

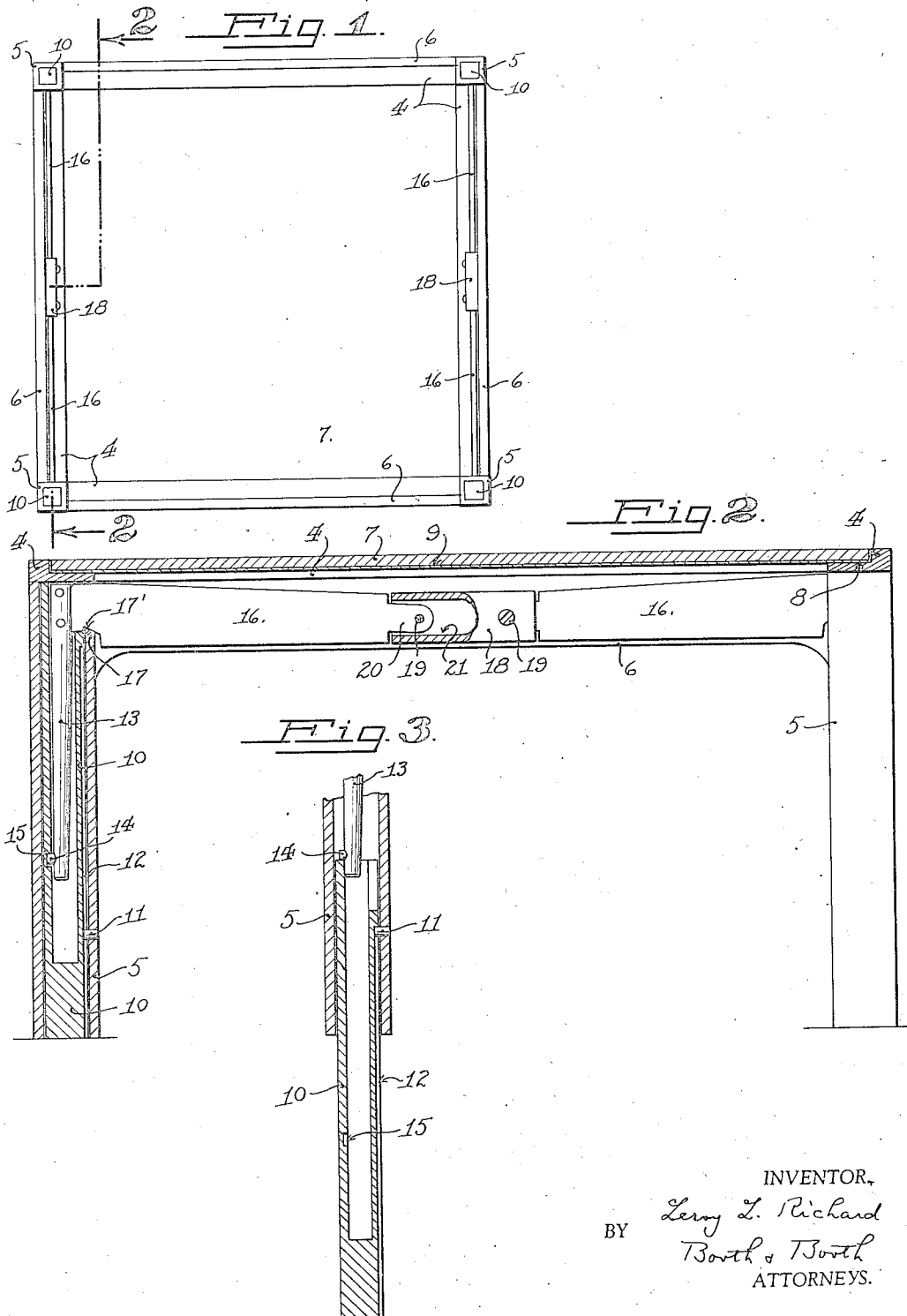
May 5, 1936.

L. L. RICHARD

2,039,348

CONVERTIBLE TABLE

Filed March 18, 1935



INVENTOR,
BY *Leroy L. Richard*
Booth & Booth
ATTORNEYS.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,039,348

CONVERTIBLE TABLE

Leroy L. Richard, Visalia, Calif.

Application March 18, 1935, Serial No. 11,656

3 Claims. (Cl. 311—39)

The present invention relates to a table which can be instantly converted from one form to another, as to its height and the character of its top, whereby a single article of furniture may fulfil two or more different functions.

In the embodiment of the invention herein described by way of example, the table, in its normal condition, has the form of a coffee table, and when converted, becomes a card table, but it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to these specific forms, but may be embodied in convertible tables having other uses.

A coffee table, as known in the furniture art, is approximately seventeen inches high, and is used as a stand from which to serve coffee in a drawing-room or lounge, the short legs making it convenient to the easy chairs found in such rooms. The top is customarily polished or ornamented, and the entire table is a decorative piece of furniture. A card table is approximately twenty-seven inches high, and its top is usually permanently covered with some slightly resilient material such as felt or enameled cloth.

The principal object of the present invention is to provide a table, which may be as decorative as desired, whose legs may be extended and whose top may be reversed, to convert it into a table of different form, so that one piece of furniture may serve two uses, thereby saving expense, trouble and space. Other objects are to provide extensible legs which are easily and quickly operated and which are rigid and strong in either retracted or extended position, and to provide concealed mechanism for locking and releasing the extensible legs, so that the ornamental appearance of the table is not impaired.

Still further objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following specification which should be read with the understanding that changes, within the scope of the appended claims, may be made in the form, construction and arrangement of the several parts without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Reference will be made to the accompanying drawing in which

Fig. 1 is a bottom view of a table embodying a preferred form of the invention.

Fig. 2 is a vertical section taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1 and enlarged, showing the parts in position to form a coffee table with the legs retracted.

Fig. 3 is a vertical section of a portion of one leg showing it in extended position.

In the drawing, the reference numeral 4 designates a top frame, preferably rectangular, to the

underside of which are fixed the legs 5. A skirt or rail 6 extends between the legs 5 to brace them, and is also attached to the underside of the frame 4. A top 7 is removably supported by the frame 4, and is preferably set into a rabbet 8 formed in the upper surface of said frame, the top and frame together constituting what may be termed the body of the table. One side of the top 7 may be polished or decorated in any desired manner, and is intended to be uppermost when the device is used as a coffee table, as shown in Fig. 2. The other side of the top 7 is covered with a layer of suitable resilient material, such, for example, as felt. When used as a coffee table, the felt 9 is concealed, as shown in Fig. 2, but by lifting out the top 7 and reversing it, the felt cover becomes uppermost to form a card table. If desired, suitable means, not shown in the drawing, may be provided for holding the top 7 in the frame 4.

Each leg 5 is hollow and contains a slidable extension 10, the sliding movement of which is limited by a pin or dowel 11 in the fixed leg 5 which operates in a groove 12 in the extension 10, and abuts against a shoulder formed at the end of said groove, as shown in Fig. 3. The extension 10 is also hollow and surrounds a locking member or bar 13 which has a projecting lug 14 near its lower end. The locking bar 13 is slightly tapered, as shown, its upper end being a free fit in the interior of the extension 10, and its lower end being reduced in width to permit it to have sufficient lateral or tilting movement to enable the lug 14 to engage or disengage a socket 15 formed in the interior of said extension. The locking bar 13 is rigidly secured at its upper end to a horizontal lever 16 which extends through an aperture 17 in the inside of the fixed leg 5 and lies adjacent to the inner face of the skirt rail 6. The lever 16 is provided with a notch 17' which seats upon the bottom of the aperture 17 and forms a fulcrum upon which said lever may rock to tilt the locking member 13 into and out of locking engagement with the extension 10.

When the lever 16 is in the position shown in Fig. 2, in which position it is normally retained by gravity, the lug 14 of the locking member 13 engages the socket 15 and holds the extension 10 in retracted position, as shown. The table may, therefore, be picked up and carried about without having the extension legs 10 drop down. When it is desired to extend the leg, the lever 16 is raised, thereby freeing the lug 14 from the

socket 15, and when the table is lifted, the extension 10 will drop down to the position shown in Fig. 3. The lever 16 is then released, which allows the lug 14 to engage the upper end of said extension, as shown in Fig. 3, thereby locking the leg in extended position. The upper end of the locking member 13 abuts against the bottom of the frame 4, so that the weight of the table is borne by the extension 10, the lug 14, and the locking member 13, the fixed leg 5 forming merely a guide.

The levers 16 of the two legs on one side of the table are joined together by a channel block 18, to which the inner end of each lever is connected by a pivot 19, said ends being preferably cut down to form tongues 20 which lie within the channel 21 of the connecting block 18. The levers of the two legs on the opposite side of the table are similarly connected, as shown in Fig. 1. Therefore, by grasping the frame 4 at the mid portions of its opposite sides, and extending the fingers beneath and around the skirt pieces 6, the two connecting blocks 18 can be simultaneously raised to unlock all four legs at the same time. Thus by lifting the table in a natural and convenient manner, that is, by grasping its opposite sides and simultaneously operating the connecting blocks 18 by extending the fingers under the skirt pieces 6, all four legs may be allowed to drop down to extended position. To retract the legs, the same operation is performed, that is to say, the table is lifted slightly to free the locking mechanism from its weight, the connecting blocks are raised, thereby unlocking the extension legs, and the entire table is lowered, the extensions retracting upwardly into the fixed legs 5.

It will be apparent from the drawing and the foregoing description that my table, when its legs are retracted and its reversible top is turned to present its polished or decorated side uppermost, forms a substantial short-legged stand suitable for use as a coffee table, which can be ornamented to any desired extent, and which may remain in a drawing-room as a permanent article of furniture, all the extension mechanism being concealed within the hollow legs and behind the skirt pieces. Moreover, by merely extending the legs as described above, and reversing the top, the device becomes a card table of standard height, thus obviating the necessity for two separate tables. The hollow leg construction provides ample bearing surface for the extension legs, so that, when extended, they support the table rigidly.

It is to be understood that the treatment of the two faces of the reversible top is not limited to that described above, but that they may be designed for any desired uses. For example, one side may be inscribed as a playing board for some game such as backgammon or chess, with or without marginal decoration, and the other

side covered as described for card playing, or both sides may be designed as playing boards for different games, and so forth, the essential feature being the removability and reversibility of the top, by which it cooperates with the extensible legs to form a table adaptable to two different uses.

I claim:—

1. A convertible table comprising a body, legs rigidly fixed thereto, rails extending between said legs, an extensible member carried within each leg for sliding movement parallel thereto, a movable locking bar positioned parallel to said leg, and an operating lever fixed to said bar and extending laterally beneath said body, said lever being concealed behind one of said rails and said bar and lever being mounted for rocking movement to cause the lower end of said bar to move laterally to engage and lock said extensible member.

2. A convertible table comprising a body, legs rigidly fixed thereto, rails extending between said legs on at least two opposite sides of the table, extensible members carried by said legs for sliding movement parallel thereto, vertically disposed horizontally movable locking bars positioned in concealed relation to said legs, said bars having means for engaging said members to lock them in extended and retracted positions, horizontally disposed operating levers fixed to the upper ends of said bars, each lever and its associated bar being mounted for rocking movement to cause said bar to engage and disengage its associated extensible leg member, and the levers of opposite pairs of bars extending toward and ending in proximity to each other in concealed position behind said rails, whereby all said levers may be operated simultaneously by one person by grasping the two opposite rails and extending the fingers under and behind said rails.

3. A convertible table comprising a body, legs rigidly fixed thereto, rails extending between said legs on at least two opposite sides of the table, extensible members carried by said legs for sliding movement parallel thereto, vertically disposed horizontally movable locking bars positioned in concealed relation to said legs, said bars having means for engaging said members to lock them in extended and retracted positions, horizontally disposed operating levers fixed to the upper ends of said bars, each lever and its associated bar being mounted for rocking movement to cause said bar to engage and disengage its associated extensible leg member, and the levers of opposite pairs of bars extending toward each other in concealed position behind said rails, and a pair of vertically movable members, one connecting the ends of each pair of levers, whereby all said levers may be operated simultaneously by lifting said connecting members.

LEROY L. RICHARD. 60