June 10, 1924. 1,497,486

E. J. CARD ET AL

POSTING TRAY OR THE LIKE

Filed Aug. 18, 1921 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

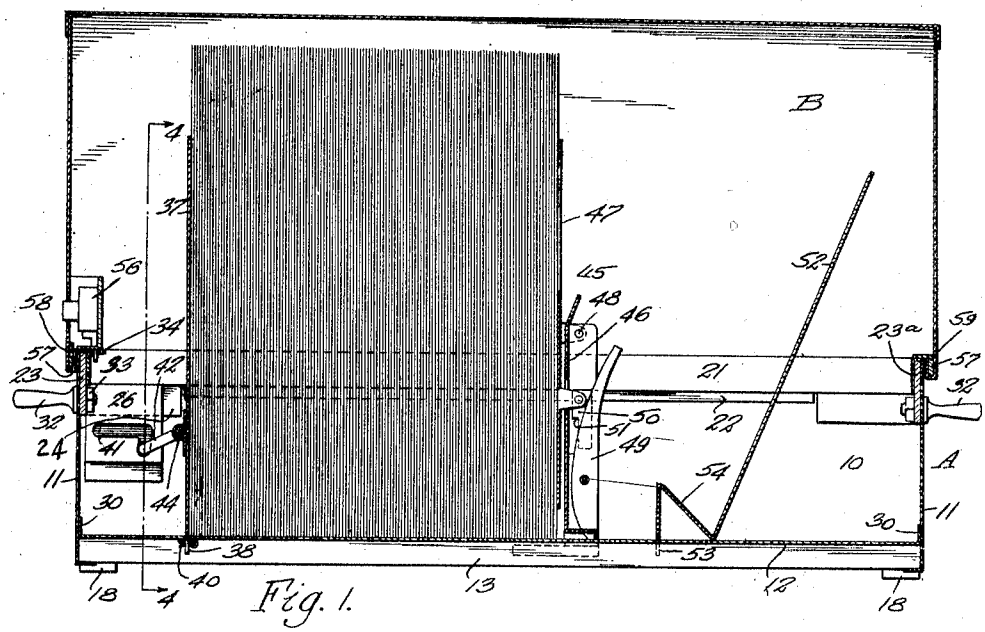
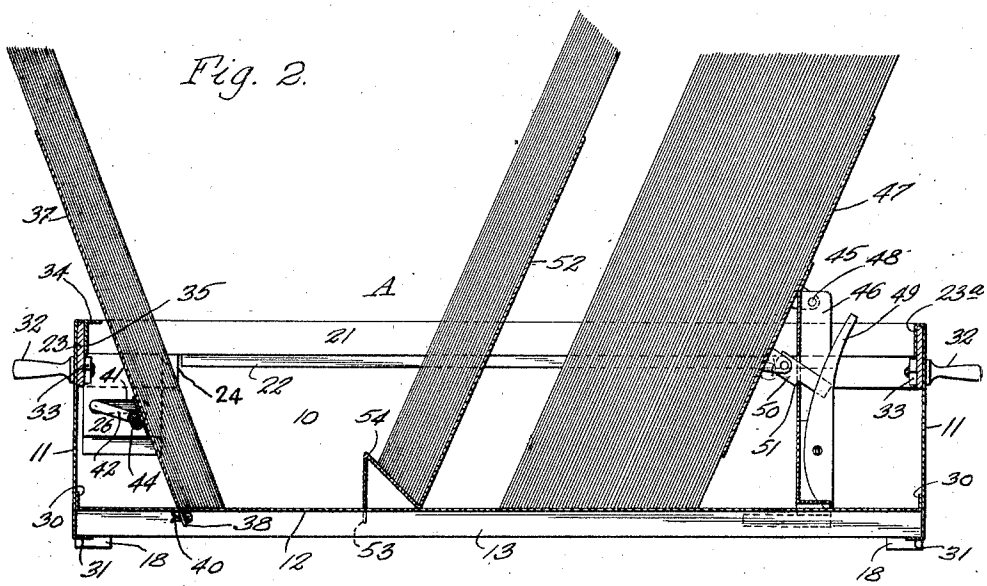


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.



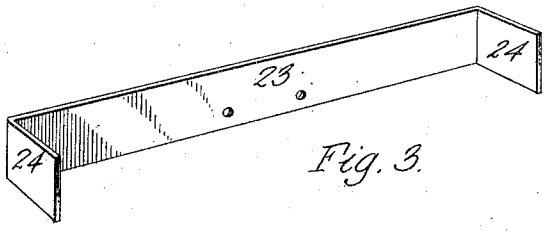


Fig. 3.

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Fig. 4.

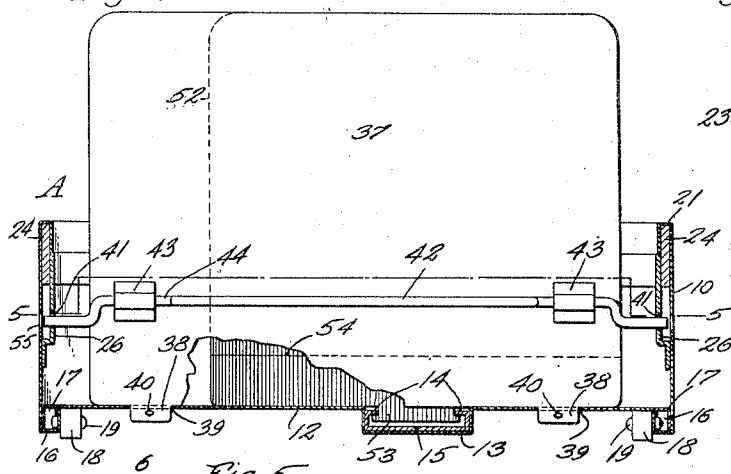


Fig. 5.

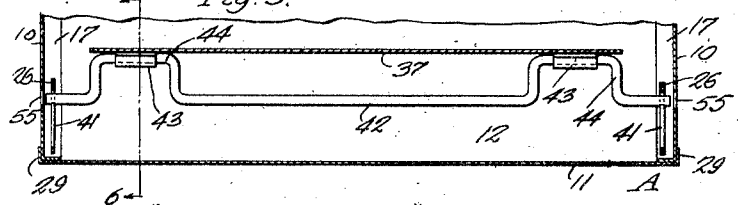


Fig. 6.

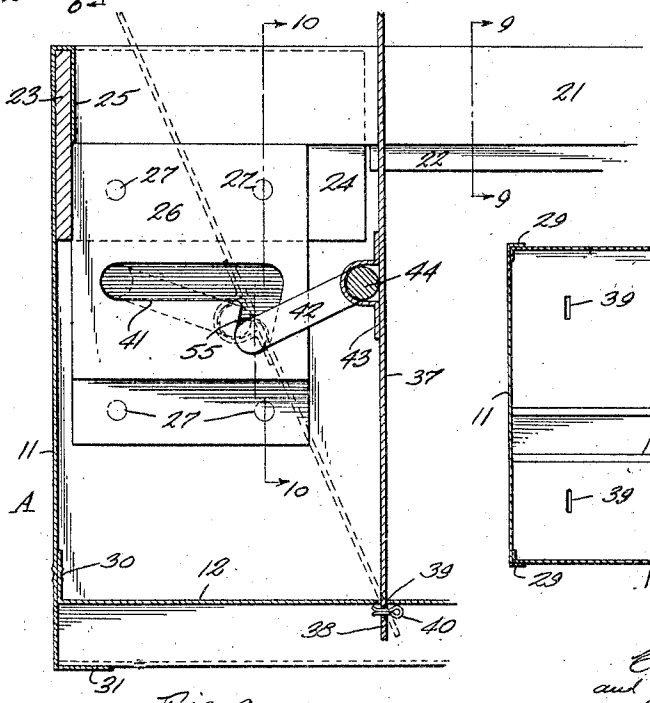


Fig. 7.

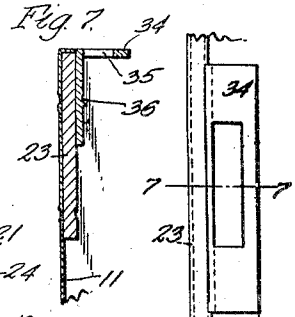


Fig. 8.

Fig. 9.

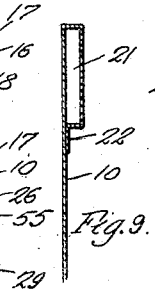


Fig. 10.

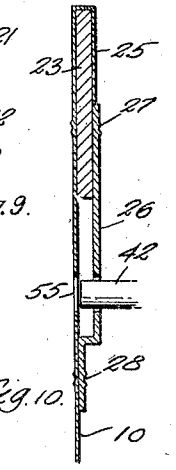
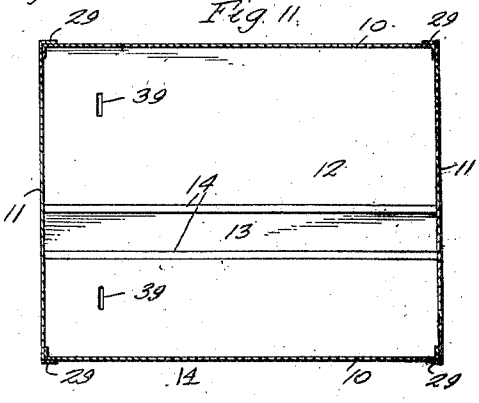


Fig. 11.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EARL J. CARD AND JOSEPH E. TURNER, OF JAMESTOWN, NEW YORK, ASSIGNORS TO ART METAL CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, OF JAMESTOWN, NEW YORK.

POSTING TRAY OR THE LIKE.

Application filed August 18, 1921. Serial No. 493,209.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, EARL J. CARD and JOSEPH E. TURNER, citizens of the United States, residing at Jamestown, in the county of Chautauqua and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Posting Trays or the like, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to posting trays, file boxes or receptacles of the type adapted to be used to house a plurality of loose ledger leaves, sheets or cards to facilitate examination of the sheets and the posting or transfer of items thereon in connection with ledger or machine bookkeeping or the like.

The objects of this invention are to provide a desirable, strong and durable posting tray or file box which may be easily and inexpensively constructed of sheet metal and which consists of relatively few parts; also to provide a device of the character stated which is light in weight and constructed so as to be reinforced at essential points to stand hard wear and usage; also to provide improvements in the compressors used in such trays for holding the sheets. Further objects are to improve posting trays and file boxes in the respects hereinafter set forth and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings:

Fig. 1 is a longitudinal sectional elevation of a posting tray embodying the invention.

Fig. 2 is a similar view thereof with the cover removed and showing the sheets released for examination.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of one of the end reinforcing straps thereof.

Fig. 4 is a transverse sectional elevation on line 4—4, Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is a sectional plan on line 5—5, Fig. 4.

Fig. 6 is a sectional elevation on line 6—6, Fig. 5 but on an enlarged scale.

Fig. 7 is a section on line 7—7, Fig. 8.

Fig. 8 is a plan view of a portion of the front edge of the tray showing the lock keeper.

Fig. 9 is a section on line 9—9, Fig. 6.

Fig. 10 is a section on line 10—10, Fig. 6.

Fig. 11 is a horizontal section through the tray with the compressor slides removed and on a reduced scale.

The posting device of this invention, as usual, comprises a tray or receptacle and a pair of compressors between which the cards or sheets may be clamped and held immovable in the tray, and one or both of which are movable to release the sheets so that they can be examined. The compressors are further provided with hinged or pivoted plate portions so that the sheets may be supported loosely in inclined positions in the tray to facilitate the manipulation of the sheets and the examination of the data thereon. Preferably the tray is also provided with a removable cover and a movable seat or setting up device in which the cards or sheets may be placed in an inclined stepped position to further facilitate the handling or turning of the same.

The tray or body portion A consists of sides 10, ends 11 and a bottom 12. Bottom plate 12 is preferably provided with a longitudinal channel 13 having therein a pair of opposite, inwardly projecting, spaced tongues 14. In the tray illustrated, the spaced tongues 14 are formed on a separate retaining member 15 suitably secured in the channel 13. As illustrated, the sides 10 and the bottom 12 are preferably formed from a single plate or sheet of metal which is suitably bent to form the channel 13 and to provide longitudinal channel flanges 16 at the lower edges of the sides, which channel flanges are reinforced by inserted bars or members 17. 18 designates feet or supporting members of felt or other suitable material connected to the channel-forming portions 16 by suitable bolts 19 or the like.

The upper edges of the sides 10 are preferably formed so as to provide along the same hollow or tubular reinforcing flanges 21 on the inside of the tray. As best illustrated in Fig. 9, these reinforcing flanges are formed by bending the upper edges of the side plates inwardly and thence downwardly, outwardly and downwardly, and welding or otherwise securing the lower edge of the bent portion to the body of the side wall as at 22. As illustrated in Figs. 4, 7 and 10, the front end of the tray is reinforced by a stiff metal U-shaped strap (shown detached in Fig. 3), which has a front portion 23 and ends 24 that extend a distance toward the rear of the tray. This reinforcing strap is welded or otherwise suitably secured in a downwardly opening channel 25 formed along the upper edge of the front end of the tray, preferably by bending the upper edge

of the end plate 11 inwardly and downwardly, and the ends 24 of the strap are similarly secured in the front portions of the side reinforcing flanges 21, the bottoms of which are cut away, as shown in Figs. 6 and 10, to permit the insertion of the strap. The stiff, bent strap 23 extending across the front end, around the corners and part way along the sides of the tray in the hollow flanges thereof, makes the corners and end wall of the tray very strong and rigid. A similar reinforcing strap 23ª is preferably similarly secured to the opposite end wall of the tray and like strap 23 preferably has ends secured in the side reinforcing flanges 21. At the front end of the tray, as shown in Figs. 4 and 6, a pair of bearing plates 26 are spot-welded or otherwise secured to the ends 24 of the reinforcing strap and to the side wall of the tray as illustrated at 27 and 28 respectively. The sides and ends of the tray are preferably formed at the corners of the tray with overlapping vertical flanges which are welded together or secured by other suitable means as at 29, see Fig. 11. The bottom 12 is preferably formed with end flanges 30 which are welded to the end plates 11 and the end plates 11 preferably terminate at their lower edges in inturned flanges 31.

32 designate a pair of handles, one at each end of the tray and suitably connected to the end reinforcing straps 23 and 23ª as by bolts or the like 33. 34 designates a lock keeper secured to the upper edge of the front end wall, the channel-forming portion of the front end plate being cut away to permit of the attachment of the vertical leg of the angle-shaped lock keeper to the rear side of the reinforcing strap 23, where it is welded as at 36. The lock keeper 34 is provided with the usual opening 35 to receive the bolt of the cover lock.

37 designates the front compressor plate which is preferably pivoted to the bottom plate so that it may be swung in the tray to hold the cards or sheets upright as shown in Fig. 1, or permit them to rest at an inclination to the bottom of the tray as shown in Fig. 2. In the preferred form illustrated, the compressor plate is provided with a pair of bottom tongues 38 which extend through apertures 39 in the bottom of the tray and are held against unintentional removal by cotter pins 40 or the like, which are inserted in holes in these tongues and permit the plate to be swung to different inclinations in the tray. Means are provided for supporting the compressor plate 37 in the vertical and inclined positions. For this purpose, in the tray shown the bearing plates 26 at the sides of the tray have angle slots 41 which are engaged by the ends of a crank rod 42 or the like mounted to rock on the compressor plate. The angle slots as shown provide a plurality of seats for the ends of the rod. The rod 42 is preferably connected to the compressor plate by bearing straps 43 and has its ends offset as at 44 so that when the ends of the rod are in the lowermost portions of slots 41, the compressor plate will be held in vertical position, as shown in Fig. 6. As shown in dotted lines in Fig. 6, when the ends of the rod are moved upwardly and then forward to the front ends of the slots 41, the compressor plate is maintained in a forwardly inclined position. The crank rod also preferably has an offset central portion which serves as a handle for rocking the rod to engage its ends in one or the other portions of the angle slots 41.

The rear or adjustable compressor plate or follower, which is designated as 45 in the drawings, is of known form comprising a standard or member 46 which is adjustable longitudinally in the tray, and a card or sheet supporting plate 47 pivoted to the standard as at 48. The standard 46 of this compressor 45 is slidably engaged with the channel 13 in the tray bottom and is provided with the usual locking lever or dog 49 by means of which it is frictionally held in adjusted positions in the tray. The card or sheet supporting plate 47 carries a pivoted pawl 50 which, as illustrated in Fig. 2, has a notched portion 51 for engaging an edge of the adjustable standard 46, when the plate 47 is moved out of the vertical to maintain the plate in an inclined position.

52 designates a setting-up device whch is adapted to be positioned in the rear of the tray when the cards or sheets are locked between the compressors, as shown in Fig. 1, and which, as shown in Fig. 2, is adapted to be positioned between the compressor plates so as to stand in the tray at a rearward inclination when the cards or sheets are in use. This setting-up device 52 is provided with a tongue 53 which takes into the channel 13 in the bottom of the tray and has a forwardly and upwardly inclined bottom portion 54 on which the lower edges of the cards or sheets rest so that the upper edges of the cards or sheets are maintained in stepped relation in positions favorable to easy handling.

The side walls 10 of the tray are provided with holes or openings 55 in registration with a portion of slots 41 so that an end of the crank rod 42 may be projected therethrough in order to permit the other end of the rod to be withdrawn from the slot and the front compressor plate 37 lifted out of the tray, after the cotter pins 40 have been withdrawn.

The top or cover B may be of any suitable construction and is provided with a lock 56, the bolt of which is adapted to engage keeper 34 for locking the cover to the tray. The lower edges of this cover or top are preferably formed as inwardly opening

channels 57 which channels receive reinforcing strips 58 and 59 which are welded or otherwise secured therein. As shown, these reinforcing strips 59 are preferably of angle form so that in the closed position of the cover the upper horizontal flange of the angle strip rests upon the upper edge of the tray, as best shown in Fig. 1.

The channel flanges at the upper side edges of the tray prevent distortion, bending or buckling of those edges under conditions of severe usage and the channels with the reinforcing straps therein effectively reinforce the front edges and corners of the tray and ensure that the tray will maintain its original shape so as to readily receive the cover and that the lock and lock keeper will be properly alined.

We claim as our invention:

1. In a posting tray or the like, the combination of a tray body having sides with integral tubular reinforcing portions at their upper edges, ends with integral channeled upper edges, reinforcing straps secured in said end channels, said reinforcing straps having ends secured to said sides, and slotted bearing plates adjacent the front end of said tray and connected to said reinforcing strap ends adjacent the front ends of said tray and to the sides of said tray.

2. In a posting tray or the like, the combination of a tray body having a bottom, sides and ends, a pair of slotted bearing plates secured to said sides adjacent one end of the tray, a pivoted plate in said end of the tray, and releasable connections between said bearing plates and said pivoted plate.

3. In a posting tray or the like, the combination of a tray body having a bottom, sides and ends, a compressor plate pivoted in the tray adjacent one end of the tray, a securing rod connected to said plate, and means at the sides of said tray cooperating with said securing rod for holding said plate in different positions.

4. In a posting tray or the like, the combination of a tray body having a bottom, sides and ends, a compressor plate pivoted in the tray adjacent one end of the tray, a securing rod connected to said plate, and rod-receiving seats at each side of said tray, whereby the rod may be differently placed to hold said plate in different positions.

5. In a posting tray or the like, the combination of a tray body having a bottom, sides and ends, a compressor plate pivoted in the tray adjacent one end of the tray, a securing rod connected to said plate, a pair of bearing plates secured interiorly to the sides of said tray, said bearing plates having slots therein providing different seats for the ends of said securing rod, whereby when the rod is moved to different positions in said slots said plate is held in different positions.

6. In a posting tray or the like, the combination of a tray body, a compressor plate pivoted in the tray, a securing rod journaled to rock on said compressor plate and having offset ends, and angle seats provided interiorly at the sides of the tray and into which the offset ends of said securing rod extend, whereby said compressor can be secured in different positions by rocking said rod to different engaging positions in said seats.

7. In a posting tray or the like, the combination of a tray body having sides and a bottom, an upstanding plate adapted to hold sheets in different standing positions in said tray, a pair of spaced openings in said bottom, a pair of tongues on the bottom edge of said plate adapted to extend through the openings in said bottom, and cotter pins extending through said tongues whereby said plate is pivotally and removably connected to said tray bottom.

8. In a posting tray or the like, the combination of a tray body having sides and a bottom, an upstanding plate adapted to hold sheets in different standing positions in said tray, a securing rod movably connected to said plate, seats arranged interiorly at the sides of said tray for receiving the ends of said supporting rod, and an opening in one of said sides and in registration with one of said seats, whereby said rod may be moved endwise in said opening to permit of the disengagement of the rod from said seats and the removal of said plate from the tray.

9. In a posting tray or the like, the combination of a tray body having a bottom and upright walls, a cover having side walls, the lower edges of which are formed as upwardly opening channels, and angular reinforcing strips secured in said channels, said reinforcing strips having inwardly projecting flanges adapted to seat on the upper edges of said upright walls of the tray.

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