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DRAWERS AND GUIDES THEREFOR

Filed Oct. 20, 1959 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

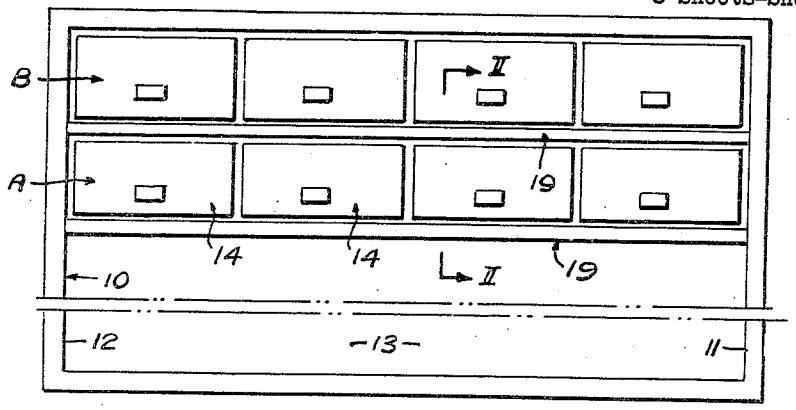



FIG. 1

FIG. 2

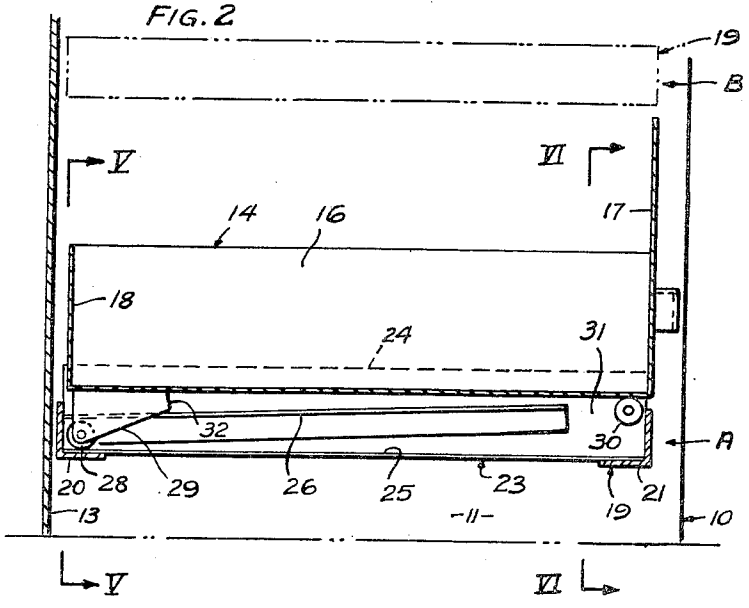
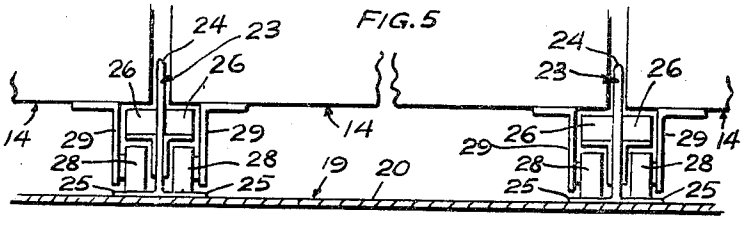



FIG. 5



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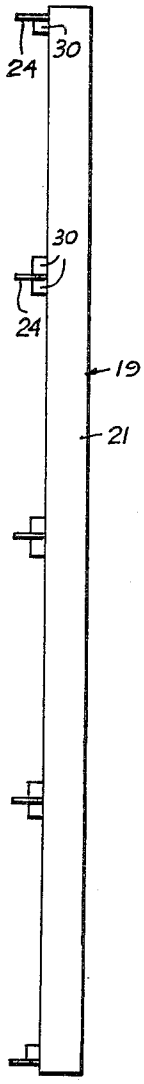



FIG. 4

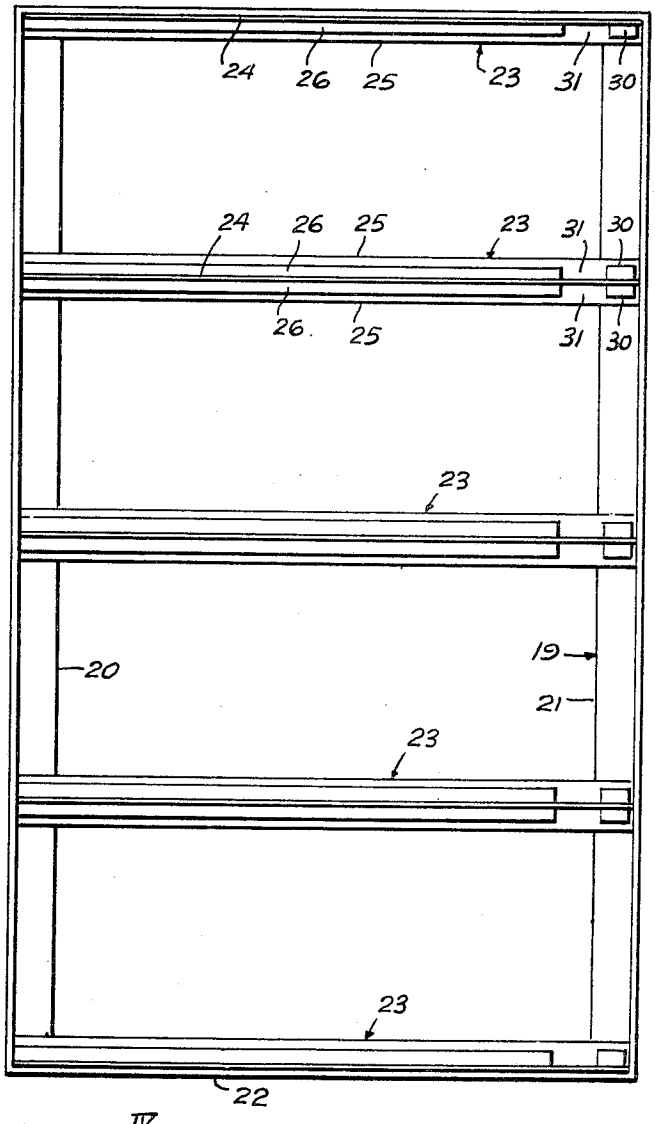



FIG. 3

IV

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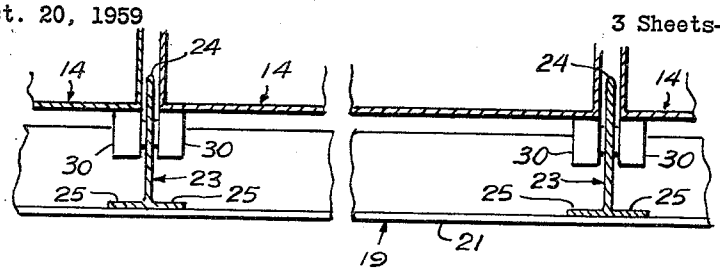



FIG. 6

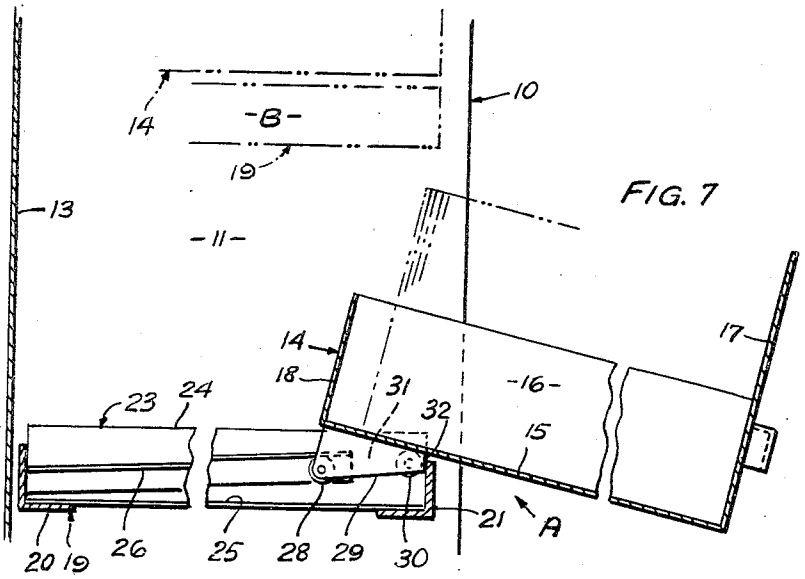



FIG. 7

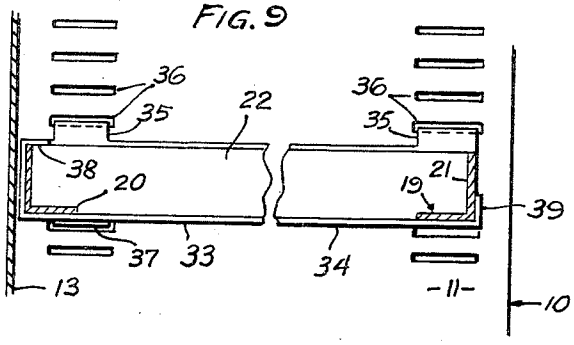



FIG. 9

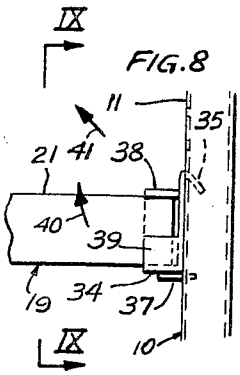



FIG. 8

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3,053,603

# DRAWERS AND GUIDES THEREFOR

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Claims priority, application Great Britain Oct. 21, 1958
4 Claims. (Cl. 312—293)

This invention relates to drawers and guide means therefor and is particularly concerned with drawers for filing office documents, for instance index cards.

It is known to provide drawers for office use with individual casings, and if two or more drawers have to be provided together, there is built up an assembly of such casings. This not only leads to considerable expense but is also wasteful as regards space. It is of course known to provide a common casing for drawers situated one above the other but in cases where two or more drawers have to be provided side by side this system would suffer the defects described.

Another disadvantage of known drawers is that an assembly of such drawers cannot easily be embodied in a relatively large cabinet capable of being locked and possibly also being large enough to receive further drawers as the need for such drawers increases or being large enough to receive also other fitments necessary for office use, for instance plain shelves.

The main object of this invention is to overcome these difficulties.

Further, it is known to provide drawers in casings as aforesaid, the drawer being adapted to tilt forwards and downwards when in the pulled-out position so as to provide access to contents at the back of the drawer, because unless extensible guides are provided it is not possible to withdraw the drawer to a sufficient extent from the casing. The drawer is usually supported in the tilted position by a relatively high back-wall of the drawer engaging the roof of the casing near the front thereof. This support of the drawer at the roof of the casing has in the past made it inevitable not only that the casing had to be provided but also that it had to be of a correspondingly strong structure. All this combined in the past to make difficult to dispense with the casing for tilting drawers, and it is also an object of this invention to dispense with individual casings for tilting drawers.

According to this invention, a filing cabinet comprises a supporting member extending between opposite side walls of the cabinet, two or more drawers situated side by side on the supporting member, and a guide means provided between each drawer and the supporting member and cooperating to support the drawers on the supporting member for inward and outward movement.

One form of cabinet according to this invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings wherein:

FIG. 1 is a front elevation of the cabinet.

FIG. 2 is an enlarged section on line II—II in FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a plan view of FIG. 2 showing selected details.

FIG. 4 is a view in the direction of the arrow IV in FIG. 3.

FIG. 5 is an enlarged section on the line V—V in FIG. 2.

FIG. 6 is an enlarged section on the line VI—VI in FIG. 2.

FIG. 7 is a view similar to FIG. 2 but showing a different operational position.

FIG. 8 is an enlarged detail of FIG. 1.

FIG. 9 is a section on the line IX—IX in FIG. 8.

Referring to the drawings, there is shown an open-fronted cabinet **10** (FIG. 1) comprising side walls **11**, **12**, a rear wall **13** and a plurality of drawers **14** arranged in two horizontal rows A and B and each comprising a bottom **15**, side walls **16**, **16**, a front wall **17**, and a rear wall **18**. The drawers **14** of each row A, B are situated side by side on a supporting member or frame **19** connected between the walls **11**, **12**. The frame **19** comprises two angle members **20**, **21** connected at their ends by members **22**. Each drawer **14** is supported on the frame **19** by a pair of guides **23** each comprising a vertical wall **24**, a lower track **25** extending horizontally between the members **20**, **21** of the frame **19**, and an upper track **26** extending from the member **20** forwardly and upwardly to a front end **27**. A pair of rollers **28**, **28** are provided on brackets **29** secured to the bottom **15** of the drawer **14**, the brackets **29** extending between the tracks **26** and the rollers **28** being situated between the tracks **25**, **26**. The walls **24** are each provided with a roller **30** situated below the bottom **15** of the drawer **14**. Between the front ends **27** of the tracks **26** and the adjacent rollers **30** there is a gap **31**. The brackets **29** are each extended to define a stop **32**. The drawer **14** is freely movable inwards and outwards, the bottom of the drawer **14** running on the rollers **30** of the frame **19** and the rollers **28** of the drawer **14** running on the track **25** of the frame **19** so long as the centre of gravity of the drawer **14** is situated to the rear of the rollers **30**. As soon as the drawer **14** has been pulled sufficiently far from the cabinet **10** for the centre of gravity of the drawer **14** to be situated in front of the rollers **30**, the drawer **14** tilts forwardly and downwardly about the rollers **30** until the rollers **28** become seated on the tracks **26**. FIG. 2 shows the drawer **14** in the fully returned position whereas FIG. 7 shows the drawer **14** in the farthest position to which it can be pulled out. In the latter position forward travel of the drawer **14** is halted by the stops **32** abutting the member **21** of the frame **19**. In view of the inclination of the track **26** the tilting of the drawer **14** is gradual and reaches the required maximum when the stops **32** abut. The drawer **14** is removable from the frame **19** by the front of the drawer **14** being lifted from the inclined position shown in FIG. 7 until the stops **32** are clear of the member **21** of the frame **19** and the drawer **14** then being pulled forward until the rollers **28** register with the gaps **31**. Thereafter the drawer **14** is simply lifted from the frame **19**, the rollers **28** passing through the gaps **31**. The reverse maneuver is carried out for putting the drawer **14** back again into engagement with the frame **19**.

It will be seen that the arrangement described makes possible a very close juxtaposition of drawers one beside the other because the guides **23** and the associated rollers **28**, **30** are all situated below the drawers **14**, the walls **24** merely serving to guide the drawers **14** laterally and to prevent adjacent drawers **14** from touching. No structure is required above the drawers **14** for the control of said tilting whereby the total height occupied by any one row of drawers **14** is reduced to a minimum and a very close juxtaposition between the adjacent rows A and B is possible.

Referring now particularly to FIGS. 8 and 9, the frame **19** is connected to the cabinet side walls **11**, **12** by means of brackets **33** each comprising a horizontal portion **34** on which the frame **19** is seated and which is attached to the adjacent side wall **11** or **12** by hooks **35** engaging in slots **36** in said side wall. An extension **36** of each bracket **33** engages one of the slots **36** to secure the bracket **33** against rising and the bracket **33** is provided with a hook portion **38** engaging over the rear of the frame **19** from rising when the drawers are pulled forward. A lip **39** on each bracket prevents the frame **19** from sliding forward. If it is required to remove the frame **19** from the brackets **33**, the frame **19** is lifted at

the front thereof until clear of the lip **39** and is then slid forward. The brackets **33** are easily removed from the side walls **11, 12** by firstly being turned about the seating of the hooks **35** in the direction of the arrow **40** and then lifted in the direction of the arrow **41** from the slots **36**.

The brackets **33** make possible a very easy installation of the frame **19** in the cabinet **10** and the provision of the slots **36**, provided in vertical rows as shown, facilitates the positioning of the frame **19** wherever is most suitable along the height of the cabinet **10**. In this manner, new frames **19** can readily be added to any frames **19** already provided in the cabinet, or the frames **19** can easily be re-positioned in accordance with varying office requirements. The slots **35** of the cabinet can of course also be used for the attachment of such fittings as plain shelves in addition to said frames **19**, so that an appropriately large cabinet can serve a plural purpose. In other words, the frames **19** and drawers **14** can be conveniently embodied in a cabinet intended for a plurality of different contents, and the building up of a compact, and yet flexible, system of office equipment is greatly facilitated thereby.

What we claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A filing cabinet comprising a pair of sheet metal side walls, a vertical succession of pairs of horizontally spaced apart apertures provided in each of said side walls, a pair of brackets situated at the respective side walls, each bracket including lugs withdrawably engaging one of said pairs of apertures of the adjacent side walls to support the bracket thereon, a supporting member extending between said side walls and freely seated on said brackets, a drawer connected to said supporting member for movement between open and closed positions, said supporting member including front and rear edge portions lying substantially adjacent the front and the rear respectively of the cabinet, said drawer when opened overhanging said support member at the front edge portion thereof, extensions provided on said brackets and dimensioned freely to embrace said supporting member substantially at the rear edge portion thereof thereby to prevent tilting of said supporting member under the influence of said drawer when overhanging as aforesaid, over-ridable stop means cooperating to prevent said supporting member from so sliding forwards out of the embrace of said extension, said supporting member being



removable from said brackets by over-riding said stop means and sliding the supporting member forwards out of the embrace of said extension.

2. A filing cabinet according to claim 1, each bracket comprising a horizontal sheet metal platform extending between said front and rear edge portions of the supporting member, a front and a rear upward bend provided on the platform at the respective ends thereof, said supporting member being seated on said platform between said upward bends, said extension being defined by a return bend provided at the top of said rear upward bend, said front upward bend defining a stop against forward movement of said supporting member from which stop the supporting member is releasable by being lifted at the front edge portion thereof.

3. A filing cabinet according to claim 1, each bracket comprising a sheet metal platform, said lugs each comprising a portion upstanding from said platform and a hook portion provided at the upper end of said upstanding portion, said hook portion extending through the adjacent one of said apertures, each aperture defining an upwardly facing edge and said hook portion being seated on said edge.

4. A filing cabinet as claimed in claim 3, one of the apertures of each of said pairs of apertures being situated nearer the rear of the cabinet than the other and defining a rear aperture, one of the lugs of each of said brackets correspondingly defining a rear lug, a further lug provided on each bracket in a position withdrawably to engage a rear aperture situated below the one engaged by said rear lug, said rear apertures each defining a down-facing edge and said further lug cooperating with the down-facing edge of the aperture it engages to support the bracket against upward movement.

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