Jan. 17, 1928.

1,656,685

C. S. THOMPSON

TRAY OR TILL

Filed June 23, 1927

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

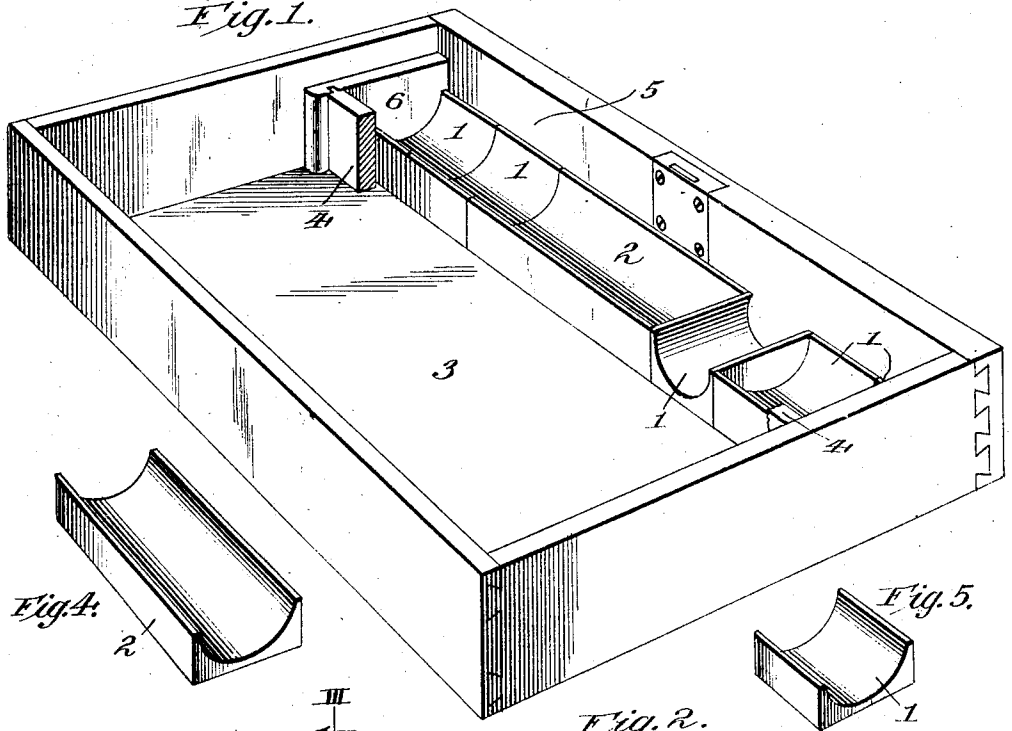


Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.

Fig. 2.

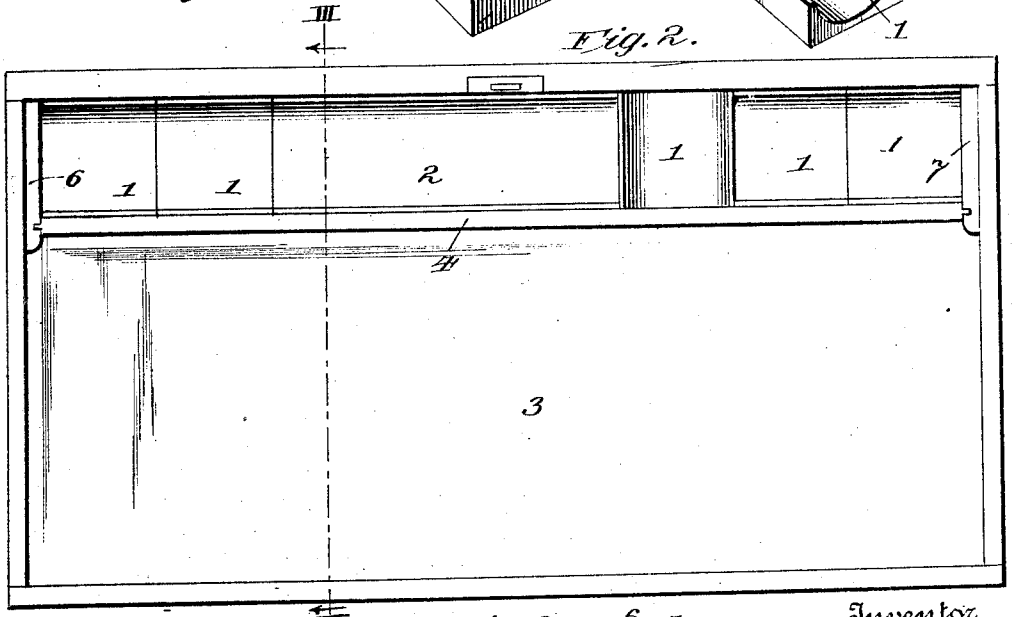
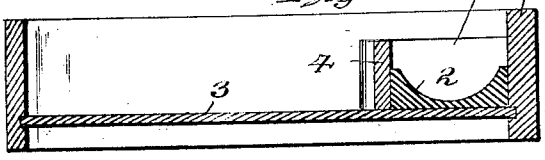


Fig. 3.



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Filed June 23, 1927 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 6.

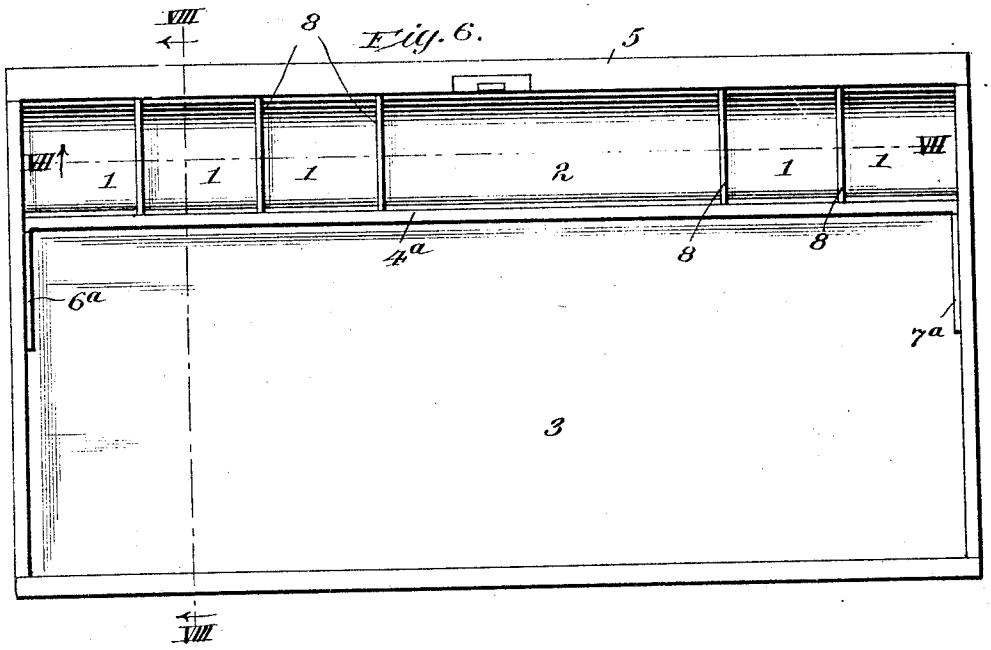


Fig. 7.

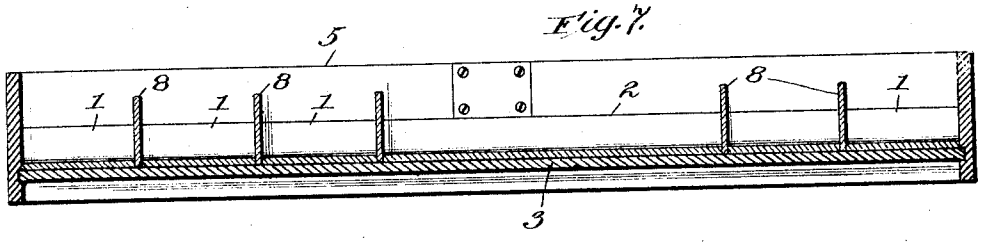


Fig. 8.

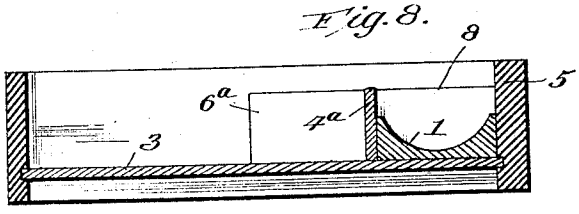
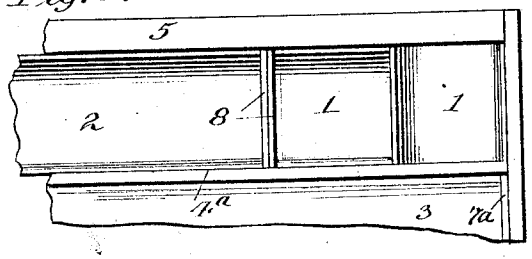


Fig. 9.



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Patented Jan. 17, 1928. 1,656,685

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES S. THOMPSON, OF HERKIMER, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR TO STANDARD FURNITURE COMPANY, OF HERKIMER, NEW YORK, A CORPORATION OF NEW YORK.

TRAY OR TILL.

Application filed June 23, 1927. Serial No. 200,968.

This invention pertains to trays designed to be employed more particularly in the drawers of office desks.

Trays to hold various articles such as penholders, pencils, pens, etc. have of course heretofore been provided in desk drawers, but the vast majority of desks now in use are not so equipped.

The main object of the present invention is to produce, in a cheap and satisfactory manner, a tray which, while it may be installed at the factory, may with equal facility be fitted and placed in the drawer of a desk already in the hands of the user.

A further object of the invention is to form the tray from a series of elements alike in contour and susceptible of varying arrangement or adjustment with reference to each other, whereby compartments of different lengths may be had to suit the convenience and desires of the user.

A still further object is to so form the various elements that when positioned in the manner hereinafter described the side wall of one element or unit forms the end wall of the next adjoining compartment or the end walls of the two compartments immediately adjacent said unit.

With these and other objects and advantages in view as will hereinafter appear reference will be had to the annexed drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a desk drawer showing the tray in position, the rear retaining partition being broken away;

Fig. 2, a top plan view thereof, with the same arrangement of tray units or elements preserved;

Fig. 3, a transverse sectional view on the line III—III of Fig. 2;

Figs. 4 and 5, perspective views of two of the tray units or members, the latter being of such dimensions that it may set with its channel extending in line with or transversely of the tray as a whole;

Fig. 6, a plan view of a drawer and tray illustrating a slightly modified embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 7, a longitudinal sectional view on the line VII—VII of Fig. 6;

Fig. 8, a transverse section on the line VIII—VIII of Fig. 6; and

Fig. 9, a fragmentary plan view showing a tray element arrangement when using the partition spacers shown in Figs. 6, 7 and 8.

Under all forms illustrated the tray elements or units are trough shape in cross-section and rectangular in outline or plan. The majority of the elements or blocks which go to make up a complete tray will preferably be square in outline while one or more will, or may be oblong in plan and of a length twice that of the smaller sections.

The smaller or square elements are designated in the various figures as 1 and the longer oblong members by 2. They are all produced from a strip of wood having a groove or channel formed in one face after which the strip is cut up to form the desired units or elements.

The desk drawer in which the tray is to be placed is denoted by 3 and a retaining partition 4 is mounted therein parallel to the forward face 5 of the drawer and at a distance therefrom equal to the width of the elements 1 and 2 forming in effect a confining channel for the tray elements or units. As shown, the partition is held in place by end cleats 6 and 7 secured in any desired manner to the inner faces of the sides of the drawer.

As will be appreciated from an inspection of the drawings any desired arrangement as to the length of the pockets or divisions in the tray may be had. Thus the long element 2 may, with the two shorter sections 1, 1, to the left, as viewed in Figs. 1 and 2, form a long continuous pocket or channel while the short unit 1 to the right of element 2 is so positioned as to have its groove extend at right angles to the other. Its side walls then form in effect end walls for the adjacent end of element 2 and for the next adjacent short section 1 to the right.

The second section 1 from the left, Fig. 1, or that which abuts the left hand end of section 2 may or might be given a quarter turn so that one of its sides would form an end wall for the trough in element or unit 2.

Thus, by having elements 1 square in outline and of a size to fit in between the partition 4 and front 5, or in what may be termed the confining channel, most any desired arrangement or sub-division of the tray may be effected.

In Figs. 6 to 9 inclusive, an arrangement is illustrated wherein removable cross partitions or separators are employed between the tray elements or units. As in the other ar-

rangement a longitudinally extending partition, designated as 4^a and held in place by cleats 6^a and 7^a is employed. The length of the drawer in this instance is slightly in excess of the aggregate length of the combined tray elements 1 and 2 and to compensate for this and also allow the channel of the various units to extend in the same direction, transverse partitions are employed. These partitions are held in place by the adjacent elements 1, or 1 and 2 as the case may be, in between which the partitions extend.

In Fig. 9 two of the partitions are shown placed side by side and the element 1 at the extreme right is so positioned that its channel extends at right angles to the one next adjacent. Thus there are formed two pockets in the tray by the elements 1 shown in this figure.

While the arrangement first described is preferred, the use of the partitions may be found advantageous in fitting the tray elements or units where they have been cut and do not fill out the full length of the confining channel.

The tray elements will ordinarily be produced from wood which is looked upon as scrap and after a strip is channeled or grooved out it will be cut up into blocks forming elements or units as 1 and 2.

What is claimed is,—

1. In combination with a receptacle; a cross partition located therein in parallel relation to one of the upstanding elements thereof; and a plurality of removable sections housed within the space between said upstanding element and the partition, said sections being concave on their upper face and one of which at least is square in outline whereby such element may be positioned with its concave face standing in alignment with the concavity of the next adjacent section or at right angles thereto.

2. In combination with a drawer having a confining channel formed adjacent one of the upstanding members thereof; and a plurality of removable tray forming sections housed in said channel, one of said sections at least being square in outline and adapted by reason thereof to be seated in the channel with its concavity extending lengthwise or transversely of the channel.

3. The combination with a receptacle having a confining channel, of a tray structure mounted in said channel and comprising a plurality of removable members certain of which are square in plan and all of which are formed with a transverse tray forming groove on their top faces.

4. A tray structure comprising in combination a plurality of blocks, certain of which are square in plan and all of which have a receptacle forming groove on their top faces, whereby a plurality of blocks may be assembled to form at will a single elongated receptacle or a plurality of shorter receptacles; and means for retaining said blocks in assembled relation.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification.

CHARLES S. THOMPSON.