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J. W. COWAN

2,363,574

FILING CABINET

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Fig. 1

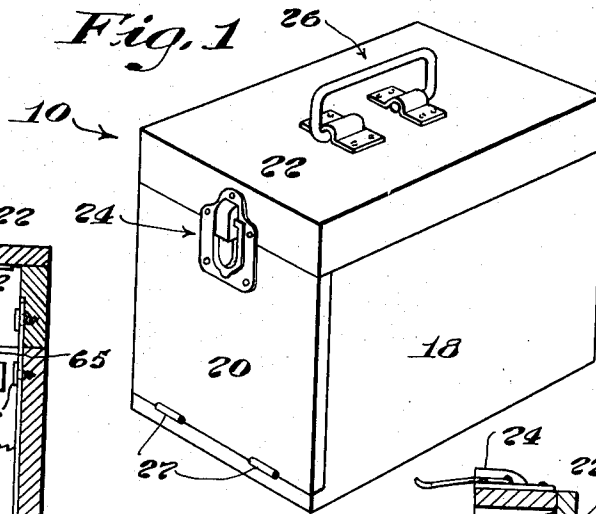


Fig. 2

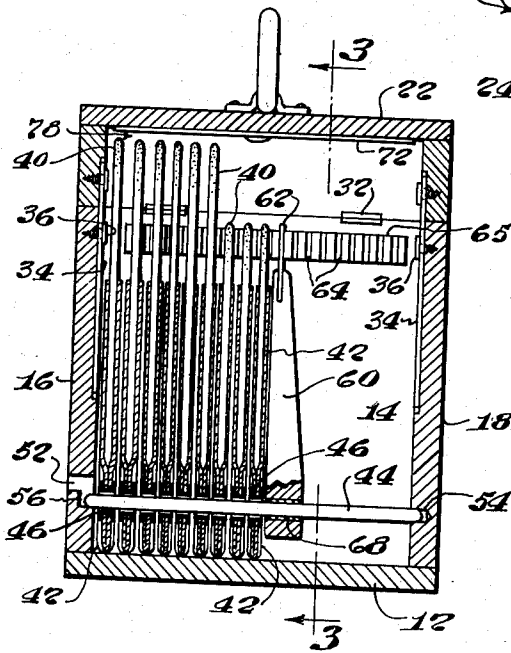
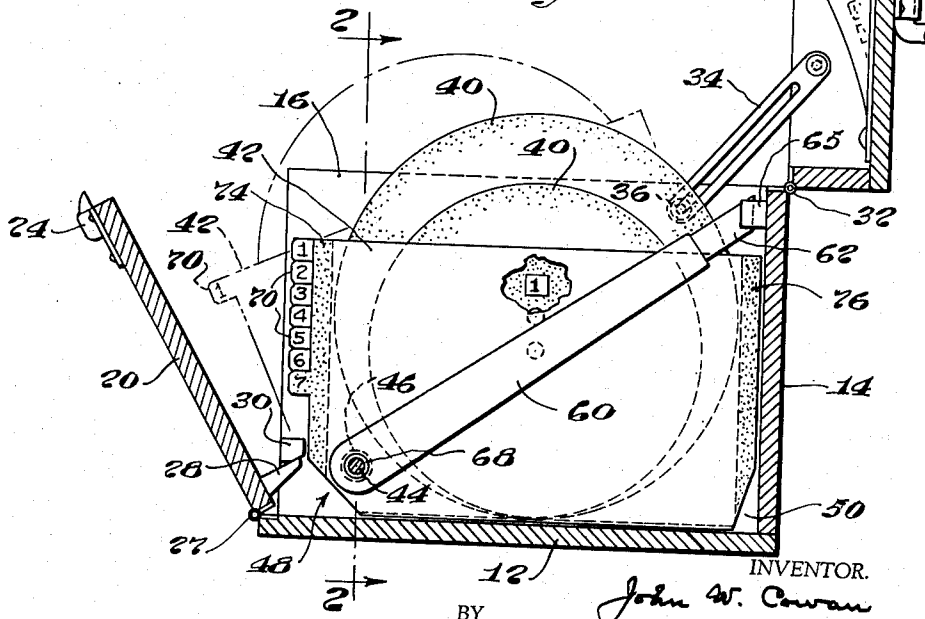


Fig. 3



INVENTOR.  
John W. Cowan  
J. Stanley Churchill  
att'y.

## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## FILING CABINET

John W. Cowan, Milton, Mass.

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2 Claims. (Cl. 312-10)

This invention relates to a filing cabinet.

The invention has for an object to provide a novel and improved filing cabinet or receptacle particularly adapted for containing articles such as phonograph records and the like and in which provision is made for operatively supporting the articles within the cabinet in a compact and safe condition and to permit them to be readily deposited therein and withdrawn therefrom.

With this general object in view, and such others as may hereinafter appear, the invention consists in the filing cabinet and in the various structures, arrangements and combinations of parts hereinafter described and particularly defined in the claims at the end of this specification.

In the drawing illustrating the preferred embodiment of the invention, Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a filing cabinet embodying the present invention; Fig. 2 is a cross section taken on the line 2-2 of Fig. 3 shown with the top in its closed position; and, Fig. 3 is a cross section taken on the line 3-3 of Fig. 2 showing the cabinet in its fully opened position.

In general, the present invention contemplates the provision of a cabinet which is simple in structure and convenient in use and which is particularly adapted for filing articles, such as phonograph records, in a manner such as to maintain them in a relatively safe and compact condition, and whose construction is such as to permit of ready access to the articles and to facilitate withdrawal and insertion of individual articles filed therein. In the illustrated embodiment of the invention the articles are preferably stacked vertically on edge in individual envelopes which are pivotally mounted on a common axis to enable an envelope to be swung out of alignment with the main body of the stack whereby to render the envelopes easily accessible for the reception of an article or the removal of an article therefrom. Provision is also made for compacting the articles in the cabinet and for retaining them in a compactly stacked condition whereby to prevent displacement of the articles during movement or transportation of the cabinet.

Referring now to the drawing, 10 represents a cabinet having a bottom wall 12, rear wall 14, and side walls 16, 18 and which is provided with a hinged front panel 20 and a hinged cover 22. A clasp 24 of any usual or preferred construction may be provided to maintain the front panel 20 and the cover 22 in their closed condition as illustrated in Fig. 1, and, a handle 26 may be pro-

vided on the cover 22 for convenience in carrying the cabinet.

As illustrated in Fig. 3, when the cabinet is opened, the front panel 20 may be swung outwardly on its hinges 27, being limited in its outwardly swung position by a stop member 28 extended from the lower edge of the panel 20 which is arranged to engage a lug 30 secured to a side wall 16, 18 of the cabinet, as shown. The top cover 22 which may be rocked on its hinges 32 until it assumes a fully opened or vertical position is maintained in its upwardly swung position by one or more slotted bars 34 pivotally fixed in the cover and engageable with a stop screw 36 fixed in a side wall of the cabinet.

The articles, such as phonograph records 40 to be filed are arranged to be received in individual envelopes 42, a plurality of which are pivotally mounted upon a rod 44 extending across the cabinet and removably supported in the side walls 16, 18 thereof. Each envelope 42 is provided with an eyelet 46 adjacent the lower front corner through which the rod 44 projects so as to enable an individual envelope to be rocked out of alignment with the rest of the stack as indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 3, to facilitate insertion or removal of an article. As herein shown, the lower corners 48, 50 of the envelopes may be cut off as required to provide clearance to permit an envelope to be swung outwardly as described.

As shown in Fig. 2, one of the side walls 16 is provided with an opening 52 through which the rod 44 may be inserted and then positioned to present one end of the rod in a socket 54 in the opposite side wall 18, the other end of the rod resting in a slotted portion 56 adjacent the opening 52. With this construction it will be seen that when it is desired to add or replace envelopes in the cabinet it is merely necessary to raise the rod slightly and slide it through the opening 52.

Provision is made for maintaining the articles in a closely stacked condition and, as herein shown, a retaining bar 60 slidably and pivotally mounted on the rod 44 is arranged to be pressed into engagement with the end of the stack, as shown in Fig. 2. In order to retain the bar 60 in its adjusted position, the outer end thereof is provided with a blade member 62 arranged to be received in one of a plurality of notches 64 cut in an elongated member 66 secured to the rear wall 14 of the cabinet. Additional blade members and notched members may be provided if desired to increase the stability of the re-

taining bar. A bushing 68 may be provided in the bar to facilitate movement of the bar on the rod 44. In operation, when it is desired to adjust the position of the bar, the latter is rocked upwardly to disengage the blade member 62 from the notched member 65 whereupon the bar may be moved laterally on the rod 44 to its new position and then rocked downwardly again to engage a different notch 64.

As herein shown, each envelope may be provided with a numbered tab 70 extending from the forward edge thereof and arranged in staggered relation. The tabs 70, in addition to serving to identify a similarly numbered article in the envelope, also serve as handles by which an envelope may be grasped to rock it forwardly as above described. In operation, an envelope is rocked forwardly only a sufficient distance out of alignment with the stack to enable an article to be grasped between the fingers and pulled out of its envelope, the envelopes preferably being of a height substantially less than the diameter of the disc inserted therein so that the portion of the disc extending above the top of the envelope is easily accessible. The front panel 20 is arranged to be rocked outwardly a sufficient distance, approximately 30°, to provide clearance for rocking an envelope, as described, yet the panel is limited in its outward movement to prevent an envelope from being inadvertently moved to an angle beyond which a disc might roll out, thus serving as a limiting stop for the envelopes. It will be observed that the inside of the cover may serve as a convenient repository for an index list 72 of the articles contained in the envelopes.

The envelopes 42 may and preferably will be made of a good quality paper or board stock and simply constructed, being merely folded once and adhesively united along the marginal edges 74, 76 at either end. The discs 40 mounted in the envelopes thus constructed are held from lateral displacement so that the cabinet may be safely transported without danger of injury to the discs. It will also be observed that the clearance space 78 between the top of the larger discs and the underside of the cover 22 is limited when the cabinet is in its closed condition, as shown in Fig. 2, so that only slight movement of the discs upwardly is permitted thus reducing to a minimum the likelihood of damage to the discs when the cabinet is moved.

From the above description of the construction and mode of operation of the illustrated filing cabinet, it will be observed that the present invention provides a safe and convenient repository for storing and filing articles of a fragile nature such as phonograph records, although it will be apparent that the invention may be used with advantage for filing and storing articles of a different nature.

While the preferred embodiment of the invention has been herein illustrated and described it will be understood that the invention may be embodied in other forms within the scope of the following claims.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:

1. A portable cabinet for holding and transporting phonograph records comprising a box having a hinged top cover and a hinged front panel, means for joining the free ends of said hinged members when the box is closed, a rod horizontally extended and removably supported between the side walls of said box and disposed adjacent the lower front corner thereof, a group of rectangular vertically disposed record holding envelopes pivotally mounted on said rod and arranged to permit individual envelopes to be swung out of alignment with the group when the box is opened, said envelopes being snugly fitted into said box with a minimum of clearance between the edges thereof and the bottom, front and rear panels of the box when the latter is in its closed condition whereby to reduce to a minimum lateral movement of said record holding envelopes and their contents during transportation, said box being also proportioned to provide a minimum of clearance between the upper edges of the inserted records and the top cover of the box, and means for maintaining said group of envelopes and their contents in a compact condition longitudinally of the rod including a retaining member pivotally and slidably mounted on said rod, said retaining member being provided with a bushing to facilitate movement on the rod, and a notched member mounted on the rear panel of the box and arranged to be removably engaged by said retaining member.

2. A portable cabinet for holding and transporting phonograph records comprising a box having a cover and a removable front panel, means for fastening the cover and front panel when the box is closed, a rod horizontally extended and removably supported adjacent the side walls of said box and disposed adjacent the lower front corner thereof, a group of rectangular vertically disposed record holding envelopes pivotally mounted on said rod and arranged to permit individual envelopes to be swung out of alignment with the group when the box is opened, said envelopes being snugly fitted into said box with a minimum of clearance between the edges thereof and the bottom, front and rear panels of the box when the latter is in its closed condition whereby to reduce to a minimum lateral movement of said record holding envelopes and their contents during transportation, said box being also proportioned to provide a minimum of clearance between the upper edges of the inserted records and the top cover of the box, and means for maintaining the group of envelopes and their contents in a compact condition longitudinally of the rod including a retaining member pivotally and slidably mounted on the rod, and means mounted on a stationary wall of the box adapted to be removably engaged by the retaining member.

JOHN W. COWAN.