Sept. 25, 1945. H. WESTON 2,385,593

ACCOUNTING AND FILING SYSTEM

Filed Jan. 3, 1942 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

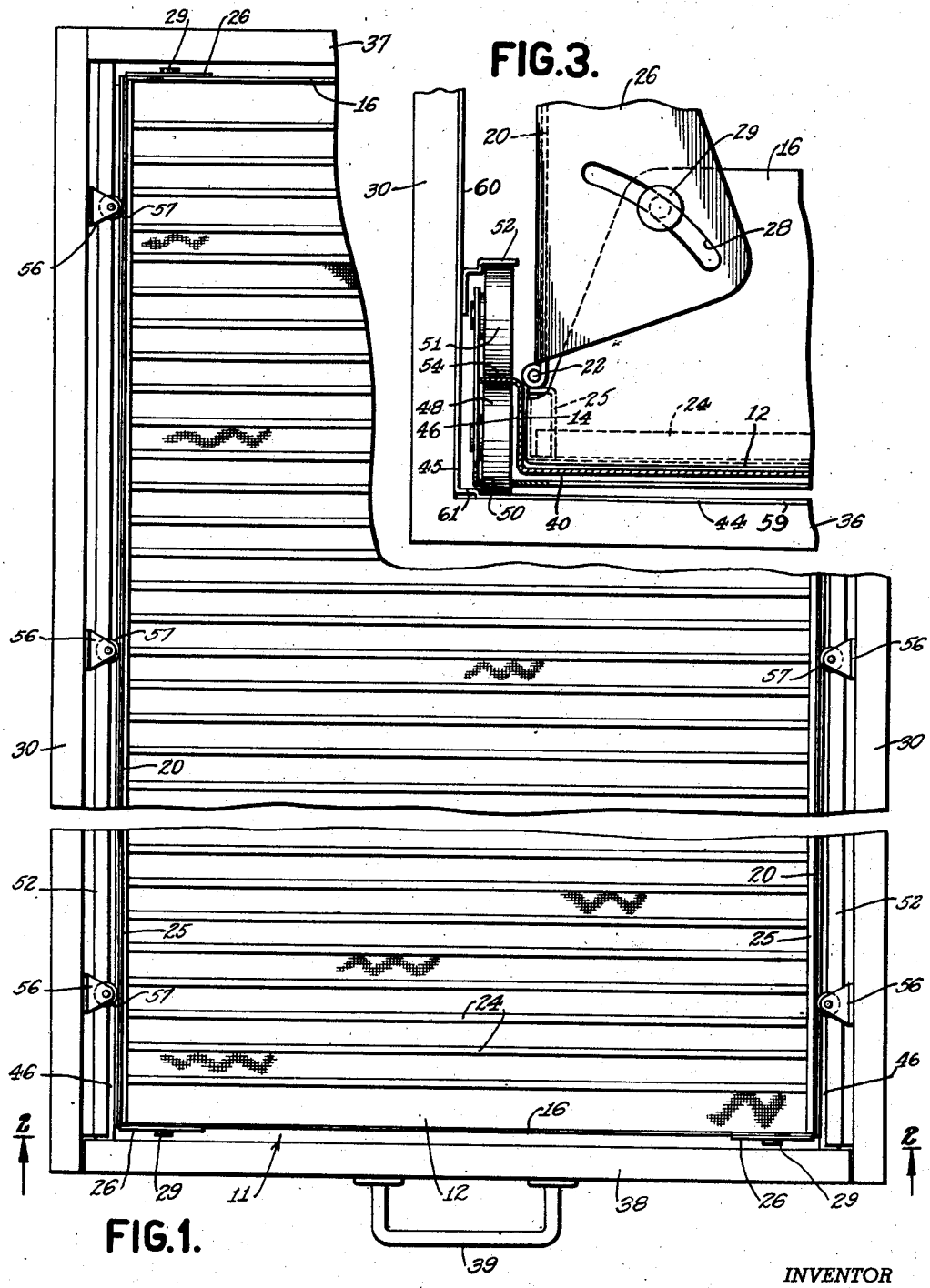


FIG.3.

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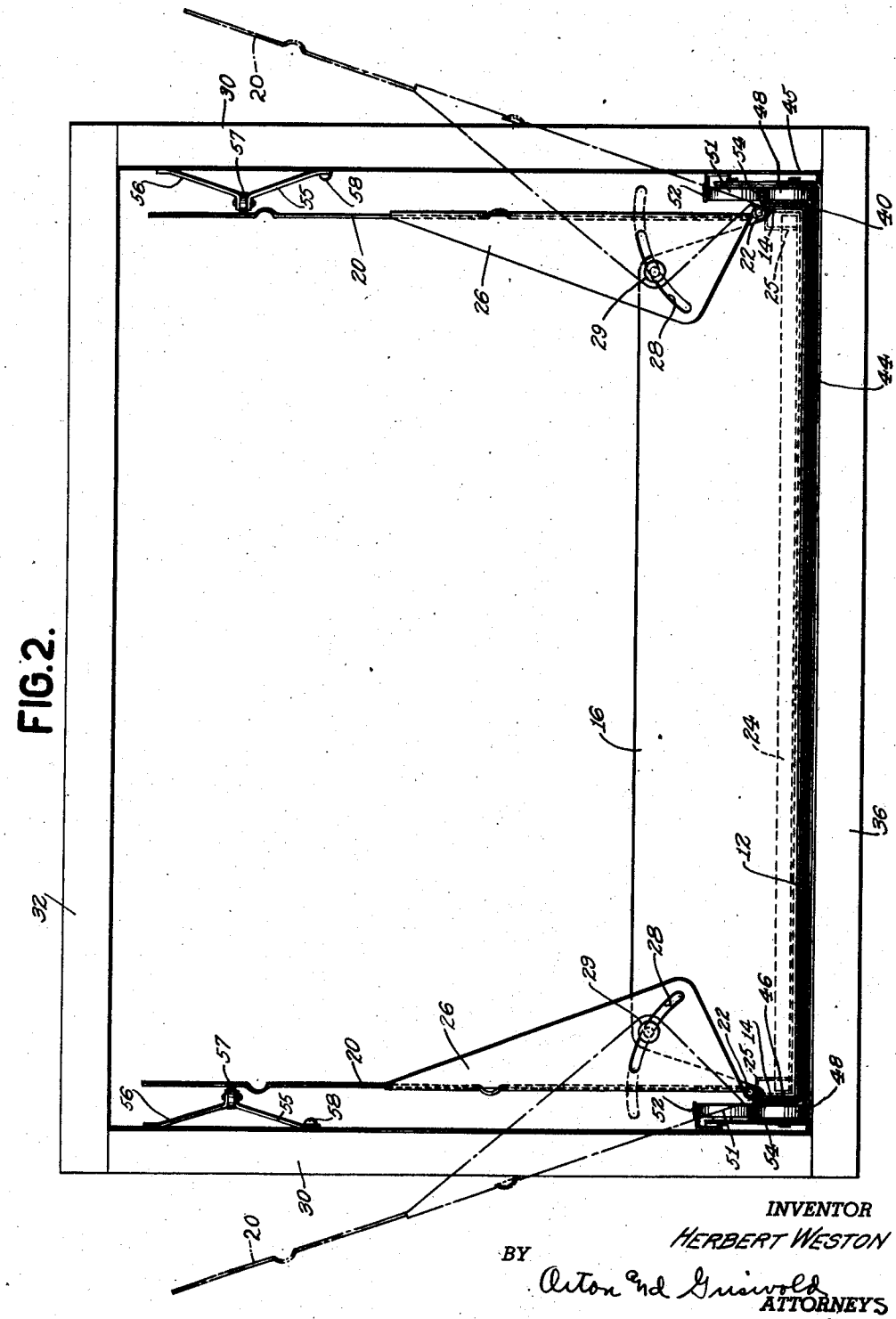


FIG. 2.

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ACCOUNTING AND FILING SYSTEM

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Application January 3, 1942, Serial No. 425,498

6 Claims. (Cl. 312—150)

This invention relates generally to card indexes or card registers of the kind in which the index cards or sheets have certain structural characteristics adapted to cooperate with portions of a container or holder for the cards to permit the positioning of the cards in relative offset relation whereby portions of all such cards will be visible. More particularly, the invention relates to containers for the cards whereby such cards may be readily arranged and handled. Accounting and filing systems of this general character are disclosed and claimed in United States Patents Number 1,713,945 granted May 21, 1929; Number 1,975,566 granted October 2, 1934; and Number 2,192,178 granted March 5, 1940.

It has been proposed to employ slotted or apertured cards cooperating with supporting or positioning ribs and the like whereby the cards may be offset either vertically or horizontally with respect to one another, and, in its simplest form, this arrangement involved slotting or perforating the cards or sheets along the lower edges thereof for horizontal offsetting as well as vertical offsetting.

Such cards have been contained within cabinets or drawers having inclined and adjustable backrests to support banks of the cards, individual banks being separated by adjustable or readily movable partitions or dividers.

It has also been proposed to provide readily portable racks or trays adapted to stand upon a table or desk and having movable side walls, the bottom of the tray being provided with positioning bars corresponding to the positioning members of a cabinet, but such proposals have, in the main, been in lieu of cabinets as a simple and more inexpensive container for the cards, and, except for a reduction in weight and size due to the smaller carrying capacity, they have afforded no advantages over the usual form of cabinet or container for the cards and have had the added disadvantage of collecting dust and dirt and occupying considerable space in storage on shelves.

One object of the invention is a portable carrier or tray for a plurality of index cards which has all of the advantages of the cabinet so far as visibility and accessibility of the cards are concerned, but which may be disposed in the drawer of, say, a filing cabinet in a compact arrangement while at the same time, when the drawer is opened, side wall portions of the portable tray are capable of angular displacement to afford inclined supporting surfaces for the cards in ready reading position.

The invention also has for an object a drawer for a portable tray from which it may be readily removed and conveniently replaced and in which the tray is accessible from either side of the drawer.

The invention also seeks constructions which are practical from the standpoint of ease and practicability of manufacture and convenience and durability in use.

These and other objects of the invention and the means for their attainment will be more apparent from the following detailed description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings illustrating one embodiment by which the invention may be realized and in which:

Figure 1 is a plan view showing a portable tray in a drawer according to this invention, the drawer being shown in closed position;

Figure 2 is a view in end elevation of the portable tray of Figure 1 in a drawer, the front of which has been removed; and

Figure 3 is a fragmentary view in front elevation showing details of construction.

The portable tray of this invention, indicated generally by the reference character 11 (Figure 1), comprises a rectangular base member having a bottom 12, integral side walls 14 and end members 16 which are of greater height than the side walls of the base member. Pivotally mounted upon the tray sidewalls 14 are movable side members 20. These side members 20 are pivotally mounted as by hinges 22 so that they may be swung outwardly at an angle. The side members 20 are also provided with inwardly directed flanges or wings 26 at their front and rear edges which are formed with arcuate slots 28, respectively, and the end members 16 are each provided with pins 29 passing through the respective slots 28 so that the sides may be moved from the full line position indicated in Figure 2 to the dotted line position shown in that figure.

The tray of the invention is illustrated in Figure 1 as provided on its bottom surface with transversely extending positioning bars 24 disposed in parallel relation and equally spaced across the bottom of the cabinet as, for instance, by positioning their ends in slots formed in longitudinally extending rectangular retaining members 25.

The cabinet in which the portable tray of this invention is housed when not in use may take the general form of a filing cabinet in which one drawer or a plurality of superimposed drawers may be housed. In the illustrated embodiment a cabinet for a single drawer is shown comprising

vertical side walls 30, top 32, a bottom 36 and an end wall 37 at the rear. A rectangular pan or clip is shown comprising the bottom 40, and tray engaging sides 46 to support the portable tray. On the front end of the clip 40, 46 is carried the front wall 38 provided with a handle 39 to facilitate manipulation and thus form the drawer. The drawer is conveniently of metal.

Any suitable form of cradle suspension for the clip may be provided whereby the drawers 38, 40, 46 may be withdrawn from the cabinet and suitably supported to permit access to the tray. As illustrated, a slide 44 is formed with sides 45 on which are pivoted rollers or wheels 48 which roll on the bottom 36. To this end the wheels 48 pass through slots 50 in the slide 44. Upper wheels 51 are also mounted on the sides 45 and are positioned by a track 52 on the side of the cabinet. The pan or clip 40 forming the drawer proper and supporting the removable tray 11 is formed with side flanges 54 which are positioned between the respective wheels 48, 51 to travel therebetween. Thus the drawer 44, 38 is readily moved in and out of the cabinet and is supported in its open position against tipping by the cradle suspension thus described.

When, therefore, the clip is grasped by the handle 39, it may be pulled outwardly of the cabinet as a drawer and the portable tray can then be lifted out of the clip and carried to any point where the contents of the tray are to be examined.

If desired, an inner metal lining may be provided for the cabinet as indicated at 59 along the bottom 36 and at 60 along the sides 30. If desired, the edge portions of the bottom lining may be upwardly offset as at 61 to define tracks or guides for the rollers 48 within the cabinet.

In order that the drawer with the tray therein may be returned without difficulty within the cabinet, provision is made for retaining the movable side walls 20 in a vertical position. To this end, leaf springs 55, 56 are mounted on the sides of the cabinet to support rollers 57 which are adapted to contact the movable walls 20 of the tray to yieldingly hold them in the vertical position shown in Figure 2. Preferably the lower leaf spring 55 is fixed in position as by the stud 58 while the end of the upper leaf spring 56 slides on the cabinet as will be understood.

The purpose and operation of the several features of the invention have been described in conjunction with the description of the structure of the several parts. Suffice it to say that card-index cabinets have been described and illustrated meeting every requirement of business.

Various modifications will occur to those skilled in the art in the composition, configuration and disposition of the component elements going to make up the invention as a whole as well as the selection and combination of particular features to satisfy specific situations and no limitation is intended by the phraseology of the foregoing description or illustrations in the annexed drawings except as indicated in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. In combination, a cabinet having sidewalls and a drawer slidable in the cabinet from a closed position between the sidewalls to an open position wherein the open sides of the drawer are exposed in front of the cabinet, said drawer having low sides, a removable tray on the drawer, said tray having side members mounted thereon for lateral displacement from normal inward positions to positions beyond the sides of the drawer, and yielding means secured on the sidewalls of the cabinet for yieldably pressing the side members of the tray toward their normal inward positions while the drawer is in its closed position within the cabinet, said side members of the tray being arranged to fall outwardly to their laterally displaced positions as the drawer is drawn out from the cabinet sufficiently to disengage the side members of the tray from said yielding means.

2. In combination, a cabinet having sidewalls and a drawer slidably mounted in the cabinet between said sidewalls, said drawer having low sides, a removable tray in the drawer, said tray having side members mounted on the sides of the tray for lateral displacement from normal inward positions substantially aligned with the sides of the tray to positions laterally outwardly of the sides of the tray, and yielding means secured on the sidewalls of the cabinet and arranged to engage the outer surfaces of said side members on the tray while the drawer is in closed position in the cabinet and yieldably hold said side members in their normal inward positions, said tray side members being arranged to fall to their laterally outwardly displaced positions as the drawer is moved sufficiently out of the cabinet to disengage the tray side members from said yielding means.

3. In combination, a cabinet having sidewalls and a drawer slidably mounted in the cabinet between said sidewalls, said drawer having low sides, a removable tray in the drawer, said tray having side members mounted on the sides of the tray for lateral displacement from normal inward positions substantially aligned with the sides of the tray to positions laterally outward thereof, and resiliently mounted roller means secured on the cabinet sidewalls and arranged to yieldably press the tray side members inwardly to their normal positions as the drawer is closed, said tray side members being arranged to fall to their laterally outwardly displaced positions as the drawer is moved sufficiently out of the cabinet to disengage the tray side members from said roller means.

4. The combination, as recited by claim 3, wherein each of said resiliently mounted roller means comprises a roller, and leaf spring means fastened to the cabinet sidewall and carrying the roller in laterally inwardly spaced relation to the cabinet sidewall.

5. The combination, as recited by claim 3, wherein each of said resiliently mounted roller means comprises a roller, and bowed leaf spring means having one end fastened to the cabinet sidewall and the other end in free sliding engagement with the cabinet sidewall, with said roller means carried intermediate the ends of the leaf spring.

6. The combination with a cabinet having sidewalls and a drawer slidably mounted between the sidewalls, of a tray removably supported on the drawer, said tray having side members pivotally mounted on the sidewalls of the tray, and resilient means on the cabinet sidewalls arranged to engage the pivoted side members on the tray so as to press said side members laterally inwardly toward their normal inward positions within the cabinet sidewalls in the closed position of the drawer, said tray side members being arranged to pivot gravitationally outwardly as the drawer is moved open sufficiently to disengage said tray side members from said resilient means.

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