My improvement pertains particularly to devices made in the form of a cabinet which contains a number of panels or boards in a vertical position, the panels being spaced from each other in a parallel relation to each other. The device includes means whereby selected panels normally positioned rearwardly from the front of the cabinet may be brought forwardly and aligned side by side in one plane. More specifically, my device includes a cabinet provided with a sliding board analogous to a drawer and having said panels mounted on said board but permitting the panels to be shifted laterally with respect to said board and kept in place on said boards which are hinged to the first-mentioned board. These and other details will now be described with respect to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my device with all the panels disposed within said cabinet;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the cabinet with a sliding board drawn outwardly and with a plurality of panels mounted thereon;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the same elements, but also with side boards set up for operative combination with the board;

Figure 4 is a perspective view of my cabinet, the view disclosing also the panels as aligned in one plane for display of merchandise;

Figure 5 is a plan view of the device as shown in Figure 4;

Figure 6 is a sectional view taken on line 6—6 of Figure 5;

Figure 7 is a sectional view taken on line 7—7 of Figure 5;

Figure 8 is a sectional view taken on line 8—8 of Figure 2;

Figure 9 is a sectional view taken on line 9—9 of Figure 8;

Figure 10 is a sectional view taken on line 10—10 of Figure 3;

Figure 11 is a sectional view taken on line 11—11 of Figure 10;

Similar numerals refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

The cabinet, generally indicated by numeral 10, may be made of wood or metal or any other suitable material in the more or less conventional form in which filing cabinets are made. The cabinet, best shown in Figure 1, includes a sliding board 11, provided at the front with a face member 12 and a handle 13. Mounted on the surface of said board are a plurality of tracks 14, these being disposed transversely to the length of the board as best shown in Figure 3. The tracks are made of substantially U-shaped rails marked 15, said rails having outwardly turning flanges 17, the flanges of one rail being spaced from the flanges of the adjoining rail so that a narrow slot is formed in between, leading to a laterally expanded space under the flanges. Mounted for a sidable movement within said slots are upright panels 18, each panel having a base or a foot portion 19, said foot portion fitting under the flanges 17 of two adjoining rails 16. The front surface of each panel carries a plurality of items of merchandise such as pipes 20, which are selected for illustration of the manner of use of said panels. Hinged to the sides of said board 11, which hereinafter will be called center board, are two side boards. One 21 is hinged to said central by hinges 22; the other side board 23 is hinged by means of hinges 24. The manner of the hinging is best shown in Fig. 7. Normally, the side boards are positioned under the center board 11, being aligned parallel thereto, and kept from dropping down by means of a pivoted metal finger 31, best shown in Figure 8. In Figure 7 the position of the side boards under the center board is indicated by numerals 21a and 23a respectively. When spread out, the side boards extend at the same plane as said center board 11, said side boards being kept so by means of arms 25 pivotally attached to the underside of board 11 by means of bolts 26.

Each side board is provided with two parallel slots 27 spaced from each other and running lengthwise with respect to said side board. Disposed transversely upon said side board is a single track 28 made of two parallel rails 29 mounted upon two T-blocks 30, one such block being slidably disposed in each slot 27. The rails have the same spacing between them as said rails 15 on center board 11, described above, and they afford sufficient space between them for reception of base members 19 of the individual panels 18. It will be understood that said track 28, supported by blocks 30, may be moved longitudinally with respect to said board so as to be brought into alignment with any of the tracks 14 on center board 11.

The rear portion of the center board includes on each side a lateral shoulder 32 which is disposed between the two sets of rollers 33. Because of said shoulders the board at its rear portion is too wide to permit full withdrawal of the center board out of the cabinet. The rollers, obviously, permit easy movement of the center board into and out of the cabinet.

Now I shall describe the manner in which the cabinet and the side panels may be used. Nor-
nally the center board is fully contained within the

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cabinet, with the side boards 21 and 23 folded
under said center board, as shown in Figs. 7 and
8. When the center board is in this position,
only the first panel may be seen in the open front
of the cabinet. Now, assuming that other panels
are to be displayed for inspection, the center
board is pulled out far enough to permit the side
boards to be swung up from the hinges to a
horizontal position. In order to accomplish this,
supporting finger 31 at the front is swung out-
wardly from under side board 23, permitting both
side boards to drop down from the hinges. Each
side board may now be raised manually to the
level of the center board and retained in this
position by means of the respective arms 25
which are swung from their pivotal positions
under the center board to stand laterally under
the side boards. Assuming now that a selected
panel 18 is to be displayed, track 28, supported on
T-blocks 30, is emitted from said cabinet, the
panel being pivoted with respect to its side board until said track is aligned with a
selected track 14 containing the selected panel,
as shown in Fig. 3. The panel may now be slid
laterally from its track 14 to said track 28, where-
upon said track may be moved forwardly on said
block 30 so that it is aligned with the front panel.
The same operation is followed with respect to a
panel which is to be displayed on the opposite
side board. Here, also, the panel selected from
the center board is first shifted laterally into
track 28 and then with the track moved forwardly
in slots 27 till it is aligned with the front panel.
Thus three panels may be displayed side by side,
as best shown in Fig. 4. The panels on the side
board may be returned to their place by reversing
the procedure, that is, by sliding the track 28 back
into alignment with the track on the center board
from which the respective panel has been re-
moved, whereby said panel may be shifted back
into its original position on the center board.
In order to slide the center board back into the
cabinet, the side boards are folded under said
center board and the latter is pushed back into
the cabinet.

It will be understood that some changes may
be made in the construction of my device, but
that this may be accomplished without departing
from the inventive principle disclosed herein.

What I therefore wish to claim is as follows:
1. A display device for merchandise, as de-
scribed, said device comprising a cabinet having
an open front, a center board slidingly disposed
therein for withdrawal through said open front,
a plurality of parallel tracks mounted trans-
versely on the center board, a hinged side board
on each side of the center board, a single track
transversely mounted on each side board, the
track being slideably mounted thereon for move-
ment longitudinally with respect to said side
board and being adapted to be brought into aline-
ment with any track on the center board, a plu-
arity of upright panels slidingly seated in the
tracks on the center board, each panel being
adapted to be shifted laterally into the track on
either side board.
2. A merchandising display device of the kind
described, comprising a cabinet having an open
front, a horizontal center board adapted for
partial withdrawal therefrom, a plurality of par-
allel tracks disposed transversely on the center
board in a spaced relation to each other, a side
board hinged to each side of the center board,
means to aline the side boards at the level of the
center board, each side board being provided with
two slots spaced from each other and disposed
parallel to the center board, a sliding block in
each slot, a single track mounted on said blocks
and disposed transversely to the length of the
center board, the track being adapted to be moved
with said blocks for alinement with a selected
track upon the center board, a plurality of up-
right panels slidably disposed in tracks on the
center board, means for lifting them being adapted to be
shifted laterally into a track on either side board.
3. A device of the kind described, the device
comprising a cabinet having an open front, a
horizontal board slideably disposed therein and
adapted to be pulled out outwardly through the
open front, a side board hinged to each side of
the center board and adapted to be raised to the
level of the center board, a plurality of transverse
tracks on the center board, each side board being provided with two
slots spaced from each other and running parallel
to the center board, a sliding block in each slot,
a single track mounted on said blocks trans-
versely to the slots and adapted to be aligned
with a selected track on the center board, a vertical
merchandise display panel disposed in each track
on the center board, each of the panels being
adapted to be slidingly moved out of its track
into the single track on either side board.
4. A device of the kind described, said device
including a horizontal board and two side boards
hinged to each side of the center board, a plurality
of transverse tracks on the center board and a single transverse track
on each side board, means to support the side
boards at the level of the center board, the single
track being movable longitudinally on each side
board for alinement with any track on the center
board, a plurality of display panels in the tracks
on the center board, each panel being adapted to
be shifted laterally into the single track on the
side board.
5. A device of the kind described, the device
comprising a cabinet having an open front, a
horizontal board slideably disposed therein and
adapted to be pulled out outwardly through the
open front, a side board hinged to each side of
the center board, said side boards being normally
in a folded position under the center board,
parallel thereto, but being adapted to be raised
on the level of the center board, pivot means on
the under side of the center board to sustain the
side boards at the level of the center board,
a plurality of transverse tracks on the center
board, each side board being provided with two
slots spaced from each other and running parallel
to the center board, a sliding block in each slot,
a single track mounted on said blocks trans-
versely to the slots and adapted to be aligned
with a selected track on the center board, a vertical
merchandise display panel disposed in each track
on the center board, each of the panels being
adapted to be slidingly moved out of its track
into the single track on either side board.

WALTER SCHNEWIND.

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