Nov. 16, 1954 C. H. DENT 2,694,614

MULTIPLE DESK UNIT

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Fig. 1

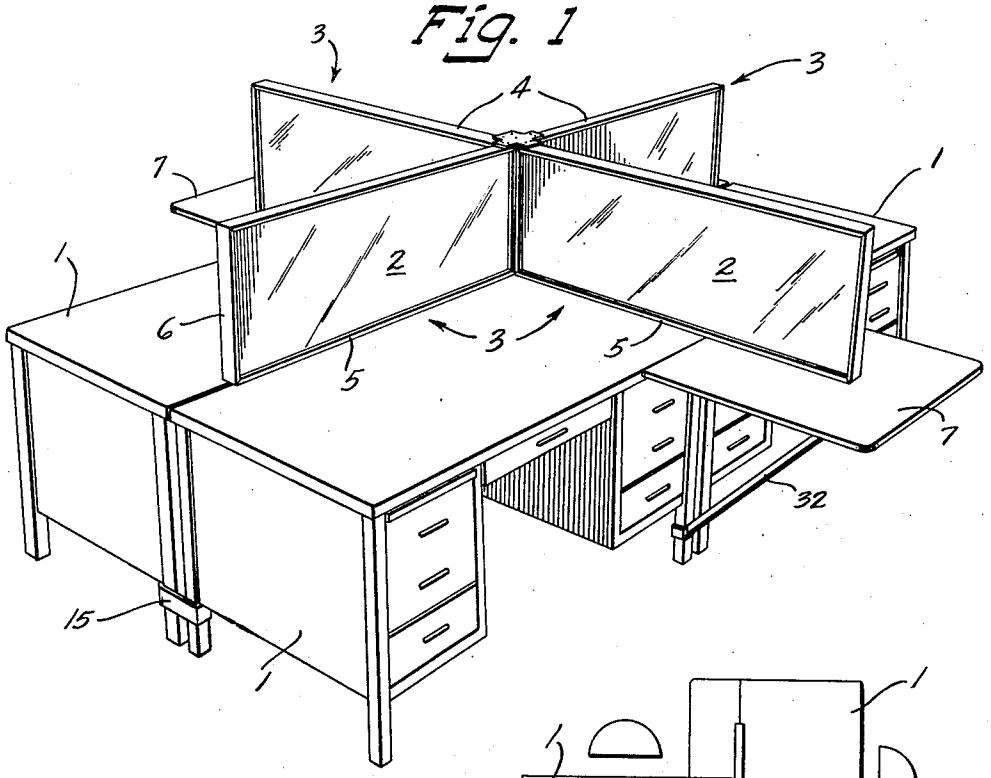
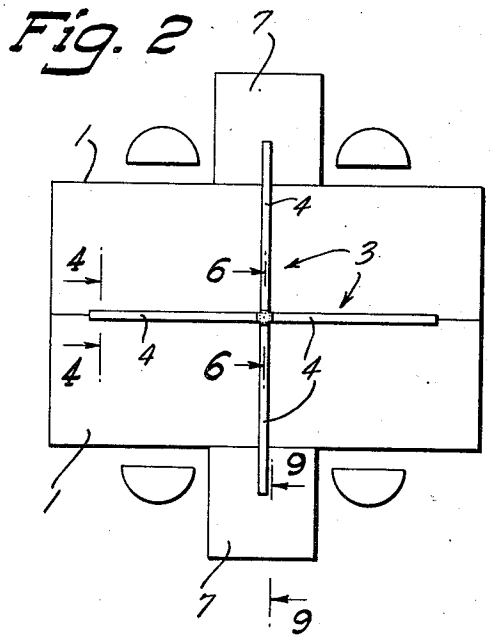


Fig. 2



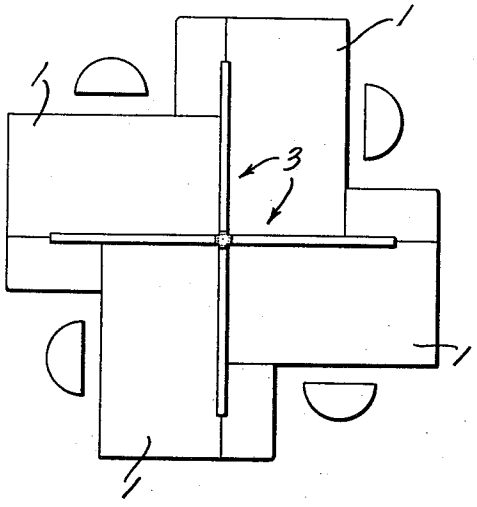


Fig. 3

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Fig. 4

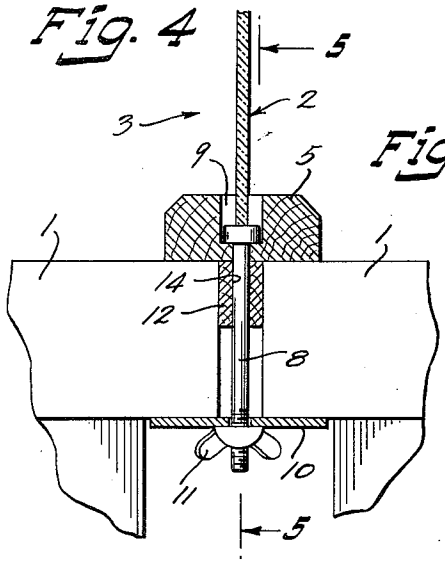


Fig. 5

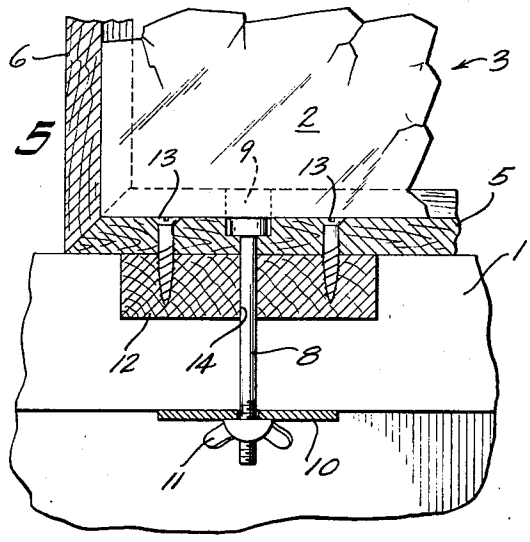


Fig. 6

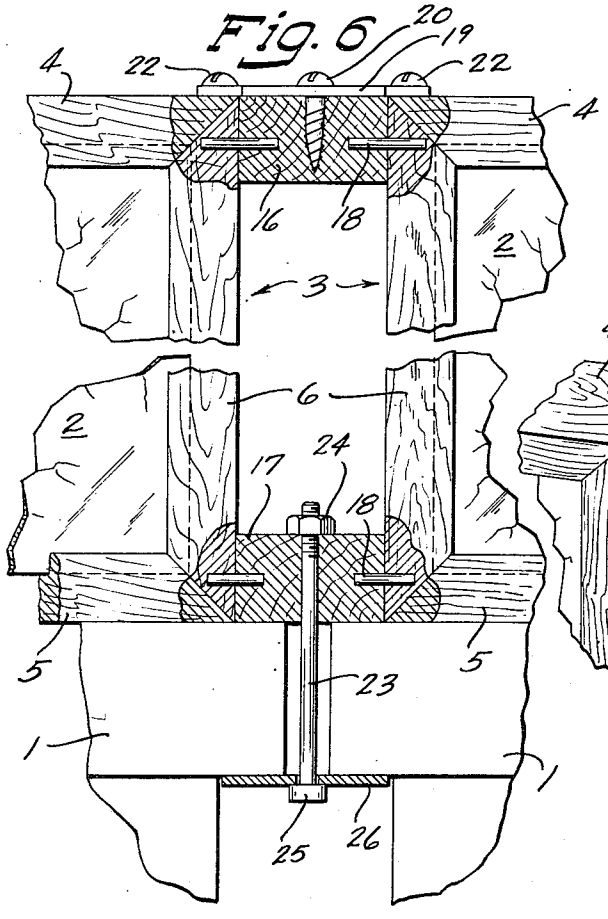
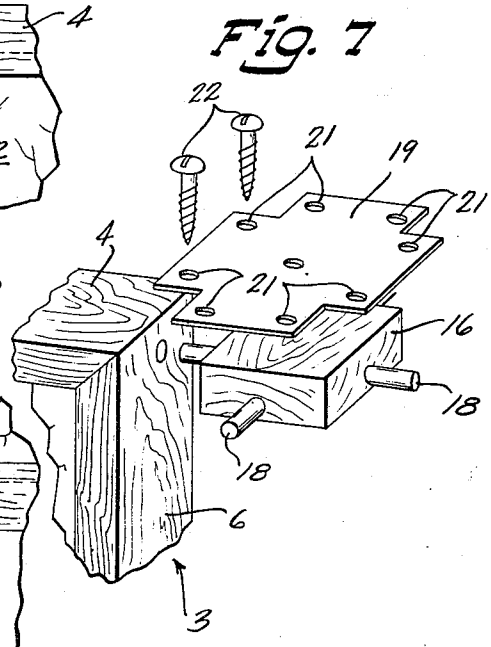


Fig. 7



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Fig. 8

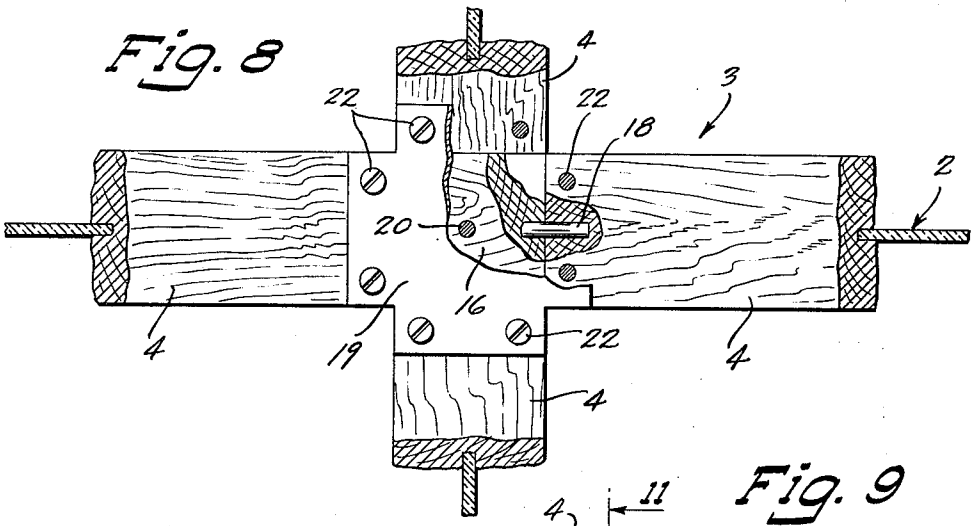


Fig. 9

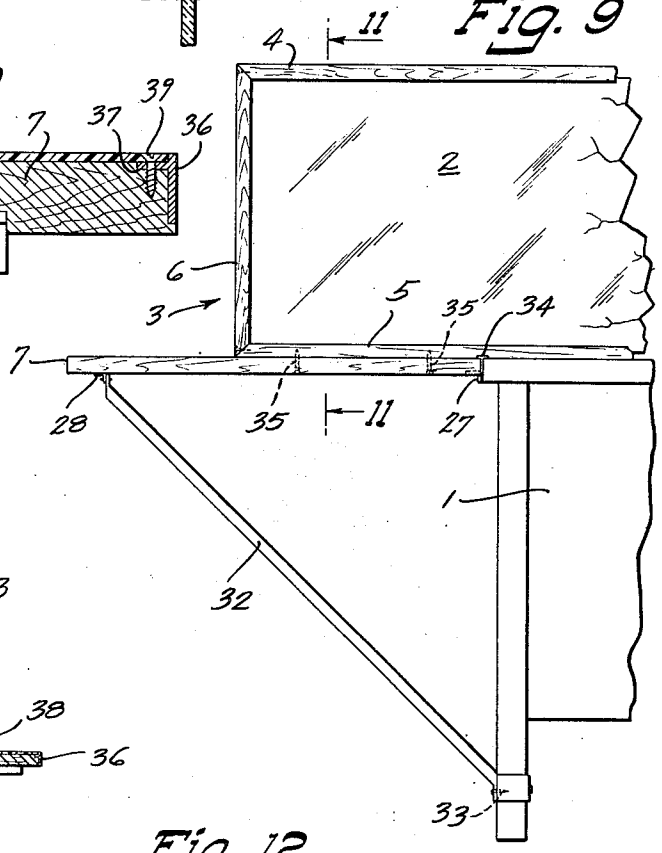


Fig. 10

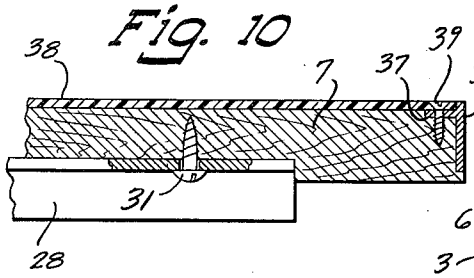


Fig. 11

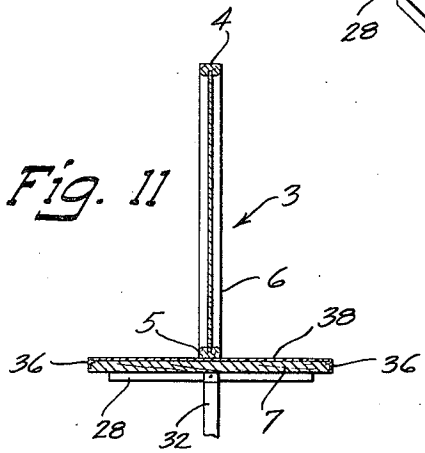
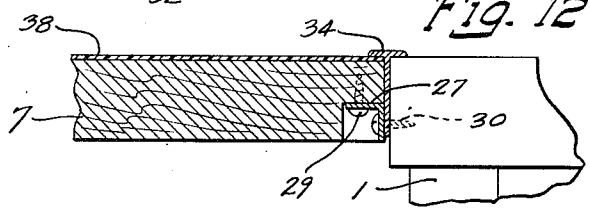


Fig. 12



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2,694,614

MULTIPLE DESK UNIT

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Application December 29, 1950, Serial No. 203,352

6 Claims. (Cl. 312—196)

This invention relates to unitized desk structure and more particularly to desk combinations utilizing a plurality of standard office type desks.

An object of this invention is to provide multiple desk units for use in open-area office space whereby a greater number of desk accommodations may be utilized in a given space.

A further object of the invention is to provide a more compact arrangement of desk accommodations while retaining normal aisle clearance and working area.

A further object is to provide space conserving semi-private desk accommodations in open-area office space by employing partitioning means contained within the working surface areas of the desks themselves.

A further object is to provide semi-private yet compact desk accommodations whereby telephones, wastebaskets, mail distributors, guest chairs and similar office equipment may be conveniently shared by adjacent desk occupants.

A further object is to provide a compact, space-conserving desk arrangement facilitating more orderly messenger routes.

A further object is to provide a multiple desk unit adapted to conserve and better utilize light.

Another object of the invention is to provide a desk unit which places workers in close proximity to each other without sacrifice of privacy whereby work may be readily transferred from one worker to another.

A further object of the invention is to provide a partitioned multiple desk unit having surface dimensions such that partition members of uniform length may be employed to facilitate individual replacement of the same by partition members of standard construction.

A further object is to provide a partitioned multiple desk unit having desk, partition, and auxiliary shelf members which may be readily disassembled and replaced.

The desk units briefly comprise four standard type desks grouped in a "pinwheel" or solid rectangular pattern with one corner of each desk abutting a corner of each of the other desks to provide a hub or axis for the unit. Extending from such hub along and supported by contiguous edges of the desk tops are framed opague glass partitions providing semi-privacy for desk occupants. At the outer ends of two or more partitions, shelves are secured both to the lower member of the partition frame and the desks separated by the partition to provide additional work surface.

These and other objects and advantages will appear in connection with the following description of an embodiment of the invention illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a desk unit formed of four standard desks arranged in a solid rectangular pattern;

Fig. 2 is a plan view of a desk unit similar to that illustrated in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a plan view of four standard desks arranged in L-shaped patterns;

Fig. 4 is a detail view taken along line 4—4 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 5 is a detail view taken along line 5—5 of Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is a detail view taken on line 6—6 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 7 is an exploded view of the upper center block, one of the four frame members for which the block serves as a hub member, and the cap which secures the block to frame members;

Fig. 8 is a detail plan view of the center block, cap, and frame members with parts broken away and sectioned;

Fig. 9 is a detail view taken on line 9—9 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 10 is a detail sectional view of the end of a shelf;

Fig. 11 is a detail sectional view taken along line 11—11 of Fig. 9; and

Fig. 12 is a detail view of the joint between a shelf and desk.

Referring to the drawings, standard desks may be arranged in patterns such as those illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3. The arrangement of Fig. 2, shown in perspective in Fig. 1, comprises four desks **1** disposed as a substantially solid rectangle. Separating desk occupants, are four opaque glass partitions **2** having their edges confined by frames **3**. Frames **3** comprise top rail members **4**, bottom rails **5**, and end rails **6**.

The innermost ends of rails **5** of the frames are joined at the center of the desk rectangle and the partitions extend outwardly from that center, the bottom rail **5** of each partition frame bridging adjacent desk top edges. The partitions supported on the longer desk edges terminate short of the ends of the desks leaving a portion of the rear of each desk unobstructed to provide for the disposition of a mail distributor or other office device which is to be shared by oppositely seated workers. Also, the passage of work material between desk occupants is thus facilitated.

The partitions **2** which extend along the shorter desk edges overhang the desks and partially separate shelves **7** secured both to the underside of bottom rails **5** of the partition and the desks partitioned thereby.

Referring to Figs. 4 and 5, the partitions **2** which are supported wholly within the surface area of the desk rectangle have their outer ends anchored to adjacent desk edges by a bolt **8** which extends between a countersunk recess **9** in the bottom rail **5** of each partition frame and a metal plate **10** disposed beneath and bridging adjacent portions of the overhanging desk tops. Rail **5** and plate **10** are tightly drawn against the desk tops by a wing nut **11** threaded to bolt **8**.

Proper spacing of the desks is maintained by hardwood blocks **12** secured by wood screws **13** to the underside of each bottom rail **5** preferably at the point of attachment of a bolt **8**. Blocks **12** are formed with central apertures **14** to receive and center a bolt **8** between desk tops.

Separation of adjacent desks is prevented by bands **15** encircling adjacent desk legs as shown in Fig. 1. Bands **15** are provided to further insure the spacing of the desks determined by frame carried blocks **12**.

The end rails **6** of the partition frames **3** which are disposed centrally of the desk rectangle are joined by upper and lower center-blocks **16** and **17**, respectively, as illustrated in Fig. 6.

Center-blocks **16** and **17** are vertically fixed with respect to the inner end rails **6** by metal dowels **18** disposed in registering recesses formed in the center-blocks and rails. The upper center-block **16** and frame **3** are joined by a cap **19** which is centrally apertured for a wood screw **20** which secures it to center-block **16**. Cap **19** is formed with oppositely extending arms which overhang block **16** and are apertured at **21** to receive screws **22** joining the cap to frame **3**.

The lower center-block **17** is anchored to the desks by a bolt **23** carrying a nut **24** which bears against the upper surface of the block. The head **25** of bolt **23** is tightly drawn against a square metal plate **26** which abuts the underside of each desk top corner that is disposed centrally of the desk rectangle.

Figures 10, 11, and 12 illustrate the construction of the shelves **7** and their attachment to adjoining desks and a partition frame **3**.

Each shelf **7** is recessed along its inner edge to receive an angle bar **27**, Figs. 9 and 12, and near its outer edge to receive an angle plate **28**, Figs. 9, 10, and 11. Each bar **27** is secured to a shelf **7** by upwardly extending screws **29** and to the edges of the desk tops which that shelf abuts by horizontally disposed screws **30**. Plate **28** is secured to a shelf **7** by screws **31**. The depending arm of angle-plate **28** is bolted to a strut **32** that ex-

tends angularly downwardly from shelf **7** to near the bottom of a desk leg to which it is fastened by screws **33**, Fig. 9.

The meeting edges of each shelf **7** and the two desks to which it is joined are bridged by a T-shaped strip **34** extending the length of a shelf's inner edge. Each strip **34** may be secured between a desk edge and an angle bar **27** by the screws **30** previously described as joining the desk edge and bar.

Shelf **7** and the partition frame **3** disposed thereon may be joined by screws **35**, Fig. 9, whereby they mutually support each other and are maintained in proper alignment.

The three side edges of each shelf **7** which are unobstructed by desk members may be protected by a metal grip edge **36**, Fig. 10, having an inwardly extending flange **37** secured in a peripheral ridge formed in the top surface of each shelf **7**. A linoleum shelf covering **38** extends across the top of the shelf and overlies the flange **37** of grip edge **36** concealing the same. Screws **39** secure both the covering **38** and edge **36** to shelf **7**.

The desk arrangement shown in Fig. 3 differs from the structure described with reference to other figures of the drawings in the support of its four shelves. Angle brackets such as angle bars **27** may be employed to fasten each shelf to the desk which the shelf serves as side surface extension, while a strut and angle plate similar to members **28** and **32** will support the shelf from a leg of the other desk which has its rear edge bordering the shelf.

Both illustrated desk patterns facilitate the sharing of telephones or other office equipment placed on the shelf members. A guest chair disposed at the end of one desk may be readily turned for use by the guest of a worker occupying another of the desks of the unit. Light directed from above the center of the unit will properly reach all desks, it having been found that the opaque glass partitions prevent glare surfaces.

The desk units make possible a substantially greater utilization of open-area office space while affording greater privacy for an individual worker than with more conventional desk arrangements. Conversion to the described desk arrangement usually can be made while fully utilizing desk equipment already present in a business office.

The invention may have various embodiments within the scope of the accompanying claims.

I claim:

1. A desk unit for office workers comprising a plurality of separate standard office-type desks arranged with at least one side of each desk contiguous along a portion of its length to the side of another of the desks, partition members extending along and supported by contiguous top edges of said desks, said partition members being provided with channel-shaped frame rails along their bottom edges, and a connecting member secured to a frame rail and to the undersides of contiguous desk top edges to anchor corresponding partition upon supporting desks.

2. A desk unit for office workers comprising a plurality of separate standard office-type desks arranged with at least one side of each desk contiguous along a portion of its length to the side of another of the desks, partition members extending along and supported by contiguous top edges of said desks to provide a partition network between all desk occupants, said partition members being provided with channel-shaped frame rails along their edges, and a draw bolt secured to frame rails of converging partitions and to the undersides of contiguous desk top edges supporting the converging partitions to anchor the partitions upon supporting desks.

3. A desk unit for office workers comprising a plurality of separate standard office-type desks arranged with at least one side of each desk contiguous along a portion of its length to the side of another of the desks, partition members extending along and supported by contiguous top edges of said desks to provide a partition network between all desk occupants, connecting blocks disposed between converging partitions and securing the same against relative vertical movement, and a bolt secured to the lowermost of said blocks and to the undersides of contiguous desk top edges supporting the converging partitions to anchor the partitions upon supporting desks.

4. A desk unit for office workers comprising a plurality of separate standard generally rectangular office-type desks, shelves extending from the front top edge of selected desks to provide additional working surface aside the normal seated position of certain desk occupants, said desks and shelves being arranged with at least one of the longer edges of each desk contiguous along a portion of its length to the side of another of the desks and with a working surface provided between the normal seated positions of all desk occupants, and partition members extending along and supported by contiguous top edges of the desks and by said shelves to provide a partition network between all of said occupants, the terminal ends of said partition network being disposed inwardly of the surface defined by said desks and shelves to provide an area of said surface accessible to occupants of adjacent desks for the disposition of office equipment shared by the occupants.

5. A desk unit for office workers comprising at least two separate generally rectangular office-type desks, a shelf extending from the front top edge of at least one of said desks to provide additional working surface aside the normal seated position of a desk occupant, said desks and shelf being arranged with at least one side of each desk contiguous along a portion of its length to the side of another of the desks and with a working surface provided between the normal seated positions of all desk occupants, and partition members extending along and supported by contiguous top edges of the desks and by said shelf to provide a partition network between all occupants, the terminal ends of said partition network being disposed inwardly of the surface defined by said desks and shelf to provide an area accessible to occupants of adjacent desks for the disposition of office equipment shared by adjacent occupants.

6. A desk unit for office workers comprising at least two separate oblong standard office-type desks, a shelf extending beside the normal seated position of a desk occupant from the front elongated edge of at least one of said desks a distance at least equal to the difference in length of the unequal desk top edges and having an edge contiguous to the top edge of another of the desks, said desks and shelf being arranged with at least one of the shorter edges of each desk contiguous along a portion of its length to the top edge of another of the desks and with the line defined by such contiguous edges lying in the plane of said shelf, and partition members of equal length extending along and supported by contiguous top edges of the desks and by said shelf to provide a partition network between all desk occupants, the partition members of the network being readily separable for individual replacement by a like member of standard construction.

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