

June 5, 1934.

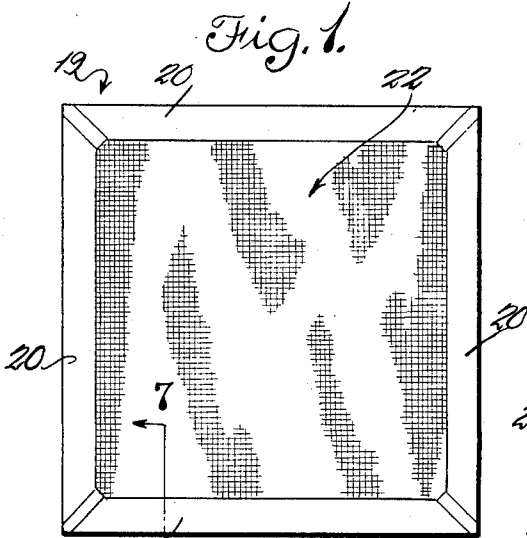
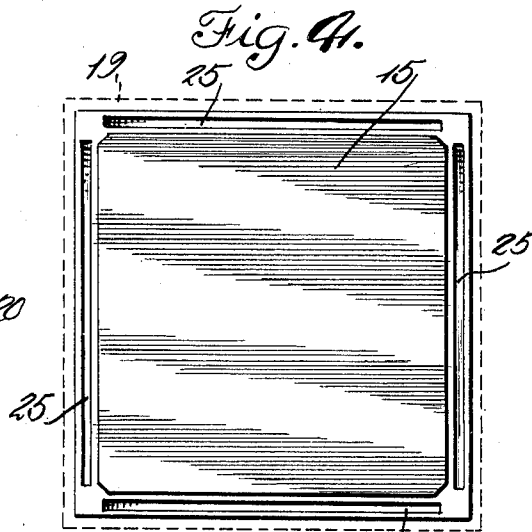
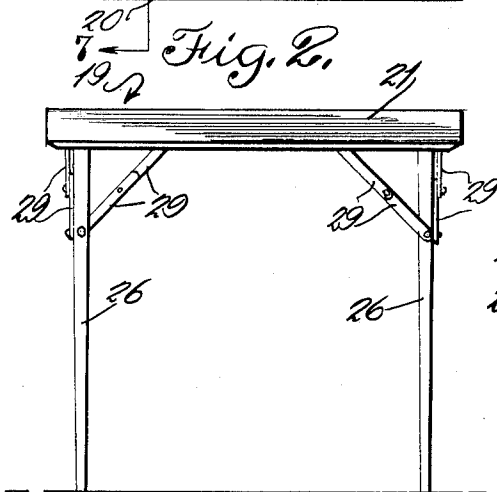
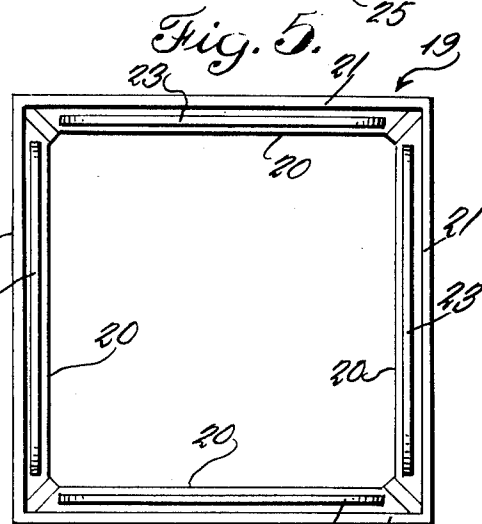
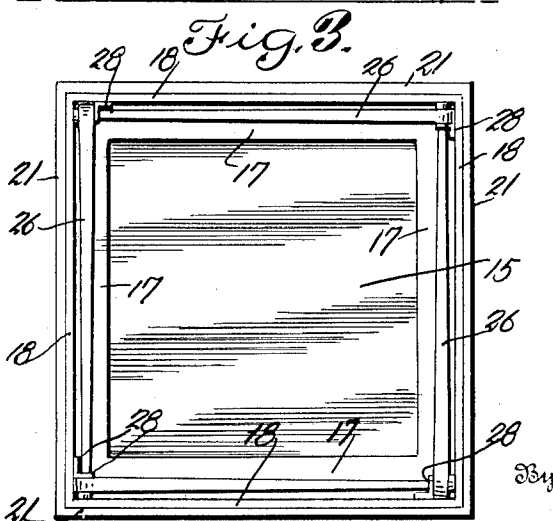
A. J. BENCHOFF

1,961,733

TABLE

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2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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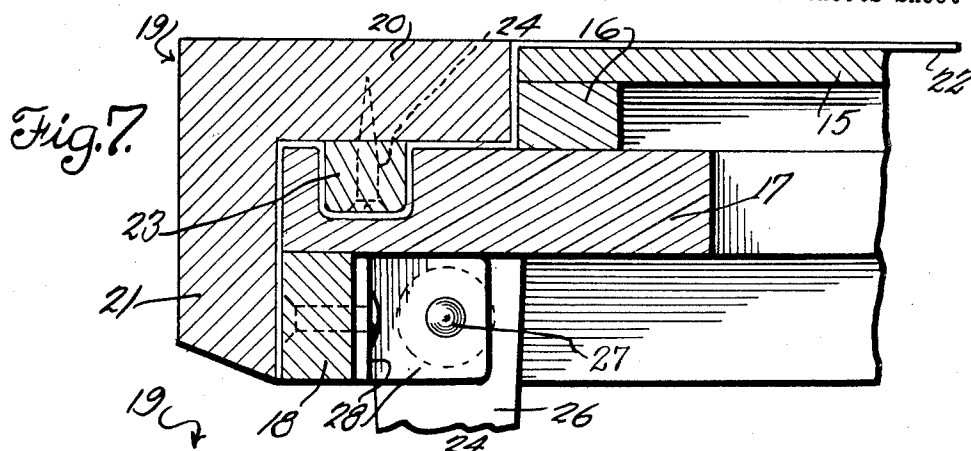
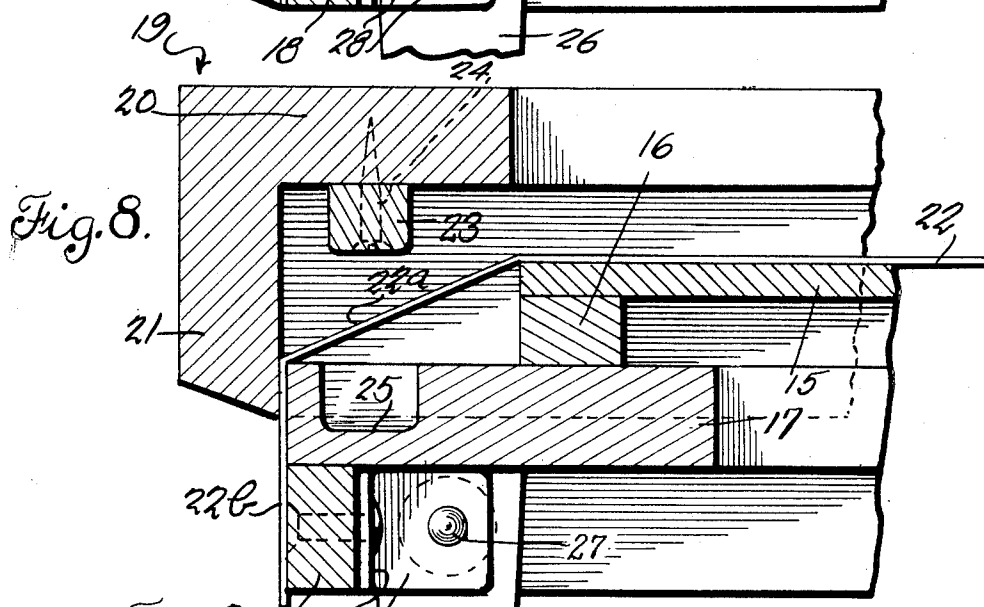
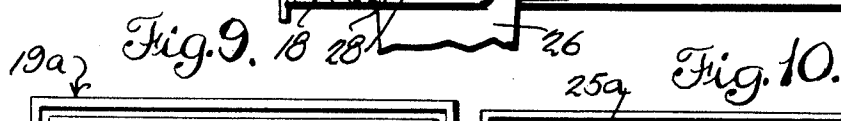
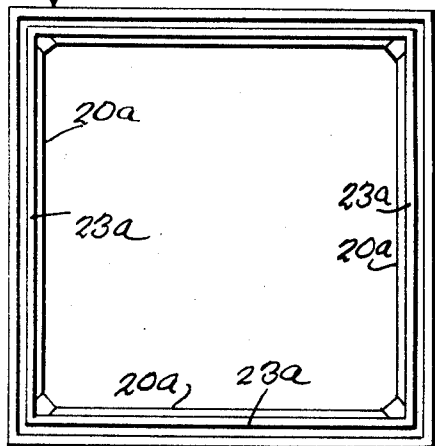
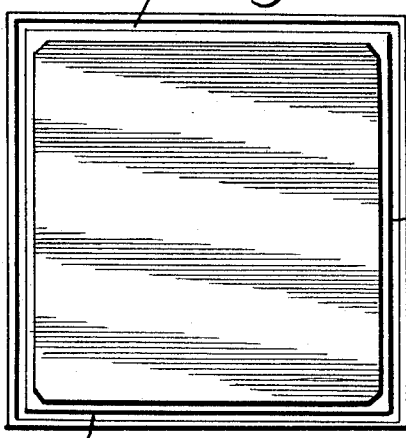
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1,961,733

TABLE

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2 Sheets-Sheet 2



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

1,961,733

TABLE

Albert J. Benchoff, Menard, Tex.

Application January 26, 1933, Serial No. 653,687

8 Claims. (Cl. 45—68.3)

This invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in tables.

The primary object of the invention is to provide a table, preferably of the folding type and of the kind usually employed in the playing of the game of bridge, card games or other games, the gist of the invention residing in the construction of the table top wherein a fabric or other sheet of material is removably secured to the table top permitting changing of the fabric or sheet coverings having different designs or having designs characteristic of the game being played.

A further object of the invention is to provide a table top construction of the foregoing character wherein the interchangeable fabric or sheet table top coverings may be inexpensively purchased as remnants and cut to shape without any material degree of accuracy, but be secured in a fully stretched and taut condition over the table top with the ragged or cut edge of the cloth or sheet hidden from view when the cloth or sheet is in position on the table top.

A further and important object of this invention is to provide a table especially designed for the playing of cards with a fabric sheet removably secured in position on the playing surface of the table top and wherein the table top embodies a structure including a central top board or section and a removable marginal rim, the fabric sheet being removably retained in a stretched and taut condition over the center section of the top by means of inter-fitting elements formed on the underside of the marginal rim and the upper side of the adjacent underlying portion of the center section.

With the above and other objects in view that will become apparent as the nature of the invention is better understood, the same consists in the novel form, combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter more fully described, shown in the accompanying drawings and claimed.

In the drawings:—

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a table constructed in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 2 is a side elevational view of the table in set up condition showing the folding legs;

Figure 3 is a bottom plan view of the table in folded condition;

Figure 4 is a top plan view of the table with the rim illustrated by dotted lines and illustrating the rib receiving grooves in the upper side of the side ledges;

Figure 5 is a bottom plan view of the rim show-

ing the ribs depending from the top flanges at the sides of the rim;

Figure 6 is a side edge elevational view of the table in folded condition;

Figure 7 is an enlarged detail sectional view taken on line 7—7 of Fig. 1 and showing the interfitting connection between the underside of the rim flange and the upper side of the table top ledge for retaining fabric covering in a stretched and taut condition;

Figure 8 is an enlarged detail sectional view, similar to Figure 7 but with the rim partially removed from the central portion of the table top and illustrating the initial placement of the removable table top covering;

Figure 9 is a top plan view of another form of table top wherein the groove in the ledge extends unbroken through the corners of the top; and

Figure 10 is a bottom plan view of the rim for use with the form of invention shown in Figure 9 wherein the depending rib carried by the flange is continuous and unbroken.

Briefly described, the present invention relates to a table of the type usually employed for the playing of bridge or other card games and particularly to the construction of the top portion thereof. The table may be of any desired curved or polygonal form in plan view, but for the purposes of this invention, the same is illustrated as having a rectangular top. There is provided a central table top portion of a rigid character provided with supporting legs that may be collapsible or foldable as illustrated with a marginal rim removably supported on a depressed or lowered ledge portion at the outer edge of the center section to present the upper sides of the center portion of the table and the rim flange in the same plane. It is intended to provide a removable fabric or like covering for the rigid center section of the table top and to employ for such coverings waste scraps of material or remnants of a size to extend over the table top with the edges of the fabric covering confined between the depressed portions of ledges at the outer edges of the center section of the table top and the rim flange, such edges of the fabric covering being lockingly retained by means of interfitting means on the underside of the rim flange and the upper face of the depressed portion or ledge. With a construction of this character the fabric covering is retained in a stretched and taut condition over the center rigid section of the table top while the interfitting connections between the rim flange and the ledge prevent slippage of the

1 fabric covering. It is unnecessary to cut the
2 fabric coverings to exact sizes for the table top
3 as the cut or ragged edges of the fabric covering
4 will be confined between the table top ledge and
5 rim to be hidden from view, but of course, the
6 edge of the fabric sheet should be disposed out-
7 wardly of the interfitting connection between
8 the ledge and rim flange.

9 Referring more in detail to the accompanying
10 drawings, there is illustrated a table, the con-
11 struction thereof being capable of modifications
12 with the exception of the inventive features,
13 which of course are to be limited only by the
14 character of the claims, comprising a rigid cen-
15 ter portion having a flat top section 15 resting at
16 its marginal edge on a filler strip 16 that in turn
17 is mounted upon lower bar ledges 17 that project
18 outwardly of the top section 15 and filler strips
19 16. Side rails 18 depend from the lower sides of
20 the outer edges of the ledges 17, the foregoing
21 arrangement constituting a rigid center top sec-
22 tion of the table and if desired, all of said parts
23 may be formed of a unitary structure, such as by
24 a metal pressing or drawing operation, but illus-
25 trated as formed of connected wooden elements.

26 A removable marginal rim 19 is mounted upon
27 the outwardly projecting side edges of the ledges
28 17 and include right angularly extending flanges
29 20 and 21, the flange 20 resting upon the upper
30 side of the ledge 17 and being horizontally dis-
31 posed, while the vertical flange 21 of the rim
32 19 depends from the flange 20 and overlies the
33 outer edges or sides of the ledge 17 and side rails
34 18 as shown in Figure 7. The flange 20 engaged
35 with the upper side of the ledge 17 is of a thick-
36 ness substantially equalling the combined thick-
37 nesses of the top section 15 and the filler strip
38 16 so that the upper surfaces of the flange 20
39 and top 15 substantially lie in the same plane
40 to present a smooth and uninterrupted table top
41 extending over the top section 15 and the flange
42 20 of the rim 19.

43 The rim 19 is removably mounted upon the
44 ledge 17 to permit the positioning of a fabric
45 or other sheet covering 22 upon the top section
46 15 of the center portion of the table and as
47 shown in Figure 7 the outer edge of the cover-
48 ing 22 extends between the inner faces of the
49 flanges 20 and 21 of the rim 19 and the outer
50 faces of the ledge 17 and rails 18. To retain the
51 covering 22 in a stretched and taut condition
52 over the top section 15, there is provided an in-
53 terfitting connection between the underside of the
54 flange 20 and the upper side of the ledge 17, this
55 connection (as shown more clearly in Figures 7
56 and 8) comprising a depending rib 23 carried by
57 the underside of the rim flange 20 and secured
58 to the rim flange as at 24 and terminating at its
59 ends in spaced relation to the corners of the rec-
60 tangular rim 19. A longitudinally extending
61 depression or groove 25 is formed in the upper
62 side of the ledge 17, terminating at its ends in
63 spaced relation to the corners of the rectangular
64 ledge to receive the rib 23.

65 In placing the fabric or other covering 22
66 upon the table top, the same is positioned as
67 shown in Figure 8 with the rim 19 removed, a
68 portion 22a of the covering 22 extending over
69 and above the ledge 17 and groove 25 and further
70 extending downwardly as at 22b outwardly of the
71 outer edge or end of the ledge 17 and the rail 18.
72 When the rim 19 is lowered onto the ledge into the
73 position shown in Figure 7, the portion 22a of
74 the covering 22 is engaged by the rib 23 to be
75 moved into the groove 25 as well as being posi-

76 tioned between the lower face of the flange 20
77 and upper face of the ledge 17 and the inner end
78 of the flange 20 and the outer ends of the top
79 section 15 and filler strip. The portion 22b of
80 the covering remains between the inner face of
81 the vertical flange 21 of the rim and the outer
82 ends of the ledge 17 and rail 18, a part of this
83 portion of the covering being moved into the
84 space between the flange 20 and ledge 17 to com-
85 pensate for movement of the covering material
86 by the rib 23 into the groove 25. During assem-
87 bly of the rim 19 upon the ledge 17, the covering
88 22 overlying the top section 15 is stretched into a
89 taut condition and is so maintained by the inter-
90 fitting connection between the rim and ledge
91 comprising the rib 23 and groove 25. The rim 19
92 is frictionally retained in position against acci-
93 dental displacement and acts to retain the cover-
94 ing in a taut condition. The fabric or other
95 coverings 22 are readily interchangeable and it
96 is possible to use waste material or remnants as
97 covering sheets, it being unnecessary to cut the
98 covering sheet to any exact dimension, other
99 than to allow for an initial cover-all area as
100 shown in Figure 8.

101 Any form of supporting legs for the table may
102 be provided, the folding type being herein dis-
103 closed as attached to the rigid center portion
104 of the table and including the legs 26 hinged as at
105 27 to side rails 18 by means of angle straps 28 and
106 braced in the usual manner by the hinged links
107 29 extending between the legs 26 and the side
108 rails. The supporting legs are attached to the
109 rigid center portion of the table which permits
110 ready removal of the rim section 19 for the re-
111 placement of coverings when desired.

112 The table has been described as being of rec-
113 tangular form while the cooperating ribs and
114 grooves 23 and 25 carried by the rim 19 and ledge
115 17 have been located at each side of the table and
116 terminating inwardly of the ends thereof, but if
117 desired, the rib 23a depending from the flange
118 20a of the rim 19a may extend as continuous and
119 unbroken over the corners of the rim as shown
120 in Figure 9 while the groove 25a in the ledge 17a
121 as shown in Figure 10 may extend in a con-
122 tinuous and unbroken fashion through the cor-
123 ners of the ledge, thereby providing an inter-
124 fitting connection between the underside of the
125 rim flange and the upper side of the ledge 17 over
126 the entire contacting surfaces of said elements.

127 From the above detailed description of the
128 invention, it is believed that the construction and
129 operation thereof will at once be apparent and
130 while there are herein shown and described the
131 preferred embodiments of the invention, it is
132 nevertheless to be understood that minor changes
133 may be made therein without departing from the
134 spirit and scope of the invention as claimed.

135 I claim:—

136 1. In a table of the type described, a center
137 top portion having a marginal ledge, a removable
138 rim having a flange overlying the ledge, a cover
139 for the top portion extending over the ledge, ribs
140 depending from the underside of the rim flange
141 and the upper sides of the ledges having grooves
142 therein to receive the ribs and adjacent portions
143 of the cover to hold the cover in a stretched and
144 taut condition, and a second flange on the rim
145 overlying the outer edge of the ledge and con-
146 fining the edge of the cover.

147 2. In a table of the type described, a center top
148 portion having a marginal ledge, a removable rim
149 having a flange overlying the ledge, a cover for
150 the top portion extending over the ledge, ribs

- depending from the underside of the rim flange and the upper sides of the ledges having grooves therein to receive the ribs and adjacent portions of the cover to hold the cover in a stretched and taut condition, and said cooperating ribs and grooves extending uninterruptedly around the rim flange and ledge, and a second flange on the rim overlying the outer edge of the ledge and confining the edge of the cover.
3. In a table of the type described, a center top portion having a marginal ledge, a removable rim having a flange overlying the ledge, a cover for the top portion extending over the ledge, ribs depending from the underside of the rim flange and the upper sides of the ledges having grooves therein to receive the ribs and adjacent portions of the cover to hold the cover in a stretched and taut condition, and said cooperating ribs and groove being located at each side of the table, and a second flange on the rim overlying the outer edge of the ledge and confining the edge of the cover.
4. In a table of the type described, a center top portion, a marginal ledge projecting outwardly thereof and in a plane below the top portion, a rim of right angle formation removably mounted on the ledge and including a horizontal flange overlying the ledge and a vertical flange inclosing the outer edge of the ledge, a cover for the top portion extending over the ledge, and interfitting means formed on the underside of the horizontal flange and on the upper side of the ledge to hold the cover in a stretched and taut condition on the table top.
5. In a table of the type described, a center top portion, a marginal ledge projecting outwardly thereof and in a plane below the top portion, a rim of right angle formation removably mounted on the ledge and including a horizontal flange overlying the ledge and a vertical flange inclosing the outer edge of the ledge, a cover for the top portion extending over the ledge, ribs depending from the horizontal flange and grooves formed in the upper side of the ledge to receive the ribs for holding the cover in a stretched and taut condition on the table top.
6. In a table of the type described, a center top portion, a marginal ledge projecting outwardly thereof and in a plane below the top portion, a rim of right angle formation removably mounted on the ledge and including a horizontal flange overlying the ledge and a vertical flange inclosing the outer edge of the ledge, a cover for the top portion extending over the ledge and interfitting means formed on the underside of the horizontal flange and on the upper side of the ledge to hold the cover in a stretched and taut condition on the table top, and said interfitting means being arranged at each side of the table.
7. In a table of the type described, a center top portion, a marginal ledge projecting outwardly thereof and in a plane below the top portion, a rim of right angle formation removably mounted on the ledge and including a horizontal flange overlying the ledge and a vertical flange inclosing the outer edge of the ledge, a cover for the top portion extending over the ledge, and interfitting means formed on the underside of the horizontal flange and on the upper side of the ledge to hold the cover in a stretched and taut condition on the table top, and said interfitting means continuing uninterruptedly around the horizontal flange and ledge.
8. In a table of the character described, a center top portion, a marginal ledge projecting outwardly thereof and in a plane below the top portion, a rim of right angle formation removably mounted on the ledge and including a horizontal flange overlying the ledge and a vertical flange enclosing the outer side of the ledge, a cover for the top portion extending over the ledge and interfitting means formed on opposed faces of the rim and ledge to hold the cover in a stretched and taut condition on the table top.
- ALBERT J. BENCHOFF.