F. L. G. STRAUBEL.

DESK DRAWER FILE.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 29, 1918.

1,350,186. **Patented Aug. 17, 1920.**

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

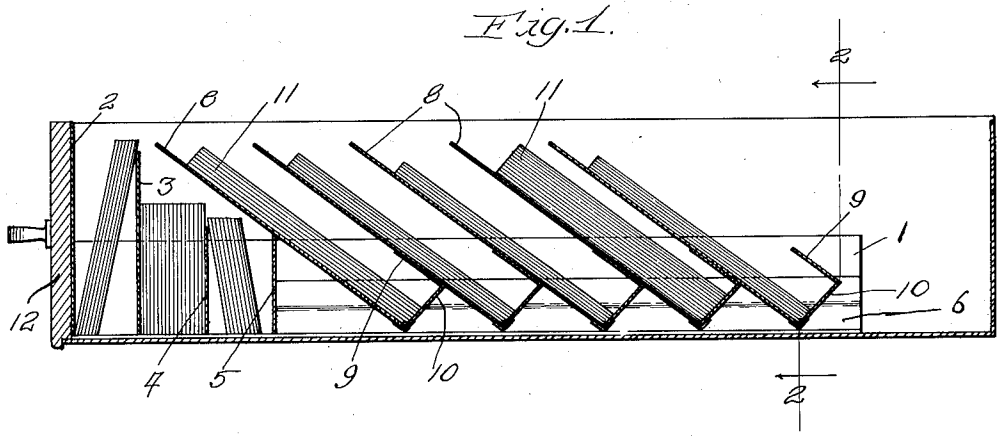


Fig. 2.

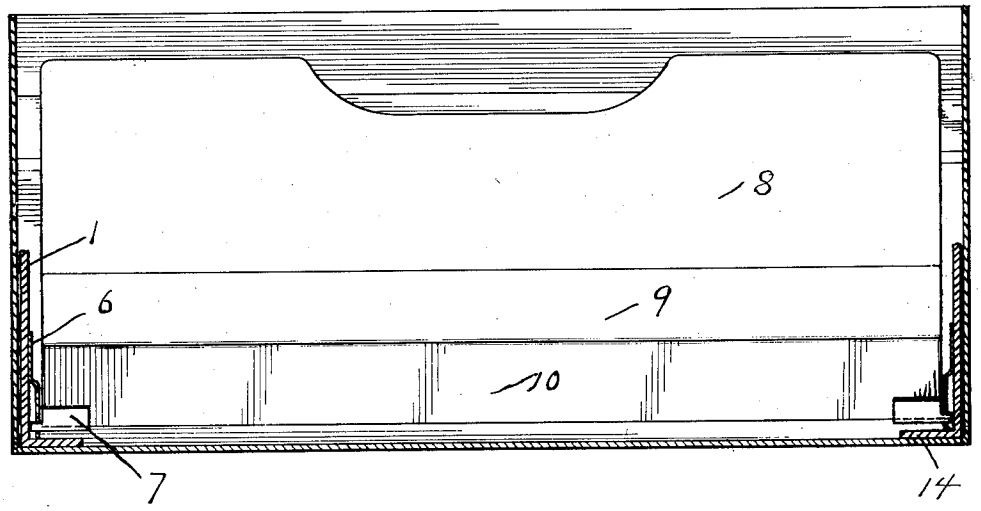


Fig. 3.

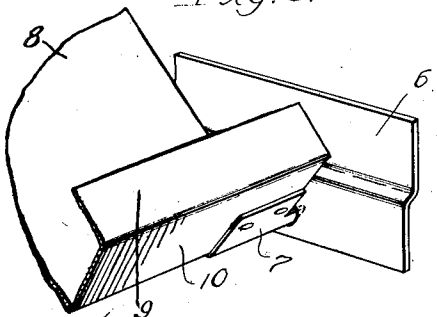
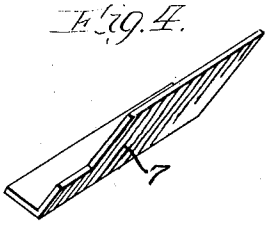


Fig. 4.



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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 5.

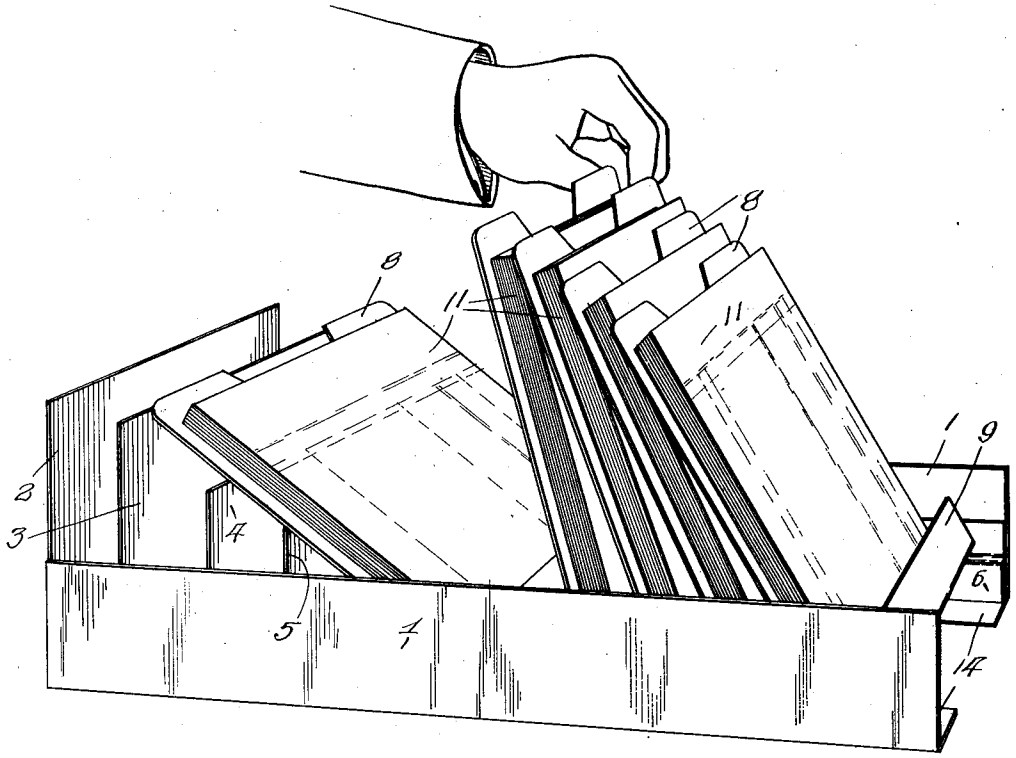


Fig. 6.

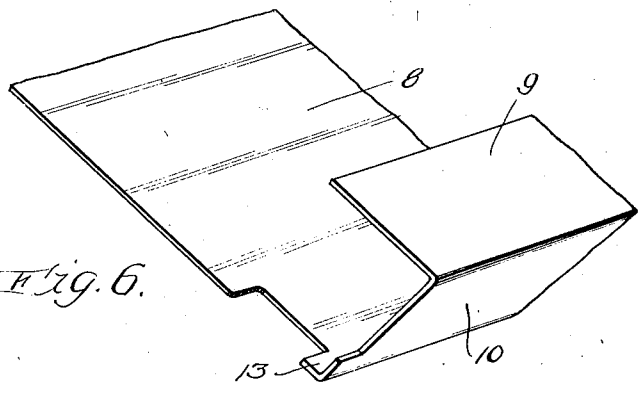
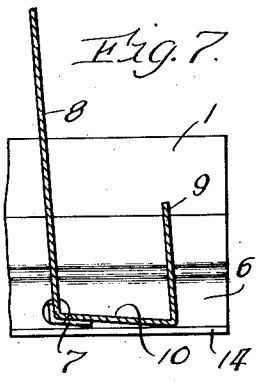


Fig. 7.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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DESK-DRAWER FILE.

1,350,186. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Aug. 17, 1920.

Application filed November 29, 1918. Serial No. 264,499.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FREDERICK L. G. STRAUBEL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Green Bay, in the county of Brown and State of Wisconsin, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Desk-Drawer Files; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to compartmental containers of the general class sometimes called stationery racks and aims to provide convenient and otherwise advantageous methods for sorting and separating correspondence or other papers, stationery, pamphlets or the like. In some of its general aspects, my invention aims to provide compartments normally inclined in position, but adapted to be swung to vertical or other conveniently accessible positions when desired, to provide simple means for mounting and spacing such compartments, and simple means for limiting the movements of the compartments in both directions.

In one of its more particular aspects, my invention aims to provide a drawer or other container with pivoted partitions adapted to space paper or other objects, to equip each partition with a bottom for limiting the downward movement of the material disposed between two successive partitions and with a ledge for limiting the movement of the lower portions of such material from one partition toward the next; to provide means for continuously spacing the upper ends of the partitions sc as to permit any one thereof to be readily grasped and also to continuously expose edge portions of the papers associated with each partition to view; to provide simple means for supporting the partitions normally in inclined positions in which they require less headroom than the height of the drawer or other container; to provide simple means for pivoting these partitioning or subdividing members, and to provide simple means for limiting the movement of these members in a direction away from their said normal inclined positions.

In a still more particular aspect, my invention aims to provide a compartmental insert for a drawer or other container, which will provide pivoted pockets for holding the separated batches of papers or the like and which will permit of the convenient and advantageous manipulation of these pivoted pockets. Further objects of my invention will appear from the following specification and from the accompanying drawings in which—

Figure 1 is a longitudinal section taken centrally through the drawer of a desk or cabinet housing a compartmental arrangement embodying my invention.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged transverse section through the same drawer, taken along the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary view showing the mounting of one of the pivoted pocket members of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged perspective view of one of the angle pieces which afford the pivots for a pocket member of Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the compartmental insert of the drawer of Fig. 1, showing the same in use.

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary perspective view of the lower end of a pocket member in which the pivot element is formed integral with the pocket.

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary vertical section, similar to a portion of Fig. 1, but showing one of the pivoted pocket members swung to its extreme rearward position.

In the embodiment of the drawings, the appliance of my invention comprises a compartmental insert for the drawer of a desk or cabinet, which insert is shown in Fig. 5 as it might appear when in use. This insert includes a supporting frame comprising a pair of angle-shaped sides 1 rigidly secured to a front 2 and also to a series of transverse partitions 3, 4 and 5 successively spaced from the front 2. On these partitions I equip the side members 1 with suitable means for pivoting other partitions, as by using strips 6 secured flatwise to the side members 1 near the bottom of the latter and having their lower portions offset (as shown in Fig. 3) so as to space them somewhat from the sides 1. The offset portions of the two strips 6 secured respectively to the opposite sides 1 have oppositely disposed perforations affording pivotal bearings for lugs 7 secured to the lower ends of movable compartment members. Each of the compartment members desirably consists of a substantially inflexible sheet bent twice upon itself at its lower end so as to afford a relatively short ledge 9 extending parallel

to the main portion 8 of the sheet and connected to the latter by a bottom portion 10. Thus formed, each of these sheets affords a pocket for receiving letters, catalogues or other inserted matter, which matter is prevented by the bottom portion 10 of each compartment from reaching the bottom of the appliance or of the drawer housing the latter. Thus a batch of letters 11 may rest in the forward compartment as shown in Fig. 1, and by suitably shortening the more rearward vertical partitions 4 and 5, the main portion 8 of the most forward one of the pivoted compartments may normally rest in an inclined position, supported by the upper edge of one of the said vertical partitions. Then the main portion of the next compartment may rest upon the ledge 9 of the compartment in advance of the same, and likewise each succeeding pivoted compartment will thus be limited in its downward swinging in one direction by engagement with the ledge portion on the next compartment. To make this support all the more firm, I desirably proportion the spacing between the pivoting perforations in the strips 6 so that the main portion of one compartment will rest flatwise upon the ledge 9 of the adjacent compartment, as shown in Fig. 1.

With the parts thus arranged, it will be obvious from the drawings, that on releasing the pivoted compartments of Fig. 5, these will all swing by gravity into their normal positions of Fig. 1, thus enabling the rack or drawer-insert with its contents to be set bodily into a drawer 12 of a height considerably less than that of the main portions 8 of the pivoted compartment or pocket members. Then, on partially opening the drawer, the contents of each of these pockets will be accessible without moving these pockets. However, if particular papers are to be selected from any particular pocket, or are being inspected without removing the same from the pocket, any one of the pivoted compartments may readily be swung about its pivots as shown in Fig. 5, thus affording a better view of its contents and also affording ample room for handling the papers. However, on releasing the hand shown in Fig. 5, all of the compartments which had been raised by the latter will automatically fall back into their normal positions, so as not to interfere with the speedy closing of the drawer.

While various materials may be used for the pocket members and while the pivoting lugs or extensions on the latter may be constructed in various ways, I desirably form each pocket member proper out of a sheet of metal slightly narrower in width than the space between the offset portions of the strips 6. Then the lugs 7 may consist simply of thin metal angle-pieces spot-welded to the juncture of the main side 8 of the pocket with the bottom 10 of the latter and each having the welded side of the angle-piece cut away to afford a relatively narrower angle-section projection as shown in Fig. 4 for extending into one of the perforations in the side strips 6. Or, the sheet from which the pocket member is formed may be somewhat wider, so as to closely approach the upper portions of the side strips 6 and may have all except an angle-sectioned portion cut away at the lower end of the main portion 8, as shown in Fig. 6 thus leaving a projecting pivot-lug 13 integral with the pocket. In either case, it will be obvious that by suitably proportioning the parts, the projecting lug will only bear on the bore of the adjacent perforation along three lines, thus reducing the friction and making it easy to swing the pocket of my appliance back and forth.

To prevent the contents of the pockets from being tipped out of the latter, I desirably place the pivoting perforations close to the bottom of the appliance and desirably bend the bottom 10 at such an angle with the main portion 8 that the juncture of the bottom 10 with the ledge 9 will strike the horizontal ledges 14 or other bottom portions of the appliance when the main portion 8 is approximately vertical. In other words, I cause the bottom of each pocket to limit the swinging of the pocket in its upward direction. I also desirably notch the upper end of each of the main portions 8 as shown in the drawings, so as to make it easier for the user to grasp the contents of the pocket. However, while I have illustrated and described the appliance of my invention as including angle-shaped side rails 1 and as having the most forward pocket normally supported by a rigid vertical partition, I do not wish to be limited to these or other details of the construction and arrangement, since the latter might be modified in many ways without departing from the spirit of my invention.

I claim as my invention:

1. In a filing drawer, pivoted partitions, each composed of spaced fronts and backs and a bottom connecting the fronts and backs, the pivots being located adjacent the fronts and above the drawer bottom and the bottoms being at an obtuse angle to the fronts so that the points of juncture between the backs and bottom will project below the pivots and afford stops to engage the drawer bottom to limit rearward swinging of the partitions.

2. In a filing drawer, a rigid transverse partition arranged near but spaced from the front of the drawer and of considerably less height than the depth of the drawer, independent side members secured along their upper longitudinal portions to the respec-

tive drawer sides and having their lower longitudinal portions bent outwardly to lie spaced from the said drawer sides and to have free movement toward and away therefrom, said lower portions of the side members having apertures, and partition members have pivots arranged in said apertures, the partition next to said rigid partition having its front engaged thereby at points between the top and bottom of the front so that the top of the front extends over the rigid partition and below the effective top of the drawer.

3. In a filing drawer, independent side members secured along their upper longitudinal portions to the respective drawer sides and having their lower longitudinal portions bent outwardly to lie spaced from the said drawer sides and to have free movement toward and away therefrom, said lower portions of the side members having apertures, and partitions having pivots engaged in said apertures and disengageable therefrom by movement of the lower portions of the side members about the bent portions of the latter.

4. In a filing drawer, independent side members each consisting of a metal strip offset between its top and bottom and lengthwise thereof, the part above the offset being rigidly attached to the drawer side and the part below the offset being perforated and spaced from the drawer side and free to move toward and away therefrom, and partitions having pivots engaged in the perforations.

Signed at Green Bay, Wisconsin, November 22nd, 1918.

FREDERICK L. G. STRAUBEL.