Sept. 3, 1929. E. M. SHREEVE 1,726,632

MAIL DISTRIBUTING CASE

Filed July 5, 1928 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

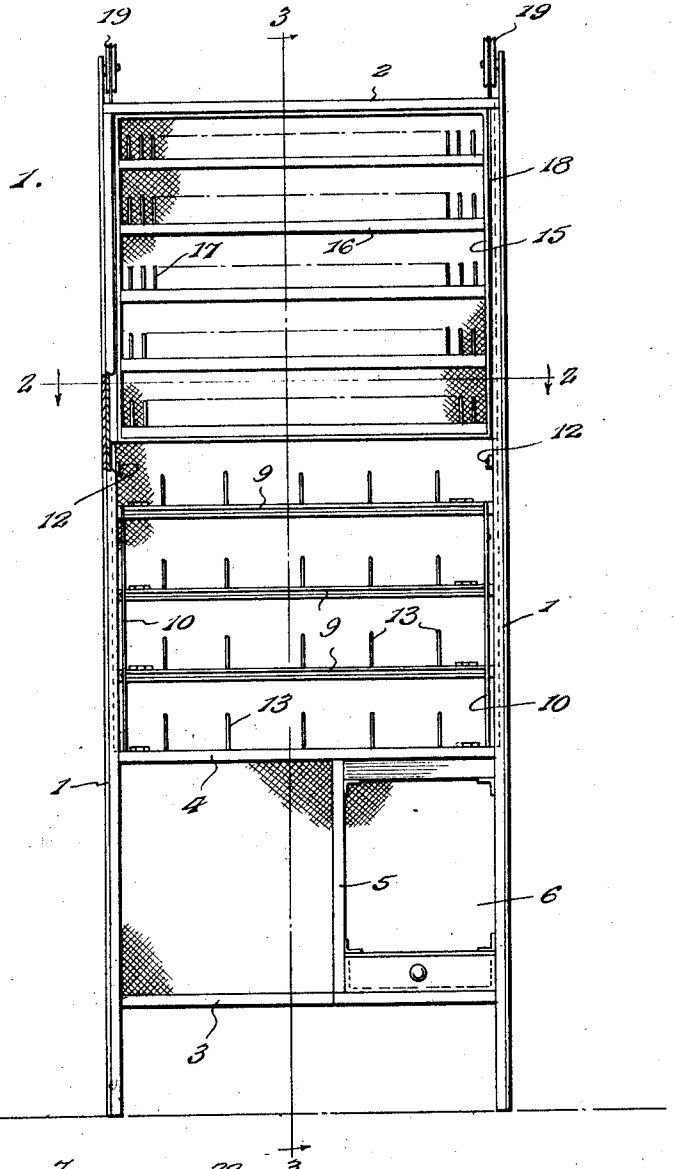
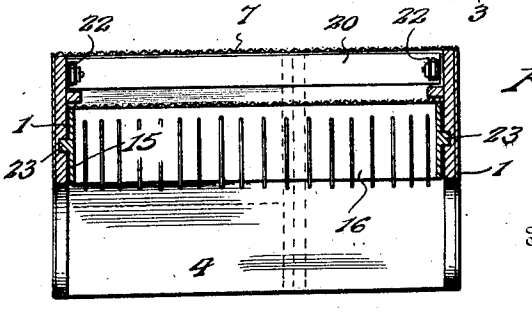


Fig. 2.



Inventor

E. M. Shreeve.

By Lacey & Lacey, Attorneys

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Fig. 3.

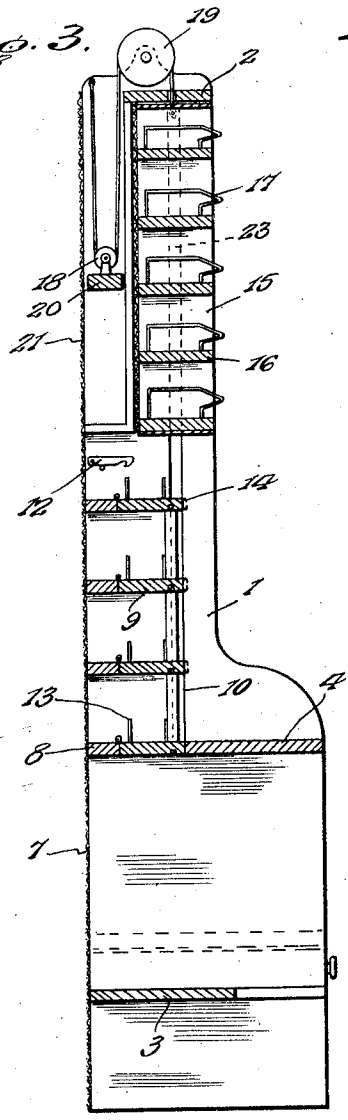
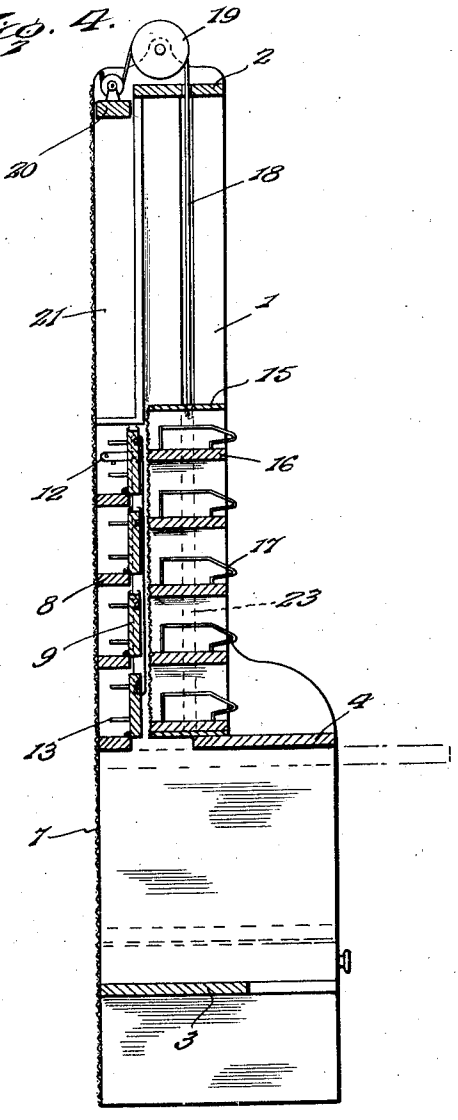


Fig. 4.



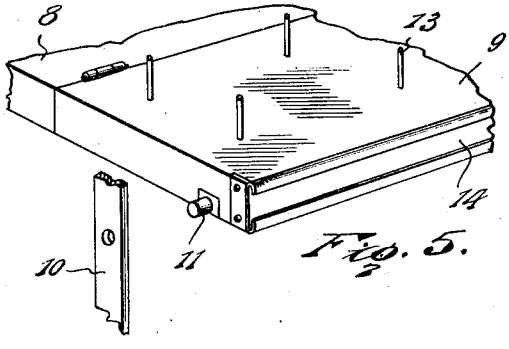


Fig. 5.

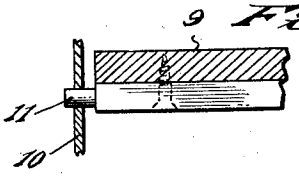


Fig. 6.

Inventor

E. M. Shreeve.

By Lacey & Lacey, Attorneys

Patented Sept. 3, 1929. 1,726,632

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ERNEST M. SHREEVE, OF OGDEN, UTAH.

MAIL-DISTRIBUTING CASE.

Application filed July 5, 1928. Serial No. 290,607.

The invention aims to conserve space and facilitate the routing of mail, and provides a case whereby different classes of mail, such as letters, newspapers and periodicals may be assorted when arranging the same for delivery.

The invention contemplates a case embodying two sets or tiers of shelves, one set being movable vertically and counterbalanced, and the other set being foldable so as not to obstruct the path of the movable set.

While the drawings illustrate a preferred embodiment of the invention, it is to be understood that in adapting the means to meet specific needs and requirements, the design may be varied and such other changes in the minor details of construction may be resorted to within the scope of the invention as claimed, without departing from the spirit thereof.

For a full understanding of the invention and the merits thereof, reference is to be had in the following description and the drawing hereto attached, in which:—

Figure 1 is an elevational view of a mail routing case embodying the invention.

Figure 2 is a horizontal sectional view on the line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a vertical transverse sectional view on the line 3—3 of Figure 1 showing the letter unit elevated and the paper unit lowered.

Figure 4 is a view similar to Figure 3 showing the letter unit lowered and the paper unit folded.

Figure 5 is an enlarged fragmentary view of a portion of one of the folding shelves of the paper unit.

Figure 6 is a fragmentary sectional view of the part illustrated in Figure 5.

Corresponding and like parts are referred to in the following description and designated in the several views of the drawing by like reference characters.

The case is relatively small and shallow and comprises a cabinet and independent sets of shelves, the one for use in routing letters and the other for routing newspapers, circulars and like matter. The cabinet comprises similar side pieces 1, a top 2, a bottom 3, and an intermediate desk top 4. The space included between the desk top 4 and bottom 3 is divided by means of a vertical partition 5 to form a compartment for receiving a box 6 for holding newspapers, circulars and other matter when routing the same. The back 7 of the cabinet is covered with wire netting, which admits of light and ventilation and prevents displacement of the mail during the routing process.

The paper unit includes a plurality of transverse strips 8 which are narrow and disposed one above the other adjacent the back 7. Shelves 9 are hinged to the respective strips 8, to aline therewith when lowered into horizontal position, as indicated most clearly in Figures 3 and 5 of the drawings. Bars 10 connect the shelves 9 and engage journals 11 projecting at opposite ends adjacent the forward edges of the shelves. Latches 12 at the sides of the cabinet are adapted to hold the shelves 9 in folded position, as indicated most clearly in Figure 4 of the drawings. Pins 13 projecting upwardly from the shelves 9 serve to hold the newspapers and other matter in place when assorted during the routing operation.

The bottom shelf of the paper unit alines with the part 4 thereby admitting of the newspapers, circulars and like matter being assorted upon the desk top 4. The butts of the hinges connecting the shelves 9 with the strips 8 face upwardly, hence the rear edges of the shelves abut the forward edges of the strips 8 and are thus supported in horizontal position as indicated most clearly in Figures 3 and 5 of the drawings. Label holders 14 are applied to the forward edges of the shelves 9 and consist of strips of sheet metal having their longitudinal edge portions recurved so as to engage opposite edge portions of the labels as will readily be appreciated.

The letter unit is movable vertically and comprises a rectangular frame 15 and a plurality of shelves 16. Each of the shelves 16 has a plurality of openings formed therein to receive spacers 17 which serve to hold the letters in spaced position. The letter unit is counterbalanced and directed in its vertical movements. A cord 18 is attached at one end to each side of the frame 15 and passes over a guide pulley 19 at the top of each of the side pieces 1. A weight 20 slidable in a pocket 21 is provided at each end with a pulley 22 beneath which the cords 18 pass, the opposite ends of the cords being attached to the sides 1 adjacent the top thereof. When the letter unit is lowered the

weight 20 is elevated and when the letter unit is raised the weight 20 is lowered.

The pocket 21 is located above the strips 8 of the paper unit thereby admitting of the letter unit having an unobstructed movement vertically when the shelves 9 are folded as indicated most clearly in Figure 4 of the drawings. Vertical guide strips 23 at opposite sides of the letter unit are received in guide grooves formed in the sides 1 and direct the letter unit in its vertical movement and prevent forward or backward movement thereof in any adjusted position.

In routing the mail the paper unit is folded and the letter unit is drawn downwardly and rests upon the desk top 4. This position of the unit is indicated in Figure 4 of the drawings. The letters to be routed are placed upon the desk top 4 and are properly positioned upon the shelves 16 as they are assorted. After the letters have been routed the tier of shelves 16 is moved upwardly to the position indicated in Figure 3 and the shelves 9 are lowered into operative position. The newspapers, circulars, periodicals and like matter placed in the bin 6 are assorted and properly positioned upon the shelves 9 and are tied into bundles and arranged for delivery. The shelves 9 are now folded and the letter unit drawn downwardly and any letters received are distributed after which the letters may be tied in bundles and otherwise arranged for delivery.

It is observed that the case results in a material saving of floor space and facilitates the assorting and routing of the mail, and in consequence the expense incident to enlarging quarters is obviated with a material saving both in the position of quarters and time required in the routing of the mail for delivery.

Having thus described the invention, I claim:—

1. A mail routing case, comprising a cabinet, a tier of folding shelves within the cabinet, bars pivotally connecting the shelves to permit simultaneous folding and unfolding thereof, a tier of vertically movable shelves adapted to clear the folding shelves and a counterweight for the vertically movable shelves disposed in the plane of the folding shelves so as not to interfere with the vertically movable shelves.

2. A mail routing case, including a cabinet, transverse strips adjacent the back of the cabinet, folding shelves hinged to the transverse strips, means for simultaneously folding and unfolding the shelves, and a tier of shelves movable vertically in front of the shelves when folded.

3. A mail routing case, comprising a cabinet, a desk top intermediate the top and bottom of the cabinet, a tier of folding shelves adjacent the back of the cabinet, one shelf of the tier, when unfolded, being adapted to align with the desk top, a tier of shelves movable vertically in front of the folding shelves and a counter weight connected with the vertically movable shelves and operable in the space adjacent the back of the cabinet and provided above the tier of folding shelves.

4. The combination with a cabinet including vertical sides, transverse strips disposed adjacent the back of the cabinet, shelves hinged to the transverse strips and limited in their downward movement thereby, bars pivotally connecting the folding shelves, and means for holding the shelves in folded position.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

ERNEST M. SHREEVE.