

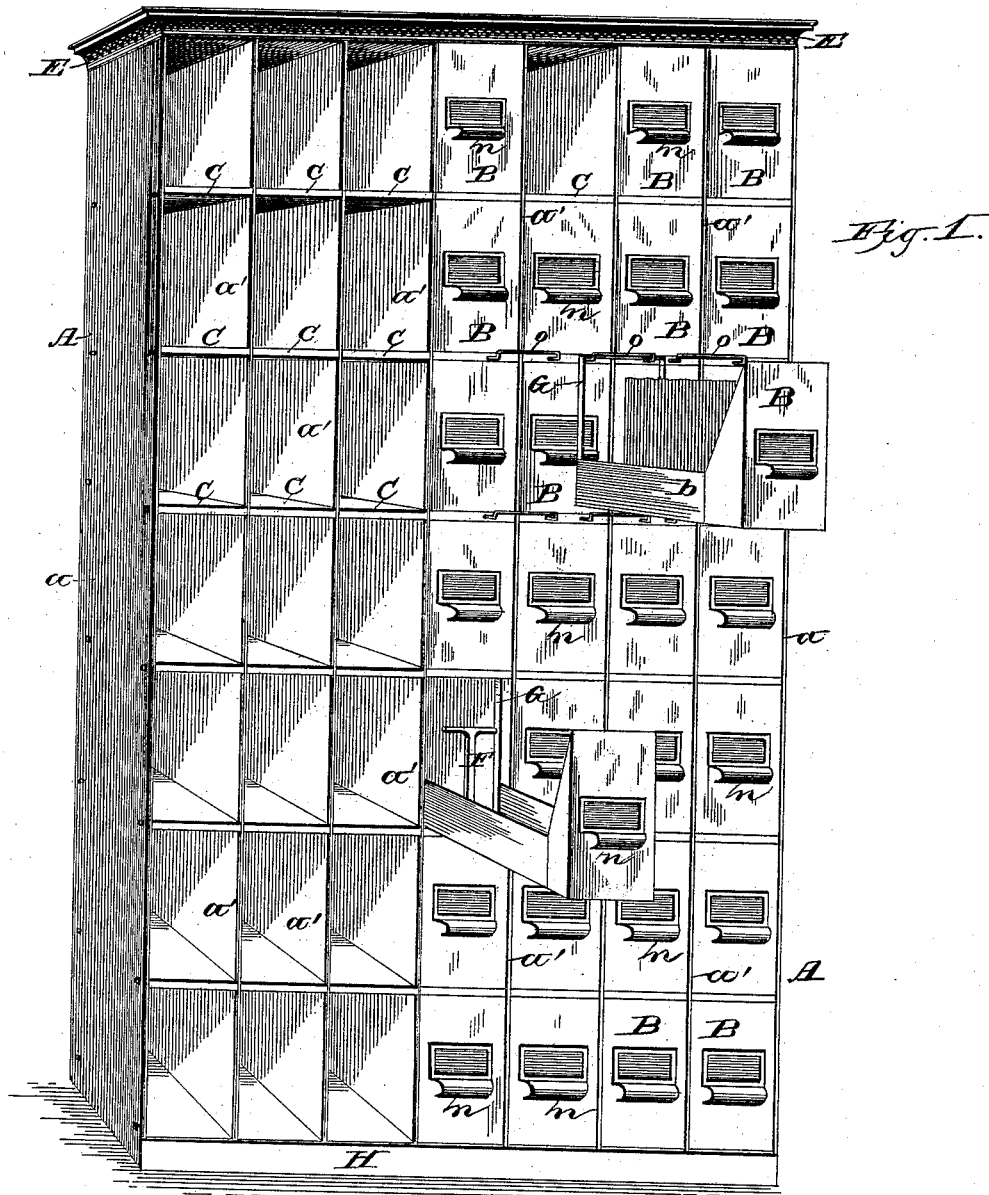
(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1

H. J. HOFFMAN.  
FILING CASE AND DRAWER.

No. 382,875.

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Witnesses:  
E. J. G. Smith  
Chas. L. Cross.

Inventor:  
Horace J. Hoffman  
By Andrew W. Bottom  
Attorneys.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HORACE J. HOFFMAN, OF MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN.

## FILING CASE AND DRAWER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 382,875, dated May 15, 1888.

Application filed September 23, 1887. Serial No. 250,464. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HORACE J. HOFFMAN, of Milwaukee, in the county of Milwaukee and State of Wisconsin, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Filing Cases and Drawers; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

The objects of my invention are mainly the greatest strength attainable with lightness, simplicity, neatness, and economy of construction, to exclude dust from the drawers, to facilitate the manipulation of said drawers, &c.

It consists, essentially, of certain peculiarities of construction and arrangement, herein-after specifically set forth.

In the accompanying drawings like letters designate the same parts in the several figures.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved filing case and drawers. Fig. 2 is a horizontal section, on an enlarged scale, of a portion of the filing-case. Fig. 3 is a vertical section, on an enlarged scale, of a portion of said case, said section being taken in a plane at right angles to the front and back of said case. Fig. 4 is a detail in perspective of a portion of one of the upright partitions, showing the method of attaching the same to the top and base of the case. Fig. 5 is a perspective detail of one of the pigeon-hole shelves, its connections, and one of the hangers for suspending the drawers. Fig. 6 is a perspective view of one of the filing-drawers. Fig. 7 is a cross-section of a portion of one of the drawer-bottoms, and Fig. 8 is a view of one end of a pigeon-hole shelf employed with the filing-drawers.

A represents the case or cabinet, which may be of any desired size and contain any desired number and arrangement of drawers and pigeon-holes, all of either kind, or part pigeon-holes and part drawers. It is preferably formed of thin sheet metal, with upright partitions  $a'$  and sides  $a$  of the same material extending from top to bottom of the case and rolled at their front edges over wires  $a''$ , to stiffen them and form jambs which fit snugly against

the sides of the drawer-fronts when they are closed, thus forming close joints between them and the case, excluding dust from the drawers and giving a neat appearance and finish to the case, Figs. 1, 2, and 3. The sides  $a$  of the case are folded at their rear edges at right angles inward over or outside of the back  $a''$ , which is riveted thereto, as shown in Fig. 2. The several upright partitions  $a'$  are also bent at their rear edges into right-angled flanges which are riveted to the inner side of the back  $a''$ , as shown in the same figure. The back is bent at its upper edge, as shown in Fig. 3, over the rear edge of the top I, and is similarly bent at the lower edge (not shown) under the bottom.

H is the base of the case, formed of a strip of band-iron or other suitable material, upon the upper edge of which rest the rods or wires  $a''$ , slits being made in the sides and partitions  $a$  and  $a'$  at the top of said base, below which flanges  $a'$  are turned and riveted to the inside of said base, as shown in Fig. 4. The upper ends of the rods or wires  $a''$  pass through perforations in the top I, and a strengthening-strip of band iron or steel,  $e$ , placed around its front and side edges and are upset, as shown in said Fig. 4.

E is a metallic or other suitable cornice, formed with a horizontal flange or foot, which rests upon said strip  $e$ , and is riveted thereto, as shown in Fig. 3.

C C are sheet-metal pigeon-hole shelves bent at the sides into the depending stiffening-flanges  $c$  and folded at the ends, as shown in Fig. 3, to receive and engage the tie-rods D D, upon which they are strung and supported, and which extend from side to side of the case at the front and back thereof, as shown in Figs. 2, 3, and 5.

It will be observed that the rear tie-rods D pass through the loops  $c'$  at the rear ends of the shelves C, as seen in Fig. 3, but that at the front side of the case the rods D pass just behind the depending loops or flanges  $c'$ , to form stops for the drawer-bails G when the drawers are drawn out, and thus prevent the outer ends of said drawers from dropping and lifting the bails against the shelves above.

When the shelves C C are employed with drawers, the loops at the rear ends are bent upwardly to form positive stops  $c'$  for the rear

ends of the drawers B B when the same are closed.

The rods D D are fastened at the ends to the sides of the case by nuts or other suitable means, and serve when thus secured to bind the sections of the case together, as shown in Fig. 2, and with the rods or wires  $a^3 a^3$  give rigidity and firmness to the case, permitting the use of very light sheet iron or metal in its construction.

B B are the filing-drawers, the bottom  $b'$  and sides  $b b$  of each of which are formed of a single sheet of metal bent to form a central longitudinal retaining-groove,  $b^2$ , for the foot  $f$  of the rest or compressor-standard F and folded at the sides to form depending bearing-flanges  $b^3 b^3$ , as shown in Figs. 6 and 7, upon which the drawer rests and slides, thus reducing the friction and facilitating its movement.

The fronts of the drawers B B are each formed also of a single piece of sheet metal bent rearwardly at the sides to form the stiffening wings or flanges  $b^4 b^4$ , which are riveted to the side pieces,  $b b$ , as seen in Fig. 6. Each drawer is provided, as shown in Fig. 1, with a handle or pull,  $n$ , and a pocket for an index-card.

To the rear ends of the sides  $b b$  of each drawer B is riveted or otherwise suitably attached, in the manner illustrated in Fig. 6, a band-iron or steel bail, G, which extends upwardly to the top of the pigeon-hole or compartment in which the drawer slides, and strikes against the front loop or flange,  $c'$ , of the shelf above it, underneath the adjacent tier-rod D, which prevents said bail from being raised by the weight of the projecting drawer and its contents and from lifting said shelf when the drawer is pulled out, and thus suspends it in a horizontal position, as shown in Fig. 1, exposing the contents in a convenient manner for its ready manipulation. The bails G also permit the insertion of the compressors F from the rear ends of the drawers, thus dispensing with the necessity of drop-head drawers, which have proved by use to be unsatisfactory in operation.

The bails G, leaving the rear ends of the drawers open, allow the compressors F to be moved back to the extreme ends of the drawers, and the full capacity of the latter thus utilized.

Another marked advantage in the bails G is that they furnish means for hanging the drawers upon hooks  $o o$ , secured to the front of the case A, as shown in Fig. 1. This arrangement is particularly convenient with cases in which the upper tier or tiers of drawers are too high to permit of readily examining their contents. In such cases the hooks or hangers  $o o$  are placed at an elevation convenient for the manipulation of the contents of the drawers suspended thereon. The hooks are set so that the bail G of a drawer hung thereon will rest against the pulls  $n n$  of the two adjoining drawers in the adjacent tier.

The sides  $b^4 b^4$  of the drawer-fronts, fitting

closely against the rolls formed over the wires  $a^3 a^3$  in the front edges of the partitions  $a' a'$  and sides  $a a$ , and extending back of them when the drawers are closed, effectually exclude dust therefrom, and the sides  $b b$  of the drawers running between said rolls clear the partitions  $a' a'$ , and thereby greatly facilitate the movement of the drawers.

The front corners of the shelves C C are cut out, as seen in Fig. 5, thus allowing them to extend forward to the center of the wired rolls  $a^3 a^3$  in the front edges of the sides  $a a$  and partitions  $a' a'$ , and giving a neat finished appearance to the case.

The compressor-arms F are each formed at the base with shoulders  $f' f'$ , which bear upon the bottom  $b'$  on each side of the groove  $b^2$ , and when pressure is exerted laterally against the upper end of the compressor serve as a fulcrum which elevates the front end of the foot  $f$  against the overhanging edges of said groove, causing said foot to bind therein and prevent the sliding or movement of the said compressor.

The index-card is inserted from the rear into the pocket or frame provided therefor on the front of the filing-drawer B through a slit,  $m$ . (Shown in Fig. 6.)

I claim—

1. The combination, with a filing case having sheet-metal sides or partitions which are rolled or folded at their front edges into ribs or beads, of drawers having inwardly-turned side wings or flanges which fit closely against said ribs or beads when the drawers are closed, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

2. The combination, in a filing-case having upright partitions, of transverse rods passing through said case from side to side, and sheet-metal shelves bent at the sides into stiffening-flanges and inserted between said upright partitions and supported upon said transverse rods, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

3. The combination, in a filing-case, of upright sheet-metal partitions, transverse tie-rods passing through said partitions and secured at the ends in the sides of the case, and sheet-metal shelves bent at the ends to engage said tie-rods, which support them and bind the sections of the case together, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

4. The combination, in a filing-case, of transverse rods, upright partitions, and sheet-metal shelves bent at the sides into vertical stiffening-flanges, and looped or turned at the ends to receive or engage said transverse rods, upon which they are supported, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

5. In a filing-case, a drawer the bottom and sides of which are composed of a single piece of sheet metal folded at the sides to form on the bottom depending bearing-flanges, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

6. In a filing-case, a drawer having a sheet-metal bottom folded to form a longitudinal retaining-groove, in combination with a sliding

support or compressor working in said groove, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

7. In a filing-case, a drawer having its sides and bottom formed of a single piece of sheet metal folded longitudinally to form a retaining-groove in the bottom for receiving and holding the compressor-foot, and depending bearing-flanges at the sides of the bottom, and a front piece bent rearwardly at the sides into stiffening flanges or wings, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

8. In a filing-case, a drawer open at the rear end and provided with a bail attached thereto, in combination with a compressor working in a longitudinal groove in the bottom of said drawer, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

9. In a filing-case, the combination, with a compartment in which the drawer slides; provided at the upper side of the front or open end with a ledge or projection, of a drawer working in said compartment and provided at its rear end, which is open, with an upright bail arranged to engage said ledge or projection when the drawer is open, and thus suspend the same, projecting horizontally from the case, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

10. In a filing-case provided with drawer-compartments, the combination of drawers provided at their rear ends with upright suspension-bails, and a hook or hanger attached to said case, so as to hold a drawer projecting horizontally therefrom in a convenient position for manipulating its contents, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

11. In combination with a filing-case, a fil-

ing-drawer having a metallic front bent at the sides into stiffening wings or flanges, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

12. In combination with a filing-case, a drawer provided with a card pocket or holder on the front, and having a slit through the front piece or section for the insertion of a card from the rear or back side into said pocket or holder, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

13. In combination with a filing-case, a drawer provided at its rear end with a suspension-bail, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

14. In a filing-case, a drawer having its bottom and sides formed of a single piece of sheet metal folded longitudinally through the bottom into a groove having overhanging edges, and at the sides into depending bearing-flanges, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

15. The combination, in a filing-case, of upright sheet-metal sides or partitions rolled at one or both edges over wire rods, which are riveted at the upper ends in the top section of the case, and rest at their lower ends upon the base and flanges turned upon the edges of said sides or partitions, and riveted to the inside of said base, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

HORACE J. HOFFMAN.

Witnesses:

CHAS. L. GOSS,

GEORGE M. GOLL.