June 22, 1948. L. W. BAILEY 2,443,761

SORTING APPARATUS

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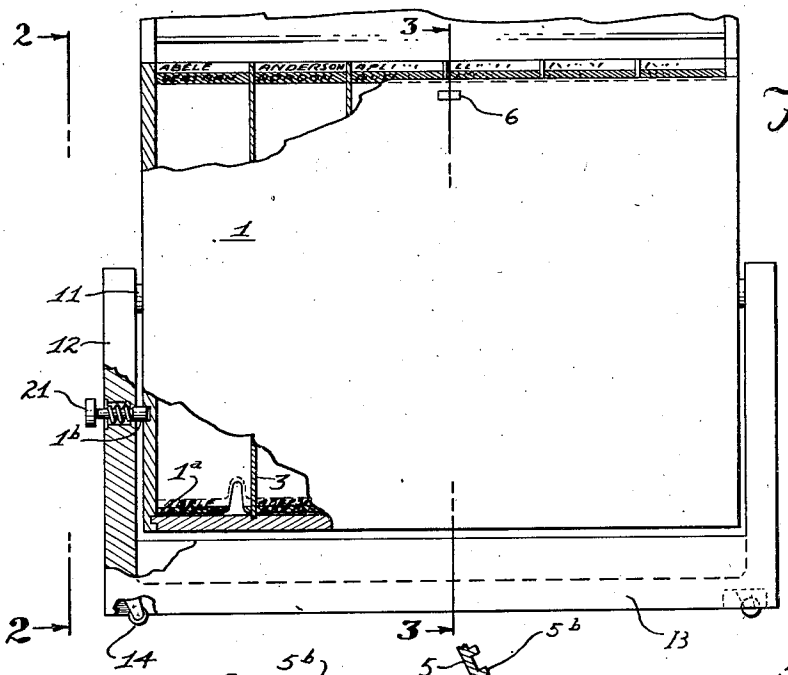


Fig. 1.

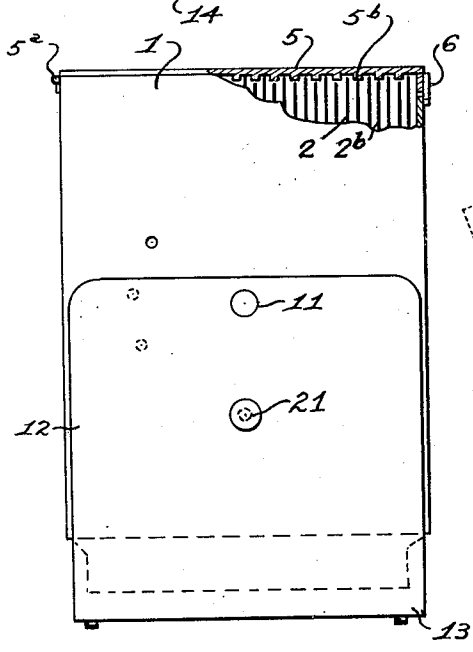


Fig. 2.

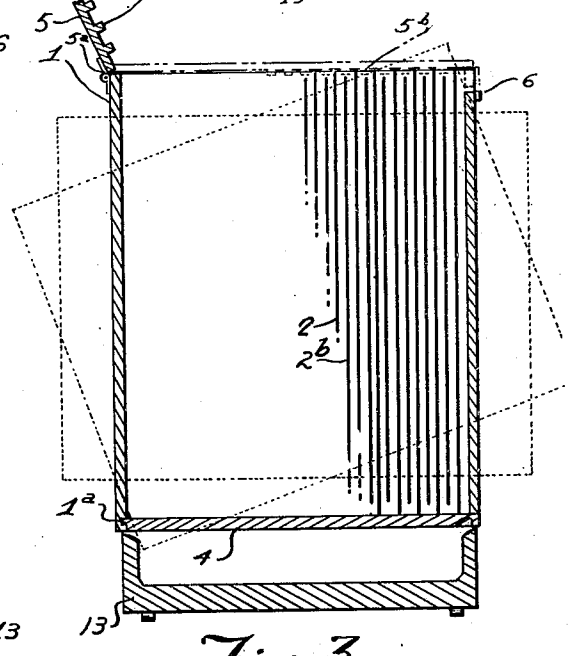


Fig. 3.

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Fig. 4.

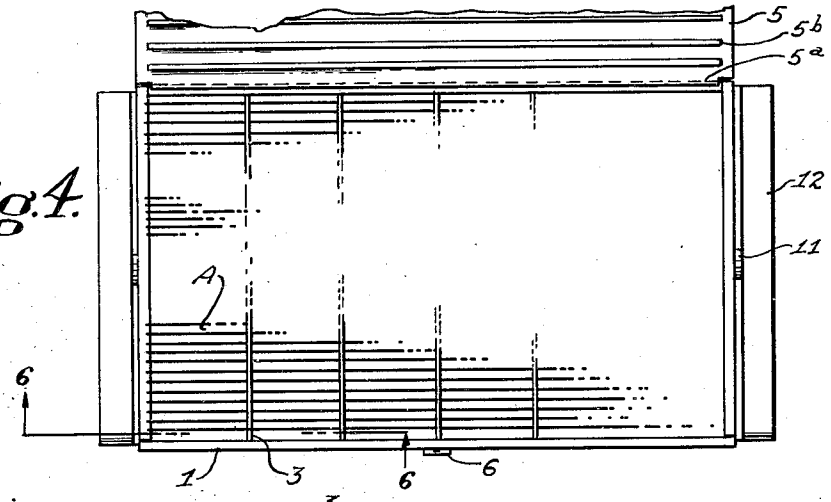


Fig. 5

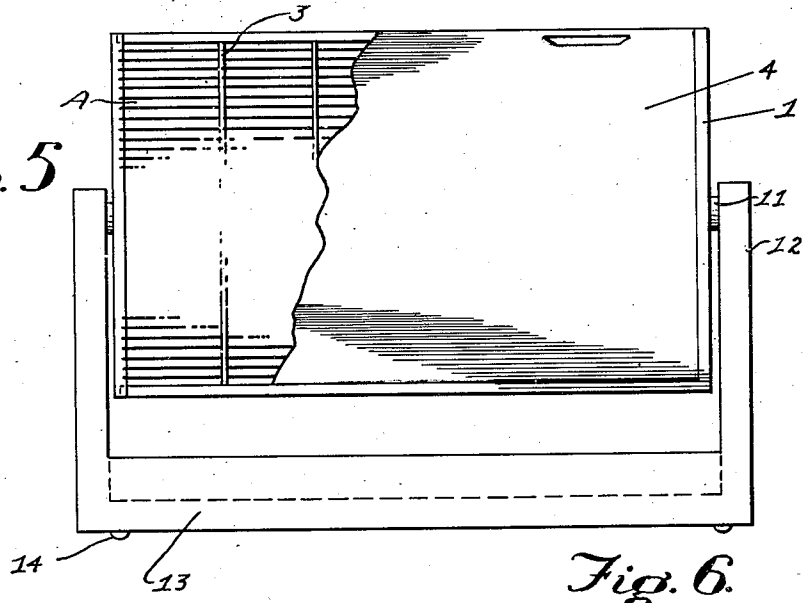


Fig. 6.

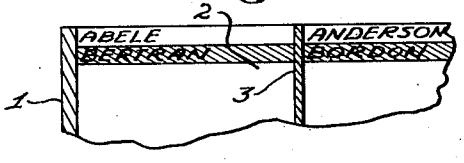
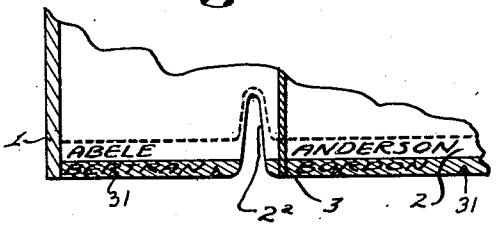


Fig. 7.



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SORTING APPARATUS

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Application October 8, 1945, Serial No. 620,933

6 Claims. (Cl. 232—1)

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My present invention relates to a sorting apparatus, particularly adapted for sorting papers, checks, or the like.

One of the principal objects is to provide an apparatus of this class which is arranged for sorting a great variety of papers, checks, and the like, under an extensive alphabetical, numerical, or other method of indexing or cataloging, and an apparatus of this class which is particularly compact so that a great number and variety of papers, checks, and the like, may be sorted and temporarily filed or stored.

Another important object of this invention is to provide a sorting apparatus of this class which may be embodied in an attractive-looking and compact cabinet for banks, or other similar businesses or institutions.

An important object also of this invention is to provide a sorting apparatus of this class which is provided with many differently labelled slots, pockets, or compartments, in which papers, checks, or the like, may be readily inserted for sorting and filing the same, and which is provided with openings at the opposite sides or ends of the slots, pockets, or compartments, from which such papers, checks, and the like, may be readily removed by slightly tilting the container or cabinet containing the same, whereby the latter sides or ends of the slots, compartments, or pockets are readily accessible.

A further important object of this invention is to provide an apparatus of this class in which the slots, compartments, or pockets are similarly labelled or indexed at its opposite ends so that the operator may merely remove the papers, checks, or the like, without confusion, from the bottom sides or ends of the slots, compartments, or pockets without further sorting.

A still further important object of this invention is to provide an apparatus of this class in which the normally bottom sides or ends of the slots, compartments, or pockets are temporarily closed by a removable wall or retaining member, which may be readily removed when the container of the sorted papers and checks is tilted.

Another important object is the provision of a tiltable container in which the normally upper sides or ends of the slots, compartments, or pockets may be temporarily closed or covered when the container is tilted as described.

Still another important object of this invention is to provide a sorting apparatus having only one-half as many main indicia or index portions as there are compartments, pockets, or slots, so as

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to simplify the sorting operation of many papers, checks, or the like.

With these and other objects in view, as will appear hereinafter, I have devised a sorting apparatus having certain novel features of construction, combination, and arrangement of parts and portions, as will be hereinafter described in detail and particularly set forth in the appended claims, reference being had to the accompanying drawings and to the characters of reference thereon, which form a part of this application, in which:

Fig. 1 is a front view of the article of furniture or office equipment embodying my invention in one form, the cover being raised and shown fragmentary, and other portions being shown broken away and in section to facilitate the illustration;

Fig. 2 is a side elevation thereof, also showing portions broken away and in section to facilitate the illustration;

Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional view thereof taken through 3—3 of Fig. 1, and showing by dotted lines the cabinet tilted to three different positions;

Fig. 4 is a top view with the cover removed, showing particularly the arrangement of the sorting pockets or slots;

Fig. 5 is a front elevational view of the apparatus with the cabinet tilted to expose the bottom;

Fig. 6 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view taken through 6—6 of Fig. 4, showing the index arrangement of the various pockets or slots at the upper end; and,

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary view, similar to that shown in Fig. 6, but of the lower or discharge ends of the pockets or slots in the cabinet.

My sorting apparatus shown in the drawings is embodied in a cabinet or structure which may form part of the equipment of an office.

The cabinet, designated 1, is box-like in shape and is of greater lateral extent than width. It has a multi-slotted sorting table, and contains a plurality of compartments or pockets A, which provide temporary depositories for the papers, checks, or other articles to be sorted. These compartments are shown as relatively deep, extending the full length of the cabinet. They are formed by partitions 3 and end walls of the cabinet 1. Compartments A are further subdivided by thin wall members or partitions 2 and 2^b, spaced about $\frac{3}{8}$'' or more apart. The upper ends of said partitions and cabinet side walls terminate in the above mentioned multi-slotted sorting table.

The cross-section of the cabinet is long and narrow, and the upper and lower ends of the

compartments have the shape of slots which are long laterally with respect to the length or lateral extent of the cabinet and are relatively narrow. If the apparatus is used for sorting or classifying checks, the slots may be 6" long and ⅜" wide.

With slots of such shape and size, many may be provided in the normally upper face of the cabinet. In a cabinet approximately 36" long in lateral extent and 24" wide, there are 6 times 64 or 384 slots. A single operator or sorter may thus sort large numbers of cancelled checks into 384 specific depositors' accounts over a sorting table which he or she may easily reach. If the length of the slots were shortened to 4", the number of sorting slots would be 576. It is obvious, of course, that the number of sorting slots would be materially increased by increasing the length and width say to 40" and 36", respectively, which may be a reasonable maximum reach of the operator.

The operator of the sorting apparatus may stand or sit in front of the apparatus and deposit the various articles to be sorted at the upper end of the various pockets, compartments, or depositories A, which appear as slots or narrow pigeon-holes.

In normal use, i. e., when sorting or classifying articles by inserting them vertically into the upper ends of the compartments, pockets, or slots, the lower ends thereof are temporarily closed by a closure member 4, which is here shown as slidable in grooves 1^a near the lower ends of the side and rear end walls of the cabinet.

After the articles are sorted, and are to be removed from their depositories, compartments, pockets, or slots, from the lower ends thereof, the cabinet is tilted to one of the dotted line positions shown in Fig. 3, so that the depositories, compartments, pockets, or slots are substantially horizontal, and the closure member 4 is then removed, permitting access to the normally lower ends of the former. In such event, i. e., when the cabinet is tilted, the upper ends of such depositories, compartments, pockets, or slots, may be closed by a cover 5, which here is shown as pivoted at the edge 5^a. The cover is closed over the upper face of the cabinet and may be latched by a suitable latch 6. This cover may also be lowered over the top of the cabinet when the apparatus is not in use.

As shown, the alternate laterally positioned vertically separating walls 2 are higher than those immediately in front of or behind the same, the shorter walls being designated 2^b. The walls are thus arranged to reduce the indexing of the various depositories, compartments, pockets or slots. The walls which extend higher than the others are provided with indicia for the compartments, pockets, or slots, immediately in front of the same as well as behind such walls. Those in front may have designations on white background, such as the names, "Abele" and "Anderson" in Fig. 6, and indicia for the compartments, pockets, or slots behind such walls may appear on colored background, such as the names, "Bertran" and "Borden" in Fig. 6. Thus, the operator may look for only one-half as many main indicia and direct the articles to be sorted either in front or behind such walls.

The lower ends of the same walls are similarly labelled, as shown in Fig. 7.

In order properly to cover the whole of the upper face of the cabinet, and the whole of the compartments, pockets, or slots, the inside of the cover 5 may be provided with lateral ribs 5^b which may be of such width that they may extend to near the upper ends of the shorter walls 2^b, as shown in Fig. 3.

In the drawing, the cabinet 1 is shown as provided with trunnions 11, which are pivotally mounted at the upper ends of the brackets 12 which extend upwardly from the ends of a suitable base 13. This base with the brackets 12 provide a cradle for the reception and support of the cabinet 1, and present an appearance of being a unitary rigid structure.

The base or cradle may be provided with casters 14 so that it is readily portable.

In order to lock the cabinet in its normal upright position, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, a spring actuated latch bolt 21, provided in one of the brackets 12, may extend into a recess 1^b in the lower portion of one of the end walls, as shown best in Fig. 1. In order temporarily to hold the cabinet in one of its tilted positions, shown by dotted lines in Fig. 3, the latch bolt 21 may be withdrawn from the recess 1^b and inserted in one of the holes 1^c in the same end wall, but located at the side of the pivotal axis, as shown best in Fig. 2.

The desired tilted position is determined by the convenience of the operator.

In order to facilitate the removal of checks or other articles from the lower ends of the compartments, pockets, or slots, the lateral walls 2 may be provided with inwardly extending slots 2^a, as shown in Fig. 7.

When the cabinet is located in a tilted position with the normally lower ends of the compartments, pockets, or slots, inclined downwardly, and the closure member 4 removed, suitable retaining members 31, in the form of transverse rods, may be provided at the lower ends thereof in order temporarily to retain the checks or articles therein.

With the foregoing description in view, it is obvious that a multiple or double apparatus may be provided wherein different operators may classify or sort papers, documents, or checks into different portions thereof. Such arrangement may be desirable when an exceptionally large breakdown is desired, as when many accounts are to be serviced.

Though I have shown and described a particular construction, combination, and arrangement of parts and portions, I do not wish to be limited to the same, but desire to include in the scope of my invention the construction, combination, and arrangement substantially as set forth in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In a sorting means of the class described, a tiltable cabinet having a plurality of sorting pockets open at its opposite ends, articles being adapted to be placed into said pockets through one of its openings, and removable from the other of its openings when the cabinet is tilted.

2. In a sorting means of the class described, a tiltable cabinet having a plurality of sorting pockets open at its opposite ends, articles being adapted to be placed into said pockets through one of its openings, and means for temporarily closing the other openings of the pockets, said means being removable when said cabinet is tilted for removing said articles from the latter openings.

3. In a sorting means of the class described, a support having spaced brackets, a cabinet located between the brackets and provided with trunnions at its opposite sides rotatably supporting

the same on the brackets, means for temporarily maintaining the cabinet in a substantially upright and in a shifted position, the cabinet having a plurality of sorting pockets open at its opposite ends, articles being adapted to be placed into said pockets through one of its openings, and removable from the other openings when the cabinet is tilted.

4. In a sorting means of the class described, a support having spaced brackets, a cabinet located between the brackets and provided with trunnions at its opposite sides rotatably supporting the same on the brackets, means for temporarily maintaining the cabinet in a substantially upright and in a shifted position, the cabinet having a plurality of substantially vertical sorting pockets open at its opposite ends, articles being adapted to be placed into the pockets through the upper openings and removable from the lower openings when the cabinet is tilted.

5. In a sorting means of the class described, a support having spaced brackets, a cabinet located between the brackets and provided with trunnions at its opposite sides rotatably supporting the same on the brackets, means for temporarily maintaining the cabinet in a substantially upright and in a shifted position, the cabinet having a plurality of substantially vertical sorting pockets open at its opposite ends, articles being adapted to be placed into the pockets through the upper openings, and means

for temporarily closing the lower openings, said means being removable when said cabinet is tilted for removing said articles from the latter openings.

6. In a sorting means of the class described, a support having spaced brackets, a cabinet located between the brackets and provided with trunnions at its opposite sides rotatably supporting the same on the brackets, means for temporarily maintaining the cabinet in a substantially upright and in a shifted position, the cabinet having a plurality of substantially vertical sorting pockets open at its opposite ends, articles being adapted to be placed into the pockets through the upper openings, means for temporarily closing the lower openings, and a cover for the upper openings, said means being removable when said cabinet is tilted for removing said articles from the latter openings.

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