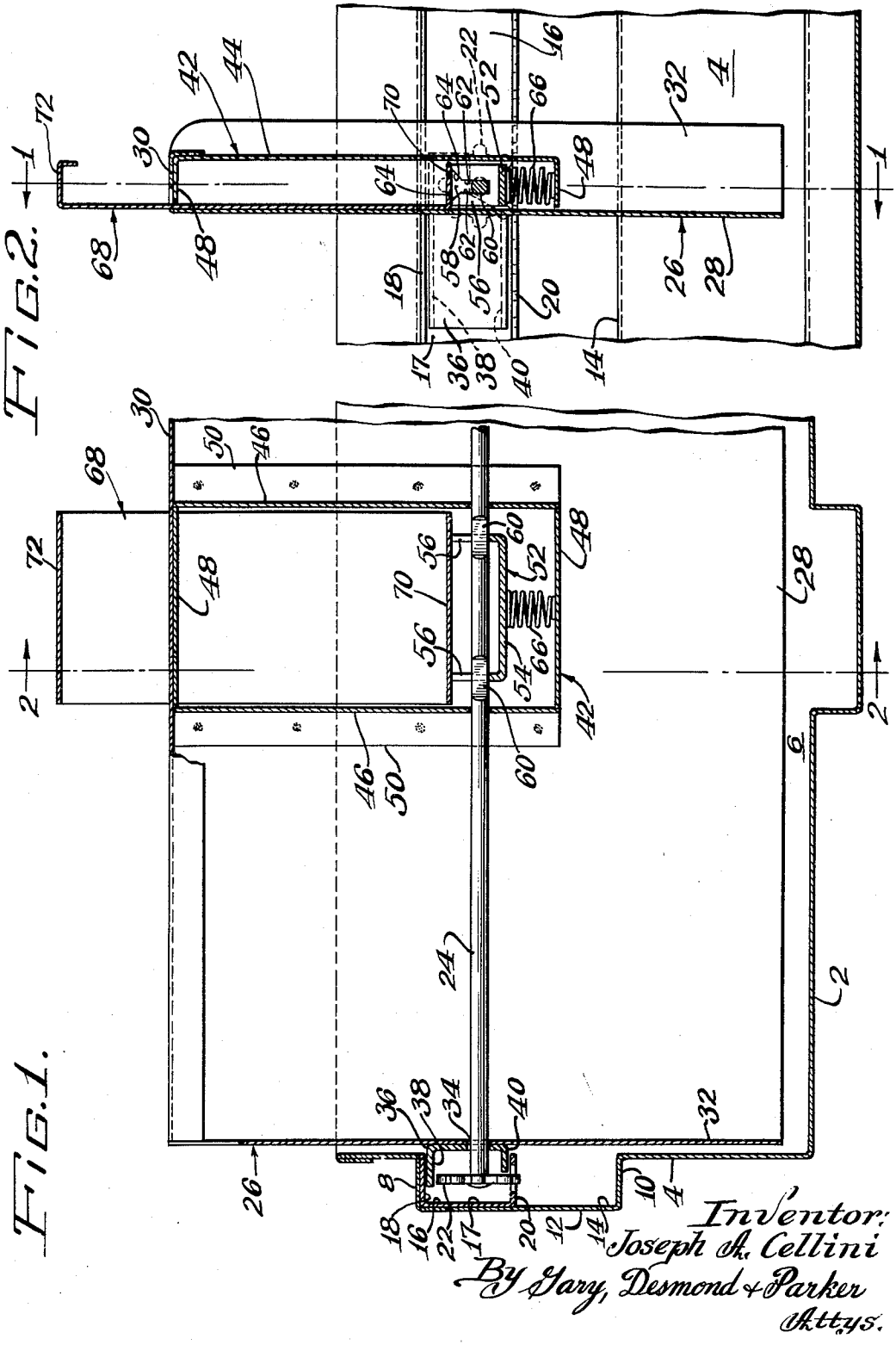
Jan. 24, 1956 J. A. CELLINI 2,731,968

FILING CABINET DRAWER AND FOLLOWER BLOCK THEREFOR

Filed Feb. 28, 1952 2 Sheets-Sheet 1



Jan. 24, 1956 J. A. CELLINI 2,731,968

FILING CABINET DRAWER AND FOLLOWER BLOCK THEREFOR

Filed Feb. 28, 1952 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

FIG. 4.

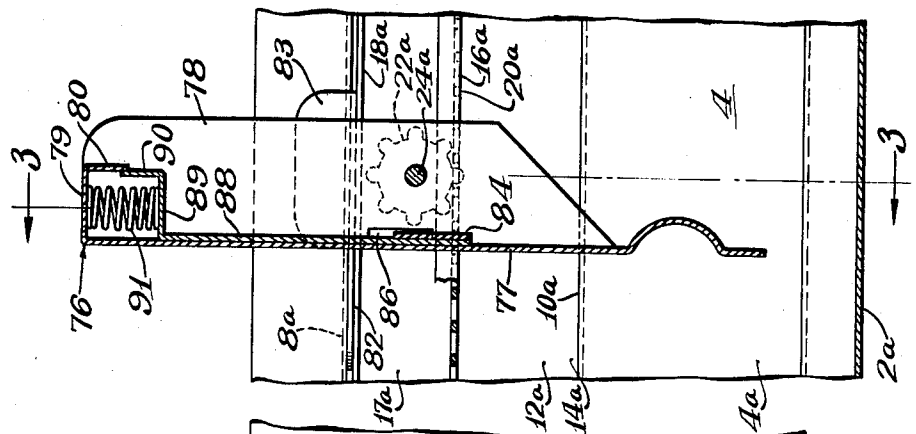
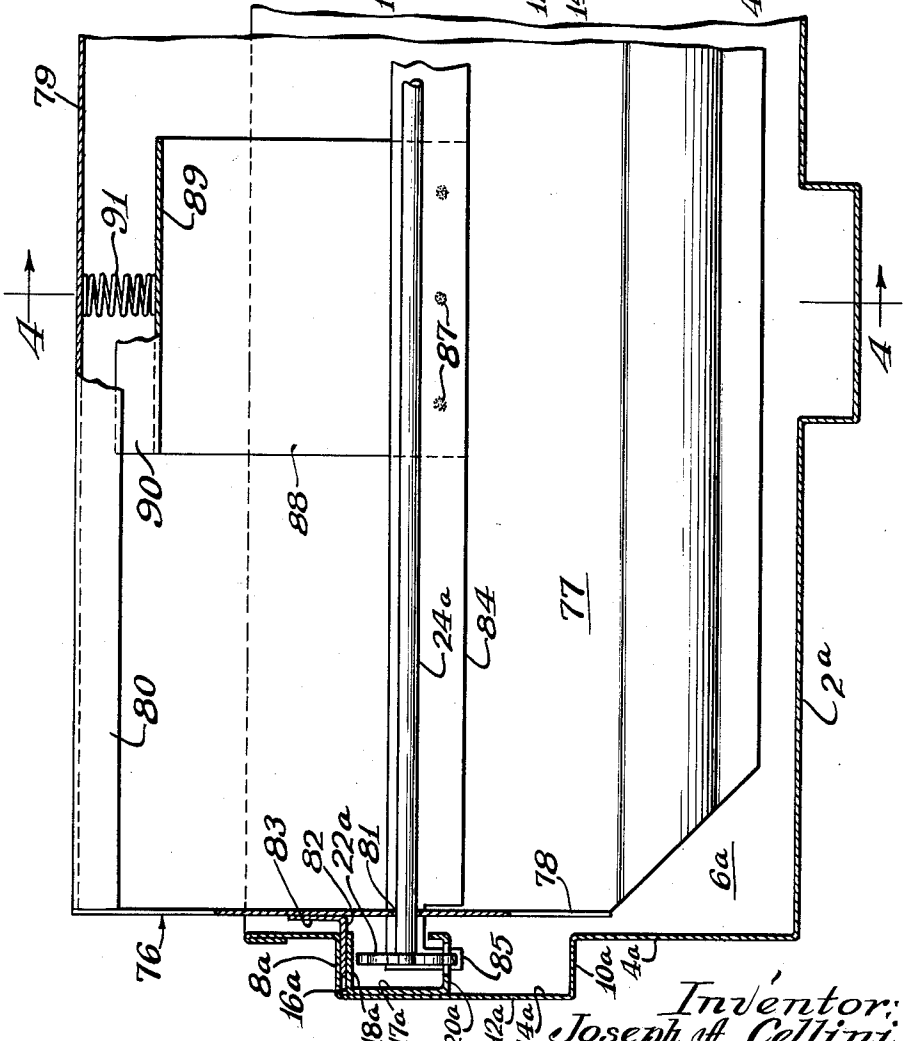



FIG. 3.




Inventor:
Joseph A. Cellini
By Gary, Desmond & Parker
Attys.

United States Patent Office 2,731,968
Patented Jan. 24, 1956



2,731,968

# FILING CABINET DRAWER AND FOLLOWER BLOCK THEREFOR

Joseph A. Cellini, Chicago, Ill.

Application February 28, 1952, Serial No. 274,009

1 Claim. (Cl. 129—30)

This invention relates to filing cabinet drawers and is more particularly concerned with the provision of drawers embodying compressors or follower members adapted to engage and maintain the contents of a drawer, such as files, cards, papers, etc., in a compact, upright condition.

This invention further contemplates the provision of a drawer having a compressor or follower member adapted to be manually moved to adjusted position within the drawer to facilitate the examination, insertion, or removal of the files.

This invention further contemplates the provision of a drawer and follower construction embodying means to maintain the follower in an upright condition and in a plane normal to the sides of the drawer during adjustment of the follower longitudinally of the drawer.

This invention further contemplates the provision of an improved latch means operable to normally secure the follower in fixed position within a drawer and manually operable to permit movement of the follower longitudinally of the drawer.

This invention embodies other novel features, details of construction, and arrangement of parts which are hereinafter set forth in the specification and claim and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a fragmentary transverse sectional view taken along the line 1—1 of Fig. 2 illustrating a filing cabinet drawer embodying features of the present invention, only one side of the drawer being shown as the opposite side is identical in construction.

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary longitudinal sectional view taken along the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary transverse sectional view taken along the line 3—3 of Fig. 4, showing a modified form of the invention, only one side of the drawer being shown as the opposite side is identical in construction.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary longitudinal sectional view taken along the line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

Referring now to the drawings for a better understanding of the invention, the filing cabinet drawer is shown as formed from sheet metal and comprising a bottom 2, side walls 4—4 and end walls 6—6. Each side wall is formed with vertically spaced webs 8 and 10 and a connecting web 12 which define a channel 14 adapted to receive a rack member 16 of channel-shaped cross section.

Each rack member 16 comprises a base 17 and vertically spaced upper and lower flanges 18 and 20, the flange 20 being perforated at spaced intervals to serve as a rack for meshing engagement with a gear 22 secured to the adjacent end of a shaft 24. Each rack member 16 is secured in fixed position within the upper end of its respective channel 14 by means of rivets, spot welding, or other fastening means.

A compressor or follower member 26 is disposed within the drawer between the side walls thereof and is shown as blanked and formed from sheet metal to provide a front wall 28, a top wall 30 and side walls 32—32, the side walls being formed with apertures 34 to receive the ends of the shaft 24. A guide member 36 is spot welded



or otherwise secured to the outer side of each side wall 32 and is formed with vertically spaced, horizontally disposed flanges 38 and 40 for engagement with the inner opposing surfaces of the flanges 18 and 20, respectively, of the rack member 16. Each guide member 36 is also formed with an aperture in registry with the apertures 34 formed in the side walls 32—32 to receive the shaft 24.

A latch housing 42 is blanked and formed from sheet metal and is shown as comprising a bottom 44, side walls 46—46 and end walls 48—48, the side walls being provided with flanges 50—50 adapted to be spot welded, riveted, or otherwise secured to the front wall 28 of the compressor or follower 26.

A latch 52 is enclosed within the housing 42 and is shown as comprising a base 54 having a pair of spaced, vertically projecting arms 56—56. The upper end of each arm is bifurcated to provide a slot 58 to receive the adjacent flattened portion 60 of the shaft 24. Each slot 58 is defined for a portion of its length by parallel walls 62—62 which merge at their upper ends with upwardly diverging walls 64—64.

A helical compression spring 66 is interposed between the base 54 of the latch 52 and the adjacent end wall 48 of the housing 42 to yieldably resist downward movement of the latch. A latch release member 68 is provided on the compressor or follower 26 to engage the latch 52 and is preferably formed from a length of strip metal bent at its ends to provide a latch engaging flange 70 and a hand engaging flange 72. The inner portion of the member 68 is enclosed within the latch housing 42 and has its upper portion projecting through elongated apertures formed in the end wall of the housing 42 and the top wall 30 of the follower 26.

To manually adjust the position of the compressor or follower 26 longitudinally of the drawer, the latch actuating member 68 is pressed downwardly to move the latch 52 toward the adjacent end wall 48 of the latch housing 42 until the axis of the shaft 24 is disposed between the upwardly diverging edges 64—64 of the slots 58 formed in the arms 56—56. The latch is thus moved to its inoperative position to permit free rotational movement of the shaft 24 and manual adjustment of the compressor or follower 26 longitudinally of the drawer. Upon release of the member 68, the compression spring 66 acts to move the latch 52 upwardly to engage the shaft 24 against further rotational movement. When the latch 52 is in its upper position it will be noted that the flat surfaces 60—60 on the shaft 24 are snugly engaged by the parallel edges 62—62 of the slots 58 to prevent rotational movement of the shaft 24 relative to the latch. It will also be noted that the guide members 36—36 serve to support the compressor or follower 26 in an upright condition, and further that the shaft 24, gears 22—22 and rack members 16—16 serve to maintain the follower 26 in a plane normal to the side walls during adjustment of the follower longitudinally of the drawer.

Figs. 3 and 4 in the drawings illustrate a modified form of the invention in which the filing cabinet drawer is shown as comprising a bottom 2*a*, side walls 4*a*—4*a* and end walls 6*a*—6*a*, each side wall having vertically spaced parallel webs 8*a* and 10*a* and a connecting web 12*a* defining a channel 14*a* to receive a rack member 16*a* of generally channel-shape cross section.

Each rack 16*a* comprises spaced upper and lower flanges 18*a* and 20*a* joined together by a base 17*a* spot welded to the inner face of its related connecting web 12*a*, the lower flange being perforated at equally spaced intervals to serve as a rack for meshing engagement with a gear 27*a* keyed to a shaft 24*a*.

A compressor or follower member 76 is mounted within the drawer in a plane normal to the side walls 4*a*—4*a* and comprises a sheet metal blank formed to provide a

front wall **77**, side walls **78—78**, and a top wall **79** having a depending flange **80**, the side walls having apertures **81—81** to rotatably receive the shaft **24***a*. The upper flange **18***a* of each rack member **16***a* is spaced from its related top web **8***a* to define a recess to slidably receive a tongue **82** on a guide member **83** spot welded to its related side wall **78**. It will be noted that the guide members **83—83** serve to support the compressor **76** in an upright position within the drawer, and that the racks **16***a*—**16***a*; gears **22***a*—**22***a* and shaft **24***a* act to maintain the compressor **76** in a plane normal to the side walls **4***a*—**4***a* during and after movement of the compressor longitudinally of the drawer.

Means for locking the compressor **76** in fixed position within the drawer is shown as comprising an elongated latch **84** preferably blanked from sheet metal to provide a pair of depending tongues **85—85** formed and disposed for vertical movement into and out of the perforations of their respective rack members **16***a*—**16***a*. The latch **84** has its end portions disposed for vertical movement within slots **86—86** formed in the side walls **78—78** of the compressor, the medial portion of the latch being spot welded at **87** to the lower end of a latch actuating arm **88** disposed in flush engagement against the back surface of the front wall **77**.

The upper end of the arm **88** is bent to provide a horizontal web **89** and a vertical flange **90** slidably engaging the inner surface of the depending flange **80**, and a compression spring **91** is interposed between the web **89** and the top wall **79** of the compressor to yieldably resist upward movement of the latch **84** and its actuating arm **88**.

To adjust the position of the compressor **76** longitudinally of the drawer, the latch actuating arm **88** is first manually engaged by the fingers of the operator under the horizontal web **89** to raise the latch **84** and move its tongues **85—85** out of the apertures in the rack flanges **20***a*—**20***a*. The compressor **76** is then manually moved to adjusted position longitudinally of the drawer and secured in position by the latch **84**. The compression spring **91** normally holds the latch in engagement with the rack members **16***a*—**16***a*.



While this invention has been shown in but two forms, it is obvious to those skilled in the art that it is not so limited but is susceptible of various changes and modifications without departing from the spirit and scope of the claimed invention.

I claim as my invention:

In a file drawer having spaced side walls and a bottom, a follower disposed within the drawer, a rack provided on each side wall, a shaft journaled on the follower and extending between the side walls, gears fixed on the ends of the shaft in meshing engagement with their respective racks, a latch supported on the follower for reciprocative movement transversely of said shaft between a shaft locking position and a shaft release position and having two spaced upwardly projecting bifurcated arms providing U-shaped recesses to receive said shaft, the upper ends of said recesses being enlarged to rotatably receive said shaft when the latch is in its shaft release position, portions of said shaft adjacent each arm having diametrically opposed flat surfaces to be slidably and non-rotatively engaged within the lower ends of said recesses when the latch is disposed in its normal shaft locking position; a latch actuating member on the follower operable to move the latch downwardly from its shaft locking position to its shaft release position, said member having a portion engaged against the upper ends of said arms to close the recesses therein, and resilient means to yieldably resist movement of said latch from its shaft locking position to its shaft release position.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1,064,382 | Sampson | June 10, 1913 |
| 1,114,081 | Weiss | Oct. 20, 1914 |
| 1,787,410 | Smiley | Dec. 30, 1930 |
| 1,874,367 | Seyl | Aug. 30, 1932 |
| 2,013,153 | Hunter | Sept. 3, 1935 |
| 2,187,118 | Ficklin | Jan. 16, 1940 |
| 2,585,612 | Abrahamson | Feb. 12, 1952 |