Jan. 5, 1932. L. A. VANDERHOOF 1,840,142

METAL FURNITURE

Filed Jan. 23, 1931 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

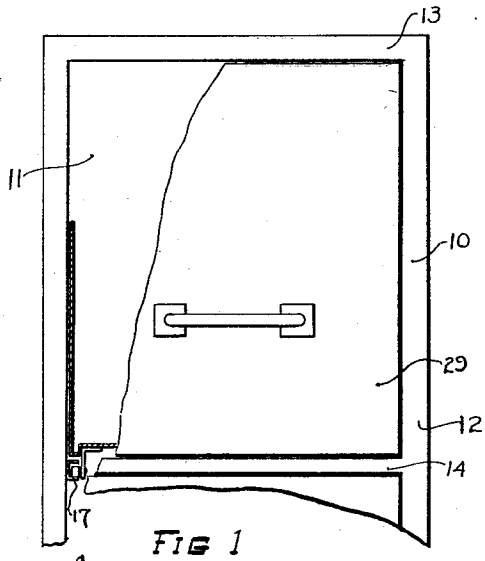


FIG 1

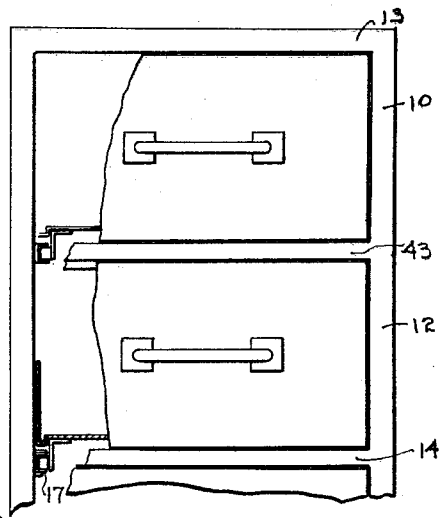


FIG 2

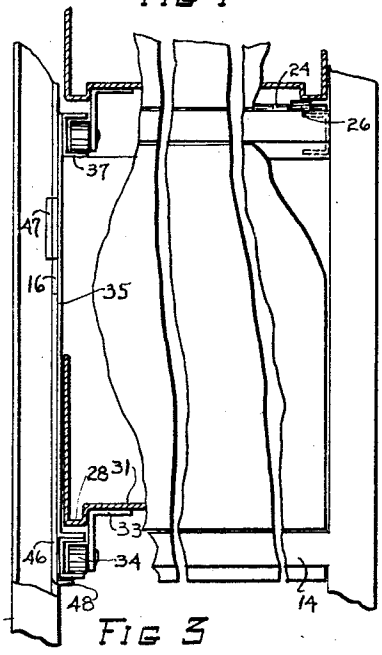


FIG 3

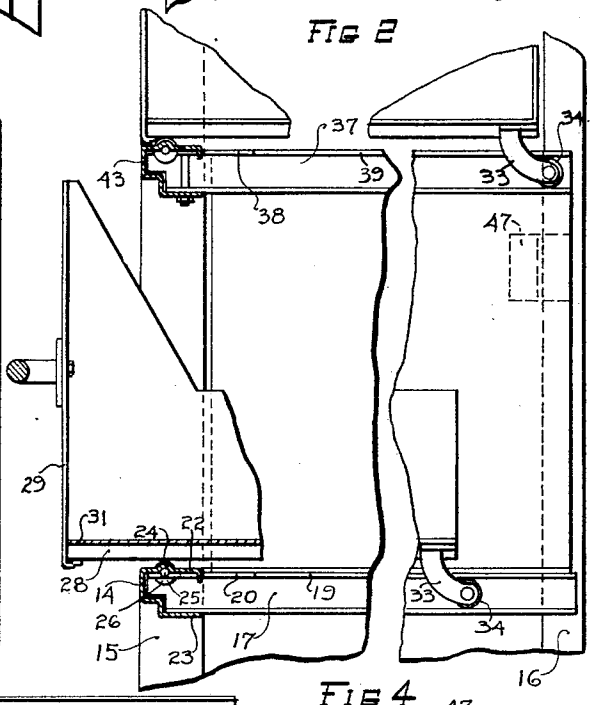


FIG 4

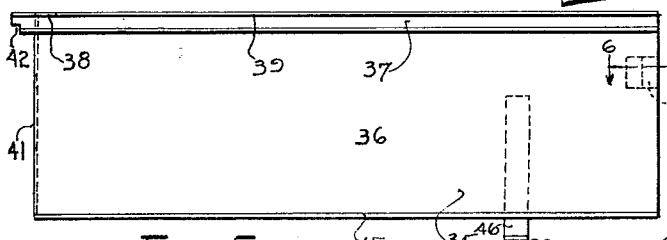


FIG 5

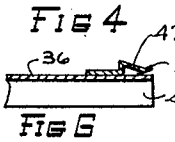


FIG 6

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Jan. 5, 1932. L. A. VANDERHOOF 1,840,142

METAL FURNITURE

Filed Jan. 23, 1931 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

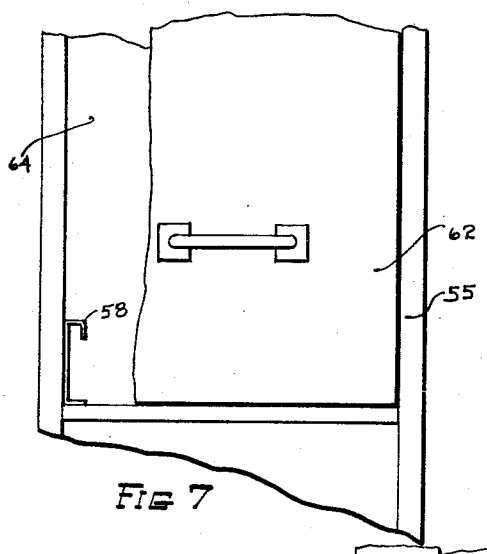


Fig 7

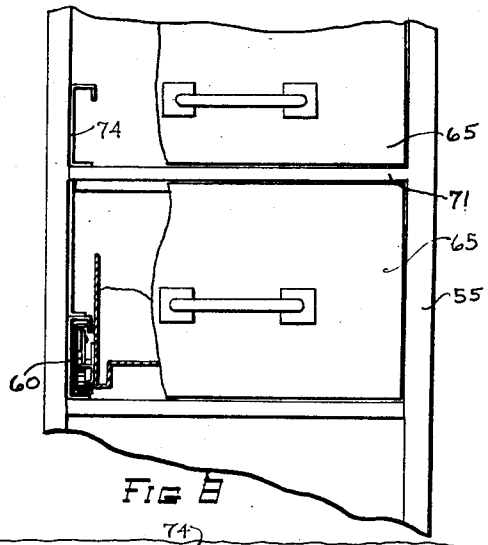


Fig 8

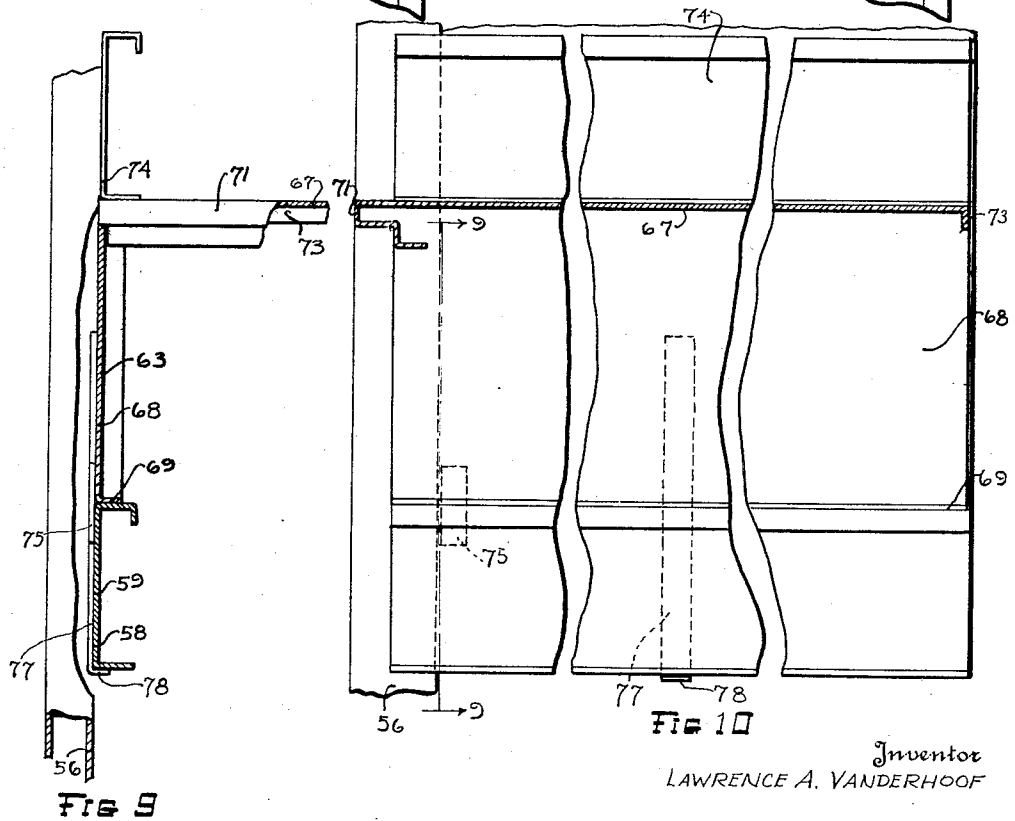


Fig 9

Fig 10

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Patented Jan. 5, 1932 1,840,142

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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METAL FURNITURE

Application filed January 23, 1931. Serial No. 510,779.

This invention relates to an improvement in a filing cabinet and more particularly to a cabinet of the metal type in which large or small drawers may be interchangeably mounted.

The principal object of the invention lies in the provision of inserts for filing cabinest by which to adapt large drawer openings to receive two or more smaller drawers.

Another object of the invention is to provide inserts which may be located in the filing cabinet without dissembling said cabinet.

A further object of the invention is to provide inserts, the structure of which permits the arrangement of large or small drawers by the user of the cabinet without the aid of special tools.

Other and further objects of the invention may be more clearly understood from a consideration of the following specification which is taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, and in which

Fig. 1 is a fragmentary front elevation of a filing cabinet with a large drawer mounted therein;

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary front elevation of the cabinet shown in Figure 1 with two small drawers occupying the space formerly occupied by the large drawer;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged fragmentary front elevation of a cabinet, parts being broken away to disclose the location of a drawer insert;

Fig. 4 is a vertical longitudinal sectional view of a cabnet, showing one of the inserts engaged with the cabinet walls;

Fig. 5 is a side elevation of one of the inserts;

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary sectional view taken on the line 6—6 of Figure 5, showing the method by which the insert is engaged with the rear of the cabinet;

Fig. 7 is a front elevation partly in section of a filing cabinet having a large drawer mounted on a roller suspension;

Fig. 8 is a fragmentary front elevation of the cabinet in Figure 7 and shows two suspension mounted drawers occupying the space of the large drawer;

Fig. 9 is an end view of the modified insert, showing the engagement between cabinet and insert; and

Fig. 10 is a side elevation of the insert shown in Figure 9.

Reference is had to Figure 1 of the drawings in which is shown a filing cabinet indicated by the reference numeral 10. The cabinet is comprised of a plurality of rectangular openings 11 which are defined by the side walls 12, top and bottom rails 13 and intermediate rails 14. The side walls 12 terminate in front and rear flanges 15 and 16. Joined in any suitable manner, as by welding, to these flanges are channel members 17. The upper flange 19 of each member 17 is formed with a slot 20 adjacent the forward end, the purpose of which will later be set forth. The intermediate rail 14 is formed with upper and lower flanges 22 and 23 which receive the upper and lower flanges of the members 17, being permanently secured thereto in any suitable manner. The upper flange 22 is produced with a longitudinal rib 24. Secured in the depression under face of the rib is a rod 25. Mounted on the rod 25 and projecting through suitable openings in the flange 22 are rollers 26. These rollers are adapted to support the channeled portions 28 formed in the base of each drawer 29. Adjacent the rear of the drawer and joined to the wall 31 of the portions 28 are angle brackets 33. Rollers 34 are supported on these brackets, being adapted to support the rear portion of the drawer at all times. When the drawer 29 is mounted in the cabinet, the rollers 34 enter channel members 17 through slots 20.

Although drawers of different height are shown in Figures 1 and 2, reference characters describing the elements of drawer 29 are applied to the other drawers in as much as these smaller drawers are identical in construction with the drawer above described.

It often occurs that the user of a filing cabinet desires to rearrange the space, making use of it for records which may be filed in drawers of substantially half the height of those already in use in the cabinet. Under such circumstances the large drawer is removed, two inserts mounted in the opening 11, and attached as hereinafter described, and

two small drawers inserted. The small drawers plus an additional intermediate rail are of the same height as the original large drawer and, consequently, the appearance and utility of the cabinet is not altered.

The inserts 35, two of which are necessary to change the capacity of the opening 11 from one to two drawers, are provided, along the upper edges of the portions 36, with inwardly opening longitudinal channel members 37. These members are substantially identical with the members 17, being provided with slots 38 in the upper flange 39. The forward end of each channel projects beyond the vertical flange 41 which defines one end of the portion 36. The lower flange and base wall of the channel member are cut to produce a notch 42. The projected portion of the member 37 is adapted to be received within an intermediate rail 43 which is mounted between the small drawers.

The portion 36 is formed with a base flange 45 which rests upon the upper flange of the channel member 17. On the outer face and adjacent the rear of the portion 36 are two straps 46 and 47. The strap 46 is secured at its upper end in any suitable manner, as by welding, to the outer face of the wall 36. The lower end of the strap projects beneath the flange 45 and in turn is formed with an inwardly projecting flange 48. The strap 47, a substantially Z-shaped element, is welded or otherwise joined to the wall 36 to produce a pocket 50. The pocket 50, formed by the portion 36 and strap 47, when the insert is mounted in the cabinet 10, receives the rearmost flange 16 of the cabinet wall 12. The strap 46 may be sprung outwardly to permit the flange 48 thereof to pass beneath the fixed channel member 17. The space between the flange 48 and the base wall 45 of the element is approximately the height of the channel member 17.

It may thus be noted that the insert cannot move upwardly or downwardly by reason of the strap 46 nor can the upper edge tip sidewise under the weight of a drawer by reason of the engagement of the strap 47 with the wall flange 16. It remains only to secure the forward upper edge of the insert to properly support a drawer. This is accomplished through the provision of the small drawer intermediate rail 43. As above set forth, the forward end of each channel member 37 is cut away at 42. This cut-away portion permits inserting the end of the channel member into the rail 43. Rail and channel members are now bolted or otherwise joined together, thus preventing twisting of the upper forward end of the inserts. Each of the rails 43 is also provided with flanges which act as strikers or stop for the head of a drawer located therebeneath.

The above described structure permits installation of two small drawers in a cabinet opening previously occupied by a single drawer. The modification shown in Figures 7 through 10 adapts a more expensively constructed filing cabinet, in which roller suspensions support the drawers, for the installation of two small drawers in place of one large drawer.

In this modification the filing cabinet 55, having inwardly flanged side walls 56, is fitted with channel members 58 which are secured along the base wall 59 thereof to said walls in any suitable manner as by welding. The roller suspension 60, which is mounted in the channel member 58 and supports the drawer 62, forms no part of this invention and will therefore not be described. The insert 63, by which the rectangular opening 64 in the cabinet is made to accommodate small drawers 65 in place of the large drawer 62, is mounted as a unit in said opening. The insert comprises a dust plate 67 having depending side flanges 68. The flanges 68 terminate in base flanges 69. The forward end of the plate 67 is flanged to produce an intermediate rail 71 which is stepped to limit the inward movement of the lower of the small drawers 65. The rear end of the plate 67 terminates in a downwardly extending flange 73 which abuts the rear wall of the cabinet 55. Along the longitudinal edges of the plate 67, and secured thereto by welding, are channel members 74. These members are substantially identical with the members 58, being adapted to receive the suspensions 60 which support the upper small drawer 65. Adjacent the forward ends of the vertical flanges 68 are straps 75, the lower ends of which project below the flanges 69. Spring-like straps 77, located adjacent the rear of the flanges 68, are formed with projecting spaced flanges 78. The flanges 78 are spaced from the flanges 69 a distance approximately the height of the channel member 58. When the insert is mounted in the opening 64, the flanges 69 are adapted to rest upon the fixed channel members 58, straps 77 engaging the side and bottom flanges of said fixed channel members. In this fashion the insert is prevented any vertical movement when once mounted. Straps 75, being adjacent the forward end of the insert, abut the flanges of walls 56 of the cabinet, thus preventing horizontal movement of the insert during withdrawal of the drawer. It will be noted that the insert provides an intermediate set of channel members lying directly above a dust plate. Consequently, two separate and distinct compartments have been produced one for each of the small drawers 65.

Although applicant has shown and described but two modifications of his invention, it is obvious to those skilled in the art that other modifications or adaptations may

be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as set forth in the hereunto annexed claims.

Having thus set forth my invention what I claim as new and for which I desire protection by Letters Patent is:

1. In a filling cabinet having a drawer opening, drawer guide channels secured to the vertical walls of said opening, inserts mounted in said opening, means on said inserts engageable with said cabinet and said channels, said means being adapted to removably secure said inserts in said opening.

2. In a filing cabinet having a drawer opening, drawer guide channels mounted in said opening, two oppositely disposed drawer supporting inserts, means engaging said inserts with said channels and said cabinet, and further means spacedly connecting said inserts.

3. In a filing cabinet having a drawer opening, drawer guide channels secured to the vertical walls of said opening, oppositely disposed drawer supporting inserts mounted in said opening, spring means engaging the rear of each of said inserts with said cabinet and further means removably engaging said inserts with said cabinet guide channels.

4. In a filing cabinet having a drawer opening, guide channels fixed to the vertical walls of said opening, a drawer supporting insert mounted on said guide channels and means engaging said insert with said guide channels and said cabinet.

5. In a filing cabinet having a large drawer opening, drawer guide channels fixed to the vertical walls of said opening, means insertable in said opening facilitating accommodation of two small drawers, said means comprising spaced inserts mounted on said fixed channels, spring means engaging said inserts with said fixed channels and further means preventing inadvertent removal of said inserts when said drawers are manipulated.

6. A drawer supporting insert for a filing cabinet comprising a plate, a drawer guide channel produced along the upper longitudinal edge of said plate, means depending from said plate adapted to removably engage said insert with a fixed cabinet channel, and further means spacedly connecting the forward ends of oppositely disposed inserts, said further means acting to maintain said inserts in upright position.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature.

LAWRENCE A. VANDERHOOF.