Aug. 23, 1932. L. H. BURLIN 1,872,669

COMBINATION TRAY AND TABLE

Filed March 12, 1931 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

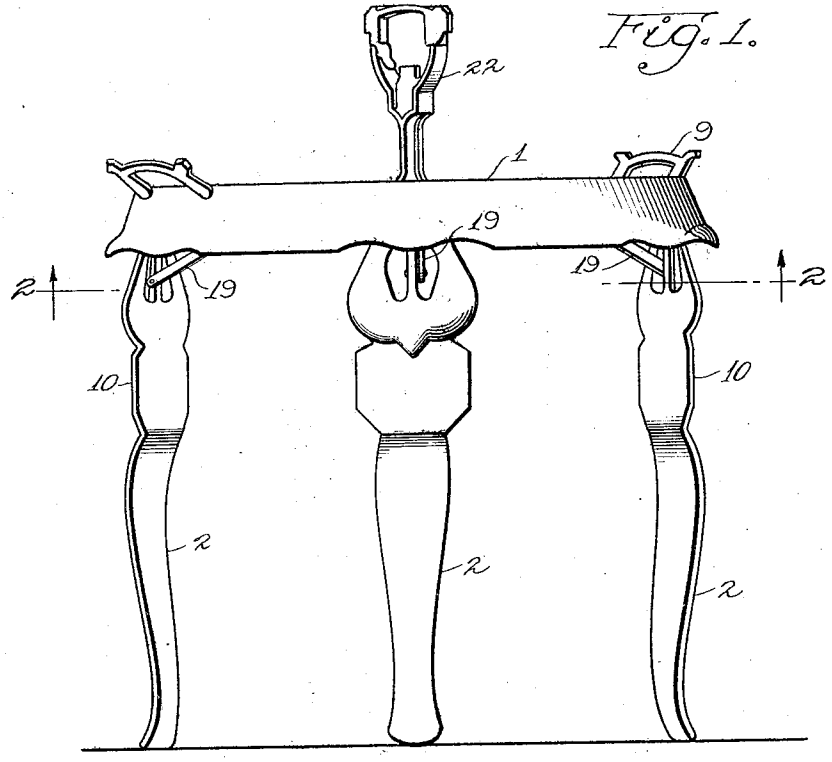
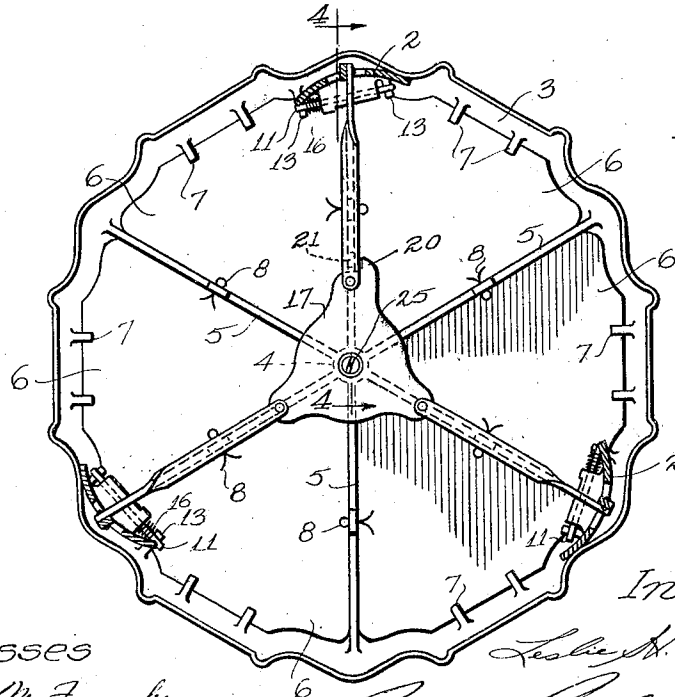


Fig. 2.



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Fig. 3.

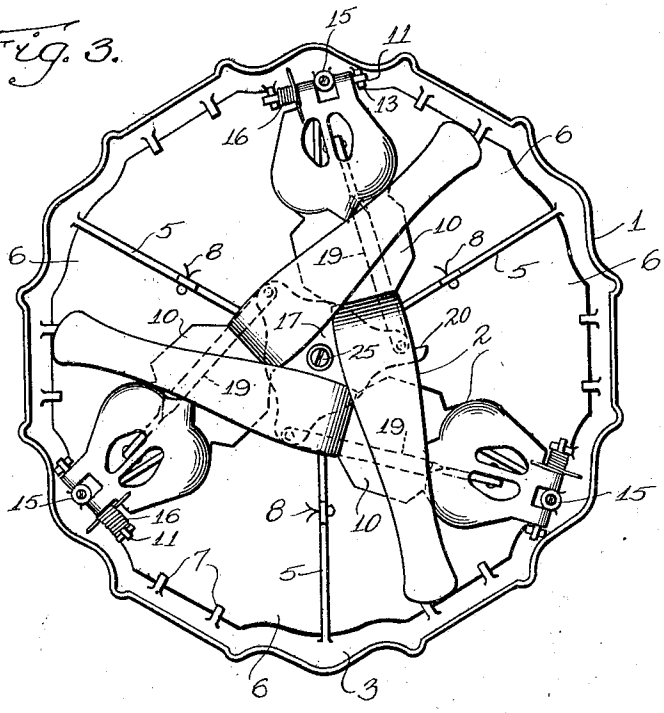


Fig. 5.

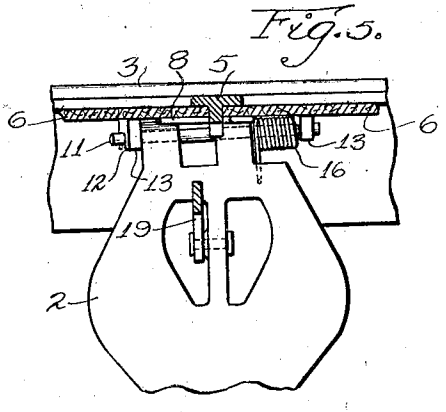
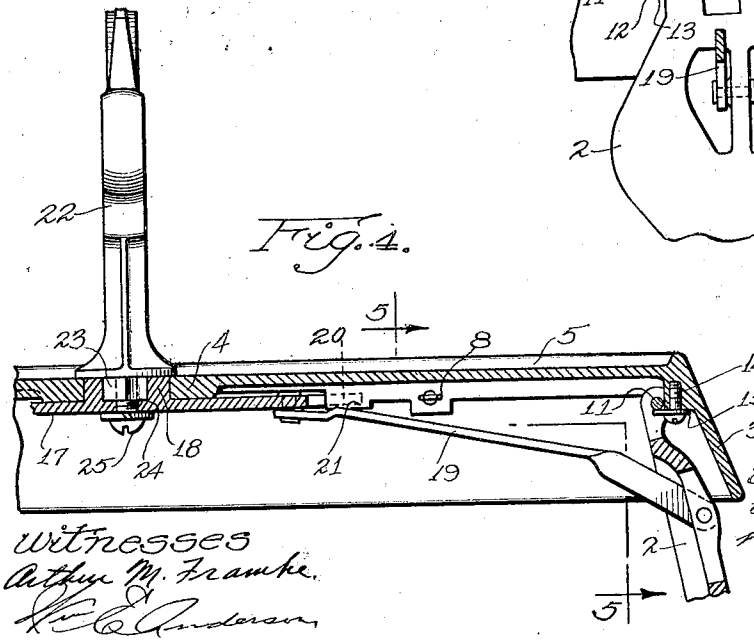


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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COMBINATION TRAY AND TABLE

Application filed March 12, 1931. Serial No. 521,992.

The main objects of this invention are to provide an improved form of collapsible table; to provide a collapsible table having an improved top adapted to form a serving tray when the table is collapsed; to provide improved mechanism for folding and unfolding the table legs; to provide a leg operating mechanism of this kind having an improved operating handle adapted to also serve as a lifting handle for the tray; and to provide a collapsible table having hinged legs of improved form which are adapted to be nested together in overlapping relation in close proximity to the table top so as to require a minimum amount of space when the table is collapsed.

An illustrative embodiment of this invention is shown in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the improved table showing the legs in extended position.

Fig. 2 is a transverse section, taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1, but showing the leg structure not fully extended.

Fig. 3 is a bottom plan of the table showing the legs in folded position.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary section, taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary section, taken on the line 5—5 of Fig. 4.

In the form herein shown, the improved table comprises a top 1 and three legs 2, which are hinged to the top so as to permit the table to be collapsed when it is desired to use the device as a tray.

The table top may be of any desired shape and may be made of various kinds of material. In the construction shown, it includes a metal rim 3 provided with an integral spider having a hub 4 and radially disposed arms 5 of substantially T-shaped cross section forming seats for a plurality of panel sectors 6, which may be made of fiber or any other suitable material. The panels 6 are supported on lugs 7, formed on the rim, and cotter pins 8 extending through the spider arms. A pair of handles 9 are mounted on respectively opposite sides of the rim.

In the construction illustrated, each of the legs 2 is shaped to form a depression 10 adjacent its inner end to receive a portion of an adjacent leg when the table is collapsed, so as to permit the legs to be nested together in overlapping relation in close proximity to the tray, as illustrated in Figure 3. With such improved construction, the legs require only a very small amount of space, when the table is collapsed for use as a tray.

Mounted on the inner ends of the legs 2, are hinge pins 11, which are rotatably seated in sockets 12 formed in lugs 13 on the rim 3. The hinge pins are secured to the rim 3 by screws 14 having washers 15 which slidably engage the central portions of the pins. Embracing the hinge pins, are helical springs 16 having their ends bearing respectively against the legs and rim 3 for yieldingly resisting the unfolding of the legs. In order to permit the leg structure to be properly folded in the manner illustrated in Fig. 3, the hinge pins 11 are tilted with respect to the plane of the table top, as shown in Fig. 5, and also inclined with respect to the spider arms 5, as shown in Figures 2 and 3.

The leg structure is folded and unfolded by an improved operating mechanism including a plate 17 located below the tray and having a hub 18, which is rotatably mounted in the spider hub 4. The plate 17 is operatively connected with the legs by links 19 having their inner ends pivotally secured to the plate 17 and having their outer ends pivotally secured to the legs. A shoulder 20 is formed on the plate 17 for engagement with a lug 21 on one of the spider arms to limit the rotation of the plate in unfolding the leg structure. In order to prevent the leg structure from accidentally collapsing when the table is set up, the links 19 are arranged so as to be inclined relative to the spider arms when the leg structure is expanded, and the shoulder 20 abuts against the lug 21. In Figure 2, the links 19 are disposed substantially radially because the leg structure is not fully unfolded, but when the shoulder 20 engages the lug 21, the links are inclined with respect to the spider arms.

The plate 17 is actuated by a handle 22, which is mounted in the center of the tray so as to be adapted to serve as a lifting handle

when the device is used as a serving tray. Formed on the lower end of the handle 22, is a polygonal boss 23 seated in a corresponding socket 24 formed in the hub 18. The handle is secured to the plate 17 by a screw 25 extending upwardly into the boss 23.

In operation, the device is lifted by grasping the handle 22 by which the tray may be carried in one hand. To expand the leg structure for setting up the table, the device is held in one hand by the handle 22 and one of the handles 9 is then grasped by the other hand of the operator. While the device is thus supported, the handle 22 is rotated clockwise, thereby actuating the plate 17 and links 19 for expanding the leg structure. To fold the leg structure, the device is similarly supported while the handle 22 is rotated counterclockwise. When the device is collapsed, the leg structure is hidden from view and the table top serves as a convenient serving tray.

Although but one specific embodiment of this invention has been herein shown and described, it will be understood that certain details of the construction shown may be altered or omitted without departing from the spirit of this invention as defined by the following claims.

I claim:

1. A combination tray and table comprising a table top, legs hinged on said top and foldable to a position beneath said top to permit said top to serve as a tray, mechanism including a rotatable member mounted on the lower face of said top for actuating said leges, and a rotatable lifting handle mounted on said top for carrying the tray in a horizontal position, said handle being operatively connected with said rotatable member for actuating said legs while the tray is supported horizontally by said handle.

2. A combination tray and table comprising a table top, legs hinged on said top and foldable to a position beneath said top to permit said top to serve as a tray, operating mechanism including a rotatable member mounted on the lower face of said top, links connecting said legs with said member for actuating said legs through the rotation of said member, and a rotatable lifting handle extending upwardly through the center of said top for carrying the tray, said handle being connected with said member for rotating said member while the tray is supported by said handle.

3. A combination tray and table comprising a table top, legs hinged on said top and foldable to a position beneath said top to permit said top to serve as a tray, mechanism including a rotatable member mounted on the lower face of said top for actuating said legs, a rotatable lifting handle mounted on said top for carrying the tray, said handle being operatively connected with said rotatable member for actuating said legs while the tray is supported by said handle, and coacting shoulders on said top and rotatable member for limiting the rotation of said handle.

4. A collapsible table comprising a top, and a plurality of legs hinged on said top and adapted to be folded beneath said top in overlapping relation to one another, each of said legs being curved to form a recess adapted to receive a portion of one of the other legs so as to permit all of said legs to be nested in close proximity to the lower face of said top.

Signed at Chicago this 10th day of March, 1931.

LESLIE H. BURLIN.