May 7, 1929. G. DUTHIE-STRACHAN 1,712,177

FILING TRAY

Filed Aug. 15, 1928

Fig. 1.

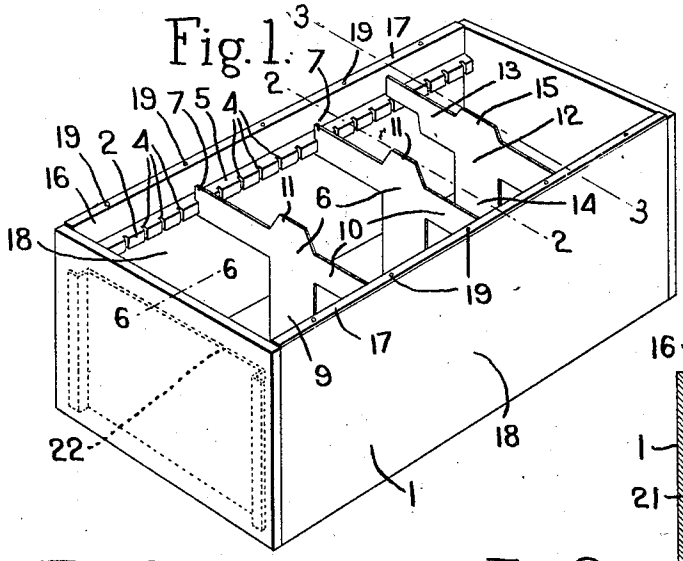


Fig. 6.

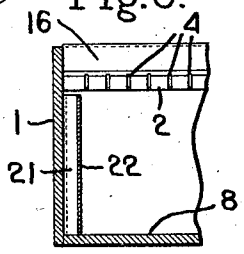


Fig. 2.

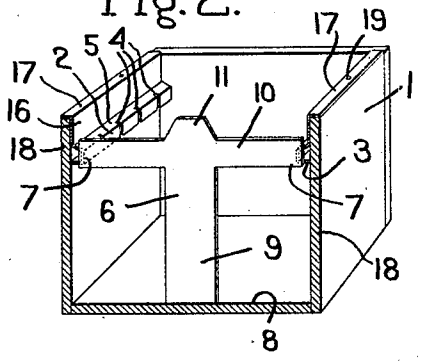


Fig. 3.

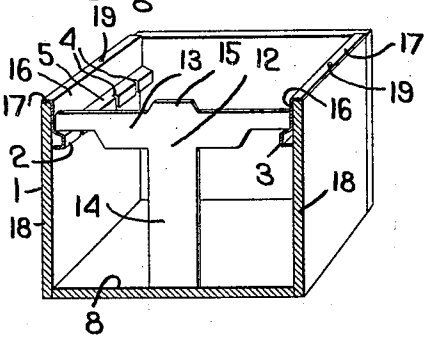


Fig. 4.

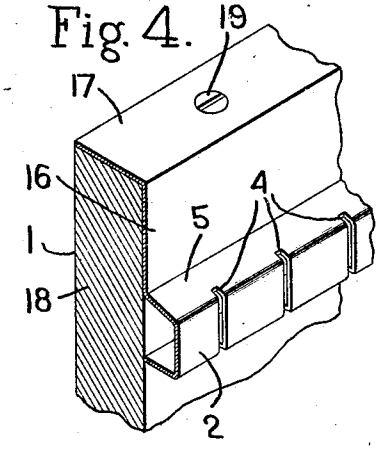
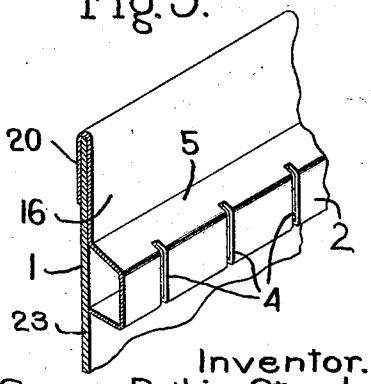


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE DUTHIE-STRACHAN, OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

FILING TRAY.

Application filed August 15, 1928. Serial No. 299,796.

This invention relates to a tray or drawer for filing correspondence, records and the like, and has for its object to provide a tray or drawer with novel means for dividing it into compartments, and also for subdividing the compartments.

In carrying out my invention I provide the tray or drawer with a rib extending longitudinally thereof along each side, each rib being provided with vertical slots which are of less depth than the horizontal dimension of the rib thereby producing a rib which has slots along the edge and which has a plain unslotted shoulder back of the slotted portion. I also employ two series of separators, those of one series being of a proper dimension to fit into the slots of the ribs and constituting adjustable dividers by which the tray may be divided into fixed compartments, and those of the other series being of a shape and size to rest and slide on the shoulder portions of the ribs, and constituting floating guides by which the fixed compartments may be subdivided.

In using a drawer or tray embodying my invention, the dividers will be so placed as to form separate compartments of the relative sizes desired or needed, and then a sufficient number of floating guides will be used to subdivide each compartment into as many subdivisions as is deemed necessary.

Another feature of my invention relates to a pocket in the drawer or tray in which may be kept data explanatory of the contents of the tray.

In order to give an understanding of the invention I have illustrated in the drawings a selected embodiment thereof which will now be described, after which the novel features will be pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings,

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a tray embodying my invention;

Fig. 2 is a perspective sectional view on the line 2—2, Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a perspective sectional view on the line 3—3, Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary perspective view showing one embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 5 is a similar fragmentary perspective view illustrating a different embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 6 is a section on line 6—6, Fig. 1.

In the drawings 1 indicates a drawer or tray adapted to be used for filing correspondence or other records. It is a common practice to provide a filing tray with an adjustable follower which can be adjusted into different positions longitudinally of the tray to vary the effective size thereof according to the amount of material it contains, and in filing records it is customary to employ floating guides to separate the contents in accordance with some desired method of filing. Sometimes these guides divide the contents alphabetically or chronologically or according to subject matter.

In my present invention I provide the tray or drawer 1 with two ribs 2 and 3 which extend longitudinally of the tray on the inside thereof at a slight distance below the top Each rib is provided with a plurality of vertical slots 4 which, however, are of less depth than the horizontal dimension of the rib. As a consequence the slots extend only part way from the edge of the rib to the base, thereby leaving a plain unslotted surface 5 on top of the rib which forms a supporting shoulder.

I propose to employ two types of separators, the separators of one type being constructed so that they will be positioned by the slots 4 and constituting dividers, and the separators of the other type being constructed to rest on the supporting shoulders 5 and constituting floating guides. The separators of the first type, or dividers, are indicated at 6, and each is of such a dimension transversely of the tray that the ends 7 thereof will fit into the slots 4 of the opposed ribs, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. The separators 6 are adapted to rest on the bottom 8 of the tray 1 when they are in operative position, and in order to save material and to produce a separator which can be easily handled I may, if desired, make each separator 6 of a general T shape, the upper portion 10 thereof being of a proper dimension to fit in the grooves 4 and the lower portion 9 thereof being in the form of a stem which extends to and rests on the bottom of the tray.

When one or more of the dividers 6 are in use the entire tray is divided up into definite compartments, each of which is adapted to receive the correspondence or other records relating to some particular subject matter or to some particular alphabetical or chronological

arrangement, etc. These dividers 6 may be provided with tabs 11 for the purpose of receiving some notation identifying the material filed in the corresponding compartment.

In addition to the dividers 6 I also employ other separators 12 which are in the nature of floating guides and are adapted to rest and slide on the shoulders 5. These guides 12 may also have a general T shape, the upper portion 13 of each having a sufficient horizontal dimension so that the ends thereof rest on the shoulders 5 as shown in Fig. 3. The guides 12 are also formed with the depending relatively narrow portion 14 which extends to or nearly to the floor 8 of the tray 1. These guides 12 are used between the dividers 6 and as many may be used as is necessary to make the desired number of sub-divisions in each compartment. These guides 12 may, if desired, be provided with tabs 15 to receive some identifying notation.

My invention also comprehends a construction by which any ordinary filing tray or drawer may be converted into one embodying the features above described. To accomplish this the rib 2 is formed on a strip of metal 16 which is adapted to be secured to the sides of any ordinary wooden or metal tray or drawer. In the illustrated embodiment of my invention the strip of metal 16 is in the form of a piece of sheet metal which is bent or deformed to provide the rib 2, the latter being afterwards slotted as shown at 4.

If the tray 1 to which the invention is to be applied is a wooden tray then the sheet metal strip 16 will be formed at its upper edge with the horizontal flange 17 which overlies the top edge of the side wall 18 of the tray, the strip of metal being secured in position by means of screws 19 which are herein shown as passing through the flange 17 and into the wall 18 of the tray. If the tray 1 is a metal tray then the strip 16 of sheet metal will have its upper edge bent back on itself as shown at 20 to form a hook portion adapted to hook over the side edge of the side wall 23 of the metal tray. In either event these metal strips 16 having the ribs 2 formed thereon can be readily applied to any existing tray or drawer, thus converting it into one embodying my invention.

A further feature of the invention relates to a pocket located inside the tray or drawer 1 for the purpose of receiving instructions or explanations regarding the records which are stored in the drawer or tray. Such pocket is shown at 21 and may conveniently be formed by a piece of sheet metal 22 which is bent to the proper shape and is secured to the front wall of the tray. This pocket is open at the top so that instruction sheets, or sheets having explanatory matter thereon, may be easily slipped into the pocket or removed therefrom.

It will be noted that the shoulder 5 on which the guides 12 rest are inclined downwardly. The advantage of this is that the portion of the shoulder on which the ends of the upper part 13 of said guides rest is above the slots 4 so that there will be no danger that the guides will become caught in the slots as they are moved back and forth.

I claim:

1. A filing tray or drawer provided with ribs extending longitudinally thereof along the inner face of its side walls, each rib having vertical slots extending part way only through the rib, whereby each rib presents an unslotted shoulder outside of the slots, dividers adapted to fit into the slots and thereby divide the tray into temporarily fixed compartments, and guides constructed to rest and slide on the shoulders and thereby provide for subdividing the compartments.

2. The combination with a tray or drawer, of a strip secured to each side wall of the tray and provided with a rib extending longitudinally of said wall, each rib having vertical slots at its ridge, said slots extending only part way from the ridge to the base of the rib, whereby the top surface of each rib presents a smooth unslotted shoulder, and a plurality of dividers, each adapted to fit into the slots in the two ribs thereby to form temporarily fixed compartments, and the guides having portions adapted to rest on the shoulders of the ribs and thereby subdivide each compartment.

3. The combination with a tray or drawer, of a strip secured to each side wall of the tray and provided with a rib extending longitudinally of said wall, each rib having vertical slots at its ridge, said slots extending only part way from the ridge to the base of the rib, whereby the top surface of each rib presents a smooth unslotted shoulder, a plurality of T-shaped adjustable dividers adapted to fit into the slots of the opposed ribs and thereby divide the tray into temporarily fixed compartments, and a plurality of T-shaped floating guides adapted to rest on the shoulders of the ribs and thereby provide for subdividing the compartments.

4. The combination with a tray or drawer, of a strip detachably secured to each side wall of the tray and provided with a rib extending longitudinally of the wall and having vertical slots which extend part way from the ridge of the rib to the base, whereby each rib presents a smooth unslotted shoulder on its upper surface, a plurality of T-shaped dividers having the upper portion of a length to be received in said slots thereby to divide the tray into fixed compartments, and a plurality of floating guides having portions and adapted to rest and slide on the shoulders of the ribs.

5. A filing tray or drawer provided with ribs extending longitudinally thereof along the inner face of its side walls, each rib having vertical slots extending part way only

through the rib whereby each rib presents an unslotted shoulder, dividers adapted to fit into the slots of opposed ribs and thereby divide the tray into temporarily fixed compartments, and guides which have portions adapted to rest and slide on the unslotted shoulders of the ribs and thereby provide for subdividing the compartments, said tray having means providing an interior open-ended pocket at one end to receive sheets explanatory of the contents of the tray.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification.

GEORGE DUTHIE-STRACHAN.