June 24, 1958 S. G. BUDAI 2,840,431

MODULAR OFFICE WORK SPACE AND PARTITION STRUCTURE

Original Filed Nov. 14, 1951

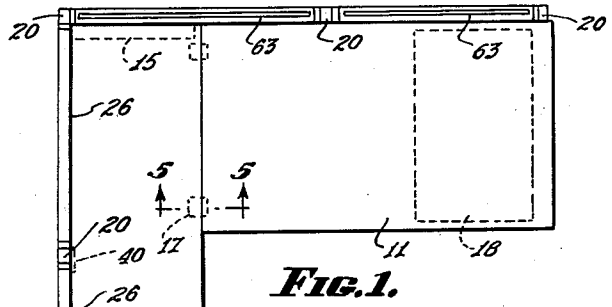

FIG. 1.

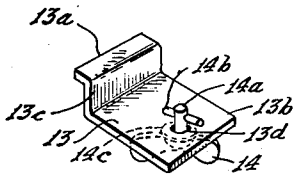

FIG. 2.

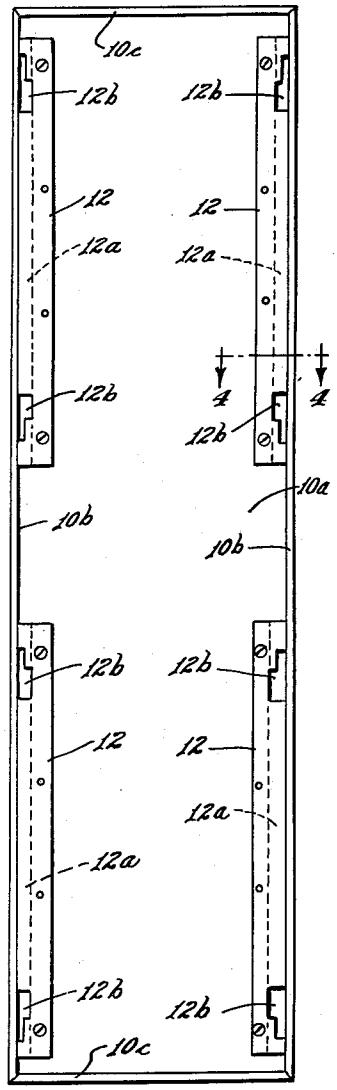

FIG. 3.

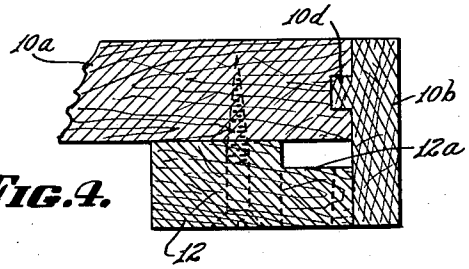

FIG. 4.

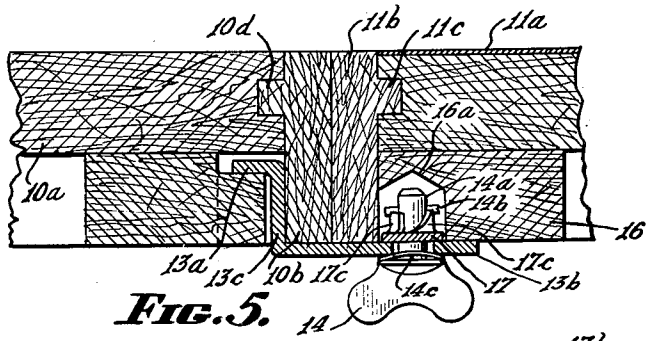

FIG. 5.

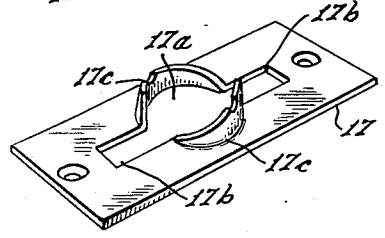

FIG. 6.

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MODULAR OFFICE WORK SPACE AND PARTITION STRUCTURE

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Original application November 14, 1951, Serial No. 256,207, now Patent No. 2,708,292, dated May 17, 1955. Divided and this application March 10, 1955, Serial No. 493,589.

2 Claims. (Cl. 312—111)

This invention relates to a modular office work space and partition structure, and is a division of my copending application, Serial No. 256,207, filed November 14, 1951, now Patent No. 2,708,292, granted May 17, 1955. In my copending application, Serial No. 243,261, filed August 23, 1951, now Patent No. 2,746,109, and entitled, Flexible Office Work Space and Partition Structure, I have disclosed a series of metal desks and table units, a post construction involving intermediate post members, unit post members and end post members and various combinations thereof, and a series of panel elements all made essentially of sheet metal which could be assembled in an infinite number of arrangements to provide a plurality of L-shaped work spaces. Reference is hereby made to the said copending application for a full disclosure of the various possible arrangements, and the various modifications in set-up.

It is an object of the present invention to disclose how the same objectives may be accomplished with wooden table and desk units. The various fastening elements disclosed in said copending case are not entirely suitable for use with a wood construction, and it is therefore an ancillary object of the present invention to disclose certain specific securing or fastening means useful in assembling the structure of the present invention.

These and various other objects of the invention which I shall point out in more detail hereinafter, or which will be apparent to one skilled in the art upon reading these specifications, I accomplish by that certain construction and arrangement of parts of which I shall now disclose certain exemplary embodiments.

Reference is made to the drawings forming a part hereof, and in which:

Figure 1 is a plan view of an assembly of a desk unit and table unit;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of a securing member, the use of which is shown in Figure 5;

Figure 3 is a bottom plan vew of a table unit;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary cross sectional view, taken on a greatly enlarged scale taken on a line 4—4 of Figure 3;

Figure 5 is a fragmentary cross sectional view on a greatly enlarged scale taken on a line 5—5 of Figure 1, and

Figure 6 is a perspective view of a cam plate used in the structure of Figure 5.

Briefly in the practice of my invention I provide desk units and table units, as well as posts and partition members. As disclosed in my said copending application an L-shaped work space is constituted by a table unit and a desk unit joined together at right angles. Partition members may be provided for each L-shaped work space by use of the partition panels and post members. While I have shown only a single arrangement in the present application it will be understood that various arrangements, such as are disclosed in my said copending application, may be made if desired.

Thus, in Figure 1, I have shown the table unit **10** and desk unit **11** connected together at right angles forming an L-shaped work space. A table unit has the work surface visible in Figure 1 and consisting of a suitable board indicated at **10***a* in Figures 4 and 5. The periphery of the board **10***a* is provided with the finished strips **10***b* along the longitudinal edges, and the strips **10***c* along the short edges. These strips **10***b* and **10***c* as clearly seen in Figures 4 and 5 are deeper than the thickness of the member **10***a*. For a more solid construction a mortise and tenon joint may be provided as indicated at **10***d* in these figures. Secured to the under side of the board **10***a* as best seen in Figures 3, 4 and 5 are the strips **12**. These strips throughout their entire length are provided with the rabbet **12***a* and the slots **12***b* are provided to communicate with the rabbet **12***a* as best seen in Figure 3. These slots as clearly seen in Figure 3 have a portion extending the full width of the rabbet and an extension approximately less than half the width of the rabbet.

The construction just described is for the purpose of attaching the fastening elements indicated generally at **13** and best seen in detail in Figure 2. These members **13** are of sheet metal and are generally of Z-shape having a relatively short arm **13***a* and a relatively long arm **13***b* connected by a web portion **13***c*. The portion **13***b* has a hole **13***d* therethrough for the passage of the shank **14***a* of the locking device **14**. The shank **14***a* is provided with the pin **14***b*. The member **13** is assembled to a table unit as clearly seen in Figure 5. The portions **13***a* and **13***b* are inserted through the wide part of the slot **12***b* and then moved longitudinally of the table top into the narrow part of the slot **12***b*. In the latter position the parts will look as seen in Figure 5 providing an outwardly extending arm **13***b* carrying the locking member **14**. A spring washer **14***c* is preferably provided around the shank **14***a* as seen in Figure 5. The structure just described is for the purpose of fastening a desk unit to a table unit as will be described hereinafter. The table unit is provided with leg members **15** which may be of plywood in a hollow box type of construction.

The desk unit indicated generally at **11** is provided with a top constituted of a board **11***a*, and is provided with framing strips **11***b* and **11***c* similar to the strips **10***b* and **10***c* described above. Again the mortise and tenon structure **11***d* may be provided as described above in connection with the mortise and tenon structure **10***d*. On the under side of the board **11***a* there are provided the strips **16** corresponding generally to the strips **12** of the table unit and the strips **16** are provided with a rabbet extending longitudinally the entire length of the strip. An aperture **16***a* is provided in said rabbet and the plate **17** of Figure 6 is set into the rabbet over the aperture **16***a*. Each desk top is provided with two plates **17** at the end opposite the pedestal **18**. Centrally of the plate there is an aperture **17***a* having diametrically opposed extensions **17***b*. Commencing from each of the extensions **17***b* is a curved cam member **17***c*, which may be of material struck out from the aperture **17***a*. From the foregoing description it will be clear that when it is desired to secure a desk unit and table unit together, the member **13** with its associated parts is assembled to the table unit as heretofore described, and then the desk unit is butted against the table unit so that the shank **14***a* extends up through the aperture **17***a* with the pin **14***b* passing through the extension **17***b* in the plate **17**. The member **14** is then given approximately a quarter turn in a clock-wise direction so that the pin **14***b* rides up on the cam surfaces **17***c* and locks the two units tightly together. Thus, the units may be separated by simply turning the member **14** in a counter clock-wise direction approximately a quarter turn.

While I have shown certain specific construction, it

will be clear that numerous modifications may be made without departing from the spirit of my invention, and it will thus be clear that I do not intend to limit myself otherwise than as set forth in the claims which follow.

Having now fully disclosed my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In a modular office work space structure in combination with a desk and a table unit, a separable fastening device for securing said units together, said device comprising a sheet metal member having an offset parallel flange, a bayonet slot in the under side of one of said units through which said flange extends, a key secured to said member and having an engaging abutment, an aperture for the passage of said key in the other of said units, and a rigid cam member beyond said aperture for engagement by said abutment upon rotation of said key, to draw said units tightly together.

2. In a modular office work space structure in combination with a desk and a table unit, a separable fastening device for securing said units together, said device comprising a sheet metal member having an offset parallel flange, a bayonet slot in the underside of one of said units through which said flange extends, a key secured to said member and having a diametrically projecting engaging pin, an aperture for the passage of said key in the other of said units, and diametrically opposed rigid cam members beyond said aperture for engagement by said engaging pin upon rotation of said key, to draw said units tightly together.

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