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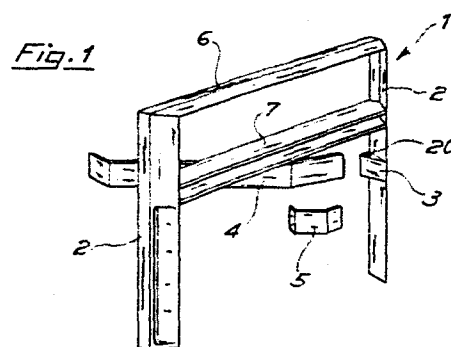
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54 A modular element for furnishing components.

57 This invention concerns a modular element to obtain basic structures of furnishing components such as stools, chairs, armchairs, desk-chairs, small tables, tables and small trucks. This modular element can be produced in series at low cost and allows to obtain a whole series of furnishing components, each component being formed by coupling several equal modular elements.

Accordingly, a modular element (1) to obtain basic structures of furnishing components such as stools, chairs, armchairs, desk-chairs, tables, small tables, small trucks and the like, is made of die-cast aluminium, has a U-shaped configuration and shows, in correspondence with its vertical parts (2) built-in connections (3) to releasably fix several modular elements (1) to each other by means of shaped bars (4) or small arms (5) said vertical parts having, below said connections, a length chosen among several different values.



1 "A MODULAR ELEMENT FOR FURNISHING COMPONENTS".

This invention concerns a modular element to obtain basic structures of furnishing components such as stools, chairs, armchairs, desk-chairs, small tables, tables and small trucks.

5 More detailedly, the invention relates both to modular element and a series of furnishing components, the basic structures of which are obtained by reciprocally coupling two or more of said modular elements.

10 Said modular element, as well as some accessories allowing its coupling with other equal modular elements, can be made of die-cast aluminium, at a considerably low manufacturing cost of the furnishing components and with a high qualitative of same level.

15 An object of the present invention, is then to provide a modular element adapted to be produced in series and at low costs, which allows to obtain a whole series of furnishing components, each component being formed by coupling several equal modular elements.

20 Another object of this invention is to provide a modular element the configuration of which allows to obtain stools, chairs, armchairs, desk-chairs, small tables, tables, small trucks and the like, easy to be assembled and disassembled. Said feature, besides constituting an important marketing factor of the series, whose components can be disassembled
25 by the user to be stored with the least space waste, also allows further saving in the manufacturing process costs, in that the furniture components can be sold disassembled and therefore the assembly stage is dispensed with and packing and transportation costs are reduced.
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1 According to the invention, a modular element to obtain
the basic structures of furnishing components, such as
stools, chairs, armchairs, desk-chairs, tables, small tables,
small trucks and the like, is characterized in that it is
made of die-cast aluminium, in that it has a U-shaped
5 configuration and shows in correspondence with its vertical
parts, built-in connections to releasably fix several
modular elements to each other by means of shaped bars or
small arms, and in that several parts have below said connections,
a length chosen among several different values.

10 Said modular has a configuration which allows it to be
used for very different purposes, according to the furnishing
component to which it is applied. For instance, the
horizontal section of the U-shaped element serves as arm
in chairs, arm-chairs or the like, while it constitutes
15 the support of the top in small tables, tables or the like.

Between the horizontal section of said modular element
and said connections for shaped bars or small arms, a cross
bar is provided for, with a horizontal groove which in,
chairs and stools, serves to keep in position a cloth
20 constituting the seat of same, while in small tables and
small trucks it may form a support or guide for fixed or
sliding carrying planes.

The possibility of varying the length of the modular
element allows to make the components compatible with each
25 other, because, for example, the chair must have a height
lower than the table.

These and other features of the modular element according
to the present invention will be now better described with
reference to a preferred embodiment of same, as shown in
30 the attached drawings, together with two possible components

1 of a series formed starting by said modular element.

In the drawings:

- Fig. 1 is a perspective view of said modular element;
- Fig. 2 is a side cross view of the modular element of
fig. 1;
- 5 - Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a table obtained by
coupling four modular elements;
- Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a chair obtained by
coupling two modular elements.

With reference to figures 1 and 2, the shown modular
10 element 1 has a U-shaped configuration and is formed by
a shaped metal rod. In correspondence to each of the vertical
parts 2 of the modular element a built-in connection 3
is provided for fixing in a removable way, for instance
by means of screws or pins inserted into holes 20, shaped
15 bars 4 or small arms 5. Said shaped bars 4 or small arms
5 allow to couple two or several modular elements to each
other.

Between the upper horizontal section 6 and the connections
3, the modular element shows a stiffening cross bars 7
20 having a C-shaped section and provided with a horizontal
groove 8. The cross bar 7, besides its function as stiffening
element, has several other functions such as for example,
in the formation of small tables and/or small trucks, the
function of supporting or guiding fixed or sliding planes.
25 As it will be illustrated later on, the groove 8 of the
cross bar 7 may serve to keep in position a cloth constituting
the seat of a chair formed by coupling two modular elements.

The modular element 1, with connections 3 and cross bar
7, as well as the shaped bar 4 and small arm 5, can be
30 made of die-cast alluminuim.

1 In order to make said components of the series compatible
to each other, it is necessary, for example, that the
height of the chair arms be lower than the height of the top
of table 8 and for this reason the vertical parts 16
of the modular elements must have a length to be chosen
5 among several different values.

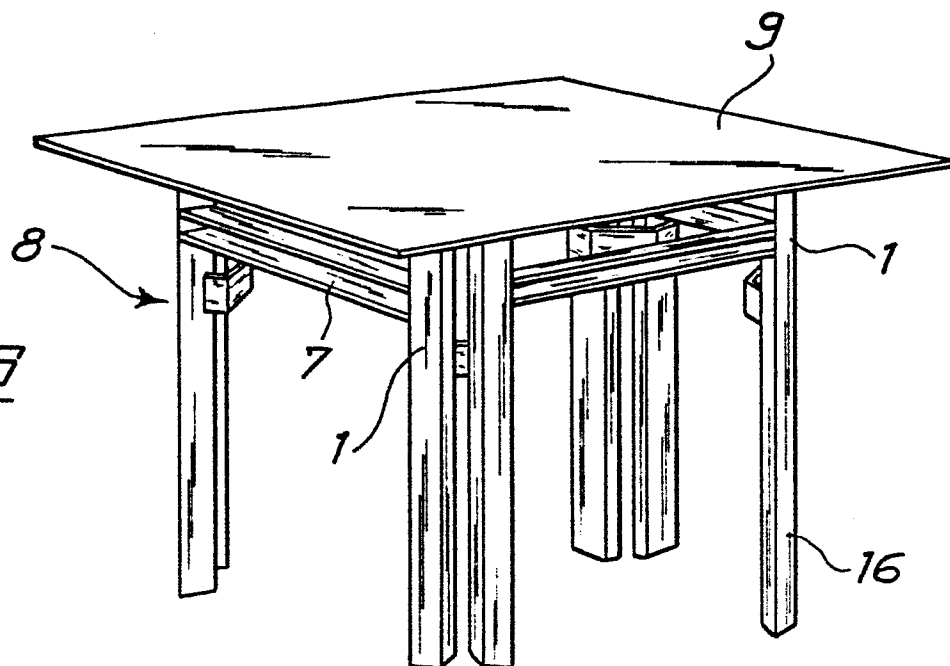
To avoid the use of a lot of molds, for different lengths
of the vertical parts 16, a single mold is conveniently
provided for, to define the upper section of the modular
element, said mold forming the element itself the connections
10 3 included, while other molds can be coupled to it,
each for the definition of the remaining vertical sections
16, having a desired length.

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Fig. 3Fig. 4