July 4, 1967 J. F. KATES 3,328,927

PANELING FOR ELEVATOR CABS

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Fig. 1.

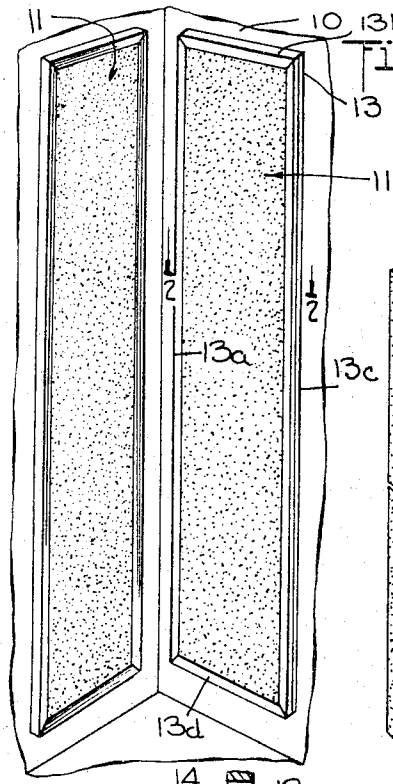


Fig. 3.

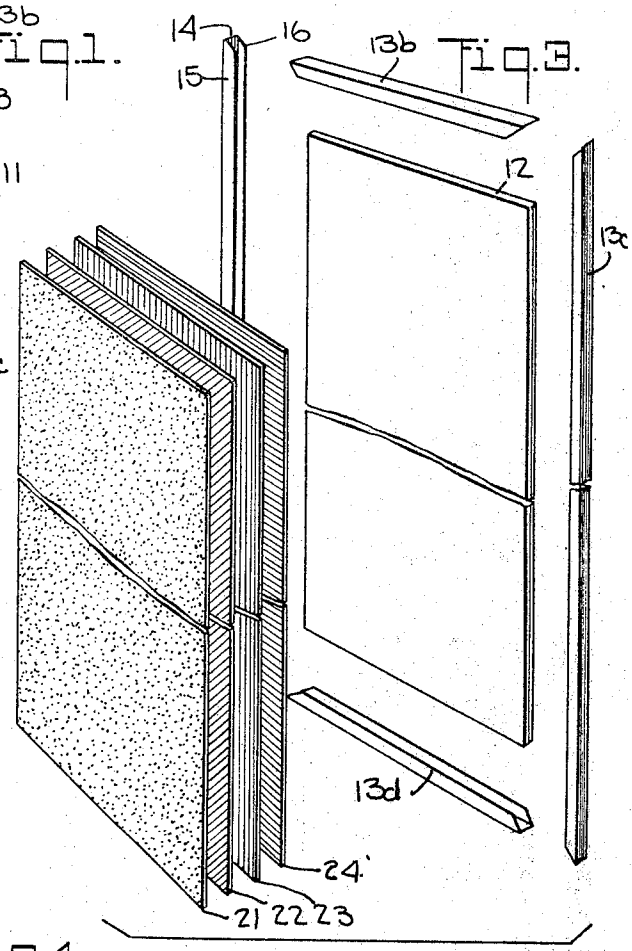


Fig. 2.

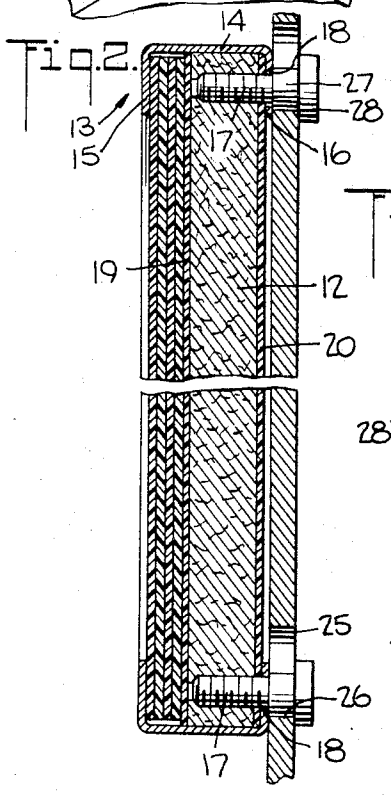


Fig. 4.

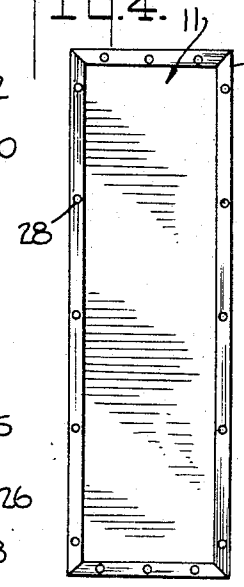
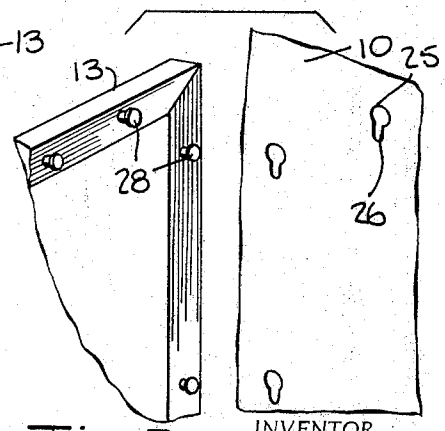


Fig. 5.



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PANELING FOR ELEVATOR CABS

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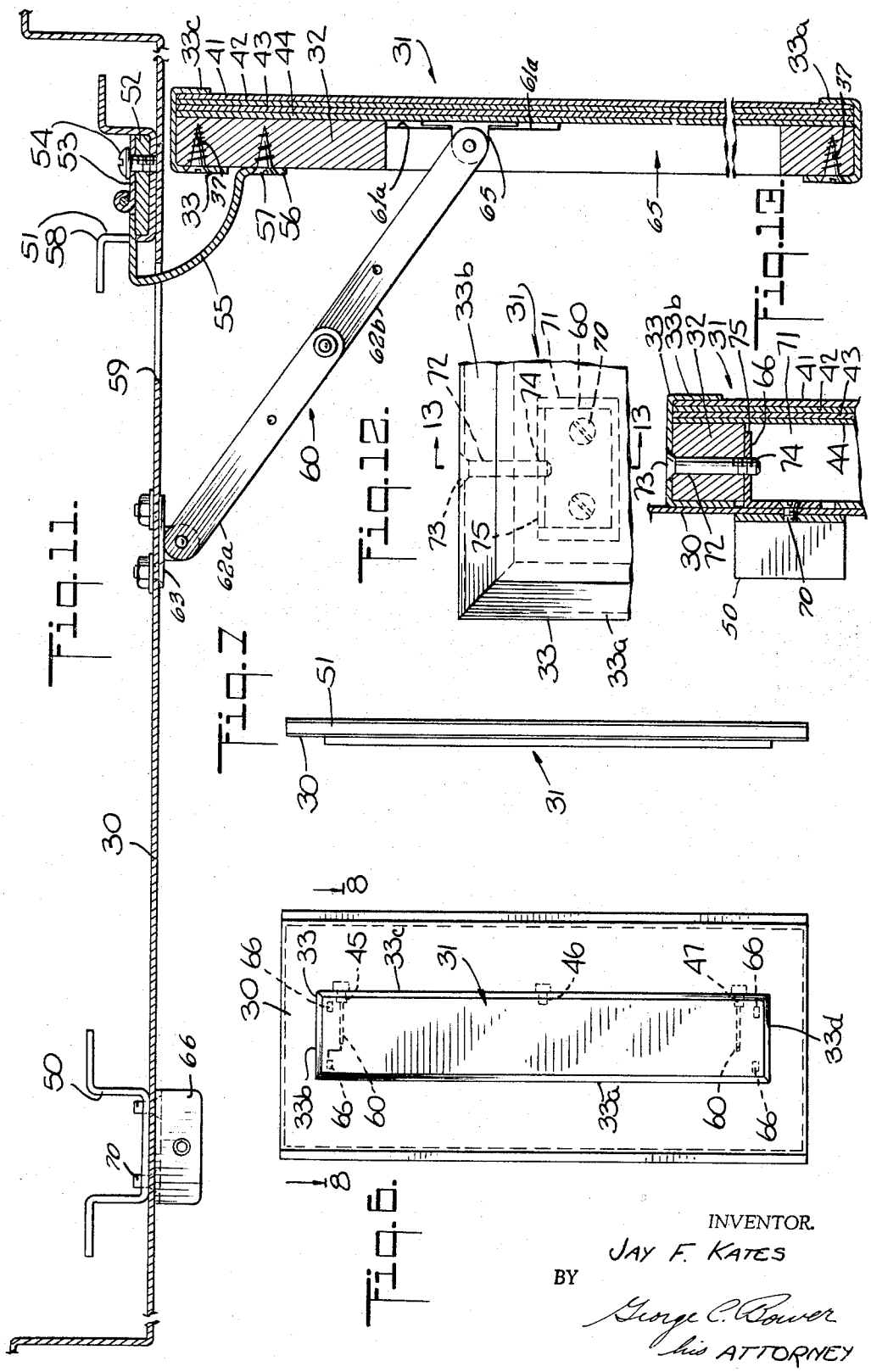

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PANELING FOR ELEVATOR CABS

Filed Oct. 29, 1964 3 Sheets-Sheet 3

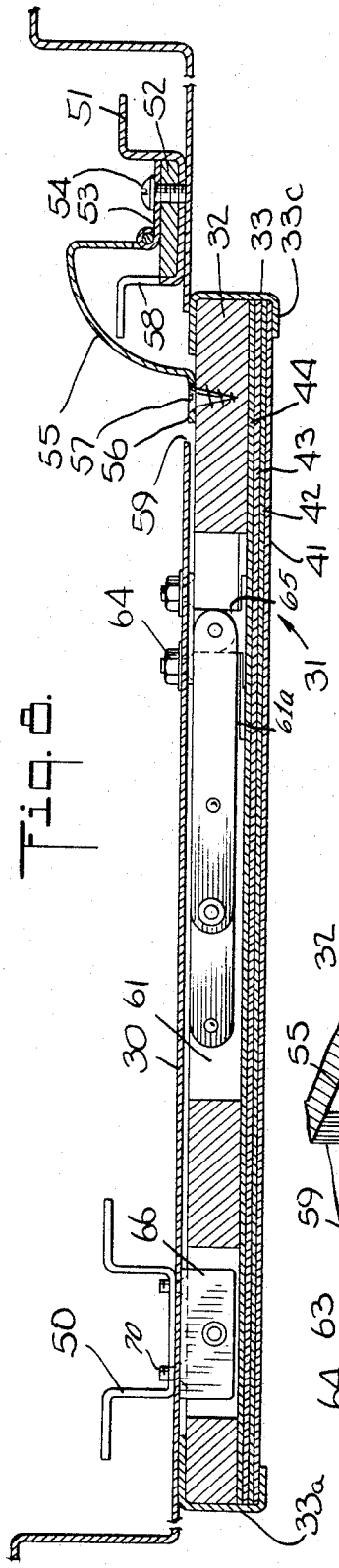

Fig. 8.

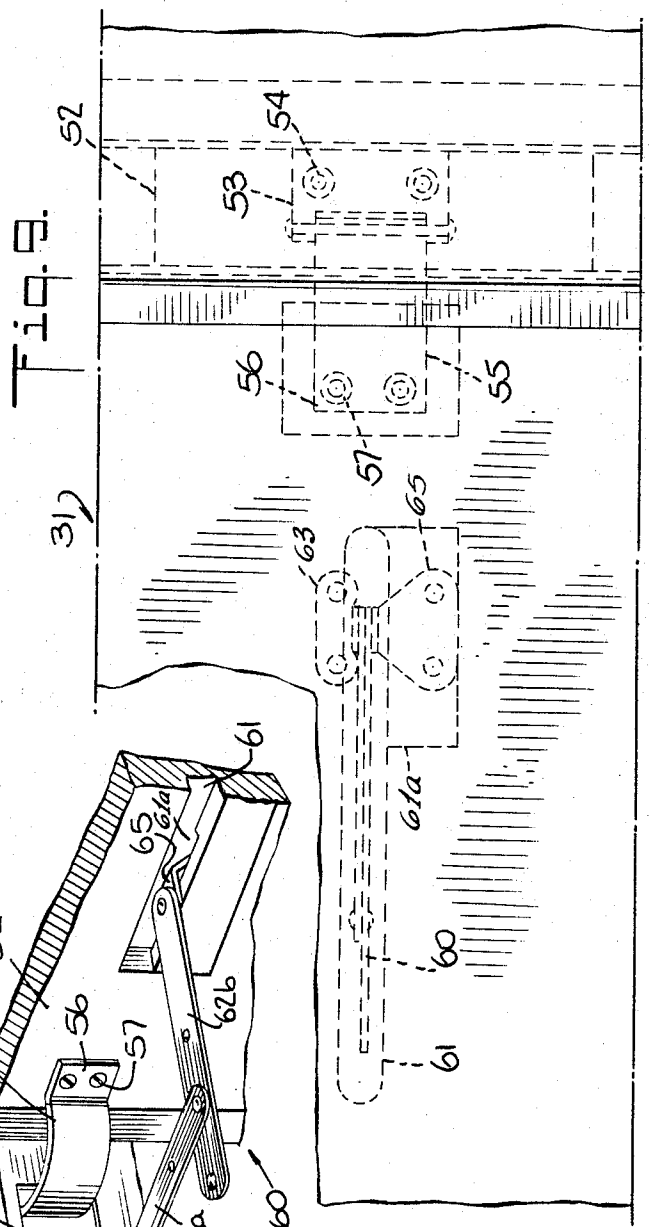

Fig. 9.

Fig. 10.

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PANELING FOR ELEVATOR CABS

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1 Claim. (Cl. 52—65)

This is a continuation-in-part of my co-pending application Ser. No. 346,334, filed on Feb. 20, 1964 and entitled "Paneling for Elevator Cabs."

This invention relates to paneling and is directed particularly to interior panels for elevator cabs.

Elevator cabs used in passenger service are designed to have a pleasing interior. In many instances, such as department stores which change the interior decorations of the building to conform to the seasons of the year, it is desirable to also change the interior of the elevator cabs to conform to the rest of the building. Heretofore this has not been possible except for minor decorations on the ceiling and the like due to the smallness of the space and the structure of the elevator cab. Also, in many installations it is very desirable to change the interior decoration of the elevator cab to correspond with the seasons of the year. In order to do this, it was necessary to refinish the paneling of the cab, which is expensive and time consuming. Also, the interiors of elevator cabs are subject to rather excessive marring due to the smallness of the size of the cabs and the crowding that inevitably occurs from time to time. This means that either the cab has to be repeatedly refinished or be left in a rather shabby condition.

An object of the invention is to provide paneling for the walls of an elevator cab on which the interior effect can be easily and quickly changed.

Other and further objects and advantages are apparent from the following description taken in connection with the drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a fragmentary perspective view of the corner of an elevator cab with the paneling in place;

FIG. 2 is a sectional view of a panel taken along lines 2—2 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is an exploded view of a panel;

FIG. 4 is a rear view of a panel illustrating the mounting means;

FIG. 5 is a fragmentary view illustrating the mounting of the panel on the frame of the cab;

FIG. 6 is a front view of a hinged embodiment of the paneling;

FIG. 7 is a side view of the hinged embodiment of FIG. 6;

FIG. 8 is a sectional view of the paneling in the closed position taken along lines 8—8 of FIG. 6;

FIG. 9 illustrates the panel supporting means when the panel is in a closed position;

FIG. 10 illustrates the stay partly opened;

FIG. 11 is a sectional view of the paneling in the open position;

FIG. 12 illustrates a front view of the locking means; and

FIG. 13 is a sectional view of the locking means taken along lines 13—13 of FIG. 12.

The frame **10** of the elevator cab may be of the conventional type with the panels **11** mounted thereon to form an interior wall. The panel **11** comprises a mounting board **12** of substantially the same length and width as the panel (FIGS. 2 and 3). Around the edges of the panel is a stainless steel frame **13** formed in four separable strips **13***a*, **13***b*, **13***c*, **13***d*, each of a U shape and having beveled ends matching at the corners in abutting relation. The strips **13***a* to **13***d* have a center piece **14** and front and rear pieces **15** and **16** at right angles thereto. The mounting board is preferably a flake board. However, it may be

made of wood or a plywood sheet. The board has a substantial thickness A to form the main rigid supporting member of the panel. The strips **13***a* to **13***d* are secured to the back of the mounting board by screws **17** extending through holes **18** in the rear pieces of the strips and threaded into the mounting board. Thus the frame is rigidly secured to the mounting board to form a unitary member. Thin laminated sheets **19** and **20** are provided on the front and rear surfaces of the mounting board to provide a surfacing on both sides coextensive with the mounting board. As illustrated in FIG. 2, the center pieces **14** extend forwardly of the mounting board to space the front pieces **15** a distance B from the mounting board and form a channel or groove around the frame.

Four sheets **21**, **22**, **23**, **24**, of the same size as the frame and mounting board are positioned in layer relation between the front pieces **15** of the frame and the mounting board and fitting in the groove or channel formed thereby, with the foremost sheets **21** being presented for the interior surfacing of the panel. The four sheets may be made of a plastic material, such as "Formica," which may be rigid or slightly flexible. The plastic sheets may be of solid colors or have decorative designs thereon depending upon the type of interior that is desired. The sheets **21** to **24** may be easily removed from the frame by removing the screws **17** holding the strip **13***a* or **13***c* and sliding the sheets out. The sheets then may be changed in position and reinserted into the frame. Thus the sheets may be easily changed and at the same time stored for use at a subsequent time.

The mounting board **12** forms a firm rigid backing for the substantially thinner sheets **21** to **24**. Thus the sheets may be thin and not occupy too great a space while providing a simple storage of the sheets for future use. The panels may be mounted on the frame **10** of the cab in any suitable manner so that the panels can be easily removed for rearrangement of the sheets **21** to **24**. As illustrated in FIGS. 2, 4 and 5 the frames **10** have a combination hole **25** and slot **26** and the screws **17** have a head **27** and a flange **28** which is larger than the head **27**. The flange fits through the opening **25** and is smaller than the slot **26** so that the head **27** can be dropped into the slot **26** and the panel firmly held in place.

In FIGS. 6 to 13 another embodiment of the paneling is illustrated in which the panel **31** is hingedly mounted on the frame **30**. The panel is swung substantially normal to the frame for changing the decorative sheets.

The panel **31** comprises a mounting board **32** similar to mounting board **12**. As shown in FIGS. 6, 8 and 11 a stainless steel frame **33** formed by four U-shaped strips **33***a*, **33***b*, **33***c* and **33***d* having beveled edges matching at the corners in abutting relation, similar to strips **13***a–d*, is secured to the mounting board by screws **37** in a similar manner as frame **13**. At the front of the mounting board the strips are spaced therefrom to accommodate the four decorative facing sheets **41**, **42**, **43**, **44** in layer relationship. The sheets **41**, **42**, **43**, **44** are similar to sheets **21**, **22**, **23**, **24**.

As indicated in FIG. 6, on the right-hand edge are three hinge means **45**, **46**, **47** for hingedly supporting the panel in the open and closed position. On the back of the frame **30** are two channel shaped members **50**, **51** secured by welding or other suitable means to the frame which is, in this embodiment, a sheet metal member. The channel shaped members **50** and **51** extend the full length of the panel (FIGS. 8 and 11). At the respective hinge means are reinforcing strips **52** in the channel. The hinge mounting **53** is fastened to the reinforcing member and channel by bolts **54**. The panel supporting member **55** is generally U-shaped and is hingedly fastened to the hinge mounting **53** along one edge and to the mounting board by a flange **56** and screws **57** along the other edge. Notches **58** in the

U-shaped member and openings **59** are provided at each hinged means to permit the pivoted member to swing through the frame **30**. Two collapsible stays **60** (FIGS. 8, 9 and 11) at the top and bottom of the panel hold the panel in the open position. The recesses **61** receive the collapsed stays when the panel is in the closed position against the frame. The upper stay is illustrated in FIG. 10 and comprises beams **62***a*, **62***b* pivotally connected, with the beam **62***a* having a knob fitting in a recess to hold the beams in an aligned position. The beam **62***a* is pivotally connected to the bracket **63** which is securely fastened to the frame **30** by nut and bolts means **64**. The bracket **63** extends normal to the frame into the recess **61** when the panel is closed. The beam **62***b* is pivotally connected to a second bracket **65** fastened to the mounting board. The second bracket **65** is recessed in the notch **61***a* and extends into the recess **61** for pivotal attachment to the beam **62***b*. Thus the panel may be swung open for changing the decorative panels.

In the closed position the panel is locked in place and supported by L-shaped brackets **66** fastened to the frame **30** and the channel shaped member **50** by bolts **70** (FIGS. 6, 8, 11, 12 and 13). Angles are mounted at each corner and extend into recesses **71** in the mounting board. Bores or passages **72** extend through the mounting board into the recesses **71**. Screws **73** are threaded in the bores and pass through holes **74** in the flanges **75** to lock and tightly hold the panel against the frame. When the decorative sheets are to be changed, the screws are threaded clear of the flanges and the panel opened. Due to the depth of the bores the screws remain in the mounting board.

The decorative sheets may be changed by unfastening the screws **73** and swinging the panel **31** outwardly to position the panel generally normal to the frame **30**. The panel **31** is firmly supported in this position and the U-shaped strip **33***c* may be removed in a similar manner to the strip **13***c* and the decorative facing sheets removed or changed in position. When the desired sheet is in front, the strip **33***c* is replaced and the panel **31** closed. The screws **73** are then refastened in place to lock the panel on the frame. Thus the decorative sheets can be replaced or interchanged without removing the panel from the frame. This greatly expedites the change-over of the decorative sheets.

It is thus seen that the panels of the elevator cab can be easily removed or pivoted and one of the stainless steel strips removed for rearranging the decorative sheets. Or, in the case of redecorating, a new sheet or sheets may be readily inserted. An entire cab may thus be redecorated in a very short period of time at a very low cost. Further, the interior of the cab can be altered to conform with the season of the year or with any special holiday decorations. In the foregoing description four sheets have been described to correspond with the seasons of the year, but the invention is directed to a plurality of sheets and more than four may be used if desired.

The invention is set forth in the appended claim.

I claim:

Mounting means for decorative facing sheets comprising a vertical frame with vertical supporting members on one side, a vertically positioned mounting board located on the other side of said frame from said vertical supporting members and having front and rear surfaces and horizontal and vertical edges, decorative facing sheets, means extending around said edges and attached to said mounting board to support said decorative facing sheets in interchangeable layer relationship with one of said facing sheets in front providing a decorative surface while the other sheets are stored between said front facing sheet and said front surfaces of said board, said facing sheet supporting means having a portion along a vertical edge detachable from said board for removal and insertion of said facing sheets parallel to said mounting board, a generally U-shaped panel supporting means movably extending through said frame and pivotally attached to one of said vertical supporting members on the opposite side of said frame to said mounting board and secured to said mounting board along a vertical edge opposite to said detachable portion of said mounting means for pivoting said mounting board in relation to said frame, a recess in said mounting board, an angle mounted on said frame for fitting into said recess, and fastening means extending through said mounting board generally normal to said angle to removably interfit therewith and lock said mounting board in cooperation with said U-shaped panel supporting means against said frame and permitting on removal thereof the pivoting of said mounting board into an angular position with said frame for removal of said detachable portion and rearrangement of said facing sheets by removal and insertion of said facing sheets at said exposed vertical edge of said mounting board opposite to the attachment of said U-shaped panel supporting means.

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