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OVERHEAD TOOLBOX

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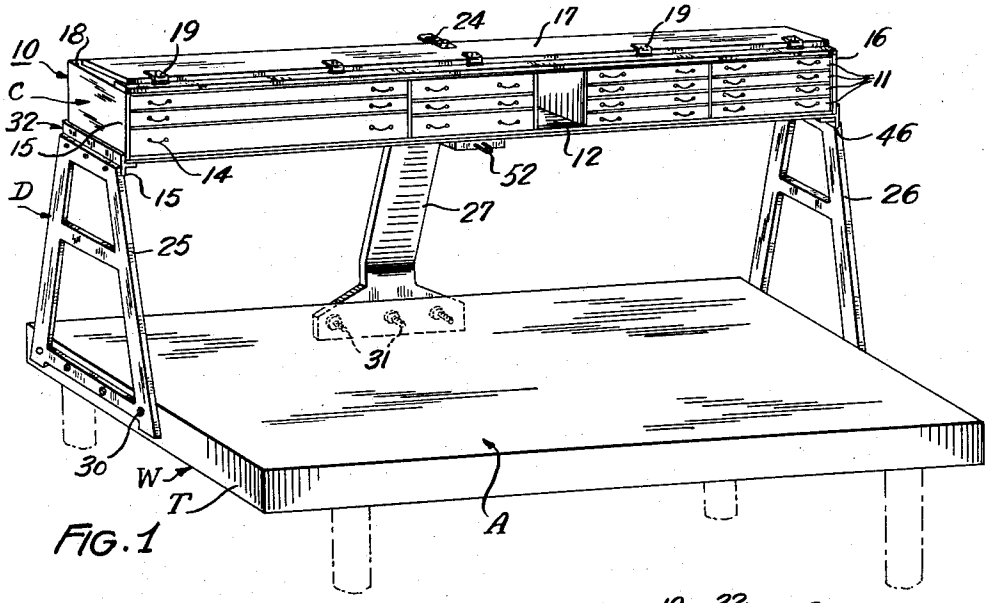


FIG. 1

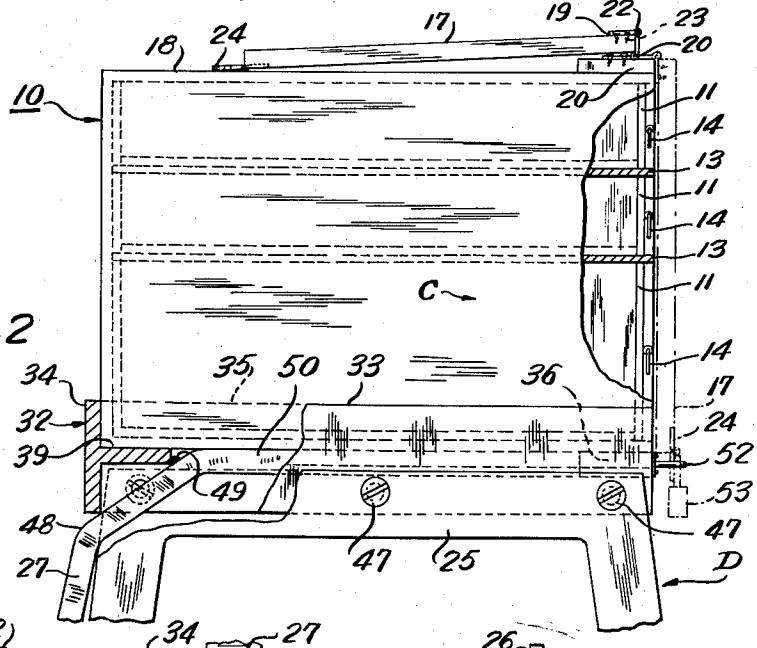


FIG. 2

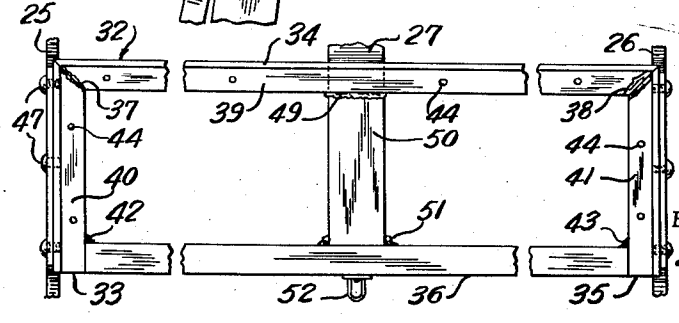


FIG. 3

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OVERHEAD TOOLBOX

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2 Claims. (Cl. 312—253)

This invention relates to a toolbox of a type which is adapted to be mounted for use on a workbench. More particularly, the toolbox is in the nature of a cabinet structure together with supporting elements, which may be arranged to provide a storage space for tools in an elevated or overhead position with respect to the surface of a workbench or table.

Prior to this invention it has been the practice of toolmakers, mechanics and other artisans to place their toolboxes directly on the surface of the workbench thereby severely restricting the available work space on a given bench or table.

It is therefore an object of this invention to provide a toolbox having a cabinet portion supported by a mounting means at an elevation above the top surface of a workbench or the like to leave substantially the entire area of the surface unobstructed.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a toolbox having such a cabinet portion and a supporting means therefor and which can be readily installed on existing workbenches to thereby effect a substantial increase in the availability of working space.

Another object of the invention is to provide a toolbox assembly which comprises a plurality of drawers and spaces for tools and other items, and a swingable cover therefor which may be locked in a position covering the drawers.

Still another object is to provide a toolbox comprising a cabinet portion and a supporting structure and which can be sturdily and economically constructed from readily available materials.

Other objects and advantages of this invention will become apparent from the following detailed description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing forming a part of this specification and in which,

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a toolbox constructed in accordance with this invention and installed on a workbench;

Fig. 2 is a partial end view of the tool box of Fig. 1 showing the same on a larger scale and with portions thereof broken away to reveal structural details; and

Fig. 3 is a plan view of the mounting means or support structure of the toolbox and showing the horizontal frame member and the associated ends of the upright brackets.

The novel toolbox **10** of this invention comprises, in general, a cabinet structure or portion C and a mounting means D for supporting the cabinet structure in an elevated or overhead relation to the top or table portion T of a workbench or the like W so as to leave the work area A of the top T unobstructed.

The cabinet portion C comprises a box-like structure having outer walls and provided with a plurality of drawers **11** of varying sizes for receiving tools. There is also provided a compartment or pigeon-hole **12** which is of a size to receive time cards, work reports, or the like. As may best be seen in Fig. 2, the drawers **11** are separated from one another by spacing elements **13** upon which the drawers may slide.

Each drawer is provided with a drawer pull, or a pair of pulls, as indicated by the numeral **14**. The pulls **14** are advantageously of the folding or swingable handle type. The drawers **11** are of such a size that, when they are fully closed, the pulls **14** will not project beyond the plane of the edges **15**, **16** of the cabinet walls.

The cabinet stucture C also comprises a swingable front cover **17** which may be locked in a position overlying the fronts of the drawers **11**. The cover **17** is shown in Fig. 2 in solid lines in its open position, that is, folded back so as to overlie the top wall **18** of the cabinet structure, and is shown in Fig. 3 in broken lines in its closed position overlying the drawers **11**.

A plurality of suitable hinges **19** serve to swingably connect the cover **17** to an edge bar or strip **20** which is fastened in any suitable way to the top wall **18** of the cabinet structure C. The hinges **19** are conveniently of the type having two pivot pins, as indicated at **21**, **22** in Fig. 2, to permit the cover **17** to assume its two extreme positions. Fastening means such as the screws shown at **23** are used to secure the hinges in place. The cover **17** is further provided with a suitable hasp **24** which cooperates with an eye or staple in a manner described later to permit locking the cover in its closed or drawer-overlying position.

Turning now to a description of the cabinet mount or supporting structure D, it can be seen from Fig. 1 that the mount comprises two upright end brackets **25** and **26** and a horizontal frame **32** extending between the upper portions of the end brackets. The mount D preferably also comprises an upright center bracket **27**. The brackets **25**, **26** and **27** are attached at their lower ends to the workbench W, preferably by being secured to edges of the top T as by means of suitable screws or the like, some of which are indicated by the numerals **30**, **31**. At their upper ends, the upright brackets **25**, **26**, **27** are suitably connected to the horizontal frame means **32**.

The horizontal frame means **32** is preferably formed principally from lengths of T-shaped metal bar stock. The T-shaped stock is formed into three sides **33**, **34** and **35** of the frame **32** as can best be seen in the plan view of Fig. 3. The three sides are joined at mitered corners preferably by welding as indicated at **37** and **38**. This arrangement provides the three sides **33**, **34**, **35** with inwardly directed flanges **39**, **40** and **41** extending from the vertical webs of the T stock. The fourth or front side of the frame **32** is formed by a flat metal bar **36** which is welded at the ends thereof to flanges **40**, **41** as indicated at **42**, **43**.

The frame **32** is of substantially the same plan size and shape as the cabinet structure C so that, as can be seen in Figs. 1 and 2, the cabinet structure may be seated on and supported by the flanges **39**, **40** and **41** and be held from lateral displacement by the vertical webs of the T-shaped stock. The flanges **39**, **40**, **41** are provided with holes such as at **44** which allow for fixing the cabinet portion C securely to the frame **32** as by suitable screws or the like.

The upright end brackets **25** and **26** preferably have the inner edges of their upper ends relieved so as to form shoulders **45**, **46**. The shoulders carry the vertical webs of the respective ends of the frame **32**. Bolts or machine screws **47** serve to connect the frame **32** securely to the upright end brackets.

The particular shape of the end brackets **25**, **26** may be varied, but the A-shape illustrated is a preferred form as it offers strength while presenting a minimum of obstruction at the edges of the work area A.

The center bracket **27** is of a cantilever shape extending upwardly and forwardly to a point **48** just beneath the frame **32**, at which point it is bent to extend adjacent flange **39** to which it is secured by a weld **49**. From the

weld 49 portion 50 of bracket 27 crosses horizontally to join frame element 36 where the two are united by welding as at 51.

Located at the center of the front frame element 36 is a pad eye or staple 52. This staple 52 co-operates with the above-mentioned hasp 24 located on the cover 17. With the cover in the closed position the staple 52 will extend through the slot in hasp 24, and a padlock 53 passed through the staple 52 will prevent unauthorized access to the drawers 11.

The walls comprising the box portion of the cabinet structure C may be made of sheet metal, wood, or other suitable material, as may the cover 17 and drawers 11. The materials used are preferably dictated by the use and the desirability of matching the materials and finish to those of the bench W to which the invention is applied.

The toolbox 10 can be conveniently referred to as an overhead toolbox because of the relatively elevated position of the cabinet structure C above the work area A of the bench W with which it is associated. The use of the A-shaped brackets in the mount D permits the cabinet structure C to be conveniently located above the rear portion of the bench top T so as not to obstruct the space above the front portion of such top. The horizontal frame 32 of the mount D and the cabinet structure C are preferably of the same length as the workbench, which is usually five feet for a standard-size workbench, but as indicated above are of a shorter front-to-back depth than the top T. The intermediate bracket 27 is a desirable part of the mount D for toolboxes for use on such standard-length workbenches but can be omitted from toolboxes intended for use on shorter workbenches.

From the accompanying drawing and the foregoing detailed description it will be understood that this invention provides an improved toolbox which, by reason of its unique construction, offers the advantage of affording an increase in work space on the bench top while still having a toolbox at the immediate location of the workbench. Further, it can be readily seen that a toolbox with adequate provision for security and due consideration for neatness of appearance has been achieved. The subject toolbox can be supplied as original equipment on new workbenches or made to fit existing benches to effect an increase in available space.

It will now also be recognized from the drawing and foregoing description that the cabinet structure C provides a toolbox of the kind used by tool and die makers to keep their tools, usually checking and measuring tools and instruments, and is supported by the end and intermediate upright brackets 25, 26 and 27 in a position so that it extends above, and for substantially the full length of, the table portion T of the workbench W. The drawing also shows that the support brackets locate the toolbox at an intermediate point between the front and rear edges of the table top T so that the substantial weight represented by the toolbox and its contents will not be concentrated at and above the rear edge of the table top where it would cause the bench to be unstable and subject to being tipped over. When the tool box is substantially coextensive in length with the table top T, as shown in the drawing, its drawers can be arranged in the side-by-side tiers shown, so that even though the bottom of the tool box unit is supported at a height above the table top to provide a satisfactory work space therebetween, the drawers will all still be at no more than a conveniently accessible height for putting in or taking out tools.

Although the improved toolbox and mount of the invention has been illustrated and described herein to a somewhat detailed extent, it will be understood, of course, that the invention is not to be regarded as being limited correspondingly in scope, but includes all changes and modifications coming within the terms of the claims hereof.

Having described my invention, I claim:

1. A tool and die makers toolbox for use on a workbench having a quadrangular top providing a work area, comprising a cabinet structure of a quadrangular shape of a length approximately equal to the length of said top but of a narrower width than said top, drawers in said structure disposed in side-by-side tiers and adapted to contain tool and die makers tools, upright end and intermediate bracket members connected to end and side edge portions of said top and extending thereabove, and horizontally disposed quadrangular frame means mounted on said bracket members, said frame means being of substantially the same plan size as said structure and having the latter supported thereon, said end bracket members being A-shaped and having relatively wide lower ends secured to the end edge portions of said top and relatively narrow upper ends secured to the ends of said frame means, said end bracket members having openings therein adapted to accommodate tool and workpiece portions which overhang edge portions of said top, said intermediate bracket member being of cantilever shape and having a lower securing portion attached to the rear side edge portion of said top and a forwardly extending upper portion secured to an intermediate portion of said frame means, said structure being located and supported by said bracket members at an elevation spaced above said work area and also spaced inwardly from the front and rear side edges of said top.

2. A toolbox as defined in claim 1 and wherein said frame means comprises end and rear bars extending along end and rear edges thereof, said bars being of a flanged shape and having horizontally disposed flanges engaged by the bottom of said structure and vertical flanges in an overlapping and locating relation to side walls of said structure.

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