June 14, 1949. F. H. SHUFLIN 2,472,962

COLLAPSIBLE TABLE OR THE LIKE

Filed May 28, 1946

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1.

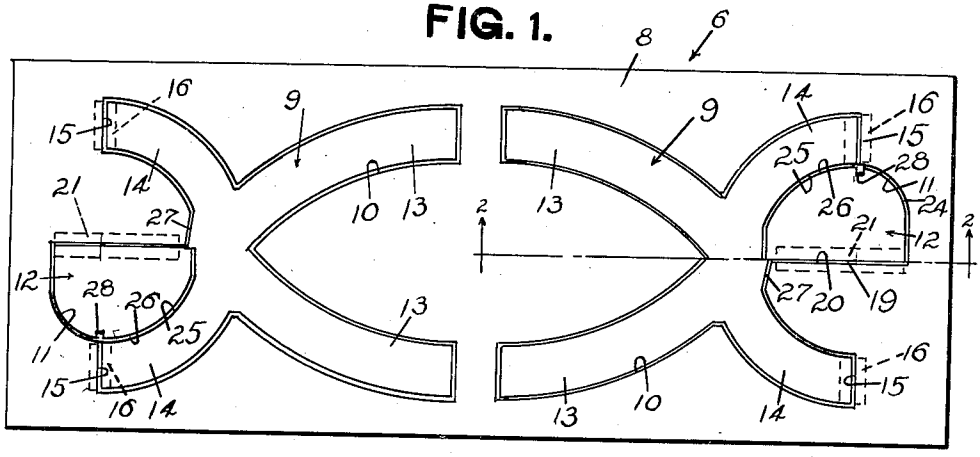


FIG. 2.

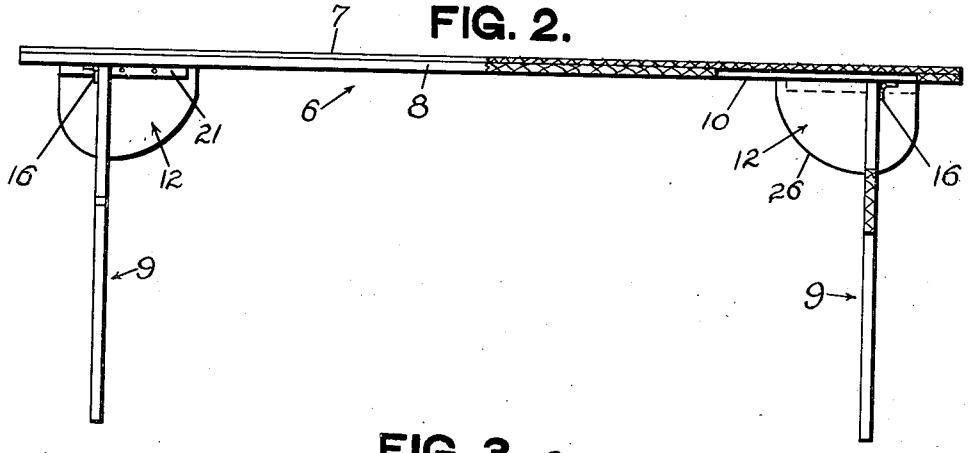
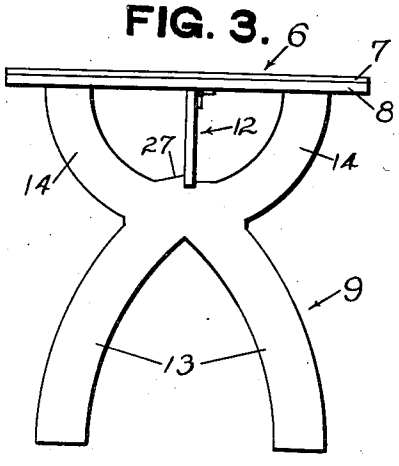


FIG. 3.



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FIG. 4.

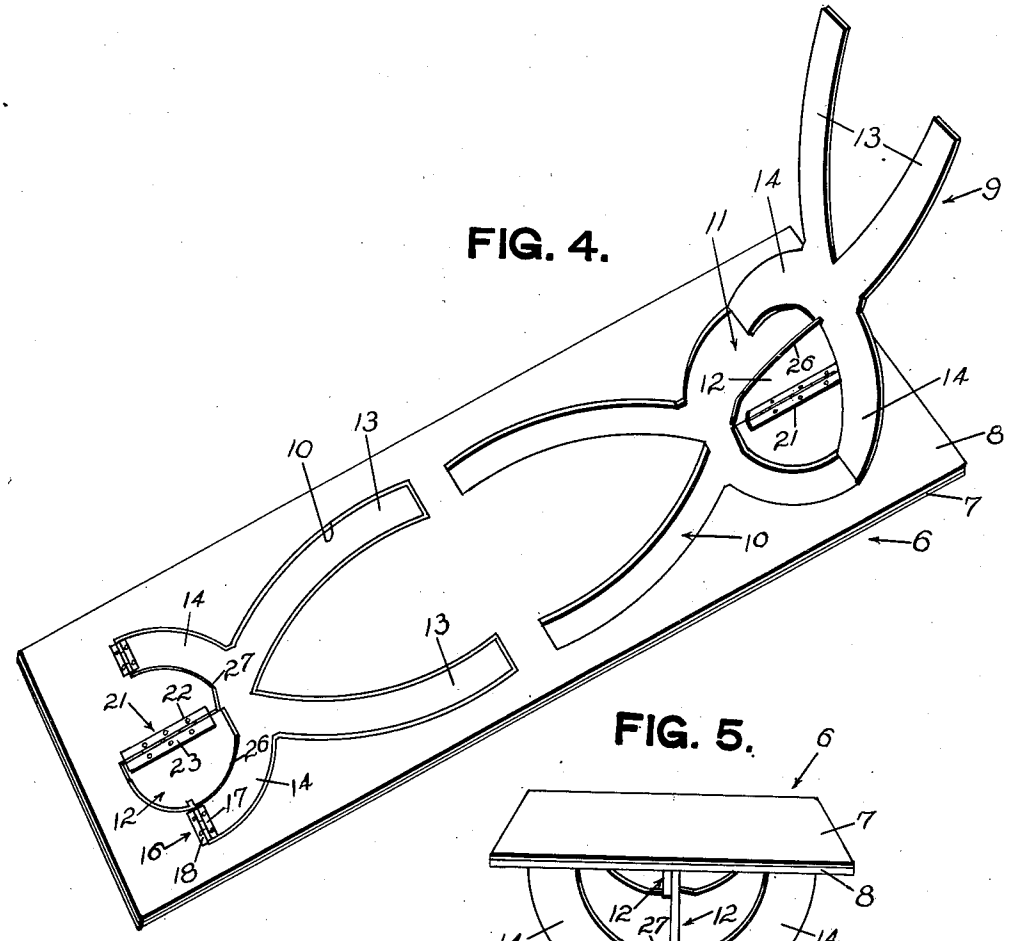
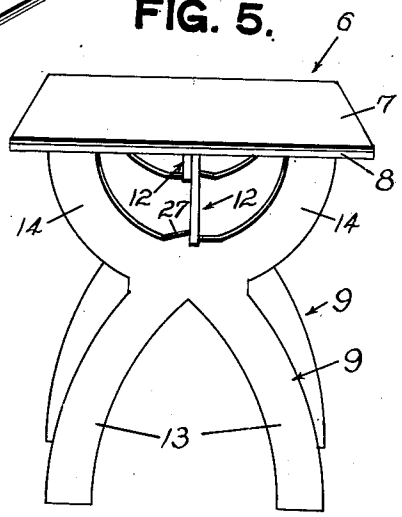


FIG. 5.



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COLLAPSIBLE TABLE OR THE LIKE

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Application May 28, 1946, Serial No. 672,791

3 Claims. (Cl. 311—84)

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This invention relates to improvements in furniture of the type involving a top or the equivalent, and collapsible legs which fold flatwise along said top, and the primary object of this invention is to provide an article of furniture of this type in which a substantial component of the top is a blank from which collapsible legs and leg braces are cut and the legs and braces are arranged so that when they are collapsed they return to occupy the cut-out portions of the blank from which they are made.

Another important object of this invention is to provide a table or the like involving structure of the type indicated above, featuring compactness characterized by maximum flatness and thinness, whereby transportation and storage of a single table or the like, or a plurality thereof, are substantially facilitated.

Another important object of this invention is to provide an improved table or the like of the character indicated above which can be readily made from a variety of inexpensive materials in a variety of ornamental and practical forms.

Other important objects and features of this invention will be apparent from the following description and the accompanying drawings, wherein, for the purposes of illustration only, a preferred embodiment is set forth in detail.

In the drawings—

Figure 1 is a bottom plan view of a table constructed according to this invention, showing the legs and leg braces collapsed.

Figure 2 is a side elevation of the table, showing the legs and leg braces in operative position, and partly broken away along the lines 2—2 of Figure 1 to show details of construction.

Figure 3 is an end elevation of the table.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the bottom of the table, showing one of the legs and its brace collapsed, and the other leg and its brace swung into operative positions out of their cut-outs in the bottom of the table, and

Figure 5 is an end perspective view of the table, showing both legs and their braces in operative position.

Referring in detail to the drawings, the numeral 6 generally designates the table top or the equivalent, which in this case consists of an upper imperforate elongated panel 7 of relatively thin material adhered or otherwise secured to the upperside of the main or lower panel or blank 8, which is of relatively substantial character and may be somewhat thicker than the upper panel 7, so as to afford legs and leg braces, which are cut therefrom, of adequate strength

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and mass, and provided sufficiently rigid support therefor.

While in the illustrated embodiment the upper panel 7 is shown as a panel and as coextensive with the lower panel or blank 8, it is obvious that the present invention contemplates any other desired form for the upper panel, in accordance with the type of furniture in which the invention may be embodied.

The two similar dual legs, which are each generally designated 9, are produced, by cutting through the blank 8, so as to form the two longitudinally arranged and longitudinally spaced oppositely disposed generally X-shaped, leg-defining, openings or cut-outs 10. By cutting through the blank 8 at opposite sides of the longitudinal middle of the blank, the two openings or cut-outs 11, which define the braces 12 are produced.

The dual legs 9 produced in the above described manner, comprise the divergent leg elements or feet 13, whose outer ends are formed to engage the floor or other supporting surface, and whose upper ends join with the divergent arms 14. The upper ends of the arms 14 are hinged to the related edges 15 of the leg cut-outs 10 by hinges 16 as shown in Figure 4, with one leaf 17 secured to the outer surface of the arms 14 and the other hinge leaf 18 secured to the underside of the blank 8, so that the legs 9 can be swung out of their cut-outs 10 to their perpendicular operative positions, and back again.

The braces 12 have straight inner edges 19 which are hinged at the straight longitudinal edges 20 of their cut-outs 11, by hinges 21 which have one leaf 22 secured to the outer side of the brace and another hinge leaf 23 secured to the underside of the blank 8, whereby the braces can be swung out of their cut-outs to their perpendicular operative positions and back again.

It will be noted that the curved edge 24 of the brace cut-outs 11 define a segment of the curved edges of the braces 12, while the curved edge 25 of the leg-defining cut-outs 10 define the remaining arcuate segment 26 of the curved edges of the braces 12, in such a way that the segments 26 and the inner edges of the arms 14 have the same curvature.

To enable the braces 12 in their perpendicular positions to firmly hold the legs 9 in their perpendicular positions, the legs have stops 27 in the crotches of the legs 9 so positioned that as the braces 12 swing downwardly they engage and are stopped in proper perpendicular positions by the stops 27. In addition, the edges of the braces

have notches 28 which can be engaged with the curved inner edges of the leg arms 14 so as to positively hold the legs in perpendicular position, as the braces 12 are swung down into their operative bracing positions, with the legs 9 already in their perpendicular operative positions. Thus the legs 9 cannot be collapsed to return them to their nested flush positions in the cut-outs 10 until the braces 12 have first been swung far enough toward their final nested flush positions in their cut-outs 11 to disengage their notches 28 from the legs 9.

What is claimed is:

1. An article of furniture comprising a blank formed with cuts made therethrough so as to define at least two legs and a brace for each leg and cut-outs in which said legs and leg braces can nest substantially flush with said blank, and hinge means connecting edges of said legs and leg braces to corresponding edges of said cut-outs whereby the said legs can be swung out of the related cut-outs to positions perpendicular to said blank and returned thereinto and whereby the said leg braces can be swung out of the related cut-outs and can be subsequently returned into their cut-outs, and means for releasably connecting said legs and leg braces to hold said legs in perpendicular positions, said hinge means comprising hinges pivoting said legs and said leg braces to swing outwardly from one side only of said blank and on axes disposed at substantially right angles with respect to each other, the outer edges of said leg braces being convexly curved and an inner edge portion of said legs being concavely curved, the curvatures being substantially similar, said convexly curved outer edges of said braces being formed with notches arranged to slidably engage the said concavely curved inner edges of the legs as the braces are swung out of nested position with said legs in perpendicular position, so as to positively hold the legs in perpendicular position.

2. An article of furniture comprising a blank formed with cuts made therethrough so as to define at least two legs and a brace for each leg and cut-outs in which said legs and leg braces can nest substantially flush with said blank, and hinge means connecting edges of said legs and leg braces to corresponding edges of said cut-outs whereby the said legs can be swung out of the related cut-outs to positions perpendicular to said blank and returned thereinto and whereby the said leg braces can be swung out of the related cut-outs and can be subsequently returned into their cut-outs, and means for releasably connecting said legs and leg braces to hold said legs in perpendicular positions, said hinge means comprising hinges pivoting said legs and said leg braces to swing outwardly from one side only of said blank and on axes disposed at substantially right angles with respect to each other, the outer edges of said leg braces being convexly curved and an inner edge portion of said legs being concavely curved, the curved portions having substantially similar curvatures, said convexly curved outer edges of said braces being formed with notches arranged to slidably engage the said concavely curved inner edges of the legs as the braces are swung out of nested position with said legs in perpendicular position, whereby said legs are positively held in perpendicular position and stops on the said concavely curved edges of the legs preventing said braces from being swung beyond their perpendicular positions in engagement with said legs.

3. An article of furniture comprising a plate formed in its underside with a recess including a leg receiving portion and a brace receiving portion, a leg conforming in shape to said leg receiving portion of said recess and bifurcated at its upper end to define two laterally spaced elements with a concave opening therebetween, means hinging said elements to related edge portions of said leg receiving portion of said recess whereby said leg when folded is received in said leg receiving portion flush with the underside of said plate and projects at right angles to said plate when extended, a brace conforming in shape to said brace receiving portion of said end positioned between said spaced elements on the upper end of said leg, means hinging an edge of said brace to a related edge portion of said brace receiving portion of said recess so as to be received in said brace receiving portion of the recess when folded and to project at right angles to said plate when extended, another edge of said brace being formed with a notch arranged to retainably engage an edge portion of said concave opening in the upper end of said leg when said brace is swung from the folded position to its extended position while said leg is in its extended position, and a stop projecting from the edge of said concave opening limiting movement in one direction of said extended brace to a right angular relation to said plate when said brace is swung into the extended position, whereby frictional contact of said leg and said brace retains said leg in its extended position and said leg frictionally retains said brace against accidental movement away from said stop.

FRANK HELSEL SHUFLIN.

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