# United States Patent [19]

**Burke**

[11] **3,860,308**

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[54] **SLIDE STRUCTURE FOR REFUSE COMPACTOR**


[75] Inventor: **Harry Dennis Burke,** Joseph, Mich.

[73] Assignee: **Whirlpool Corporation,** Benton Harbor, Mich.



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[52] **U.S. Cl.**..... **312/341 R,** 100/229 A, 308/3.8, 312/311, 312/320, 312/348

[51] **Int. Cl.**..... **A47b 88/04,** F16c 19/00

[58] **Field of Search**..... 312/334, 311, 341 R, 339, 312/340, 348, 350, 286, 320; 308/3.6, 3.8; 100/100, 290, 229 R, 229 A



[56] **References Cited**

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| | | | |
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| 2,496,673 | 2/1950 | Nielson | 312/339 X |
| 2,565,784 | 8/1951 | Sheean | 312/286 |
| 2,687,924 | 8/1954 | Gomersall | 312/339 X |
| 3,096,125 | 7/1963 | Kendt | 312/339 X |
| 3,123,419 | 3/1964 | Maxwell | 312/339 X |
| 3,203,749 | 8/1965 | Bullock et al. | 312/339 |
| 3,462,203 | 8/1969 | Del Vecchio | 312/348 X |
| 3,537,390 | 11/1970 | Hinkel et al. | 100/100 |
| 3,664,716 | 5/1972 | Johnson | 312/339 X |
| 3,701,577 | 10/1972 | Fischer | 312/339 |



*Primary Examiner*—James T. McCall

*Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Hofgren, Wegner, Allen, Stellman & McCord



[57] **ABSTRACT**

A refuse compactor having a cabinet defining a base and a front opening, compacting means within the cabinet and a drawer for receiving refuse to be compacted by the compacting means. An improved slide structure is provided for movably mounting the drawer for selective disposition in a number of forwardly exposed arrangements and in a retracted refuse compacting arrangement. In the compacting arrangement, the drawer is supported substantially directly by the base.


**17 Claims, 9 Drawing Figures**

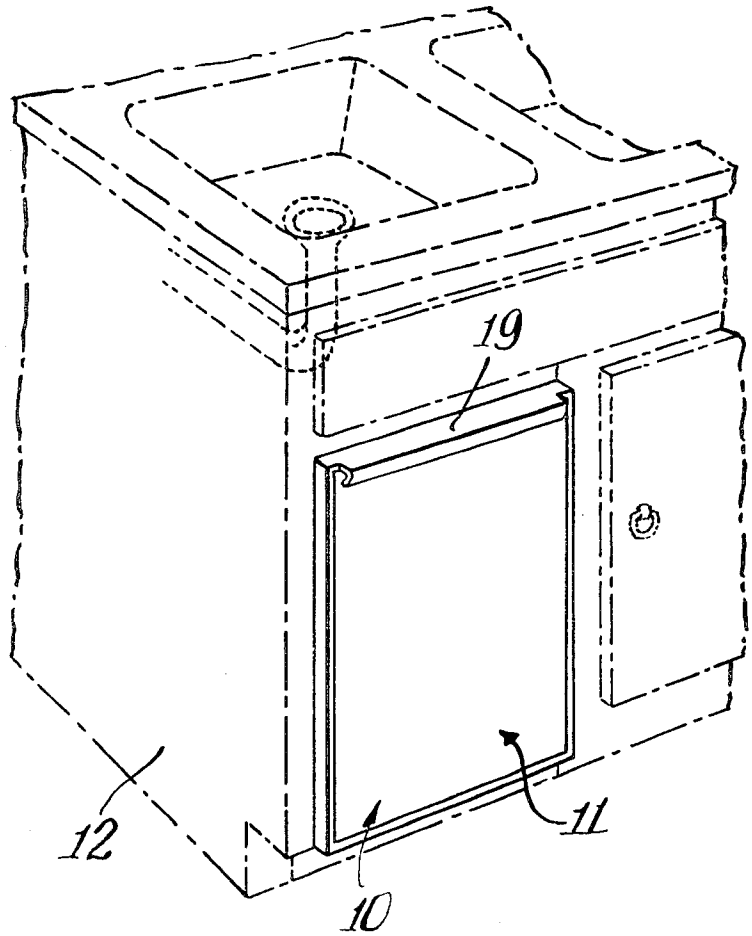


Fig. 1.

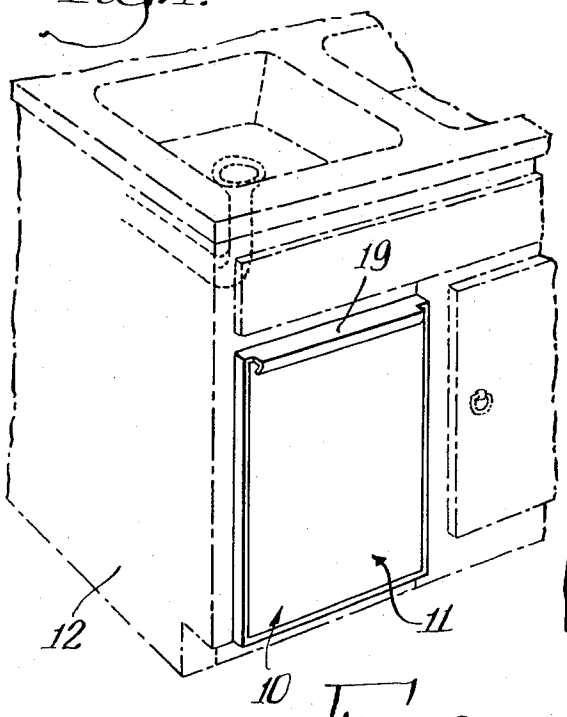



Fig. 4.

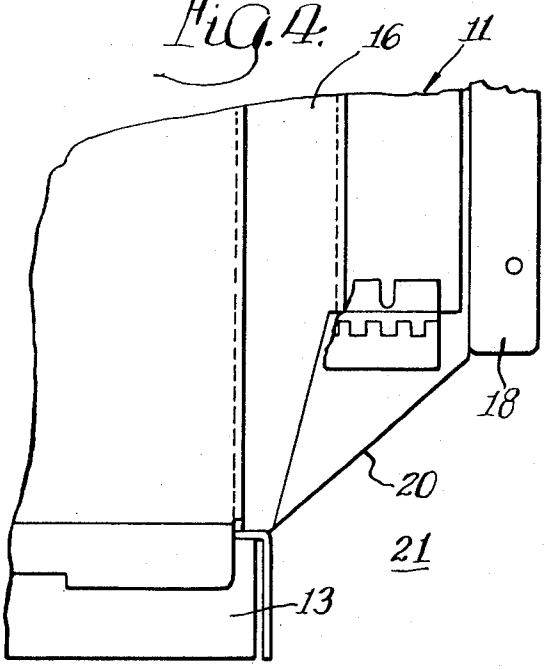



Fig. 2.

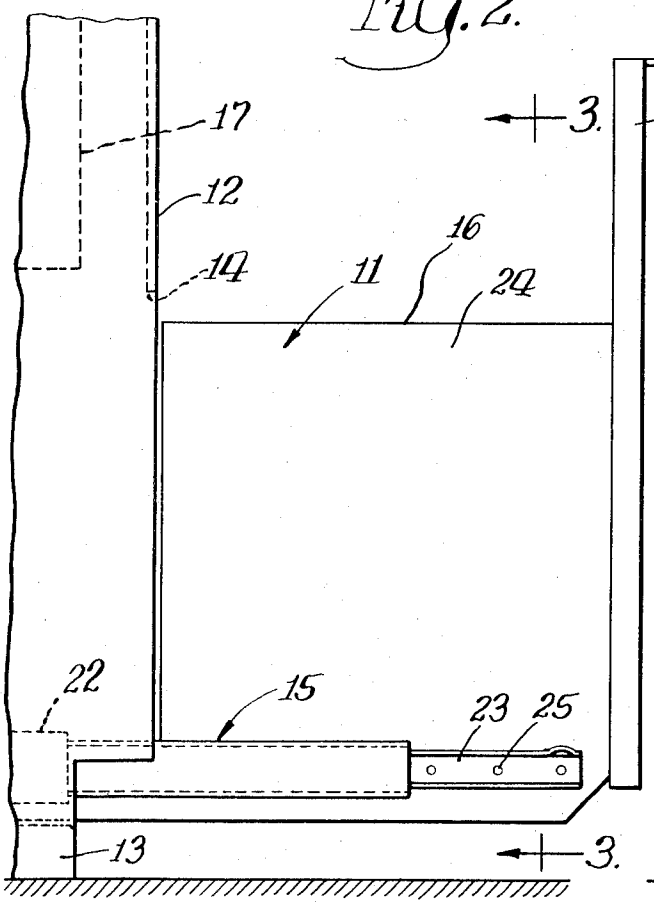
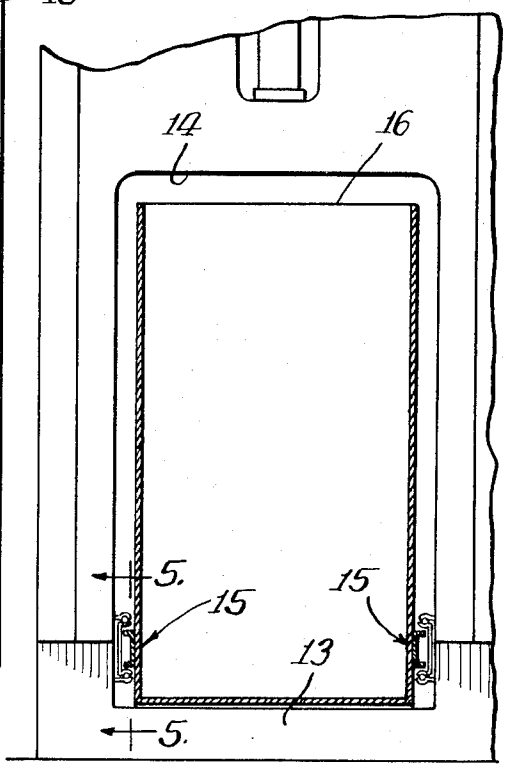
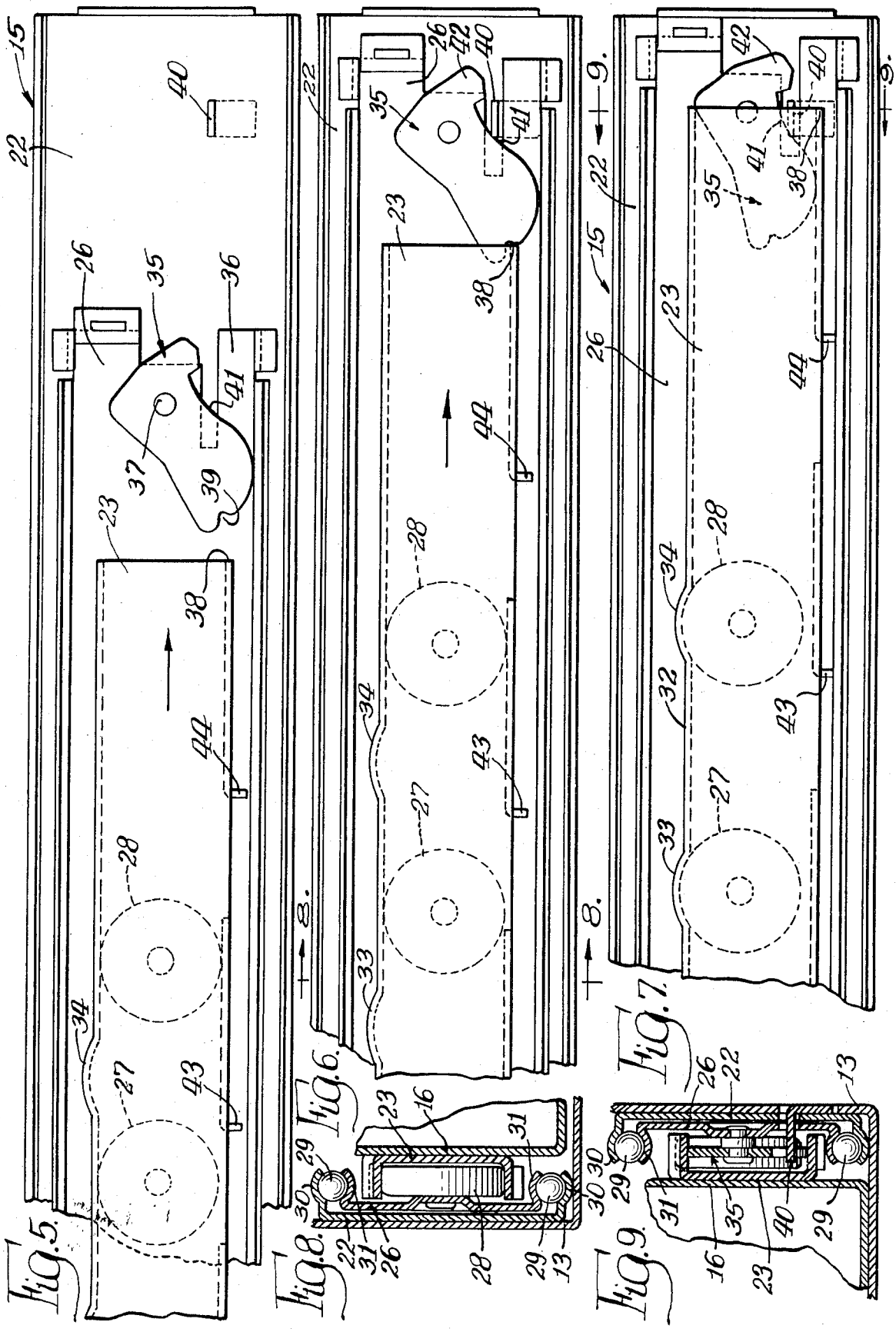



Fig. 3.




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Fig. 5.
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Fig. 6.
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Fig. 7.
Fig. 8.
Fig. 9.

# SLIDE STRUCTURE FOR REFUSE COMPACTOR

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates to refuse compactors, and in particular, to means for mounting the receptacle in which the refuse is to be compacted for selective movement relative to the compactor cabinet.

2. Description of the Prior Art

In one well known form of refuse compactor manufactured by the assignee hereof, the refuse is compacted in a drawer which is moved inwardly and outwardly relative to the compactor cabinet through a front opening. In the retracted position, the drawer is disposed subjacent a compacting ram so that refuse placed in the drawer may be compacted by a forceful downward movement of the ram thereinto.

To place refuse in the drawer, the user moves the drawer forwardly outwardly through the front opening so as to expose the upwardly opening drawer receptacle. To facilitate the movement of the drawer between the retracted and refuse loading positions, the drawer is conventionally mounted on a slide track means which telescopes together in the refuse compacting position of the drawer and which becomes extended in the refuse loading position of the drawer.

In certain installations, such as under-sink installations, the depth of the drawer is curtailed by the presence of pipes and other structure so that the conventional slide track means is not suitable for mounting of the drawer. Illustratively, in such under-sink installations, a drawer travel of approximately 14 inches is available as compared to the conventional 22 inch travel of the conventional counter-mounted or free-standing refuse compactors.

Substantial forces are generated during the compacting operations and, thus, substantial forces tending to deform the slide track means may be applied thereto.

A number of slide track devices have been developed in the prior art for mounting drawers. Illustratively, reference may be had to United States letters Patent Nos.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1,321,166 | 11/11/19 | Voigt | Drawer Carrier |
| 2,496,673 | 2/ 7/50 | Nielsen | Drawer Construction |
| 2,565,784 | 8/28/51 | Sheean | Filing Cabinet Equipment for Machine Shops |
| 2,711,944 | 6/28/55 | Meek et al | Refrigerator Drawer and Latch |
| 2,726,905 | 12/13/55 | Sundquist | Suspension for a Drawer or Shelf |
| 3,123,419 | 3/ 3/64 | Maxwell | Lock for Drawer Assemblies |
| 3,243,247 | 3/29/66 | Knape | Self-Closing Drawer Slide |
| 3,462,203 | 8/19/69 | Del Vecchio | Safety Stop for Slide Mechanism |

More specifically, Voigt U.S. Pat. No. 1,321,166 shows a drawer carrier provided with a movable cam for sequencing the movement of various slide members. The cam is gravity biased and causes the intermediate channel to move outward to a first predetermined position before the cam releases. Sundquist U.S. Pat. No. 2,726,905 shows a cam pivotally mounted to the intermediate channel with the camming surface thereof engaging a finger in controlling the movement of the drawer.

Nielsen U.S. Pat. No. 2,496,673 shows a cam which is gravity biased for effecting outward movement of the intermediate channel upon engagement with a stop member forming a portion of the drawer guide. Nielsen further discloses detents allowing the drawer to drop somewhat in the innermost position. In Nielsen, the detents are located in the lower track surface.

Sheean U.S. Pat. No. 2,565,784 shows a filing cabinet having detents in the upper surface of a track.

Meek et al. U.S. Pat. No. 2,711,944 shows a refrigerator drawer and latch including a gravity biased lever for preventing complete withdrawal of the drawer.

Maxwell U.S. Pat. No. 3,123,419 discloses a cam mounted to a fixed member of a slide mechanism in a drawer lock assembly.

Knape U.S. Pat. No. 3,243,247 shows a self-closing drawer slide having a projection cooperating with a complementary projection on the movable member with the slide utilizing three relatively extensible members. Del Vecchio U.S. Pat. No. 3,462,203 shows a safety stop for a slide mechanism with a multifunction cam acting both as a drawer stop and a sequencer for the drawer movement immediately prior to the complete closing of the drawer.

Reference may also be had to the Hinkel et al. U.S. Pat. No. 3,537,390, owned by the assignee hereof, illustrating a refuse compactor having a drawer mounting means as discussed above.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention comprehends an improved slide structure for use in a refuse compactor movably mounting the drawer thereof for selective disposition in a number of forwardly exposed arrangements and in a retracted, refuse compacting arrangement. The slide structure defines means for causing the drawer to be supported substantially directly by the base in the compacting arrangement so as to effectively avoid deformation of the slide structure during the compaction of the refuse.

The slide structure of the present invention is advantageously adapted for use in connection with refuse compactors having relatively short drawers while providing the necessary substantial movement of the drawer between the above indicated exposed and retracted arrangements. To this end, the slide structure illustratively may include a first track mounted to the base to extend longitudinally toward the front opening, a second track, means for mounting the drawer to the second track, a third track, means for mounting the third track intermediate the first and second tracks whereby the third track is longitudinally movable along the first track and the second track is longitudinally movable along the third track to selectively dispose the drawer in a compacting position within the cabinet with

the tracks in a telescoped arrangement and a refuse-receiving position forwardly of the cabinet front opening with the tracks in an extended arrangement, and means for causing the drawer to be supported substantially directly by the base as an incident of the disposition of the drawer in the compacting position.

Further, the slide track structure may include control means for requiring the third track to be fully telescoped into the first track prior to telescoping of the second track in the third track in moving of the drawer to the compacting position.

Still further, the control means may include cam latch means selectively disposable in a first arrangement preventing full telescoping of the second track into the third track, and means for moving the cam latch to a position permitting full telescoping of the second track into the third track only when the third track is fully telescoped into the first track.

The slide structure of the present invention further may include stop means for releasably limiting the outward extension of the track to the refuse-receiving position of the drawer, the stop means being arranged to permit suitable manipulation thereof to permit further relative movement between the tracks to a position when the drawer is in a further removed position beyond said refuse-receiving position for facilitated removal of compacted refuse from the drawer.

A second stop means may be provided in the slide structure for releasably limiting the outward extension of the tracks to the further removed position of the drawer, the second stop means being arranged to permit suitable manipulation thereof to permit further relative movement between the tracks to effect removal of the second track and drawer from the compactor.

Thus, the present invention comprehends an improved slide structure for use in a refuse compactor which is extremely simple and economical of construction while yet providing the improved features discussed above.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

Other features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing wherein:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a refuse compactor having a slide structure embodying the invention adapted for under-sink installation;

FIG. 2 is a fragmentary slide elevation thereof with the drawer in the refuse-receiving exposed position;

FIG. 3 is a vertical section taken substantially along the line 3—3 of FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 is a fragmentary enlarged side elevation of the lower front of the compactor;

FIG. 5 is a fragmentary enlarged vertical section taken substantially along the line 5—5 of FIG. 3;

FIG. 6 is a view similar to that of FIG. 5 but illustrating an intermediate step in the telescoping of the slide tracks;

FIG. 7 is a view similar to that of FIG. 5 illustrating the fully telescoped arrangement of the slide tracks;

FIG. 8 is a fragmentary transverse section taken substantially along the line 8—8 of FIG. 6; and

FIG. 9 is a transverse section taken substantially along the line 9—9 of FIG. 7.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

In the exemplary embodiment of the invention as disclosed in the drawing, a refuse compactor generally designated **10** is shown to comprise a drawer **11** movably mounted in a cabinet **12** defining a base **13** and a front opening **14**. The drawer is carried on a slide structure generally designated **15** so as to be selectively movable between a retracted refuse compacting arrangement fully within cabinet **12**, as shown in FIG. **1**, and in a forwardly exposed arrangement, as shown in FIG. **2**.

More specifically, slide structure **15** is arranged to dispose the drawer in any one of a plurality of different preselected forwardly exposed arrangements as will be brought out more fully hereinafter.

Further more specifically, slide structure **15** is arranged to cause the drawer to be supported substantially by base **13** in the compacting arrangement so as to direct compacting forces through the drawer to the base circumventing the slide structure.

As shown in FIG. **3**, drawer **11** defines an upwardly opening container **16** adapted to receive the refuse to be compacted by the compacting means **17** (FIG. **2**). Drawer **11** further defines a front panel **18** provided with a handle **19** for facilitated manipulation of the drawer between the compacting and exposed arrangements. The drawer may have a diagonal lower front wall portion **20** to define a toe space **21** forwardly of base **13**.

A pair of slide structures is provided on opposite sides of the container **16**, as shown in FIG. **3**. As illustrated in FIGS. **5–9**, each slide structure includes a first track **22** fixed to base **13** of cabinet **12** to extend longitudinally toward the front opening **14** (see FIG. **2**). A second track **23** is mounted fixedly to the side wall **24** of container **16** by suitable means such as rivets **25**. A third track **26** is provided with a pair of rotatably mounted wheels, or rollers, **27** and **28** for slidably carrying track **23**. Suitable ball bearings **29** are provided in cooperating races **30** and **31** of first track **22** and third track **26**, respectively, for slidably carrying the third track on the first track. Thus, as seen with reference to FIGS. **5–9**, second track **23** is longitudinally movable relative to third track **26** by means of rollers **27** and **28** and third track **26** is longitudinally movable relative to first track **22** by means of ball bearings **29**.

As shown in FIG. **7**, track **23** includes an upper flange **32** defining a pair of longitudinally spaced downwardly opening recesses **33** and **34** adapted to receive wheels **27** and **28** when slide structure **15** is in the fully telescoped arrangement with the drawer in the compacting disposition within cabinet **12**. Thusly arranged as shown in FIG. **9**, the container **16** seats on base **13** whereby compacting forces are directed to the base rather than to the slide structure **15**.

To effect the telescoped arrangement of slide structure **15** from a forwardly exposed arrangement of the drawer, the drawer is urged inwardly as by suitable manipulation of handle **19**. As shown in FIG. **5**, this movement of the drawer causes longitudinally inward movement of track **23** relative to track **26** and track **26** relative to track **22**. A cam **35** is pivotally mounted to a rear end portion **36** of track **26** by a pivot **37**. Engagement of the rear end **38** of track **23** with a stop portion **39** of cam **35** during the rearward movement of track

23 relative to track 26 limits the movement of track 23 at this time to prevent movement of the recessed portions 33 and 34 into overlying relationship with the wheels 27 and 28 as illustrated in FIG. 6.

Cam 35 is gravitationally biased to the arrangement shown in FIGS. 5 and 6 and when track 26 becomes fully telescoped with track 22, as shown in FIG. 7, a lug 40 on track 22 is urged against a camming surface 41 of the cam to pivot the cam in a clockwise direction, as seen in FIGS. 6 and 7 to clear the rear portion 38 of track 23 and permit track 23 to become fully telescoped into track 26 whereupon the wheels 27 and 28 are received in recesses 33 and 34 to permit the above-described seating of the container on base 13.

In withdrawing the drawer as for depositing further refuse into container 16, the user may simply urge the drawer forwardly by suitable manipulation of handle 19. With cam 35 in the position of FIG. 7, a heel portion 42 thereof is disposed rearwardly of lug 40 thereby preventing movement of track 26 relative to track 22 until track 23 is longitudinally withdrawn from track 26 sufficiently to permit cam 35 to again pivot to the position of FIG. 6. On initiation of such withdrawal movement of the drawer, track 23 is moved upwardly as a result of removing wheels 27 and 28 from recesses 33 and 34 so as to re-establish the free rolling longitudinal movement between the tracks as discussed above.

Upon cam 35 returning to the gravitationally biased position of FIGS. 5 and 6, lug 40 no longer is in engagement with heel portion 42 of the cam so that track 26 may now be moved longitudinally forwardly relative to track 22, as shown in FIG. 5.

Cam 35 becomes automatically positioned to block rearward movement of track 23 relative to track 26 upon reversal of the withdrawal movement until track 26 is again fully telescoped with track 22 as discussed above.

A pair of stops 43 and 44 are provided on track 23 to prevent outer roller 27 from moving into recess 34 in the normal movement of the drawer to the forwardly exposed arrangement. In this arrangement, the drawer is accessible for introduction of refuse to be compacted. However, to provide a maximum extension of the slide mechanism so as to dispose the drawer further more forwardly, such as to permit removal of the bagged refuse from the drawer and to install a new bag for receiving refuse for subsequent compaction, the drawer may be lifted to cause roller 27 to bypass stop 43 and permit further outward movement of the drawer until roller 27 engages stop 44.

If it is desired to completely remove the drawer from the compactor, the drawer may again be lifted to disengage roller 27 from stop 44 whereupon the drawer, with tracks 23 attached thereto, is free for full forward removal.

To replace the drawer, a reverse operation may be effected.

Thus, it may be seen that slide structure 15 provides an improved mounting of a drawer in a refuse compactor. Slide sturcutre 15 is advantageously adapted for use with relatively shallow drawers such as in under-sink compactor installations while providing full accessibility to the drawer when desired. Slide structure 15 incorporates improved control means for controlling the operation thereof in permitting selective disposition of the drawer in the different desired arrangements.

The foregoing disclosure of specific embodiments is illustrative of the broad inventive concepts comprehended by the invention.

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. In a refuse compactor having a cabinet defining a base and a front opening, compacting means within the cabinet, and a drawer for receiving refuse to be compacted by the compacting means, slide structure for movably mounting the drawer comprising:

a first track mounted to said base to extend longitudinally toward said front opening;

a second track;

means for mounting said drawer to said second track;

a third track;

means for mounting said third track intermediate said first and second tracks whereby said third track is longitudinally movable along said first track and said second track is longitudinally movable along said third track to selectively dispose said drawer in a compacting position within the cabinet with said tracks in a telescoped arrangement and a refuse-receiving position forwardly of said cabinet front opening with said tracks in an extended arrangement; and

means for causing said drawer to be supported substantially directly by said base as an incident of the disposition of said drawer in said compacting position.

2. The refuse compactor of claim 1 wherein the means for movably mounting said third track defines means for mounting the second track to the third track comprising means on said third track movable along said second track, and said means for causing said drawer to be supported substantially directly by said base comprises means on said second track causing a lowering of the second track toward said base when the drawer is in said compacting position.

3. The refuse compactor of claim 1 wherein the means for movably mounting said third track defines means for mounting the second track to the third track comprising roller means on said third track movably along said second track, and said means for causing said drawer to be supported substantially directly by said base comprises recess means on said second track for receiving said roller means and causing a lowering of the second track toward said base when the drawer is in said compacting position.

4. The refuse compactor of claim 1 wherein control means are provided for requiring said third track to be fully telescoped into said first track prior to telescoping of said second track into said third track in moving of the drawer to the compacting position.

5. The refuse compactor of claim 4 wherein said control means comprises cam latch means selectively disposable in a first arrangement for preventing full telescoping of the second track into the third track, and means for moving the cam latch to a position permitting full telescoping of the second track into the third track only when the third track is fully telescoped into the first track.

6. The refuse compactor of claim 4 wherein said control means comprises cam latch means movably mounted to said third track to be selectively disposable in a first arrangement engaging a stop shoulder on said second track thereby preventing full telescoping of the

second track into the third track, and means for moving the cam latch to a position permitting full telescoping of the second track into the third track only when the third track is fully telescoped into the first track.

7. The refuse compactor of claim 4 wherein said control means comprises cam latch means movably mounted to said third track to be selectively disposable in a first arrangement engaging a stop shoulder on said second track thereby preventing full telescoping of the second track into the third track, and a lug carried by said first track arranged to move the cam latch to a position permitting full telescoping of the second track into the third track only when the third track is fully telescoped into the first track.

8. In a refuse compactor having a cabinet defining a front opening, compacting means within the cabinet, and a drawer for receiving refuse to be compacted by the compacting means, slide structure for movably mounting the drawer comprising: a first track fixedly mounted to said base to extend longitudinally toward said front opening; a second track; means for fixedly mounting said drawer to said second track; a third track; means for mounting said third track intermediate said first and second tracks whereby said third track is longitudinally movable along said first track and said second track is longitudinally movable along said third track to selectively dispose said drawer in a compacting position within the cabinet with said tracks in a telescoped arrangement and a refuse-receiving position forwardly of said cabinet front opening with said tracks in an extended arrangement; and control means for requiring said third track to be fully telescoped into said first track prior to telescoping of said second track into said third track in moving of the drawer from said refuse-receiving position to the compacting position.

9. In a refuse compactor having a cabinet defining a front opening, compacting means within the cabinet, and a drawer for receiving refuse to be compacted by the compacting means, slide structure for movably mounting the drawer comprising: a first track fixedly mounted to said base to extend longitudinally toward said front opening; a second track; means for fixedly mounting said drawer to said second track; a third track; means for mounting said third track intermediate said first and second tracks whereby said third track is longitudinally movable said first track and said second track is longitudinally movable along said third track to selectively dispose said drawer in a compacting position within the cabinet with said tracks in a telescoped arrangement and a refuse-receiving position forwardly of said cabinet front opening with said tracks in an extended arrangement; and control means for requiring said third track to be fully telescoped into said first track prior to telescoping of said second track into said third track in moving of the drawer to the compacting position, said control means comprising a cam pivotally carried by said third track and having a first shoulder and a second shoulder, said cam being biased to dispose said shoulders in a preselected stop position, said first shoulder being disposed in the path of movement of said second track toward said fully telescoped disposition when the cam is in the biased disposition, and means for engaging said second shoulder and causing said cam to pivot against the biasing thereof to remove said first shoulder from said path of movement when the second track is fully telescoped into said first track.

10. The refuse compactor of claim 9 wherein said means for engaging said second shoulder comprises shoulder means fixedly associated with said cabinet.

11. The refuse compactor of claim 9 wherein said means for engaging said second shoulder comprises shoulder means fixedly on said first track.

12. The refuse compactor of claim 9 wherein said cam is gravity biased to dispose said shoulders in the preselected stop position.

13. In a refuse compactor having a cabinet defining a front opening, compacting means within the cabinet, and a drawer for receiving refuse to be compacted by the compacting means, slide structure for movably mounting the drawer comprising: a first track fixedly mounted to said base to extend longitudinally toward said front opening; a second track; means for fixedly mounting said drawer to said second track; a third track; means for mounting said third track intermediate said first and second tracks whereby said third track is longitudinally movable along said first track and said second track is longitudinally movable along said third track to selectively dispose said drawer in a compacting position within the cabinet with said tracks in a telescoped arrangement and a refuse-receiving position forwardly of said cabinet front opening with said tracks in an extended arrangement; and control means for requiring said third track to be fully telescoped into said first track prior to telescoping of said second track into said third track in moving of the drawer to the compacting position, said control means further defining means for retaining said third track fully telescoped into said first track until said second track is withdrawn partially from the position fully telescoped into said third track.

14. In a refuse compactor having a cabinet defining a front opening, compacting means within the cabinet, and a drawer for receiving refuse to be compacted by the compacting means, slide structure for movably mounting the drawer comprising: a first track mounted to said base to extend longitudinally toward said front opening; a second track; means for mounting said drawer to said second track; a third track; means for mounting said third track intermediate said first and second tracks whereby said third track is longitudinally movable along said first track and said second track is longitudinally movable along said third track to selectively dispose said drawer in a compacting position within the cabinet with said tracks in a telescoped arrangement and a refuse-receiving position forwardly of said cabinet front opening with said tracks in an extended arrangement; and stop means for releasably limiting the outward extension of the tracks to said refuse-receiving position of the drawer, said stop means being arranged to permit suitable manipulation thereof to permit further relative movement between the tracks to a further preselected releasably limited position wherein the drawer is in a further removed preselected refuse-removing position beyond said refuse-receiving position for facilitated removal of compacted refuse from the drawer.

15. The refuse compactor of claim 14 further including second stop means for releasably limiting the outward extension of the tracks to said further removed position of the drawer, said second stop means being arranged to permit suitable releasing manipulation thereof to permit further relative movement between

the tracks to effect removal of said second track and drawer from the compactor.

16. In a refuse compactor having a cabinet defining a front opening, compacting means within the cabinet, and a drawer for receiving refuse to be compacted by the compacting means, slide structure for movably mounting the drawer comprising: a first track mounted to said base to extend longitudinally toward said front opening; a second track; means for mounting said drawer to said second track; a third track; means for mounting said third track intermediate said first and second tracks whereby said third track is longitudinally movable along said first track and said second track is longitudinally movable along said third track to selectively dispose said drawer in a compacting position within the cabinet with said tracks in a telescoped arrangement and a refuse-receiving position forwardly of said cabinet front opening with said tracks in an extended arrangement; stop means for releasably limiting the outward extension of the tracks to said refuse-receiving position of the drawer, said stop means being arranged to permit suitable manipulation thereof to permit further relative movement between the tracks to a position wherein the drawer is in a further removed position beyond said refuse-receiving position for facilitated removal of compacted refuse from the drawer; and second stop means for releasably limiting the outward extension of the tracks to said further removed position of the drawer, said second stop means being arranged to permit suitable manipulation thereof to permit further relative movement between the tracks to effect removal of said second track and drawer from the compactor, the means for mounting the second track to said third track comprising roller means on said second track, said stop means defining shoulders on said second track disposed in the path of movement of the roller means.

17. In a refuse compactor having a cabinet defining a front opening, compacting means within the cabinet, and a drawer for receiving refuse to be compacted by the compacting means, slide structure for movably mounting the drawer comprising: a first track mounted to said base to extend longitudinally toward said front opening; a second track; means for mounting said drawer to said second track; a third track; means for mounting said third track intermediate said first and second tracks whereby said third track is longitudinally movable along said first track and said second track is longitudinally movable along said third track to selectively dispose said drawer in a compacting position within the cabinet with said tracks in a telescoped arrangement and a refuse-receiving position forwardly of said cabinet front opening with said tracks in an extended arrangement; stop means for releasably limiting the outward extension of the tracks to said refuse-receiving position of the drawer, said stop means being arranged to permit suitable manipulation thereof to permit further relative movement between the tracks to a position wherein the drawer is in a further removed position beyond said refuse-receiving position for facilitated removal of compacted refuse from the drawer; and second stop means for releasably limiting the outward extension of the tracks to said further removed position of the drawer, said second stop means being arranged to permit suitable manipulation therof to permit further relative movement between the tracks to effect removal of said second track and drawer from the compactor, the means for mounting the second track to said third track comprising roller means on said second track, said stop means defining shoulders on said second track disposed in the path of movement of the roller means, said slide structure being arranged to permit raising of the drawer to disengage said roller means from said shoulders for releasing the drawer for further outward movement.

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