Oct. 17, 1944. O. E. NABHOLZ 2,360,709

TRAY

Filed April 14, 1943

Fig. 1

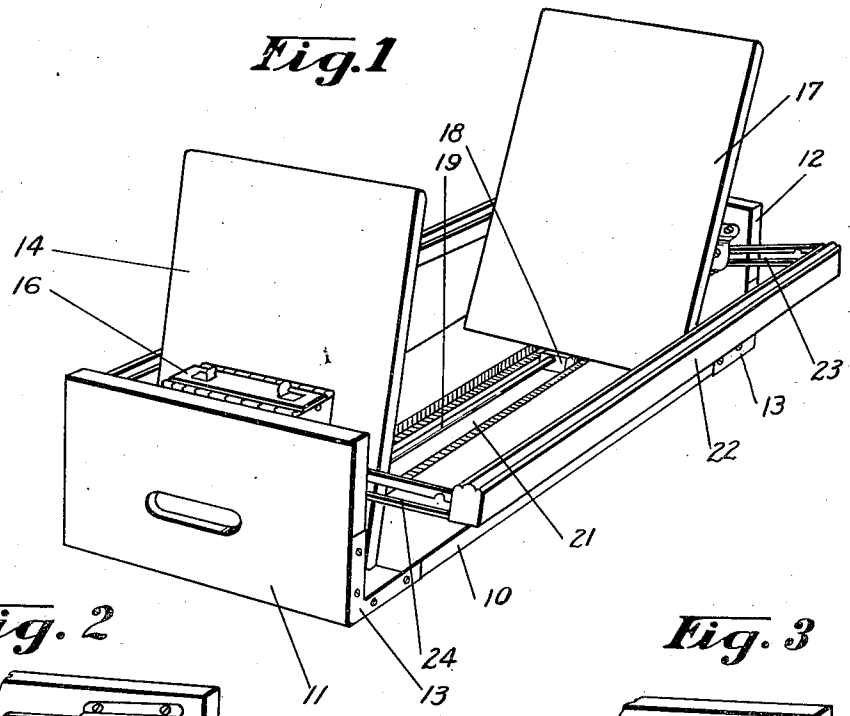


Fig. 2

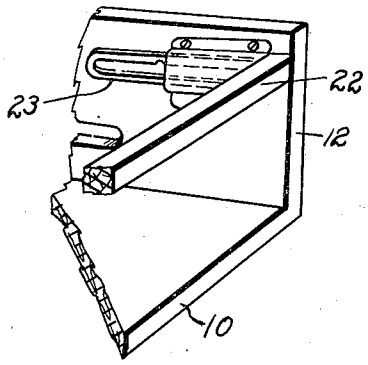


Fig. 3

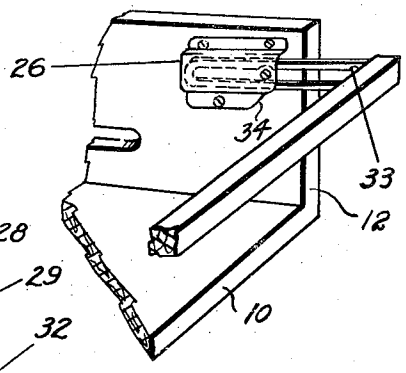
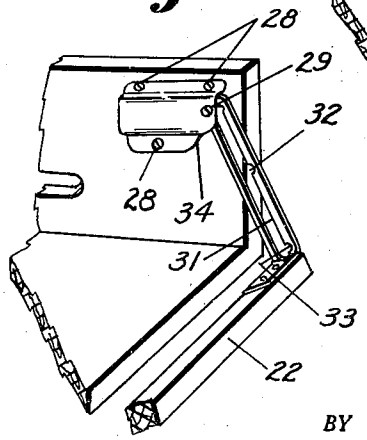


Fig. 4



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2,360,709

TRAY

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Application April 14, 1943, Serial No. 482,955

2 Claims. (Cl. 129—16)

This invention relates to trays and the like, and has particular relation to a record tray.

It has become more and more the custom, in bookkeeping and the like, to utilize loose ledger sheets for each account, and in posting and sorting accounts it is desirable that ready access to the individual sheets may be had and that means be provided for staggering or off-setting the sheets, inserting memoranda between sheets, or inserting or removing the sheets from the file or tray with a minimum of effort.

It is one of the objects of my invention to provide a tray suitable for the filing of ledger sheets and the like, provided with means whereby the ledger sheets may be off-set or staggered with relation to one another, or removed, or for accommodating different sizes of sheets.

Another object of my invention is to provide a tray of the above character which uses a minimum of critical materials and which is adapted for this purpose.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a tray having an adjustable side rail which may be adjusted and locked in an inner position to confine the ledger sheets and the like in closed position, and which may be extended to permit the sheets to be pulled out in staggered position, or which may be withdrawn to its fullest extent to drop down so that sheets may be readily removed from the tray, or sheets such as checks, deposit slips, invoices and the like may be "stuffed" in the tray or inserted in front of the sheet on which a notation is to be made.

Other and further features and objects of the invention will be more apparent to those skilled in the art upon a consideration of the accompanying drawing and following specification, wherein is disclosed a single exemplary embodiment of the invention, with the understanding, however, that such changes may be made therein as fall within the scope of the appended claims, without departing from the spirit of the invention.

In said drawing:

Figure 1 is a view in perspective of a tray constructed according to one embodiment of my invention, and showing the side rail in its intermediate extended position.

Figure 2 is a fragmentary view in perspective showing the connection between the end members of the tray and the side rail as they appear with the side rail in fully retracted or locked position.

Figure 3 is a fragmentary view in perspective showing the rail in its intermediate extended position, and

Figure 4 is a fragmentary view showing the rail in its fully extended and dropped position.

Referring now to the drawing:

A tray, constructed according to a preferred embodiment of my invention, employs a base or bottom member 10, a front end member 11, and a rear end member 12. In order to conserve strategic materials, these members may be of wood. They are preferably joined by means of brackets as illustrated at 13. In the type of tray here shown, I have illustrated a locking compressor plate 14, which is pivotally engaged to the end member by means of the hinge at 16 and a movable compressor plate 17 which is secured to a bracket 18 which in turn rides on a rod 19 in a groove 21 of the base.

The side rail includes a rail member 22 which preferably is of wood, and a pair of inwardly extending rail arms 23 and 24. The rail arms 23 and 24 are received in brackets 26 which are secured to the inner surfaces of the end members 11 and 12. These brackets consist of plates so formed as to provide slots extending therethrough for the reception of the links or side arms 23 and 24. These plates thus afford guides and supports for the side arms, and inasmuch as the restricted portions of the brackets are approximately rectangular in section and form with the walls of the members 11 and 12 a short of slot for the reception of the arms 23 and 24, the arms will be held in approximately horizontal position whether they are in the locked position or at semi-extended position. The brackets 26 are secured to the end members 11 and 12 by means of screws 28, and another screw or pin at 29 passes through the slots 31 in the side arms 23 and 24.

The upper edges of the slots 31 are provided with notches 32 at intermediate points along the arms, and a second notch at 33 adjacent the rail 22. When the rail is in the intermediate position, illustrated in Figure 3, the notch 32 drops over the pin 29 and holds the arm in this intermediate position. The same is true when the rail is positioned in its inner or locked position, in which case the notch 33 drops over the pin 29.

However, when the rail is drawn outwardly to its fully extended position, the arm no longer projects into the rectangular slot of the bracket 26 and the bracket is cut away, as indicated at 34, so that the arm pivots on the pin 29 and permits the rail to drop down to the position shown in Figure 4. In this position of the rail,

of course, papers may be readily withdrawn from the file and inserted therein without interference by the side rail.

In use, when the tray is being used the rail is usually withdrawn to the intermediate position, shown in Figure 3. When it is desirable to withdraw papers from the tray, the rail is dropped to the position shown in Figure 4, and when the tray is not in use, the papers are preferably locked by pushing the rail to its inner or locked position, as illustrated in Figure 2.

Although I have described a specific embodiment of my invention, it is apparent that modifications thereof may be made by those skilled in the art. Such modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of my invention as set forth in the appended claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. In a tray of the class described, upstanding front and rear end members, a side rail having arms engaged on the end members for in and out sliding and pivotal movement, means for engaging the side arms to the end members including brackets having slots for receiving the side arms and the side arms having slots, the brackets having pins for engagement in the arm slots, locking means on the side arms including notches along the upper edges of the slots for locking the side arms in one or more positions, and means including a cut-away portion of each of the brackets, for mounting the side arms in the brackets so that the side arms are free to pivot when the side arms are in full extended position.

2. In a tray of the class described including a base and upstanding front and rear members, brackets on the inner faces of the front and rear members having horizontally extending slots therein for the reception of side arms of a side rail, a side rail having slotted side arms received within the slots of the brackets, and the upper edges of the slots of the side rails being notched intermediate their length and adjacent the rail, and each bracket having a pin adapted to extend across the slot of the adjacent side arm of the rail, the pin being so positioned that with the rail extended to an intermediate position the slot drops down over the pin to thus lock the rail, and means including a cut-away portion of each bracket for mounting the rail so that it is free to pivot downward when in its extended position.

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