

W. A. HOBBS.
CABINET FOR HOLDING DISK PHONOGRAPH RECORDS AND INDEXES COMBINED THEREWITH.
APPLICATION FILED JAN. 8, 1909.

931,426.

Patented Aug. 17, 1909.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

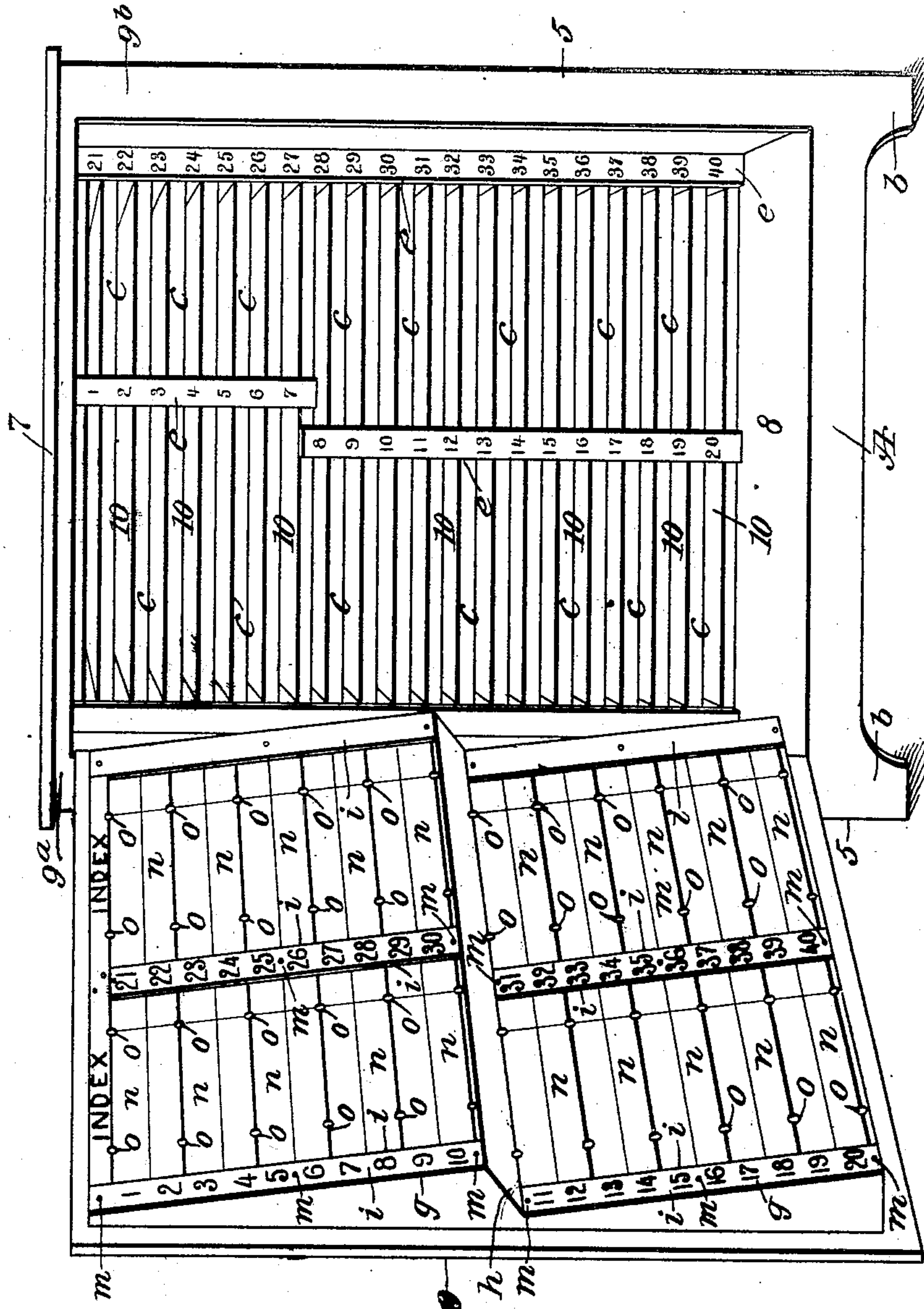


Fig. 1

WITNESSES
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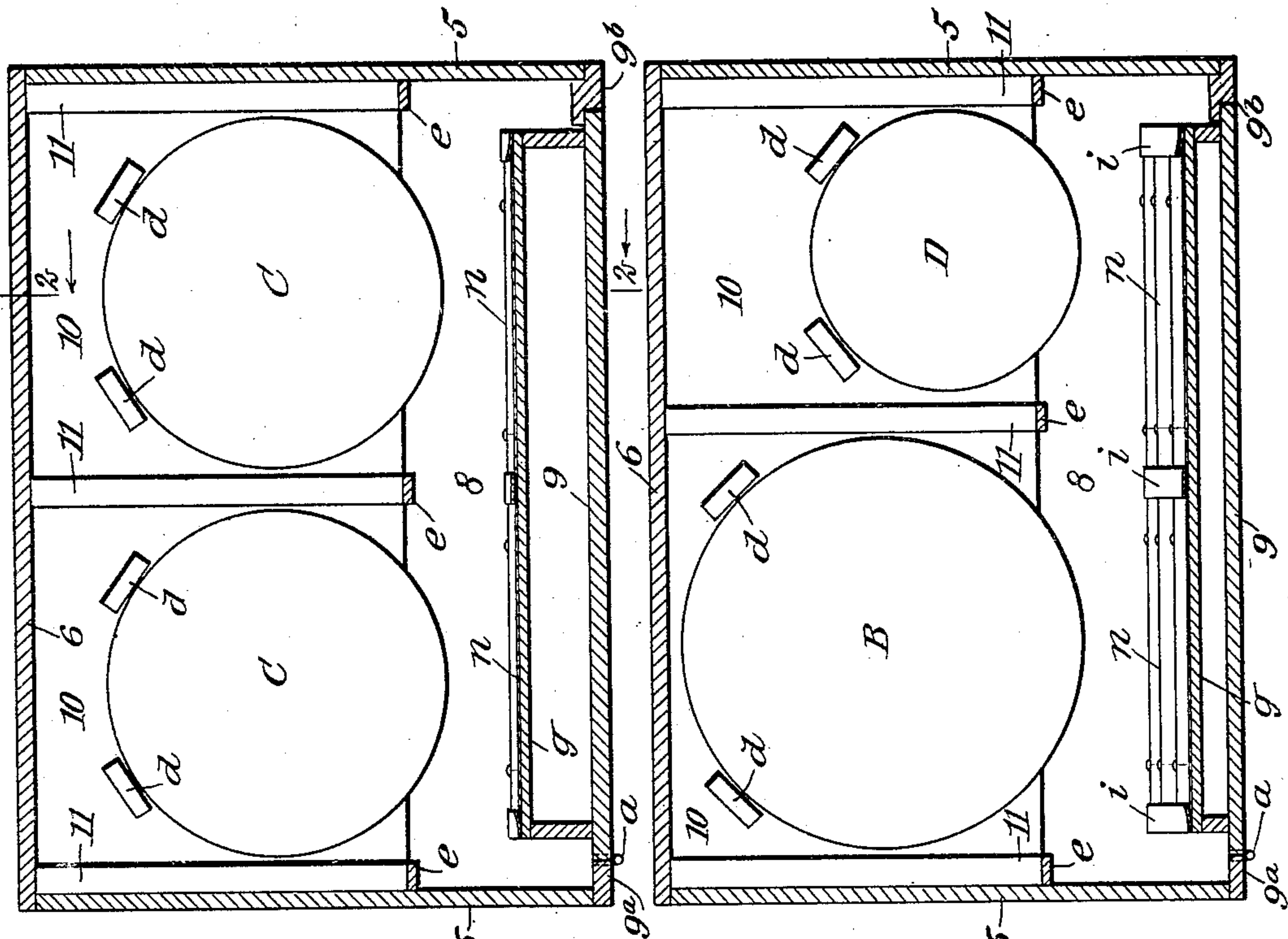


Fig. 3

Fig. 4

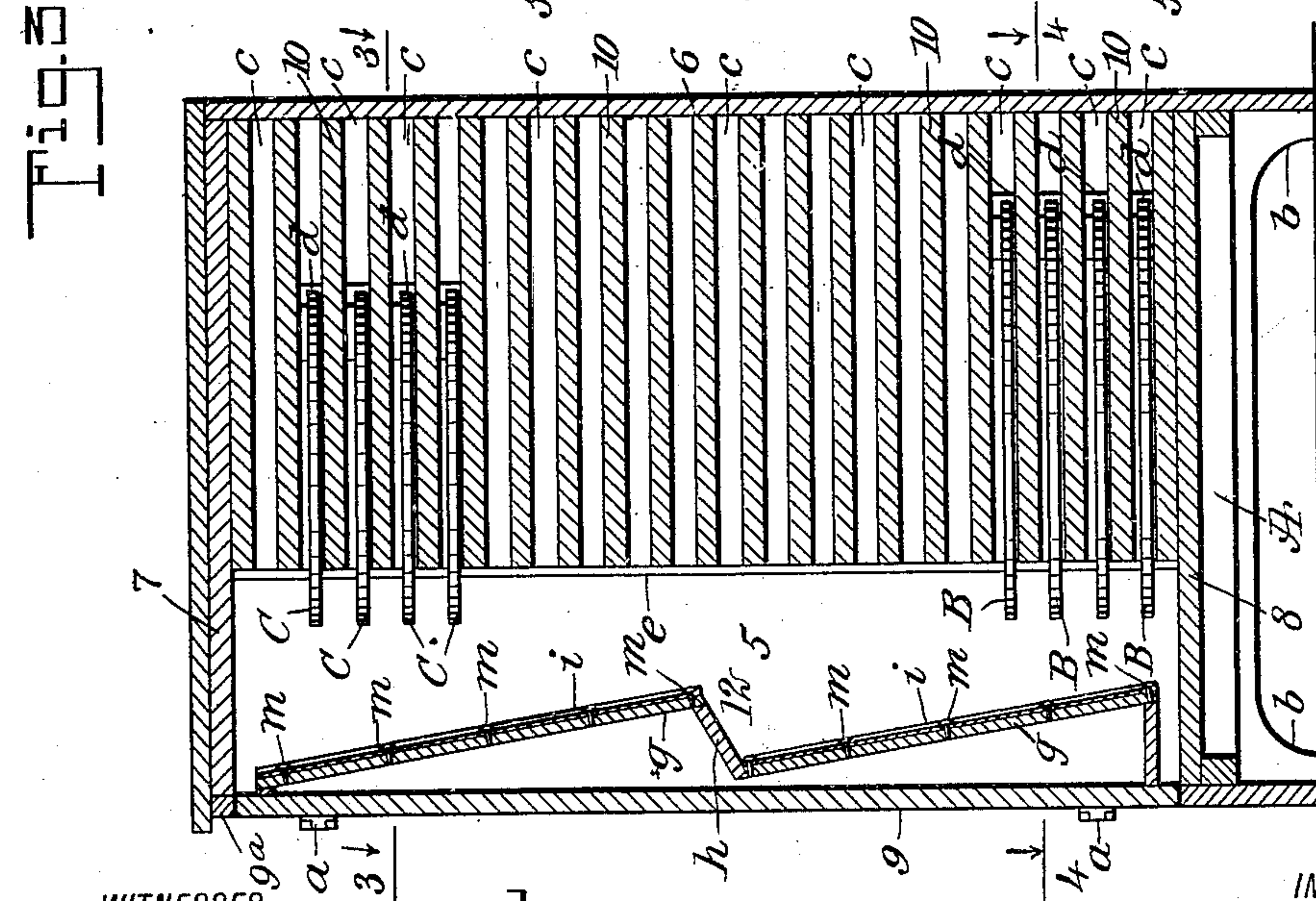


Fig. 2

WITNESSES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM ARTHUR HOBBS, OF SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA.

CABINET FOR HOLDING DISK PHONOGRAPH-RECORDS AND INDEXES COMBINED THEREWITH.

No. 931,426.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Aug. 17, 1909.

Application filed January 8, 1909. Serial No. 471,275.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM A. HOBBS, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Shreveport, in the parish of Caddo and State of Louisiana, have invented a new and Improved Cabinet for Holding Disk Phonograph-Records and Indexes Combined Therewith, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

It is the purpose of this invention to provide a neat, shapely and convenient cabinet for safely holding a large number of disk phonograph records, separated from each other and supported flatwise throughout their areas, so as to prevent warping of the records while stored in the cabinet.

A further object of the invention is to combine with the door of the cabinet an index of novel construction, that will reliably indicate the different records stored in the cabinet, by consecutive numbers and titles of the renditions of music, songs or recitations, so that any selection contained in the cabinet may be instantly located and removed, for execution of the matter impressed on said record on a suitable phonograph.

The invention consists in the novel construction and combination of parts, as is hereinafter described and defined in the appended claims.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the views.

Figure 1 is a front elevational view of the improved cabinet, opened to expose the interior parts; Fig. 2 is a sectional side view, substantially on the line 2—2 in Fig. 3, seen in the direction of the arrows; Fig. 3 is a sectional plan view substantially on the line 3—3 in Fig. 2; and Fig. 4 is a sectional plan view substantially on the line 4—4 in Fig. 2.

In the drawings that illustrate the preferred form of the improvement, A indicates a substantially rectangular casing which represents the exterior walls of the cabinet, comprising two side walls 5, 5, spaced apart in parallel planes by a rear vertical wall 6, a reinforced top wall 7 and a bottom wall 8. The front wall 9 forms a door that is hinged at *a, a*, on a stile 9^a which is disposed at one front corner of the structure, a mating stile

9^b that is arranged in front at the other corner, providing a closing strip on which the door seats when closed. Suitable legs *b*, which depend at the four corners of the cabinet, afford support therefor, as indicated in Figs. 1 and 2.

A plurality of thin shelf boards 10, having equal area and rectangular contour, are provided, having such a length as adapts them to loosely fit transversely within the assembled cabinet walls. The shelf boards 10 are equally spaced apart and arranged in a vertical tier by a suitable number of similar spaced strips 11, that intervene between adjacent shelf boards. Three spacing strips 11 afford support for each shelf board 10, and as shown, the strips that support the lowermost shelf are seated and secured on the bottom wall 8 of the cabinet body A, two of said strips being placed respectively in contact with the side walls 5, 5, and the remaining strip of the set at a suitable point immediately thereof. The shelf boards 10 have contact at their rear side edges with the rear wall 6 and extend toward the front an equal distance, leaving a suitable space between their front edges and the door 9. As the strips 11 have an equal thickness, it will be seen that the space between each adjacent pair of shelf boards 10, affords a receptacle *c* for the disk records B, C, D. The width and depth of these receptacles is proportioned to receive two records in each one, that may be of an equal width, as shown in Fig. 3, or have different widths, as represented in Fig. 4; and as shown in said views, the intermediate strip 11 between each pair of shelf boards 10, is relatively positioned so that the disks may be readily inserted. The records that are to occupy the receptacles *c* may be 12 inches in diameter, as shown at B in Fig. 4, 10 inches in diameter as indicated at C, or 8 inches in diameter as shown at D, and as it is essential that these various disk records should all project forwardly an equal distance beyond the front edges of the shelf boards 10, provision to effect this will now be described.

In each receptacle *c*, two abutment blocks *d* are placed and secured, the pair of said blocks that are inserted between each pair of shelf boards 10, being spaced apart and so located with reference to the diameter of the disk that is to occupy the receptacle, that

upon the insertion of said disk until it impinges upon the abutment blocks, a portion thereof will be projected beyond the front edges of the shelf boards that form the top and bottom walls of the receptacle or cell. Upon reference to Fig. 3, in which two disks of an equal area are placed in the two equal cells or receptacles *c*, it will be seen that the two pairs of abutment blocks *d* are all positioned an equal distance from the front edges of the shelf board 10 whereon said disks are seated. In Fig. 4 it will be noted that the abutment blocks *d* in the cell *c* at the left side of said view, are located nearer the rear wall of the body A of the cabinet than the pair of abutment blocks in the cell *c* at the right side thereof, this difference in location of the two pairs of abutment blocks adapting them for projecting the large disk B in the left hand receptacle an equal distance with the small disk D in the right hand cell from the front edges of the shelf boards 10 that form the two cells.

The provision of the level shelf boards 10 is an advantageous feature of the improvement, as these shelves being formed of a suitable material that will not twist or warp and will maintain level surfaces, afford support for the disk records that have contact throughout their areas with the shelves, which prevents the slightest distortion of the records that they are liable to receive if stood on their edges or held by said edges in horizontal planes.

It will be seen that the forward projection of all the disk records that occupy the receptacles *c* in the cabinet A, permit the instant removal of any record by taking hold of it in an obvious manner.

Provision is made for plainly defining the position of each record placed in the cabinet, comprising the following details: Upon the forward ends of the spacing strips 11 that may be arranged as shown in Fig. 1, thin strips *e* of suitable material are secured, whereon a continuous series of numerical indicators are imprinted, each consecutive number being placed opposite a receptacle *c* and thus adapted for indicating the number given to a record. To facilitate the selection of a record whereon a song or other musical score is impressed, by its title as well as its number, an index of novel character is provided, consisting of the details shown in Fig. 1. Upon the cabinet door 9, projecting from the inner side thereof, is a preferably wooden bracket block 12. The block 12 is formed with two inclines *g* of preferably equal height and inclination, that are separated by an offset *h* at the center of height for the block, and as shown, the latter is substantially equal in area with that of the door. Upon the inclined surfaces of the inclines *g*, three thin resilient strips *i* that may be sheet metal, having an equal

width and a height equal with that of the bracket block, are secured, these vertical strips being respectively located one along each side edge thereof and one at the transverse center of said block. The strips *i* are secured in place by small screws or headed nails *m*, and these are driven into the bracket block at intervals, passing through the transverse centers of the strips, that by their resilience are adapted for slight outward flexure at their side edges. Upon the exposed surfaces of the thin strips *i*, two series of indicating numerals are arranged, one series reading consecutively from one at the top of the left hand strip to the bottom thereof, as for example, from 1 to 20 inclusive. The other series of indicating numerals is imprinted or otherwise placed on the strips *i* located on the two inclines formed on the block 12 at its transverse center, and said second series begins with the indicating numeral next higher in notation than the numeral that is the lowest one of the series at the left side edge of the bracket block. It will be seen that the two series of spaced indicating numerals on the door are duplicates of the two series placed on the strips *e* in the cabinet A, and that these are disposed opposite the series of cells or receptacles *c* therein. A number of indicating cards *n* are provided, preferably having an equal width, and a length so proportioned that the edges of the ends of said cards may be inserted below the side edges of the strips *i*, and by resilience of the latter be held in place subject to removal as may be desired. The width of the cards *n* is for convenience in handling, preferably equal to that of the space occupied by the adjacent cells or receptacles *c*, and the thickness of one shelf board 10 added thereto, so that each card *n* may carry the titles of two adjacent disk records, and at the corresponding ends thereof are located the numbers of the disks and of the cells or receptacles that are normally occupied by the records bearing the numbers shown on a respective card *n*. Each indicating card *n* is removably secured in place on the inclined surfaces of the bracket block 12, by an insertion of headed nails *o* at such points and depth in said block as will adapt the heads of the nails to receive the side edges of the respective cards *n* beneath them. Each card *n* has the titles of two disk records printed or otherwise marked thereon, which correspond in number with the indicating numerals opposite the card and that are on the indicating strip *i* at the left hand end of the card, and consequently are duplicated opposite the cells occupied by the disk records specified on the strips *e* that are adjacent to the cells or receptacles *c*.

It will be seen that the disk records of different titles and numbers and which are placed in their order numerically in the cells

or receptacles *c*, may be instantly found in the cabinet by reference to the improved index that has been described.

It will be apparent that in case new records are to be substituted for some that are stored in the cells of the cabinet, they may be designated on the index by the removal of the cards having the titles of such obsolete records on them, and replacing the same with new cards whereon the titles of the new records are marked. As the indicating cards *n* are held in place by an engagement of their ends and side edges respectively with the strips *e*, and the heads of the nails *o*, it will be obvious that an exchange of said cards may be readily effected as may be desired.

The inclinations on the bracket block 12 facilitate the inspection of the index by a person seated before the cabinet, and it is preferred to so construct the same, but it is to be understood that the index cards may also be held removably on the flat inner surface of the door.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. A cabinet for disk records, provided with a plurality of shelves, spacing strips between the shelves and upon which they rest, said strips dividing each shelf into two compartments and abutment blocks secured between the shelves for engagement by the

edge of the disks, said blocks being spaced from the front edge of the respective shelf a distance sufficient to cause a portion of the disk to project beyond the shelf, said shelves being of a lesser depth than the depth of the cabinet, and the abutment blocks extending the full depth of the space between the shelves, and a door for closing the cabinet.

2. A cabinet for disk records, provided with a plurality of shelves, spacing strips between the shelves and upon which they rest, said strips dividing each shelf into two compartments and abutment blocks secured between the shelves for engagement by the edges of the disks, said blocks being spaced from the front edge of the respective shelf a distance sufficient to cause a portion of the disk to project beyond the shelf, said shelves being of a lesser depth than the depth of the cabinet, and the abutment blocks extending the full depth of the space between the shelves, a door for closing the cabinet, and an index supported on the inner face of the door in the space between said inner face and the edges of the disk.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

WILLIAM ARTHUR HOBBS.

Witnesses:

J. F. SLATTERY,
A. C. LEA.