April 29, 1930. LE ROI E. HUTCHINGS 1,756,866

FILING DEVICE

Filed May 11, 1927

Fig. 1.

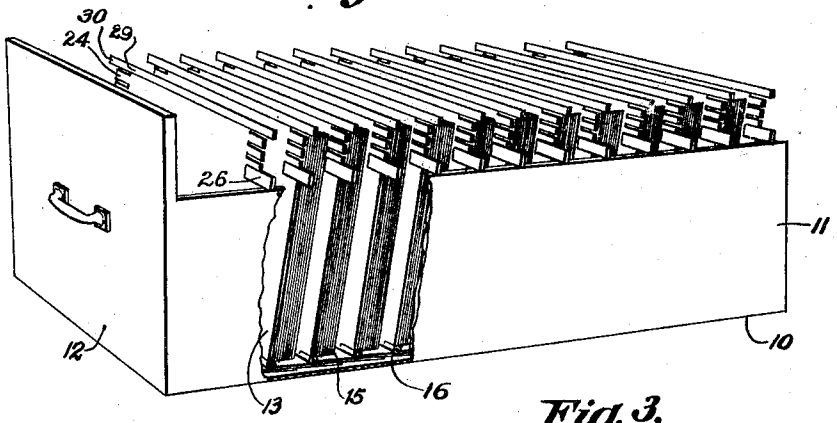


Fig. 2.

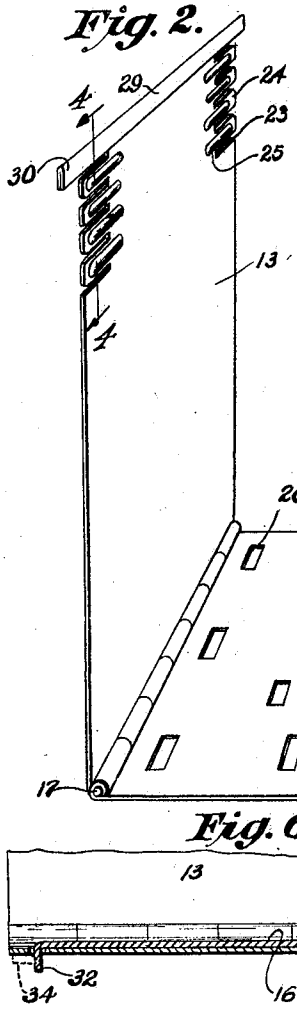


Fig. 3.

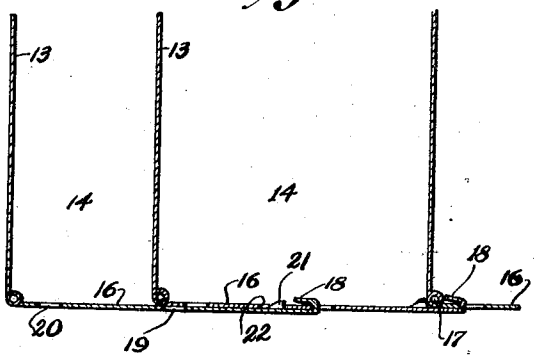


Fig. 4.

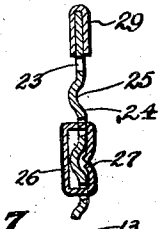


Fig. 5.

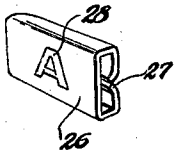


Fig. 7.

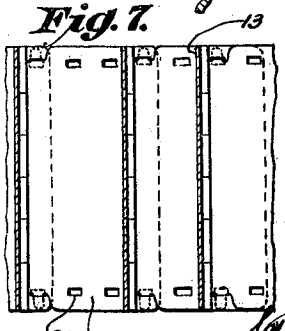


Fig. 6.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

LE ROI E. HUTCHINGS, OF BUFFALO, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR, BY MESNE ASSIGNMENTS, TO REMINGTON RAND INC., OF NEW YORK, N. Y., A CORPORATION OF DELAWARE

FILING DEVICE

Application filed May 11, 1927. Serial No. 190,504.

This invention relates to a filing device and has reference more particularly to filing devices of the type in which a series of pocket-forming partitions are hingedly supported in a filing drawer.

In filing devices for installation in drawers already in use, it is desirable to have same adjustable for any length of drawer, so that an abnormal number of dies will not be necessary in the production of the device. It is also desirable from a user's standpoint to have the pockets of the filing device adjustable as to width so that when the correspondence in a particular subject becomes bulky, the width of the pocket may be increased.

An object of this invention therefore is to provide filing devices in which the pocket-forming partitions are detachably connected in such a way that the length of the filing unit can be adjusted to suit any length of drawer.

Another object of this invention is to provide a filing device in which the width of any particular pocket in the device can be varied to suit the thickness of the correspondence contained therein.

A further object of the invention is to provide a filing device in which a plurality of hingedly supported partitions are provided in a filing drawer, the bottoms of said partitions being detachably connected one to the other so that any number of partitions can be put in series to form a filing unit.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a filing device in which a number of hingedly mounted partitions are detachably connected together and are provided with means adapted to engage the side walls of the drawer to limit the swinging of the partitions; also to improve filing devices in other respects hereinafter specified and claimed.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification, in which

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved filing device mounted in a drawer with parts broken away to disclose the construction,

Figure 2 is a perspective view of one of the partition sections forming the filing device,

Fig. 3 is a sectional elevation through several of the partition sections attached together,

Figure 4 is a sectional elevation on line 4—4 of Figure 2, through one of the partitions showing the clip-attaching means,

Figure 5 is a perspective view of one of the index limiting stop clips for the partitions,

Figure 6 is a transverse sectional elevation showing a modified partition unit, and

Figure 7 is a sectional plan view of several of the modified partition units attached together.

Referring to the accompanying drawings by numerals, 10 indicates the bottom, 11 the side walls and 12 the front wall of a file drawer of any standard construction for supporting correspondence or other documents on edge. A series of partitions 13 formed of sheet metal, cardboard or other suitable material are hingedly supported in the drawer so as to form pockets 14 for the reception of correspondence or other documents 15 and for dividing the same into divisions according to subject matter.

A base plate 16 is hingedly connected at one edge to the lower edge of each partition plate 13 by means of a hinge pin 17 and maintains the partitions 13 in spaced relation. The base plate 16 of each unit is provided at the edge opposite the hinge pin 17 with a plurality of tongues 18 which are preferably integral with the base plate 16 and are bent back substantially parallel to said base plate so as to form hooks. Registering with the tongues 18 and formed in the plate 16, are a plurality of series of slots 19 and 20 which are adapted to receive the tongues 18 of an adjoining base plate 16 as shown in Figure 3 so as to connect the base plates together one to the other. As shown in Figure 2 only two series of slots 19 and 20 are provided, but additional series of slots may be also formed in plate 16 so that by engaging the hooks 18 in any desired series of slots, the width of the pocket 14 formed by the adjacent partition plates 13 may be adjusted as desired as clearly shown in Figure 3. In order to pre-

vent the tongues 18 from being inadvertently disengaged from slots 19 or 20, a plurality of locking shoulders 21 are formed in the plate 16 adjacent said tongues 18, said shoulders being adapted to engage a corresponding number of slots 22 formed in the plate 16. When the tongues 18 are engaged in the slots 19 of a base plate 16, the shoulders 21 will engage in the slot 22, whereas if the tongues 18 are engaged in the slots 20 of an adjoining plate 16 the shoulders 21 will engage behind the hinge pin 17 of the adjoining partition unit.

In order to limit the swinging of the partition plates 13 a plurality of slots 23 are formed in each partition plate 13 adjacent each upper corner thereof so as to form tongues 24. Pressed beads 25 are formed in the tongues 24 and extend inwardly into the body of the plate for the purpose of stiffening said tongues and also for engaging an index stop member 26. The clip 26 is preferably tubular in shape as shown in Figure 5, and the free edges 27 thereof are bent inwardly slightly so as to resiliently press against the inside of the bead 25 and maintain said index clip securely in place on the desired tongue 24. A letter 28, or other designating character, may be provided on the index clip 26 so as to serve to identify the subject matter of the documents contained in the pockets 14. Since a plurality of tongues 24 are provided on each plate 13, the vertical position of the stop members 26 can be adjusted to suit the height of the side walls 11 of any drawer so as to give the desired swing of the partition plates 13. A stiffening strip 29 may be applied along the top edge of partition plates 13, the ends 30 of said strip extending outwardly beyond the edge of plate 13 so as to permit manual actuation or swinging of the plates 13.

It should be understood that the base plate 16 may be detachably connected together in a variety of ways, and an additional way of accomplishing this result is shown in Figures 6 and 7. In this form of the invention outwardly extending tongues 31 and 32 are provided on the opposite corners of base plate 16[a] and a series of slots 33 are formed adjacent each lateral edge of said base plate 162, said slots being adapted to receive the tongues 31 and 32. In this form of the invention, the partition units may be shipped in knocked-down form, in which case it is better to have one tongue 31 extending parallel to the plate 16 but somewhat offset therefrom as shown in Figure 6 and the opposite tongue 32 extending at right angles to the plate 16. The user of the device then inserts the tongue 31 in the desired slot 33 and the tongue 32 is then slipped into place in the opposite corresponding slot 33. The user then bends the [illegible] to dotted position 34, which serves to lock the base plates 16 together to form a series.

In some cases it is desirable to alter the spacing of the partition members 13 after the filing device is in use so as to increase the width of the pocket 14 as the documents contained therein become more bulky. In the form of the device shown in Figures 1–5, the correspondence is removed from a single pocket 14 and by lifting upwardly on the partition plate 13, the shoulders 21 are disengaged from slots 22 and the tongues 18 can then be disconnected from slots 19 and moved into slots 20. This operation can be accomplished without removing the entire filing device from the drawer. In the form of the device shown in Figures 6 and 7 the spacing of the pockets 14 is somewhat more permanent in character, and it is necessary to remove the entire filing device from the drawer and then bend tongue 32 at right angles to the plate 16[a] so as to reengage tongues 31 and 32 in new slots 33, after which the tongue 32 is again bent into the locking dotted position 34 as shown in Figure 6.

I would state in conclusion that while the illustrated examples constitute a practical embodiment of my invention, I do not limit myself precisely to the details herein illustrated and described, since manifestly the same can be considerably varied without departing from the spirit of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:—

1. In a filing device, a series of partitions, a plurality of interconnected plates hingedly mounting and forming connections between the bottoms of said partitions to form a series of pockets for the reception of reference data, and means for varying the distance between said partitions and the width of said pockets.

2. In a filing device, a pocket unit comprising a base plate and a partition plate hingedly connected to said base plate, said unit being adapted to be detachably connected by its base plate to other similar units to form a series of pockets for the reception of reference data.

3. In a filing device, a drawer having side walls, a plurality of partition members, a plurality of detachably connected base members each hingedly supporting a partition member independent of said drawer and having an interlocking connection with an adjacent base member, and means on said partition members cooperating with said side walls to limit the swinging of said partition members.

4. In a filing device, a plurality of base plates having interlocking tongues and slots adapted to detachably connect said plates in series, and a partition member hingedly connected to each plate so as to form a series of pockets for the reception of reference data.

5. In a filing device, a base plate, tongues

formed on said plate adjacent one edge of said plate and slots formed between the edges of said plate, the tongues of said plate being adapted to engage the slots of another similar plate so that a plurality of said plates may be joined together in series, and an upstanding partition plate hingedly connected to each base plate so as to form a series of pockets for the reception of reference data.

6. In a filing device, a plurality of base plates, interengaging tongues and slots adapted to detachably join said plates in series, stop shoulders on said plates formed for cooperation with an adjacent plate to prevent inadvertent disengagement of said plates, and partition plates hingedly connected to said base plates so as to form a series of pockets for the reception of reference data.

7. A filing unit for dividing a file drawer into a plurality of pockets, comprising a plurality of partition members, and means hingedly connected to the bottoms of said partition members adjustably securing said members in pocket-forming relation and permitting relative movement between said members on said hinged connections.

8. A filing unit for dividing a file drawer into a plurality of pockets, comprising a plurality of partition members, spacing means hingedly connected to the bottoms of said partition members adjustably securing said members in pocket-forming relation and permitting relative movement between said members on said hinged connections, and means adjustably mounted on each partition member for engagement with said drawer, to limit the movement of said partition member on its hinge connection with the aforesaid spacing means.

LE ROI E. HUTCHINGS.