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J. W. ROBERTS
SLIDE TABLE ASSEMBLY
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2,292,797

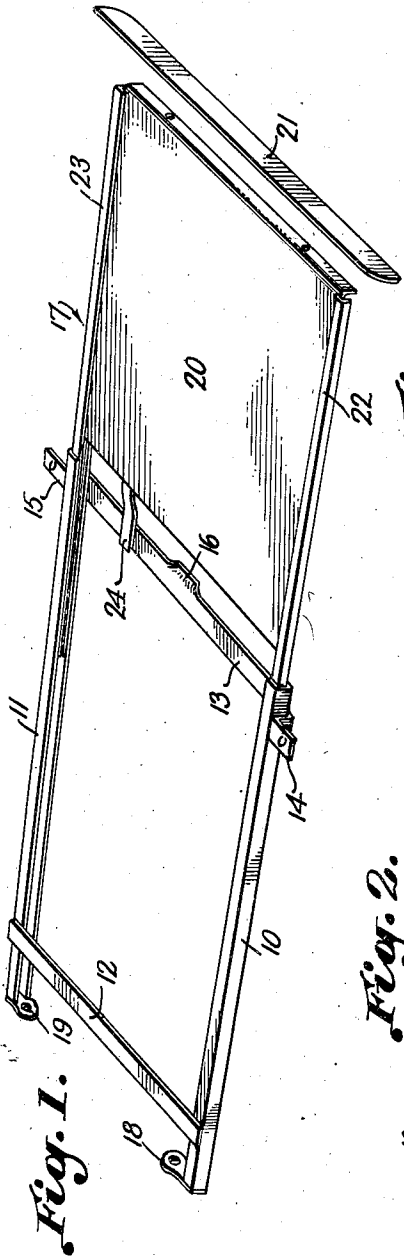


Fig. 2.

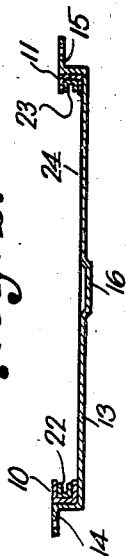


Fig. 3.



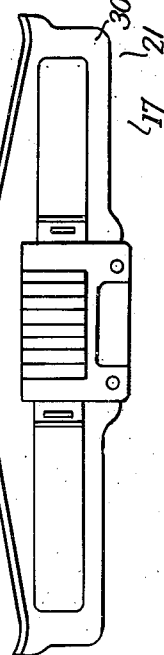
Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.



Fig. 6.



Inventor,
JOHN W. ROBERTS
BY Hubert Miller
ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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SLIDE TABLE ASSEMBLY

John W. Roberts, Oklahoma City, Okla., assignor
of one-half to G. C. Wyatt and one-half to
Clarence E. Baggett, both of Oklahoma City,
Okla.

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3 Claims. (Cl. 311—21)

This invention relates to a serving table, and is particularly adapted for attachment beneath the glove compartment of an ordinary automobile for serving occupants of the front seat.

It is the chief object of the invention to provide a complete slide table assembly which can be easily and quickly installed, which takes up an extremely small amount of space in the automobile, and which, when not in use, may be moved to an entirely out of the way position.

A further object of the invention is to provide a slide table assembly construction which prevents the table from being accidentally withdrawn from its guides or runners as it is moved toward its extended and operative position, and which also maintains the table in its retracted position when it is not in use.

The details in the construction of a preferred form of my invention, together with other objects attending its production, will be better understood from the following description when read in connection with the accompanying drawing, which is chosen for illustrative purposes only, and in which

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing a preferred embodiment of the invention with the table in extended and operative position;

Figure 2 is a sectional view taken along the line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken along the line 3—3 of Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a sectional view taken along the line 4—4 of Figure 1, with the table in extended and operative position;

Figure 5 is a view similar to Figure 4, but shows the table locked in retracted and inoperative position; and

Figure 6 is a front view of the table assembly installed immediately beneath the instrument panel of a modern automobile.

Referring to the drawing it will be seen that the embodiment illustrated includes a pair of parallel table supporting guide members 10 and 11 which are spaced apart and maintained parallel and in the same plane by laterally extending spacer bars 12 and 13, which are rigidly secured to the guide members by any suitable means, as by spot welding. As shown in Figures 1 and 2, the opposite ends of the bar 13 extend beyond the outer side edges of the respective guide members, and are bent and perforated to form attaching brackets 14 and 15. Intermediate the guide members 10 and 11 a portion of one side edge of the bar 13 is pressed downward to form

an inclined plane which will be hereinafter referred to as catch guide 16.

As illustrated, the guide members 10 and 11 are longitudinally grooved on their adjacent inner surfaces to co-operatively and slidably receive and guide a table, designated as a whole by the numeral 17, and at their end nearest the bar 12, the guide members are respectively fitted with perforated attaching brackets 18 and 19.

The table portion of this assembly comprises a flat plate 20 preferably having its outer end turned down and perforated at spaced intervals to afford a means for attaching a facing plate 21. The rigidity of this plate 20 is preferably increased by grooved reinforcing members 22 and 23, which are rigidly attached by any suitable means along the respective side edges of the plate 20. As shown, these reinforcing members 22 and 23 are of such cross sectional size and shape as to be slidably received in the grooves of the guide members 10 and 11, and the ends of the members 22 and 23 extend for a considerable distance beyond the inner end of the plate 20, thus affording a means of rigidly supporting the table even after the inner end of the plate 20 has been moved to a position just outside the ends of the guide members 10 and 11.

As a means of preventing the table 17 from being accidentally and completely withdrawn from between the supporting guide members 10 and 11, the plate 20 is provided at its inner end with a rigidly attached leaf spring type catch 24, the free end of which is turned downward to contact the inner side edge of the bar 13, the bar and catch thus co-operating to normally limit the outward travel of the table. Should it be desired to entirely remove the table from its guides it is only necessary to exert sufficient upward pressure on the free end of the catch 24 to cause it to clear the bar 13.

As a means of locking the table 17 in a retracted position between its guide members (as in Figure 5), I provide another leaf spring type catch 25, one end of which is rigidly secured to the plate 20 by any suitable means, as by rivets 26. This catch 25 is secured in a position of alignment with the catch guide 16, so that as the table is moved toward a retracted position between the guide members, the free end 27 of the catch 25 contacts and travels over the inclined surface of the catch guide 16, and thus the catch is guided to a locking contact with the inner edge of the bar 13, and locks the table in the position shown in Figure 5. When it is desired to move the table outward from its locked

retracted position it is only necessary to exert sufficient upward pressure on the free end 27 to cause the catch to clear the inner side edge of bar 13. The table may then be moved to the position shown in Figure 4.

In Figure 5, one manner of attaching the assembly in the front seat compartment of an automobile is illustrated. The numeral 28 designates a portion of the automobile dash, to which one end of each of the two guide members 10 and 11 is attached by means of bolts 29 passing thru the brackets 18 and 19, and thru the dash. The opposite ends of the guide members 10 and 11 are rigidly secured to the automobile instrument panel 30 by means of bolts 31 passing thru the brackets 14 and 15 and thru the lower turned edge of the panel, as shown.

Figure 6 shows a preferred position of installation in an automobile. It will be seen that the facing plate 21 is shaped to conform in appearance to the particular instrument panel illustrated, and it should be understood that the shape of this plate may be varied to conform to various other types of instrument panels.

While I have described and illustrated a specific embodiment of my invention, I am aware that numerous alterations and changes may be made therein and I do not wish to be limited except by the prior art and by the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A slide table assembly of the class described comprising: a substantially flat plate or table; a pair of spaced co-operating table supporting guide members, each having a longitudinally extending inwardly facing groove, said members adapted to slidably receive the table between them; releasable means for normally maintaining said table in a retracted position between said guide members; and releasable means for limiting the distance said table may be moved outward away from its retracted position between said guide members; and reinforcing members along the side edges of said table, said reinforcing

members being extended to form spaced rigid legs beyond the inner end of said plate or table, the cross sectional size and shape of said reinforcing members being such as to permit them to slide freely within the respective grooves in said supporting guide members.

2. A table assembly of the class described comprising: a substantially flat plate or table; a spaced co-operating pair of longitudinally grooved supporting guide members adapted to be rigidly secured in the same plane, the grooves in said guide members adapted to slidably receive the respective side edges of said plate; co-operating releasable means carried respectively by the guide members and the plate for normally maintaining the plate in a retracted position between said guide members; and co-operating releasable means for normally limiting the outward movement of said plate from a retracted position between said guide members, the releasing of said last mentioned means affording free removal of the plate from the guide members.

3. In an automobile which includes a dash, and an instrument panel spaced horizontally therefrom, a serving table comprising: spaced parallel supporting guides each having one end secured rigidly to said dash, and each having its opposite end secured rigidly adjacent the lower edge of said instrument panel, both guides lying substantially in a horizontal plane; a plate or table slidable on said guides in a plane immediately adjacent the lower edge of said instrument panel in a direction substantially at right angles to said panel; releasable means for normally maintaining said table in a retracted position with its outer end immediately adjacent and below the lower edge of said instrument panel; and releasable means for limiting the distance said table may be moved outward on its guides away from its retracted position beneath said instrument panel.

JOHN W. ROBERTS.