

Dec. 31, 1940.

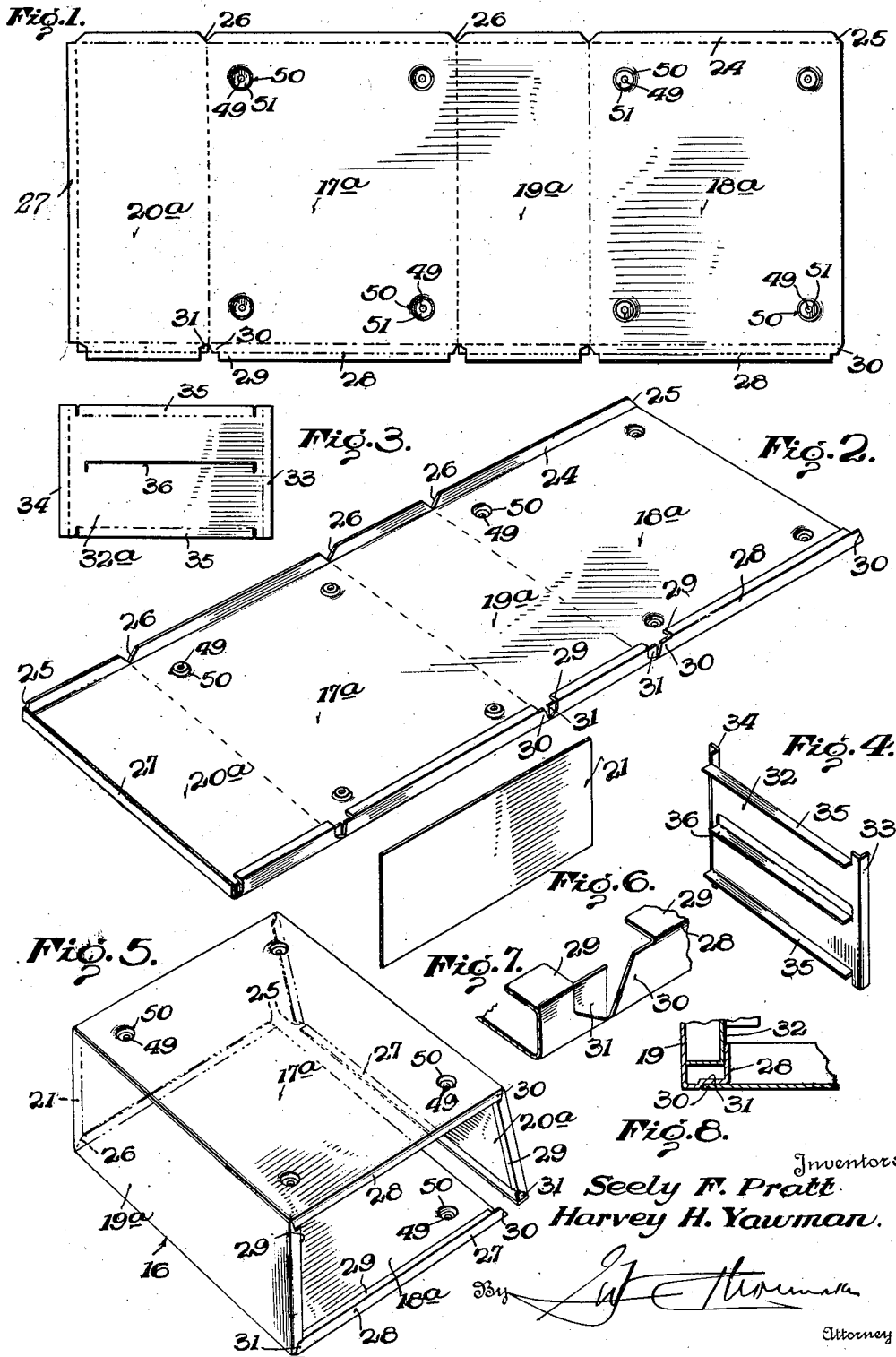
S. F. PRATT ET AL

2,226,670

CABINET

Filed Dec. 8, 1938

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



Dec. 31, 1940.

S. F. PRATT ET AL

2,226,670

CABINET

Filed Dec. 8, 1938

2 Sheets-Sheet 2

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,226,670

CABINET

Seely F. Pratt and Harvey H. Yawman, Le Roy,
N. Y., assignors to Union Steel Chest Corpora-
tion, Le Roy, N. Y., a corporation of New York

Application December 8, 1938, Serial No. 244,705

3 Claims. (Cl. 312-141)

The present invention relates generally to cabi-
nets and more particularly to a sheet metal drawer
cabinet for general utility purposes and adapted
to a wide variety of domestic, office and factory
uses, and the invention has for its primary object
the provision of certain novel features involving
the construction, arrangement and correlation of
parts with certain advantageous results including
minimization of the number of parts so as to
facilitate their assembly and the promotion of
maximum strength and durability at a minimum
cost.

The invention is, in the main, directed to a type
of cabinet capable of effective manufacture in
small two-drawer units, with provision for their
ready and effective connection in any desired mul-
tiple in stacks, in which the number of units may,
of course, vary in accordance with the demands of
use. It is not, however, to be understood as limited
to such unit manufacture, since many of the
structural features readily adapt the invention to
use in connection with cabinets of larger size and
greater drawer capacity as the practical require-
ments of use may dictate.

With the above and other objects in view, the
invention consists in the construction and novel
combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter
fully described, illustrated in the accompanying
drawings and pointed out in the claims hereto ap-
ended, it being understood that various changes
in the form, proportions and minor details of con-
struction, within the scope of the claims, may be
resorted to without departing from the spirit or
sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

In the accompanying drawings which illustrate
the various features of the present invention and
form a part of this specification,

Figure 1 is a top plan view of the blank of the
body of the case as initially formed.

Figure 2 is a perspective view thereof showing
the blank with its initially upset flanges.

Figure 3 is a plan view of the blank of one of
the internal wall braces of the case.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of one of these
internal wall braces bent to its final form.

Figure 5 is a perspective view showing the upset
blank of Figure 2 bent along transverse lines to
form the case body.

Figure 6 is a perspective view of the rear wall.

Figure 7 is an enlarged fragmentary perspective
view showing one of the front corner joints of the
case body.

Figure 8 is a detail sectional view through one
of the front corner joints of the case as finally
formed.

Figure 9 is a horizontal sectional view taken
through the complete cabinet in a plane slightly
above the upper drawer.

Figure 10 is a transverse vertical sectional view
therethrough.

Figure 11 is a vertical longitudinal section taken
therethrough.

Figure 12 is a detail section through a portion of
one of the drawers, taken on line 12-12 of Figure
11.

Figure 13 is a fragmentary perspective view of a
portion of one of the drawers, on an enlarged scale
showing the division plate holding means.

Figure 14 is a perspective view of the complete
cabinet with the drawers partially withdrawn.

Figure 15 is a top plan view of the blank of one
of the drawers.

Referring now to these figures and, in the first
instance, to Figure 14, the rectangular case of the
improved cabinet, as generally indicated at 16, is
shown as including a top 17, a bottom 18, side walls
19 and 20 and a rear wall 21, the latter of which
is better seen in Figure 9, together forming an
open front through which the drawers 22 and 23
are slidable into and out of the case.

According to the present invention, the top, bot-
tom and side walls of the case, constituting the
body thereof, are formed as integral parts of a
blank, plainly shown as it is initially cut out in
Figure 1, with cut-out longitudinal side edges gen-
erally mapping out in the blank rectangular sec-
tions 17^a, 18^a, 19^a, and 20^a, respectively correspond-
ing to the top 17, bottom 18 and side walls 19 and
20 of the completed body.

As shown in Figure 2, the blank is upset along
its two longitudinal edges and one end so that
there is formed along what may be defined as
the rear edge of the blank an upstanding flange
24, the opposite ends of which are beveled as at
25, and the intermediate portions of which are
provided with V-shaped notches 26 between the
several sections thereof, resulting in edges beveled
like the end edges 25, so that, when the blank is
bent along transverse lines between its several
sections to form the case body as shown in Figure
5, these beveled edges will come into edgewise
abutting relation at the corners of the rear end
of the body. Thus at the rear end of the body
there is completed a surrounding inturned flange
with plain mitered abutting joints at the corners,
to facilitate reception of the rear wall 21, which
in this instance is a plain flat rectangular section
of the metal adapted to be placed against the inner
surface of the rear flange of the case body, to
which its edge portions may be securely fastened

at spaced points therearound as by means of spot welding.

The upset blank shown in Figure 2 is also provided at one end with an upstanding end flange 27, which, when the blank is bent between its sections to form the case body shown in Figure 5, may overlap the adjacent free edge of the bottom wall 18, to which it may be securely fastened as by means of spot welding.

The upset blank of Figure 2 is, in addition to the foregoing, provided with a rightangular upwardly and inwardly deflected flange 28 along its forward edge, this flange being cut away at its ends and at points between the several sections of the blank to provide the inturned portion of the flange with rightangular abutting edges 29 and the upstanding portion of the flange with overlapping portions 30 and underlapping portions 31, the several underlapping portions 31 being offset inwardly a distance corresponding to the thickness of the metal, so that, when the body of the case is bent to ultimate form as shown in Figure 5, the flange 28 as a whole will constitute a boxed rib surrounding the open front of the case, with the cut-away edge portions 29 thereof in meeting or abutting relation and the cut-away edge portions 30 and 31 in overlapping relation, in which the edge portions 30, corresponding in contour to the offset area of the portions 31, will precisely interfit and seat within such offsets so as to complete overlapping joints at the front corners of the box, which are at the same time flush or even with the adjacent surfaces of the cabinet front. The overlapping of these parts 30 and 31 provide for secure connection of the corner joints at the front of the case by means of spot welding of the overlapped portions.

The cabinet case as thus-formed is reinforced by internal vertically disposed side braces, and each of these braces, one of which is seen in detail in Figure 4, consists of a single rectangular sheet of metal cut out according to the blank of Figure 3, the upright side edges of this blank 31^a being subsequently bent to form an angular flange 33 at one edge and an L-shaped flange 34 at its opposite edge.

Each wall brace plate 32 is placed in upright position along and spaced from the inner surface of one of the side walls 19 and 20 of the cabinet case, with its flanged side edge 33 extending forwardly within the front flange 28 or hollow rib of the cabinet body, so that the inturned portion of the body flange 28 will be effectively reinforced, the outwardly projecting flange 33 extending into edgewise contact with the side wall, as plainly seen in Figure 7.

The two wall braces 32 are, of course, reversible for the foregoing purpose, and each thereof extends along its respective side wall of the cabinet for a portion of the depth of the cabinet only, and with its rear flange 34 lying flatwise against the inner surface of the cabinet side wall so as to provide for a spot-welded or other desirable connection between this flange and the side wall.

Between the forward and rear flange portions 33 and 34 thereof, each sidewall brace is cut away vertically to provide for upper and lower inturned flanges 35 and the intermediate inwardly upset flanges 36, the latter being centrally between the upper and lower flanges 35 so that these several flanges define between them drawer receiving spaces, the flanges themselves constituting drawer guides.

The drawers 22 and 23 are each preferably

formed from a blank 37 as shown in Figure 15, cut out with extending side and end portions which, when bent upwardly at right angles to the body portion, constitute the front wall 38 of the drawer, its rear wall 39 and its side walls 40 and 41, of which the front wall 38 preferably has a centrally located portion outwardly offset along a curved line to form an integral drawer pull or handle 42.

Preferably also, the side walls 40 and 41 have at their opposite ends extending flanges 43 which, in the finished form of the drawer, are disposed angularly to overlap portions of the sides of the front and rear walls 38 and 39, the latter being formed with conformable indented portions 44 offset a distance equal to the thickness of the metal so that angular flaps 43 just above mentioned may enter the conformable depressions of the front and rear walls 38 and 39, and in this way not only provide for a better connection of the walls of the drawers by spot welding or otherwise connecting the flaps 43 in their overlapped positions, but create a drawer, the front wall of which presents an attractive appearance with a generally flush even front surface.

Each drawer is also preferably provided in its front wall 38 below its drawer pull 42 with a series of struck-up lips 45 located at the four corners of a rectangular area for the convenient engagement of the corners of a card, so as to hold the card flatwise against the front wall of the drawer for various purposes in identifying the contents of the particular drawer.

Each drawer is furthermore provided at equidistantly spaced points along its several walls with inwardly offset vertical ribs 46 arranged in parallel relation in pairs, and a single horizontal inwardly offset rib 47 above each pair of vertical ribs. This arrangement provides for detachable engagement with the upright walls of the drawers of the ends of division plates 48, the ends of the plates being received between the upright parallel ribs 46, below and confined against vertical displacement by the horizontal ribs 47. These division plates are of the well-known type having interengaging slitted portions where they cross one another, and they may or may not be used in either of the drawers or used in only one drawer as use may dictate, the provision made for their reception affording a considerable range in their location and in the resulting compartments within the drawers formed thereby.

In order that the units may be utilized in multiple in stacks, the top 17 and bottom 18 of the case are provided with similarly depressed circular areas at 49, at spaced points which are in true vertical alignment so that the top 17 has a series of depressions and the bottom 18 has a series of depending bosses or feet 50 in vertical alignment with depressions 49 to thus enter the top depressions of the next lowermost unit of a stack. Preferably, the bases of the depressed areas 49 are provided with central apertures 51 to receive through the interseated bosses and depressions short connecting bolts, if it is desired to rapidly unite the several units of a stack of units.

What is claimed is:

1. A drawer cabinet including top, bottom and side walls and having an open front, said cabinet being formed of sheet material and having the forward edges of the top, bottom and side walls turned inwardly and rearwardly to provide a substantially continuous rearwardly extending flange spaced from said top, bottom and side walls and extending around the open front of the cabinet,

and a pair of combined top and side wall braces and drawer guide members consisting of bracing walls within the cabinet at opposite sides thereof extending rearwardly from said open front along the major portions of the cabinet side walls, said members being of identical construction and applicable in reversed relation to the opposite sides of the cabinet, each member having a lateral flange along its front vertical edge in parallelism with an inturned portion of the side walls behind the rearwardly extending flange of the latter, said lateral flange serving to maintain the forward portion of its respective member spaced from the side wall of the cabinet, an outwardly offset flange along its rear vertical edge secured to the inner surface of the cabinet side wall, said lateral flanges projecting above and below the upper and lower edges of the member and into bracing contact at the upper and lower ends thereof with the top and bottom walls of the cabinet, a plurality of inwardly struck flanges formed on each member and extending in parallelism horizontally including upper and lower flanges substantially at the level of the rearwardly extending flange portions of the top and bottom walls respectively, and a medial flange between said top and bottom flanges, said top, bottom and medial flanges providing drawer guides and supports for the cabinet.

2. A drawer cabinet including top, bottom and side walls, and having an open front, said cabinet being formed of sheet material and having the forward edges of the top, bottom and side walls turned inwardly and rearwardly to provide a substantially continuous rearwardly extending flange spaced from said top, bottom and side walls, and extending around the open front of the cabinet, and a pair of combined top and side wall braces and drawer guide members comprising bracing walls within the cabinet at opposite sides thereof extending rearwardly from said open front along the major portions of the cabinet side walls, said members being applicable in reversed relation to the opposite sides of the cabinet, each member having a lateral flange along its front vertical edge, the upper and lower ends of said lateral flange extending into bracing contact with the top and bottom walls of the cabinet, said lateral flange serving to maintain the forward portion of its respective member spaced from the side wall

of the cabinet, an outwardly offset flange along the rear vertical edge of the drawer guide member secured to the inner surface of the cabinet side wall, a plurality of flanges providing drawer guides and supports extending inwardly and substantially horizontally from each of said members, said flanges including upper and lower flanges substantially at the level of said rearwardly extending flange portion of the top and bottom walls respectively, and at least one medial flange between said top and bottom flanges.

3. A drawer cabinet including top, bottom and side walls and having an open front, said cabinet being formed of sheet material and having the forward edges of the top, bottom and side walls turned inwardly and rearwardly to provide a substantially continuous rearwardly extending flange spaced from said top, bottom and side walls and extending around the open front of the cabinet, and a pair of combined top and side wall braces and drawer guide members consisting of bracing walls within the cabinet at opposite sides thereof extending rearwardly from said open front along the major portions of the cabinet side walls, said members being applicable in reversed relation to the opposite sides of the cabinet, each member having a lateral flange along its front vertical edge in parallelism with an inturned portion of the side walls behind the rearwardly extending flange of the latter, said lateral flange serving to maintain the forward portion of its respective member spaced from the side wall of the cabinet, an outwardly offset flange along its rear vertical edge secured to the inner surface of the cabinet side wall, said lateral flanges and outwardly offset flanges each projecting above and below the upper and lower edges of the member and into bracing contact at the upper and lower ends thereof with the top and bottom walls of the cabinet, a plurality of inwardly struck flanges formed on each member and extending in parallelism horizontally including upper and lower flanges substantially at the level of the rearwardly extending flange portions of the top and bottom walls respectively, and a medial flange between said top and bottom flanges, said top, bottom and medial flanges providing drawer guides and supports for the cabinet.

SEELY F. PRATT.

HARVEY H. YAWMAN.

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION.

Patent No. 2,226,670.

December 31, 1940.

SEELY F. PRATT, ET AL.

It is hereby certified that error appears in the printed specification of the above numbered patent requiring correction as follows: Page 3, first column, line 33, claim 2, for the word "prove" read --provide--; 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 28th day of January, A. D. 1941.

(Seal)

Henry Van Arsdale,
Acting Commissioner of Patents.