C. W. COFFIN.

FOLDING TABLE.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 24, 1918.

1,306,466. Patented June 10, 1919.

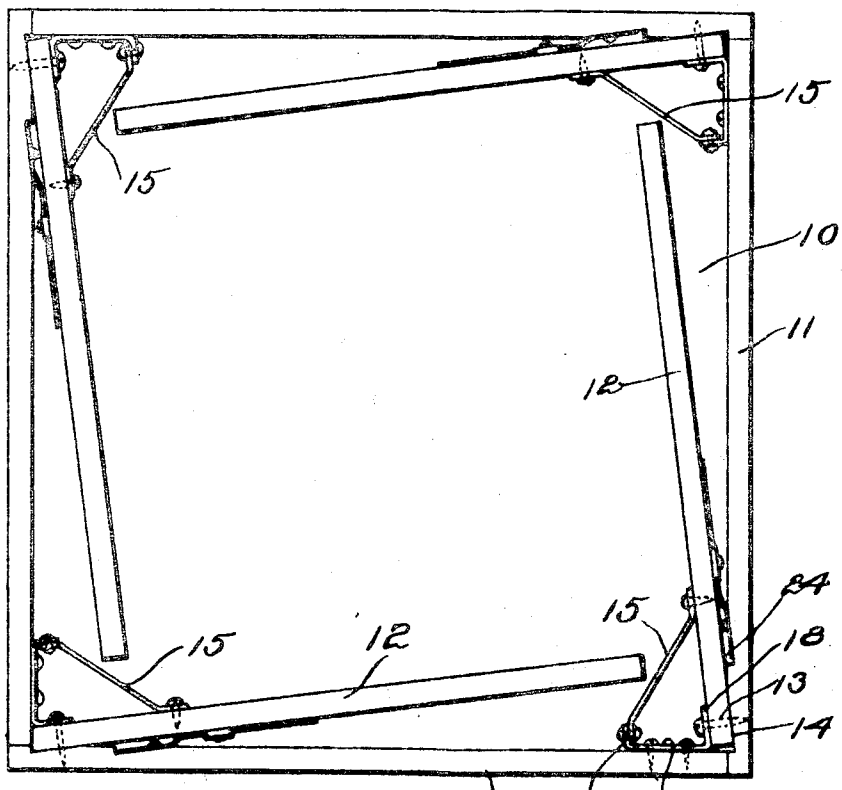


Fig. 1.

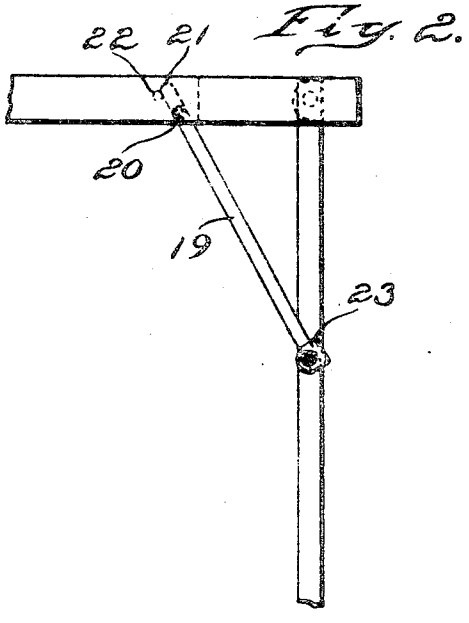


Fig. 2.

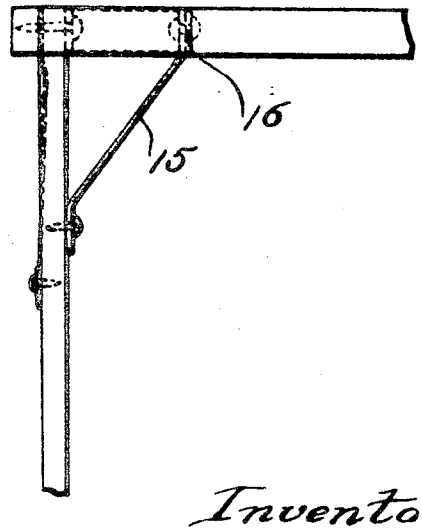


Fig. 3.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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FOLDING TABLE.

1,306,466. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented June 10, 1919.

Application filed July 24, 1918. Serial No. 246,516.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES W. COFFIN, a citizen of the United States, and resident of Portland, county of Cumberland, State of Maine, have invented an Improvement in Folding Tables, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification, like characters on the drawings representing like parts in each of the several views.

This invention relates to folding tables and more particularly to relatively light and portable types of table such as card tables and the like. In card tables with folding legs it has heretofore been considered impracticable to brace the legs laterally for the reason that it is requisite that the respective legs shall fold inward underneath the top extending along the sides thereof and within the confines of the top when folded. Thus with a square top of ordinary card table dimensions, it requires substantially the entire extent of the side edge of the top to accommodate the folded in leg, hence not leaving any room for a lateral brace, with the result that such tables have heretofore been very unstable and shaky, and hence not suitable for any use requiring any degree of steadiness. A prime object of the present invention is to provide a table of the kind described with folding legs that, while of the requisite length and capable of being folded in against the top, are adequately braced so that while the table may be made quite as light in weight and small in dimension of top as heretofore, the top is held steady and against shaking or vibration, thus adapting the table for numerous other uses in household economy including use as a lunch table when desired. To this end I mount the several table legs on pivots so that the free ends thereof extend somewhat diagonally inward from the edges of the top along which they are disposed when folded in thus making room for the placing of a brace at the inner portion of the leg without reducing the length of the leg. The foregoing and other objects and advantages of the invention will more fully appear from the following detailed description, and the distinctive features of novelty will be pointed out in the appended claims.

Referring to the drawings:

Figure 1 is a bottom plan view showing a table constructed in accordance with my invention, with the legs folded in underneath the top;

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary side elevation showing a portion of the top with a leg extended; and

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary elevation at right angles to Fig. 2 and showing the present additional stiffening brace.

The top 10 of the table is shown as rectangular and square with peripheral rails 11 extending around the underside thereof. In these tables which to serve as card tables are usually made with an edge dimension of about thirty inches, it has been necessary in order to provide legs of requisite length and have the same fold in underneath the top, to utilize substantially the entire extent of the space within the rails 11 and up to the pivot of the next leg as clearance to receive the folded in leg. In accordance with my invention the legs 12 are pivoted to pivot pins 13 adjacent the respective corners of the table in a manner so that the leg extends from this pivot in a somewhat oblique or diverging relation with respect to the adjacent rail 11. This is accomplished as shown in the present instance by fitting the pivoted end of the leg to the inclined face of a rabbeted seat 14 formed in the rail 11 adjacent the end thereof, and setting the pivot pin 13 into such rail so as to pivot the leg 12 at the required angle. In accordance with my invention I fix to the inner portion of this rail a brace 15 which extends outward therefrom and is pivotally secured at 16 in line with the pivot pin 13 to a metallic bracket 17 suitably secured to the end of the adjacent rail 11, this bracket preferably and as shown having an upturned ear 18, through which the pivot 13 is passed, and which serves to guide and support the inner end of the leg. Thus the leg is held to swing on the spaced apart pivots afforded by the pin 13 and the pivot 16 and is securely braced with reference to the top against vibration in this direction, while the free end of the leg being spaced some little distance from the rail 11, may extend to the required length and relatively close to the opposite edge rail while still affording room for the positioning of the brace 15 of the adjacent leg. For bracing and holding the legs transversely of their pivots, *i. e.*, so as to extend

straight down from the top any suitable means may be provided, though preferably and as shown I employ for this purpose, bars 19 pivoted to the rails at 20 and having upward extensions 21 adapted to engage stop pins 22, so that as the lower ends of these bars which are notched and slidably guided through clips 23 pivoted to the legs, reach operative position, they are placed by the engagement of the extensions 21 with the pin 22 under some little spring tension so that the notch in the lower end thereof snaps into engagement with the pivot screw of the clip 23 thus holding the leg locked in a manner already known in the art. The pivoted inner ends of these bars are likewise fitted into rabbeted inclined seats in the rails as indicated at 24 so that these bars will operate in parallelism with the legs in the swinging movement thereof. I thus provide a table that may be of relatively small size and light weight wherein legs of requisite length may be folded in underneath the top and when extended are braced in a manner so as to hold the table top relatively rigid and secure against shaking or vibration which has been a most serious objection in all previous tables of this type known to me. I am aware that the invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the spirit or essential attributes thereof, and I therefore desire the present embodiment to be considered in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive reference being had to the appended claims rather than to the foregoing description to indicate the scope of the invention.

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

1. A table, comprising a rectangular top, legs pivoted adjacent the corners thereof to extend each generally alongside an edge of the top when folded thereagainst but with the outer leg portion lying diagonally away from such edge, and a brace engaged with each of said legs and pivoted to the top at a point substantially spaced from the pivot of the leg proper, the diagonal disposition of the outer leg portion when folded against the top permitting it to clear the brace of an adjacent leg.

2. A table, comprising a rectangular top, legs pivoted thereto adjacent the corners thereof to extend each generally alongside an edge of the top when folded thereagainst but with the outer leg portion lying diagonally inward with respect to such edge, and a brace fixed to each of said legs at an inner portion thereof pivoted to said top in line with the pivot of said leg at a point substantially spaced therefrom, the diagonal disposition of each outer leg portion permitting it to clear the brace of the adjacent leg.

3. A table, comprising a top with a square supporting frame, legs pivoted to the corners of said frame and each extending generally alongside one of the edges of said frame but with its outer portion lying diagonally inward with respect to such edge, and a brace engaged and movable with an inner portion of each of said legs and pivoted to said frame in line with the pivot of said leg and at a point substantially spaced therefrom, the diagonal positioning of each outer leg portion causing it to clear the brace of the adjacent leg.

4. A table, comprising a top with a square supporting frame, legs pivoted to the corners of said frame, a brace engaged with an inner portion of each of said legs and pivoted to said frame in line with the pivot of said leg and at a point substantially spaced therefrom, each of said legs lying generally alongside an edge of said frame when folded inward thereagainst and with its outer portion extending inward from such edge so as to clear said brace, and means for holding and locking said legs in extended position.

5. A table, comprising a top with a square supporting frame, legs pivoted to the corners of said frame and each leg extending generally at right angles with respect to the adjacent leg when folded inward and with its free end then extending past the pivot of the adjacent leg, a bracket fixed to the frame adjacent each corner thereof and constituting a support for the adjacent leg pivot, and a brace carried by the leg and pivoted to said bracket in line with the leg pivot and at a point substantially spaced therefrom, each leg having its pivot slightly diagonal with respect to said frame so that as it is folded inward its outer portion clears the brace of the adjacent leg.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification.

CHARLES W. COFFIN.