July 22, 1969 W. H. SULLIVAN 3,456,994

FILE FOLDER SUSPENSION FOR DRAWERS

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Fig. 1.

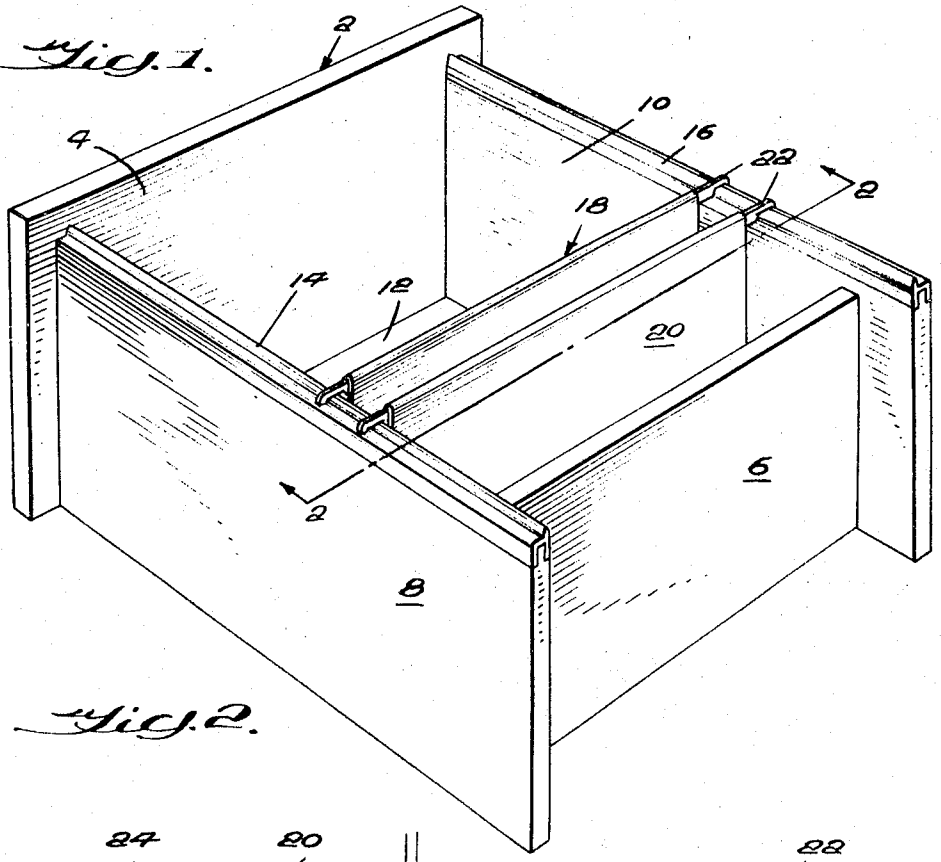
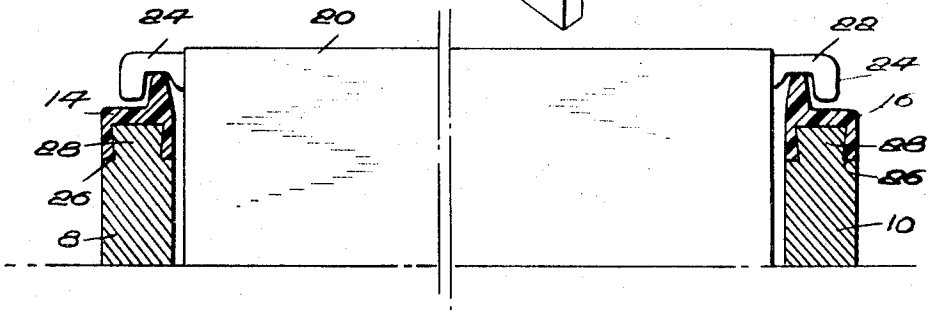


Fig. 2.



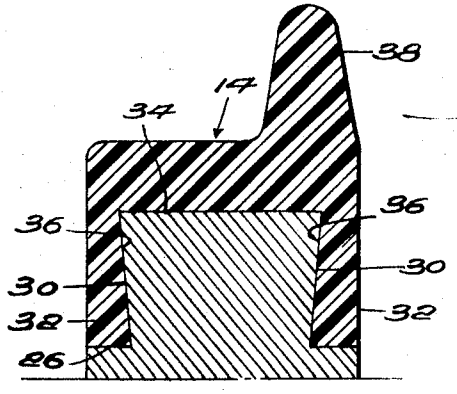


Fig. 3.

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FILE FOLDER SUSPENSION FOR DRAWERS

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A drawer assembly for suspending file folders. The side panels of the drawer each has a longitudinally extending tongue along the upper edge. An elastomeric rail is applied over the tongue and secured by interlocking engagement between the tongue and a corresponding longitudinal grove in the rail. The folders extend transversely in the drawer. A pair of rods are provided at the top of each folder and each rod supports one side of the folder, as it hangs vertically from the rods. Each rail has an upright rib extending longitudinally along the rail and the ribs are offset laterally from the center of the rail. The rails are preferably formed of an elastomeric material, so that they may be readily inserted over the tongues by spreading apart the groove portions of the rails. Since the lower portion of each rail is substantially symmetrical, the same rail shape can be used for either the right hand side panel or the left hand side panel of the drawer, with the offset rib being positioned toward the center of the drawer.

Background of the invention

This invention relates to filing cabinets, and more particularly, to file drawer constructions for supporting suspension type file folders.

Suspension type file folders have a sheet of flexible material, such as paper, fabric, or plastic sheet which is suspended vertically in a loop from its opposite ends to form a pocket for receiving the records or other materials that are to be stored in the file folder. A suspension rod is attached along each of the opposite edges of the sheet material, and the opposite ends of these rods are supported on rails that are provided in the drawer of the filing cabinet. Usually, the suspension rods for the folders have a tab or hook which overlaps the rail to prevent the suspension rod from falling off of the rail.

Various rail constructions have been provided for supporting the ends of the suspension rods. Typically, these rails are mounted in a drawer by means of screw fasteners or other hardware, or by means of an adhesive. Thus, rail constructions heretofore proposed are awkward to assemble and are usually bulky and unattractive. Furthermore, the rails are mounted inside the drawer, so that the folders do not take up the full width of the drawer.

Accordingly, it is an object of this invention to provide an improved drawer rail construction for suspension type file systems.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a drawer rail system that may be readily installed.

A still further object of this invention is to provide a drawer rail system that is attractive and allows the full width of the drawer to be utilized.

Summary of the invention

These objects are accomplished in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention by a drawer having hanger rod support rails secured along the top edge of each of the side panels of the drawer. Each side panel has a tongue extending along the upper edge. The tongues have opposite sides which slope upwardly and outwardly

from the side panels. The rails each have a longitudinal groove with opposite sides that slope downwardly and inwardly, so that the groove cooperates in interlocking engagement with the tongue to secure the rail on the side panel. The rails are preferably formed of an elastomeric material which is sufficiently deformable to allow the sides of the rail to be spread apart for applying the rail over the side panel tongue. The rail also includes an upright rib which is laterally offset from the center line of the rail. The lower portion of each rail is symmetrical about its longitudinal center line, so that the identical rail may be applied to either the right hand or the left hand side panels, with the rib being positioned on either side of the center line, as required.

Description of the drawings

This preferred embodiment is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the drawer construction of this invention;

FIG. 2 is a cross sectional view of the drawer along the line 2—2 in FIG. 1; and

FIG. 3 is an enlarged cross sectional view of one of the rails and side panels.

Description of the preferred embodiment

A file drawer **2** is shown schematically in FIG. 1, and includes a front panel **4**, a back panel **6**, side panels **8** and **10** and a bottom panel **12**. The side panels **8** and **10** are provided with rails **14** and **16** extending along their respective upper edges for supporting a suspension type file folder **18**. This conventional folder **18** is formed of a sheet of flexible material **20** which is folded transversely and the fold is positioned adjacent the bottom **12** of the drawer. Each end of the sheet has a hanger rod **22** secured along the edge of the sheet in any conventional manner. Each hanger rod **22** has an end portion **24** which is supported on one of the rails **14** and **16**. The end portions **24** preferably are in the form of a hook which overlaps the rail to center the folder **18** in the drawer and to prevent the hanger rod **22** from being displaced off of the rail accidentally. The folder material **20** forms a pocket to receive records or other file papers which are inserted between the two hanger rods **22**.

As shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, the side panels **8** and **10** of the drawer each has an upper edge which is indicated generally at **26**. Projecting upwardly from the edge **26** is a tongue **28** which extends along the entire length of each side panel **8** and **10**. The tongue **28** has upwardly and outwardly sloping side walls **30**, so that the tongue **28** is wider at the top than it is at the bottom.

The rails **14** and **16** have downwardly projecting flanges **32** which extend along the entire length of the rail. The flanges cooperate with the body of the rail to form a longitudinal groove **34** having side walls **36** which slope downwardly and inwardly in corresponding relation to the side walls **30** of the tongue **28**. Preferably, the side walls **30** and **34** are inclined at an angle of approximately 5° from the vertical.

The rails **14** and **16** are formed of an elastomeric material, such as hard rubber or synthetic resins including polyethylene, polypropylene, polyamides such as nylon, polyvinyls, and cellulose derivatives such as cellulose acetate. The rails should have sufficient elasticity to permit the flanges **32** to be spread apart to allow the tongue **28** to be inserted into the groove **34**. Preferably, the rails **14** and **16** are of approximately the same width as the thickness of the side panels **8** and **10**. Thus the rails appear as an extension of the side panels.

Each rail **14** and **16** includes an upright rib **38** which is offset from the center line of the rail and is positioned

along one marginal edge of the rail. The rib forms a support for the end portion **24** of the hanger rod **22**, as shown in FIG. 2. The rib **38** is positioned adjacent the inside surface of each side panel **8** and **10**, but the same rail can be used for either side panel **8** or **10**, merely by turning the rail end for end, since the groove **34** is symmetrical about the center line of the rail. The rails may be formed by extrusion in accordance with conventional practice, since the cross sectional shape of the rails is uniform along the length of the rails.

In assembling the rail construction of this invention, the side panels, front and back panels, and the bottom panel are assembled as shown in FIG. 1. The tongues **28** extending along the upper edges of each side panel **8** and **10** are exposed. The rail **14** is positioned over the groove **28** with the rib **38** adjacent the inside surface of the side panel **8**. The flanges **32** are spread apart sufficiently to allow the tongue **28** to enter the groove **34** as the rib is pressed onto the tongue **28**, progressively from one end to the other. Similarly, the rail **16** is applied over the tongue **28** at the upper edge of the side panel **10**, but the rail **16** is turned so that the rib **38** is positioned adjacent the inside surface of the side panel **10**. The interlocking engagement between the tongue **28** and the groove **34** holds the rails **14** and **16** in place without adhesives or other securing means.

The rail construction of this invention may be readily applied without fasteners or tools and thus is an efficient and convenient construction for providing support for the ends of hanger rods in suspension type file drawers. Since the groove portion of the rails is symmetrical, the same rail shape may be used for either of the side panels **8** and **10**, which substantially reduces the cost of manufacture. In addition to the practical advantages of this construction, the rails present an attractive appearance, since there are no unsightly projections in the inside of the drawer. The rails **14** and **16** give the top edges of the drawers an attractive finished appearance. Furthermore, by mounting the rails at the top edges of the drawer sides, the full width of the drawer can be utilized by the file folders.

I claim:

1. In a file cabinet having at least one file drawer comprising a front, back, bottom and spaced side walls, and a file holder having a rod extending between and supported at its opposite ends on the top of the spaced side walls of the drawer, that improvement in which the upper edge of each of said spaced sides of the drawer are shaped to form an upwardly projecting tongue located centrally thereof with lateral shoulders at opposite sides, an elastically deformable rail for each side wall having a groove into which the tongue projects and an upwardly projecting rib on which one end of the rod is supported, the opposite sides of said tongue sloping outwardly and upwardly, and the flanges of each rail at opposite sides of the groove overlying the lateral shoulders of its side wall and gripping the sloping sides of its tongue whereby to resist removal of each rail from its side wall of the drawer.

2. A file cabinet in accordance with claim **1** in which the rib projecting upwardly from the rail is offset from a medial plane through said rail, and the file holder rod having an abutment at each end which overlies the outside surfaces of said offset rib to maintain the folder rods in position on the rails and centered in the drawer.

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U.S. Cl. X.R.

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