

Feb. 16, 1926.

1,573,608

S. C. HUFFMAN

METAL FILING CASE

Filed Sept. 21, 1923

Fig. 1

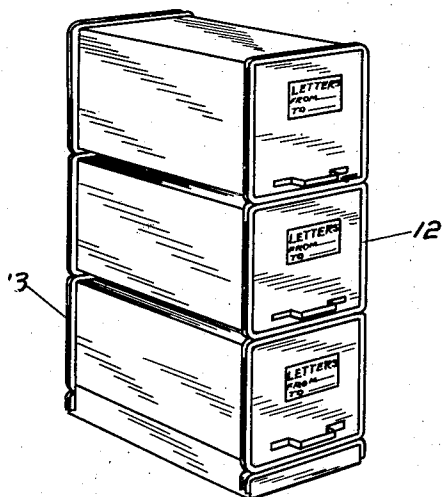


Fig. 2.

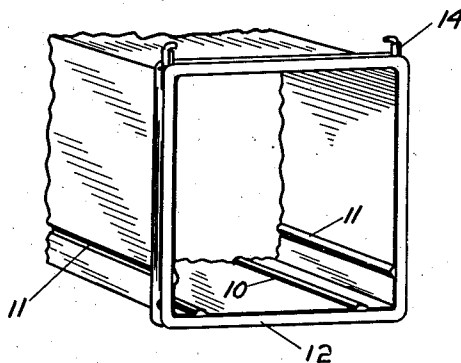


Fig. 3.

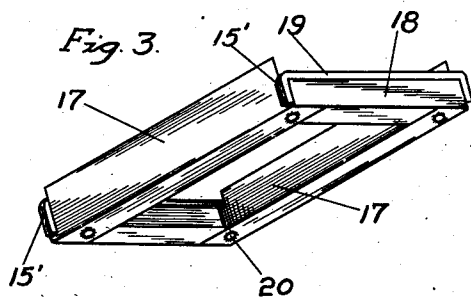


Fig. 6.

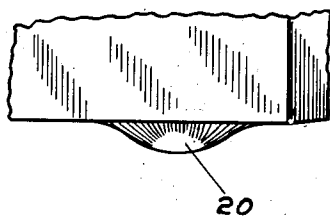


Fig. 5

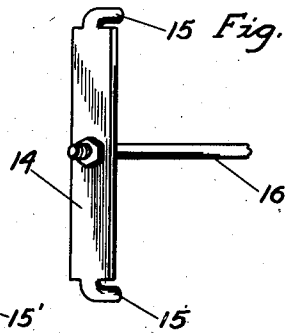
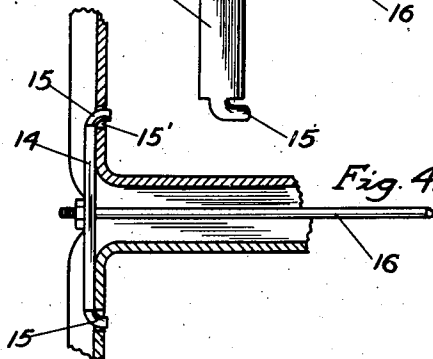


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL C. HUFFMAN, OF LINCOLN, NEBRASKA.

METAL FILING CASE.

Application filed September 21, 1923. Serial No. 684,004.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SAMUEL C. HUFFMAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Lincoln, in the county of Lancaster and State of Nebraska, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Metal Filing Cases, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to metal filing cases of the kind known to the trade as transfer cases. The object of my invention is the provision of a filing case which is dust and vermin proof and which is so constructed that a number of the cases may be stacked and locked together with the minimum of effort, both the unit and the stack being exceedingly rugged in construction and durable in use. I furthermore provide a base section which is adapted to be secured to the lowermost unit of the stack, and which is provided with silent domes which strengthen the structure and on which the stack may be moved about on the floor.

Having in view these objects and others which will appear in the description, I will now refer to the drawings, in which

Figure 1 is a view in perspective of a stack of three units secured together and secured also to the base section.

Figure 2 is a view in perspective of the front portion of one of the units, the drawer being omitted to show the ribbed construction of the walls and bottom of the unit.

Figure 3 is a view in perspective of the base section, the front being tilted up to show the structure of the bottom side.

Figure 4 is a sectional view of the corner portions of two of the units, showing particularly the manner in which the connector and the connector rod engage the units.

Figure 5 is a perspective view of the connector and of a portion of the connector rod.

Figure 6 is a fragmentary view of one corner of the base section, showing the silent dome.

Each unit is made of sheet metal, preferably sheet steel, which completely covers the top, bottom, sides and back thereof, the joints being made tight to prevent the entrance of dust, mice, or insects. Inwardly projecting longitudinal ribs 10 are pressed into the bottom to serve as tracks for the drawers. Similar ribs 11 are pressed into the sides, preferably one in each side, to space the drawers from the sides and to prevent binding.

The unit is completed by securing to the front and rear edges respectively the channel iron rectangles 12 and 13. These rectangles may be secured to the unit in any desired manner, but in such a way that they will be flush with the front and rear edges.

For joining the units when they are stacked I provide the connector shown in Figures 4 and 5. The connector 14 is made from a piece of metal whose width is substantially equal to the width of the groove in the channel iron and whose thickness is substantially equal to the depth of the groove in the channel iron. At each end of the connector is an inwardly projecting pin 15, the connector being further provided with an aperture at its middle point for the reception of the connector rod 16. The vertical portions of the channel irons 12 and 13 are each provided with a pair of apertures, these apertures 15' being all at equal distances from the corners thus providing a standardized construction.

To lock two stacked units together, it is necessary only to position the connectors 14 as shown in Figure 4, with the pins 15 entering the apertures 15', and to then join the two opposite connectors by means of the rod 16. Such connection is made both at the front and at the rear. After assembling, only the extreme ends of the rod 16 will be exposed and visible, since the main portion rests entirely concealed within the channels of the two abutting channel irons.

I do not desire however to restrict myself to the use of the rod 16, since it is obvious that its function can be performed by any one of several equivalent devices. For example, I may secure rods or wires to the inner surfaces of the connectors 14, at the same time providing the meeting ends of the rods or wires with a cam lock or a dead center lock operable from the outside. Or I may join the pair of connectors with a tension spring for holding the connectors tightly in place.

The base section is shown in Figure 3. This consists of a reinforced rectangular frame having the same horizontal dimensions as the units of the filing case. In the construction shown, the base section is made up out of sheet metal into the form with side and end walls, the metal being turned inwardly at right angles to form the bottom. The width of the side walls is

such that they meet the side walls of the bottom unit. The importance of this resides in the fact when the room is being swept or mopped, no dust or other foreign matter will enter as it would if the space were left open, this connection being relatively near the floor. The front and back walls 18 are reinforced by means of the channel irons 19, the ends of the channel irons being bent downwardly against the sidewalls 17 and flush with the corners of the base section. The channel irons 12 and 13 of the bottom unit will of course rest on the channel irons 19 of the base section, so that the ends as well as the sides are closed at the joint bottom unit and the base section, and as shown in Figure 1.

The bottom of the base section is preferably left open except at the margin where the front and side walls are lapped under. At several points in this marginal bottom, preferably near the corners, are silent domes 20. These are preferably in the form of a spherical section and are pressed directly into the marginal bottom so as to project downwardly to constitute frictionless feet for the base section, as well as to strengthen the construction of the base section.

The drawers which I show in my drawings are standard or common construction, except that the label holders instead of being formed out of separate strips of metal and then secured to the drawers, consist of ears or lugs or strips which are formed directly in the metal front of the drawer. This has several marked advantages over other forms of label holders. It saves the labor cost of securing the label holder to the drawer. It saves material, and because of this saving it is possible to provide a relatively large label holder costing no more to produce than a smaller one. The convenience and utility of large sized label holders has long been recognized, especially with transfer cases which are frequently stored in rooms which are none too light.

From the foregoing description it will be apparent that I have provided a transfer case of light weight and great strength, and having means of extreme simplicity for locking the units in stacked position. The bottom section is useful in spacing the stack from the floor, and the silent domes both strengthen the structure and afford a superior substitute for casters. The base section is so constructed as to exclude extraneous matter when it supports a filing case or stack of filing cases. The cases because of their construction, are rugged and rigid. The connectors for locking the cases together and for locking the bottom case to the base section are simple and easily operated, and when in place on a vertical stack of units, they make of the stack a unitary structure having as great strength as it would have

were the stack turned out by the factory as a single unitary structure.

Having thus described my invention in terms which will be readily understood by others skilled in the art to which it pertains, what I believe to be new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:—

1. A sheet metal filing case having its top, bottom, sides and back completely closed, the bottom being rounded along a plurality of narrow longitudinal lines to form inwardly projecting runners for the drawer, each of the sides being also each rounded along a rounded narrow longitudinal line to form inwardly projecting beads which serve to space the sides of the drawer from the sides of the filing case, and a pair of vertically positioned channel iron members completely surrounding said filing case, said channel iron members having their outer edges flush with the front and rear edges of the filing case.

2. A filing case, comprising an enclosing body having upstanding drawer supporting runners in its bottom and having inwardly extending longitudinal beads in its sides for centering a drawer in the body, and a pair of channel iron members encircling the enclosing body and disposed flush with the front and rear ends of the same.

3. A filing case, comprising a plurality of superposed enclosing bodies open at one end to receive drawers therein, front and rear channel frames individually encircling the enclosing bodies and carried thereby in identical relative positions for alinement in separate rows when the bodies are mounted in superposed relation, each encircling frame having its channel opening outwardly and provided in the inner wall of the channel at the sides of each frame with openings definitely and correspondingly spaced from the corners of the frames, connectors seated in the channels at the sides of the frames and bridging the abutting cross channels of the frames and provided with inturned lugs seating in said openings of the adjacent frames for locking the same together, and cross members extending through said abutting cross channels and secured in the intermediate portions of said connectors for binding the same in position.

4. A filing case, comprising a plurality of superposed enclosing sections open at one end to receive drawers therein, a base section supporting said first sections, channel members disposed in register upon the sides and adjacent tops and bottoms of all of said sections, detachable connectors seated in the channel members at the sides of the sections and bridging adjacent sections, and clamping rods extending in the channel members between the sections and detachably and adjustably connected to the connectors for

binding the same in their channel members.

5 5. A filing case, comprising a plurality of adjacent enclosing units, detachable connectors engaging the opposite sides of said units and overlapping the same, and clamping de-
10 vices adjustably carried upon the intermediate portions of said connectors and extending between the adjacent units for adjustment to bind the connectors against the units and secure the same together.

6. A filing case comprising a plurality of units, reinforcing webs surrounding each of said filing units at their front and rear ends, said reinforcing webs provided in their ver-

tical portions with sockets equidistantly positioned from the upper and lower edges of said filing units, connectors overlapping adjacent filing units with a pair of connectors at the front and a pair of connectors at the rear end of said filing units, each of said connectors having inwardly projecting pins fitting said sockets in the reinforcing webs to positively connect said filing units, and means for independently interconnecting the front and rear pairs of connectors.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

SAMUEL C. HUFFMAN.