Sept. 15, 1925.

K. SPRAGUE

1,553,565

FILING DEVICE

Filed Jan. 3, 1923

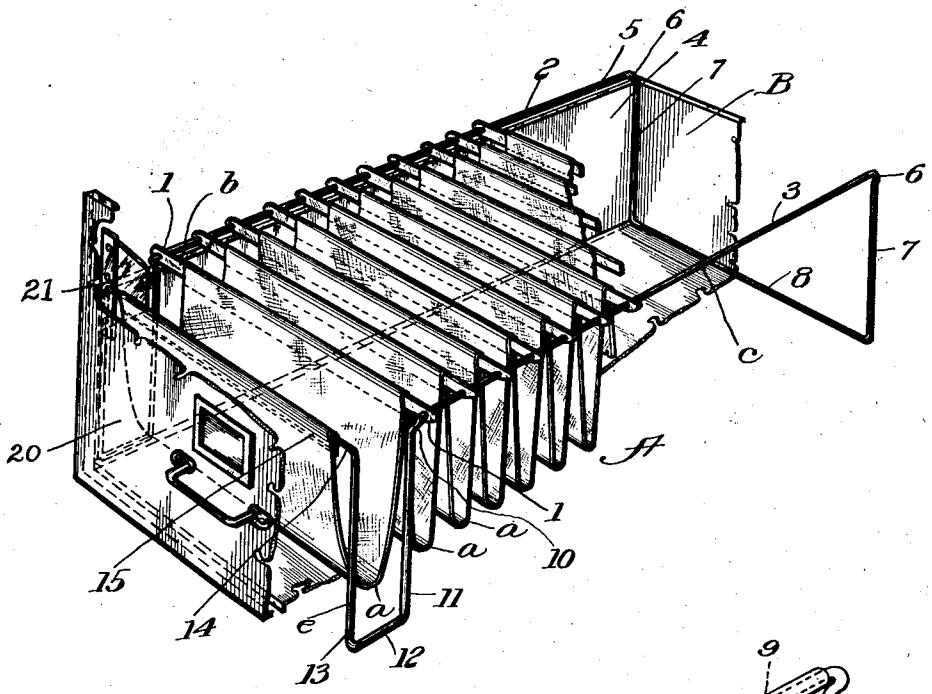


Fig. 1.

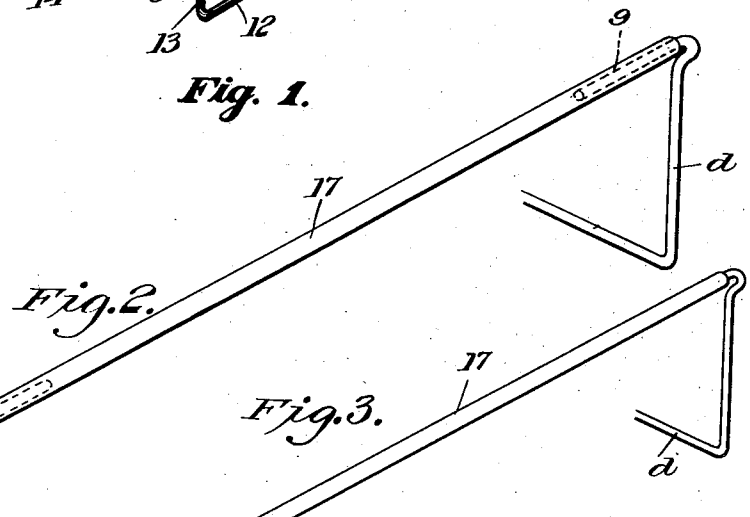


Fig. 2.

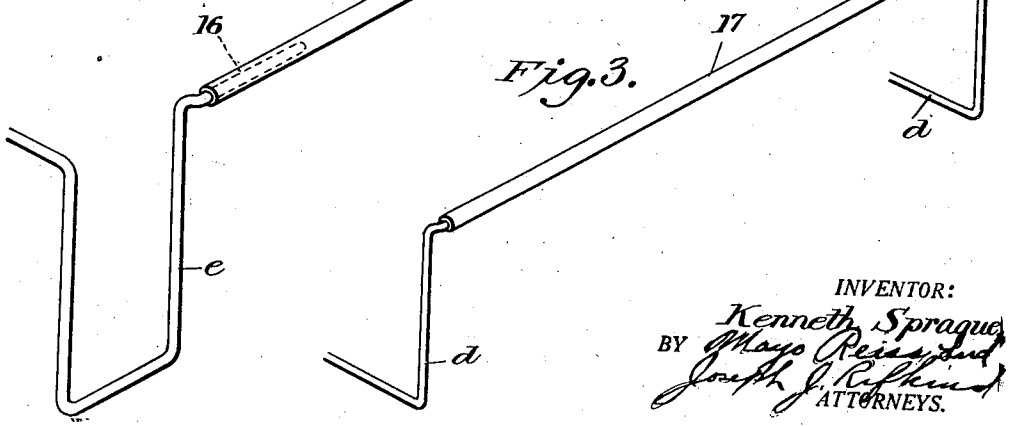


Fig. 3.

INVENTOR:
Kenneth Sprague
BY Mayo Reiss and Joseph J. Rifkind
ATTORNEYS.

Patented Sept. 15, 1925. 1,553,565

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

KENNETH SPRAGUE, OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO MAYO REISS AND JOSEPH J. RIFKIND.

FILING DEVICE.

Application filed January 3, 1923. Serial No. 610,424.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, KENNETH SPRAGUE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Los Angeles, in the county of Los Angeles and State of California, have invented new and useful Improvements in Filing Devices, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to filing devices, and has particular application to what are known as flexible files. The invention contemplates and has for an object the novel and useful provision, formation, and interrelation of various parts, members and features, of a filing device which is simple of construction and which will perform the function required of it in an economical and efficient manner.

In practicing the invention, I may provide a series of cloth hammocks or other flexible means carried by or associated with bars at the ends of each hammock or flexible element, and which bars are movable upon a frame. The said frame is so constructed that it may conveniently be fitted within a drawer of a desk or filing device without the necessity of providing a form of frame of fixed length. Referring to the drawing, Figure 1 is a fragmentary perspective view, certain parts being broken away for clearness, showing the improved filing device within a drawer, and Figures 2 and 3 illustrate certain forms that the frame may assume in practicing the invention.

Corresponding parts in all the figures are designated by the same reference characters.

Referring with particularity to the drawing, the improved filing device is designated as an entirety by A, and which filing device as an entity is adapted to be receivable within the confines of a drawer member B.

A filing device of this character is useful for the filing of letters, index cards and the like, and does away with the ordinary type of follower-block. Furthermore, a device of this character makes it a simple matter to transfer files from one drawer, say a temporary drawer, to a permanent drawer by simply lifting out the filing device, a feature of great importance, as it will do away with confusion and scattering of papers, the contents of the filing itself not being disturbed. The filing device A may include a series of hammocks *a* or other flexible elements adapted to be associated with a series of bars *b*, termed riders, which are provided with transverse openings 1 adjacent each end of said bars and the said bars are in turn slidable upon a frame *c*. The frame *c* may comprise two parallel rods 2 and 3 which are parallel with the longitudinal sides 4 of the drawer member A and immediately above the top edge of said sides, as illustrated at 5. In this particular the frame *c* may have a detachable end portion *d*, as illustrated in Figures 2 and 3, or it may be integrally formed with the rods 2 and 3, as shown in Figure 1, and reference to Figure 1 shows that the rods 2 and 3 are bent inwardly, as shown at 6, and then curved slightly and bent straight downwardly so that a part 7 is approximately perpendicular with respect to the rods 2 and 3. A part 8 joins with the parts 7, and is approximately at right angles to said parts 7. It will thus be seen that the part *d* if detachable, or if not detachable, assumes a U-shape, and if the rods 2 and 3 are tubular in formation, the parts 7 may be provided with extensions 9 adapted to be received within the tubular parts. The bars *b* are adapted to slide upon the rods 2 and 3, so that a spaced relation may exist between successive bars when papers or other material are carried within the depending folds of the hammocks *a*. This arrangement will of course permit free transverse movement of the bars *b* along the frame *c*.

One feature of this invention resides in the arrangement of the front portion of the frame *c* illustrated at *e*, in Figures 1 and 2.

The common construction of a drawer is such that the drawer front designated as 20 must be braced, such bracing being shown at 21. Ordinarily this bracing is connected to the sides of the drawer such as shown in Figure 1 for one side only, being the side 4, and such brace as shown is connected to the side 4 and to the drawer front 20. A similar brace would be provided for the opposite side. As this brace is of considerable size, in the ordinary construction the space included between the drawer front and a hammock would be practically useless, as the brace, or braces, would obstruct a positioning of the hammock frame between the sides at this zone of the drawer. As a consequence one to three inches of space is entirely lost within the drawer. To overcome this objection the front end of the frame *c* illustrated at *e* in Figures 1 and

2 is looped shape in planes parallel with the rods 2 and 3; that is to say, each rod 2 and 3 is bent inwardly as shown at 10, a distance sufficient to be inside the drawer, and then straight downwardly as at 11, then bent as at 12 at right angles to the part 11, and then upwardly as shown at 13, the parts 11, 12 and 13 forming a U-shaped portion or loop, there being a transverse piece 14 joined with the parts 13 at the upper end thereof. The transverse piece 14 may be nonmovable and the terminal portion 15 of the first hammock *a* may be united therewith and carried thereby; the other terminal portion of the first hammock being carried on the first movable cross-piece *b*. Thus the space that ordinarily would have been wasted in a drawer is utilized so that papers may be filed in the first hammock. This structure is likewise shown in Figure 2 and an end as 16 of the member *e* is insertable within a tubular member 17, said tubular member being substituted in place of the rods 2 and 3. If desired, the frame *c* may be provided at both of its ends with a member *d*, as described. The construction shown in Figures 2 and 3 permits of adjustment of the frame to accommodate it to drawers of various lengths. It is thus possible to send a man to a given office with parts *d* and *e* and tubular rods 17 and adjust the files to any length of desk without the necessity of taking measurements and then having the frame specially constructed at a factory.

It is obvious that various changes and modifications and variations may be made in practicing the invention, in departure from the particular showing, and that said variations and modifications may be made within a fair interpretation of the invention, and as disclosed by the appended claims.

Having thus disclosed my invention, I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. A filing device having in combination a series of hammocks for holding papers, bars for sides of the hammocks and a supporting frame; said frame comprising two substantially parallel rods upon which said bars are freely movable, and a looped portion associated with each parallel rod; said looped portion being movable relative to the substantially parallel rods.

2. A filing device including a series of files, a frame member, and means carried by said frame member and joined with said files, whereby the files may be freely moved toward or away from each other; said frame being adapted to be fitted within a drawer member and said frame being formed at one end with a U-shaped portion.

3. A filing device adapted to be fitted within a drawer, including a frame member provided with two spaced and substantially parallel side rods paralleling the sides of the drawer, there being a substantially U-shaped member forming an extension of each one of the substantially parallel rods.

4. A filing device adapted to be fitted within a drawer, including a frame member provided with two spaced and substantially parallel side rods paralleling the sides of the drawer, there being a substantially U-shaped member forming an extension of each one of the substantially parallel rods, and a transverse piece connecting the substantially U-shaped extensions.

5. A filing device, having in combination, a series of hammocks for holding articles, bars for sides of the hammocks and a supporting frame; said frame comprising two substantially parallel spaced rods upon which said bars are movable; said rods being tubular in part, and a looped portion in part received within the tubular portions of said substantially parallel rods.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification.

KENNETH SPRAGUE.