Oct. 6, 1936. J. A. HEDGES 2,056,853

FILING CABINET

Filed June 2, 1934

Fig. 1

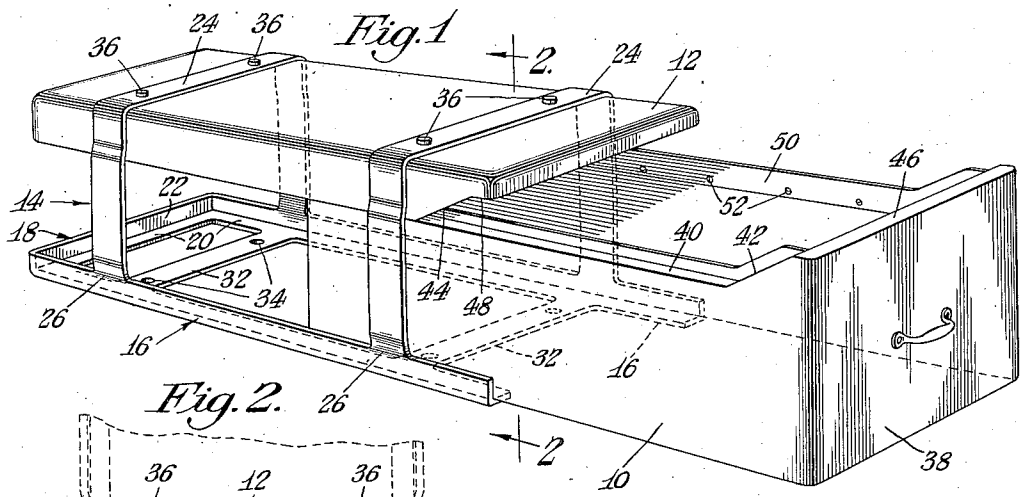


Fig. 2.

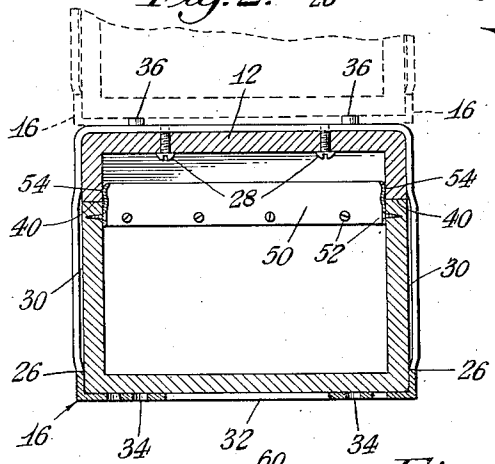


Fig. 4.

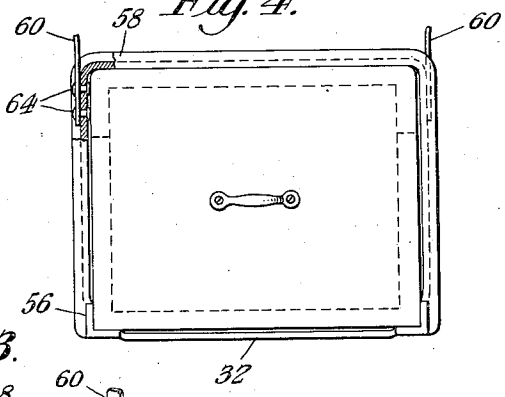


Fig. 3.

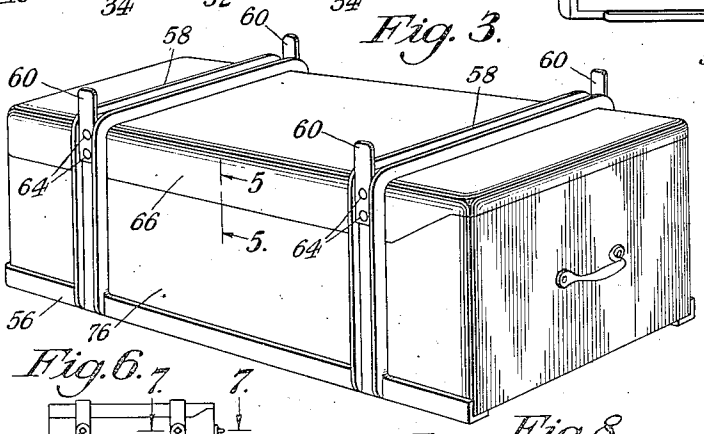


Fig. 5.

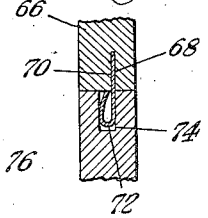


Fig. 6.

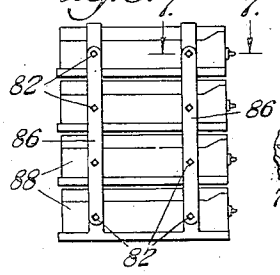


Fig. 7.

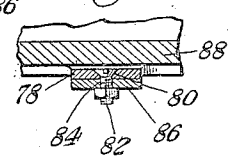
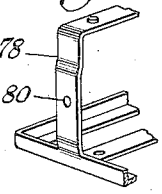


Fig. 8.



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Patented Oct. 6, 1936 2,056,853

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,056,853

FILING CABINET

James A. Hedges, Chicago, Ill.

Application June 2, 1934, Serial No. 728,760

1 Claim. (Cl. 45—2)

My invention relates to the disposition of correspondence, records, documents or the like, and has among its objects and advantages the provision of an improved filing cabinet.

This invention also consists in certain other features of construction and in the combination and arrangement of the several parts, to be hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawing, and specifically pointed out in the appended claim.

In the accompanying drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a filing cabinet embodying my invention;

Fig. 2 is a sectional view taken along the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a different form; Fig. 4 is an end view partly in section of the structure illustrated in Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a detail view of a dust seal;

Fig. 6 is a side elevation of a plurality of units connected together for transportation purposes;

Fig. 7 is a sectional detail view taken along the line 7—7 of Fig. 6; and

Fig. 8 is a perspective view of a part of the structure illustrated in Fig. 6.

In the embodiment selected to illustrate my invention, I make use of a drawer 10 and a cooperating cover 12 associated with a skeleton 14. The skeleton comprises a U-shaped bottom portion made up of legs 16 and a connecting reach 18. These three parts are L-shaped in cross-section so that the horizontal flanges 20 support the drawer 10, while the vertical flanges 22 limit lateral movement of the tray.

A pair of supporting loops 24 is connected with the bottom part 16 as by welding along the lines 26. Referring to Fig. 2, the cover 12 is permanently connected with the horizontal reaches of the loops 24 through the medium of screws 28. I make the loops 24 of such a vertical dimension that the cover 12 will always be arranged in proper operative relation with the tray 10.

In Fig. 2 the upper part of the loops 24 closely embraces the cover 12, but the vertical reaches of the loops are offset slightly to provide a small clearance 30 for the sides of the tray 10. Thus I eliminate any scratching of the trays while being shifted. It will be noted that the bottom part of the tray fits snugly between the vertical flanges of the reaches 16. Thus the tray 10 is accurately aligned with respect to the cover 12 so that an efficient closure is attained.

I provide facilities for mounting units comprising the structure of Fig. 1 in stacked relation. To this end the reaches 16 support two cross members 32 having openings 34 aligned to receive the short lugs 36 associated with the bottom unit. This arrangement effectively connects the stacked units and determines the relative position between the units in addition to preventing lateral shifting of one unit with respect to its associated unit or units.

My invention embodies a novel skeleton structure in that the skeleton structure carries the load of the superimposed units whereby the load carried by each tray is limited to the contents therein. This construction eliminates the necessity for the conventional shell enclosing all the drawers of a cabinet unit. At the same time a unit such as that disclosed in Fig. 1 is complete in itself or may easily be associated with other units by merely stacking one upon the other. Thus units may be added as additional filing space is required.

I attain a large saving in material. In view of the fact that the load is transmitted to the skeleton structure, the drawer 10 and the cover 12 may comprise materials having very little compressive strength since the cover 12 supports no load, while the drawer 10 supports a load limited to its contents. The units stack neatly, and the arrangement permits the drawers to be completely withdrawn.

I prefer to make the front end 38 of the drawer 10 substantially co-extensive with the cross-sectional area of the tray and its associated cover. Referring to Fig. 1, the edge 40 of the side walls embodies an inclined edge 42 arranged to abut a similar inclined edge 44 on the cover. The edge 46 of the front end 38 fits snugly underneath the edge 48 on the cover when the tray 10 is pushed home.

To provide a dust-tight connection between the tray and its cover, I attach metallic strips 50 to the side walls of the tray by means of small screws 52. The strips 50 extend above the upper side walls of the tray and are arranged in sliding and frictional engagement with the inner walls of the depending side portions of the cover 12, as indicated at 54.

A different skeleton structure is illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4. In this form the base part 56 is identical with the U-shaped bottom part of the skeleton disclosed in Fig. 1, but the loops 58 comprise channel iron. Loops made up of such material are designed to withstand heavier compression loads, and are particularly adapted to filing cabinets of large capacity. Each loop is provided with a pair of fingers 60 riveted to the

vertical reaches of the loop at **64** and arranged with their upper ends projecting above the horizontal reach. Thus the fingers prevent lateral shifting of a section mounted upon the horizontal reach.

In Fig. 5, I have illustrated a modified dust seal in which the flange part **66** comprising one of the depending walls of a tray cover is grooved at **68** to receive a metal strip **70**. This strip is bent back upon itself at **72** to provide a loop formation slidably arranged within a groove **74** in the wall part **76** of the tray. The double portion of the metal strip is shaped to bear snugly against the walls of the groove, and the material of the groove possesses sufficient resiliency to compensate for structural variations in the grooves **74** so that a dust-tight seal is provided under all conditions.

In Figs. 6, 7, and 8, I illustrate a method of tying filing cabinet units into a unitary assembly for transportation purposes.

In Fig. 8, the vertical reaches **78** are provided with an opening **80** to receive a bolt **82** (see Fig. 7) arranged to pass through a hole **84** in a metal bar **86**. This bar has a length equal to the total height of the assembled filing units, as indicated in Fig. 6. The filing units are indicated at **88** in stacked relation, whereby the two bars **86** upon each side of the group firmly connect the units **88** into a unitary whole whereby the group may be moved as a unit.

It will be noted that the heads of the bolts **82** are tapered to fit within counter-sunk openings in the reaches **78** so that the heads of the bolts will not interfer with the tray part of the filing unit.

Without further elaboration, the foregoing will so fully explain my invention that others may, by applying current knowledge, readily adapt the same for use under various conditions of service.

I claim:

A device of the type described comprising a filing tray, spaced L-shaped member for carrying the weight of the tray and resisting lateral movement of the same, a cover for the tray, a pair of U-shaped supports each having its bight fixedly connected with the cover and the ends of its legs fixedly connected with said L-shaped members, cross members interconnecting said L-shaped members, and pins projecting upwardly from the bights of said U-shaped supports, said cross members being provided with bores positioned in axial alignment with said pins, the pins of the two U-shaped members being arranged to be positioned in the bores of a superimposed filing unit for holding the filing units in stacked relation.

JAMES A. HEDGES.

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION.

Patent No. 2,056,853.

October 6, 1936.

JAMES A. HEDGES.

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 14, in the claim, for the word "member" read members; 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 27th day of October, A. D. 1936.

(Seal)

Henry Van Arsdale
Acting Commissioner of Patents.