

Aug. 26, 1930.

E. OHNSTRAND

1,774,236

LOCK FOR DOUBLE ACTING FILE CABINETS

Filed July 26, 1926

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

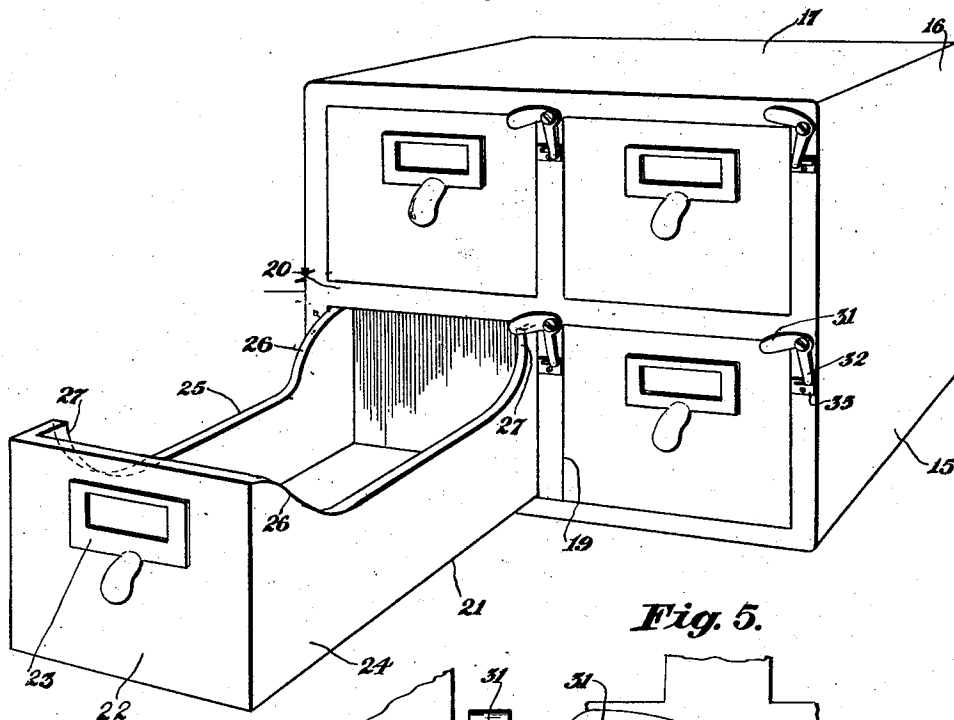


Fig. 5.

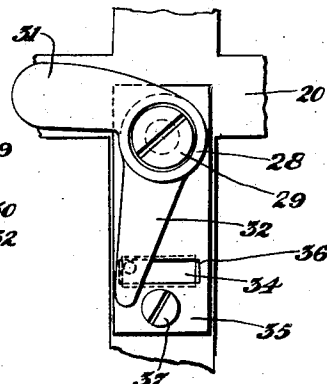


Fig. 4.

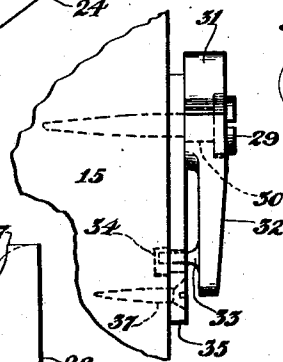


Fig. 3.

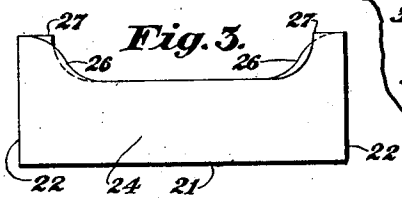
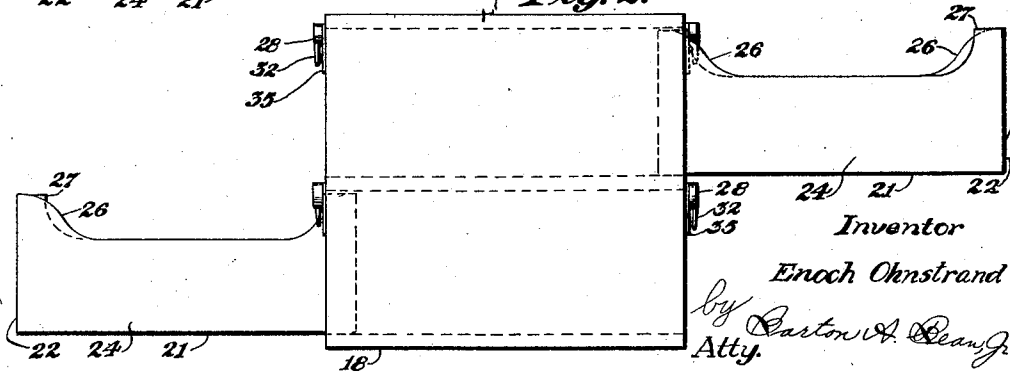


Fig. 2.



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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 7.

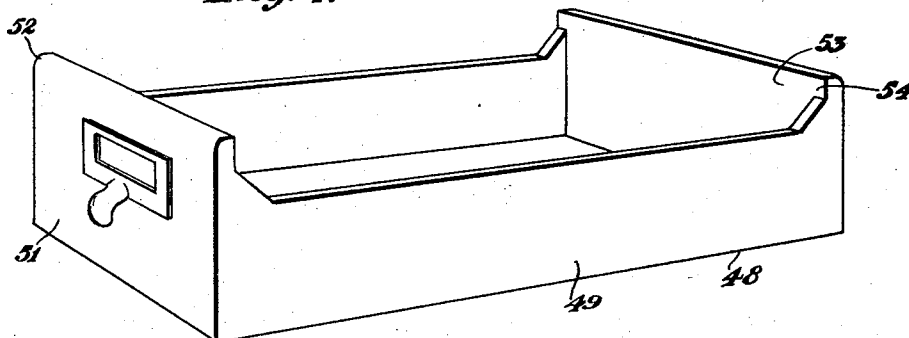


Fig. 8 **Fig. 9.**

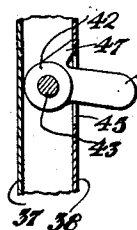
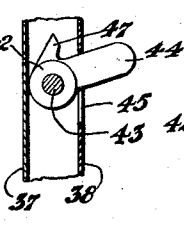


Fig. 6.

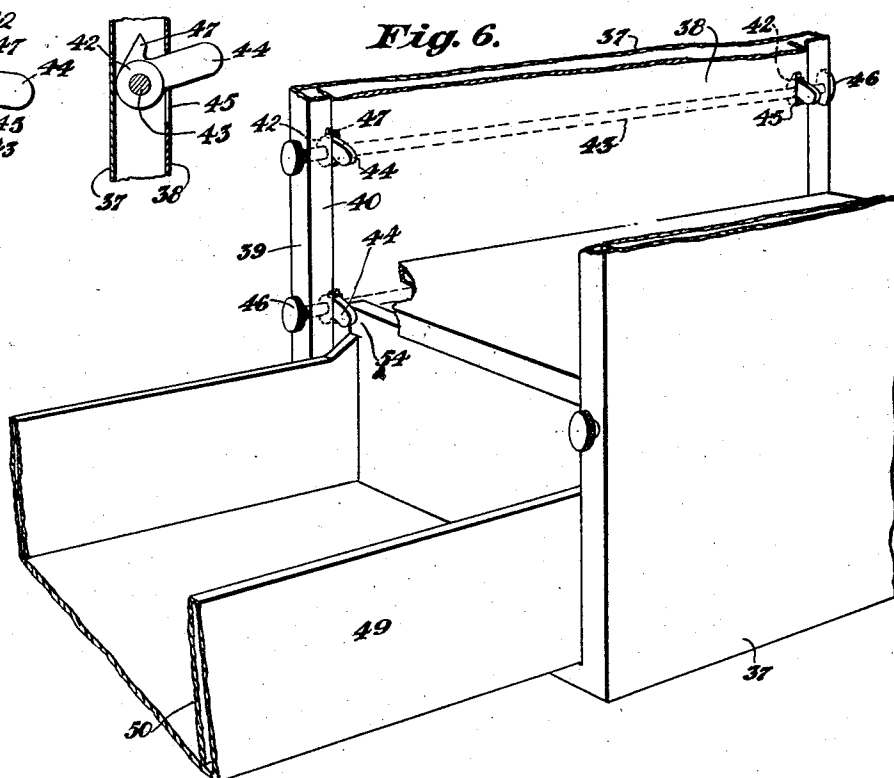
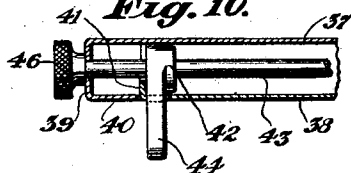


Fig. 10.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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TO REMINGTON RAND INC., OF NEW YORK, N. Y., A CORPORATION OF DELAWARE

LOCK FOR DOUBLE-ACTING FILE CABINETS

Application filed July 26, 1926. Serial No. 124,916.

This invention relates to file cabinets and has reference more particularly to file cabinets of the double acting type and to locks or catches for preventing inadvertent removal of the drawers thereof.

In drawers of the double acting type adapted to receive index cards on edge, such as those used by libraries, and in which withdrawal of the drawer is permitted from opposite sides of the cabinet, it has been found that frequently readers in the library push the drawers through past the opposite side with the result that the drawer falls out on the floor and the cards are scattered.

An object of this invention is to provide a drawer catch for a double acting cabinet which will prevent inadvertent removal of a drawer but which will permit easy removal of a drawer when desired.

Another object of the invention is to provide a catch of the class described which is simple and efficient in operation and which is cheap to manufacture.

A further object of this invention is to provide a drawer catch which will be noiseless in operation and pleasing in appearance; also to improve file cabinets in other respects hereinafter specified and claimed.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of my improved file cabinet.

Fig. 2 is a side elevation of a file cabinet with certain drawers in extended position.

Fig. 3 is a side elevation of one of the improved drawers of the file cabinet.

Fig. 4 is a side elevation of my improved drawer catch.

Fig. 5 is a front elevation of the drawer catch.

Fig. 6 is a modified form of my invention showing a concealed latch applied to a cabinet of sheet metal construction, parts of this view being broken away to disclose the construction.

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of one of the metal drawers shown in Fig. 6.

Figs. 8 and 9 are side sectional elevations

of the drawer catch shown in Fig. 6, in two different positions.

Fig. 10 is a plan sectional view of the drawer catch shown in Fig. 6.

Referring to the drawings by numerals, 15 indicates a file cabinet which is preferably made of wood because of the noiseless properties of this material, but may also be made of other materials which may be desired. This cabinet 15 is preferably box shaped and has side walls 16, top wall 17, and bottom wall 18. One or more vertical partitions 19 and horizontal partitions 20 divide the file cabinet into a plurality of compartments each of which is adapted to slidably receive a drawer 21. This drawer has an end wall 22 with a label holder 23 of ordinary construction and is also provided with side walls 24 and 25 of a special construction. Each side wall 24 and 25 has a gently inclined cam surface 26 at one upper end and a hook shaped portion 27 forming a stop at the other upper end. However, the arrangement of the two drawer walls 24 and 25 is reversed so that a cam surface 26 on wall 24 is positioned adjacent the front wall 22 opposite the hook 27, this arrangement being made to accommodate my improved drawer catch to be more fully described.

This improved drawer catch is in the shape of a bell-crank lever having a journal 28 intermediate its ends which is fulcrumed on a screw 29 entering the wood of one of the partitions 19. This screw is provided with an annular shoulder 30 adapted to serve as a bearing for the journal 28. One arm 31 of the bell-crank lever extends substantially horizontally and is relatively heavy in construction so that the bell-crank lever is normally urged in a counter-clockwise direction as seen in Fig. 5. The other arm 32 of the bell-crank lever extends substantially vertically and its lower end is provided with a pin 33 extending into a slot 34 provided in the partition 19. A plate 35 is mounted under the catch, the pin 33 passes through a slot 36 in said plate 35. This plate is held in place above by means of the screw 29 and below by means of a screw 37. The slot 36 in the plate 35 is somewhat longer than the slot 34 in the

wood so that as the motion of the pin 33 is limited by the ends of slot 34, said pin will strike against the wood rather than against the metal, thus reducing noise to a minimum.

6 As seen in Fig. 1, lower right hand corner, the catch arm 31 extends downwardly over the corner of the drawer wall 22 so that in order to pull the drawer out, it is necessary to raise the catch arm 31 temporarily. 70
10 As the drawer is pulled out, the catch arm 31 engages the hook 27 on drawer wall 24, as seen in the lower left hand corner of Fig. 1. This catch arm 31 thus serves to prevent the drawer from being inadvertently removed from the cabinet and the cards 75
15 spilled on the floor. In order to completely remove the drawer from the cabinet, it is necessary to again raise up the catch arm 31. As the drawer shown in the lower left hand corner of Fig. 1 moves rearwardly, the cam surface 26, automatically raises up the catch arm 31, the rear of the drawer then striking against a similar catch arm on the rear of the cabinet which prevents said drawer from 80
25 being inadvertently pushed through and out at the other side. Thus when the drawer is inside the cabinet and not extending out either way, it is prevented from movement in either direction by a catch arm 31 on each end of the compartment but at opposite corners thereof. 85

For some uses it is desirable to employ a cabinet made of sheet metal such as steel. It is also desirable, under certain conditions, to 35
have the drawer catch concealed. The modified form shown in Figs. 6 to 10 inclusive, therefore employs sheet metal construction for the cabinet and drawers, and concealed catches.

40 Cabinets of this steel construction are usually constructed with outside steel walls 37 and inside liners 38. The front of each wall 37 is formed into a transverse flange 39 and then into a longitudinally extending flange 45
45 40. The front of the liner 38 has a transversely extending flange 41 which abuts the rear of flange 40, the whole being assembled by means of spot welding or otherwise. In this type of construction, it is desirable to 50
have both rear and front catch levers 42 secured to a common rod 43, this rod extending longitudinally of the cabinet adjacent each compartment between walls 37 and liners 38. In this case the catch arm 44 extends 55
inwardly through a slot 45 formed in the liner 38 and each catch 42 is flush against the inside of flange 41 so as to take the jar and thrust when drawers are moved into and out of the compartments. The opposite ends 60
of rod 43 extend through openings in flanges 39, a knurled head 46 being secured to each end of said rod so that said rod and catch arms 44 may be easily rocked. Each catch 42 is provided with a stop arm 47 which is so 65
shaped that it will engage the inner surface

of the liner 38 and limit the downward rotation of catch arm 44.

The metal drawers 48 have side walls 49 which are also provided with liners 50. The front wall 51 has its upper edge 52 formed into a cam surface 52 for automatically raising up the catch arm 44 when said drawer is first inserted into a compartment. The side walls 49 are considerably narrower than the end walls 51 and 53 so that the upper corner of each end wall forms a stop 54 for engaging the catch arm 44. Thus when the drawer is completely inserted in the cabinet, both catch arms on the rod 43 extend between the outer walls of the drawer and prevent the movement of the drawer in either direction until head 46 is partially rotated to release the catch arms from the drawer. As the drawer is pulled out, the head 46 is released and the catch arm 44 moves downwardly and engages the upper corner 54 of the drawer to prevent its inadvertent removal from the cabinet. 70

I would state in conclusion that while the illustrated examples constitute a practical embodiment of my invention, I do not limit myself precisely to the details herein illustrated and described, since manifestly the same can be considerably varied without departing from the spirit of the invention as defined in the appended claims. 75
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I claim:

1. In a filing cabinet open at opposite ends, a compartment adapted to slidably receive a file drawer so that said drawer may be pulled from said compartment in either longitudinal direction, and a catch arranged adjacent each end on said compartment adapted to detachably engage the drawer at two spaced points, one to retain the drawer in housed position and the other, to normally prevent complete detachment of the drawer from the cabinet. 85
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2. In a filing cabinet open at opposite ends, a compartment adapted to slidably receive a file drawer so that said drawer may be pulled from said compartment in either longitudinal direction, and a catch arranged adjacent each end of said compartment adapted to detachably engage the drawer to prevent the inadvertent removal thereof, said drawer having cam surfaces adapted to actuate each catch and permit the insertion of said drawer into said compartment. 100
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3. In a filing cabinet open at opposite ends, a compartment adapted to slidably receive a file drawer so that said drawer may be pulled from said compartment in either longitudinal direction, a catch on said compartment, and a cam surface and a stop on said drawer adapted to cooperate with said catch to prevent the inadvertent removal of the drawer from said compartment and to permit the insertion of said drawer therein. 120
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4. In a filing cabinet open at opposite ends, a compartment adapted to slidably receive 130

a file drawer so that said drawer may be pulled from said compartment in either longitudinal direction, a catch adjacent each end of said compartment, and said drawer having a pair of side walls, a cam surface and a stop on each side wall adapted to cooperate with said catches to prevent the inadvertent removal of the drawer from said compartment and to permit the insertion of said drawer therein.

5. In a filing cabinet open at opposite ends, a compartment adapted to slidably receive a file drawer so that said drawer may be pulled from said compartment in either longitudinal direction, and a catch mounted on said cabinet having a pair of arms, one arm of which engages the drawer to prevent the inadvertent removal of the drawer from said compartment and the other arm of said catch serving as a stop to limit the rocking of said catch.

6. In a filing cabinet open at opposite ends, a compartment adapted to slidably receive a file drawer so that said drawer may be pulled from said compartment in either longitudinal direction, a catch in the shape of a bell-crank lever, one arm of which engages said drawer to prevent the inadvertent removal of the drawer from said compartment, and a stop pin on the other arm of said catch adapted to engage material of said compartment of sound-proof nature so as to noiselessly limit the rocking of said catch.

7. In a filing cabinet, a casing open at opposite ends, a drawer slidable in said casing and being withdrawable from the casing at either of said open ends, and gravity actuated latches on the casing for retaining the drawer in the casing, said latches being operable to permit partial withdrawal of the drawer from either end of the casing, said latches being operable upon partial withdrawal of the drawer to prevent complete withdrawal of said drawer from the casing, and said latches being operable automatically to permit movement of the drawer into the casing and for arresting its movement when completely inserted therein.

8. In a filing cabinet, a casing open at opposite ends, a drawer slidable in said casing and being withdrawable from the casing at either of said open ends, and gravity actuated latches mounted on the casing and having limited pivotal movement for engagement with the drawer ends, said latches being operable to permit partial withdrawal of the drawer from the casing and cooperating with the end portions to prevent total withdrawal, said latches being manually operable to permit total withdrawal of the drawer from either of said open ends, and said latches being operable by the drawer to permit movement of the drawer into the casing.

9. In a filing cabinet having a compartment with an open end, a file drawer slidable

into and out of said compartment through said open end, and a manually releasable catch mounted on said cabinet having a portion normally projecting to engage said drawer for cooperation therewith in two positions, one for retaining the drawer in housed position in the compartment, and the other for preventing complete detachment of the drawer from the cabinet when moved into open position out of said compartment.

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