

1,048,088.

Patented Dec. 24, 1912.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

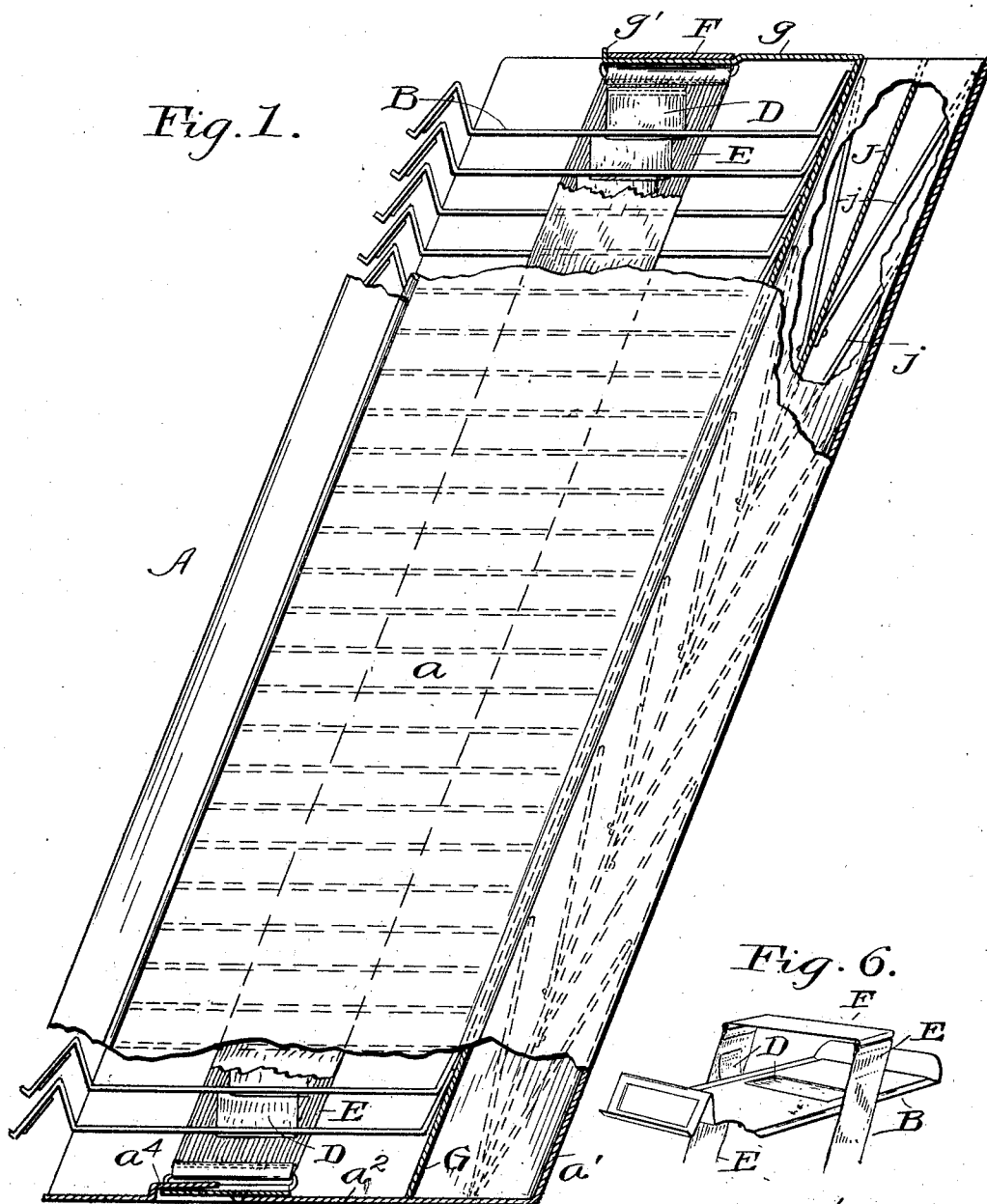
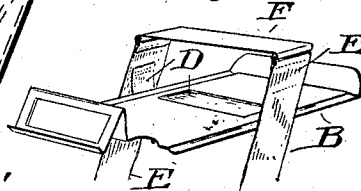


Fig. 6.



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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 2.

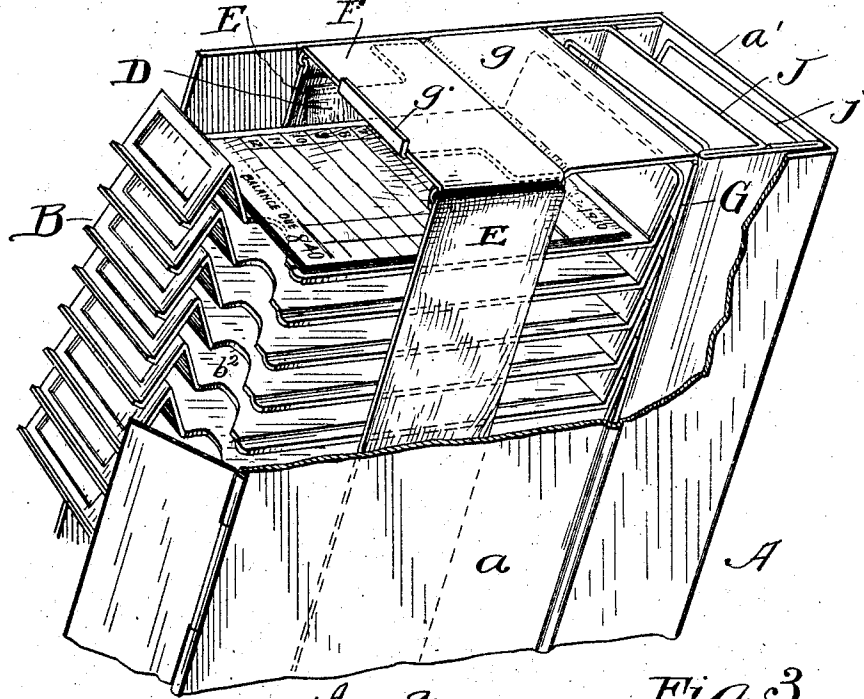


Fig. 3.

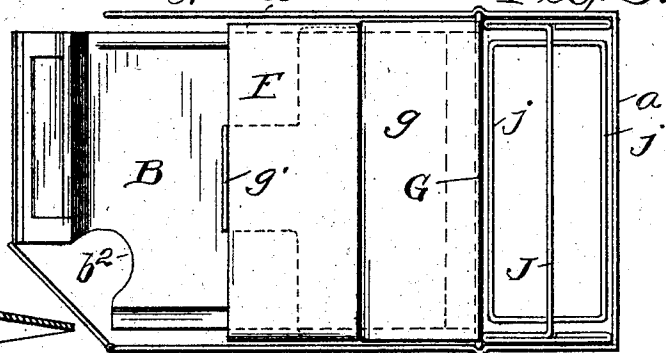


Fig. 5.

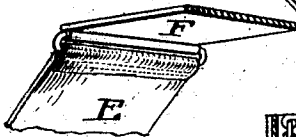
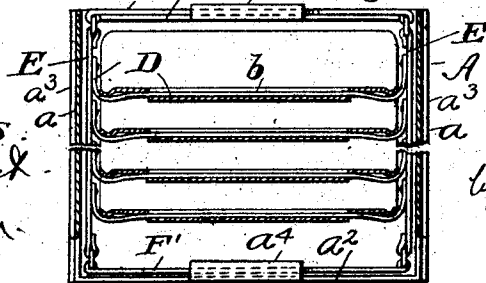


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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ACCOUNT-CABINET.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Dec. 24, 1912.

Application filed March 16, 1910. Serial No. 549,666.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BERT C. MAXWELL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Canton, in the county of Stark and State of Ohio, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Account-Cabinets, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

A very common custom in vogue with retail merchants is to make out duplicate bills for each order purchased by a customer. One of these bills is given to the customer and the other is kept by the merchant.

This invention is especially adapted for the use of a merchant doing a credit business, and using the duplicate bill system referred to, as the means for conveniently filing the bills he keeps in such manner that no book entries are required to show at any time the condition of any customer's account.

The invention is in the nature of an improvement upon the account cabinets which form the subject matter of my reissue Patent No. 12,597, dated January 15, 1907.

One object of this invention is to put the invention of said prior patent into better manufacturing form—that is to say, to put it in a form in which it can be made more easily and cheaply.

Another object is to increase its capacity by including, in the cabinet, a delinquent account compartment and means therein for holding in easily accessible positions the stacks of bills of the delinquent debtors.

Another object is to conceal from the view of the curious the condition of the various open accounts.

These and other advantages, which will be referred to later, are attained by the invention illustrated in the accompanying drawing and hereinafter described and pointed out definitely in the claims.

In the drawing, Figure 1 is a side elevation partly broken away of a small cabinet in which this invention is embodied. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the upper part of such a cabinet with a part of one side member of the case broken away. Fig. 3 is a plan view of the top of the cabinet. Fig. 4 is a sectional front elevation thereof, the section being through the tapes D; and Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the connection be-

tween one of the flexible hangers E and the bar F. Fig. 6 is a view of one of the trays.

Here follows a detailed description of the specific embodiment of the invention shown in the drawing. It is to be understood, however, that the invention is not restricted to this specific construction, and that the claims are not to be limited thereto, except to the extent plainly indicated by their terms.

Referring to the parts by letters, A represents the case which may be formed from a single piece of sheet metal, cut and bent so as to form as shown the two side members a, a, the back a', and bottom a².

The trays are indicated by B. These are preferably made of sheet metal, and are or may be substantially like the trays shown and described in said prior patent. At the right side of the front ends of these trays the up turned ends thereof are cut away, and a finger notch b² is cut in an oblique direction,—this finger notch making it convenient for anyone to remove from any tray the bills therein.

I have found, however, that the turned up sides of the trays, as shown in my prior patent, are not necessary; and I also believe that the drawings herein show better and more practical means for attaching to the several trays the flexible supports D, by means of which they are connected with the flexible hangers E.

In the construction shown, each tray B has a loop b pressed down from its bottom. A tape D is passed through this loop,—that is to say, the tape goes over the bottom of the tray and over the loop. The loop may then be pressed upward enough to pinch the tape between the edges of the loop and bottom of the tray.

The flexible hangers E are preferably made of strong tape. Their upper ends are connected by a bar F; and their lower ends by a bar F'. All of the trays of the series lie between these two hanger tapes E; and the several trays are connected with these hanger tapes by means of the tapes D, the ends of which are sewed or otherwise secured to the two hanger tapes E. At the upper end of the case there is a support upon which the upper bar F may rest, and thereby the tray structure will be suspended within the case between the two sides there-

of. Which the trays are in substantially horizontal position these hanger tapes E are inclined slightly forward from their upper ends, which causes each tray to project forward a little in advance of the tray above it.

Coming back to the case, the front edges of the sides a thereof are inclined to correspond with the inclination of the hanger tapes E. Behind the tray series and within the case is a false back G, which is similarly inclined; and it is so placed that the rear edges of the trays engage with it. This false back is shown as a plate of sheet metal, whose edges are slidably fitted in grooves a^3 formed in the side members a by bending the metal thereof. The upper end g of this false back G is bent forward into horizontal position, serving as a partial cover to the case. This part g is, however, more especially useful as the support for the tray structure. The front portion of this part g is depressed, as shown, and its extreme front end g' is turned up. The bar F of the tray structure rests upon this depressed portion of the part G and just behind the turned up end g' . At the same time the lower bar F' is passed under a tongue a^4 struck up from the bottom a^2 of the case. It has been found desirable to hold the tray structure down by means substantially such as the tongue F which engages, as described, with the bar F'. This is because if the structure were not so held down, sometimes the lifting of one of the trays might pull up on the hanger tapes and so lift some of the trays below, and these might get cramped between the sides of the case or in some way displaced.

It is customary with merchants using the system of account keeping before mentioned, to put on each bill the amount which the customer previously owed, and to add this amount to the amount of the purchase, and to put the total, which shows the total indebtedness of the customer, near the bottom right hand corner of the bill. When this bill is placed on top of the other bills in a tray this amount, which is plainly visible, shows the total indebtedness of the customer. (See top of Fig. 2). These account cabinets are generally placed on a counter in a convenient position for use, and therefore it is possible for curious people, having no right to do so, to look at the bills and so learn what the several customers whose names are on the front ends of the trays may chance to owe. To prevent this undesirable publicity, a door H is hinged to the front edge of the right side member a , and is adapted to swing in front of and thereby conceal the right sides of the trays. This door may be easily swung back when the merchant desires to put bills into or remove them from the trays.

In the back part of the case between the back a' and the false back G is a chamber

adapted to hold the bills of the delinquent debtors. A plate J is removably placed in this chamber. On the front and rear sides of this plate are devices j which form pockets or compartments for the reception of stacks of bills. These devices, as shown, are in the form of wires or plates riveted to plate J and extending upward and outward from their points of connection; but may be made in many different forms without departure from the invention in its broader aspect. Generally speaking, it is only necessary that the devices be adapted to form compartments on the side of the plate J in which bills of the delinquent debtors may be conveniently held.

It will be noticed that the trays B are formed with downwardly pressed corrugations close to their edges and extending forward and backward. The tapes pass under these corrugations and engage with them instead of with the sharp edges of the trays, which sharp edges, were it not for these corrugations, would be apt to wear and cut the tapes.

Having described my invention, I claim:

1. In an account cabinet, a tray made of sheet metal having a loop pressed down from its bottom, and a tape which passes over this loop and under the tray and is extended beyond the sides thereof, and supporting members to which the extended ends of said tape are connected.

2. In an account cabinet, a tray made of sheet metal having a loop pressed down from its bottom, and a tape which passes over this loop and under the tray and is extended beyond the sides thereof, said loop being pressed up to clamp said tape against the bottom of the tray, and supporting members to which the extended ends of said tape are connected.

3. In an account cabinet, the combination of a case, two flexible hangers, cross bars respectively connected with the upper ends and the lower ends of said flexible hangers, a series of superposed trays which lie between and are flexibly connected with said hangers, a support in the upper end of said case on which the upper cross bar may be removably sustained, and a hook in the lower part of said case under which the lower cross bar may be passed.

4. In an account cabinet, the combination of a case having connected side members which are provided with internal inclined grooves, a false back plate slidably fitted in said grooves, and a series of superposed and flexibly suspended trays in front of said false back plate and resting at their rear ends against the same.

5. In an account cabinet, the combination of a case having connected side members which are provided with internally inclined grooves, a false back plate slidably fitted in

said grooves and having a forwardly extended over-bent upper end, and a series of superposed and flexibly connected trays which are suspended from the bent over end of said plate with their rear ends resting against said plate.

6. In an account cabinet, the combination of a case, an inclined false back therein having its upper end bent forward into substantially horizontal position and having the extreme front end bent upward, a series of superposed trays, two flexible hangers between which said trays lie and with which they are flexibly connected, and a bar connecting the upper ends of said flexible hangers and removably supported upon the upper end of said false back behind the upturned extremity thereof.

7. In an account cabinet, the combination of a case, an inclined false back therein having its upper end bent forward into substantially horizontal position and having its forward extremity bent upward, a series of superposed trays, two flexible hangers between which said trays lie and with which they are flexibly connected, a bar connecting the upper ends of said flexible hangers and removably supported upon the horizontal end of said false back behind the upturned extremity thereof,—said case having a bottom from which a hook is pressed upward,—and a bar connecting the lower ends of said flexible hangers and, removably placed beneath said hook.

8. In an account cabinet, the combination of a case having side members, and a back, and a false back between said side members

and in front of the back of the case, means within the space between the said backs for holding account slips and a series of superposed trays flexibly supported in said case in front of the false back.

9. In an account cabinet, the combination of a case having side members and a back, and a false back between said side members and in front of the back of the case, thereby forming a delinquent account chamber, and a plate removably fitted in said chamber and carrying on its front face means dividing the space within said chamber into bill holding compartments.

10. In an account cabinet, a sheet metal tray having downwardly pressed corrugations close to the side edges thereof and extending forward and backward, and a flexible support connected with the tray near the center thereof and extending beneath and in engagement with said corrugations, and supporting members to which the projecting ends of said flexible supports are connected.

11. In an account cabinet, a tray having a flexible support extending across near its center and beyond the sides thereof, and means for connecting said support to said tray, and supporting members to which the projecting ends of said flexible supports are connected.

In testimony whereof, I hereunto affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

BERT C. MAXWELL.

Witnesses:

L. C. WISE,
ANNA SEYMOUR.