Feb. 3, 1953 E. F. THOMSON 2,627,342

DESK TRAY

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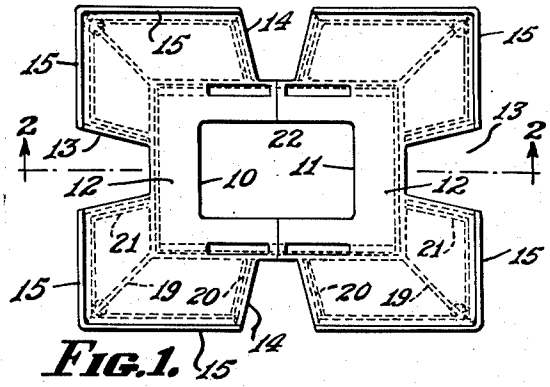


FIG. 1.

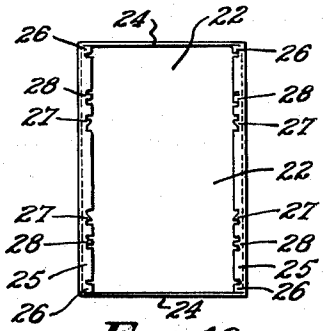


FIG. 10.

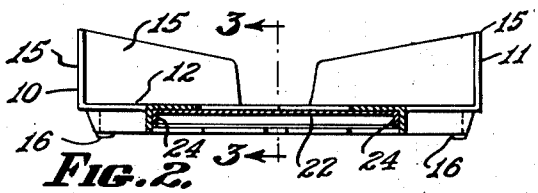


FIG. 2.

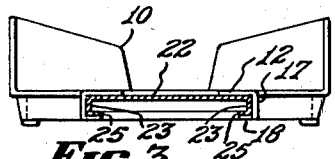


FIG. 3.

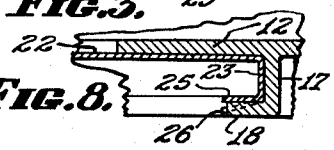


FIG. 8.

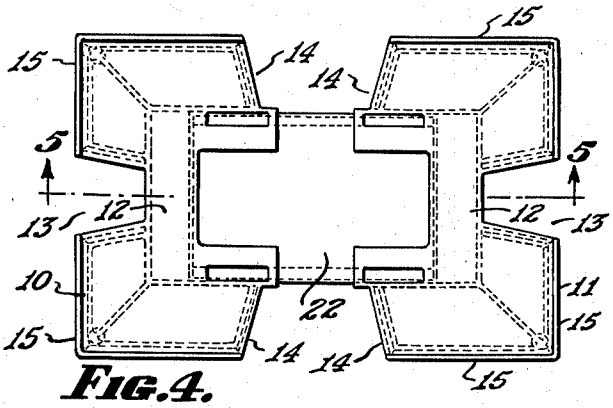


FIG. 4.

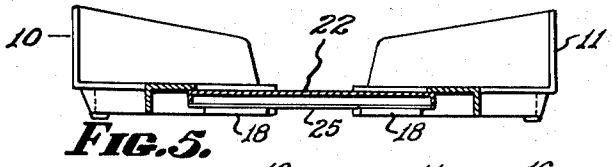


FIG. 5.

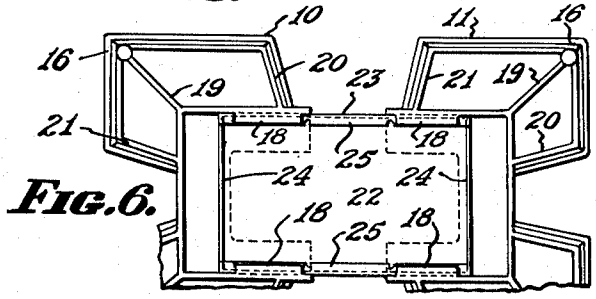


FIG. 6.

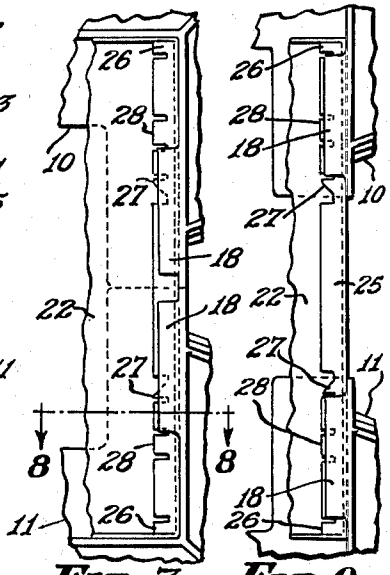


FIG. 7.

FIG. 9.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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DESK TRAY

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2 Claims. (Cl. 206—73)

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This invention relates to desk trays and more particularly to a desk tray which is adjustable as to size so that it may conveniently be used for letter size paper or legal size paper.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a desk tray which will be neat in appearance besides having the adjustable characteristics mentioned above and which, at the same time, will be simple in construction and therefore inexpensive to manufacture.

It is another object of the invention to provide a desk tray as outlined above which can be locked in either desired position of adjustment so that it will not accidentally be opened to its larger capacity when it has been positioned for letter size and vice versa.

The foregoing and other objects of the invention which will be pointed out more in detail hereinafter or which will suggest themselves to those skilled in the art upon reading these specifications are accomplished by that certain construction and arrangement of parts of which the following is a description by way of example.

Reference is made to the drawings forming a part hereof and in which:

Figure 1 is a plan view of a desk tray according to the invention adjusted for letter size.

Figure 2 is a cross sectional view of the same taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a cross sectional view of the same taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a view similar to Figure 1 but showing the tray adjusted for legal size.

Figure 5 is a cross sectional view of the same taken on the line 5—5 of Figure 4.

Figure 6 is a fragmentary bottom plan view of the same.

Figure 7 is a fragmentary bottom plan view on an enlarged scale showing the device set for letter size.

Figure 8 is a cross sectional view of the same taken on the line 8—8 of Figure 7 on an enlarged scale.

Figure 9 is a view similar to Figure 8, but showing the device set for legal size, and

Figure 10 is a bottom plan view of the connector member.

Briefly, in the practice of the invention, there are provided two substantially identical half portions and a connecting portion slidably associated with both half portions. When the tray is set for letter size paper the two half portions together constitute the entire visible portion of the tray. If it is desired to set the tray for legal size papers, the two half portions are pulled apart, each sliding in relation to the connector portion up to a stop and the two half portions may be locked to the connector portion in either the letter size or legal size position. The side and end walls of the tray and the bottom are provided with finger access openings and the two half portions meet on the longitudinal sides of the tray in the region of the finger access portions so that the appearance of a break in the construction is avoided, since the break appears in the form of a finger access opening, which when the tray is set for letter size, is of the same size as the finger access opening at the ends of the tray and which when the tray is set for legal size, is somewhat larger than the finger access openings in the end walls.

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Referring now more particularly to the drawings, the two half portions of the tray are indicated generally at 10 and 11. In describing the details of each of the half portions only one will be described, and it will be understood that the other is identical. Each comprises a bottom panel 12 which is generally rectangular in plan view. The rectangular configuration of the portion 12 is modified by the finger access notch 13 and by the partial finger access notches 14. It will be understood that when the partial notches 14 of the two half portions are in assembled positions they will together make a finger access notch similar in configuration to the notch 13. Extending from the edges of the notch 13 to the edges of the notches 14 are the side wall members 15. It will be observed that the wall portions 15 extend downwardly below the bottom portion 12 so as to space the same above the supporting surface. Foot members 16 may be provided at the four corners of the tray, if desired. On its under side each half member is provided with two guide rails comprising a downwardly extending web 17 and an inwardly turned flange 18 which is spaced from the bottom member 12 as best seen in Figures 3 and 8. The half members may be provided with the strengthening webs, 19, 20, 21, if desired. It will be understood that these half members may be made of sheet metal or die cast light metal, plastic, wood or other suitable material.

To hold the two half members in assembled relation I provide a connector member as shown in Figure 10 and indicated generally in the other figures at 22. Each of the half members 10 and 11 has sliding engagement with the connector member 22 so that the two half members may be spaced apart any desired distance and are held in spaced relation by the connector member.

In the particular embodiment shown the connector member comprises a sheet metal panel having longitudinal side flanges **23** and end flanges **24**. The side flanges **23** are inturned to provide the flanges **25** which are so spaced in relation to the panel **22** that the connector member fits with a sliding fit between the bottom panel **12** of the tray and the guide rail flanges **18** as best seen in Figures 3 and 8.

The flanges **25**, as best seen in Figure 10, are provided with a series of notches defining tabs which may be bent out of the plane of the flange **25** to provide stops or locks as desired. Thus, after the two half portions of the tray are assembled together on the connector member, the tabs **26** (Figure 10) may be bent slightly out of line as seen in Figure 8 to provide stop means whereby the two half portions cannot be pulled off the connector member. When the two half portions have been pulled apart to the point where the tab members **26** abut the outer edges of the guide rail flanges **18**, the tab members **26** prevent further withdrawal of the parts.

If it is desired to lock the tray in its expanded position for use with legal size paper, then the tabs **27** may likewise be bent out of the plane of the flange **25** and these tabs will then abut the inner edges of the guide rail flanges **18** and prevent the two half portions from being pushed toward each other. The tray is thus locked in its expanded condition.

If it is desired to lock the tray in its closed position for use with letter size paper, then the tabs **28** may be bent out of the plane of the guide rail flange **25** and they will abut the outer edges of the guide rail flanges **18** instead of the tabs **26**.

It will be observed that when the tray is in its closed position for use with letter size paper, as seen in Figures 1, 2 and 7, the appearance of the tray is wholly symmetrical in that the two adjacent finger access notches **14** together provide a finger access notch of substantially the same size and shape as the notch **13**. When the tray is open to its expanded condition for use with legal size paper, as seen in Figures 4, 5, 6 and 9, the effect of symmetry is not destroyed but is only modified in that the adjacent partial finger access notches **14** together form an enlarged finger access notch without destroying the pleasing appearance of the tray and without giving the appearance of a break in the construction. The only difference in the expanded condition over the closed condition is that the adjacent edges of the finger access notches **14** are farther apart and the notches look larger.

The connector member **22** is preferably made of sheet metal since plastic parts will slide more readily in contact with sheet metal than with other similar parts.

It will be clear that numerous modifications may be made without departing from the spirit of my invention and that I therefore do not intend to limit myself in any manner other than as set forth in the claims which follow.

Having now fully described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A desk tray comprising two substantially identical half portions, each of said half portions having along opposed bottom edges thereof parallel guide rails, a connector portion having channel-like edges slidably engaged with said guide rails of both half portions, said channel-like edges being slotted to define bendable tabs between said slots, certain of said tabs when bent being engageable with one end of said guide rails, and others of said tabs when bent being engageable with the other end of said guide rails, to lock said half portions in a desired position of adjustment.

2. A desk tray comprising two substantially identical half portions, each of said half portions having along opposed bottom edges thereof parallel guide rails of a length less than the length of said half portions, a connector portion having channel-like edges slidably engaged with said guide rails of both half portions, said channel-like edges being slotted to define bendable tabs between said slots, there being tabs on said connector portion adjacent the outer ends of said guide rails when said half portions are abutted together, tabs adjacent the outer ends of said connector portion to define the limit of separation of said half portions, and other tabs adjacent the inner ends of said guide rails when said half portions are extended to their limit of separation.

ERNEST FREDERICK THOMSON.

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