Sept. 29, 1959 R. E. McCLELLAN 2,906,269

FOLLOWERS FOR FILING CABINETS

Filed July 11, 1955 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

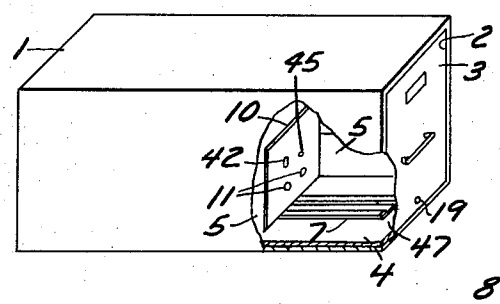


FIG. 1

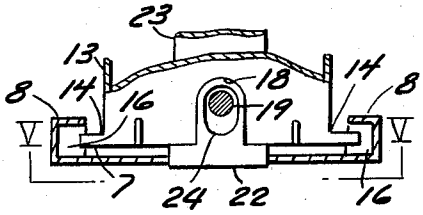


FIG. 4

FIG. 2

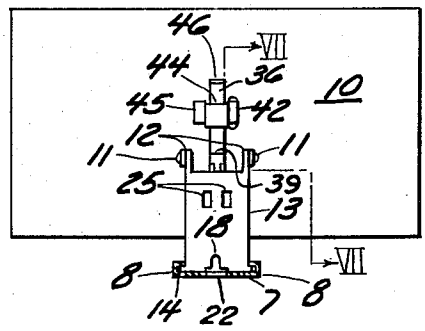


FIG. 5

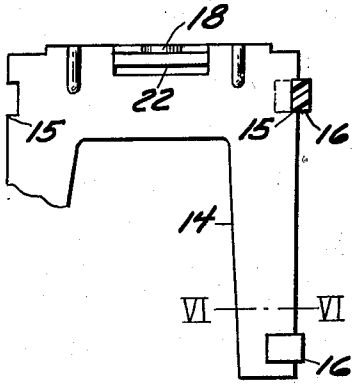
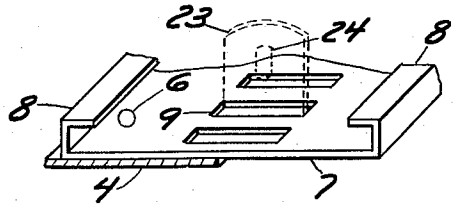


FIG. 3



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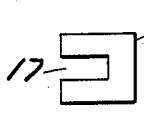


FIG. 6

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FOLLOWERS FOR FILING CABINETS

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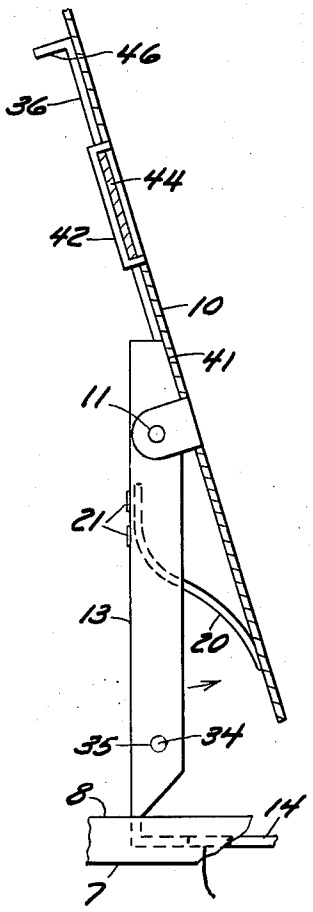
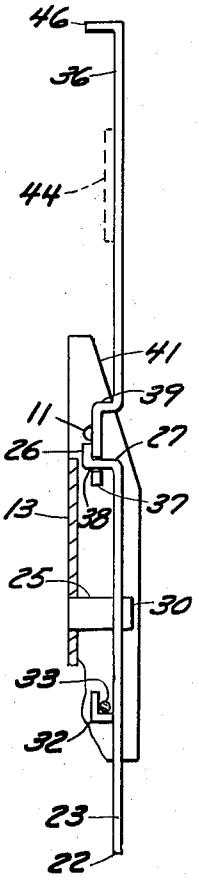


FIG. 7

FIG. 8



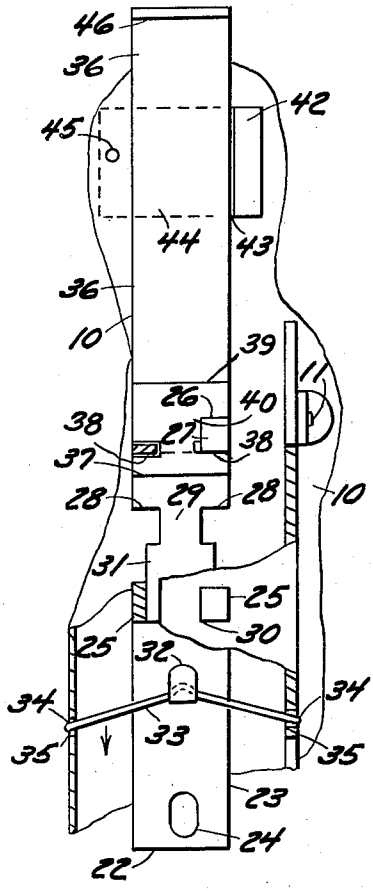


FIG. 9

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FOLLOWERS FOR FILING CABINETS

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Application July 11, 1955, Serial No. 521,062

4 Claims. (Cl. 129—28)

This invention relates to an improvement in followers for filing cabinets. More particularly, it deals with a follower pivotally mounted on a support that is slidable along and latchable to a track in the bottom of a drawer of a filing cabinet.

It is an object of this invention to produce an efficient, simple, effective and economic follower for a filing cabinet that is readily produced, easy to assemble and install, and easily operated and adjusted after it is installed.

Another object of this invention is to provide such a follower which compresses the papers on edge in a drawer more at their bottoms than at their tops when they are held in place by the follower.

Another object is to provide such a follower which when unlatched slides easily along and maintains its alignment with its track, and in which the unlatching mechanism is readily accessible near the top of the follower.

Generally speaking, the follower for a filing cabinet of this invention comprises a notched track mounted along the bottom of a file drawer, a supporting bracket slidable along said track, a follower plate pivotally mounted on the bracket, and a latching mechanism for locking the bracket to the notched track. The bracket has a base and an extended or riser portion to which the follower plate is pivoted. The base of the bracket is provided with a plurality of spaced self-lubricating pads for engagement with the track to maintain the bracket in alignment with the track at all times. The latching mechanism comprises a latch mounted in the riser portion of the slidable supporting bracket, which latch is normally resiliently urged into locking engagement with one of the notches in the track to lock the follower assembly from sliding along the track. A slidable latch operator is provided on the back of the pivoted follower plate, which is hingedly connected to the latch substantially coaxial with the axis of the pivot for the follower plate, whereby the latch may be readily operated by its operator from near the top of the follower plate, regardless of the tilt of the follower plate. Important features of these elements reside in their actual shapes and constructions which insure the ready assembling and operation of the device including its latching mechanism.

The above mentioned and other features and objects of this invention and the manner of attaining them will become more apparent and the invention itself will be best understood by reference to the following description of an embodiment of the invention taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective top view with parts broken away of an embodiment of the follower of this invention installed in a drawer of a filing cabinet;

Fig. 2 is a larger rear elevation of the follower in a track of the drawer of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged perspective view of a portion of the notched track shown in the previous figures with the latching end of the latch on the follower shown in dotted lines in latching position in one of the notches;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged view of the lower portion of Fig. 2,

showing an end of the base of the support for the follower plate mounted in the track, and the latch mounted thereon in full lines in its latched position;

Fig. 5 is an enlarged bottom view of the base of the follower support, with parts thereof broken away;

Fig. 6 is an enlerged detailed view of one of the four lubricating sound deadening shoe pads that is mounted on the base of the follower support shown in Figs. 4 and 5;

Fig. 7 is an enlarged vertical sectional view taken along line VII—VII of Fig. 2 illustrating the mounting for the pivoted follower plate on the follower support with the follower plate in its limited tilted position and with parts of the base of the follower support and track therefor being broken away;

Fig. 8 is a further enlarged vertical section through the upper end of the follower support showing how the latch and latch actuator are connected together when the follower plate is in its other limited or vertical position; and

Fig. 9 is an enlarged rear elevation of the latching mechanism on the follower and follower support as viewed from the right of Fig. 8, but with parts thereof being broken away;

A cabinet or case 1 (Fig. 1) is shown with a front opening 2 to have slidably inserted therein a drawer having a front 3, a bottom 4 and side walls 5. Rivet or other anchoring means 6 (Fig. 3) may fixedly assemble the bottom 4 to a channel track 7 having overhanging flanges 8 which are sufficiently spaced from the drawer front 3 to permit assembly of a follower with the track at this point. The track 7 has a series of parallel slots, notches or seats 9 in the channel web extending transversely of the track general direction.

A panel or follower 10 is shown as having backwardly directed from its central area, a pair of aligned pivot-bearing-providing ears 11 coacting with a pair of spaced ears 12 projecting upwardly from a vertical channel section 13 of an L-shaped follower supporting bracket having a horizontal U-base section 14. Each leg of the U-section has two notches providing seats 15 for a noise deadener and self-lubricating block or pad 16, say of nylon. Notch 17 (Fig. 6) in the pad 16 is of greater depth than the notch 15. Accordingly, with the pad 16 thus seated in section 14 of the L-bracket 13, 14, the panel 10 may be shifted along the track 7 and there is no tendency for the pad 16 to work loose or change position as to the section 14.

The section 13 medially of the cross-over or base of the U-section 14 has rising vertically from the plane of the section 14 a U-shaped opening or slot 18 as a guide or clearway for central base rod 19 (Fig. 4). File spacers also may be freely mounted on this rod 19 to prevent them from being lifted out of the file drawer when papers between them are removed. A leaf spring 20 (Fig. 7) has fixed mounting 21 in the web or channel of the section 13 with its lower free end of flexing value, thereby tending to tilt the top portion of the follower plate 10 away from the front of the drawer. This means there is tendency for the closely placed follower to act to compress the files near the rod 19, but as the follower 10 is released, the follower top swings out for more freedom to remove or place papers in the file.

The latch

An end or tip 22 of slide 23 (Figs. 2, 3 and 4) is reciprocable to engage and disengage a seat or slot 9 in the track 7 as anchored with the drawer bottom 4. Adjacent the tip 22 there is an opening or clearway 24 through the slide 23 through which may freely pass the spacer carrying rod 19. The web of the channel section 13 has formed inward therefrom a pair of ears 25 (Figs.

8 and 9) providing therebetween a guideway of less than the overall width of the slide **23**.

At the opposite end of the slide **23** from its tip **22**, is a pair of offset hooks **26** (Fig. 8) with a spacing ledge **27** (Figs. 8, 9) between them in the plane of the slide **23**. Of slightly greater width than the width of the hooks **26** are opposite cut-ins or notches **28** in the slide **23**, leaving a spacing tongue **29** of the slide **23** so that the tips of the pairs of ears **25** from the bracket **13** may slip therethrough for assembly purposes. The tips **30** of these ears **25** thus provide overhang at slightly wider tongue region **31** extending for approximately twice the width of the ears **25** away from the notches **28**, with the slide full width from thence on to the tip **22**. This slide **23** is the latch proper. In the region between the ends of opening **24** and the ends of tongue guide **31**, which limit the slide normally to reciprocate in use, there is a pushed out hook **32** astride which may be located a wire spring **33** having its ends **34** extend through openings **35** in the flanges of the channel section **13**. The set of this spring **33** is for such to have a down-pull at all times on the slide **23**, thus to urge the tip **22**, as in register with a seat **9**, to enter such.

The latch actuator

A rockable coupling or joint is provided by a push-pull bar **36**. Adjacent to its lower end **37** are two opposing notches **38** (Figs. 8, 9), one from each side of the bar **36** and located in an off-set section **39** at the same end of the bar **36**. This off-set not only permits the major portion of the bar **36** to be parallel with the slide **23** (Fig. 8) but also to have a relative rocking movement between the hooks **26** which loosely fit in the notches **38**, which movement is limited in one direction by the end **37** contacting the slide **23** below the hooks **26**, and also by ends of the hooks **26** contacting the off-set section **39** of the bar **36**. Thus, there is a relative movement between the two interlocking ends of the slidable latch **23** and the slidable latch actuator **36** so that when the plate **10** upon which the latch actuator **36** is slidably mounted is moved from its vertical to its tilted position shown in Fig. 7, the notch **38** slides transversely of the axis of the pivot **11** along the ledge **27** toward the right as shown in Fig. 8, and then in the opposite direction along the ledge **27** when the latch actuator **36** is pulled upwardly while the plate **10** remains in its tilted position.

Assembly of the slide **23** with the bar **36** is accomplished by placing the bar **36** at right angles to the slide **23** and slipping the ends of the hooks **26** into the notches **38** and then rotating the bar **36** until it is parallel with the slide **36** (Fig. 8), so that the notches **38** ride on the off-set portion of the hooks **26**. The space or width of the notches **38** with respect to the width of the off-set section of the hooks **26** are sufficient to provide a loose connection so that the bar **26** may have about a 20° angle tilt or pivot about the off-set portion of the hooks **26** from the full line positions shown in Fig. 8.

The bar **36** is assembled directly with the follower plate **10** by means of a guide strip **44** with an off-set central section for straddling the latch actuator bar **36** as shown in Figs. 7 and 9. One end of the guide **44** may be inserted in an off-set slot **42** and the other end of the guide **44** may be sufficiently large to permit room for a rivet or like means **45** for fastening the supporting guide **44** to the back of the tilting plate **10** and to maintain its free end in the slot **42** and still permit ready longitudinal sliding of the bar **36** through the off-set central section of guide **44** for operation of the latch **23**. So that the lower end of the bar **36** is in approximate alignment with the upper end of the slide **23** and the joint **26, 38**, is close to being coaxial with the pivot bearings **11**. Remote from the offset **39**, the bar **36** has an angle free end **46**, which may serve as a finger hold for pulling the bar **36** and with it the hinge connected slide **23** to withdraw the slide tip **22** from engagement with a seat **9**. As thus released, in the pull against the action of the spring **33**, the follower unit may be shifted for the section **14** to be directed by the track **7, 8**, for larger spacing at the files. With bottom pressure thus released on the follower plate **10**, the spring **20** tends to rock the plate top back for further clearance in access to and handling of the file papers.

It is to be noted that the configuration of the parts is such that the pivot bearings **11** effect the operative assembly of the follower with its slidable mounting and the range of adjustment therefor throughout the length of the drawer. In this assembly, there is clearance between the end of the track **7** toward the drawer front **3** which is sufficient for the section **14** to be entered.

What is claimed and it is desired to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A drawer and drawer follower comprising: a track along the bottom of said drawer having a series of seats therein, an L-shaped follower support having substantially equal length base and upright portions, said base being slidable along said track, a pivot near the upper end of said upright portion, a follower plate connected at a point spaced inwardly from the lower edge of said plate to said pivot, means on said upright portion for limiting the tilting movement of said follower plate about said pivot from a substantially vertical position abutting against the inside of said upright portion to an angular position therewith, a latch slidably mounted on said upright portion and slidable between a position in engagement with said seats along said track and a raised position clear of said seats, a latch actuator slidably mounted on said plate above said pivot and slidable between upper and lower positions to move said latch between its said positions, and a hinged connection between said latch and said actuator near the axis of said pivot with a portion of said actuator engaging said latch and movable relative thereto in one direction transverse of the axis of said pivot as said plate is moved from its said vertical to its said angular position, and said portion movable in an opposite direction as said actuator is moved to move said latch to its raised position when said plate is in its said angular position, whereby said latch may be operated by said latch actuator in any angular position between the limits of tilting movement of said follower plate.

2. A drawer and drawer follower according to claim 1 wherein said base includes a plurality of self-lubricating pads for spacing it from said track for ready slidable movement along said track when said latch is in its raised position clear of said seats.

3. A drawer and drawer follower according to claim 1 wherein said hinged connection between the upper end of said latch and the lower end of said latch actuator comprises interfitted hooks and notches.

4. A drawer and drawer follower according to claim 1 including a resilient means for normally urging said latch into engagement with said seats.

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