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3,290,743

TABLE CLOTH HOLDING DEVICE

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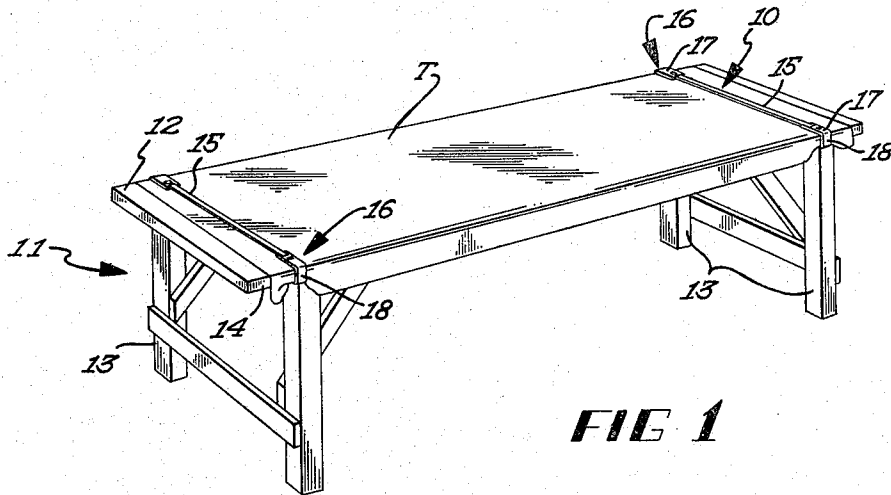


FIG 1

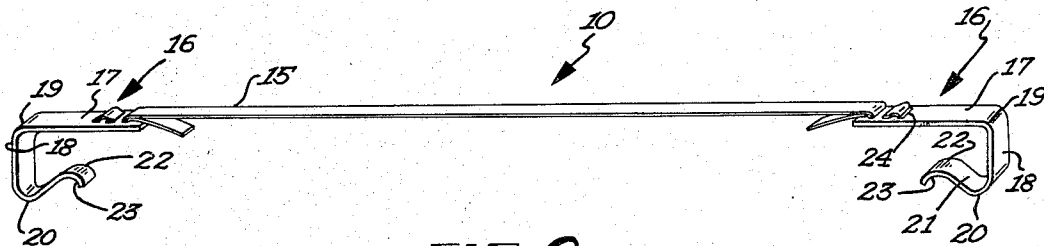


FIG 2

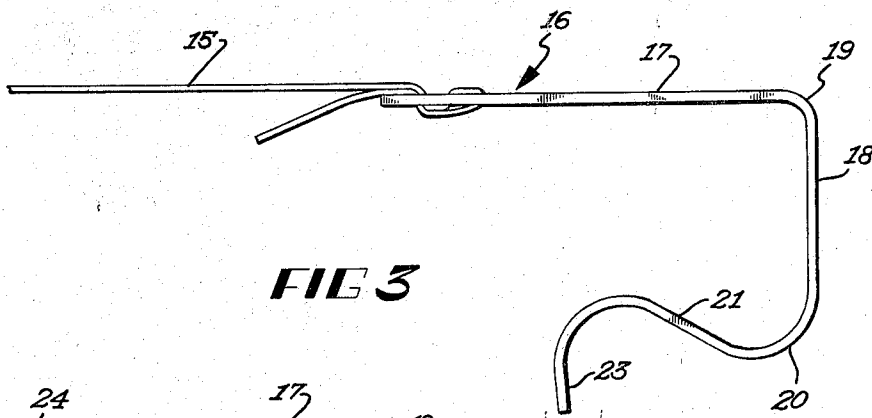


FIG 3

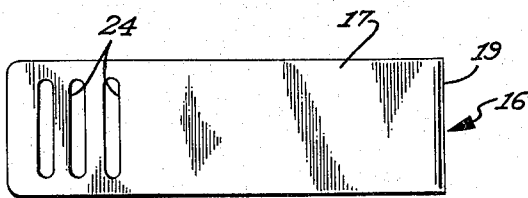


FIG 4

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1

2

3,290,743  
**TABLE CLOTH HOLDING DEVICE**  
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 3 Claims. (Cl. 24-81)

This invention relates to a table cloth holding device for holding and retaining table cloths on picnic tables and the like, and this application is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 300,352, filed August 6, 1963 and now abandoned.

An object of this invention is to provide a table cloth holding device including a resilient flexible table cloth engaging member having table clamping means secured to opposite ends thereof when engaging the edges of a picnic table to releasably clamp the table cloth on the table top.

A more specific object of this invention is to provide a novel and improved table cloth holding device including a pair of elongate table cloth engaging members each adapted to extend transversely of a picnic table adjacent the respective ends thereof to engage the upper surface of the table cloth, for holding the same against the table top, each table cloth engaging member being formed of flexible resilient material and each having a pair of clamping elements at opposite ends thereof for engagement in clamping relation with the table top.

These and other objects and advantages of the invention will more fully appear from the following description made in connection with the accompanying drawings, wherein like character reference refer to the same or similar parts throughout the several views, and in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of my invention showing my table cloth holding device in clamped relation with respect to a table cloth that has been applied to a conventional picnic table,

FIG. 2 is a perspective view on an enlarged scale of the table cloth holding device,

FIG. 3 is a front elevational view illustrating one of the table top gripping members, and

FIG. 4 is a plan view on the same scale as FIG. 3 of one of the table top gripping members.

Referring now to the drawings it will be seen that one embodiment of my table cloth holding device, designated generally by the reference numeral 10, is thereshown. Referring to FIG. 1 it will be seen that the table cloth holding device 10 as illustrated in clamping relation with respect to a table cloth T has been applied to the table top 12 of a conventional picnic table 11. It will be noted that the table top 12 is of conventional substantially flat rectangular configuration and is provided with conventional legs 13 which are secured to and depend from the table cloth 12. The table top T is also of rectangular configuration and is preferably dimensionally larger than the table top 12 so that the peripheral portions thereof extend beyond and hang from the edges 14 of the table top 12. To this end, it will be noted that edges 12 are vertically disposed and are arranged in substantially right angular relation with respect to the upper surface of the table top 12.

The table top holding device 10 includes a substantially flat elongate table cloth engaging member 15 which is formed of an elastic flexible fabric material and is longitudinally adjustable through stretching for accommodating picnic table tops whose widths may vary. The table top cloth engaging member 15 as best seen in FIG. 1 is oriented transversely of the table top 12 and is applied against the table cloth for retaining the same against substantially the entire width of the table top. As shown, two such table cloth holding devices are used under normal circumstances and are preferably applied to the table top adjacent opposite ends thereof.

Means are provided at opposite ends of each table cloth engaging member 15 for clamping engagement with the longitudinal edges of the table top 12. This means includes for each table cloth engaging member 15 a pair of retaining members 16. Each of these retaining members 16 are preferably formed of a suitable metallic material and each includes a substantially flat attachment portion 17 having an edge engaging portion 18 integrally formed therewith and disposed substantially normal to the general plane of the attachment portion 17. Although the edge engaging portion and attachment portion 17 are disposed in substantially right angular relationships, it will be noted that these portions are interconnected by an intermediate arcuate portion 19 for the purpose of minimizing wear to the table cloth.

The edge engaging portion 18 of each retaining member 16 is arcuately bent at its lowermost end as at 20 and a clamping portion 21 extends upwardly and inwardly therefrom having an arcuate table engaging surface 22 at its innermost end. It will be noted that the clamping portion 21 terminates in a downwardly projecting finger engaging portion 23 to facilitate release of the retaining member from clamped relation with respect to the table top 12. To this end, it is pointed out that the table cloth T will be clamped against the upper surface of the table top 12 by the lower surface of the attachment portion 17 while the lower surface of the table top 12 will be engaged by the clamping surface 22 of the clamping portion 21. It will be seen that the inner end of the attachment portion 17 of each retaining member 16 is provided with a plurality of slots 24 therein which are disposed in substantially parallel relation with respect to each other and through which the ends of the table cloth engaging member are looped to releasably but positively interconnect the table cloth engaging member with these retaining members.

When the table cloth retaining device is applied to a picnic table to hold a table cloth against displacement, as pointed out above, a pair of such devices are preferably used for most conventional picnic tables. The table cloth engaging member 15 of each device is preferably adjusted so that the member 15 will require stretching to permit clamping attachment of the clamping retaining member 16 to the marginal portions of the table. It will be seen that the respective end portions of the table cloth engaging member 15 may be readily adjusted with respect to the retaining member 16 whereby when the member 15 is stretched, the same will be retained in a clamped, somewhat tensioned condition against the table cloth to press the same against the upper surface of the table top 12. A cooperation of the attachment portion 17 with respect to the clamping portion 21 permits the retaining members to clampingly engage the edge portion of the table top and these table cloth retaining devices are very effective for clamping and retaining a table cloth against the picnic table top even when the table cloth is subjected to relatively strong winds. It will also be noted, that because of the flat profile of the table cloth engaging members 15, and the substantially co-planar relation of the attachment portions 17 with respect thereto, no undesirable obstructions are presented to interfere with normal use of the table. The finger engaging portion 23 facilitates removal of the device from the table top with a minimum of effort.

It will, therefore, be seen that I have provided a novel table cloth holding device which is not only of simple and inexpensive construction, but one which functions in a more efficient manner than any heretofore known comparable device.

It will, of course, be understood that various changes may be made in the form, details, arrangement and pro-

3

portions of the various parts without departing from the scope of my invention.

What I claim is:

1. A table cloth holding device for releasably holding a table cloth on the table top of a picnic table and in which the table cloth is of a greater width than the width of the table top, said device comprising

an elongate substantially flat one piece table cloth engaging member formed of resilient flexible material and being adapted to extend transversely of the picnic table to engage the upper surface of the table cloth to clamp the same upon the picnic table, said table cloth engaging member presenting a continuous uninterrupted planar upper surface when applied to a table,

a pair of retaining members each being releasably connected to one end of said table cloth engaging member and each including a substantially flat attachment portion having slots in one end thereof, each end of said table cloth engaging member being looped and received within the slotted end of the attachment portion of each retaining member and being adjustable relative to the latter,

each retaining member including an edge engaging portion integrally formed with the associated attachment portion and disposed in depending substantially right angular relation therewith for engaging the edge of the table,

a clamping portion integrally formed with the lower end of said edge engaging portion and extending laterally and upwardly therefrom toward said associated attachment portion and presenting an arcuate

4

engaging surface for engaging the lower surface of the table top and a thumb engaging portion integrally formed with said clamping portion and depending therefrom.

2. The table cloth holding device as defined in claim 1 and arcuate portions interconnecting said edge engaging portion with said attachment portion and clamping portion of each retaining member.

3. The table cloth holding device as defined in claim 1 wherein said finger engaging portion of each retaining member is disposed in substantially parallel relation with respect to the associated edge engaging portion.

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