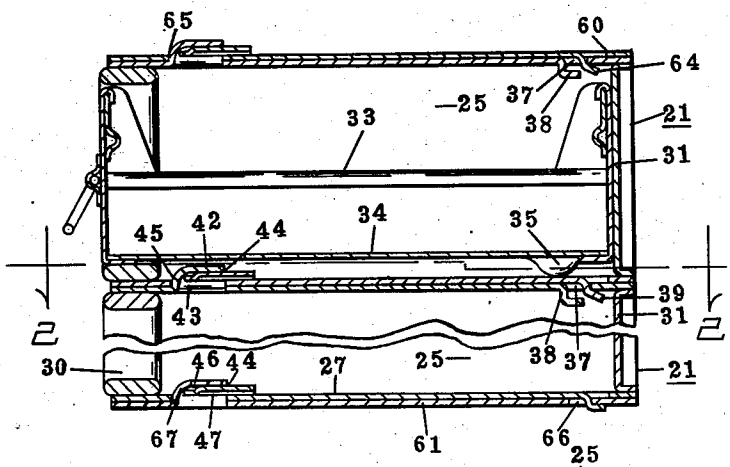
Dec. 1, 1942. W. F. REGENHARDT 2,304,020

INTERLOCK FOR STEEL FILES

Filed Nov. 24, 1939 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig 1



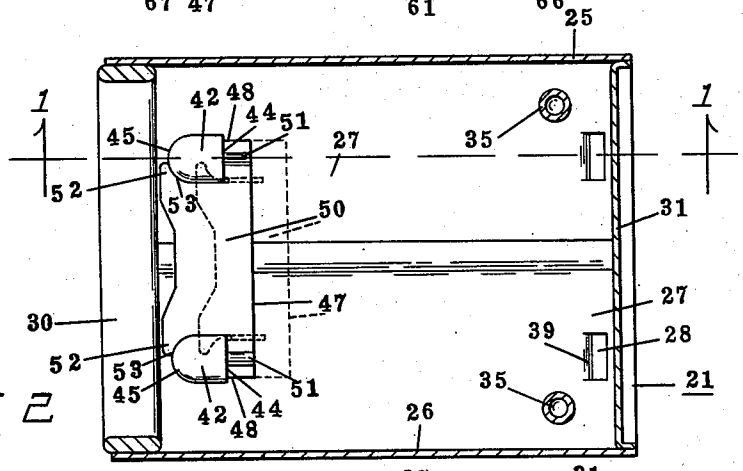
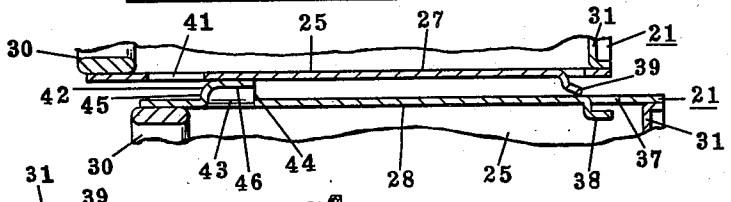


Fig 2



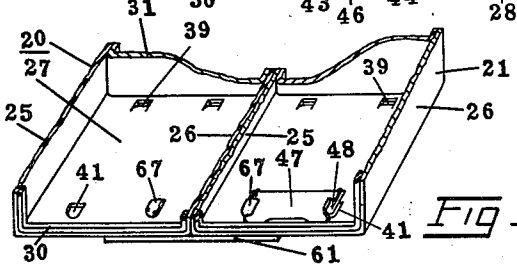


Fig 10

Fig 3

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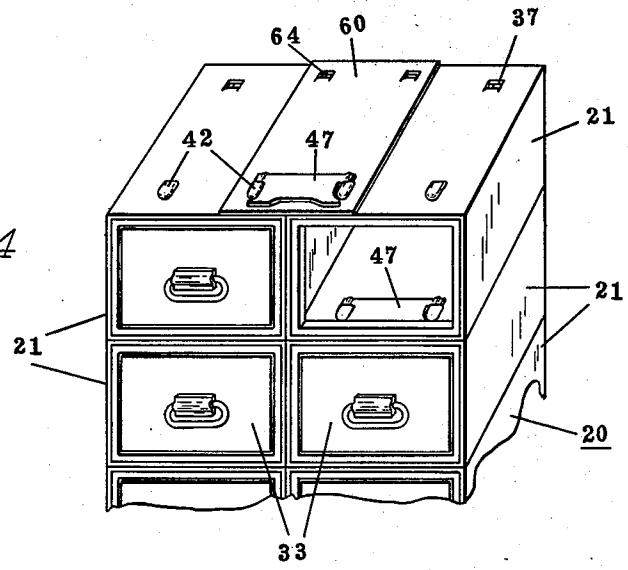
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INTERLOCK FOR STEEL FILES

Filed Nov. 24, 1939 3 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig 4



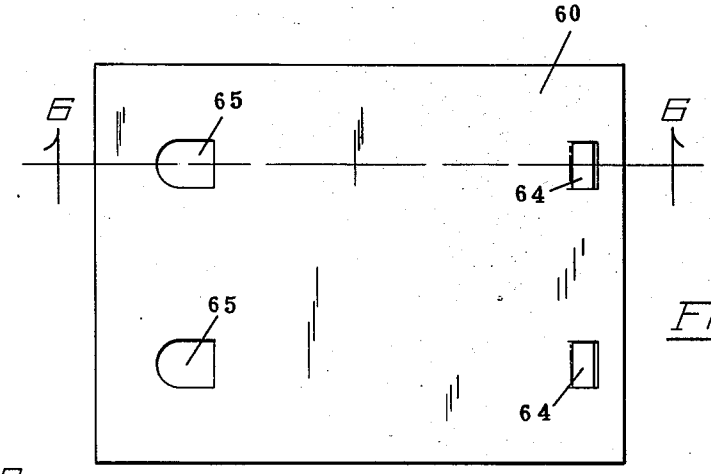


Fig 5

Fig 8

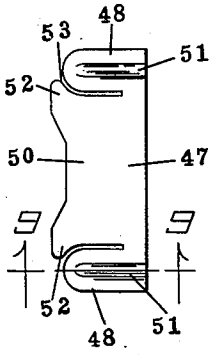


Fig 6

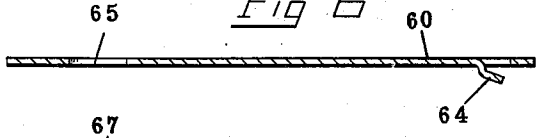


Fig 7

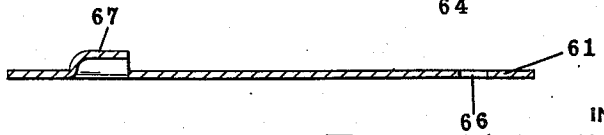
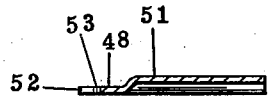


Fig 9



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INTERLOCK FOR STEEL FILES

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Fig 11

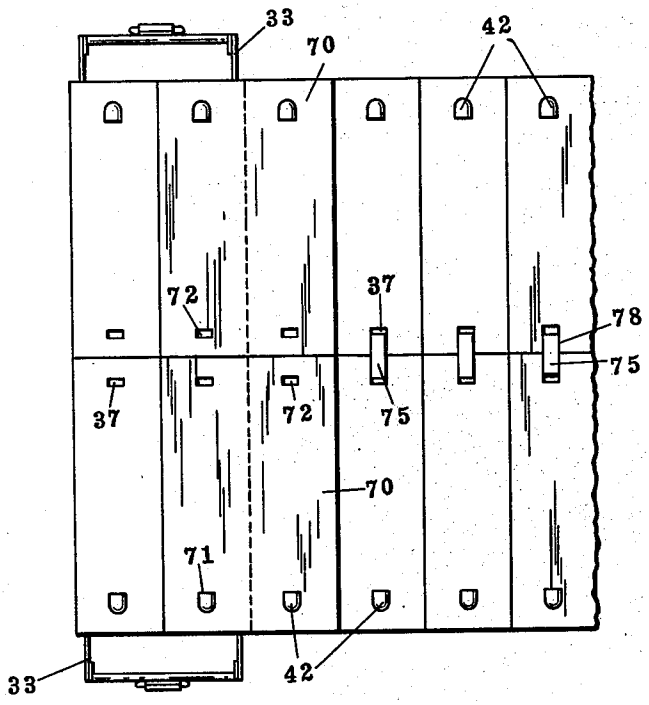


Fig 12

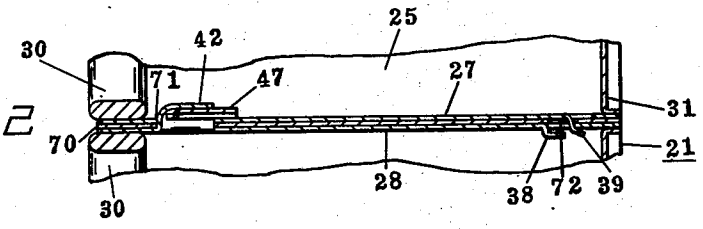


Fig 13

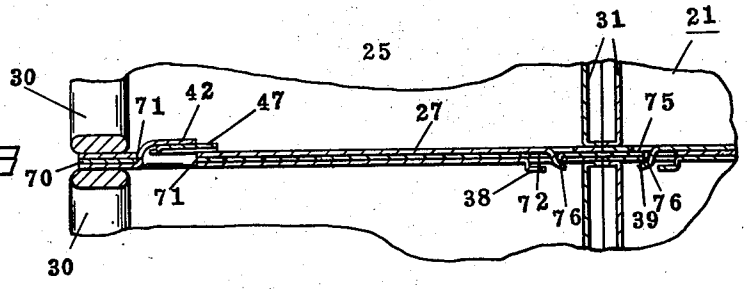
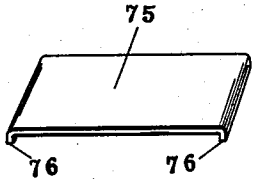


Fig 14



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Patented Dec. 1, 1942 2,304,020

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,304,020

INTERLOCK FOR STEEL FILES

Walter F. Regenhardt, Cleveland, Ohio

Application November 24, 1939, Serial No. 305,793

19 Claims. (Cl. 312—111)

The present invention relates to improvements in filing cabinets and more particularly to filing cabinets of the type comprising a plurality of individual cases which are interlocked with one another to form the cabinet. A cabinet similar to the present type is disclosed in my copending application S. N. 240,177, filed November 12, 1938, the present application being a continuation in part of the application mentioned above.

One of the objects of the present invention is to provide one of the cases with an opening in a wall thereof which is adapted to receive a locking member of another case, the locking member being provided with a key receiving opening and a shoulder, and, to provide a key having a leg which is adapted to extend into the opening of the locking member and also having a shoulder which engages the shoulder of the locking member so that the leg of the key interlocks the cases and the abutting shoulders prevent the accidental removal of the key.

Another object of the present invention is to provide at least part of the key of flexible and resilient material so that the shoulder portion may be flexed whereby it may slide over the locking member and so that it will assume its shoulder to shoulder engagement with the locking member when the locking member is inserted in position.

A further object of the present invention is to form the interlocking leg of the key of flexible resilient material so that this leg frictionally binds the cases with one another.

Usually the drawers within the casings are provided with gliders which space the bottoms of the drawers from the floors of the cases and it is a further object of the present invention to interpose the locking mechanism intermediate these gliders and in the space between the floor of the case and the bottom of the drawer.

A still further object of the invention is to provide locking members on two walls of adjacent cases, which walls are disposed substantially in a common plane, so that the key may be utilized in the manner set forth above to tie the two walls together.

A further object of the invention is to provide locking members on two walls of two adjacent cases, which walls are disposed substantially in a common plane, and providing a plate having means for interlatching one end thereof with each wall, the plate also having openings for receiving a lockin nember of each of the two cases for tying the forward ends of the cases together and locking the plate in position with a key similar to the key used for locking adjacent walls together.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a plate connecting two walls of two adjacent cases, which walls are disposed in a common plane, the plate and walls having means for slidably attaching one end of the plate with each case, the plate having locking members, similar to the locking members on the walls of the cases, which locking members extend through a lock receiving opening in each of the two cases, and locking the plate in position by keys similar to the key used in locking the adjacent walls together.

When a filing cabinet is formed of two or more relatively tall stacks of file cases, there is a tendency for the stacks to bulge outwardly from one another. It is another object of the present invention to attach the stacks with one another intermediate the tops and bottoms thereof by a plate having a portion interposed between two cases of one stack and another portion interposed between two cases of the next adjacent stack, the plate having openings in the mentioned portions thereof through which the protruding locking members of the cases extend, the edges of the openings cooperating with the locking members to prevent separation of the adjacent cases of the adjacent stacks.

Further objects and advantages will be apparent from the following description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings wherein a preferred form of embodiment of the present invention is clearly disclosed.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a longitudinal sectional view taken on line 1—1 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 2 is a top view in section, the section being taken on line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary sectional view of two file cases showing the bottom and top walls respectively of one case about to be interlocked with another case;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of part of a filing cabinet, one of the drawers being removed;

Fig. 5 is a top plan view of a connecting plate;

Fig. 6 is a sectional view taken on line 6—6 of Fig. 5;

Fig. 7 is a sectional view of a second connecting plate;

Fig. 8 is a top plan view of an improved locking key;

Fig. 9 is a sectional view taken on line 9—9 of Fig. 8;

Fig. 10 is a perspective view, partly in section,

of the lower portion of the cabinet shown in Fig. 4;

Fig. 11 is a top view of a partially completed filing cabinet;

Fig. 12 is a fragmentary view, in section, of two stacked file cases having a plate interposed therebetween for attaching one stack of file cases with an adjacent stack;

Fig. 13 is a view similar to Fig. 12, showing a portion of two adjacent stacks of file cases attached by a plate; and

Fig. 14 is a perspective view of an interlocking plate on an enlarged scale.

Referring to the drawings, there is shown in Fig. 4, a filing cabinet **20** comprising a plurality of individual file cases **21**, interlocked together. Each of the cases includes a sheet of metal fashioned to form a rectangular sleeve, including side walls **25** and **26**, a bottom wall **27** and a top wall **28**. The ends of the sheet forming such walls may be secured together, preferably at the bottom by butt welding or may be overlapped and then welded as shown in Fig. 2. A reenforcing ring **30** is disposed within the front end of the case and may be suitably secured to the sheet metal walls as by welding. The back of each case is closed by a sheet metal wall **31**. Each of the cases receives a drawer **33** through the open front thereof and the bottom wall **34** of the drawer is provided with spaced gliders **35**. The construction thus far specifically described is similar to that shown in my Patent No. 2,123,803 issued July 12, 1938.

The top walls of each of the cases are pierced and bent to form two spaced openings **37** and ledges **38**, and the bottom walls of the cases are similarly pierced and bent to provide two spaced tongues **39** which are received in the openings **37** when one case is placed upon another having the sides thereof in alignment, and slid rearwardly as illustrated in Figs. 3 and 1 respectively. The tongues **39** are thus interlatched with the top walls of a lower case. The cases are unlatched by sliding the upper casing forwardly to the position shown in Fig. 3. Preferably this interlatching mechanism is disposed or formed adjacent the rear of the cases.

The front ends of the cases are provided with an interlocking mechanism. This mechanism is formed by piercing the bottom walls of the cases to provide two spaced openings **41** (see Fig. 3) and shearing and bulging the top walls of the cases to form two spaced projecting or locking members **42**. The locking members **42** of one case are arranged to extend through the openings **41** of another case when the tongues **39** are interlocked with the lower case as described above. Such positions of these parts are shown in the lower part of Fig. 1. The side walls of the openings **41** are arranged to closely embrace the side walls of the locking members **42** so as to maintain alignment between the cases. The drawn locking members **42** form recesses **43** on the undersides thereof. The front of the locking members are each provided with an opening **44** forming the mouth to the recess **43**. The opposite sides of the members **42** provide shoulders **45** and the under sides of the members **42** provide abutments **46**. When the members **42** are in position in the openings **41**, part of the mouth of the recesses and part of the shoulders **45** project into the next above case. In the preferred embodiment the shoulders **45** are formed on the front of the members **42** while the mouths **44** to the recesses **43** are disposed at the rear of the members **42**. It is to be understood that the openings **41** and the locking members **42** may be provided in any of the adjacent walls of the cases.

A key **47** is provided for interlocking two stacked cases. Preferably this key is formed of flexible and resilient sheet metal and is furcated to form two key legs **48** and an intermediate leg or section **50**. The key legs **48** are bent as shown at **51** and these legs are inserted into the upper part of the recesses **43** through the mouths **44** when the members **42** are in position in the openings **41**, the bottom of the key resting on the top side of the bottom wall **27** of a case while the top edges of the bulged portions **51** frictionally engage the undersides **46** of the locking members **42**. In inserting the key legs **48** in position, the forward parts of the leg **50** rest upon the top of the locking members **42**. Then the ends of the key legs **48** are forced downwardly and pulled forwardly, the material of the key **47** being sufficiently flexible to permit the flexing necessary. The fore part of the legs **50** are provided with outwardly projecting portions **52** which form rearwardly facing shoulders **53**. These shoulders are arranged to slide over the forward part of locking members **42** and since the key **47** is formed of resilient material, the shoulders **53** will abut the shoulders **45** of the locking members **42** to prevent accidental displacement of the key **47**.

It will be seen that the bulged portions **51** start rearwardly of the fore part of legs **48**. The flat fore part of either of legs **48** can be readily inserted into the mouth **44** of a member **42** although the mouth extends only a very short distance above the bottom wall **27**. The front part of the bulged portion **51** slopes upwardly gradually and therefore functions as a cam and when the key is pulled into position, it forces the adjacent confronting walls of the cases into binding relation with one another. Thus it is apparent that the key can be readily attached although the confronting walls of adjacent cases are warped or bent, for example, a bottom wall of an upper case may be bulged upwardly or the top wall of a lower case may be bulged downwardly and, in either event, the fore or flat parts of the legs **48** can be readily started into the mouths **44** and the confronting walls will be cammed toward and into binding relation with one another by the bulges **51** when the key is pulled to locking position.

The material from which key **47** is formed is sufficiently flexible so that the leg **50** can be lifted either by one's fingers or a small tool, and in order to unlock the cases, it is necessary only to lift upwardly on the forward end of the key leg **50** and push rearwardly on the key whereby the key legs **48** will be removed from the recesses **43**. Then by lifting the unlocked case so that the openings **41** are clear of the members **42** and then by pulling forwardly on the unlocked case to remove tongues **39** from engagement with the underside of the top wall **28**, the case can be removed from the cabinet.

When the filing cabinet **20** is formed of two or more stacks of file cases **21** interlocked together as described, it is desirable to tie the stacks together to form a unitary structure. The top cases of the stacks are tied together by a plate **60** that is pierced adjacent one end to form two openings **65**, which openings are similar to the openings **41**, and the plate is also pierced and bent adjacent the opposite end thereof to

provide two tongues 64 that are similar to the tongues 39. The top walls of adjacent cases on the top of the stacks lie substantially in a common plane, and these top walls are connected by the plate 60. The tongues 64 are inserted into the openings 37 adjacent the adjoining edges of the top cases by sliding the plate rearwardly. The openings 65 are then in registration with the locking members 42, which members extend upwardly through the opening 65 when the plate 60 is resting on the top walls. The tongues 64 cooperate with the edges of the openings 37 to tie the rear ends of the cases together and the locking members 42 cooperate with the edges of the openings 65 to tie the forward ends of the cases together. Thus the locking members 42 and the edges of the openings 65 and the tongues 64 and openings 37 form shoulders that cooperate to prevent sliding of the plate relative to the cases. The plate 60 is locked in position by a key 47, the parts of which key cooperate with the locking member 42 and plate 60 in a manner similar to that described above with reference to the locking of adjacent walls of cases. Where three or more stacks form a cabinet a plate 60 connects each top case with an adjoining top case and a top case flanked by two other cases will have one of its locking members 42 locked in one opening 65 of one plate 60 and the other locking member in one opening 65 of another plate 60. Likewise one of the openings 37 in the top wall of the flanked case will have a tongue 64 of one plate 60 extending therein and the other opening 37 will have the tongue 64 of another plate 60 extending therein. It is apparent that the plates 60 will not only tie the top cases together, but also will cover the crevice between the cases of adjacent stacks.

The bottom cases are tied together by plate 61, which plate is pierced adjacent one end to form two slots 66 that are similar in size to the openings 37 in the top walls of the cases. Two locking members 67 are formed adjacent the front of the plate, which members 67 are similar to the locking members 42 formed on the top walls of the cases. The plate 61 is placed on the support for the cabinet 20, for example a floor, and the bottom cases of the two stacks forming the cabinet are placed on the plate with the adjoining edges of the bottom walls thereof disposed along the center of the plate. The openings 66 are spaced so that a tongue 37, of each case, adjacent the adjoining edges of the two cases, may be inserted therein and the locking members 67 are spaced to be inserted in an opening 41 of each of the adjoining cases. The tongues 37 may be inserted in the openings 66 by sliding the cases rearwardly. When the cases are set on the support the ends of the tongues 37 will bend upwardly against the under side of the plate 61, and the locking members 67 will protrude into the interior of the cases through the openings 41. The tongues 37 cooperate with the edges of the openings 66 to tie the rear end of the cases together and the locking members 67 cooperate with the edges of the openings 41 to tie the forward ends of the cases together. The tongues 37 and the edges of the openings 66 and the members 67 and openings 41 form shoulders that cooperate to prevent sliding of the plate relative to the cases. The plates are locked in place by keys similar to the key 47, the parts of which keys cooperate with the locking members 67 in a manner similar to the cooperation of the key 47 with the locking members 42 when two stacked cases are locked together. Where three or more stacks of cases form a cabinet, a plate 61 connects each adjoining bottom case and a case flanked on either side by other cases will have a plate connected with each of its tongues 39 and openings 41. In that instance a key 47 will lock each of the two plates to the case. The plate 61 is relatively thin and the bottom walls are sufficiently resilient that the case walls extending beyond the edges of the plate will rest on the floor, or other support, and the cabinet will not tilt by reason of the presence of the plate.

A plate 70 is provided for tying the cases of adjoining stacks together intermediate the top and bottom of the stacks to prevent buckling or bulging of the stacks. The plate 70 has two spaced openings 71 formed therein adjacent one end thereof which openings are similar in shape to the openings 41 in the cases and are spaced apart the same distance as the openings 41. A pair of openings 72 are formed in the plate 70 at the opposite end thereof which openings are similar in shape to the openings 66 in the plate 61 and are spaced apart the same distance as the openings 66. Referring to Fig. 11, a partially formed cabinet is shown having the stacks only partially built. The cabinet is being formed of stacks placed side by side and also back to back. The plates 70 are positioned to overlap the adjacent edges of two cases of adjacent stacks and having one of the locking members 42 of one of the cases extending through one of the openings 71 and the locking member 42 of the other case extending through the other of the openings 71. The openings 72 are in registration with one of the openings 37 of the two cases respectively. Other cases are then stacked on the partially completed stacks so that a portion of the plates 70 will be interposed between two cases forming a stack and another portion of the plates 70 will be interposed between two cases of an adjacent stack. With respect to the plate 70, the tongues 39 of the newly added cases extend through the openings 72 and 37 and the locking members 42 extend upwardly into the added cases. Keys 47 are used to lock the locking members 42 in place in the same manner as explained above. Thus the plates 70 are secured to each of the cases by the locking members 42 and the tongues 39 of each casing extend through the openings in the plate. The plates 70 are relatively thin so as not to prevent the locking members 42 or the tongues 39 from extending into the lower cases when the cases are stacked.

When two rows of cases are stacked back to back, as illustrated in Fig. 11, it is desirable to attach cases of one row to cases of the other row to prevent tilting of the cases. An interlock plate 75 is provided, which plate is turned at either end to form shoulders 76. The shoulders 76 are spaced apart the distance between two openings 37 of two cases disposed back to back so that the plates 75 may interconnect the top walls of the two cases with the shoulders 76 inserted in the openings 37. Preferably the width of the plate 75 is the same as the width of the openings 37 in the cases so that the shoulders 76 will frictionally engage the edges of the openings 37. The edges of the openings 37 form shoulders that cooperate with the shoulders 76 to interlock the plate 75 with the cases. The plate 75 may be used to interlock cases to which the plates 70 are secured, and in that instance, it is preferable to provide the plates 70 with a slot 78 at the rear

thereof in which the plates 75 may lie. The plates 75 are of thin material so that the shoulders 76 do not interfere with the insertion of the tongues 39 into the openings 37.

It is to be noted that the openings 37, tongues 39, openings 41 and locking members 42 are spaced apart from one another on their respective walls so that when two cases are disposed side by side the distance between like adjacent openings, tongues, and locking members of adjacent cases will be the same as the distance between like openings, tongues or locking members of the same case. Thus the same key 47 may be used to lock two stacked cases together as well as for tying together cases in adjacent stacks.

Preferably the locking mechanism at the front end of the cases is interposed between the paths of the gliders 35 and therefore such mechanism does not obstruct or hinder the gliding movement of the drawer, the gliders being of sufficient height to raise the bottom wall 34 above the interlocking mechanism.

Preferably the sheet metal walls of the cases including the drawers, the key 47, the plates 60, 61, and 70 are formed of cold rolled steel. Cold rolled steel of twenty-four, twenty-six or twenty-eight gauge is satisfactory. The thicknesses of the materials herein shown including the reenforcing ring 30 have been exaggerated for the purpose of clearly showing all of the elements of the invention but it is apparent from the disclosure that when these materials are of proper thickness, I have provided an interlocking mechanism which requires only the minimum amount of space, the interlocking mechanism being substantially of the same thickness or slightly less than the thickness of the reenforcing ring 30. Therefore no space whatever is lost in including this interlocking mechanism in the type of case employing a thin reenforcing ring.

While the form of embodiment of the present invention as herein disclosed constitutes a preferred form, it is to be understood that other forms might be adopted, all coming within the scope of the claims which follow.

I claim:

1. A filing cabinet comprising in combination, two file cases, one of said cases having a plurality of openings in a wall thereof next adjacent a parallel wall of the other case, said other case having a plurality of spaced locking members, one of said members extending through one of said openings and another of the members extending through another of said openings and each of said members having an opening in the part thereof projecting into the first mentioned case; and a furcated locking key including legs extending through the openings in said projecting parts and engaging the inside surfaces of the walls of the locking members, said key including another leg extending alongside one of the locking members and engaging the inside surface of said wall of the first mentioned case.

2. A filing cabinet comprising in combination, two file cases, one of said cases having a plurality of openings in a wall thereof next adjacent a parallel wall of the other case, said other case having a plurality of spaced locking members, one of said members extending through one of said openings and another of the members extending through another of said openings and each of said members having an opening in the part thereof projecting into the first mentioned case; and a furcated locking key including legs extending through the openings in said projecting parts and engaging the inside surfaces of the walls of the locking members, said key including an intermediate leg extending alongside one of the locking members and engaging the inside surface of said wall of the first mentioned case.

3. A filing cabinet comprising in combination, two file cases, one of said cases having a plurality of openings in a wall thereof next adjacent a parallel wall of the other case, said other case having a plurality of spaced locking members, one of said members extending through one of said openings and another of the members extending through another of said openings and each of said members having an opening in and a shoulder on the part thereof projecting into the first mentioned case, said last openings each being disposed at one side of a member and the shoulder on the opposite side; and a furcated locking key including legs extending through the openings in said projecting parts and engaging the inside surfaces of the walls of the locking members, said key including portions extending alongside the locking members and engaging the inside surface of said wall of the first mentioned case and having shoulders abutting shoulders on the locking members.

4. A filing cabinet comprising in combination, two file cases, one of said cases having a plurality of openings in a wall thereof next adjacent a parallel wall of the other case, said other case having a plurality of spaced locking members, one of said members extending through one of said openings and another of the members extending through another of said openings and each of said members having an opening in and a shoulder on the part thereof projecting into the first mentioned case, said last openings each being disposed at one side of a member and the shoulder on the opposite side; and a furcated locking key including legs extending through the openings in said projecting parts and engaging the inside surfaces of the walls of the locking members, said key including portions extending alongside the locking members and engaging the inside surface of said wall of the first mentioned case and having shoulders abutting the shoulders on the locking members, said portions being flexible and resilient with respect to the first mentioned legs so that said shoulders of said portions can be flexed over the locking members when the first mentioned legs are inserted into or removed from the openings in the locking members.

5. A filing cabinet comprising in combination, two file cases disposed adjacent one another and each having a wall disposed in substantially a common plane, each of said walls having a locking member extending therefrom, said locking members each having an opening therein and having a shoulder; and a key including two legs and a yoke connecting the legs, said legs extending into the openings in the locking members and engaging the inside walls of the locking members, said key also including portions extending alongside the locking members and having shoulders abutting the shoulders of the locking members.

6. A filing cabinet comprising in combination, two file cases disposed adjacent one another and each having a wall disposed in substantially a common plane, each of said walls having a locking member extending therefrom, said locking members each having an opening therein and having a shoulder; and a key including two legs and a yoke connecting the legs, said legs extending into the openings in the locking members

and engaging the inside walls of the locking members, said key also including a section extending alongside one of the locking members, said section having a shoulder portion adapted to engage the shoulder of said one locking member, said section being flexible and resilient with respect to the legs so that the said shoulder portion thereof can be flexed over said one locking member when the first mentioned legs are inserted into or removed from the openings in the said members.

7. A filing cabinet comprising in combination, two file cases disposed side by side, the top wall of each of said cases having a locking member extending therefrom, said locking members each having an opening therein and a shoulder; and a key including two legs and a yoke connecting the legs, said legs extending into the openings in the locking members and engaging the inside walls of the locking members, said key also including portions extending alongside the locking members and having shoulders abutting the shoulders of the locking members.

8. A filing cabinet comprising in combination, two file casings, said casings being disposed adjacent one another and each having a wall disposed substantially in a common plane; a plate connecting said walls; means forming a shoulder on each of the two walls and two shoulders on the plate, the shoulders on the plate cooperating with the shoulders on the walls for preventing sliding movement of the walls with respect to the plate, two of said shoulders being formed by protruding members having openings formed therein; and a key including two legs connected by a yoke, said legs extending into the openings in the protruding members and engaging inside walls of the members, said key also including portions extending alongside the protruding members, said portions having shoulders engaging said members.

9. A filing cabinet comprising in combination, two file casings, said casings being disposed adjacent one another and each having a wall disposed substantially in a common plane; a plate connecting said walls; means forming a shoulder on each of the two walls and two shoulders on the plate, the shoulders on the plate cooperating with the shoulders on the walls for preventing sliding movement of the walls with respect to the plate, two of said shoulders being formed by protruding members having openings formed therein; and key means including legs extending into the openings in the members and engaging inside walls of the members, said key means also including portions extending alongside the protruding members and having shoulders for engaging the members.

10. A filing cabinet comprising in combination, two file casings, said casings being disposed adjacent one another and each having a wall disposed substantially in a common plane; a plate connecting said walls; means forming a shoulder on each of the two walls and two shoulders on the plate, the shoulders on the plate cooperating with the shoulders on the walls for preventing sliding movement of the walls with respect to the plate, two of said shoulders being formed by protruding members having openings formed therein; and key means including legs extending in the openings in the members and engaging inside walls of the members, said key means also including portions extending alongside the protruding members and having shoulders for engaging the members, said portions being flexible and resilient with respect to the legs so that the shoulders thereof can be flexed over the protruding members when the first mentioned legs are inserted into or removed from the openings in the said members.

11. A filing cabinet comprising in combination, two file casings, said casings being disposed adjacent one another and each having a wall disposed substantially in a common plane, a plate connecting said walls; means for slidably attaching a portion of the plate to the walls; means forming a shoulder on each of the two walls and two shoulders on the plate, the shoulders on the plate cooperating with the shoulders on the walls for preventing sliding movement of the walls with respect to the plate, two of said shoulders being formed by protruding members having openings formed therein; and a key including two legs connected by a yoke, said legs extending into the openings in the members and engaging inside walls of the members, said key also including portions extending alongside the protruding members and having shoulders for engaging said members.

12. A filing cabinet comprising in combination, two file casings, said casings being disposed adjacent one another and each having a wall disposed substantially in a common plane, a plate connecting said walls, said walls having openings therein; locking members on the plate having protruding parts extending through said openings, said protruding parts each having an opening therein and each having a shoulder; and key means including legs adapted to extend into the openings in the protruding parts and engage an inside wall of the parts, said key means also including portions adapted to extend alongside the locking members and engage the plate and having shoulders for engaging the shoulders on the locking members.

13. A filing cabinet comprising in combination, two file casings, said casings being disposed adjacent one another and each having a wall disposed substantially in a common plane; a plate connecting said walls, said plate having openings therein; locking members formed on the walls, said locking members having protruding parts extending through the openings in the plate; and a key including two legs and a yoke connecting the legs, said legs extending into the openings in the locking members and engaging the inside walls of the locking members, said key also including portions extending alongside the locking members and having shoulders abutting the shoulders on the locking members.

14. A filing cabinet comprising in combination, two file casings, said casings being disposed adjacent one another and each having a wall disposed substantially in a common plane; a plate connecting said walls; means forming a pair of shoulders on each of said walls and a pair of shoulders on the plate, the shoulders on the plate cooperating with one of the shoulders on each wall for preventing separation of the cases, one of the shoulders on one of the walls being spaced from one of the shoulders on the other wall a distance equal to the distance between the shoulders on one of the walls, one pair of said shoulders being formed by protruding members having openings formed therein; and a key including two legs connected by a yoke, said legs extending into the openings in the members and engaging inside walls of the members, said key also including portions extending alongside the pro-

truding members and having shoulders for engaging said members.

15. A filing cabinet comprising in combination, two stacks of file cases disposed side by side, each of said stacks comprising at least two file cases disposed one on another, one case of each stack having an opening in a wall thereof next adjacent a wall of the other case; a member on said other case extending into the opening for attaching the two cases together, said stacks being disposed adjacent one another for forming two tiers of file cases; a plate interconnecting said stacks, said plate having a portion thereof interposed between the adjacent walls of the cases forming one stack and a portion thereof interposed between the adjacent walls of the cases forming the other stack, said portions each having an opening in registration with the members of said cases, the edges of said openings being adapted to engage the members for preventing separation of the adjacent cases of the adjacent stacks.

16. A filing cabinet comprising in combination, two file casings disposed adjacent one another and each having a wall disposed in substantially a common plane, each of said walls having an opening therein; and a flat locking key for locking the casings together, said key including a flat yoke and a plurality of legs extending from one edge of the yoke, one of said legs extending into one of said openings and alongside the inner surface of one of the casings and another of said legs extending into the other of said openings and alongside the inner surface of the other of the casings and a third leg of said key extending parallel with the said walls of the casings and on the outside of the casings.

17. A filing cabinet comprising in combination, tion, two file casings, said casings being disposed adjacent one another and each having a wall disposed substantially in a common plane; a plate connecting said walls, each of said walls having an opening and said plate having openings registering with said openings in the walls to form passages from the exterior of the casings to the interiors thereof; and a key including two legs connected by a yoke, said legs extending into said passages and alongside the interior of said casings, respectively, said key also including a leg extending alongside the plate on the exterior of the casings.

18. A filing cabinet comprising in combination, two file casings, said casings being disposed adjacent one another and each having a wall disposed substantially in a common plane; a plate connecting said walls, each of said walls having an opening and said plate having openings registering with said openings in the walls to form passages from the exterior of the casings to the interiors thereof; and keys for interlocking the plate and casings, each of said keys including a yoke and two legs extending from the yoke, the yoke and one of said legs extending alongside the interior of a casing and the other of said legs extending through one of the passages and alongside the exterior of the plate.

19. A filing cabinet comprising in combination, two file cases, said cases having walls arranged in side to side relation, one of said walls having a plurality of openings; means on one of said walls forming a shoulder adjacent each of said openings, said shoulders extending inwardly with respect to said one wall, and bulged portions extending through said openings and inwardly with respect to said one wall, said bulged portions being connected with the other of said walls and having mouths cooperating with edges of said openings for forming a plurality of spaced key passages; and a furcated locking key including legs extending into said passages, said key including a portion extending alongside at least one of said openings and having a shoulder abutting one of the first mentioned shoulders adjacent said one opening.

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