

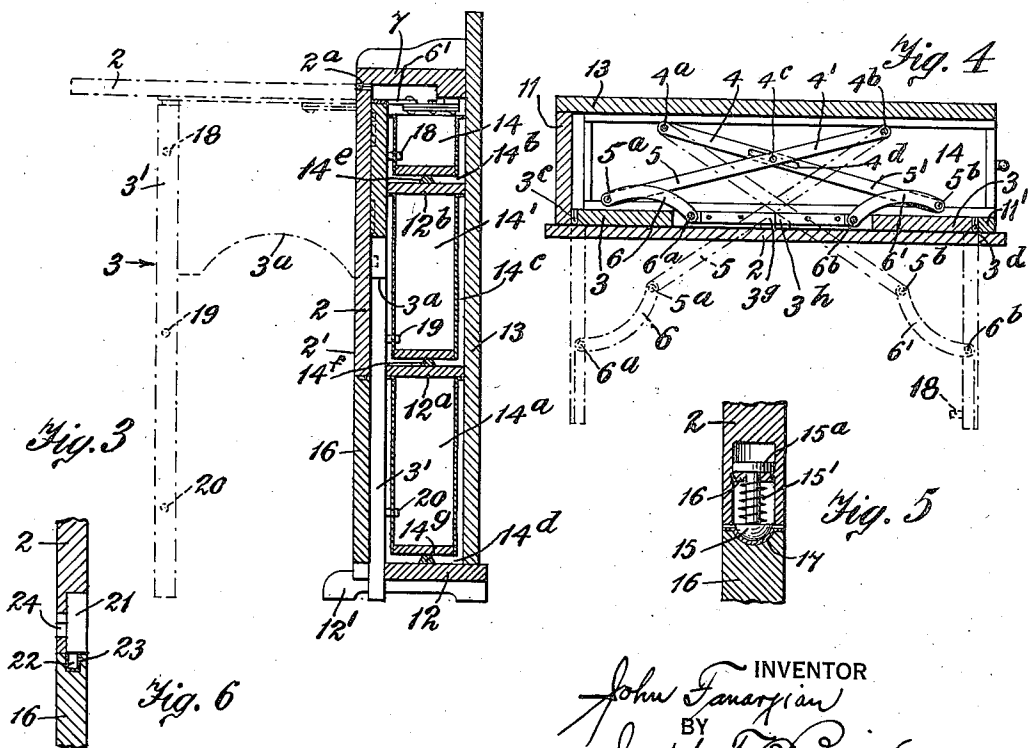
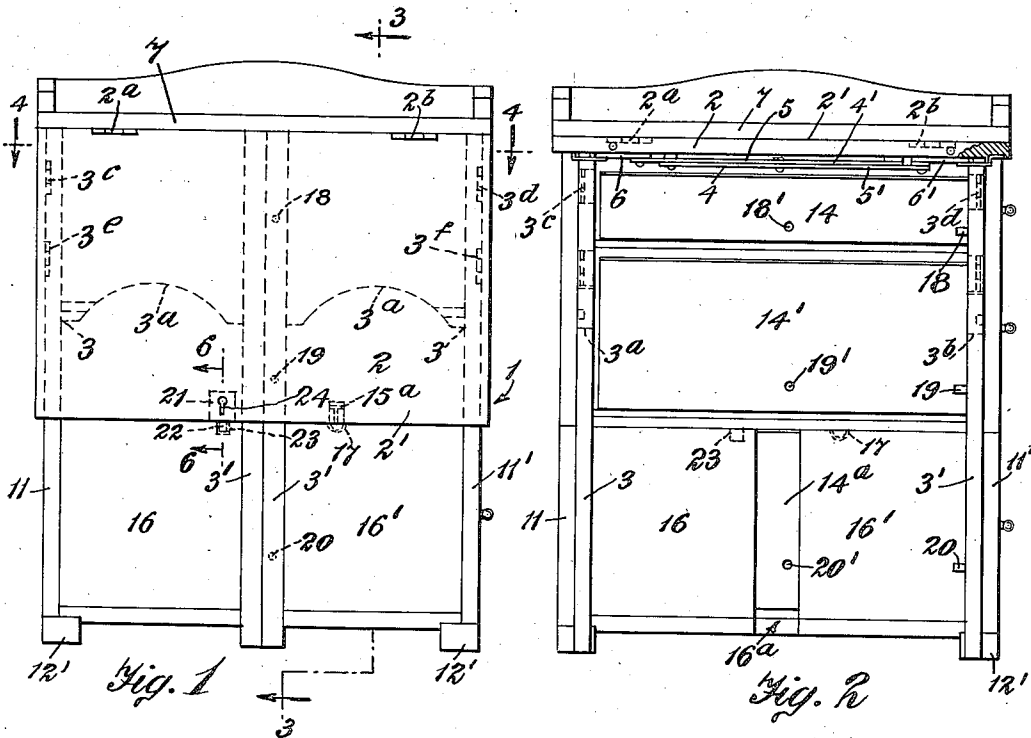
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FOLDABLE DESK AND CABINET UNIT

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FOLDABLE DESK AND CABINET UNIT

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5 Claims. (Cl. 45—6)

This invention relates to improvements in foldable desk-and-cabinet units.

One of the objects of this invention is to produce a foldable desk, especially adapted for children, and capable of conversion by folding into a compact space-economizing cabinet and by extension into a desk having a strong firm writing surface.

Another object of my invention is to provide, in a combined desk and cabinet unit, a cabinet-body having one or a plurality of drawers, movable transversely of the line of movement of extension and supporting members, through one side of the said body, the extension member projecting from the front of said body to convert the unit into a desk.

Still another object of my invention is to provide a unit of the type specified having supporting members including leg extensions connected by levers and movable simultaneously into folded and extended positions.

Still another object of my invention is to provide simple means operable on movement of the supporting members and legs into folded position to engage and prevent opening of any or all the drawers.

Still another object of my invention is to provide drawer-engaging or locking members on the foldable supporting members and an extension writing member, preferably comprising a part of the front of the cabinet, movable to fold over foldable supporting members and to be secured by a lock to a stationary front part of said cabinet, whereby a single lock will enable all the parts of the desk to be retained in locked position.

With these and other objects in view, the invention comprises the combination of members and arrangement of parts so combined as to coact and co-operate with each other in the performance of the functions, and the accomplishment of the results herein contemplated, and comprises in one of its adaptations the species or preferred form illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which:—

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of a foldable desk and cabinet embodying my invention in folded position;

Fig. 2 is a front elevation of said desk and cabinet in extended position;

Fig. 3 is a section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1 looking in the direction of the arrows;

Fig. 4 is a section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1 looking in the direction of the arrows;

Fig. 5 is an enlarged section of the latch ele-

ment between the foldable writing top and stationary part of the cabinet body, and

Fig. 6 is an enlarged section of the lock employed by me.

Referring now to the drawing, 1 indicates my desk and cabinet which embodies in the folded position thereof, as shown in full lines in Figs. 1 and 3, an enclosed oblong cabinet provided with three drawers 14, 14' and 14". Said cabinet comprises, as shown, a horizontal base-member 12 having feet 12' to raise the same off the floor, a back member 13, a top member 7, a vertical side member 11 at one side and a vertical post member 11' at the opposite side spaced from the back to provide drawer insertion space at said side, which space is as shown divided by horizontal intermediate partitions 12^a, 12^b to provide space for three drawers 14, 14', 14" each slidable as shown in separate compartments 14^b, 14^c, 14^d, on rails 14^e, 14^f, 14^g. The cabinet is partially open at its front portion and the cabinet-top member 7 has hinged thereto by hinges 2^a, 2^b beneath the front edge thereof, a writing top 2 which when closed forms an upper panel of three panels enclosing the front of the cabinet, and said writing top preferably folds into flush relationship with lower sectional stationary panels 16, 16' which close the lower front portion of the cabinet except for a slot 16^a. The writing top is supported in extended position by supporting members 3, which extend to the floor and provide a firm and solid support for said top. These top-supporting members 3 are, as shown, hinged to the frame members 11, 11' by means of four hinges 3^c, 3^d, 3^e, 3^f to swing in a horizontal plane and each comprise body portions 3^a connected at one vertical edge to a frame member and floor-contacting leg portions 3' at the free vertical edge of the body portions 3^a. The panels 16, 16' are separated by said slot 16^a through which the lower leg portions 3' of the top-supporting members are, during movement into closed position, adapted to move.

The supporting members for the writing top are thus closable beneath the table top to permit the same to swing down over the body portions, 3^a, and part of the legs 3' of said members 3, and the legs close together and move through the slot between panels 16, 16', thus permitting the writing top to fold into closed position in which its outer edge will be flush with the top edges of the panels 16, 16' to which it may be fastened and locked in closed position.

In the preferred form of my invention, the two supporting members 3 are connected together

by a system of levers to cause the same to be moved into open and closed position together by a single pull on either one of the said members. As illustrated, levers 4, 4' are fixedly pivoted at 4^a and 4^b on the bottom surface of the top member 7 and these levers are crossed and one has a slot 4^d and the other a pin 4^c forming at the crossing point a slot and pin connection. The ends of the levers 5, 5' at the opposite sides of the slot and pin connection have pivotally connected thereto at 5^a, 5^b one of the ends of the links 6, 6', the opposite ends of said links being pivotally connected to the top-edge portions of each of the supporting members 3, at 6^a, 6^b, intermediate the vertical edges thereof, a portion of said top edge being depressed to provide space for said links. The top edges of said members 3 are preferably reinforced by metal strips 3^a, 3^b. One of said foldable supporting members carries means for engaging and locking the drawers against sliding movement and, as shown, I provide on the leg 3' engaging and locking means comprising a series of pegs 18, 19, and 20 and to cooperate therewith I provide in the drawers 14, 14' and 14^a holes 18', 19' and 20' into which said pegs enter when the supporting members are moved into closed position.

A latch 15 is provided for releasably latching the table top to one of the panels 16, 16'. As shown, this latch bolt 15 is arranged to enter a metal reinforced socket 17 in the panel 16', and comprises a plunger composed of a disc 15^a arranged above a partition 16 and having a rod 15 extending through said partition and provided with a rounded enlarged nose and with a spring 15' arranged between said nose and said partition.

A key-actuated lock 21 is also provided for locking the writing member to one of the said sectional panels and, as shown, to the panel 16. The lock has a key-actuated bolt 22 which enters a socket 23 in said panel 16, said lock being actuable by a suitable key through the key hole 24.

It will be seen that a locking of the writing top also locks and prevents access to the drawers because the pins 18, 19 and 20 cannot be withdrawn from their holes 18', 19' and 20' until said lock is released, the writing member raised and the supporting elements swung out.

The operation of opening and closing will be obvious from the above description.

Having described my invention, I claim:

1. A foldable desk and cabinet unit embodying, in combination a casing having the conformation substantially of a rectangular parallelepiped provided with a foldable front portion extensible by vertical movement thereof to provide a writing member; a stationary panel section disposed substantially flush with the said writing surface member in closed position and forming substantially the balance of the front face of said cabinet, and a foldable support arranged in folded position beneath and inside the plane of the front face of the cabinet and movable horizontally into contact with the under surface of the writing member and with the floor.

2. A foldable desk and cabinet unit embodying, in combination, a casing having the conformation substantially of a rectangular parallelepiped provided with a foldable front portion extensible by vertical movement thereof to provide a writing member, a pair of stationary panels disposed substantially flush with the closed position of said foldable front-side portion, spaced to provide

a slot and forming substantially the balance of the front face of said cabinet, a pair of supporting members each hinged at one edge to an edge of the cabinet and having its opposite edge free, said supporting members being arranged inwardly of the plane of the front face of the cabinet and adapted to swing horizontally into contact with the bottom surface of the writing member and with the floor, said supporting members having leg portions at their free edges passing in folded position through said slot between the said panels.

3. A foldable desk and cabinet unit embodying, in combination, a casing having the conformation substantially of a rectangular parallelepiped provided with a foldable front portion extensible by vertical movement thereof to provide a writing member, a pair of stationary panels disposed substantially flush with the closed position of said foldable front-side portion spaced to provide a slot and forming substantially the balance of the front face of said cabinet, a pair of supporting members each hinged at one edge to an edge of the cabinet and having its opposite edge free, said supporting members being arranged inwardly of the plane of the front face of the cabinet and adapted to swing horizontally into contact with the bottom surface of the writing member and with the floor, said supporting members having leg portions at their free edges passing in folded position through said slot between the said panels, a plurality of sliding drawers in said cabinet movable through one end thereof, and means carried by said supporting members engageable in closed position with said drawers, whereby a movement into closed position of the supporting members locks the drawers.

4. A foldable desk and cabinet unit embodying, in combination, a casing having the conformation substantially of a rectangular parallelepiped provided with a foldable front portion extensible by vertical movement thereof to provide a writing member, a pair of stationary panels disposed substantially flush with the closed position of said foldable front-side portion, spaced to provide a slot and forming substantially the balance of the front face of said cabinet, a pair of supporting members each hinged at one edge to an edge of the cabinet and having its opposite edge free, said supporting members being arranged inwardly of the plane of the front face of the cabinet and adapted to swing horizontally into contact with the bottom surface of the writing member and with the floor, said supporting members having leg portions at their free edges passing in folded position through said slot between the said panels, a plurality of sliding drawers in said cabinet movable through one end thereof, means carried by said supporting members engageable in closed position with said drawers, and a single lock mounted on the outer edge of said extensible front face member and having a lock bolt engageable with the top edge of one of said stationary panels, whereby a movement of the said bolt on the foldable front portion into locking engagement will completely lock the cabinet and drawers.

5. A foldable desk and cabinet unit embodying, in combination, a casing having the conformation substantially of a rectangular parallelepiped provided with a foldable front portion extensible by vertical movement thereof to provide a writing member, a pair of stationary panels disposed substantially flush with the closed position of said foldable front-side portion, spaced to provide a slot and forming substantially the balance of the

front face of said cabinet, a pair of supporting members each hinged at one edge to an edge of the cabinet and having its opposite edge free, said supporting members being arranged inwardly of the plane of the front face of the cabinet and adapted to swing horizontally into contact with the bottom surface of the writing member and with the floor, and lever mechanism comprising 5
crossed levers pivoted at one end to the stationary parts of the cabinet, having an intermediate connection with each other and links pivoted at one of their ends to said levers and at the other ends to top edges of said supporting members, whereby movement of one member will cause simultaneous movement of the other, and a movement limiting stop for both members is provided. 5

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