J. A. HOWELL.

TIME CONTROLLED DESK MEMORANDUM.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 13, 1920.

1,379,342.

Patented May 24, 1921.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

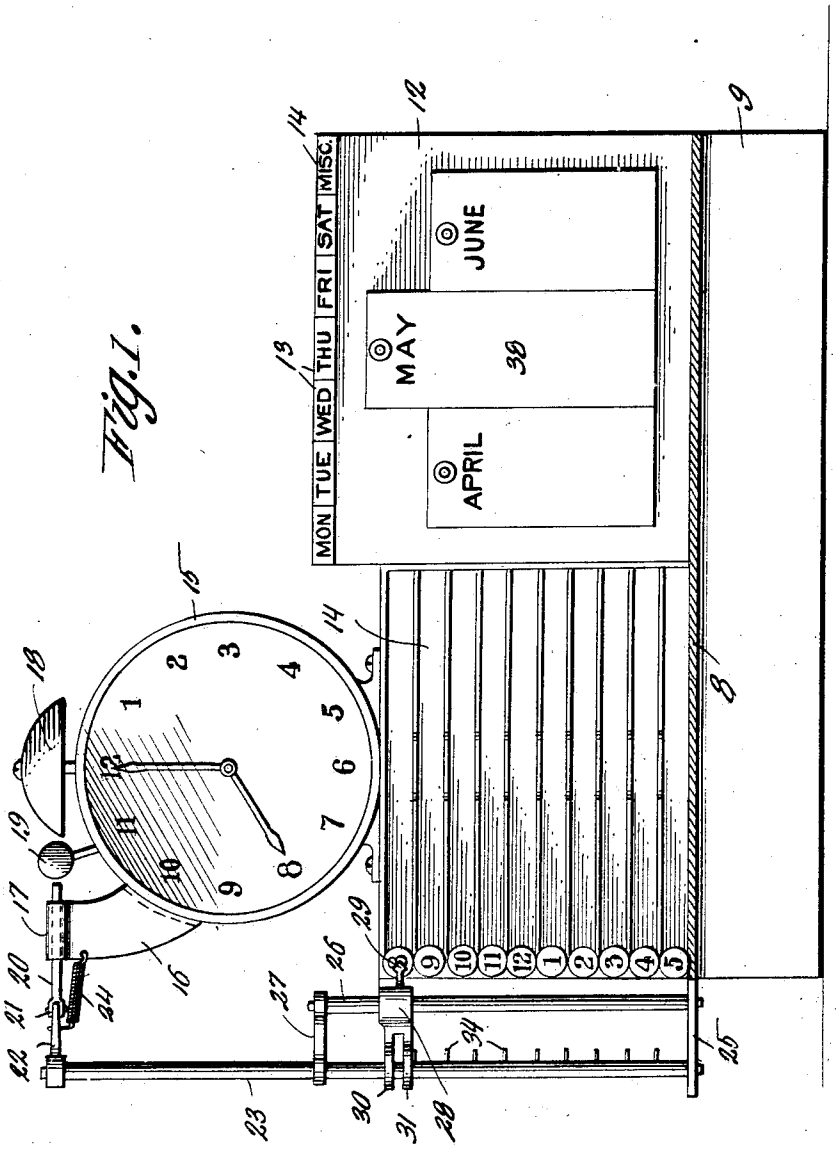

Fig. 1.

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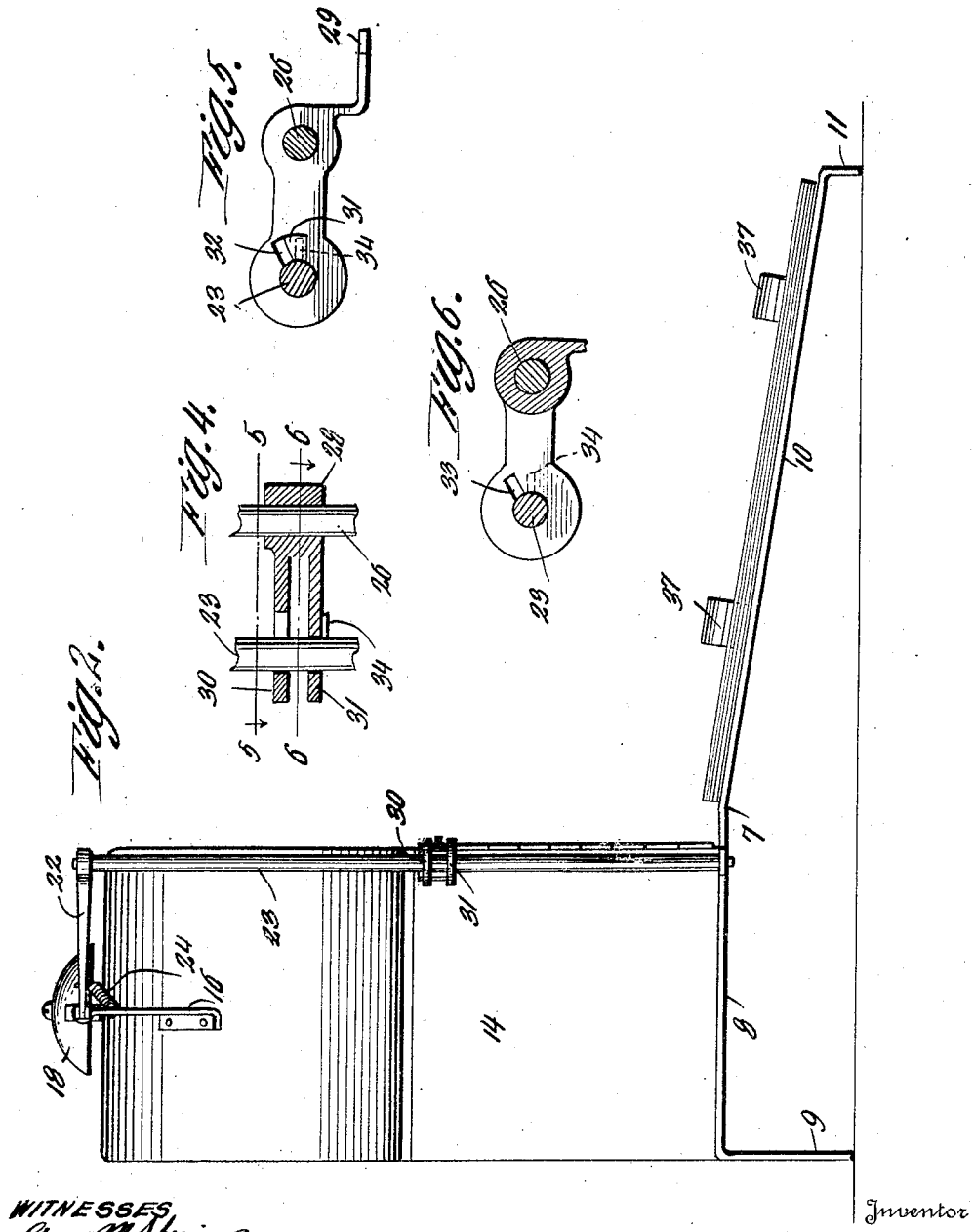
3 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



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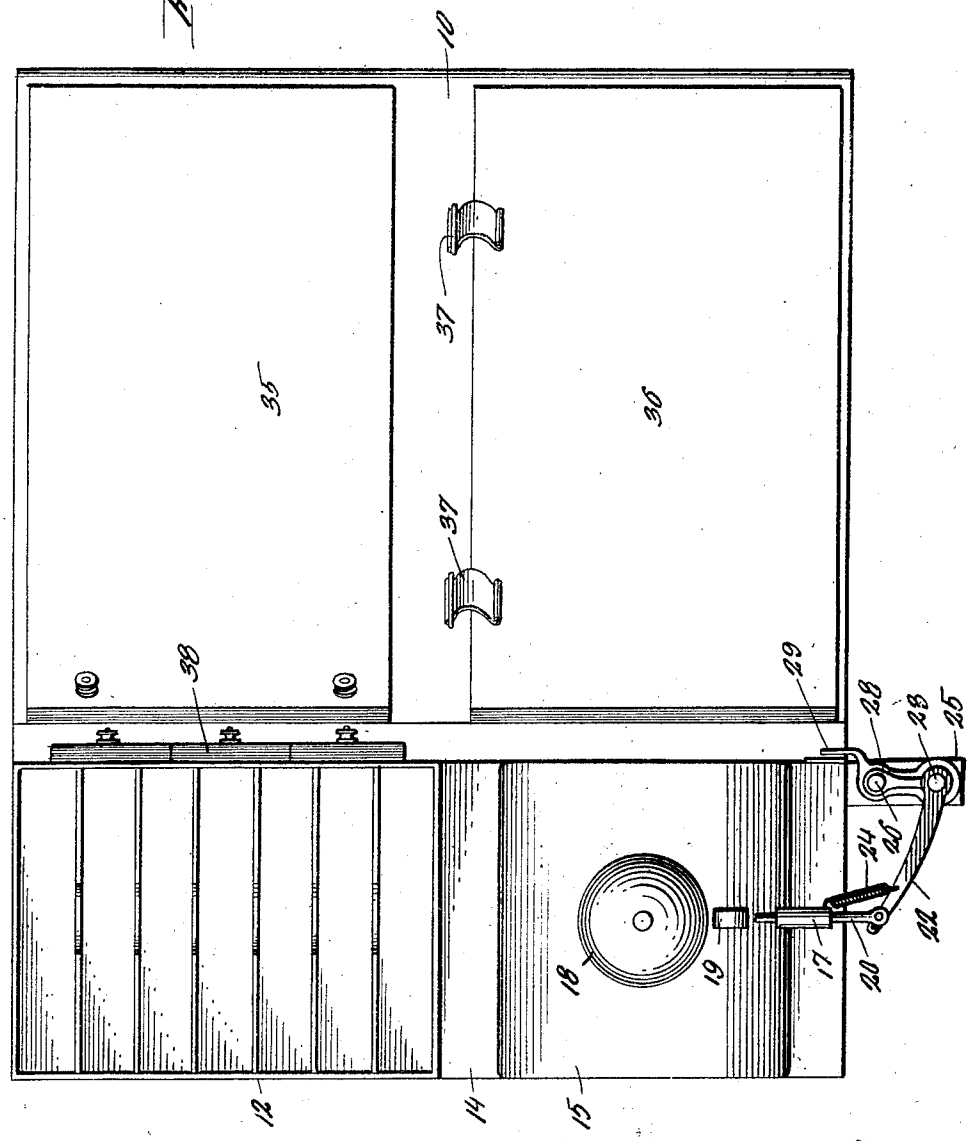
3 SHEETS—SHEET 3.

Fig. 3.



WITNESSES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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TIME-CONTROLLED DESK-MEMORANDUM.

1,379,342. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented May 24, 1921.

Application filed December 13, 1920. Serial No. 430,303.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH A. HOWELL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Dover, in the county of Tuscarawas and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Time-Controlled Desk-Memorandums, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention consists of a time controlled desk memorandum and is designed especially for use by executives to automatically indicate the different phases of work to be attended to periodically during the day.

Coördinate objects of the invention are to provide compartments for posting memorandums and the like chronologically; to provide compartments for posting memorandums and the like to be attended to hourly during the day; and to provide automatically operated time controlled means to audibly and visually direct attention, periodically during the day, to business to be discharged, as evidenced by the posted memorandums or the like.

The above and other objects of this invention will be in part described and in part understood from the following description of the present preferred embodiment of the invention taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1, is a front elevational view, partly in section, of a device constructed in accordance with this invention.

Fig. 2, is a side elevational view of the invention.

Fig. 3, is a top plan view thereof.

Fig. 4, is a detail fragmentary sectional view showing the manner of associating the indicator with the guide rod and indicating standard.

Fig. 5, is a sectional view taken on the line 5—5 of Fig. 4, looking in the direction of the arrow, and

Fig. 6, is a sectional view taken on the line 6—6 of Fig. 4, and looking in the direction of the arrow.

The device of this invention embodies a base generally designated 7, which is formed from a single piece of metal and comprises a horizontal body portion 8, one end of which is bent at right angles to provide a supporting flange 9. The opposite end of said body is inclined downwardly to provide a supporting shelf 10, the free terminal of which is bent at right angles to provide a supporting flange 11. It will be noted that the free margins of the flanges 9 and 11 are in the same horizontal plane so as to support the base on a horizontal body.

The body 8 of the base is relatively broad and has mounted on its top face, at one side, a series of compartments generally designated 12, known as day memorandum compartments. The compartments may be provided with the names of the days of the week as indicated at 13 and shown to advantage in Fig. 1. Moreover, additional compartments, such as that shown at 14, may be provided for the reception of miscellaneous matter.

An hourly memorandum compartment is likewise mounted upon the body 8 of the base as indicated at 14. The inner end of this series of compartments is contiguous to the day memorandum compartments 12. The compartments 14 are arranged in superposed relation and are equivalent in number to the number of working hours in the day, for instance, as shown in Fig. 1, the top compartment is equipped with the numeral 8, and the successive compartments numbered in order according to the business hours of the day, which in the present instance, terminates at 5. It is of course to be understood that the number of compartments may be increased or decreased as desired.

Arranged on top of the compartments 14 is a clock 15, which is preferably detachably secured to said compartments and has mounted on the periphery thereof a guide arm 16, the upper terminal of which is formed to provide a sleeve 17, which is in alinement with a bell 18 mounted upon the top of the clock. A clapper 19 projects from the clock and is positioned between the sleeve 17 and bell 18. The said clapper besides contacting with the bell 18 so as to give an audible signal is used as a power unit to operate a driven shaft 20, which is mounted in the sleeve 17. The outer end of said shaft 21 is bifurcated and pivotally engaged with one end of a rocker arm 22, the opposite end of the latter being fixedly engaged with one end of an indicator supporting shaft 23. As shown to advantage in Fig. 3, the rocker arm 22 is provided with an elongated slot through which the pivot pin, which connects the driven shaft to the rocker arm 22, passes. In this way, pressure upon the shaft 20 caused by impact of

the clapper 19, will cause the rocker arm 22 to be moved outwardly in the arc of a circle so as to impart a rotary movement to the shaft 23. The shaft is returned to its normal position by a coil spring 24, one end of which is engaged with the rocker 22, and the opposite end engaged with the sleeve 17.

An ear 25 is provided by extending a portion of the body 8 of the base laterally as shown to advantage in Figs. 1 and 3, this ear serving as a support for the lower end of the shaft 23 and the lower end of a guide rod 26. The upper end of the guide rod extends above the compartments 14 and is mounted in a connecting link 27, the latter embracing the shaft 23 and serving as a bearing for the latter.

Slidably mounted upon the rod 26 is an indicator 28, which in this instance, consists of a collar sleeved on the rod 26 and having an indicating finger 29 radiating therefrom which extends in front of the numerals carried by the compartments 14. Portions of the sleeve are extended laterally diametrically opposite to the indicating finger 29, these portions being arranged in superposed relation and comprising upper and lower rings 30 and 31, respectively, which embrace the shaft 23. The upper of said rings is provided with an opening 32 as shown to advantage in Figs. 4 and 5, while the lower of said rings is provided with a slot 33, as shown to advantage in Fig. 6. The lower ring is adapted to rest on any one of a series of superposed stops or pegs 34 which are formed upon the shaft 23. Upon reference to Fig. 6 of the drawings, it will be noted that the stops 34 are normally offset from the slot 33 in the ring 31, thereby acting as a support for the latter. However, when the shaft 23 is rotated through action of the driven shaft 20, the slot 33 will be brought into register with the stop upon which the ring 31 has been resting, thereby permitting the ring to gravitate downwardly. Since the opening 32 of the ring 30 is relatively large, the stop will likewise be permitted to pass through said opening notwithstanding the fact that the indicator may have varied its position slightly by the contractile action of the spring 24. The action of the said spring returns the shaft 23 to its normal position before the indicator passes more than a single one of the stops 34.

The inclined shelf 10 is sufficiently wide to accommodate a memorandum pad 35 and an index pad 36, the latter being held from displacement by the resilient clips 37 which are carried by the shelf as shown in Fig. 3. Moreover, if desired, the front of the compartments 12 may be equipped with a calendar 38, preferably showing the past month, current month, and following month.

In using this device it is preferred to follow the system outlined below, although it is to be understood that this device is susceptible of use in various capacities and I am outlining only a single usage of the invention in order to illustrate the application of the invention. The preferred use referred to is to use the memorandum pad 35 for making notes or memorandums which will be placed in the compartments 12 according to the day of the week when the business, referred to on the note or memorandum, is to be transacted. Each morning the executive or his secretary will remove the contents of the compartment for the current day and will divide said contents according to the different hours of the day, at which the business is to be attended to. After being so separated the notes, memorandums, or the like, are posted in the hourly compartments 14, pursuant to which the indicator 28 is set so that the finger 29 thereof will point to the first hour of the day, which in the instant case, is shown to be eight o'clock. The clock 15 will be so constructed that at nine o'clock the clapper 19 will first move into engagement with the driven shaft 20 so as to actuate the latter, thereby imparting movement to the shaft 23 and permitting the indicator 28 to gravitate. During this phase of movement the spring 24 is tensioned so that the contractile action of the spring will immediately return the shaft 23 in time to bring the next stop 34 into contact with the lower face of the ring 31, thereby positioning the indicator 29 at the numeral 9 on the series of compartments 14. This same operation is continued throughout the day. When the day's work has been finished the clock may be stopped and then reset the next morning. In this way, the busy executive will be at all times apprised of matters requiring his attention, especially in view of the fact that the clapper 19 after having actuated the shaft 20 will contact with the bell 18 so as to give an audible signal.

As above stated, this device is adapted for use in various capacities, but is especially designed for use by persons performing executive work whose attention is being constantly diverted by interviews and the like which has a tendency to decrease the efficiency of the work of the executive by occasionally forgetting appointments or neglecting to transact other business. Of course, it is to be understood that this device may be changed to be adaptable for use under different circumstances than those described herein.

What is claimed is:

A device as specified including superposed compartments representative of the different hours of the day and adapted to receive notes or memorandums of business to be transacted at said different hours, a clock mounted upon said compartments and

equipped with a clapper and a bell, indicating means operated by movement of said clapper to successively pass from one compartment to the other during the different hours of the day to designate business to be transacted at the particular hour referred to by the indicator, said clapper likewise contacting with said bell, after having imparted movement to the indicator, to audibly call attention to the position of the indicator.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JOSEPH A. HOWELL.

Witnesses:
J. H. HOSTETTER,
D. C. BORDER.