March 10, 1970 R. A. STUDINSKI 3,499,695

DRAWER AND COMPRESSOR PLATE CONSTRUCTION

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FIG. 1

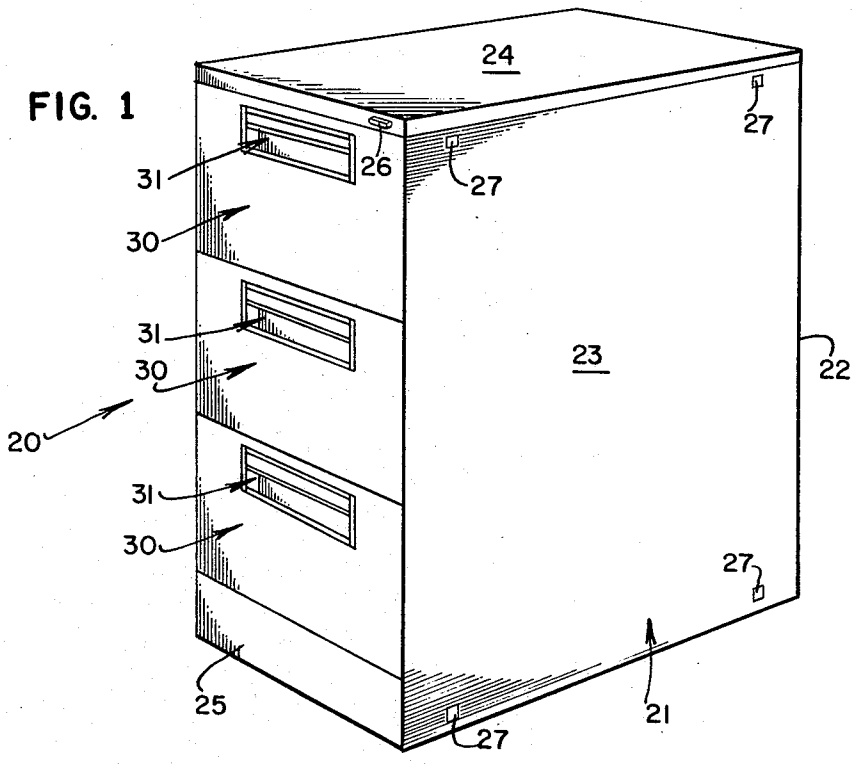
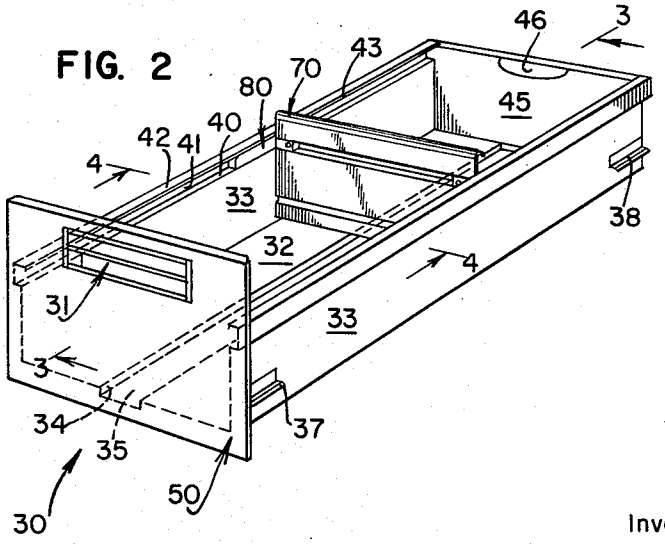


FIG. 2



Inventor

ROBERT A. STUDINSKI

BY

Prangley, Baird, Clayton, Miller & Vogel.

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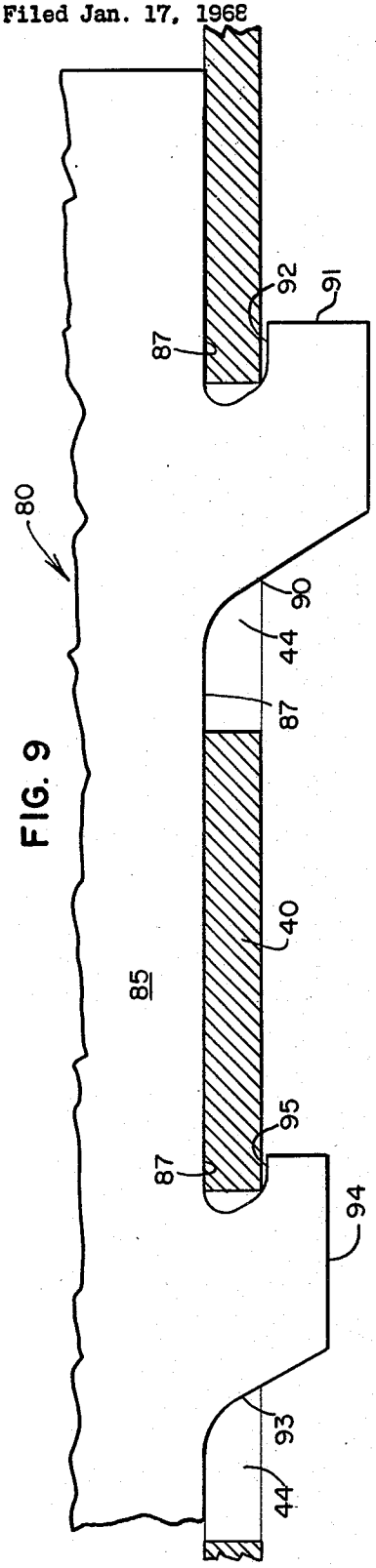


FIG. 9

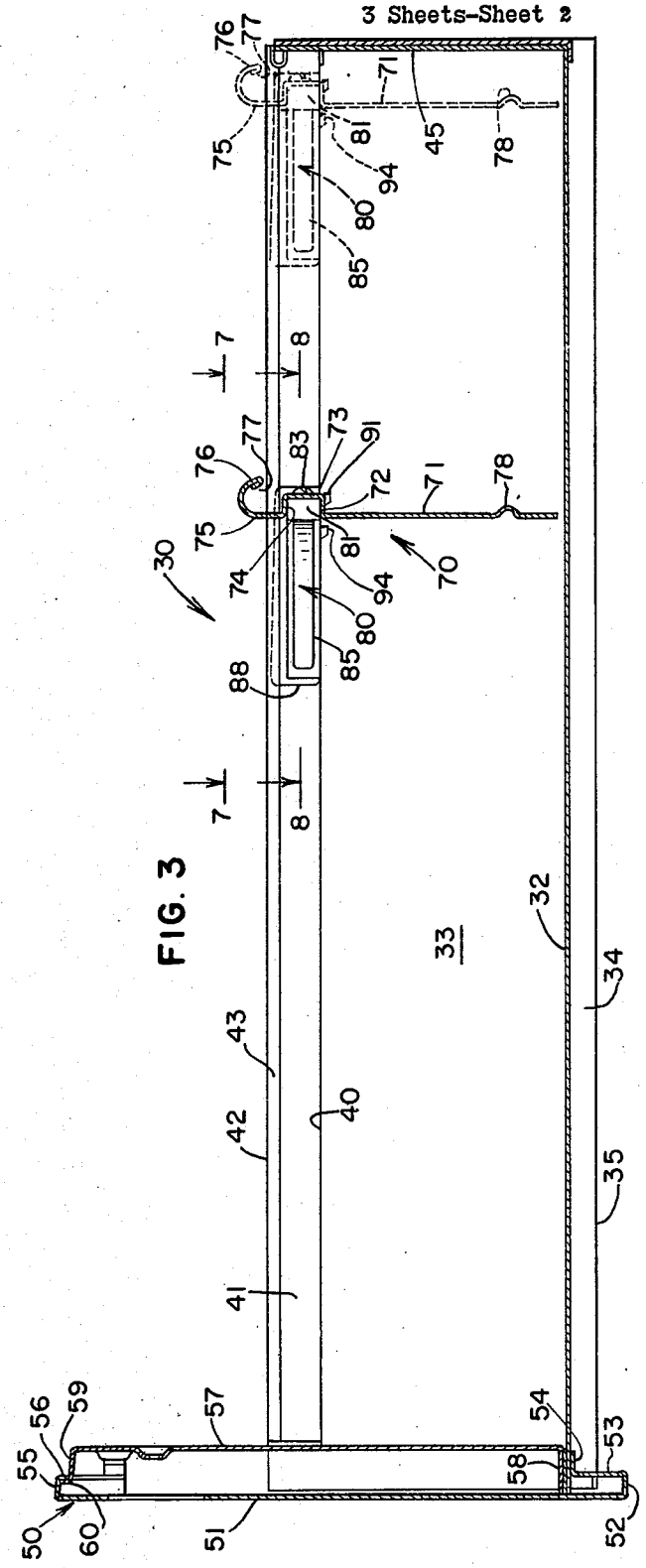


FIG. 3

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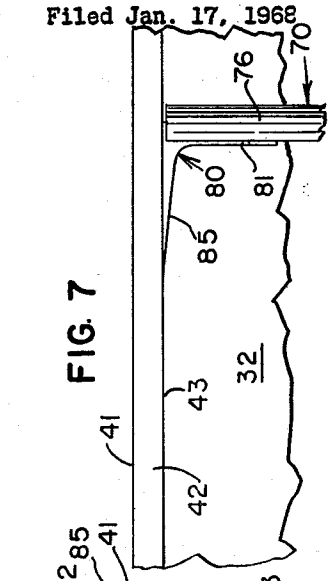


FIG. 7

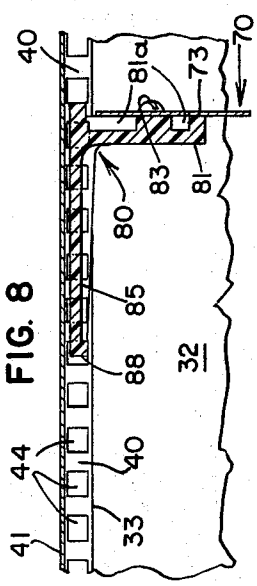


FIG. 8

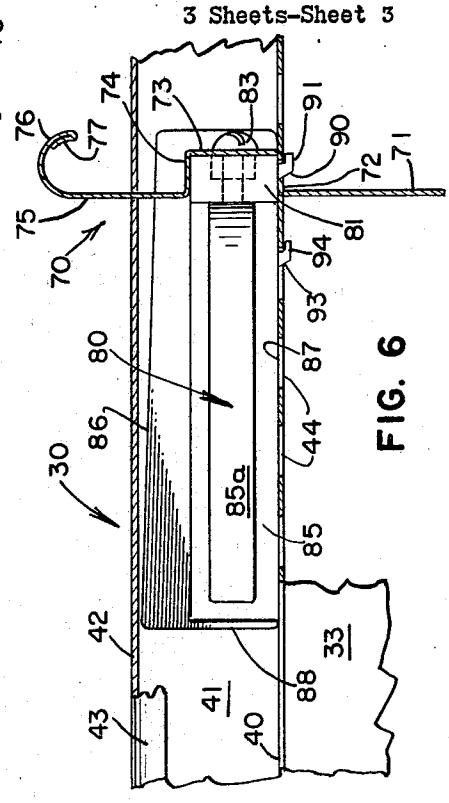


FIG. 6

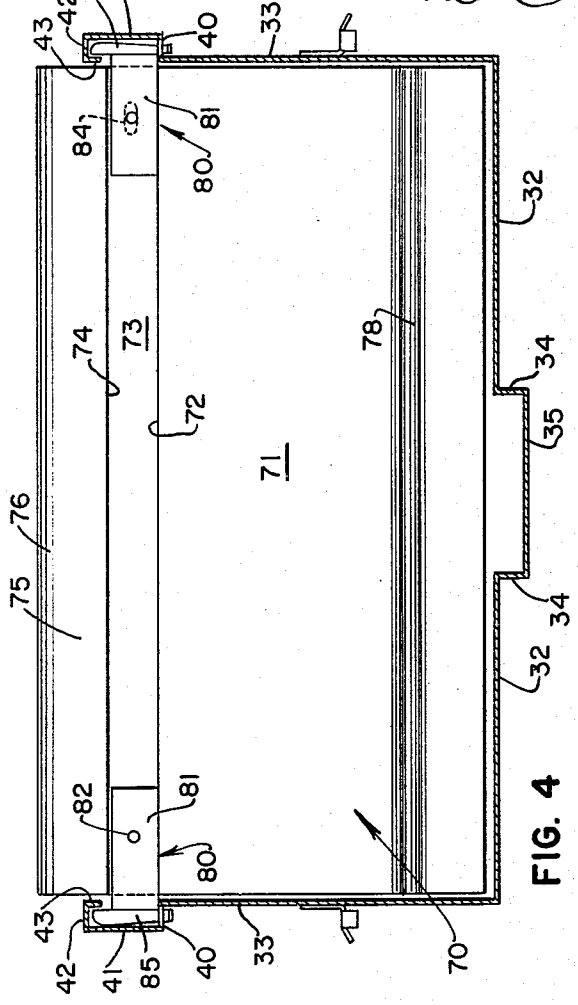


FIG. 4

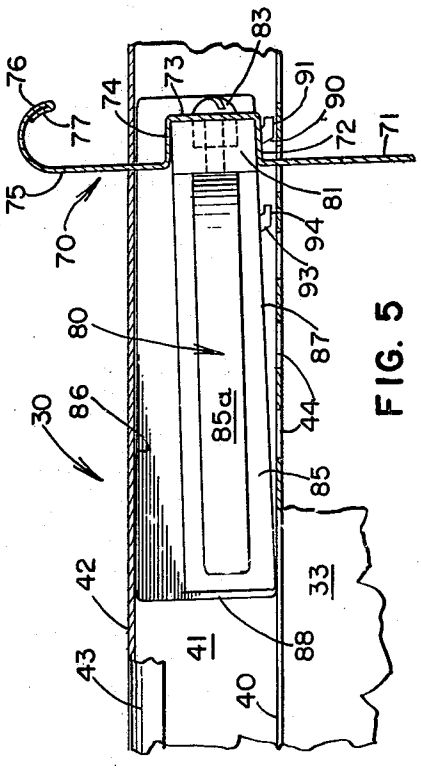


FIG. 5

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3,499,695

DRAWER AND COMPRESSOR PLATE CONSTRUCTION

Robert A. Studinski, Aurora, Ill., assignor to Lyon Metal Products, Incorporated, Aurora, Ill., a corporation of Illinois

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Int. Cl. A47b 63/00
U.S. Cl. 312—294 10 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The construction comprises a drawer including bottom, side and front walls, a pair of outwardly directed holding flanges respectively joined near the upper edge of the sidewalls, the holding flanges having a plurality of openings therein, a compressor plate disposed between the sidewalls for cooperation with the front wall to hold material disposed therebetween, a pair of guide brackets respectively connected to opposite sides of the compressor plate, each of the guide brackets having a lower surface resting upon the associated holding flange, a pair of downwardly extending fingers on the lower surface and spaced apart a distance equal to the distance between two of the openings in the associated holding flange, the pair of fingers respectively engaging in two of the openings, a rearwardly extending hook on the lower portion of each of the fingers and having an upper surface parallel to the lower surface of the guide bracket and spaced therefrom a distance slightly greater than the thickness of the associated holding flange, the upper and lower surfaces receiving therebetween the associated holding flange to limit vertical movement of the guide bracket.

It is a general object of the present invention to provide in a drawer for a file cabinet and the like, an improved compressor plate construction and specifically an improved compressor bracket therefor constructed and arranged to position the compressor plate longitudinally and to prevent inadvertent vertical movement thereof.

In summary, the drawer and compressor plate construction incorporating the features of the present invention comprises a drawer including a bottom wall and a pair of longitudinal sidewalls extending upwardly from the side edges thereof and a front wall closing the area between the bottom wall and the sidewalls at the front end thereof, a pair of outwardly directed holding flanges joined to respective ones of the sidewalls near the upper edge thereof, each of the holding flanges having a plurality of longitudinally spaced openings therein, the openings in one of the holding flanges being horizontally aligned with the corresponding openings in the other of the holding flanges, a compressor plate disposed between the sidewalls for cooperation with the front wall to hold material disposed in the drawer therebetween, and a pair of guide brackets respectively disposed on the opposite sides of the compressor plate and connected thereto, each of the guide brackets having a lower surface resting upon the associated holding flange, a pair of downwardly extending fingers on the lower surface and longitudinally spaced apart a distance equal to the distance between two of the openings in the associated holding flange, the pair of fingers respectively engaging in two of the associated openings to hold the compressor plate at a desired longitudinal position with respect to the front wall, and a pair of rearwardly extending hooks respectively disposed on the lower portions of said fingers and each having an upper surface substantially parallel to the lower surface of the guide bracket and spaced therefrom a distance slightly greater than the thickness of the associated holding flange, the lower surface of the guide bracket and each of the upper surfaces of the associated hooks receiving therebetween the associated holding flange to limit vertical movement of the guide bracket, the urging of gravity as the compressor plate is shifted rearwardly due to the pressure exerted by material disposed between the front wall and the compressor plate serving to move the fingers and the associated hooks into associated pairs of horizontally aligned openings and to place the upper surfaces of the hooks beneath the associated holding flanges so as both to position the compressor plate longitudinally with the drawer and to prevent inadvertent vertical movement of the compressor plate within the drawer.

Further features of the invention pertain to the particular arrangement of the parts whereby the above-outlined and additional operating features thereof are attained.

The invention, both as to its organization and method of operation, together with further objects and advantages thereof, will best be understood by reference to the following specification taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a file cabinet incorporating therein a drawer and compressor plate construction made in accordance with and embodying the principles of the present invention, a three-drawer file cabinet having been shown for purposes of illustration;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of one of the file drawers in the cabinet of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is an enlarged view in longitudinal section through the file drawer of FIG. 2 along the line 3—3 thereof;

FIG. 4 is an enlarged view in lateral section through the file drawer of FIG. 2 along the lines 4—4 thereof;

FIG. 5 is a fragmentary view illustrating the compressor plate in an unlocked position with respect to the file drawer;

FIG. 6 is a fragmentary view illustrating the compressor plate in a locked position with respect to the file drawer;

FIG. 7 is a fragmentary view along the lines 7—7 of FIG. 3 and illustrates the position of the guide bracket;

FIG. 8 is a fragmentary view in horizontal section along the lines 8—8 of FIG. 3 and illustrates the construction of the guide bracket; and

FIG. 9 is an enlarged fragmentary side view of the guide bracket and illustrates the placement thereof with respect to the drawer holding flanges.

Referring now to the drawings, and particularly to FIG. 1 thereof, there is illustrated a file cabinet **20** made in accordance with and embodying the principles of the present invention, a three-drawer file cabinet having been shown for purposes of illustration. The file cabinet **20** includes a case **21** having a substantially rectangular rear wall **22** and a pair of substantially rectangular side walls **23** extending forwardly therefrom and disposed substantially perpendicular thereto and parallel to each other. The case **21** further includes a top **24**, a base **25** and three file drawers **30** disposed therein. Each of the file drawers **30** is provided with a combination pull and latch **31**, and a lock **26** is provided for locking the drawers **30** in the fully closed positions illustrated. Provided in each of the four corners of the side walls **23** are indentations or partial slits forming knockouts **27**, the knockouts **27** being flush and substantially square in shape and being readily removable upon being hit by a tool to provide square openings for interconnecting adjacent cases such as case **21**.

Referring to FIGS. 2 and 3, the file drawer **30** includes a bottom wall **32** that is generally rectangular in shape and has a width slightly less than the inner width of the cabinet case **21** and a length slightly less than that of the cabinet case **21**, the longitudinally extending inner

edges of the bottom wall 32 carrying side walls 33 integral therewith and extending upwardly therefrom substantially normal thereto and substantially parallel to each other. Provided centrally in the bottom wall 32 in an index rod recess comprising a pair of downwardly directed flanges 34 joined at the bottom by a lower wall 35 for holding an index rod (not shown). In order to mount the drawer 30 upon a suspension structure (not shown) located adjacent to the inner surfaces of the cabinet side walls 23, each of the drawer sidewalls 33 is provided with a front drawer clip 37 adjacent the forward end thereof and with a rear drawer clip 38 adjacent the rear end thereof.

The upper edges of the sidewalls 33 carry thereon outwardly directed holding flanges 40 that in turn carry on the outer edges thereof upstanding flanges 41 which in turn carry on the upper edges thereof an inwardly directed top flange 42 carrying on the inner edge thereof a dependent retaining flange 43, all as will be described more fully hereinafter. The holding flanges 40 have a plurality of substantially rectangular slots or openings 44 formed therein for a purpose to be described more fully hereinafter. The rear of the drawer 30 is closed by a rear wall 45, having therein and centrally thereof an opening 46 to receive the hand of a user for manipulating the drawer 30.

The forward end of the drawer 30 is closed by a drawer head 50 that includes an outer front wall 51 that is essentially rectangular in shape, the lower end of the wall 51 extending below the bottom wall 32 and the lower wall 35 and having on the lower edge thereof a rearwardly directed bottom flange 52 on the rear edge of which is an upturned flange 53 extending upwardly to the underside of the bottom wall 32 and carrying a rearwardly directed attachment flange 54 thereon which is suitably secured to the forward portion of the bottom wall 32 as by welding. The upper end of the outer front wall 51 carries a rearwardly and slightly downwardly directed top flange 55 carrying on the rearmost edge thereof a downturned holding flange 56.

Disposed inwardly and spaced from the outer front wall 51 is an inner front wall 57 having side flange (not shown) extending forwardly toward the outer front wall 51, a bottom flange 58 also extending forwardly toward the outer front wall 51 and a top flange 59, the outer edge of the top flange 59 having an upstanding flange 60 thereon disposed within the holding flange 56 on the outer front wall 51. It will be seen that the inner front wall substantially closes the space between the drawer sidewalls 33 and closes the rear of the drawer head 50.

There further is provided within the file drawer 30 a compressor plate 70 (see FIGS. 2 to 4) the compressor plate 70 serving to hold the material stored within the file drawer 30 in the forward portion thereof and against the drawer head in the usual manner. The compressor plate 70 includes a main body 71 which is generally rectangular in shape having square lower corners and having formed intermediate the height thereof a rearwardly disposed reinforcing rib 78 and having formed toward the upper end a rearwardly directed flange 72 carrying an upstanding flange 73 which in turn carries a forwardly directed flange 74 to which is integrally connected an upper body 75, the upper body 75 having a U-shaped curved and rearwardly extending handgrasp portion 76 on the upper end thereof including an inturned flange 77 disposed therebeneath for reinforcement purposes. There further are provided in the flange 73 a pair of openings (not shown) by means of which a pair of molded guide brackets 80 are attached to the compressor plate 70.

The guide brackets 80 are formed of lubric material and are substantially identical in construction, and since one is the mirror image of the other, only the left-hand one as viewed in FIG. 2 will be described. As illustrated in FIGS. 3 to 8, the guide bracket 80 includes an attachment flange 81 which extends laterally of the drawer 30

and fits between the flanges 72 and 74 of the compressor plate 70 and against the flange 73 thereof, the guide brackets 80 having circular openings 82 therein to receive screws 83 therethrough for attachment of the guide brackets 80 to the compressor plate 70, the elongated right-hand opening 84 permitting adjustment of the right-hand guide bracket 80 with respect to the compressor plate 70 thereby to accommodate minor variations in the width of the drawer 30. The arm 85 has a longitudinally extending groove 85*a* therein and the attachment flange 81 has recesses 81*a* therein, both for the purpose of saving material. In passing it is noted that as illustrated in FIGS. 5 and 7, the forward surfaces of the attachment flanges 81 are in approximate alignment with the forward surfaces of the main body 71 and the upper body 75 of the compressor plate 70.

Integral with each of the attachment flanges 81 is a forwardly directed arm 85. The arm 85 is adapted to lie upon the holding flange 40 disposed near the upper edge of the drawer 30 and to extend upwardly into the space between the upstanding flange 41 and the retaining flange 43, whereby the arm 85 is restrained in the vertical movement by the holding flange 40 and the top flange 42. As may be best seen in FIGS. 5, 6 and 8, each of the holding flanges 40 has a series of longitudinally spaced openings 44 therein, the openings 44 being rectangular in shape with the longer dimension thereof disposed longitudinally of the drawer 30. As is more clearly shown in FIG. 9, the lower surface 87 of the arm 85 carries a rear finger 90 thereon, and extending downwardly and rearwardly therefrom to facilitate entry of the finger 90 into an associated opening 44, the lower portion of the rear finger 90 carrying a rearwardly extending rear hook 91 having an upper engagement surface 92 opposing the lower surface 87 of the arm 85, the surfaces 87 and 92 being substantially parallel and spaced apart a distance slightly greater than the thickness of the associated holding flange 40. The lower surface 87 of the arm 85 carries a front finger 93 thereon extending downwardly and rearwardly therefrom to facilitate entry of the finger 93 into an associated opening 44, the front finger 93 being spaced from the rear finger 90 a distance equal to the distance between two adjacent openings 44 in the associated holding flange 40, the axis of the rear finger 90 being parallel to the axis of the front finger 93. The lower portion of the front finger 93 carries a rearwardly extending front hook 94 having an upper engagement surface 95 opposing the lower surface 87 of the arm 85, the surfaces 87 and 95 being substantially parallel and spaced apart a distance slightly greater than the thickness of the associated holding flange 40, the hook surfaces 92 and 95 lying in the same horizontal plane. The fingers 90 and 93 respectively engage in two of the associated longitudinally spaced openings 44 to hold the guide bracket 80 at a desired longitudinal position with respect to the drawer head 50, the respective holding flanges 40 extending between the lower surface 87 of the arm 85 and the upper surface 92 of the rear hook 91, and extending between the lower surface 87 of the arm 85 and the upper surface 95 of the front hook 94 thereby to limit vertical movement of the arm 85 and thus limit vertical movement of the compressor plate 70 with respect to the drawer 30.

As is best illustrated in FIG. 6, the front end 88 of the arm 85 has a vertical extent slightly less than the distance between the top flange 42 and the holding flange 40. The upper surface 86 of the arm 85 slopes from the upper portion of the front end 88 downwardly and rearwardly toward the compressor plate 70, whereby the arm 85, the fingers 90 and 93 and the associated hooks 91 and 94 can be moved from the engaging or down position illustrated in FIG. 6 to the disengaged or up position illustrated in FIG. 5 by displacing the arm 85 forwardly to clear the hooks 91 and 94 from the associated openings 44, and by pivoting the arm 85 about the lower portion of the front end 88 thereof to clear the fingers 90 and 93 from

the associated openings 44, thereby to permit longitudinal adjustment of the compressor plate 70 along the file drawer 30. In the disengaged or up position of the arm 85, the lower surface 87 thereof slopes from the lower portion of the front end 88 upwardly and rearwardly toward the compressor plate 70, whereby the distance between the holding flange 40 and the lower surface 87 adjacent the rear finger 90 exceeds the distance between the holding flange 40 and the lower surface 87 adjacent the front finger 93. To prevent the arm 85 from snagging or catching the holding flange 40 while the arm 85 is being moved longitudinally yet to permit the arm 85 to pivot, the vertical extent of the rear hook 91 is made to exceed the vertical extent of the front hook 94 (see FIG. 9).

It is pointed out that such pivoting and longitudinal movement of the compressor plate 70 can be achieved by the user grabbing the handgrasp portion 76 at the upper end of the compressor plate 70, whereby to move the parts between the solid and dotted line positions illustrated in FIG. 3. When the compresor plate 70 is in the desired longitudinally adjusted position thereof, the user needs simply to release the handgrasp portion 76 whereupon gravity will tend to return the compressor plate 70 to the lower position thereof and dispose the fingers 90 and 93 and the associated hooks 91 and 94 upon the holding flange 40. If the hooks 91 and 94 are in vertical alignment with two openings 44, then the fingers 90 and 93 and the associated hooks 91 and 94 will fall thereinto, thereby fixedly to position the compressor plate 70 in the adjusted position with respect to the drawer 30. On the other hand, if the hooks 91 and 94 are not positioned vertically above two adjacent openings 44, then releasing the handgrasp portion 70 will cause the lower surface of the rear hook 91 to rest upon the holding flange 40, but because the vertical extent of the front hook 94 is less than that of the rear hook 91, the front hook 91 will be spaced from the holding flange 40, whereby the arm 85 will freely move rearwardly along the holding flange 40 due to the pressure of the material contained between the drawer head 50 at the front end of the drawer 30 and the compressor plate 70. As soon as the hooks 91 and 94 are moved over a pair of the openings 44, the fingers 90 and 93 and the associated hooks 91 and 94 will fall thereinto under the urging of gravity, and the pressure of the material contained between the drawer head 50 and the compressor plate 70 forces the fingers 90 and 93 against the rear surfaces of the associated openings 44 to limit horizontal movement and thereby longitudinally position the compressor plate. To insure that the front hook 94 does not remain on top of the holding flange 40 while the rear hook 91 is disposed within an opening 44, the horizontal extent of the rear hook upper surface 92 is made greater than the horizontal extent of the front hook upper surface 95. Inadvertent vertical movement of the compressor plate 70 with respect to the drawer 30 is prevented by reason of the holding flange 40 extending between the lower surface 87 of the arm 85 and the upper surfaces 92 and 95 of the hooks 91 and 94, respectively.

While there has been described what is at present considered to be the preferred embodiment of the invention, it will be understood that various modifications may be made therein.

What is claimed is:

1. In a drawer construction including a bottom wall and a pair of longitudinal sidewalls extending upwardly from the side edges thereof and a front wall closing the area between the bottom wall and the sidewalls at the front end thereof, a pair of outwardly directed holding flanges joined to respective ones of the side walls near the upper edge thereof, each of the holding flanges having a plurality of longitudinally spaced openings therein, the openings in one of the holding flanges being horizontally aligned with the corresponding openings in the other of the holding flanges, the combination comprising a compressor plate disposed between the side walls for cooperation with the front wall to hold material disposed in the drawer therebetween, and a pair of guide brackets respectively disposed on the opposite sides of said compressor plate and connected thereto, each of said guide brackets having a lower surface resting in use upon the associated holding flange, a pair of downwardly extending fingers on said lower surface and longitudinally spaced apart a distance equal to the distance between two of the openings in the associated holding flange, said pair of fingers respectively engaging in use in two of the associated openings to hold said guide bracket at a desired longitudinal position with respect to the front wall, and a pair of rearwardly extending hooks respectively disposed on the lower portions of said fingers and each having an upper surface substantially parallel to the lower surface of said guide bracket and spaced therefrom a distance slightly greater than the thickness of the associated holding flange, the vertical extent of the rear one of said pair of hooks being greater than the vertical extent of the front one of said pair of hooks to facilitate movement of the associated guide bracket along the associated holding flange, the lower surface of said guide bracket and each of the upper surfaces of the associated hooks receiving in use therebetween the associated holding flange to limit vertical movement of said guide bracket, the urging of gravity as said compressor plate is shifted rearwardly due to the pressure exerted by material disposed between the front wall and said compressor plate serving to move said fingers and the associated hooks into associated pairs of horizontally aligned openings and to place the upper surfaces of said hooks beneath the associated holding flanges so as both to position said compressor plate longitudinally within the drawer and to prevent inadvertent vertical movement of said compressor plate within the drawer.

2. The combination set forth in claim 1, wherein the fingers on an associated guide bracket are spaced apart a distance equal to the distance between two adjacent openings in the associated holding flange.

3. The combination set forth in claim 1, wherein said fingers on an associated guide bracket have respective axes parallel to one another, each of said axes being inclined downwardly and rearwardly to facilitate entry of said pair of fingers into associated openings.

4. The combination set forth in claim 1, wherein the respective upper surfaces of the hooks on the associated guide bracket are in the same plane.

5. A drawer and compressor plate construction comprising a drawer including a bottom wall and a pair of longitudinal sidewalls extending upwardly from the side edges thereof and a front wall closing the area between said bottom wall and said sidewalls at the front end thereof, a pair of outwardly directed holding flanges joined to respective ones of said side walls near the upper edge thereof, each of said holding flanges having a plurality of longitudinally spaced openings therein, the openings in one of said holding flanges being horizontally aligned with the corresponding openings in the other of said holding flanges, a compressor plate disposed between said sidewalls for cooperation with said front wall to hold material disposed in said drawer therebetween, and a pair of guide brackets respectively disposed on the opposite sides of said compressor plate and connected thereto, each of said guide brackets having a lower surface resting upon the associated holding flange, a pair of downwardly extending fingers on said lower surface and longitudinally spaced apart a distance equal to the distance between two of the openings in the associated holding flange, said pair of fingers respectively engaging in two of the associated openings to hold said guide bracket at a desired longitudinal position with respect to said front wall, and a pair of rearwardly extending hooks respectively disposed on the lower portions of said fingers and each having an upper surface substantially parallel to the lower surface of said guide bracket and spaced therefrom a distance slightly greater than the thickness of the associated holding flange, the vertical extent of the rear one of said pair

of hooks being greater than the vertical extent of the front one of said pair of hooks to facilitate movement of the associated guide bracket along the associated holding flange, the lower surface of said guide bracket and each of the upper surfaces of the associated hooks receiving therebetween the associated holding flange to limit vertical movement of said guide bracket, the urging of gravity as said compressor plate is shifted rearwardly due to the pressure exerted by material disposed between said front wall and said compressor plate serving to move said fingers and the associated hooks into associated pairs of horizontally aligned openings and to place the upper surfaces of said hooks beneath the associated holding flanges so as both to position said compressor plate longitudinally within said drawer and to prevent inadvertent vertical movement of said compressor plate within said drawer.

6. The drawer and compressor plate construction set forth in claim 5, wherein the fingers on an associated guide bracket are spaced apart a distance equal to the distance between two adjacent openings in the associated holding flange.

7. The drawer and compressor plate construction set forth in claim 5, wherein the fingers on an associated guide bracket have respective axes parallel to one another, each of said axes being inclined downwardly and rearwardly to facilitate entry of said pair of fingers into associated openings.

8. The drawer and compressor plate construction set forth in claim 5, wherein the respective upper surfaces of the hooks on the associated guide bracket are in the same plane.

9. In a drawer construction including a bottom wall and a pair of longitudinal sidewalls extending upwardly from the side edges thereof and a front wall closing the area between the bottom wall and the sidewalls at the front end thereof, a pair of outwardly directed holding flanges joined to respective ones of the sidewalls near the upper edge thereof, each of the holding flanges having a plurality of longitudinally spaced openings therein, the openings in one of the holding flanges being horizontally aligned with the corresponding openings in the other of the holding flanges, the combination comprising a compressor plate disposed between the sidewalls for cooperation with the front wall to hold material disposed in the drawer therebetween, and a pair of guide brackets respectively disposed on the opposite sides of said compressor plate and connected thereto, each of said guide brackets having a lower surface resting in use upon the associated holding flange, a pair of downwardly extending fingers on said lower surface and longitudinally spaced apart a distance equal to the distance between two of the openings in the associated holding flange, said pair of fingers respectively engaging in use in two of the associated openings to hold said guide bracket at a desired longitudinal position with respect to the front wall, and a pair of rearwardly extending hooks respectively disposed on the lower portions of said fingers and each having an upper surface substantially parallel to the lower surface of said guide bracket and spaced therefrom a distance slightly greater than the thickness of the associated holding flange, the vertical extent of the rear one of said pair of hooks being greater than the extent of the front one of said pair of hooks to facilitate movement of the assocated guide bracket along the associated holding flange, the horizontal extent of the upper surface of the rear hook being greater than the horizontal extent of the upper surface of the front hook to facilitate placement of both hooks between the associated holding flange, the lower surface of said guide bracket and each of the upper surfaces of the associated hooks receiving in use therebetween the associated holding flange to limit vertical movement of said guide bracket, the urging of gravity as said compressor plate is shifted rearwardly due to the pressure exerted by material disposed between the front wall and said compressor plate serving to move said fingers and the associated hooks into associated pairs of horizontally aligned openings and to place the upper surfaces of said hooks beneath the associated holding flanges so as both to position said compressor plate longitudinally within the drawer and to prevent inadvertent vertical movement of said compressor plate within the drawer.

10. A drawer and compressor plate construction comprising a drawer including a bottom wall and a pair of longitudinal sidewalls extending upwardly from the side edges thereof and a front wall closing the area between said bottom wall and said sidewalls at the front end thereof, a pair of outwardly directed holding flanges joined to respective ones of said sidewalls near the upper edge thereof, each of said holding flanges having a plurality of longitudinally spaced openings therein, the openings in one of said holding flanges being horizontally aligned with the corresponding openings in the other of said holding flanges, a compressor plate disposed between said sidewalls for cooperation with said front wall to hold material disposed in said drawer therebetween, and a pair of guide brackets respectively disposed on the opposite sides of said compressor plate and connected thereto, each of said guide brackets having a lower surface resting upon the associated holding flange, a pair of downwardly extending fingers on said lower surface and longitudinally spaced apart a distance equal to the distance between two of the openings in the associated holding flange, said pair of fingers respectively engaging in two of the associated openings to hold said guide bracket at a desired longitudinal position with respect to said front wall, and a pair of rearwardly extending hooks respectively disposed on the lower portions of said fingers and each having an upper surface substantially parallel to the lower surface of said guide bracket and spaced therefrom a distance slightly greater than the thickness of the assocated holding flange, the vertical extent of the rear one of said pair of hooks being greater than the extent of the front one of said pair of hooks to facilitate movement of the associated guide bracket along the associated holding flange, the horizontal extent of the upper surface of the rear hook being greater than the horizontal extent of the upper surface of the front hook to facilitate placement of both hooks between the associated holding flange, the lower surface of said guide bracket and each of the upper surfaces of the associated hooks receiving therebetween the associated holding flange to limit vertical movement of said guide bracket, the urging of gravity as said compressor plate is shifted rearwardly due to the pressure exerted by material disposed between said front wall and said compressor plate serving to move said fingers and the associated hooks into associated pairs of horizontally aligned openings and to place the upper surfaces of said hooks beneath the associated holding flanges so as both to position said compressor plate longitudinally within said drawer and to prevent inadvertent vertical movement of said compressor plate within said drawer.

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JAMES T. McCALL, Primary Examiner

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