J. ZIMMERMAN.

SHELF ADAPTER.

APPLICATION FILED FEB. 17, 1921.

1,394,133. Patented Oct. 18, 1921.

Fig. 1.

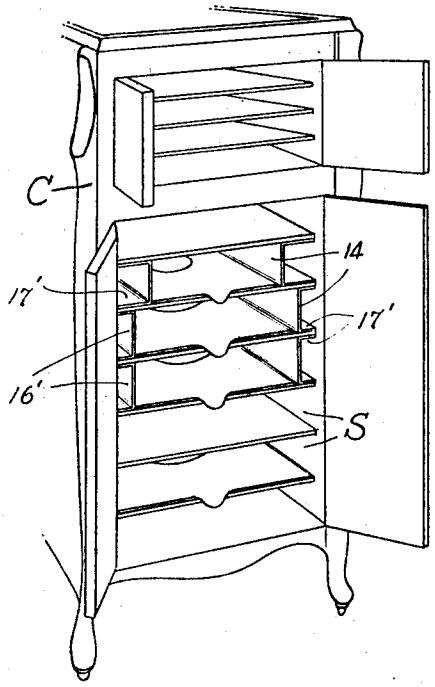


Fig. 2.

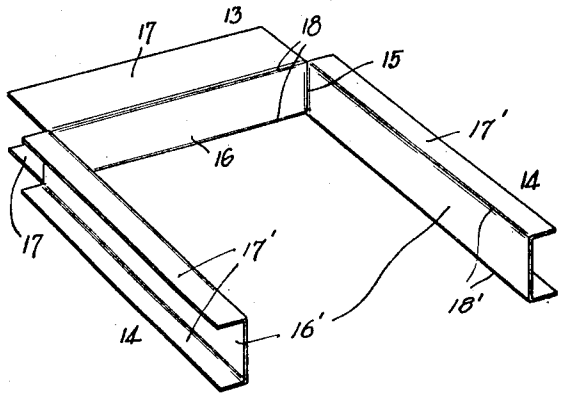


Fig. 4.

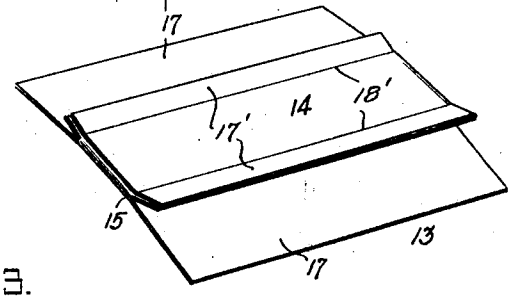
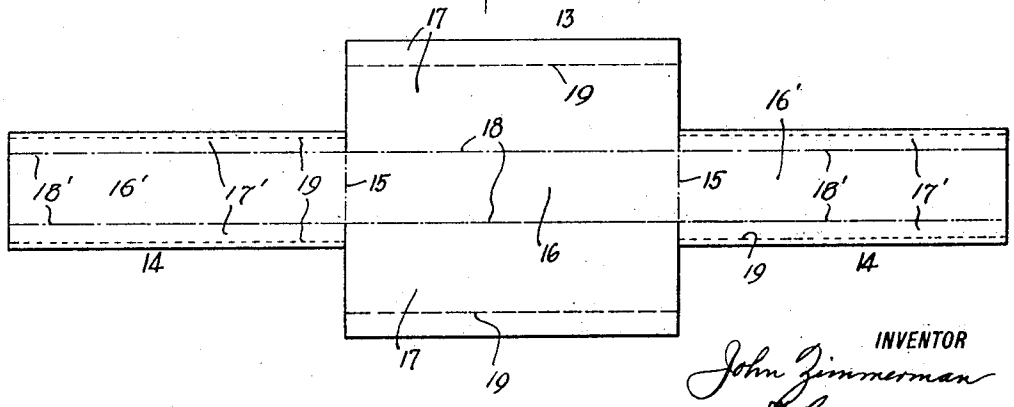


Fig. 3.



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SHELF-ADAPTER.

1,394,133. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Oct. 18, 1921.

Application filed February 17, 1921. Serial No. 445,744.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN ZIMMERMAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Jamaica, in the county of Queens and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Shelf-Adapters, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to shelving or other analogous storage receptacles, and has particular reference to means of a simple, relatively cheap, and yet effective reliable means for adapting shelves of larger capacity to accommodate articles of a smaller size and which ordinarily without the adapter are liable to be arranged or left in a disorderly condition or position in the shelves.

More specifically stated, my invention has among its objects to adapt a shelf of given dimensions for the reception and holding in neat regular order articles of a known smaller size and which otherwise would not ordinarily be kept in neat position, or in such condition as to make it easy for one of such articles to be selected from among a number of them in the same shelf.

A further and more definite object is to provide a device of any suitable material, such as cheap straw board or analogous construction, whereby the edges thereof may be readily trimmed as set forth more fully below, to adapt the size of a shelf such as that of a phonograph cabinet, to substantially fit the record disks and their envelops, and hence the several records may thus be kept in shelves adapted in size to correspond to the size of the records and their envelops.

With the foregoing and other objects in view the invention consists in the arrangement and combination of parts hereinafter described and claimed, and while the invention is not restricted to the exact details of construction disclosed or suggested herein, still for the purpose of illustrating a practical embodiment thereof reference is had to the accompanying drawings, in which like reference characters designate the same parts in the several views, and in which—

Figure 1 is a diagrammatic perspective view of a cabinet having a plurality of shelves and indicating the advantages of the adapter.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the adapter detached and in operative position.

Fig. 3 is a plan view of the adapter flat.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the adapter folded.

Referring now more particularly to the drawings I show at C a cabinet having any suitable number of shelves S. In the best modern practice or equipment of disk record cabinets, especially when the records are kept in individual envelops, the envelops are provided with tabs serving to carry labels or other means to identify the name of the selection or composer or both, and for convenience in discovering any desired record in a group thereof in a cabinet it is important that the records be kept in regular order so that the tabs or labels will all be presented equally to view or manipulation. It is well known also that music in a music cabinet, whether sheet music or phonograph records, has an almost hopeless heterogeneous condition, due to a previous rummaging hunt through the mass for one or more selections, making it thereafter needlessly difficult to find a subsequent selection because of the disorder. Moreover, for the sake of neatness it is highly desirable that the music sheets or records be kept well arranged.

In view of the foregoing it will be readily appreciated that for music sheets or records to be kept in neat and regular order without special effort on the part of the player the size of the shelf should be adapted to the size of the record or sheet so that when the record or sheet is put into the shelf it will automatically lie in a predetermined position or place. Assuming, therefore, that the shelves S as made in the cabinet have a capacity suited to hold 12 inch records in square envelops, such as are usually employed for the records, it follows that when the records thus inclosed in envelops are slipped into the shelves they will be forced to occupy a predetermined position one upon another and with their edges straight with respect to the cabinet and parallel to one

another. If then these envelops have projecting tabs bearing initials or other identifying means the operator has little difficulty in locating any record whose identity is known.

Considering now the adaptation of the size of the shelves S to smaller records and their envelops, say 10 inch size, it is obvious that the front edges of the envelops should be disposed adjacent to the front edge of the shelf. Hence, it is requisite that means be provided at the back thereof to prevent them from being placed or moved farther back, and also that means be provided to coöperate with their side edges to keep them perfectly straight and directly one above the other It will be noted, however, that even though the records may not be placed directly one above the other with respect to their side edges it is nevertheless easy to locate a record if means is provided to abut against their rear edges serving to hold them in registry at their front edges with the front edge of the shelf. It is not necessary, therefore, in all cases to restrict the width of the shelf at the same time the depth of the shelf is restricted to the size of an object smaller than the shelf.

In carrying out this invention in a preferred embodiment and one which I have developed in a practical manner, I employ a sheet of material such as straw board or the like and fashion it as indicated in Fig. 3 so as to comprise a main central portion 13 and two end wings or portions 14. The end wings are attached to the central part along two bending lines 15 whereby the wings are adapted to fold over flat upon the central portion as shown in Fig. 4 or to be extended therefrom in use as in Fig. 2.

The central portion 13 of the device comprises three panels 16 and 17, there being two panels 17 connected along bending lines 18 to opposite or upper and lower edges of the panel 16. From the flat form of the device, the panels 17 fold rearward parallel to each other around the bending lines 18 and lie in contact with the upper and lower surfaces of the shelf space S, thus holding the panel 16 vertical. The resiliency of the material at the bending lines 18 tends to cause the panels 17 to hug permanently against the adjacent surfaces of the shelf.

The wings 14 likewise each comprise preferably three panels 16′ and 17′ corresponding to the similarly numbered parts of the central portion 13. When folded partially around the bending line 15 and with the panels 17′ bent at right angles to the panel 16′, around the bending lines 18′, the panels 17′ hug against the upper and lower surfaces of the shelf space and serve thereby to hold not only the panel 16′ vertical but from movement laterally. In other words, the resiliency of the material is such as to tend always to straighten and flatten the entire structure, but the straightening is resisted by the sides of the shelf space and the flattening is resisted by the upper and lower surfaces of said space. Thus I provide a clear shelf space between the side panels 16′ and in front of the rear panel 16 corresponding to the size of the articles to be contained in such shelf.

For the best practice my adapter is cut or stamped, with the bending line portions creased with proper recognition of the size of the music sheet or disk, taking into consideration the size of the shelf space to be adapted thereto. If, however, the width and depth of the shelf space are uncertain, with respect to the articles to be housed therein the capacity of the adapted shelf space may be determined nevertheless according to the size of the articles to be housed therein, by simply trimming off certain portions of the panels 17 and 17′ as indicated for example along the dotted lines 19. More definitely assuming that a shelf 14 inches square and of a height equal to the height of the panel 16 is to be adapted for 12 inch records the length of the panel 16 would be 12 inches between bending lines 15. The width of the panels 17 from the bending lines 18 would be 2 inches so as to establish the panel 16 exactly 12 inches back of the front edge of the shelf. The width of the panels 17′ would be 1 inch. The matter of length of the panels 16′ and 17′ is of minor importance. Assuming that the same adapter is intended to be used for either 10 inch or 12 inch records or records even smaller than 10 inches the width of the panels 17 and 17′ will be so predetermined as to establish the smallest space intended and then by breaking or clipping off portions thereof along predetermined lines such as 19, it is obvious that larger records than the minimum may easily be accommodated, and so the size of the shelf is adapted to the size of the articles to be contained therein and yet always maintain the front edges of the articles flush with the front edge of the shelf.

For shipment or packing in large quantities the adapters may be kept in flat form as in Fig. 3 but for transportion or packing of a smaller quantity they may be folded flat as in Fig. 4. The device is not only simple and neat in appearance, serving to hold the shelf goods in neat condition, but moreover is of a very substantial nature due to the fact that the active panels 16 and 16′ thereof are always well supported and are not calculated for movement relative to the shelf structure, for when once put into place in the shelf they are never disturbed so long as the shelf is intended for use with articles sized according to the adapter.

I claim:

1. A shelf adapter comprising a plurality of panels arranged at right angles to one

another and of a height substantially equal to the vertical height of the shelf space, and means coöperating with the otherwise free edges of said panels to hold them at a predetermined distance from the side walls of the shelf space.

2. A shelf adapter comprising a vertical rear panel, means to hold said rear panel parallel to and at a predetermined distance from the rear wall of a shelf space, a pair of parallel side panels attached at their rear ends to the ends of the first mentioned panel, and means connected to the otherwise free edges of the side panels to hold the side panels at predetermined distances from the side walls of the shelf space.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

JOHN ZIMMERMAN.