May 20, 1941. A. FRASER 2,242,296

LOOSE-LEAF MEMO TRAY AND THE LIKE

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FIG. I.

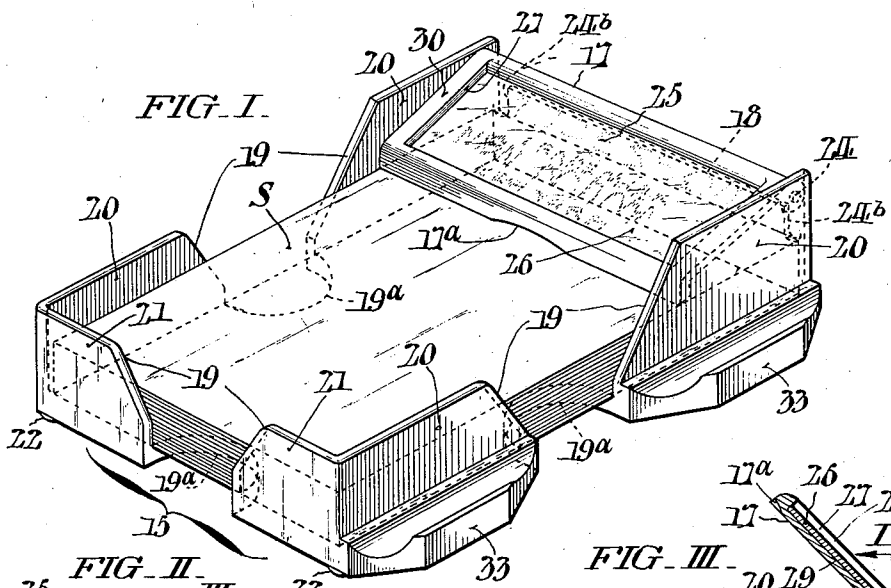


FIG. II.

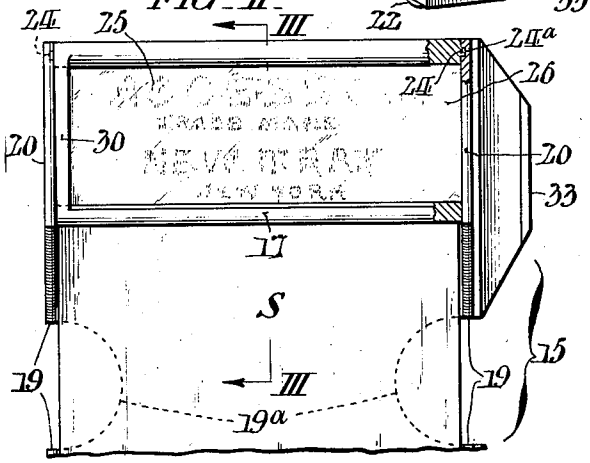


FIG. III.

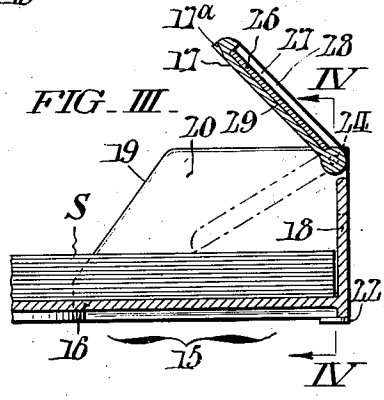


FIG. V.

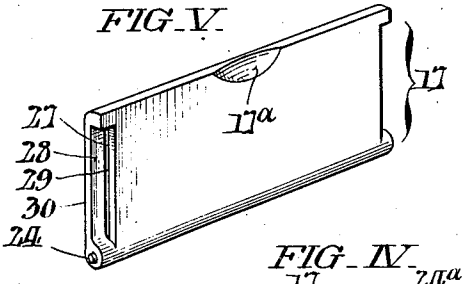


FIG. V^a.

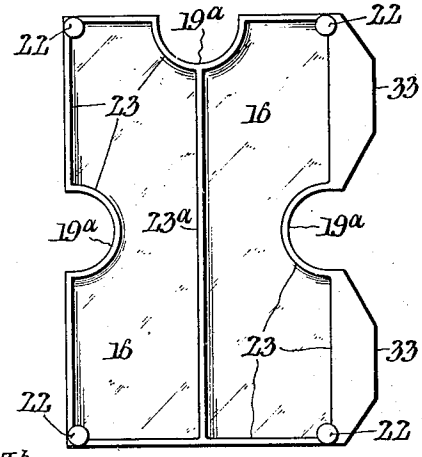
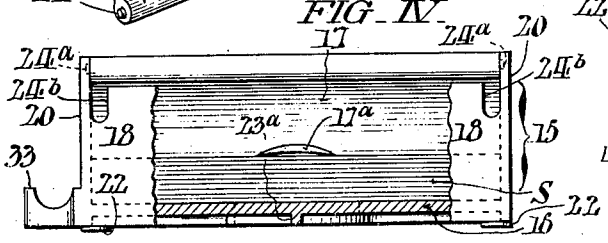


FIG. IV.



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FIG. VI.

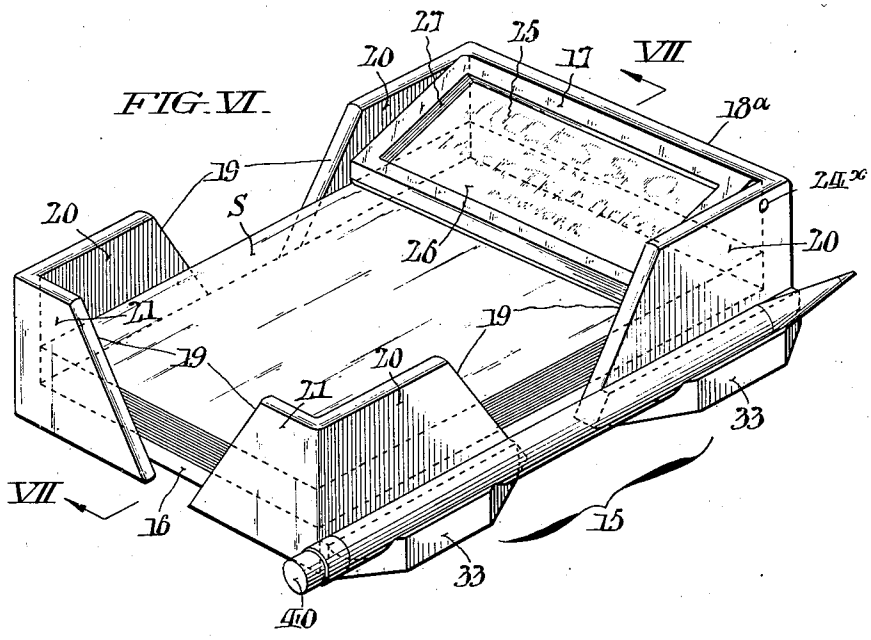


FIG. VII.

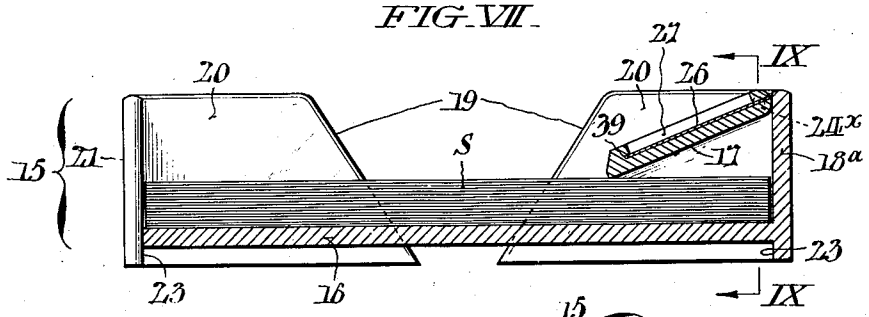


FIG. IX

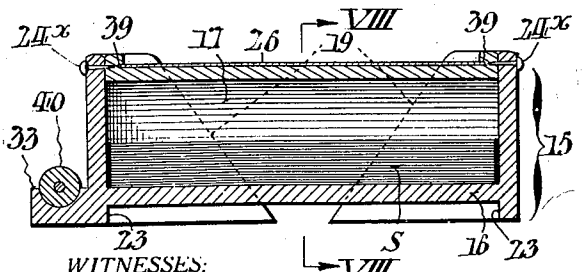
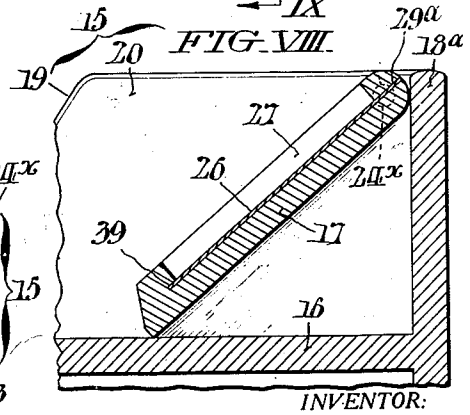


FIG. VIII.



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LOOSE-LEAF MEMO TRAY AND THE LIKE

Allan Fraser, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Application October 20, 1939, Serial No. 300,289

5 Claims. (Cl. 129—26)

This invention relates to memorandum devices, and more particularly to a device or container for conveniently holding sheets or leaves, and also when desired a pencil or other writing means for use with the sheets. In homes, offices, and many other places, a supply of readily available sheets is often desirable on a telephone stand, on a desk, or in a desk or table drawer, etc., for making notes of addresses, calls received, numbers to be called, business transacted, appointments or social engagements arranged, or information obtained, or any other notes or memoranda. I aim to combine ease of access to the sheets, and facility in removing them from the container, with secure retention of otherwise loose sheets against accidental displacement or loss—as by being blown away by a gust of wind. Other features and advantages of the invention will appear hereinafter from the description of species or forms of embodiment, and from the drawings. All the features and combinations shown or described are, indeed, of my invention, so far as novel.

In the drawings, Fig. I is a perspective or tilted view of a simple and inexpensive form of memo sheet tray conveniently embodying the invention; Fig. II is a partial plan view, with portions broken out; Fig. III is a fragmentary sectional view, taken as indicated by the line and arrows III—III in Fig. II, with one of the parts in a different position; Fig. IV is an end view with part of the end wall broken away as indicated by the line and arrows IV—IV in Fig. III; Fig. V is a perspective or tilted view of one of the parts shown in Figs. I—IV; and Fig. V[a] is a bottom plan view of the tray.

Fig. VI is a perspective or tilted view similar to Fig. I, illustrating a different form of the device; Fig. VII is a longitudinal sectional view, taken as indicated by the line and arrows VII—VII in Fig. VI; Fig. VIII is a fragmentary sectional view, similar to Fig. III, taken as indicated by the line and arrows VIII—VIII in Fig. IX, illustrating a different position of one of the parts; and Fig. IX is a sectional view taken as indicated by the line and arrows IX—IX in Fig. VII.

The device is shown in Fig. I as a shallow, oblong, rectangular container or tray 15, and a supply of memo sheets S (paper or cards) is shown therein. Resting in a pile on the tray bottom 16, the sheets S are held in place by the surounding tray wall and by an overlying partial cover or retainer 17 movably mounted in one end of the tray, and bearing or resting on the top sheet. For convenience, the tray end 18 adjacent this cover 17 is hereinafter distinguished as the "rear" end. Access of the thumb or other fingers to the edges of the sheets S to remove them is freely permitted by interruptions, openings, or notches 19 in the upright tray wall, at the sides 20, 20 and also at the front end 21. In this particular tray, the interruptions or openings 19 extend the full height or width of the tray sides 20, 20 and end 21, and are also prolonged or extended into the tray bottom 16 at 19[a]. As shown in Fig. I; the side and end portions 20, 20, 21 of the tray wall are lower at the front end of the tray than are the side portions 20, 20 at its rear end, across which the cover 17 extends; so that when the cover 17 rests horizontal on a full supply of sheets S—flush with the upper edges of the side wall portions 20, 20 to the rear of the side openings 19—the pile of sheets S is substantially or nearly flush with the upper edges of the side and end wall portions 20, 20, 21 in front of the side openings 19. As shown in Figs. I, III, and V, the cover 17 has a finger-nail recess 17[a] in or under its front edge to facilitate lifting it from the sheets S, or from the bottom 16. As shown in Fig. II, the upright tray wall affords sufficient clearance around the edges of the sheets S to allow them to be easily put in place in the tray or withdrawn. While these sheets S may, if desired, be detachably united along one or more edges—as an ordinary paper pad or tablet—separate loose sheets are generally more convenient when held securely, as by the retainer 17.

As indicated in Figs. I, III, IV and V[a], the height of the inner surface of the tray bottom 16 above the supporting surface on which the tray 15 is resting is sufficient to allow free accesses of the finger to the edge of a last sheet S resting on the bottom. To give ample elevation and a good appearance, the tray 15 is shown provided with feet 22 at its corners, and its vertical wall extends down below the bottom 16 as a skirt or flange 23—which may also extend around the edges of the bottom openings 19[a], to stiffen the bottom and prevent warping. As shown in Fig. V[a], there is a central longitudinal ridge or rib 23[a] on the underside of the bottom 16, which also serves to stiffen it and prevent warping.

The cover or retainer 17 rests and presses on the pile of sheets S with sufficient yielding force or weight to hold them securely against blowing away or other accidental displacement, yet allows one or more of the top sheets to be easily

engaged by a finger pressed against the edge(s) of the sheet(s) at one of the notches **19**, and thus lifted and withdrawn from under the retainer. As shown in Figs. I to IV, the retaining cover **17** is pivoted at the rear of the tray **15** to swing about a horizontal transverse axis parallel with and adjacent the upper edge of the rear end **18**, by means of pintle projections **24** (Fig. V) on the ends of the cover adjacent its rear edge, where the cover is rounded and slightly thickened at its underside. These pintles **24** engage and turn in shallow bearings or sockets **24a** provided at the upper rear corners of the sides **20, 20**. To facilitate inserting the cover pintles **24, 24** in the sockets **24a, 24a**, provision may be made for resiliently spreading the socketed elements further apart, by elastic flexure of one or both of them. When the sockets **24a, 24a** are formed directly in the rear portions of the sides **20, 20**, as shown, these sides **20, 20** may be made of elastic material and free of attachment to the end **18** for a suitable distance downward below the sockets; e. g., in Fig. IV the rear end **18** is shown slotted at **24b, 24b** adjacent the rear corners of the tray **15**. Though normally irremovable, the pintles **24, 24** are easily inserted in the sockets **24a, 24a** or removed when the socketed elements are elastically separated as here indicated.

As shown in Figs. I, II, and III, the pivoted rear margin of the cover **17** overlies the upper edge of the the rear end **18**, which is of correspondingly less height than the rear tray side portions **20, 20** which contain the sockets **24a**—suitable clearance being of course allowed between the rounded rear margin of the cover and the upper edge of the end **18**. The pivoted cover **17** can readily be made sufficiently heavy to rest on the sheets S and retain them effectually by its mere gravity, without necessity for any spring or other additional actuating means to urge it downward on the pile of sheets.

As shown, the cover **17** bears a legend **25**, which may add materially to the usefulness or to the sales-appeal of the device, or may be of advertising character, or may serve any other useful or decorative purpose. As here shown, the cover **17** is provided with means for removably mounting and exhibiting a separate legended label **26** at its upper side. This label **26** may be a removable (paper or card) label held in place (preferably in a depression **27** in the top side of the cover **17**) by any suitable means. As shown in Fig. V, the cover **17** has in each end at its back or underside a transverse recess **28** from which a slot **29** opens into the front depression **27**. When the cover **17** is swung upward to special position above its usual range of up and down movement, as shown in full lines in Fig. III, the slots **29, 29** lie above the upper edges of the tray sides **20, 20**, so that the label **26** can easily be slipped into place through one of the slots, or removed; but normally and ordinarily, when the cover is swung down below the full line position of Fig. III, the tray sides **20, 20** block the slots and so prevent removal of the label. Preferably, the label **26** is made about as long as the width of the sheets S, as shown in Fig. II, so that when the cover **17** is down, both ends of the label are retentively engaged behind the portions **30** of the cover at each end of the depression **27**. As here shown, the width of the cover **17** is such that when level with the top edges of the rear portions of the tray sides **20, 20**, its outer free (unpivoted) edge coincides with the corresponding corners of the notches **19** in the side walls **20, 20**. Thus these openings **19** lie quite outside the range of the retainer **17** at all times.

The possibility of easily changing label **26** gives the device an amplified range of sales appeal, as well as of ultimate utility. When the device is exhibited for sale, its label **26** may carry the trade name under which it is sold, or a description of the purpose for which the sheets S are to be used, or the sales price, or any other appropriate matter. When the device is actually sold, this label may be replaced by the salesperson with any other label more beneficial to the store, or to the purchaser—such as one carrying the name and address of the store, or a decorative design in harmony with the coloring of the tray, or a birthday, Christmas, Easter, or other seasonal greeting. Or, if desired, a set of monthly calendar labels may be supplied with the device. If the device is given as a present or a souvenir, or as a premium, the label **26** may bear the name of the donor, or a reference to the occasion or place commemorated, or the name of the recipient. The device is also very suitable for distribution by business concerns, vacation or health resorts, charitable or fraternal organizations, etc., as a means of carrying and securing attention to advertising.

As shown in Figs. I, II, and IV, the tray **15** is provided with supporting or holding means for a pencil or other writing implement, consisting in the present instance of a projecting rack ledge or ledges **33** at the base of the tray, grooved to retain a pencil or the like. The ends of the ledges **33** are shown beveled off to facilitate access to a pencil resting thereon. The interval between these ledges **33** corresponds to the tray side notch **19**, and affords free access to the edges of sheets S through the notch.

Figs. VI—IX illustrate a slightly different tray suitable for the purposes of my invention. In this device, the interruptions or side openings **19** are not prolonged or extended into the tray bottom **16**, though they are shown as extending the full height or width of the sides **20**. This tray also differs from that shown in Figs. I—V**a** in that its upright wall is of uniform height all around the tray, and the cover **17** is pivoted to swing about an axis adjacent but inside the upper edge of the rear end **18a**, by means of pivot pins or nails **24×** that extend through holes in the walls **20, 20** and take into the ends of the cover. The label **26** is also inserted, held, and removed differently: i. e., it is inserted and removed through a longitudinal slot **29a** open through the long side of the cover depression **27** (about in the axial plane of the nails **24×**), and this slot **29a** is exposed and accessible over the top edge of the tray end **18a** only when the cover **17** is swung down substantially to the special extreme lower position which it occupies when the tray is empty of sheets S, as shown in Fig. VIII. Also as shown in Figs. VII, VIII, and IX, the edges of the depression **27** are undercut or grooved at **39**, to retain the label **26**. In Figs. VI and IX, a pencil **40** is shown resting on the rack ledges **33**.

In Figs. VI—IX, corresponding parts and features are marked with the same reference numerals as in Figs. I—V, as a means of dispensing with repetitive description—a distinctive letter being added only where material differences demanding special notice make such distinction desirable.

It will be understood that my device may be made in various forms, proportions, and dimen-

sions, and of a variety of materials and by various processes: e. g., it may be fabricated of wood, according to ordinary cabinet-making methods; it may be of cast metal, or of sheet metal die-pressed to shape; or it may be of a plastic composition, like "Bakelite," molded to shape in any usual or preferred way; or it may be of any other suitable or preferred material.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. A tray for memo sheets comprising a bottom with an upstanding wall, and a partial cover movably mounted in one end of said tray, to overlie and normally press on the sheets in the tray, and having a label-holder with a side opening for insertion and removal of labels that is ordinarily blocked by the upstanding tray wall, but is exposed above the edge of the wall for insertion or removal of a label when the cover is in special position therefor.

2. A tray for memo sheets comprising a bottom with an upstanding wall, and a partial cover movably mounted in one end of said tray, to overlie and normally press on the sheets in the tray, and having in its upper side a label-holding recess with a slot through a side of said recess that is ordinarilly blocked by the upstanding tray wall, but is exposed above the edge of the wall for insertion or removal of a label when the cover is in special position therefor.

3. A tray for memo sheets comprising a bottom with upstanding walls; and a partial cover movably mounted in and extending across one end of said tray, to overlie and normally press on sheets in the tray, and having in its upper side a label-holding recess with slots through the opposite ends of said cover and recess that are ordinarily blocked by opposite walls of the tray, but are exposed above the edges of said walls for insertion or removal of a label when the cover is moved to special position above said walls.

4. A tray for memo sheets comprising a bottom with upstanding walls; and a movable partial cover in one end of said tray, for overlying and pressing on sheets in the tray, said cover having end pintles adjacent its edge, engaged in bearing sockets which are located at the corresponding corners of the tray sides and are elastically separable to permit insertion of said pintles.

5. A tray for memo sheets comprising a bottom with an upstanding end wall and side walls, said side walls having bearing sockets in their upper corners adjacent said end wall, but being unattached to said end wall for a distance below their upper edges and being resiliently flexible, so that their socketed corners may be spread further apart by elastic flexure of said side walls; and a partial cover in the corresponding end of the tray, for overlying and pressing on sheets in the tray, said cover having end pintles engaged in said sockets and normally irremovable, but removable and insertible when the socketed corners of the side walls are elastically separated as above set forth.

ALLAN FRASER.