June 4, 1946. H. K. ULLMAN 2,401,526

CABINET AND MACHINE SUPPORT

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Fig. 1.

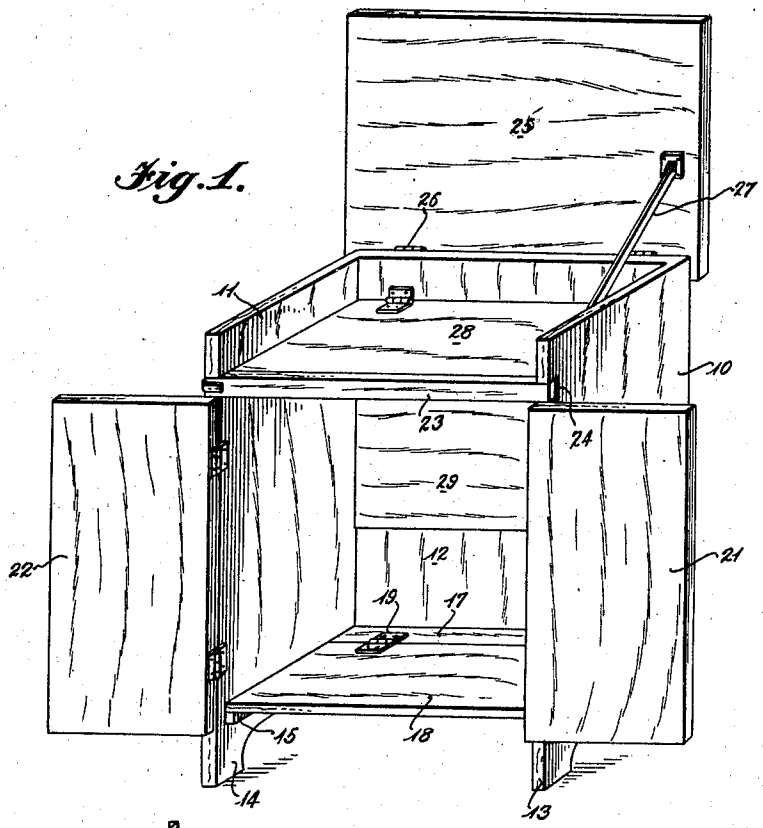


Fig. 2.

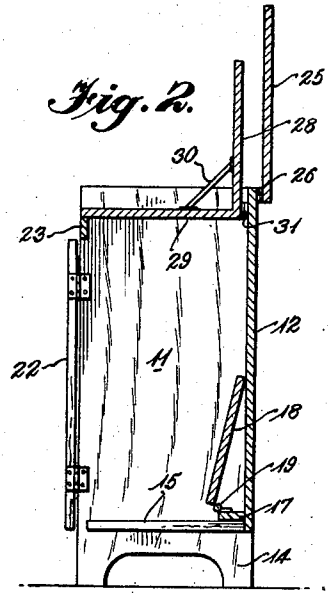


Fig. 3.

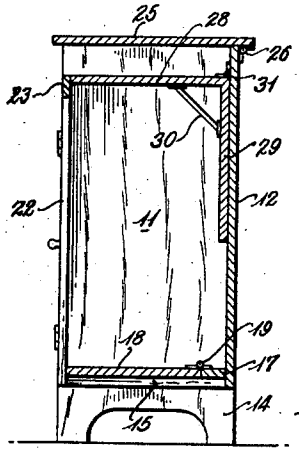
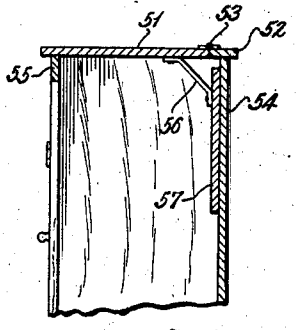


Fig. 10.



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Fig. 4.

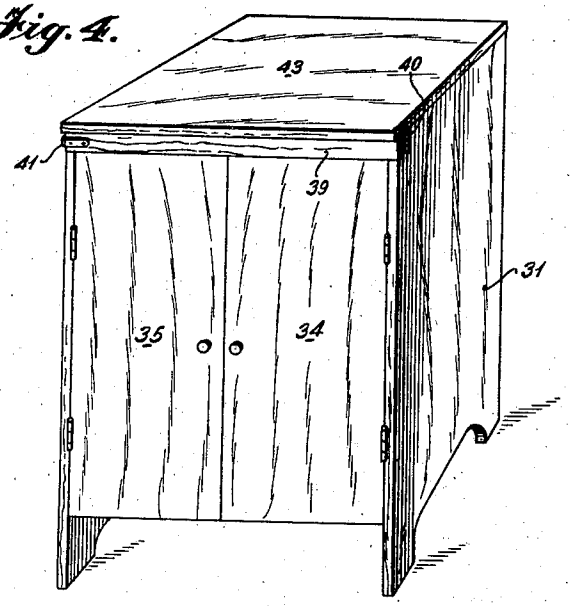


Fig. 5.

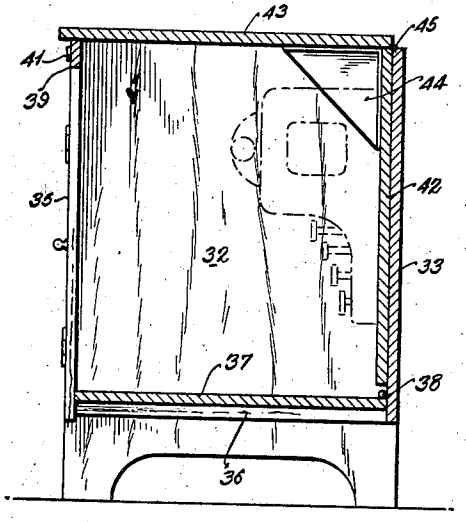
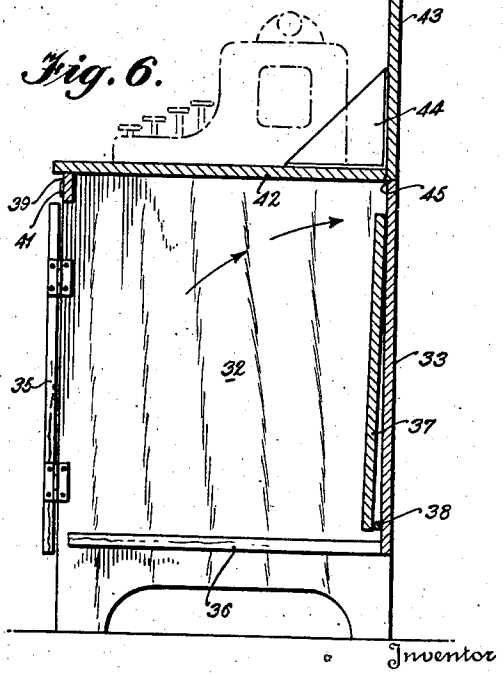


Fig. 6.



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Fig. 7.

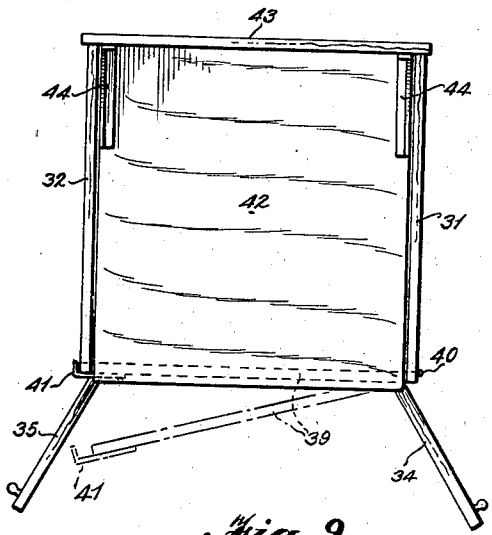


Fig. 8.

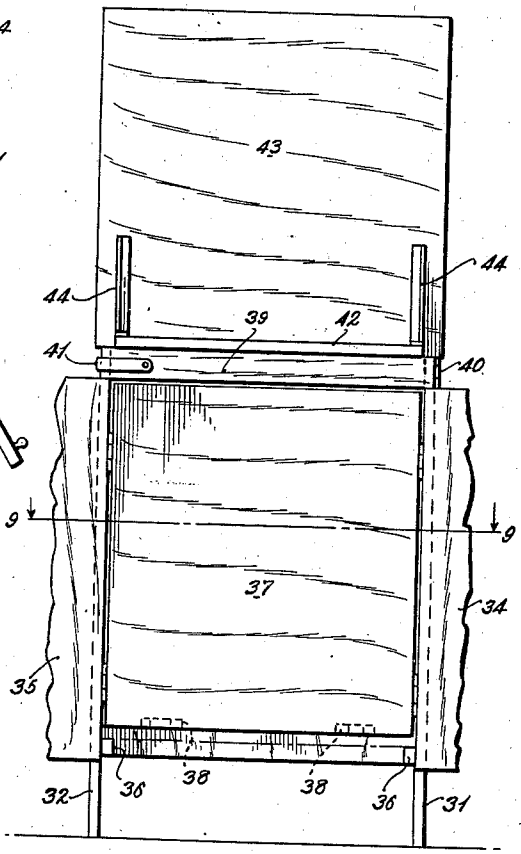
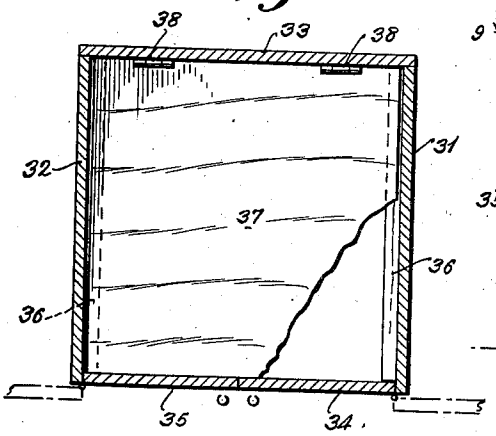


Fig. 9.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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CABINET AND MACHINE SUPPORT

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Application March 8, 1944, Serial No. 525,589

4 Claims. (Cl. 312—22)

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This invention relates to furniture and more particularly to a combined cabinet and machine support.

Some machines, particularly typewriters, are used not only in business establishments but as well at home. The efficient operation of these machines, regardless of where they are used, requires a rigid support spaced from the floor about 26 inches. In offices and factories the provision of such a support is of no consequence since furniture specifically designed for the purpose is ordinarily employed and the appearance of such furniture is secondary to adequate performance of its utilitarian functions. The provision of typewriter supports for home use, however, is much more difficult since considerations of space and aesthetics preclude the adoption of furniture specifically designed wholly for supporting typewriters in their position of use. This being the case, attempts have been made to design articles of furniture in which the typewriter may be covered when not in use and yet rendered readily accessible when need arises. In general such articles of furniture are either satisfactory from the point of view of appearance while failing to meet some of the supporting requirements of the machine or else are satisfactory machine supports lacking the attributes of good appearance normally required in home furniture.

It is an object of this invention to overcome the foregoing difficulties and to provide a combined cabinet and typewriter support in which the typewriter is rigidly held at the optimum operating level for silent operation and yet is foldable to a position enclosed within a cabinet of unusually fine appearance.

It is contemplated according to the present invention that a supporting cabinet be provided, the top of which is free of cracks and interruptions of a type tending to mar its appearance and an article of home furniture.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a combined cabinet and machine support in which the cabinet is capable of performing, in a superior manner, a function secondary to supporting the machine.

Other objects and advantages of this invention will be apparent from a consideration of the following description of several embodiments thereof in conjunction with the annexed drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of one type of cabinet constructed in accordance with the principles of this invention;

Figure 2 is a view in vertical section of the cabinet of Figure 1, showing the raised position of the typewriter support;

Figure 3 is a view in vertical section of the cabinet of Figure 1, showing the lowered position of the typewriter support;

Figure 4 is a perspective view of a modified type of cabinet also constructed in accordance with the principles of this invention;

Figure 5 is a view in vertical section of the cabinet of Figure 4;

Figure 6 is a view similar to Figure 5 but illustrating the position of the typewriter support when the cabinet cover is raised;

Figure 7 is a top plan view of the cabinet of Figure 4 with the cover in raised position, illustrating in broken lines the manner of movement of the typewriter support brace;

Figure 8 is a view in front elevation of the cabinet of Figure 4, the cover being in the Figure 6 position;

Figure 9 is a view in horizontal section taken on line 9—9 of Figure 8; and

Figure 10 is a view in vertical section of a modified cabinet cover and typewriter support analogous to the form illustrated in Figures 4–9, inclusive.

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Referring now in greater detail to the drawings and more particularly to Figures 1–3, inclusive, thereof, the cabinet illustrated consists of side walls 10 and 11 and rear wall 12 which are fastened together by dove tail joints, or otherwise, in accordance with conventitonal cabinet making practice. Side walls 10 and 11 are cut out near their respective bottom edges to define feet 13 and 14. Just above these feet, side walls 10 and 11 are each provided with a supporting brace 15 extending from front to rear in a horizontal plane. These braces serve to support a dust-proof bottom for the cabinet. The dust-proof bottom is comprised of a narrow stationary portion 17 affixed to and extending between brace 15 with its rear edge abutting wall 12 and a wide movable portion 18 hinged at 19 to portion 17. In one position wide portion 18 rests by gravity against braces 15. When the cabinet is to be used as a typewriter table, however, the feet of the operator should rest on the floor directly beneath the space occupied by wide portion 18. So that this may be done, wide portion 18 may be swung to the Figure 2 position by simple pivotal movement about hinge 19. When the typewriter is not in use wide portion 18 may complete the dust-proof bottom in its normal or Figure 3 position.

The front wall of the cabinet is made up of a pair of hinged doors 21 and 22 which extend

upwardly from a point below braces 15. Cumulatively doors 21 and 22 are of a width commensurate with that of rear wall 12. Each door is provided with a handle of conventional form and may include a latching structure of the type commonly used in phonographs. Above the top edge of doors 21 and 22 is a countersunk brace 23 pivotally attached to side wall 10 by hinge 24. Brace 23, in its normal position, lies flush with the front edges of side walls 10 and 11. It may, however, be swung outwardly about hinge 24 as a point of pivot for a purpose to be hereinafter more fully described. A latch structure of conventional design may serve to hold brace 23 in its normal position. It can now be seen that the hinged brace 23 is movable entirely independently of hinged doors 21 and 22 so that the latter may be in open position as shown in Figure 1 while the former is in its closed position, also as illustrated in that figure.

The cabinet is provided with a cover 25 hinged at 26 to rear wall 12. This cover may move to and from raised position as indicated in Figures 2 and 3. A latch brace 27 of conventional design serves to hold cover 25 rigidly in its open position against accidental displacement. When it is closed, the top 25 of the cabinet presents an uninterrupted surface free of cracks or hinges tending to mar its aesthetic appeal as an object of furniture. However, when the cover is raised the cabinet becomes a typewriter table capable of supporting a typewriter rigidly and at the proper level for silent and efficient operation. This latter advantage is attainable because of the provision of a secondary cover and typewriter support designated respectively by numerals 28 and 29. Secondary cover 28 is a flat board-like member of a width to make a close sliding fit between side walls 10 and 11 and of a length to fill the space between rear wall 12 and hinged brace 23. Secondary cover 28 is permanently attached to typewriter support 29 defining therewith a 90° angle. Auxiliary supports or braces 30 may serve to reinforce this connection. Auxiliary cover 28 and typewriter support 29, as a unit, are hinged to rear wall 12 at several points by hinges 31. When cover 25 is closed, and auxiliary cover 28 is in the Figure 3 position, said auxiliary cover defines with cover 26 a space which may be used as a shelf for the reception of some object such as a telephone book. When, however, the unitary construction consisting of auxiliary cover 28 and typewriter support 29 is swung 90° in a clockwise direction, as viewed in Figure 3, typewriter support 29 moves into a plane parallel to the plane previously occupied by auxiliary cover 28 but spaced from that plane a distance equal to the thickness of the material of auxiliary cover 28. Of course this simple 90° movement would not of itself render member 29 a typewriter support, since means are required for holding that element in the position to which it is moved. To this latter end member 29 is rendered of a length greater than that of auxiliary cover 28 to an extent equal to the thickness of hinged brace 23. In accomplishing the 90° movement of member 29, brace 23 is swung outwardly and then, when member 29 is in a horizontal position, it is restored to its normal position which will be directly underlying the front edge of the typewriter support 29, see Figure 2.

At the same time doors 21 and 22 are opened and wide bottom portion 18 is moved to the Figure 2 position. The entire cabinet is therefore in Figure 2 position and the typewriter may be

used with great convenience, support 29 lying a distance above the floor corresponding to the optimum operating level. The typewriter is rigidly held by brace 23. When it is desired to restore the cabinet to closed position brace 23 is swung outwardly affording clearance for the front edge of support 29. The support is then pivoted 90° in a counter-clockwise direction to the Figure 3 position. Thereafter brace 23 is swung to closed position, portion 18 of the bottom is lowered, doors 21 and 22 are closed, and cover 25 is closed. In this condition the article of furniture is suitable for use as a telephone table or the like.

Now referring to the modified form of the invention shown in Figures 4–9, inclusive, a cabinet is there provided consisting of side walls 31 and 32, rear wall 33 and front doors 34 and 35. The rear and side walls are similar in construction to those described in connection with Figures 1–3, inclusive. Front door 34 is hinged to the front edge of side wall 31 while front door 35 is similarly hinged to the front edge of side wall 32. The doors may be swung to and from closed position as indicated in Figure 7. Braces 36 similar to brace 15 of Figures 1–3, inclusive, are attached to side walls 31 and 32 near the lower edges. These braces serve to support a dustproof bottom 37 which in this instance is a continuous member connected by hinges 38 to rear wall 33. This member in its normal position lies as indicated in Figure 5 resting upon braces 36. When the cabinet is to be used as a typewriter table member 37 is swung in a clockwise direction as viewed in Figure 6 to a position nearly vertical with its front end resting against rear wall 33.

A brace 39, countersunk in side walls 31 and 32, is provided for performing, in this modification of the invention, the function of brace 23. Brace 39 is connected by hinge 40 to side wall 31 and latch 41 may serve to detachably connect its other end to end wall 32. The movement of brace 39 is indicated in broken lines in Figure 7 and corresponds to the movement of brace 23 hereinbefore described.

The typewriter support consists of a flat rectangular member 42 rigidly connected to define with cabinet cover 43 a right angle, rigid brace members 44 reinforcing the connection. The typewriter is affixed to the top surface of support 42 as indicated in broken lines in Figures 5 and 6. At the point of connection of support 42 and cover 43 the unitary elements are connected by hinge 45 to the top edge of rear wall 33, the hinge being so disposed as to permit clockwise movement from the Figure 5 to the Figure 6 positions. Because of the disposition of hinge 45, support 42 in the Figure 6 position will occupy exactly the same plane as that occupied by cover 43 in the Figure 5 position. The front edges of parts 42 and 43 lie an equal distance from hinge 45. Note, however, by reference to Figure 7, that cover 43 is of a width greater than the distance between side walls 31 and 32 while support 42 is of a width to be received between them with sufficient clearance for free movement.

When it is desired to convert the article of furniture shown in Figures 4 and 5 to a typewriter table as indicated in Figure 6 it is necessary to grasp the front edge of cover 43, thereafter opening doors 34 and 35 while swinging brace 39 to an open position out of the path of movement of support 42. Thereafter cover 43 is pivoted 90° in a clockwise direction as viewed in Figures 5 and 6 whereupon brace 39 is restored

to the closed or Figure 4 position. In this position it underlies the bottom of support **42** and affords rigid reinforcement for the typewriter table. It is now necessary only to raise dust-proof bottom **37** to the Figure 6 position whereupon the conversion is complete. In restoring the article of furniture from the Figure 6 to the Figure 5 position the foregoing steps are reversed beginning with lowering dust-proof bottom **37**. Thereafter support **39** is moved out of supporting position and cover **39** is restored to normal position and the doors are closed.

While in an article of furniture it is normally desirable to prevent cracks in the top cover, it is possible to modify the construction of Figures 4–9, inclusive, by the use of a piano hinge **50** as indicated in Figure 10. In this instance the cover is made of two parts **51** and **52** connected together by a piano hinge **53**. Part **52** is permanently affixed to the top edge of rear wall **54** of the cabinet. Part **51** rests on the side walls of the cabinet and on hinged brace **55** but is connected to the remainder of the structure only through hinge **53**. Brace **55** functions exactly as braces **23** and **39** previously described. Part **51** of the cover is connected by a rigid brace **56** to typewriter support **57**. In swinging typewriter support **57** to operative position brace **55** is swung outwardly and cover **55** is moved 90° in a clockwise direction as viewed in Figure 10. This places support **57** in the plane previously occupied by cover **51** whereupon brace **55** may be swung to normal position and the typewriter is ready for use.

Although in the specification and the accompanying drawings there is shown and described a preferred embodiment of this invention and various modifications thereof, and although various alternatives are suggested, these are not intended to be exhaustive nor limiting of the invention but, on the contrary, are given for the purpose of illustrating it and instructing others in the principles thereof as well as the best practical manner of utilizing the invention in order that others may be enabled to modify it and apply it in numerous forms each as may be best suited as to conditions and requirements in any particular instance.

I claim:

1. In a combination cabinet and machine support said cabinet having a rear wall and side walls, a machine supporting element hinged rearwardly of the cabinet for rocking movement from a depending storage position resting against the rear wall of the cabinet to a horizontal operative position, a cover member rigidly connected to said element and defining therewith a right angle, said element and member being of the same width but said element being of greater length from front to rear, and a brace for said element countersunk in the side walls to lie in the plane of the cabinet front with its upper edge flush with the upper surface of said member when the element is in depending position, hinge means connecting said brace to a side wall of the cabinet for movement out of the path of movement of said element whereby the latter may be moved to horizontal position with its front edge resting on said brace for support.

2. In a combination cabinet and machine support as claimed in claim 1, a secondary cover hinged to the top of the rear wall of the cabinet, said element being hinged to the rear wall of the cabinet at a point spaced below said secondary cover whereby a storage space is defined between said member and said secondary cover when said element is in depending position and said cover is closed.

3. In a combination cabinet and machine support, said cabinet having a rear wall and side walls, a machine supporting element hinged rearwardly of the cabinet for rocking movement from a depending storage position to a horizontal operative position, and a brace for said element movable from a normal bracing position within the path of movement of said element to a position wholly without said path, said brace normally lying in the plane of the cabinet front, being countersunk in its side walls and being hinged to one of them, hinged front doors underlying said brace and movable to an open position to afford leg room for an operator seated at the machine.

4. In a combination cabinet and machine support, said cabinet having a rear wall and side walls, a machine supporting element hinged rearwardly of the cabinet for rocking movement from a depending storage position to a horizontal operative position, and a brace for said element movable from a normal bracing position within the path of movement of said element to a position wholly without said path, said brace normally lying in the plane of the cabinet front, being countersunk in its side walls and being hinged to one of them, a bottom closure hinged near the bottom of the rear wall of the cabinet and movable from a lower position in which it forms a closure for the bottom of the cabinet to an upper position adjacent the rear wall of the cabinet to afford foot space therebelow and hinged front doors underlying said brace, said doors being movable to an open position to afford leg room for an operator seated at the machine.

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