March 23, 1954 W. N. ALDERMAN 2,673,132

LIBRARY CUBICLE OR CARRELL

Filed Aug. 1, 1950

Fig. 1.

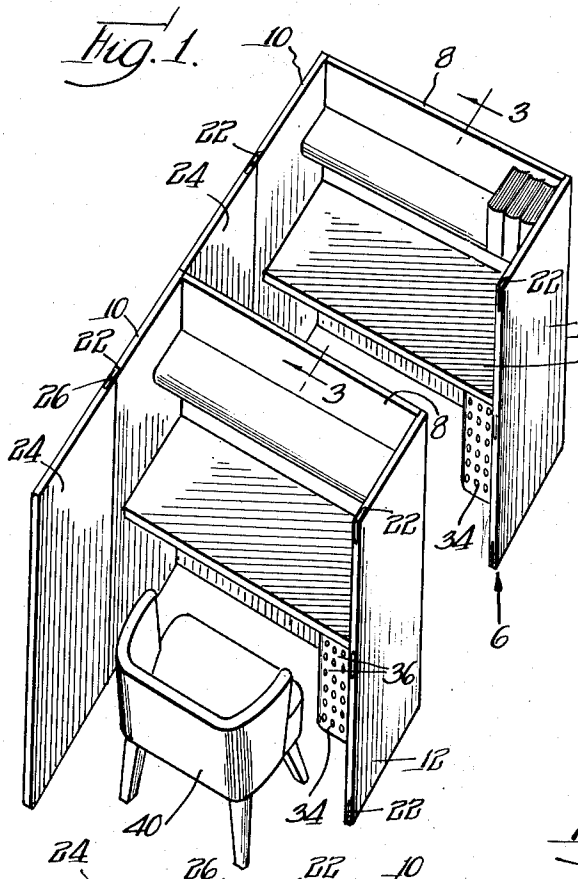


Fig. 2.

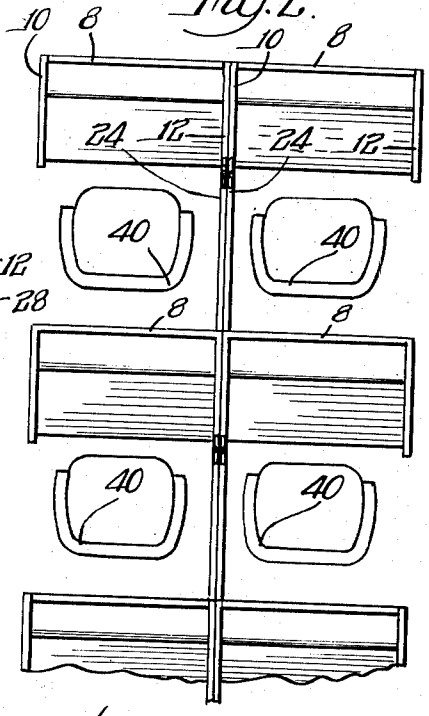


Fig. 4.

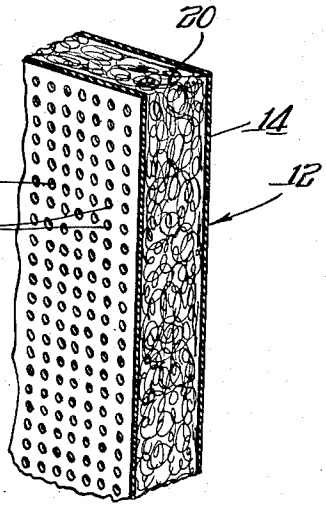
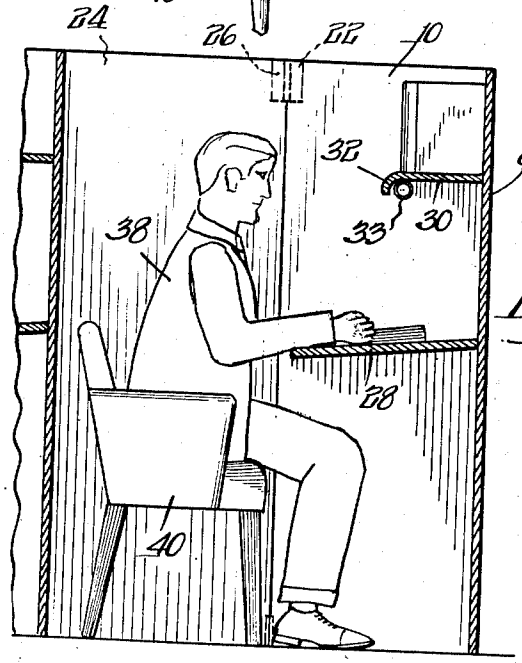


Fig. 3.



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LIBRARY CUBICLE OR CARRELL

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1 Claim. (Cl. 311—2)

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This invention relates generally to a soundproof study booth, cubicle, or carrell and more particularly to such a carrell which is self-contained and readily portable.

It is common practice in schools and in libraries for large numbers of persons to study concurrently in a large room. No matter how careful each person is, there is bound to be considerable noise caused by movement of furniture and of books in addition to occasional conversation. Under some conditions, the ever present noise may be tolerated but it cannot be when intense concentration is required. Accordingly, there have sometimes been provided carrells or cubicles for individual study. These carrells or cubicles have generally been built in against the walls of a room as an integral part of the building. Such carrells cannot be moved and this is undesirable as the study load may shift occasionally from one library or study room to another, thus overcrowding certain study rooms while leaving carrells in other rooms vacant. To insure a sufficient number of carrells in all places at all times, it is necessary to construct a number for each study room or library equal to the peak load to be expected therein. This is clearly uneconomical as many carrells will be unoccupied during off-peak periods.

It is an object of this invention to obviate the foregoing difficulties by the provision of a portable soundproof study cubicle or carrell.

Prior built-in study cubicles or carrells generally have extended to the ceiling of the room or have been provided with auxiliary ceilings of their own. This causes poor ventilation and induces claustrophobia in some persons. Generally, noise in a study room or library comes from the side with little or none from above, so that from the point of soundproofing, a ceiling and high walls on a study cubicle or carrell are unnecessary.

A further object of this invention is the provision of a ceilingless portable soundproof study cubicle or carrell having walls of substantially chest to shoulder height.

Built-in carrells must be provided with desks or writing surfaces of some sort and with study lamps if adequate lighting is to be insured. Often it is difficult to move study desks in through the doors of such carrells and in any event, the provision of separate desks is expensive and inconvenient. Separate study lamps are undesirable as they are inconvenient to locate and are readily broken.

Yet another object of this invention is the provision of a portable study cubicle or carrell

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as set forth in the foregoing objects in which a desk and study lamp are provided integral with the carrell.

Other and further objects and advantages of the present invention will be apparent from the following description when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a pair of cubicles embodying my invention;

Fig. 2 is a top view showing a plurality of cubicles in a different arrangement;

Fig. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view through one of the cubicles as taken substantially along the line 3—3 of Fig. 1; and

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary perspective view of a wall section of a cubicle.

Referring more specifically to the figures, each carrell 6 comprises a front wall 8 and a pair of partial side walls 10 and 12 connected therewith hingedly by any approved construction or rigidly by such means as welding, riveting or any other known means. Each of the walls is of similar construction and a portion of the wall 12 is shown in fragmentary perspective in Fig. 4. The wall 12 comprises an imperforate outer metal sheet 14 and a perforate inner metal sheet 16 having a large number of spaced apertures 18. Sound absorbent material 20 is supported between the walls to deaden any sound waves present within the cubicle and penetrating the apertures 18.

Hinge connections 22 are provided at the top and bottom of the free edges of the sidewalls 10 and 12 and lie between the surfaces of these walls. An extending sidewall 24 is connected to either of the sidewalls 10 and 12 by hinge connections 26 cooperating with the hinge connections 22.

A desk 28 comprises a flat surface which may be of wood, sheet metal or other suitable material and is secured to the front wall and sidewalls 8, 10 and 12 in any desirable manner either hingedly or rigidly. A book shelf 30 is spaced above the desk 28 and may be secured in similar fashion. The book shelf 30 is preferably of sheet metal and is provided at its outer edge with a curved depending flange 32 behind which is housed a tubular lamp 33. The lower surface of the shelf is preferably smoothly finished and serves as a reflector for the lamp. An additional storage space 34 is provided below the desk 28 and rubbers and galoshes or additional books may be stored therein. This storage space is open at one side and is preferably provided with a number of ventilating

apertures 36 in order that wet foot gear may dry out rapidly.

As shown in Fig. 1, the cubicles or carrells 6 are arranged preferably one in front of another with the extending sidewall 24 of each cubicle abutting the front wall 8 of the cubicle behind it. The cubicles normally will be positioned against a wall of a library or other study room and the extending side walls 24 in addition to properly positioning the cubicles relative to one another, exclude sound which otherwise would enter the cubicles by transmission through the building wall or which would travel along the surface of the normally hard finished building wall. The cubicles can be located flush against a wall due to the hinge connections 22 and 26 contained within the cubicle walls. The front and sidewalls of the cubicle are of substantially chest to shoulder height so that when an occupant 38 sits on a chair 40 within the cubicle, his head is below the top of the wall. As most noise will emanate from within the cubicles which are in line with one another, very little sound will come from the side toward the center of the room. Thus there is normally no door needed and the cubicle is left partially open on one side. By having one side partially open, and by having the top open, good ventilation is assured, the construction is less expensive, and there is no tendency toward claustrophobia on the part of the occupant.

Rather than arranging the cubicles in a single line along one wall of the library or study room it may in many instances be desirable to arrange the cubicles in a pair of lines in adjoining relation as shown in Fig. 2. In this case, the extending sidewalls of adjoining cubicles lie in contact. Specifically, as shown in Fig. 2, the extending sidewalls of the left row are hingedly connected to the sidewalls 12 while those on the right row are hingedly connected to the left sidewalls 10.

The library cubicle herein disclosed provides a private place to study which effectively excludes noise. The cubicle is substantially self-contained requiring no additional desk or lamp and is readily portable so that it may be moved from one room or building to another to move with peak study loads. There are no problems of ventilation with this cubicle and the cubicle is sufficiently open that the occupant does not feel confined.

Although a particular form of my invention has been shown for illustrative purposes, it is to be understood that my invention is not to be limited thereby but only by the spirit and scope of the following claim.

I claim:

A portable study enclosure including a cubicle defining a study area, and comprising a front wall, a pair of side walls connected to and projecting rearwardly from said front wall and each of said side walls being of substantially the same horizontal extent and of substantially the same height as said front wall, a desk approximating the horizontal extent of said side walls and secured thereto and to said front wall for rigidifying the structure and disposed substantially midway between the tops and bottoms of said walls to accommodate a seated occupant and whereby the desk area and the space above and below the same are enclosed by the said walls, an extension wall of substantially the same height as said side and front walls, and cooperating fastener means on an edge of said extension wall and on the free edges of said side walls to selectively mount the extension wall to either side wall permitting right- or left-hand installation thereof and with the free edge of said extension wall adapted to abut the front wall of the next adjacent cubicle, thereby affording a side and back enclosure for the seated occupant.

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