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SLIDING TABLE TOP CONSTRUCTION

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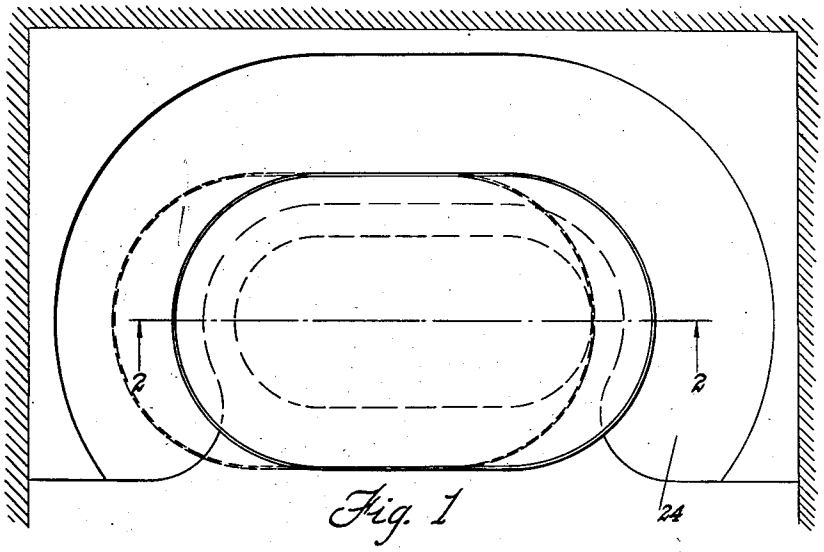


Fig. 1

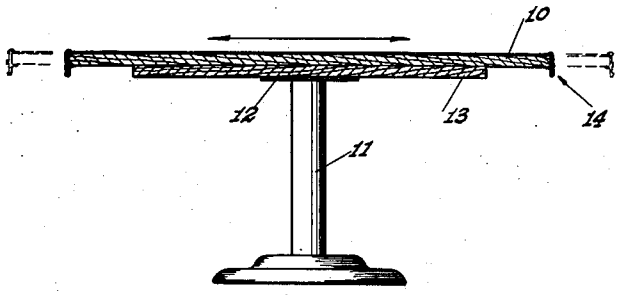


Fig. 2

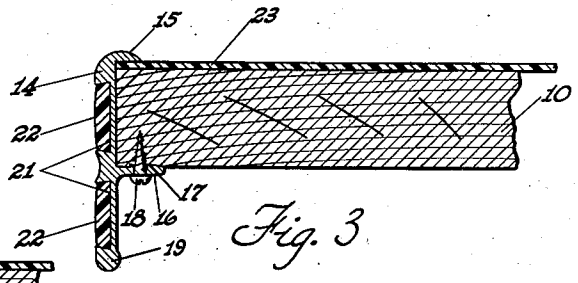


Fig. 3

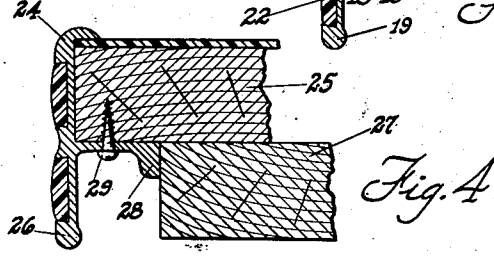


Fig. 4

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SLIDING TABLE TOP CONSTRUCTION

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4 Claims. (Cl. 311—35)

1

This invention relates to tables and more particularly to a table having the top thereof adjustable relative to its supporting structure.

The table of the present invention is particularly adapted for use in breakfast nooks, booths and other table and seat installations in which fixed, arcuately arranged seating accommodations are used. In such table and seat installations the table is generally anchored to the floor to avoid excessive wear which would be produced by the supporting structure if the latter was free to move over the floor. As the table top must be closely spaced from the seat structure for the convenience and comfort of the users, it is extremely awkward for the persons intending to sit medially of the seat structure to slip into position.

This difficulty is obviated by the table of the present invention, for the table top is movable substantially in its own plane relative to the supporting structure therefor. As the table top may be slidably adjusted substantially in its own plane, a person intending to sit at the rear of the nook or booth with which the table is used can easily move the table top to open a passage at one side or the other of the nook or booth, depending upon the direction of movement of the table top, to permit easy access into the nook or booth. After the person has been seated, the table top can be returned to its position centrally of the seat structure by merely returning the table top to its original position.

The table top is supported for sliding movement by a support element having a shape substantially the same as the shape of the table top although the latter is larger in size. The element is formed with a substantially planar top surface which engages the undersurface of the table top and supports the same as the top is moved relative to the supporting structure.

As the table top is not secured to the planar member, some means must be provided for limiting movement of the table top relative to the planar member. In one embodiment of the present invention this stop means is formed by a skirt depending from a decorative molding strip secured about the peripheral edge portion of the table top. In another embodiment illustrated, the stop means is formed by a flange carried by the molding strip inwardly of the depending skirt.

As the table top can be easily removed from its supporting structure, the floor area beneath the table top can be made readily accessible for cleaning. This is a particularly desirable feature of the present invention as the fixed tables of

2

prior table and seat installations have rendered the cleaning of the floor, particularly in the rear of the booth or nook, extremely difficult.

Other features and advantages of the present invention will be hereinafter apparent from the following detailed description, particularly when taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a plan view of the table of the present invention shown in use with a fixed, arcuately arranged seat structure;

Figure 2 is a section taken along line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a fragmentary view in section on an enlarged scale showing the molding strip attached about the peripheral edge portion of the table top; and

Figure 4 is a view similar to Figure 3 but showing a modified form of the table.

The table top of the present invention, referring now to the drawing, and more particularly to Figure 2 thereof, comprises a table top 10 supported by a base member 11. Although the base member 11 has been shown as a pedestal type support, it is obvious that other types of supporting structure could be used. Where a pedestal type support is used, the upper end thereof may carry a relatively wide annular or circular flange 12 to which is rigidly secured a plate member 13 having a planar upper surface. The member, although of a shape substantially identical to the shape of the table top 10, is smaller in size than the latter.

The member 13 supports the table top 10 for limited sliding movement substantially in the plane of the table top 10 for the latter is disposed on the member with the undersurface thereof in facewise engagement with the planar surface. It will now be seen that the table top 10 may be slidably adjusted substantially in its own plane relative to the supporting base 11 merely by applying a force against the table top 10 in the plane thereof sufficient to move the table top over the member 13. To reduce friction at the engaged surfaces of the member 13 and the table top 10 a film of some anti-friction material such as paraffin or the like is preferably applied to each of the engaged surfaces.

To limit movement of the table top relative to the planar member 13 the peripheral edge of the table top carries a molding 14 which, as will be shown, forms a continuous stop shoulder extending about the table top. As best seen in Figure 3, the molding strip 14 is formed with a pair of inwardly directed coextensive flanges 15 and 16

forming a groove for receiving the peripheral edge portion of the table top 10. The upper flange 15 is preferably formed with a radius on its exposed surface to eliminate any sharp corners and to further increase the decorative effect of the molding strip.

The lower flange 16, on its inner surface is formed with a plurality of teeth 17 which tend to bite in to the under surface of the table top to resist removal of the molding strip from the peripheral edge of the table top. To securely anchor the molding strip to the table top, the flange 16 is formed with a plurality of openings for passing a fastening element 18 such as a screw or the like. The fastening elements 18, whether they be screws or some other conventional fastening means, securely hold the molding strip about the peripheral edge of the table top but yet do not mar the appearance of the table, for they are not visible to the users of the table.

The molding strip is formed with a depending skirt 19 which extends downwardly a distance substantially equal to the thickness of the planar supporting member 13. The skirt 19 forms the stop shoulder about the peripheral edge of the table top and limits movement of the same relative to the planar member. It is obvious, referring again to Figure 2, that the table top 10 can only be slidably moved relative to the planar member 13 the distance permitted by the stop shoulder formed by the skirt 19. As the skirt 19 extends downwardly from the table top a distance substantially equal to the thickness of the planar member, there is no danger of the table top being moved a distance greater than the difference between the size of the planar member 13 and that of the table top 10.

The distance the table top 10 extends beyond the planar member 13 must be such that a stable structure is had even when the top is moved to any one of its extreme positions of adjustment. This necessarily depends on the size of the table so that the amount of adjustment of the table top 10 relative to its supporting structure 11 will, therefore, vary in accordance with the size of the table top. Thus table tops of relatively large size inherently have a large range of movement which of course is desirable for larger nooks or booths are more difficult to get into than the smaller sizes.

As the fastening elements 18 extend transversely to the direction of movement of the table top, engagement between the skirt 19 and the peripheral edge of the supporting planar member 13 places these fastening elements in shear. As such fastening elements have a high shear strength, there is little, if any, likelihood of the elements failing in use.

If desired, the molding strip 14 can be formed with coextensive grooves 21 into which can be fitted decorative strips 22 for enhancing the appearance of the molding strip. The decorative strips 22, for instance, may be given a color identical to the color of the surfacing layer 23 carried by the upper face of the table top 10. It should also be noted that the flange 15, as it extends inwardly about the peripheral edge of the table top 10, protects the peripheral edge of the surface layer 23 and prevents separation of this layer from the top face of the table top 10.

As previously indicated, the table of the present invention is particularly adapted for use in breakfast nooks, booths, and other table and seat installations in which fixed, arcuately arranged seating accommodations are used. Such an arrangement is shown in Figure 1 in which 24 indicates the fixed, arcuately arranged seating accommodations for seating persons using the table of the present invention. In the past, where the table used with such seating accommodations has been fixed, it has been extremely difficult and very awkward for the persons intending to sit at the rear to slip into their positions. This is not so with the table of the present invention, for a person intending to sit at the rear of the nook or both can easily move the table top 10 to the left, as viewed in Figure 1, for example, which, as should not be understood, will open a passage at the right of the nook or booth to permit the person access into the booth to assume his position at the rear thereof. After the person has been seated the table top can be returned to its position centrally of the seating accommodations by merely moving the top to its desired position. As the table top is universally adjustable relative to its supporting structure, it can be adjusted to permit easy access into either side of the nook or booth.

It should be noted that the flange or skirt 19 forms a convenient hand hold for pulling the table top into any desired position of adjustment. Where a pushing force is to be exerted against the table, the hands may merely be placed against the edge of the table top and the force applied by moving the hands away from the body.

A further feature of the table of the present invention resides in the fact that the table top 10 can be removed from its supporting structure to permit the floor area under the table to be easily cleaned. After the floor area has been cleaned, the table can be again put in use by merely placing the table top on the planar member 13 and pushing the table relative thereto in the desired position.

There is shown in Figure 4 a modified form of the table of the present invention. In this form of the invention, the molding strip 24 is secured to the table top 25 in substantially the same way as is the molding strip 14 secured the table top 10. In this form of the invention, however, the skirt 26 depending from the strip does not form the stop means or stop shoulder for limiting movement of the table top relative to the planar supporting member 27, for in this embodiment the stop means or stop shoulder is formed by a lip 28 coextensive with and downwardly extending from the inner edge of the flange 29. It will be seen that the stop means formed by the downwardly extending lip 28 spaces the peripheral edge of the supporting member 27 from the skirt 26 and thus eliminates any danger of a user's fingers being pinched between the skirt 26 and the supporting member 27 as the table top 25 is adjusted relative to the latter.

The skirt 26, as in the earlier described embodiment of the invention, serves as a hand hold for adjusting the table top and will conceal the supporting member to a casual observer of the table.

Although the now preferred embodiments of the present invention have been shown and described herein, it is to be understood that the invention is not to be limited thereto, for the same is susceptible to changes in form and detail within the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A table of the type described for use with fixed arcuate seat structure in a booth, said table comprising: a floor-engaging support means; a support member carried by said support means, said member providing a support surface extend-

ing substantially in a horizontal plane; a table top slidingly resting on said support surface for universal movement in said plane; and means forming a stop shoulder around the periphery of said table top extending below said plane to engage said member around the periphery of said support surface to limit the range of universal movement of the table top on the support member, said table top being dimensioned relative to said support surface for maximum overhang in any direction substantially less than the dimension of the support surface in the same direction to make said table top stable at all positions, said table top being freely liftable from said surface for access to the floor adjacent said support means.

2. A table as set forth in claim 1 in which said table top is covered with a surface layer and said peripheral means serves the further functions of protecting the peripheral edge of the surface layer and of preventing separation of the surface layer from the table top.

3. A table as set forth in claim 1 which includes a skirt extending around the periphery of the table top serving the dual purpose of ornamentation for the border of the table top and handle means for slidingly manipulating the table top, and in which said stop shoulder is spaced inwardly from said skirt to provide finger

space adjacent the skirt at all limit positions of the table top.

4. A table as set forth in claim 3 in which said stop shoulder and said skirt are integral parts of molding strip around the periphery of the table top.

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