J. C. ECKARTZ.

FOLDING TABLE.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 7, 1908.

963,698. Patented July 5, 1910.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

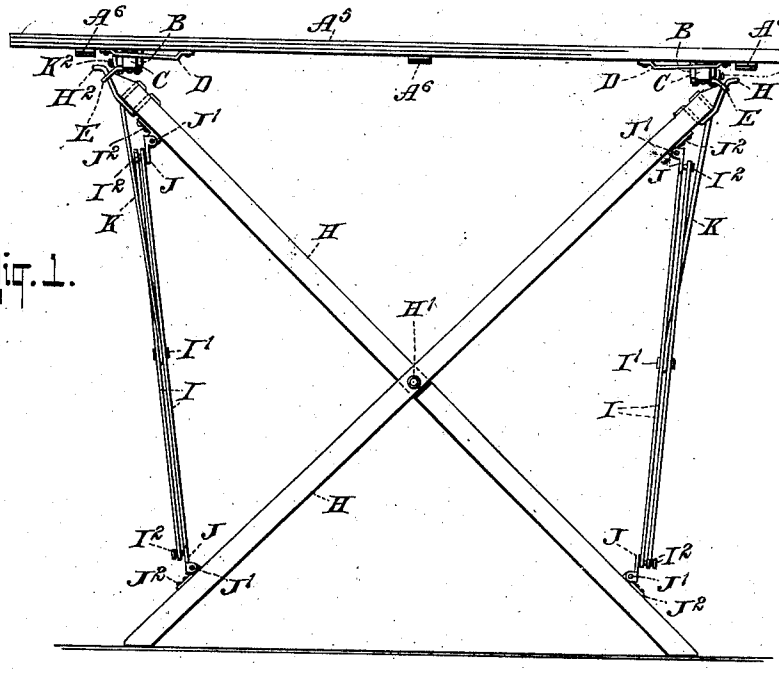
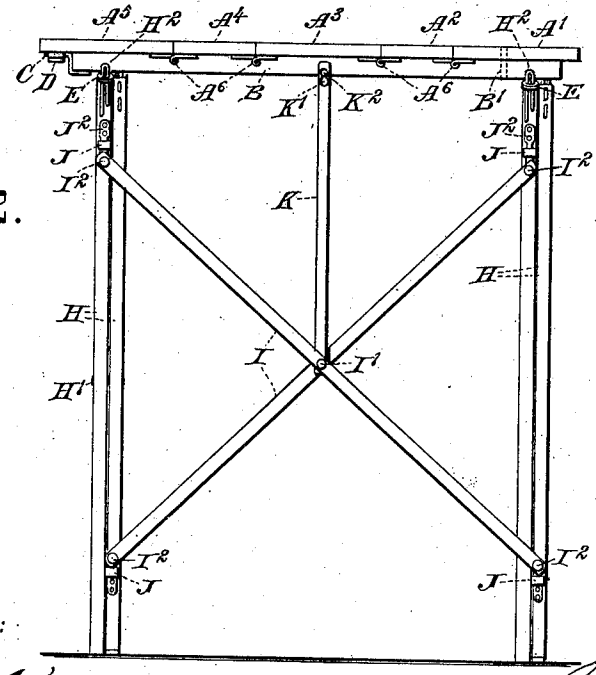


Fig. 2.



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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 3.

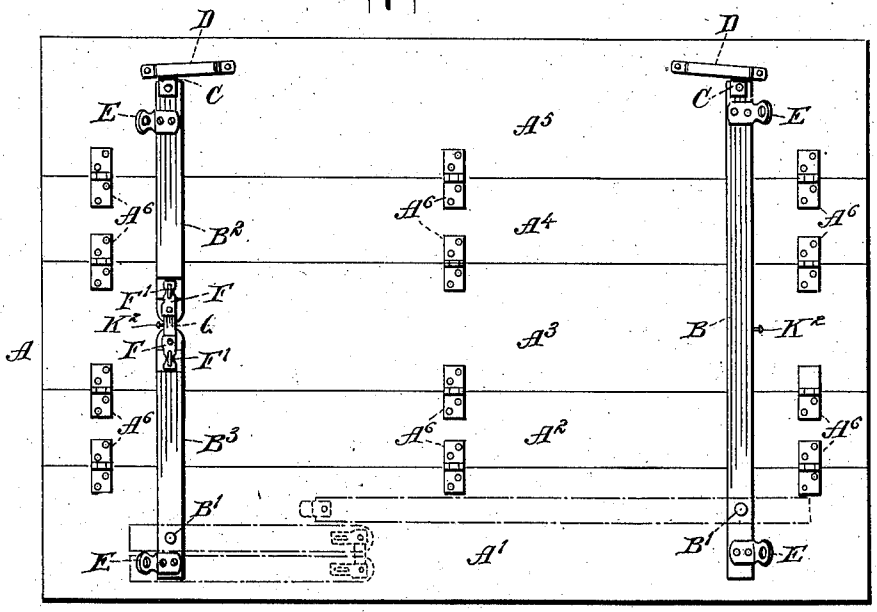

Fig. 4.

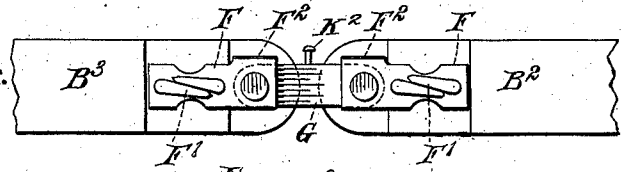

Fig. 5.

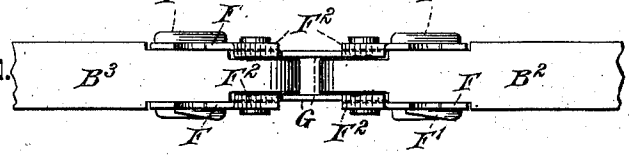

Fig. 6.

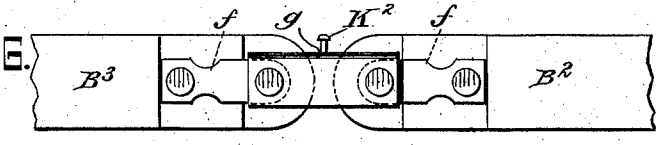

Fig. 7.

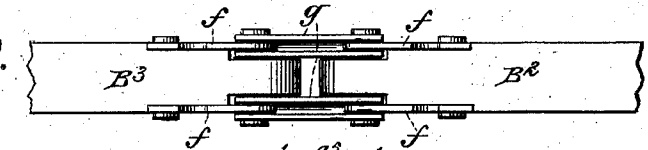

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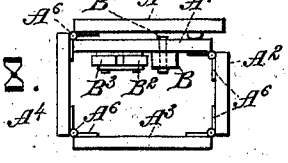
Fig. 8.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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FOLDING TABLE.

963,698. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented July 5, 1910.

Application filed October 7, 1908. Serial No. 456,571.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN C. ECKARTZ, a citizen of the United States, and resident of the borough of Manhattan, city, county, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Folding Tables, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to folding tables and has for its object to construct a table which can be easily and quickly folded into a small and compact package and which may be readily set up for use.

My invention will be fully described hereinafter and the features of novelty will be pointed out in the appended claims.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of my improved table; Fig. 2 is a front elevation thereof; Fig. 3 is an inverted plan view of the table top; Fig. 4 is an enlarged detail view of one of the top braces; Fig. 5 is an edge view thereof; Fig. 6 is a view similar to Fig. 4 of a slightly different form of top brace; Fig. 7 is an inverted edge view thereof and Fig. 8 is a view of the table top in its folded condition.

The table comprises a top A composed of a number of sections A′, A^2, A^3, A^4, and A^5 secured together by hinges A^6 so as to be capable of being folded. Braces B are pivotally secured at B′ to the section A′ near the front and rear edges of the top and are adapted to extend substantially across the under face of said top to maintain it rigidly in its open or unfolded condition. These braces may comprise a single straight bar as shown at the right in Fig. 3 or they may be made of sections B^2 and B^3 pivotally secured together as shown at the left in Fig. 3. Either form may be used at both ends of the table, or one form may be used at each end, as shown in Fig. 3. In all cases the braces B are provided at their free ends with projections C arranged to extend under catches D which are fastened to the under face of the section A^5 and maintain said braces B in position to brace the top in its open condition. These catches D are preferably in the nature of loops which are inclined so that the space between said catches and the under face of the top gradually decreases in the direction in which the braces are moved to their operative position as shown in Fig. 1. As the braces are thus moved the projection C will be firmly clamped between said catches and table top and prevented from becoming accidentally disengaged. The braces are further provided with eyelets E the purpose of which will be more fully described hereinafter. If the braces are made in sections as shown at the left in Fig. 3 the sections B^2 and B^3 have secured thereto at adjacent ends clips or members F which may be fastened to said sections by means of staples F′ as clearly shown in Figs. 4 and 5. These members are pivotally connected with each other by a link G and are provided with shoulders F^2 so as to prevent the joint from breaking in one direction. When said braces are constructed in this manner they may be folded upon each other in one direction as shown by dotted lines at the left in Fig. 3, but said braces are prevented from being folded in the other direction by the shoulders F^2. It is to be understood that these shoulders F^2 are so positioned that the braces are prevented from breaking in a direction opposite to that from which pressure is applied when the table is set up, so that said braces in their operative position are substantially rigid and when not in use may be readily and easily folded into a small compass.

The table further comprises a support consisting of legs H pivotally connected at their centers as indicated at H′ and provided at their upper ends with hooks H^2 arranged to enter the eyelets E of the braces B. When the said hooks H^2 are thus engaged with the eyelets E the legs H are prevented from spreading and serve as an efficient and rigid support for said table top. Each pair of legs H is connected with the other pair by means of rods I which cross each other and which are pivoted together at their centers at I′ and have their free ends pivotally secured at I^2 to members J. These members J are pivoted at J′ to lugs J^2 which in turn are fastened to the legs H, it being understood that the pivots J′ extend substantially at right angles to the pivots I^2. A link K is pivotally connected with each pair of said rods I at I′ and is provided near its free end with a key hole slot K′ arranged to take over a pin K^2 secured to the brace at each end of the table

top. The legs are thus rigidly held against spreading in all directions and the top is firmly supported in position for use.

In Figs. 6 and 7 a slightly different form of brace is shown. In the construction the sections B^2 and B^3 are provided with clips or members *f* which are substantially the same as the members F minus the shoulders F^2. These members *f* are pivotally connected by means of a link *g* which is U-shaped and which straddles the free ends of the members *f*. The braces made in this fashion are thus prevented from breaking at the joint in the same manner as the structure shown in Figs. 4 and 5.

If it is desired to fold the table the hooks H^2 and the links K are first disengaged from the eyelets E and the pins K^2 respectively, and the two pairs of legs are brought together, thus folding the rods I. This will cause the legs H to be swung on their pivots H′ into a folded condition resulting in bringing the legs and parts into a compact package. The braces B are now swung toward each other so as to disengage the projections C from the catches D and if the braces are made of connected sections the said sections are folded upon each other as shown at the left in Fig. 1. The table top is now folded into the position shown in Fig. 8, it being understood that the sections of said top are so proportioned as to permit this and the folded legs are inserted into the central space L. The table in this condition may be readily and easily carried or shipped and is particularly adapted for camping or similar purposes.

Various modifications may be made without departing from the nature of my invention as defined in the claims.

I claim:

1. In a folding table the combination of a top comprising a plurality of sections hinged together at their edges; braces permanently attached to the under side of the top near one edge and mounted to swing transverse to the top sections; catches secured to the top near the opposite edges for engagement by said braces; eyelets secured to the opposite ends of said braces; pivotally connected crosslegs for the sides of the top having provisions to detachably connect with said eyelets; pivotally connected cross-rods at each end of the table pivotally connected to the legs near their upper and lower ends; and a brace at each end of the table pivotally connected with said cross rods at their crossing point to turn about the same axis as the said cross rods and detachably connected with the table top near the end.

2. In a folding table the combination of a top comprising a plurality of sections hinged together at their edges; braces permanently attached to the under side of the top near one edge and mounted to swing transverse to the top sections, said braces comprising pivotally connected sections having stops to limit their relative movement; catches secured to the top near the opposite edges for engagement by said braces; eyelets secured to the opposite ends of said braces; pivotally connected crosslegs for the sides of the top having provisions to detachably connect with said eyelets; pivotally connected cross-rods at each end of the table pivotally connected to the legs near their upper and lower ends; and a brace at each end of the table pivotally connected with said cross rods at their crossing point to turn about the same axis as the said cross rods and detachably connected with the table top near the end.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOHN C. ECKARTZ.

Witnesses:

JOHN A. KEHLENBECK,

JOHN LOTKA.