Oct. 5, 1943. J. R. JONES ET AL 2,330,976

COMPRESSOR OR FOLLOWER FOR FILE RECEPTACLES

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Fig. 1.

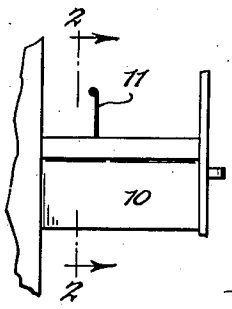


Fig. 4.

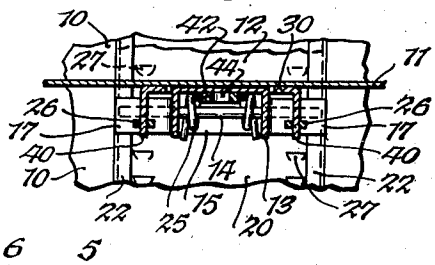
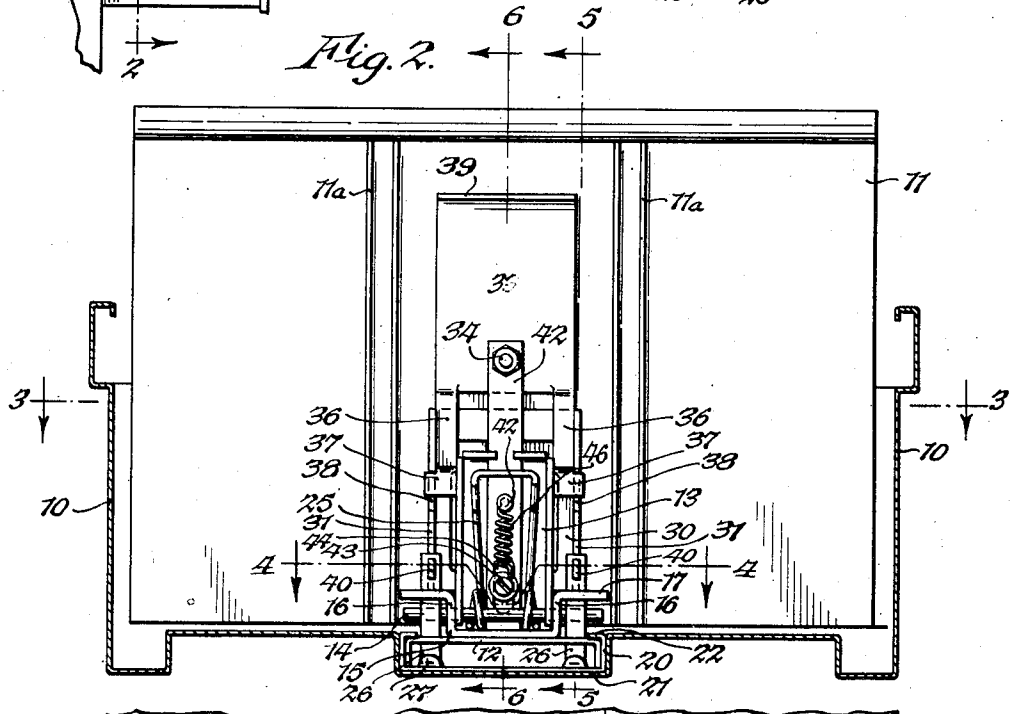


Fig. 2.



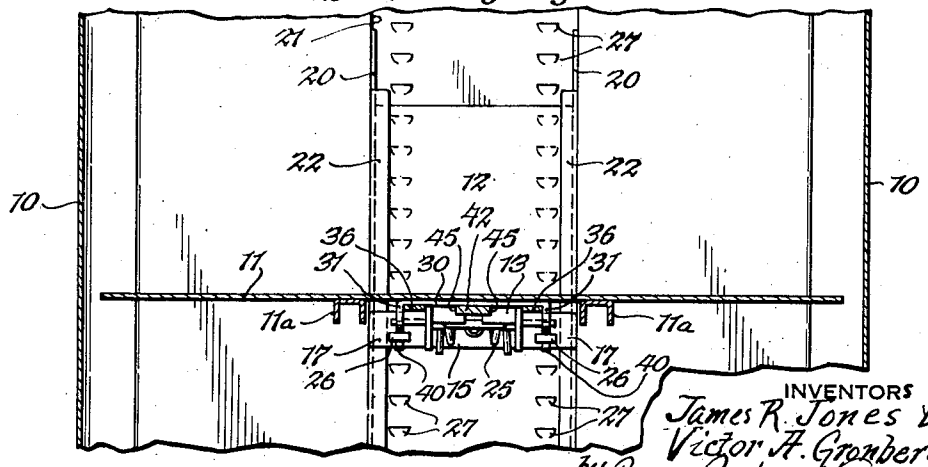


Fig. 3.

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Fig. 5.

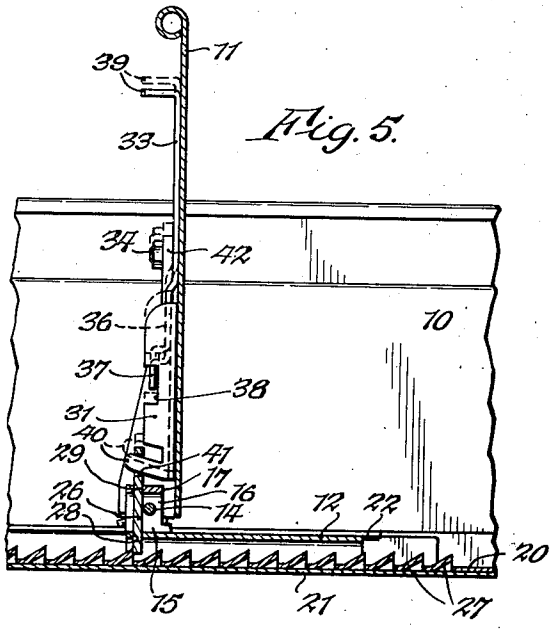


Fig. 6.

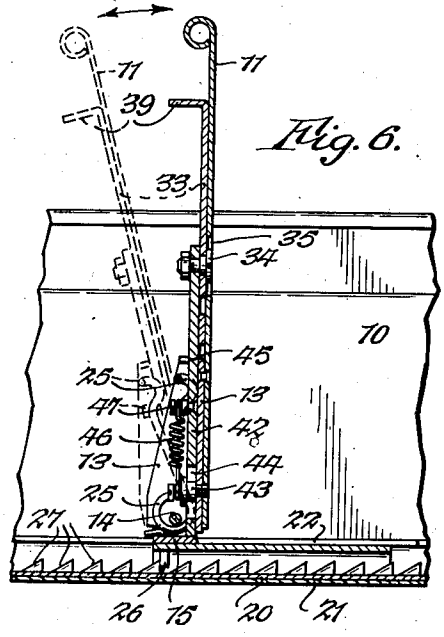


Fig. 7.

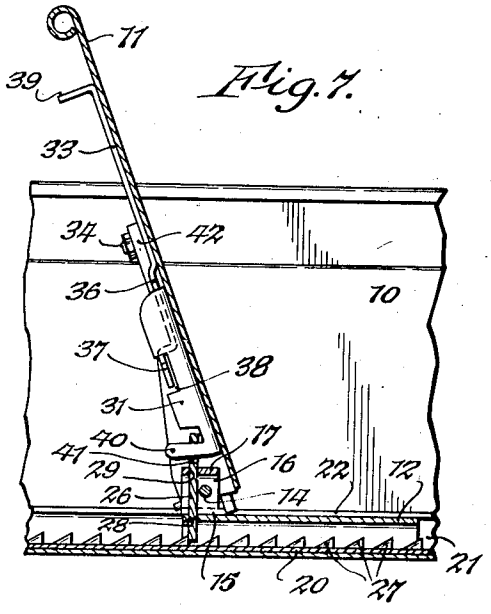
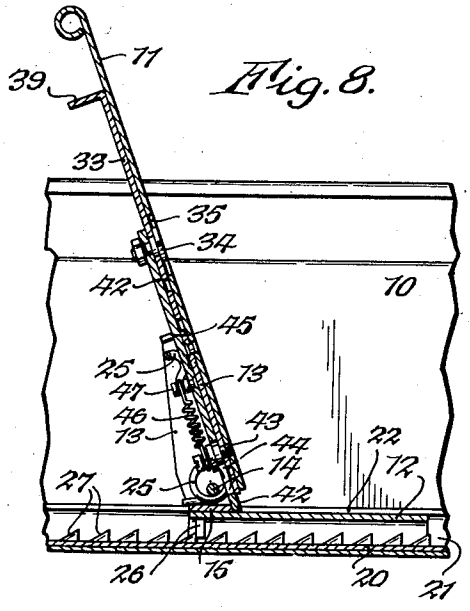


Fig. 8.



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2,330,976

COMPRESSOR OR FOLLOWER FOR FILE RECEPTACLES

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Application February 1, 1943, Serial No. 474,274

8 Claims. (Cl. 129—28)

This invention relates to improvements in file drawers or receptacles of the type provided with a follower or compressor adapted to be adjusted to different positions in the receptacle as may be necessary, depending upon the number of files, papers or articles in the receptacle, to support the files in compact, upright position, and also adapted to yield or tilt to relieve pressure on the upper portions of the files for facilitating examination of or access to the files.

One object of the invention is to provide a desirable and practical filing device of such type having follower or compressor means of novel, improved construction. Other objects of the invention are to provide a file follower or compressor which is adapted to be releasably secured in different file-supporting adjustments in the file receptacle and to swing or tilt about a hinge axis in the bottom portion of the receptacle in its said different adjustments, and is spring-pressed towards a standing file-compressing position, but is also adapted to be releasably retained in a pressure-relieving position tilted away from the files; also to provide a device in which said follower or compressor comprises a runner or base arranged or mounted for forward and rearward adjustment in the bottom portion of the receptacle, a compressor member which is hinged at its lower portion on said base to swing toward and from the files, latch means for releasably securing the base in different adjustments in the receptacle and also for releasably retaining said hinged member in an inclined file-relieving position, and a common actuating or releasing member for said latch means; in which the latch means for releasably securing the follower base in its different adjustments and releasably retaining the hinged compressor member in the file-relieving position are constructed to permit the compressing and relieving movements of said hinged member, and the retaining and releasing thereof in any of the adjustments of said base, without releasing the base latch.

Further objects and advantages of the invention will appear from the following specification of the preferred embodiment of the invention, shown in the accompanying drawings, and the novel features of the invention are set forth in the appended claims.

In said drawings:

Fig. 1 is a fragmentary elevation, on a reduced scale, of a file cabinet having a drawer equipped with a follower or compressor embodying my invention, the drawer being shown in an open position.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged, transverse, sectional elevation of the drawer and follower on line 2—2, Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a sectional plan thereof on line 3—3, Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a horizontal section of the follower on line 4—4, Fig. 2.

Figs. 5 and 6 are sectional elevations on lines 5—5 and 6—6, respectively, Fig. 2.

Figs. 7 and 8 are views respectively similar to Figs. 5 and 6, but showing the compressor member of the follower retained in its tilted, file-relieving position.

Referring to the drawings:

10 represents the drawer or receptacle which may be of any usual or suitable construction. The follower or compressor comprises a plate or member 11 which is hinged adjacent to its lower edge on a supporting runner or base 12 which is mounted or arranged for adjustment forwardly and rearwardly in the receptacle by guide means in the bottom portion of the receptacle.

The hinged follower plate 11, as shown, is provided with vertical stiffening channels 11a welded thereon, and at its lower portion is rigidly attached, as by welding or otherwise, to a hinge bracket 13 of U-shaped cross section having rearwardly projecting side flanges, which is hinged to the base 12 by a horizontal hinge pin or rod 14 that passes through registering bearing holes in the side flanges of the hinge bracket and in a hinge piece 15 which is rigidly attached, as by welding or otherwise, on the base 12. This hinge piece 15, as shown, consists of a bar of generally U-shape, having a horizontal middle portion which is attached to the base, and side portions 16 which extend upwardly at the outer sides of the side flanges of the hinge bracket, having therein the bearing holes for the hinge pin 14, and end portions 17 which project laterally outward from the upper ends of the vertical portions 16 of the hinge piece.

The guide means shown for adjustably supporting or mounting the follower base in the receptacle comprise a channel member 20 which is confined and held stationary in a central, longitudinal depression or channel 21 formed in the bottom of the drawer. The channel member 20 shown has upstanding side walls with top flanges 22 which project inwardly over the side edge portions of the base 12 so as to slidably confine the base in the channel 20. The base may consist, as shown, of a horizontal plate having downturned stiffening or strengthening side flanges, the flanged side portions of the base being slid-

ably confined between the bottom and the inturned top flanges of the channel 20.

A spring 25 acting between the hinged compressor member 11 and the follower base 12 urges the hinged member forwardly to a standing file-supporting or compressing position, but permits the hinged member to be pressed away from the files to a tilted position for relieving pressure on the files and facilitating access to or the examination of the files. The spring shown for this purpose is formed by a spring wire bent into generally inverted U-form having upright side legs connected by a top cross piece. The legs of the spring are coiled about the hinge pin 14 for the hinged member with the lower ends of the legs bent rearwardly and bearing against the hinge piece 16 or other portion of the follower base. The spring acts to urge the hinged follower member to its standing position, but permits the hinged member to be tilted against the action of the spring rearwardly or away from the files to relieve the pressure thereon.

For releasably securing the base 12 with the follower in different adjustments forwardly and rearwardly in the drawer, two latch bolts 26 are shown, arranged to move downwardly and upwardly on the base into and out of holding engagement with stops or teeth 27 arranged in two longitudinal rows on the bottom of the follower guide channel 20. These teeth may be formed by struck-up portions of the guide channel bottom and may have bevelled faces that allow the latch bolts to ride over the teeth in the forward adjustments of the follower. The latch bolts 26 may be guided in their up and down movements in holes 28 and 29 formed respectively in the base plate 17 and in the laterally projecting end portions 17 of the hinge piece 16, and are preferably connected to a releasing member 30, mounted to slide up and down on the hinged follower member 11. This releasing member 30, as shown, consists of a plate having rearwardly projecting side flanges 31, and it is slidably retained against the rear face of the follower member 11 by a latch-actuating plate or member 33 which may be slidably mounted on the follower member 11 by retaining means, including a screw 34 passing through the actuating plate into a vertically elongated slot 35 in the follower plate 11 so as to permit limited up and down movements of the actuating member 33. The releasing plate 30 is vertically slotted to form legs which straddle the hinge bracket 13, and the actuating plate 33 shown is also formed with downwardly extending legs that straddle the hinge bracket 13 and are offset rearwardly from the plane of the upper portion of the actuating plate and slidably bear against the rear face of the releasing member 30, said legs 36 having, at their lower ends, lateral extensions 37 which project into notches 38 in the side flanges of the releasing member, in which notches the extensions have limited vertical play or lost motion. The releasing member 30 is thus slidably retained in position on the follower and is allowed to drop by gravity, for moving the latch bolts 26 into holding engagement with the teeth 27, the releasing plate sliding between the follower plate 11 and the retaining legs 36 of the actuating member. The releasing member 30 is adapted to be raised by upward movement of the actuating member 33 by means of the finger piece 39 at its upper end, through the engagement of the lateral projections 37 of the latter in the side flange notches 38 of the releasing member. The side flanges of the releasing member may also be formed with rearwardly projecting hooks 40 which extend through slots 41 in the upper ends of the latch bolts so that up and down movements of the latch-releasing member 30 will be communicated to the latch bolts for engaging them with and releasing them from their cooperating stop teeth 27. The hooks 40 and slots 41 thus provide an articulated joint or movable connection between the latch bolts and releasing member that enables the tilting movements of the follower plate 11 on the base in any adjustments of the base, without causing the latch bolts to be disengaged from their holding teeth 27. The follower or compressor is thus adapted to be moved to and releasably secured in any required file-supporting adjustment in the receptacle and releasably secured in such adjustment by engagement of the latch bolts with their cooperating teeth, and the hinged compressor plate 11 is adapted, in any such adjustment of the follower in the receptacle, to be tilted or swung to and from its standing file-supporting or compressing position without disengaging the latches 26 from the teeth and releasing the follower base.

In addition to this latch means for releasably securing the follower base with the follower in different required file-supporting adjustments in the receptacle, latch means is also provided for releasably retaining the hinged compressor plate 11 in the tilted position when it has been swung or tilted to the limit of its movement rearwardly or away from the files. This latch is formed, as shown, by a latch bar 42 which is secured by the screw 34 to the latch-actuating member 33, and is slidably mounted on the hinged compressor plate 11 by a headed screw 43 secured in a hole in the hinge bracket 13 of the follower plate and passing through a vertically elongated slot 44 in the latch bar 42. A notch 45 in the flanged top of the hinge bracket 13 further aids in slidably retaining and guiding the latch bar 42 on the follower, and this mounting of the bar aids in slidably retaining and guiding the actuating and releasing members 33 and 30 on the follower. The latch bar 42 is urged downwardly by a suitable spring, such as a coil spring 46 attached at opposite ends to the screw 43 and a stud 47 on the latch bar 42. This spring normally presses the lower end of the latch bar 42 downwardly against the top face of a stop on the base 12, which stop may be formed by the horizontal portion of the hinge piece 15. When the latch bar thus bears against the top face of the stop piece 15, it does not interfere with the forwardly and rearwardly tilting or swinging movements of the compressor plate 11, but when the follower plate has been tilted rearwardly or away from the files to the limit, the latch bar 42 will be projected downwardly by its spring into engagement with the forward edge of the stop or hinge piece 15, and thus will hold the hinged compressor plate against return to it standing position under the action of its spring 25 and so will retain the hinged compressor plate in its rearwardly tilted position.

The articulated connection between the latch bolts 26 for the base 12 and the latch-releasing plate 30 and the lost motion connection between the actuating member 33 and the releasing member 30 are such that the latch-actuating member 33 can be raised by means of its finger piece 39 sufficiently to disengage the latch bar 42 from its cooperating stop 15 and thus permit the hinged compressor plate 11 to be returned to its upright

file-compressing position with out disengaging the base latch bolts **26** from holding engagement with their teeth on the guide channel **20**. Thus, the hinged compressor plate **11** can be swung or tilted forwardly or rearwardly, or retained in the rearwardly tilted position or released therefrom by appropriate operation of the latch-actuating member **33**, without releasing the latch for the base **12** and disturbing the adjustment of the follower base in the drawer. Nevertheless, by a further lifting movement of the actuating member **33**, the latch bolts **26** can be released when it is desired to change the adjustment of the follower in the drawer.

The actuating spring **46** for the latch bar **42** also aids gravity in actuating the latch bolts **26** for the follower base, since when the actuating member **33** is released after having been raised to release the latch bolts **26**, the spring acting on member **33** through the latch bar **42** will pull member **33** downward, and if releasing member **39** does not drop by gravity, the lateral extensions **37** of member **33** will strike the bottom edges of notches **38** in the releasing member and start downward movement of the latter and the connected latch bolts **26**.

We claim as our invention:

1. In a filing device comprising a file receptacle, and a follower which is mounted by guide means in the bottom portion of the receptacle for movement to different file-supporting adjustments, and to swing from a standing file compressing position to a file-relieving position about a pivotal axis in the lower portion of the receptacle, the improvement which comprises a spring that urges the follower toward its standing position, a latch for releasably securing said follower in its different supporting adjustments, a latch for releasably retaining said follower in said file-relieving position against the action of said spring in the different supporting adjustments of the follower, and a common actuating device for said latches.

2. In a filing device comprising a file receptacle and a follower movable to different file-supoprting adjustments in the receptacle, the improvement which comprises said follower composed of a base adjustably mounted in the receptacle, and a compressor member hinged at its lower portion on said base, a spring that urges said compressor member towards a file-compressing position, a latch member on said base for engagement with parts on the receptacle for releasably securing the follower in different file-supporting adjustments, and an actuating member for said latch mounted on said hinged member and having a connection with said latch constructed to allow movement of the hinged member to and from a file-compressing position in different supporting adjustments of the follower while leaving said latch in securing position.

3. In a filing device comprising a file receptacle and a follower movable to different file-supporting adjustments in the receptacle, the improvement which comprises said follower composed of a base adjustably mounted in the receptacle, and a compressor member hinged at its lower portion on said base, a spring that urges said compressor member towards a file-compressing position, a latch device for releasably securing said follower in different file-supporting adjustments, a latch device for releasably retaining said hinged member in a file-relieving position against the action of said spring in different supporting adjustments of the follower, and a common actuating means for said latches constructed to actuate said second latch to free said hinged member while leaving said first latch device in securing position.

4. In a filing device comprising a file receptacle and a follower movable to different file-supporting adjustments in the receptacle, the improvement which comprises said follower composed of a base adjustably mounted in the receptacle, and a compressor member hinged at its lower portion on said base, a spring that urges said compressor member towards a file-compressing position, a latch slidably guided on said base for engagement with parts on the receptacle for securing the follower in different file-supporting adjustments, and an actuating member for said latch slidably mounted on said hinged member and connected with said latch by a lateral projection loosely engaging in a slot in said latch to allow hinging movement of said hinged member without releasing the latch.

5. In a filing device comprising a file receptacle and a follower movable to different file-supporting adjustments in the receptacle, the improvement which comprises said follower composed of a base adjustably mounted in the receptacle, and a compressor member hinged at its lower portion on said base, a spring that urges said compressor member towards a file compressing position, a latch slidably guided on said base for engagement with parts on the receptacle for securing the follower in different file-supporting adjustments, a releasing member slidably confined on said hinged member and having a lateral projection loosely engaging in a slot in said lach to allow hinging movement of said hinged member without releasing the latch, and a latch-actuating member slidably confined on said hinged member and having a lost motion connection with said releasing member for moving the latter to release the latch.

6. In a filing device comprising a file receptacle and a follower movable to different file-supporting adjustments in the receptacle, the improvement which comprises said follower composed of a base adjustably mounted in the receptacle, and a compressor member hinged at its lower portion on said base, a spring that urges said compressor member towards a file compressing position, a latch slidably guided on said base for engagement with parts on the receptacle for securing the follower in different file-supporting adjustments, a releasing plate slidably confined on said hinged member and having a lateral projection loosely engaging in a slot in said latch to allow hinging movement of said hinged member without releasing the latch, a latch-actuating plate slidably confined on said hinged member and having a lost motion connection with said releasing plate for moving the latter to release the latch, and a latch bar connected to said actuating member and arranged to engage a part of said follower base to retain said hinged member in file-relieving position.

7. In a filing device comprising a file receptacle and a follower movable to different file-supporting adjustments in the receptacle, the improvement which comprises said follower composed of a base adjustably mounted in the receptacle, and a compressor member hinged at its lower portion on said base, a spring that urges said compressor member towards a file compressing position, a latch slidably guided on

said base for engagement with parts on the receptacle for securing the follower in different file-supporting adjustments, a releasing plate slidably confined on said hinged member and having a lateral projection loosely engaging in a slot in said latch to allow hinging movement of said hinged member without releasing the latch, a latch-actuating plate slidably confined on said hinged member and having a lost motion connection with said releasing plate for moving the latter to release the latch, a latch bar connected to said actuating plate and arranged to engage a part of said follower base to retain said hinged member in file-relieving position, and a spring for urging said latch bar and actuating plate toward said follower base.

8. In a filing device comprising a follower movable to different file-supporting adjustments in a file receptacle and comprising a base movably mounted in the receptacle, a compressor member hinged at its lower portion on said base, a spring that urges said hinged member towards a file-compressing position, and a latch on the base movable by gravity for securing the follower in different adjustments, the improvement comprising a releasing member slidable vertically on said hinged member and having an articulated connection with said latch to allow said hinged member to swing without releasing said latch, a latch-actuating member slidable vertically on said hinged member and having a lost motion connection with said releasing member, a latch bar attached to and movable with said actuating member and arranged to engage a part on said base for retaining said hinged member in a file-relieving position, and a spring which urges said latch bar toward said base, said latch bar being operated to release said hinged member by an initial movement of said actuating member and said base latch being released by a further movement of the actuating member.

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