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E. A. MUNGER

2,192,145

TABLE TOP

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Fig. 1.

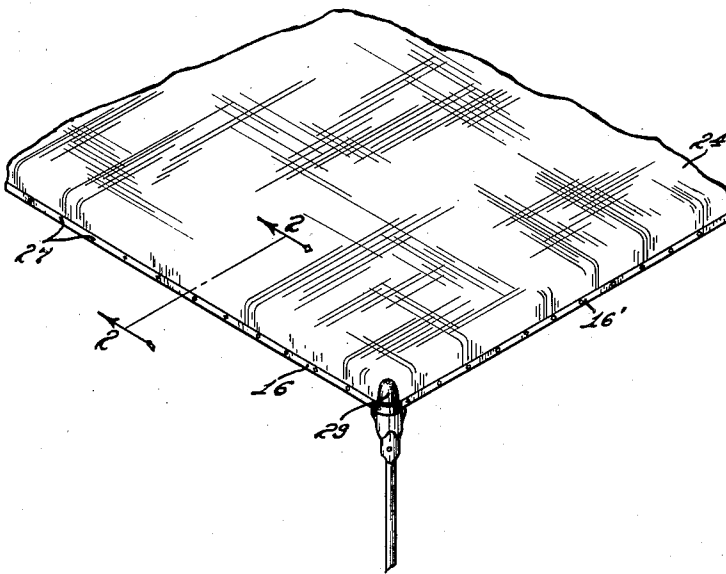


Fig. 2.

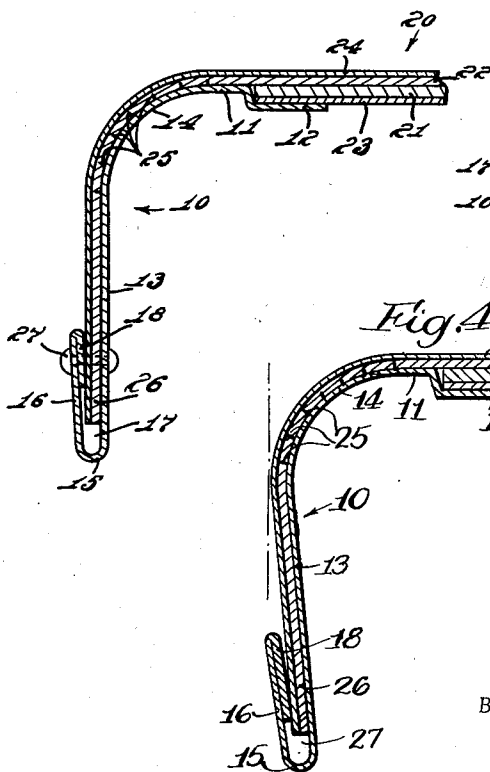


Fig. 3.

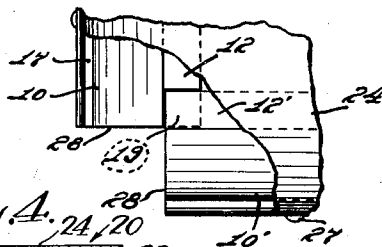
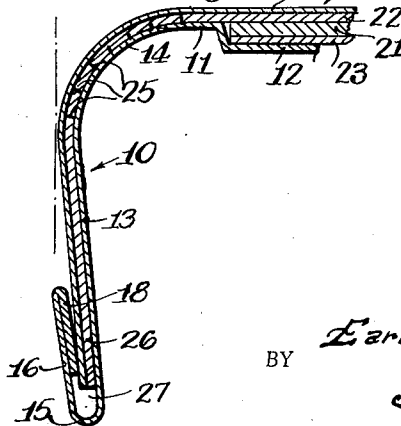


Fig. 4.



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TABLE TOP

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3 Claims. (Cl. 311-106)

The present application relates to a table top, and more particularly to a card table top of the type in which a frame is provided to support a top element. The primary object of the invention is to provide a less expensive but more durable table top, particularly applicable for use as a card table top; and further objects of the invention will appear as the description proceeds.

To the accomplishment of the above and related objects, my invention may be embodied in the form illustrated in the accompanying drawing, attention being called to the fact, however, that the drawing is illustrative only, and that change may be made in the specific construction illustrated and described, so long as the scope of the appended claims is not violated.

Fig. 1 is a fragmental perspective view of a table constructed in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a fragmental enlarged transverse section through a portion of a table top constructed in accordance with the present invention, said view being taken substantially on the line 2-2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a fragmental plan of a detail of construction; and

Fig. 4 is a section similar to Fig. 2 but showing the illustrated parts before attachment of the cover to the frame element.

Referring more particularly to the drawing, it will be seen that the frame of the table top is made up of a plurality of preformed sheet metal strips, indicated generally by the reference numeral 10, 10'. Each of said strips is formed to provide a substantially horizontal portion 11 with an inwardly directed flange 12 depressed below the plane of the portion 11. Each of said strips is further formed to provide a depending, outwardly facing apron 13 which is merged with the portion 11 by a curved portion 14. At its lower edge, apron portion 13 is bent upwardly, as at 15, to provide a flange or wall 16 which cooperates with the outer surface of the apron 13 to form a trough 17. Preferably, but not necessarily, the extremity of the strip is turned inwardly and downwardly, as at 18, so that no raw metal edge is exposed.

The flange 12 of each of the strips 10 is formed, adjacent one end, with a depressed portion 19, the length of which is equal to the width of the flange portion 12' of the adjacent strip 10', said depression being adapted to receive the end of the next adjacent flange, as is clearly illustrated in Fig. 3, when the four strips are assembled to form the frame.

The top element, indicated generally at 20, comprises two pieces of chip board, or other relatively stiff material, 21, 22, the sheet 22 being glued to the upper surface of the sheet 21. Preferably, but not necessarily, a sheet 23 of kraft paper, or other material adapted to receive and retain a suitable coat of coloring matter, is glued to the lower surface of the sheet 21. It will be seen that the sheets 21 and 23 are so dimensioned as to fit snugly upon the shelf formed by the cooperation of the flange portion 12 of the metallic strips, when said strips are assembled.

To the upper surface of the sheet 22 is glued a sheet 24 of kraft paper or other material adapted to receive and retain a printed decoration; and it will be seen that the sheets 22 and 24 are dimensioned to overlies the portions 11, 14, and 13 of the strips 10, and to project into, and be received in, the troughs 17. Preferably, the sheet 22 is suitably scored, as at 25, to facilitate the step of bending said sheet 22 to conform smoothly to the curvature of the portion 14 of the strip 10.

When the top is applied to the frame, it is stretched tightly enough to exert flexing stresses upon the strips 10, thereby resiliently displacing the free edges of the aprons from their positions of equilibrium illustrated in Fig. 4 to the positions illustrated in Fig. 2, or thereabouts; and the terminal portions 26 of the sheets 22 and 24 are tucked into the trough 17 and secured in place by any suitable means such, for instance, as rivets 27 passing through the portions 16, 18, and 13, and through the sheets 22 and 24.

As is clearly illustrated in Fig. 3, the shape of the strips 10 is such that the ends 28 of the unflanged portions thereof are spaced and angularly related to each other when the four strips are assembled to form the frame. The spaces so formed are covered, after the assembly of the organization has otherwise been completed, by escutcheon elements 29.

It will be obvious that it would be possible to eliminate the sheet 22, using some tougher material in place of kraft paper for the sheet 24. I consider it preferable, however, to use the construction illustrated which guards against puncturing of the sheet 24 and provides, to some extent, cushioning means between the metal strip 10 and the thin sheet 24.

A decided advantage is attained, in a table top of the present type, through the combination of a flexible cover of the type illustrated with a frame made of resilient sheet metal. As has been stated, when the top element 20 is applied

to the frame, the perimetral portions thereof are stretched to such an extent as to apply flexing stresses to the strips 10 whereby said strips are resiliently flexed to displace the free edges of the aprons 13 from their positions of equilibrium. Thereby, the frame is caused to provide spring means for holding the cover smoothly stretched over the top of the table, the inherent resiliency of the frame elements 10 tending also to return the displaced free edges of said aprons 13 to their positions of equilibrium. Thereby, I avoid the rumpling of the table cover which is so common in tables of this general type as a result of atmospheric changes, whereby the table top is rendered more durable, in that its useful life is enlarged.

I claim as my invention:

1. A table top comprising a rectangular sheet-metal frame, each side portion of said frame being bent to form a horizontal portion and a depending skirt merging with said horizontal portion through a smooth curve, a cover member supported on said frame and formed to provide four flexible flaps, each of said flaps being drawn over the curve and over the outer surface of one of said skirts, and means for securing the outer edge portion of each of said flaps to its associated skirt, the length of each flap being less than the perimeter of the curve with which it is associated plus the depth of the skirt with

which it is associated, whereby said skirts are held by said flaps under flexing tension, said skirts tending resiliently to tauten said cover member.

2. A table top comprising a metallic frame having a perimetral substantially horizontal portion and a plurality of perimetally arranged depending aprons integral with said horizontal portion, said aprons being resiliently flexed from their positions of equilibrium whereby their free edges are displaced outwardly with respect to said positions of equilibrium, and a flexible cover overlying said top and having a corresponding number of perimetally arranged flaps, said flaps only being attached respectively to the free edges of said aprons and restraining said apron edges against return to their positions of equilibrium.

3. The combination with a table cover having a plurality of perimetally arranged flaps flexibly associated with said cover, of means for holding said cover under resilient tension, comprising a metallic frame formed with a plurality of integral depending aprons, said aprons being resiliently flexed outwardly from their positions of equilibrium and means securing said flaps respectively to said aprons adjacent the free edges of said aprons to hold said flaps and said cover under spring tension.

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