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(54) **Suspension file**

(57) A suspension file (1) comprises a generally 'U'-shaped pocket (2) of flexible, or semi-flexible, synthetic plastics material having a bulbous lower portion or base (4), and with the two upper edges (5) of the pocket (2) welded into tubular sleeves (6), with each sleeve hous-

ing a support rod (8) of length exceeding its associated sleeve (6) whereby ends (9) of the rod (8) project beyond each end of each sleeve (6), with each projecting end (9) being notched to engage a support rail of a drawer of a filing cabinet.

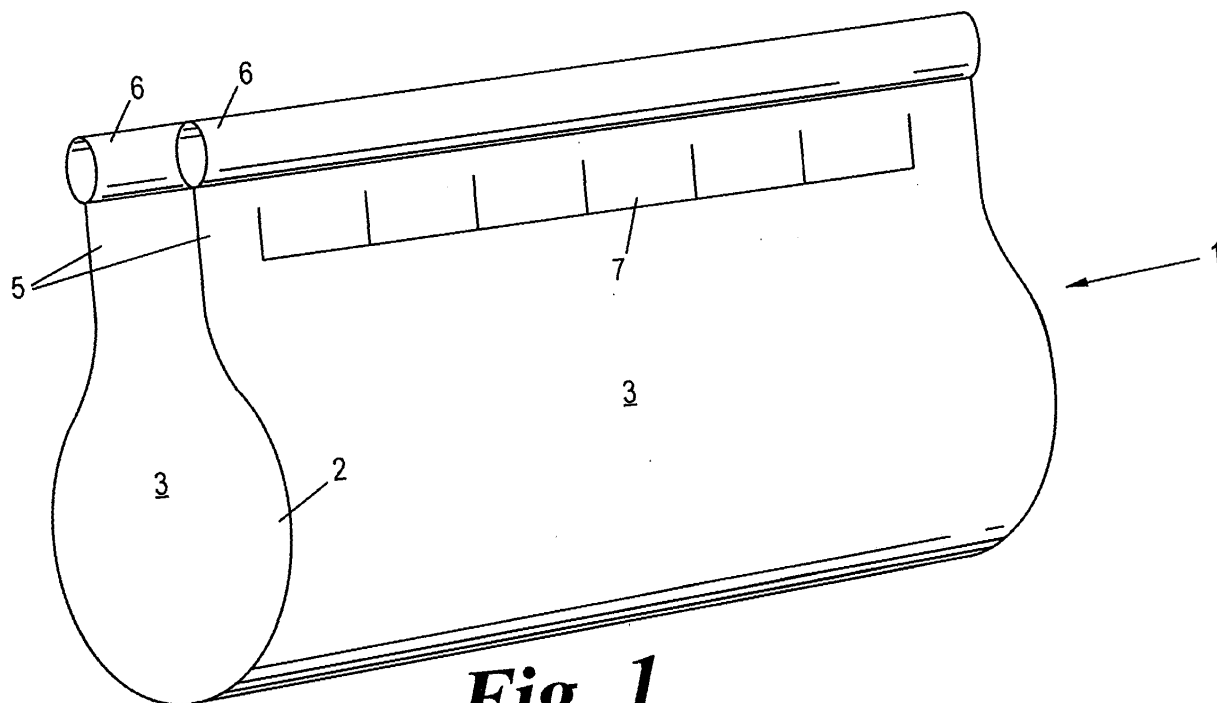


Fig. 1

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Description

Field of the Invention

[0001] This invention relates to a suspension file adapted for mounting in multiple numbers across parallel, spaced-apart support rails of a drawer of a filing cabinet.

Background of the Invention

[0002] Conventional suspension files comprise a 'U'-shaped pocket of card, manilla, plastics or a mix of such materials, with upper edges of the pocket attached to a metallic strip having a notch adjacent each end for location on an adjacent support rail.

[0003] In use, suspension files are frequently overloaded, with inserted paperwork exceeding both the capacity of the pocket and the load bearing capability of the strips, resulting in usually permanent damage and/or deformation to both components.

Object of the Invention

[0004] A basic object of the invention is the provision of an improved, and heavy duty, suspension file.

Summary of the Invention

[0005] According to the present invention there is provided a suspension file comprising a generally 'U'-shaped pocket of flexible, or semi-flexible, synthetic plastics material having a bulbous lower portion, and with the two upper edges of the pocket welded into tubular sleeves, with each sleeve housing a support rod of length exceeding its associated sleeve whereby ends of the rod project beyond each end of the sleeve, with each projecting end being notched to engage a support rail of a drawer of a filing cabinet.

Advantages of the Invention

[0006] The bulbous shape in the lower section of each body file provides a wider base than a conventional suspension file, allowing loading of more material without the sleeve "shrinking" in overall height, while the support rods can be so formed and/or dimensioned as to be incapable of deformation by weight of the contents of the suspension file alone, thus ensuring maintenance of the shape and integrity of the suspension file, whilst the use of oval rods provides for increased load bearing capacity.

Preferred or Optional Features of the Invention

[0007] Each sleeve is formed from a plastics laminate.

[0008] Each sleeve is provided with webbing additives for enhanced strength and tear resistibility.

[0009] Each sleeve extends the full length of each upper edge of its pocket.

[0010] Each sleeve has inner projections adapted to engage an inserted rod to retain a rod in its sleeve, whilst permitting rod-to-sleeve movement as and when required.

[0011] The rods are of solid material.

[0012] The rods are tubular.

[0013] The rods are of synthetic plastics material.

[0014] The rods are of steel.

[0015] The rods are of an aluminium alloy.

[0016] The rods are a combination of metal and plastics eg a metal inner rod, surrounded by a plastics sheath.

[0017] The rods are non-circular.

[0018] The rods are oval, with the major axis adapted to be located vertically.

[0019] The rods slightly exceed the length of each sleeve, so as to enable each end of the rod to project from each end of the sleeve.

[0020] Each rod has an indentation or recess adjacent its end, adapted to engage a portion of a support rail of a filing cabinet drawer with restrained lateral movement, but with provision for sliding movement along the rails.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0021] The invention will now be described in greater detail, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a suspension file in accordance with the invention; and

Figure 2 is a perspective view of a support rod for the file of Figure 1.

Detailed Description of the Drawings

[0022] A suspension file 1 comprises a 'U'-shaped pocket 2 of flexible synthetic plastics material, being a one piece sheet defining two side panels 3 and an interconnecting bulbous lower portion or base 4. The panels 3 have upper edges 5 welded into tubular sleeves 6 extending the full length of each side panel 3. Beneath each tubular sleeve 6 is a length 7 of reinforcing webbing which may also be secured by welding.

[0023] A solid steel rod 8 is of oval section with the major axis vertically located, and of length slightly exceeding the length of the sleeves 6, so that ends 9 opposite of each rod 8 project beyond each end of each sleeve 6. The ends 9 are provided with an underside notch 10 to engage a support rail of a drawer of a filing cabinet. Each sleeve 6 has inner projections or fingers (not shown) adapted to engage the periphery of its rod 8 to assist in retaining a rod 8 within its sleeve 6.

Claims

1. A suspension file comprising a generally 'U'-shaped pocket **characterised in that** the pocket (2) is of flexible, or semi-flexible, synthetic plastics material having a bulbous lower portion (4), and with the two upper edges (5) of the pocket (2) welded into tubular sleeves (6), with each sleeve (6) housing a support rod (8) of length exceeding its associated sleeve (6), whereby ends (9) of each rod (8) project beyond each end of the sleeve (6), with each projecting end (9) having a notch (10) to engage a support rail of a drawer of a filing cabinet. 5 10
2. A suspension file as claimed in Claim 1, **characterised in that** each sleeve (6) is formed from a plastics laminate. 15
3. A suspension file as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, **characterised in that** each sleeve (6) is provided with webbing additives for enhanced strength and tear resistibility. 20
4. A suspension file as claimed in Claims 1-3, **characterised in that** each sleeve (6) extends the full length of each upper edge of its pocket (2). 25
5. A suspension file as claimed in Claims 1-4, **characterised in that** each sleeve (6) has inner projections adapted to engage an inserted rod to retain a rod in its sleeve, whilst permitting rod-to-sleeve movement as and when required. 30
6. A suspension file as claimed in any one of Claims 1-5, **characterised in that** the rods (8) are of solid material. 35
7. A suspension file as claimed in any one of Claims 1-5, **characterised in that** the rods (8) are tubular. 40
8. A suspension file as claimed in any one of Claims 1-7, **characterised in that** the rods (8) are of synthetic plastics material, or of steel, or of an aluminium alloy or a combination of metal and plastics eg a metal inner rod, surrounded by a plastics sheath. 45
9. A suspension file as claimed in any one of Claims 1-8, **characterised in that** the rods (8) are non-circular. 50
10. A suspension file as claimed in Claim 9, **characterised in that** the rods (8) are oval, with the major axis adapted to be located vertically. 55

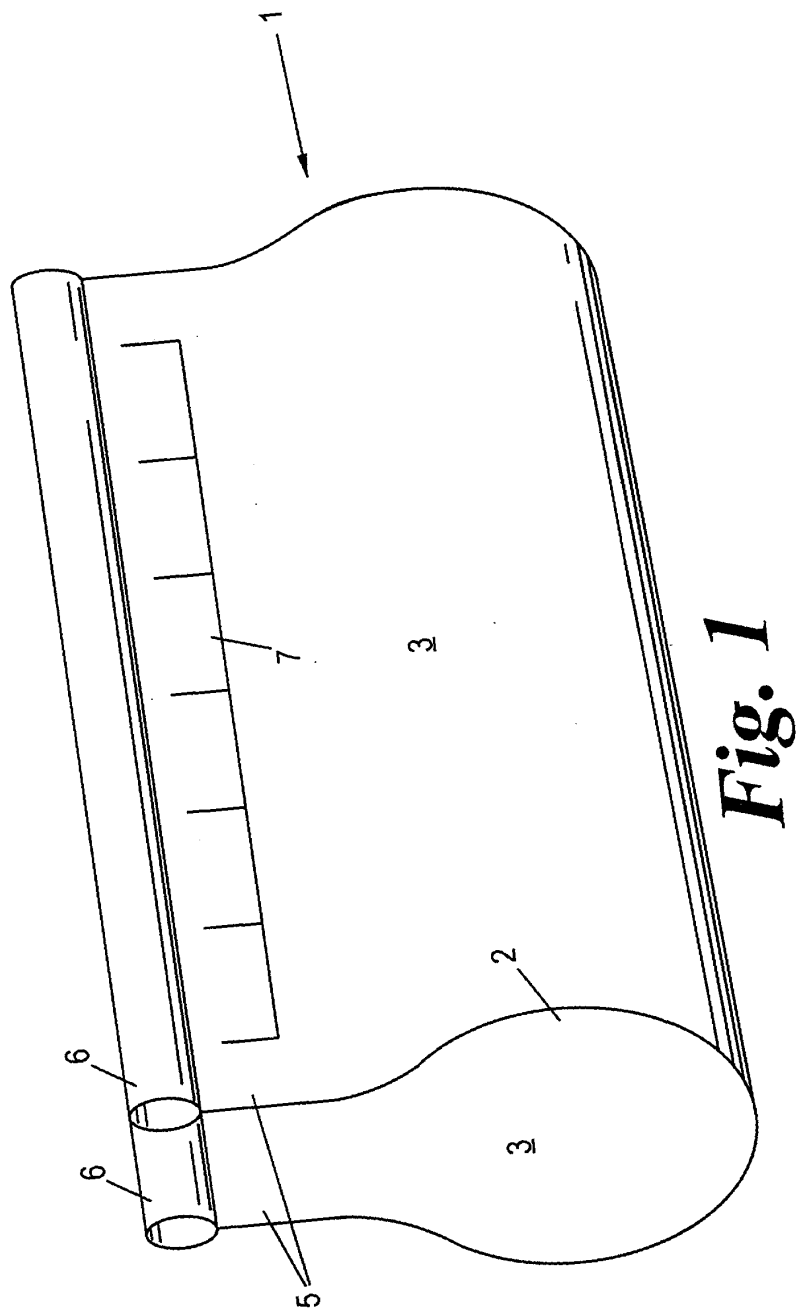


Fig. 1

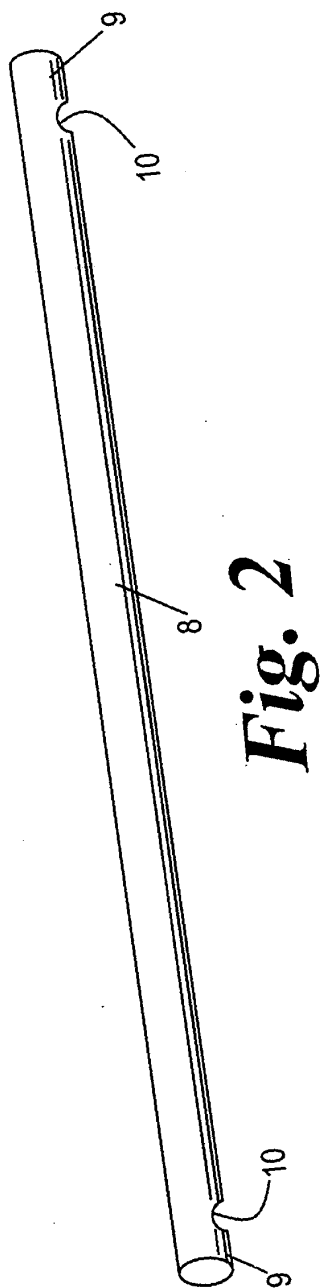


Fig. 2



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 04 07 5845

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
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A	US 6 063 226 A (FOSTER ALLAN EUGENE ET AL) 16 May 2000 (2000-05-16)		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) B42F B42C
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 13 August 2004	Examiner Louvion, B
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 04 07 5845

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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