May 12, 1959 H. E. ANTHONY ET AL 2,886,396

DRAWER FOR STORAGE OF KEYS

Filed Jan. 24, 1958 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

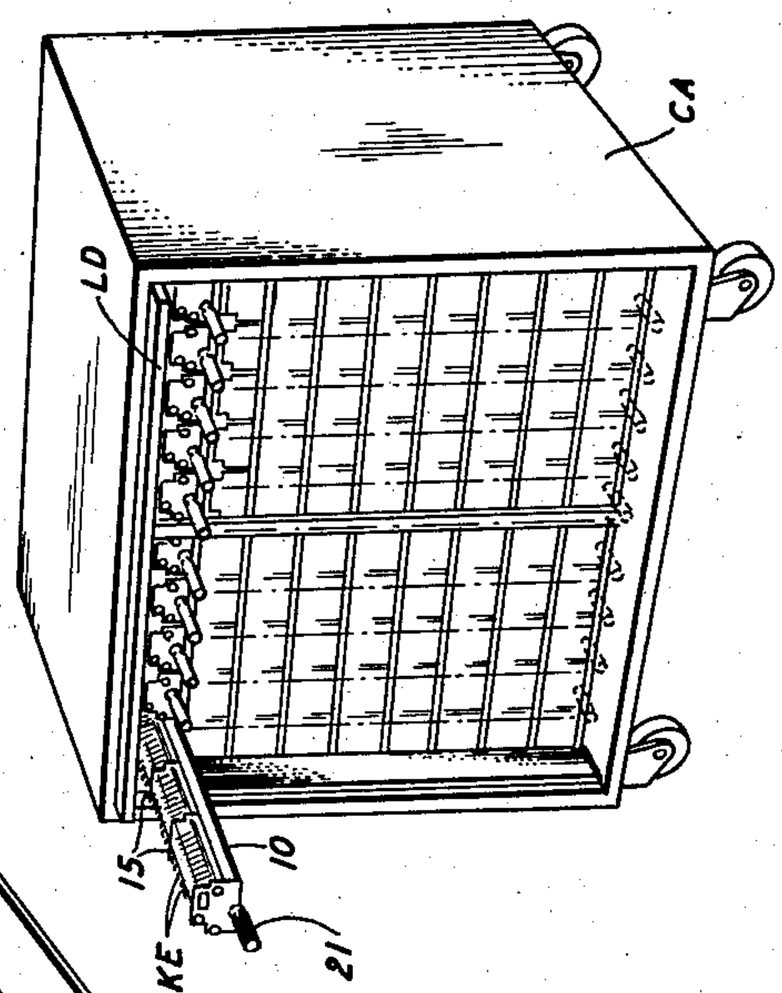

FIG. 9

FIG. 1

FIG. 8

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Filed Jan. 24, 1958 3 Sheets-Sheet 2

FIG. 4

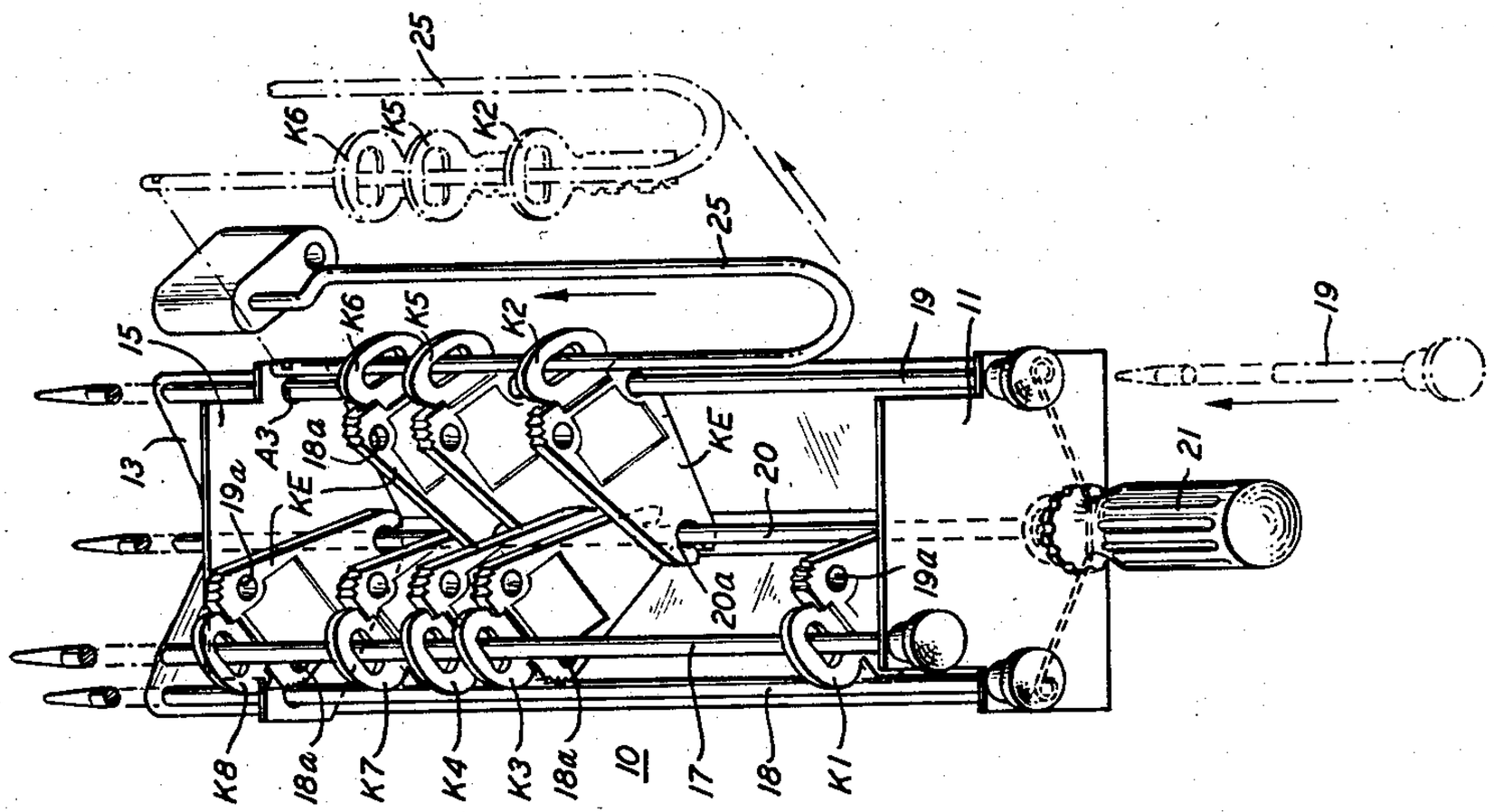


FIG. 3

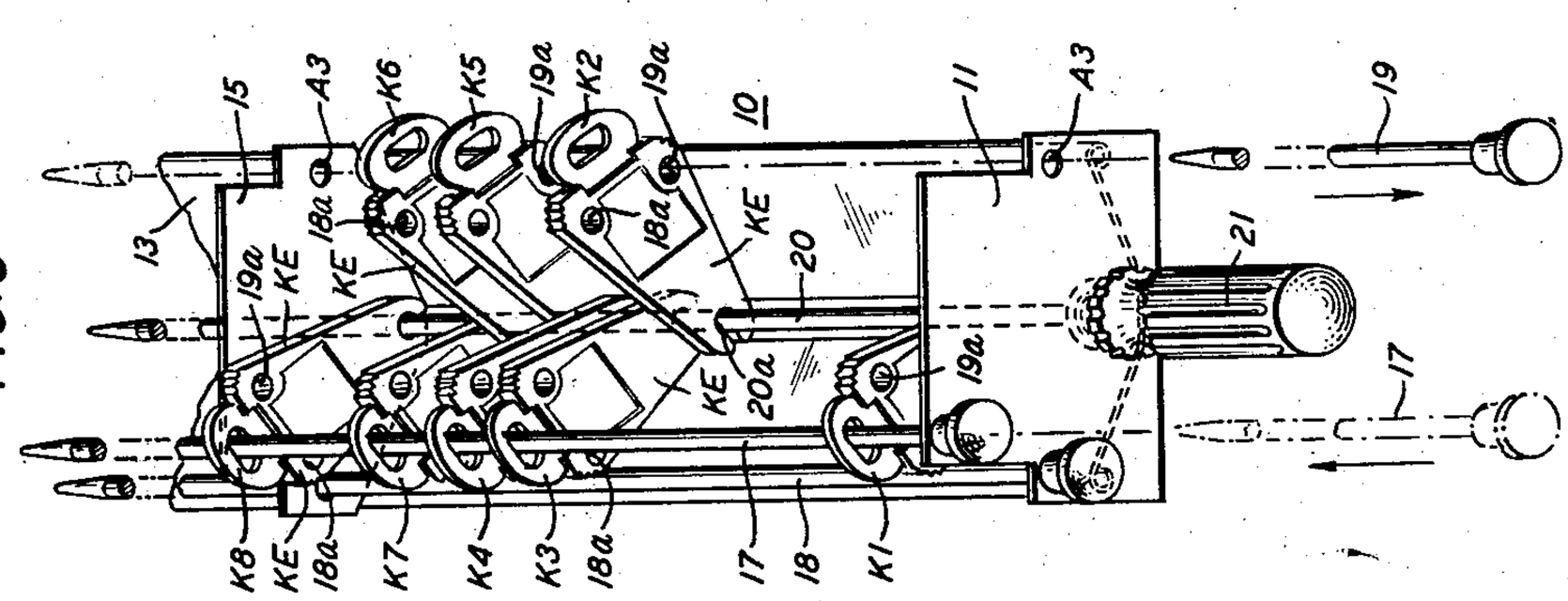
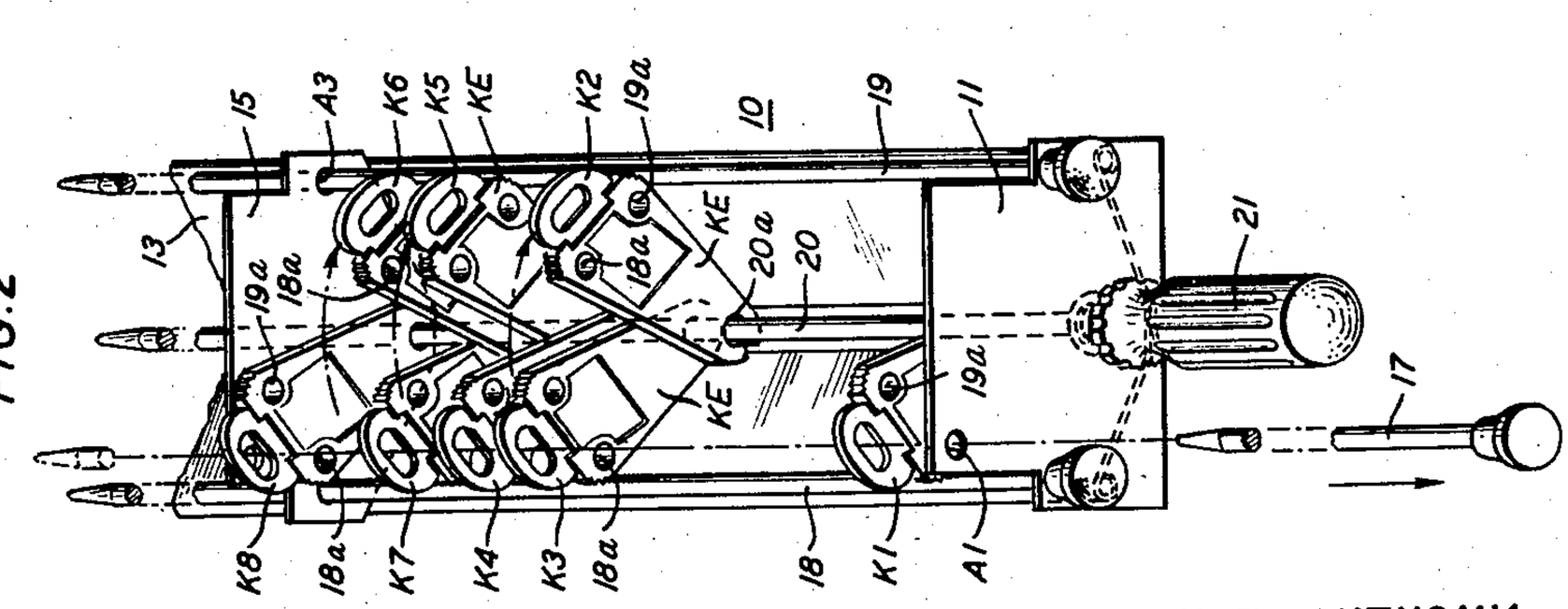


FIG. 2



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Filed Jan. 24, 1958 3 Sheets-Sheet 3

FIG. 7

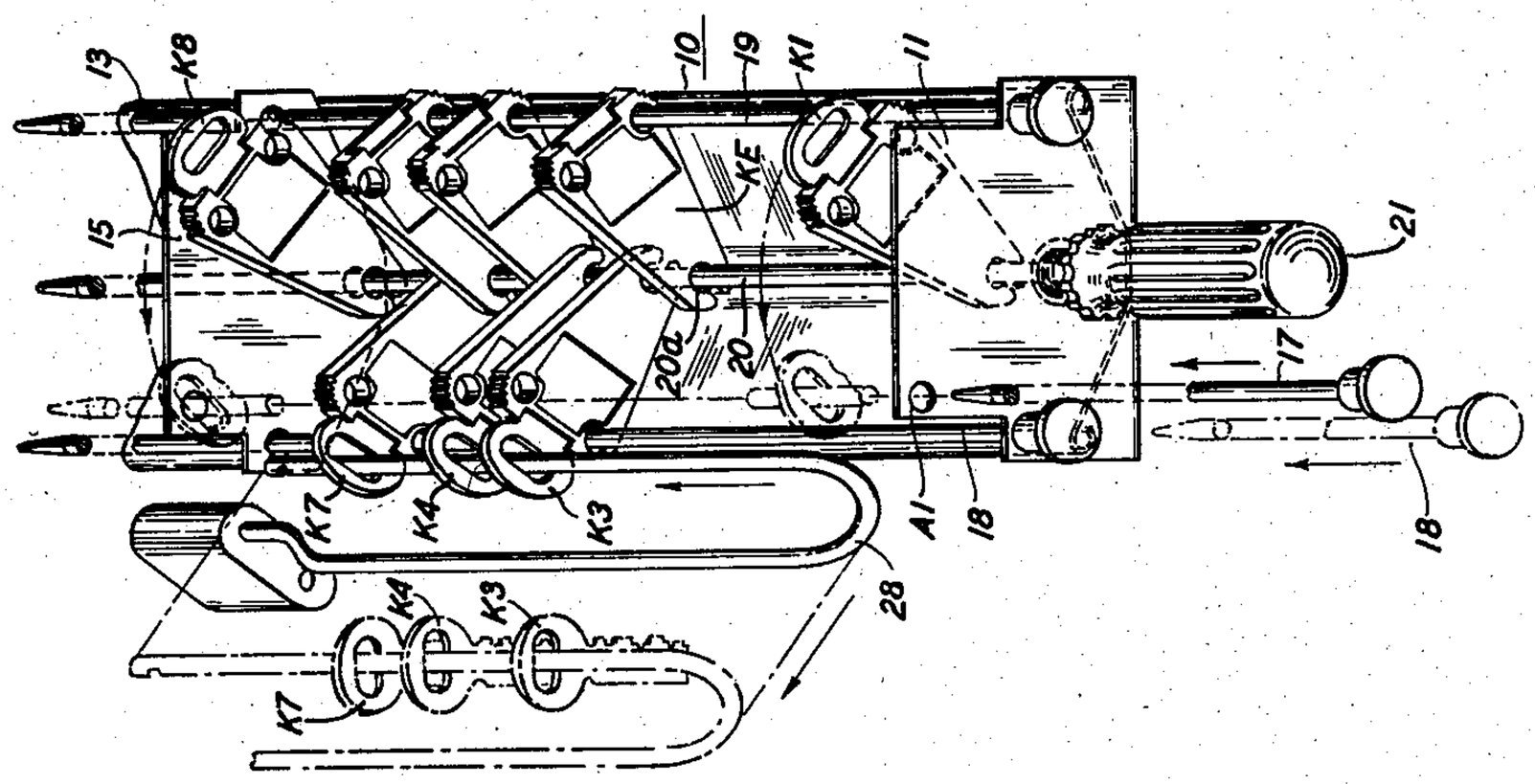


FIG. 6

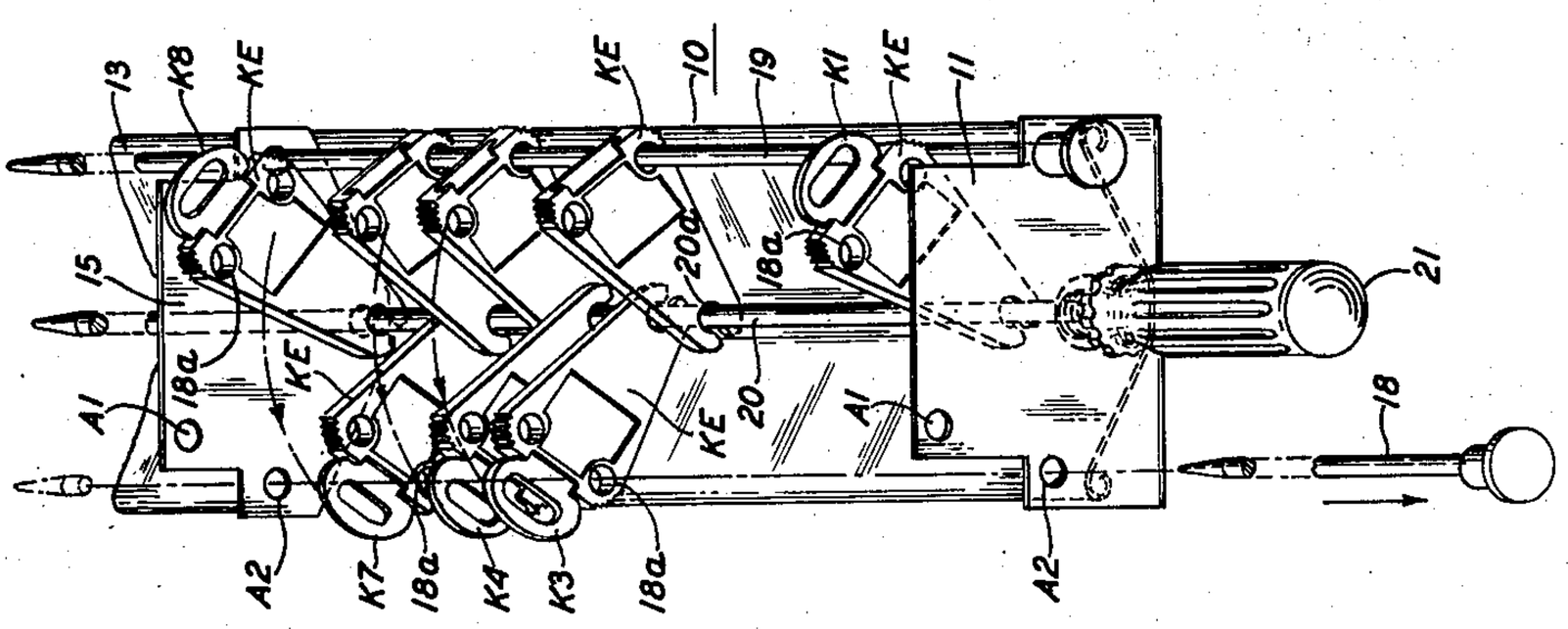
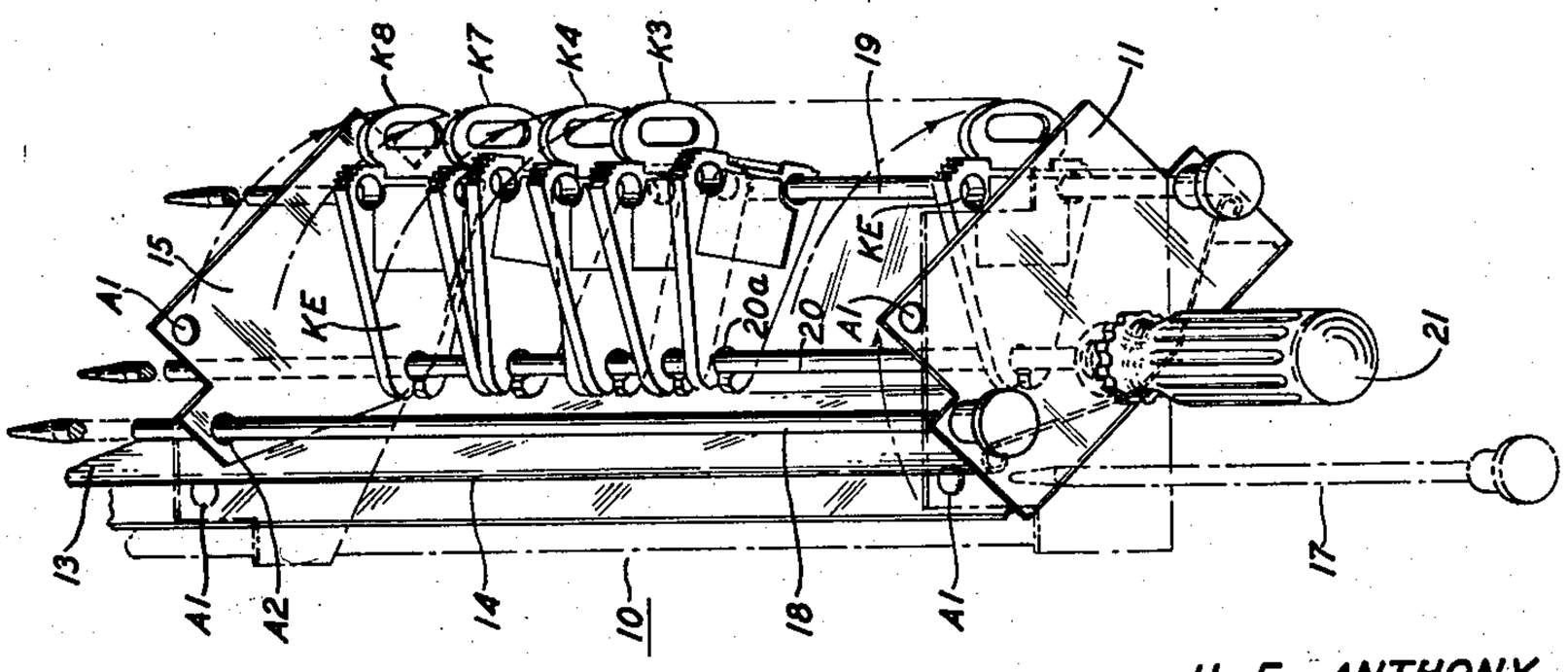


FIG. 5



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DRAWER FOR STORAGE OF KEYS

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Application January 24, 1958, Serial No. 711,064

8 Claims. (Cl. 312—308)

This invention relates to a drawer for the storage of keys and more particularly to a drawer so constructed and arranged that keys for telephone coin boxes, safe deposit boxes, vending machines or the like may be conveniently stored and readily removed in a definite order.

It is the object of this invention to construct a drawer embodying means suitable for performing the purposes mentioned above.

This object is attained by the preferred embodiment disclosed in this invention which contemplates a drawer structure having a plurality of longitudinal rods extending the full length thereof and supported by portions of the drawer structure. One of said rods has pivotally mounted thereon a plurality of key envelopes or pockets for the reception of keys; another of said rods passes through apertures provided in the extending top portions of the keys for securing them in their envelopes, whereby the removal of said keys can only be effected by the removal of the rod.

A pair of rods is used for retaining the key envelopes in definite positions in a tray which is constructed within the drawer.

These and other features of the invention will become more apparent from the following detailed description which together with the accompanying drawing, discloses an illustrative embodiment.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the drawer as seen from the right illustrating a plurality of envelopes containing keys pivotally mounted on a rod which is secured within the center of the tray. This figure also discloses a plurality of removable locking rods for securing the envelopes containing keys in a center, left-hand or right-hand position;

Figs. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 are front views of the drawer shown in perspective as seen from above, in which:

Fig. 2 illustrates the drawer, wherein the top rod is shown removed, thus unlocking the envelopes containing keys to permit their selection by pivoting said envelopes to the right, whereat they are shown positioned against the right-hand locking rod;

Fig. 3 illustrates the drawer wherein the unselected envelopes containing keys are shown secured in a center position by the replacement of the top rod. This figure also shows the selected envelopes containing keys positioned against the right-hand side of the tray due to the removal of the right-hand locking rod, thus effectively aligning the right-hand apertures in the envelopes for the subsequent passage therethrough of the right-hand locking rod;

Fig. 4 illustrates the drawer wherein the right-hand locking rod is shown replaced and passed through the apertures in the selected envelopes containing keys thereby securing them in their selected order while the keys are removed in the same sequence by the hasp of the key lock which is shown inserted through the apertures in the keys and then in turn lifted. The selection of a set of keys is thus effectively accomplished while those remaining in the drawer are suitably segregated and held secured by the top locking bar as shown;

Fig. 5 illustrates the drawer wherein the top rod is again removed for the selection of another set of keys, thus unlocking the unselected envelopes containing keys from their center position, so they can be freely pivoted to the right and effectively positioned against the right locking rod when the drawer is partially rotated to the right as shown;

Fig. 6 illustrates the drawer restored to its original position whereupon the left-hand locking rod is removed, and another selection of envelopes containing keys is shown positioned against the left side of the tray so that the left-hand apertures in the envelopes are aligned for the subsequent passage of the left-hand locking rod when it is replaced. The previous selection of key envelopes is shown retained by the right-hand locking rod while those unselected are shown bearing against the same; thus both said envelope groups are effectively segregated from those now shown selected and from each other;

Fig. 7 illustrates the drawer wherein the left-hand locking rod is shown replaced and passed through the locking apertures of said second selection of envelopes containing keys for securing them in their selected order while the keys therein are removed in the same sequence by the hasp of the key lock, which is shown inserted through the apertures in the keys, and then in turn lifted; thus the selection of a second set of keys is effectively accomplished while those unselected are suitably segregated and held secured by the top locking rod as shown;

Fig. 8 is a view in perspective of the key envelope showing the recessed pocket for accommodating the key in dotted outline, also the provision of a recess within the face of the envelope for preventing the removal of indica thereon by the friction of adjacent like members during their use within the tray; also disclosed are the apertures provided for locking the envelopes in a definite position within the drawer, and in addition is shown the bottom pivot hole slotted for facilitating the removal or replacement of said envelopes; and

Fig. 9 is a perspective view of a cabinet which may be utilized for storing a plurality of key drawers in a definite order. The cabinet also provides locking means for preventing the removal of said drawers by unauthorized personnel.

The embodiment shown and referred to as **10** in the various figures of the accompanying drawing comprises a drawer structure which is formed with front and rear walls **11** and **12** respectively, between which is fixedly secured the angularly formed tray **13**. The tray **13** serves as a false bottom, the purpose of which will be described in detail hereinafter with respect to the key envelopes KE shown in Fig. 8.

A series of upright partitions **15** (such as the one shown in Fig. 1) are fixedly secured to the sides **22** and **23** of the tray **13**, and arranged evenly spaced thereon for dividing the said tray into compartments. The partitions **15** and walls **11** and **12** are provided with the apertures A1, A2, A3 and A4, as seen in Figs. 1, 2, 3 and 6 for positioning and supporting the rods **17**, **18**, **19** and **20**, respectively.

The rod **20** shown centrally positioned with respect to the drawer **10** extends longitudinally the full length thereof and serves as a support or mounting for a plurality of key envelopes KE pivotally mounted thereon as shown in the various figures and as shown in detail in Fig. 8. The rod **20** is provided with a suitable handle **21** for facilitating the use and operation of the drawers.

The rods **18** and **19** extend longitudinally the full length of the drawer **10** and are supported by the apertures **A2** and **A3**, respectively, and serve to support the

envelopes KE when they are pivoted to the left or right side of the tray **13**. The rods **18** and **19** also provide means of securing the envelopes KE in their selected positions, within the tray **13**, when they are passed through the apertures **18***a* and **19***a* of the envelopes as described in detail hereinafter.

An additional rod **17**, also longitudinally extending the full length of the drawer **10**, is supported by the apertures A1 in the walls **11** and **12** and partitions **15**, for locking the keys K in place and for maintaining their envelopes in a "center position" within the tray **13**, as shown in Fig. 1.

As shown in Fig. 8 the key envelopes KE, are constructed of a suitable flexible material, such as plastic or the like, and are provided with pockets **24** for containing the keys K. Left and right apertures **18***a* and **19***a*, respectively, are provided for the reception of the rods **18** and **19** for retaining the key envelopes KE in a definite position within the tray **13**, as shown in Figs. 4 and 7. The bottoms of the envelopes KE are provided with slotted apertures **20***a* for facilitating their mounting on the rod **20** and their removal therefrom.

A cabinet CA, as shown in Fig. 9, is provided for storing a plurality of the described key drawers **10** in definite arrangement and has a lockable door to prevent their unauthorized removal.

Utilization of the drawer for facilitating the removal and replacement of keys

In using the drawer of this invention as shown in Fig. 1 for the removal of a desired set of keys, it is initially necessary that the key envelopes KE be unlocked. This is accomplished by the removal of the rod **17** as shown in Fig. 2, wherein the envelopes KE containing the desired keys **K2**, **K5** and **K6**, have been pivoted to the right-hand side of the tray **13** and positioned against the rod **19**, while the remaining key envelopes in the tray are again held in their original position by the replacement of the rod **17**, as shown in Fig. 3.

Upon the removal of rod **19**, as shown in Fig. 3, the key envelopes KE are displaced and positioned against the angular surface of the tray **13**, consequently aligning the locking apertures **19***a* of the envelopes with respect to the apertures A3 in the walls **11** and **12**, whereby the replacement of rod **19** as shown in Fig. 4, retains the envelopes in their selected order while the keys **K2**, **K5** and **K6** are removed in the same sequence onto the hasp **25** as shown.

In accordance with the above, the selection of one set of keys is accomplished, while their envelopes are held segregated from the others in the tray, thereby facilitating the subsequent replacement of the said keys.

In using the drawer of this invention to accomplish a successive removal of another set of desired keys the procedure is similar to that described heretofore with the exception that upon the removal of the locking rod **17** the drawer **10** is partially rotated to the right and then returned to its original position. Thus, all the unlocked key envelopes KE are effectively pivoted to the right against the rod **19** as shown in Fig. 5.

Upon the return of the drawer **10** to its original position as shown in Fig. 6, the rod **18** is removed and the envelopes KE, containing the second set of desired keys **K3**, **K4** and **K7**, are pivotally moved to the left and positioned against the left-hand angular surface of the tray **13**, whereupon they are retained in their selected order by the replacement of the rod **18** as shown in Fig. 7, in the same manner as heretofore described.

Upon the replacement of rod **18** the keys **K3**, **K4** and **K7** are then removed and positioned on a second hasp **28** in their selected sequence, while the remaining unselected keys **K1** and **K8** are subsequently locked in a "center position" within the tray **13** by the replacement of the rod **17** thereby segregating them from those selected. Thus, the selection of the second set of desired keys is readily accomplished. Accordingly, two different sets of keys may be removed from said tray while retaining the corresponding envelopes for said two sets of keys segregated from each other and from the envelopes for unselected keys, and still at the same time retain all of the envelopes in the original sequence within the tray.

It is to be understood that the above-described arrangements are illustrative of the application of the principles of this invention. Numerous other arrangements may be devised by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A storage means for keys and the like comprising in combination a drawer, a plurality of spaced apart rods removably positioned therein, extending longitudinally with respect thereto and supported by portions of said drawer, a plurality of envelopes pivotally mounted on one of said rods, keys positioned in said envelopes and having portions thereof extending therefrom, certain of said rods in engagement with said envelopes to maintain them in juxtaposition with respect to said first rod and an additional rod in engagement with certain of said keys to lock them in place and maintain them in position.

2. A storage means for keys and the like comprising in combination a drawer, a plurality of spaced apart rods removably positioned therein, extending longitudinally with respect thereto and supported by portions of said drawer, a plurality of envelopes having notched lower portions pivotally mounted on one of said rods, keys positioned in said envelopes and having portions thereof extending therefrom, certain of said rods in juxtaposition with respect to said first rod and an additional rod in engagement with certain of said keys to lock them in place and maintain them in position.

3. A storage means for keys and the like comprising in combination a drawer, a plurality of spaced apart rods removably positioned therein, extending longitudinally with respect thereto and supported by portions of said drawer, a plurality of apertured envelopes pivotally mounted on one of said rods, keys positioned in said envelopes and having portions thereof extending therefrom, certain of said rods passing through said apertures in said envelopes to maintain them in juxtaposition with respect to said first rod and an additional rod in engagement with certain of said keys to lock them in place and maintain them in position.

4. A storage means for keys and the like comprising in combination a drawer, a plurality of spaced apart rods removably positioned therein, etxending longitudinally with respect thereto and supported by portions of said drawer, a plurality of detachable apertured envelopes having notched lower portions pivotally mounted on one of said rods, keys positioned in said envelopes and having portions thereof extending therefrom, certain of said rods passing through the apertures in said envelopes to maintain them in juxtaposition with respect to said first rod and an additional rod in engagement with certain of said keys to lock them in place and maintain them in position.

5. A storage means for keys and the like comprising in combination a drawer, a plurality of spaced apart rods removably positioned therein, extending longitudinally with respect thereto and supported by portions of said drawer, a plurality of envelopes pivotally mounted on one of said rods, keys positioned in said envelopes and having portions thereof extending therefrom, certain of said rods in engagement with said envelopes to maintain them in juxtaposition with respect to said first rod, and an additional rod passing through certain of said keys to lock them in place and maintain them in position.

6. A storage means for keys and the like comprising in combination a drawer, a plurality of spaced apart rods removably positioned therein, extending longitudinally with respect thereto and supported by portions of said drawer, a plurality of envelopes having notched lower

portions pivotally mounted on one of said rods, keys positioned in said envelopes and having portions thereof extending therefrom, certain of said rods in juxtaposition with respect to said first rod and an additional rod passing through certain of said keys to lock them in place and maintain them in position.

7. A storage means for keys and the like comprising in combination a drawer, a plurality of spaced apart rods removably positioned therein, extending longitudinally with respect thereto and supported by portions of said drawer, a plurality of apertured envelopes pivotally mounted on one of said rods, keys positioned in said envelopes and having portions thereof extending therefrom, certain of said rods passing through said apertures in said envelopes to maintain them in juxtaposition with respect to said first rod, and an additional rod passing through certain of said keys to lock them in place and maintain them in position.

8. A storage means for keys and the like comprising in combination a drawer, a plurality of spaced apart rods removably positioned therein, extending longitudinally with respect thereto and supported by portions of said drawer, a plurality of apertured envelopes having notched lower portions pivotally mounted on one of said rods, keys positioned in said envelopes and having portions thereof extending therefrom, certain of said rods passing through said envelopes to maintain them in juxtaposition with respect to said first rod and an additional rod passing through certain of said keys to lock them in place and maintain them in position.

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