June 3, 1930. D. E. HUNTER 1,761,303

DRAWER CONSTRUCTION FOR FILING CABINETS

Filed Oct. 18, 1926 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

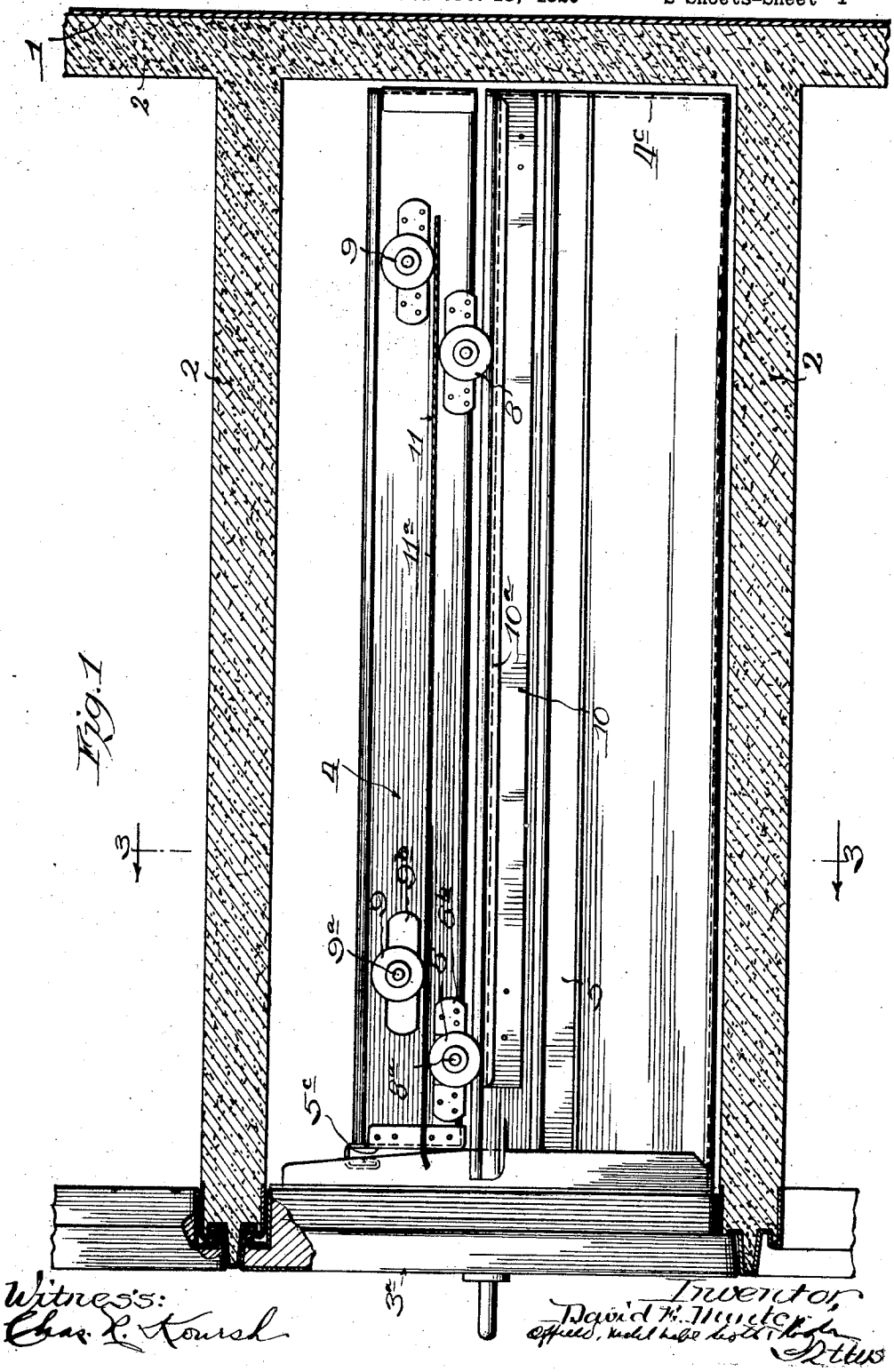


Fig. 1

Witness:
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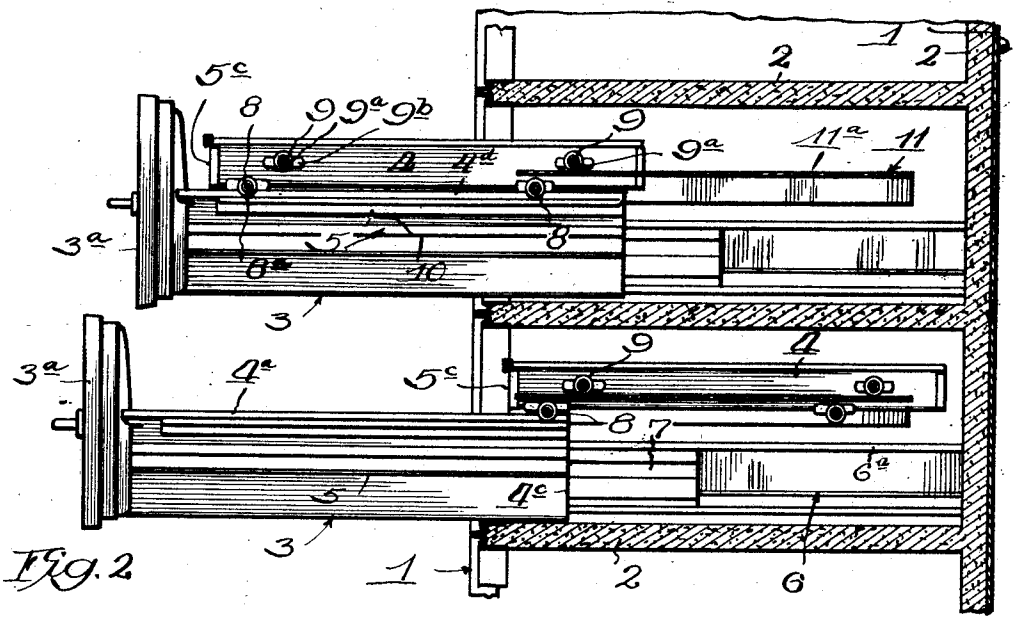


Fig. 2

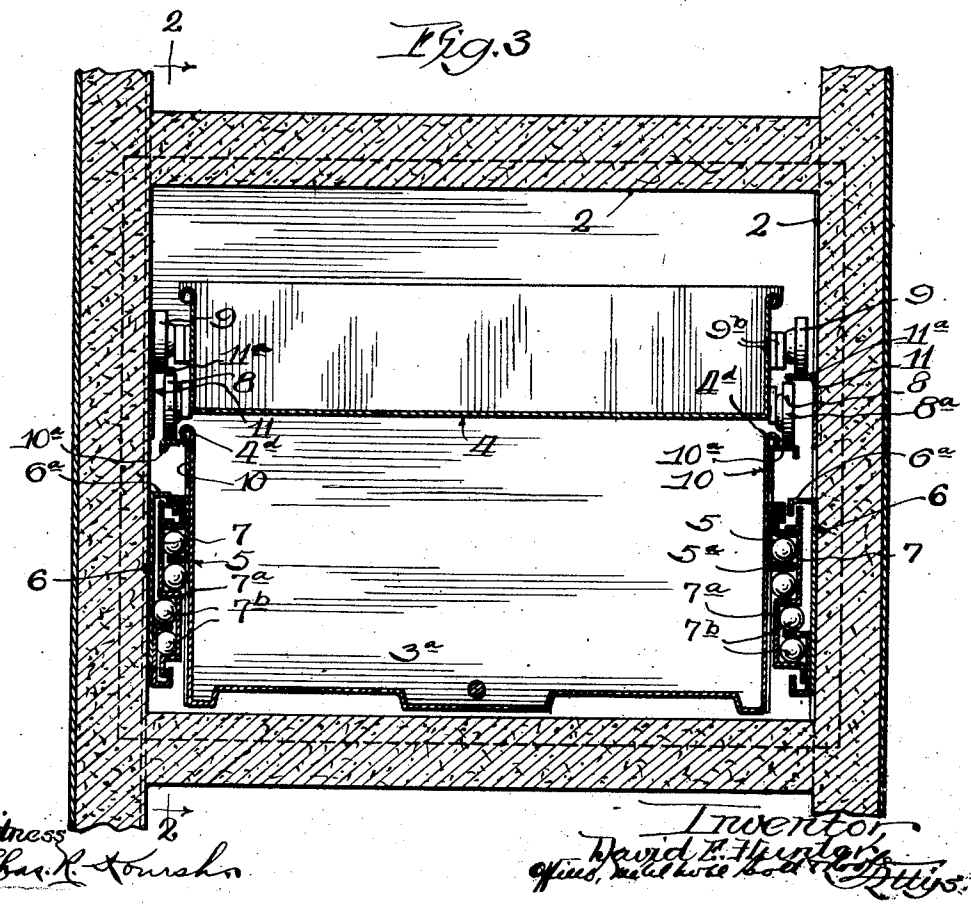


Fig. 3

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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DRAWER CONSTRUCTION FOR FILING CABINETS

Application filed October 18, 1926. Serial No. 142,173.

This invention relates to improvements in drawer construction for filing cabinets, and more particularly to a drawer consisting of a main section and an auxiliary section movable relative to said main section when the latter is extended from closed position.

The object of the invention is to provide a novel means for mounting the auxiliary section of the drawer for sliding movement relative to both the cabinet and main drawer section, thus enabling the contents of the latter to be readily accessible by sliding the auxiliary section into the cabinet when the main section is extended.

A preferred construction for a drawer embodying a novel mounting calculated to afford the movement herein-above set forth, is disclosed in the accompanying drawings, in which

Figure 1 is a view in vertical section of a section of a filing cabinet showing the general construction of a drawer,

Figure 2 is a view in vertical section of a cabinet showing the drawers in different positions, and

Figure 3 is a view in cross section through a drawer compartment as taken on line 3—3 of Figure 1.

The complete cabinet consists of the usual upright casing, divided into several compartments in which the drawers are slidably mounted.

The details of construction of the casing are not of any particular importance, since filing cabinets and like devices are generally of similar design, although differing in the materials and specific structure. In the present disclosure a fire-proof construction has been shown, consisting of an outer sheet metal shell or casing 1, surrounding an inner casing of a suitable reinforced insulating material which forms the walls 2 of the several drawer compartments. However, the features of the present invention are applicable to all metal cabinets as well as those constructed of wood.

Similarly the drawers 3 are disclosed as being of metal construction, having a sheet metal body 3, forming the bottom side and rear walls and a composite front wall 3^a of metal and insulating material not unlike the construction of the cabinet. The side and rear end walls of the drawer body are considerably less in height than the front wall 3^a, so that the depth of the drawer is only about one-half the height of the drawer compartment.

Mounted in the space above the drawer body just described, is a relatively shallow auxiliary or insert drawer 4 also constructed of sheet metal and having bottom, side and front and rear end walls. This drawer is slightly shorter than the main drawer body 3 and its height is such as to occupy the remaining space of the drawer compartment above the body of the main drawer. The forward end wall of the auxiliary drawer differs from the remaining walls only in that it has a downwardly facing channel extending along its upper edge, to provide a handle for sliding the drawer forwardly.

Both sections of the drawers may be equipped with suitable filing devices, such as a card index or a series of alphabetically arranged guide cards, depending on the use to which the drawers are to be put. The auxiliary drawer, however, would ordinarily be used for a card index, due to its shallowness, whereas the main drawer space below may be used either for correspondence or cards, depending on the depth of the space available.

Referring now to the manner of mounting the drawers in the cabinet, the main drawer section is provided along its opposite sides with track plates 5—5, consisting of metal strips located midway between the top and bottom of the drawer body, having their lower edges bent outwardly at right angles to form a track flange 5^a. Secured to side walls of the drawer compartment are tracks 6—6, extending the full length of the compartment and a short distance above the track plates 5—5 of the drawer. The tracks secured to the cabinet consist of metal plates having track flanges 6^a—6^a, along their upper edges. Intermediate the adjacent pairs of track members 5—5 and 6—6 are located extension slide members 7—7, consisting generally of angle bars 7^a, which support sets of ball bearings 7^b, which engage the track flanges 5^a and 6^a, and move bodily with the bar 7^a. These

extension slides form the intermediate support between the drawer and the cabinet, their purpose being to allow the drawer to be extended its full length from the cabinet. Since such extension slides are common in filing cabinets, further details of their construction, such as stops and locking devices, need not be considered.

Referring now to the mounting of the auxiliary drawer 4, provision is made for slidably supporting the same on both the main drawer section and the side walls of the drawer compartment. Near the front and rear ends of the auxiliary drawer are mounted pairs of rollers 8—8 and 9—9, one pair 8—8, being located near the lower edge of the drawer and adjacent the ends thereof, whereas the other pair 9—9, is located near the upper edge and inwardly from the ends. These rollers are plain metal discs turning on pintles 8^a and 9^a, supported in brackets 8^b and 9^b respectively, spot welded to the side walls of the auxiliary drawer. Along the upper edges of the side walls of the main drawer body 3 are track plates 10—10, having flanges 10^a—10^a extending laterally just below the top edges which are preferably rolled to form marginal beads, and terminating just short of the front wall 3^a. Secured to the side wall of the drawer compartment and above the main drawer supporting tracks 6—6 is another pair of tracks 11—11, also having track flanges 11^a—11^a, extending laterally toward the auxiliary drawer. These last mentioned tracks extend rearwardly from a point just inwardly from the front of the drawer compartment and support the upper pairs of rollers 9—9, on the auxiliary drawer 4, by rolling contact with the upper surfaces of the track flanges 11^a. The lower pair of rollers on the other hand, roll on the tracks 10—10 on the main drawer section, so that the auxiliary drawer has support on both or either the main drawer or the cabinet, depending on the relative positions of the drawer sections.

It is obvious that when the main drawer section is closed, that the auxiliary drawer occupies its normal position above the main drawer with their rear end walls in the same vertical plane, and with both sets of rollers resting on their respective tracks as shown in Figure 1. When the main drawer is pulled out the auxiliary drawer is free to move forwardly with it, but in its forward movement the upper pair of rollers at the front end immediately leave the tracks 11—11, so that the entire weight of the front end of the auxiliary drawer is carried by the main drawer. The same is true of the corresponding pair of rollers at the rear end, which leave the fixed tracks 11—11 in the cabinet, when the both drawers are carried forward their full distance, in which position (as shown in Figure 2) the auxiliary drawer is supported entirely on the main drawer tracks 10—10. When the drawer sections are thus extended, and without any relative movement between the drawer sections, access may be had to the contents of the auxiliary drawer, but not to the contents of the main drawer, and hence the reason for the double set of supporting rollers and tracks, which permits the auxiliary drawer to be pushed rearwardly and into the cabinet (Figure 2, lower drawer) while the main drawer remains extended. In this movement the auxiliary drawer slides on and is supported by the fixed tracks on the side walls of the cabinet and entirely free from the main drawer.

Thus it is seen that both drawers can be withdrawn as a unit when access to the auxiliary drawer is only desired, or the same can be pushed back into the cabinet independently of the extended main drawer and from which position the main drawer can be closed without interfering with the auxiliary drawer.

In this manner a single drawer can be divided into two parts or sections, thus making use of the entire space of the drawer, and in such a way as to make each section equally accessible. Moreover, it provides for convenient and economical disposition of card indexes, inasmuch as a single cabinet can be utilized for both correspondence and card files.

I claim as my invention:

1. In a filing device, the combination with a drawer compartment, of a main drawer, means for slidably supporting said main drawer in said compartment, an auxiliary drawer having sets of rollers adjacent each end, tracks on opposite sides of said compartment and adapted to be engaged by one set of said rollers to support said auxiliary drawer independently of said main drawer when both are in closed position, said main drawer having tracks adapted to be engaged by the other set of rollers in the movement of said auxiliary drawer into and out of said compartment when said main drawer is in open position.

2. In a filing cabinet, the combination with a single drawer compartment, a main drawer mounted for sliding movement into and out of said compartment and comprising a head forming a closure for said compartment in said closed position, and a relatively low rear wall, an auxiliary drawer slidably mounted in said drawer compartment above the top edge of said rear wall and provided with two sets of rollers, tracks mounted along the sides of said compartment and adapted to be engaged by one set of rollers to slidably support said auxiliary drawer independently of said main drawer, and tracks mounted on said main drawer and adapted to be engaged by the other set of rollers to permit said aux-

iliary drawer to slide into and out of closed position when said main drawer is in open position.

3. In a filing cabinet, the combination with a drawer compartment of a main drawer slidably mounted in said compartment, an auxiliary drawer also slidably mounted in said compartment, means for supporting said auxiliary drawer independently of said main drawer to permit the latter to be freely opened and closed without moving the former from closed position, and coacting supporting means on said drawers to permit said auxiliary drawer to be opened and closed while said main drawer is in open position.

4. In a filing cabinet, the combination with a drawer compartment of a main drawer slidably mounted in said compartment, an auxiliary drawer also slidably mounted in said compartment and independently of said main drawer through the median of coacting tracks and rollers, said main drawer having supporting members adapted to be engaged by the forward portion of said auxiliary drawer to permit the free movement of the same into and out of said compartment when said main drawer is open.

5. In a filing cabinet, the combination with a compartment of a main drawer slidably mounted into and out of said compartment, an auxiliary drawer also mounted in said compartment, tracks in said compartment, rollers on said auxiliary drawer engaging said tracks to support the same independently of said main drawer when both are in closed position, and tracks mounted on said main drawer and adapted to be engaged by rollers at the forward end of said auxiliary drawer and adapted to support the adjacent end portion thereof in its movement into and out of closed position when said main drawer is open.

Signed at Muskegon, Mich., this 11th day of October, 1926.

DAVID E. HUNTER.