Dec. 8, 1931. L. H. BURLIN ET AL 1,835,272

TABLE

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Fig. 3.

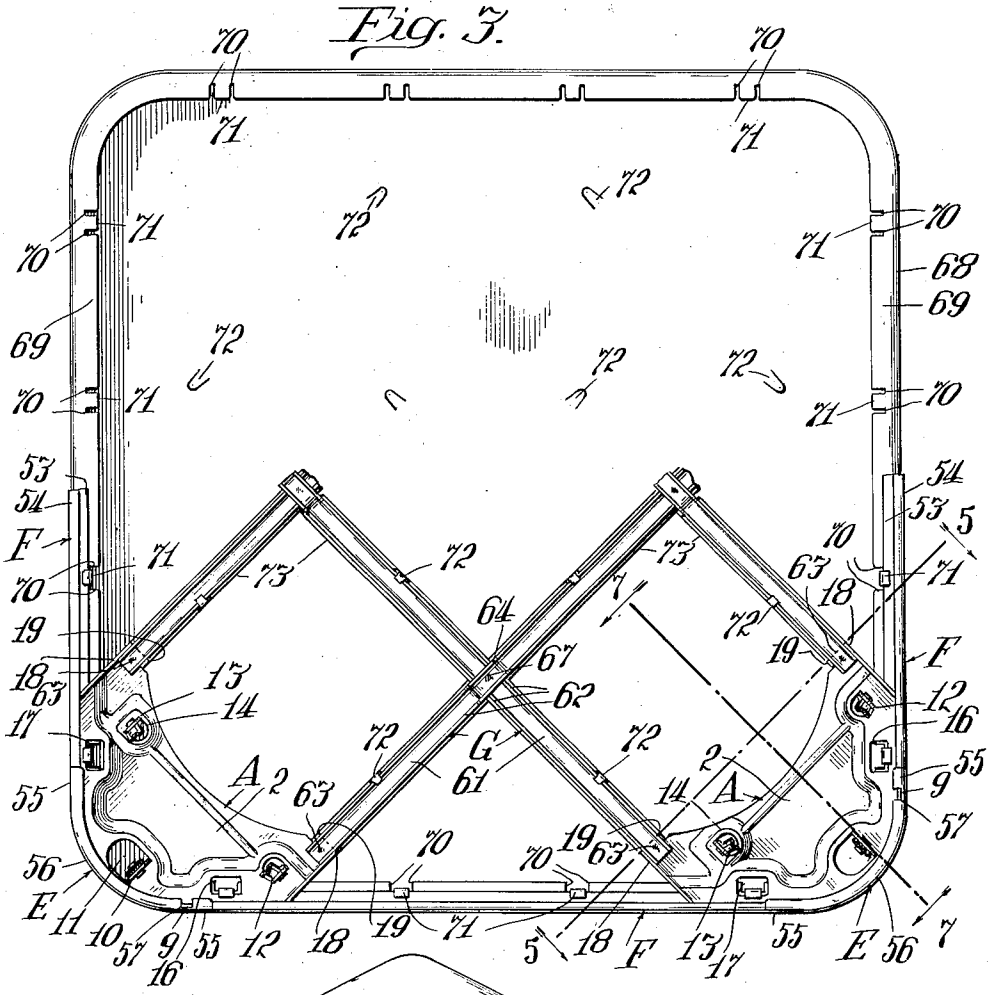
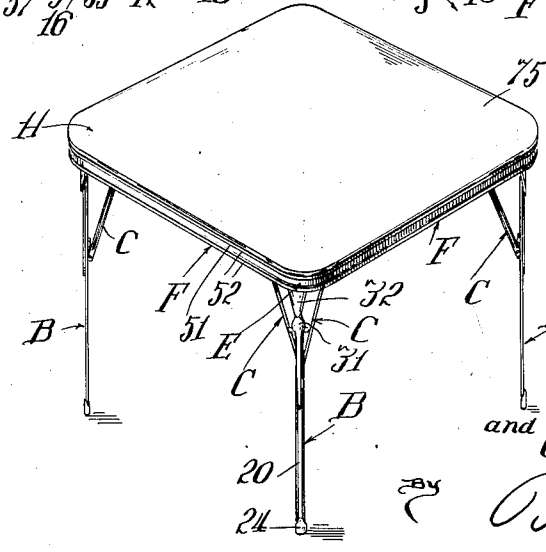


Fig. 1.



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TABLE

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Fig. 2.

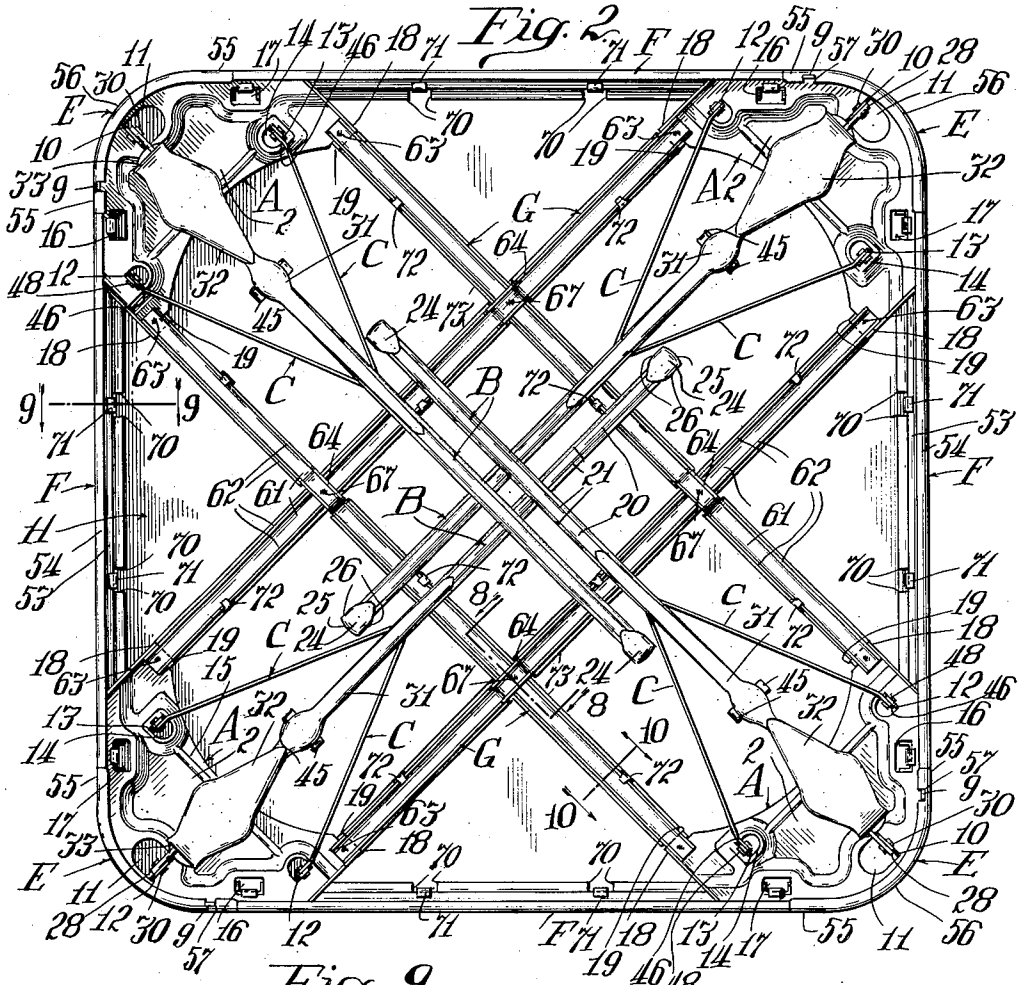


Fig. 9.

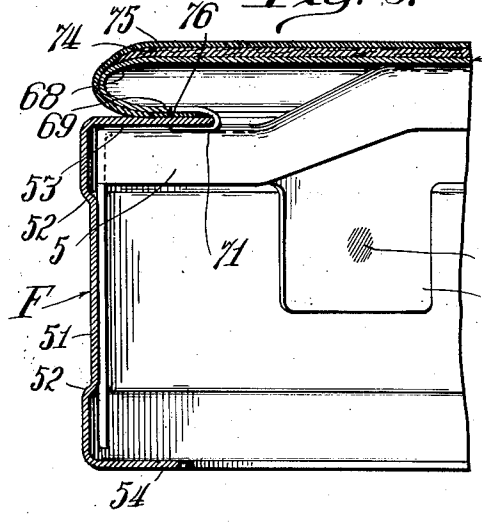
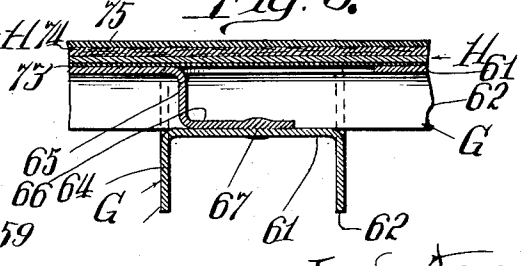


Fig. 8.



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TABLE

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Fig. 6.

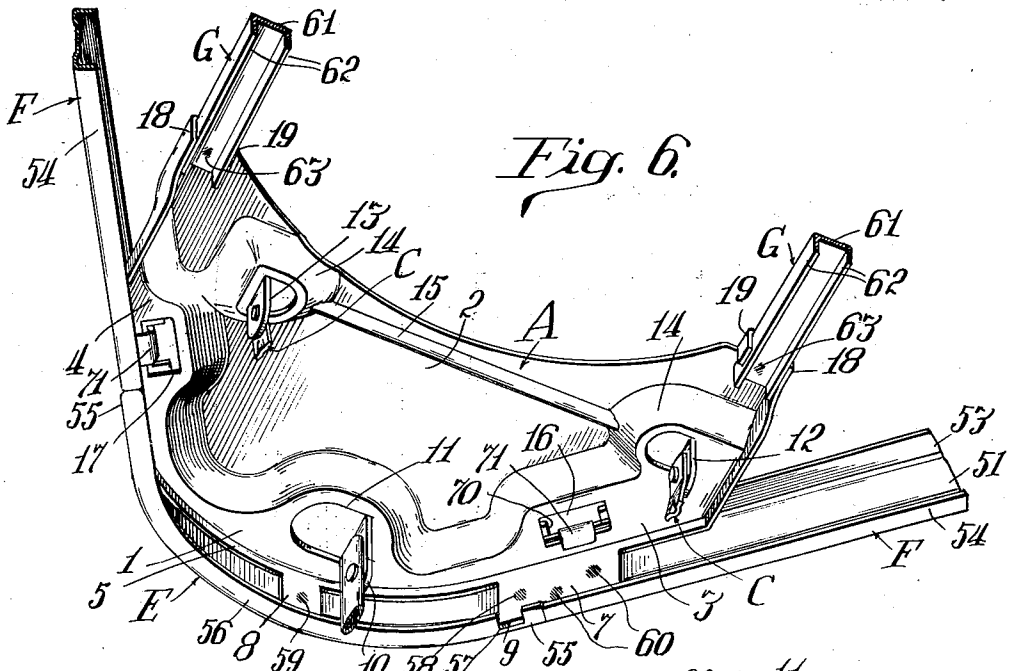


Fig. 7.

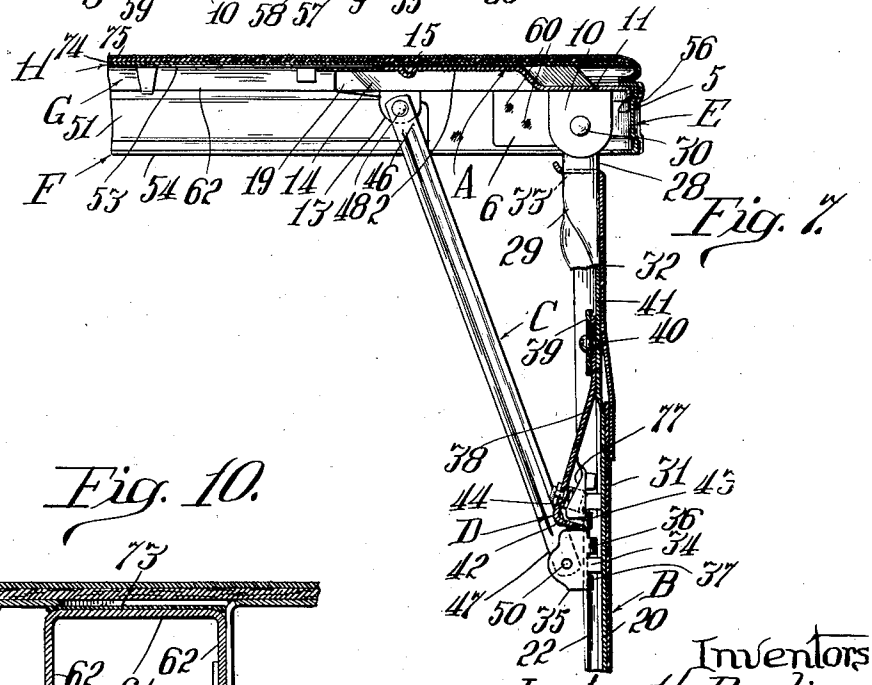


Fig. 10.

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TABLE

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Fig. 4

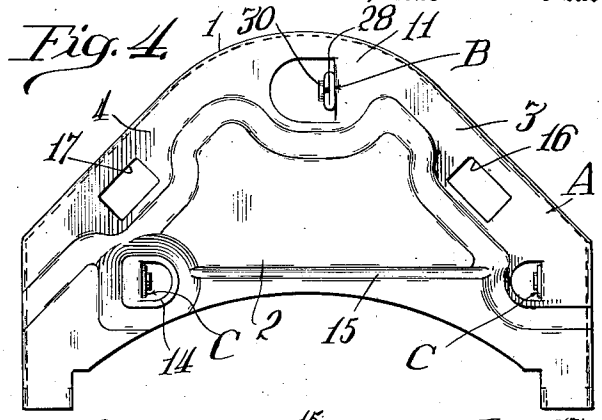


Fig. 5.

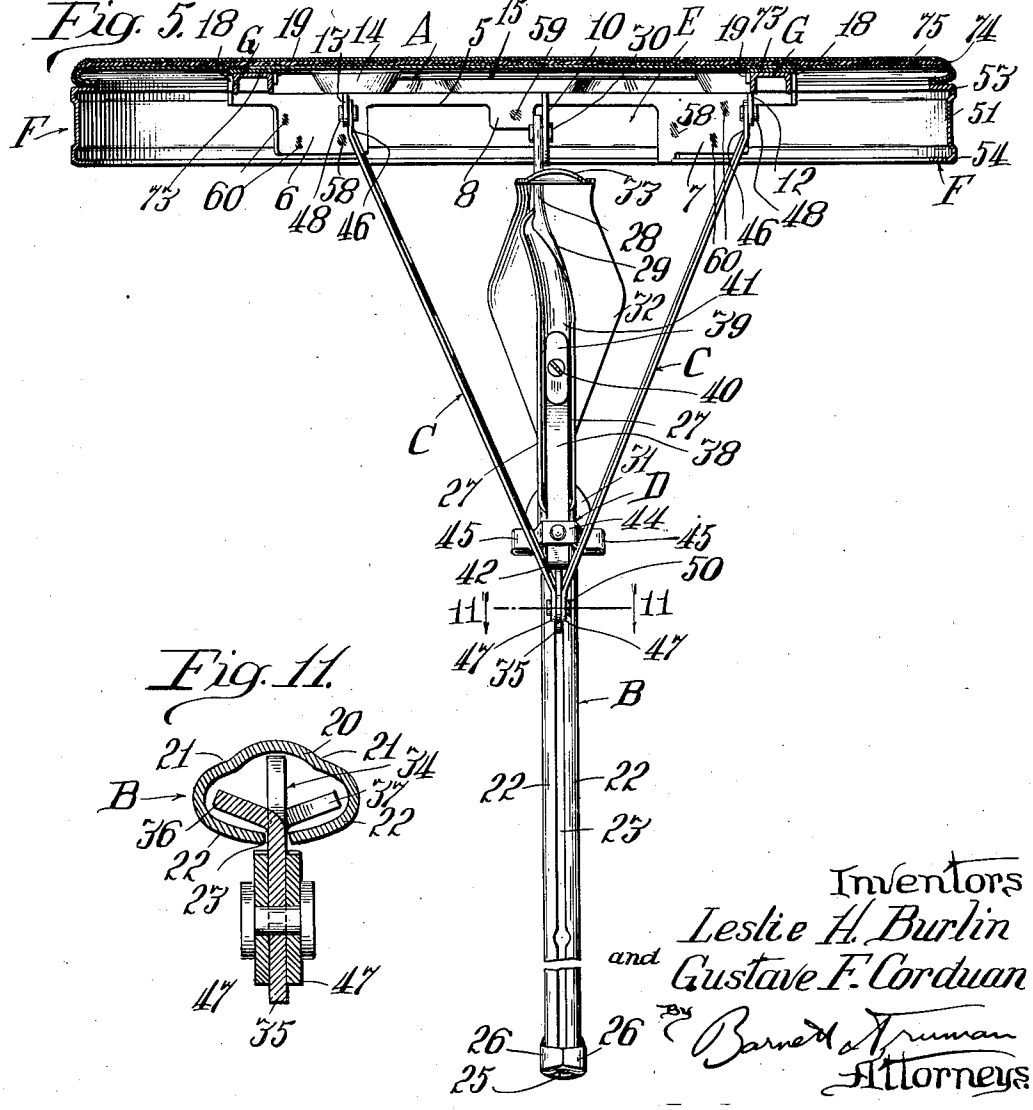


Fig. 11.

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Patented Dec. 8, 1931

1,835,272

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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TABLE

Application filed November 5, 1928. Serial No. 317,407.

This invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in tables, and more particularly to improvements in the type of small table provided with folding legs, adapted for use as a card table, sewing table, or similar purposes.

The general object of the invention is to provide a substantially all metal table that is strong and rigid, of light weight in proportion to its strength, easy to operate, and economical to manufacture.

Another object is to provide a table that is symmetrical about its own center, and composed of a plurality of interchangeable parts, that is, there is only one pattern for each table member, such as a leg or cornerpiece, whereby selection of parts is avoided and the cost of production and assembly is reduced.

Another object is to provide a table of this type having rounded corners and legs pivoted adjacent the corners and adapted to fold diagonally inward, that is, toward the center of the table.

Another object is to provide a table of this type having leg braces or struts projecting diagonally from each leg, whereby a tri-pod effect is obtained when the leg is extended, insuring great rigidity.

Another object is to provide a table of this type in which all of the metal parts are spot welded, or secured by integral clips, whereby no rivets or other fasteners are required except for the pivotal connection between relatively swinging parts.

Another object is to provide a new and improved pivoted leg and corner piece unit adapted to support any sort of table top.

Another object is to provide an improved form of metallic table leg consisting of pressed metal and stampings.

Another object is to provide an improved side-frame construction for connecting the leg supports and supporting the table top.

Another object is to provide improved channeled trusses or cross beams for connecting the corner pieces and supporting the table top.

Another object is to provide an improved form of sheet metal table top, together with improved means for securing this top from the supporting frame and holding in place the flexible top covering.

Another object is to provide improved means for deadening the sound that might be produced between contacting metallic parts.

Another object is to provide improved means for insuring the correct assembly and alignment of the various metallic parts of the table.

Other objects and advantages of this invention will be more apparent from the following detailed description of one approved construction of table involving the principles of this invention.

In the accompanying drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the table with the legs extended so that the table is erected for use.

Fig. 2 is a bottom plan view of the table, on a larger scale, with the legs folded inwardly.

Fig. 3 is a bottom plan view similar to Fig. 2. In the lower half of this figure, the leg and strut members are broken away. In the top half, only the lower surface of the metallic top member is shown.

Fig. 4 is a top plan view of one of the corner pieces.

Fig. 5 is an elevation of one of the leg and corner piece units, the lower portion of the leg being partially broken away, the table top being shown in vertical section, taken substantially on the line 5—5 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 6 is a perspective view, taken from below, of one of the assembled corner pieces and portions of the top supporting frame, the leg and struts being broken away.

Fig. 7 is a vertical section through one corner of the table and the supporting means, the view being taken substantially on line 7—7 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 8 is a vertical detail section through a portion of the top-supporting beams, the view being taken susbtantially on the line 8—8 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 9 is a vertical detail section taken substantially on the line 9—9 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 10 is a vertical detail section taken substantially on the line 10—10 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 11 is a horizontal section, on a large scale, taken substantially on the line 11—11 of Fig. 5.

The table comprises a plurality of similar pressed metal parts which are assembled symmetrically to form the completed table. These parts comprise corner pieces A, legs B, struts or braces C and locking means D. An assembly consisting of one each of the parts A, B, C and D constitutes a corner unit adapted to support one corner of the table top, either the table here shown or any other similar type of table. The corner supporting units just described are connected by a frame and top-supporting means consisting of rounded corner frame members E, side frame members F, and diagonally extending cross beams G. The top H is secured to and supported by the frame construction E, F, and G, just described. All of the parts are made of pressed metal, with the exception of a flexible covering and padding that is secured on the table top H. It is to be understood that while each table includes four each of the parts A, B, D, E, F and G, and eight of the struts C, each of the similarly lettered parts are of identical form and construction, so that they are entirely interchangeable and no special selection is necessary is assembling the members.

Each corner piece A is formed of a single stamping of comparatively heavy sheet metal, in the general form of a right triangle, so as to fit under one corner of the table, the right-angle being rounded away, as indicated at 1. The main portion 2 of member A is flat to contact with and support the table top H, but the side edges 3 and 4 and the rounded corner 1 are depressed so as to accommodate the return-bent edge portions of top H, as hereinafter described. A short depending flange 5 is formed along the side edges and rounded corner portion of plate A, there being vertically extending side flanges or brackets 6 and 7 extending downwardly from the flange 5 and a similar smaller bracket flange 8 extending downwardly from the central portion of rounded corner 1. The flanges 6, 7 and 8 are adapted to be welded to the side frame members, as hereinafter described. A centering lug 9 extends downwardly from bracket or flange 7. A hinge lug 10 is struck out and bent down from the depressed portion 11 at the corner 1, and a pair of similar but smaller hinge lugs 12 and 13 are struck out and pressed down from the corner piece A at positions adjacent the extremities of the hypotenuse of the right-angle triangle comprised within the borders of the corner piece. Lug 12 is struck downwardly from the depressed portion 3 at the right hand side of the corner piece, as shown in Fig. 4. Lug 13 is struck downwardly from a depressed portion 14 provided in the main portion 2 of the plate, so that the lugs 12 and 13 will both be at the same elevation. It will be noted that the lugs 12 and 13 are symmetrically positioned with respect to the main hinge lug 10, the lug 10 being at the apex of an isosceles triangle with the lugs 12 and 13 at the extremities of the base of the triangle. However, all of these hinge lugs are similarly offset somewhat to the right of the center line of the corner piece A (as seen in Fig. 4), the object being to position the attached leg somewhat to one side of the diagonal connecting opposite corners of the table, to facilitate the infolding of the legs without unduly interfering with one another. This will be apparent from Fig. 2. A depressed strengthening rib 15 connects the depressed portions 3 and 14 of the plate. Holes or openings 16 and 17 are provided in the depressed side portions 3 and 4 to permit access to certain attaching lugs on the table top H, as hereinafter described. On its lower face, the end portions of the inner side of corner piece A have inwardly bent side flanges 18 and 19 to form centering channels for receiving the ends of beam members G.

Each leg member B comprises a single strip of heavy sheet metal, the main lower portion of which is pressed into a substantially hollow tubular form comprising an outer or front wall 20 which may be longitudinally corrugated at 21 for ornamental purposes and to give increased strength to the leg, and side flanges 22 which are bent inwardly and toward one another so as to leave an inwardly facing slot 23 therebetween. The leg is closed at the bottom by a foot member consisting of a single metal stamping having an outer, suitably ornamented portion 24, a bottom flange 25 bent inwardly to close the lower end of the leg and form a support, and inwardly bent side flanges 26 for clamping the foot member to the bottom of the leg. Adjacent the upper portion of the leg, the side flanges 22 are bent outwardly, parallel with one another, as indicated at 27, to form an open inwardly facing channel. At its upper end, the side flanges are clamped inwardly at 28, and the entire leg member is given a 90° twist as indicated at 29, so that the upper flattened portion 28 of the leg may be hinged or pivoted to the lug 10 by a rivet or hinge pin 30. A pair of ornamental plates 31 and 32 are suitably secured, as by spot welding, to the upper outer portion of the leg B. In the form here shown, the upper plate 32 is bent inwardly at 33 and slotted to pass around the upper end 28 of the leg. These plates are purely for ornamental purposes, and serve to hide the upper twisted portion of the leg and the locking and bracing means now to be described. The plates 31 and 32 may be depressed, embossed or scalloped in any desired manner to increase their ornamental value.

A slide member 34 (see Fig. 11) is posi-

tioned within the main lower portion of leg B and comprises a bracket portion 35 projecting outwardly through the slot 23. Oppositely projecting inner lugs 36 and 37 extend into the side portions 22 of the leg to guide the slide for vertical movement within the hollow leg. A flat spring 38 is secured at its upper end by means of a clamping plate 39 and screw 40 within the upper channeled portion 41 of leg B. The lower end of spring 38 is bent inwardly at 42 to form a locking member removably engaging within the slot 43 formed in bracket 35 of the side member 34. A cross member 44 formed with end finger pieces 45 may be riveted or otherwise secured to the lower end of spring 38 to form a means for manually withdrawing the locking member 42 from the slot 43, to free the slide 34 so that it may be pushed downwardly within the hollow leg. Each of the struts C, which are of identical construction, consists of a strip of pressed metal having angularly bent end portions 46 and 47 adapted to be hinged or pivoted, respectively, to the hinge lugs 12 and 13, and to the bracket 35 of slide 34. The upper ends 46 of the struts are hinged to the hinge legs 12 and 13 on corner piece A by means of rivets or hinge pins 48, and the lower ends 47 are hinged to the bracket 35 by means of a single rivet or hinge pin 50.

It will now be apparent that when the legs are extended into normal position, as shown in Figs. 1, 5 and 7, a rigid tripod construction is provided for supporting each corner of the table. In this position, the slide member 34 is locked in place within the leg by means of the spring latch 38, and the diagonally extending braces or struts C serve not only to hold the leg B against swinging inwardly or outwardly, but also brace it securely against lateral thrusts in any direction. In order to fold one of the legs inwardly against the table top, it is merely necessary to depress one of the finger pieces 45, thus releasing the slide 34 from the spring latch 38, after which the leg may be swung inwardly to the position shown in Fig. 2, the slide 34 and bracket 35 passing downwardly into the slotted portion of the leg to permit the struts C to also be folded inwardly. A corner supporting unit consisting of the parts A, B, C and D could be used to support any sort of a table top (with suitable alterations in the form of the corner piece A), but as here shown these corner supports are particularly constructed to cooperate with a preferred form of supporting frame and table top, now to be described.

The top-supporting frame consists of the edge frame members E and F, and the diagonal beams G. Each of the side frame members F, all four of which are of identical construction, is in the form of a pressed metal channel member of uniform cross section from end to end, consisting of a vertical back wall 51, which may be centrally depressed at 52 to strengthen the channel member and increase the ornamental value of the side frame, and parallel horizontal side flanges 53 and 54. The lower strengthening flange 54 need not be as wide as the upper flange 53 to which the table top is secured. Each of the four corner pieces E has substantially the same cross-sectional form as the side members F, just described, so that the short straight end portions 55 of corner piece E will serve as substantial continuations of the side frame members F, but the main central portion 56 of the corner piece E is curved or rounded to conform with the rounded corner of the table. One end portion of the lower flange of corner piece E is notched at 57 to receive the centering lug 9 on corner piece A. When a corner side frame member E is positioned upon a corner piece A, the engagement of lug 9 within slot 57 serves to properly align and center the two members. The frame member E is then permanently secured to the corner piece A by spot welding its end portions to the flanges 6 and 7 at 58, and spot welding the central portion of the frame member to the corner lug 8, as indicated at 59. A pair of side frame members F is then aligned with the end portions of corner frame member E and spot welded to the remaining portions of flanges 6 and 7, as indicated at 60.

Each of the four similar beam members G is formed of a sheet of metal pressed into channel shape comprising a top flange 61 and a pair of depending side flanges 62. The end portions of each beam member G are positioned between the depending flanges 18 and 19 at the corners of opposite corner pieces A, and spot welded to the corner pieces, as indicated at 63. At a position approximately one third of its length from one end, the beam G is looped downwardly, as indicated at 64, sufficiently to overlap another of the beam members which it crosses at this point, as clearly indicated in Figs. 2 and 3. At substantially the same distance from the other end of the beam member, a lug 65 is struck downwardly out of the top flange 61, the end portion 66 of this lug being bent horizontally and spot welded at 67 to the top portion 61 of the overlapping truss member, all as shown in Fig. 8. It will be noted that all four of the beam members G are of identical construction.

The table top H comprises a flat sheet of metal having substantially the same outline as the top surface of the assembled side frame members, the edge portions of this plate being return bent at 68 to form a horizontal flange 69 extending inwardly below and parallel to the table top. At suitably spaced intervals along each side, this flange 69 is notched or cut inwardly, as indicated at 70, to form clips 71 which may be bent

downwardly and outwardly around the inner edges of the upper flanges 53 of the side frame members in order to secure the top in place on the frame. A plurality of similar clips 72 are also struck out of the main upper horizontal portion of the top H, these clips being so positioned that they will be aligned with one edge of the beam members G, and may be bent downwardly and upwardly around one flange 62 of each beam member (see Fig. 10) so as to secure the table top against trusses. Strips of suitable padding material 73 may be provided between the upper walls 61 of the beams and the under-surface of the table top H, in order to avoid the production of metallic sounds by the contact of these two metal members. If necessary, similar padding may be provided between the upper surfaces 2 of corner pieces A and the metal top H.

A sheet 74 of suitable padding material is placed over the upper surface of metal top H, over which is spread the flexible covering 75, the inturned edge portions 76 of which are clamped in place between the return bent flange 69 of top H and the inturned top flanges 53 of the side frame members, all as shown in Fig. 9. The edge portions of the table top may also be glued in place on top flanges 69.

In the process of manufacture, one of these tables may be quickly assembled, since all of the units of each particular character are identical, and readily interchangeable. The corner supporting units, each consisting of a corner piece A, a leg B, and the strut C and locking mechanism D, are first assembled in an obvious manner. A corner side frame member E is then assembled on each corner piece A, by positioning the centering lug 9 in the slot 57, and the members A and E are then spot welded together at 58 and 59, as already described. The four corner-supporting units thus assembled are now connected together by placing four of the side frame members F in position in alignment with the ends 55 of the corner frame members E and spot welding them in place at 60. Four of the beam members G are now assembled on the bottom of the frame members so they properly overlap one another at 64, and the ends of these beams are spot welded to the respective corners of the corner pieces A, as indicated at 63. The crossing or overlapping beam members are spot welded together at 67, as already described. The supporting frame has now been completed. The covering members 74 and 75 are positioned on the metal top piece H, and the top is secured in place on the supporting frame by bending the edge clips 71 outwardly around the upper flanges 53 of the side frames and clamping the clips 72 around the side flanges of the beam members G, as already described. The metal parts of the table are suitably painted or decorated and the table is completed.

When the table is not in use, the legs are folded inwardly substantially parallel with the table top, as indicated in Fig. 2. Since each leg is slightly offset from the diagonal line connecting the corners of the table, the opposite leg members B fold alongside one another instead of on top of one another, thus rendering the folded table more compact. When the table is to be used, each of the legs is simply swung outwardly until the locking member 38 springs automatically into the notch 43 in the slide member 34. It will be noted that a cam surface 77 (see Fig. 7) is provided on the bracket 35 to wedge under the locking member 42 at the end of spring 38 so that it will automatically be cammed into the locking notch 43. The spring locking members are manually removed from the notches 43 by an inward pressure on the finger pieces 45, as already described. Until these locking members are manually released in this manner, the supporting units consisting of legs B and struts C will remain rigidly in position at right angles to the table top. The table will be quite rigid and there is no danger of the legs being accidentally folded so as to cause the table to collapse.

While it has long been considered desirable to have rounded corners on the table top, in the ordinary construction of card tables where the legs fold parallel with the edges of the table, the space permitted between two of the rounded corners is not of sufficient length to accommodate a leg of the required height, unless the top of the table is made excessively large. When the legs are hinged as disclosed in this application, so that they swing diagonally inward toward the center of the table, rounded corners may be used, and legs of sufficient length provided, at the same time permitting the area of the table top to be much smaller than has hitherto been possible. This method of hinging the legs also permits of the use of a pair of diagonal braces, such as the struts C here disclosed, so that a rigid tripod effect is obtained for bracing the legs against lateral strains in all directions.

The comparatively large rigid corner pieces A effectively prevent bending or warping of the table top at the corners, and also serve to effectively hide the inturned portions of the flexible top covering which is apt to be somewhat uneven and unsightly at the rounded corners of the table.

It will be apparent that practically the entire table (with the exception of the top covering) is made of sheet metal stampings which may be quickly and economically pressed to form. No rivets or pins need be used except for the hinge members, all of the other connections being made by spot

welding, which may be very quickly and economically accomplished.

We claim:

1. In a table, a corner-supporting unit consisting of a pressed metal corner-piece adapted to be secured to and support the table-top, a metallic leg hinged to the corner piece, and diagonally positioned struts pivotally connecting the leg and corner-piece.

2. In a table, a corner-supporting unit consisting of a pressed metal corner-piece substantially in the form of a right-angled triangle and adapted to fit beneath and support one corner of a table-top, there being three integral down-turned pivot lugs struck from the metal of the corner-piece, one lug being near the right-angled corner, and the other two being respectively positioned near the ends of the hypotenuse of the triangle, a metallic leg pivotally attached to the first lug, a pair of diagonal struts one pivotally attached to each of the other lugs, and an adjustable connection between the other ends of the struts and the leg member.

3. In a table, a corner-supporting unit consisting of a pressed metal corner-piece substantially in the form of a right-angled triangle and adapted to fit beneath and support one corner of a table-top, there being three integral down-turned pivot lugs struck from the metal of the corner-piece, one lug being near the right-angled corner, and the other two being respectively positioned near the ends of the hypotenuse of the triangle, a pressed metal leg member bent to form a pivot member at its upper end for attachment to the first lug, and a hollow slotted lower construction, a slide member mounted in the hollow leg with a notched bracket projecting through the slot, a pair of metallic struts pivoted at their upper ends to the other lugs of the corner-piece and pivoted at their lower ends to the bracket on the slide, and a spring latch mounted on the leg and adapted to engage the notch in the bracket.

4. In a table, a corner-supporting unit consisting of a pressed metal corner-piece adapted to be secured to and support the table-top, a metallic leg hinged to the corner piece, a pair of struts pivoted to the corner piece at their upper ends and slidably connected with the leg at their lower ends, and a latch for fixing the positions of the lower ends of the struts when the leg is perpendicular to the corner-piece, the pivotal attachments of the leg and struts to the corner piece forming an isosceles triangle, the leg being pivoted at the apex of the triangle and the struts at the ends of the base thereof.

5. In a table, a sheet metal leg bent to form a main hollow vertically slotted portion, and an upper open channeled portion, the upper end of the channeled portion being flattened to form a pivot portion.

6. In a table, a sheet metal leg bent to form a main hollow vertically slotted portion, and an upper open channeled portion, the upper end of the channeled portion being flattened to form a pivot portion, a sheet metal slide member having oppositely bent flanges adapted to engage in the hollow leg and a bracket portion projecting through the slot and adapted for attachment to brace members, and a spring latch secured in the channeled portion of the leg and adapted to engage the bracket.

7. In a table, a sheet metal leg bent to form a main hollow vertically slotted portion, and an upper open channeled portion, the upper end of the channeled portion being flattened to form a pivot portion, and a sheet metal base stamping consisting of a foot flange bent to cover the lower end of the hollow leg and a pair of side flanges bent about the sides of the lower end of the leg.

8. In a table, a metallic corner piece for the attachment of a supporting leg to the table top, said corner piece being formed of a sheet of pressed metal substantially in the form of a right-angled triangle with the right-angled corner rounded off, the sheet adjacent the sides of the triangle being depressed and formed with downturned flanges for the attachment of a table frame, there being downturned pivot lugs struck from the sheet, one adjacent each corner of the triangle.

9. In a table, a pressed metal corner piece having a rounded corner, there being attaching flanges bent down from the sides of the corner piece and the rounded corner, one of the flanges having a centering lug thereon, and three edge frame members adapted to be spot welded to the flanges, one of the frame members being rounded to embrace the rounded corner and having a notch for receiving the centering lug.

10. In a table, a sheet metal top, a plurality of pressed metal corner pieces secured to and supporting the top, and pressed metal beams extending diagonally beneath the table top and secured to opposite corner pieces.

11. In a table, a sheet metal top, a plurality of pressed metal corner pieces secured to and supporting the top, and pressed metal beams extending diagonally beneath the table top and secured to opposite corner pieces, certain of the beams being looped downwardly to overlap the beams which they cross, the overlapping portions of the beams being spot welded.

12. In a table, a table top, a sheet metal top-supporting frame, a plurality of pressed metal beams in the form of downwardly opening channels extending diagonally of the table top between opposite corner portions of the supporting frame and secured thereto, certain of the channels being looped downwardly to overlap the channels which they cross, the overlapped channels having a tab

struck down from the base between the side flanges of the channel and spot welded to the base of the overlapping channel.

13. In a table, a sheet metal top, a plurality of pressed metal corner pieces secured to and supporting the top, and pressed metal beams extending diagonally beneath the table top and secured to opposite corner pieces, there being downwardly extending clips struck from the table top and engaged with the beams.

14. In a table, a sheet metal top, a plurality of pressed metal corner pieces secured to and supporting the top, and pressed metal beams extending diagonally beneath the table top and secured to opposite corner pieces and pads clamped between the beams and the table top.

15. In a table, a sheet metal top, a plurality of pressed metal corner pieces, side frame members secured to and joining the corner pieces, and a sheet metal top having clips struck therefrom for securing same to the side frames and corner pieces.

16. In a table, a sheet metal top, a plurality of pressed metal corner pieces, side frame members secured to and joining the corner pieces, overlapping beams connecting diagonally opposite corner-pieces, and a sheet metal table-top having clips struck therefrom for securing same to the side frames, corner pieces and beams.

17. A table comprising a rectangular top having rounded corners, a leg pivoted to the top adjacent each rounded corner and adapted to fold diagonally inwardly toward the center of the table, a pair of struts pivoted to the top adjacent each side edge diverging from each of the rounded corners, a slide member mounted in the leg, and means for locking the slide member in position, the other ends of the struts being pivoted to the slide member

18. A table comprising a rectangular top, a leg pivoted beneath the top adjacent each corner so as to fold diagonally inward toward the center of the table, a pair of struts pivoted at their upper ends beneath the top adjacent each side edge thereof, a slide member mounted in the leg, and means for locking the slide member in its upper position, the lower ends of the struts being pivotally attached to the slide.

19. In a metallic table comprising pressed metal side and corner frame members, legs movably secured thereto, and a sheet metal top having return bent edge flanges with clips struck from the return bent portion and adapted to be engaged with the frame members.

20. In a metallic table comprising pressed metal side and corner frame members, legs movably secured thereto, a sheet metal top having return bent edge flanges with clips struck from the return bend portion and adapted to be engaged with the frame members, and a flexible covering member adapted to be stretched over the metallic top with its edges clamped between the return bent edge flanges and the frame members.

21. In a metallic table comprising pressed metal side and corner frame members, each comprising a vertical side flange and an upper inwardly extending horizontal flange, corner pieces connecting the frame members at the corners of the table, legs movably secured to the corner pieces, and a sheet metal top having return bent edge flanges with clips struck from the return bent flanges and adapted to be engaged with the upper flanges of the frame members.

22. A table comprising a substantially rectangular top, a hollow leg pivoted beneath the top adjacent each corner so as to fold diagonally inward toward the center of the table, said leg having a longitudinal slot, a slide member mounted within the hollow leg and having a portion projecting through the slot, means for locking the slide member in its upper position, a pair of struts pivoted at their upper ends beneath the top adjacent each side edge thereof and pivoted at their lower ends to the projecting portion of the slide.

23. In a table, a table top, a sheet metal top-supporting frame, and a plurality of pressed metal beams extending diagonally between opposite corner portions of the supporting frame and secured thereto, certain of the beams being looped downwardly to overlap the beams which they cross.

24. In a table, a table top, a sheet metal top-supporting frame, and a plurality of pressed metal beams extending diagonally between opposite corner portions of the supporting frame and secured thereto, certain of the beams being looped downwardly to overlap the beams which they cross, and means for securing together the overlapping portions of the beams.

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