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DESK CONSTRUCTION

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FIG. 1

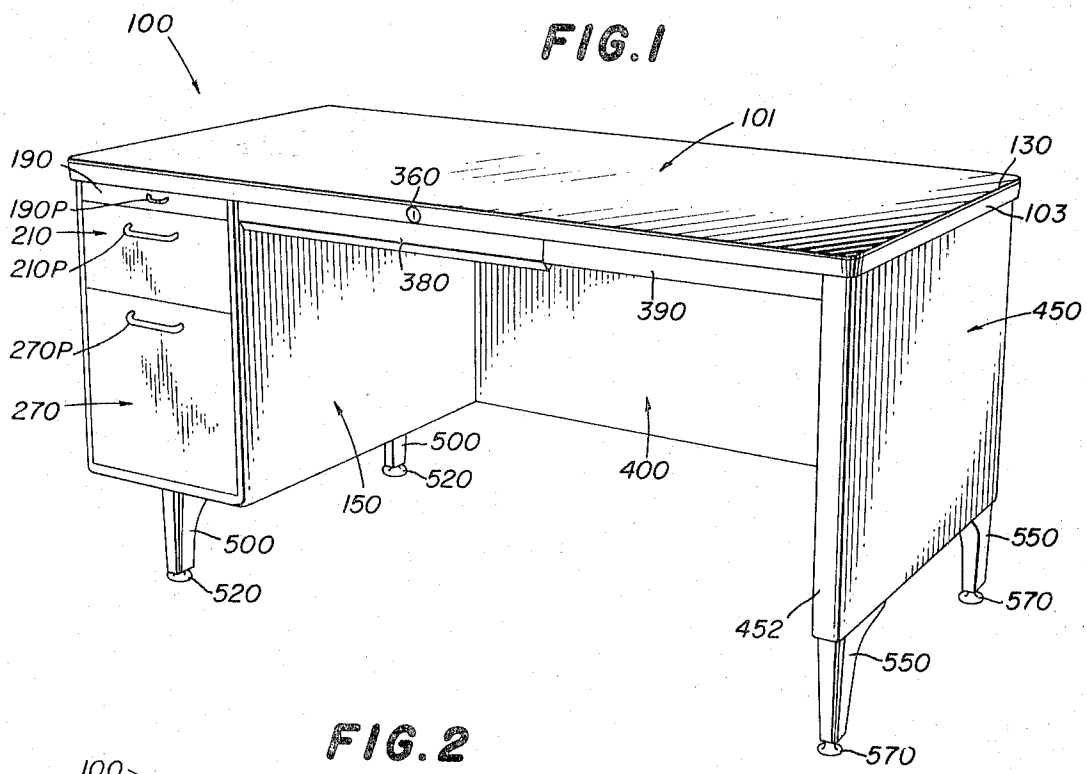
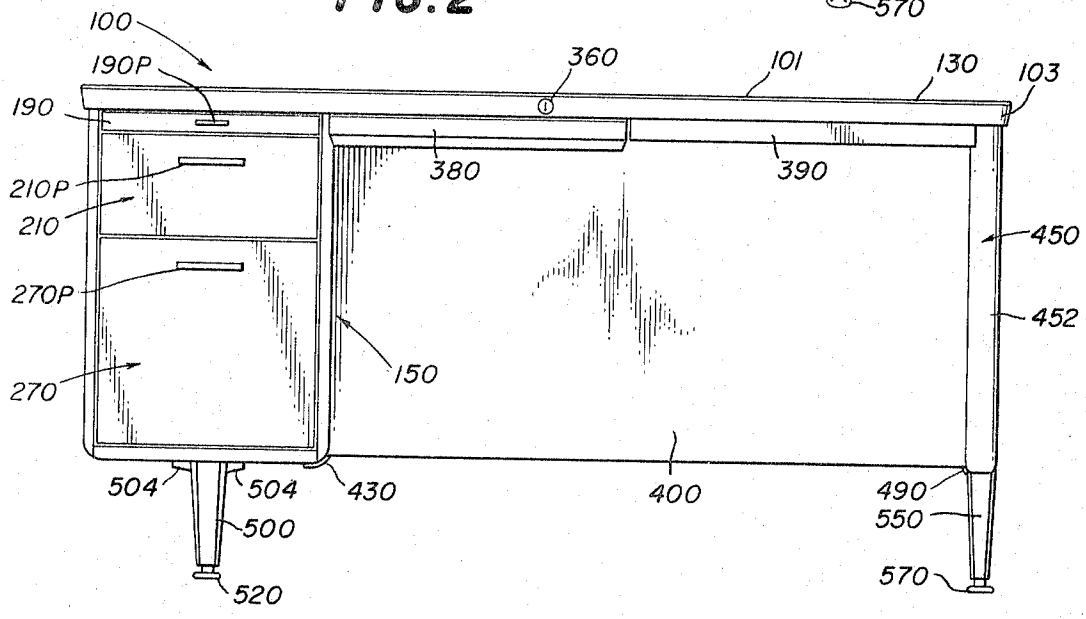


FIG. 2



INVENTOR
KENNETH D. SCHREYER
BY
Pringle, Baird, Clayton, Miller & Vogel
ATTYS.

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FIG. 3

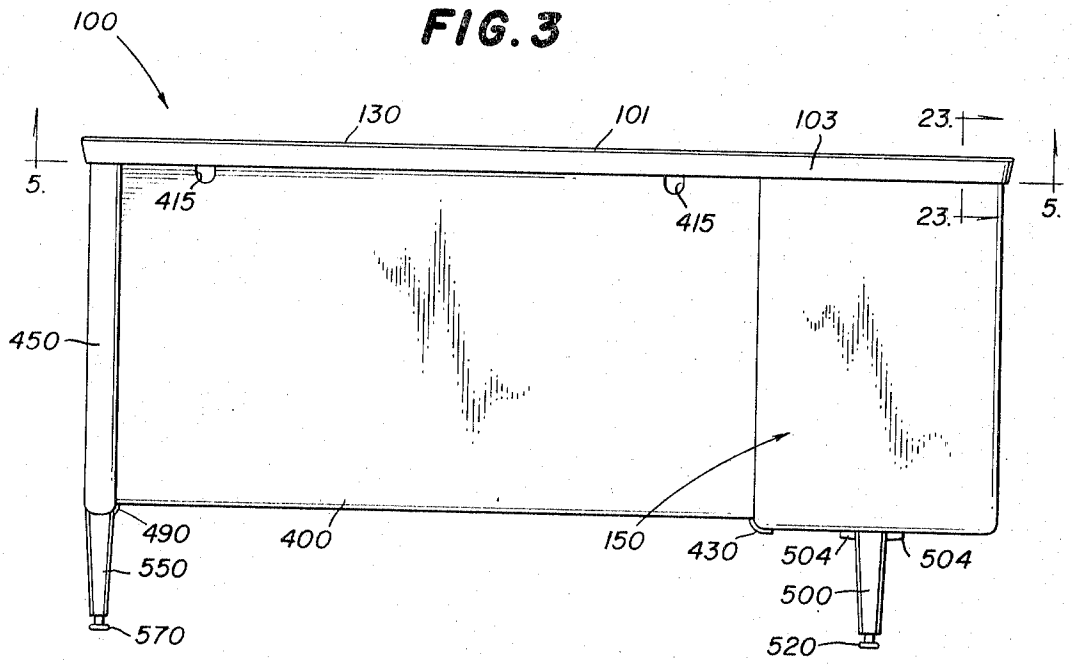
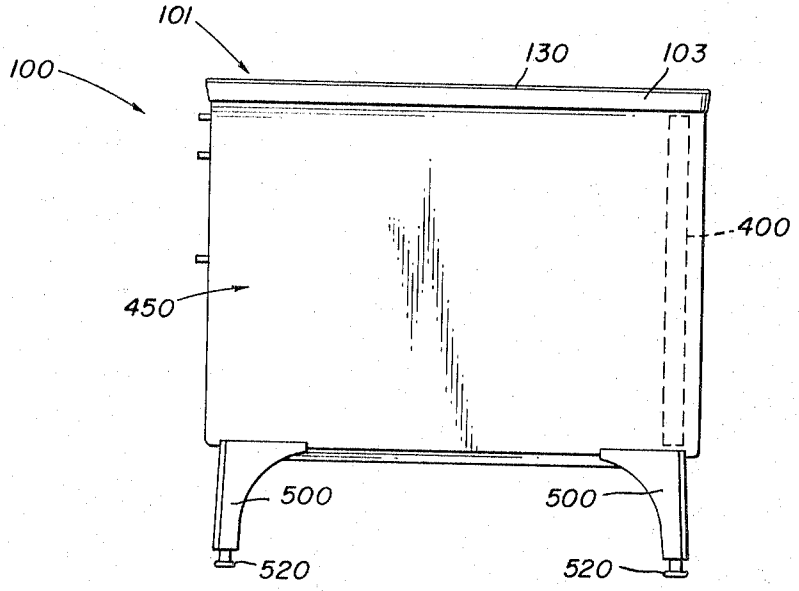


FIG. 4

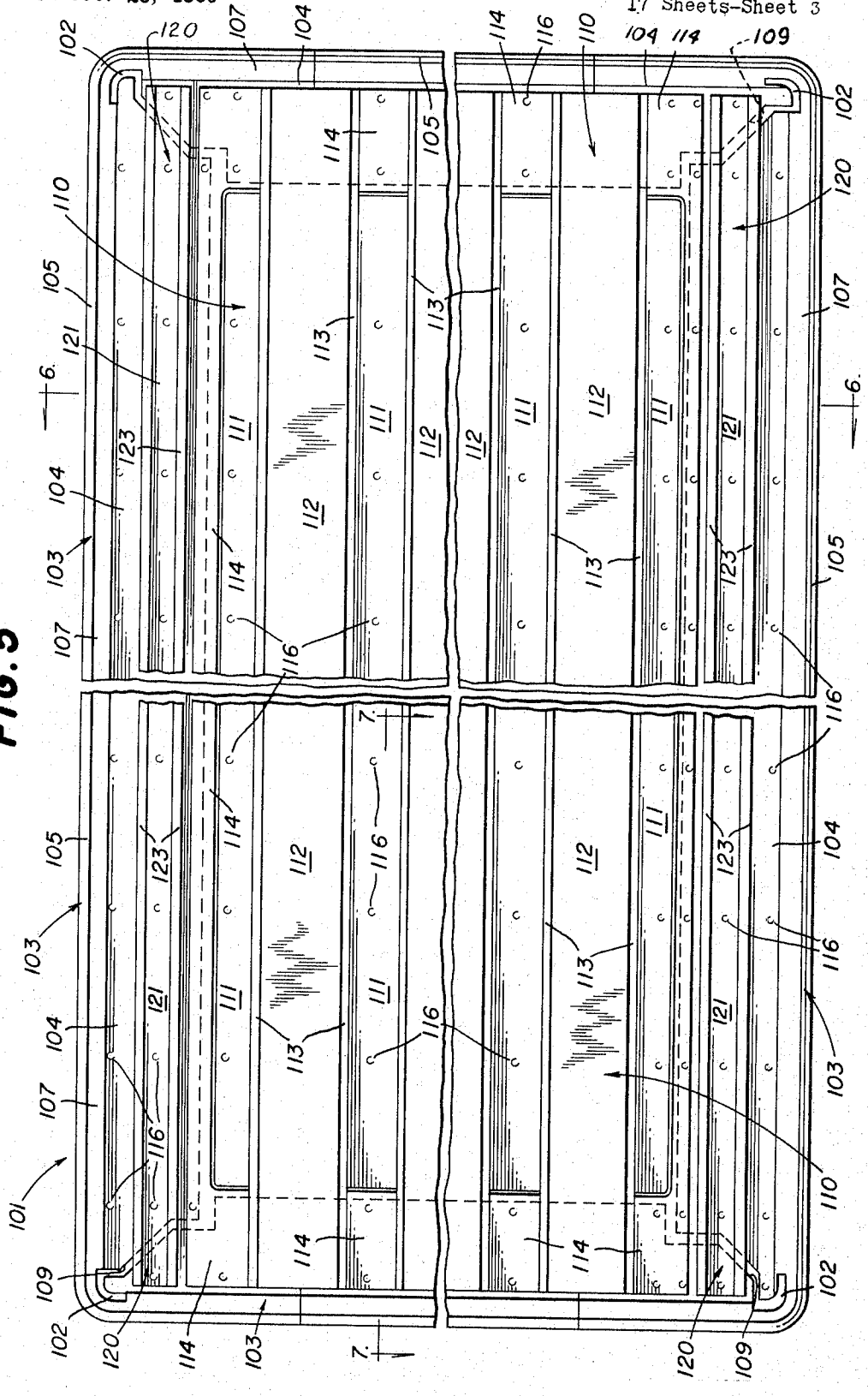


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FIG. 5



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FIG. 6

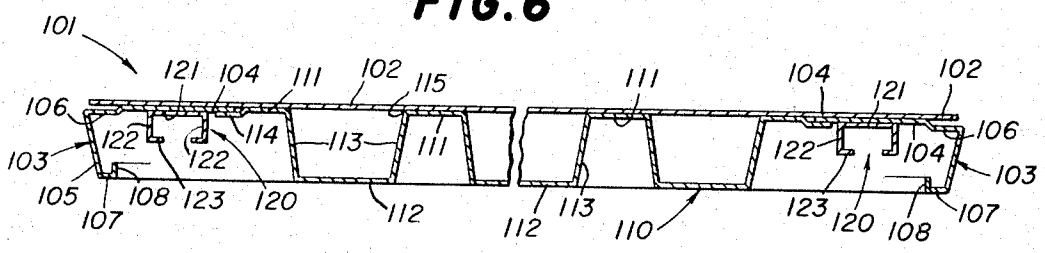


FIG. 7

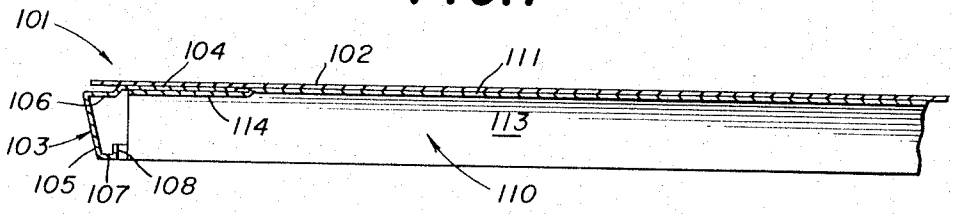
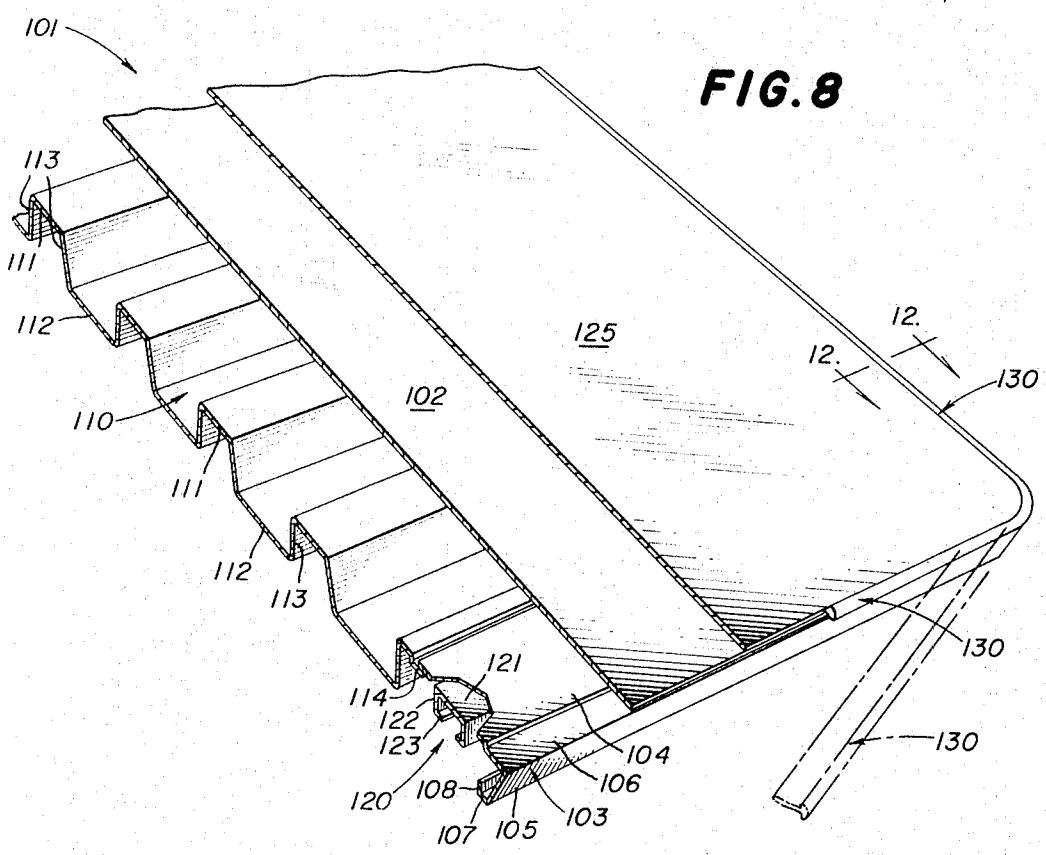


FIG. 8



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DESK CONSTRUCTION

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FIG. 9

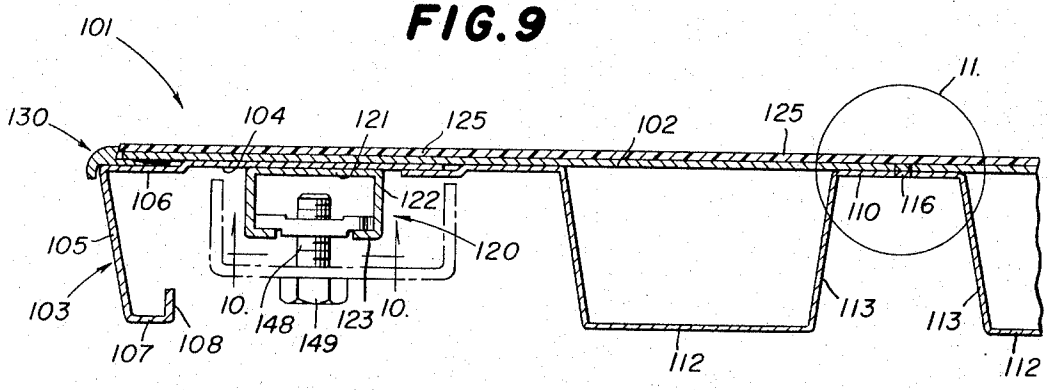


FIG. 10

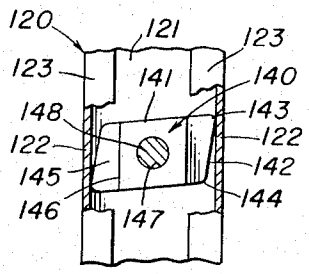


FIG. 11

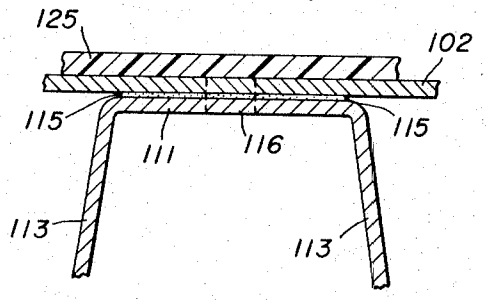


FIG. 12

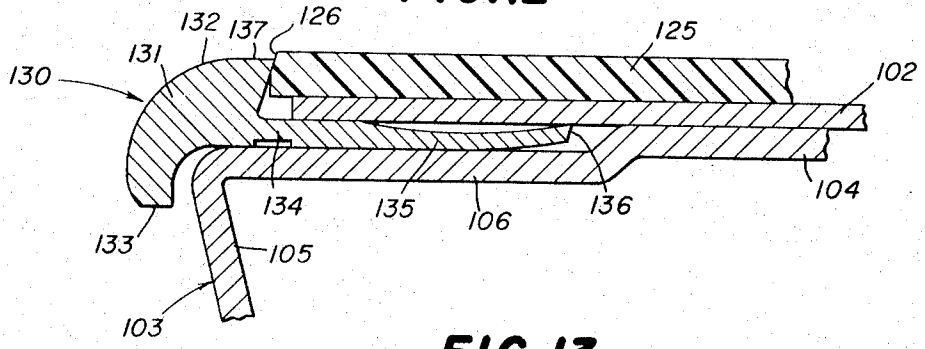


FIG. 13

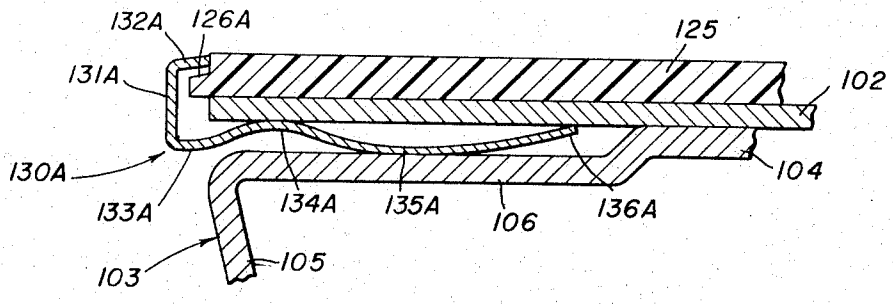


FIG. 14

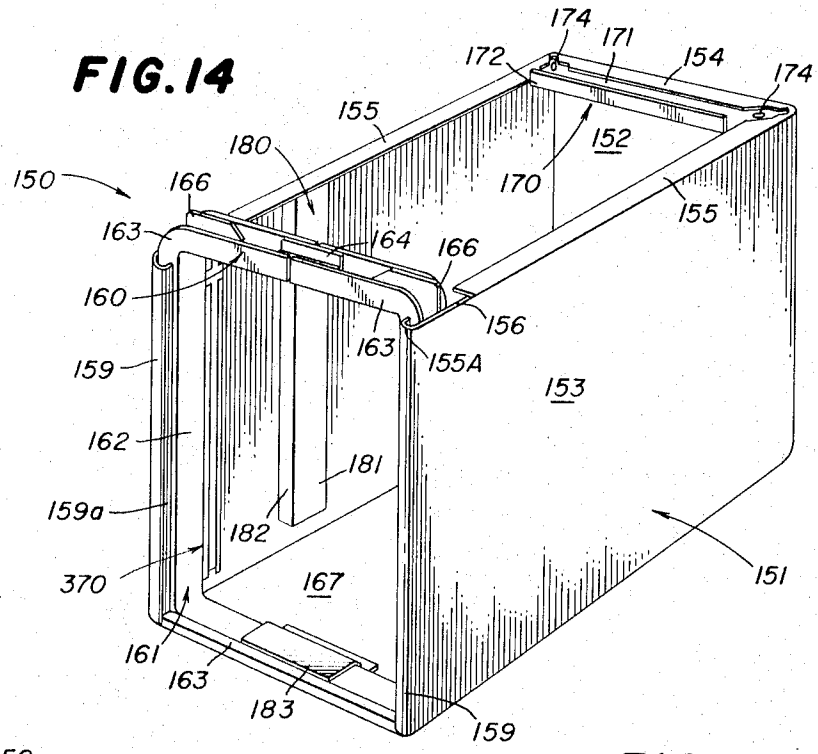
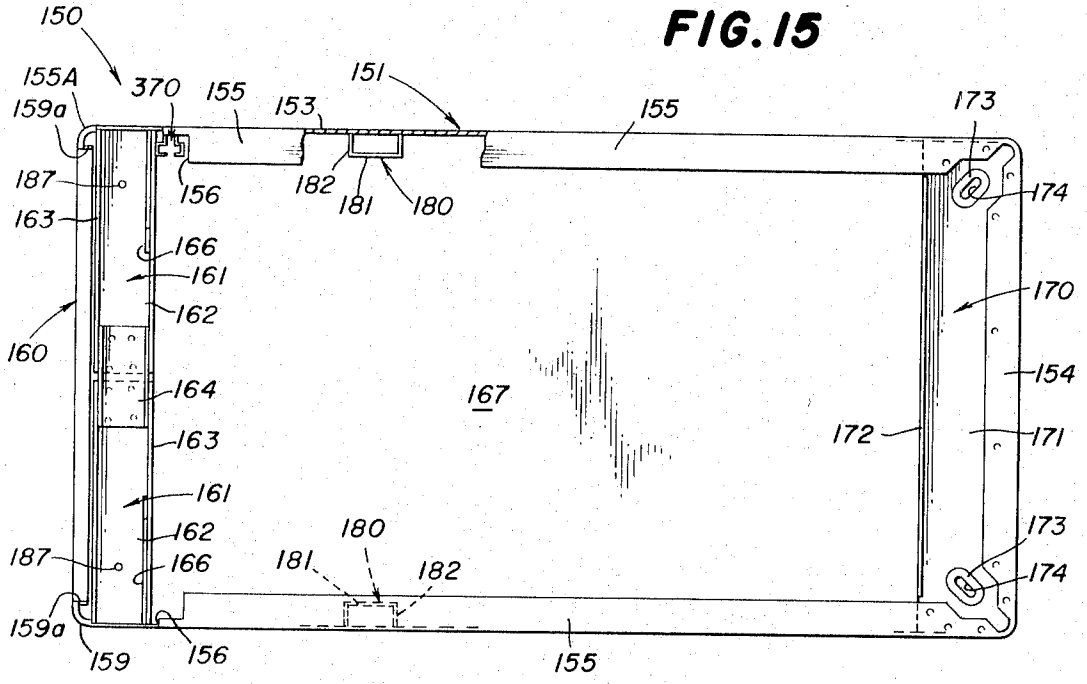

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FIG. 15


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FIG. 17

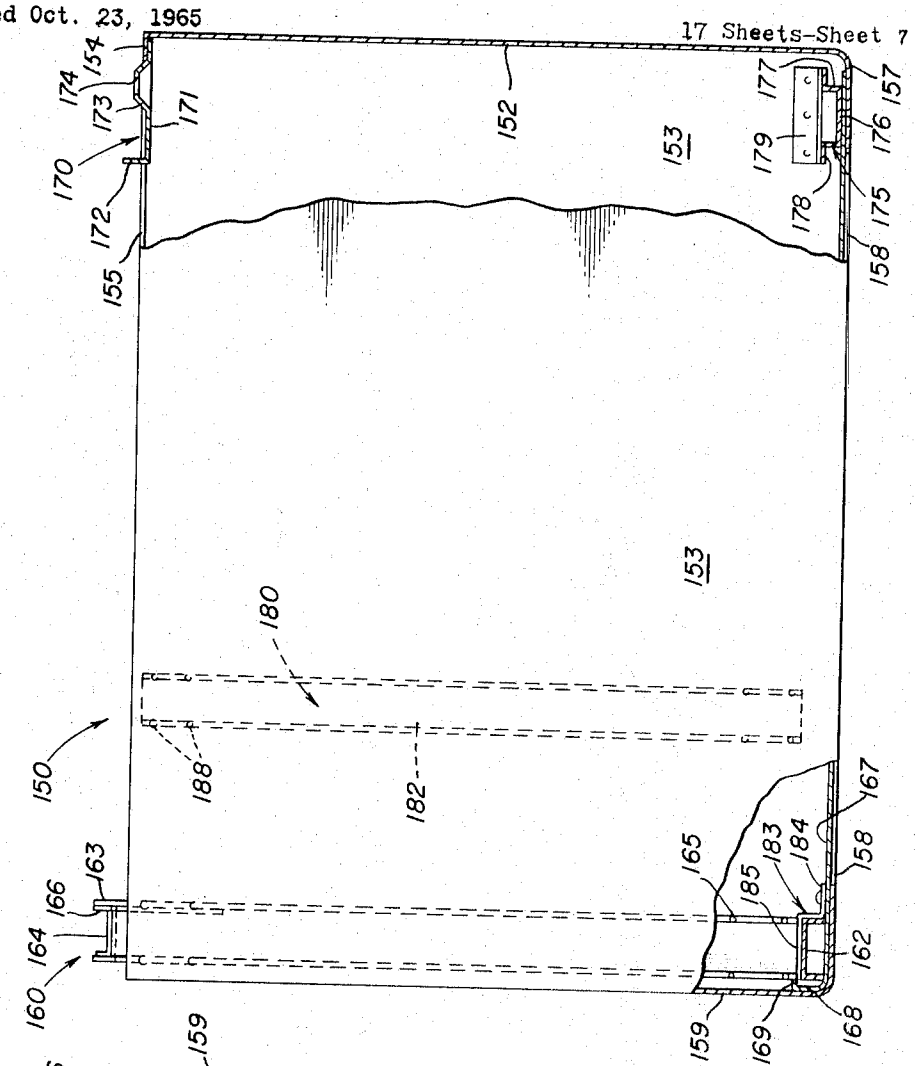
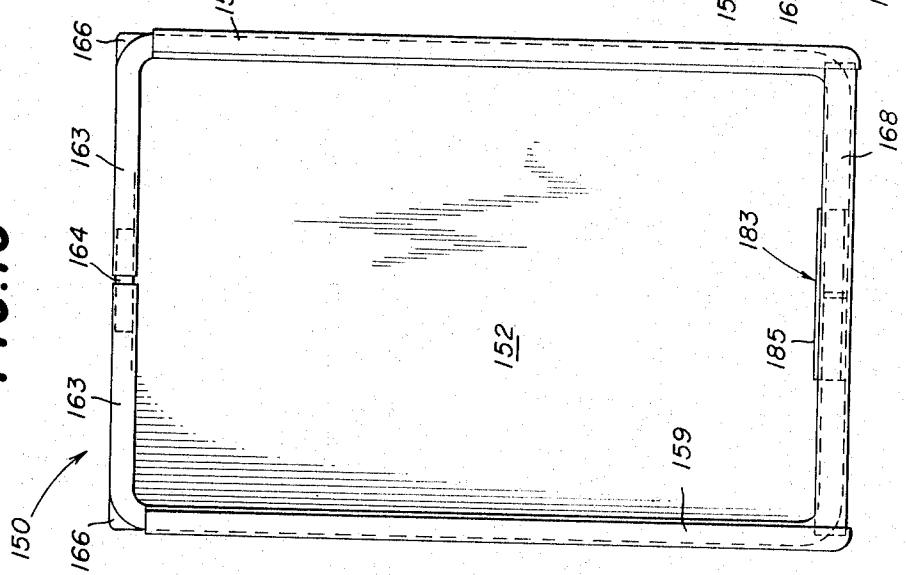


FIG. 16



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DESK CONSTRUCTION

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FIG. 18

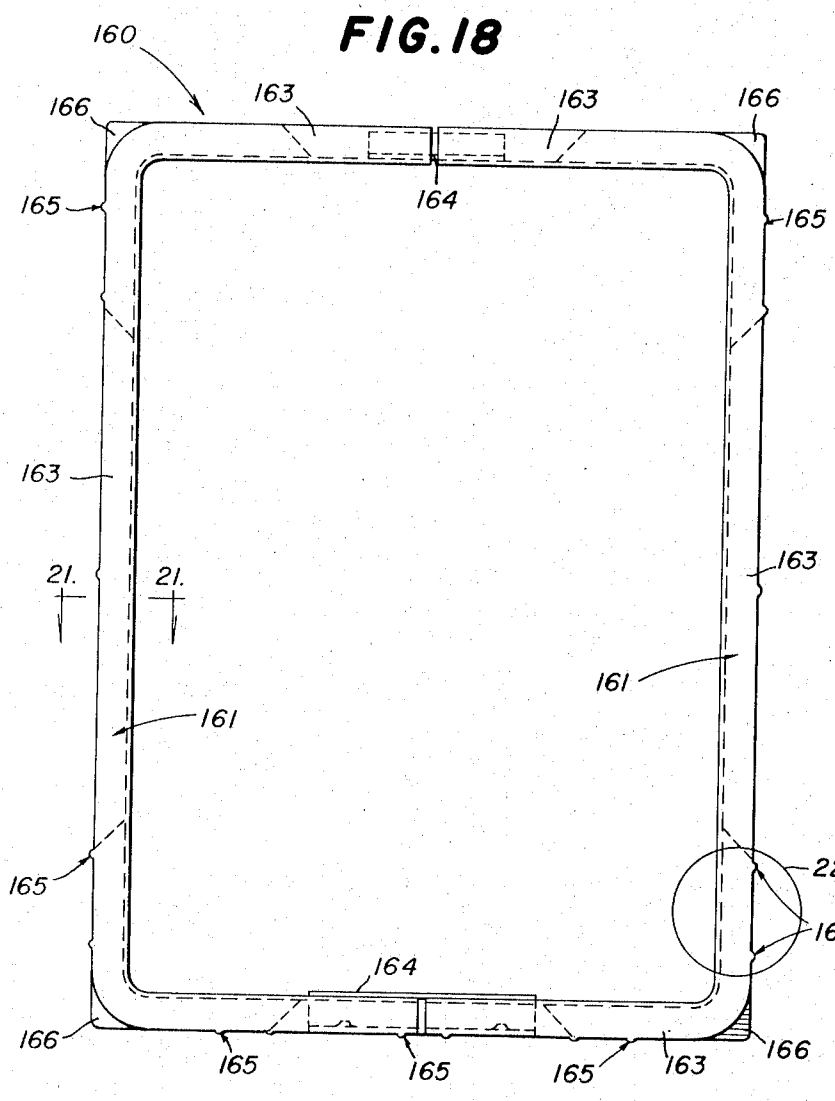


FIG. 19

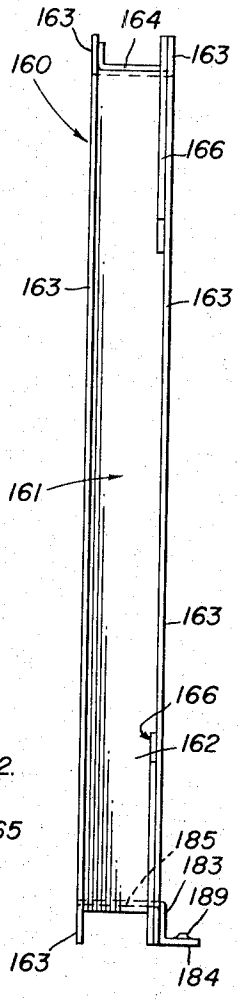


FIG. 21

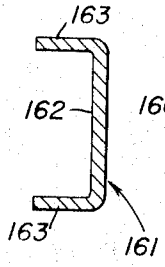


FIG. 20

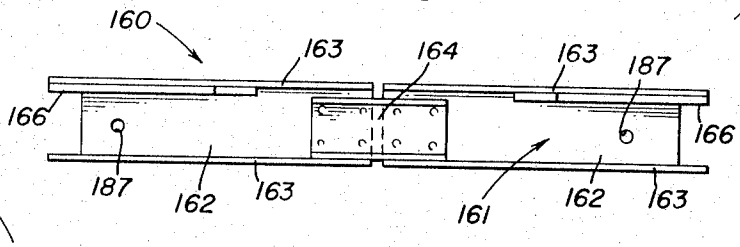
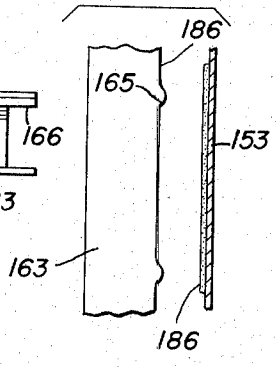


FIG. 22



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DESK CONSTRUCTION

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FIG. 23

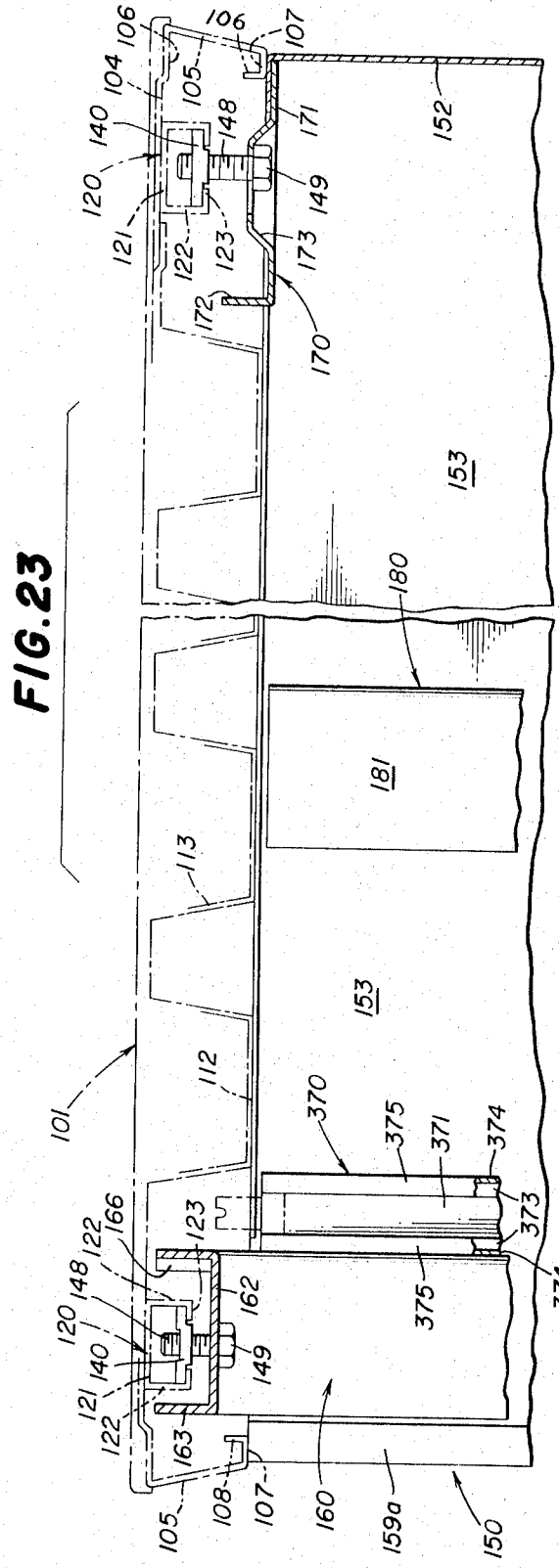
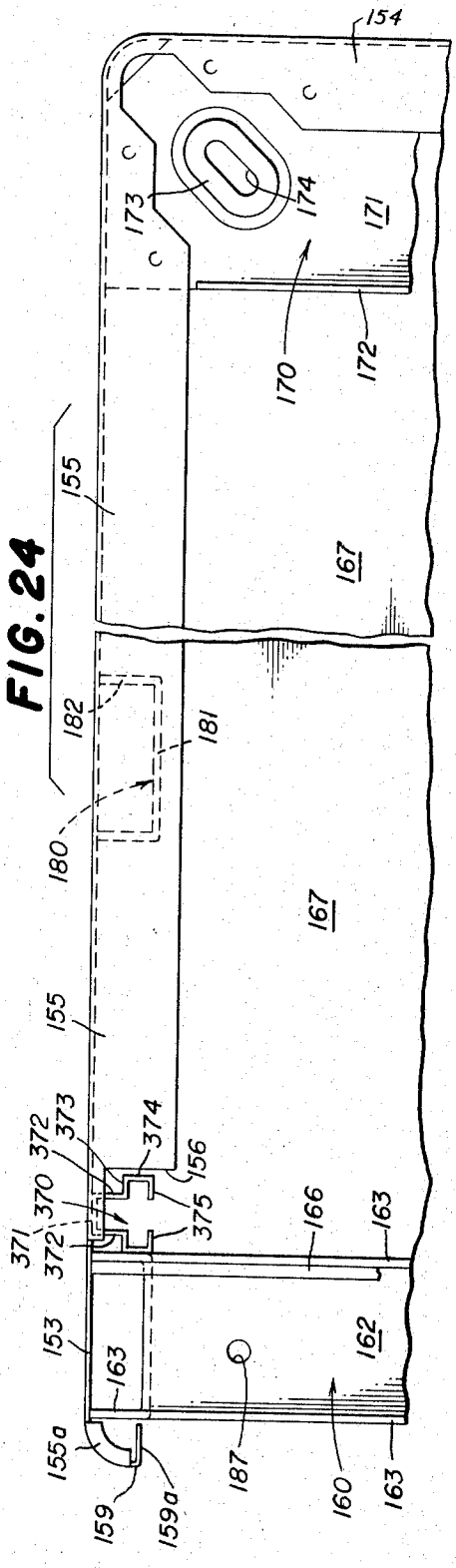


FIG. 24



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DESK CONSTRUCTION

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FIG. 25

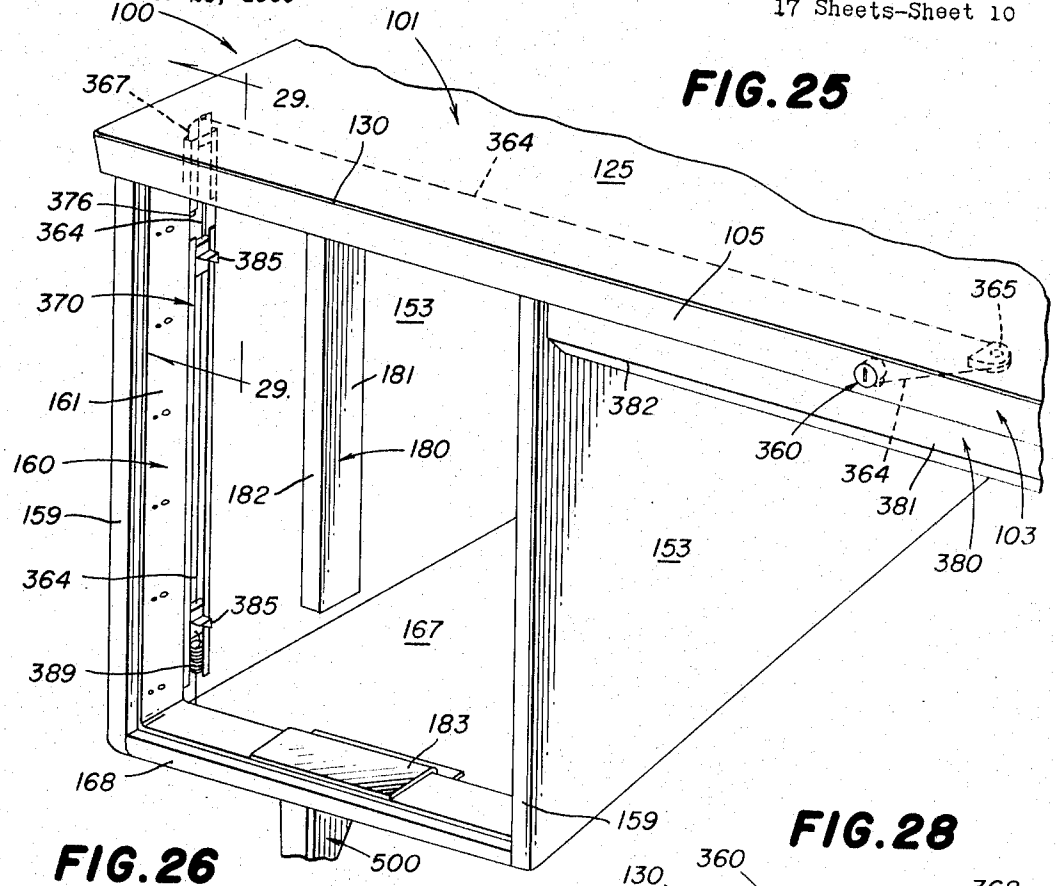


FIG. 26

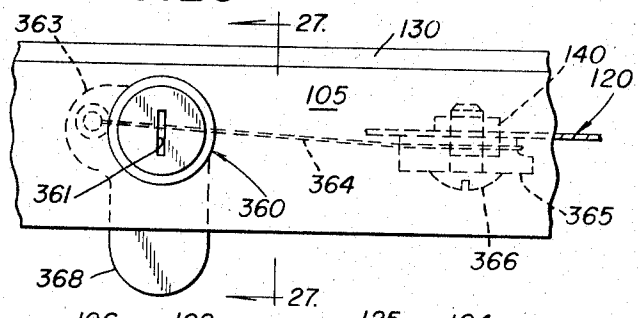


FIG. 28

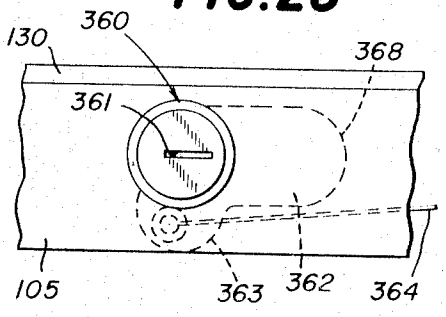


FIG. 27

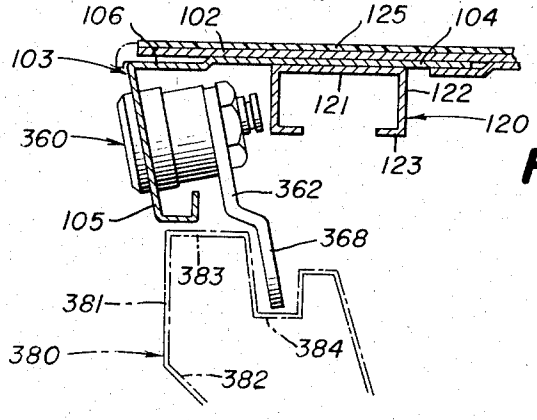


FIG. 29

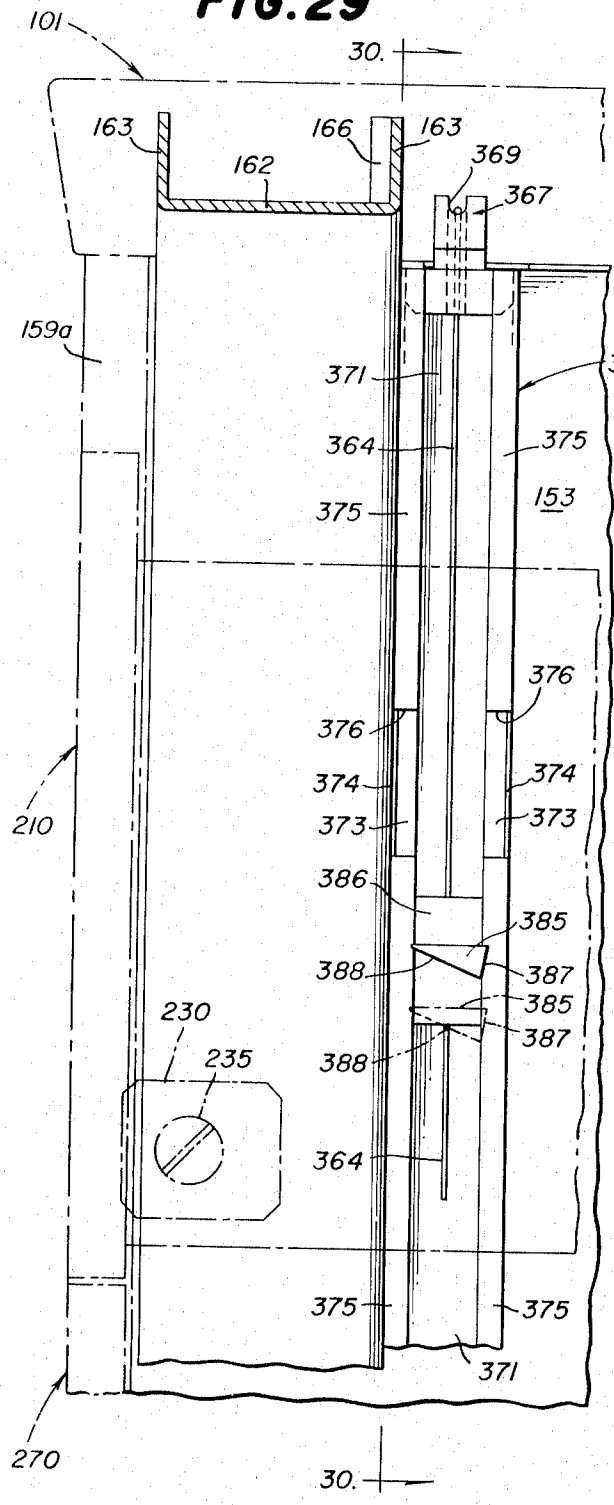

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FIG. 30

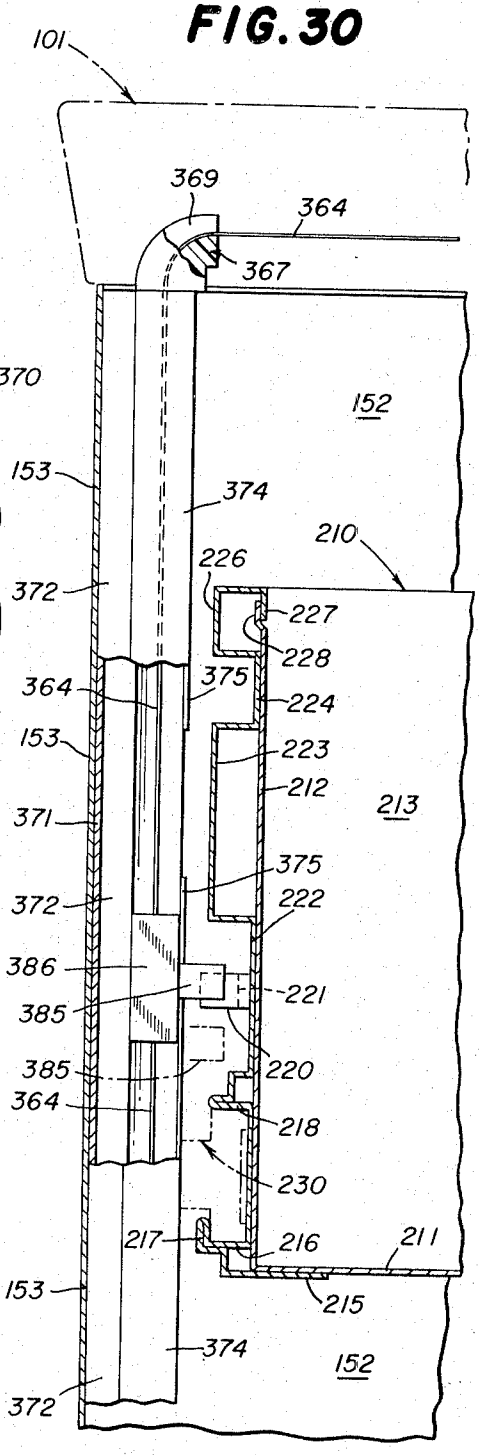

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FIG. 31

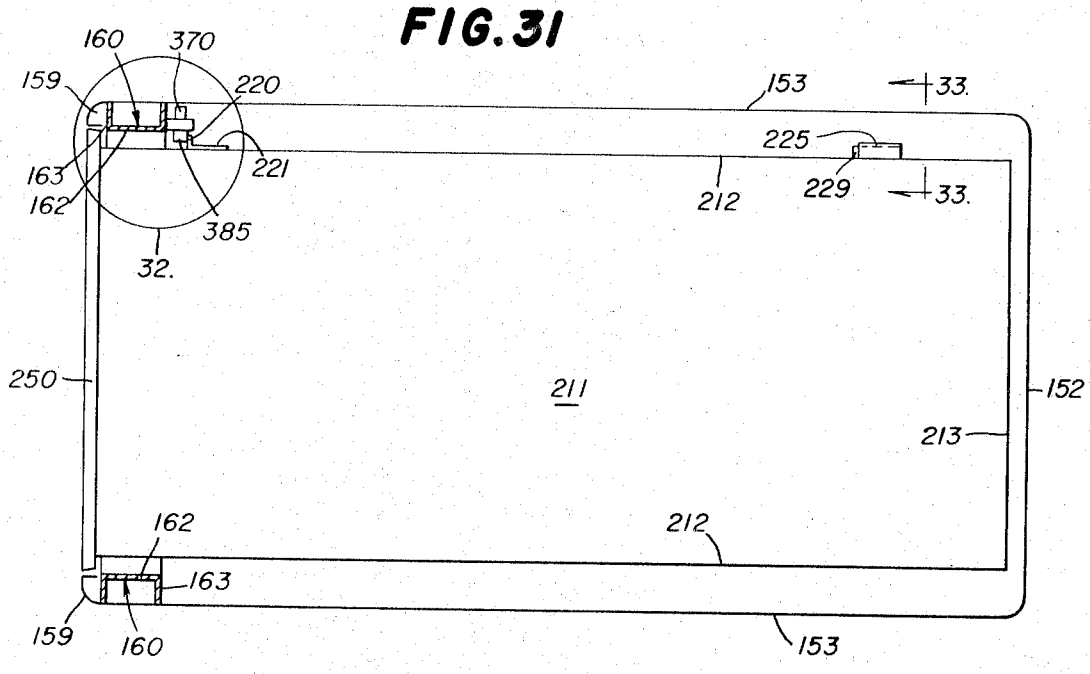
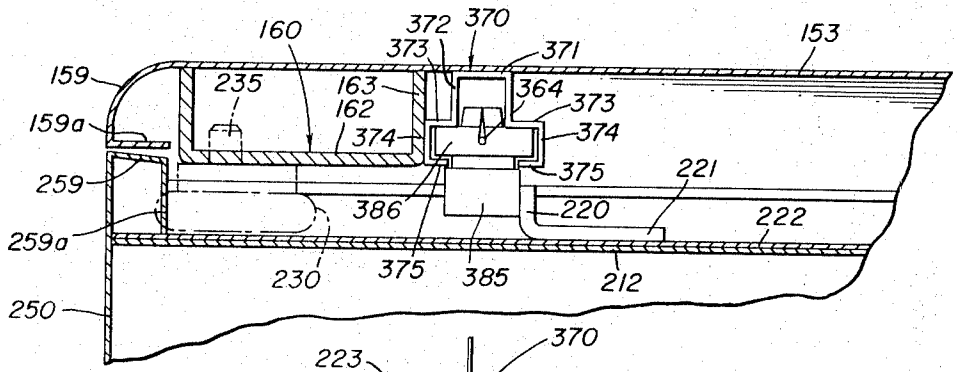


FIG. 32



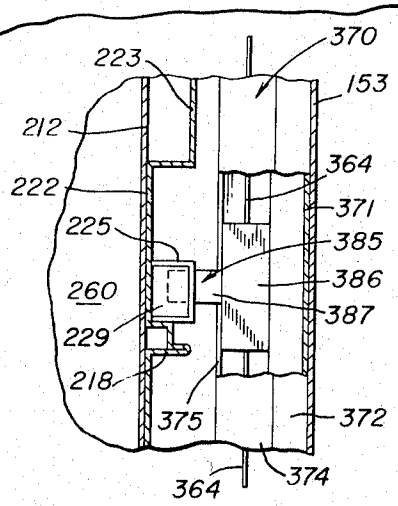


FIG. 33

FIG. 34

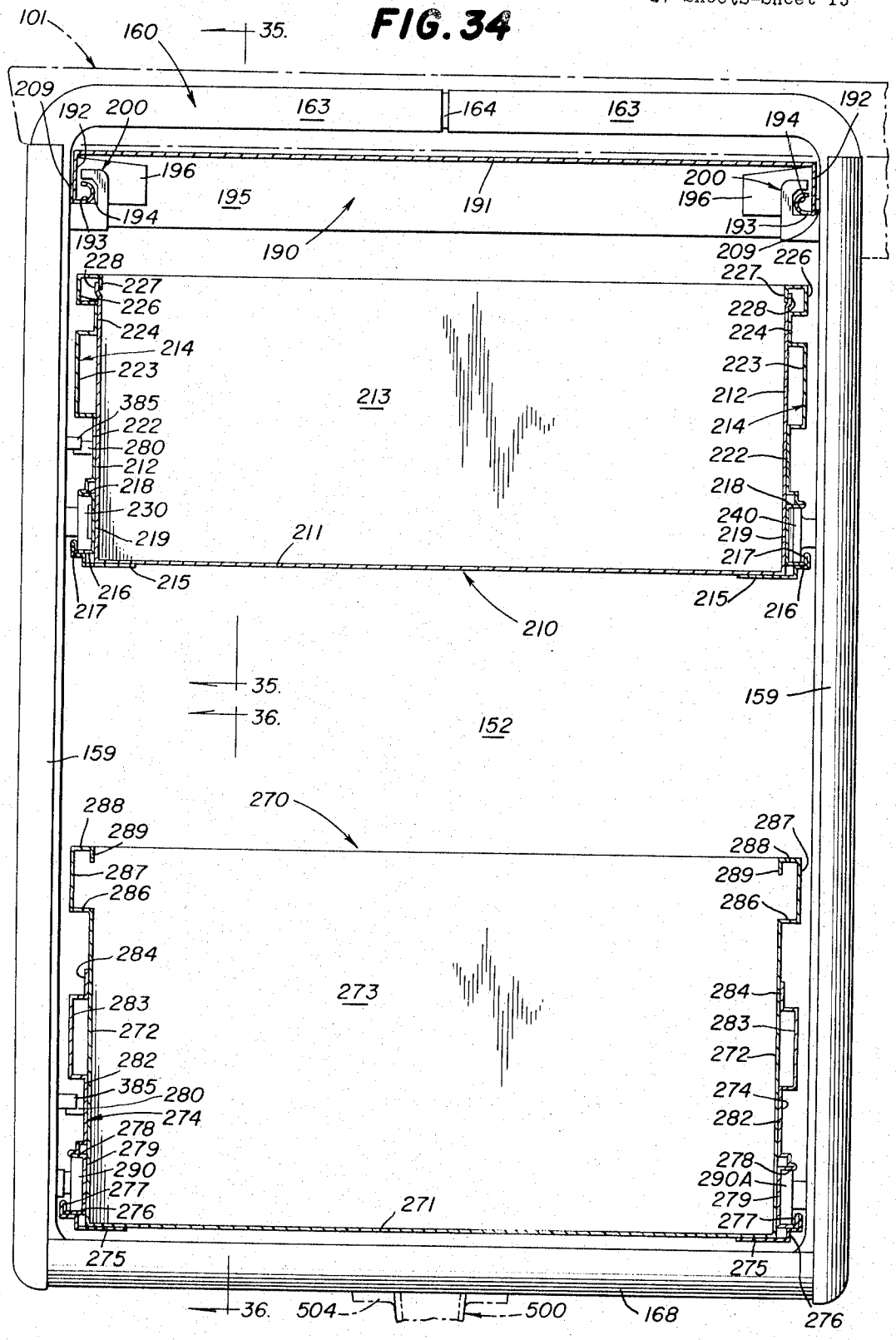
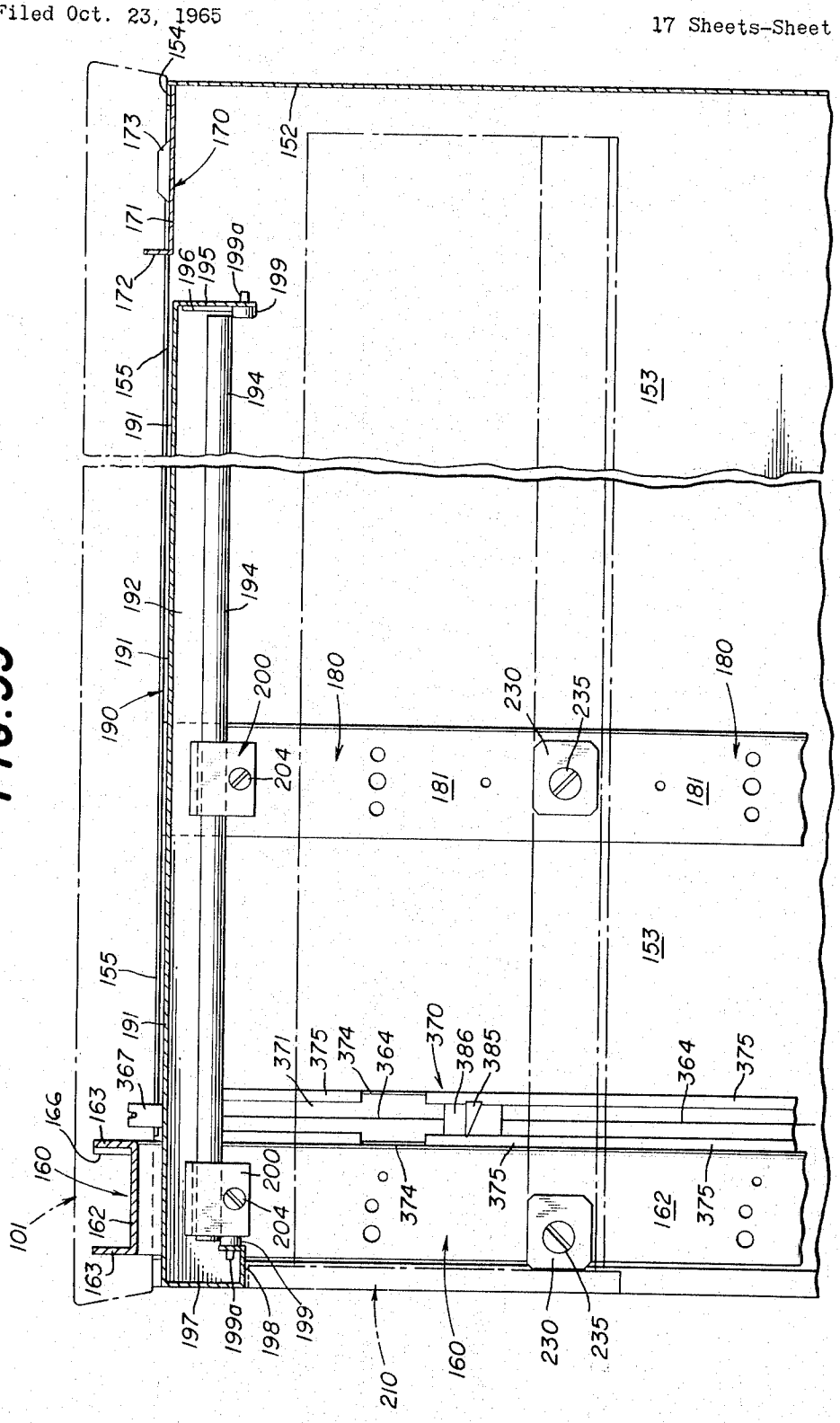

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FIG. 35


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FIG. 36

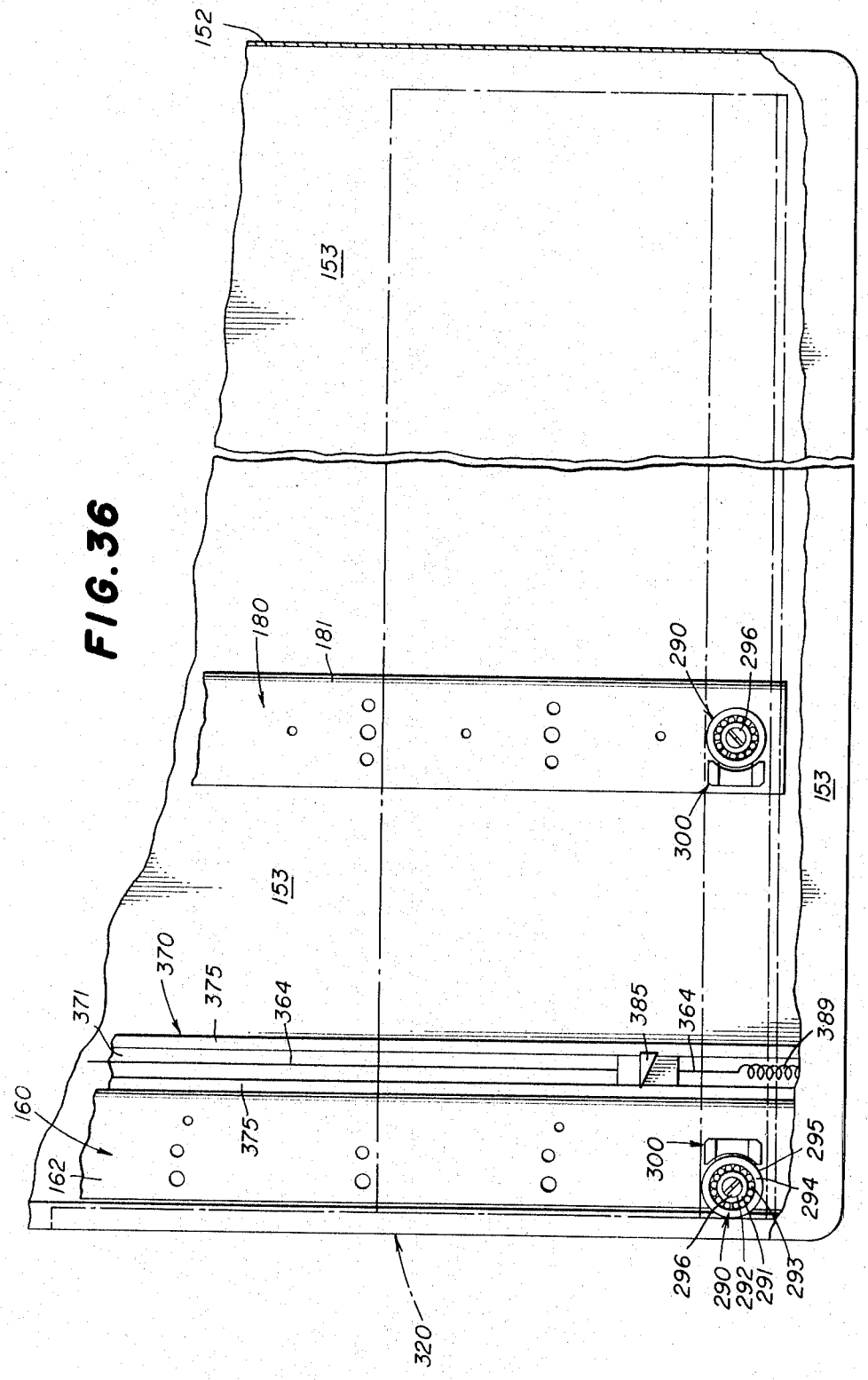


FIG. 37

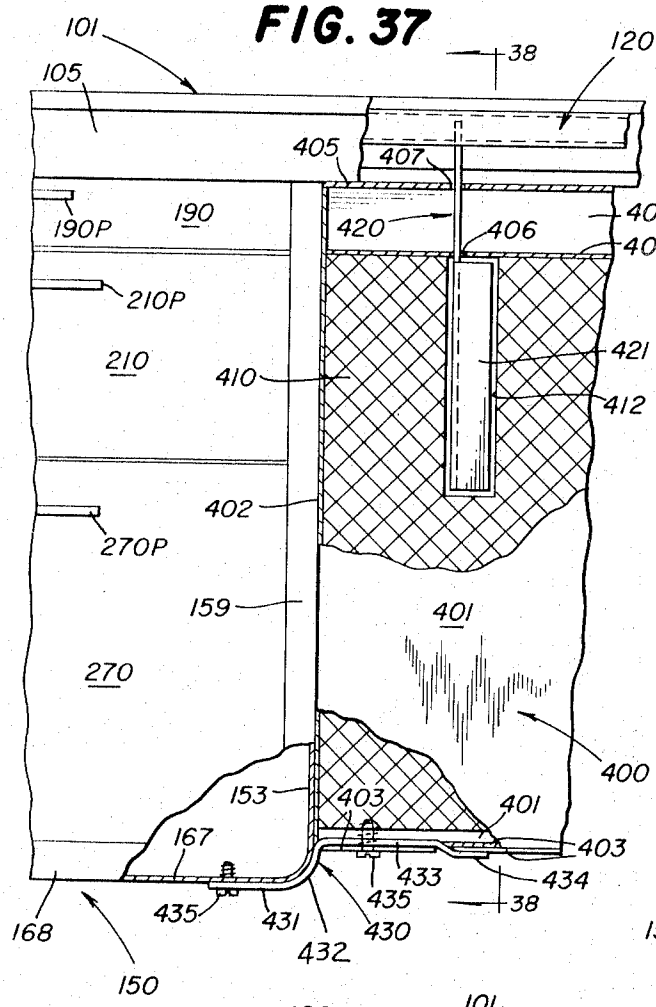
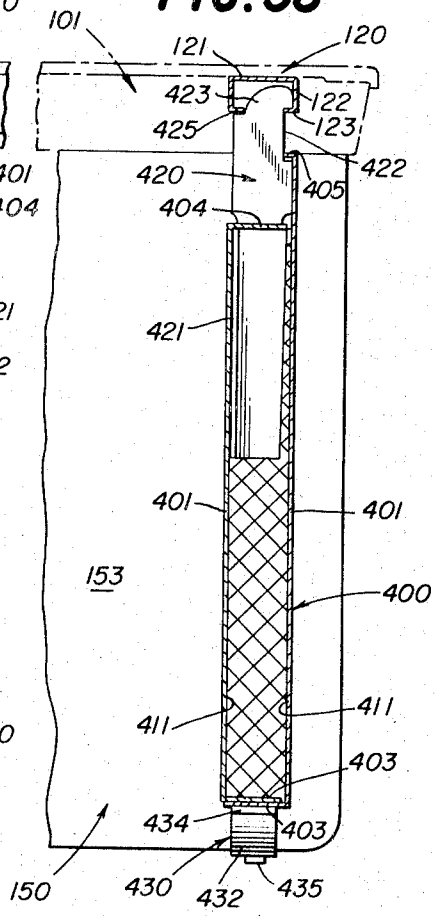


FIG. 38



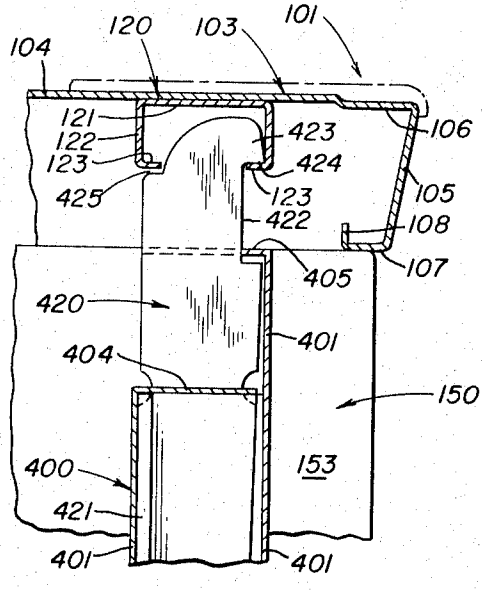


FIG. 39

Jan. 16, 1968 K. D. SCHREYER 3,363,955

DESK CONSTRUCTION

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FIG. 40

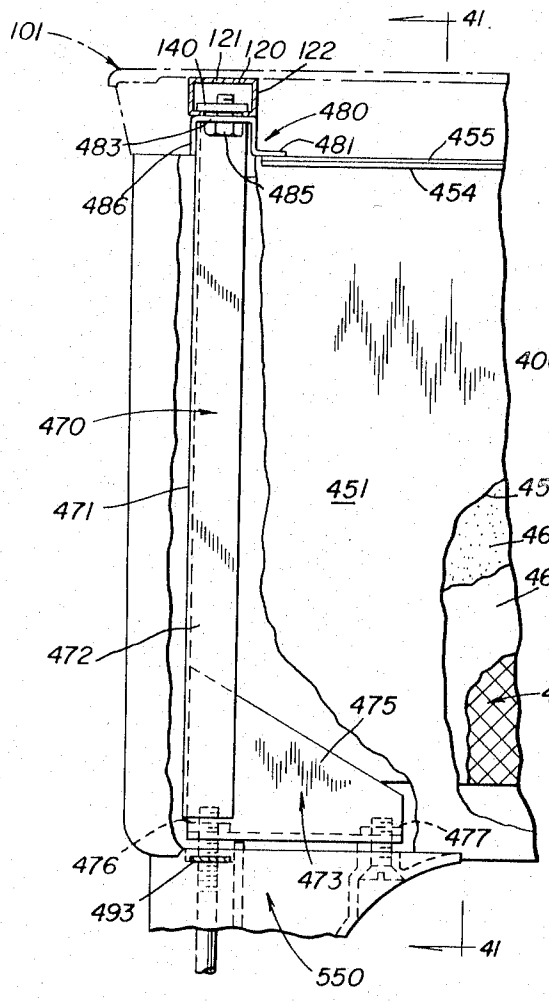


FIG. 41

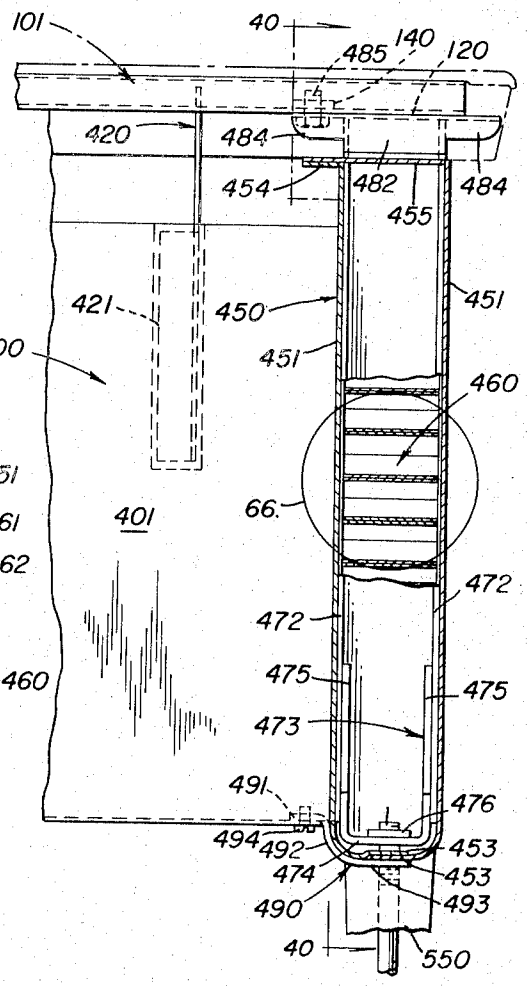


FIG. 42

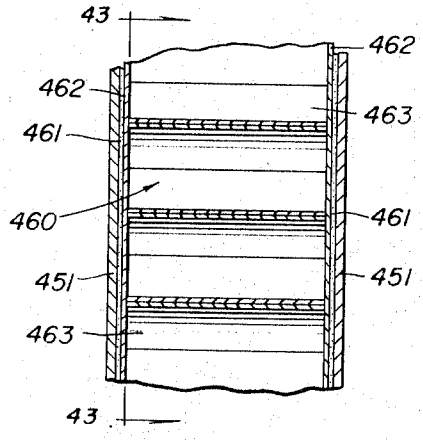
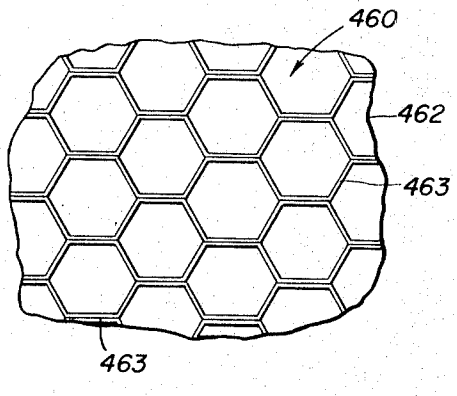


FIG. 43



United States Patent Office 3,363,955 Patented Jan. 16, 1968

3,363,955

DESK CONSTRUCTION

Kenneth D. Schreyer, Doylestown, Pa., assignor to Lyon Metal Products, Incorporated, Aurora, Ill., a corporation of Illinois

Filed Oct. 23, 1965, Ser. No. 503,157
19 Claims. (Cl. 312—194)

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

There is disclosed a desk comprising a top including a substantially flat top plate, a reinforcing sheet disposed below the top plate and having a plurality of reinforcing ribs and attachment portions extending longitudinally thereof, a pair of spaced apart mounting channels disposed beneath the top plate and extending in the direction of the ribs and secured to the top plate, the reinforcing ribs having an extent in a vertical direction substantially greater than the extent of the mounting channels, an edging extending around the periphery of the top plate and including a dependent side flange that extends down below the mounting channels, a pedestal arranged adjacent to one end of the top and including a body having a front frame positioned at the forward end thereof and a rear top support positioned adjacent to the rear end thereof, the front frame being in general alignment of one of the mounting channels and the top support being in alignment with the other mounting channel, means securing the front frame and the top support to the mounting channels thereby to connect the pedestal to the top; and end panel disposed at the other end of the top and having a pair of mounting brackets secured thereto and engagable in the mounting channels thereby to connect the end panel to the top; a back panel disposed adjacent to the rear of the top and extending between the pedestal and the end panel and having a pair of hangers mounted on the upper portion thereof and engagable in the adjacent mounting channel to connect the back panel to the top; clips interconnecting the pedestal and the adjacent end of the back panel and interconnecting the end panel at the adjacent end of the back panel; the dependent side flange on the top extending downwardly below the connections between the top and the pedestal and below the connections between the top and the end panel and below the connections between the top and the side panel; and locking mechanism mounted on the dependent flange and operatively connected to a latch mounted in the pedestal for locking the drawers in the pedestal, the locking mechanism also locking in the closed position a center drawer mounted on the top.

This invention relates to furniture constructions, and particularly to desks, and to improvements in desk components and the interconnection thereof one with the other.

It is a general object of the present invention to provide an improved furniture construction, and particularly an improved desk, a single pedestal desk having been selected for illustrative purposes, and fundamentally to provide an improved desk formed essentially of sheet metal that is simple in construction and economical in manufacture.

Another object of the invention is to provide in a furniture construction an improved furniture top, the furniture top including a top plate and a reinforcing sheet of ribbed construction secured together by welding to provide high strength, flatness and good sound qualities in the top.

In connection with the foregoing object, another object of the invention is to provide a furniture top of the type

set forth wherein an adhesive layer is disposed between the top plate and the ribbed reinforcement sheet to provide good sound deadening qualities in the furniture top.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide in a furniture construction an improved furniture top of the type set forth having on the underside thereof front and rear mounting channels to which all other furniture structures are connected, and to provide an improved nut and channel fastener construction for connecting the furniture parts to the mounting channels.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide in a furniture construction an improved pedestal, the pedestal including outer walls mounted on a new and improved front frame, the front frame including two U-shaped channels welded together to form a rectangular frame.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide in a furniture piece of the type set forth an improved drawer locking arrangement, and particularly an improved locking arrangement wherein the lock is disposed in the furniture top and is connected by suitable mechanism to the latches for locking the drawers.

In connection with the foregoing object, it is another object of the invention to provide an improved locking structure wherein a flexible wire cable is utilized to interconnect the locking mechanism and the latches, lubric guides being utilized to support and to direct the cables.

Still another object of the invention is to provide an improved locking arrangement of the type set forth, wherein the drawer latches also serve as drawer stops when in the release position thereof to limit the normal outward movement of the drawer with respect to the associated pedestal, the drawers being released by movement of the locking mechanism and the drawer latches to the locking positions thereof.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide in a new and improved drawer locking arrangement of the type set forth an improved locking arrangement for a center drawer mounted on the furniture top below the locking mechanism, the latch for the center drawer being connected directly to the locking mechanism and also serving as a lever arm for connection to a flexible wire cable for controlling the drawer latches in an adjacent pedestal.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide in a furniture construction an improved back panel, and specifically a back panel for use with the improved furniture top of the present invention, the back panel being of composite construction including a pair of outer metal side walls and a honeycomb construction disposed therebetween and secured thereto by mastic, and a pair of hangers extending upwardly therefrom for engagement with mounting channels on an associated furniture top.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide in a furniture construction of the type set forth an improved end panel of composite construction including a pair of metal side walls receiving therebetween a filler of honeycomb construction secured thereto by mastic to provide a load bearing member, the end panel also including channels and brackets at the upper end thereof for mounting the end panel on the mounting channels of an associated furniture top of the present invention.

Further features of the invention pertain to the particular arrangement of the parts whereby the above-outlined and additional features thereof are attained.

The invention, both as to its organization and method of construction, together with other objects and advantages, will best be understood by reference to the following specification taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a single pedestal desk

made in accordance with and embodying the principles of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a front elevational view of the desk of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a rear elevational view of the desk of FIGS. 1 and 2;

FIG. 4 is an end elevational view of the desk illustrated in FIGS. 1 to 3;

FIG. 5 is a view of the underside of the top of the desk of FIG. 3 substantially as seen in the direction of the arrows along the line **5—5** thereof, certain portions being broken away and the trim and covering thereon removed;

FIG. 6 is an enlarged fragmentary view in vertical section through the desk top of FIG. 5 along the lines **6—6** thereof;

FIG. 7 is an enlarged fragmentary view in vertical section through the desk top of FIG. 5 along the line **7—7** thereof;

FIG. 8 is a perspective view with certain portions broken away of a corner of the desk top of FIGS. 1 to 4, a portion of the trim being shown in dashed lines in the position thereof immediately prior to installation thereof;

FIG. 9 is a further enlarged view in vertical section similar to FIG. 6 and illustrating specifically the interconnection between the desk top and the pedestal front frame;

FIG. 10 is a fragmentary view in horizontal section with certain portions broken away along the line **10—10** of FIG. 9;

FIG. 11 is a still further enlarged fragmentary view in vertical section of the portion of the desk top within the circle **11** in FIG. 9;

FIG. 12 is a still further enlarged view in vertical section along the line **12—12** of FIG. 8 and illustrating the mounting of the trim on the edge of the desk top;

FIG. 13 is a view similar to FIG. 12 and showing a modification of the trim construction;

FIG. 14 is a perspective view of the pedestal forming a part of the desk of FIGS. 1 to 4;

FIG. 15 is a top plan view of the pedestal of FIG. 14;

FIG. 16 is a front elevational view of the pedestal of FIGS. 14 and 15;

FIG. 17 is a side elevational view with certain portions broken away of the pedestal of FIGS. 14 to 16;

FIG. 18 is an enlarged view of the front frame forming a part of the pedestal of FIGS. 14 to 17;

FIG. 19 is a side elevational view of the front frame of FIG. 18;

FIG. 20 is a top elevational view of the front frame of FIG. 18;

FIG. 21 is a further enlarged view in cross section through the frame of FIG. 18 along the line **21—21** thereof;

FIG. 22 is a fragmentary diagrammatic view illustrating the assembly of the pedestal side wall to the front frame at the point on the front frame within the circle designated **22** in FIG. 18;

FIG. 23 is a fragmentary view of the upper portion of the pedestal and illustrating the attachment thereof to the desk top, the view being in vertical section along the line **23—23** of FIG. 3 with certain portions broken away;

FIG. 24 is a top elevational view of the structure illustrated in FIG. 23;

FIG. 25 is an enlarged fragmentary perspective view illustrating the front left corner of the desk top, the center drawer therein, and the pedestal mounted therebeneath, the drawers having been removed from the pedestal whereby better to illustrate the locking mechanism for the drawers;

FIG. 26 is an enlarged fragmentary front elevational view of the portion of the locking mechanism illustrated in FIG. 25;

FIG. 27 is a view in vertical section along the line **27—27** of FIG. 26 and further illustrating the cooperation of the center drawer with the locking mechanism;

FIG. 28 is a view similar to FIG. 26 and illustrating the parts in the unlocked position thereof;

FIG. 29 is an enlarged fragmentary view in vertical section along the line **29—29** of FIG. 25 and illustrating further details of the locking mechanism;

FIG. 30 is a view in vertical section along the line **30—30** of FIG. 29 and further illustrating the cooperation between the locking mechanism and a typical drawer to be locked thereby;

FIG. 31 is a diagrammatic plan view of the pedestal with a drawer therein and illustrating the relationship between the locking mechanism, the keeper and the stop arm thereon;

FIG. 32 is an enlarged fragmentary view in horizontal section of the portion of the structure enclosed within the circle **32** in FIG. 31;

FIG. 33 is an enlarged view in vertical section along the line **33—33** of FIG. 31 and illustrating the engagement between the stop arm and the latch of the locking mechanism;

FIG. 34 is a view of the front end of the pedestal with the shelf and drawers therein in section to illustrate better the mounting of the shelf and drawers within the pedestal;

FIG. 35 is a view in longitudinal section in the direction of the arrows along the line **35—35** of FIG. 34 and illustrating further details of the mounting of the shelf and the box drawer, the drawer being shown in dashed lines;

FIG. 36 is also a view in longitudinal section taken along the line **36—36** of FIG. 34 and illustrating further details of the mounting of the file drawer in the pedestal, the file drawer being illustrated in dashed lines;

FIG. 37 is an enlarged fragmentary view with certain portions broken away illustrating the construction of the back panel and the connection thereof to the desk top and the adjacent desk pedestal;

FIG. 38 is a view in vertical section along the line **38—38** of FIG. 37;

FIG. 39 is an enlarged fragmentary view illustrating the connection between the back panel and the desk top;

FIG. 40 is an enlarged view with certain portions broken away illustrating the construction of the end panel and the connection thereof to the desk top and to the back panel;

FIG. 41 is a view in vertical section along the line **41—41** in FIG. 40; and

FIGS. 42 and 43 are enlarged views of that portion of FIG. 41 within the circle designated **42** and illustrating the internal construction of the end panel.

Referring now to the drawings, and particularly to FIGS. 1 to 4 thereof, there is illustrated a piece of furniture made in accordance with and embodying the principles of the present invention, a lefthand single pedestal desk **100** having been shown for purposes of illustration. The desk **100** includes a desk top **101** at one end of which is disposed a pedestal **150** supported by a pair of legs **500** having associated feet **520**, the pedestal **150** having mounted therein a shelf **190**, a box drawer **210** and a file drawer **270**, the shelf **190** being provided with a pull **190P**, the box drawer **210** being provided with a pull **210P** and the file drawer **270** being provided with a pull **270P**. Mounted on the other end of the desk top **101** is an end panel **450** supported by a pair of legs **550** having associated feet **570**, the space between the pedestal **150** and the end panel **450** at the rear of the desk top **101** being closed by a back panel **400**; as may be best seen in FIG. 3, the back panel **400** is provided with a pair of wiring openings **415** for the reception of telephone wires and the like. There further is mounted on the desk top **101** a center drawer **380** and a depending front wall or skirt **390**, a lock **360** being provided in substantially the center of the front edge of the desk

top 101 to lock the several drawers 210, 270 and 380.

Referring now to FIGS. 5 to 13 of the drawings, additional details of construction of the desk top 101 will be described. As is best seen in FIGS. 6 and 7, the desk top 101 includes a generally flat top plate 102 that is generally rectangular in shape, the corners thereof being rounded, the periphery of the top plate 102 being essentially the same as the periphery of the desk top 101. Disposed beneath the top plate 102 and extending around the periphery thereof is an edging 103 also formed of sheet metal, a substantially flat piece of sheet metal having been deformed to provide an attachment flange 104, a side flange 105, a mounting flange 106, a bottom flange 107 and an upturned flange 108. More specifically, the attachment flange 104 is disposed against the underside of the top plate 102 but is spaced inwardly with respect to the outer edge thereof, the outer edge of the attachment flange 104 carrying thereon the mounting flange 106 which is offset downwardly away from the underside of the top plate 102 and extends outwardly slightly beyond the outer edge thereof. As illustrated, the side flange 105 is integral with the mounting flange 106 and depends therefrom and extends slightly inwardly toward the center of the top plate 102, the flange 105 making an angle of for example 75° with respect to the mounting flange 106. The bottom flange 107 is disposed on the lower edge of the side flange 105 and extends inwardly substantially parallel to the flanges 104 and 106 and carries on the inner end thereof the upturned flange 108 that extends upwardly toward the top plate 102 and is disposed substantially normal thereto and to the bottom flange 107. Preferably the edging 103 is formed of two pieces secured to the top plate 102 by welding at the attachment flange 104 and the abutting edges of the edging 103 located substantially at the midpoints of the shorter top sides are also welded to form seams therebetween. By reference to FIG. 5 it will be seen that the attachment flange 104 is cut out as at 109 at the corners of the table top 101 to permit bending of the remaining portions thereof without providing overlapping of the attachment flanges 104.

Also disposed on the underside of the top plate 102 is a reinforcing sheet 110 formed from a substantially flat piece of sheet metal bent to provide attachment portions 111, ribs 112 having side walls 113, and connecting portions 114 at the periphery thereof. The attachment portions 111 are disposed toward the underside of the top plate 102, there being a body of mastic 115 applied therebetween (see FIG. 11), the preferred mastic being a heat curing mastic sold under the trademark "Presstite No. 719." The attachment portions 111 are further connected to the top plate 102 by welding as at 116, the heat from the welding operation curing the mastic whereby both the mastic 115 and the weld 116 serve to interconnect the attachment portions 111 and the top plate 102 to provide a firm connection therebetween, the mastic also serving to deaden sound transmission therebetween. The side walls 113 depend downwardly from the attachment portion 111 to form the ribs 112 which are spaced from the underside of the top plate 102. The connecting portions 114 are offset from the underside of the top plate 102 to accommodate therebetween portions such as the attachment flange 104 on the edging 103, the three layers mentioned being connected as by welding at 116.

Also mounted beneath the top 101 are two longitudinally extending and substantially parallel and spaced apart mounting channels 120, each mounting channel 120 including a longitudinally extending main wall 121 and a pair of depending side flanges 122 carrying on the lower ends thereof respectively inturned holding flanges 123. As will be explained in detail hereinafter, all of the other parts of the desk 100 are mounted upon the desk top 101 by means of the mounting channels 120.

Disposed on the upper surface of the top plate 102 is a covering 125, preferably formed of a synthetic organic resin, the preferred materials being those sold under the trademarks "Textolite," "Micarta" and "Formica." An adhesive is applied both to the upper surface of the top plate 102 and to the lower surface of the covering 125 to provide a good bond therebetween, the preferred adhesive being a synthetic rubber resin adhesive of the contact type such as that sold under the trademark "D–500" by the Armstrong Cork Co., the two parts being oven heated to about 200° F. to drive off the volatile ingredients in the adhesive. The outer edge of the covering 125 extends slightly beyond the outer edge of the top plate 102 (see FIGS. 9 and 12). The upper outer corner being slightly beveled as at 126.

To complete the desk top 101, a decorative trim 130 is provided therearound (see FIGS. 8, 9 and 12 particularly). In a first preferred form of the trim 130, it comprises a length of extruded aluminum metal including a decorative body 131 having a rounded or curved outer surface 132 extending from adjacent to the upper surface of the covering 125 and downwardly below the upper edge of the edging 103 and terminating in the bottom edge 133. Integral with the body 131 is a neck 134 from which extends an integral mounting tongue 135, the tongue 135 being concavely curved as viewed in FIG. 12 and having an inner end 136 disposed against the undersurface of the top plate 102. As constructed, the neck 134 and the mounting tongue 135 both lend resiliency to the trim at the respective points indicated and, as is diagrammatically illustrated in FIG. 8, the trim 130 is installed upon the desk top 101 by progressively urging the mounting tongue 135 into the space defined between the outer edge of the top plate 102 and the mounting flange 106 on the edging 103. Preferably before installation the mounting tongue 135 has a curvature such that the thickness thereof as viewed in FIG. 12 is greater than the space between the top plate 102 and the flange 106, whereby the mounting tongue 135 must be resiliently deformed upon insertion into that space, whereby the neck 134 and the inner end 136 are pressed against the underside of the top plate 102 while the lower surface of the mounting tongue 135 presses against the upper surface of the mounting flange 106. The resilient neck 134 also accommodates a small amount of movement between the trim body 131 and the mounting tongue 135, thereby to accommodate slight variations in the abutment between the body 131 and the covering 125, preferably the body 131 having an inwardly directed sharp edge 137 that bears into the covering 125 slightly below the upper surface thereof at the bevel 126.

There is illustrated in FIG. 13 of the drawings a modification of the trim, it being noted that the covering 125 also has a notch 126A at the periphery thereof in lieu of the bevel 126 described above with respect to FIG. 12. The trim 130A illustrated in FIG. 13 is preferably formed of sheet metal, the preferred material being stainless steel, which is bent to provide an outer wall 131A, a top flange 132A, a bottom flange 133A, a curved portion 134A, a mounting tongue 135A and an inner end 136A. As illustrated, the outer wall 131A is disposed essentially vertically and carries on the upper edge thereof the top flange 132A that extends inwardly and slightly upwardly from the outer wall 131A and abuts against the edge of the covering 125 at the notch 126A. The lower edge of the outer wall 131A extends downwardly at least to the top of the edging 103 and carries on the lower end thereof the bottom flange 133A that extends inwardly toward the space formed between the top plate 102 and the mounting flange 106. The curved portion 134A extends upwardly from the bottom flange 133 to bear against the undersurface of the top plate 102 and the mounting tongue 135A extends downwardly therefrom and presses against the upper surface of the mounting flange 106, and the inner end 136A is integral therewith and extends upwardly to contact the underside of the top plate 102. Prior to the

mounting of the trim 130A and in the normal condition thereof, the curved portion 134A and the mounting tongue 135A and the inner end 136A combine to provide a thickness or vertical extent greater than the distance between the top plate 102 and the flange 106, whereby in the driving of the mounting tongue 135A thereinto, the tongue 135A is resiliently deformed with the curved portion 134A and the inner end 136A being resiliently pressed against the underside of the top plate 102 and the mounting tongue 135A being resiliently urged against the upper surface of the flange 106, thereby resiliently to hold the trim 130A in the mounted position around the periphery of the desk top 101.

As has been mentioned heretofore, all of the other structures combining to form desk 100 are secured to the desk top 101 through the mounting channels 120 on the underside thereof. There is illustrated in FIGS. 9 and 10 of the drawings the details of an improved nut 140 particularly useful for engagement with bolts, it being understood that the nut 140 is not generally accessible to the workmen during assembly with the associated desk bolts. As is best seen in FIG. 10, the nut 140 has the outline of a rhombus having parallel longer sides 141 and parallel shorter side 142 connected by rounded acute corners 143 and rounded obtuse corners 144. As illustrated, the distance between the sides 141 is slightly less than the distance between the inner edges of the flanges 123, whereby the nut 140 can be inserted therebetween at any point therealong, and the corners 143 are adapted to engage the side flanges 122 of the mounting channels 120 to limit the rotation of the nut 140 with respect thereto. The underside of the nut 140 also has the outer ends cut away as at 145 to provide edges 146 spaced apart a distance slightly less than the distance between the inner edges of the holding flanges 123, whereby the edges 146 depend downwardly along the adjacent inner edge of the associated holding flange 123 also to provide abutment therewith when necessary. Disposed essentially centrally of the nut 140 is a threaded opening 147 threadedly to receive therethrough a threaded shank such as the shank 148 of the bolt 149 as illustrated.

Referring now to FIGS. 14 to 24 of the drawings, certain details of construction of the pedestal 150 will be described. Referring first to FIG. 14, the pedestal 150 includes a body 151 comprising a substantially rectangular rear wall 152, a pair of substantially rectangular side walls 153 extending forwardly therefrom and disposed substantially perpendicular thereto and parallel to each other, the junctions between the rear wall 152 and the side walls 153 being rounded for the sake of appearance. The upper edge of the rear wall 152 carries a top rear flange 154 and the upper edges of the side walls 153 carry top side flanges 155, the forward edges of the top side flanges 155 being cut out as at 156 for a purpose which will be more fully explained hereinafter. The lower edge of the rear wall 152 carries a bottom rear flange 157 (see FIG. 17) and the lower edges of the side walls 153 carry bottom side flanges 158. The forward edges of the side flanges 153 carry inwardly curved front flanges 159 that extend substantially vertically and terminate in rearwardly directed flanges 159*a*, there also being provided top flanges 155*a* on the upper edges of the curved flanges 159, see FIG. 24 particularly.

Disposed at the forward portion of the pedestal 150 is a front frame 160, the details of construction of which are best illustrated in FIGS. 18 to 22 of the drawings, and from those views it will be seen that the frame 160 is formed of two substantially C-shaped channels which in turn are essentially U-shaped in cross section (see FIG. 21) each including a main wall 162 and a pair of integral side flanges 163 extending normal thereto and parallel to each other. The free ends of the C-shaped channels 161 are disposed toward each other and a splice channel 164 is placed in bridging relationship between the abutting upper ends of the channels 161 and a bracket 183 is placed in bridging relationship with the abutting lower ends of the channels 161 and are secured thereto by welding to form the substantially rectangular front frame 160 as illustrated in FIG. 18. There further are provided four L-shaped gusset plates 166 disposed respectively at the four corners of the frame 160 and on the inner side of the rearmost side flange 163 and secured thereto as by welding. The front frame 160 is in turn secured to the pedestal side walls 153 by a construction that is best illustrated in FIGS. 18 to 22 of the drawings. Each of the vertically extending sections of the forward flange 163 carries adjacent to the upper and lower ends thereof laterally extending projections 165, the projections 165 being arranged in groups of two. Before attaching the side walls 153 to the frame 160, a layer of mastic 186 is applied to the inner surfaces of the side walls 153 opposite the projections 165, the mastic in the layer 186 preferably being the same as that in the layer 115 used in the desk top 101, layer 186 being 1/16" thick and 1/2" wide. After application of the mastic layer 186, the projections 165 are pressed against the mastic layer 186 and into contact with the side walls 153, and thereafter the side walls 153 are welded to the projections 165, the heat from the welding together with the heating to set the paint later applied curing the mastic in the layer 186. The resultant bond between the front frame 160 and the side walls 153 is unusually strong and in addition serves to deaden sound transmission between the frame 160 and the pedestal body 151. A bottom wall 167 is also provided in the pedestal 150, the bottom wall 167 resting upon the upper surface of the bottom rear flange 157 (see FIG. 17) and the upper surface of the bottom side flanges 158 and extends below the bottom of the front frame 160. The lower edge of the forward flange 163 on the frame 160 also carries downwardly extending projections 165 that are joined to the bottom wall 167 in the same manner as the side walls 153 are joined to the sides of the frame 160. The bottom wall 167 further is secured as by welding to the bottom flanges 157 and 158, respectively. The forward end of the bottom wall 167 carries an upturned front flange 168 and carries on the upward end thereof a rearwardly directed edge flange 169 that is disposed in close proximity to the forward surface of the front frame 160.

A rear top support 170 is disposed adjacent to the rear end of the pedestal 150 and includes a body 171 having portions extending under the top rear flange 154 and the top side flanges 155 and suitably secured thereto as by welding. The forward edge of the top support 170 disposed between the inner edges of the top flanges 155 is provided with an upstanding front flange 172 disposed substantially normal to the body 171. Disposed in the ends of the body 171 and in the corners of the pedestal 150 are upwardly extending embossments 173 having centrally therein elongated openings 174 oriented diagonally with respect to the rear corners of the pedestal 150, the openings 174 being adapted to receive fasteners for the mounting of the pedestal 150 on the desk top 101 as will be explained more fully hereinafter. A bottom reinforcement 175 is also provided at the rear of the pedestal 150 in the bottom thereof and includes a main wall 176 extending laterally of the pedestal 150 and a pair of upstanding side walls 177 on the edges thereof, the side walls 177 in turn carrying outturned flanges 178 (see FIG. 17). The bottom reinforcement 175 is secured as by welding to the bottom wall 167 and is also secured at the outer ends thereof to the side walls 153 by means of reinforcement angles 179 that are suitably secured both to the reinforcement 175 and the adjacent side wall 153 by welding.

Also mounted on the side walls 153 but disposed forwardly toward the front frame 160 is a pair of drawer supports 180, see FIGS. 14, 15, 17, 23 and 24. Referring to FIG. 15, it will be seen that each of the drawer supports 180 includes a main wall 181 having on the vertically extending edges thereof side walls 182 that extend outwardly toward the associated side wall 153, each of the side walls 182 having a plurality of welding projections

188 thereon that are secured to the associated side wall 153 in the same manner as the side walls 153 are secured to the projections 165 on the front frame 160. The upper end of the drawer supports 180 are disposed slightly below the associated top side flanges 155 and the lower ends thereof are disposed a short distance above the bottom wall 167. The bottom wall 167 is further connected to the front frame 160 by means of the front bracket 183 (see FIGS. 17 and 19), the front bracket 183 including an attachment flange 184 suitably secured to the bottom wall 167 such as by welding and a holding flange 185 that extends upwardly and over the upper surface of the associated channel main wall 162 and is suitably secured thereto as by welding. There further are formed in the top main walls 162 of the front frame 160 openings 187 that receive therethrough fasteners for mounting the pedestal 150 upon the desk top 101, see FIGS. 23 and 24 also. More specifically, (and referring to FIG. 9 also) the openings 187 in the front frame 160 receive therethrough the shanks 148 of mounting bolts 149, the bolts 149 extending upwardly into the associated mounting channels 120 of the desk top 101 and engaging the special nuts 140 disposed therein. Likewise, the openings 174 in the rear top support 170 receive therethrough the shanks 148 of bolts 149, the shanks 148 extending upwardly into the associated mounting channel 120 on the desk top 101 and engaging a special nut 140 therein, the diagonal orientation of the openings 174 permitting adjustment of the bolts 149 to provide for a firm and secure connection between the pedestal 150, the desk top 101, the diagonal adjustment of the bolts 149 and the slots 174 accommodating variations in the distance between the two mounting channels 120 and accommodating variations in the widths of the pedestal 150.

As is illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 2, the pedestal 150 has mounted therein a shelf 190, a box drawer 210 and a file drawer 270. By reference to FIGS. 34 and 35, certain details of construction of the shelf 190 and the mounting thereof in the pedestal 150 will be described. The shelf 190 includes a top 191 having a width slightly less than the width of the interior of the pedestal 150 and a length slightly less than the length of the pedestal 150 (see FIG. 35), the longitudinally extending edges of the top 191 having depending side walls 192 disposed respectively thereon and carrying on the lower edges thereof inwardly directed support flanges 193 terminating in rounded and outturned flanges 194. The rear of the shelf 190 is provided with a back wall 195 and formed on the rear of the side walls 192 are inturned reinforcement flanges 196 disposed against the inner side of the back wall 195 and suitably secured thereto as by welding. The forward end of the top 191 carries a downwardly directed front wall 197 (see FIG. 35) that carries on the lower edge thereof a rearwardly directed L-shaped flange 198. The shelf 190 carries two pairs of bumpers 199, namely, a rear pair of bumpers 199 each having a mounting stud 199*a* extending through an opening in the rear flange 195 and a front pair of bumpers 199 each having a mounting stud 199*a* extending through an opening in the L-shaped flange 198.

The shelf 190 is mounted upon two pairs of shelf glides 200 that are substantially identical in construction but are formed as mirror images of each other. There further is provided an opening through each of the glides 200 to receive a bolt 204 extending therethrough and engaging an associated threaded opening in the associated main wall 162 or 181 as the case may be, thereby firmly to mount the associated shelf glide 200 thereon.

The shelf glides 200 are formed of a lubric material, the preferred lubric material being a synthetic organic plastic resin, the preferred resin being an acetal resin such as that sold under the trademark Delrin. The bumpers 199 may likewise be formed of such material, or may be formed of the usual elastomeric materials.

The construction and mounting of the box drawer 210 is best illustrated in FIGS. 34 and 35. Referring first to FIG. 34, the box drawer 210 includes a bottom wall 211 that is substantially rectangular in shape and has a width slightly less than the interior width of the pedestal 150 and has a length slightly less than the length of the pedestal 150 (see FIG. 35 also). Disposed on the longitudinally extending side edges of the bottom wall 211 are upstanding inner side walls 212, the side walls 212 being disposed substantially parallel to each other and normal to the bottom wall 211 and extending substantially the entire length thereof. Interconnecting the rear ends of the bottom wall 211 and the inner side walls 212 is a rear wall 213, all of the walls named being mutually interconnected. Each of the side walls 212 in addition includes an outer side wall generally designated by the numeral 214, each of the outer side walls 214 including a bottom flange 215, a lower support flange 216, a retaining flange 217, an upper support flange 218 and a connecting wall 219 disposed between the support flanges 216 and 218. It will be understood that a single piece of sheet metal is shaped to provide the various parts named, the bottom flange 215 lying beneath the bottom wall 211 and being secured thereto as by welding and the connecting wall 219 lying against the surface of the associated wall 212 and being secured thereto as by welding. The two support flanges 216 and 218 are disposed parallel to each other and normal to the drawer side wall and extend laterally outwardly with respect thereto; and the retaining flange 217 extends upwardly substantially normal to the support flanges 216 and 218 and is spaced outwardly a predetermined distance with respect to the connecting wall 219, the support flanges 216 and 218 and the retaining flange 217 extending substantially the entire length of the drawer 210. Extending upwardly from the upper support flange 218 is a connecting section 222 (see FIG. 34) on the upper end of which is an integral outstanding reinforcement section 223 and above which is another connecting section 224 carrying an upper outstanding reinforcement section 226 that carries on the inner portion thereof a downturned flange 227 disposed adjacent to an outwardly offset flange 228 on the upper edge of the associated inner side wall 212. It will be understood that each of the portions and sections named is formed integral from the same piece of sheet metal as that from which are formed the other portions of the outer side wall 214. In the construction, the connecting sections 222 and 224 are disposed against the outer surface of the associated inner side wall 212 and are suitably secured thereto as by welding, whereas the reinforcement sections 223 and 226 are spaced outwardly with respect to the inner side wall 212. In passing it is noted that both sides of the box drawer 210 have the double wall construction described, and in the interest of brevity, the construction of the other side of the drawer 210 will not be described, but like reference numerals are applied to like parts thereof.

The box drawer 210 is supported within the pedestal 150 for movement between a storage position and an extended position on four glides disposed between the support flanges 216 and 218 thereof. A first form of glide 230 is provided on the lefthand side of the drawer 210 as viewed in FIGS. 1, 2 and 34, this form of glide 230 including a generally rectangular body having an opening therein to receive therethrough a bolt 235, the threaded shank of the bolt 235 engaging in a complementarily threaded opening in the associated wall 162 or 181, as the case may be, thereby firmly to mount the associated glide 230 upon the pedestal 150.

A second form of glide 240 is provided on the righthand side of the drawer 210 as viewed in FIGS. 1, 2 and 34, this form of glide 240 including a generally rectangular body having an opening therein to receive a bolt, the threaded shank of the bolt engaging in a complementarily threaded opening in the associated wall 162 or 181, as the

case may be, thereby firmly to mount the associated glide 240 upon the pedestal 150.

Disposed lowermost in the pedestal 150 is the file drawer 270, the details of construction and the mounting thereof being best seen in the FIGS. 34 and 36 of the drawings. Referring first to FIG. 34, the file drawer 270 includes a bottom wall 271 that is generally rectangular in shape and has a width slightly less than the inner width of the pedestal 150 and a length slightly less than the length of the pedestal 150 (see FIG. 36 also), the longitudinally extending edges of the bottom wall 271 carrying inner side walls 272 integral therewith and extending upwardly therefrom substantially normal thereto and substantially parallel to each other. Joining the rear edges of the side walls 272 and the bottom wall 271 is a rear wall 273. The side walls of the drawer 270 are of double wall construction and accordingly there is provided on each of the inner side walls 272 an outer side wall 274, the outer side walls 274 being identical in construction, whereby only one will be described in detail, each outer side wall 274 being formed of a single piece of sheet metal bent to provide the several parts thereof. More particularly, the outer side wall 274 includes a bottom flange 275 that lies beneath the underside of the bottom wall 271 and extends outwardly beyond the adjacent inner side wall 272 and upwardly to provide a lower support flange 276, the material being folded to provide a double thickness at this point; integral with the lower support flange 276 is a retaining flange 277 and also integral with the support flange 276 in an upstanding connecting wall 279 that connects with an upper support flange 278 also of double thickness construction and being formed integral with a connecting section 282 (see FIG. 34 also); the upper end of the connecting section 282 is integral with an outstanding reinforcement section 283 that in turn is integral with the attachment section 284. As illustrated, the bottom flange 275 lies against the undersurface of the bottom wall 271 and is suitably secured thereto as by welding, while the connecting wall 279, the connection section 282, and the attachment section 284 are all disposed against the outer surface of the associated inner side wall 272 and are likewise suitably secured thereto as by welding. By contrast, the reinforcement section 283 is spaced outwardly with respect to the adjacent inner side wall 272. The upper edge of each of the inner side walls 272 carries outwardly directed holding flanges 286 which in turn carry on the outer edge thereof an upwardly directed and upstanding flange 287 which in turn carries on the upper edge thereof an inwardly directed top flange 288 carrying on the inner edge thereof a depending retaining flange 289, all as will be described more fully hereinafter.

The file drawer 270 is supported within the pedestal 150 on a pair of lefthand rollers 290 (as viewed in FIGS. 1, 2 and 34), a pair of righthand rollers 290A and a pair of lefthand guides 300. Each of the rollers 290 includes an inner race 291 (see FIG. 36), a mounting shank 292 and a plurality of ball bearings 293 disposed on the inner race 291 and held thereon by an outer race contained in a support member 294, the support member 294 having a support surface 295 around the outer periphery thereof, the support surface 295 being essentially cylindrical in shape and engageable with the support flanges 276 and 278 on the associated drawer. A bolt 296 passes through the roller 290 and through the shank 292 thereof and engages a threaded opening in the associated main wall 162 or 181, respectively, of the associated front frame 160 or drawer support 180, as the case may be. Associated with each of the lefthand rollers 290 is a guide 300.

Preferably the guides 300 are formed of a lubric material, the preferred lubric material being a synthetic organic resin, preferably an acetal resin such as that sold under the trademark Delrin. The righthand rollers 290A are of the same construction as the rollers 290, whereby a more full description thereof is not required.

Mechanism is provided for locking the drawers 210 and 270 within the pedestal 150 in the storage positions thereof, and also to lock the center drawer 380 in the storage position thereof within the desk top 101. To this end a lock 360 has been provided in the front edging 103 of the desk top 101, and specifically in the downwardly extending flange 105 thereof, the lock 360 being disposed generally centrally of the desk top 101 and over the center drawer 380 therein. The usual key opening 361 is provided (see FIGS. 25 to 28), whereby upon insertion of the proper key, the parts can be turned between the positions illustrated in FIGS. 26 and 28, the parts in FIG. 26 being in the locked position thereof the parts in FIG. 28 being in the unlocked position thereof. In the operation of the lock 360 by means of a key in the key opening 361, a latch plate 362 forming a part of the lock mechanism is moved, the latch plate 362 having the general shape illustrated in FIGS. 26 and 27 of the drawings and including specifically a lever arm 363 and a latch finger 368 all integral and formed as one piece. Connected to the lever arm 363 is one end of a flexible wire cable 364, the cable 364 extending from the lever arm 363 to the right and slightly rearwardly to pass around a cable guide 365 of lubric material, the cable guide 365 being held on the forward mounting channel 120 on the underside of the desk top 101 by means of a bolt 366 engaging a nut 140 disposed within the channel 120. After passing about the cable guide 365, the cable 364 then extends to the left as viewed in FIG. 25 and then into and over a curved latch channel cable guide 367 (see FIGS. 29 and 30 also). There is disposed on the outer or lefthand wall of the pedestal 150 a latch channel 370 (see FIGS. 23 and 24 also), the latch channel 370 including a main wall 371 suitably secured to the adjacent pedestal side wall 153 as by welding and having extending forwardly therefrom a pair of side walls 372 from which extend laterally outwardly a pair of first retaining flanges 373 from the outer edges of which extend inwardly directed support flanges 374 on the inner edges of which are a pair of inturned second retaining flanges 375. At the upper end of the latch channel 370, the second retaining flanges 375 are provided with cutouts 376 therein for insertion of latches as will be described more fully hereinafter. The latch channel cable guide 367 is fixedly secured in the upper end of the latch channel 370 and has a curved bearing surface 369 that directs the cable 364 through a 90° angle turn so as to direct the cable downwardly and along the length of the latch channel 370.

Referring to FIG. 25, it will be seen that disposed within the latch channel 370 is a pair of latches 385, a latch 385 being provided for the box drawer 210 and a latch 385 being provided for the file drawer 270. All of the latches 385 are of identical construction, whereby only one will be described in detail with special reference to FIGS. 29 to 36, inclusive. Each of the latches 385 is more particularly mounted upon an associated latch block 386 that is shaped and formed to move vertically within the latch channel 370 between the two sets of retaining flanges 373 and 375, the associated latch 385 extending outwardly into the pedestal body and being formed integral with the latch block 386 (see FIG. 32 particularly). A vertical opening is provided in the rear of the latch block 386 to receive the cable 364 therethrough and the block 386 is staked as at 377 to connect the latch block 386 to the cable 364. The latch 385 includes an abutment surface 387 which engages a keeper on the associated drawer to provide the locking action, and also has thereon a cam surface 388 which is useful in permitting an open drawer to be moved to the storage position while the locking mechanism is in the locked position thereof and without the necessity of moving the parts to the unlocked position thereof. Finally, the lower latch block 386 is engaged by a spring 389 (see FIG. 25) having the upper end thereof connected to the latch block 386 and having the lower end thereof fixedly connected to the lower end of the latch channel 370.

In order to complete the locking mechanism, each of the drawers in the pedestal **150** is provided with a keeper on the outer side wall thereof. Referring to FIGS. 30 to 34 of the drawings, it will be seen that a keeper **220** including an attachment flange **221** has been provided on the outer side wall **214** and particularly on the connecting section **222** thereof and secured thereto as by welding, the keeper **220** extending laterally outwardly substantially normal to the associated drawer side wall. When the latch **385** is in the upper or latching position thereof as illustrated by the solid lines in FIGS. 29 and 30, the abutment surface **387** thereof is in horizontal alignment with and immediately disposed in front of the keeper **220**, whereby the drawer **210** is locked in the storage position thereof. However, when the latch **385** is moved to the release position thereof illustrated by the dashed lines in FIGS. 29 and 30, it is out of alignment with the keeper **220**, whereby the drawer **210** may be moved between the storage and extended positions thereof. The necessary movement of the latch **385** between the latching and release positions thereof is obtained by the operation of the lock **360** to move the parts from the locked position illustrated in FIG. 26 to the unlocked position illustrated in FIG. 28, the movement of the attachment point between the cable **364** and the lever arm **363** being sufficient as illustrated in FIG. 28 when transmitted by the cable **364** to cause the necessary vertical movement of the latch **385**. It further is pointed out that such movement of the parts is rendered extremely easy due to the fact that the cable guides **365** and **367** are formed of a lubric material, the preferred material being a synthetic organic resin, preferably an acetal resin such as that sold under the trademark Delrin. The file drawer **270** likewise is provided with a keeper **280** (see FIG. 34) which engages an associated latch **385** in the same manner as the latch **385** engages the keeper **220** on the box drawer **210**.

The latches **385** also serve as an outer stop to limit the distance that the drawers **210** and **270** can be withdrawn from the pedestal **150** without complete removal thereof. Referring particularly to FIGS. 31 and 33, of the drawings, it will be seen that there has been provided on each of the drawers **210** and **270** a stop arm or bracket **225** that is essentially U-shaped and is attached to the outer side wall of the associated drawer and in horizontal alignment with the latch **385** when it is disposed in the release position thereof, i.e., the lowermost position thereof as illustrated in FIGS. 29, 30 and 33. Mounted in the stop bracket **225** is a rubber bumper **229**, and accordingly, upon withdrawal of the drawer, such as the drawer **210**, from the pedestal **150**, the bumper **229** abuts against the abutment surface **387** on the latch **385**, thereby to limit the withdrawal of the drawers from the pedestal **150**. However, should it be desired completely to remove a drawer from the pedestal **150**, the locking mechanism need only be moved to the locking position after partial withdrawal of the drawer that it is desired to remove, such movement of the parts to the locking position shifting the latch **385** to the upper or locked position illustrated by the solid lines in FIG. 30 so that the stop bracket **225** and the bumper **229** carried thereby now clear the latch **385**, whereby the drawer **210** can be completely removed from the pedestal **150**.

Due to the fact that the latches **385** are continually urged toward a lower position thereof by means of the spring **389**, each of the latches **385** can be momentarily shifted upwardly by the application of suitable force to the cam surfaces **388** thereof. For example, if a drawer **210** or **270** is in the partially open or extended position thereof, and thereafter the locking mechanism is placed in the locked position thereof so as to move the latches **385** to the upper or locked position thereof, the latch **385** will be in longitudinal alignment with the keeper **220** or **280**, as the case may be; however, the keepers have the upper edge thereof disposed slightly below the upper edge of the latch **385** when it is in the latching position thereof, whereby the upper edge of a keeper engages the cam surface **388**, thereby to move the latch **385** and the associated parts upwardly against the action of the spring **389** until the keeper passes behind the abutment surface **387** on the latch **385**, after which the spring **389** automatically returns the latch **385** to the latching position to engage in front of the keeper and prevent subsequent withdrawal of the drawer until the latch **385** is moved to the lower or release position thereof.

The front wall or skirt **390** and the structure for mounting the drawer **380** are all mounted upon the mounting channels **120** on the desk top **101**. Furthermore, the lock **360** also serves to lock the center drawer **380** in the closed position thereof, the structure for accomplishing this being illustrated in FIG. 27. The center drawer **380** more particularly includes a front wall **381** that is disposed substantially vertically and has in the lower end thereof an inwardly directed lower wall **382**. Integral with the upper edge of the front wall **381** is a top wall **383** the rear edge of which carries a U-shaped channel **384** disposed below the upper edge of the front wall **381** and spaced rearwardly therefrom. When the parts are in the locked position illustrated in FIGS. 26 and 27, the latch finger **368** extends downwardly into the U-shaped channel **384**, whereby the latch finger **368** serves to hold the center drawer **380** in the closed or storage position thereof beneath the desk top **101**. It will be understood that the same movement of the lock **360** and of the associated latch plate **362** serves simultaneously to unlock all of the drawers in the pedestal **150** and also to unlock the center drawer **380**.

Referring to FIGS. 37 to 43 of the drawings, there are illustrated the details of construction and mounting of the back panel **400**, the back panel **400** being disposed toward the rear of the desk top **101** and disposed immediately below the rear mounting channel **120** thereon and extending between the pedestal **150** and the end panel **450**. As may be best seen in FIG. 38, the back panel **400** includes a pair of substantially rectangular side walls **401** formed of sheet metal and disposed substantially parallel to each other, the ends of the side walls **401** being enclosed by end walls **402** and the bottom edges of the side walls **401** being provided with bottom flanges **403** that overlap and are suitably secured together as by welding. The inner side wall **401**, i.e., the side wall disposed to the left in FIG. 38, has a rearwardly directed upper flange **404** integral with the upper edge thereof and extending rearwardly toward the outer side wall **401** and terminating adjacent thereto (see FIG. 39 also). The outer side wall **401**, i.e., the side wall **401** disposed to the right in FIG. 38, extends upwardly beyond the upper flange **404** and has integral with the upper edge thereof a forwardly directed top flange **405** that overlies and is spaced from the upper flange **404** and in the mounted position is disposed substantially in alignment with the bottom flange **107** on the desk top **101**. Disposed between the side walls **401** and the end walls **402** is a filler **410** of cellular construction and formed of a paper product including a pair of outer layers adhesively secured to an inner body of honeycomb construction, the filler **410** being secured by bodies of mastic **411** disposed between the outer surfaces thereof and the inner surfaces of the side walls **401**, thereby fixedly to mount the filler **410** in the back panel **400**. By reference to FIGS. 37 and 38 it will be seen that the filler **410** extends from a point spaced slightly above the bottom flanges **403** upwardly to the upper flange **404**.

The back panel **400**, as are all of the other parts of the desk **100**, is mounted upon the desk top **101** and particularly upon the rear mounting channel **120** thereof. To this end a pair of hangers **420** is provided, each of the hangers **420** being mounted on the upper portion of the back panel **400** and spaced a short distance inwardly

from the end walls 402 thereof. Each hanger 420 further is in the form of a substantially elongated and vertically arranged body extending into an opening 412 in the filler 410 and upwardly therefrom through aligned slots 406 and 407 in the flanges 404 and 405, respectively, the upper end of the hanger 420 being disposed well above the top flange 405. Integral with the hanger 420 is an attachment flange 421 disposed substantially parallel to the forward side wall 401 and suitably secured thereto as by welding. The upper end of the hanger 420 has a cutout 422 therein that serves to define a hook-like portion 423 at the upper end thereof having a support edge 424 on the underside thereof adapted to engage the upper surface of one of the inturned holding flanges 123 on the associated mounting channel 120. The upper edge of the hook-like portion 423 curves downwardly and forwardly (to the left as viewed in FIGS. 38 and 39) and terminates in a forwardly directed abutment shoulder 425, the abutment shoulder 425 being disposed below the other or forward inturned holding flange 123 on the associated mounting channel 120 and serving to limit movement of the lower end of the back panel 400 in a forward direction. In this manner, the two hangers 420 serve to support the weight of the back panel 400 upon the rear mounting channel 120 and thus upon the desk top 101. Referring to FIG. 3, it will further be seen that the back panel 400 has a pair of wiring openings 415, in the upper edge thereof for receiving telephone wires and the like therethrough.

In order to secure the lower lefthand corner of the back panel 400 to the adjacent rear portion of the pedestal 150, a clip 430 has been provided. The clip 430 is generally a rectangular strip of metal bent and shaped to provide a pedestal attachment flange 431 which lies against the underside of the pedestal bottom wall 167 and is secured thereto as by a screw 435. Integral with the righthand end of the flange 431 as viewed in FIG. 37 is an upwardly curved portion 432 following the curvature of the pedestal 150 and terminating in a back panel attachment flange 433 disposed substantially parallel to the flange 433, the flange 433 passing through an opening in the bottom flanges 403 of the back panel 400 and resting upon the upper surface of the lowermost bottom flange 403 and secured thereto as by a screw 435. The righthand end of the flange 433 carries thereon an offset flange 434 offset downwardly and disposed substantially parallel to the flanges 431 and 433, the flange 434 extending through a second opening in bottom flanges 403 and lying underneath the lower surface of the lowermost bottom flange 403. In this manner, the lower lefthand corner of the back panel 400 is securely fastened to the rear righthand portion of the pedestal 150.

Disposed at the righthand end of the desk 100 is the end panel 450, the construction and connection thereof being best illustrated in FIGS. 40 to 43 of the drawings. The end panel 450 more specifically is disposed adjacent to the righthand edge of the desk top 101 and extends from a point substantially at the lower edge of the front edging 103 rearwardly to a point immediately below the lower edge of the back edging 103 and actually beyond the rear surface of the back panel 400 (see FIGS. 1 to 4 also). As may be best seen in FIG. 41, the end panel 450 includes a pair of substantially rectangular side walls 451 formed of sheet metal and disposed substantially parallel to each other, the ends of the side walls 451 being enclosed by end walls 452 and the bottom edges of the side walls 451 being provided with bottom flanges 453 that overlap and are suitably secured together as by welding. The inner side wall 451, i.e., the side wall disposed to the left in FIG. 41, has a rearwardly directed upper flange 454 integral with the upper edge thereof and extending inwardly toward the pedestal 150. The outer side wall 451, i.e., the side wall 451 disposed to the right in FIG. 41, extends upwardly slightly beyond the upper flange 454 and has integral with the upper edge thereof an inwardly directed top flange 455 that overlies and bears against the upper flange 454 and is suitably secured thereto as by welding, the longitudinal extent of the flanges 454 and 455 being less than the longitudinal extent of the end panel 450, the flanges 454 and 455 terminating at the inner surfaces of the desk top mounting channels 120 as may be best seen in FIG. 40. Disposed between the side walls 451 and the end walls 452 is a filler 460 of cellular construction and formed of a paper product including a pair of outer layers 462 (see FIG. 42) and adhesively secured to an inner body 463 of honeycomb construction and more specifically formed by suitably bent strips of paper having adjacent surfaces glued together as is best illustrated in FIG. 43. The filler 460 is further secured by bodies of mastic 461 to the inner surfaces of the end panel side walls 451 throughout substantially the entire adjacent area thereof, whereby to form a strong yet lightweight structure that has good sound deadening properties. The mastic 461 is preferably a heavy bodied, short, water dispersed asphalt adhesive such as that sold under the trademark W–870 by Armstrong Cork Co. or EC–321 by Minnesota Mining & Mfg. Co. Mounted in each end of the end panel 450 is a generally vertically arranged channel 470 having the lower end thereof spaced upwardly from the lower end of the end panel 450 and extending upwardly beyond the upper end of the end panel 450 as is best seen in FIG. 40, the channel 470 including a main wall 471 and a pair of side flanges 472 integral therewith and disposed parallel to each other, whereby to provide a channel that is essentially U-shaped in cross section. The side flanges 472 are suitably secured as by welding to the inner surfaces of the side walls 451, it being seen from FIG. 41 that the channel 470 extends completely between the side walls 451. There further is disposed within the lower portion of the end panel 450 and adjacent to the lower end of each of the channels 470 a leg support 473 including a bottom wall 474 from which extend upwardly a pair of parallel side walls 475, the upper edges of the side walls 475 sloping downwardly from the associated channel 470 as may be best seen in FIG. 40. The side walls 475 are disposed within the side flanges 472 of the adjacent channel 470 and are suitably secured thereto as by welding. There further are provided in the bottom wall 474 two openings and in alignment with each of the openings is an internally threaded nut, two welded nuts 476 and 477 having been provided as illustrated for the mounting of the associated leg 550 thereon as will be described more fully hereinafter. At the upper end of each of the channels 470 there is provided an anchor clip 480 formed of a single sheet of metal shaped to provide the several parts thereof including an attachment flange 481 resting upon the upper surface of the top flange 455 and suitably secured thereto as by welding. Extending upwardly from the attachment 480 is an upstanding flange 482 that carries on the upper edge thereof an outwardly directed mounting flange 483, both the upstanding flange 482 and the mounting flange 483 having wings 484 extending laterally therefrom and provided in the mounting flange 483 with fastener receiving openings therein to receive bolts 485 for engagement with nuts 140 in the associated mounting channel 120. Further, the mounting flange 483 has on the outer edge thereof a downturned flange 486 that is suitably secured as by welding to the main wall 471 of the associated upstanding channel 470, whereby the anchor clip 480 is fixedly secured both to the channel 470 and the side walls 451.

There further is provided between the lower rear corner of the end panel 450 and the adjacent lower corner of the bottom panel 400 a clip 490 interconnecting the two panels, the clip 490 being formed of a strip of metal bent to provide a back panel attachment flange 491 having intergral therewith a curved portion 492 terminating in an end panel attachment flange 493. The back panel

attachment flange 491 extends into an opening in the lower wall of the back panel 400 and is secured thereto by means of a screw 494. The end panel attachment flange 493 likewise has an opening therein that receives therethrough a screw that connects the flange 493 to the back flanges 453.

Fundamentally the desk 100 is formed of sheet metal with the exception of the several parts mentioned during the above description. Furthermore, the sheet metal forming the various parts is of relatively light gauge, as will be appreciated from the following examples of the gauge of the sheet metal utilized to form various parts of the desk 100. For example, in a typical illustrative embodiment of the desk top 101, the top plate 102 is formed of 20 gauge steel, the edging 103 is formed of 18 gauge steel, reinforcing sheet 110 is formed of 24 gauge steel and the mounting channel 120 is formed of 18 gauge steel. In an illustrative example of the pedestal 150, the body 151 thereof is formed of 20 gauge steel, the channels 161 in the front frame 160 are formed of 14 gauge steel, the rear top support 170 is formed of 18 gauge steel, the bottom reinforcement 175 is formed of 14 gauge steel and the drawer supports 180 are formed of 14 gauge steel. In a typical construction of the shelf 190, it is formed of 20 gauge steel and in a typical construction of the box drawer 210 and the file drawer 270, the bottom side and rear walls thereof are formed of 24 gauge steel, the outer front walls thereof are formed of 22 gauge steel, the inner front walls are formed of 26 gauge steel. In a typical construction of the back panel 400, the outer side wall 401 is formed of 24 gauge steel, the inner side wall 401 is formed of 26 gauge steel and the hangers 420 are formed of 14 gauge steel. Similarly, in a typical construction of the end panel 450, both of the side walls 451 are formed of 24 gauge steel, the channel 470 is formed of 16 gauge steel, the anchor clips 480 are formed of 14 gauge steel and the leg support 473 is formed of 12 gauge steel.

From the above description it will be seen that there has been provided an improved article of furniture, and specifically an improved desk construction, which fulfills all of the objects and advantages set forth above. More specifically, there has been provided an improved furniture construction, particularly an improved desk formed essentially of sheet metal that is simple in construction and economical in manufacture. The improved desk includes an improved furniture top comprising a top plate and a reinforcing sheet of ribbed construction secured together by welding to provide high strength and flatness and further being provided with an adhesive layer therebetween to provide good sound qualities therefor. The improved furniture top further is provided with a nut and channel fastener construction for mounting all of the desk parts on the mounting channels; in addition, an improved trim extending around the periphery of the furniture top has been provided.

There further has been provided in the desk an improved drawer locking arrangement, and particularly an improved locking arrangement wherein the lock is disposed in the desk top and specifically on the edging 103 and is connected to lock the drawers in the pedestal and the center drawer. Several details of the locking mechanism have also been improved with the use of a flexible wire cable directed by lubric guides for interconnecting the locking mechanism and certain of the latches. In the improved locking mechanism the drawer latches in the pedestal also serve as drawer stops when in the release position thereof to limit the normal outward movement of the drawers with respect to the pedestal, the drawers being released by movement of the locking mechanism and the drawer latches with the locking positions thereof. Furthermore, the latch for the center drawer is connected directly to the locking mechanism and also serves as the lever arm for connection to the flexible wire cable for controlling the drawer latches in the adjacent pedestal.

There further has been provided an improved back panel of composite construction including a pair of outer metal side walls and a honeycomb construction disposed therebetween and secured thereto by mastic; provided on the back panel is a pair of hangers for mounting the back panel on the mounting channels of the improved furniture top. Likewise there has been provided an improved end panel of composite construction including a pair of metal side walls receiving therebetween a filler of honeycomb construction secured thereto by mastic, the end panel also including stiffening channels and brackets at the upper end thereof for mounting of the end panel on the mounting channels of an improved desk top and for connecting to the end panel legs.

While there have been described what are at present considered to be the preferred embodiments of the invention, it will be understood that various modifications may be made therein, and it is intended to cover in the appended claims all such modifications as fall within the true spirit and scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A desk comprising a top including a substantially flat top plate, a pair of spaced apart mounting channels disposed adjacent to the underside of said top plate and secured thereto, an edging extending around the periphery of said top plate and including a dependent side flange that extends downwardly well below said mounting channels; a pedestal arranged adjacent to one end of said top and including a body having a front frame positioned at the forward end thereof and a rear top support positioned adjacent to the rear end thereof, said front frame being in general alignment with one of said mounting channels and said top support being in general alignment with the other of said mounting channels, means securing said front frame and said top support to the adjacent mounting channels, thereby to connect said pedestal to said top; an end panel disposed adjacent to the other end of said top and arranged generally parallel to the side walls of said pedestal, and means securing the upper portion of said end panel to said mounting channels, thereby to connect said end panel to said top; said dependent side flange on said top extending downwardly below the connections between said top and said pedestal and below the connections between said top and said end panel, thereby to conceal said connections from view.

2. A desk comprising a top including a substantially flat top plate, a reinforcing sheet disposed adjacent to the underside of said top plate and having a plurality of longitudinally extending spaced apart attachment portions secured to the underside of said top plate and a plurality of longitudinally extending reinforcement ribs disposed between adjacent pairs of said attachment portions and spaced from the underside of said top plate, a pair of spaced apart mounting channels disposed adjacent to the underside of said top plate and extending in the general direction of said reinforcing ribs and secured to said top plate, said reinforcing ribs having an extent in a direction perpendicular to said top plate substantially greater than the extent of said mounting channels in a direction perpendicular to said top plate, an edging extending around the periphery of said top plate and including a dependent side flange which extends downwardly at least as far as said reinforcing ribs; a pedestal arranged adjacent to one end of said top and including a body having a front frame positioned at the forward end thereof and a rear top support positioned adjacent to the rear end thereof, said front frame being in general alignment with one of said mounting channels and said top support being in general alignment with the other of said mounting channels, means securing said front frame and said top support to the adjacent mounting channels, thereby to connect said pedestal to said top; an end panel disposed adjacent to the other end of said top and arranged generally parallel to the side walls of said pedestal, and means securing the upper portion of said end panel to said mounting chan-

nels, thereby to connect said end panel to said top; said dependent side flange on said top extending downwardly below the connections between said top and said pedestal and below the connections between said top and said end panel, thereby to conceal said connections from view.

3. A desk comprising a top including a substantially flat top plate, a pair of spaced apart mounting channels disposed adjacent to the underside of said top plate and secured thereto, an edging extending around the periphery of said top plate and including a dependent side flange that extends downwardly well below said mounting channels; a pedestal arranged adjacent to one end of said top and including a body having a front frame positioned at the forward end thereof and a rear top support positioned adjacent to the rear end thereof, said front frame being in general alignment with one of said mounting channels and said top support being in general alignment with the other of said mounting channels, means securing said front frame and said top support to the adjacent mounting channels, thereby to connect said pedestal to said top; an end panel disposed adjacent to the other end of said top and arranged generally parallel to the side walls of said pedestal, and a pair of mounting brackets secured to the upper portion of said end panel and engageable in said mounting channels, thereby to connect said end panel to said top; said dependent side flange on said top extending downwardly below the connections between said top and said pedestal and below the connections between said top and said end panel, thereby to conceal said connections from view.

4. A desk comprising a top including a substantially flat top plate, a pair of spaced apart mounting channels disposed adjacent to the underside of said top plate and secured thereto, an edging extending around the periphery of said top plate and including a dependent side flange that extends downwardly well below said mounting channels; a pedestal arranged adjacent to one end of said top and including a body having a front frame positioned at the forward end thereof and a rear top support positioned adjacent to the rear end thereof, said front frame being in general alignment with one of said mounting channels and said top support being in general alignment with the other of said mounting channels, means securing said front frame and said top support to the adjacent mounting channels, thereby to connect said pedestal to said top; an end panel disposed adjacent to the other end of said top and arranged generally parallel to the side walls of said pedestal, means securing the upper portion of said end panel to said mounting channels, thereby to connect said end panel to said top; a back panel disposed adjacent to the rear of said top and extending between said pedestal and said end panel and disposed substantially normal thereto, and means securing the upper portion of said back panel to said mounting channels, thereby to connect said back panel to said top; said dependent side flange on said top extending downwardly below the connections between said top and said pedestal and below the connections between said top and said end panel and below the connections between said top and said back panel, thereby to conceal said connections from view.

5. A desk comprising a top including a substantially flat top plate, a pair of spaced apart mounting channels disposed adjacent to the underside of said top plate and secured thereto, an edging extending around the periphery of said top plate and including a dependent side flange that extends downwardly well below said mounting channels; a pedestal arranged adjacent to one end of said top and including a body having a front frame positioned at the forward end thereof and a rear top support positioned adjacent to the rear end thereof, said front frame being in general alignment with one of said mounting channels and said top support being in general alignment with the other of said mounting channels, means securing said front frame and said top support to the adjacent mounting channels, thereby to connect said pedestal to said top; an end panel disposed adjacent to the other end of said top and arranged generally parallel to the side walls of said pedestal; means securing the upper portion of said end panel to said mounting channels, thereby to connect said end panel to said top; a back panel disposed adjacent to the rear of said top and extending between said pedestal and said end panel and disposed substantially normal thereto, and a pair of hangers mounted on the upper portion of said back panel and engageable in said mounting channels, thereby to connect said back panel to said top; said dependent side flange on said top extending downwardly below the connections between said top and said pedestal and below the connections between said top and said end panel and below the connections between said top and said back panel, thereby to conceal said connections from view.

6. A desk comprising a top including a substantially flat top plate, a pair of spaced apart mounting channels disposed adjacent to the underside of said top plate and secured thereto, an edging extending around the periphery of said top plate and including a dependent side flange that extends downwardly well below said mounting channels; a pedestal arranged adjacent to one end of said top and including a body having a front frame positioned at the forward end thereof and a rear top support positioned adjacent to the rear end thereof, said front frame being in general alignment with one of said mounting channels and said top support being in general alignment with the other of said mounting channels, means securing said front frame and said top support to the adjacent mounting channels, thereby to connect said pedestal to said top; an end panel disposed adjacent to the other end of said top and arranged generlly parallel to the side walls of said pedestal, a pair of mounting brackets secured to the upper portion of said end panel and engageable in said mounting channels, thereby to connect said end panel to said top; a back panel disposed adjacent to the rear of said top and extending between said pedestal and said end panel and disposed substantially normal thereto, a pair of hangers mounted on the upper portion of said back panel and engageable in said mounting channels thereby to connect said back panel to said top; and clips interconnecting said pedestal and the adjacent end of said back panel and interconnecting said end panel and adjacent end of said back panel; said dependent side flange on said top extending downwardly below the connections between said top and said pedestal and below the connections between said top and said end panel and below the connections between said top and said back panel, thereby to conceal said connections from view.

7. A desk comprising a top including a substantially flat top plate, a reinforcing sheet disposed adjacent to the underside of said top plate and having a plurality of longitudinally extending spaced apart attachment portions secured to the underside of said top plate and a plurality of longitudinally extending reinforcement ribs disposed between adjacent pairs of said attachment portions and spaced from the underside of said top plate, a pair of spaced apart mounting channels disposed adjacent to the underside of said top plate and extending in the general direction of said reinforcing ribs and secured to said top plate, said reinforcing ribs having an extent in a direction perpendicular to said top plate substantially greater than the extent of said mounting channels in a direction perpendicular to said top plate, an edging extending around the periphery of said top plate and including a dependent side flange that extends downwardly well below said mounting channels; a pedestal arranged adjacent to one end of said top and including a body having a front frame positioned at the forward end thereof and a rear top support positioned adjacent to the rear end thereof, said front frame being in general alignment with one of said mounting channels and said top support being in general alignment with the other of said mounting channels, means securing said front frame and said top support to the ad-

jacent mounting channels, thereby to connect said pedestal to said top; an end panel disposed adjacent to the other end of said top and arranged generally parallel to the side walls of said pedestal, a pair of mounting brackets secured to the upper portion of said end panel and engageable in said mounting channels, thereby to connect said end panel to said top; a back panel disposed adjacent to the rear of said top and extending between said pedestal and said end panel and disposed substantially normal thereto, a pair of hangers mounted on the upper portion of said back panel and engageable in said mounting panels, thereby to connect said back panel to said top; and clips interconnecting said pedestal and the adjacent end of said back panel and interconnecting said end panel and adjacent end of said back panel; said dependent side flange on said top extending downwardly below the connections between said top and said pedestal and below the connections between said top and said end panel and below the connections between said top and said back panel, thereby to conceal said connections from view.

8. An article of furniture comprising a top including a substantially flat top plate, a pair of spaced apart mounting channels disposed adjacent to the underside of said top plate and secured thereto, an edging extending around the periphery of said top plate and including a dependent side flange that extends downwardly well below said mounting channels; a leg carrying end support arranged adjacent to one of the ends of said top, and readily detachable means securing the upper portion of said leg carrying end support to said mounting channels, thereby detachably to connect said end supports to said top; said dependent side flanges on said top extending downwardly below the connections between said top and said end support, thereby to conceal said connections from view.

9. An article of furniture comprising a top including a substantially flat top plate, a pair of spaced apart mounting channels disposed adjacent to the underside of said top plate and secured thereto, an edging extending around the periphery of said top plate and including a dependent side flange that extends downwardly well below said mounting channels, a pair of leg carrying end supports arranged adjacent to the respective ends of said top, readily detachable means securing the upper ends of said end supports to the adjacent mounting channels, thereby detachably to connect said end supports to said top, a front panel disposed adjacent to the front of said top and extending between said end supports, readily detachable means securing said front panel to the forward one of said mounting channels, thereby detachably to connect said front panel to said top; a back panel disposed adjacent to the rear of said top and extending between said end supports, and readily detachable means securing the upper portion of said back panel to the rear one of said mounting channels, thereby detachably to connect said back panel to said top; said dependent side flanges on said top extending downwardly below the connection between said top and said end supports and below the connections between said top and said front panel and below the connections between said top and said back panel, thereby to conceal said connections from view.

10. The combination comprising a top including a substantially flat top plate, an edging extending around the periphery of said top plate and including a dependent side flange; a pedestal mounted below said top and including a body having drawer support structure therein, a drawer mounted in said pedestal on said support structure for movement inwardly and outwardly with respect thereto and carrying a keeper thereon, a latch mounted in said pedestal for movement between a locking position wherein said latch is in a position to engage said keeper and a release position wherein said latch is out of the position to engage said keeper, and locking mechanism mounted on said side flange and operatively connected to said latch for moving said latch between the locking position and the release position thereof.

11. The combination set forth in claim 10, and further comprising a flexible wire cable interconnecting said locking mechanism and said latch for causing movement of said latch in response to operation of said locking mechanism.

12. The combination comprising a top including a substantially flat top plate, an edging extending around the periphery of said top plate and including a dependent side flange; a pedestal mounted below said top and including a body having drawer support structure therein, a drawer mounted in said pedestal on said support structure for movement inwardly and outwardly with respect thereto and carrying a keeper thereon, a latch channel mounted in said pedestal adjacent to the path of movement of said drawer, a latch mounted for reciprocating movement in said latch channel between a locking position wherein said latch is in a position to engage said keeper and a release position wherein said latch is out of the position to engage said keeper, locking mechanism mounted on said side flange and operatively connected to said latch for moving said latch between the locking position and the release position thereof, and means resiliently urging said latch into the release position thereof.

13. The combination comprising a top including a substantially flat top plate, an edging extending around the periphery of said top plate and including a dependent side flange; a pedestal mounted below said top and including a body having drawer support structure therein, a drawer mounted in said pedestal on said support structure for movement inwardly and outwardly with respect thereto and carrying a keeper thereon, a latch channel mounted in said pedestal adjacent to the path of movement of said drawer, a latch mounted for reciprocating movement in said latch channel between a locking position wherein said latch is in a position to engage said keeper and a release position wherein said latch is out of the position to engage said keeper, locking mechanism mounted on said side flange and movable between a locked position and an unlocked position, a lubric guide mounted at the upper end of said latch channel, and a flexible wire cable interconnecting said locking mechanism and said latch and passing through said lubric guide, whereby movement of said locking mechanism between the locked position and the unlocked position thereof moves said latch between the locking position and the release position thereof.

14. The combination set forth in claim 13, and further comprising a second lubric guide disposed between said locking mechanism and said first mentioned lubric guide for reversing the direction of said cable.

15. The combination comprising a top including a substantially flat top plate, an edging extending around the periphery of said top plate and including a dependent side flange; a pedestal mounted below said top and including a body having drawer support structure therein, a drawer mounted in said pedestal on said support structure for movement between a closed position and a full open position and carrying a keeper adjacent to the forward end thereof and carrying a stop arm adjacent to the rear end thereof, a latch mounted in said pedestal for movement between a locking position and a release position, said latch in the locking position thereof being in alignment to engage said keeper and said latch in the release position thereof being out of alignment to engage said keeper and in alignment to engage said stop arm, and locking mechanism mounted on said side flange operatively connected to said latch for moving said latch between the locking position and the release position thereof.

16. The combination set forth in claim 15, wherein said latch in the locking position thereof is out of alignment with said stop arm, whereby operation of said locking mechanism to move said latch to the release position thereof permits movement of said drawer from the fully closed position to the fully open position thereof

wherein said stop arm engages said keeper and subsequent operation of said locking mechanism to move said latch to the locking position thereof moves said latch out of alignment with said stop arm to permit full removal of said drawer from said pedestal.

17. The combination comprising a top including a substantially flat top plate, an edging extending around the periphery of said top plate and including a dependent side flange; a pedestal mounted below said top and including a body having drawer support structure therein, a first drawer mounted in said pedestal on said support structure for movement inwardly and outwardly with respect thereto and carrying a first keeper thereon, a first latch mounted in said pedestal for movement between a locking position wherein said first latch is in a position to engage said first keeper and a release position wherein said first latch is out of position to engage said first keeper, a second drawer mounted below said top for movement inwardly and outwardly with respect thereto and carrying a second keeper thereon, a second latch mounted in said top for movement between a locking position wherein said second latch is in a position to engage said second keeper and a release position wherein said second latch is out of position to engage said second keeper, and locking mechanism mounted on said side flanges and operatively connected both to said first latch and to said second latch for simultaneously moving said latches between the locking positions and the release positions thereof.

18. The combination set forth in claim 17, wherein said second latch is integral with a lever arm forming part of the mechanism operatively interconnecting said locking mechanism and said first latch.

19. The combination comprising a top including a substantially flat top plate, an edging extending around the periphery of said top plate and including a dependent side flange; a pedestal mounted below said top and including a body having drawer support structure therein, a drawer mounted in said pedestal on said support structure for movement inwardly and outwardly with respect thereto and carrying a keeper thereon, a latch channel mounted on said pedestal adjacent to the path of movement of said drawer, a latch mounted for reciprocating movement in said latch channel between a locking position wherein said latch is in a position to engage said keeper and a release position wherein said latch is out of the position to engage said keeper, locking mechanism mounted on said side flange and operatively connected to said latch for moving said latch between the locking position and the release position thereof, and means resiliently urging said latch into the release position thereof, said latch having a cam surface thereon engageable with said keeper when said latch is in the locking position thereof and when said latch is moved from an open position of said drawer to the closed position thereof, whereby when said locking mechanism is moved to place said latch in the locking position with the drawer in an open position thereof movement of said drawer to the closed position causes said keeper to engage said cam surface and move said latch against the urging of said resilient means to permit said keeper to move to the closed position of said drawer after which said resilient means moves said latch to the locking position with respect to said keeper.

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CASMIR A. NUNBERG, *Primary Examiner.*