

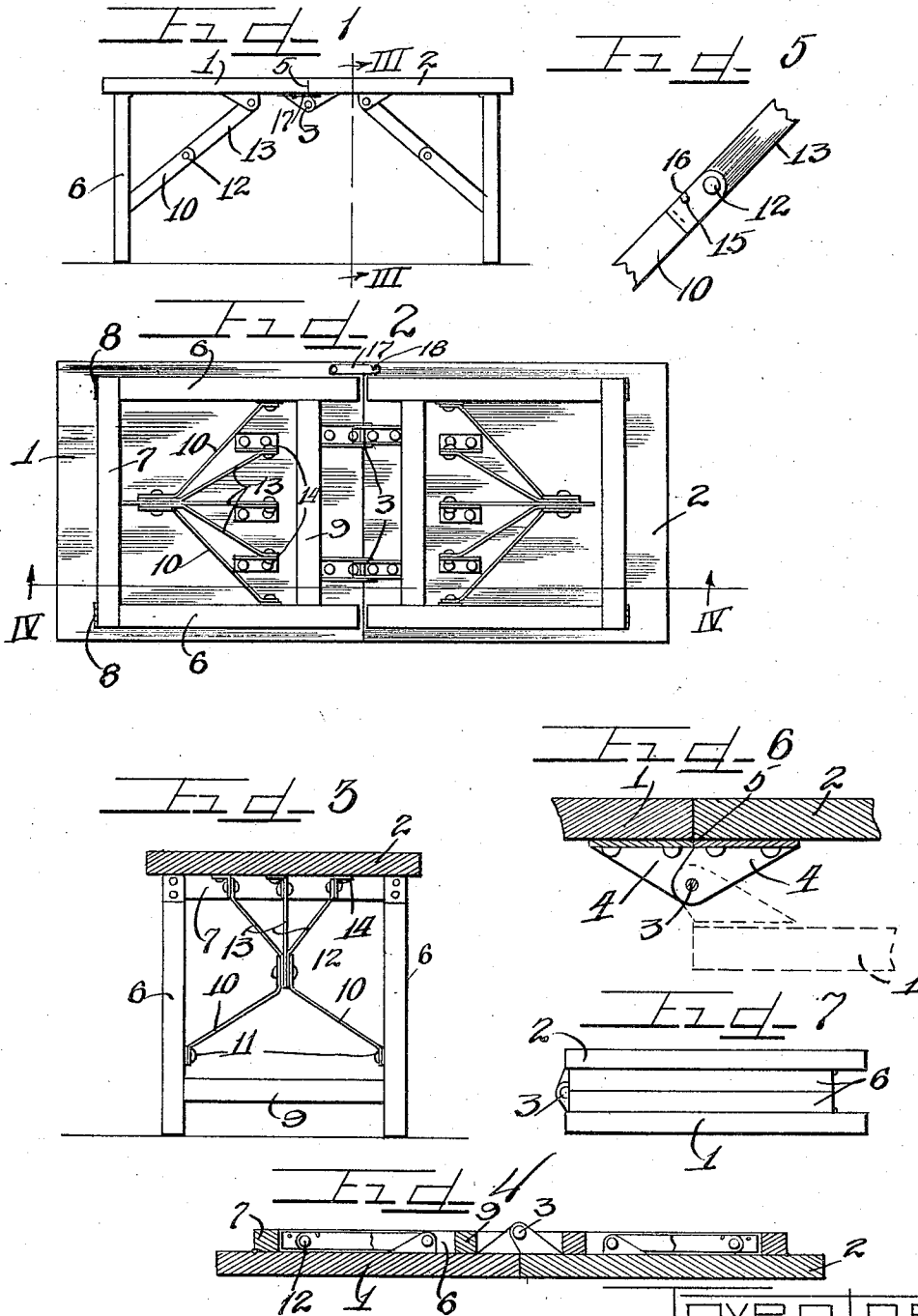
Nov. 1, 1932.

W. C. COLLIGNON

1,885,685

FOLDABLE TABLE

Filed Feb. 11, 1928



WITNESSES
William C. Collignon.

Charles Allen

by

Attys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

WILLIAM C. COLLIGNON, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

FOLDABLE TABLE

Application filed February 11, 1928. Serial No. 253,616.

This invention relates to foldable tables and the like and more particularly to tables and similar articles of furniture which are foldable or collapsible into compact form for easy transportation or so that they may occupy a minimum space.

preferred form in the drawing, as more particularly indicated by the claims.

On the drawing:

Figure 1 is a view in elevation of the device embodying principles of the present invention, shown adjusted to a position for use as a table or the like.

Figure 2 is a bottom plan view of the device, showing the supporting and bracing means therefor in folded position.

Figure 3 is a vertical sectional view taken substantially along line III—III of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a vertical sectional view taken substantially along line IV—IV of Figure 2.

Figure 5 is an enlarged fragmentary detail view of a portion of the bracing means for the device.

Figure 6 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view, showing the connection for the sections for the top of the device.

Figure 7 is an elevational view of the device in folded position.

As shown on the drawing:

In the illustrated embodiment of this invention there is shown a foldable table, but it is to be noted that many and other varied uses or devices may be adopted or formed embodying features of the present invention, as will become apparent to one skilled in the art, without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. For example, seats or benches may be formed with similar construction.

The table as shown in the present embodiment comprises a pair of top sections 1 and 2 respectively hingedly connected by relatively extended hinges 3. The hinges in this instance have downwardly and obliquely extended portions thereon as indicated at 4 (Figure 6) so that when the top sections 1 and 2 are folded they will be in spaced juxtaposed relationship as indicated by the dotted lines in Figure 6, for a purpose to be disclosed hereinafter. It is to be noted also that the hinges 3 are so constructed that the adjacent edges thereof, when in the position shown in Figures 1 and 6, abut each other in their entirety as indicated at 5 whereby the sections

In the past, devices of this type have proven objectionable in many instances in that they were not sufficiently large to adequately accommodate a relatively large group of persons, and when folded, would leave projecting parts which were a fruitful cause of inconvenience and vexatious delays. Moreover, formerly known devices in most cases were not foldable into as compact a form as desired for ready and easy transportation or packing on the running board, or over the robe rail of a vehicle or other suitable places. In addition, after comparatively short usage, these heretofore known types, when assembled, did not possess as sufficient rigidity as desired in most cases.

This invention has been designed to overcome the above noted defects and objections in the provision of a foldable table or similar article which is adapted upon folding to assume an exceedingly compact form, leaving substantially no projecting parts or elements.

The invention also seeks to provide a device of the character described herein which when adjusted to a position for use, is sufficiently large to accommodate a relatively large number of persons, and which in spite of its adequate size, is very easily set up or knocked down.

A further object of this invention is to provide a device of the character described which is adequately braced throughout and when adjusted for use, possesses a high degree of inherent rigidity which is not lessened in any degree by repeated use of the device.

While some of the more salient features, characteristics and advantages of the device embodying the present invention have been above set forth, others will become apparent from the following disclosures.

The invention includes these and other features of construction and combination of parts, hereinafter described and shown in a

are given substantially the rigidity of a single piece.

Since the under structures of the sections 1 and 2 are each identical, except for their opposite disposition, only one set need herein be described. A pair of spaced legs 6 joined at their upper ends by a strip or yoke 7 are hinged on the under side of each of the sections 1 and 2 as indicated at 8. To obtain adequate stability and rigidity, the legs 6 are also connected adjacent their outer portions by a second cross member 9. When the legs are swung to their upright position, their upper edges and the yoke 7 preferably abut the under portion of the top section to which they are secured.

Unitary multi-armed bracing means are provided for each pair of legs and top section and comprise in this instance a pair of brace rods 10 pivotally connected at their lower extremities as indicated at 11 to the inner surface of the legs 6. At their upper ends, the rods 10 are pivoted as at 12 to a plurality, in this instance three, of similar brace rods 13. At their opposite ends, the brace rods 13 are suitably pivoted to angle irons 14 or any desirable and adequate means. It is to be noted that the brace rods 13 diverge from each other and the angular members 14 are disposed in spaced relationship so that the top section is braced at a plurality of points thereacross, which taken together with the fact that the yokes 7 abut the under surfaces of the top sections, and the adjacent edges of the top section hinges abut each other, provides adequate rigidity and stability for the device as a whole. It is to be further noted that the angle members 14 are coplanar, or in alignment, as are the pivot points of the brace rods 10. As clearly shown in Figure 2, when the legs are folded, the brace rods are entirely disposed between the legs, the rods 10 being of sufficient outward inclination to assume positions on either side of the rods 13 whereby when folded, all the rods will be in coplanar relationship.

To prevent any inadvertent or undesirable collapsing of the table when in its useful position, means are provided to maintain the brace rods in their stiffened position until manually released. The means comprise in this instance a laterally projecting pin 15 carried either by the rods 13 or 10, as shown by rods 13, and engageable within recesses 16 provided in the other group of brace rods, as shown in rods 10. Also to prevent inadvertent tipping of the top sections, a pivotal hook-like member 17 is pivoted to the under side of one of the top sections and engages over the button or lug 18 on the opposite section.

In Figure 7 the device is shown in its compact form and it is to be noted that when so folded, no portion of the under structure projects in any direction beyond the edges of

the top sections. The extended portions 4 on the hinges 3 permit the top sections to be folded in parallel juxtaposed relationship, with the legs and bracing means disposed therebetween. It will be apparent therefore that when the table is folded, its thickness will be merely twice that of one of the top sections, plus twice that of a leg.

From the foregoing it is apparent that I have provided a foldable table or similar device which is readily and easily operated, possesses inherent rigidity and stability, which may be folded into extremely compact form, and which is durable, and economical to manufacture.

I am aware that many changes may be made, and numerous details of construction may be varied through a wide range without departing from the principles of this invention, and I therefore do not purpose limiting the patent granted hereon, otherwise than necessitated by the prior art.

I claim as my invention:

1. A foldable table comprising a table top of two halves in end to end relation when the table is opened for use, hinges on the underside of the table connecting the two halves providing oppositely directed inclined bracing members and opposed abutting surfaces at the center of the table, foldable supports at each end of the table, each support comprising a pair of spaced legs and a yoke connecting the upper ends of the legs, said yoke abutting the underside of the table when the table is in use, bracing means for the supports comprising a set of inclined members hinged on the underside of the table and converging to a common pivotal connection and another set of inclined members pivotally connected to the legs and converging to and connected to the pivotal point common to the first named set of inclined members, the two sets of inclined members being movable to lie in a common plane between the legs when the legs are folded, the two halves of the table being foldable to a position with the undersides of the halves in spaced opposed relation to each other, the pivot point of the central hinges being spaced from the table top substantially the thickness of the legs.

2. A foldable table comprising a table top of two halves in end to end relation when the table is opened for use, hinges on the underside of the table connecting the two halves providing oppositely directed inclined bracing members and opposed abutting surfaces at the center of the table, foldable supports at each end of the table, each support comprising a pair of spaced legs and a yoke connecting the upper ends of the legs, said yoke abutting the underside of the table when the table is in use, bracing means for the supports comprising a set of members hinged on the underside of the table at one end and connected to a common pivot at the other end,

another set of members pivotally connected to the legs at one end and connected to the pivot common to the first set of members at the other end, the two sets of members being movable to lie in a common plane between the
5 legs when the legs are folded, the two halves of the table being foldable to a position with the undersides of the halves in spaced opposed relation to each other, the pivot point of the central hinges being spaced from the
10 table top substantially the thickness of the legs.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name at Chicago, Cook county, Illinois.

15 WILLIAM C. COLLIGNON.

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

60

65