July 1, 1958 O. H. KESSLER, JR., ET AL 2,841,410

SEMI-CLOSED OFFICE MACHINE STAND OR SMALL DESK

Filed May 3, 1954 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1

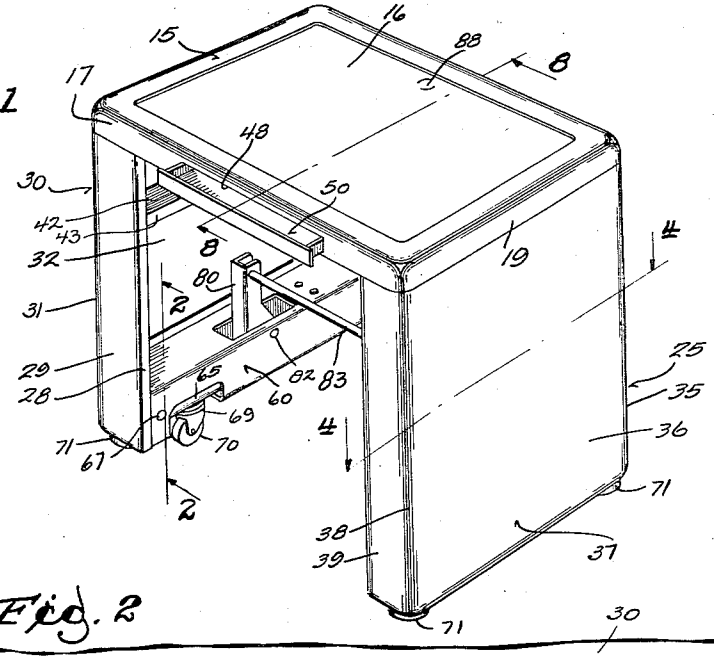
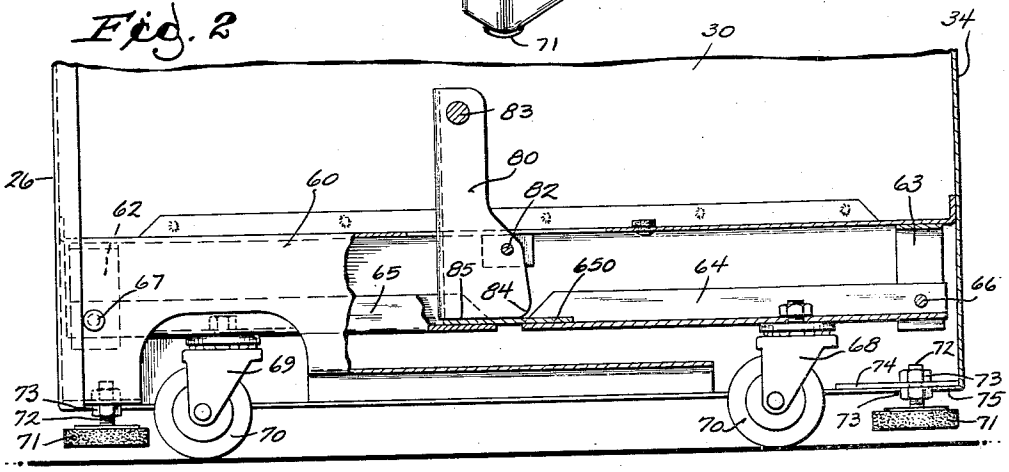


Fig. 2



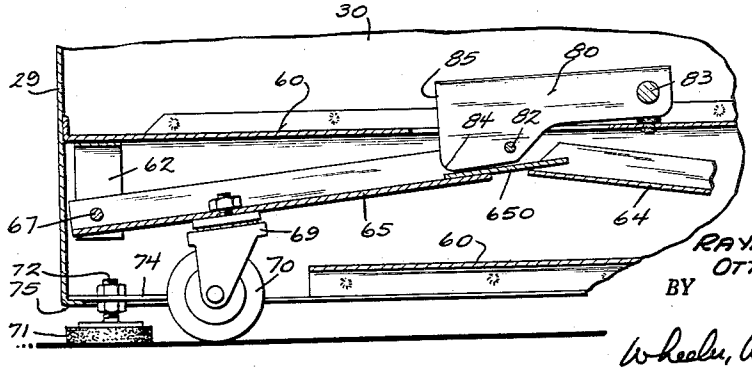


Fig. 3

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Filed May 3, 1954 3 Sheets-Sheet 2

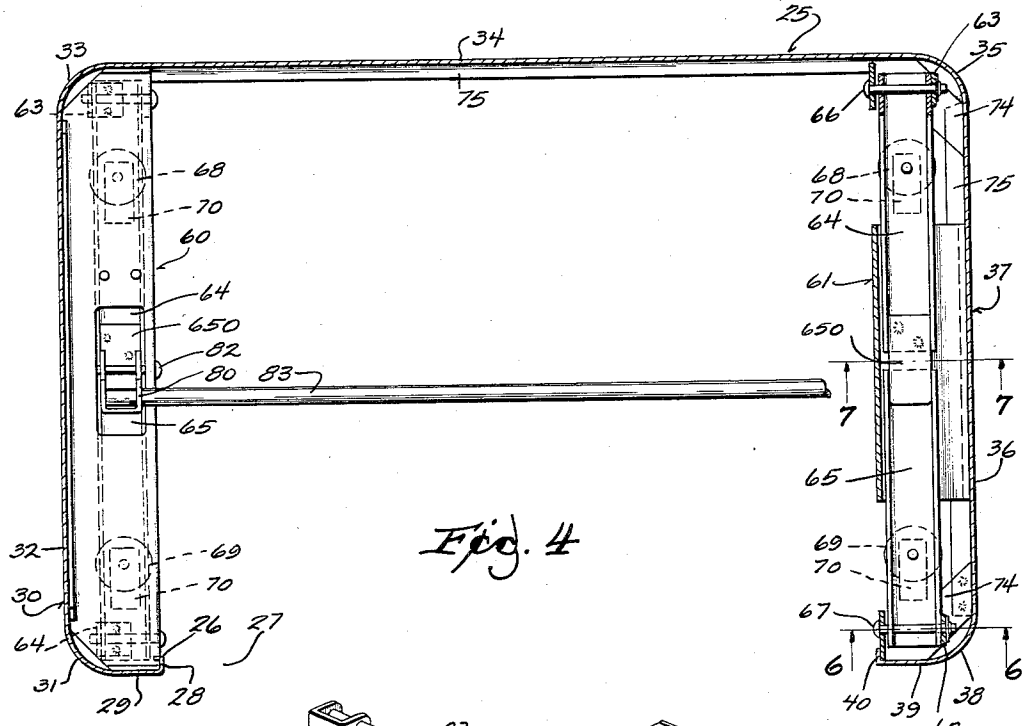


Fig. 4

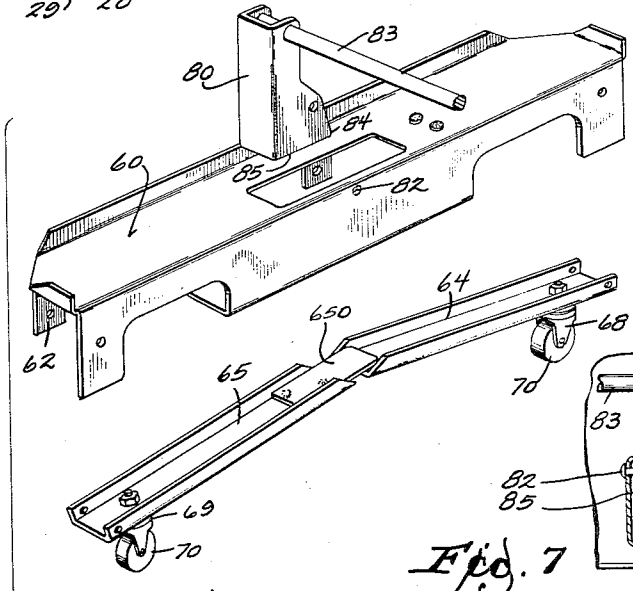


Fig. 5

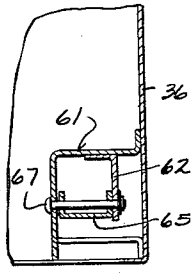


Fig. 6

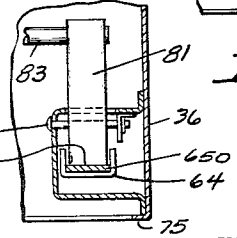


Fig. 7

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Filed May 3, 1954 3 Sheets-Sheet 3

Fig. 8

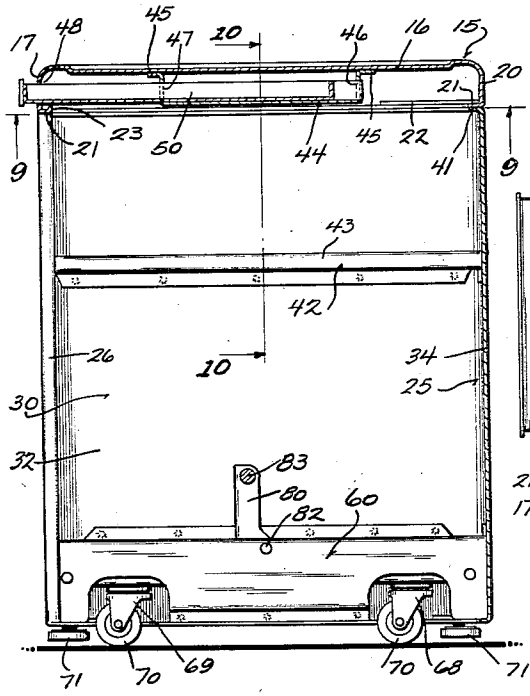
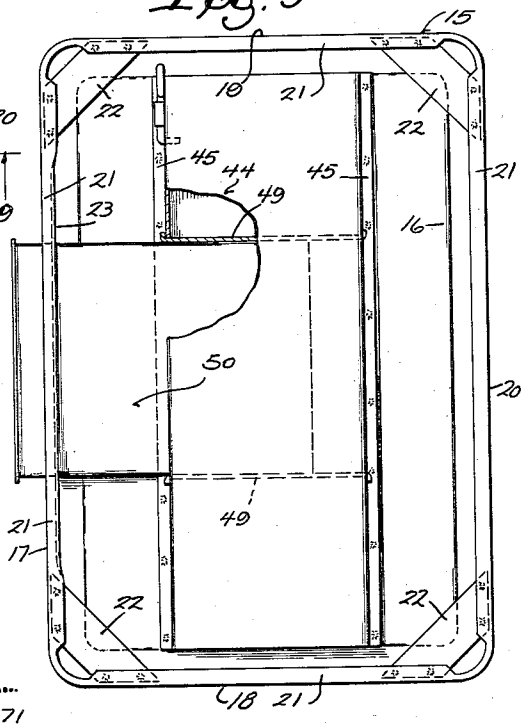


Fig. 9



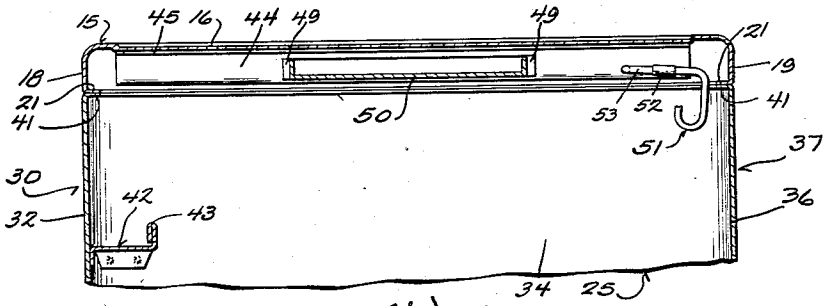


Fig. 10

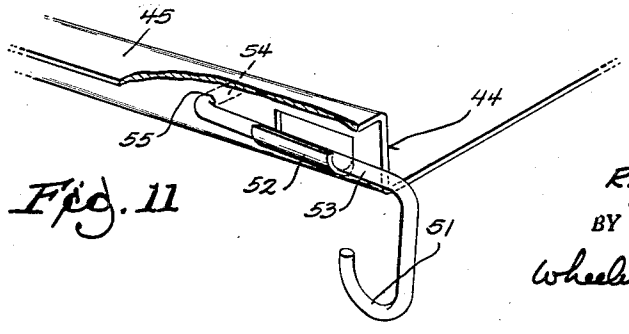


Fig. 11

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SEMI-CLOSED OFFICE MACHINE STAND OR SMALL DESK

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Application May 3, 1954, Serial No. 427,196

2 Claims. (Cl. 280—44)

This invention relates to a semi-closed office machine stand or small desk.

In its preferred embodiment, as herein disclosed, the desk is legless in the sense that the base of the desk comprises sheet metal on edge extending continuously from one side of the knee opening across the front of the desk, about the end, across the back, across the other end, and thence to the other side of the knee opening. The resulting base has the appearance of two narrow pedestals and a back closure, all desirably fabricated from a single piece of sheet metal, the ends of which are turned inwardly at the knee opening to provide a broad flat vertical surface which will not snag the clothing of the user. Integral portions of the upright sheet metal which forms the base are flanged inwardly at its upper and lower margins, the corners being spanned at the lower margins by gussets to rigidify the base structure and to provide firm support for the top.

The desk top is desirably in the form of an inverted shallow pan integrally provided with sides which register with the sides of the base and from which inturned flanges are formed to seat on the upper flanges of the strip of sheet metal which provides the base. The top is desirably reinforced for stiffness by corner gussets and also has a shallow channel welded to its lower surface and extending longitudinally of the desk. The channel may have apertures in its sides aligned with an aperature in the front side of the desk top to receive and guide a drawer. In lieu of drawers in the pedestals, it is preferred that at least one of them may be provided with a shelf accessible through the knee opening of the desk and we may also provide in the top structure of the desk a depending hook for the support of the user's purse or the like.

The relatively narrow legless pedestal portions of the base receive prefabricated carrier housings within which lever systems support casters which may be raised and lowered so that the weight of the desk may readily be transferred between its adjustably fixed feet and the casters or wheels. The lever systems in the respective pedestals include corresponding operating levers cross-connected by a bar to move in unison. These levers are so designed as to stand upwardly within the pedestals when the desk is on the casters and to pivot into the rear of the desk, so that the actuating bar is out of the way of the user, when the desk is mounted on its feet for use.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a view in perspective showing a preferred embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 2 is a view taken in vertical front to rear section on an enlarged scale in the plane indicated 2—2 in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2, fragmentarily illustrating the same part of the desk with the actuating lever pivoted to the position to which it moves when the desk is in use.

Fig. 4 is a view in horizontal section taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary detailed view showing in disassembled relationship component parts of the caster carrier.

Fig. 6 is a detailed view taken in section on the line 6—6 of Fig. 4.

Fig. 7 is a detailed view taken in section on the line 7—7 of Fig. 4.

Fig. 8 is a view taken in vertical front to rear section on the line 8—8 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 9 is a view taken in section on the line 9—9 of Fig. 8, portions of the top re-enforcing channel being broken away.

Fig. 10 is a fragmentary view taken in section on the line 10—10 of Fig. 8.

Fig. 11 is a fragmentary detailed view in perspective showing the mounting of the concealed hook for supporting the user's purse, portions being broken away.

The desk top generically designated by reference character 15 may have the form of an inverted shallow pan as best appears in Figs. 8, 9, and 10. Its exposed upper surface desirably has its central area depressed at 16. There are depending sides 17 at the front, 18 and 19 at the respective ends, and 20 at the rear of the top.

Integral portions of the respective sides are desirably flanged inwardly at 21 and connected by gussets 22 for rigidity. Between the gussets at the front corners, the flange 21 may be rolled inwardly and upwardly, as best shown at 23 in Fig. 8, to provide a smoothly rounded surface for avoidance of snagging the wearer's clothing.

The base portion 25 of the desk provides two narrow pedestals at the respective ends thereof, each of them being formed by sheet metal on end. Desirably the two pedestals are integrally connected by a web about the back of the desk.

Referring to Fig. 4, it will be observed that the strip of sheet metal used for this purpose has one of its ends 26 turned inwardly at the left hand side of the knee opening 27. The opening is bounded by a shallow portion 28 of the strip, from which the strip extends at 29 along the front of the left hand pedestal 30, curving rearwardly at 31 to form the end wall 32. At the rear of the pedestal, the strip of sheet metal curves at 33 to extend at 34 across the rear of the desk as the rear wall thereof. The strip of sheet metal again curves at 35 to form the right hand end wall 36 across the right hand pedestal 37. At 38 the strip of sheet metal curves again to extend at 39 across the front of the right hand pedestal, being flanged inwardly at 40. By forming the entire base of sheet metal positioned on edge, we provide a base which is extremely rigid without requiring the use of the usual legs or internal braces or supports.

At the upper margin of the sheet metal strip which forms the base, as above described, we provide an inwardly turned flange 41 which lies beneath the flange 21 of the top 15 and is spot welded thereto, assuming that permanent assembly is desired. (See Fig. 8 and Fig. 10.)

Drawers in the pedestals are not deemed essential in view of the narrowness of the pedestals. In lieu thereof, shallow trays or shelves may be provided if desired, as shown at 42 in Figs. 1, 8, and 10. As best illustrated in Fig. 10, the shelf 42 has flanges welded to the sheet metal strip which forms the pedestal 30 and it also has an upstanding flange 43 which tends to confine any article placed on the shelf.

If a top drawer is desired, it may readily be provided. The entire desk top 15 is desirably reinforced by a shallow longitudinally extended channel 44 having flanges 45 welded to the desk top along its under surface. Openings 46 and 47 in the front and rear sides of the channel register with an opening 48 in the front wall 17 of the desk top. Spanning the channel at opposite sides of such openings are parallel guides 49 (Fig. 9) between

which the drawer **50** is slidable across the bottom of the channel and through the several openings **48, 47,** and **46.**

For the further convenience of the user of the desk, a hook **51** is provided, desirably within one of the pedestals. Fig. 10 shows the hook located within the right-hand pedestal **37.** The side of channel **44** is provided with a cradle **52** which opens upwardly and is adapted to receive the shank portion **53** of hook **51.** The free end of the shank **53** is turned inwardly as shown at **54** and received through a hole **55** in the side wall of channel **44.** The arrangement permits the hook to swing pivotally in the hole **55** to and from a position in which the hook shank is normally seated in the saddle **52,** thereby being retained against withdrawal of its end portion **54** from hole **55.** The purpose of this arrangement is to enable the hook to be readily positioned within the desk after the desk is otherwise complete.

Within the respective pedestals **30** and **37** are left and right hand carrier housings **60** and **61,** best shown in Figs. 1 to 8. Each such carrier housing comprises a forward bracket **62** and a rearward bracket **63.** Pivoted to the forward bracket is a channel shaped lever **65.** Pivoted to the rear bracket is a channel shaped lever **64.** Lever **65** has an extension plate at **650** which laps the inner end of lever **64,** as best shown in Figs. 2, 3, and 4.

Between the free ends of the respective levers **64** and **65,** and desirably in relatively close proximity to their respective pintles **66** and **67,** the levers carry casters **68** and **69** having the usual wheels **70.** When the levers are moved into substantial horizontal alignment, as shown in Fig. 2, the casters project therebeneath far enough to support the desk. With the levers pivoted to converge upwardly, as in Fig. 3, the caster wheels **70** are retracted from desk supporting position. The desk corners are provided with feet **71** which are desirably carried on bolts **72** to be adjustable for leveling purposes. These bolts are held by nuts **73** to gusset plates **74** which span, at the desk corners, the inwardly turned flange **75** with which the sheet metal strip forming the base is provided. With the caster carrying levers **64, 65** in the position of Fig. 3, the feet **71** will rest on the floor to support the weight of the desk during use. With the levers **64, 65** in the position of Fig. 2, the casters will be supporting the desk and the feet **71** will be free of the floor.

Control of the position of the casters is determined by channel shaped control levers **80** and **81** (Figs. 2, 3, 4, and 7). These are correspondingly pivoted on pintles **82** mounted in the respective carrying housings. The free ends of the levers project upwardly and are connected longitudinally of the interior of the desk by a rod **83** having its ends fixed in the respective levers.

The flanges of the respective channel shaped levers may be rounded at **84** to provide cam surfaces engageable with the projecting plate **650** of lever **65** whereby a pull exerted on rod **83** in a forward direction within the desk will raise the two levers **80** and **81** from the horizontal position of Fig. 3 to the vertical position of Figs. 2, 4, 7 and 8, thereby camming the caster carrying levers **64, 65** to horizontal positions to raise the desk from feet **71** for support and transportation on the casters. The lower ends **85** of the respective levers are desirably square cut to be perfectly stable in contact with plate **650** in the position of Fig. 2 so that there will be no tendency for the levers to be freed from movement toward the position of Fig. 3, until such movement is brought about by manipulation of rod **83** in a rearward direction toward its storage position at the rear of the desk, as in Fig. 3.

Because the rod lies toward the rear of the desk when the desk is in use, it does not interfere in any way with freedom of movement of the user. The mechanical advantage provided by the levers and their camming engagement with plates **650** enables the weight of the desk and any machines mounted thereon to be handled with ease, both in raising and in lowering to and from the fixed feet **71.**

The provision of the hole at **88** in the top of the desk is, of course, optional. It may be used either to anchor a piece of office equipment on the desk or to receive the tubular support of a lamp or the like.

We claim:

1. In a desk having a top, a pair of pedestals beneath the ends of the top, each pedestal comprising an upright sheet metal channel closed at its front and back and outer side and opened inwardly beneath the desk top, together with a foot carried at each end of each pedestal beneath the corners of the desk top, a control housing extending from the front to the rear of the desk within the lower portion of each pedestal, levers within the respective housings pivoted thereto and provided with casters movable to and from desk supporting position below the level of respective feet and a common control for said levers including lever means pivoted to the respective housings and a rod connecting said last lever means and extending longitudinally of the desk between said pedestals.

2. The device of claim 1 in which the first mentioned levers pivoted to the respective housings have pintles at the ends of the housings, one of said levers having a wear plate connected with it and lapping the free end of the other lever, the said lever means for actuating the levers first mentioned comprising a cam surface engageable with said wear plate for moving the first mentioned levers downwardly upon the movement of the lever means toward an upright position, said last mentioned lever means being normally retracted to a substantially horizontal position.

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