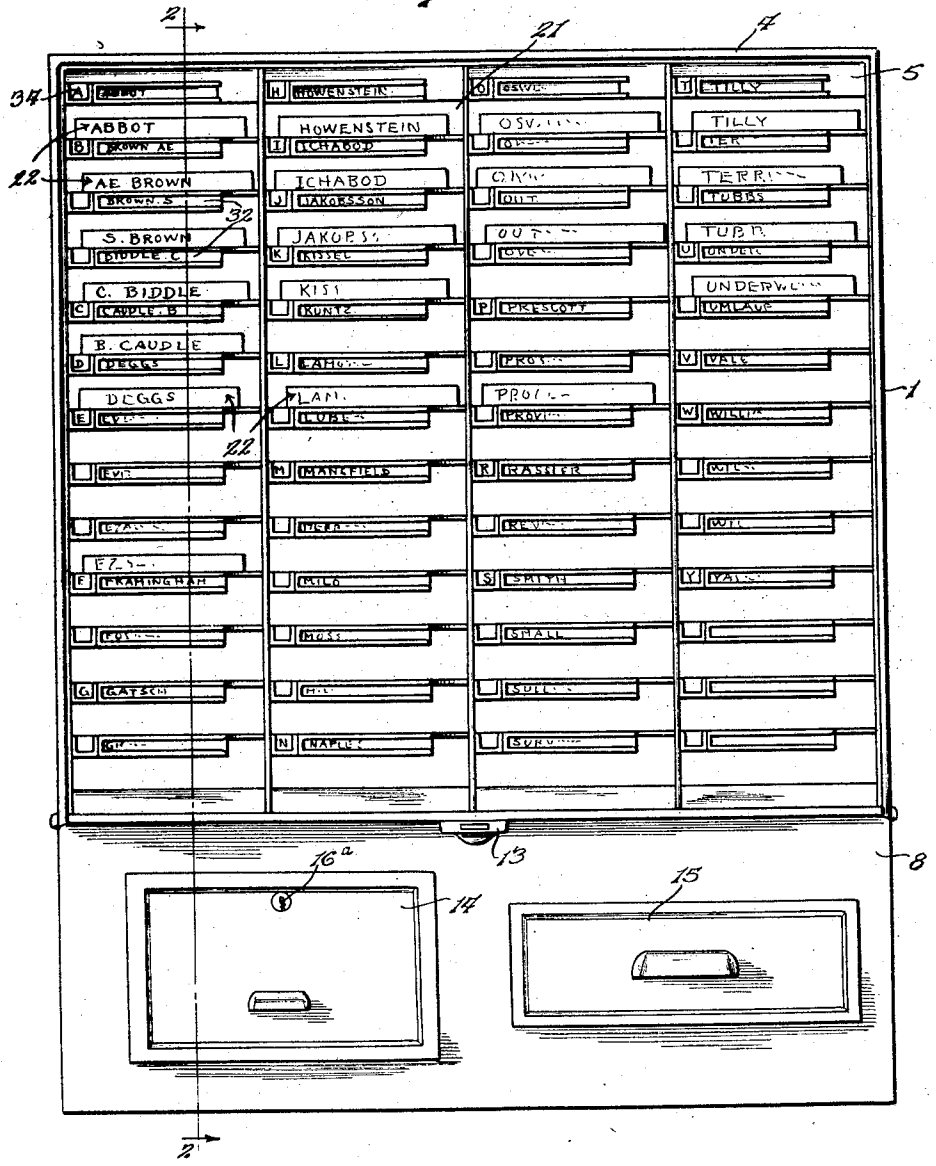
July 13, 1926. 1,592,497

E. L. MAYS

FILING CABINET

Filed March 23, 1925 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.



Inventor

E. L. Mays

By Lacey & Lacey, Attorneys

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Fig. 2.

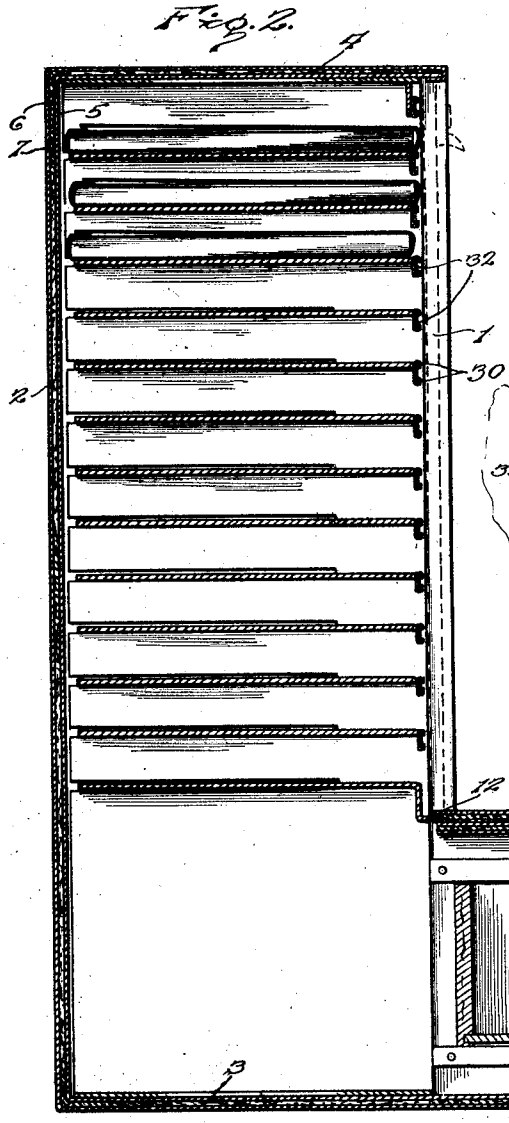


Fig. 3.

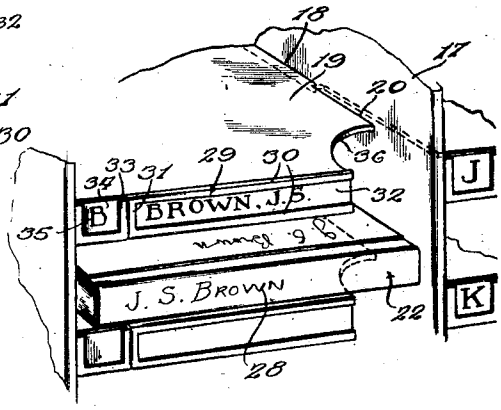
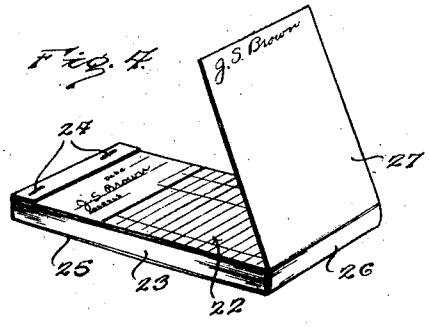


Fig. 4.



Inventor

E. L. Mays

By Lacey & Lacey, Attorneys

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EVERETT L. MAYS, OF CREOLA, ALABAMA.

FILING CABINET.

Application filed March 23, 1925. Serial No. 17,784.

This invention relates to filing cabinets and more particularly to an improved filing cabinet for use by grocerymen and other merchants in keeping the accounts of their customers. Ordinarily, where a tradesman, such for example as a groceryman, conducts his business on a credit basis, he will, at the time of making a sale, write down on a sales slip the customer's name and the articles purchased and the purchase prices, giving a carbon copy to the customer and retaining the original which he ordinarily places on a sticker file for future reference in totaling the account at the end of the week, month, or other period for which the account is to run. This method of keeping accounts has, however, been found to be unsatisfactory inasmuch as the loss of slips results in arguments and possible loss of trade and, if at any time the tradesman wishes to refer to slips of a back date, he has more or less difficulty in locating them in the stack of slips on a sticker file. Likewise, sticker files occupy considerable space and are otherwise inconvenient to use. Therefore, the present invention has as its primary object to provide a cabinet by the use of which accounts may be more satisfactorily kept than by the old methods and without any of the disadvantages above noted.

The present invention contemplates the use of a sales slip pad or book for each customer, from which book the alternate leaves, constituting the carbon copies, may be torn and given to the customer at the time purchases are made, and another important object of the invention is to provide a cabinet so constructed and arranged that such pads or books may be most conveniently kept in order and made readily accessible at all times.

Another object of the invention is to provide a cabinet of such construction that it will serve not only as a filing device for the sales slip pads or books but also as a desk and, likewise, a convenient depository for money taken in in the course of business.

In the accompanying drawings:

Figure 1 is a front elevation of the filing cabinet embodying the invention.

Figure 2 is a vertical front to rear sectional view therethrough, taken substantially on the line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a fragmentary perspective view illustrating a portion of the cabinet.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of one of the account slip pads to be filed in the cabinet.

The cabinet comprises side walls 1, a rear wall 2, a bottom 3, and a top 4. Each of these walls as well as substantially all of the other structural parts of the cabinet, is of fire-proof or heat-resisting character and each wall comprises, as for example in the case of the rear wall 2, inner and outer sheets 5 and 6 of metal and a filler 7 of asbestos or other heat-resisting material. The side walls 1 of the cabinet are extended forwardly at their lower portions as is also the bottom 3, and a front wall 8 extends vertically from the forward edge of the bottom extension and transversely between the forward edges of the side wall extensions to form a compartment indicated by the numeral 9, the top of which is closed by a top wall 10 extending rearwardly from the upper edge of the front wall 8 and between the upper edges of the side wall extensions, the said top wall 10 terminating at its rear edge at the open front of the cabinet and said front of the cabinet being completely open above the plane of the said top wall 10. The walls 8 and 10 are of substantially the same heat resisting construction as the previously described walls of the cabinet and a door 11 of similar construction is provided and is hinged at one edge which constitutes its lower edge when the door is closed, as at 12, at the rear edge of the top wall 10 of the compartment 9. When the door 11 is swung to the upright position illustrated in dotted lines in Figure 2 of the drawings, it serves to completely close the open front of the cabinet and, when swung downwardly to the full line position shown in Figures 1 and 2, it constitutes in effect, a desk or writing board upon which the pads of account slips may be placed while making entries thereon. The door is provided at its free edge with a lock indicated by the numeral 13, so that when it is swung to closed position it may be secured in such position to not only prevent unauthorized persons gaining access to the account pads within the cabinet but also to protect the pads in the event of fire in the vicinity of the cabinet.

The compartment 9 houses drawers 14 and 15 slidably mounted through openings in the front wall 8 of the compartment and slidably supported by angle iron slides 16 within the compartment. One of these drawers may be employed as a cash drawer

and the other drawer may be employed as a safe place for the deposit of valuable papers, the latter drawer being provided with a lock 16ª whereby it may be secured in closed position.

A number of vertically disposed partition walls 17 are arranged within the body of the cabinet and extend perpendicularly between the bottom 3 and top 4 thereof in rear of the top wall 10 of the compartment 9, and these walls 17 are preferably formed each with a number of horizontal slots 18 which open through the rear edges of the walls. A number of supporting plates 19 are likewise arranged within the body of the cabinet and these plates are formed with slots 20 spaced at intervals corresponding to the spacing of the partition walls and opening through the forward edges of the plates, the slots 20 accommodating the several partition walls at their forward portions, and the slots 18 in the partition walls accommodating the plates 19. In this manner, the plates may be readily assembled with the partition walls and firmly supported, and the several plates and the partition walls provide, within the body of the cabinet, a number of pad receiving compartments 21, the compartments being arranged, as illustrated in Figure 1 of the drawings, in a plurality of vertical tiers. The account slip pads are indicated in general by the numeral 22 and do not differ materially from a well known type, each pad comprising a plurality of account slips 23 secured together by rivets or other fasteners 24 which likewise secure to the assemblage of account slips, a backing sheet or strip 25 which extends beneath the stack of slips and is folded to provide a portion 26 extending over the free edges of the slips, and a portion 27 which lies over and covers the face of the uppermost slip of the assemblage. In practice, one of the pads will be assigned to each customer and the customer's name will be written or printed, as at 28, upon the attached over-folded end of the cover sheet 25, as best shown in Figures 1 and 3 of the drawings. The plates 19 constitute the bottoms of the several compartments 21, and the forward edge of each compartment bottom supports a label holder indicated in general by the numeral 29. Each of these label holders comprises a metal strip provided with upper and lower parallel flanges 30 and a connecting end flange 31 located at one end of the strip so that a pocket is provided in which is inserted a slip of paper or cardboard 32 bearing the name of the customer whose account slip pad is to be disposed within the compartment immediately beneath the respective label holder 29. The account slip pads are, of course, to be arranged alphabetically and in order that this may be best accomplished and the location of any particular pad more readily determined, a smaller rectangular label holder 33 is provided at the closed end of each label holder 29 and supported from the forward edge of the bottom of the respective compartment 21, and a small rectangular piece of paper or cardboard 34 is disposed within the holder 33 and bears a letter of the alphabet, as indicated at 35, corresponding to the initial of the surname of the customer whose account slip pad is to be filed in the compartment immediately beneath the said holder 33. In this manner, provision is made for the convenient filing of the account slip pads in alphabetical order and, therefore, access may be readily had to any pad without in any way disturbing the other pads. In order that withdrawal of the pads may be facilitated, the plates 19, or, in other words, the bottoms of the compartments 21, are formed in one forward corner each with a finger notch indicated by the numeral 36, preferably located at the open end of the respective label holder 29, and in this manner, as stated, the account slip pads may be grasped and removed with greater facility than if the notches were not provided, inasmuch as one forward corner of each pad will project over the respective notch 36. As previously stated, when purchases are made, they will be entered upon the slips of the pads and the carbon copies produced, in the usual manner, are given to the customers, the originals of the slips remaining intact within the pads.

Having thus described the invention, what I claim is:

An account cabinet open at the front and subdivided into tiers of account slip compartments and having a base portion projecting forwardly and constituting an auxiliary cabinet, and a single door for closing the front of the cabinet and the account slip compartments, said door being hinged at its lower end to the cabinet about in line with the inner upper portion of the auxiliary cabinet and adapted when swung outward and downward to rest upon the auxiliary cabinet with its free end portion projecting in front of the forward end of the auxiliary cabinet.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

EVERETT L. MAYS. [L. S.]