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2,586,925

FILE SUPPORT

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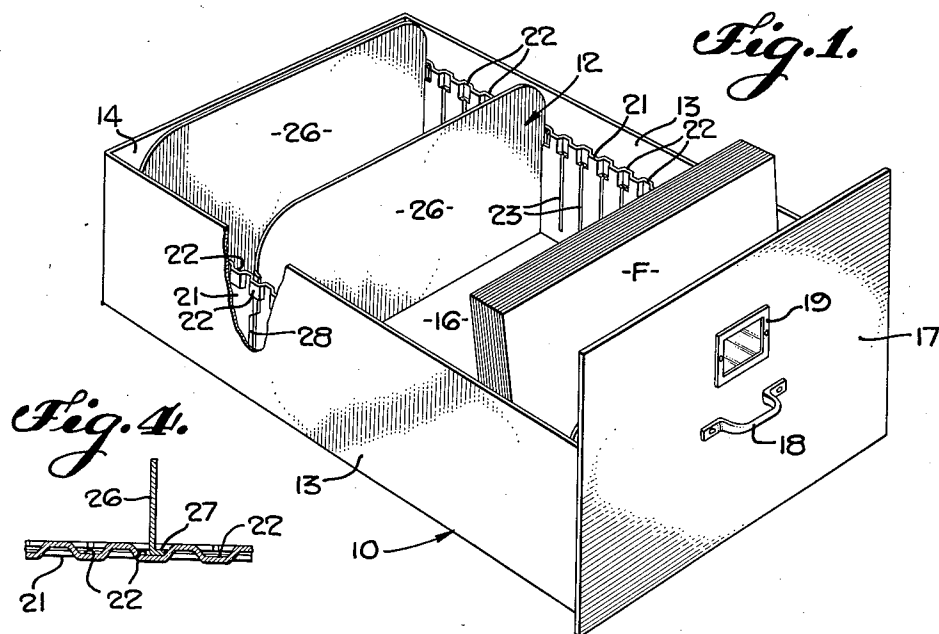


Fig. 4.

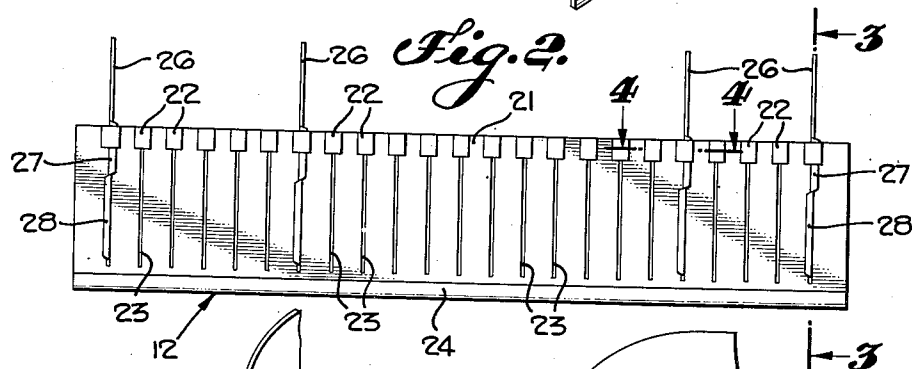
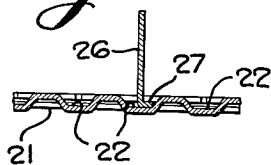


Fig. 5.

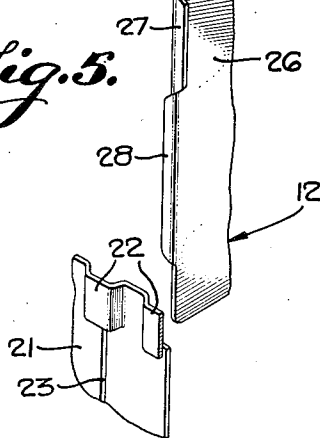
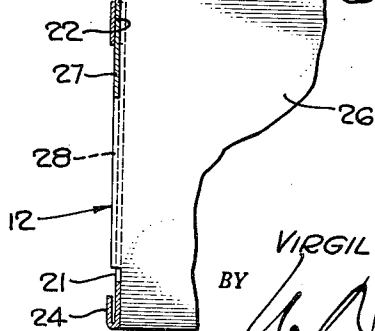


Fig. 3.



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FILE SUPPORT

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4 Claims. (Cl. 220-22)

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The present invention relates to file supports in general and particularly to a file support adapted to be positioned within a filing cabinet drawer for the purpose of supporting and spacing the files positioned therein. More specifically the invention comprises a demountable file support which can be positioned within a drawer filled with files without the necessity of removing those files and which, after being once so positioned, is adjustable in that the various separators or separating plates can be repositioned at will.

The usual and well known filing cabinet comprises a plurality of drawers vertically arranged and individually movable horizontally between open and closed positions. The cabinet is usually made of metal and includes a rigid frame closed upon all but its forward face by plate members and supporting, upon suitable supports which may include ball bearings, a plurality of drawers, usually two to five in number. Such filing cabinets are of two classes which may be referred to as "standard" and as "legal," which nomenclature indicates the width of the file drawers is suitable for papers of letter size or papers of greater length, commonly known as "legal." Regardless of the exact cabinet construction it is common experience that the contents, usually comprising numerous individual files or folders resting upon one edge and extending vertically, have a tendency to shift their position in the file and become less easily located. In certain tilted positions it is more difficult for the user to work with them, as when attempting to finger through a multiplicity of sheets or pages or files. One tendency comprises the shifting of the bottom edge of the file rearwardly so that each file inclines downwardly and rearwardly. This is the reverse from the preferred relationship in which each file tilts downwardly and forwardly and in which it is possible for the searcher to flip each file forwardly as he observes the label or marking thereon and in passing to the next file.

To maintain the files within a file drawer in their proper relationship cabinet manufacturers and users have resorted to the use of separators or separating plates which in certain preferred forms are rigid metal markers mounted in the drawer itself and usually secured in its side walls, or by suitable means to the bottom wall. In such constructions it is usually very difficult to shift the supporting plates longitudinally in the drawer without removing the contents.

With an appreciation of the problems and difficulties inherent in filing cabinet constructions and in their use, it is an object of the present

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invention to provide a new and improved file support for filing cabinets which is superior in that the unit can be positioned in a drawer without removing the contents and, additionally, can be adjusted longitudinally therein after being initially positioned with a minimum of difficulty.

Another object of the invention is to provide a demountable file support comprising side plates and separators adapted to be individually positioned within the drawer and which, when so positioned, provide a strong, rigid file-supporting structure.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a file support in which individual side plates formed with separator seats are adapted to be positioned inside of and adjacent the side walls of a filing cabinet drawer to be connected by transversely extending rigid separators which seat therein and which are manually displaceable vertically.

These and other more specific objects will appear upon reading the following specification and claims and upon considering in connection therewith the attached drawing to which they relate.

Referring now to the drawing in which a preferred embodiment of the invention is illustrated:

Figure 1 is a view in perspective of a filing cabinet drawer in which a file support constructed in accordance with the present invention is positioned, a part of the drawer wall being broken away and a few files being shown positioned in the drawer for illustrative purposes; Figure 2 is a side view of the file support comprising the present invention shown removed from the drawer;

Figure 3 is a vertical section upon the line 3-3 of Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a partial horizontal section upon the line 4-4 of Figure 2; and

Figure 5 is an illustration of a separator about to be moved downwardly into seating position in one of the side plates.

Referring again to the drawing, a filing cabinet drawer, indicated generally by the reference character 10, is seen to house a file support, indicated generally by the reference character 12. The drawer itself may be considered as of standard design comprising side walls 13, and end wall 14, a bottom wall 16, and a front face or wall 17. A curved handle 18 of conventional design is fixed to the front wall 17 and provides means by which the user may pull the drawer outwardly from the cabinet in which it is mov-

ably supported by a means forming no part of the present invention. A suitable window pocket 19 is provided which is adapted to receive a label indicating the contents of the drawer. It is to be understood that the present invention is adapted to be used in drawers of various designs and that the drawer construction per se is not a part of the present invention.

The file support comprising the present invention is illustrated in assembled relationship within the drawer 10 in Figure 1, and is shown more in detail in the other figures of the drawings. It is seen to comprise a pair of spaced side plates 21 each adapted to extend parallel to and adjacent the inside of a drawer side wall 13. Side plates 21 are preferably of lesser height than the drawer side wall 13 and rest directly upon the bottom wall 16. Each side plate 21 is provided along its upper edge with a plurality of spaced vertically extending channels or grooves 22 which, in a preferred form, are integral with the plate being pressed or stamped therefrom. As is illustrated in Figures 4 and 5, each channel 22 is open at its top and bottom, its back face being spaced from and parallel to the body of the plate 21 itself. Each side plate 21 is also formed with vertically extending slots 23 the upper ends of which are in the same plane as the lower ends of the channels 22, and the closed lower ends of which are positioned above the lower extremities of the plate. The lower edge of each plate is turned back upon itself to form a spacing wall or flange 24 which is parallel to and spaced from the plate 21 being in the same plane as the back face of the channels 22. With a side plate 21 in place within a drawer the channels 22 and the spacer wall 24 abut the plate and serve to space the main body of the plate therefrom in an obvious manner.

The separators or separating plates are indicated by the reference character 26 and are seen to be flat, rectangular members, preferably rounded at their upper corners and formed at their ends with oppositely extending right angle upper and lower flanges 27 and 28, respectively. The thickness of each separator 26 is slightly less than the width of slot 23 and the combined lateral extension of flanges 27 and 28 is slightly less than the width of grooves 22. The relationship is such that a separator plate 26 may be slipped vertically downwardly in a slot 23, the flanges 28 and 27, in the order stated, passing downwardly in and through the channel 22 positioned above that slot. The lower end of flange 28 strikes the lower end of the slot 23 limiting the downward travel of the separator, and the extension of the flanges 27 and 28 in opposite directions upon the exterior surface of the side plate 21 prevents the plate from being dislodged by any but a direct vertically upward movement or force. The presence of the flanges extending in both directions is an important factor in this locking action, for, while relatively strong, the metal is thin and somewhat flexible. With but a single flange extended in one direction at the end of a separating plate it is possible to dislodge the plate from a seating slot 23 by a horizontal force.

In use let it be assumed that a drawer, such as the drawer 10 in Figure 1, is pulled outwardly to open position in the cabinet of which it is a part. The drawer may be filled with files, a few of which are indicated by the reference character F in Figure 1, or may be empty; it is not important. The first step in positioning the file support comprising the present invention is to insert the

side plates 21 immediately adjacent the side walls 13 of the drawer where they rest upon the bottom plate 16. If the drawer is empty it is then necessary only to advance the desired number of separating plates 26 downwardly into their seating slots 23 in the apposed plates 21, in each instance first advancing the flanges 28 and 27, in that order, downwardly through the grooves or channels 22. The latter perform a guiding function in aligning the plate accurately with respect to the slot. Depending upon the width of the drawer, a standard or legal size separating plate or separator 26 will be used but the operation is the same in either case. With a plurality of separating plates 26 extended between the apposed side plates the file support becomes a relatively rigid construction and files, such as F, may be positioned therein and rest against the separators 26 which are suitably spaced as to perform their supporting function.

In the event that the drawer 10 is filled with files at the time it is desired to position the file support the operation is very similar. The individual side plates 21 lie against the drawer side walls 13 and are relatively thin, that is, each plate has a thickness which may be measured from the inside of the plate itself to the back of the channels 22. Accordingly, they may be positioned without difficulty. With both end plates 21 in position it is then possible to position the separators 26 as desired simply by forcing apart the files at the point at which it is desired to place a separator and forcing the latter into its seating slots 23 as described.

The numerous advantages of the invention are believed to be apparent from the foregoing and among those advantages is the very important feature that the individual separating plates can be inserted and removed without the necessity of removing filed material. In addition, filed material can be removed from any part of the file drawer without affecting other material and without danger of that material falling through lack of support. Because of the fixed positioning of the units, once in place material filed in a drawer stays in place even though loosely arranged in order to facilitate removal and searching. Further, no adjustment of the usual follow block found in the cabinet drawer is necessary in adjusting the material, and in fact that block can be entirely eliminated if desired. The unit is adapted to be used in any standard size filing cabinet and obviously by varying the length of the side plates or the separating plates it can be designed to fit any cabinet drawer. Additionally, it can be used in desk drawers rather than cabinet drawers, if desired, and is adapted to be positioned sidewise therein. The units have even been used separately as a separate filing unit upon a desk or table under certain circumstances.

While the particular apparatus herein shown and described in detail is fully capable of attaining the objects and providing the advantages hereinbefore stated, it is to be understood that it is merely illustrative of the presently preferred embodiments of the invention and that no limitations are intended to the details of construction or design herein shown other than as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A file support for filing cabinet drawers comprising independent and individually movable spaced parallel side plates formed with spaced vertical slots ending in each instance at their upper ends adjacent the top of the plate in offset

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vertical parallel channels open at their tops and bottoms, and separators seated in aligned slots of said parallel plates, said separators being formed at their ends with oppositely turned flanges hooking exteriorly adjacent and in plane contact with said side plates to prevent the displacement of said separating plates from said slots in any but a vertical direction and from the open end of said slots.

2. A file separator for filing cabinet drawers comprising a transverse separating plate adapted to extend between the side walls of a drawer and to be seated there against horizontal movement, and independent and individually movable side plates to seat the ends of said separators, said side plates comprising in each instance a flat plate formed with vertical slots closed at their lower ends, an offset vertical channel open at its upper and lower ends formed in said plate at the upper open end of each slot and at the upper edge of the plate, and an offset spacer wall at the lower end of each plate and upon the same side thereof as said offset channel and adapted to cooperate with said channel to space the body of said plate from an adjacent drawer side wall.

3. A file support for filing cabinet drawers comprising a side plate adapted to be positioned adjacent the inner face of a drawer side wall, said plate being formed with spaced vertical slots closed at their lower ends and opening in each instance at their upper ends into outwardly offset channels open at their upper and lower ends, a spacer wall formed integrally with said plate at the lower end thereof and extending on the outer side of said plate in the same plane as said channels, and a separating plate seated in said side plate and formed at its end seated in said plate with laterally extending flanges having a total overall lateral extension slightly less than the width of said channels, said slots having a width only slightly greater than the thickness of said separating plate and said channels having a

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depth only slightly greater than the thickness of said flanges to retain same immediately adjacent said side wall.

4. A file support for filing cabinet drawers comprising a pair of independent unconnected flat side plates adapted to be positioned individually adjacent the inner face of a drawer and independent separator plates extended between said side plates, each of said flat side plates being formed along its upper and lower edges with offset portions adapted to abut the adjacent side wall of the drawer to space said plate therefrom and to align it vertically, the offset portions at the upper edge comprising integral vertical channels the lower ends of which are open at the side of said plate, said plate also being formed with vertical slots the upper ends of which open into said channels, each of said separator plates comprising a flat plate having a length sufficient to extend across said drawer and through apposed slots in the side plates at its opposite ends and into the space between said side plates and the adjacent drawer wall, each end of said separator plates being formed with oppositely directed bent-over right-angled flanges adapted to lie adjacent the outer face of a side plate, the thickness of said separator plate being such as to enable it to extend through said slots in close-fitting slidable relationship and to extend at said flanges closely adjacent the outer face of said side plate and said channel.

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3.5 The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

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