This invention relates to desks, more particularly, desks of the type used as office furniture and equipment. One of the objects of the invention is to provide a construction which facilitates the installation of a telephone on the top of the desk. Office buildings, as now generally constructed, run the telephone conduits through the floor and have outlets adjacent desk positions. Under these circumstances, it is desirable to provide the desk with means for quickly and conveniently installing the telephone and its cord, and at the same time establishing communication between the desk instrument and the service line with a minimum expenditure of time and labor.

A further object of the invention is to provide a construction wherein an end panel of the desk, that is, the panel or wall near the pedestal, is readily removable to provide free access to a terminal block whether it be mounted on the outer side or bottom of the pedestal.

With these and other objects in view, which will more readily appear as the nature of the invention is better understood, the invention consists in the novel construction, combination, and arrangement of parts, hereinafter more fully described, illustrated and claimed.

A preferred and practical embodiment of the invention is shown in the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIGURE 1 is a fragmentary front elevation of one end of a desk illustrating the application of the invention.

FIGURE 2 is a side elevation of the desk-end shown in FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 3 is a fragmentary perspective view illustrating the pedestal frame at the end of the desk intended to detachably receive the demountable panel.

FIGURE 4 is a fragmentary perspective view illustrating a modified form of bottom latch.

FIGURE 5 is a fragmentary perspective view wherein the top member of the leg assembly is formed from a rolled section which mates with a rib on the end panel.

FIGURE 6 is a further fragmentary perspective view showing that the rolled channel type top section of the leg assembly may be used in connection with an extruded tongue.

FIGURE 7 is a detail sectional view showing the terminal block mounted between the outer wall of the pedestal and the detachable end panel.

Similar reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several figures of the drawing.

As will be observed from FIGURE 1, the desk pedestal includes a portion 1 of the desk top, the usual drawers 2 fitting in appropriate compartments at one side of a knee space opening 3. The drawer space is therefore enclosed on all sides by the underside of the top, the wall forming one side of the knee space opening 3, a bottom dust guard 4, and an inner pedestal side wall 5 covered by a removable end panel 6 suitably spaced from the wall 5 to provide approximately a one-inch wiring space.

The end panel E is mounted in the leg assembly or framework of the pedestal. This framework includes a top horizontal rail 6, and opposite side members 7, 7 forming the legs of the desk. At the lower portion of the leg assembly 6-7 there is provided a rigid cross-piece 8 whose web may abut against the side wall 5 of the pedestal and whose opposite ends are secured in any appropriate manner to facing portions of the legs 7.

The top rail 6 may be provided with suitable means for releasably holding the upper edge of the panel. For example, a recess in the form of socket elements 6a drilled, or otherwise formed in the rail.

The cross-piece 8 preferably consists of an angle having a web 9 formed with an upper flange 10 and a bottom flange 11. In addition, the outer face of the web 10 preferably has one arm 12 of an angle spot-welded or otherwise secured thereto. The other arm 13 is curved downwardly as at 14 to provide a ramp over which the lower edge of the panel 5 may be easily guided. The arm 13 is provided at any suitable location, or locations, with a keeper element 15 which may be in the form of a spring latch accessible through a slot in the flange, a conventional spring pressed plunger, or even a screw or equivalent fastener.

The end panel E has its outer side wall 16 provided at its top and bottom edges with interlaced flanges 17 and 18 respectively, as well as at the opposite side flanges 19. The bottom flange 18 has a keeper 20 for engagement with the latch 15 and is also formed with a cut-away portion or slot 21 for receiving the cord or cable C for the telephone.

Substantially vertically in line with the slot 21, the upper edge portion of the panel wall 16 is provided with an opening or eyebolt 22 through which the cord C is exposed at the location where the telephone instrument is to be used on the desk top.

As shown in FIG. 3, the top flange 17 of the end panel E is provided with suitable tongues 17a, or the like, for fitting into the socket elements 6a. In other words, after the latch 15 and the keepers 20 have been disengaged by pulling out the lower end of the panel, the tongue 17 will clear the recess 6a and permit the entire panel to be swung downwardly and outwardly, and thus expose the cross-piece 12 as well as the space between the pedestal wall 5 and the panel.

As shown in FIGURES 1 and 2, the bottom of the pedestal is provided with guides 25 and 26 for receiving a suitable terminal block B. Alternatively, as shown in FIGURE 7, the block B' may be slidable inserted in a frame or retainer 26 secured to the flange 10 of the cross member 8 thereby placing the block B' between the pedestal wall 5 and the detachable panel E.

Regardless of where the block B or B' is positioned, it will be understood that the end panel E may be readily and quickly detached and replaced by simply removing the tongues or dowels 17a from the recesses 6a, and freeing the flange 18 from the side members 7.

One of the features of the invention is that the removable end panel E omits the necessity of making connections at the time of installing the desk. In other words, the entire arrangement is intended to eliminate the need for any field connections. The floor outlet C', and either of the terminal blocks B and their respective wires C, and the telephone set will all be connected by telephone installation men before the desk is in the office. When the desk is placed in its proper location for use, the removable panel E will be snapped-out of position, the telephone set placed on top of the desk; the cord C placed in position; and the removable panel will be snapped back into the pedestal.

As will be seen from FIGURE 4, the latch at the bottom of the end panel may take the form of a spring pressed plunger 25 which is intended to fit into a socket 26 formed on the bottom wall 18a of the panel.

FIGURE 5 illustrates a further modification of the end panel E wherein the upper edge thereof is formed with a rib 27 which fits into the slot 28 of the rolled top member 29 of the leg assembly.

FIGURE 6 illustrates the top flange 30 of the end panel E as having a punched out tongue 31 which would
fit in the open channel 32 of the rolled top member 33 of the leg assembly.

According to all forms of the invention, it will now be seen that in all cases the end panel is quickly detachable by releasing a latch or screw connecting the bottom portion thereof with the cross-piece 8 and then moving the panel outwardly and downwardly through a slight angle to release the top portion thereof from engagement with the top rail of the leg assembly. The arrangement shown therefore provides a quickly releasable end panel which has no fixed hinge connection with any part of the pedestal or other part of the desk.

We claim:

1. As an article of manufacture, a side panel unit forming the outer wall of metal desk pedestals, comprising, a horizontal top rail, legs depending from the ends of the top rail, a cross-piece connecting the legs, an internal wall disposed within the area between said top rail, and the legs above the cross-piece, an outer side wall provided with wire passage openings and having inturned top, side, and bottom flanges, said outer side wall coextensive with the area between the inner sides of the top rail and legs whereby, the said flanges telescopically fit therein, and cooperating keeper and latch means respectively on the rail and top flange and the cross-piece and bottom flange to releasably hold the outer side wall in place.

2. As an article of manufacture, a panel unit forming the outer wall of metal desk pedestals, comprising a horizontal top rail, legs depending from the ends of the top rail, a cross-piece of angular cross section providing an inwardly disposed flange and having end portions connected with the legs, an internal wall disposed within the area between said top rail, the legs and above the flange of the cross-piece, an outer side wall provided with a wire passage opening adjacent its top portion and having inturned top, side and bottom flanges, the latter having a wire passage opening, said outer wall being coextensive with the area between the inner sides of the top rail and legs, whereby the said flanges telescopically fit therein, and cooperating keeper and latch means respectively on said rail and top flange and the cross-piece and bottom flange to releasably hold the outer side wall in place.

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