May 3, 1960 P. L. FRITZ 2,935,209

CHILD'S PLACE SETTING TRAY

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Fig. 1

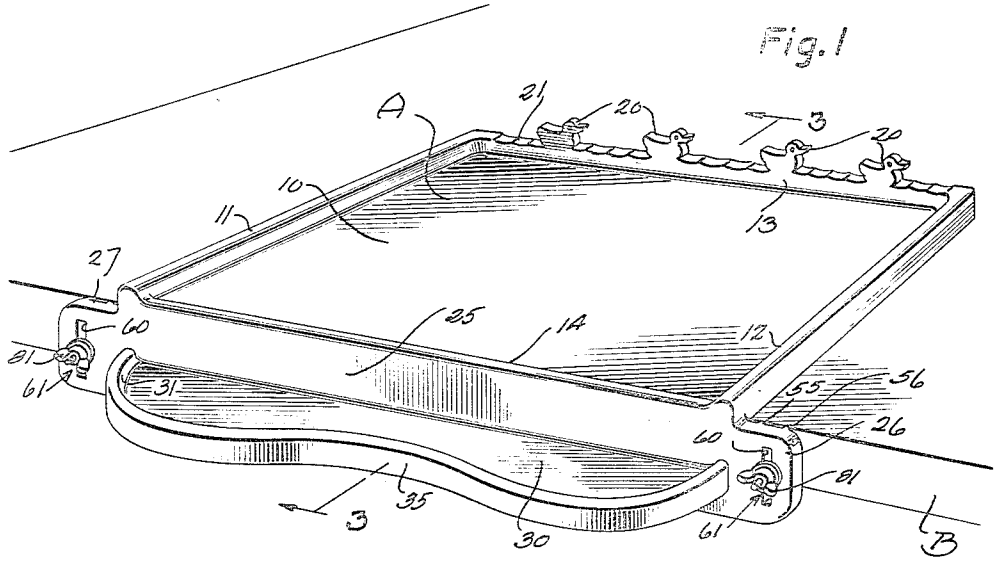


Fig. 2

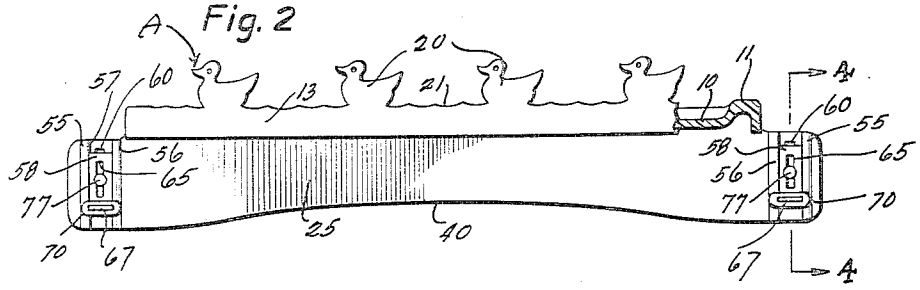


Fig. 3

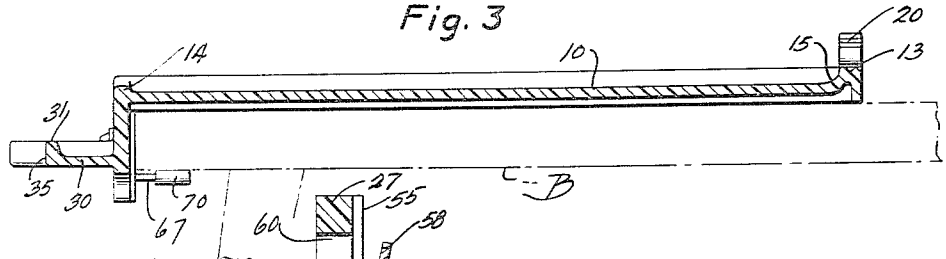


Fig. 4

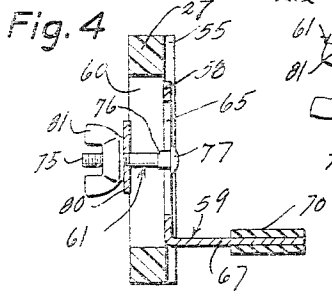
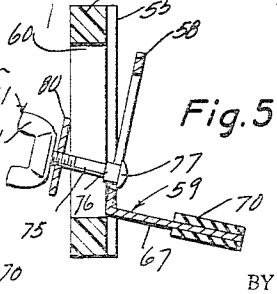


Fig. 5



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CHILD'S PLACE SETTING TRAY

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3 Claims. (Cl. 211—86)

This invention relates to a child's feeding tray adaptable for attachment to tables for adult use, having means thereon acting as a catchall for receiving food, liquids and articles dropped by the child during eating.

It is a well known problem in connection with training children to eat from a table for use by adults, after having eaten for the infant period in a high chair, that a child will drop food, liquid and eating articles in its lap and upon the floor, with attendant staining of clothing, rugs, etc. It is therefore a purpose of this invention to provide a child's tray adaptable for placing upon a conventional adult type table, having means for effective clamping of the same upon the table against movement, and including as a novel feature thereof a shallow tray extending the width of the main tray, acting as a catchall for receiving food and liquid droppings, and eating articles which the child may drop during eating.

A further object of this invention is the provision of a child's feeding tray adaptable for attachment to tables and other articles of furniture, having an upper main tray for receiving food for the child, eating silverware and utensils, and including as a part thereof a shallow tray below the level of the main tray, immediately in front of the child, acting as a catchall for receiving food droppings, etc.

A further object of this invention is the provision of a child's feeding tray which preferably includes a main eating tray and an auxiliary catchall tray; the latter being at a lower level than the main tray and adapted to receive food droppings and utensils accidently dropped by the child; the improved tray having a novel clamping means for attachment to a table, in a securely fastened relation.

Other objects and advantages of this invention will be apparent during the course of the following detailed description.

In the accompanying drawing wherein is shown only a preferred embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the improved child's place setting tray attached to a table.

Fig. 2 is an end elevational view of the tray structure.

Fig. 3 is a cross sectional view taken through the tray structure from front to back, showing its association with a table top.

Fig. 4 is a cross sectional view taken through the clamping structure, substantially on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 4, but showing the clamping structure loosened in order to better illustrate the functioning of the clamping structure in its very effective clamping action with respect to a table top.

In the accompanying drawing, wherein for the purpose of illustration is shown the improved child's feeding tray, the letter A may generally designate the same. It is adaptable for attachment to a conventional adult type table B, or to some other horizontal surface or member.

Referring to the tray A, the same may be made of

light weight metal, or other materials, but is preferably constructed of clear plastic in one piece. It includes a main tray wall **10**, having upstanding short side riser walls **11** and **12**; a front wall **13**, and an opposite shorter riser wall **14** adapted for use immediately in front of the child. These walls **11** to **14** inclusive may be convexly articulately edged, but joined with the tray wall **10**, by concaved fillets **15** for the purpose of facilitating removal of liquids and food particles from the tray during wiping or cleaning thereof. The front riser wall **13** may be provided with ornamental figures **20**, such as chicks, ducks, or animals, and in the event ducks are used the top surfacing **21** may be serrated in simulation of waves.

A tray construction A, furthermore includes a vertical depending rear wall **25**, in right angles to the wall **10**, the same being of a desired depth and of a length to provide clamp receiving lugs or ears **26** and **27** at the ends thereof and in the same plane therewith, both of which extend beyond the tray **10**.

The improved tray construction A furthermore includes a lower tray wall **30**, integral with the lower marginal portion of the wall **25**, and at a level appreciably below the main tray wall **10**. This lowered tray has an upstanding border wall **31** surrounding the same, which may possess the characteristics of the riser walls **11** and **12**. The lower tray is inwardly recessed at **35**, in order that the child can sit as close as possible to the main tray **10** and still permit the lower tray to act as a catchall for receiving food and articles which the child may drop. It will be noted that the lower tray **10** is not disposed at the extreme lower margin of the vertical wall **25**, but the latter projects slightly below the wall **30**, and there is recessed at **40** to comfortably receive the child's legs.

The catchall tray **30**, in depth from front to rear, measures only a fraction (about one-seventh) of the depth, front to rear, of the main tray portion **10** which is adapted to receive the child's eating dishes and utensils. In fact, the tray **30** is so shallow that the child can sit sufficiently close to the main tray **10** to eat from it, without being inconvenienced.

Referring to the clamping means for securing the improved tray construction A to a table or other support B, such clamping means is of an adjustable character and acts with a leverage action during the clamping operation in order to better and more rigidly secure the tray upon table B against tipping or other movement.

It will be noted that the clamp receiving ears **26** and **27** extend not only laterally of the lower tray **30** but also laterally of the riser walls **11** and **12** of the main tray. On the forward surfaces thereof, that is, the surface facing the edge of the table top, these lugs or extensions **26** and **27** are provided with guide ribs **55** and **56** defining a channel **57** therein to receive the upstanding leg portions **58** of L-shaped clamping brackets **59**. The lugs **26** and **27** are provided with vertical slots **60** therein opening into the channel **57**, for receiving clamping bolt structures **61** which can move vertically along the slots **60** and clamp the L-shaped members **59** in position at the forward side of the lugs.

Each L-shaped clamping member **59** includes the leg **58** above mentioned which fits for snug vertical sliding engagement in the slot or channel **57** between the ribs **55** and **56** so that it cannot tip in the plane of the wall **25**. This leg **58** is furthermore provided with a vertical slot **65** therein, which aligns with the slot **60** and permits of unusual clamping extension for securement of the tray A to table tops of varying thickness. Each L-shaped clamping member includes a horizontal leg portion **67**, which extends forwardly in right angled relation to the leg **58** and which at the free end thereof is provided with a table top engaging pad **70**, which may be made of fric-

tion tape, felt, or any other rather soft or resilient, but preferably friction, material in order to have a good grip upon the under surface of the table top to which the tray is attached and not mar the undersurface of the table top.

The bolt **61** may preferably be a carriage bolt structure having a shank **75** with a square shoulder **76** which is adapted to fit in the slot **65** to be held therein against rotation. The shank has a head **77** which rests at the front surface of the clamping bracket leg **58** as shown in Fig. 4. The rear screw threaded end of the bolt shank **75** receives a washer **80** and has a threaded wing nut **81**, by means of which the bracket **59** may be clamped at the desired vertical position for clamping the tray A to the table top B.

In Fig. 5, the parts of the clamp are shown in loose position whereby to enable a leverage movement of the L-shaped bracket **59** and insure a very secure clamping of the tray upon the table, against movement thereon. It is shown that the bracket **59** is tilted (Fig. 5) when the nut **81** is loosened. Upon tightening the nut upon the screw threads of the bolt shank **75** the bracket will be brought to its true clamped position (see Fig. 4). This will move the clamping pad **70** upwardly against the under surface of the table top B and very effectively clamp the tray A against tilting or other movement upon the table B. While in Figure 5, the leg **67** is shown lowermost, the L-shaped bracket **59** can be rotated with the bolt on the bolt axis when the bolt is loose in order to place the leg **67** uppermost and the leg **58** in depending relation. This feature enables the clamping assembly to attach the tray to tables having a wide range of thicknesses.

The use of child's tray will be apparent from the foregoing. When clamped to table B, as shown in Fig. 1, the main tray **10** is positioned entirely above the table surface, and the catchall tray **30** is positioned so the child can sit sufficiently close for eating purposes. The recess **35** will naturally conform to the child's body and with assurance that the child can eat without soiling clothing, floor rugs and the like.

Various changes in the shape, size and arrangement of parts may be made in the form of invention herein shown and described, without departing from the spirit of the invention or scope of the claims.

I claim:

1. A child's feeding tray assembly for attachment to tables comprising a upper main feeding tray of a width and depth sufficient to hold the necessary food dishes and utensils incidental to the feeding of a child, a depending wall connected to the rear of the main feeding tray in right angled relation therewith and adapted itself to be abutted against the side edge of a table which supports the feeding tray, a catchall tray connected to the lower marginal portion of said depending wall of the main tray in a plane appreciably below the main tray and of substantially the same width as the width of the main tray, said catchall tray being appreciably shallower in depth than the depth of the main tray so that a child eating from the main tray can be positioned and seated to the rear of the catchall tray but sufficiently close to the main tray for reaching and eating from the articles supported by the main tray, and means for attaching said feeding tray assembly to a table.

2. An integral tray construction for use incidental to the feeding of a child comprising a main tray portion having upstanding boundary walls and constituting an area sufficient to hold the necessary dishes and utensils required for the feeding of a child, a depending integral wall at the rear of the main tray in right angled relation therewith, having laterally extending ear portions in the plane thereof extending beyond the sides of the main tray, a catchall tray integrally secured to the lower marginal portion of said depending wall with an upper surface in a plane below the upper surface of the main tray for receiving thereon whatever the child may drop from the main tray, said catchall tray being in depth from front to rear a fraction of less than one fourth of the depth of the main tray and having an upstanding boundary wall thereon which is relatively shallow and does not extend up to the plane of the main tray, said catchall tray being of such depth that a child can be seated to the rear of the tray with the catchall positioned between the child and the main tray and without inconvenience enable the child to reach and utilize the dishes and utensils upon the main tray, and means carried by the laterally extending ears of said depending wall for attachment of the entire tray assembly to a table.

3. A child feeding tray assemblage as defined in claim 1 in which the means for attaching the feeding tray assembly to a table comprises a vertical slot through the depending wall, an L-shaped clamping bracket including two leg portions in substantially right angled relation, a bolt having an elongated shank and threaded at one end with a head on the other end, one of said legs of the L-shaped bracket having a vertical slot therealong adapted to align with the slot of the depending wall, the bolt being extended through said leg slot with the head of the bolt engaging said slotted leg and with the other leg extending forwardly and adapted to be engaged beneath a table top for the clamping of the tray assembly upon the table top, said bolt shank extending through the slot of the depending wall and rearwardly of said wall having a nut assemblage threaded thereon, said shank being of sufficient length that the L-shaped bracket may tilt forwardly before placement of the tray upon the table whereby to facilitate the placement of the table clamping leg beneath a table top, said L-shaped bracket being rotatable upon the axis of said bolt so that it may be positioned in inverted L-shaped relation with the table clamping leg uppermost and the depending slotted leg lowermost.

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