

May 8, 1945.

I. SALOMON

2,375,441

DESK

Filed April 16, 1942

3 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

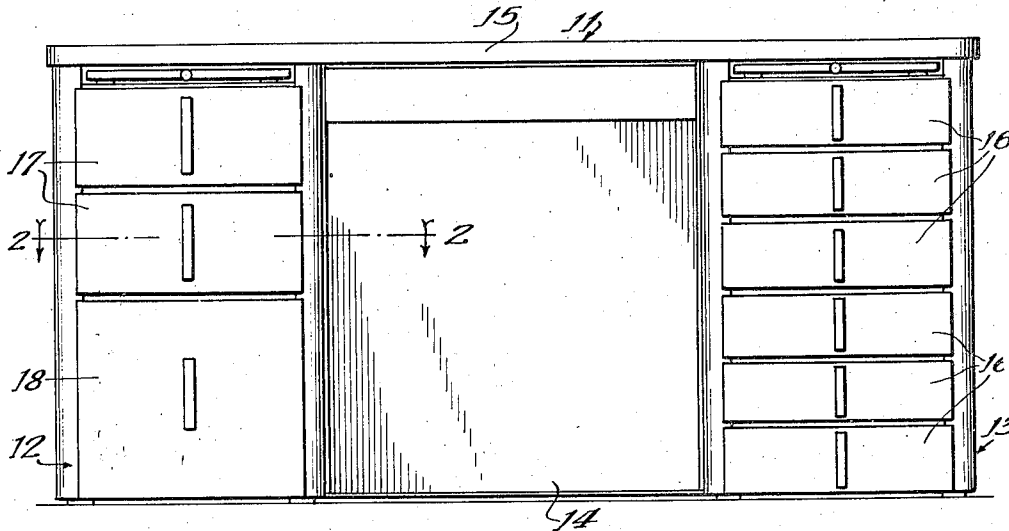


Fig. 2.

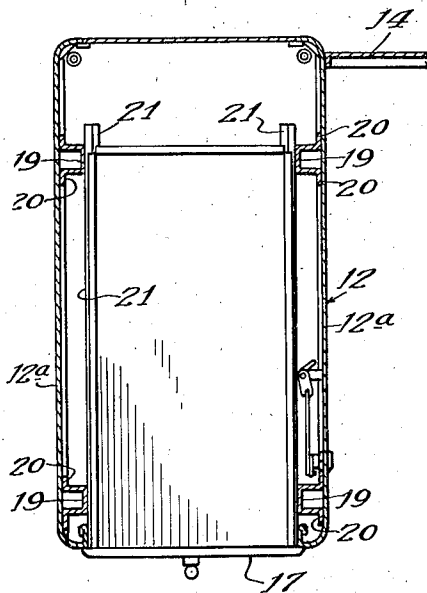
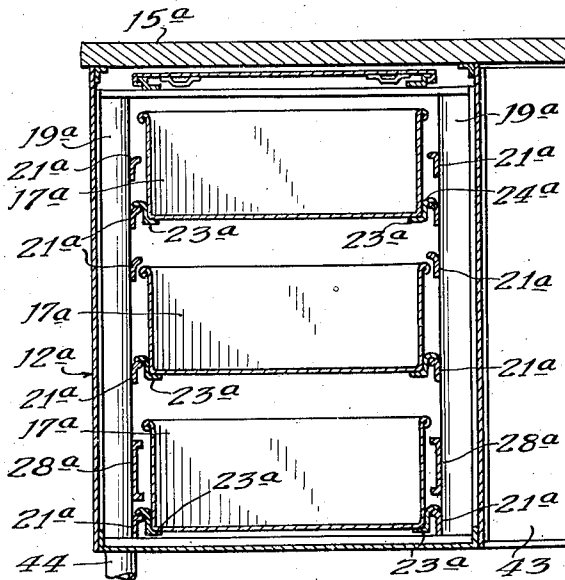


Fig. 3.



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Fig. 4.

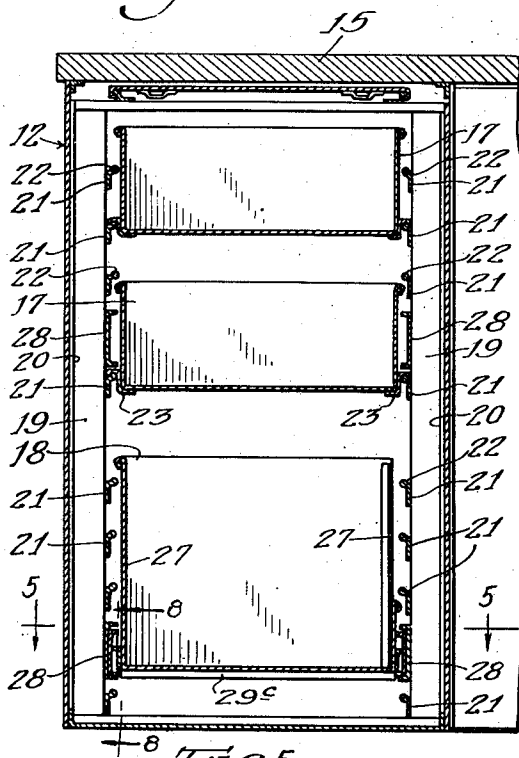


Fig. 6.

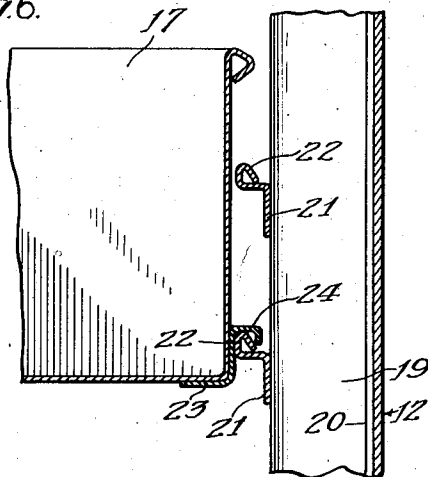


Fig. 7.

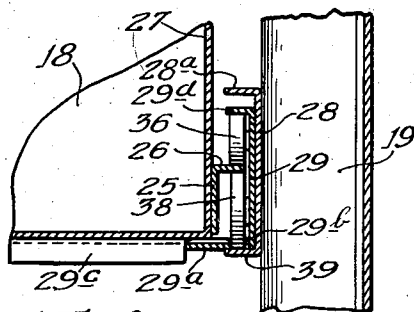


Fig. 8.

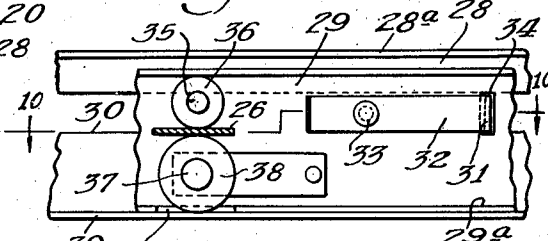
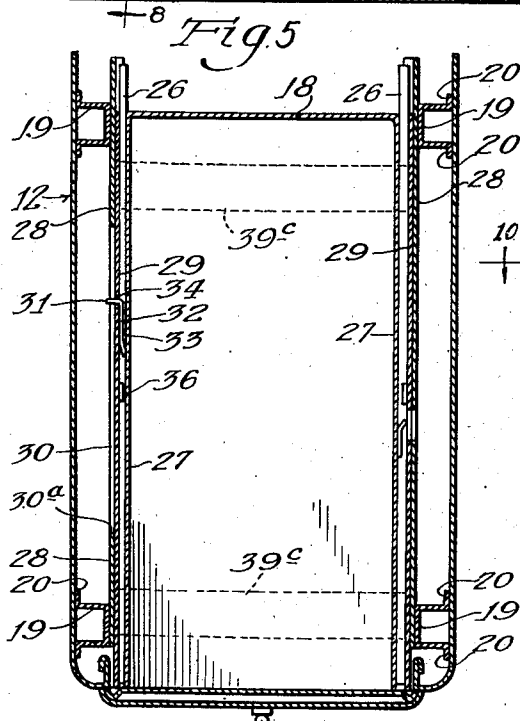
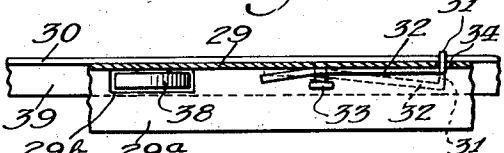


Fig. 9.



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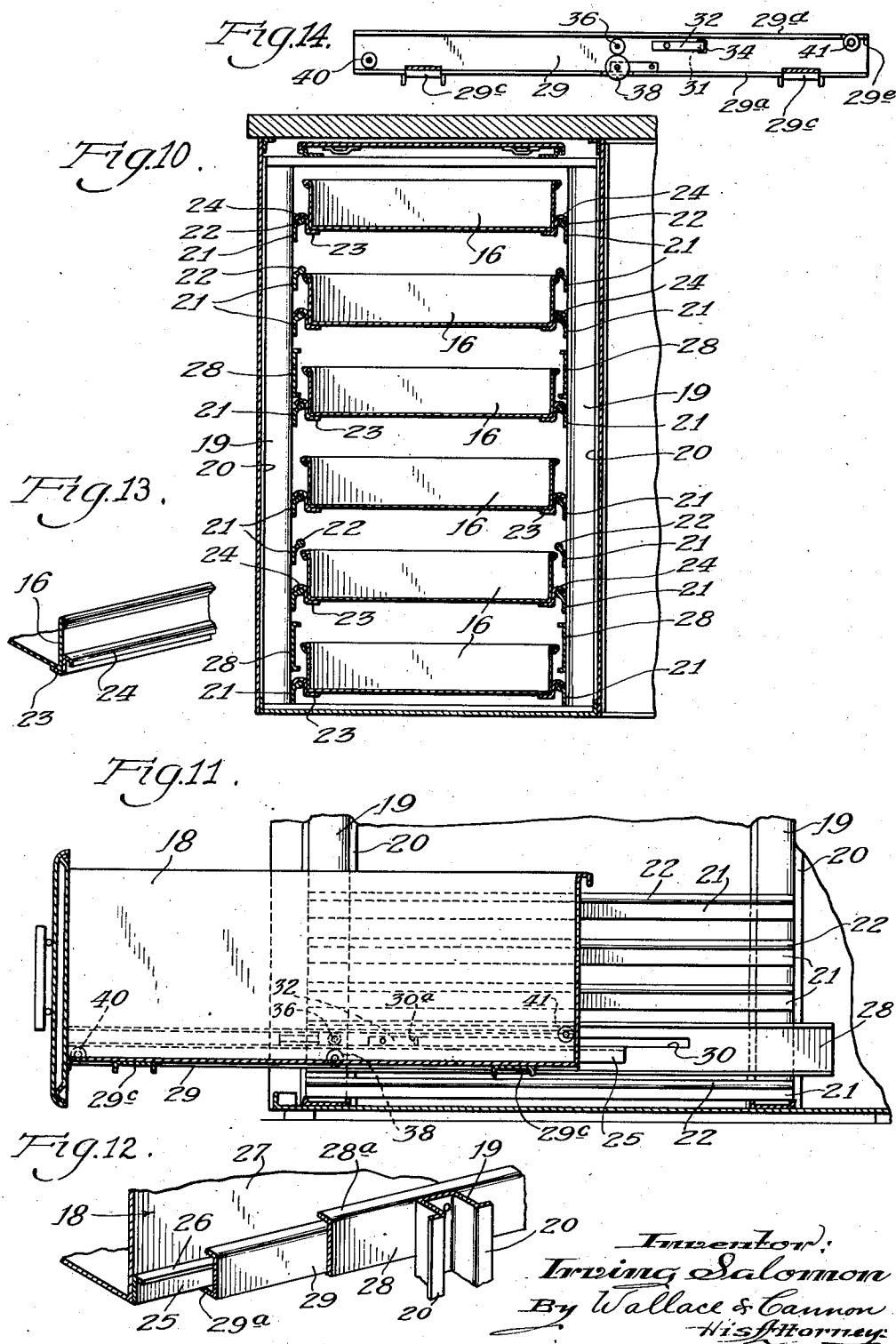
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DESK

Filed April 16, 1942

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,375,441

DESK

Irving Salomon, Michigan City, Ind.

Application April 16, 1942, Serial No. 439,264

2 Claims. (Cl. 45—77)

This invention relates to desks.

More specifically, this invention relates to desks of the character which may be employed in business and professional offices and the like.

There is a demand for a desk which is so constructed and arranged by the manufacturer that the purchaser thereof may have embodied therein by the trade dealer, rather than by the manufacturer, various possible combinations of desk drawers which he may desire and which may be best fitted for his particular needs, within limitations.

An object of the present invention, therefore, is to afford a new and improved desk construction embodying one or more end sections or drawer-receiving housings adapted to receive, selectively and interchangeably, various or different types and sizes of slidable drawers and various and different combinations thereof without requiring any change or alteration, whatever, in the construction of the desk itself so that the desired interchangeability may be made by the dealer and the desk thus rendered most suitable for the customer's particular needs without the necessity for any change in the mechanical construction thereof.

An additional object of the present invention is to afford a new and improved desk construction by means of which slidable drawers of various types and sizes may be selectively and interchangeably arranged in each and either of the end sections or drawer-receiving housings thereof, that is, in either the left-hand end section or drawer-receiving housing or in the right-hand end section or drawer-receiving housing without requiring any change or alteration in the construction of the desk itself.

An additional object of the new invention, ancillary to the foregoing objects, is to afford a new and improved desk construction which is so constructed and arranged at the factory that when distributed by the manufacturer to his trade dealers the latter may make up or assemble from stock on hand various types of desks to satisfy the various demands of customers, as orders are received, by arranging various combinations of slidable drawers of different sizes and intended for different purposes in each of the end sections or drawer-receiving housings of the new desk construction, thus enabling the trade dealer to satisfy the varying demands of customers without requiring the dealer to maintain a large supply of complete desks on hand, thereby materially reducing the investment which the dealer is required to maintain in order to satisfy the needs and demands of his customers.

Another object of the invention is to afford a new and improved desk which is so constructed and arranged by the manufacturer that it enables the dealer to provide his customers with what are, in effect, custom built desks, that is to say, with desks which are assembled by the dealer from stock parts supplied by the manufacturer but which are, nevertheless, assembled to meet the varying but specific requirements and needs of different customers.

Other and further objects of the present invention will be apparent from the foregoing description and claims and will be understood by reference to the accompanying drawings which, by way of illustration, show preferred embodiments and the principles thereof and what I now consider to be the best mode in which I have contemplated applying those principles. Other embodiments of the invention embodying the same or equivalent principles may be used and structural changes may be made as desired by those skilled in the art without departing from the present invention and the purview of the appended claims.

In the drawings,

Fig. 1 is a front elevational view illustrating a typical embodiment of the new desk construction;

Fig. 2 is a horizontal sectional top plan view on line 2—2 in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged vertical sectional view showing a modification of the invention as embodied in a so-called island type of desk;

Fig. 4 is a vertical sectional view of the left-hand end section as seen in Fig. 1;

Fig. 5 is a sectional top plan view on line 5—5 in Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional detail view illustrating a preferred manner of slidably mounting the relatively smaller or so-called card and file drawers in the end sections or drawer-receiving housings of the new desk construction, as applied to a so-called file drawer;

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary sectional view illustrating a preferred manner of mounting a relatively large drawer, such as a so-called secretary's drawer, in an end section or drawer-receiving housing of the new desk construction;

Fig. 8 is a fragmentary view on line 8—8 in Fig. 4, partly in section and partly in side elevation, illustrating a preferred construction for slidably mounting and guiding a relatively large drawer, such as a so-called secretary's drawer, in one of the end sections or drawer-receiving housings of the new desk construction;

Fig. 9 is a view on line 9—9 in Fig. 8, partly in section and partly in top plan;

Fig. 10 is a transverse vertical sectional view, showing the manner in which six of the relatively small or so-called card drawers are assembled in one of the end sections or drawer-receiving housings embodied in the new desk construction, namely, the end section or drawer-receiving housing which is shown at the right in Fig. 1;

Fig. 11 is a fragmentary view, partly in section and partly in elevation, illustrating the manner in which the relatively large or secretary's drawer is selectively and interchangeably slidably guided in either of the end sections or drawer-receiving housings embodied in the new desk construction;

Fig. 12 is a fragmentary perspective view illustrating a preferred manner in which a relatively large or so-called secretary's drawer may be slidably mounted and guided in either of the end sections or drawer-receiving housings embodied in the new desk construction;

Fig. 13 is a fragmentary perspective detail view illustrating a preferred construction of the means by which relatively smaller drawers such as so-called card and file drawers may be slidably guided in the end sections or drawer-receiving housings which are embodied in the new desk construction; and

Fig. 14 is a detail view, partly in section and partly in elevation, showing a preferred construction of an extension slide unit which may be employed in the new desk construction for slidably mounting and guiding a relatively large drawer, such as a so-called secretary's drawer, in either of the end sections or drawer-receiving housings which are embodied in the new desk construction.

As shown in the drawings, (Figs. 1 and 10), the right-hand end section or drawer-receiving housing 13 (as seen in Fig. 1), has slidably mounted therein six relatively small or so-called card drawers 16 whereas the other or left-hand end section or drawer-receiving housing 12 (as seen in Fig. 1) has slidably mounted therein two somewhat larger and so-called file drawers 17 and one relatively large or so-called secretary's drawer 18 (Figs. 1 and 4).

The present invention is particularly concerned with the construction by means of which, and the manner in which, slidable drawers of various types and sizes, such as the drawers 16, 17 and 18, and various combinations of said drawers, may be slidably and interchangeably mounted in each or either of the drawer-receiving housings or end sections 12 and 13 so that desks embodying various desired combinations of said drawers may be afforded to meet the demands and needs of various customers and without requiring any change or alteration, whatever, in the construction of said end sections or drawer-receiving housings 12 and 13, and without requiring trade distributors, such as jobbers, dealers and the like, to maintain a stock of complete desks on hand to meet the needs, demands and requirements of their customers.

In order to accomplish the foregoing and other desirable advantages of the present invention, each of the said end sections or drawer-receiving housings 12 and 13 embodied in the new desk construction is constructed in a manner which will now be described and inasmuch as the construction of both of these end sections or drawer-receiving housings 12 and 13 is the same, only one of them will now be described in detail.

By reference to the drawings, (Figs. 2, 5 and

11), it will be noted that each of the end sections or drawer-receiving housings 12 and 13 is provided with a plurality of vertically extending supporting or corner posts 19, one adjacent each corner of each of said end sections or drawer-receiving housings, each of said corner posts or supporting members 19 being preferably in the form of a channel-shaped metallic member having flanged edges 20, and these corner posts 19 may be secured to the side walls, as 12a and 13a, of the end sections or drawer-receiving housings 12 and 13 in any suitable manner, as by welding.

Extending horizontally between each adjacent pair of vertical supporting or corner posts 19, at each side of each of the end sections or drawer-receiving housings 12 and 13, is a plurality of stationary guide rails 21 which may be secured to the vertical supporting posts 19 in any suitable manner, as by welding, and each of these guide rails 21 has a bent over or crimped upper edge portion 22 which provides a runner to facilitate slidable movement, at different times, of the two relatively smaller types of desk drawers 16 and 17 thereover, in a manner which will be described hereinafter.

It will be noted by reference particularly to Fig. 4 that there are, therefore, in each of the said end sections or drawer-receiving housings 12 and 13, eight of the horizontally extending stationary guide rails 21—22 at each side of each of the said end sections or drawer-receiving housings 12 and 13 and that these guide rails 21 are arranged in aligned pairs at opposite sides of each of the said end sections or drawer-receiving housings 12 and 13, that is to say, each of the said guide rails 21 is aligned with a corresponding guide rail 21 on the opposite side of the said end section or drawer-receiving housing so that there are eight pairs of said guide rails 21 in each of the said end sections or drawer-receiving housings 12 and 13 although, of course, the number of aligned pairs of guide rails 21—22 which may be provided in each of the said end sections or drawer-receiving housings may be varied depending upon the height of the desk and the number and size of the drawers which it is desired to arrange therein. It will be understood, in this connection, however, that the arrangement of eight pairs of aligned guide rails 21—22 which is shown in the drawings is sufficient to accommodate six of the relatively small or card drawers 16 or four file drawers 17 or various combinations of these drawers within the permissible height limitations of standard desk sizes such as, for example, thirty inches.

It will also be noted, particularly by reference to Figs. 4 and 10, that the spacing of the eight pairs of horizontally extending desk-drawer-supporting guide members or rails 21—22 is non-uniform, that is, the pairs of aligned guide rails 21—22 are spaced at varying and different intervals or distances vertically in the said end sections or drawer-receiving housings 12 and 13, but have the same spacing in each of the said end sections or drawer-receiving housings 12 and 13, for reasons which will be explained hereinafter.

Each of the two relatively smaller sizes of slidable drawers, namely, each of the card drawers 16 and each of the file drawers 17, which are embodied in the new desk construction, has a channel-shaped slide member or flange 23 attached thereto at each bottom corner thereof, as best illustrated in Figs. 6 and 13, in reference to one of the file drawers 17, there being one of the channel-shaped slide members or flanges 23 at-

tached to each of the said drawers 16 and 17 at each of the bottom corners thereof, and these slide members 23 may be attached to the drawers 16 and 17 in any suitable manner, as by welding or the like.

It will be noted, by reference particularly to Figs. 6 and 13 of the drawings, that each of the slide members 23 has a channel-shaped portion 24 which is adapted to ride upon and to be slidably guided over and by the runner portion 24 of one of the horizontally extending and stationary guide members or rails 21—22.

By reference particularly to Figs. 7 and 12, it will be noted that the relatively large or so-called secretary's drawer 18 has attached to each side wall 27 thereof, adjacent the bottom thereof, and in any suitable manner, as by welding, a substantially L-shaped member 25, and each of these members 25 has a horizontally extending flange or runner portion 26 which projects outwardly from the said side wall 27 of the drawer 18.

As best shown in Figs. 4 and 10, each of the end sections or drawer-receiving housings 12 and 13 has two pairs of vertically spaced stationary guide rails 28 therein, there being one of these channel-shaped stationary guide rails 28 extending between each pair of the vertically supporting posts 19, at each side of each of the end sections or drawer-receiving housings 12 and 13, as best shown in Figs. 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12, and these channel-shaped guide rails 28 are arranged in aligned pairs, one at each side of each of the end sections or drawer-receiving housings.

Adapted to slide in each of the stationary channel-shaped guide rails 28 is a channel-shaped extension slide member 29 (Figs. 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12):

As shown in Figs. 7, 11, and 14, the two channel-shaped extension slide members 29 in each pair of the same (only one pair being shown but others being similarly constructed as and when desired) are interconnected by a pair of transversely extending arms or webs 29c so that the two extension slide members 29 in each pair of the same operate or move as a unit and may be inserted into and removed from either of the end sections 12 and 13, as and when desired.

Provided in one of the channel-shaped stationary guide members 28 in each pair of the same is a horizontally extending slot 30, which is best shown in Figs. 5, 8 and 11, and projecting into each of these slots 30, through an opening 34 which is formed in each of the slide members 29 (Figs. 5, 8 and 9), is an angled end portion 31 of a spring-urged latch or stop member 32. Each of these latch or stop members 32 is yieldably mounted upon one of the slide members 29, as at 33, (Figs. 5, 8 and 9), so that the said angled end portion 31 thereof normally projects into and works in the slot 30 in the corresponding slide member 29, said angled end portion 31 of each of the latch or stop members 32 being adapted to engage and abut against the end wall 30a (Fig. 5) of the corresponding slot 30, when the relatively large or secretary's drawer 18 is moved into open or extended position, as will be explained more fully hereinafter.

Rotatably mounted, as at 35, upon each of the slide members 29 is an upper anti-friction roller 36, (Figs. 7, 8 and 14), and rotatably mounted, as at 37, on each of the slide members 29, below the roller 36 thereon, is a lower anti-friction roller 38. It will be noted, particularly by reference to Figs. 7, 8, 9 and 14, that each of the relatively smaller and upper rollers 36 rides upon the hori-

zontally extending rail 26 of one of the L-shaped members 25 which are attached to, and which are carried by, the relatively large or so-called secretary's drawer 18, whereas each of the relatively larger and bottom rollers 38 projects downwardly through an opening or slot 29b which is formed in the bottom wall 29a of each of the slide members 29 and rides upon the horizontally extending lower flange or rail 39 of the corresponding one of the said stationary channel-shaped supporting rails 28, as is best shown in Figs. 7, 8, 9 and 14.

As shown in Fig. 14, each of the extension slide members 29 also has a relatively smaller guide roller 40 rotatably mounted thereon, adjacent the front thereof, and each of these guide rollers 40 rides against the bottom surface of the horizontally extending flange or runner 26 of the adjacent member 25 so as to facilitate movement of the slidable drawer 18 thereon. Similarly, as shown in Fig. 14, each of the slide members 29 has a relatively small guide roller 41 rotatably mounted thereon adjacent the upper rear portion thereof and each of these guide rollers 41 has a portion projecting through a slot 29e which is formed in the upper horizontal flange 29d of the slide member 29 so as to engage the bottom surface of the upper flange 28a of the corresponding stationary guide rail 28 and thus facilitate movement of the slidable drawer 18 thereover.

It will be noted by reference to the drawings, and particularly to Figs. 1 and 4, that the left-hand end section or drawer-receiving housing 12 has slidably mounted therein two of the medium sized or so-called file drawers 17 and one relatively large or so-called secretary's drawer 18, the two medium sized or so-called file drawers 17 being disposed above the larger or so-called secretary's drawer 18 which is shown as being arranged at the bottom of said end section or drawer-receiving housing 12. This arrangement or combination of drawers is rendered possible by reason of the fact that the two medium sized or so-called file drawers 17 are slidably mounted in said end section or drawer-receiving housing 12 by movement of the members or runners 23—24, which are attached thereto, upon and over two of the stationary guide rails 21—22.

It will be noted, in this connection, that the stationary guide rails 21—22 which are adapted to support the two so-called file drawers 17 are properly arranged or spaced vertically, and are aligned horizontally in the end section or drawer-receiving housing 12, and corresponding parts are similarly arranged in the end section or drawer-receiving housing 13, to enable the ready insertion and removal of the two file drawers 17 through the open front of the said end section or housing 12, or 13, in which they are mounted, and that the two file drawers 17 may be readily inserted into and removed from the said end section or drawer-receiving housing, 12 or 13, by sliding engagement of the members or runners 23—24 which are attached thereto with the corresponding and selected stationary guide rails 21—22.

It will also be noted, by reference particularly to Figs. 4 and 7 of the drawings, that the lower and relatively large or so-called secretary's drawer 18 is slidably supported in position of use in the end section or drawer-receiving housing 12, in which it is shown, and upon two of the stationary channel-shaped guide rails 28, by means of the rollers 36, 38, 40, 41 and associated parts, as explained hereinbefore.

It will further be noted, in this connection, that inasmuch as the relatively large or so-called secretary's drawer 18 is comparatively heavy, relative to the smaller card and file drawers 16 and 17, respectively, the said relatively large or secretary's drawer 18 is supported by rolling frictional contact or engagement of the lower rollers 38 upon the horizontal rails 39 of the stationary channel-shaped members 28, and by rolling frictional contact or engagement of the upper rollers 36 with and upon the horizontally extending flanges 26 of the members 25, as well as by cooperation of the guide rollers 40 and 41 with the parts 26 and 28a, respectively, as pointed out hereinbefore, rather than by sliding frictional engagement as are the smaller and lighter drawers 16 and 17.

Moreover, by reason of the fact that the relatively large and so-called secretary's drawer 18 is comparatively large and heavy, relative to the smaller and lighter drawers 16 and 17, one of the extension slide units 29—29—29c is associated therewith to permit or enable the outward extension of the relatively large or secretary's drawer 18 particularly when the latter is filled with relatively heavy articles such as record books or the like which are adapted to be kept therein, and this outward movement or extension of the secretary's drawer 18 is facilitated by movement of the extension slide unit 29—29—29c which is readily movable by reason of the arrangement of the rollers 36—38—40 and 41 and associated parts, as pointed out hereinbefore.

Hence, it will be seen that when outward movement is imparted to the relatively large or secretary's drawer 18, by manually grasping the handle thereof and pulling outwardly thereon, this movement acts, through the frictional engagement between the runners 26 and the rollers 36 and 38 to move the extension slide unit 29—29—29c with the relatively large or secretary's drawer 18, this outward movement of the extension slide unit 29—29—29c being limited by the engagement of the angled end portions 31 of the stop or latch members 32 against the end walls 30a of the slots 30, as best shown in Fig. 5.

Each of the extension slide units 29—29—29c may be inserted into and removed from the end section or drawer-receiving housing 12 or 13 in which it is arranged, so as to enable it and the relatively large or secretary's drawer 18 associated therewith to be shifted or to be inserted into or removed from the upper or lower half of one of the said end sections or drawer-receiving housings 12 and 13, or to be shifted from one of said end sections or drawer-receiving housings 12 and 13 to the other. Such insertion, removal and rearrangement may be effected by manually pressing upon the angled end portions 31 of the spring-urged latch or stop members 32, which are carried by the extension slides 29, so as to move the said angled end portions 31 of said latch or stop members 32 from the position in which one of said latch or stop members 32 is shown in full lines in Fig. 9 to the position in which the said latch or stop member 31—32 is shown in dotted lines in Fig. 9. This enables the said angled end portions 31 of the said spring-urged latch members 32 to be slid past the end walls 30a of the slots 30 (Figs. 5 and 11) and thus enables or permits the said extension slide unit 29—29—29c which is shown in the drawings, to be removed from the position in which it is shown in the lower portion of the said end section or

drawer-receiving housing 12 and shifted into position of use in the upper portion of the said end section or drawer-receiving housing 12 wherein it may be used with the upper pair of stationary guide rails 28—28 in the said end section 12, or from position of use with the said end section or drawer-receiving housing 12 into position of use with the other end section or drawer-receiving housing 13, as may be desired, and so as to effect a part of the novel interchangeability of desk drawers which is embodied in the present invention and which is referred to hereinafter.

As best shown in Figs. 4 and 10, each of the end sections or drawer-receiving housings, as 12 and 13, is provided with two pairs of the channel-shaped stationary guide rails 28 so that the relatively large or secretary's drawer 18 may be slidably arranged in either the upper half or the lower half of either of the said end sections or drawer-receiving housings 12 and 13, although, for most purposes, it may be desirable to employ the relatively large or secretary's drawer in the bottom or lower half portion of one of the said end sections or drawer-receiving housings since it is more readily accessible in this position and is in general more easily handled, particularly by reason of its weight, and especially when it is filled with relatively heavy articles such, for example, as record books and the like.

However, if and when desired, two of the relatively large or secretary's drawers 18 may be arranged in one of the end sections or drawer-receiving housings, 12 and 13, in place of one secretary's drawer 18 and two medium sized file drawers 17, as shown in Figs. 1 and 4, without requiring any alteration or change in construction, whatever, in said end section or drawer-receiving housing, or in the desk itself in which the said end section or drawer-receiving housing is embodied. This interchangeability merely requires that the two medium sized or file drawers 17 be slidably removed from the end section, as 13, in which they are arranged, and a second relatively large or secretary's drawer 18, and a second extension slide unit 29—29—29c be slidably inserted in the said end section 13 in place thereof and in association with the upper pair of stationary guide rails 28.

Hence, it will be seen that the new desk construction permits or enables the interchangeable or selective use of either one or two of the relatively large or secretary's drawers, as 18, to be employed in either (or both) of the end sections or drawer-receiving housings 12 and 13, (each in place of two file drawers 17 or in place of three card drawers 16), without requiring any change or alteration, whatever, in the mechanical construction of the said end sections or drawer-receiving housings 12 and 13 or in the said desk 11 itself in which they are embodied.

As pointed out hereinbefore, the two end sections or drawer-receiving housings, 12 and 13, are identical in construction and, by reference to the drawings, it will be noted that whereas one large or secretary's drawer 18 and two medium sized or relatively smaller file drawers 17 are slidably mounted in the left-hand end section or drawer-receiving housing 12, as seen in Fig. 1, six of the smallest or so-called card drawers 16 are slidably mounted in the right-hand end section or drawer-receiving housing 13, as seen in Fig. 1, and this interchangeability is made possible by reason of the novel construction and predetermined but unequal spacing of the aligned

pairs of horizontally extending stationary guide rails 21—22 together with, and in combination with, the novel arrangement and spacing of the slides or runners 23—24 which are carried by the drawers 16 and 17 and which slide upon the stationary guide rails 21—22, plus the novel arrangement and spacing of the stationary channel-shaped guide rails 28; the extension slides 29; in combination with the members 25—26; and associated parts.

It will thus be seen from the foregoing description, considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, that it is possible to employ in connection with each of the end sections or drawer-receiving housings, as 12 and 13; of the new desk 11, various permutations or combinations of slidable drawers of different sizes; two of such possible combinations being shown in the drawings, namely, six of the relatively small or so-called card drawers 16 in the right-hand end section or drawer-receiving housing 13 of the desk 11, as seen in Fig. 1, and two of the medium sized or so-called file drawers 17 and one relatively large or secretary's drawer in the left-hand end section 12, as seen in Fig. 1.

It will readily be understood and appreciated, however, that various other permutations and combinations of slidable desk drawers are possible, within the scope and contemplation of the present invention, and that such permutations or combinations may be made, and such interchangeability of the various types and sizes of drawers is possible, without requiring any change or alteration whatever, in the construction of the desk itself, or in the construction of either of the said end sections or drawer-receiving housings 12 and 13 embodied therein, and that the desired interchangeability is effected merely by removing one particular drawer, or combination of drawers, and substituting in place thereof another desired drawer or combinations of drawers.

A slightly modified form of the invention is shown in Fig. 3 of the drawings wherein the invention is shown as embodied in a desk of the so-called island type, which is generally indicated at 43, and comprises an end section or drawer-receiving housing 12a which may be made of any suitable material, but which is preferably metal, and which has a desk top 15a detachably mounted thereon. Only one end section, namely, a left end section 12a is shown in Fig. 3, since the other and right end section (not shown) is substantially identical thereto.

In this form of the invention each of the end sections or drawer-receiving housings 12a is preferably supported upon a plurality of substantially U-shaped tubular metal runners indicated at 44, which may be attached to each of the end sections 12a in any suitable manner, as by welding, so as to provide a desk of the so-called island type.

As shown in Fig. 3, the end section 12a includes a plurality of vertically extending supporting or corner posts 19a having aligned pairs of unequally spaced horizontally extending guide members 21a mounted therein and which are similar in construction to the guide members 21 which have been described hereinbefore in connection with the form of the invention which is shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 4 to 15, inclusive.

It will likewise be noted by reference to Fig. 3 that the end section 12a has three so-called file drawers 17a slidably mounted therein upon selected pairs of the guide rails 21a, each of the file drawers 17a being identical to the file drawers 17, and being provided with corresponding run-

ners 23a—24a which are adapted to slide upon selected pairs of the horizontal guide rails 21a.

It will likewise be seen by reference to Fig. 3 that the end section 12a is provided with a single pair of substantially channel-shaped horizontally extending guide rails 28a, which are similar to the guide rails 28 and which are arranged adjacent the bottom of the end of section 12a so as to cooperate with an extension slide unit such as that which is shown in Figs. 7, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 14, to slidably support a relatively large or secretary's drawer or the like in the bottom portion of each of the said end sections or drawer-receiving housings 12a and 13a, in place of two of the file drawers 17a which are shown as being mounted therein.

It will also be seen by reference to Fig. 3 that by reason of the fact that the desk 43 therein shown is of the island type, but is of standard desk height, preferably thirty (30'') inches, the capacity of each of the said end sections or drawer-receiving housings 12a and 13a is reduced by the vertical height or depth of one file drawer 17a so that, instead of having a capacity of four file drawers, or six card drawers, or two relatively large or secretary's drawers, as do each of the end sections or drawer-receiving housings 12 and 13 which are embodied in the other form of the desk shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 4 to 15, inclusive, of the drawings, end sections 12a in the desk which is embodied in the form of the invention shown in Fig. 3 has a capacity of only three file drawers 17a, or four card drawers 16 or one secretary's drawer, such as 18, and two card drawers or one secretary's drawer and one file drawer or various other possible combinations of such drawers. It will readily be appreciated that this loss of capacity in each of the end sections or drawer receiving housings 12a and 13a is due to the vertical space required for and taken up by the tubular island members or supporting feet 44 and which is equal to the vertical height or depth of one file drawer, such as 17a or two card drawers, such as 16.

Except as pointed out above, the desk 43 and the end sections 12a embodied therein are substantially similar in construction and use to the desk 11 and to the end sections 12 and 13 embodied therein in the other form of the invention which is shown in the drawings, and those parts in the form of the invention shown in Fig. 3 corresponding to similar parts in the other form of the invention shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 4 to 15, inclusive, have been given the same reference numerals followed by the letter "a."

It will be seen, therefore, from the foregoing description, considered in combination with the accompanying drawings, that the present invention affords a new and improved desk construction embodying two end sections or drawer-receiving housings in each of which various combinations of slidable drawers may be interchangeably arranged without requiring any change or alteration whatever in the construction of the desk itself, or in the construction of either of said end sections or drawer-receiving housings embodied therein, thus enabling distributors and dealers handling the new desk for the manufacturer thereof to satisfy the demands and requirements of various customers by keeping on hand a stock or supply of the end sections or drawer-receiving housings, desk tops, various styles and sizes of slidable drawers, and associated parts, which may be mounted in the new desk construction, so that the dealer may readily assemble a desk embodying the particular arrangement of drawers

desired by the customer and best suited to his needs, as and when desired.

It will also be appreciated, from the foregoing description, considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, that the interchangeability of the various slidable drawers, or combinations thereof, which is rendered possible in the use of the new desk construction, is not such interchangeability as might be effected by the manufacturer of a desk at a factory, that is, such as might be effected by tearing down and rebuilding a desk, but is an interchangeability built into the new desk by the manufacturer thereof to enable his distributors and dealers to assemble a desk embodying any desired combination or combinations of drawers best suited to a customer's needs and requirements, without shipping the new desk back to the manufacturer and without the necessity for making any change in the construction of the desk itself.

Hence, it will be seen from the foregoing description, considered in combination with the accompanying drawings, that the present invention accomplishes its intended objects, and has the desirable advantages, including those which have been specifically pointed out hereinbefore.

I claim:

1. An article of furniture comprising a drawer-receiving housing including spaced vertically extending parallel side walls, a pair of substantially channel-shaped horizontally extending guide members mounted in said drawer-receiving housing along the inner surfaces of said side walls, an extension slide unit including anti-friction rollers cooperable with said pair of substantially channel-shaped guide members for slidably supporting a relatively large and heavy drawer in said drawer-receiving housing, a pair of horizontally extending friction guide members mounted in said drawer-receiving housing along the inner surfaces of said side walls and below said pair of substantially channel-shaped guide members, each of said friction guide members including a main body portion for mounting the said friction guide member in position of use in said drawer-receiving housing and each of said friction guide members including a horizontally extending guiding flange, said pair of friction guide members being adapted to slidably support a relatively small and light drawer having a vertical depth or height substantially smaller than, and only a fraction of the vertical depth or height of, said relatively large and heavy drawer, and three additional pairs of said friction guide members mounted in said drawer-receiving housing along the inner surfaces of said side walls thereof and above the said

pair of substantially channel-shaped guide members, said three additional pairs of said friction guide members being spaced at substantially equal vertical distances from each other, all of said four pairs of friction guide members lying within a vertical distance or space in said drawer-receiving housing corresponding approximately to the vertical depth or height of said relatively large and heavy drawer, and the lowermost pair of said three additional pairs of said friction guide members being spaced at a greater vertical distance from said first named pair of friction guide members than it is from the next adjacent pair of said additional friction guide members lying immediately thereabove.

2. An article of furniture comprising a drawer-receiving housing including spaced vertically extending parallel side walls, a pair of substantially channel-shaped horizontally extending guide members mounted in said drawer-receiving housing along the inner surfaces of said side walls, an extension slide unit including anti-friction rollers cooperable with said pair of substantially channel-shaped guide members for slidably supporting a relatively large and heavy drawer in said drawer-receiving housing, a pair of horizontally extending friction guide members mounted in said drawer-receiving housing along the inner surfaces of said side walls and below said pair of substantially channel-shaped guide members, each of said friction guide members including a main body portion for mounting the said friction guide member in position of use in said drawer-receiving housing and each of said friction guide members including a horizontally extending guiding flange, said pair of friction guide members being adapted to slidably support a relatively small and light drawer having a vertical depth or height substantially smaller than, and only a fraction of the vertical depth or height of, said relatively large and heavy drawer, and at least three additional pairs of said friction guide members mounted in said drawer-receiving housing along the inner surfaces of said side walls thereof and above the said pair of substantially channel-shaped guide members, three of said additional pairs of said friction guide members being spaced at substantially equal vertical distances from each other, and the lowermost pair of said three additional pairs of said friction guide members being spaced at a greater vertical distance from said first named pair of friction guide members than it is from the next adjacent pair of said additional friction guide members lying immediately thereabove.

IRVING SALOMON.