United States Patent

[11] 3,557,965

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[54] **MATING BASE MEMBERS FOR AN EXPANDABLE VERTICAL DESK FILE OR THE LIKE**
1 Claim, 3 Drawing Figs.

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **211/11,** 52/590
[51] **Int. Cl.** **B42f 17/00**
[50] **Field of Search** 211/11, 183, 184; 52/590

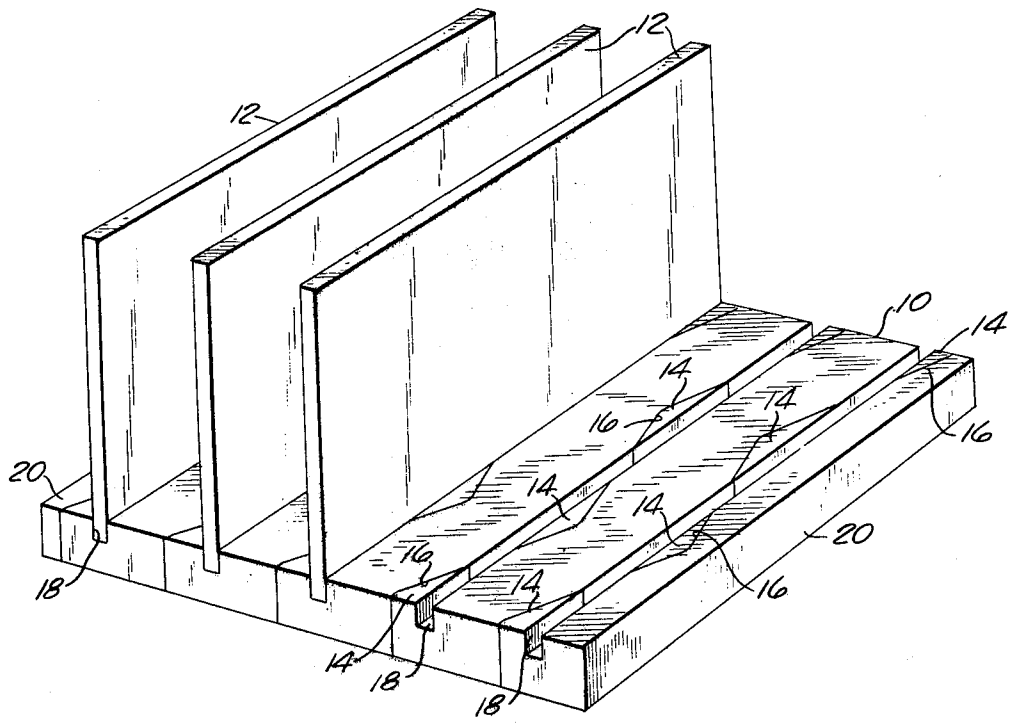
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ABSTRACT: Base members of symmetrical shape have projections and recesses in the longitudinally extending sides of such members. These projections and recesses are complementary and interfit when the base members are placed side by side. A groove opening extends downwardly from a surface of and extending across each projection. When two base members are interfitted side by side the grooves in each projection are axially aligned. A vertical partition or other locking member is seated in such aligned grooves to lock adjacent base members and support the partition.



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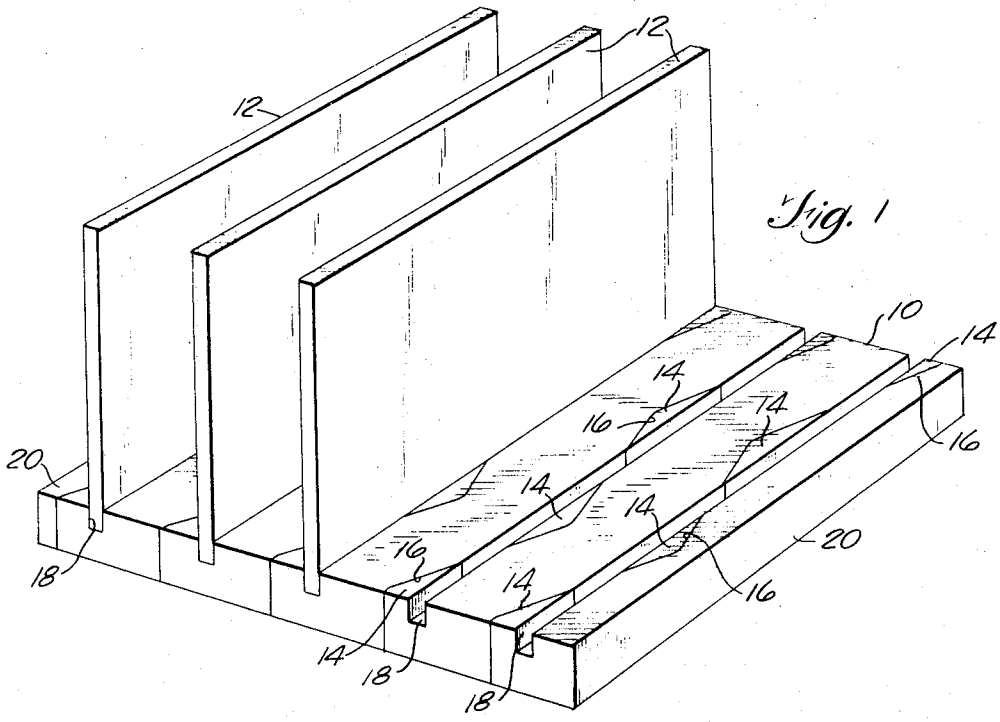


Fig. 1

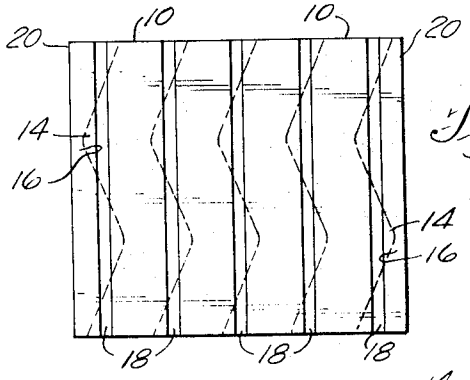


Fig. 2

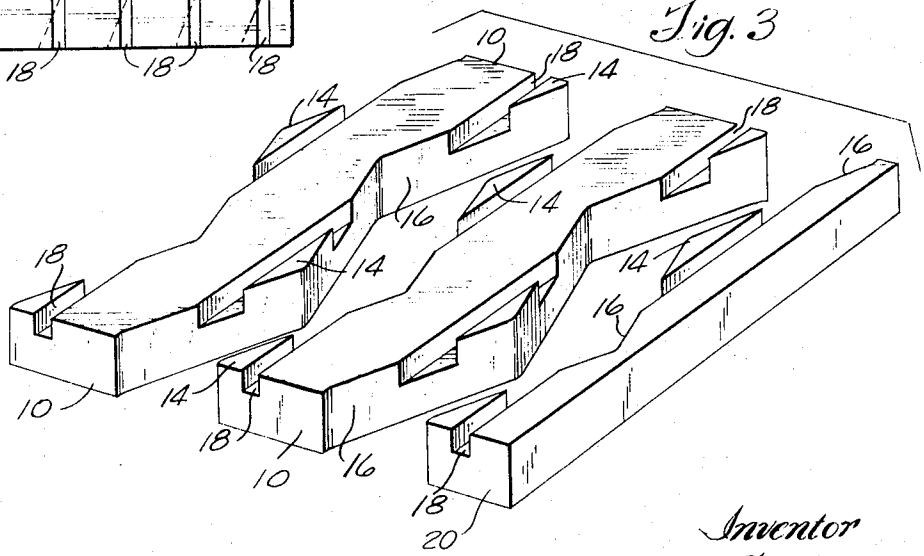


Fig. 3

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MATING BASE MEMBERS FOR AN EXPANDABLE VERTICAL DESK FILE OR THE LIKE

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention consists of identical and symmetrically shaped base members which are joined side by side solely by vertical partitions to form an expandable open desk file or an adjustable length base for an article. To lengthen the file or base additional base members and partitions or locking members are added.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

IN THE DRAWING

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of a desk file consisting of base members and partitions embodying the present invention, several of the partitions or locking members being omitted to show the alignment of the grooves in adjacent members;

FIG. **2** is a top plan view in reduced size of the desk file of FIG. **1**; and

FIG. **3** is an exploded view showing two identical and symmetrical shaped base members and a base member with a straight side which constitutes an end member.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to the drawing for purposes of illustrating one application thereof an expandable desk file consists of a plurality of identically and symmetrically shaped base members **10** which are interfitted side by side as shown and joined against lateral separation solely by vertical partitions **12**.

Each of the base members **10** have elongated undulating sides which form symmetrically positioned projections **14** separated by recesses **16**. The sides of the projections **14** and recesses **16** are sloped with respect to an imaginary straight line normal to those ends of base members which form the sides of the desk file when assembled. Each of the projections **14** has a groove **18** opening downwardly from the top surface of and extending across the projection. When the base members **10** are placed side by side the projections **14** of one member will seat in the recesses **16** of the adjacent member. The grooves **18** in the projections **14** of one member will be automatically longitudinally aligned with the grooves **18** in the projections **14** of the adjacent member. The vertical partitions **12** or other locking members are then inserted in such grooves. These lock adjacent base members against lateral separation. The interfitting projections and recesses prevent longitudinal displacement of the base members. The grooves are deep enough to support such partitions which then become dividers for filing pockets for said desk file.

In expandable desk files it is preferable to also have base end members **20**. These members are identical to each other and have one straight side. The other side has projections **14** and recesses **16** identical to those of the base members **10**. A desk file can be formed with two end pieces **20**, one base member **10** and two partitions **12**. If more filing pockets are required it is only necessary to withdraw one of the partitions **12** to unlock one of the end base members **20** and add one or more additional base members **10** between the end base member **20** which has been unlocked and base member **10** locked to the other end base member **20**. Then additional partitions **12** are fitted in the exposed aligned grooves **18** to lock all base members and construct a desk file with as many pockets as desired.

One advantage of this invention is that only two dies, molds, or jigs are needed, one to make the base members **10** and another to make the end base members **20**. Also the dealer or retailer will be able to supply a large variety of sizes of desk files with a minimum of inventory of parts.

It is to be understood that the undulating or sinusoidal-shaped projections and recesses may take other forms. The projections and recesses may be formed by straight lines which are both perpendicular to and parallel with the longitudinal axis of the members. The essential feature is a symmetric design which permits: (1) projections on one member to fit in recesses of adjacent member; and (2) these members to be locked together.

Another advantage of the construction of the base members as herein described is that they may be molded or cast from metal and/or a plastic material which if desired can simulate a selected wood grain or can be cut from blanks by any well-known metal and/or woodworking methods.

I claim:

1. An expandable desk file comprising:

a plurality of base members arranged side by side;

said base members having undulating sides forming symmetrically positioned projections separated by recesses, the sides of said projections and recesses being sloped with respect to an imaginary straight line normal to those ends of said base members which form the sides of the desk file when assembled to prevent longitudinal displacement of said base members when assembled with vertical partitions;

each of said projections having a groove opening downwardly from the upper surface of and extending across said projections;

the projections on one member being seated in the recesses of an adjacent member with the grooves in adjacent members aligned; and

vertical partitions fitted in said aligned grooves to lock adjacent base members, said partitions being supported by said grooves to form filing pockets for said desk file.