

Sept. 11, 1951

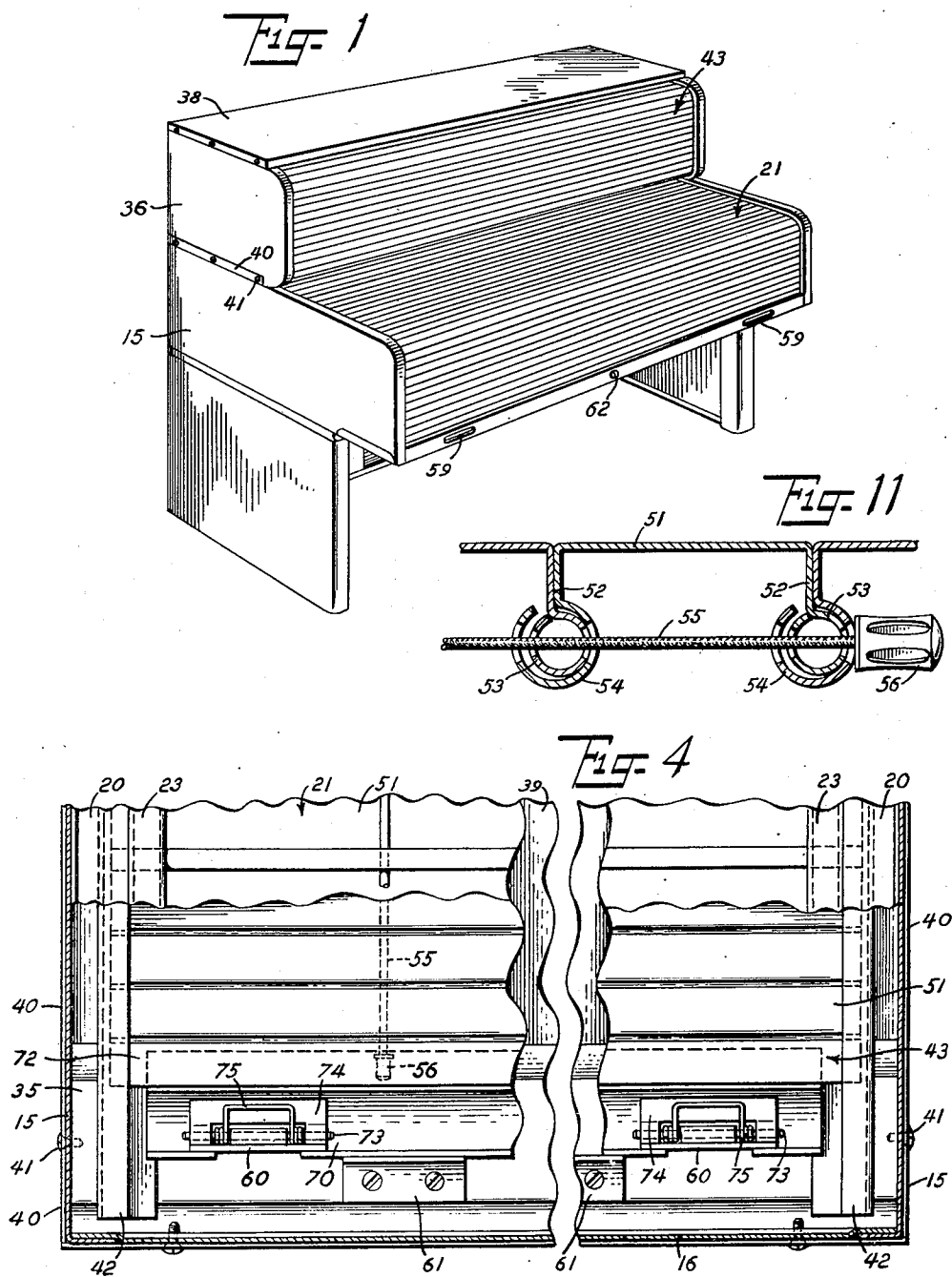
C. F. WOLTERS ET AL

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FLEXIBLE CURTAIN FOR SECTIONAL DESKS

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5 Sheets-Sheet 1



INVENTORS

CARL F. WOLTERS

BY GEORGE E. WATKINS

John H. Gaynor ATTORNEYS

Sept. 11, 1951

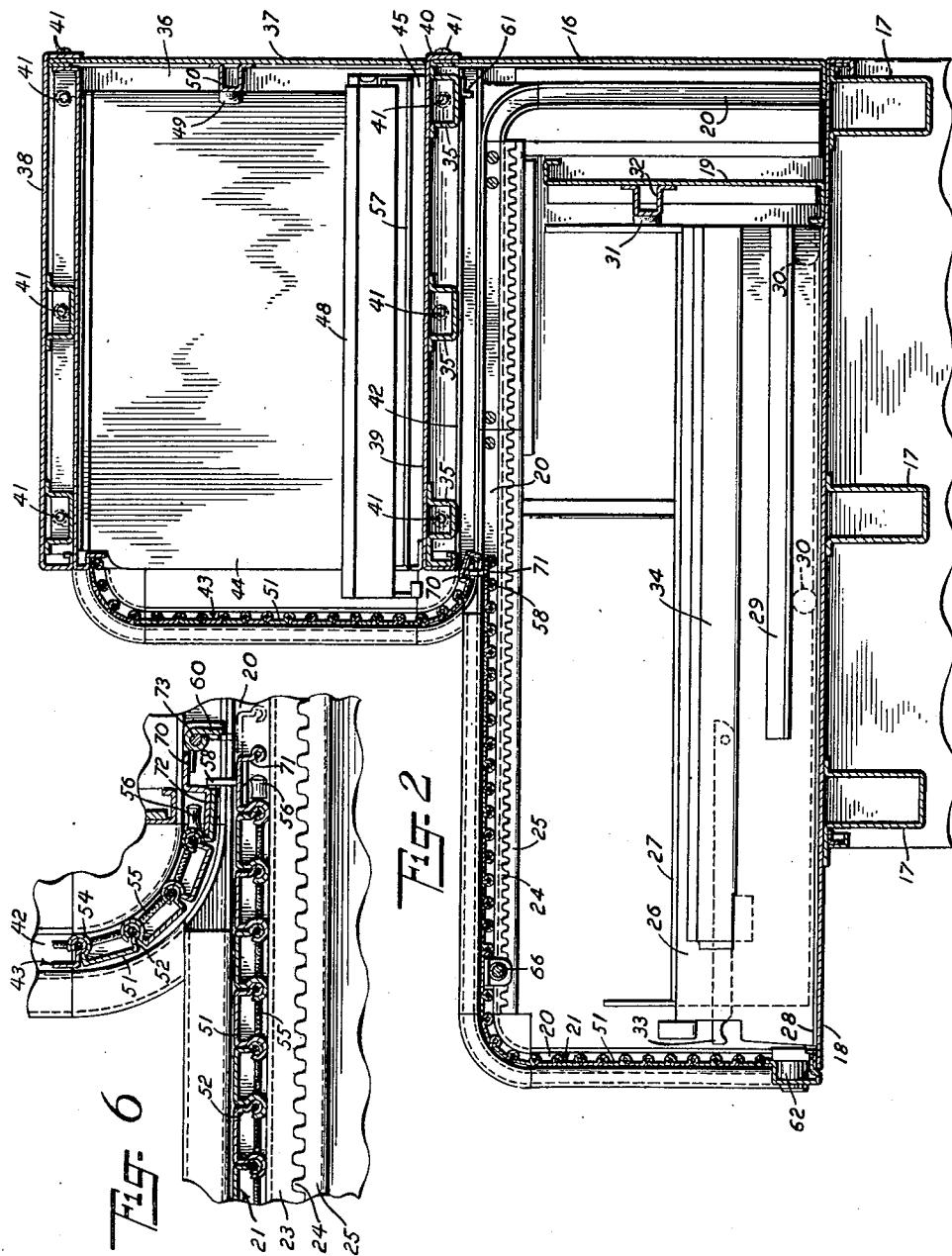
C. F. WOLTERS ET AL

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5 Sheets-Sheet 2



INVENTORS
CARL F. WOLTERS
GEORGE E. WATKINS
BY *Robert H. Gannon*
Robert H. Gannon ATTORNEYS

Sept. 11, 1951

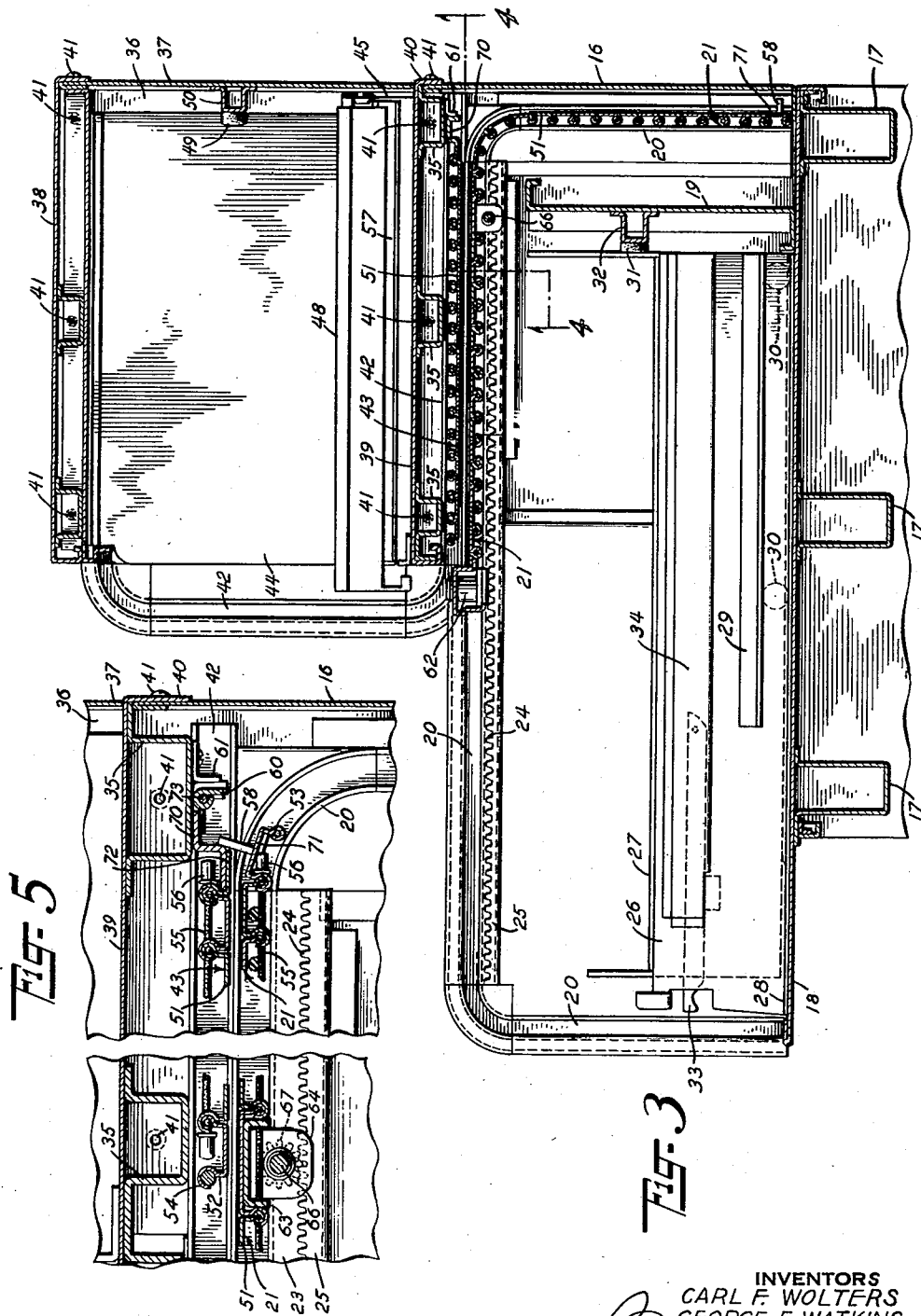
C. F. WOLTERS ET AL

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FLEXIBLE CURTAIN FOR SECTIONAL DESKS

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5 Sheets-Sheet 3



INVENTORS
CARL F. WOLTERS
GEORGE F. WATKINS
BY *John H. Garmon*
ATTORNEYS

Sept. 11, 1951

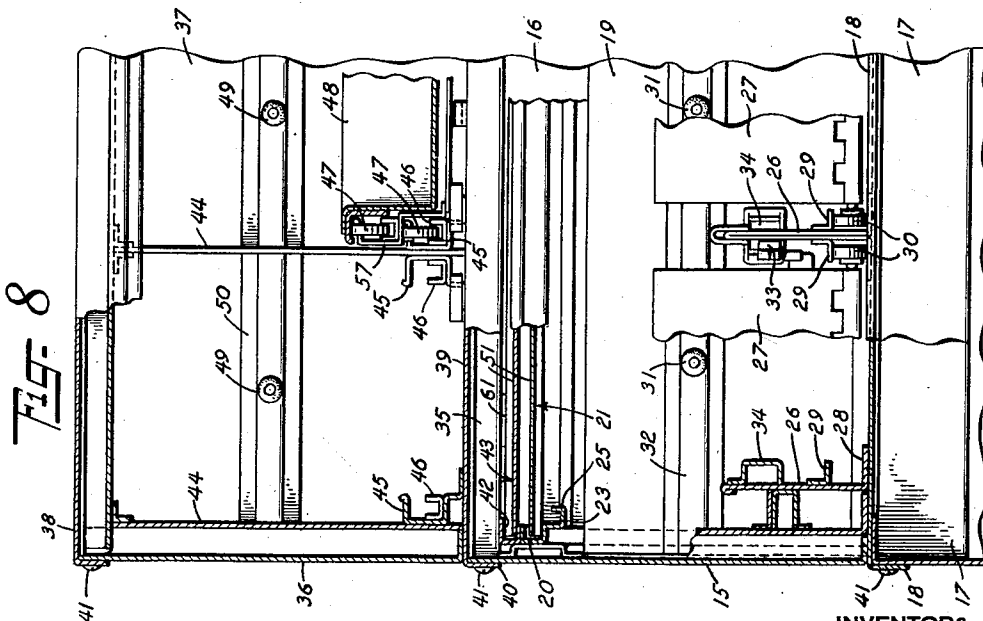
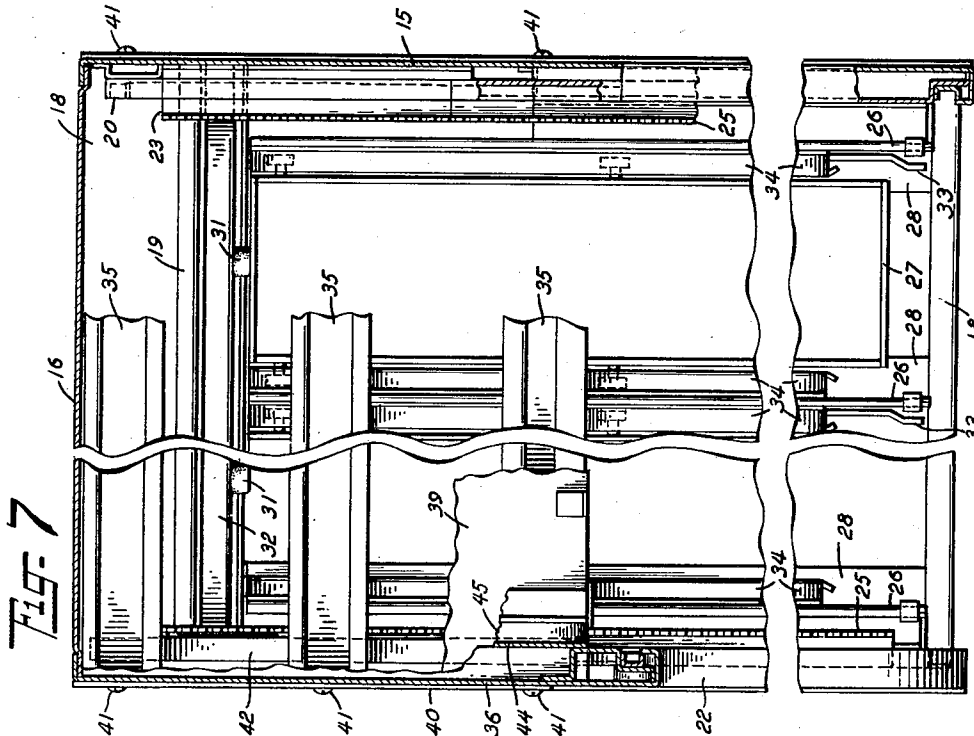
C. F. WOLTERS ET AL

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FLEXIBLE CURTAIN FOR SECTIONAL DESKS

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5 Sheets-Sheet 4



INVENTORS
CARL F. WOLTERS
GEORGE E. WATKINS

Robert T. Roach
BY *John H. Bayner* ATTORNEYS

Sept. 11, 1951

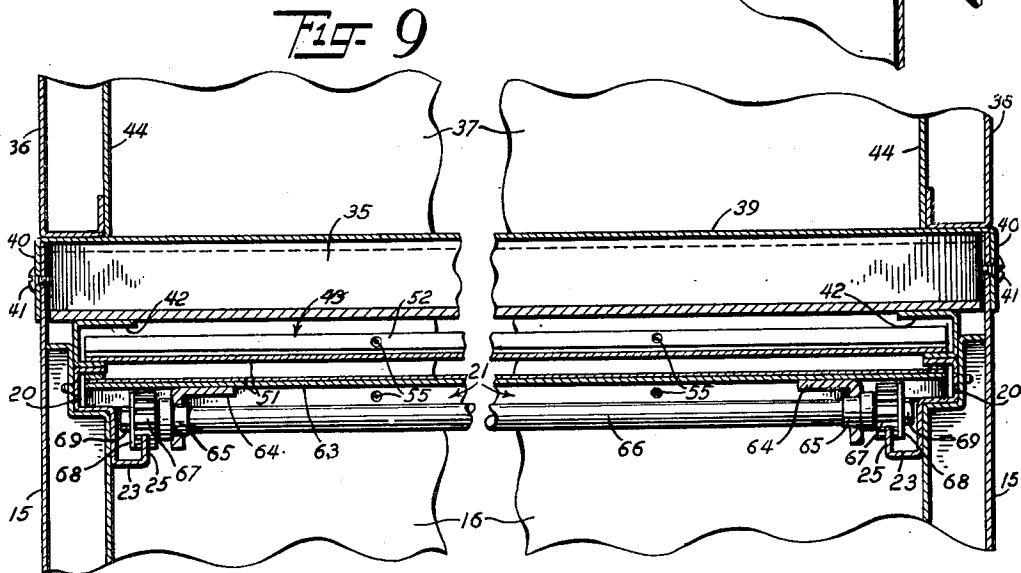
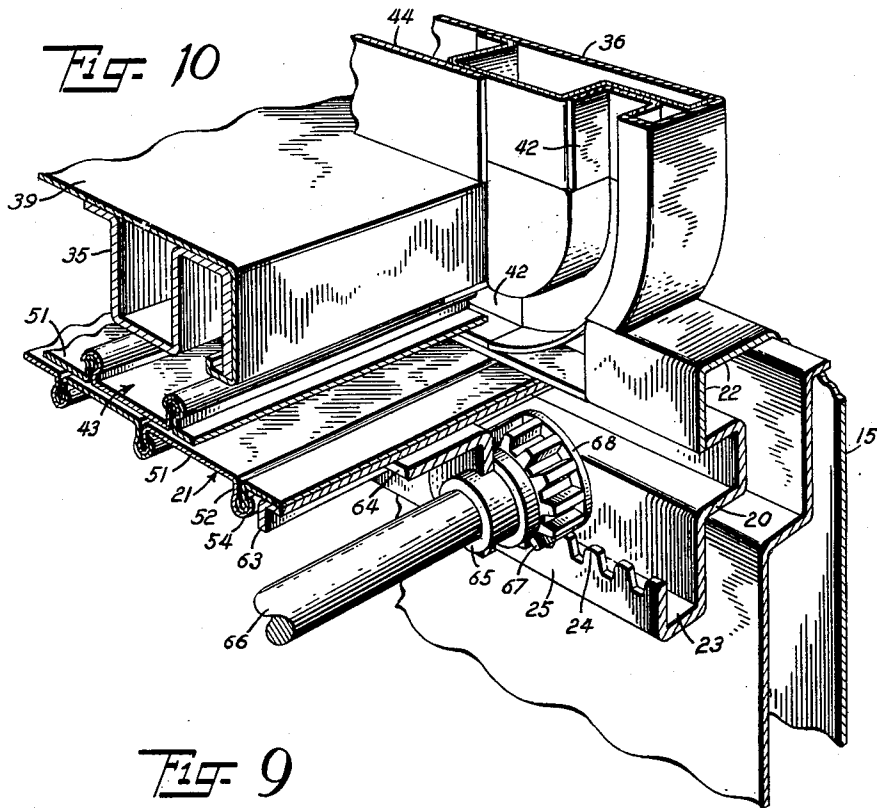
C. F. WOLTERS ET AL

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FLEXIBLE CURTAIN FOR SECTIONAL DESKS

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5 Sheets-Sheet 5



INVENTORS
CARL F. WOLTERS
GEORGE E. WATKINS
BY *John H. Gaynor*
JOHN H. GAYNOR ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,567,536

FLEXIBLE CURTAIN FOR SECTIONAL DESKS

Carl F. Wolters, New Canaan, Conn., and George E. Watkins, Kenmore, N. Y., assignors to Remington Rand Inc., New York, N. Y., a corporation of Delaware

Application January 7, 1948, Serial No. 930

7 Claims. (Cl. 312-271)

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This invention relates to equipment for housing and handling card index and filing trays, particularly to an improved flexible curtain for sectional desk assemblies.

The invention improves presently used sectional desks by providing double flexible curtains particularly adapted to form closures for both the upper and lower sections of the desk assembly.

The invention provides articular type roll curtains in which the curtain forming the closure for the lower section is provided with a pick-up means for operating the curtain forming the closure for the upper section.

The invention also provides an auxiliary tray cabinet adapted to form a plurality of tray compartments with provision for mechanism to support a plurality of trays therein for withdrawal or removal and having a flexible curtain to close the tray compartments, the entire tray cabinet assembly being adapted to be removably secured on the lower sections of a sectionally arranged desk.

The invention provides an articular curtain made up of a plurality of reeds to provide a closure for the open front and top sections of the lower desk, the said curtain being equipped with a lock, pulls, and equalizing mechanism to prevent sagging or distortion of the assembled reeds of the curtain, and which is capable of operating independently or in conjunction with an upper curtain.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a sectional desk embodying the invention, the removable tray section being shown attached to the lower section and both upper and lower curtains shown closed.

Fig. 2 is a vertical transverse cross-section through the center portion of the assembled sectional desk with the double curtain being shown closed to provide closure for both sections of the desk.

Fig. 3 is a cross-section similar to Fig. 2, the double curtains being shown open to permit access to both sections of the desk.

Fig. 4 is a cross-section, partly in elevation, taken substantially on lines 4-4 of Fig. 3, showing the latch and stop for the top curtain in elevation.

Fig. 5 is an enlarged sectional detail of the upper curtain latch and stop at the moment the pick-up carried by the lower curtain engages the upper curtain for simultaneous closure of both curtains.

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Fig. 6 is an enlarged detail cross-section showing juncture of the upper and lower curtains when both curtains are closed to form closures for the respective sections, as shown in Fig. 2.

Fig. 7 is a horizontal cross-section through portions of sections of the desk looking downward, a portion of the shelf of the upper section being broken away to show the support members for the upper section and the relation between the two sections.

Fig. 8 is a fragmentary front elevation of the left hand side of both sections of the desk with the curtains in open position and portions of the desk and one tray broken away and shown in cross-section to illustrate details of construction.

Fig. 9 is a cross-section through the curtain guides, the equalizer rod and associated mechanism being shown in elevation.

Fig. 10 is an enlarged perspective detail of the curtain guides, curtains, and equalizer rod mechanism.

Fig. 11 is a section through one of the curtain reeds, illustrating the method of assembling adjacent reeds, the cable and cable clip being shown in elevation.

The present invention provides an improvement over the cabinet and housing for index card file trays disclosed in copending application, Serial No. 740,255 filed April 8, 1947, now abandoned.

Referring now in detail to the drawings, the numeral 15 designates spaced apart sides of the lower tray section or desk portion secured together by a back 16 secured to and extending between the rear edges of sides 15. The sides are additionally spaced apart by a plurality of frame members 17 carrying a shelf 18 extending from the front edges of sides 15 to back 16. A supplemental back member 19 is mounted on shelf 18 adjacent the rear edge thereof in spaced parallel relation to back 16 to provide space for receiving a portion of a pair of guideways 20 for flexible curtain 21. Guideways 20 are formed of sheet metal having a channel shape in cross-section. Said guideways 20 extend upward adjacent back 16 and then extend along the marginal portions of sides 15 at the top and front portions of the lower tray section so the cover may be moved between the closed and open positions, shown in Figs. 2 and 3. Sides 15 have the top and front edges formed with laterally extending flanges 22 terminating in interturned lips engaging the outer edges of guideways 20. The inner edges of guideways 20 along the top mar-

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ginal portions of sides 15 have flanged portions forming channels 23. Each channel 23 has a plurality of upstanding notched teeth 24 formed on its inner free margin to form parallel longitudinal racks 25, as clearly shown in Figures 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8.

The portion of the desk above shelf 18 provides a tray cabinet. The tray cabinet is sub-divided into a plurality of compartments by upright partitions 26 extending from the front to the rear of shelf 18 in spaced apart parallel relation. A tray 27 is mounted for movement between each adjacent pair of partitions. Each partition 26 is formed with an outward lateral extension at its lower edge secured to the shelf 18 to provide tracks 28. Angle track members 29 are mounted in spaced parallel relation above tracks 28 and terminate rearwardly of the forward edges of partitions 26, as shown in Figures 2 and 3. Angle track members 29 cooperate with track members 28 for receiving rollers 30 mounted on each tray 27, as shown in Figure 8, when trays 27 are mounted in their compartments in the cabinet. Tracks 28 and 29 and rollers 30 provide an anti-friction support so that trays 27 will have free rolling engagement into and out of their respective compartments in the cabinet between partitions 26.

Trays 27 are constructed in any suitable manner well-known in the art, such as those shown in the aforementioned application, and are preferably trays of the character having end walls adapted to be tilted outwardly from a vertical position into an inclined position in use so that the card-supporting panels, dividers and the like mounted in the tray may be swung back and forth for convenient reference to the records mounted and indexed in the tray. Bumpers 31 secured on cross members 32 are positioned at the rear of each compartment for the purpose of returning the end walls of the trays 27 from the tilted to a vertical position by impingement thereagainst when the trays are rolled inwardly into their respective compartments. The cross-members 32 function additionally as braces for supplemental back member 19. Each tray 27 is provided with suitable stop members in the manner described in copending application No. 740,255, the stop members being adapted to cooperate with latch member 33 housed in casings 34 mounted one on each side of partitions 26 near the upper edge thereof, as shown in Figure 8. The front ends of casings 34 are open and the forward ends of latches 33 extend beyond casings 34 and the forward edges of partitions 26, as shown in Figures 2 and 3. The forward ends of latches 33 are available for manual operation to move each latch to inoperative position out of line with the stops carried by the trays to permit complete removal of each tray from within its compartment, all as illustrated and described in the aforesaid copending application.

The auxiliary tray cabinet is mounted above the rear portion of the tray cabinet hereinbefore described. It has spaced apart sides 36 secured together by a back 37 extending between the rear edges of sides 36. A flanged top or cover member 38 is engaged on the upper edges of sides 36 and back 37. Screws 41 are used to secure cover member 38 to sides 36 and back 37. A shelf member 39 extends in adjacent spaced relation between the sides from the front to the back 37. A plurality of spaced transverse support channels 35 are mounted under shelf member 39. Shelf member 39 is formed with dependent flanges 40

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about the sides and back to form an attaching portion on the auxiliary tray cabinet for engagement with and attachment to the desk portion by screws 41. A guideway 42 is carried on the marginal portion of the front and along the sides of the auxiliary tray cabinet above guideway 20, for slidably mounting therein a second flexible curtain 43 so that the said curtain may be moved between the closed and open positions shown in Figures 2 and 3.

The portion of the cabinet above the shelf 39 is divided into a plurality of compartments by upright partitions 44 extending from the front to the rear of said cabinet in spaced parallel relation. An angle track member 45 including an upturned channel 46 is secured along the opposite sides of each compartment adjacent the shelf 39, as shown in Figure 8, to provide tracks to receive rollers 47 mounted on opposite sides of each tray 48 mounted one in each compartment. Members 45 and 46 cooperate with rollers 47 to provide an anti-friction support so that trays 48 have free rolling engagement in and out of the respective compartments between partitions 44. Trays may be constructed in any suitable manner, and each tray is also provided with suitable extension slides 57 on opposite sides thereof to allow the said tray to be withdrawn outwardly in front of the auxiliary cabinet. Each compartment is provided with a bumper 49 carried on a cross-brace 50, the said bumper 49 and cross-brace 50 having the same purpose and function in the auxiliary tray as bumper 31 and cross-brace 32 of the desk portion.

The provision of a double flexible curtain not only provides for convenient closing of the open portions of the respective desk portion and auxiliary tray cabinet, but is so constructed and arranged that the top curtain will be closed coincident with the closing of the lower curtain, and access may not be had to the auxiliary tray while the lower curtain is closed.

Flexible curtains 21 and 43, respectively, are each made up of a plurality of reeds 51. Each reed 51 is formed from a strip of metal of sufficient length to span the open top and front of the desk portion and/or auxiliary tray between end walls 15 and 36 respectively and have the ends rest for slidable movement in the guideways. Each strip of metal is bent adjacent each longitudinal edge to form parallel dependent flanges 52, each flange 52 being further bent to form a tubular portion at the terminus thereof. The tubular terminus of one of the flanges 52 on each strip or reed 51 is bent upon itself to form a closed tubular portion 53 while the other flange 52 of each reed 51 is bent to form a tube 54 having a longitudinally extending open space adjacent flange 52 and therefore being of relatively greater diameter than the tubes 53 so as to receive the tubular portion 53 of the next adjacent reed 51 when the reeds are assembled to form a flexible curtain and to allow proper flexure of the assembled curtain. The assembled reeds are further secured together by means of a pair of flexible cables 55 which pass lengthwise of the assembled curtain through a plurality of registering openings formed in tubular portions 53 and 54 at the opposite ends of each reed 51. Clips 56 are crimped on the end of each cable 55 to secure the cable in assembled relation as clearly shown in Figures 5, 6, and 11.

The hindmost reed 71 of lower curtain 21 supports intermediate its ends a pair of spaced transverse upstanding fingers 58 adapted to engage a

flange of the channel shaped tail bar 70 mounted on hindmost reed 72 of upper curtain 43 when lower curtain 21 is pulled outwardly and downwardly to move the upper curtain from the open position shown in Figure 3 to the closed position shown in Figure 2 by means of suitable pulls 59, Fig. 1. In this manner, upper curtain 43 is moved along its guideways 42 to the closed position shown in Figure 2, to extend in front of the auxiliary tray cabinet to fully close it. Spring pressed latch members 60 assure contact between finger 58 and tail bar 70 in the event that the end of curtain 43 is positioned forwardly of stop members 61, carried by support channel 35. Latch members 60 are formed of sheet metal strips having a hinge barrel formed along one side. Hinge pins 73 each have the central portion engaged in the hinge barrel on a latch member 60. Opposite ends of each hinge pin 73 extend through a pair of hinge barrel carried by hinge plates 74. A spring 75 for each latch member 60 has a pair of loop portions engaged about hinge pin 73 between the hinge barrel on the latch member and the hinge barrels on hinge plate 74. Springs 75 each have a pair of arms engaging latch member 60, at opposite ends, while the unwound central portion of the spring forms another arm to engage hinge plate 74 for normally holding latch members 60 in laterally and downwardly projecting relation from the rear edge of tail bar 70. The rear flange of tail bar 70 is recessed in alignment with latch members 60 to provide a space wide enough to allow passage of fingers 58. Latch members 60 are wider than the recesses in tail bar 70 for limiting hinging movement thereof by operation of springs 75, Fig. 4.

When lower curtain 21 is moved from a closed position toward its open position, as shown in Figure 3, upper curtain 43 is also carried along partly by lower curtain 21 by engagement of fingers 58 with the inner or forwardly disposed faces of latch members 60 and in part by its own weight. Stop members 61 limit the opening movement of upper curtain 43. When curtain 43 has engaged stop members 61, fingers 58 will have their ends disengage the lower ends of latch members 60 through movement in the portions of the guideways at the rear of the cabinet curving downwardly.

The lower cover 21 is moved from open to closed position by manually engaging pulls 59 and sliding the cover forwardly in its guideways. As fingers 58 on the hindmost reed move upwardly at the rear portion of the cabinet, they will move into tail bar 70 to engage the front flange thereof when curtain 43 is in the rearmost position with bar 70 engaging stop 61. In the event curtain 43 is positioned with tail bar 70 forwardly spaced from stop 61, fingers 58 will engage the rear faces of latch members 60. Latch members 60 will then move on the hinge pins against the tension of springs 75 until fingers 58 move past members 60 and engage the front flange on tail bar 70 and move curtain 43 forwardly with the lower cover 21. If desired, a lock 62 may be mounted on lower cover 21 to latch the cover to shelf 18, this preventing unauthorized access to either the desk portion or the auxiliary tray cabinet.

To insure rigidity of the lower curtain 21, stabilizer mechanism is carried on one of the reeds 55 intermediate the length of said curtain, as clearly shown in Figures 9 and 10. Said mechanism includes a transverse reinforcing member 63 welded to said reed and having welded dependent connectors 64 at each end adapted to support

a pair of bearings 65 for a rotatable transverse pinion shaft 66. Gears 67 adapted to mesh with rack 25 are mounted on each end of shaft 66, and lateral displacement of gears 67 and rack 25 is avoided by means of washers 68 on shaft 66 positioned outside gears 67 and held in place by nuts 69, as shown in Figures 9 and 10. The stabilizer mechanism gear is permanently engaged in rack 25 and provides uniform movement of the opposite edges of the curtain 21 while the said curtain slides through the guideways 20 during closing and opening operation of said curtain. This also secures smooth sliding operation of upper curtain 43.

The invention claimed is:

1. In office equipment comprising a lower section including spaced apart parallel sides, a back joining said sides and a shelf mounted in horizontal relation extending between said sides and back, an upper section carried by said lower section and including spaced apart parallel sides and a back connecting said sides, said sides of said upper section being aligned with and forming continuations of the sides of the lower section, a second shelf mounted in horizontal relation extending between said sides and back of said upper section, and a horizontal cap member extending between said sides and back spaced above said second shelf, the respective sides, backs, and shelves defining separate filing cabinets, a flexible curtain formed of a plurality of interconnected reeds mounted for movement on the upper and front margins of the sides of said lower section for closing the compartment therein, a second, similarly constructed curtain mounted for movement about the front margin of the sides of said upper section for closing the cabinet formed therein, pick-up means comprising a finger, carried by one of said flexible curtains and extending outwardly from the face thereof, and means comprising a receptacle carried by the other of said flexible curtains adapted to receive said finger, said finger being normally engaged in said receptacle during the full opening and closing movement of one of said flexible curtains but being disengaged therefrom during a portion of the movement of the other of said curtains.

2. In office equipment, the combination of a lower section including a cabinet having spaced apart parallel sides, a back joining said sides, a shelf mounted in horizontal relation extending between said sides and back, a supplemental back member mounted on the rear margin of said shelf in spaced relation to said back and extending between said sides, upright partitions mounted on said shelf in parallel relation to form a plurality of tray compartments, a flexible curtain having side margins mounted in guideways carried on the top and side margins of said sides and extending between said back and said supplemental back member for movement between an open position in back of said cabinet and a closed position extending over the top and front portion of said lower section with the front edge engaging the front edge of said shelf, an upper section of relatively less depth carried by said lower section, including a second cabinet having spaced apart parallel sides, a back joining said sides, the said sides and back being in vertical alignment with the sides and back of the lower section, a second shelf mounted in horizontal relation between said sides, upright partitions mounted on said second shelf in parallel relation to form a plurality of tray compartments, a horizontal cap extending between said sides and back

above said compartments, and a second flexible curtain having side margins mounted in guideways carried below said second shelf and adjacent a portion of the guideways for the aforementioned lower curtain and on the front margin of the upper section for movement between an open position wherein the said second curtain lies in a horizontal plane below said upper section and a closed position extending over the front portions of said upper section with the front edge engaging the front edge of said cap, pick-up means comprising an upright finger carried by said first-mentioned flexible curtain adjacent an end thereof, engaging means carried by said second flexible curtain arranged and adapted to lie in the path of said finger during said closing movement to engage said finger, said second curtain being responsive to the engagement of said last-mentioned means with said finger for movement through its guideways between its respective open and closed positions coincident with the movement of said first curtain from an open to a closed position, and spring urged latch means carried by said lower curtain adapted to positively engage said pick-up means and engaging means during said closing movement, said flexible curtain being constructed of a plurality of longitudinal reeds, the said reeds being formed with dependent portions and arranged side by side with their respective longitudinal axes in parallel relation for the interconnection of the dependent portions of contiguous reeds for limited rotary movement, and continuous flexible cables passed through registering openings in the said interconnected dependent portions adjacent the opposite ends of each reed and said cables having anchoring means secured on their respective ends closely adjacent the end reeds of each curtain.

3. The structure of claim 2 in which mechanism is provided for equalizing the movement of the opposite side margins of the said lower curtain during its movement to and from its respective open and closed positions comprising inwardly disposed racks formed on the horizontal portions of the guideways for said curtain mounted on said side margins within said cabinet, a transversely disposed shaft arranged to span said cabinet, means including bearings, dependently mounting said shaft for rotation carried by one of said reeds intermediate the length of said curtain, a pair of gears, one gear being mounted on each end of said shaft for rotation therewith and intermeshing with said rack, and washer means carried on each end of said shaft to prevent lateral disengagement of said gears and rack.

4. In office equipment having spaced apart parallel sides, a back connecting said sides, a shelf mounted in horizontal relation extending between said sides and back, said sides, back and shelf defining a tray cabinet, and having a flexible curtain mounted in guideways for movement along the upper and front margins of said sides for closing said cabinet, the combination of mechanism for equalizing the movement of the opposite margins of said curtain to and from its respective open and closed positions comprising inwardly disposed horizontal racks carried by the curtain guideways on the opposite sides in said tray cabinet, a transversely disposed shaft arranged to span said cabinet, means including bearings, dependently mounting said shaft for rotation carried by said curtain intermediate its length, a pair of gears, one said gear being

mounted on each end of said shaft for rotation therewith, and intermeshing with said racks; and washers carried on each end of said shaft to prevent lateral disengagement of said gears and rack.

5. In office equipment, the combination of a lower section including a cabinet having spaced apart parallel sides, a back joining said sides, a shelf mounted in horizontal relation extending between said sides and back, a supplemental back member mounted on the rear margin of said shelf in spaced relation to said back and extending between said sides, upright partitions mounted on said shelf in parallel relation to form a plurality of tray compartments, and a flexible curtain having side margins mounted in guideways carried on the top and side margins of said sides and extending between said back and said supplemental back member for movement between an open position in back of said cabinet and a closed position extending over the top and front portion of said lower section with the front edge engaging the front edge of said shelf, an upper section of relatively less depth carried by said lower section, including a second cabinet having spaced apart parallel sides, a back joining said sides, the said sides and back being in vertical alignment with the sides and back of the lower section, a second shelf mounted in horizontal relation between said sides, upright partitions mounted on said second shelf in parallel relation to form a plurality of tray compartments, a horizontal cap extending between said sides and back above said compartments, and a second flexible curtain having side margins mounted in guideways carried below said second shelf and adjacent a portion of the guideways for the aforementioned lower curtain and on the front margin of the upper section for movement between an open position wherein the said second curtain lies in a horizontal plane below said upper section and a closed position extending over the front portions of said upper section with the front edge engaging the front edge of said cap, pick-up means comprising an upright finger carried by said first-mentioned flexible curtain adjacent an end thereof, engaging means carried by said second flexible curtain arranged and adapted to lie in the path of said finger during said closing movement to engage said finger, said second curtain being responsive to the engagement of said last-mentioned means with said finger for movement through its guideways between its respective open and closed positions coincident with the movement of said first curtain from an open to a closed position, and spring urged latch means carried by said lower curtain adapted to positively engage said pick-up means and engaging means during said closing movement, and mechanism for equalizing the movement of the opposite side margins of the said lower curtain during its movement to and from its respective open and closed positions comprising inwardly disposed racks formed on the horizontal portions of the guideways for said curtain mounted on said side margins within said cabinet, a transversely disposed shaft arranged to span said cabinet, means including bearings, dependently mounting said shaft for rotation carried by one of said reeds intermediate the length of said curtain, a pair of gears, one gear being mounted on each end of said shaft for rotation therewith and intermeshing with said rack, and washer means carried on each end of

said shaft to prevent lateral disengagement of said gears and rack.

6. In office equipment comprising a main cabinet having spaced sides with open top and front portions, and an auxiliary cabinet, having sides above the sides of the first-mentioned cabinet and open at the front, mounted on top of the rear portion of the first-mentioned cabinet, the combination of a main flexible curtain extending between and mounted for movement on the top and front margins of said spaced sides of said main cabinet between open and closed positions to open and close said front and top portions thereof, a second flexible curtain extending between and mounted for movement on the front and lower margins of said auxiliary cabinet between open and closed positions, guideways for the sides of said main flexible curtain arranged along the front, top, and back of the sides of said main cabinet, guideways for the sides of said auxiliary flexible curtain arranged along the front and bottom of the sides of said auxiliary cabinet, said curtains being movable in their respective guideways and remaining in all operative positions within their respective cabinets, and means carried by one of said curtains removably engaging with means carried by the other of said curtains to positively move said last mentioned curtain to closed position during closing movement of the other of said curtains.

7. In office equipment, the combination of a lower section including a cabinet having spaced apart parallel sides, a back joining said sides, a shelf mounted in horizontal relation extending between said sides and back, a supplemental back member mounted on the rear margin of said shelf in spaced relation to said back and extending between said sides, upright partitions mounted on said shelf in parallel relation to form a plurality of compartments and a main flexible curtain having side margins mounted in guideways carried on the top and side margins of said sides and extending between said back and said supplemental back member for movement between an open position in back of said cabinet and a closed position extending over the top and front portion of said lower section with the front edge engaging the front edge of said shelf, an upper section of relatively less depth carried by said lower sec-

tion, said upper section including a second cabinet having spaced apart parallel sides, a back joining said sides, the said sides and back being in vertical alignment with the sides and back of the lower section, a second shelf mounted in horizontal relation between said sides, upright partitions mounted on said second shelf in parallel relation to form a plurality of compartments, a horizontal cap extending between said sides and back above said compartments, and an auxiliary flexible curtain having side margins mounted in guideways carried in said upper section below said second shelf and adjacent a portion of the guideways for said main flexible curtain and on the front margin of said upper section for movement between an open position wherein said auxiliary curtain lies in a horizontal plane in the lower portion of said upper section and a closed position extending over the front portions of said upper section with the front edge engaging the front edge of said cap, pick-up means comprising a finger carried by said main flexible curtain adjacent the rear end thereof and extending outwardly from its face, and means carried by said auxiliary flexible curtain adapted to lie in the path of and engage said finger during closing movement of said main curtain, said auxiliary curtain being responsive to the engagement of said last-mentioned means with said finger for movement through its guideways between its respective open and closed positions and vice versa coincident with the movement of said main curtain from open to closed and closed to open positions, respectively, and said pick-up means being disengaged from said last-mentioned means when said main flexible curtain is in fully open position.

CARL F. WOLTERS.
GEORGE E. WATKINS.

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