Oct. 18, 1927. 1,646,175

A. THIEDE

FOLDABLE TABLE

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Fig. 1.

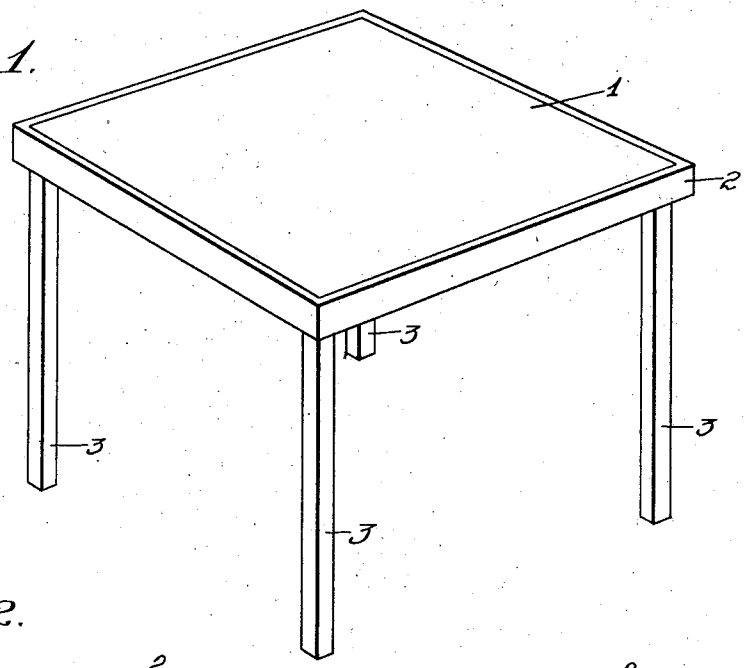
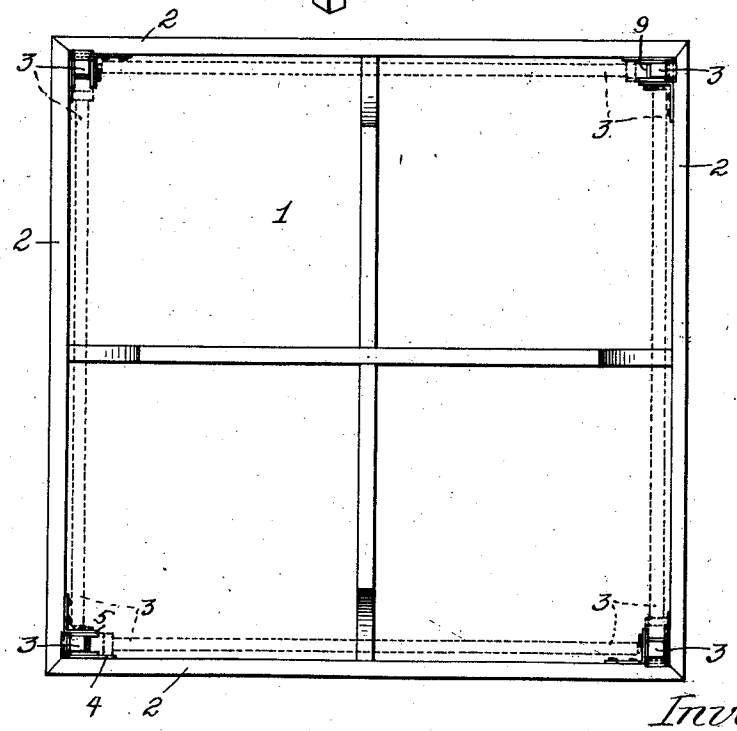



Fig. 2.




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Fig.3.

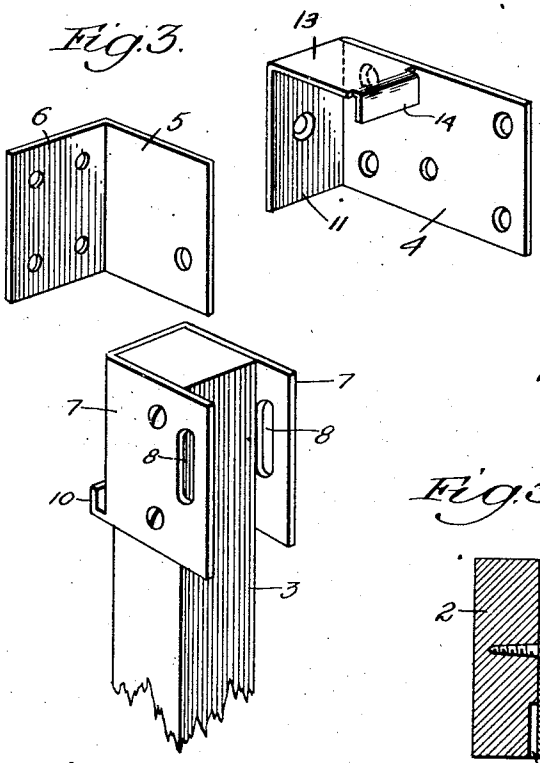



Fig.4.

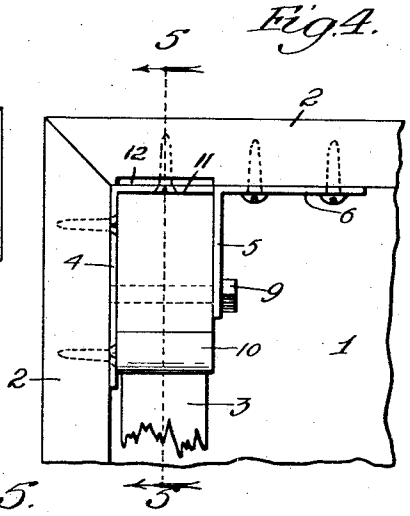



Fig.5.

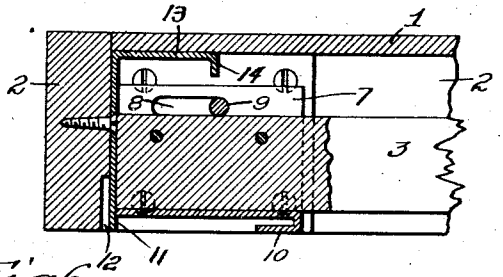
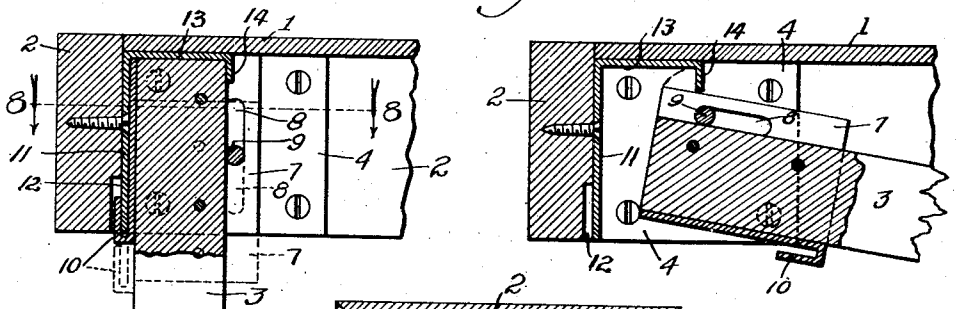



Fig.7.

Fig.6.



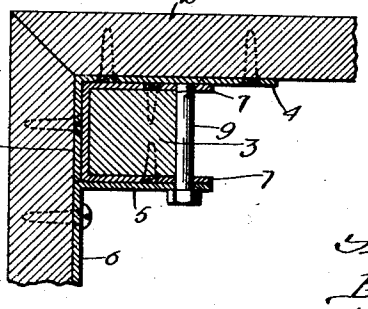




Fig.8.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

AUGUST THIEDE, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

## FOLDABLE TABLE.

Application filed May 7, 1926. Serial No. 107,313.

This invention relates to foldable tables and more particularly to card or game tables.

One object of my invention is to pivotally connect the legs with the table structure in such manner that the legs will be rigidly held in upright or table-supporting position without the use of brace rods or other equivalent means extending diagonally from the legs to the under side of the top, as heretofore.

A further object of my invention is to have a locking means associated with each of the legs at their pivotal connection with the table structure, so that each leg may be locked in table-supporting position in the act of setting up the table.

A further object of the invention is to provide a simple, strong, and durable table-leg connection so that a sturdy and rigid table may be produced and stand up to better advantage than the frail and flimsy card tables as heretofore generally made.

The invention consists further in the matters hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a foldable table embodying the features of my invention and shown set up for use;

Fig. 2 is a bottom plan view of the table shown in Fig. 1, the legs being shown in folded positions in dotted lines;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the several parts making up the connection between a table leg and the top, these parts being shown disassembled but arranged in the order in which they are put together;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged bottom plan view of the table at one corner to show the leg connecting means;

Fig. 5 is a vertical sectional view on line 5—5 of Fig. 4, the leg being shown in collapsed or folded position;

Fig. 6 is a similar view showing the leg in position before being moved endwise into the position shown in Fig. 5;

Fig. 7 is a vertical sectional view showing the leg in its supporting position and locked against accidental movement; and

Fig. 8 is a horizontal sectional view on line 8—8 of Fig. 7.

In the drawings, 1 indicates the table top; 2, the surrounding rail with its sections at right-angles to each other to form corners; and 3, 3, the supporting legs, which are foldably connected with the table structure at the four corners of the rail in accordance with my invention.

On the inside of the rail 2, at each of the four corners thereof, I provide a pair of sheet metal plates 4, 5 spaced apart in parallel relation and secured to the respective sections of the rail, as shown in Figs. 4 and 8. The plate 4 is secured flatwise against its associated rail section, while the plate 5 is secured to its rail section in right-angle relation thereto through a flange 6 at the inner edge of said plate.

The inner end of the leg 3 is between the plates 4, 5 and there carries wear plates 7, 7 at its sides. These plates bear against the plates 4, 5 and extend beyond the leg and there have elongated slots 8, 8 disposed to extend lengthwise of the leg, as shown. An axis member, which may take the form of a bolt 9, is carried by and extends between the plates 4, 5 through the elongated slots 8 to pivotally connect the leg 3 with the plates 4, 5. This permits the leg to be swung either into an upright or table-supporting position, as shown in Fig. 1, or down into collapsed position against the under side of the top and lie along the adjacent section of the rail, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 2.

The leg 3 is provided on its side opposite the bolt 9 with a hook-shaped member 10, preferably formed integral with the plates 7, 7. The hook 10 is designed to engage over the outer edge of a flange 11 formed integral with the plate 4 and extending at right-angles thereto. Flange 11 extends between the plates 4, 5 and aligns with the flange 6 of the plate 5, as shown in Fig. 4. The section of the rail 2 behind the flange 11 is cut away at the outer edge of the flange to provide a recess 12 to receive the hook 10 when the parts are engaged, as shown in Fig. 7. The inner end of the leg 3 is cut square, as shown in Fig. 7, and abuts against another flange 13 integral with the plate 4 and at right-angles thereto and to flange 11. Flange 13 has its outer end turned, as at 14, to provide a stop to engage in front of the leg 3 to hold the same from collapsing when in upright or table-supporting position.

When set up, the table appears as in Fig. 1, and it will be noted that no side braces are required for the legs, with the result

that no braces are in the way to interfere with the use of the table. Each of the legs 3 is locked in upright or table-supporting position in the manner shown in Fig. 7; and with the plates 7, 7 between and bearing against plates 4, 5, a considerable supporting area is provided for the parts; and with these plates extending the full depth or height of the rail, a very sturdy, strong, and rigid connection is provided for the structure, in addition to the lock afforded by the hook 10 and the stop 14.

To collapse the table, the latter is first positioned with the legs off the floor, whereupon each leg is first moved endwise outward from the top, this movement being permitted by the elongated slots 8, 8. The extent of movement is such as to withdraw the hook 10 from the flange 11 and the inner end of the leg from the stop 14. The parts are then in the position indicated by the dotted lines in Fig. 7, whereupon the leg 3 may be swung about the bolt or axis member 9 toward the table top until the position shown in Fig. 6 is reached. In this position the bolt 9 is at the inner ends of the slots 8, and the leg 3 is slightly inclined outward and does not lie along the inside of the associated section of the rail 2 due to the fact that the leg is too long in this position to clear the plate 5 of the fixture at the opposite corner of the table. To clear this fixture, the leg is moved endwise toward the flange 11 (Fig. 6) and, when the fixture is cleared, the leg may be swung inside of its rail section and lie along the same with the inner end of the leg against the flange 11, as shown in Fig. 5. By the structure described, each leg may have its inner end shoved or moved clear up into its corner and thus have an effective length from the corner to the plate 5 of the opposite fixture. Thus none of the leg length is lost in setting up the table and a much higher and more comfortable table may be provided by my arrangement.

To set up the table, the operations above are reversed, each leg being first swung outward from the position shown in Fig. 5 to clear the opposite fixture, whereupon the leg is moved endwise to the position shown in Fig. 6. The leg is then swung into table-supporting position about the axis member 9 and then moved inward to engage the hook 10 over the outer edge of the flange 11 and the inner end of the leg inside of the stop 14, as shown in Fig. 7.

The structure shown and described makes a very substantial and efficient one for collapsible tables, and moreover makes the construction very strong and sturdy. The stops 14 are cut away at their ends so that the plates 7, 7 may pass the same when the legs are swung about their bolts.

The details of structure shown and described may be variously changed and modified without departing from the spirit and scope of my invention.

I claim as my invention:

1. In a table-leg connection, the combination with a pair of plates to be secured to a table structure with the plates spaced apart, of a leg having its inner end between said plates and braced against lateral strains thereby, co-acting means carried by the leg and one of the plates, respectively, for locking the leg against accidental movement when in upright or table-supporting position, and means pivotally connecting the leg to the plates and permitting endwise movement of the leg to release and engage the locking means.

2. In a table-leg connection, the combination with a pair of plates to be secured to a table structure with the plates spaced apart, of a leg having its inner end between said plates and braced against lateral strains thereby, a hook member carried by the leg to engage over a flange on one of the plates for locking the leg in upright or table-supporting position, and means pivotally connecting the leg to the plates and permitting endwise movement of the leg so that the hook member may be engaged with or released from said flange.

3. In a table-leg connection, the combination with a pair of plates to be secured to a table structure with the plates spaced apart, of a leg having its inner end between said plates, co-acting means carried by the leg and one of the plates, respectively, for locking the leg against accidental movement when in upright or table supporting position, plates carried by the leg between the first plates and having elongated slots therein, and a pivot member between the first plates and carried thereby and extending through the slots of the second plates, the slots being disposed to extend lengthwise of the leg so that the latter may be moved endwise to engage and release the locking means.

4. In a table-leg connection, the combination with a pair of plates to be secured to a table structure with the plates spaced apart, of a leg having its inner end between said plates, one of said plates having a flange and a stop for the leg, a hook member carried by the leg to engage over said flange for locking the leg in upright or table-supporting position with the stop overlapping the inner end of said leg on the side opposite the hook member, and means pivotally connecting the leg to said plates and permitting endwise movement of the leg so that the latter and the hook member may be engaged with and disengaged from the stop and flange, respectively.

5. In a table-leg connection, the combination with a pair of plates to be secured to

a table structure with the plates spaced apart, of a leg having its inner end between said plates and braced against lateral strains thereby, a hook member carried by the leg at one side to engage over a flange on one of the plates on the same side of the leg, plates carried by the leg between the first plates and having elongated slots therein on the opposite side of the leg, and a pivot member between and carried by the first plates and extending through the slots in the second plates, the slots being disposed to extend lengthwise of the leg so that the latter may be moved endwise to engage the hook member with or release it from said flange.

6. In a table structure, the combination with a rail having sections at right-angles to each other to form a corner, plates secured to each of said sections inside of the corner thereof and spaced apart in parallel relation, one of said plates being secured flatwise against its adjacent section and having two flanges extending between the plates, a leg having its inner end between said plates and seating against one of said flanges when the leg is in upright or table-supporting position, a hook member carried by said leg to engage over the other of said flanges to lock the leg in said position, and means pivotally connecting the leg with the plates and permitting endwise movement of the leg to carry the same and its hook member into and out of engagement with said respective flanges.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature this 20th day of April, 1926.

AUGUST THIEDE.