Oct. 4, 1932. B. STEINER 1,881,333

COMBINED FIRE SCREEN AND FURNITURE HOLDER

Filed Aug. 9, 1930 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

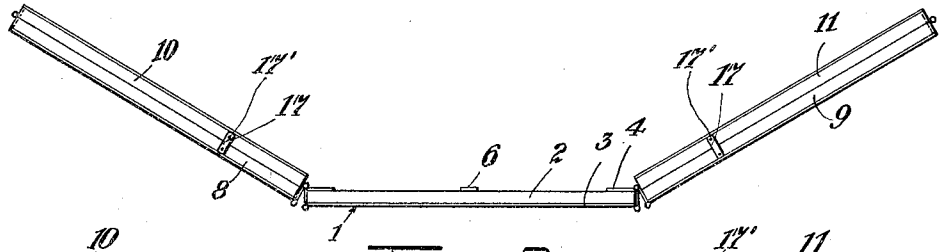


Fig. 2

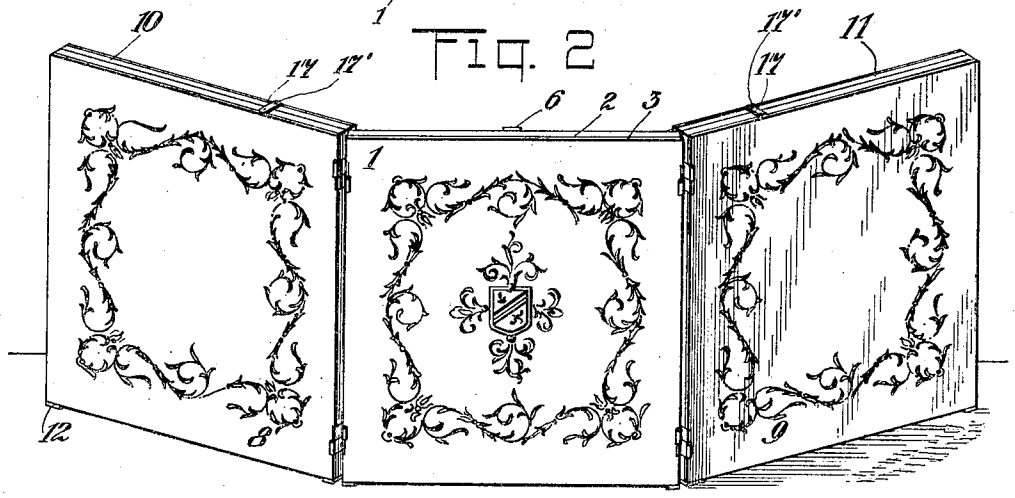


Fig. 1

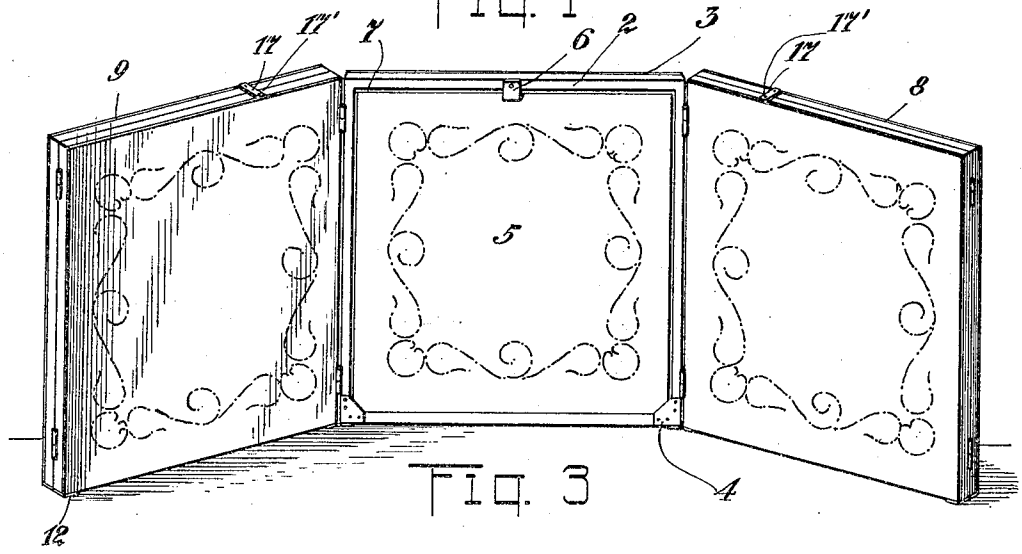


Fig. 3

INVENTOR
BERNHARD STEINER
BY
Mason, Fenwick & Lawrence
ATTORNEYS

Oct. 4, 1932. B. STEINER 1,881,333

COMBINED FIRE SCREEN AND FURNITURE HOLDER

Filed Aug. 9, 1930 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

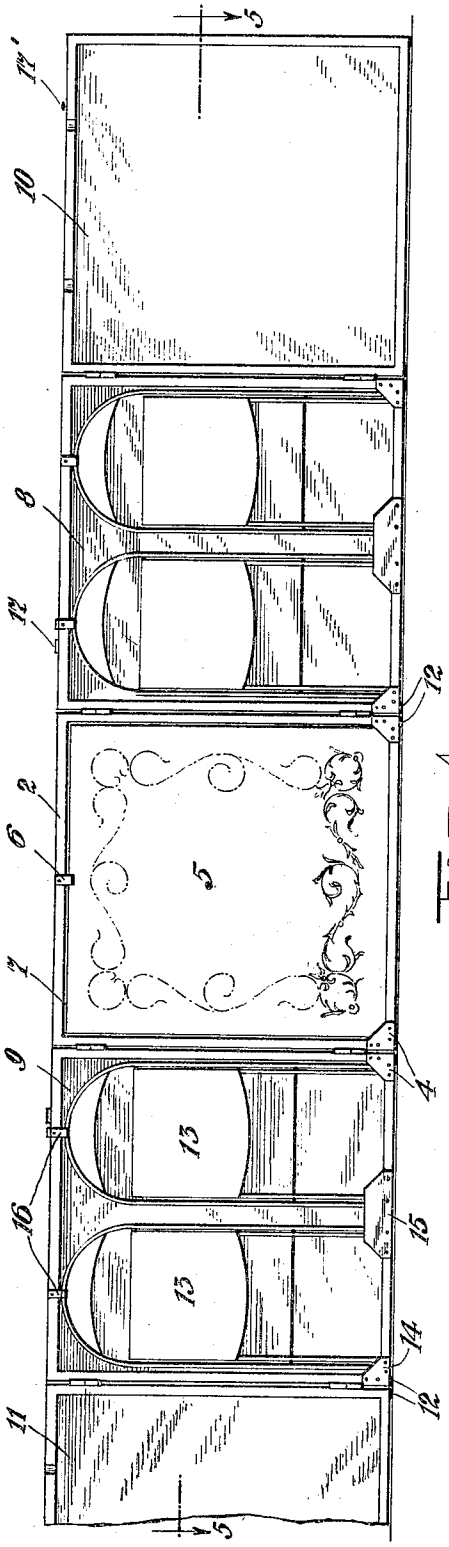


Fig. 4

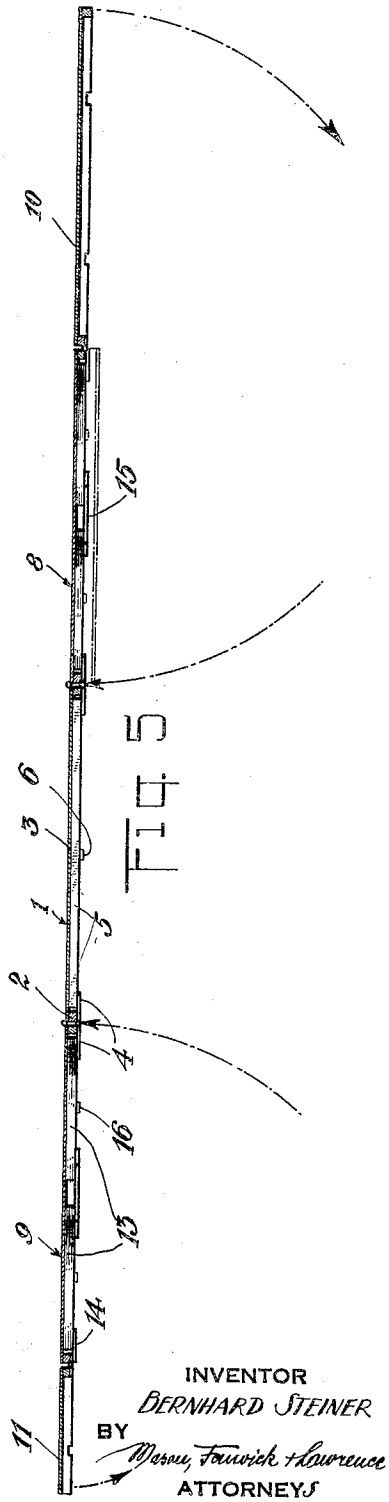


Fig. 5

INVENTOR
BERNHARD STEINER
BY
Messrs. Fenwick & Lawrence
ATTORNEYS

Patented Oct. 4, 1932 1,881,333

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

BERNHARD STEINER, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

COMBINED FIRE SCREEN AND FURNITURE HOLDER

Application filed August 9, 1930. Serial No. 474,189.

This invention relates to improvements in combined screens and furniture holders, and has more particular relation to improvements in fire screens so arranged that the screen becomes a receptacle for a bridge table and chairs.

The object of the invention is to provide a fire screen formed of recessed panels so constructed that a folding bridge table and folding chairs may be secured and concealed within the recesses when not in use, without destroying the usefulness of the screen as such.

A further object of the invention is to provide a screen with its leaves so arranged that articles of furniture may be secured between them and fully concealed.

The invention consists of a number of hinged panels having decorated faces and recessed in their back faces for the reception of articles of furniture to be concealed therein.

The invention further consists of a series of hinged panels having decorated front faces and recessed in their rear faces for the reception and concealment of folding furniture.

The invention has further objects all of which will be hereinafter more particaularly set forth and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings forming part of this specification, Figure 1 represents a front elevation of the screen with a folding bridge table and folding chairs concealed therein.

Figure 2 represents a top plan view of the same.

Figure 3 represents a rear elevation of the same.

Figure 4 represents a rear elevation of the screen with the folding table and folding chairs in position and with the end panels open to show the arrangement of the chairs, and Figure 5 represents a horizontal section of the devices on the line 5—5, of Figure 4.

Described in general terms, this particular invention is designed to obviate the necessity of placing the folding card or bridge tables and chairs back of articles of furniture in a room or in a cupboard or the like, and to keep them always in locations where they may be readily set up for use without bringing them from remote places of concealment.

The invention also obviates the placing of these tables and chairs which are awkward in size to go into cupboards, back of articles of furniture, such as davenports or the like, which is the common practice to-day. This usual practice results in the scratching of the walls and marring of the furniture back of which the tables and chairs are placed.

In the accompanying drawings, 1 represents the central or main panel of the screen. This is suitably decorated on its front face with any desirable decorative design in keeping with the decorations of the room in which it is to be placed in front of the fire place.

The panel is made up, as shown in Figure 1, of a rectangular wood frame 2, properly secured together and covered on its front with a thin panel of wood veneer or plastic board 3 upon which the decoration is painted or otherwise affixed.

The frame 2 is provided at its two lower corners with diagonal metal plates 4 within which the lower corners of the bridge table 5 may be placed after the table has been collapsed and its legs doubled into it in a manner well known in the art.

A movable latching plate 6 is attached to the upper part of the frame 2 and falls into position automatically back of the table after it has been placed in the recess 7 formed by the frame 2, and thus secures the table in position with its decorative top facing toward the rear.

Hinged to each side edge of the panel 1, are two side panels 8 and 9, and these side panels in turn at their outer edges are hinged respectively to concealing panels 10 and 11.

All of these panels are made up in a similar manner from a frame covered with veneer board or other thin material upon which the decorative design is placed. Of course if desired the cover 3 may be of some fabric stretched over the frame and suitably painted. If this latter form of cover is employed, suitable wood stops are secured to the frame 2 against which the inner part of the table rests, so as to protect the fabric.

The form of hinge employed is that usual in screens, whereby the leaves may be turned in either direction to provide a suitable angle

for placing the screen upon the floor. The lower edges of the frames 2 are formed with slight projections 12 which rest upon the floor and cause the screen to balance properly and find a firm foundation, but at the same time allow the screen to be easily moved about by providing for a minimum of friction in drawing it from place to place.

The hollow rear portion of each of the panels 8 and 9 as shown in Figure 4, is intended to receive in each instance, two folding chairs 13, which are placed in an upright position within the panel with the leg portions of the chair resting against the metal plates 14 at the respective corners, and a center metal plate 15 of sufficient width to hold the adjoining legs of two chairs within the panel. Two automatically operated retaining latches 16 are arranged on each of the panel frames 8 and 9 to hold the chairs in position but permit them to be instantly withdrawn when desired.

It will be understood that the device may be constructed with a central panel and two side panels only, but in such a structure the rear view of the screen would be unsightly because the chairs 13 would show. I therefore prefer to form the screen with additional panels 10 and 11 which are similar to the panels 8 and 9 except that the retaining clamps or plates 14 and 15 and the latches 16 are omitted, these end panels being recessed of a depth to receive one-half the thickness of the chairs when the panels are doubled in to position over the panels 8 and 9, as shown in Figures 1, 2, and 3.

The outside surfaces of the panels 10 and 11 are similarly decorated to the top of the table 5 and the panels 8 and 10, and 9 and 11 are secured together respectively by metal studs and latches, 17 and 17′.

It will be seen from the above that the screen which is ordinarily used as a fire screen may be also used in other positions in the room where both the front face and the rear face are exposed, as the decoration of the panels 10 and 11 harmonizes with the decoration of the top of the table 5 and the chairs are fully concealed.

By this means both sides of the screen are decorated and the fact that a table and chairs are concealed within them is concealed.

At the same time both the table and chairs are instantly accessible, and may be drawn from their recesses and used, and as readily replaced.

It is obvious that with a screen such as shown in the present improvement, that a very convenient and accessible receptacle for a bridge table and four chairs is provided, and that the article of furniture in which they are stored is also one of a decorative nature that may be utilized either as a fire screen or in any other screen capacity, and obviates the necessity of storing a table and chairs in inaccessible positions or in places where they mar or scratch the walls and furniture.

It will be further obvious that if so desired, the screen may be composed of a central panel having recesses in the rear face, and mounted on a suitable floor pedestal. In this case the screen would provide for receiving and concealing the bridge table alone.

What I claim as my invention is:

1. The combination with a plurality of ornamental screen panels recessed at their rear faces, end wings hinged to the end screen panels and also recessed in their rear faces for the reception of collapsible chairs, adjustable retaining devices for holding the chairs in the screen recesses, and securing devices whereby the end wings may be folded over the end screen wings containing the chairs and secured in position to completely conceal the chairs and present an unbroken outward ornamental appearance.

2. In a combined screen and furniture receptacle, the combination with a series of ornamental screen wings hinged together at their adjoining edges and formed with recesses at their rear sides for the reception of a collapsible ornamental table and chairs, corner plates for holding the lower ends of the chairs and table in position within the wings with the ornamental surfaces of the table outward and ornamental end wings hinged to the end screen wings to fold over against the same and conceal the chairs and thus present an unbroken ornamental surface back and front of the screen.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

BERNHARD STEINER.