April 26, 1955 W. VANGOR 2,707,138

EXTENSION TABLE WITH FOLDING LEGS

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3 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1

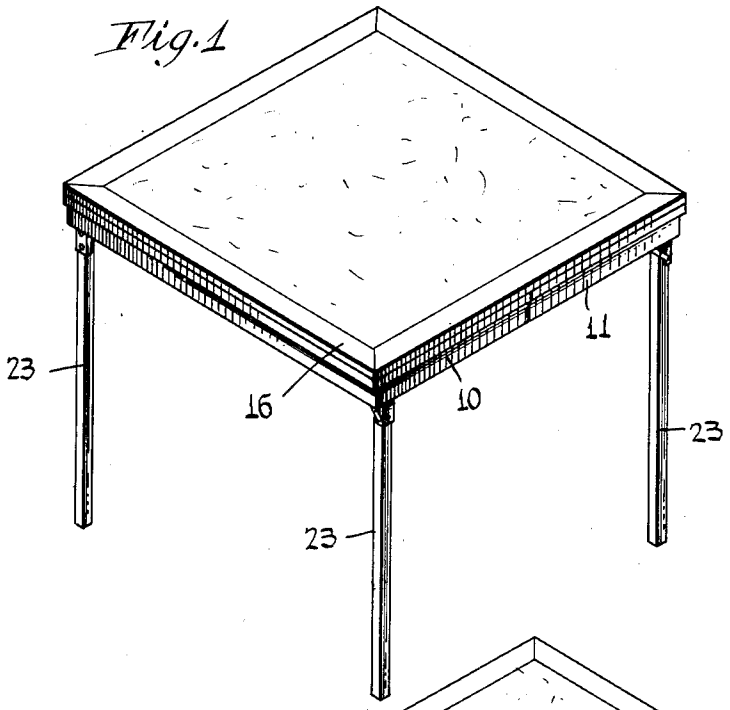
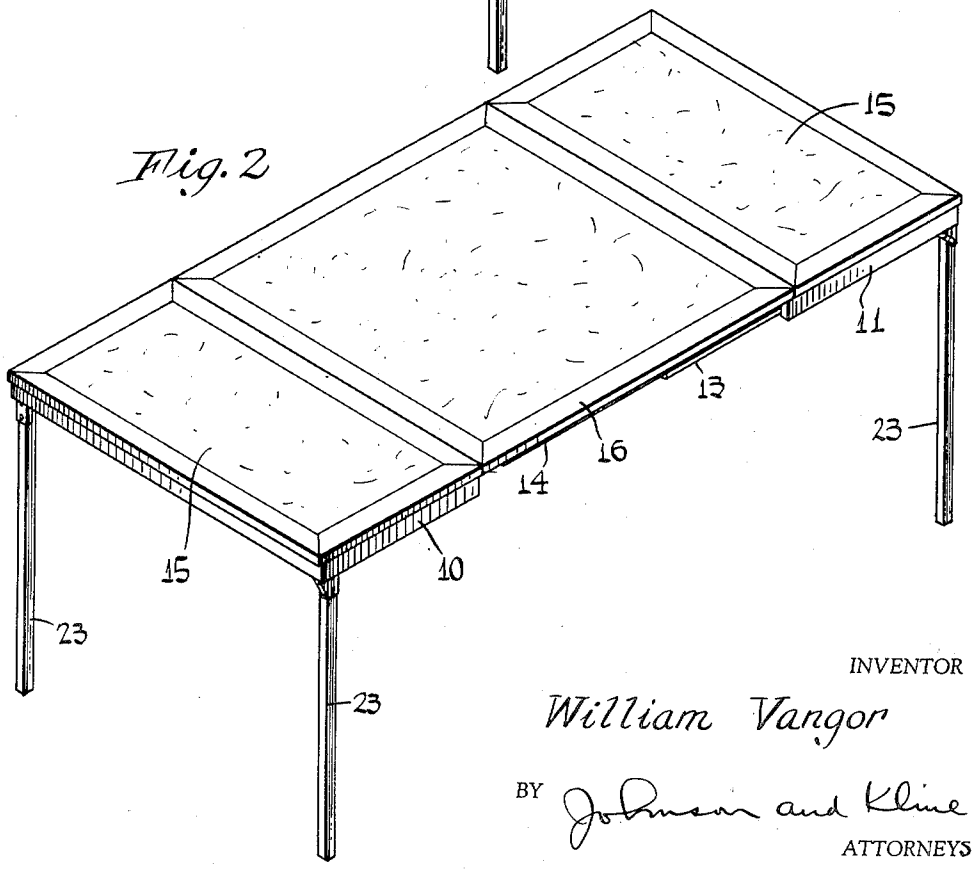


Fig. 2



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Fig. 3

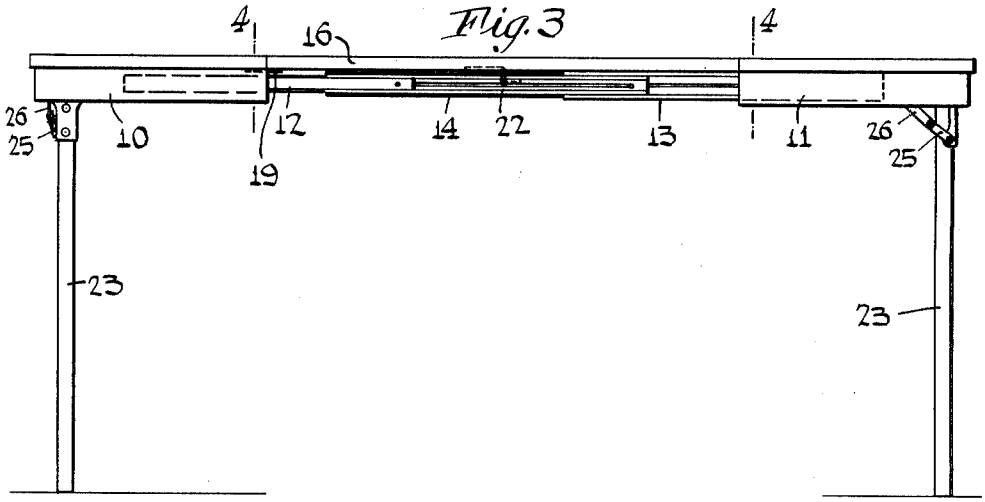


Fig. 4

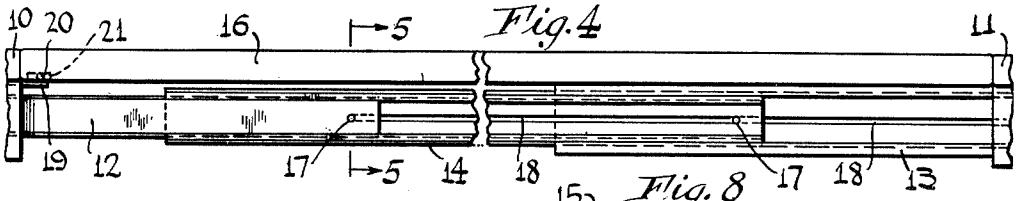


Fig. 5

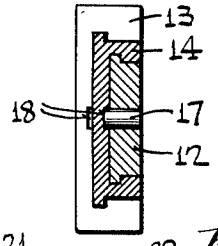


Fig. 6

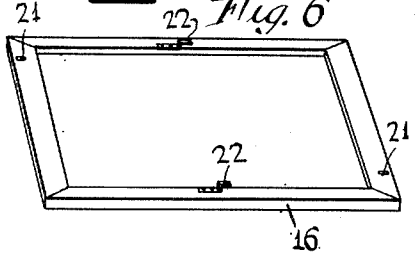


Fig. 7

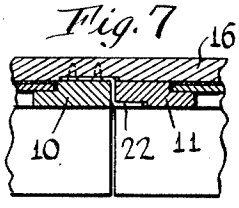


Fig. 8

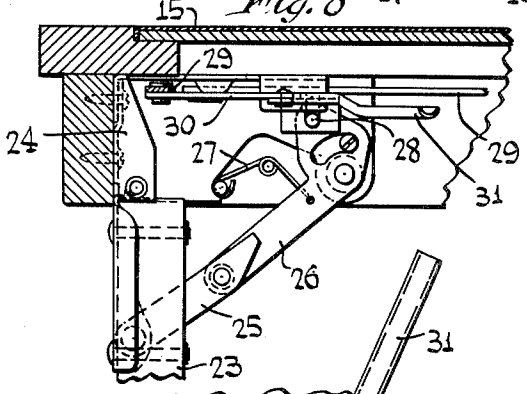
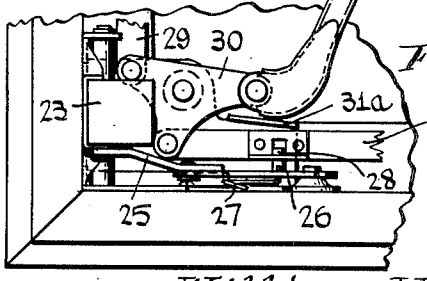


Fig. 9



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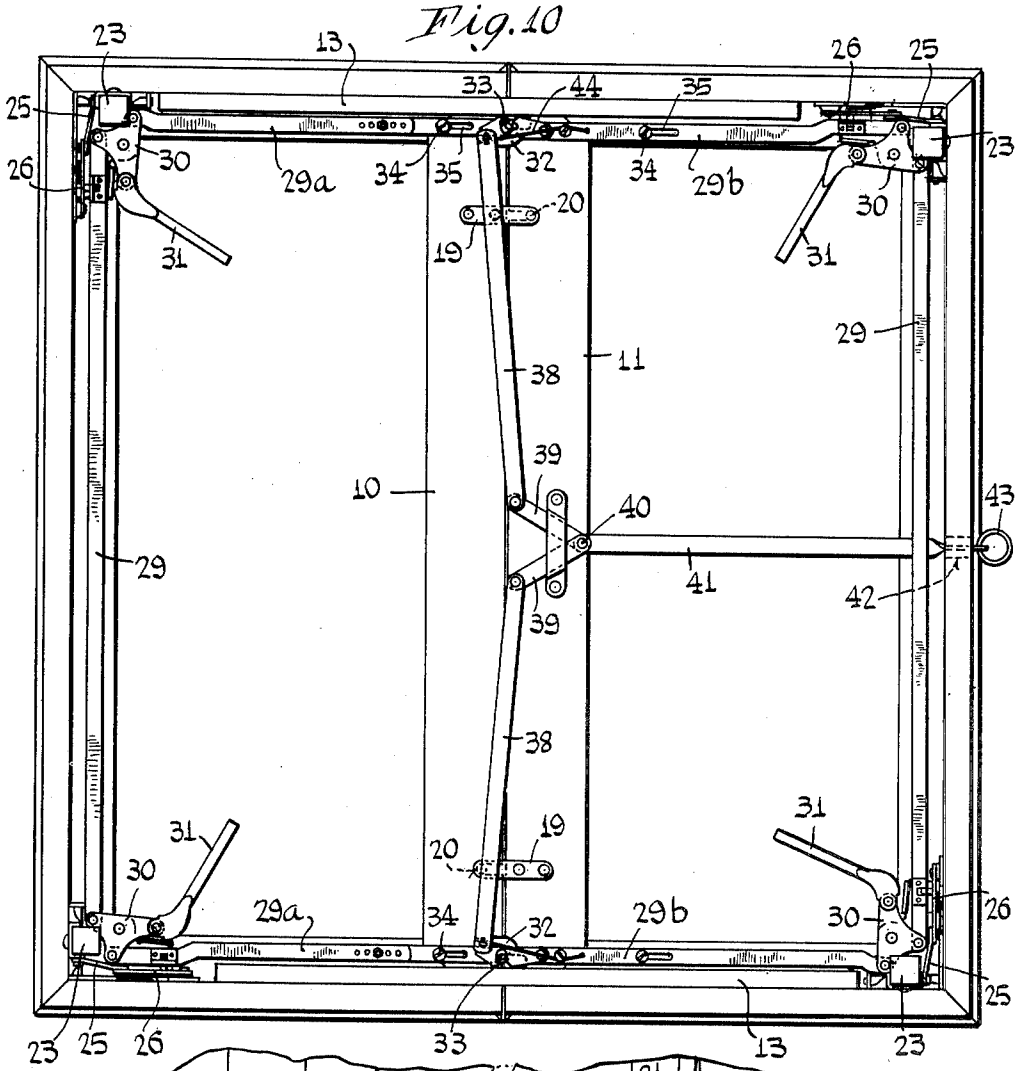
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Fig. 10



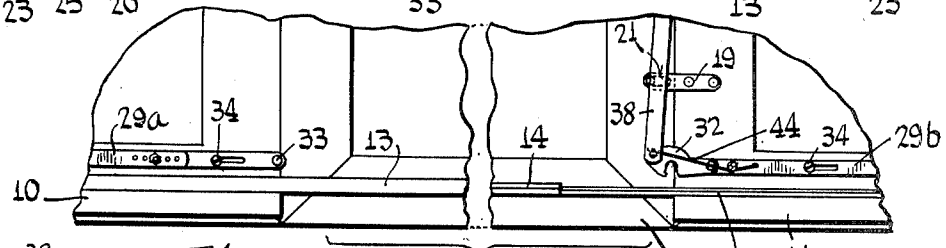


Fig. 11

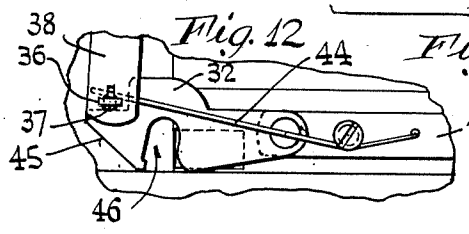


Fig. 12

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United States Patent Office 2,707,138 Patented Apr. 26, 1955

2,707,138

EXTENSION TABLE WITH FOLDING LEGS

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Application August 26, 1953, Serial No. 376,588

8 Claims. (Cl. 311—42)

This invention relates to tables, and more particularly to improvements in card tables and the like.

Card tables usually have square tops with corner legs which may be folded against the top so that the table may be conveniently carried from place to place and stored when out of use. Such tables are suitable for use by four persons such as when playing bridge, but when a larger number of persons is engaged at the table, crowded and uncomfortable conditions usually result.

An object of the present invention is to provide a card table which can be easily extended when it is desired to have more table surface and seating room, and yet maintain the table within substantially the same dimensions as the conventional card table when the extra space is not needed or desired so that it can be carried and stored in the usual way.

To this end, the card table of the present invention has a top divided in half so as to form two sections and a solid top adapted to be supported on the two-section top and of substantially the same dimensions as the latter and serving as the playing or supporting surface when the table is used as a conventional square card table. The two-section top is provided with slide rails to guide them for movements toward and from each other to closed and opened positions, and these slide rails are of such dimensions as to permit the top sections to be moved apart sufficiently to receive between them the solid auxiliary top which thus acts as a table leaf. When the auxiliary top is thus placed between the spread-apart top sections, the playing or working area of the table is substantially doubled, permitting the comfortable use of the table by eight persons. When in position between the open top sections, the auxiliary top is supported by lug-like brackets on the top sections and the top surfaces of the slide rails so that the surfaces of the top sections and the auxiliary top are in one plane.

According to the present invention in its preferred form, each of the top sections has mounted thereon a pair of outside corner legs, and they are hingedly mounted to be swingable from extended operative position to folded inoperative position against the underside of the top sections so that the table may be conveniently carried from place to place and stored in a small space. Each leg is provided with means for locking it in extended position and the legs of each section are interconnected so that when one leg is unlocked and moved, the other leg will be unlocked and moved to closed position.

According to the present invention, the legs of the two sections are also interconnected so that when the table is in closed position the unlocking and moving of one leg will unlock and move all of the legs of the table. The interconnecting means between the sections has separable connections including coupling members movable to break the interconnection and permit the two sections to be moved apart without interference when desired. These coupling members are preferably provided with actuating means leading to an outer edge of the table for convenient operation.

In the broader aspects of this invention, the auxiliary top may be arranged to merely rest on the top sections when the table is closed, but, preferably, interlocking means are provided between the auxiliary top and the top sections so that when the top sections are closed the auxiliary top will be held securely to the top sections and will remain with the latter when the table is upended for the purpose of folding the legs, carrying the table and

storing the same. Thus the inconvenience of having a separate part or leaf to be separately handled and stored is avoided.

When the auxiliary top is in position between the top sections, means are preferably provided for holding it against shifting out of longitudinal alignment with the top sections.

The table of the present invention has great practical utility, for it may conveniently serve as a card table during the playing of a game and later may be extended and be used as a luncheon or buffet table.

Other features and advantages will hereinafter appear.

In the accompanying drawings which show the preferred form of this invention—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the table of the present invention in its closed or four-place condition.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view showing the table extended—the auxiliary top being in position between the top sections.

Fig. 3 is an elevation of the table as arranged in Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged elevation of the portion of the table between the lines **4**—**4** of Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is a sectional view of the slide rails taken on the line **5**—**5** of Fig. 4.

Fig. 6 is a perspective view showing the underside of the auxiliary top.

Fig. 7 is a sectional view showing the adjacent ends of the top sections when closed with the auxiliary top supported thereon, and also showing the means for attaching the auxiliary top to the top sections.

Fig. 8 is a sectional view of one of the corners of the top section showing the leg hinge and the leg locking and operating means.

Fig. 9 is a bottom plan view of the parts shown in Fig. 8.

Fig. 10 is a bottom plan view of the table in the closed position shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 11 is a fragmentary bottom plan view showing the auxiliary top in position between the top sections.

Fig. 12 is a detail view showing the releasable coupling of the interconnecting means for the leg operating mechanism.

As shown in the accompanying drawings, the table of the present invention comprises a top section **10** and a top section **11** connected by slide rails **12** and **13** and an intermediate rail **14** structurally connecting the sections **10** and **11** together so that they can be moved apart as shown in Figs. 2 and 3 or brought together as shown in Figs. 1 and 10. Each of the top sections comprises a rectangular frame outlining a center section **15** which may be covered with suitable material.

When the sections **10** and **11** are together, they form a square supporting surface and may have the dimensions substantially those of conventional card tables or any suitable or desirable dimensions.

When in closed condition, the sections **10** and **11**, according to the present invention, support upon their upper surfaces an auxiliary table top **16**. As shown in Fig. 1, the auxiliary top has the same dimensions as the sections **10** and **11** taken together and appears with the latter as one ordinary table top. Normally, when the table is closed, the auxiliary top **16** serves as the playing or supporting surface of the table. When the sections **10** and **11** are pulled apart the necessary distance, which may be controlled by pins **17** and slots **18** between the rails **12**, **13** and **14**, the auxiliary top **16** may be dropped between the top sections.

When the auxiliary top **16** is dropped between the sections **10** and **11**, it engages and is supported by the rails **13** on the opposite sections at diagonally opposite sides. To further support the auxiliary top, the sections **10** and **11** when open have arranged diagonally opposite each other brackets or lugs **19** positioned to engage the underside of the auxiliary top. Thus the auxiliary top is supported jointly by the lugs **19** and the rails **13**.

As shown, the auxiliary top is held with its edge in longitudinal alignment with the edges of the sections **10** and **11**. For this purpose, each lug **19** has a pin or projection **20** which fits in a slot **21** in the underside of the auxiliary top. As shown in Fig. 10, one of the lugs **19**

is fastened to the section **10** while the other lug is fastened to the section **11**.

To hold it to the sections **10** and **11** when the table is closed as in Fig. 1, the auxiliary top **16** is provided with a pair of hooks **22** which extend down through the space between the sections **10** and **11** and, as shown in Fig. 7, extend under the top to the section **11**. Thus, when the sections **10** and **11** are closed as in Fig. 7, the hooks **22** hold the auxiliary top **16** against falling off the sections **10** and **11** when the table is tipped up as when carrying or storing the same.

In the form of the invention at present preferred, at their outside corners the sections **10** and **11** are provided with legs **23**. As shown in Fig. 8, each leg **23** is hinged to a bracket **24** secured to the top section so that the leg can be swung up parallel with the top section and out of the way. Each leg is locked in extended position by toggle links **25** and **26**, and a snap spring **27** holds the toggles **25—26** in either open or closed position. Each toggle link **26** has a pin-and-slot connection **28** with a drag link **29** connected to a bell crank **30** adjacent one leg and to another bell crank **30** near the adjacent leg. Each bell crank is provided with a cam lever **31** which, when manually operated, engages an abutment **31***a* and rocks the bell crank **30** to move the drag link which in turn operates the toggle link **26**. The movement of one bell crank **30** moves the other bell crank to which it is connected, and this in turn moves another drag link also connected to it so that when one cam lever **31** is operated all of the bell cranks **30** and drag links **29** are simultaneously operated to unlock the legs and move them to folded position.

To permit the sections **10** and **11** to be moved apart, the drag links **29** extending across the joint between the sections **10** and **11** are made in two parts **29***a* and **29***b* joined by a coupling comprising a hook **32** pivotally carried by the part **29***b* and a pin **33** carried by the part **29***a*. At one end, each of the drag link parts **29***a* and **29***b* is guided in its movement by its connection to the adjacent bell crank **30** and the movement of its other end is guided by a pin **34** riding in a slot **35** in the link part. Hence, when the sections **10** and **11** are brought together, the hook **32** may engage over the pin **33** and thus couple the parts **29***a* and **29***b* together for movement as one, so that when any drag link moves longitudinally, all of the drag links move at the same time. The hook and pin connections **32—33** further serve to hold the sections **10** and **11** together.

According to the present invention, the hooks **32** may be controlled in any suitable manner. However, it is advantageous to have the hooks **32** spring-urged to locking position and to provide means whereby the hooks may be manually released from a convenient place on the table so as to facilitate the separation of the sections **10** and **11** when it is desired to extend the table. For this purpose, each of the hooks **32** has an ear **36** extending through a hole **37** in a link **38** extending toward the center of the table. At the center of the table the links **38** are connected with toggle links **39**, the joint **40** of which is connected to a bar **41** extending through a slot **42** in the outside edge of the section **11** where it is provided with a ring **43** serving as a handle. When the ring **43** is pulled, the toggle **39** is closed pulling the links **38** toward the center of the table and releasing the hooks **32** from the pins **33**. In the form of the invention shown, each hook **32** is returned to operative position upon release of the ring **43** by a spring **44** carried by the drag link portion **29***b* and engaging the ear **36** on the hook. The outer end of the hook **32** is provided with a cam surface **45** so that when the sections **10** and **11** are brought together the pin **33** will engage the cam **45** and cause the hook to be raised until the pin **33** drops in the slot **46**, at which time the spring **44** will move the hook over the pin and interconnect the link portions **29***a* and **29***b*.

Variations and modifications may be made within the scope of the claims and portions of the improvements may be used without others.

I claim:

1. A table of the card-table type comprising a top formed of two separable rectangular sections; slide rails connecting the sections for guided movement between juxtaposed closed and spaced open positions; an auxiliary top insertable in the space between the two sections when the latter are in open position; supporting legs on each section and movable therewith in the opening and closing movements of the top sections; means hingedly mounting each leg on its section for movement between extended operative and folded inoperative positions; and means connecting all the legs when the sections are in closed position for concurrent movements to and from folded and extended positions, the said means having cooperating separable coupling elements whereby the connections may be uncoupled to permit the top sections to be moved apart to open position and recoupled when the sections are again moved together in closed position.

2. The invention as defined in claim 1 in which springs urge the coupling elements to coupling position and manually operated means moves the coupling elements to uncoupling position.

3. The invention as defined in claim 1 in which springs urge the coupling elements to coupling position and manually operated means including a finger piece located at the edge of the table moves the coupling elements to uncoupling position.

4. A table of the card-table type comprising a top formed of two separable rectangular sections; slide rails connecting the sections for guided movement between juxtaposed closed and spaced open positions; an auxiliary top insertable in the space between the two sections when the latter are in open position; supporting legs on each section and movable therewith in the opening and closing movements of the top sections; means hingedly mounting each leg on its section for movement between extended operative and folded inoperative positions; and drag links connecting all the legs when the sections are in closed position for concurrent movements to and from folded and extended positions, the drag links which extend between the two sections being formed of two parts having cooperating separable coupling elements whereby the parts may be uncoupled to permit the sections to be moved apart to open position and recoupled when the sections are again moved together in closed position.

5. A table of the card-table type comprising a top formed of two separable rectangular sections; slide rails connecting the sections for guided movement between juxtaposed closed and spaced open positions; an auxiliary top insertable in the space between the two sections when the latter are in open position; supporting legs on each section and movable therewith in the opening and closing movements of the top sections; means hingedly mounting each leg on its section for movement between extended operative and folded inoperative positions; and drag links connecting all the legs when the sections are in closed position for concurrent movements to and from folded and extended positions, the drag links which extend between the two sections being formed of two parts having cooperating separable coupling hook and pin elements on the respective parts whereby the parts may be uncoupled to permit the sections to be moved apart to open position and recoupled when the sections are again moved together in closed position.

6. The invention as defined in claim 5 in which means are provided for disengaging the hook and pin elements when it is desired to uncouple the parts preparatory to moving the top sections apart.

7. A table of the card-table type comprising a top formed of two separable rectangular sections; slide rails connecting the sections for guided movement between juxtaposed closed and spaced open positions; an auxiliary top insertable in the space between the two sections when the latter are in open position; supporting legs on each section and movable therewith in the opening and closing movements of the top sections; means hingedly mounting each leg on its section for movement between extended operative and folded inoperative positions; means for locking the legs in extended positions; and means connecting all the legs when the sections are in closed position to unlock and move all the other legs when one is unlocked and moved to folded position, said means having cooperating separable coupling elements whereby the connections may be uncoupled to permit the sections to be moved apart to open position and recoupled when the sections are again moved together in closed position.

8. A table of the card-table type comprising a top formed of two separable rectangular sections; slide rails connecting the sections for guided movement between juxtaposed closed and spaced open positions; an auxiliary top insertable in the space between the two sections when the latter are in open position; supporting legs on each section and movable therewith in the opening and closing

movements of the top sections; means hingedly mounting each leg on its section for movement between extended operative and folded inoperative positions; means for locking the legs in extended positions; and drag links connecting all the legs when the sections are in closed position to unlock and move all the legs when one is unlocked and moved, the drag links which extend between the two sections being formed of two parts having co-operating separable coupling elements on the respective parts whereby the parts may be uncoupled to permit the sections to be moved apart to open position and recoupled when the sections are again moved together in closed position.

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