March 22, 1960 A. M. SARGENT 2,929,530

FILE BOX

Filed Dec. 13, 1954

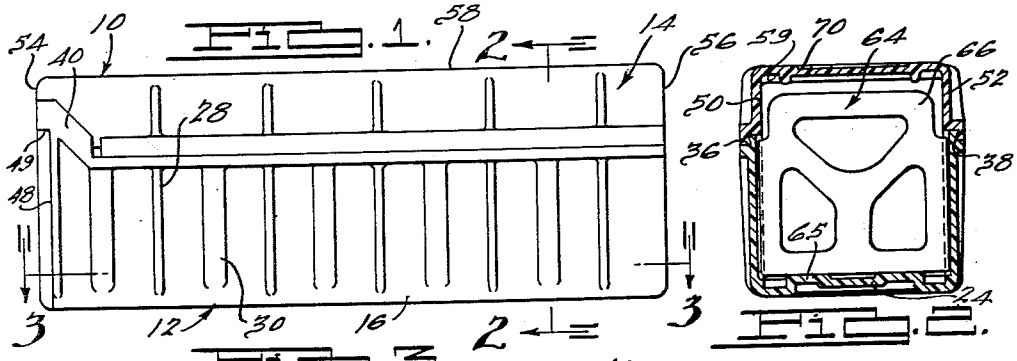


FIG. 1.

FIG. 2.

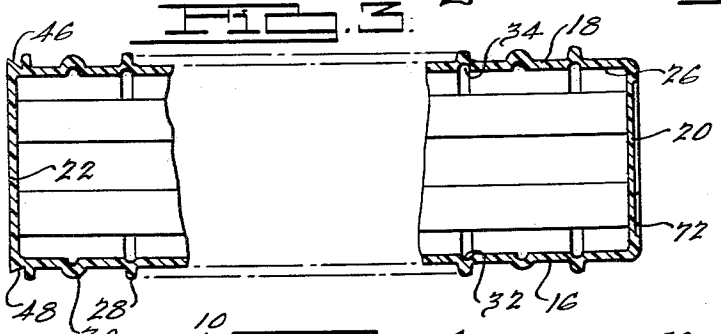


FIG. 3.

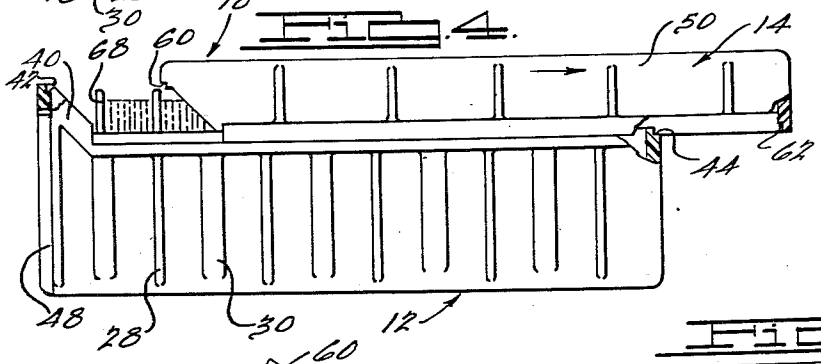


FIG. 4.

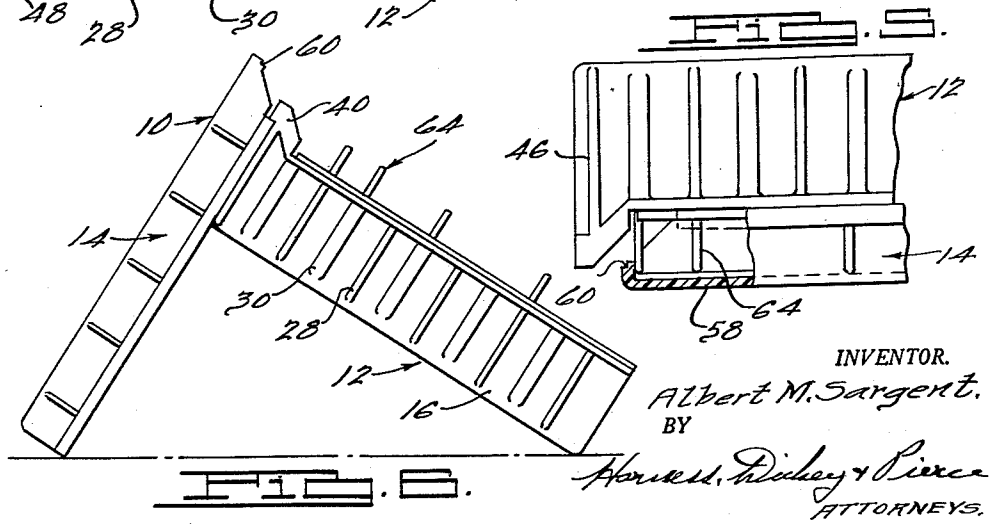


FIG. 5.

INVENTOR.
Albert M. Sargent.
BY
Howard, Dickey & Pierce
ATTORNEYS.

United States Patent Office 2,929,530 Patented Mar. 22, 1960

2,929,530

FILE BOX

Albert M. Sargent, Detroit, Mich.

Application December 13, 1954, Serial No. 474,703

2 Claims. (Cl. 220—22)

This invention relates to containers and, more particularly, to an improved file box for storing photographic transparencies or slides and the like.

An object of the invention is to overcome disadvantages in prior containers of the indicated character and to provide an improved file box incorporating improved means for preventing the entrance of dust, dirt and other foreign material into the file box.

Another object of the invention is to provide an improved file box incorporating improved means for preventing inadvertent opening of the file box when the file box is in an inverted position.

Another object of the invention is to provide an improved file box incorporating improved support means which facilitates the insertion and withdrawal of photographic transparencies and the like with a minimum of time and effort.

Another object of the invention is to provide an improved file box that is pleasing in appearance, durable and economical to manufacture and assemble.

The above as well as other objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following description, the appended claims and the accompanying drawing wherein:

Figure 1 is a side elevational view of the file box embodying the present invention, and showing the same in the closed position;

Fig. 2 is a transverse sectional view of the file box illustrated in Fig. 1, taken on the line 2—2 thereof;

Fig. 3 is a sectional plan view of the file box illustrated in Fig. 1, taken on the line 3—3 thereof;

Fig. 4 is an elevational view of the file box illustrated in Fig. 1, and showing the same in a partially opened position;

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary elevational view of the file box illustrated in Fig. 1, and showing the same in an inverted position; and

Fig. 6 is a side elevational view of the file box illustrated in Fig. 1, showing the same in still another position.

Referring to the drawing, the present invention is shown incorporated in a file box, generally designated 10, particularly adapted for use in storing photographic slides or transparencies, although it will be understood that the present invention is applicable to other uses. The file box 10 may be made in a wide variety of sizes and lengths so as to accommodate any desired size and number of sides of any desired character.

The file box 10 is comprised of a body member, generally designated 12, and a closure member, generally designated 14, each of which may be made of plastic, wood, metal or other suitable material.

The body member 12 is open at the top and includes spaced substantially parallel side walls 16 and 18 integrally joined by end walls 20 and 22 and a bottom wall 24, the side, end and bottom walls defining a chamber 26.

For the purpose of strengthening the body member 12 and to provide a pleasing appearance, a plurality of

spaced vertically extending ribs 28 and 30 are provided on the side walls 16 and 18, the ribs 30 being of greater width than the ribs 28 in the preferred embodiment of the invention illustrated. A plurality of spaced vertically extending grooves 32 and 34 are formed in the inner surfaces of the side walls 16 and 18, respectively, the grooves 32 in the side wall 16 being aligned with the grooves 34 in the side wall 18 and the longitudinal axes of the ribs and grooves being substantially co-planar and lying in a plane substantially perpendicular to the planes of the side walls 16 and 18. As shown in Fig. 2, the upper portions of the side walls 16 and 18 define generally dovetail-shaped ways 36 and 38 which are adapted to receive the closure member 14. While in the preferred embodiment illustrated the ways 36 and 38 are shown as being of generally dovetail shape, it will be understood that other types of interlocking ways may be employed. The ways 36 and 38 extend longitudinally of the body member 12 from the end wall 20 thereof to a position near, but spaced from the end wall 22 thereof, the ways 36 and 38 diverging slightly as they approach the end wall 22 so that the closure member is held securely in the closed position when mounted on the ways 36 and 38.

As shown in Figs. 1 and 4, the end portion 40 of each of the side walls 16 and 18 slopes upwardly and terminates at a position above the upper edge of the remaining portions of the side walls 16 and 18, the portions 40 of the side walls 16 and 18 being adapted to overlap complementary portions of the side walls of the closure member 14. The upper portion of the end wall 22 defines a recess 42 which extends transversely of the body member 12 and the ends of which are closed by the side walls 16 and 18 while the upper portion of the end wall 20 defines a recess 44 which extends transversely of the body member 12, the ends of the recess 44 being open.

As shown in Figs. 1 and 3, the end wall 22 also defines generally dovetail-shaped ways 46 and 48 which are adapted to receive the closure member 14, as will be described hereafter in greater detail. While in the preferred embodiment illustrated the ways 46 and 48 are shown as being of generally dovetail shape, it will be understood that other types of ways may be employed. The ways 46 and 48 extend upwardly of the body member 12, as viewed in Fig. 1, from the bottom wall 24 to a position near, but spaced from, the upper edge of the end wall 22, the ways 46 and 48 terminating at abutment stops 49, and diverging slightly as they approach the abutment stops 49 so as to steady the closure member when the closure member is positioned on the ways 46 and 48.

The closure member 14 includes spaced substantially parallel side walls 50 and 52 integrally joined by end walls 54 and 56 and a top wall 58, the side, end and top walls of the closure member defining an open bottom chamber 59. As shown in Fig. 2, the lower portions of the side walls 50 and 52 are configured to complement the ways 36 and 38 provided on the side walls 16 and 18 on the body member 12 and slide longitudinally of the ways 36 and 38. The ways 46 and 48 provided on the end wall 22 are spaced apart substantially the same distance as the ways 36 and 38 and the lower portions of the side walls 50 and 52 of the closure member 14 are also adapted to mate with and slide on the ways 46 and 48. The end wall 54 is provided with a recess 60 which is adapted to receive the upper portion of the end wall 22 of the body member 12 while the end wall 56 of the closure member 14 is provided with a recess 62 which is adapted to receive the upper portion of the end wall 20 of the body member 12. With such a construction, the lower edge portions of the side and end walls of the closure member 14 overlap the upper edge portions of the side and end walls of the body member 12 when the file box is in a closed position so as to form a seal to

prevent the entrance of dust, dirt and other foreign matter into the file box.

The closure member **14** may be removed from the body member **12** when the file box is in an upright position, as shown in Fig. 1, by sliding the closure member along the ways **36** and **38** toward the end wall **20**. As shown in Fig. 6, the closure member **14** may be slidably mounted on the ways **46** and **48** so as to prop the body member **12** in an inclined position to facilitate insertion and removal of photographic slides or transparencies from the body member **12**.

In order to divide the chamber **26** into compartments and to facilitate the filing of photographic transparencies, a plurality of relatively thin flat partition members **64** are provided, the marginal side portions of which are adapted to be inserted in the grooves **32** and **34** defined by the side walls **16** and **18** of the body member **12**. The lower edges of the partition members **64**, as viewed in Fig. 2, rest on spaced longitudinally extending ribs **65** provided on the bottom wall **24** of the body member **12**, the ribs **65** projecting into the chamber **26** and also serving as support rails for the photographic slides. The marginal slide portions of the partition members **64** have an easy sliding fit in the grooves **32** and **34** and the transverse dimensions of the upper portions **66** of the partition members are reduced so that the partition members are permitted to slide longitudinally of the grooves toward the top wall **58** of the closure member. When the file box is inverted, as shown in Fig. 5, the partition member, such as **68**, adjacent the end wall **22** will slide in the grooves **32** and **34** toward the top wall **58** of the closure member **14** and will engage the end wall **54** of the closure member **14** so as to stop the sliding movement of the closure member and prevent inadvertent opening of the closure member when the file box is in an inverted position.

As shown in Figs. 2 and 3, the walls of the body member **12** and the closure member **14**, as for example, the top wall **58** and the end wall **20**, may be provided with suitable recesses, such as **70** and **72**, for the reception of suitable labels or other indicia.

From the above description, it will be apparent that the present invention provides a file box which incorporates improved means for preventing the entrance of dust, dirt and other foreign matter into the file box; which incorporates improved means for supporting the body portion of the file box in an angular position to facilitate insertion and removal of the contents of the file box; and which incorporates improved means for preventing inadvertent opening of the file box when the file box is in an inverted position. Furthermore, the present invention overcomes disadvantages of the boxes having hingedly connected closure members which tend to unbalance and tip the boxes when the boxes are in the open position and which, in a projecting position, may be hit or struck thereby causing the box to tip and the contents to spill therefrom.

While a preferred embodiment of the invention has been shown and described, it will be understood that various changes and modifications may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. In a file box for photographic transparencies, the combination including a body having a pair of spaced, vertically extending side walls and a pair of spaced, vertically extending end walls joined by a bottom wall and defining an open top chamber, a closure member having a pair of spaced side walls and a pair of spaced end walls joined by a top wall, said side walls of said body and said side walls of said closure member having interlocking ways extending along opposite sides of said chamber and supporting said closure member on said body for sliding movement between an open position and a closed position to open and close said chamber, a vertically extending partition member disposed in said chamber in spaced substantially parallel relationship to said end walls of said body and having an upper edge disposed above said side walls of said body when said file box is in an upright position, said partition member being slidably supported by said side walls of said body so as to be freely slidable under the influence of gravity, one of said end walls of said closure member terminating above said upper edge of said partition member and the other of said end walls of said closure member terminating below the upper edge of said partition member when said file box is in an upright position, the height of said partition member being greater than the height of said side walls of said closure member, said partition member simultaneously engaging said one end wall of said closure member and said side walls of said body when said file box is in an upright said closure member on said ways when said body is in an inverted position.

2. In a file box for photographic transparencies, the combination including a body having a pair of spaced, vertically extending side walls and a pair of spaced, vertically extending end walls joined by a horizontally disposed bottom wall and defining an open top chamber, a closure member having a pair of spaced, vertically extending side walls and a pair of spaced, vertically extending end walls joined by a horizontally disposed top wall, said side walls of said body and said side walls of said closure member having interlocking ways extending along opposite sides of said chamber whereby said closure member is supported on said body for sliding movement between an open position and a closed position to open and close said chamber, portions of said side walls of said closure member overlapping portions of said side walls of said body and portions of said end walls of said closure member overlapping portions of said end walls of said body when said closure member is in the closed position to provide a seal against the entrance of dust into said chamber, a vertically extending partition member disposed in said chamber in spaced substantially parallel relationship to said end walls of said body and having an upper edge disposed above said side walls of said body when said file box is in an upright position, said partition member being slidably supported by said side walls of said body so as to be slidable under the influence of gravity, one of said end walls of said closure member terminating above said partition member and the other of said end walls of said closure member terminating below the upper edge of said partition member when said file box is in an upright position, the height of said partition member being greater than the height of said side walls of said closure member, said partition member projecting beyond said side walls of said body and simultaneously engaging said one end wall of said closure member and said side walls of said body and limiting the sliding movement of said closure member on said ways when said file box is in an inverted position.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

1,210,800	Hazen et al.	Jan. 2, 1917
1,261,861	Sherman	Apr. 9, 1918
1,421,645	Wilson	July 4, 1922
1,519,614	Heck	Dec. 16, 1924
2,064,241	Batdorf	Dec. 15, 1936
2,081,078	Watson	May 18, 1937
2,102,094	Romig	Dec. 14, 1937
2,660,294	Young	Nov. 24, 1953

FOREIGN PATENTS

272,310	Italy	Mar. 6, 1930
1,809,781	Great Britain	June 9, 1931
662,661	Great Britain	Dec. 12, 1951

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

Patent No. 2,929,530 March 22, 1960

Albert M. Sargent

It is hereby certified that error appears in the printed specification of the above numbered patent requiring correction and that the said Letters Patent should read as corrected below.

Column 4, line 17, for "when said file box is in an upright" read -- and limiting the sliding movement of --.

Signed and sealed this 6th day of September 1960.

(SEAL)

Attest:

ERNEST W. SWIDER
Attesting Officer

ROBERT C. WATSON
Commissioner of Patents