NF

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION

AXIS INTERNATIONAL MARKETING LTD., INC	06CV4364
Plaintiff,	JUDGE NORGLE
v.	MAGISTRATE JUDGE SCHENKIER
OXO INTERNATIONAL, LTD.,	**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**
Defendant.	

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, Axis International Marketing, Ltd. (hereinafter "Plaintiff"), for its Complaint against Defendant, OXO International, Ltd., (hereinafter "Defendant") alleges and states as follows:

PARTIES, JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. Plaintiff is an Illinois corporation, with its principal place of business in Des Plaines, Illinois. Plaintiff is in the business of manufacturing and selling, among other things, expandable drawer organizer products to retailers throughout the United States.

2. Upon information and belief, Defendant is a Texas corporation, with its principal place of business in that State. Defendant, among other things, is in the business of selling expandable drawer organizer products to retailers in the United States. Plaintiff and Defendant are competitors in the same marketplace.

3. This is a complaint for patent infringement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §271 *et seq.* This court has subject matter jurisdiction over Plaintiff's claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331 and 1338.

4. Defendant is doing business within this judicial district, subjecting it to jurisdiction within the judicial district and making venue proper in the district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 and 1400.

PLAINTIFF'S PATENT

5. On June 27, 2006, United States Patent No. US 7,066,563 B2 (the "Patent") was duly and legally issued and assigned to Plaintiff. The Patent covers a product line of expandable drawer organizers manufactured and sold by Plaintiff. (A true and correct copy of the Patent is attached hereto as Exhibit A.)

6. The Patent was originally filed on August 16, 2003 and a provisional patent was issued on February 10, 2003. Subsequently, on August 12, 2004, the United States Patent and Trademark Office issued pre-grant publication of the Patent (No. US 2004/0155564 A1).

7. Under 35 U.S.C. §§282, the Patent is presumed to be valid.

DEFENDANT'S INFRINGEMENT

8. Defendant is infringing, inducing others to infringe, and/or contributorily infringing the Patent by making, using, selling, importing or offering for sale devices embodying one or more claims of Patent, and will continue to do so unless enjoined by this Court. Upon information and belief, the Defendant is continuing to expand its product line with additional products that are derived from the Patent.

THE HARM TO PLAINTIFF

9. Defendant, by its infringing conduct, its inducement of infringement by others, and/or contributory infringement caused Plaintiff irreparable harm in an amount not yet determined and for which there is no adequate remedy at law.

10. Plaintiff has suffered damage as a result of Defendant's prior and continued infringement.

11. This is an exceptional case as that term is defined in 35 U.S.C. §285.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays that this Court:

A. Preliminarily and permanently enjoin, consistent with 35 U.S.C. §283, Defendant and its officers, agents, servants, employees and attorneys, and those in active concert or participation with them, from making, using, selling, importing and/or offering for sale, devices that infringe the Patent.

B. Defendant to file with this Court, and serve on Plaintiff's counsel, within thirty (30) days of service of the injunction, a report in writing under oath setting forth in detail the manner and form in which Defendant has complied with the injunction.

C. Render judgment of infringement of the Patent for Plaintiff against Defendant.

D. Issue an order directing Defendant and its officers, agents, servants, employees and attorneys, and those in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of the Order, to destroy all drawings, molds, machines, tooling or other equipment used in the manufacture of items infringing the Patent.

E. Order all infringing articles be surrendered to Plaintiff.

F. Order an accounting and award Plaintiff monetary damages adequate to compensate Plaintiff for past infringement consistent with 35 U.S.C. §284, together with costs and prejudgment interest.

G. Award Plaintiff its reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §285.

H. Grant and award any and all further relief found just and equitable under these circumstances.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED UNDER F.R.C.P. RULE 38

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury of all issues triable of right by jury.

Respectfully submitted,

AXIS INTERNATIONAL MARKETING LTD., INC.

By: _____
One of its Attorneys

Trent P. Cornell
Whitney B. Mayster
STAHL COWEN CROWLEY LLC
55 West Monroe Street, Suite 1200
Chicago, Illinois 60603
(312) 641-0060
(312) 641-6959 (facsimile)

Daniel P. Albers
Grant H. Peters
BARNES & THORNBURG LLP
One North Wacker Drive, Suite 4400
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 357-1313
(312) 759-5646 (facsimile)

EXHIBIT A

(12) **United States Patent**
Berger

(10) **Patent No.: US 7,066,563 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent: Jun. 27, 2006**

(54) **EXPANDABLE DRAWER ORGANIZER**

(75) Inventor: **Andrew L. Berger**, Des Plaines, IL (US)

(73) Assignee: **Axis International Marketing, Ltd.**, Des Plaines, IL (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 220 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **10/641,482**

(22) Filed: **Aug. 16, 2003**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2004/0155564 A1 Aug. 12, 2004

Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 60/446,196, filed on Feb. 10, 2003.

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A47B 88/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **312/348.3**; 312/205

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 312/348.3, 312/205, 291, 301; 220/544, 534, 529, 551, 220/8, 485, 486, 491, 492
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

958,857	A *	5/1910	Dennis	220/8
2,148,681	A *	2/1939	Cameron	220/551
2,218,300	A *	10/1940	Schuster	220/8
2,504,466	A *	4/1950	Stolzoff	211/11
2,889,924	A *	6/1959	Paulucci	206/561
3,003,840	A *	10/1961	Katzin	312/298
3,145,850	A *	8/1964	Ciborowski	211/133.5
3,244,288	A *	4/1966	Schreter	211/74
3,501,020	A *	3/1970	George	211/184
3,866,788	A *	2/1975	Smit	220/486
4,036,369	A	7/1977	Eisenberg	
4,889,253	A *	12/1989	Schmolian et al.	220/551
4,909,406	A *	3/1990	Wu	220/8
4,982,857	A *	1/1991	Sher	220/4.03
5,016,772	A *	5/1991	Wilk	220/8
5,031,769	A *	7/1991	Shea et al.	206/335
5,384,937	A *	1/1995	Simon	24/295
5,738,425	A *	4/1998	Rosenberg et al.	312/348.3
5,803,276	A *	9/1998	Vogler	211/184
6,279,467	B1	8/2001	Tiemann	
6,341,704	B1 *	1/2002	Michel, Jr.	211/181.1
6,457,594	B1	10/2002	Tiemann	
6,685,037	B1 *	2/2004	Zadak	211/184
6,691,884	B1 *	2/2004	Dwyer	220/4.03
2004/0004420	A1 *	1/2004	Pine et al.	312/348.3
2004/0245254	A1 *	12/2004	Rosenberg et al.	220/507

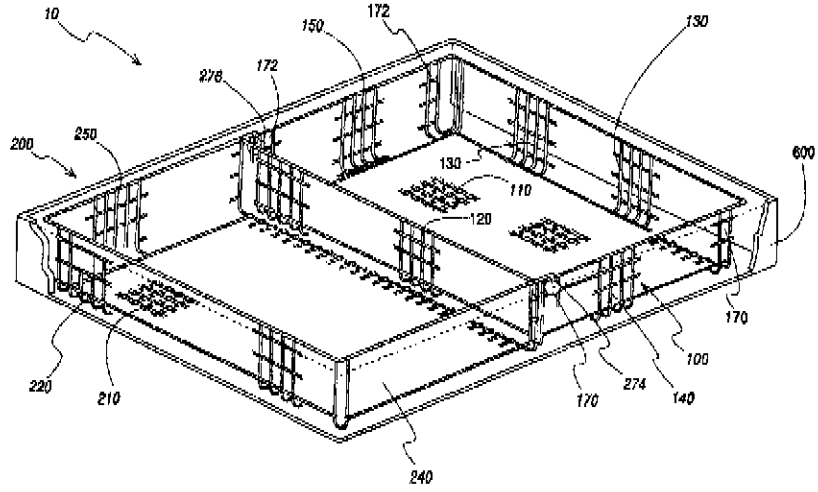
* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner—Janet M. Wilkens
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* Barnes & Thornburg LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Embodiments of an expandable drawer organizer for segregating articles within a drawer are disclosed. Each embodiment utilizes at least one tray maintained in slidable agreement with another a tray, providing for the expandable drawer organizer to be varied to approximate the dimensional constraints of the subject drawer. Each embodiment further employs a locking mechanism for securing the associated trays in a user dictated predetermined position. Additional embodiments utilizing various arrangements of an expandable partition that may be arranged in unique configurations within the various trays is also disclosed. Several embodiments having retainers for further limiting the movement of the expandable drawer organizer within the drawer are also presented.

15 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets



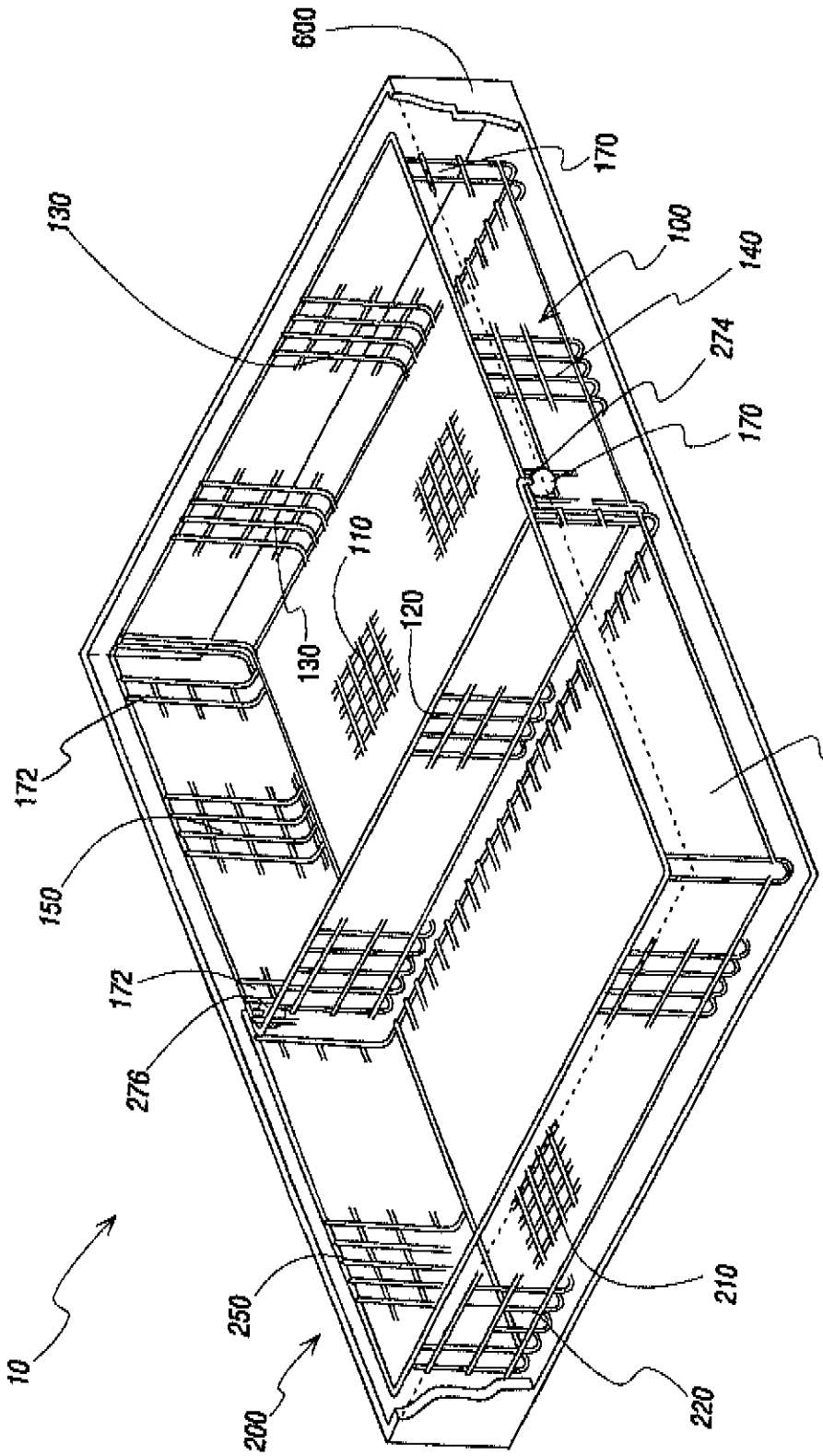

600
170
130
100
140
274
170
110
120
130
172
240
150
172
276
10
250
210
200
220

Fig. 1

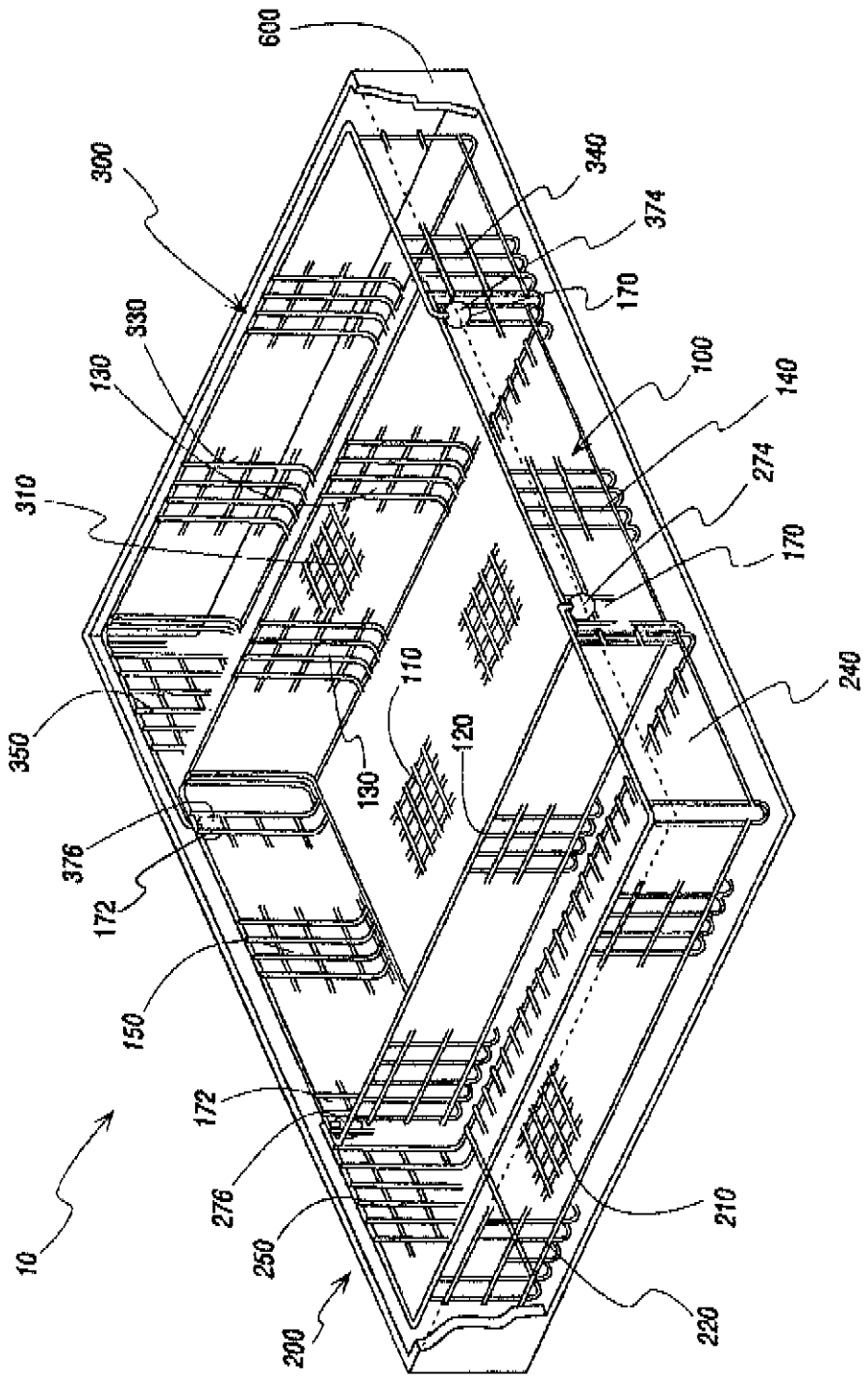

600
300
340
374
170
330
130
100
140
274
310
170
110
240
350
120
130
376
172
150
172
276
250
210
10
200
220

Fig. 2

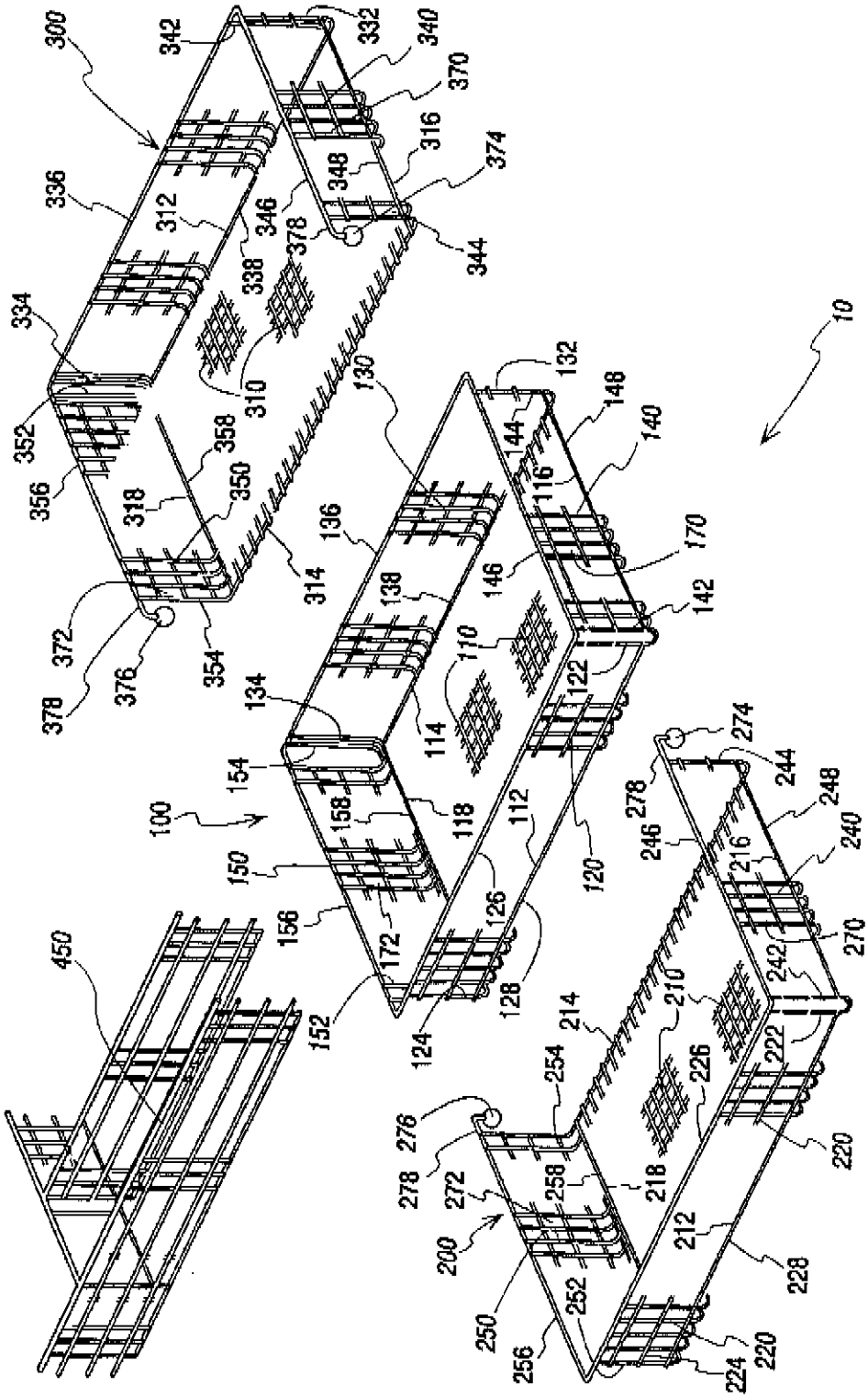

10
100
110
112
114
116
118
120
122
124
126
128
130
132
134
136
138
140
142
144
146
148
150
152
154
156
158
170
172
200
210
212
214
216
218
220
222
224
226
228
240
242
244
246
248
250
252
254
256
258
270
272
274
276
278
300
310
312
314
316
318
332
334
336
338
340
342
344
346
348
350
352
354
356
358
370
372
374
376
378
450

Fig. 3

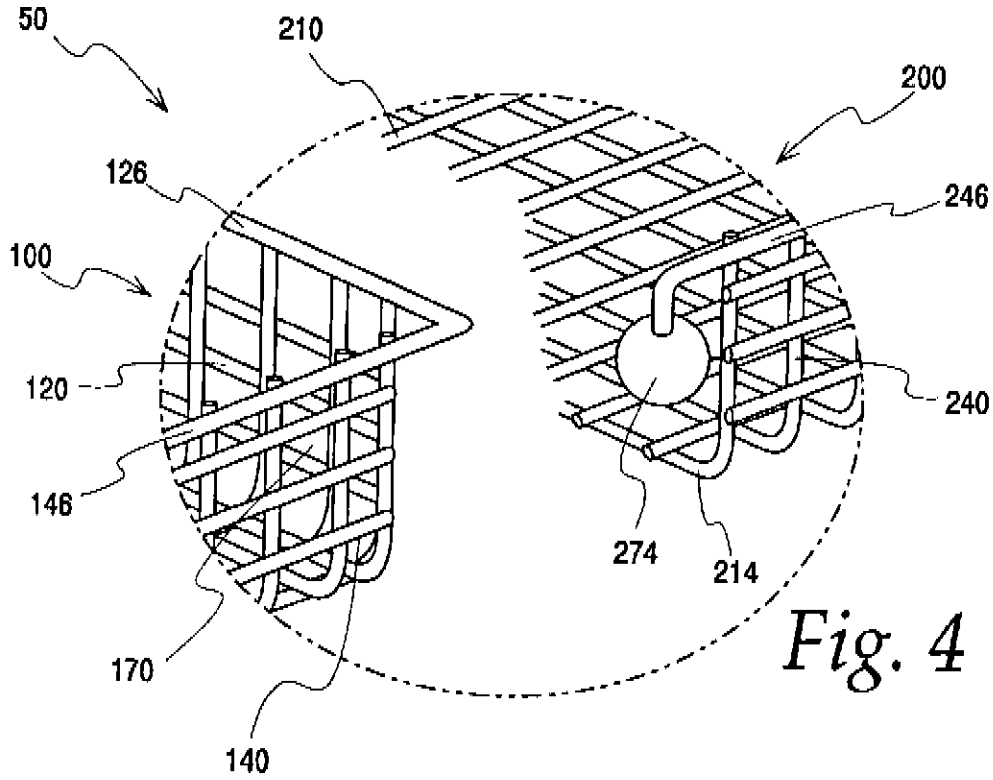

50
210
200
126
246
100
120
240
146
274
214
170
140

Fig. 4

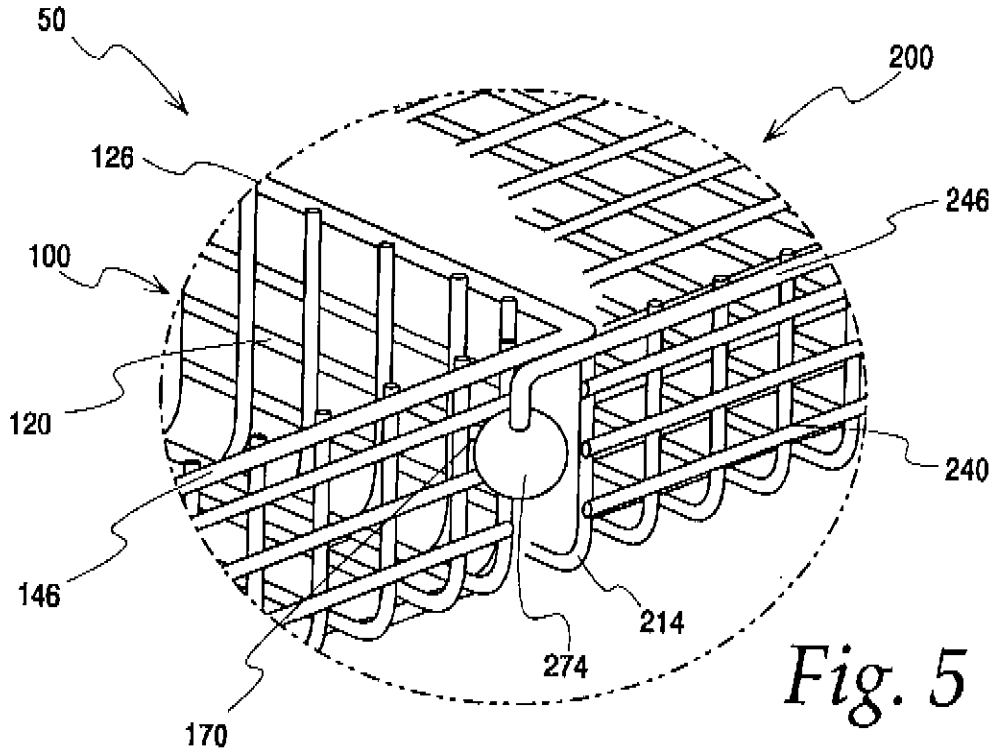

50
200
126
246
100
120
240
146
214
274
170

Fig. 5

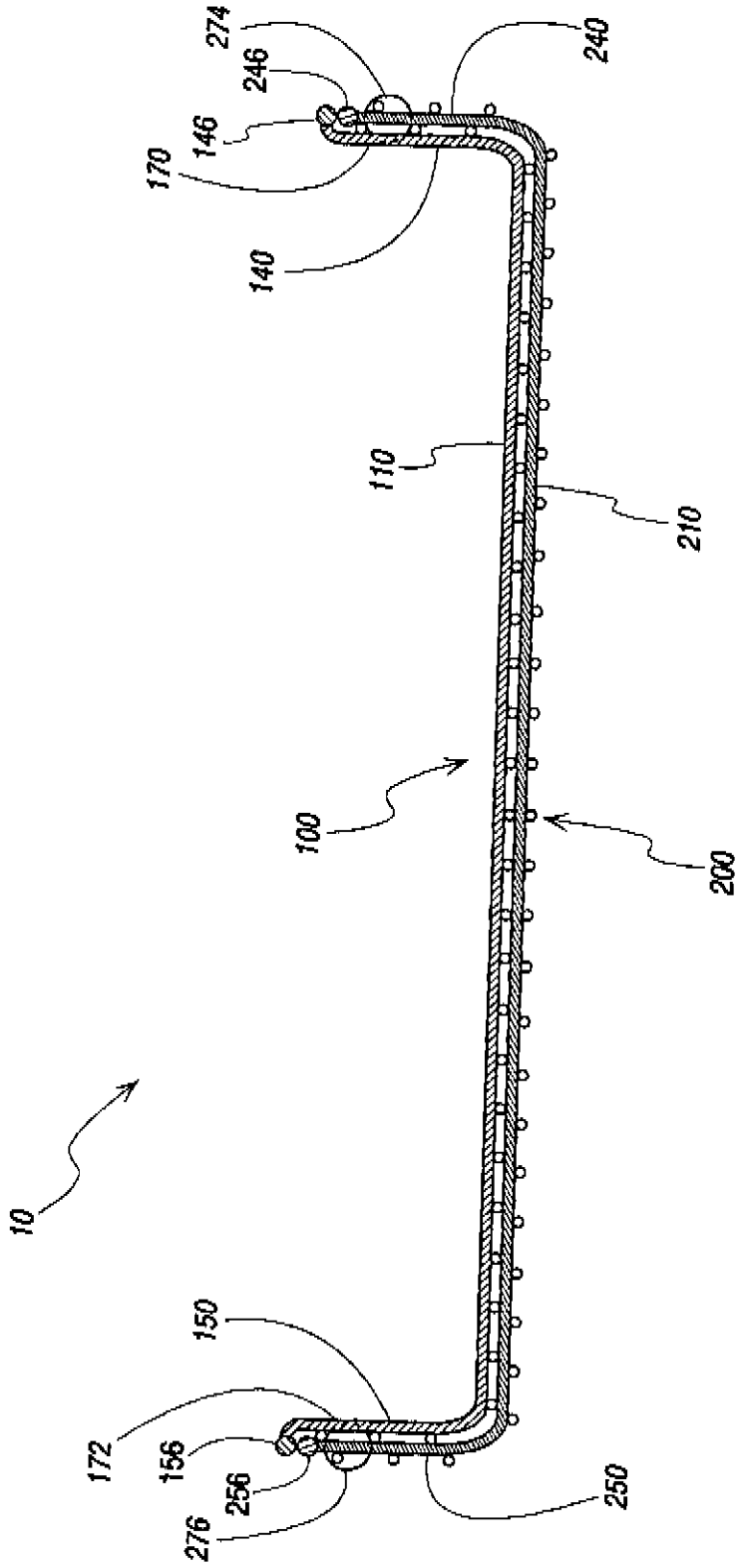

274
246
146
170
140
240
110
210
100
200
10
150
172
156
256
276
250

Fig. 6

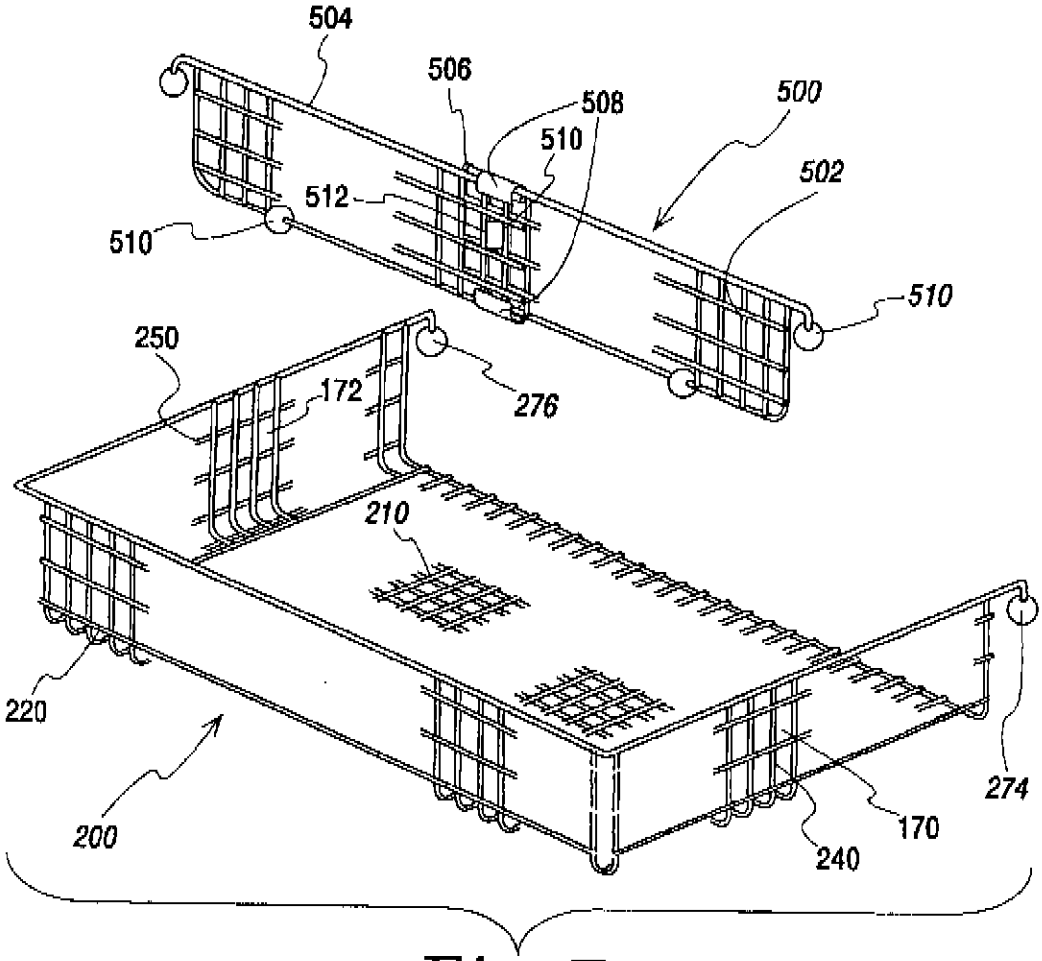

504
506
508
500
510
512
502
510
510
250
172
276
210
220
200
274
170
240

Fig. 7

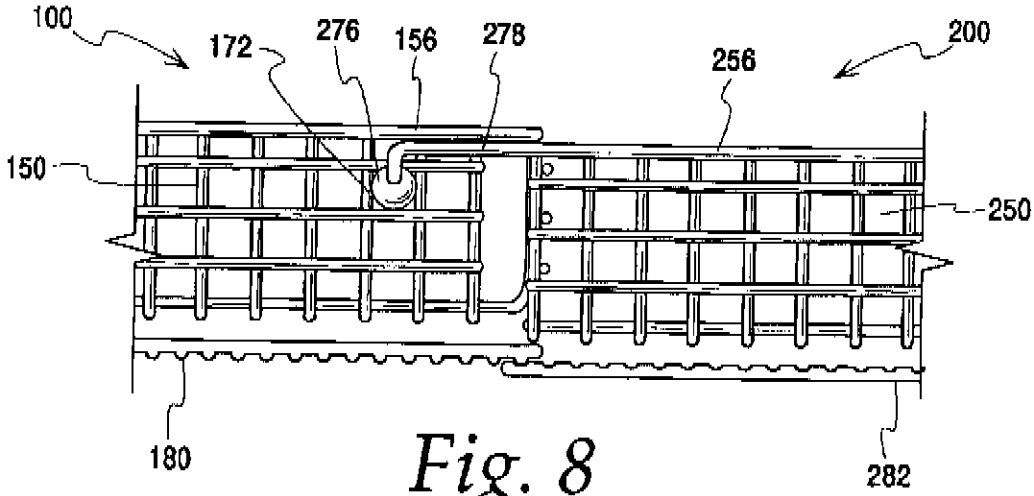

100
172
276
156
278
256
200
150
250
180
282

Fig. 8

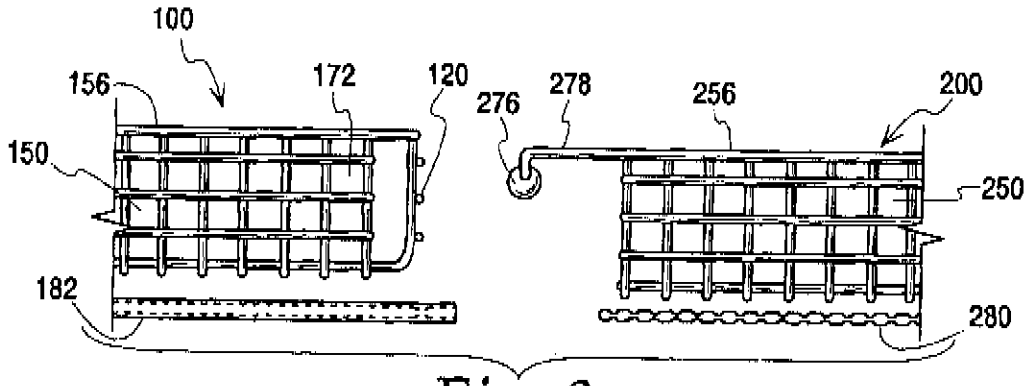


Fig. 9

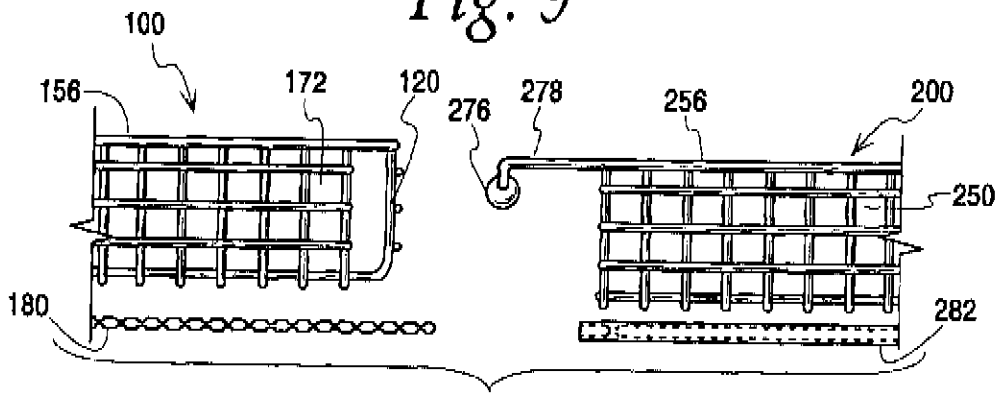


Fig. 10

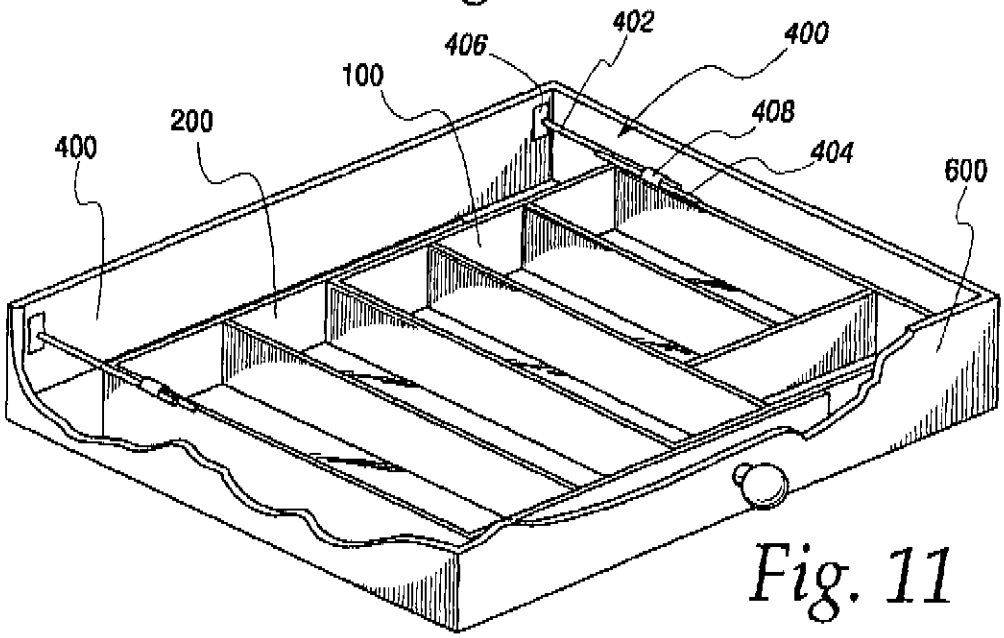


Fig. 11

EXPANDABLE DRAWER ORGANIZER

CLAIM FOR PRIORITY OF INVENTION

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/446,196, Expandable Drawer Organizer, filed 10 Feb. 2003 presently co-pending in accordance with 35 USC § 119 (e).

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention specifically relates to an expandable drawer organizer for accommodating drawers of various sizes and a method for the organization of various articles within a drawer.

2. Description of the Related Art

The efficient organization of various articles within a drawer, whether they are tools, cutlery, hardware, toiletries or other sundry items, has long presented a problem for the users of such items. One such attempt to address the problem has been by the use of boxes positioned within the drawer. However, an inherent shortcoming of this approach is the need to arrange individual boxes into a specific arrangement tailored exclusively to the drawer or other like drawers having the same dimensional configuration. Another drawback is that the boxes may not effectively utilize the drawer area, resulting in an underutilization of the drawer storage capacity, due to the ill fit of the boxes. The use of boxes also raises a durability concern for the user, especially when heavy, bulky or sharp items are concerned which, require that the user frequently replace, repair or discard the damaged boxes. Yet, another issue that this approach fails to address is that of portability; as the boxes are limited to the present configuration within drawers having similar dimensional constraints thereby creating further issues of underutilization based on the drawer area and individual box dimensions. Even if this particular limitation can be overcome, the user is subsequently presented with the time consuming and burdensome task of disassembly and reassembly of the configuration within the new location. It would be advantageous to have an organizer that overcomes the issues presented by this approach.

Another approach is the use of separators, which span either the width, or length of a drawer, which may be of either non-adjustable permanent-type, adjustable permanent-type or temporary construction. These each suffer the inherent difficulty of being specific to the drawer where they are employed and typically lack interchangeability among drawers having different dimensional configurations, this point is most pronounced with the permanently affixed and adjustable permanent-type separators. Often, these approaches require that the drawer be customized to accommodate the separators and prevent the movement or collapse of the separator when the drawer is opened or closed, especially when containing heavy articles, i.e. tools, hardware, dishes, etc. This solution in the case of adjustable permanent-type and temporary separators, like the use of the boxes before, require the user to carefully configure the arrangement of the separators to form spaces that are specific to the article(s) in question, in order to assure optimum utilization of the drawer area. In the case of the non-adjustable permanent-type separators, the user must given careful consideration to the materials to be organized in the drawer, as future modifications imposes the need to remanufacture the drawer to accommodate the new arrangement. Both non-adjustable and adjustable permanent-type separators force the user to incur the increased cost of custom drawers and related components necessary to facilitate the use these separators. In attempts to address the issue of cost concerns native to the non-adjustable and adjustable permanent-type separators; temporary separators have been introduced which, are constructed of less durable materials that often lack the structural integrity required to retain heavy articles without the separator sustaining damage. The user of such temporary separators is often faced with the repeated replacement of the separator over the lifetime of the drawer. Lastly, the use of both permanent-type and temporary separators present an impediment to cleaning the drawer base, as the individual articles must be removed to allow for cleaning the interior drawer surfaces. A device for organization of articles within a drawer that addresses the failings of this approach would be most desirable.

In an endeavor to surmount the inadequacies posed by the previous attempts to compartmentalize drawers by use of either boxes or separators, the use of expanding trays as typified by U.S. Pat. No. 5,738,425, Adjustable Drawer Organizer, has been developed. Although, this device appears to remedy the aforementioned list of deficiencies presented by its precursors, there are a number of distinct new limitations that are imposed upon the user. The first being, that the configuration of these trays is fixed and inflexible, as the tray compartments cannot be rearranged to suit an individual user preference. This issue is further compounded when the expandable organizer is expanded, in such an instance the user is presented with one tray section comprising permanently affixed separators, which establish rigid constraints regarding the compartmentalization of the section, and at least one open tray section wholly devoid of any partition for optimizing the arrangement of articles in the section. This problem requires that boxes must be employed in concert with the expandable organizer to achieve an acceptable means of segregating articles within the open section(s) of the organizer. Attempts to utilize separators in the open section(s) of the organizer fail to generate configurations other than elongated compartments, which may vary from narrow to broad in width. Further efforts to customize the compartments require the user to fashion components specific to the compartment width and secure these to the tray section or separator. The resulting arrangement is a regression to the permanent-type separator approach that is specific for the drawer in question. Another significant issue regarding the drawer organizer is retaining the position of the organizer within a drawer, given a drawer of length greater than the organizer and articles of notable mass. The typical approach has been to affix feet constructed of non-slip material to the bottom of the organizer, and to rely upon gravity and friction to secure the position of the organizer within the drawer. However, when the organizer contains articles of notable mass and the drawer is opened with sufficient force, so as to impart momentum to its contents, the organizer may be slammed to the rear of the drawer and the contents may be disrupted. A device for organization of articles within a drawer that could eliminate these concerns would be of great advantage to a user.

It would be most desirable to a user to have an organizer, which overcomes the collective disadvantages posed by each of the above approaches in the storage of articles in a drawer.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention, an expandable drawer organizer relates to an apparatus for segregating articles within draw-

ers, having differing dimensional parameters. Various aspects of the invention are novel, non-obvious, and provide various advantages. While the actual nature of the present invention covered herein can only be determined with reference to the claims appended hereto, certain features, which are characteristic of the embodiments disclosed herein, are described briefly as follows.

A first aspect of the invention provides an expandable drawer tray for segregating articles in a drawer, wherein a base tray having at least one recess in one of either the front and rear side panel is slidably connected to a first nesting tray having a corresponding protuberance in one of either the front and rear side panel; wherein the base tray and first nesting tray are expanded to a predetermined length in a drawer and maintained in relative position by an locking mechanism. This aspect is largely repeated in another embodiment of the invention having a base tray, first and second nesting tray, slidably connected with a similar locking mechanism for securing the trays at a predetermined length within a drawer. This aspect permits a user to optimize the use of the drawer space constraints without being limited to a set drawer dimensions, thus providing for interchangeability of the expandable drawer organizer and overcoming the previously mentioned portability limitations.

A second aspect of the invention provides for a detachably connected expandable partition that is extended to a predetermined length and therein secured by a locking mechanism, wherein the expandable partition may be arranged in a number of unique user defined arrangements. This aspect directly overcomes the previous need for a customized drawer tray configuration, while simultaneously maintaining the desired interchangeability of the organizer between drawers of differing dimensional constraints.

A third aspect of the invention provides for a detachably connected first and second extendable retainer that is extended to a predetermined length, wherein the extendible retainer secures the position of the expandable drawer organizer within the drawer. Another embodiment of this aspect utilizes an expandable partition in conjunction with the extendable retainer, to provide optimization of the drawer area. This aspect of the invention serves to address the issues of the organizer shifting within the drawer and the utilization of drawer area beyond that covered by the expandable drawer organizer.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a drawing showing a perspective view of an assembled two tray expandable drawer organizer, having a base tray and a first nesting tray, in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. **2** is a drawing showing a perspective view of an assembled three tray expandable drawer organizer, having a base tray, a first nesting tray and a second nesting tray, in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. **3** is a drawing showing a perspective view of an unassembled three tray expandable drawer organizer, having a base tray, a first nesting tray and a second nesting tray, in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. **4** is a drawing showing a detail in perspective view of the locking mechanism of the base tray and first nesting tray of the expandable drawer organizer prior to engagement, in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. **5** is a drawing showing a detail in perspective view of the locking mechanism of the base tray and first nesting tray of the expandable drawer organizer after engagement, in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. **6** is a drawing showing a side view of an assembled two tray expandable drawer organizer, showing the base tray and first nesting tray secured by a locking mechanism in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. **7** is a drawing showing a perspective view showing one example of a possible orientation of an adjustable partition and a first nesting tray of the expandable drawer organizer, in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. **8** is a drawing showing a side view of an alternate embodiment of the locking mechanism securing the base tray and first nesting tray of an assembled two tray expandable drawer organizer.

FIG. **9** is a drawing showing a side view of an alternate embodiment of a two tray expandable drawer organizer having an additional locking mechanism securing the base tray and first nesting tray, wherein a tube with a protrusion in the bore, attached to the base tray; is received by a rod with indentations, attached to the first nesting tray.

FIG. **10** is a drawing showing a side view of an alternate embodiment of a two tray expandable drawer organizer having an additional locking mechanism securing the base tray and first nesting tray, wherein a rod with indentations attached to the base tray; is received by a tube with a protrusion in the bore, attached to the first nesting tray.

FIG. **11** is a drawing showing a perspective view of another embodiment of an assembled two tray expandable drawer organizer, secured with extendable retainers in a drawer.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENTLY PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

FIGS. **1**-**11** illustrate various embodiments of an expandable drawer organizer in accordance with the present invention.

Referring to FIG. **1** one embodiment of a two tray expandable drawer organizer is generally shown at number **10**. The expandable drawer organizer **10** of the present invention generally comprises a base tray **100** and a first nesting tray **200**. The base tray **100** may have a given length and width to allow it to be slidably received by the first nesting tray **200**. This arrangement serves to permit the expandable drawer organizer **10** to accommodate drawers of varying dimensional characteristics permitting a user to optimize the utilization of drawer space without compromising flexibility. The base tray **100** and a first nesting tray **200** may be set at a predetermined length wherein a locking mechanism **50** (FIG. **4**-**6**) comprised of an engagement of the front panel protuberance **274** (FIG. **6**) and rear panel protuberance **276** (FIG. **6**) with the corresponding front panel recess in **170** (FIG. **6**) and rear panel recess **172** (FIG. **6**) is generally formed, which may serve to secure the expandable drawer tray **10** position within the drawer **600**.

Referring to FIGS. **2** and **3** one embodiment of a three tray expandable drawer organizer of the present invention is generally shown at number **10**. The expandable drawer organizer **10** of the present invention generally comprises a base tray **100**, a first nesting tray **200** and a second nesting tray **300**. The base tray **100** may have a given length and width to allow it to be slidably received by both the first nesting tray **200** and second nesting tray **300**. This arrangement serves to permit the expandable drawer organizer **10** to accommodate drawers of varying dimensional characteristics permitting a user to optimize the utilization of drawer space without compromising flexibility. The base tray **100**,

first nesting tray **200** and second nesting tray **300** may be set at a predetermined length wherein a locking mechanism **50** (FIG. 4 6) comprised of an engagement of the front panel protuberance **274** (FIG. 6) and rear panel protuberance **276** (FIG. 6) with the corresponding front panel recess in **170** (FIG. 6) and rear panel recess **172** (FIG. 6) is generally formed, a similar arrangement is generally reflected at each of the second nesting tray **300** front panel protuberance **374** and rear panel protuberance **376** with the corresponding front panel recess in **170** and rear panel recess **172**; which may serve to secure the expandable drawer tray **10** position within the drawer **600**.

Referring to FIGS. **1**, **2** and **3** one embodiment of base tray of the expandable drawer organizer **10** is generally shown at number **100**. The base tray **100** may compromise a bottom panel **110** having a rectangular shape of a given length and width, a first side panel **120** having a rectangular shape of a given height and a length corresponding to the bottom panel **110**, a second side panel **130** having a rectangular shape of a given height and substantially similar length to the first side panel **120**, a front side panel **140** having a rectangular shape of a substantially similar height to each of the first side panel **120** and second side panel **130**, and length corresponding to the base tray **100**, and rear side panel **150** having a rectangular shape of a given height and substantially similar length to the front side panel **140**. The first side panel **120** may be adjoined to the bottom panel **110** in a substantially perpendicular manner, wherein the bottom panel first edge **112** (FIG. **3**) and the first side panel bottom edge **128** (FIG. **3**) are maintained in continuous agreement over their length. The second side panel **130** may be adjoined to the bottom panel **110** in a substantially perpendicular manner, wherein the bottom panel second edge **114** (FIG. **3**) and the second side panel bottom edge **138** (FIG. **3**) are maintained in continuous agreement over their length, wherein the second side panel **130** may be in parallel alignment to the first side panel **120**. The front side panel **140** may be adjoined to the bottom panel **110** in a substantially perpendicular manner, wherein the bottom panel front panel edge **116** (FIG. **3**) and the front side panel bottom edge **148** (FIG. **3**) are maintained in continuous agreement over their length. The front side panel **140** may also be adjoined to each of the first side panel **120** and second side panel **130** in a substantially perpendicular manner, wherein the front side panel first edge **142** (FIG. **3**) and front panel side second edge **144** (FIG. **3**) are maintained in continuous agreement over their length with the respective first side panel front edge **122** (FIG. **3**) and second side panel front edge **132** (FIG. **3**). The rear side panel **150** may be adjoined to the bottom panel **110** in a substantially perpendicular manner, wherein the bottom panel rear edge **118** (FIG. **3**) and the rear side panel bottom edge **158** (FIG. **3**) are maintained in continuous agreement over their length. The rear side panel **150** may also be adjoined to each of the first side panel **120** and second side panel **130** in a substantially perpendicular manner, wherein the rear side panel first edge **152** (FIG. **3**) and rear side panel second edge **154** (FIG. **3**) are maintained in continuous agreement over their length with the respective first side panel rear edge **124** (FIG. **3**) and second side panel rear edge **134** (FIG. **3**). The rear side panel **150** being in substantially parallel alignment with the front side panel **140**. The first side panel top edge **126** (FIG. **3**), second side panel top edge **136** (FIG. **3**), front side panel top edge **146** (FIG. **3**) and rear side panel top edge **156** (FIG. **3**) may exhibit congruency within a common plane. The base tray **100** may be constructed of wood, metal, plastic or any combination thereof that provide suitable structural properties to accommodate the aforementioned construction and provide the desired rigidity. The method of adjoining each of the aforementioned sides may be by any means know in the Mechanical Arts such as welding, soldering, brazing, the use of fasteners, rivets, screws, nails, or the use of adhesives. The base tray **100** may also be manufactured by such techniques as extrusion, cold forming methods i.e., bending, braking, shearing, cutting or hot forming methods i.e., casting or extrusion or combinations thereof that may yield similar construction. The front side panel **140** and rear side panel **150** of the base tray **100** of the present invention may respectively have at least one front side panel recess **170** (FIG. **3**) and rear side panel recess **172** (FIG. **3**), that may be arranged in a row in the face of each panel being of a given shape and depth to accommodate the respective first nesting tray **200** front side panel protuberance **274** (FIG. **3**) and rear side panel protuberance **276** (FIG. **3**) and in the case of the three tray expandable organizer **10** to accommodate the respective second nesting tray **300** front side panel protuberance **374** (FIG. **3**) and rear side panel protuberance **376** (FIG. **3**). In another embodiment of the base tray **100**, the front side panel **140** and rear side panel **150** may respectively have at least one front side panel protuberance and rear side panel protuberance, that may be arranged in a row on the face of each panel being of a given shape and depth to accommodate the respective first nesting tray **200** and second nesting tray **300** front side panel recesses and rear side panel recesses. The base tray **100** may also have partitions **450** (FIG. **3**) adjoined in normal position to the bottom panel **110** and at least one side of the base tray **100** to form compartments of a rectangular nature. In another embodiment, the expandable partitions **500** (FIG. **7**) and fixed length partitions may be employed which may utilize a locking mechanism based upon the arrangement of protuberances and recesses similar to the arrangement utilized to secure the base tray **100**, first nesting tray **200** and second nesting tray **300** at a predetermined length.

Referring to FIGS. **1**, **2** and **3** one embodiment of the first nesting tray is generally shown at number **200**. The first nesting tray **200** may compromise a bottom panel **210** having a rectangular shape of a given length and width, a first side panel **220** having a rectangular shape of a given height and a length corresponding to the bottom panel **210**, a front side panel **240** having a rectangular shape of a substantially similar height to the first side panel **220**, and length corresponding to the first nesting tray **200**, and rear side panel **250** having a rectangular shape of a given height and substantially similar length to the front side panel **240**. The first side panel **220** may be adjoined to the bottom panel **210** in a substantially perpendicular manner, wherein the bottom panel first edge **212** (FIG. **3**) and the first side panel bottom edge **228** (FIG. **3**) are maintained in continuous agreement over their length. The front side panel **240** may be adjoined to the bottom panel **210** in a substantially perpendicular manner, wherein the bottom panel front edge **216** (FIG. **3**) and the front side panel bottom edge **248** (FIG. **3**) are maintained in continuous agreement over their length. The front side panel **240** may also be adjoined to the first side panel **220** in a substantially perpendicular manner, wherein the front side panel first edge **242** (FIG. **3**) and the respective first side panel front edge **222** (FIG. **3**) are maintained in continuous agreement over their length. The rear side panel **250** may be adjoined to the bottom panel **210** in a substantially perpendicular manner, wherein the bottom panel rear edge **218** (FIG. **3**) and the rear side panel bottom edge **258** (FIG. **3**) are maintained in continuous agreement over their length. The rear side panel **250** may also be

adjoined to the first side panel **220** in a substantially perpendicular manner, wherein the rear side panel first edge **252** (FIG. **3**) and respective first side panel rear edge **224** (FIG. **3**) are maintained in continuous agreement over their length. The rear side panel **250** being in substantially parallel alignment with the front side panel **240**. The first side panel top edge **226** (FIG. **3**), front side panel top edge **246** (FIG. **3**) and rear side panel top edge **256** (FIG. **3**) may exhibit congruency within a common plane. The bottom panel second edge **214** (FIG. **3**) is adjoined to the front side panel second edge **244** (FIG. **3**) and rear side panel second edge **254** (FIG. **3**) in a substantially perpendicular manner to form an opening to receive the base tray **100**. The first nesting tray **200** may be constructed of wood, metal, plastic or any combination thereof that provide suitable structural properties to accommodate the aforementioned construction and provide the desired rigidity. The method of adjoining each of the aforementioned sides may be by any means know in the Mechanical Arts such as welding, soldering, brazing, the use of fasteners, rivets, screws, nails, or the use of adhesives. The first nesting tray **200** may also be manufactured by such techniques as extrusion, cold forming methods i.e., bending, braking, shearing, cutting or hot forming methods i.e., casting or extrusion or combinations thereof that may yield similar construction. The front side panel **240** and rear side panel **250** of the first nesting tray **200** of the present invention may respectively have at least one front side panel protuberance **274** (FIG. **3**) and rear side panel protuberance **276** (FIG. **3**), each being attached to a protuberance support **278** (FIG. **3**) which extends from the front side panel top edge **246** (FIG. **3**) and rear side panel top edge **256** (FIG. **3**) respectively. The front side panel protuberance **274** (FIG. **3**) and rear side panel protuberance **276** (FIG. **3**) each forming a head at the proximal end of the protuberance support **278** (FIG. **3**). The protuberance head being of a given solid shape having substantial dimensional compliance to be securely positioned in the respective base tray **100** front panel recess **170** (FIG. **3**) and rear panel recess **172** (FIG. **3**). In another embodiment of the first nesting tray **200**, the front side panel **240** and rear side panel **250** may respectively have at least one front panel protuberance and rear panel protuberance, that may be arranged in a row on the face of each panel being of a given shape and size to accommodate the respective base tray **100** front side panel recess and rear side panel recess. In another embodiment of the first nesting tray **200**, the front side panel **240** and rear side panel **250** may respectively have at least one front side panel recess **270** (FIG. **3**) and rear side panel recess **272** (FIG. **3**), that may be arranged in a row on the face of each panel being of a given shape and depth to accommodate the respective base tray **100** front side panel protuberance and rear side panel protuberance. Subsequently, the expandable drawer organizer **10** may be set at a predetermined length and accordingly maintained by the locking mechanism **50** (FIG. **4**-**6**). In another embodiment the nesting tray **200** may also have expandable partitions **500** (FIG. **7**), fixed length partitions or any combination thereof that may be employed which may utilize a locking mechanism based upon the arrangement of protuberances and recesses similar to the arrangement utilized to secure the base tray **100**, first nesting tray **200** and second nesting tray **300** at a predetermined length. The expandable partitions **500** (FIG. **7**) may be detachably attached in normal position to the bottom panel **210** and at least one side of the first nesting tray **200** to form one or more compartments of a rectangular nature.

Referring to FIGS. **2** and **3** one embodiment of the second nesting tray is generally shown at number **300**. The second nesting tray **300** may compromise a bottom panel **310** having a rectangular shape of a given length and width, a first side panel **330** having a rectangular shape of a given height and a length corresponding to the bottom panel **310**, a front side panel **340** having a rectangular shape of a substantially similar height to the first side panel **330**, and length corresponding to the second nesting tray **300**, and rear side panel **350** having a rectangular shape of a given height and substantially similar length to the front side panel **340**. The first side panel **330** may be adjoined to the bottom panel **310** in a substantially perpendicular manner, wherein the bottom panel first edge **312** (FIG. **3**) and the first side panel bottom edge **338** (FIG. **3**) are maintained in continuous agreement over their length. The front side panel **340** may be adjoined to the bottom panel **310** in a substantially perpendicular manner, wherein the bottom panel front edge **316** (FIG. **3**) and the front side panel bottom edge **348** (FIG. **3**) are maintained in continuous agreement over their length. The front side panel **340** may also be adjoined to the first side panel **330** in a substantially perpendicular manner, wherein the front side panel first edge **342** (FIG. **3**) and the respective first side panel front edge **332** (FIG. **3**) are maintained in continuous agreement over their length. The rear side panel **350** may be adjoined to the bottom panel **310** in a substantially perpendicular manner, wherein the bottom panel rear edge **318** (FIG. **3**) and the rear side panel bottom edge **358** (FIG. **3**) are maintained in continuous agreement over their length. The rear side panel **350** may also be adjoined to the first side panel **330** in a substantially perpendicular manner, wherein the rear side panel first edge **352** (FIG. **3**) and respective first side panel rear edge **334** (FIG. **3**) are maintained in continuous agreement over their length. The rear side panel **350** being in substantially parallel alignment with the front side panel **340**. The first side panel top edge **336** (FIG. **3**), front side panel top edge **346** (FIG. **3**) and rear side panel top edge **356** (FIG. **3**) may exhibit congruency within a common plane. The bottom panel second edge **314** (FIG. **3**) is adjoined to the front side panel second edge **344** (FIG. **3**) and rear side panel second edge **354** (FIG. **3**) in a substantially perpendicular manner to form an opening to receive the base tray **100**. The second nesting tray **300** may be constructed of wood, metal, plastic or any combination thereof that provide suitable structural properties to accommodate the aforementioned construction and provide the desired rigidity. The method of adjoining each of the aforementioned sides may be by any means know in the Mechanical Arts such as welding, soldering, brazing, the use of fasteners, rivets, screws, nails, or the use of adhesives. The second nesting tray **300** may also be manufactured by such techniques as extrusion, cold forming methods i.e., bending, braking, shearing, cutting or hot forming methods i.e., casting or extrusion or combinations thereof that may yield similar construction. The front side panel **340** and rear side panel **350** of the second nesting tray **300** of the present invention may respectively have at least one front side panel protuberance **374** (FIG. **3**) and rear side panel protuberance **376** (FIG. **3**), each being attached to a protuberance support **378** (FIG. **3**) which extends from the front side panel top edge **346** (FIG. **3**) and rear side panel top edge **356** (FIG. **3**) respectively. The front side panel protuberance **374** (FIG. **3**) and rear side panel protuberance **376** (FIG. **3**) each forming a head at the proximal end of the protuberance support **378** (FIG. **3**). The protuberance head being of a given solid shape having substantial dimensional compliance to be securely positioned in the respective base tray **100** front panel recess **170** (FIG. **3**) and rear panel recess **172** (FIG. **3**). In another embodiment of the second nesting tray **300**, the front side

panel **340** and rear side panel **350** may respectively have at least one front panel protuberance and rear panel protuberance, that may be arranged in a row on the face of each panel being of a given shape and size to accommodate the respective base tray **100** front side panel recess **170** (FIG. 3) and rear side panel recess **172** (FIG. 3). In another embodiment of the second nesting tray **300**, the front side panel **340** and rear side panel **350** may respectively have at least one front side panel recess **370** (FIG. 3) and rear side panel recess **372** (FIG. 3), that may be arranged in a row on the face of each panel being of a given shape and depth to accommodate the respective base tray **100** front side panel protuberance and rear side panel protuberance. Subsequently, the expandable drawer organizer **10** may be set at a predetermined length and accordingly maintained by the locking mechanism **50** (FIG. **4**-**6**). In another embodiment the nesting tray **300**, may also have expandable partitions **500** (FIG. 7), fixed length partitions or any combination thereof that may be employed which may utilize a locking mechanism based upon the arrangement of protuberances and recesses similar to the arrangement utilized to secure the base tray **100**, first nesting tray **200** and second nesting tray **300** at a predetermined length. The expandable partitions **500** (FIG. 7) may be detachably attached in normal position to the bottom panel **310** and at least one side of the second nesting tray **300** to form compartments of a rectangular nature.

Referring to FIGS. **4**, **5** and **6** the present embodiment of a locking mechanism is generally shown at number **50** for a two tray organizer **10**. FIGS. **4** and **5** provide an exploded partial view of the locking mechanism **50** respectively in a disengaged and engaged state, wherein the base tray **100** and the first nesting tray **200** are separated, and the relative orientation of the base tray **100** first side panel **120** and front side panel **140** with respect to the first nesting tray **200** front side panel **240** is provided. The locking mechanism **50** may comprise a base tray **100** having a first set of top rails formed by the front side panel top edge **146** (FIG. **6**) and the rear side panel top edge **156** (FIG. 6) that respectively may ride on a first bottom set of rails formed by the front side panel top edge **246** (FIG. 6) and the rear side panel top edge **256** (FIG. 6) of the first nesting tray **200**. The first top and bottom set of rails provide a means for slidably conveying the base tray **100** within the first nesting tray **200** while providing simultaneous alignment of the respective trays to permit the engagement of the front side panel protuberance **274** and rear side panel protuberance **276** respectively with the front side panel recess **170** and rear side panel recess **172**. In the three tray embodiment of the expandable drawer organizer **10** of the present invention, the locking mechanism **50** may comprise a second bottom rail. The top set of rails formed by the front side panel top edge **146** (FIG. **3**) and the rear side panel top edge **156** (FIG. **3**) that respectively may ride on a second bottom set of rails formed by the front side panel top edge **346** (FIG. 3) and the rear side panel top edge **356** (FIG. **3**) of the second nesting tray **300**. The first and second sets of top and bottom rails provide a means for slidably conveying the base tray **100** within the first nesting tray **200** and second nesting tray **300** (FIG. **3**) while simultaneously providing alignment of the respective trays to permit the engagement of the front side panel protuberances **274** and **374** rear side panel protuberances **276** and **376** respectively with the front side panel recesses **170** and rear side panel recesses **172**.

The locking mechanism **50** of the present embodiment of the two drawer organizer **10** may comprise a protuberance support **278**, which extends from the front side panel top edge **246** and rear side panel top edge **256**. The three tray drawer organizer **10** may comprise a protuberance support **378** (FIG. 3), which extends from the front side panel top edge **346** (FIG. 3) and rear side panel top edge **356** (FIG. 3) respectively. The protuberance supports **278** and **378** impart a constant force to the attached protuberance(s) as a function of spring tension, which may be accomplished as a function of bending, pre-forming or the attachment of springs to tensionably accomplish this function. The front side panel protuberance **274** and rear side panel protuberance **276** each forming a head at the proximal end of the protuberance support **278**. The protuberance head being of a given solid shape having substantial dimensional compliance to be securely positioned in the respective base tray **100** front side panel recess **170** and rear side panel recess **172**. In another embodiment, the locking mechanism **50** may comprise, the front side panel **240** and rear side panel **250** of the first nesting tray **200** respectively having at least one front side panel protuberance and rear side panel protuberance, that may be arranged in a row on the face of each panel. The front and rear side panel protuberance being of a given shape and size to accommodate the respective front side panel recess and rear side panel recess located in base tray **100** front side panel **140** and rear side panel **150**. The protuberance may be attached to a spring and retained in an opening, wherein a given portion of the protuberance may project through the opening to engage a corresponding recess.

In another embodiment, the locking mechanism **50** may comprise, the front side panel **240** and rear side panel **250** of first nesting tray **200** respectively having at least one front side panel recess and rear side panel recess, that may be arranged in a row on the face of each panel being of a given shape and depth to accommodate the respective front side panel protuberance and rear side panel protuberance in base tray **100** front side panel **140** and rear side panel **150**. The protuberance may be attached to a spring and retained in an opening, wherein a given portion of the protuberance may project through the opening to engage a recess.

Referring to FIG. **7** the present embodiment of an expandable partition is generally shown at number **500** for an expandable drawer organizer **10**. FIG. **7** provides an perspective view of the expandable partition **500** in a disengaged state in respect to the first nesting tray **200** wherein the relative orientation of the expandable partition **500** is substantially parallel to first side panel **220** of the first nesting tray. The expandable partition **500** may be comprised of a first panel **502** and a second panel **504**, which may be of similar construction to the first nesting tray **200** (FIG. 3) front side panel **240** (FIG. 3) and rear side panel **250** (FIG. **3**); which may be held in slidable communication with at least one panel coupler **508** connected to either of the first panel **502** and second panel **504** top edge, and the first panel **502** and second panel **504** bottom edge. The coupler may comprise any means known in the Mechanical Arts to join panels or similar surfaces when in substantially parallel alignment. The ends of the first panel **502** and second panel **504** edge, and the first panel **502** and second panel **504** bottom edge may have a stop **506**, which serves to prevent the accidental separation of the expandable partition **500** by restricting the movement of the panel coupler **508** on the first panel **502** and second panel **504** top edge, and the first panel **502** and second panel **504** bottom edge. The locking mechanism **50** may also be incorporated in the present embodiment of the expandable partition **500** wherein a protuberance **510** located in either of the first panel **502** and second panel **504** engage a corresponding recess **512** in the respective adjoining panel under constant force. Each of the first panel **502** and second panel **504** may also have a protuberance **510**

located on the bottom edge, which may engage a corresponding recess in the bottom panel **210**. The expandable partition **500** may also incorporate a protuberance **510** attached to projection on the first panel **502** and second panel **504** top edge, that may engage the first nesting tray **200** front panel recess **170** and rear panel recess **172**, respectively.

Referring to FIGS. **8**, **9** and **10** an alternate embodiment of a locking mechanism is generally shown at numbers **180**, **182**, **280** and **282** for a two tray organizer **10**. FIGS. **8**, **9** and **10** provide an exploded partial view of the alternate locking mechanism **180**, **182**, **280** and **282** wherein the base tray **100** and the first nesting tray **200** are engaged (FIG. **8**) and disengaged (FIGS. **9** and **10**).

In FIG. **8** one embodiment of the locking mechanism is shown wherein the base tray **100** may have at least one male rod **180** of a given gauge and a given length; not in excess of the bottom panel front edge **116** (FIG. **3**), attached to the bottom panel **110** (FIG. **3**), in substantially parallel alignment to the bottom panel front edge **116** (FIG. **3**) and bottom panel rear edge **118** (FIG. **3**), the rod having a series of protrusions about the bottom surface The first nesting tray **200** may have at least one female rod **282**, of a given gauge and length; having at least one indentation along the length of the topmost surface; not in excess of the front side panel bottom edge **248** (FIG. **3**); attached to the bottom panel **210** (FIG. **3**) in substantially parallel alignment to the front side panel bottom edge **248** (FIG. **3**) and rear panel bottom edge **258** (FIG. **3**), whereby the base tray **100** and male rod **180** are slidably engaged by said first nesting tray **200** and female rod **282**, wherein the male rod **180** protrusion may be received by at least one indentation on the surface of the female rod **282**, thereby maintaining the relative position of the base tray **100** and first nesting tray **200**.

In FIG. **9** one embodiment of the locking mechanism is shown wherein the base tray **100** may have at least one tube **182** of a given gauge and a given length; not in excess of the bottom panel front edge **116** (FIG. **3**) attached to the bottom panel **110** (FIG. **3**), in substantially parallel alignment to the bottom panel front edge **116** (FIG. **3**) and bottom panel rear edge **118** (FIG. **3**), the tube **182** having at least one protrusion within the bore. The first nesting tray **200** may have at least one rod **280** having a series of indentations, of a given gauge and length; not in excess of the front side panel bottom edge **248** (FIG. **3**); attached to the bottom panel **210** (FIG. **3**) in substantially parallel alignment to the front side panel bottom edge **248** (FIG. **3**) and rear side panel bottom edge **258** (FIG. **3**), that is received by tube **182**, whereby the base tray **100** and tube **182** are slidably engaged by said first nesting tray **200** and rod **280**, wherein at least one of the indentations may be engaged by the protrusion within the bore of tube **182**, thereby maintaining the relative position of the base tray **100** and first nesting tray **200**

In FIG. **10** one embodiment of the locking mechanism is shown wherein the base tray **100** may have at least one rod **180** of a given gauge and a given length; not in excess of the bottom panel front edge **116** (FIG. **3**), attached to the bottom panel **110** (FIG. **3**), in substantially parallel alignment to the bottom panel front edge **116** (FIG. **3**) and bottom panel rear edge **118** (FIG. **3**), the rod **180** having a series of indentations The first nesting tray **200** may have at least one tube **282**, of a given gauge having at least one protrusion within the bore and length; not in excess of the front side panel bottom edge **248** (FIG. **3**); attached to the bottom panel **210** (FIG. **3**) in substantially parallel alignment to the front side panel bottom edge **248** (FIG. **3**) and rear panel bottom edge **258** (FIG. **3**), whereby the base tray **100** and rod are slidably engaged by said first nesting tray **200** and tube **282**, wherein the rod **180** may be received by tube wherein at least one of the indentations may be engaged by the protrusion within the bore of the tube **282**, thereby maintaining the relative position of the base tray **100** and first nesting tray **200**.

Referring to FIG. **11** an extendable retainer mechanism is generally shown at number **400** for a three tray expandable organizer **10**. FIG. **11** provides a perspective view of the three tray expandable organizer **10** with the extendable retainer mechanism **400** in place in a cutaway view of drawer **600**. The extendable retainer mechanism **400** may comprise an extension arm **402** in slidable agreement with a friction stop/sleeve **404**, which may be detachably connected to the rearmost proximity of the base tray **100** second side panel top edge **136** (FIG. **3**) and the first nesting tray **200** first side panel top edge **226** (FIG. **3**) by an extension arm connector **408** that clips over the respective panel edge. The extension arm **402** may have a given length and profile to provide for a channel to be formed about the longitudinal axis that permits the friction stop/sleeve **404** to ride therein. This channel may be tapered or reticulated to inhibit the movement of the friction stop/sleeve **404** about the channel length. The friction stop/sleeve **404** may be of a given length and of an opposing profile to the extension arm **402**, such that the friction stop/sleeve **404** provides nominal alignment and moderate degree of friction, which is amplified upon assembly with the extension arm connector. This provides for the user to adjust the extendable retainer mechanism to achieve adequate tautness of the expandable organizer **10**. The extension arm **402** and friction stop/sleeve **404** may be formed from wood, ferrous or non-ferrous materials adequate to provide substantial rigidity and required structural properties. The extension arm connector **408** may be shaped to tensionably retain an extension arm **402** in slidable communication with the friction stop/sleeve **404** thereby preventing the extension arm **402** from collapsing under load after being set to a predetermined length. The extension arm **402** may be fitted with a foot **406** at the distal end of the extension arm **402**, wherein contact with the drawer **600** surface is maintained. The foot **402** may further comprise a flexible pad, to prevent marring or scratching the interior drawer **600** surface. The extendable retainer mechanism **400** serves to prevent the expandable drawer organizer **10** from shifting within a drawer **600** when subjected to impulse forces. In another embodiment the extendable retainer mechanism **400** may be configured from an expandable partition **500** (FIG. **7**) designed to be attached to the base tray **100** second side panel top edge **136** (FIG. **3**) and the first nesting tray **200** first side panel top edge **226** (FIG. **3**) by an extension arm connector **408** that clips over the respective panel edge. Subsequently, this embodiment provides for the use of expandable partitions with the extendable retainer, thereby allowing the organization of the drawer to be optimized.

While the embodiments of the present invention disclosed herein are presently considered to be preferred, various changes and modifications can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention. The scope of the present invention is indicated in the appended claims, and all changes that come within the meaning and range of equivalents are intended to be embraced therein.

What is claimed is:

1. An expandable drawer organizer for segregating articles within a drawer comprising:

a base tray having a bottom panel, a front side panel, a rear side panel, a first side panel and a second side panel wherein, the front side panel, rear side panel, first side panel and second side panel are affixed to the respective

edges of the bottom panel in a substantially perpendicular fashion, wherein the front side panel and rear side panel are in substantially parallel alignment and adjoined to the first side panel and second side panel in a substantially perpendicular manner, the first side panel and second side panel which are in substantially parallel alignment,

a first nesting tray having a bottom panel having a length and width slightly greater than the base tray, that will permit the base tray to be slidably received in spaced relationship, a front side panel, a rear side panel, and a fist side panel wherein, the front side panel, rear side panel, and first side panel are affixed to the respective edges of the bottom panel in a substantially perpendicular fashion, wherein the front side panel and rear side panel are in substantially parallel alignment and adjoined to the first side panel in a substantially perpendicular manner, wherein the base tray is received by the first nesting tray,

a locking mechanism incorporated into the base tray and first nesting tray for securing the base tray and nesting tray wherein the base tray and first nesting tray are maintained in a predetermined position, said base tray has at least one protuberance on at least one of either the front side panel and rear side panel, and said first nesting tray has at least one recess in one of either the front side panel and rear side panel, to engage the protuberance in the corresponding panel of said base tray under a generally constant force, and on each of the front side panel and rear side panel of said first nesting tray has at least one recess in each of the front side panel and rear side panel, that engage the protuberance in the corresponding panel of said base tray under a generally constant force, and

at least one partition affixed to one of either of the front side panel, rear side panel, first side panel and second side panel of the base tray in substantially perpendicular alignment to the adjoining side panel and the bottom panel, for segregating articles within the base tray.

2. An expandable drawer organizer for segregating articles within a drawer comprising:

a base tray having a bottom panel, a front side panel, a rear side panel, a first side panel and a second side panel wherein, the front side panel, rear side panel, first side panel and second side panel are affixed to the respective edges of the bottom panel in a substantially perpendicular fashion, wherein the front side panel and rear side panel are in substantially parallel alignment and adjoined to the first side panel and second side panel in a substantially perpendicular manner, the first side panel and second side panel which are in substantially parallel alignment,

a first nesting tray having a bottom panel having a length and width slightly greater than the base tray, that will permit the base tray to be slidably received in spaced relationship, a front side panel, a rear side panel, and a first side panel wherein, the front side panel, rear side panel, and first side panel are affixed to the respective edges of the bottom panel in a substantially perpendicular fashion, wherein the front side panel and rear side panel are in substantially parallel alignment and adjoined to the first side panel in a substantially perpendicular manner, wherein the base tray is received by the first nesting tray,

a locking mechanism incorporated into the base tray and first nesting tray for securing the base tray and nesting tray wherein the base tray and first nesting tray are maintained in a predetermined position,

at least one partition expandably and detachably connected to one of either said base tray and first nesting tray, further comprising:

a first panel of a given height and length with a row having at least one recess, and a row having at least one protuberance,

a second panel of a given height and length with a row having at least one recess, and a row having at least one protuberance, wherein the rows alternately correspond to engage under a generally constant force with the first panel, to permit the predetermined expanded length to be maintained, at least one coupler attached to the lengthwise edge of the first panel and second panel, whereby the first panel and second panel are maintained slidably in substantial parallelism,

at least one protuberance on each of the first panel and second panel located on the bottom side edge, wherein said partition is expanded to a predetermined length and the protuberance on each of the bottom side edge of the first panel and second panel engage a corresponding recess from a group consisting of: said base tray bottom panel and first nesting tray bottom panel, and

at least one protuberance on each of the first panel and second panel located at far extents of said partition on the heightwise edge, wherein said partition is expanded to a predetermined length and the protuberance on each of the heightwise edge of the first panel and second panel engage a corresponding recess under a generally constant force from a group consisting of: said base tray front side panel and rear side panel, first nesting tray front side panel and rear side panel, said base tray first and second side panel, said base tray first side panel and said first nesting tray first side panel, said base tray front side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions, said base tray rear side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions, said base tray first side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions, said base tray second side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions, said first nesting tray front side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions, said first nesting tray rear side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions, said first nesting tray first side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions, and two another of said expandable partitions in substantial parallel alignment.

3. The expandable drawer organizer of claim 2 wherein the expandable partion further comprising a hook attached to the topmost opposing corner of heightwise edge of each of the first panel and second panel, that secure said expandable partition to a normal surface.

4. The expandable drawer organizer of claim 3 wherein said hook of the expandable partition terminates in a head that engages a recall adjacent to the recess engaged by the protuberance on each of the heightwise edge of the first panel and second panel, the corresponding recess from a group consisting of: said base tray front side panel and rear side panel, first nesting tray front side panel and rear side panel, said base tray first and second side panel, said base tray first side panel and said first nesting tray first side panel, said base tray front side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions said base tray rear side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions, said base tray first side panel and normal another of said expandable

partitions, said base tray second side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions, said first nesting tray front side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions, said first nesting tray rear side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions, said first side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions, and two another of said expandable partitions in substantial parallel alignment.

5. An expandable drawer organizer for segregating articles within a drawer comprising:

a base tray having a bottom panel, a front side panel, a rear side panel, a first side panel and a second side panel wherein, the front side panel, rear side panel, first side panel and second side panel are affixed to the respective edges of the bottom panel in a substantially perpendicular fashion, wherein the front side panel and rear side panel are in substantially parallel alignment and adjoined to the first side panel and second side panel in a substantially perpendicular manner, the first side panel and second side panel which are in substantially parallel alignment,

a first nesting tray having a bottom panel having a length and width slightly greater than the base tray, that will permit the base tray to be slidably received in spaced relationship, a front side panel, a rear side panel and a first side panel wherein, the front side panel, rear side panel, and first side panel are affixed to the respective edges of the bottom panel in a substantially perpendicular fashion, wherein the front side panel and rear side panel are in substantially parallel alignment and adjoined to the first side panel in a substantially perpendicular manner, wherein the base tray is received by the first nesting tray,

a locking mechanism incorporated into the base tray and first nesting tray for securing the base tray and nesting tray wherein the base tray and first nesting tray are maintained in a predetermined position,

at least one partition detachably connected to one of either said base tray and first nesting tray, further comprising;

a first panel of a given height and length, having at least one protuberance located on the front and rear side, wherein the protuberances alternately correspond to engage a recess under a generally constant force within a row located from a group consisting of: said base tray front side panel and rear side panel, first nesting tray front side panel and rear side panel, said base tray first and second side panel, said base tray first side panel and said first nesting tray first side panel, said base tray front side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions said base tray rear side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions, said base tray first side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions said base tray second side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions, said first nesting tray front side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions said first nesting tray rear side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions said first nesting tray first side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions, and two another of said partitions in substantial parallel alignment.

6. An expandable drawer organizer for segregating articles within a drawer comprising:

a base tray having a bottom panel, a front side panel, a rear side panel, a first side panel and a second side panel wherein, the front side panel, rear side panel, first side panel and second side panel are affixed to the respective edges of the bottom panel in a substantially perpendicular fashion, wherein the front side panel and rear side panel are in substantially parallel alignment and adjoined to the first side panel and second side panel in a substantially perpendicular manner, the first side panel and second side panel which are in substantially parallel alignment; a first nesting tray having a bottom panel having a length and width slightly greater than the base tray, that will permit the base tray to be slidably received in spaced relationship, a front side panel, a rear side panel, and a first side panel wherein, the front side panel, rear side panel, and first side panel are affixed to the respective edges of the bottom panel in a substantially perpendicular fashion, wherein the front side panel and rear side panel are in substantially parallel alignment and adjoined to the first side panel in a substantially perpendicular manner, wherein the base tray is received by the first nesting tray, wherein: said base tray has at least one tube of a given gauge and a given length; not in excess of the bottom panel front edge width, attached to the bottom panel, in substantially parallel alignment to the bottom panel front and rear edge, said tube defining a bore and having at least one protrusion within the bore; and said first nesting tray has at least one rod having a series of indentations, of a given gauge and length; not in excess of the first nesting tray bottom panel front edge width; attached to the bottom panel in substantially parallel alignment to the bottom panel front and rear edge, in proximity of the first nesting tray first side panel bottom edge, that is received by said tube, whereby said base tray and tube are slidably engaged by said first nesting tray and rod, wherein at least one of the indentations is engaged by the protrusion within said bore, thereby maintaining the relative position of said base tray and first nesting tray,

a locking mechanism incorporated into the base tray and first nesting tray for securing the base tray and nesting tray wherein the base tray and first nesting tray are maintained in a predetermined position, and

at least one partition affixed to one of either of the front side panel, rear side panel, first side panel and second side panel of the base tray in substantially perpendicular alignment to the adjoining side panel and the bottom panel, for segregating articles within the base tray.

7. An expandable drawer organizer for segregating articles within a drawer comprising:

a base tray having a bottom panel, a front side panel, a rear side panel, a first side panel and a second side panel wherein, the front side panel, rear side panel, first side panel and second side panel are affixed to the respective edges of the bottom panel in a substantially perpendicular fashion, wherein the front side panel and rear side panel are in substantially parallel alignment and adjoined to the first side panel and second side panel in a substantially perpendicular manner, the first side panel and second side panel which are in substantially parallel alignment,

a first nesting tray having a bottom panel having a length and width slightly greater than the base tray, that will permit the base tray to be slidably received in spaced relationship, a front side panel, a rear side panel, and a first side panel wherein, the front side panel, rear side panel, and first side panel are affixed to the respective edges of the bottom panel in a substantially perpendicular fashion, wherein the front side panel and rear side panel are in substantially parallel alignment and

adjoined to the first side panel in a substantially perpendicular manner, wherein the base tray is received by the first nesting tray,

said first nesting tray has at least one tube, of a given gauge and length; not in excess of the first nesting tray bottom panel front edge width; attached to the bottom panel in substantially parallel alignment to the bottom panel front and rear edge, in proximity of the first nesting tray first side panel bottom, said tube defining a bore and having at least one protrusion within the bore;

said base tray has at least one rod having a series of indentations of a given gauge and a given length; not in excess of the bottom panel front edge width, attached to the bottom panel, in substantially parallel alignment to the bottom panel front and rear edge, that is received by said tube; whereby said base tray and tube are slidably engaged by said first nesting tray and rod, wherein at least one of the indentations is engaged by the protrusion within said bore, thereby maintaining the relative position of said base tray and first nesting tray,

a locking mechanism incorporated into the base tray and first nesting tray for securing the base tray and nesting tray wherein the base tray and first nesting tray are maintained in a predetermined position, and

at least one partition affixed to one of either of the front side panel, rear side panel, first side panel and second side panel of the base tray in substantially perpendicular alignment to the adjoining side panel and the bottom panel, for segregating articles within the base tray.

8. An expandable drawer organizer for segregating articles within a drawer comprising:

a base tray having a bottom panel, a front side panel, a rear side panel, a first side panel and a second side panel wherein, the front side panel, rear side panel, first side panel and second side panel are affixed to the respective edges of the bottom panel in a substantially perpendicular fashion, wherein the front side panel and rear side panel are in substantially parallel alignment and adjoined to the first side panel and second side panel in a substantially perpendicular manner, the first side panel and second side panel which are in substantially parallel alignment, wherein, said base tray has at least one recess in at least one of either the front side panel and rear side panel,

a first nesting tray having a bottom panel having a given length comprising a range slightly greater than the length of the base tray to slightly less than half of the base tray length, and width slightly greater than the base tray, that will permit the base tray to be slidably received in spaced relationship, a front side panel, a rear side panel, and a first side panel wherein, the front side panel, rear side panel, and first side panel are affixed to the respective edges of the bottom panel in a substantially perpendicular fashion, wherein the front side panel and rear side panel are in substantially parallel alignment and adjoined to the first side panel in a substantially perpendicular manner, wherein the base tray is received by the first nesting tray,

a second nesting tray having a bottom panel having a given length and width slightly larger than the base tray and slightly less than the given length of the first nesting tray, that will permit the base tray to be slidably received in spaced relationship, a front side panel, a rear side panel, and a first side panel wherein, the front side panel, rear side panel, and first side panel are affixed to the respective edges of the bottom panel in a substantially perpendicular fashion, wherein the front side panel and rear side panel are in substantially parallel alignment and adjoined to the first side panel in a substantially perpendicular manner, wherein the base tray is received by the second nesting tray,

a locking mechanism incorporated into the base tray, first and second nesting tray for securing the base tray, first and second nesting tray wherein the base tray, first and second nesting tray are maintained in a predetermined position,

said first and second nesting tray have at least one protuberance on one of either the front side, panel and rear side panel, that engage the recess in the corresponding panel of said base tray under a generally constant force and each of the front side panel and rear side panel of said first and second nesting tray have at least one protuberance on each of the front side panel and rear side panel, that engage the recess in the corresponding panel of said base tray under a generally constant force, and

at least one partition affixed to one of either said base tray, first and second nesting tray for segregating articles within the base tray.

9. An expandable drawer organizer for segregating articles within a drawer comprising:

a base tray having a bottom panel, a front side panel, a rear side panel, a first side panel and a second side panel wherein, the front side panel, rear side panel, first side panel and second side panel are affixed to the respective edges of the bottom panel in a substantially perpendicular fashion, wherein the front side panel and rear side panel are in substantially parallel alignment and adjoined to the first side panel and second side panel in a substantially perpendicular manner, the first side panel and second side panel which are in substantially parallel alignment,

a first nesting tray having a bottom panel having a given length comprising a range slightly greater than the length of the base tray to slightly less than half of the base tray length, and width slightly greater than the base tray, that will permit the base tray to be slidably received in spaced relationship, a front side panel, a rear side panel, and a first side panel wherein, the front side panel, rear side panel, and first side panel are affixed to the respective edges of the bottom panel in a substantially perpendicular fashion, wherein the front side panel and rear side panel are in substantially parallel alignment and adjoined to the first side panel in a substantially perpendicular manner, wherein the base tray is received by the first nesting tray,

a second nesting tray having a bottom panel having a given length and width slightly larger than the base tray and slightly less than the given length of the first nesting tray, that will permit the base tray to be slidably received in spaced relationship, a front side panel, a rear side panel, and a first side panel wherein, the front side panel, rear side panel, and first side panel are affixed to the respective edges of the bottom panel in a substantially perpendicular fashion, wherein the front side panel and rear side panel are in substantially parallel alignment and adjoined to the first side panel in a substantially perpendicular manner, wherein the base tray is received by the second nesting tray,

a locking mechanism incorporated into the base tray, first and second nesting tray for securing the base tray, first and second nesting tray wherein the base tray, first and second nesting tray are maintained in a predetermined

position, wherein, said base tray has at least one protuberance on at least one of either the front side panel and rear side panel, and said first and second nesting tray have at least one recess in one of either the front side panel and rear side panel, that engage the protuberance in the corresponding panel of said base tray under a generally constant force and each of the front side panel and rear side panel of said first and second nesting tray have at least one recess in each of the front side panel and rear side panel, that engage the protuberance in the corresponding panel of said base tray under a generally constant force, and

at least one partition affixed to one of either said base tray, first nesting tray and second nesting tray for segregating articles within the base tray.

10. The expandable drawer organizer of claim **9** wherein said partition is expandable and detachably connected to one of either said base tray, first nesting tray and second nesting tray, further comprising;

a first panel of a given height and length with a row having at least one recess, and a row having at least one protuberance,

a second panel of a given height and length with a row having at least one recess, and a row having at least one protuberance, wherein the rows alternately correspond to engage with the first panel under a generally constant force, to permit the predetermined expanded length to be maintained, at least one coupler attached to the lengthwise edge of to first panel and second panel, whereby the first panel and second panel are maintained slidably in substantial parallelism,

at least one protuberance on each of the first panel and second panel located on the bottom side edge, wherein said partition is expanded to a predetermined length and the protuberance on each of the bottom side edge of the first panel and second panel engage a corresponding recess from a group consisting of: said base tray bottom panel, first nesting tray bottom panel and second nesting tray bottom panel at least one protuberance on each of the first panel and second panel located at the far extents of said partition on the heightwise edge, at least one protuberance associated with the heightwise edge, wherein said partition is expanded to a predetermined length and the protuberance on each of the heightwise edge of the first panel and second panel engage a corresponding recess under a generally constant force from a group consisting of: said base tray front side panel and rear side panel, first nesting tray front side panel and rear side panel, second nesting tray front side panel and rear side panel, said base tray first and second side panel, said base tray first side panel and said first nesting tray first side panel, said base tray first side panel and said second nesting tray first side panel, said base tray front side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions said base tray rear side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions said base tray first side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions, said base tray second side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions said first nesting tray front side panel and normal said expandable partitions said second nesting tray front side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions, said first nesting tray rear side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions, said second nesting tray rear side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions said first nesting tray first side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions said second nesting tray first side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions, and two another of said expandable partitions in substantial parallel alignment.

11. The expandable drawer organizer of claim **10**, the expandable partition further comprising a hook attached to the topmost opposing corner of the heightwise edge of each of the first panel and second panel, that secure said expandable partition to a normal surface.

12. The expandable drawer organizer of claim **11** wherein said hook terminates in a head that engages a recess adjacent to the recess engaged by the protuberance on each of the heightwise edge of the first panel and second panel, the corresponding recess from a group consisting of: said base tray front side panel and rear side panel, first nesting tray front side panel and rear side panel, second nesting tray front side panel and rear side panel, said base tray first and second side panel, said base tray first side panel and said first nesting tray first side panel, said base tray first side panel and said second nesting tray first side panel, said base tray front side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions said base tray rear side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions, said base tray first side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions, said base tray second side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions, said first nesting tray front side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions, said second nesting tray front side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions, said first nesting tray rear side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions, said second nesting tray rear side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions, said first nesting tray first side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions, said second nesting tray first side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions, and two another of said expandable partitions in substantial parallel alignment.

13. The expandable drawer organizer of claim **9** wherein said partition is detachably connected to at least one of said base tray, and first nesting tray, and said second nesting tray further comprising;

a first panel of a given height and length, having at least one protuberance located on the front and rear side, wherein the protuberances alternately correspond to engage a recess under a generally constant force within a row located from a group consisting of: said base tray front side panel and rear side panel, first nesting tray front side panel and rear side panel, second nesting tray front side panel and rear side panel, said base tray first and second side panel, said base tray first side panel and said first nesting tray first side panel, said base tray first side panel and said second nesting tray first side panel, said base tray front side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions, said base tray rear side panel and normal another said partitions said base tray first side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions, said base tray second side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions said first nesting tray front side panel and normal said expandable partition, said second nesting tray front side panel and normal said expandable partitions said first nesting tray rear side panel and normal another of said expandable partitions, said second nesting tray rear side panel and normal another of said expandable partition, said first nesting tray first side panel and normal another of said expandable partition, said second nesting tray first side

panel and normal another of said expandable partition, and two another of said partitions in substantial parallel alignment.

14. An expandable drawer organizer for segregating articles within a drawer comprising:

a base tray having a bottom panel, a front side panel, a rear side panel, a first side panel and a second side panel wherein, the front side panel, rear side panel, first side panel and second side panel are affixed to the respective edges of the bottom panel in a substantially perpendicular fashion, wherein the front side panel and rear side panel are in substantially parallel alignment and adjoined to the first side panel and second side panel in a substantially perpendicular manner, the first side panel and second side panel which are in substantially parallel alignment,

a first nesting tray having a bottom panel having a given length comprising a range slightly greater tan the length of the base tray to slightly less than half of the base tray length, and width slightly greater than the base tray, that will permit the base tray to be slidably received in spaced relationship, a front side panel, a rear side panel, and a first side panel wherein, the front side panel, rear side panel, and first side panel are affixed to the respective edges of the bottom panel in a substantially perpendicular fashion, wherein the front side panel and rear side panel are in substantially parallel alignment and adjoined to the first side panel in a substantially perpendicular manner, wherein the base tray is received by the first nesting tray,

a second nesting tray having a bottom panel having a given length and width slightly larger than the base tray and slightly less than the given length of the first nesting tray, that will permit the base tray to be slidably received in spaced relationship, a front side panel, a rear side panel, and a first side panel wherein, the front side panel, rear side panel, and first side panel are affixed to the respective edges of the bottom panel in a substantially perpendicular fashion, wherein the front side panel and rear side panel are in substantially parallel alignment and adjoined to the first side panel in a substantially perpendicular manner, wherein the base tray is received by the second nesting tray,

said base tray has at least one tube of a given gauge and a given length; not in excess of the bottom panel front edge width, attached to the bottom panel, in substantially parallel alignment to the bottom panel front and rear edge, said tube defining a bore and having at least two protrusions; each located at opposite ends within the bore;

said first nesting tray has at least one rod having a series of indentations, of a given gauge and length; not in excess of the first nesting tray bottom panel front edge width; attached to the bottom panel in substantially parallel alignment to the front and rear edge, in proximity of the first nesting tray first side panel bottom edge, that is received by said tube, whereby said base tray and tube are slidably engaged by said first nesting tray and rod, wherein at least one of the indentations is engaged by the protrusion within said bore, thereby maintaining the relative position of said base tray and first nesting tray,

said second nesting tray has at least one rod having a series of indentations, of a given gauge and length; not in excess of the second nesting tray bottom panel front edge width; attached to the bottom panel in substantially parallel alignment to the front and rear edge, in proximity of the second nesting tray first side panel bottom edge, that is received by said tube, whereby said base tray and tube are slidably engaged by said second nesting tray and rod, wherein at least one of the indentations is engaged by the protrusion within said bore, thereby maintaining the relative position of said base tray and second nesting tray,

a locking mechanism incorporated into the base tray, first and second nesting tray for securing the base tray, first and second nesting tray wherein the base tray, first and second nesting tray are maintained in a predetermined position, and

at least one partition affixed to one of either said base tray, first and second nesting tray for segregating articles within the base tray.

15. An expandable drawer organizer for segregating articles within a drawer comprising:

a base tray having a bottom panel, a front side panel a rear side panel, a first side panel and a second side panel wherein, the front side panel rear side panel, first side panel and second side panel are affixed to the respective edges of the bottom panel in a substantially perpendicular fashion, wherein the front side panel and rear side panel are in substantially parallel alignment and adjoined to the first side panel and second side panel in a substantially perpendicular manner, the first side panel and second side panel which are in substantially parallel alignment,

a first nesting tray having a bottom panel having a given length comprising a range slightly greater than the length of the base tray to slightly less than half of the base tray length, and width slightly greater than the base tray, that will permit the base tray to be slidably received in spaced relationship, a front side panel, a rear side panel, and a first side panel wherein, the front side panel, rear side panel, and first side panel are affixed to the respective edges of the bottom panel in a substantially perpendicular fashion, wherein the front side panel and rear side panel are in substantially parallel alignment and adjoined to the first side panel in a substantially perpendicular manner, wherein the base tray is received by the first nesting tray,

a second nesting tray having a bottom panel having a given length and width slightly larger than the base tray and slightly less than the given length of the first nesting tray, that will permit the base tray to be slidably received in spaced relationship, a front side panel, a rear side panel, and a first side panel wherein, the front side panel rear side panel, and first side panel are affixed to the respective edges of the bottom panel in a substantially perpendicular fashion, wherein the front side panel and rear side panel are in substantially parallel alignment and adjoined to the first side panel in a substantially perpendicular manner, wherein the base tray is received by the second nesting tray,

said first nesting tray has at least one tube, of a given gauge and length; not in excess of the first nesting tray bottom panel front edge width; attached to the bottom panel in substantially parallel alignment to the front and rear edge, in proximity of the first nesting tray first side panel bottom edge, said tube defining a bore and having at least one protrusion within the bore;

said second nesting tray has at least one tube, of a given gauge and length; not in excess of the second nesting tray bottom panel front edge width; attached to the bottom panel in substantially parallel alignment to the front and rear edge, in proximity of the second nesting

tray first side panel bottom edge, said tube having at least two protrusions located at opposite ends within the bore;

said base tray has at least one rod having a series of indentations of a given gauge and a given length; not in excess of the bottom panel front edge width, attached to the bottom panel, in substantially parallel alignment to the bottom panel front and rear edge, that is received by said tube, whereby said base tray and tube are slidably engaged by said first nesting tray and rod, and second nesting tray and rod, wherein at least one of the indentations is engaged by the protrusions within said bore, thereby maintaining the relative position of said base tray and first nesting tray,

a locking mechanism incorporated into the base tray, first and second nesting tray for securing the base tray, first and second nesting tray wherein the base tray, first and second nesting tray are maintained in a predetermined position, and

at least one partition affixed to one of either said base tray, first and second nesting tray for segregating articles within the base tray.

* * * * *