March 22, 1966 E. F. HAMILTON ETAL 3,241,900

ARTICLE OF FURNITURE

Original Filed Oct. 30, 1962 11 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

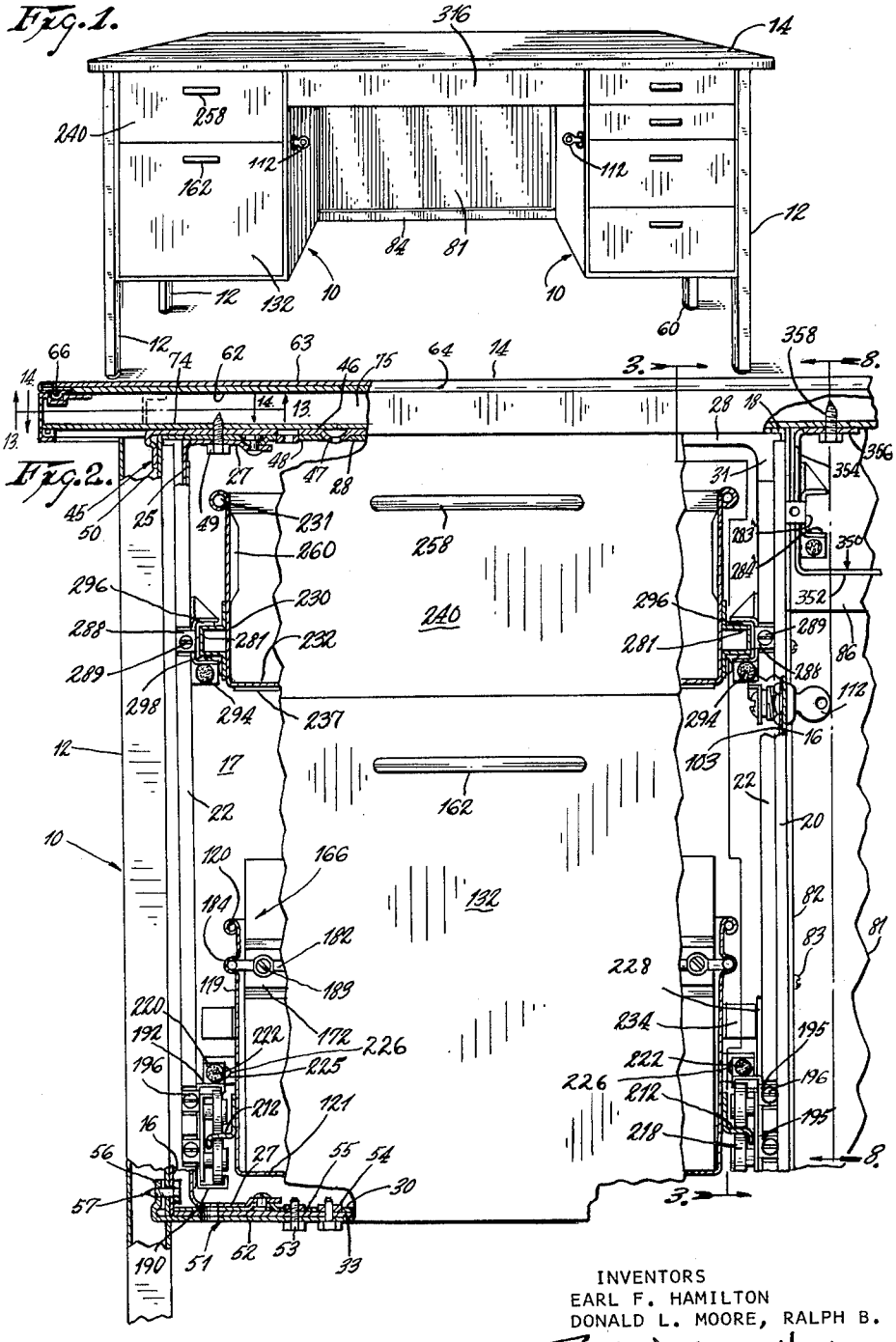


Fig. 2.

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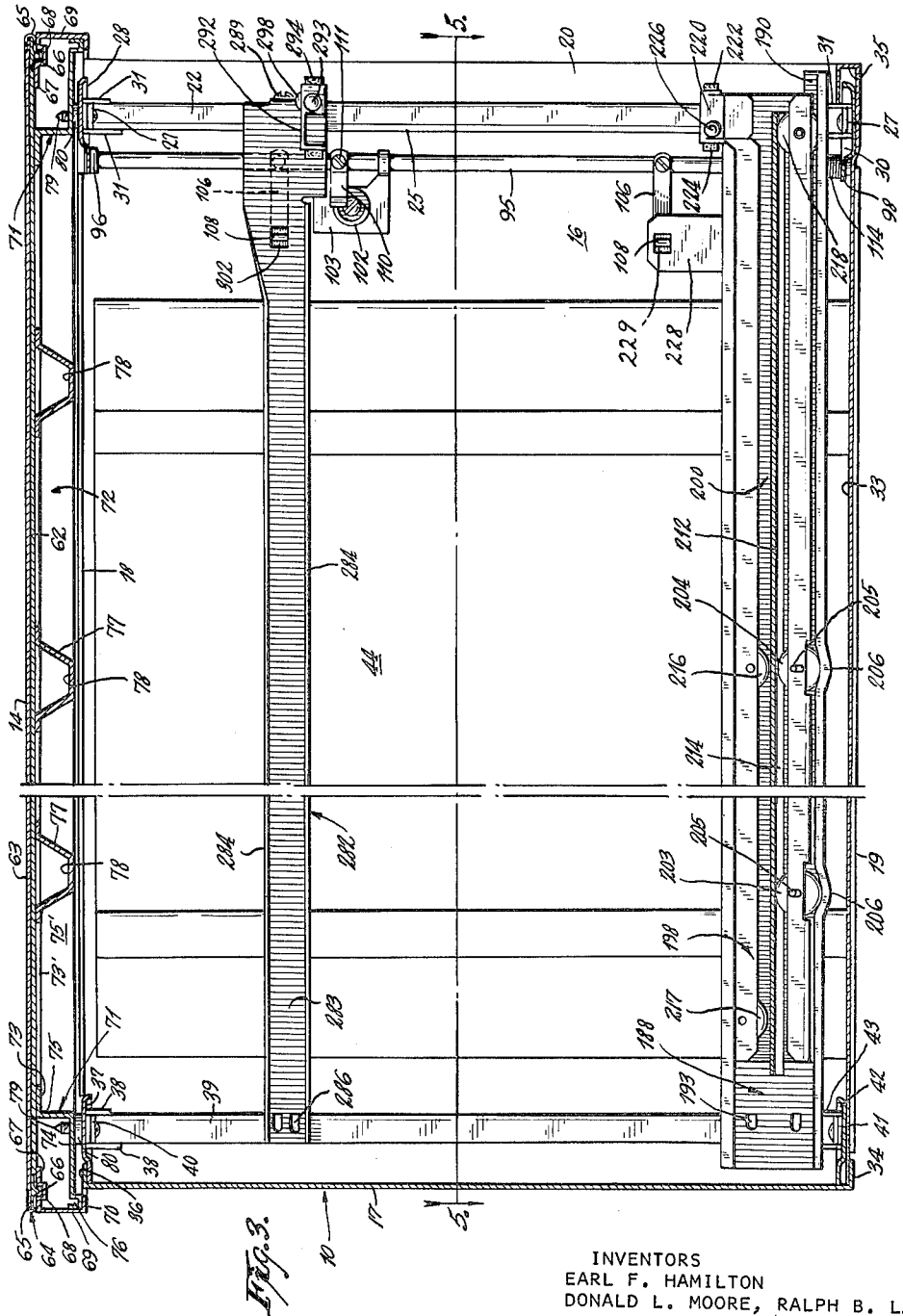


Fig. 3.

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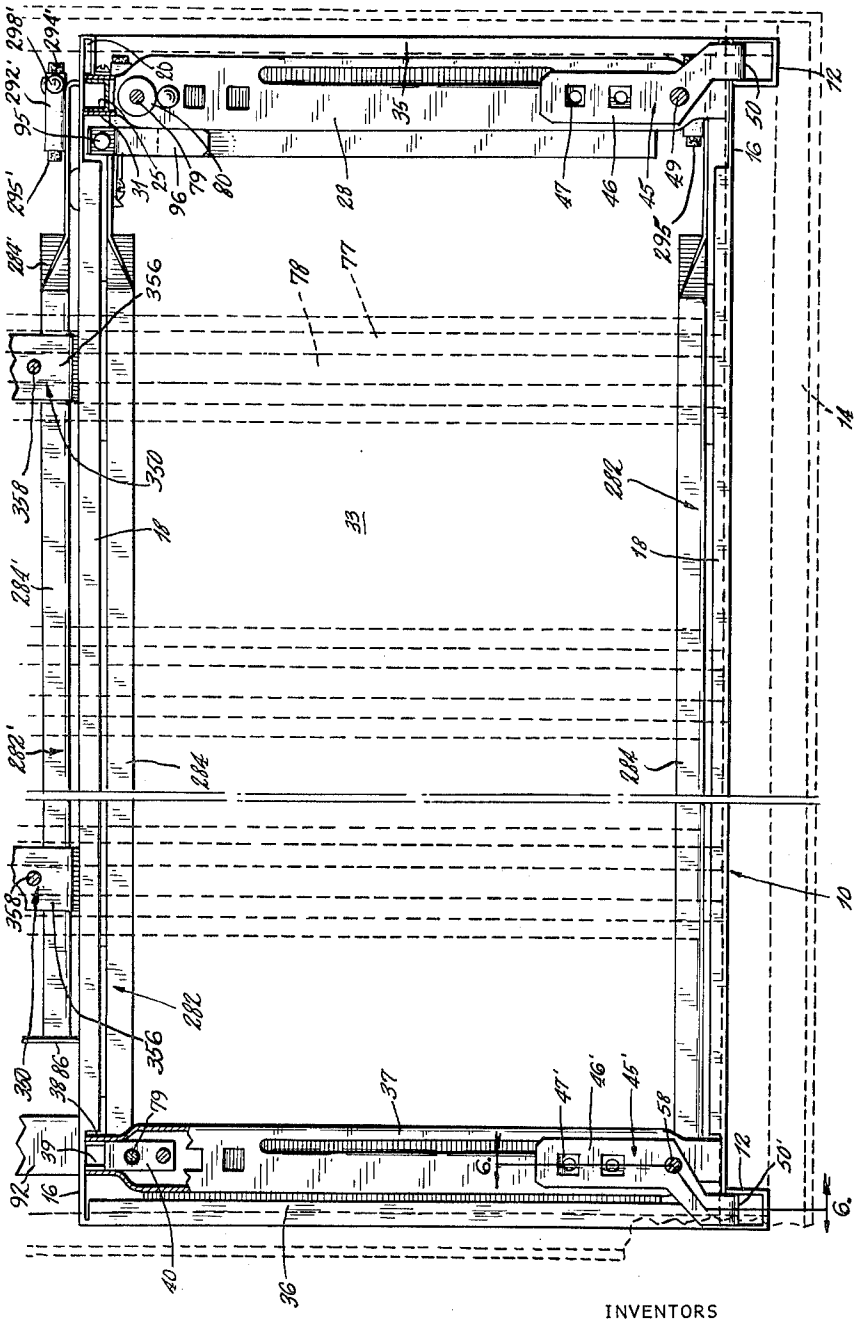


Fig. 4.

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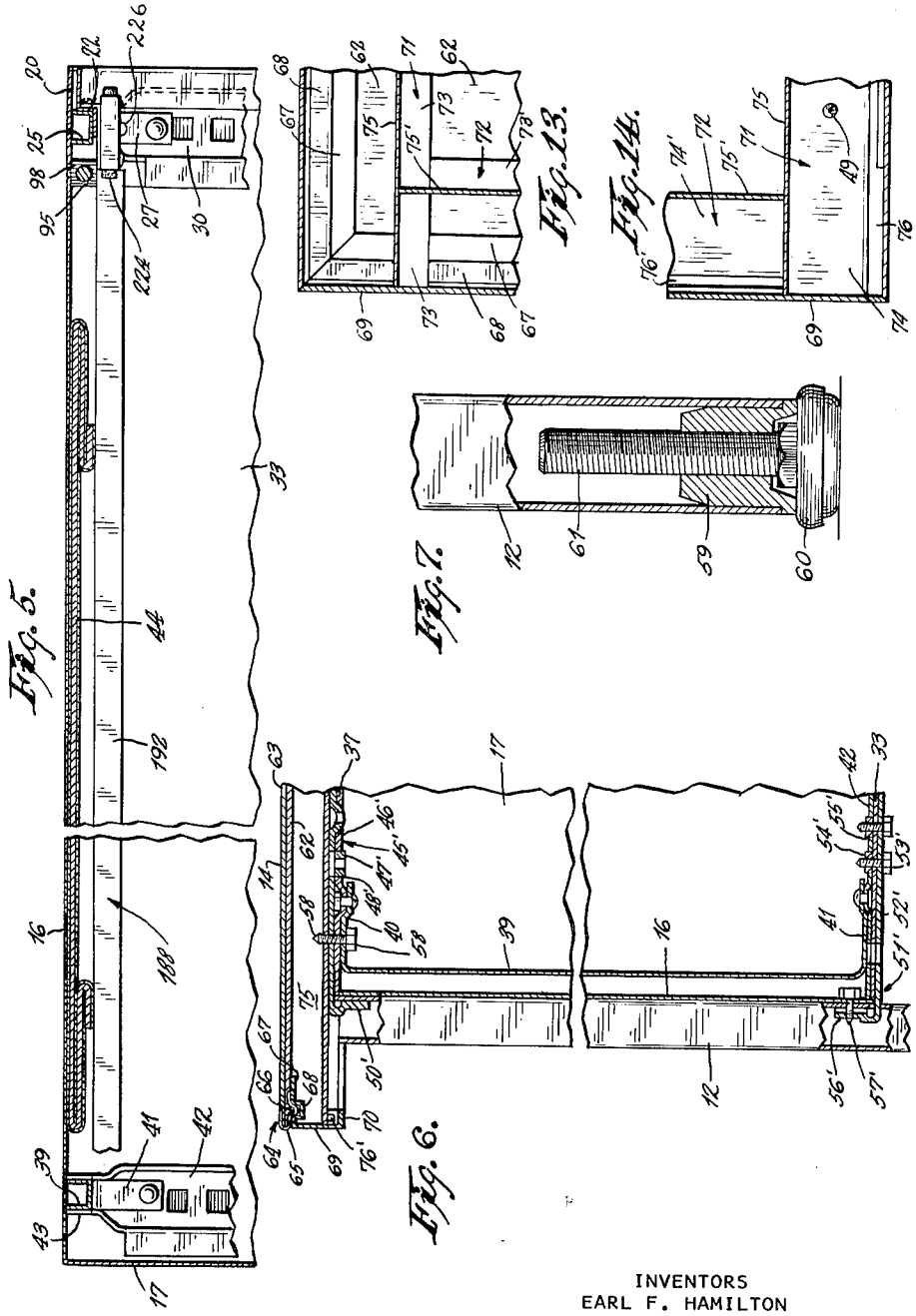


Fig. 5.

Fig. 13.

Fig. 14.

Fig. 7.

Fig. 6.

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Fig. 8.

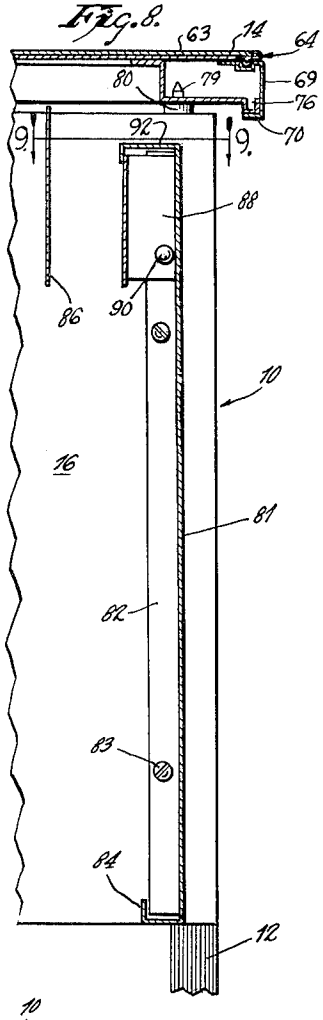


Fig. 10.

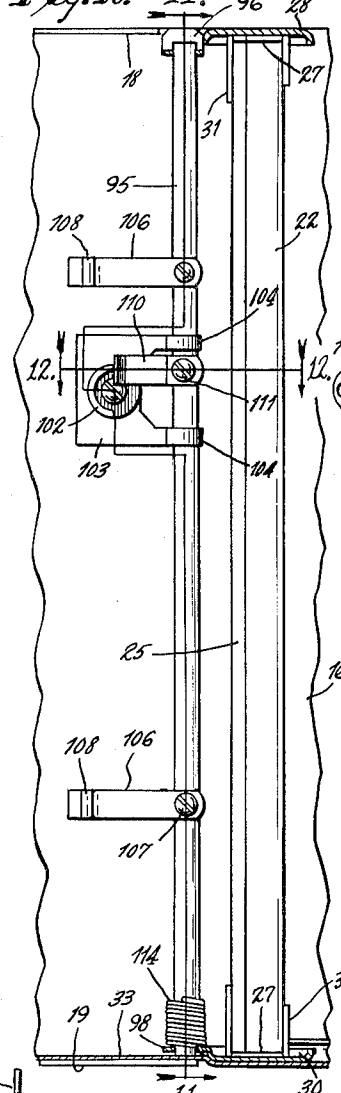
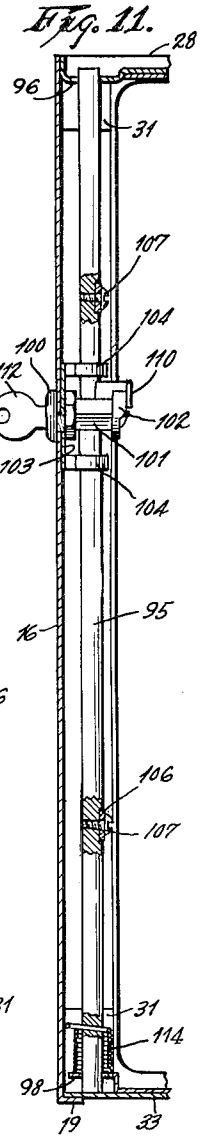


Fig. 11.



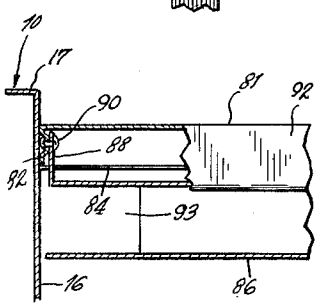


Fig. 9.

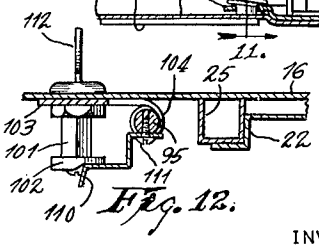


Fig. 12.

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Fig. 15.

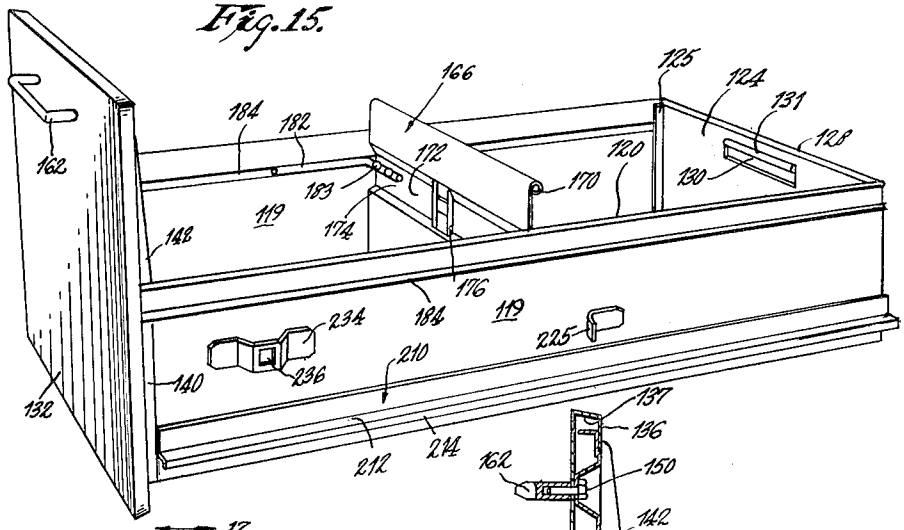


Fig. 16.

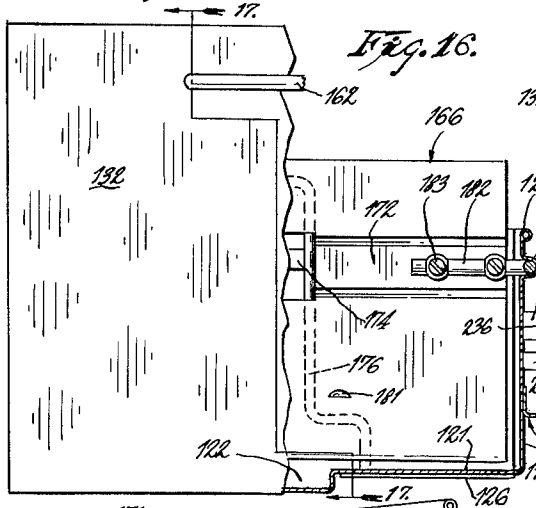


Fig. 17.

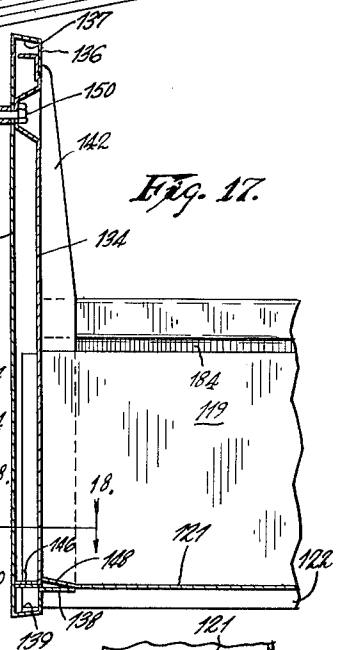


Fig. 18.

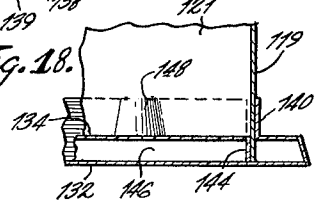
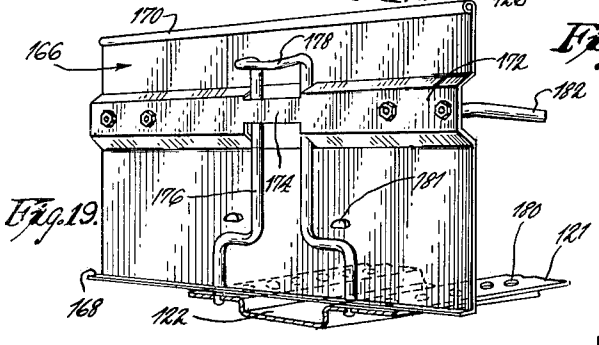


Fig. 19.



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Fig. 20.

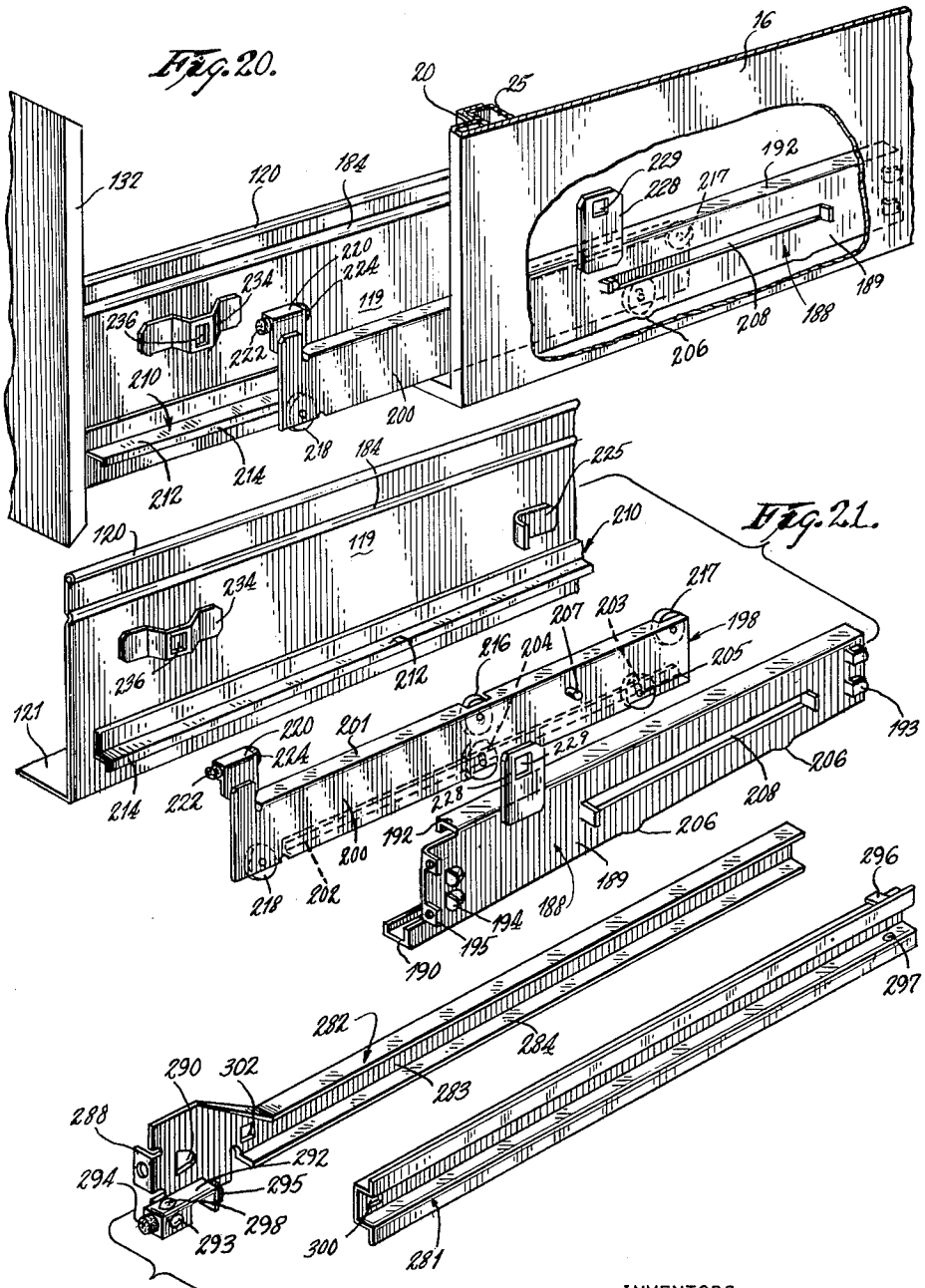


Fig. 21.

Fig. 36.

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Fig. 22.

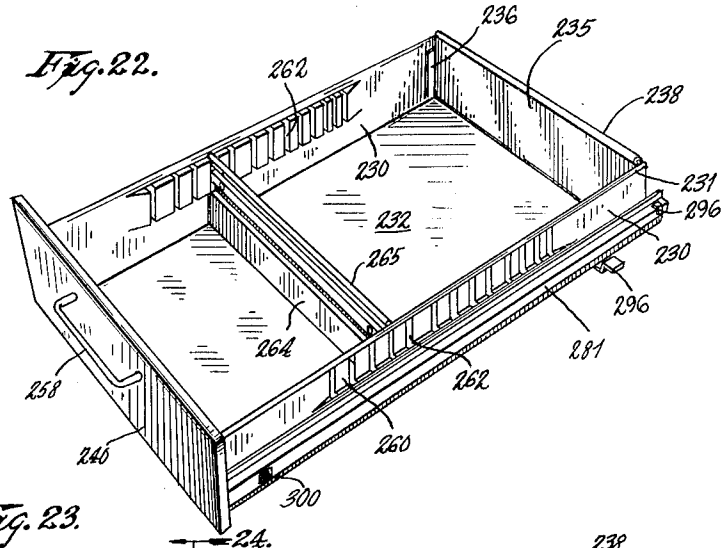
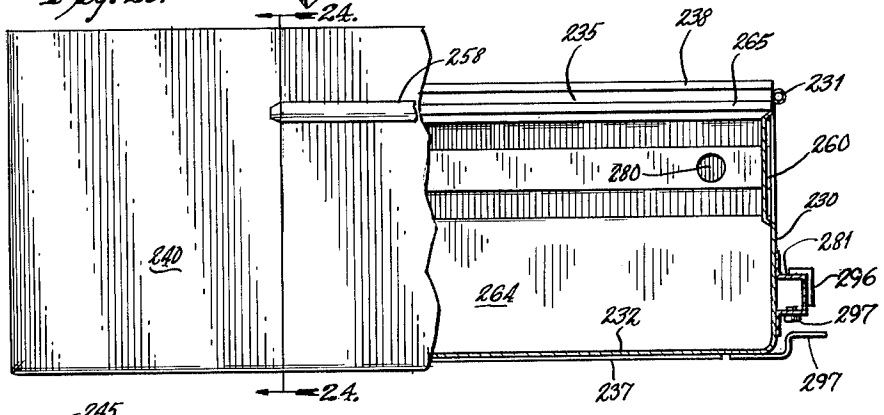


Fig. 23.



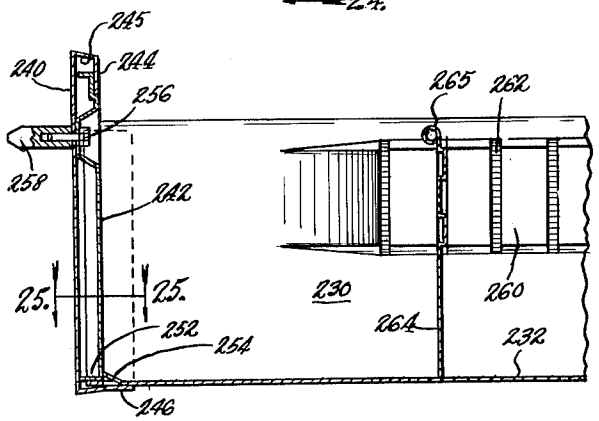


Fig. 24.

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Fig. 26.

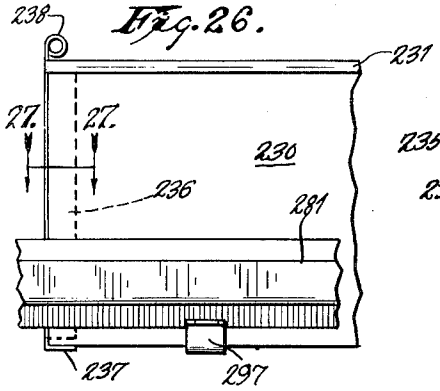


Fig. 27.

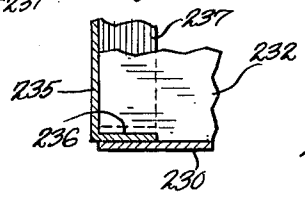


Fig. 25.

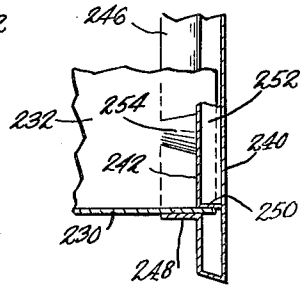


Fig. 28.

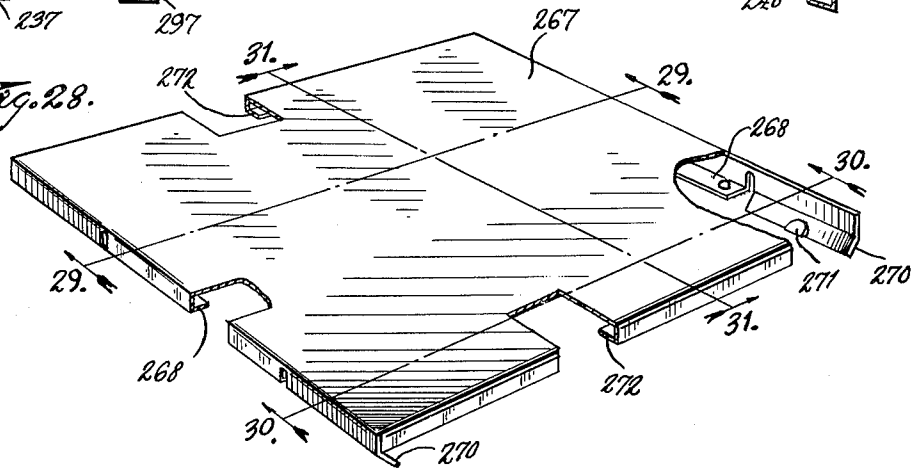
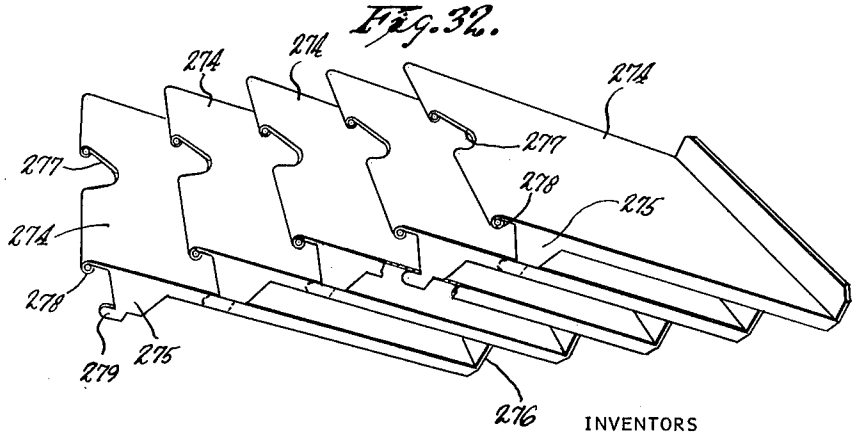


Fig. 32.



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Fig. 29.

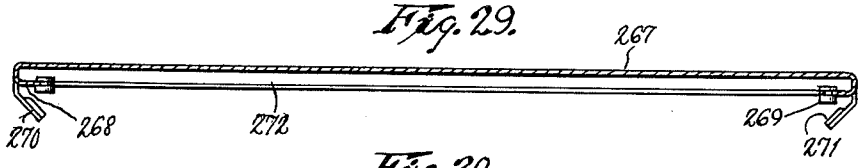


Fig. 30.

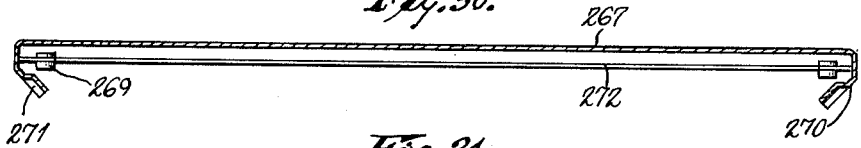


Fig. 31.

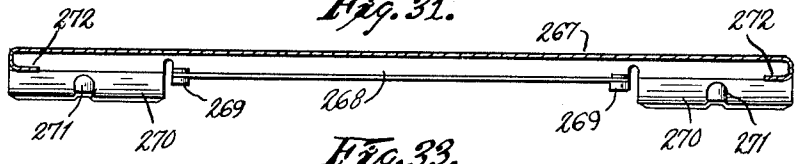


Fig. 33.

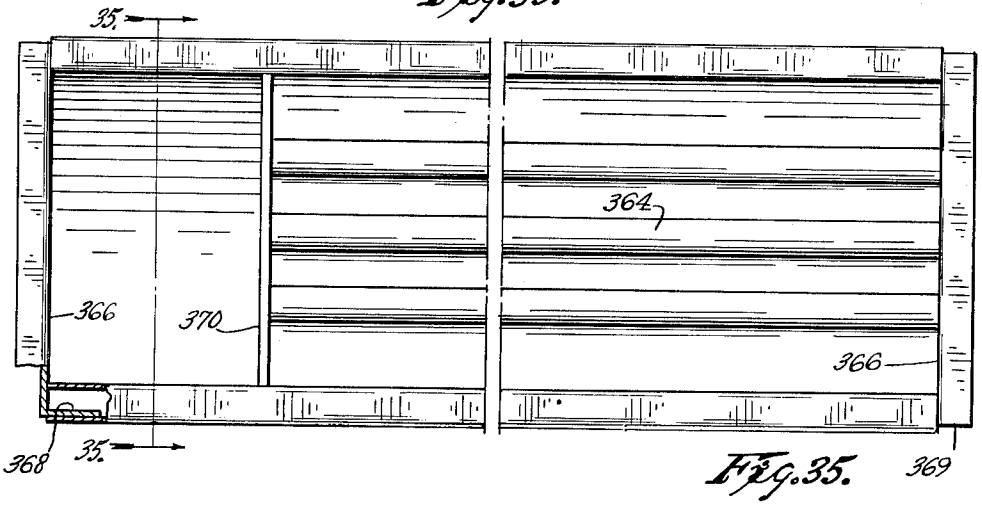


Fig. 35.

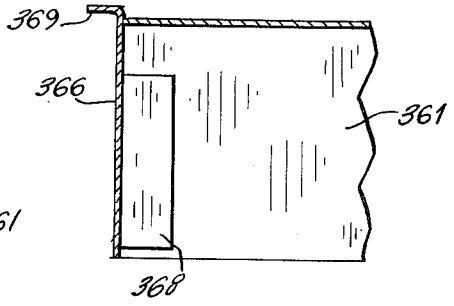
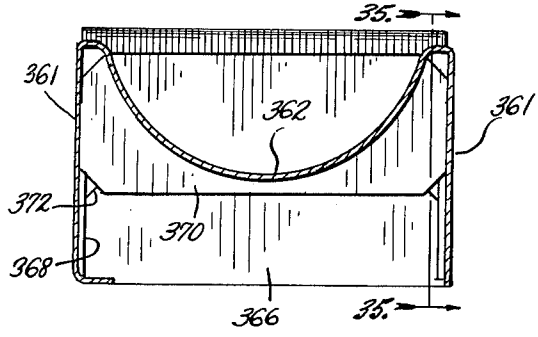


Fig. 34.



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Fig. 37.

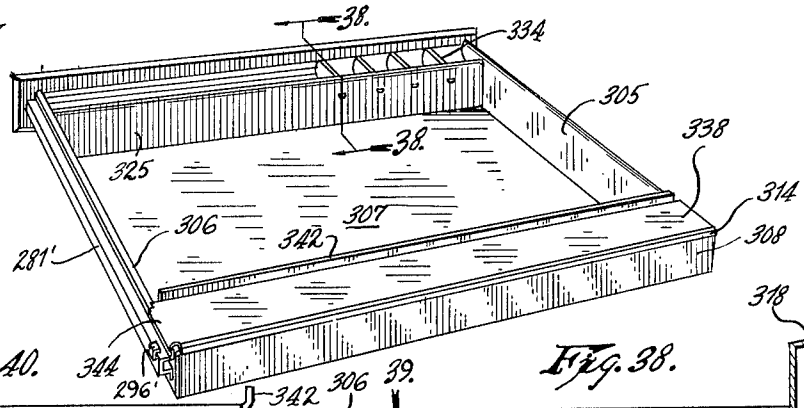


Fig. 40.

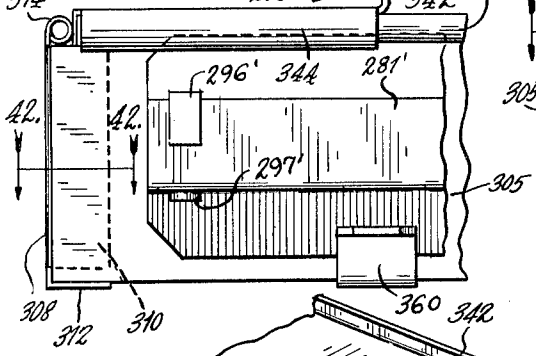
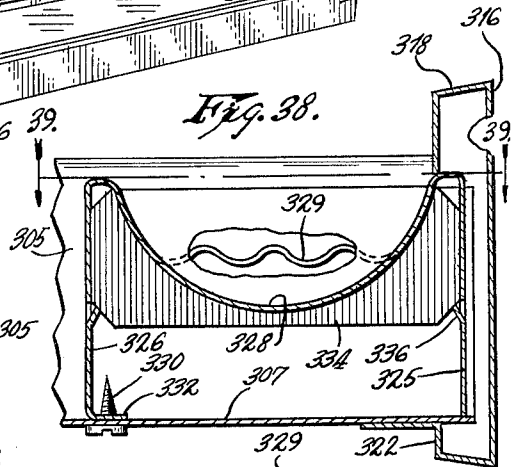


Fig. 38.



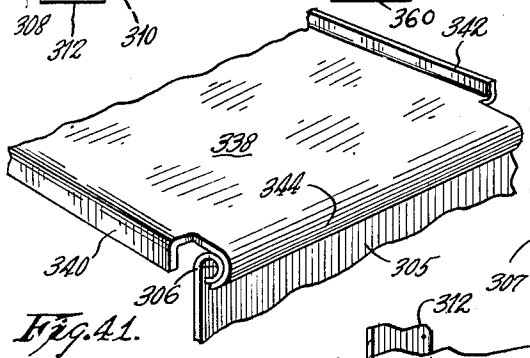


Fig. 41.

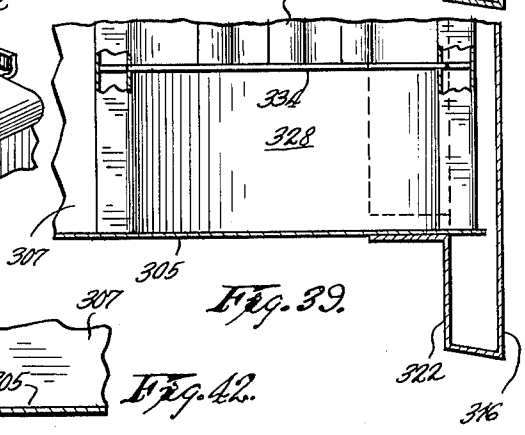


Fig. 39.

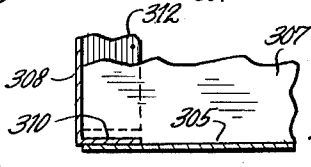
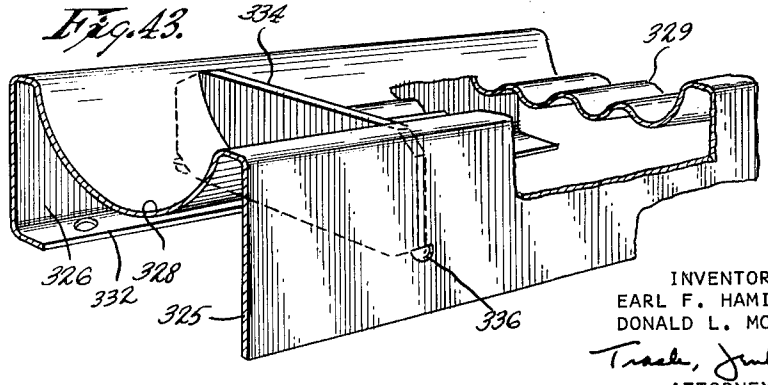


Fig. 42.

Fig. 43.



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United States Patent Office 3,241,900 Patented Mar. 22, 1966

3,241,900
ARTICLE OF FURNITURE

Earl F. Hamilton, Columbus, Ind., Donald L. Moore, Gallatin, Tenn., and Ralph B. Lay, Columbus, Ind., assignors to Hamilton Cosco, Inc., Columbus, Ind., a corporation of Indiana

Original application Oct. 30, 1962, Ser. No. 234,183. Divided and this application Sept. 8, 1964, Ser. No. 394,872

6 Claims. (Cl. 312—194)

This invention relates to an article of furniture, and more particularly to a desk, cabinet, credenza, and the like having drawers mounted therein. This application is a division of our copending application Serial No. 234,183, filed Oct. 30, 1962.

It is the object of our invention to provide an article of furniture which will have attractive appearance, which will employ a pedestal unit adapted to hold a plurality of drawers, which can be economically manufactured largely from sheet-metal and metal-tubing, and which will prove sturdy and durable in use.

According to the preferred form of our invention, as it is embodied in a double pedestal desk, there is provided a pair of pedestals, each of which has a pair of opposed side walls interconnected by a back wall and floor. The opposed inner faces of the side walls have vertically spaced, horizontally aligned guides mounted thereon for the reception of slides mounted on a plurality of drawers carried in the pedestal. Conveniently, the guides and slides are provided with cooperative anti-friction means for facilitating the sliding movement of the drawers with respect to the pedestal and with stop means for limiting said sliding movement of the drawers. Lock means are also mounted on the pedestal for locking engagement with said drawers for releasably locking them in their closed positions within the pedestal.

The pedestals are connected at their upper ends to a desk top extending thereover and therebetween. Desirably, the pedestals are further interconnected by a modesty panel extending therebetween below said top and rigidly connected to the opposed outwardly presented faces on the adjacent side walls of said pair of pedestals.

The pedestals are supported in an elevated position above the floor on pairs of ground-engaging legs mounted on the remote ends thereof. Conveniently, each of said legs is formed as a length of metal-tubing and is rigidly interconnected to the adjacent pedestal adjacent the upper and lower ends of said pedestal. Desirably, the upper end of each of the legs is interconnected to the top through its interconnection to the pedestal, whereby said interconnection will cross-brace said leg, pedestal, and top.

Other objects and features of our invention will become apparent from the more detailed description which follows and from the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a desk embodying our invention;

FIG. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary front elevation of a portion of the desk shown in FIG. 1, but with portions thereof being broken away;

FIG. 3 is a fragmentary vertical section taken on the line 3—3 of FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 is a fragmentary plan view of the portion of the desk shown in FIG. 2, but showing the top in phantom;

FIG. 5 is a horizontal section taken on the line 5—5 of FIG. 3;

FIG. 6 is a fragmentary vertical section taken on the line 6—6 of FIG. 4;

FIG. 7 is an enlarged fragmentary view of the lower end of one of the pedestal legs, but with portions thereof broken away;

FIG. 8 is a fragmentary vertical section taken on the line 8—8 of FIG. 2;

FIG. 9 is a horizontal section taken on the line 9—9 of FIG. 8;

FIG. 10 is a fragmentary vertical section of one of the pedestal units and showing the drawer locking means therefor;

FIG. 11 is a vertical section taken on the line 11—11 of FIG. 10;

FIG. 12 is a horizontal section taken on the line 12—12 of FIG. 10;

FIG. 13 is a horizontal section taken on the line 13—13 of FIG. 2;

FIG. 14 is a horizontal section taken on the line 14—14 of FIG. 2;

FIG. 15 is a perspective view of the file drawer shown in FIG. 2;

FIG. 16 is a front elevation of the file drawer shown in FIG. 14, but with portions thereof broken away;

FIG. 17 is a fragmentary vertical section taken on the line 17—17 of FIG. 16;

FIG. 18 is a horizontal section taken on the line 18—18 of FIG. 17;

FIG. 19 is a perspective view of the compressor plate shown in FIG. 15;

FIG. 20 is a fragmentary perspective view of the file drawer suspension system, but with portions thereof broken away;

FIG. 21 is an exploded perspective view of the file drawer suspension system shown in FIG. 20;

FIG. 22 is a perspective view of the convenience drawer shown in FIG. 2;

FIG. 23 is a front elevation of the drawer shown in FIG. 22, but with portions thereof broken away;

FIG. 24 is a fragmentary vertical section taken on the line 24—24 of FIG. 23;

FIG. 25 is a horizontal section taken on the line 25—25 of FIG. 24;

FIG. 26 is a fragmentary side elevation of the rear portion of the drawer shown in FIG. 22;

FIG. 27 is an enlarged horizontal section taken on the line 27—27 of FIG. 26;

FIG. 28 is an enlarged perspective view of a cover slidably mountable on the drawer as shown in FIG. 22;

FIG. 29 is a horizontal section taken on the line 29—29 of FIG. 28;

FIG. 30 is a horizontal section taken on the line 30—30 of FIG. 28;

FIG. 31 is a horizontal section taken on the line 31—31 of FIG. 28;

FIG. 32 is an enlarged perspective view of a paper tray insertable into the drawer shown in FIG. 22;

FIG. 33 is a fragmentary plan view of a convenience tray insertable into the drawer shown in FIG. 22;

FIG. 34 is a vertical section taken on line 34—34 of FIG. 33;

FIG. 35 is a fragmentary vertical section taken on the line 35—35 of FIG. 34;

FIG. 36 is an exploded perspective view of the upper drawer suspension system shown in FIG. 2;

FIG. 37 is a perspective view of the center drawer shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 38 is an enlarged vertical section taken on the line 38—38 of FIG. 37;

FIG. 39 is a horizontal section taken on the line 39—39 of FIG. 38;

FIG. 40 is an enlarged fragmentary side elevation of a rear portion of the drawer shown in FIG. 37;

FIG. 41 is a fragmentary perspective view of the rearwardly disposed cover on the drawer shown in FIG. 37;

FIG. 42 is a horizontal section taken on the line 42—42 of FIG. 40; and

FIG. 43 is an enlarged fragmentary perspective view of the drawer tray shown in FIG. 37.

Our invention is illustrated in the drawings as a double pedestal desk comprising a pair of pedestals **10** mounted on ground-engaging legs **12** and having a top **14**. The pedestals **10** are identical in construction with the exception of their drawer-supporting guides, the pedestal shown to the left in FIG. 1 being adapted to hold a pair of drawers and the pedestal shown to the right in FIG. 1 being adapted to hold four drawers.

Each of the pedestals **10** comprises a pair of side walls **16** rigidly interconnected at their rear ends by a transversely extending back wall **17** and having inwardly bent flanges **18** and **19** along their upper and lower edges respectively. The flanges **18** and **19** terminate inwardly from the ends of the side walls **16**, and at its front edge, each of said side walls is bent inwardly and rearwardly to form a channel **20** with the inner channel leg being further bent inwardly and rearwardly to form a vertically extending offset **22**. As shown in FIG. 5, a vertically extending brace **25** is received between each of the offsets **22** and the inner face of the adjacent side wall **16**, said brace being rigidly connected to the offset **22** as by welding. Each of the braces **25** has a pair of inwardly extending fingers **27** at its opposed ends, with the fingers at the upper ends of said braces being rigidly connected to a transversely extending brace **28** and the fingers **27** at the lower ends of said braces being connected to a transversely extending brace **30**. The legs on the channels **20** terminate inwardly from the upper and lower ends of the side walls **16**, and the braces **28** and **30** extend over the upper and lower ends of the braces **25** and have inwardly directed ears **31** rigidly connected to the braces **25** adjacent their upper and lower edges.

As shown, the lower side wall flanges **19** are connected to a pedestal floor **33** along the lateral edges of said floor, and the pedestal back wall **17** is provided with an inwardly extending flange **34** along its lower edge connected to the floor **33** along the rear edge thereof. The forward edge of the floor **33** is bent upwardly and rearwardly to form a channel **35** extending over the forwardly disposed edge of the lower transversely extending brace **30**, and said floor is rigidly connected to the lower edges of the side wall channels **20** whereby the channels **20** and **35** form a smooth trim surface around their respective edges of the pedestal.

A forwardly projecting flange **36** extends along the upper edge of the pedestal back wall **17** and is rigidly connected to a transversely extending brace **37** identical in construction to the brace **28** and disposed in parallelism therewith. The brace **37** has a pair of downwardly extending ears **38** at each of its ends which are rigidly connected to a pair of vertically extending braces **39** having fingers **40** at their upper ends also rigidly secured to the brace **37**. The lower ends of the braces **39** terminate immediately above the floor **33** and are provided with inwardly extending fingers **41** rigidly connected to a transversely extending brace **42** rigidly connected to the floor **33** and having pairs of upwardly extending ears **43** at each of its ends rigidly connected to the braces **39**. Desirably, a silencer **44** formed from any suitable material, such as corrugated board or the like, extends along each side wall **16** between the braces **25** and **39** and may be held therein by the drawer guides hereinafter described.

As shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, a pair of ground-engaging legs **12** are operatively interconnected to each of the pedestals **10** along the remote side walls **16** of the pedestals. The legs **12** are conveniently formed as lengths of metal tubing, and the forwardly disposed leg **12** on each pedestal **10** is connected to the brace **28** by a bracket **45**. As shown in FIGS. 2 and 4, the bracket **45** has an arm **46** disposed over the upper face of the brace **28**. The arm **46** has a pair of offsets **47** received in mating openings **48** formed in the brace **28** and is connected to said brace by a screw **49** extending through aligned openings formed in said arm and brace and the finger **27** on the adjacent brace **25**. At its outer end the arm **46** is offset forwardly and terminates in a downwardly extending arm **50** received in the open upper end of the leg **12** for holding said leg against the outwardly presented face of the outer pedestal side wall **16**. Each of the forwardly disposed legs **12** is connected to the lower end of the pedestal by a bracket **51** having an arm **52** rigidly connected to the pedestal floor **33** and brace **30** by bolts **53** extending upwardly through openings formed in said bracket and floor and received in clinch nuts **54** mounted over openings **55** formed in the brace **30**. The outer end of the arm **52** is offset forwardly and is received in an opening formed in the inner wall of the leg **12**, with said arm **52** within the extent of the leg **12** being continuous with an upwardly extending arm **56** interconnected to the adjacent pedestal side wall **16** by a screw **57** extending through aligned openings formed in said side wall and the inner wall of said forwardly disposed leg.

Each of the pair of rearwardly disposed legs **12** is interconnected to its adjacent pedestal in the same manner as the pair of forwardly disposed legs **12**. As shown in FIG. 6, each of said rearwardly disposed legs is connected at its upper end to the brace **37** by a bracket **45'** having an arm **46'** carried on the upper face of said brace. The arm **46'** has offsets **47'** received in mating openings **48'** formed in the brace **37** and is connected to said brace by a screw **58** extending through aligned openings formed in said arm and brace and the finger **40** on the adjacent brace **39**. The arm **46'** is offset rearwardly at its outer end and terminates in a downwardly extending arm **50'** received in the open upper end of the adjacent rear leg **12** for retaining the upper end of said leg against the outer face of the pedestal side wall **16** The lower end of said rearwardly disposed leg is connected to the bottom of the pedestal by a bracket **51'** having an arm **52'** underlying the pedestal floor **33** and connected to said floor and the brace **42** by bolts **53'** extending upwardly through openings formed in said bracket and floor and received in clinch nuts **54'** mounted over openings **55'** formed in the brace **42**. The arm **52'** is offset rearwardly at its outer end and is received in an opening formed in said rearwardly disposed leg, with said arm **52'** within the extent of said leg being continuous with an upwardly extending arm **56'** rigidly connected to the adjacent pedestal side wall **16** by a screw **57'** extending through aligned openings formed in said side wall and the inner wall of said rearwardly disposed leg. As will be apparent, the pairs of brackets **45** and **45'** are identical, as are the brackets **51** and **51'**, so that the brackets in each pair may be used interchangeably.

Conveniently, as shown in FIG. 7, a shouldered plug **59** having a threaded opening extending therethrough is mounted in the lower end of each of the legs **12**. Said plug carries a ground-engaging cap **60** connected to a threaded stud **61** received in the plug opening for adjustably positioning said cap relative to the leg **12** to level the desk.

One of the principal advantages in our invention resides in the ability of the pedestals **10** to be used interchangeably on either the left or the right side of the desk, to be used as a single unit in a cabinet structure, or to be used in a credenza structure wherein a plurality of pedestals are disposed in abutting side to side relationship. To this end, as shown in FIG. 4, the transversely extending braces **28, 30, 37,** and **42** are provided with the openings **48** and **48'**, and **55** and **55'**, adjacent each of their ends so that the legs **12** and the brackets **45** and **45'**, and **51** and **51'**, may be mounted on either or both sides of a pedestal. As will be apparent, if it is desired to produce a single pedestal cabinet, it is merely necessary to mount four of the legs **12** on one of the individual pedestals, said legs

being connected thereto in the manner previously described. Alternatively, if it is desired to produce a credenza type structure, a plurality of the pedestals **10** are set in abutting side to side relationship and a pair of legs **12** is connected to each of the end pedestals in the manner previously described. The adjacent pedestal units in such a credenza type structure may be interconnected along the bottoms of said units by suitable transversely extending braces rigidly connected to the adjacent ends of adjacent braces **30** and **42** on adjacent pedestals. In such a credenza type structure, the pedestals are further interconnected along their upper ends by a top corresponding to the top **14** which is connected to each of the pedestals **10** in the manner hereinafter described.

As shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, the top **14** extends over both of the pedestals **10** and the space therebetween. Said top comprises a sheet-metal panel **62** preferably having a decorative cover **63** extending thereover and connected thereto by bonding and by a peripherally extending clip **64**. As shown in FIG. 3, the clip **64** has an inwardly open channel **65** bindingly received over the panel **62** and cover **63**, with the lower leg of said channel having an offset **66** formed therein. Secured to the lower face of the panel **62** is a trim molding having an inwardly projecting leg **67** connected to said panel inwardly from the peripheral edge thereof and provided with an offset **68** in which the clip offset **66** is received. The leg **67** is continuous with a skirt **69** projecting downwardly from the clip **64** and terminating at its lower edge in an inwardly bent leg **70** parallel to the leg **67**.

As shown, the top **14** is strengthened along its front and rear edges by a pair of braces **71** and along its lateral edges by a pair of braces **72** interposed between the braces **71**. The braces **71** and **72** have identical cross-sectional configurations. As shown in FIGS. 13 and 14, the braces **71**, which extend the full width of the top, each comprise an upper leg **73** connected to the panel **62** inwardly of the molding leg **67** and integrally interconnected to a lower outwardly projecting leg **74** by a web **75**. As shown in FIG. 3, the leg **74** has a stiffening channel **76** at its outer end abutting the molding leg **70** and skirt **69**, but portions of the legs **74** are removed from the braces **71** adjacent the ends thereof to accommodate the upper ends of the pedestal legs **12**. Each of the braces **72** has an upper leg **73'** connected to the panel **62** inwardly from the molding leg **67** and integrally connected to a lower outwardly projecting leg **74'** by a web **75'**. The outer end of the leg **74'** has a stiffening channel **76'** abutting the adjacent molding leg **70** and skirt **69**. Preferably, the top is further braced by a plurality of transversely extending upwardly open channels having legs **77** connected to the panel **62** and interconnected by webs **78**.

As shown, the ends of the braces **72** abut the webs **75** of the braces **71** at the corners of the top. And at each of said corners, the ends of the molding strips overlying the braces **71** and **72** are mitered. The legs **67** on the molding strips extending along the lateral edges of the top are recessed adjacent their ends to accommodate the brace legs **73** intersecting said molding legs.

As shown, the legs **74** on the braces **71** overlie the braces **28** and **37** and are rigidly connected to said braces by the screws **49** and **58** interconnecting the legs **12** to the pedestals. The brace legs **74** are further interconnected to the pedestals **10** adjacent the inner side walls of said pedestals by screws **79** projecting upwardly through openings formed in the braces **28** and **37** and the fingers **27** and **40** on the braces **25** and **39**. As shown in FIG. 3, spacers **80** are disposed around the screws **79** between the brace legs **74** and the braces **28** and **37**, said spacers having a thickness corresponding to the thickness of the bracket arms **46** and **46'**.

As will be apparent, when our invention is embodied in a credenza structure, the top **14**, by being connected to the pedestals, will interconnect the adjacent pedestal units in such structure for retaining them in fixed positions with respect to each other. And, when our invention is embodied in a single pedestal cabinet structure, said top need have an extent only slightly larger than the extent of a single pedestal.

When our invention is embodied in a desk as illustrated in the drawing, it is desirable that the two pedestals **10** be interconnected adjacent the rear end of the desk by a modesty panel **81** shown in FIG. 8. The panel **81** spans the space between the pedestals **10** below the top **14** and is provided along its lateral edges with flanges **82** abutting the adjacent pedestal side walls **16** and secured thereto by screws **83**. Conveniently, the lower edge of the modesty panel **81** is bent forwardly and upwardly, as at **84**, to stiffen said panel and provide a smooth surface along the lower edge thereof. Extending between the pedestals **10** immediately below the top **14** is an upwardly open cord channel **86** the rear leg of which has rearwardly extending flanges **88** at each of its ends which extend over the modesty panel flanges **82** and are rigidly secured thereto as by rivets **90**. Conveniently, the flanges **82** are provided with vertically extending offsets within the extent of the flanges **88** whereby the channel flanges **88** may be secured to the modesty panel to form a cord channel-modesty panel sub-assembly. The upper end of the modesty panel **81** is also provided with a forwardly and downwardly extending flange **92** disposed over the rear edge of the cord channel **86**, with said cord channel being in open communication with the rear of the desk. An opening **93** is provided in the web of the cord channel **86** adjacent each end thereof through which a telephone cord, light cord, and the like may extend for reception into the channel **86**. The cords may extend upwardly from the channel **86** through the space between the top **14** and the modesty panel **81** for connection to their respective accessories supported on the desk top **14** and thus obviate the necessity of long lengths of said cords extending across said top.

As shown in FIG. 1, each of the pedestals **10** is adapted to house a plurality of drawers which may be conveniently locked in closed position by the locking assembly shown in FIGS. 10–12. Desirably, one of said locking assemblies is provided on each of the pedestals **10** adjacent the inwardly presented pedestal side wall **16**. The locking assemblies are identical in construction, and each comprises a vertically extending rod **95** having its upper end rotatably carried in an opening formed in a bracket **96** mounted on the pedestal brace **28** adjacent one end thereof. The lower end of the rod **95** rests on the pedestal floor **33** and is rotatably carried in an opening formed in a bracket **98** mounted on the pedestal brace **30**. A lock **100** is mounted in the side wall **16** immediately adjacent the rod **95** and is provided with an inwardly extending shank **101** upon which a cam **102** is fixedly mounted. Conveniently, a stiffening plate **103** is interposed between the lock **100** and the side wall **16** for reinforcing said side wall adjacent said lock. Desirably, the plate **103** has a pair of vertically spaced arcuate fingers **104** partially circumscribing the rod **95** and acting in combination with the brackets **96** and **98** for rotatably supporting said rod within the pedestal. A plurality of locking tongues **106** are mounted in axially spaced positions on the rod **95** by screws **107** for rotation with said rod. Each of said tongues **106** has a detent **108** at its outer end engageable with a suitable catch on one of the drawers carried in the pedestal for releasably locking said drawer in a closed position within said pedestal when the rod **95** is rotated into a drawer locking position. To effect rotation of the rod **95**, a cam follower **110** is mounted on said rod by a screw **111** to engage the cam **102** so that upon locking movement of a key **112** inserted into the lock **100**, the cam **102** will rotate against the cam follower **110** to thus cause said cam follower to rotate the rod **95** in a direction to swing the locking tongues **106** inwardly so that their detents **108** will engage in suitable catches on the pedestal drawers. The rod **95** is rotated into an unlocked position

in which the tongues **106** are generally parallel to the adjacent pedestal side wall **16** by a torsion spring **114** having one of its ends fixedly connected to the bracket **98** and its opposite end fixedly connected to said rod. Upon movement of the key **112** to rotate the cam **102** into an unlocked position, the spring **114** will rotate the rod **95** to cause the tongues **106** to swing their detents **108** out of locking engagement with the drawer catches. Thus, the locking assembly illustrated in FIGS. 10–12 simultaneously locks and unlocks the entire bank of drawers which are carried in the pedestal upon which said locking assembly is mounted. Conveniently, the arms **105** are oblique to their adjacent side wall **16** when they are in locked position, so that said arms may be moved into their locked positions while the drawers are open and, upon closing of said drawers, the detents **108** on the arms **106** will engage in suitable drawer catches to lock said drawers in their closed position.

The pedestal **10** shown to the right in FIG. 1 is adapted to house a file drawer which, as shown in FIGS. 15–19, comprises a pair of opposed side walls **119** having outwardly rolled beads **120** along their upper edges and integrally connected at their lower ends by a drawer floor **121** having a laterally centered channel **122** extending the length thereof. A back wall **124** extends across the rear of the drawer and is connected to the side walls **119** by a pair of flanges **125** formed along the lateral edges of said back wall and connected to the inner faces of the side walls **119**. The lower edge of the back wall **124** terminates in a pair of laterally spaced, forwardly extending flanges **126** connected to the lower face of the floor **121** on either side of the channel **122**, and the upper end of said back wall terminates in a rearwardly rolled bead **128**. Conveniently, the back wall **124** may be provided with an opening **130** having a rolled upper edge **131** to facilitate lifting of the drawer when it is removed from the pedestal.

The front of the drawer is formed by a pair of vertically extending panels **132** and **134**. As shown in FIG. 17, a flange **136** projects rearwardly and downwardly from the upper edge of the panel **132** to define a channel **137** extending thereacross, and a flange **138** connected to the drawer floor **121** project rearwardly and upwardly from the lower edge of said panel and defines a channel **139** extending across the bottom of said panel. The panel **132** projects laterally outwardly beyond the side walls **119**, and the lower portion of each lateral edge of the panel is flanged at **140** and connected to the outer face of the adjacent drawer side wall **119**. Similarly, the upper portion of each lateral edge of the panel **132** has a flange **142** projecting rearwardly and inwardly from said panel and connected to the inner face of the adjacent side wall **119** adjacent the upper end thereof. The panel **134** has a vertical extent slightly less than the vertical extent of the panel **132** and is provided along its lateral edges with vertically extending flanges **144** abutting the inner faces of the side walls **119** forwardly of the connections of the side walls to the flanges **140**. As shown in FIG. 17, the floor **121** extends over the channel **139** and the panel **132** has a forwardly extending flange **146** along its lower edge which is supported on said floor thereat. Conveniently, the floor **121** is provided with a pair of laterally spaced, upwardly struck fingers **148** whose forwardly presented edges abut the panel **134** to interconnect said panel and floor. The panel **134** extends upwardly into the front panel channel **137**, and the panels **132** and **134** are interconnected by a pair of bolts **150** extending through aligned openings formed therein and received in the lateral ends of a drawer handle **162** projecting forwardly from the front panel **132**.

As shown in FIGS. 15 and 16, a compressor plate **166** extends transversely of the drawer between the side walls **119**. The plate **166** has a forwardly extending flange **168** along its lower edge and the upper edge of said plate is provided with a rolled bead **170**. Intermediate its upper and lower ends, the plate **166** has a pair of laterally spaced forwardly projecting channels **172** having a common web forming a bridge **174** extending between said channels in which a generally U-shaped latch **176** is carried. As shown in FIG. 19, the latch **176** has a finger lift **178** at its upper end normal to the general plane of the latch, and the lower ends of said latch project through openings formed in the plate flange **168** for selective reception in a pair of rows of longitudinally spaced openings **180** formed in the drawer floor **121** on the opposite sides of the channel **122** for thus releasably locking the compressor plate **166** in the desired longitudinal position along the length of the file drawer. Desirably, a pair of fingers **181** are struck outwardly from the plate **166** in the path of movement of the latch to limit the unlocking movement of said latch. The plate **166** is supported on the drawer on a pair of generally L-shaped rods **182** connected to the channels **172**, as by bolts **183**, and projecting longitudinally from the compressor plate for slidable reception in longitudinally extending beads **184** formed in the side walls **119** for slidably supporting the compressor plate in the drawer.

The suspension system for the file drawer is illustrated in FIGS. 20 and 21 and comprises a pair of horizontally aligned guides **188** mounted along the opposed sides of the pedestal side walls **16** adjacent the pedestal floor **33**. Each of the guides **188** has a generally C-shaped cross-section consisting of a vertical web **189** interconnecting elongated legs forming lower and upper opposed tracks **190** and **192**. A pair of offset tongues **193** are struck outwardly of the guide web **189** and are received in openings formed in the adjacent pedestal brace **39**. Adjacent its forward end, the guide web **189** has outwardly struck tongues **194** received in the adjacent vertically extending pedestal brace **25**. The forward end of the guide **188** terminates at the front face of the adjacent brace **25** and has a pair of outwardly bent fingers **195** connected to said brace **25** by screws **196**, the pedestal channel leg **22** being provided with openings disposed in alignment with the fingers **195** for connection of said fingers to the brace **25**. In this manner, the pair of guides **188** are fixedly mounted in horizontal alignment along the inner faces of the pedestal side walls **16** in spaced relation thereto and help to hold the silencers **44** in place against said side walls.

Each of the guides **188** carries a propeller channel **198** comprising a vertically extending web **200** interconnecting a first inwardly directed flange leg **201** extending along the upper edge of said web and a second inwardly directed flange leg forming an upwardly open track **202** extending along the lower edge of said web. The propeller **198** is slidably carried in the guide **188** on a pair of longitudinally spaced rollers **203** and **204** mounted on the propeller by axle pins **205** extending through aligned vertically extending slots formed in the propeller web **200** and the inner wall of the track **202** to thus provide each of said rollers with a longitudinally fixed, vertically movable axis. As shown in FIG. 21, the rollers **203** and **204** project through openings formed in the track **202** for reception in the lower guide track **190**, and said track is provided with a pair of longitudinally spaced wells **206** for the reception of said rollers when the file drawer is in its fully closed position. The longitudinal movement of the propeller **198** with respect to the guide **188** is limited by an outwardly projecting stud **207** mounted on the propeller web **200** and slidable in a longitudinally extending slot **208** formed in the guide web **189**.

As shown in FIG. 21, a longitudinally extending slide **210** is mounted on each file drawer side wall **119** for slidably mounting said file drawer on the propeller **198**. The slide **210** comprises an outwardly extending flange **212** normal to the propeller webs **200** and carried on the upper face of the rollers **203** and **204**. The flange **212**

is continuous with a downwardly extending flange **214** parallel with the webs **200** and interposed between the rollers **203** and **204** and the web **200** for retaining the drawer in a laterally fixed position. As shown in FIG. 21, a pair of longitudinally spaced rollers **216** and **217** are mounted on the propeller web **200** adjacent the upper edge thereof, with the lower end of the roller **216** engaging the upper face of the flange **212** for holding the guide **210** within the propeller **198**. The upper ends of both of the rollers **216** and **217** project through openings formed in the upper propeller flange leg **201** and the roller **217** has its upper end in tracking engagement with the upper guide track **192**.

Still another roller **218** is mounted on the propeller web **200** forwardly of the track **202** for engagement with the lower surface of the flange **212**. The roller **218** is carried in the lower guide track **190** when the drawer is closed and has its lower end disposed above the plane of the lower ends of the rollers **203** and **204** when said rollers are in their lowered position in the wells **206**. In this manner, the front of the file drawer will be slightly elevated when said drawer is in its closed position to thus preclude the possibility of said drawer accidentally sliding open. Also mounted on the propeller **198** forwardly of the flange legs **201** and **202** and outside the vertical extent thereof is a bracket **220** carrying a forwardly presented resilient bumper **222** engageable with the flange **140** on the file drawer front panel **132** when said drawer is in its closed position and a rearwardly presented bumper **224** engageable with a laterally projecting stop **225** mounted on the file drawer side wall **119** when said file drawer is moved into its extended position. Conveniently, the bracket **220** also carries an anti-friction button **226** on its inner face against which the outwardly presented face on the adjacent file drawer side wall **119** rides during opening and closing of the drawer.

As shown in FIG. 21, an upwardly projecting plate **228** having an opening **229** formed therein is mounted on the guide **188** adjacent the front thereof, and a bracket **234** having an opening **236** formed therein is also mounted on the file drawer side wall **119**. When said file drawer is in its fully closed position, the openings **236** and **229** will come into register with each other and with the detent **108** on the adjacent lock arm **106** of the locking assembly shown in FIG. 10. Thus, upon turning the key **112** into its locked position, the detent **108** will move into the openings **229** and **236** for thus locking the file drawer in its closed position.

The operation of the file drawer suspension system may be described as follows: As the file drawer is pulled outwardly toward its open position, its slide **210** will ride on propeller rollers **204** and **218** and the rollers **203** and **204** will ride out of the wells **206** and along the track **190**. The propeller moves outwardly until its stud **207** abuts the forward end of the guide slot **208**, and the drawer rides outwardly relative to the propeller until the drawer stop **225** engages the bumper **224**. In this fully extended position, the file drawer slide **210** is supported on the roller **218** and the roller **204** and between the rollers **204** and **216**. And the propeller **198** is supported in the guide **188** with the pair of rollers **203** and **204** carried in the lower track **190** and upper roller **217** carried against the upper guide track **192**.

To close the file drawer, it is merely necessary to push said drawer inwardly, whereby the slide **210** will ride on the rollers **218** and **204** until the drawer panel **132** engages the bumper **222**. Continued inward movement of the file drawer will cause the rollers **203** and **204** to ride rearwardly in the track **190** until the propeller stud **207** engages the rear end of the guide slot **208**, whereupon the rollers **203** and **204** will be received in the guide wells **206**.

As shown in FIGS. 2 and 22–27, the pedestals **10** are adapted to house a plurality of convenience drawers, each of which comprises a pair of opposed side walls **230** having rolled beads **231** along their upper edges and integrally connected at their lower ends by a drawer floor **232**. A back wall **235** extends across the rear of the drawer and is connected to the side walls **230** by a pair of flanges **236** formed on said back wall and connected to the inner faces of said side walls. The lower edge of the back wall **234** terminates in a forwardly projecting flange **237** connected to the lower face of the floor **232**, and the upper end of said back wall terminates in a rolled bead **238**.

The front of the drawer is formed by a pair of vertically extending panels **240** and **242**. As shown in FIG. 24, a flange **244** projects rearwardly and downwardly from the upper edge of the panel **240** to define a channel **245** extending thereacross, and a flange **246** projects rearwardly from the lower edge of said panel and is connected to the lower face of the floor **232**. The panel **240** projects laterally outwardly beyond the side walls **230**, and each lateral edge of said panel has a rearwardly and inwardly projecting flange **248** connected to the outer face of the adjacent side wall **230**. The panel **242** has a vertical extent slightly less than the vertical extent of the panel **240** and is provided along its lateral edges with vertically extending flanges **250** abutting the inner faces of the side walls **230** forwardly of the connection of said side walls to the flange **248**. As shown in FIG. 24, the floor **232** extends forwardly of the rear edge of the flange **246**, and the panel **242** has a forwardly extending flange **252** along its lower edge which is supported on said floor. Conveniently, the floor **232** is provided with a pair of laterally spaced, upwardly struck fingers **254** whose forwardly presented edges abut the panel **242** to rigidly interconnect said panel and floor. The panel **242** extends upwardly into the front panel channel **245**, and said panel **242** is supported against the flange **244** within the extent of said channel. The panels **240** and **242** are interconnected by a pair of bolts **256** extending through aligned openings formed in said panels and received in the lateral ends of a drawer handle **258** projecting forwardly from the front panel **240**.

Intermediate their ends the side walls **230** have inwardly projecting longitudinally extending channels **260** in which a plurality of transversely aligned, vertically extending slots **262** are formed. The slots **262** selectively receive the lateral ends of a divider **264** extending transversely of the drawer with its lower end resting on the floor **232** and its upper end provided with a stiffening bead **265**. As will be apparent, a plurality of dividers **264** may be selectively carried in the slots **262** for dividing the drawer into a plurality of various sized compartments.

It may also be desired to provide a work surface on the drawer illustrated in FIG. 22. To this end, a cover plate **267** shown in FIGS. 28–31 may be disposed over said drawer. The plate **267** has a width corresponding to the width of the drawer and may have any desired length. In order to adjust the positioning of the cover on the drawer, said cover is provided along its lateral edges with inwardly bent flanges **268** having anti-friction buttons **269** mounted thereon adapted to ride along the side wall beads **231**. The buttons **269** are retained on the beads **231** by channels **270** formed along the lateral edges of the plate **267** on opposite sides of the flanges **268** and received over the beads **231**, the channels **270** having offsets **271** slidably received against said beads **231**. Conveniently, the plate **267** is also stiffened by inturned flanges **272** formed along its front and rear edges.

The drawer shown in FIG. 22 may also be used in combination with the paper tray illustrated in FIG. 32. As shown, said tray has a width corresponding to the drawer and comprises a plurality of stepped inclined faces **274**. The faces **274** are interconnected in parallelism with each other by downwardly extending projections **275** formed along the lateral edges of each of said faces

and having fingers 279 received in openings formed in the next lower face. Said faces are further provided with transversely extending flanges 276 extending along the rear edges of said faces with the flange 276 on each of said faces engaging the next upper face. Conveniently, the forward edge of each face 274 is recessed, as at 277, and is provided with a pair of rolled beads 278 extending laterally outwardly from said recess. To mount the tray in the drawer shown in FIG. 20, the beads 278 on the lowermost face 274 are disposed over the divider bead 265, and the fingers 279 on its projections 275 are inserted in openings 280 formed in the divider 264.

The suspension system for drawers of the type illustrated in FIG. 22 is shown in FIGS. 2 and 36 and comprises a pair of longitudinally extending channeled slides 281 mounted on the drawer side walls 230 and extending rearwardly thereof. The slides are slidably carried in a pair of opposed guides 282 extending along the pedestal side walls 16 in spaced relation thereto. The guides 282 are identical in construction, and each has a generally C-shaped cross-sectional configuration comprising an elongated web 283 interconnecting a pair of parallel inwardly extending legs 284. The guide web 283 has a pair of outwardly struck fingers 286 adjacent its rear end which are carried in openings formed in the adjacent pedestal brace 39. As shown in FIG. 36, the guide web 283 has an expanded vertical extent forwardly of the guide legs 284 and is provided at its forward end with an outturned finger 288 connected to the adjacent pedestal brace 25 by a screw 289. Conveniently, the expanded portion of the web 283 is further provided with an outwardly struck tongue 290 received in an opening formed in the pedestal brace 25 for further interconnecting said guide and brace. Mounted on the inner face of the expanded portion of the guide web 283 is a bracket 292 having a forwardly presented bumper 294 disposed below the plane of the lower guide leg 284 and engageable with the panel flange 248 when the drawer is moved into its closed position. A rearwardly presented bumper 295 is also mounted on the bracket 292 below the plane of the lower guide leg 284 and, when the drawer is moved into its fully open position, engages a laterally projecting stop 297 mounted on the drawer floor 232 adjacent the rear thereof. Conveniently, an anti-friction button 298 is mounted on the upper face of the bracket 292 to project slightly above the lower guide leg 284 to engage the drawer slide 281 and a second anti-friction button 293 projects from said bracket to also engage said slide for facilitating the sliding movement thereof. To further facilitate movement of the slides 281 in the guides 282, a generally L-shaped anti-friction member 296 and an anti-friction button 297 are mounted on each slide 281 adjacent the rear thereof, the member 296 engaging the adjacent guide web 283 and upper leg 284 and the button 297 engaging the adjacent lower guide leg 284.

As shown in FIG. 36, the drawer slide 281 is provided with an opening 300 adjacent its forward end and the guide web 283 is provided with a similar opening 302 adjacent the forward ends of the guide legs 284 and disposed in alignment with the detent 108 on the adjacent locking arm 106. When the drawer is in its fully closed position, the drawer slide opening 300 will register with the opening 302 to permit the detent 108 on the adjacent locking arm 106 to extend through both of the openings 302 and 300 for locking said drawer in its closed position.

A center drawer is carried between the pedestals 10 forwardly of the modesty panel 81 and, as shown in FIGS. 37–43, said center drawer comprises a pair of opposed side walls 305 interconnected at their lower ends by a floor 307 and provided with rolled beads 306 along their upper edges. A back wall 308 extends across the rear of the drawer and is connected to the side walls 305 by a pair of flanges 310 formed along the lateral edges of said back wall and connected to the inner faces of the side walls 305. The lower edge of the back wall 308 terminates in a forward extending flange 312 connected to the lower face of the floor 307, and the upper end of said back wall terminates in a rolled bead 314.

The front of the drawer is formed by a vertically extending panel 316 having a depth greater than the depth of the side walls 305 and a width greater than the lateral spacing between said side walls. As shown in FIG. 38, the upper end of the panel 316 comprises a rearwardly and downwardly projecting flange 318 extending below the plane of the side wall beads 306, and the lower edge of the panel 316 comprises a rearwardly and upwardly projecting flange 320 connected to the lower face of the floor 307. The panel 316 projects laterally outwardly beyond the side walls 305, and the lateral edges of said panel comprise rearwardly and inwardly projecting flanges 322 connected to the outer faces of the drawer side walls 305.

Desirably, the center drawer is provided with a convenience tray for holding pencils, paper clips, rubber bands, etc. As shown in FIG. 43, said tray is formed as a sheet-metal stamping and comprises a pair of transversely extending vertical legs 325 and 326 interconnected by a downwardly dished web 328 which is provided with a plurality of elongated corrugations 329 for holding pencils. The ends of the tray abut the opposed inner faces of the drawer side walls 305 and its forwardly presented leg 325 is disposed within the extent of the front panel flange 318. As shown in FIG. 38, the leg 325 has a height slightly greater than the distance between the drawer floor 307 and the lower edge of the flange 318 for thus retaining the tray in position within the drawer. Said tray is further retained in position in the drawer by screws 330 extending through the drawer floor 307 and received in openings formed in a forwardly directed flange 332 formed on the lower end of the rear tray leg 326. Conveniently, a plurality of laterally spaced dividers 334 are mounted on the tray outside the extent of the web corrugations 329. As shown in FIG. 43, each of the dividers 334 has a generally rectangular configuration and projects through aligned slots formed in the web 328 for engagement with inwardly struck fingers 336 formed on the tray legs 325 and 326 for thus supporting said dividers in the tray.

Conveniently, the center drawer has a transversely extending cover 338 at its rear end to prevent papers from slipping out over the back wall 308. As shown in FIG. 41, the cover 338 has a downwardly projecting lip 340 and upwardly projecting lip 342 extending transversely across its front and rear edges, respectively, and is mounted on the drawer by a pair of channels 344 formed along the lateral cover edges and received over the side wall beads 306.

To mount the center drawer on the desk, a plurality of transversely extending U-shaped carriers 350 are mounted on the lower face of the top 14 between the pedestals 10. Each of the carriers 350 includes a bight 352 parallel with the top and having upwardly extending arms 354 at its opposed ends which abut the opposed inner side walls 16 on the pair of pedestals 10. Each of the arms 354 extends upwardly from the bight 352 and terminates at its upper end in an inwardly directed finger 356 connected to the web 78 of one of the top cross braces by screws 358. The suspension system for the center drawer is supported from the carrier arms 354 and is identical in construction to the suspension system shown in FIG. 28 for the convenience drawers.

As shown in FIGS. 2 and 4, the suspension system at each side of the center drawer comprises an elongated slide 281′ mounted on the outer face of each drawer side wall 305. Each of the slides 281′ is carried in a guide 282′ mounted on one of the carrier arms 354 and comprising a vertically extending web 283′ interconnecting a pair of upper and lower legs 284′. The web 283′ extends forwardly beyond the legs 284′ and has a bracket

292' mounted thereon. A bumper 294' is mounted on the forwardly presented face of the bracket 292' and is engageable with the panel flange 322 when the center drawer is moved into its fully closed position. A second bumper 295' is mounted on the bracket 292' below the lower guide leg 284' and is engageable with a laterally projecting stop 360 mounted on the drawer floor 307 adjacent the rear thereof. Conveniently, a pair of anti-friction buttons 298' and 293' are mounted on the bracket 292' to engage the adjacent slide 281' for facilitating sliding movement of the drawer slide 281' in the guide 282'. To further facilitate sliding movement of the center drawer, an L-shaped anti-friction member 296' and an anti-friction button 297' are mounted on each slide 281' for sliding engagement with the adjacent guide web 283' and guide legs 284'.

In some embodiments of our invention the center drawer may be omitted, in which case it is desirable to mount a convenience tray for holding pencils, paper clips, rubber bands, etc., in one of the drawers of the type shown in FIG. 22. As shown in FIGS. 33–35, such a tray comprises a pair of transversely extending vertical legs 361 interconnected by a downwardly dished web 362 which is provided with a plurality of elongated corrugations 364 for holding pencils. A pair of end plates 366 are disposed at the ends of the tray and are connected to the tray legs 361 by flanges 368. The end plates 366 have outwardly projecting flanges 369 along their upper edges which are received over the side wall beads 231 for supporting the tray in said drawer. Conveniently, a plurality of laterally spaced dividers 370 are mounted on the tray outside the extent of the web corrugations 364. As shown in FIG. 34, each of the dividers 370 has a generally rectangular configuration and projects through aligned slots formed in the web 362 for engagement with inwardly struck fingers 372 formed in the tray legs 361 for thus supporting said dividers in the tray.

While our invention has been described as being embodied in a desk, it is to be understood, of course, that the pedestal construction and various drawer constructions may be embodied in cabinets and credenzas, and that said drawers may be employed in any desired combination depending upon the use to which the resulting structure is to be put.

We claim:

1. In combination with an article of furniture having a pedestal provided with a pair of side walls having drawer supports extending therealong and interconnected by a top, floor, and back wall, a drawer carried in supports said supports comprising

(a) a pair of side walls interconnected by a floor and back wall,

(b) a front wall extending across the front edges of one of said side walls and formed from a pair of interfitting panels,

(c) one of said panels having a downwardly open channel extending across its upper end and a rearwardly extending lower end connected to the drawer floor adjacent the front thereof,

(d) said one panel projecting laterally beyond the drawer side walls and having inwardly open channels along its lateral edges connected to said drawer side walls,

(e) the other of said panels having its upper end received in the channel along the upper end of said one panel and its lower and lateral ends abutting the drawer floor and side walls respectively,

(f) means for rigidly interconnecting said pair of panels,

(g) said drawer side walls having longitudinally extending beads along their upper edges, and

(h) a plate extending over said drawer provided with inwardly open channels along its lateral edges slidably supported on said beads,

(i) said plate having buttons riding on the upper faces of said beads and said channels having offsets riding against the lower faces of said beads.

2. In combination with an article of furniture having a pedestal provided with a pair of side walls having drawer supports extending therealong and interconnected by a top, floor, and back wall, a drawer carried in said supports comprising

(a) a pair of side walls interconnected by a floor and back wall,

(b) a front wall extending across the front edges of said side walls and formed from a pair of interfitting panels,

(c) one of said panels having a downwardly open channel extending across its upper end and a rearwardly extending lower end connected to the drawer floor adjacent the front thereof.

(d) said one panel projecting laterally beyond the drawer side walls and having inwardly open channels along its lateral edges connected to said drawer side walls,

(e) the other of said panels having its upper end received in the channel along the upper end of said one panel and its floor and lateral ends abutting the drawer floor and side walls respectively,

(f) means for rigidly interconnecting said pair of panels,

(g) a pair of opposed longitudinally extending offsets in said drawer side walls,

(h) a transversely extending plate carried within said drawer with its lateral edges operatively connected to said offsets for retaining said plate in parallelism with said drawer front and rear walls,

(i) a paper tray having a plurality of interconnected, vertically spaced, inclined faces carried in said drawer with its forward end operatively connected to said plate and its rear end supported on the drawer floor, and

(j) the lowermost of said faces having means extending transversely across its front end hooked over the end of said plate and a pair of forwardly projecting fingers removably carried in openings formed in said plate for operatively connecting said tray to said plate.

3. The invention as set forth in claim 2 in which

(a) said faces have transversely extending flanges across their rear ends extending toward the next upper face upon which the next upper face rests and pairs of downwardly directed projections along their lateral edges releasably carried in openings in the next lower face.

4. In combination with an article of furniture having a pedestal provided with a pair of side walls having drawer supports extending therealong and interconnected by a top, floor, and back wall, a drawer carried in said supports comprising

(a) a pair of side walls interconnected by a floor and back wall,

(b) a front wall extending across the front edges of said side walls and formed from a pair of interfitting panels,

(c) one of said panels having a downwardly open channel extending across its upper end and a rearwardly extending lower end connected to the drawer floor adjacent the front thereof,

(d) said one panel projecting laterally beyond the drawer side walls and having inwardly open channels along its lateral edges connected to said drawer side walls,

(e) the other of said panels having its upper end received in the channel along the upper end of said one panel and its lower and lateral ends abutting the drawer floor and side walls,

(f) means for rigidly interconnecting said pair of panels,

(g) a pair of opposed, longitudinally extending offsets in said drawer side walls,

(h) a transversely extending plate carried in said drawer with its lateral edges slidably interconnected to said offsets for retaining said plate in parallelism with said drawer front and rearwalls,

(i) a generally U-shaped latch is slidably mounted on said plate for selective reception of its ends in a pair of rows of longitudinally spaced openings formed in the drawer floor, and

(j) said plate is operatively connected to said offsets by a pair of rods mounted on said plate and projecting perpendicularly therefrom for reception in said offsets.

5. The invention as set forth in claim 4 in which

(a) a pair of laterally spaced channels having a common web defining a brace therebetween are formed on said plate, and

(b) a flange projecting outwardly from the same side of the plate as said channels is formed along the lower end of the plate,

(c) said latch being vertically slidable between said channels and in openings formed in said flange for selective reception in said drawer floor openings.

6. In combination with an article of furniture having a pedestal provided with a pair of side walls having drawer supports extending therealong and interconnected by a top, floor, and back wall, a drawer carried in said supports comprising

(a) a pair of side walls interconnected by a floor and back wall,

(b) a front wall extending across the front edges of said side walls and formed from a pair of interfitting panels,

(c) one of said panels having a downwardly open channel extending across its upper end and a rearwardly extending lower end connected to the drawer floor adjacent the front thereof,

(d) said one panel having a first pair of flanges adjacent its lower end conneced to the outer faces of said side walls and a second pair of flanges adjacent its upper end connected to the inner faces of said side walls,

(e) the other of said panels having its upper end received in the channel along the upper end of said one panel and its lower end abutting the drawer floor and said one panel and its lateral ends abutting the drawer side walls, and

(f) means for rigidly interconnecting said pair of panels.

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