Sept. 23, 1930. P. A. WETZEL 1,776,404

FILING CABINET

Filed April 5, 1923

Fig. 1.

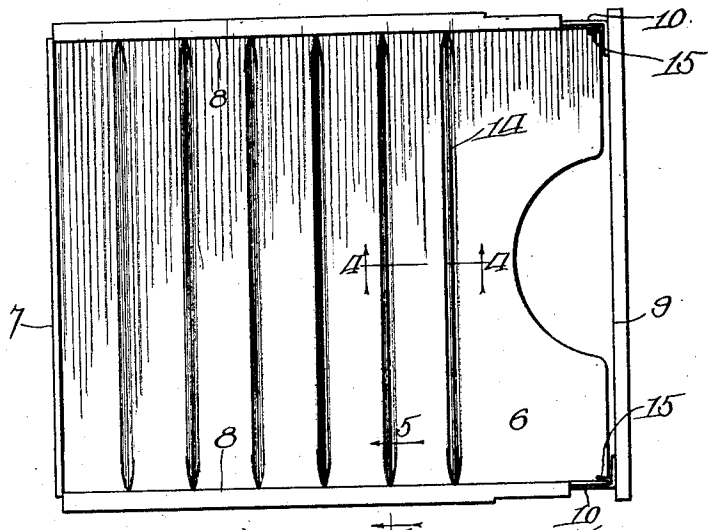


Fig. 2.

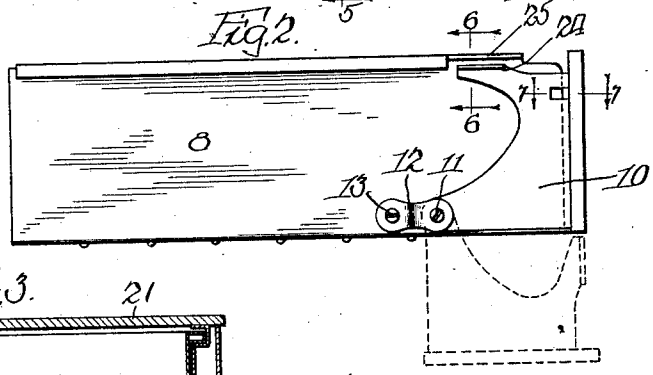


Fig. 3.

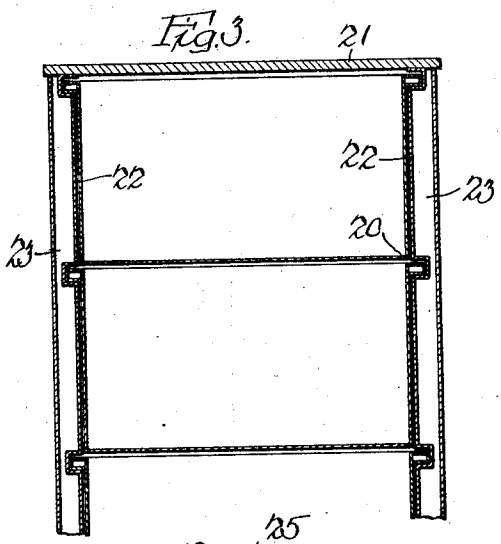
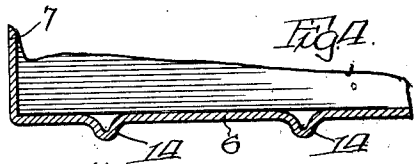


Fig. 4.



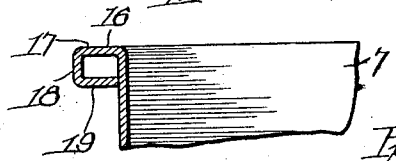
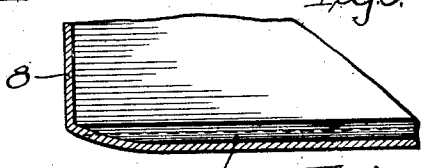


Fig. 5.



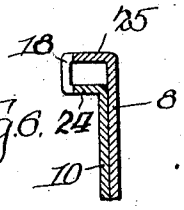


Fig. 6.

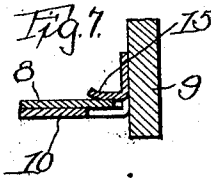


Fig. 7.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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FILING CABINET

Application filed April 5, 1923. Serial No. 629,966.

The invention relates generally to filing cabinets and more particularly to cabinets which are equipped with drawers of the type in which the front is pivoted so that it will drop to provide convenient access to one end of a stack of sheets or papers in the drawers.

The objects of the invention are to provide: a filing cabinet drawer of this type in which the bottom, sides and back are integrally formed of sheet metal and in which the runners for supporting the drawer in the cabinet are integrally formed with the drawer sides; a drawer of this type in which the runners are formed at the upper margins of the drawer-sides; a drawer of this type in which the drop front is provided with means for holding it closed and supporting it while the drawer is held in the cabinet and until it has been withdrawn the desired extent before releasing the front; a drawer of this type which is formed of sheet metal and in which provision is made for stiffening the drawer-sides; a drawer of this type in which provision is made for preventing inward flexing of the front portions of the drawer sides when the drop front is closed; and an improved filing cabinet for drawers of said type in which grooves are formed in sheet metal plates for the runners on the drawers.

The invention consists in the several novel features hereinafter set forth and more particularly defined by the claim at the conclusion hereof.

In the drawing: Fig. 1 is a plan of a filing cabinet drawer embodying the invention. Fig. 2 is a side elevation. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section of a cabinet, showing the improved drawer mounted therein. Fig. 4 is a section on line 4—4 of Fig. 1 upon an enlarged scale. Fig. 5 is a section on line 5—5 of Fig. 1 on an enlarged scale. Fig. 6 is a section on line 6—6 of Fig. 2. Fig. 7 is a section on line 7—7 of Fig. 2.

The invention is exemplified in a drawer comprising a bottom 6, back 7 and sides 8, all of which are formed of a single blank of sheet metal, suitably cut and bent, lapped joints being formed between the back and sides, so the back of the drawer will be substantially rigid. A front 9 is secured to brackets 10 which are pivoted by pivots 11 adjacent the lower margin of the outer faces of the drawer sides 8, to permit the front to be lowered or dropped into position indicated by dotted lines in Fig. 2, when the drawer is withdrawn from the cabinet. Pivots 11 pass through the drawer sides and lugs 12 which are secured to the drawer sides by rivets 13. In drop-front drawers which are formed of sheet metal, the sides are not rigidly cross connected at the front and, consequently, there is considerable flexibility to them. This flexibility results, not only from the circumstance that the sides are lateral around their lower corners, but also the vertical flexibility of the bottom. To reduce undesirable flexibility, the bottom 6 is formed with transverse corrugations 14 which terminate substantially at the corners between the sides and the bottom and by stiffening the bottom, these corrugations serve to lessen the transverse flexibility of the sides. The corrugations are formed by indenting the sheet metal bottom downwardly and it is important that they extend transversely of the bottom in order to perform their desired function. In order to secure the front portions of the sides against inward movement, more particularly to prevent them from warping inwardly while they are in the cabinet, tongues 15, which may be struck up from the metal forming brackets 10, are provided to receive the front edges of the drawer sides 8, so that the latter cannot spring inwardly while the drop-front is in its operative position.

To support the drawer in the cabinet, it is provided with runners 16 at the upper margins of its sides. These runners are formed by integral extensions or flanges on the blank forming the drawer which are bent to form a top wall 17, and outer wall 18 and a lower wall 19, extending longitudinally of the drawer. These runners are adapted to slide in grooves 20 in a cabinet 21 which may be adapted to hold any desired number of drawers. The grooves 20 are formed in sheet metal inner side walls 22 which are suitably secured

in outer metal walls 23. A characteristic of this cabinet is that the walls 22 are bent to form the grooves 20.

To cause the drop front to be supported by the bottoms of grooves 20, the brackets 10 are formed with an out-turned flange 24, which, when the drawer is pulled out away from the cabinet, will be released to permit the front to swing downwardly to give access to the papers in the drawer. The lower wall 19 terminates adjacent the rear of flange 24 and the top wall 17 of each runner is extended, as at 25, over the flange 24.

The invention exemplifies a filing cabinet in which a drawer with a drop front is formed of sheet metal with runners integrally formed thereon; in which provision is made for avoiding undesirable flexibility of the sides; in which the sides are locked at their front ends against inward movement, while the drop front is closed, and in which the runners are formed at the upper margins of the drawers, and in which the brackets of the drop front are provided with means held in the cabinet to keep the drop front closed, and in which the filing cabinet is provided with grooved sheet metal walls for the runners on the drawers.

The invention is not to be understood as restricted to the details set forth, since these may be modified within the scope of the appended claim, without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

Having thus described the invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:

A filing cabinet drawer comprising a bottom, back and sides, runners projecting outwardly from the upper margins of said sides and adapted to slide in grooves in the cabinet, said runners comprising upper and lower walls, the front ends of the upper walls extending beyond the lower walls, a drop front pivoted to the sides, and flanges on the front adapted to underlie said extended front ends of the upper walls and form continuations of the lower walls to support the drop front, when the drawer is in the cabinet.

Signed at Chicago, Illinois this 26th day of January, 1923.

PETER A. WETZEL.