Jan. 18, 1944. W. GERSTEN 2,339,694

CABINET

Filed June 22, 1942

Fig. 1.

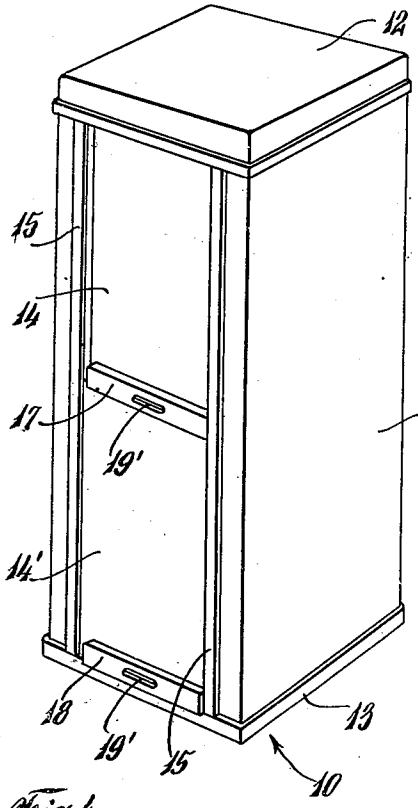


Fig. 2.

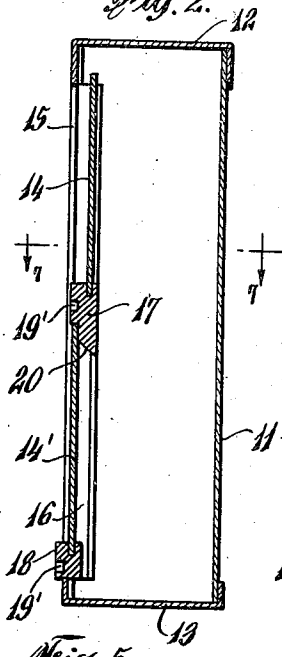


Fig. 3.

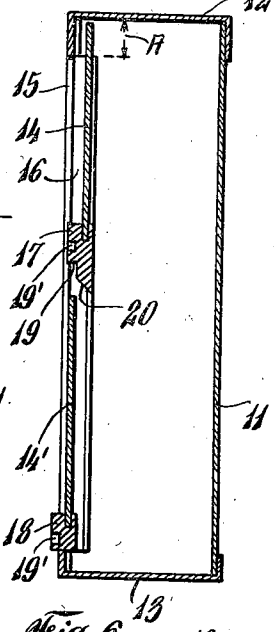


Fig. 4.

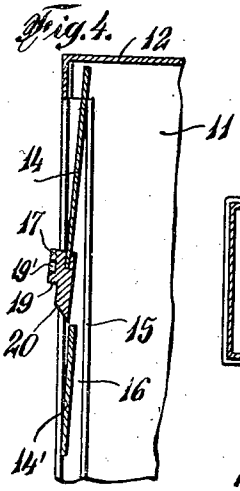


Fig. 5.

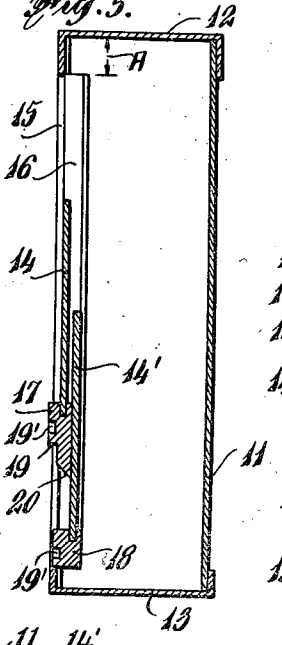


Fig. 6.

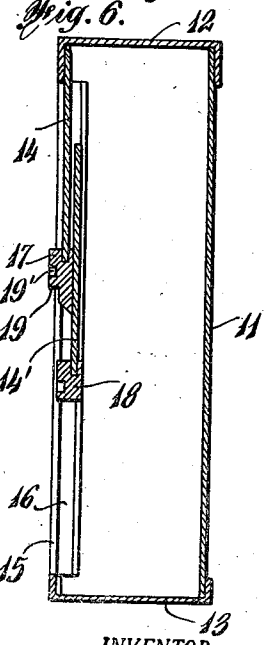


Fig. 7.

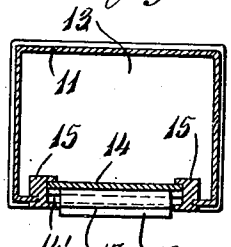
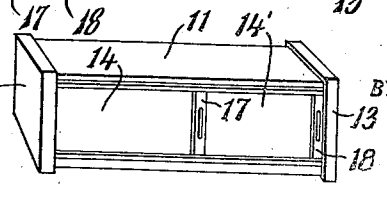


Fig. 8.



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CABINET

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Application June 22, 1942, Serial No. 447,900

6 Claims. (Cl. 312—189)

The present invention relates to cabinets of the type having a pair of slidable doors, and more particularly adaptable where door movement is vertical.

An object of this invention is to provide in cabinets and other box-like structures, novel and improved constructions in sliding doors which when moved to position to close the cabinet, will automatically engage each other to maintain such closed condition, and which doors can be easily disengaged when desired, to enable free operation of either of them.

Another object hereof is to provide a novel and improved construction to accomplish the above, without special hardware fittings, and particularly in cabinets made of fibre board and wood trimmed, by use of the wooden slats, of special design however, where slats are now used on such articles anyway, thereby reducing the cost of both labor and material in manufacture.

A further object is to provide an article of the character described, of novel and improved construction, which is simple to manufacture, easy to use, and efficient in carrying out the purposes for which is is designed.

Other objects and advantages will become manifest as this disclosure proceeds.

In the accompanying drawing, similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the views.

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing a cabinet embodying the teachings of this invention.

Fig. 2 is a side elevation thereof in section, showing the door members in locked position and the cabinet in closed condition.

Fig. 3 is a similar view showing the door members in free position, that is, they are disengaged from each other.

Fig. 4 is a similar fragmentary view, showing one of the door members tilted, whereupon both doors are free to be slid to uncover or open either the upper or lower halves of the cabinet opening.

Fig. 5 is a similar view to that of Fig. 2 showing the upper door member slid downward to open the upper half of the cabinet opening.

Fig. 6 is like Fig. 5 where however, the lower door member is shown raised to uncover the lower portion of the cabinet opening.

Fig. 7 is a section taken along lines 7—7 in Fig. 2.

Fig. 8 is a diagrammatic view of the cabinet positioned so that movement of the door members is along the horizontal; all foregoing views showing the cabinet where such line of movement is vertical.

In the drawing, the numeral 10 designates generally a cabinet structure which may be of any desired material and as a matter of example may be of fibreboard as to its body 11, top and bottom members 12 and 13, and panel door members 14 and 14', suitably wood trimmed as is known in the art. The wooden stiles 15 are along the vertical sides of the cabinet opening, in which stiles are the longitudinal grooves 16, in confronting relation, wherein said door members are slidably mounted for movement along the vertical. The width of said grooves 16 are sufficient to permit superimposition of the door members 14 and 14', therein.

Between the stiles 15, each of the door members 14 and 14', at their bottom ends, have mounted thereon, extending in part forwardly of their front surfaces, the slats 17 and 18, respectively, which slats are provided with indentations 19', or with other suitable handle means. The slat 17, has a seat 19, for contact with the upper edge of the lower door member 14', when the door members are in the relation illustrated in Fig. 2, and said slat is preferably downwardly bevelled along its bottom edge as at 20, for guiding the door members into overlapping relation when moved towards each other from their relative positions shown in Fig. 3, to those of Fig. 2.

In the closed condition of the cabinet as shown in Fig. 2, the upper door member 14 is maintained in its raised position because downward movement thereof is prevented by the stop effected by the upper edge of the lower door member 14' against the seat 19. The lower door member 14' could be raised but a very short distance indicated by the clearance "A" between the top edge of the upper door member 14 and the ceiling of the cabinet. In effect, the doors in this position illustrated in Fig. 2, are self locking for all practical purposes.

In operation, to release the door members 14 and 14', so that either of them becomes free for full sliding movement, it is first necessary for the upper door member 14 to be raised a little into "A," so that the bottom edge of slat 17, shall clear the upper edge of the lower door member 14', as in Fig. 3. Then, in the embodiment shown, the upper door member is tilted in the grooves 16, by pulling slat 17 forward, whereby either of the door members may now be slid their full range along the stiles 15, to open the cabinet 10, as desired. Although the upper door member 14 may fall while the lower door member 14' is be-

ing raised, it will automatically be raised along with the lower door member 14', upon contact of slat 18, with the slat 17.

Although in the preferred embodiment herein set forth, this invention has been applied to the "drop door" type of cabinet, where door movement is along the vertical and therefore the door members are upper and lower, such choice of direction was only as a matter of convenience and not of limitation, and this invention is equally adaptable where door movement if along the horizontal, as where the cabinet shown would lie on its side or rear wall of body 11, as shown in Fig. 8, and the door members would then be termed right-hand and left hand. It is therefore intended and desired that the terminology employed anywhere herein be deemed chosen for the purpose of facilitating definition, and not by way of restriction.

This invention is capable of numerous forms and various applications without departing from the essential features herein disclosed. It is therefore intended and desired that the patent shall cover all patentable novelty herein disclosed and that all embodiments shown or referred to shall be deemed merely illustrative and not restrictive; reference being had to the following claims, rather than to the specific descriptions herein to indicate the scope of this invention.

I claim:

1. In a cabinet-like structure having an opening and a pair of confronting grooves, one along each of the sides of said opening, a pair of door members, having handle means, slidably mounted in said grooves, adapted upon movement of one and opposite movement of the other of said door members to close said opening; end portions of the door members overlapping each other at the mid-region of said closed opening; a stop element extending from a surface of one of the door members and contacting the overlapped edge of the other door member; one door member being adapted to be slid along the grooves in a direction away from the other door member to a position where the door members are not overlapping each other, and one of the door members being adapted to be tilted in the grooves when the door members are not in overlapped position, to avoid portions of the other door member which obstruct movement thereof, whereby both door members are free to be slid along the grooves to uncover a portion of the opening from either end thereof.

2. An article as defined in claim 1, wherein the edge of one of the door members which is overlapped when said members are in position to close the opening, is bevelled to guide the overlapping of the door members when moved towards one another from the position where the door members are free of one another.

3. In a cabinet-like structure having an opening and a pair of vertical confronting grooves, one along each of the sides of said opening, a pair of door members, having handle means, slidably mounted in said grooves and capable of superimposition, adapted upon upward movement of one and downward movement of the other of said door members to close said opening; end portions of the door members overlapping each other at the mid-region of said closed opening, a stop element extending forwardly from the front surface of the upper door member and contacting the upper edge of the lower door member; the upper door member being adapted to be slid upwardly along the grooves to a position where the door members are not overlapping each other, and then tilted forwardly downwardly in the grooves to avoid portions of the lower door member which obstruct movement thereof, whereby both door members are free to be slid along the grooves to uncover a portion of the opening from either end thereof.

4. An article as defined in claim 3, wherein the lower edge of the upper door member is bevelled to guide the overlapping of the door members when moved towards each other from the position in which said door members are free of one another and coplaner.

5. In an article as defined in claim 1, including a stop element extending from a surface of one door member, adapted for contact with an edge of the other door member in any position of said other door member along the grooves away from closed position while the first mentioned door member is being moved, whereby said other door member is automatically moved along the grooves.

6. An article as defined in claim 3, including a stop element extending from a surface of the lower door member, adapted for contact with the lower edge of the upper door member in any of the lowered positions of said upper door member while the lower door member is being raised, whereby the upper door member is automatically raised.

WILLIAM GERSTEN.