Feb. 3, 1942. J. S. BURDICK 2,271,678

FOLLOWER PLATE FOR FILING CASES AND THE LIKE

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Fig. 1

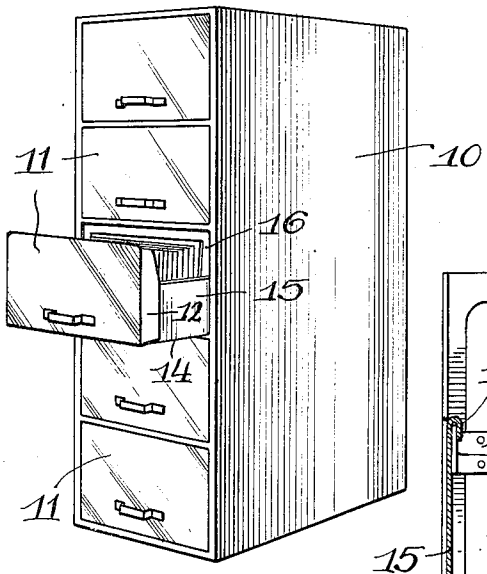
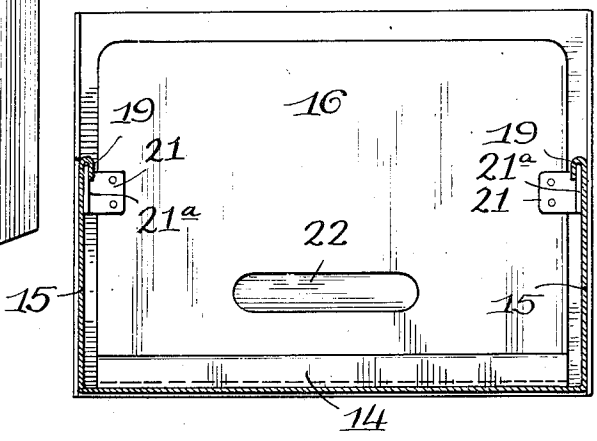


Fig. 3



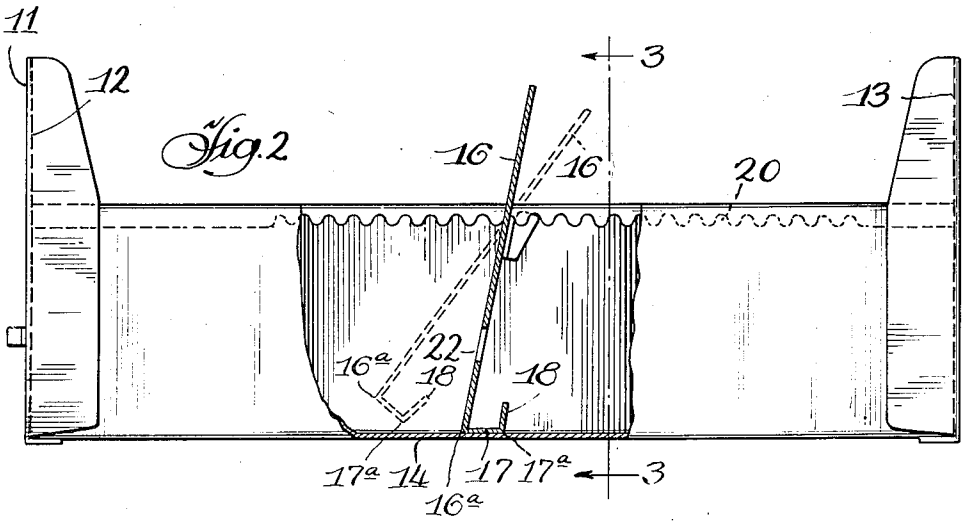


Fig. 2

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Fig. 4

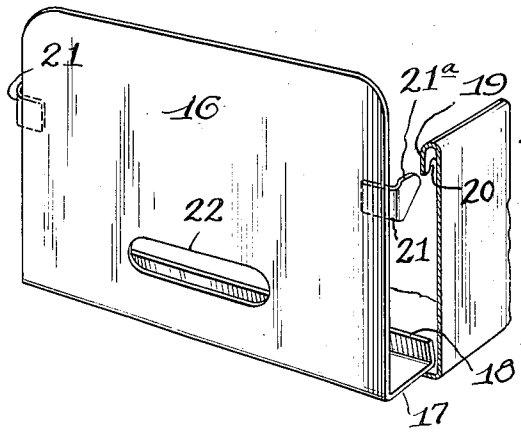
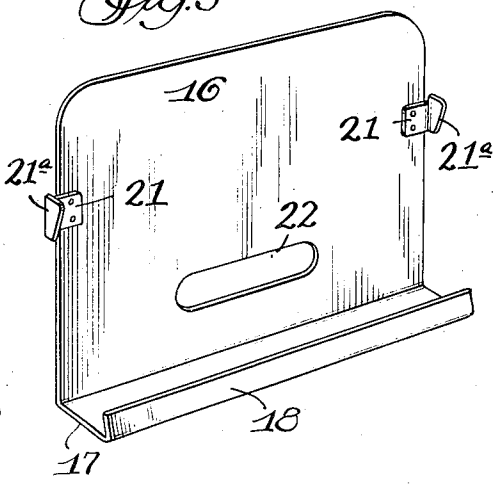


Fig. 5



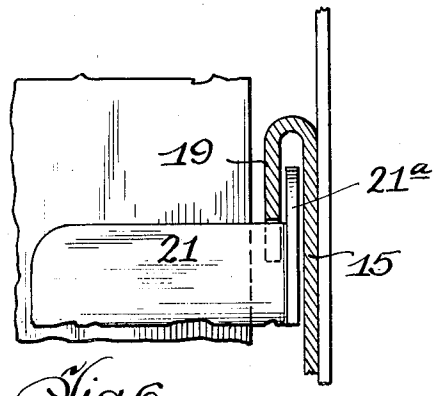


Fig. 6

Fig. 8

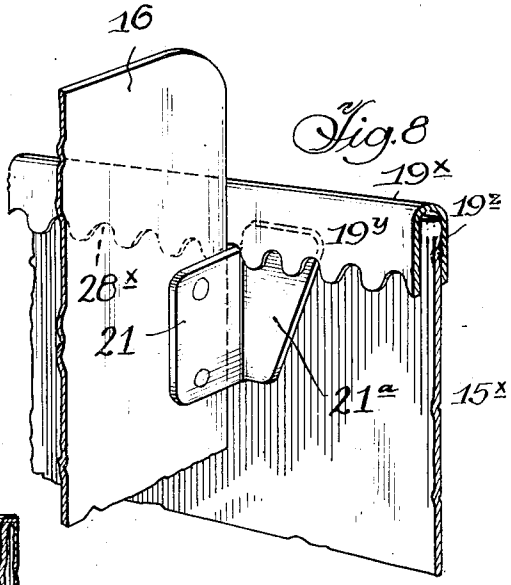
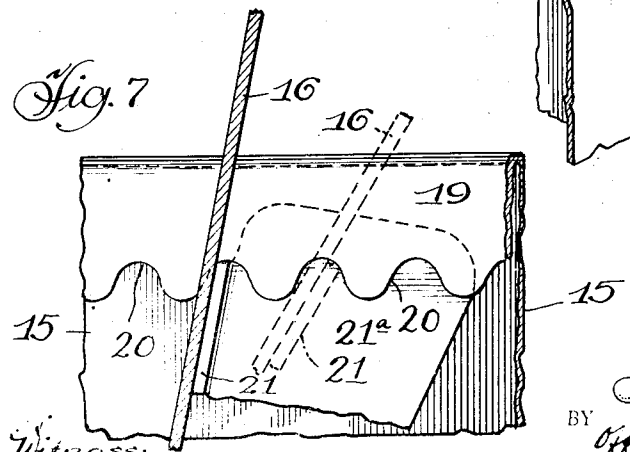


Fig. 7



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Patented Feb. 3, 1942 2,271,678

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,271,678

FOLLOWER PLATE FOR FILING CASES AND THE LIKE

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Application December 15, 1939, Serial No. 309,338

1 Claim. (Cl. 129—31)

This invention relates to improvements in follower plates for drawers of filing cases and the like, and consists of the matters hereinafter described and more particularly pointed out in the appended claim.

The object of the invention is to provide a follower plate for use in the drawer of a filing case or cabinet which may be readily and easily adjusted to any position in the drawer and may be quickly applied to or removed therefrom, without the use of screws, bolts or other attaching devices.

The advantages of the new follower plate will appear as I proceed with my specification.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a filing cabinet with drawers, one of which is withdrawn to show my improved follower plate applied therein.

Figure 2 is a longitudinal section on an enlarged scale showing a drawer removed from said filing cabinet and provided with the novel and improved follower plate.

Figure 3 is a view representing a transverse section through Figure 2 in a plane indicated by the line 3—3 of Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the follower plate looked at as it appears when viewed from the front of the drawer, with one side wall of the drawer shown in sectional perspective.

Figure 5 is a perspective view of the follower plate viewed from the rear.

Figure 6 is a view showing on an enlarged scale a fragmentary section through one side of the drawer taken in a vertical plane back of the follower plate.

Figure 7 is a view showing a partial section through the follower plate in a plane parallel to the side wall of the drawer, illustrating a way of shifting the plate when it is to be adjusted to a different position.

Figure 8 is a perspective view on an enlarged scale of a part of the follower plate associated with the side wall, representing a somewhat modified form of the invention.

Referring now to that embodiment of the invention shown in the drawings, and particularly in Figures 1 to 7 thereof: 10 indicates a filing cabinet of any familiar construction provided with a plurality of drawers 11 withdrawable through suitable openings in the front of the cabinet in a familiar manner. Said drawer has a front wall or head 12 which is adapted to close the drawer opening; a rear wall 13; a bottom wall 14; and side walls 15, 15.

16 indicates the improved follower plate. Said follower plate is made of sheet metal. It is of a width somewhat less than the width of the drawer and is of a depth to project above the side walls 15 of the drawer when placed therein, as shown in Figures 2 and 3. Said plate is formed at the bottom to provide a shoe 17 in the form of a flange preferably extending the width of the plate and extending at an angle to the rear face of the plate. Said flange has an upturned rib 18.

Each side wall 15 of the drawer is turned back upon itself at its upper margin to provide a depending flange 19 extending the length of the drawer and spaced from the proximate face of the side wall of which it is a part. Said flange is provided on its bottom edge with a plurality of spaced rounded notches 20.

The follower plate is provided at each lateral edge with horizontal shoulders projecting therefrom disposed in position to engage the notches 20 in the flanges 19 of the side walls of the drawer when the follower plate is in an approximately vertical position. Said shoulders are preferably provided by clips 21, 21 which are riveted, spot-welded or otherwise fixed to the rear face of the plate 16 (see Figures 3, 5 and 6). Said clips project into the space between the flanges 19, 19 and the side walls of the drawer where they are provided with rearwardly extending flanges 21^a 21^a which project above the top edges of the clips 21, as shown in Figures 5 and 6, and act to center the follower plate in position between the side walls of the drawer.

To introduce the follower plate into the drawer it is inserted between its side walls in an inclined position to bring the shoe 17 towards the head of the drawer as indicated in dotted lines in Figure 2, with the top edges of the clips in position to be engaged in one of the notches 20 of the flanges 19, and with the rearwardly extending flanges engaged in the space between the side walls and the depending flanges 19, 19 thereof. The bottom of the plate is then shifted towards the rear of the drawer to the position shown in full lines in Figure 2, with the top edges of the clips 21 engaged in notches 20 of the depending flange and the shoe 17 wedged against the bottom wall 14 of the drawer.

To adjust the follower plate 16 to a different position, the bottom of said plate is pulled or pushed towards the head of the drawer to disengage the foot of the plate from the bottom wall of the drawer and the top edges of the clips 21 from the notches 20, whereupon said clips may be moved to engage notches spaced to one side or the other (to the rear as shown in Figure 7 in dotted lines) of the first position of the plate.

The plate is then again brought to position wedged in the drawer with the top edges of the clip 21 engaged in the notches 20, 20, and with the foot 17 wedged against the bottom wall of the drawer as before.

To remove the follower plate from the drawer the foot 17 of the plate is pulled or pushed forwardly, and the clips 21, 21 with their rearwardly extending flanges 21^a, 21^a are disengaged from the depending flanges 19, whereupon by tilting the plate upon an axis between its vertical sides it may be readily withdrawn from the drawer.

Instead of making the depending notched flanges 19, 19 integral with the side walls 15, 15 of the drawer, these may be made as part of the reinforcing U-shaped strip 19^x as shown in Figure 8, where 19^y indicates the leg of the U which corresponds to the depending notched flange in Figure 3, and 19^z the other leg of the U which is secured to the outside face of the associated side wall 15^x of the drawer.

To facilitate the manipulation of the follower plate 16 in the manner above described, said plate is preferably provided with a transversely extending hand hole 22 by means of which it may be grasped at a point near the shoe 17. The upturned flange 18 on the shoe 17 acts not only to finish off the shoe at its rear edge so that it may be easily moved along the bottom wall when the plate is being brought to operative position, but it also presents another means by which the plate may be gripped and operated.

The object of flange 17 is to provide a spring bottom shoe for the main plate 16 and made at such an angle in relation to 16 that point 17^a will first come in contact with bottom 14, thus making a spring contact between 16 and 14 before 16^a is brought tightly against 14.

While in describing the invention I have referred to certain details of mechanical construction and arrangement of parts, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited thereto except as may be pointed out in the appended claim.

I claim as my invention:

In a drawer for filing cases, said drawer having side and bottom walls and being open at the top, means providing depending flanges with longitudinally spaced notches at the tops of said side walls and spaced from the proximate faces of said side walls, a follower plate provided with laterally extending shoulders engageable with the notches in said depending flanges and a shoe engageable with the bottom wall of said drawer, said shoe including a yielding flange extending at an angle to said plate, said angle being such that the free edge of said flange will first contact the bottom wall of said drawer to provide yielding contact with said bottom wall, and said shoulders and shoe being spaced so that said shoulders will be engaged in said notches when said shoe is wedged against the bottom wall of said drawer.

JOHN S. BURDICK.