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Cusker

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[54] **FILING CABINET CONSTRUCTION**

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[51] **Int. Cl.** **A47b 63/00**

[58] **Field of Search** 312/140, 117, 287, 312/183; 211/181, 184, 43, 133, 51

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A filing cabinet construction of a longitudinally extending bin type arrangement supported above the floor and with an open mesh or grid bottom for supporting the contents and providing substantially universal adjustment of stationary and pivoting filing compartment and filing material dividers. The mesh or grid bottom is additionally effectively self-cleaning, and cooperates with certain contents dividers having depending projections to provide maximum adjustability or lateral spacing of the dividers in the cabinet and maximum pivoting thereof for easy, rapid and convenient access to the contents, particularly when the contents are relatively large sheets such as newspaper and advertising mats and copy. The grid bottom further cooperates with the stationary and pivoting dividers to provide for maximum longitudinal adjustability of the dividers in the cabinet.

7 Claims, 7 Drawing Figures

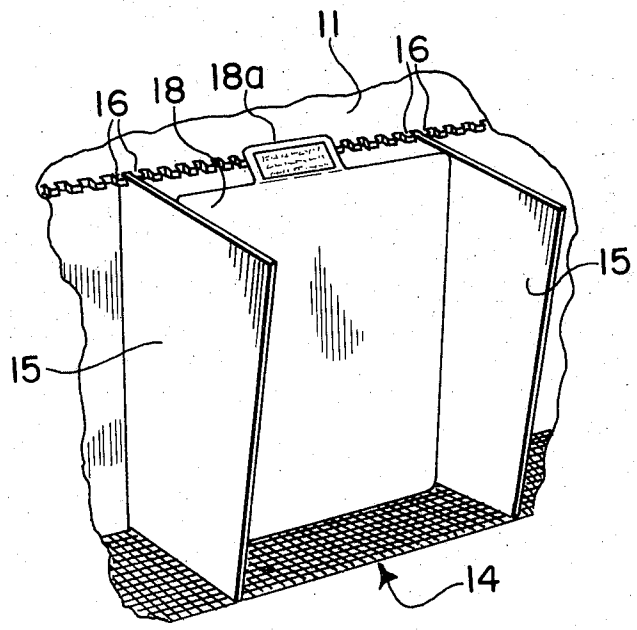
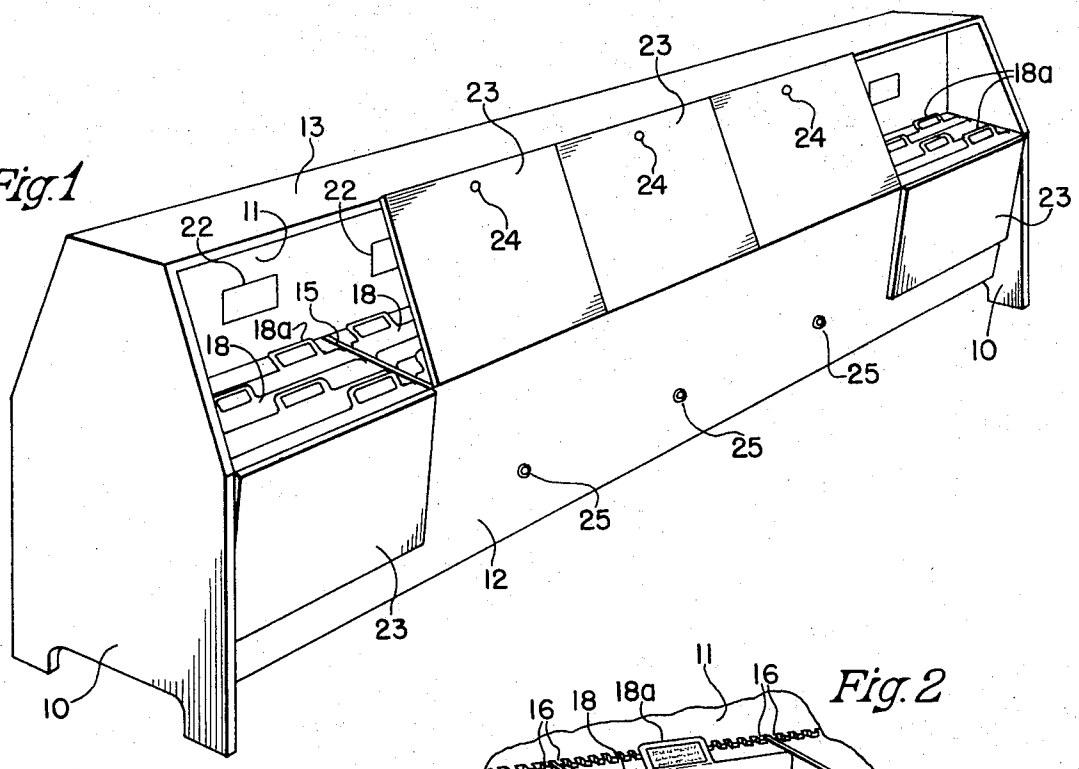


Fig. 1



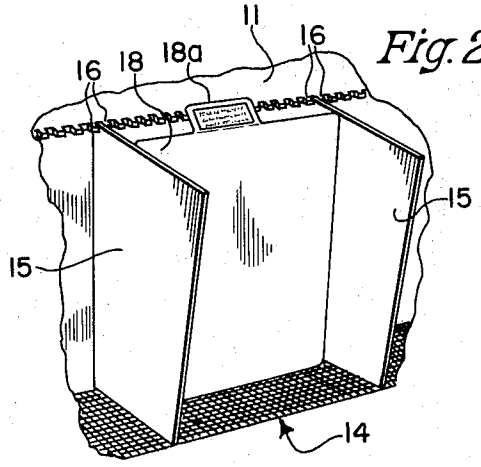


Fig. 2

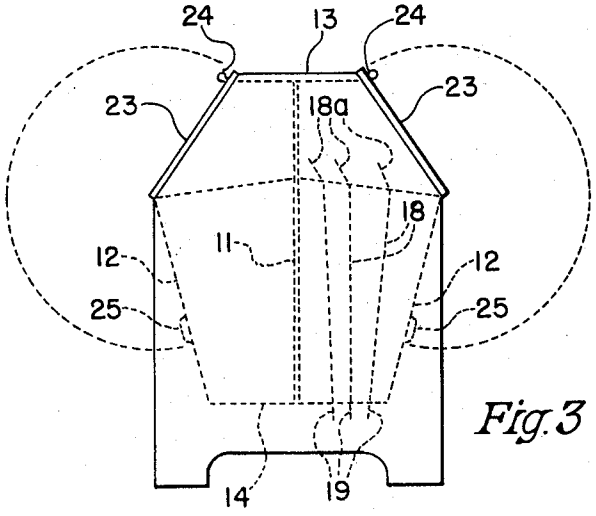
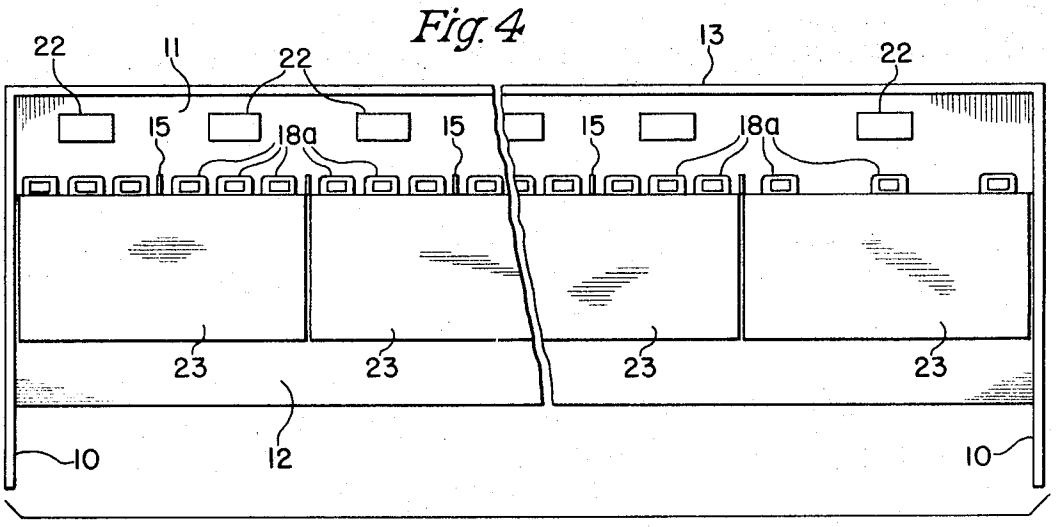


Fig. 3

Fig. 4



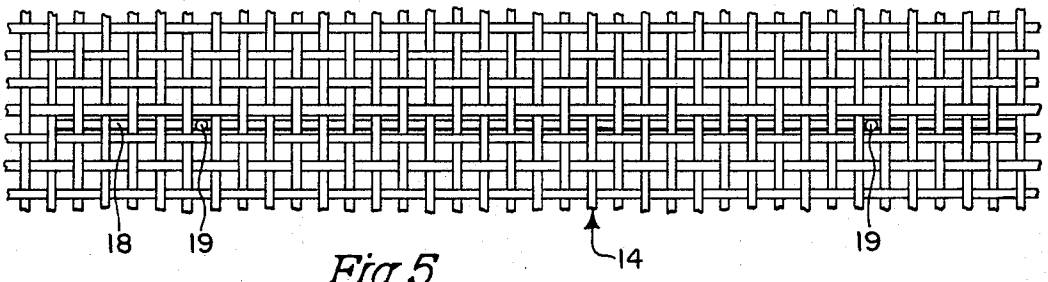


Fig. 5

Fig. 6

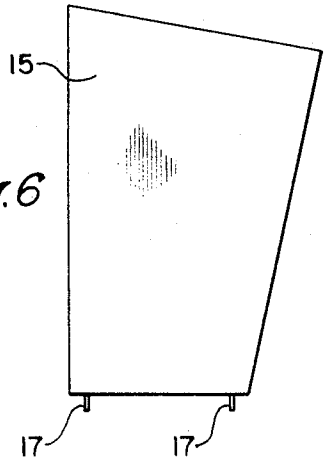
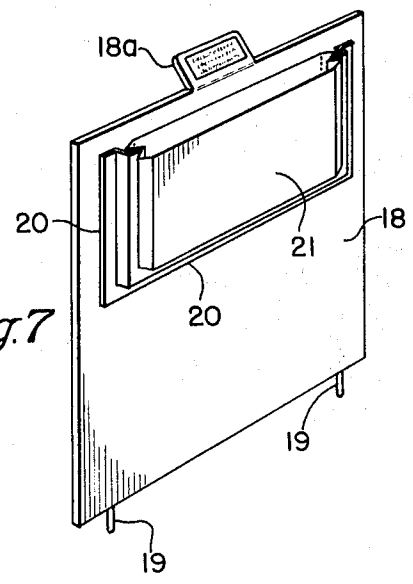


Fig. 7



FILING CABINET CONSTRUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

There are many known forms and constructions of filing cabinets, bin types, horizontal shelf types, and drawer types, all of which to one degree or another are suitable for filing various materials, and most commonly letter size papers. Large drawer type filing cabinets are also known for the filing of relatively large sheets such as engineering or architectural drawings or prints. However such cabinets are generally unsuitable for newspaper and advertising businesses which require that newspaper and advertising mats or copy in a wide range of sizes be conveniently stored or filed for easy, rapid and repeated access to the filed material and oftentimes by many people at the same time. As deadlines must be met, the pace and use of the material becomes hectic. Further in such businesses, constantly and widely varied volumes of the material in groups and sub-groups, require that group and subgroup dividers be constantly and widely shifted or adjusted if an efficient filing system is to be maintained.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Reductions to practice of the present invention have proved that the present invention represents a more universally adjustable, economical, and efficient filing cabinet construction for its intended purposes than filing cabinet constructions presently known in the art.

The primary objects of the present invention are to provide a filing cabinet construction for the filing of material of a wide range in size and particularly sheets of material such as newspaper or advertising copy in which the material is easily filed for rapid repeated access thereto, in which the pivoting dividers are easily pivoted for substantially open access to desired filed material and the pivoting and stationary dividers are easily laterally and longitudinally adjusted for groups and sub-groups of filed material of varied size and volume, and in which convenient access to the filed material may be had by many people at the same time.

The foregoing objects are accomplished in the present invention by a bin type filing cabinet construction in which the filing cabinet is substantially longitudinally horizontally arranged and supported above the floor. The bottom of the cabinet comprises an open grid which supports the filed material and which receives the lower ends of the dividers for maximum pivoting and adjustment of the dividers. To this end, each of the pivoting dividers or paddles, as they are called herein, is provided with a pair of projections depending from the lower edge thereof in a spaced apart relationship. The projections are of a size so that they may easily be inserted through selected openings in the grid bottom to adjust the spacing between paddles and the cabinet walls, and in any adjusted position will readily pivot about an axis along the bottom edge of the paddles to provide convenient access to any filing compartment. Because of the grid bottom and its cooperation with the paddles it has been found that the paddles may easily be adjusted or shifted without removing the filed material adjacent the paddles. The stationary dividers are longitudinally adjustably retained by slotted retention strips and projections cooperating with the grid bottom.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a filing cabinet constructed according to the invention;

FIG. 2 is a fragmentary view of the structure shown in FIG. 1 to show the cooperation of the pivoting paddles and stationary dividers with the cabinet and particularly the cabinet bottom;

FIG. 3 is an end elevational view of the structure shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a front elevational view of the structure shown in FIG. 1 with the cabinet doors in the open position;

FIG. 5 is an enlarged fragmentary bottom plan view of the structure shown in FIG. 1 to show the paddle and grid cooperation in the cabinet;

FIG. 6 is an enlarged side elevational view of one of the stationary dividers; and

FIG. 7 is an enlarged perspective view of one of the paddles showing an alternative embodiment for the paddle arrangement.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The present invention contemplates various embodiments such as a single-sided or double-sided cabinet construction. The drawings show a double-sided cabinet and the cabinet is therefore symmetrical about a vertical plane through the longitudinal center axis of the cabinet. It is further contemplated that the end panels of the cabinet may take various forms such for example as being more closely shaped to a transverse cross sectional view of the cabinet. Further, the cabinet doors or cover panels may be omitted.

The cabinet may be made in any desired length to include a selected number of longitudinally arranged filing compartments. The embodiment as shown in the drawings comprises a pair of longitudinally spaced apart end walls **10** which support the remainder of the cabinet in a raised position above the floor and at a convenient height for a person in a standing position at the cabinet. A center or back wall **11** extends in a vertical position between the end walls **10** and is secured thereto by any suitable means. A pair of transversely spaced apart side walls **12** are also connected between the end walls **10.** The side walls **12** are angled downwardly and inwardly from each side of the cabinet as may be seen in FIGS. **1** and **3.** The upper end of the cabinet comprises a top panel **13** which is horizontally positioned between the end walls **10** and over the center wall **11** at a convenient height for temporarily receiving material to be filed or otherwise worked with by a person in a standing position at the cabinet. The top wall **13** is substantially narrower than the cabinet depth provided between the center wall **11** and the side walls **12** for easy access to the interior of the cabinet by a person in a standing position at the cabinet.

The bottom wall **14** of the cabinet is of an open grid or mesh construction. One suitable form is a wire mesh having square openings of about one quarter inch on a side. The invention contemplates other forms for the bottom wall **14** which present a substantially perforated or open grid surface for the easy falling of dust or other debris from the cabinet, to provide for proper support of the filed material, and to properly cooperate with the filing paddles and stationary dividers. The bottom wall **14** is secured by any suitable known means between

and to the end walls **10**, the center wall **11** and the side walls **12**.

The interior of the cabinet is longitudinally divided into a plurality of filing compartments by a number of stationary dividers such as dividers **15** shown in FIG. **2**. Any suitable means such as slotted retention strips **16** are horizontally secured to the center or back wall **11** and the side walls **12** to removably support the upper ends of the dividers **15**. The lower marginal edge of the stationary dividers **15** are provided with a pair of spaced apart depending projections or pins **17**. The pins **17** will enter open spaces in the grid bottom wall **14** to hold the divider **15** in a vertical position in any selected location longitudinally of the cabinet. The dividers **15** are normally spaced apart a distance slightly greater than the width of a paddle **18**. The width of the paddles **18** is determined by the width of the material to be filed. The invention contemplates that some of the filing compartments and paddles **18** may be of a greater width than others. The described means for vertically securing the dividers **15** provides for different selected filing compartment widths or for different longitudinal positions of the filing compartments. Because of the defined construction of the bottom wall **14**, the paddles **18** are easily shifted or moved longitudinally of the cabinet with any shifting of the dividers **15** longitudinally of the cabinet.

The paddles **18** in addition to having a width slightly less than the distance between appropriate dividers **15**, have a height substantially equal to the height of the dividers **15**. The height of the dividers **15** and paddles **18** is determined by the height of the material to be filed in the cabinet.

The upper edge of each paddle **18** is provided with an integral upwardly extending handle and indicia supporting means **18***a*.

The handle member **18***a* is preferably positioned at an angle to the plane of a paddle **18** so that any indicia on the member **18***a* is easily viewed by a person in a standing position at the cabinet. That angle may be generally described as inclined upwardly and toward the center wall **11** of the cabinet. The indicia supporting means **18***a* may be formed at different positions along the upper edge of the paddles **18**.

The lower edge of each paddle **18** is provided with a pair of integral depending projections or pins **19**. The pins **19** are positioned in a spaced apart relationship on the lower edge of each paddle **18**, and as many may be seen in FIG. **5**, the pins **19** will enter open spaces in the grid bottom wall **14** to hold the lower edge of the paddle **18** against movement transversely of the cabinet. The cooperation of the pins **19** and the bottom wall **14** will permit substantial pivoting of each paddle **18** about an axis directed generally along the lower edge of each paddle **18**. In reductions to practice of the invention the aforedescribed arrangement has been found to provide a unique and convenient arrangement for easy filing and access to relatively large sheets of material such as newspaper or advertising mats or copy. If the material is filed in each subgroup between paddles in an order with the most current material adjacent the front side of a paddle, merely flipping that paddle rearwardly quickly exposes the most current material on the front side of the paddle.

FIG. **7** shows an alternative embodiment in the construction of the paddles **18**, and that alternative is the addition of a relatively small-material filing means comprising channel members **20** mounted on the upper forward side of a paddle **18** to receive an envelope **21**. The envelope **21** has an open upper end and the side and bottom edges thereof are slidably received within the channel members **20**. The sides and bottom edges of the envelope **21** may further be accordian-pleated. In the alternative embodiment of the paddles **18**, the envelopes **21** provide convenient storage or filing for relatively small papers or other material within the larger filed material grouping or sub-grouping provided by the paddles **18** in the cabinet.

The invention further contemplates that the center or back wall **11** be provided with card holders for carrying cards **22** to indicate major groups of filed material within each filing compartment.

The filing cabinet may also be provided with doors or panels **23** for closing or otherwise sealing the open sides of the cabinet. Each of the panels **23** are preferably pivotly connected to the upper edge of the side walls **12**. It is not necessary that each panel **23** span one filing compartment. The panels **23** may conveniently span two or more filing compartments. The outer upper edge portion of each panel **23** is provided with handle means **24** for manual pivoting of the panels **23**. The handle means **24** may include locking means for locking the panels **23** in the closed positions. The side walls **12** are provided with clips **25** for releaseably holding the panels **23** in the completely open position downwardly and against the side walls **12**.

Having described the invention, it is to be understood that the preferred embodiments can be changed by one skilled in the art within the spirit and scope of the hereinafter following claims.

I claim:

1. A bin-type filing cabinet of substantial length comprising, a back wall of substantial length, a front wall of substantial length, end walls secured between the ends of said back wall and said front wall, a bottom wall formed as an open grid surface and secured in the lower portion of said cabinet between said back, front and side walls, a plurality of stationary dividers, means for securing said stationary dividers in said cabinet above said bottom wall and in vertical planes transversely of said cabinet and in selected spaced apart positions longitudinally of said cabinet, a plurality of paddles, each of said paddles having at least a pair of spaced apart projections depending from the lower edge thereof, said projections being of a length and circumferential dimension capable of being projected through and below transversely and longitudinally selected ones of the openings in said grid surface of said bottom wall, said projections further having a circumferential dimension sufficiently smaller than said openings to permit said paddles to be manually pivotable between said stationary dividers toward and away from said front and back walls of said cabinet, wherein said means for securing said stationary dividers in said cabinet comprises means on said front and back walls of said cabinet for holding the upper opposed side portions of said dividers in selected positions longitudinally of said cabinet, and integral projections depending from the lower edges of said dividers, said integral projections being of a size capable of projecting through the openings in said grid surface of said bottom wall to hold the lower edges of said dividers in selected positions longitudinally of said cabinet, said bottom wall comprises an open mesh material, and the upper edge

of each paddle is provided with integral handle and indicia supporting means.

2. A filing cabinet as defined in claim 1, wherein said last mentioned means comprise an indicia supporting plate positioned at an angle to the plane of said paddle to substantially present the face of said plate to a person in a standing position at said cabinet.

3. A filing cabinet as defined in claim 1, wherein said end walls support said bottom wall substantially above any floor surface carrying said cabinet.

4. A filing cabinet as defined in claim 3, wherein said front wall is secured in a plane inclined downwardly and inwardly of said cabinet.

5. A filing cabinet as defined in claim 4, wherein said cabinet includes a top wall positioned in a horizontal plane and secured to said back and end walls, and the longitudinal front edge of said top wall terminating substantially inwardly of the upper edge of said front wall.

6. A filing cabinet as defined in claim 5, and door means for closing the upper open front side of said cabinet, said door means pivotally connected to the upper edge of said front wall and pivotal to engage the longitudinal front edge of said top wall in a cabinet closing arrangement.

7. A filing cabinet as defined in claim 1, wherein said paddles include filing envelopes removably carried on the upper front side thereof for filing relatively small materials within the grouping of filed material provided by the paddles.

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