July 5, 1960 C. O. PETERSON ET AL 2,943,903

COMBINATION OF COVERS FOR OPEN TOP RECEPTACLES

Original Filed Aug. 17, 1953 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

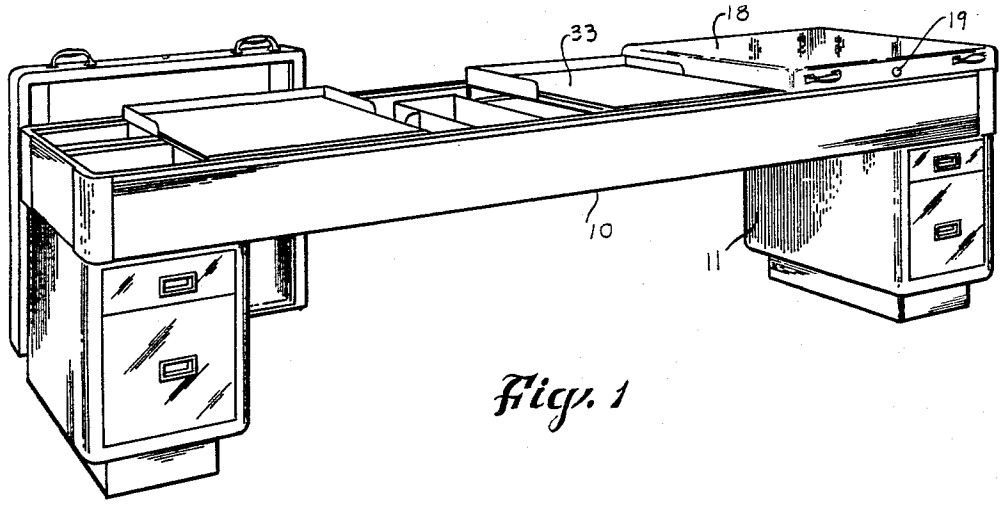

Fig. 1

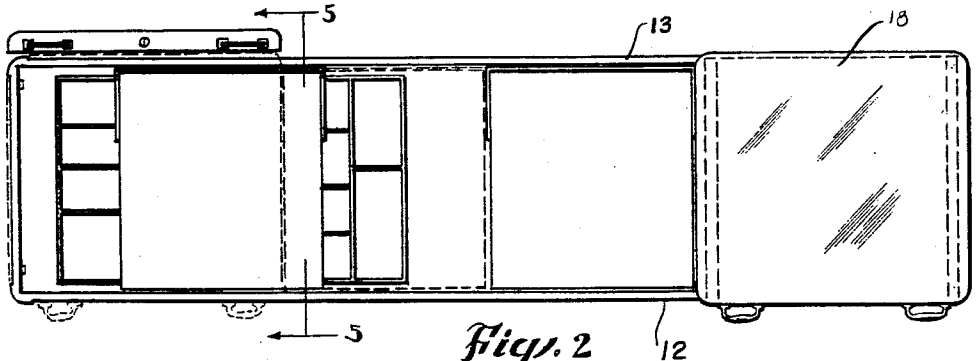

Fig. 2

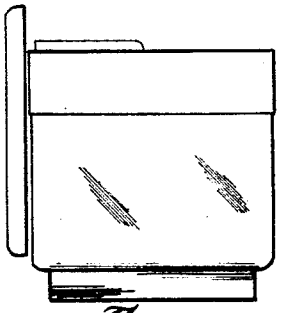

Fig. 3

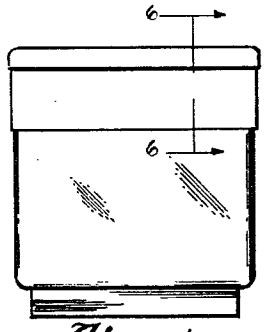

Fig. 4

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COMBINATION OF COVERS FOR OPEN TOP RECEPTACLES

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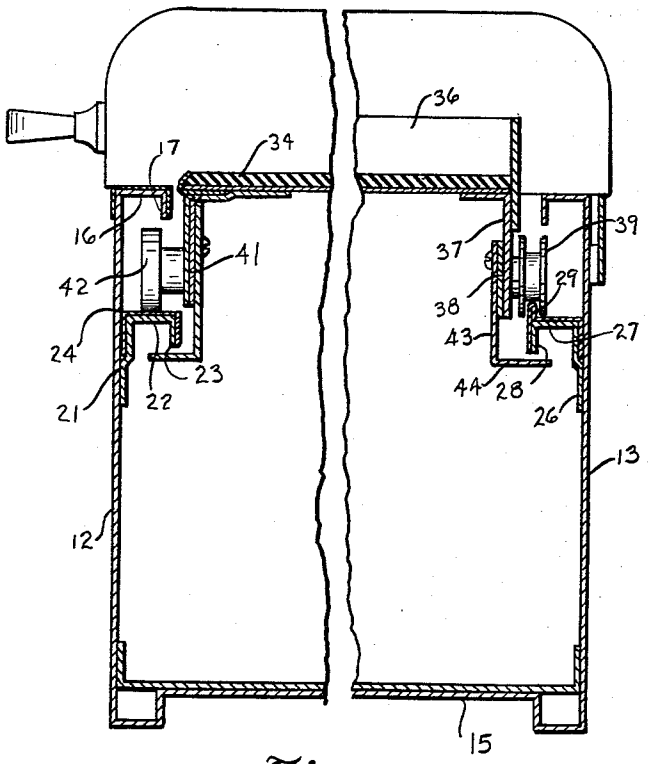

Fig. 5

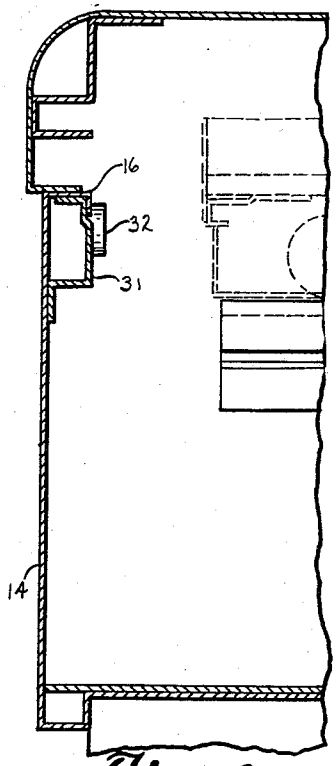

Fig. 6

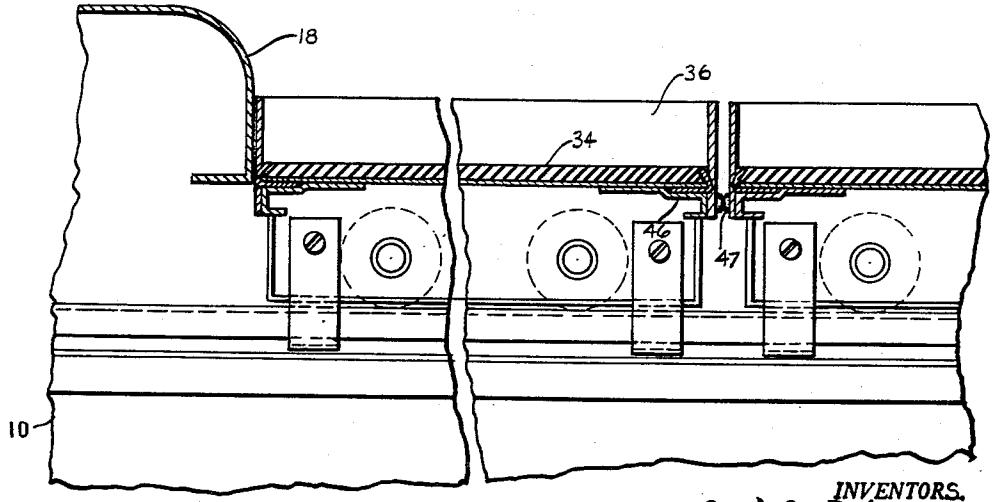

Fig. 7

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COMBINATION OF COVERS FOR OPEN TOP RECEPTACLES

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Substituted for abandoned application Ser. No. 374,546, Aug. 17, 1953. This application Sept. 10, 1956, Ser. No. 609,034

2 Claims. (Cl. 312—311)

This invention relates to open-top receptacles of the type used to contain various card or sheet records, and is a refile of abandoned application, Serial No. 374,546, filed August 17, 1953, and is more particularly directed to the provision of a combination of covers for large receptacles of this type.

Receptacles of the class to which this invention relates are more suitable for the accommodation of large quantities of records that must be frequently processed and that, by reason of their contents, must be protected against unauthorized examination. Generally, these receptacles are of considerable length and it would be difficult in the extreme to provide a single cover that could be conveniently and easily manipulated into and out of closed position. It is possible to provide multiple covers for a receptacle of this type but unless each cover is equipped with separate locking means, or some interlocking arrangement effected between covers, there is no safety or protection to the contents of the receptacle. It has been found that to provide a multiplicity of covers of this nature adds considerably to the expense of the entire structure and, to some extent at least, is more difficult for a user of the receptacle than should reasonably be necessary. Furthermore, multiple covers, as might ordinarily be applicable to a receptacle of this type, serve only the single purpose of protecting the contents against unauthorized examination.

It is a purpose and object of the present invention to provide multiple covers for a receptacle that so cooperate in closed position as to enable use of conventional locking devices on only certain of the covers in order to prevent unauthorized access to the receptacle contents.

Another object of the invention lies in the provision of multiple covers of different types for a given receptacle, certain of the covers being pivotally movable into an open and out of the way position, whereas the remaining cover or covers are capable of sliding movement into position to expose various portions of the receptacle contents.

Another object of the invention lies in the provision of a pair of end covers for a given receptacle that pivot into and out of closed position in conjunction with at least one intermediate cover that may traverse the length of the receptacle, but is nonremovable therefrom.

Another and very important object of the invention lies in the provision of one or more intermediate covers between a pair of end covers, the intermediate cover being capable of traversing the length of the receptacle opening when the end covers are in open position and, as found convenient, the intermediate cover serving as a work shelf for an operator in the examination, sorting, and posting of records contained in the receptacle.

A more specific object of the invention lies in the provision of a pair of end covers for the access opening of the receptacle that are pivotally movable from closed position to an out-of-the-way open position in conjunction with non-removable work shelf covers that may traverse lengthwise of the receptacle when the end covers are in open position and will be secured against exposure of the receptacle contents when the end covers are secured in closed position.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be more fully understood from a consideration of the following specification, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a record receiving receptacle in which the several covers embodying the invention are shown in open and closed positions;

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the structure shown in Fig. 1, the various covers occupying the same relative positions as shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is an end view of the receptacle showing one end cover in fully opened position;

Fig. 4 is an opposite end view to that of Fig. 3 and shows the other end cover in closed position;

Fig. 5 is a greatly enlarged fragmentary vertical transverse sectional view and is taken substantially as suggested by the line 5—5 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 6 is an enlarged fragmentary vertical sectional view showing the end structure and the support for one of the intermediate covers and is taken substantially as suggested by the line 6—6 of Fig. 4; and

Fig. 7 is an enlarged fragmentary transverse sectional view showing the relationship of an end cover and the two intermediate covers.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, the reference numeral 10 is employed to generally designate a receptacle to which one form of the present invention is applicable. This receptacle, as suggested in the drawing, is of shallow, rectangular form and is conveniently mounted on end pedestals 11. The receptacle includes front and rear walls 12 and 13, respectively, duplicate end walls 14, and a bottom or base wall 15. The particular details of the structure of the receptacle and its assembly, form no part of the invention. It is sufficient to state that the top edges of the front, rear, and end walls 12, 13, and 14, respectively, terminate in a horizontal inwardly directed rim 16 which is finished by a short depending flange 17.

In the present disclosure of the invention, the receptacle is rectangular in shape and of considerable length for the purpose of accommodating a large quantity of records. It is proposed to provide a pair of end covers 18 as a means for partially closing the top access opening of the receptacle. These end covers 18 are attached to the rear wall of the receptacle in a manner to permit their being moved rearwardly of the receptacle and lowered to an out-of-the-way position, substantially as suggested in Figs. 1 and 3 of the drawings. One specific means for directing movement of these covers is shown and described in our application, Serial No. 341,262, filed March 9, 1953, now Patent No. 2,758,744. When these covers are in closed position, they may be secured against removal through the use of conventional locking devices, suggested at 19. It will be observed that a considerable intermediate space is left open between the covers 18 and it is with this space and means for enclosing it, in conjunction with the end covers 18, that the present invention is particularly concerned.

A short distance beneath the rim 16 of the front wall 12 is a bracket 21. This bracket extends substantially the full length of the front wall and is permanently attached thereto in any suitable manner, as by welding. The bracket includes an upper, horizontal flange 22 that terminates in a depending edge 23. The flange 22 provides a flat track surface 24 for anti-friction devices hereinafter set out. A similar bracket 26 is attached in any suitable manner, as by welding, to the inner face of the rear wall 13. This bracket includes a horizontal flange 27 that terminates inwardly in a depending edge 28. Mounted on the inner edge of the flange 27 is an up-

standing track **29**. The end walls **14** of the receptacle, directly beneath the inturned rim **16**, are provided with channels **31** which serve as end reinforcements to this portion of the structure. The inner face of each channel is fitted with one or more resilient bumpers **32**. These bumpers are in the horizontal plane of ends of the intermediate covers hereinafter described.

In the present showing of the invention, the space between the end covers **18** accommodates two identical intermediate covers **33**. Each cover is of the nature of a work shelf and therefore includes a flat working area **34**. The rear edge and rearmost portions of the sides of each of these intermediate covers is provided with a railing or rim **36** for the purpose of preventing displacement of material from the shelf as it is being worked upon. Depending from the rear edge of the shelf is a flange **37** which is reinforced by a plate **38**. Two or more grooved rollers **39** are supported by the flange **37** and extend beyond the rear edge of the cover and are intended to ride on the track **29**. The front edge of each intermediate cover is also provided with a depending flange **41** that is suitably reinforced to mount two or more rollers **42**. These rollers are intended to rest upon the track **24** that extends along the inner front of the receptacle. Angle plates **43** are attached to the depending flanges **37** and **41**, the horizontal portion **44** of each extending beneath the depending edges **23** and **28** of the front and rear tracks. These angle plates serve to prevent displacement of the intermediate cover from the tracks. For convenience of installation, these plates are attached by screws, following mounting the intermediate cover on the tracks. The ends of the intermediate covers are reinforced in any suitable manner, as by channels **46** shown in Fig. 7 of the drawings. The adjacent ends of the two intermediate covers shown are fitted with suitable resilient bumpers **47** to eliminate undue noise in the movement of these covers along the tracks.

From the foregoing it will be evident that at the time of assembly of the receptacle the intermediate covers **33** are placed on the tracks **24** and **29**. Following this, the angle brackets **43** are attached to the intermediate covers and these covers are thus limited to movement lengthwise of the receptacle along the tracks. When the intermediate covers are moved to a centered position, the end covers may be closed and locked by the locking devices **19**. Thus, of course, the end covers are not subject to unauthorized manipulation. Since the only movement of the intermediate covers **33**, to expose the contents of the receptacle, must be in the path of the tracks, and the end covers interfere with this movement, these intermediate covers serve, with the end covers, to fully protect the receptacle contents. When one of the end covers has been unlocked and moved to an open position to the rear of the receptacle, the intermediate covers **33** are freely movable along their tracks toward and into the space previously covered by an end cover. This partial open position of the receptacle is clearly shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings. When both end covers occupy a fully opened position, the intermediate covers may traverse the length of the receptacle in order to expose any portion of the material contained therein. Due to the fact that the intermediate covers are of the nature of work shelves, an operator may move these covers as required and there is no necessity for the additional provision of some form of removable work shelf or posting board. In other words, the intermediate covers **33**, without self-contained locking devices, serve both as securable covers and as work shelves.

Although applicants have shown and described only one form of the invention, it will be apparent that the general proportions of the receptacle and size and number of intermediate covers or shelves may be varied without departing in any way from the spirit and scope of the invention as set out in the annexed claims.

Having thus set forth our invention, what we claim as new and for which we desire protection by Letters Patent is:

1. A receptacle having a top access opening, a pair of covers adapted to enclose opposite end portions of said opening, said covers being individually swingable into and out of enclosing position, an intermediate shelf-like cover adapted to close that portion of said opening not affected by said pair of covers, track means within said receptacle extending substantially the full length thereof, anti-friction means mounting said intermediate cover for movement along said track means from one to the other end of said receptacle, flanges carried by said intermediate cover underlying said track means and serving to prevent removal of said intermediate cover from said track means, said intermediate cover being freely movable along said track means when said pair of covers occupy an open position and expose the end portions of said access opening.

2. A receptacle having a top access opening, a pair of covers adapted to enclose opposite end portions of said opening, said covers being individually swingable into and out of enclosing position, tracks extending along the interior front and rear walls of said receptacle, a shelf-like intermediate cover adapted to enclose that portion of said opening between said pair of covers, anti-friction means mounting said intermediate cover on said tracks, said tracks being vertically located to bring said intermediate cover substantially into the plane of the upper front and rear edges of said walls, depending flanges on said intermediate cover extending beneath said tracks and serving to prevent removal of said intermediate cover from said tracks, said intermediate cover, when said pair of covers occupy a closed position, serving to enclose the intermediate portion of said access opening and be secured against movement.

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