W. M. WEBSTER AND G. D. WERNLI.

FOLDING BOX TABLE.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 21, 1919.

1,381,682. **Patented June 14, 1921.**

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

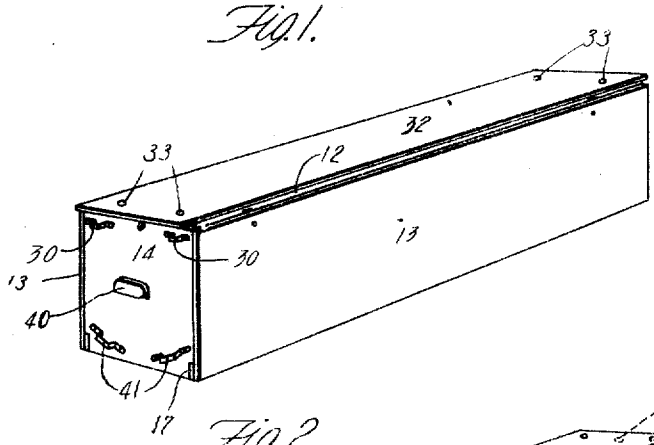


Fig. 2.

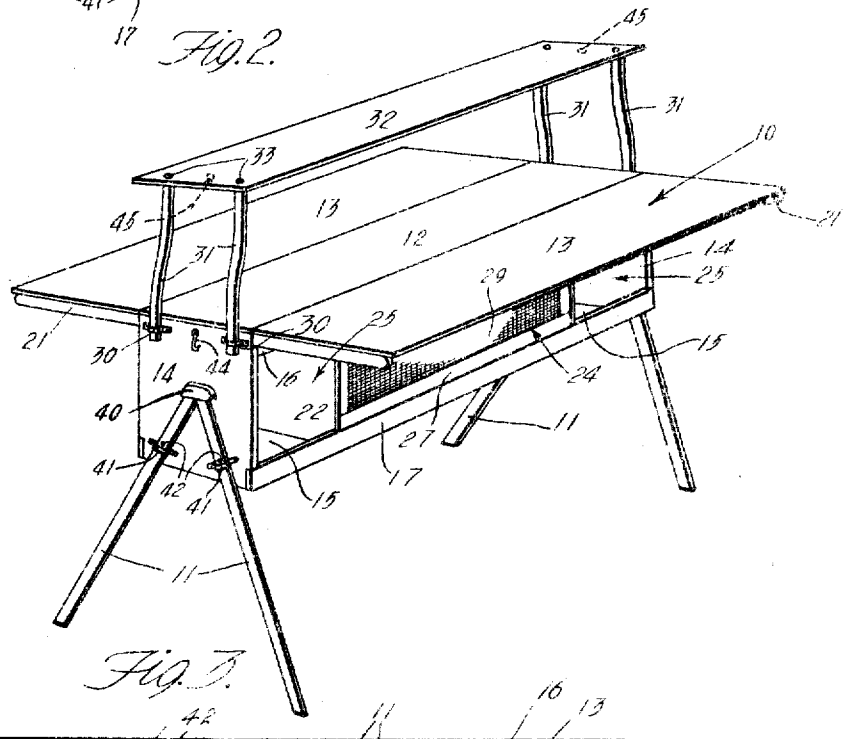
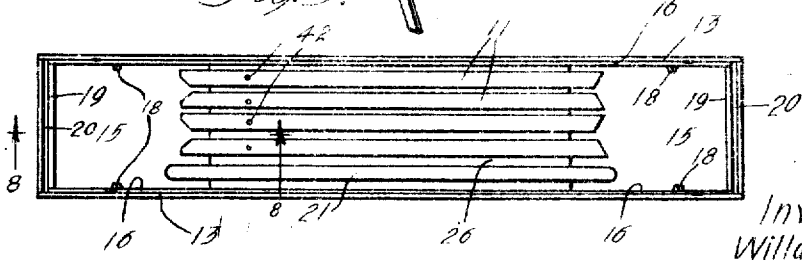


Fig. 3.



Inventors
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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 4.

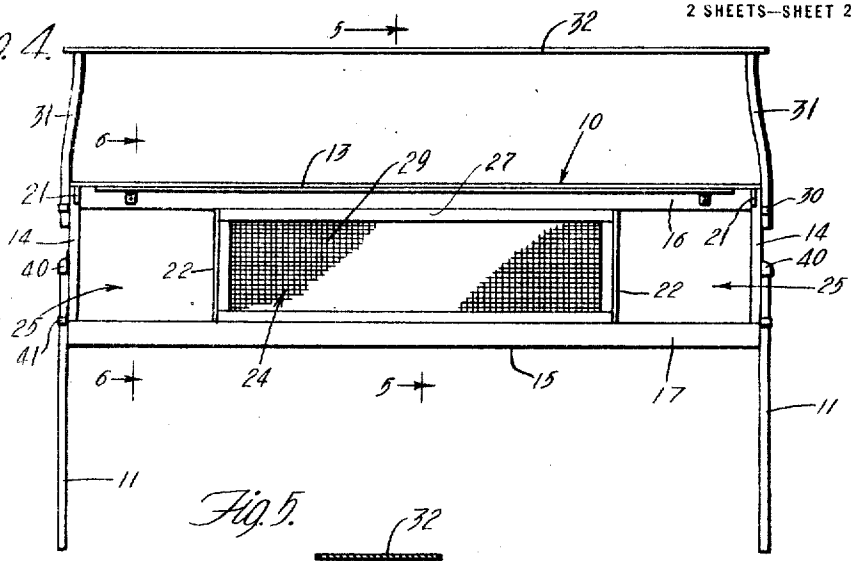


Fig. 5.

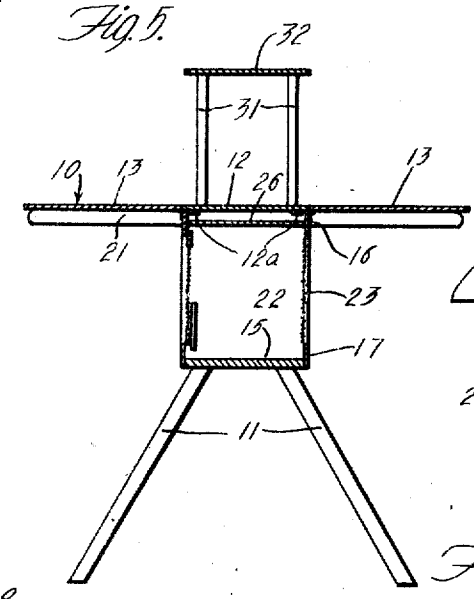


Fig. 6.

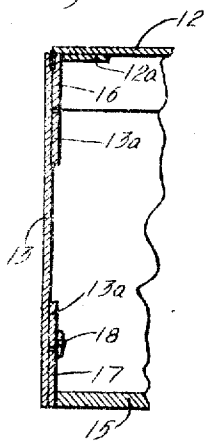


Fig. 7.

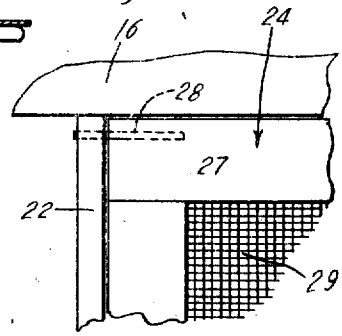


Fig. 8.

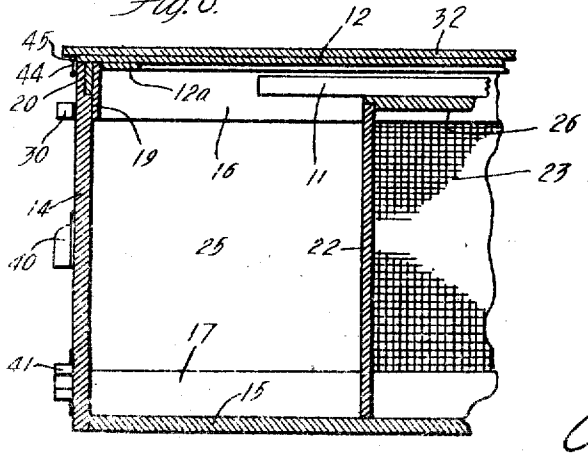
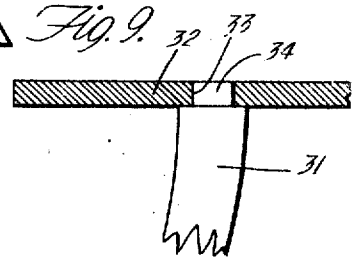


Fig. 9.



Inventors
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLARD M. WEBSTER AND GEORGE D. WERNLI, OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

FOLDING BOX-TABLE.

1,381,682. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented June 14, 1921.

Application filed July 21, 1919. Serial No. 312,355.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, WILLARD M. WEBSTER and GEORGE D. WERNLI, citizens of the United States, both residing at Los Angeles, in the county of Los Angeles, State of California, have jointly-invented new and useful Improvements in Folding Box-Tables, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to a folding box table and it is an object of the invention to provide a convenient, simple and inexpensive folding table.

The present invention provides a strong, convenient table that may be folded so as to form a neat box. The table is particularly adapted for use on picnics, camping trips and the like. A feature of the invention is the convenience with which it may be carried on an automobile. The table when folded forms a neat box which may very easily and conveniently be attached to the running board of an automobile without encumbering the machine or being unsightly. When the table is folded it forms a box in which provisions or articles of any kind may be carried.

When the table is set up it forms a neat appearing sturdy table. The table not only has a top but also has a shelf and a fly-proof cooler in connection with it. The shelf is mounted above the table and forms a place on which articles may be set in order to prevent the table from becoming crowded. The shelf makes it possible to conveniently accommodate more people at the table than would be possible with an ordinary table of equal size. The cooler which is embodied in the table provides a compartment in which food or the like may be kept. The cooler is so arranged as to be below and independent of the top of the table and thereby out of the way at the same time being easily accessible. Due to the novel arrangement of the cooler with the rest of the table, food or other articles carried in the cooler when it is folded do not have to be removed in order to set the table up. This feature of the invention makes the table particularly handy as it makes the folding or erecting of the table very simple. The cooler is so arranged that it is accessible either when the table is folded or unfolded; that is, it is not necessary to erect the table in order to get at the cooler.

A further feature of the invention is its simplicity. In the entire table there is no expensive construction or material required and repairs or replacements of parts are very inexpensive.

Further features of the invention as well as the details of construction of a specific preferred form of the invention will be readily understood from the following detailed description throughout which reference is had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the table when folded; Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the table when set up showing the shelf and the cooler; Fig. 3 is a plan view of the table showing it in the form of a folded box with sufficient parts removed to show the arrangement of the legs, etc. in the box formed by the table when it is folded; Fig. 4 is a side elevation of the table; Fig. 5 is a sectional view taken as indicated by line 5—5 on Fig. 4; Fig. 6 is an enlarged detail section taken as indicated by line 6—6 on Fig. 4, showing the manner in which the table is fastened when in the form of a box; Fig. 7 is an enlarged detail view showing the hinging of the cooler door; Fig. 8 is an enlarged detailed section taken as indicated by line 8—8 on Fig. 3; and Fig. 9 is an enlarged detailed view showing the mounting of the shelf on its supporting posts.

Throughout the drawings numeral 10 designates the top of the table which is supported by legs 11. The top 10 comprises a central panel 12 and two leaves 13. The central panel 12 is loose and removable while the leaves 13 are hinged as will be herein after described. A frame work comprising ends 14, a bottom 15, upper side pieces 16 and lower side pieces 17 supports the center panel 12 and leaves 13. The central panel 12 fits over the top of the frame work just described and has on its underside cleats 12^a which fit within the frame and prevent the panel from becoming displaced. The panel 12 is not itself connected in any way to the frame and may be easily removed. The leaves 13 are hinged to the upper edges of side pieces 16 so that they may be swung out in the position shown in Fig. 2 or may be swung in as shown in Fig. 1. On the underside of leaves 13 there are cleats 13^a which fit between the adjacent edges of side pieces 16 and 17. Attached to cleats 13^a are keys 18 which are so arranged that they may be turned so as to lock the leaves 13 in the folded position as shown in Fig. 6. At the top and on the inner side of each end 14

there is a notch and attached to the inner side of each end there is a member 19 which is arranged so as to be flush with the top of each side 14. The notches in ends 14 and the members 19 form grooves 20 through which sticks 21 may be passed. The sticks 21 are long enough to extend across the top 10 in such a manner so as to support the leaves 13 by extending under them and through the grooves 20.

The bottom 15 of the frame and side pieces 17 form a tray below the top 10. A portion of the frame below top 10 forms a cooler. The cooler comprises ends 22, a back 23 and a door 24. The ends 22 extend upwardly from bottom 15 between side pieces 16 and 17. The ends 22 extend up to and between side pieces 16 but do not extend to the top of said side pieces, as shown in Fig. 8. The ends 22 are located between the ends 14 so as to leave a compartment 25 in each end of the frame. A cover 26 for the cooler extends between upper edges of ends 22 between sides 16. The cover 26 is not attached either to the sides 16 or the ends 22 and may easily be removed from the cooler. There is a space between the cover 26 and the central panel which allows air to circulate between the cooler and the top, thereby making the cooler more effective. The back of the cooler comprises a wire screening which extends from the lower edge of side 16 to the upper edge of side 17 and between the sides of ends 22. The door 24 comprises a frame 27 which fits between the lower edge of side 16 and the upper edge of side 17 and extends between the ends 22. In the frame 27 there is a screening 29. The door 24 is hinged by means of pins 28 whch extend through ends 22 into the upper corners of frame 27. The construction just described provides a cooler in which food may be kept clean and cool. The door 24 being hinged at the top as described allows it to hang in a closed position at all times and makes it unnecessary to provide said door with a clasp or catch. If it is desired to get into the cooler without opening door 24 the central panel 12 and the cover 26 may be removed. This may easily be done without folding or displacing the table in any way. The compartments 25 between the ends 14 and the ends 22 provide places in which articles may be kept that do not need to be put in the cooler.

At the outer upper corners of ends 14 are brackets 30 which form sockets in which posts 31 fit. Posts 31 fit in sockets 30 and extend above top 10. Mounted on the upper ends of posts 31 is a shelf 32. In the shelf 32 there are holes 33 in which pins 34 formed on the ends of posts 31 fit. The posts 31 are shaped in such a manner as to allow shelf 32 to be made approximately the same length as the panel 12 and yet allow said posts to extend from the outer sides of ends 14 and engage the shelf in the manner just described. The shelf 32 being mounted above the top 10 as described does not interfere with the top or decrease the size of the top. Although the shelf 32 is provided with the table it will be readily understood that the table may be used equally well with or without said shelf.

There are two supporting legs 11 at each end of the table. Mounted on the outer side in the center of ends 14 are handles 40 and near the lower corners of the ends are brackets 41. The legs 11 extend through brackets 41 and fit into handles 40 as clearly shown in Fig. 2. On the outer side of each leg 11 there is a spring catch 42 which keep the legs in position. The legs 11 fit loosely enough in brackets 41 and handle 40 so that they may be easily disengaged when so desired.

If for any reason it is desired to shield the table, for instance, if the table is being used on a windy day one of the side leaves can be swung up. When one of the side leaves is turned up and temporarily fastened it forms a very effective shield for the rest of the top.

The foregoing description explains the arrangement of the table when it is set up. When the table is folded the various parts hereinabove described are arranged so as to form a neat box as shown in Fig. 1. To fold the table the shelf 32 is disengaged from posts 31 and the posts 31 are then disengaged from sockets 30. The center panel 12 and the cover 26 may then be temporarily removed and the posts 31 placed in the cooler. Then by removing the sticks 21 the leaves 13 may be folded in, as shown in Fig. 1 and locked by keys 18. The legs may be removed by merely pulling them through brackets 41. The cover 26 having been placed on the cooler the legs 11 and the sticks 21 may be placed on said top, as shown in Figs. 3 and 8. When the legs and sticks have thus been placed on the cover 26 the center panel 12 may be put in position. The shelf 32 may then be placed on top of center panel 12, as shown in Fig. 1. The shelf 32 is a little longer than the center panel 12 and its ends therefore project a little beyond the panel 12. Attached near the top and in the center of the outer side of ends 14 are hooks 44 which engage eyes 45 in the underside of shelf 32 and thereby hold the shelf firmly on the center panel 12. The table then forms a neat box which may be easily carried or handled by the handles 40. As has been hereinabove stated it is not necessary to remove articles from the compartment 25 or from the cooler 24 in order to fold or set up the table.

The foregoing description being of a specific preferred form of the invention we do not wish to limit ourselves, to the particular

construction or details hereinabove set forth but wish to reserve to ourselves any changes or modification that may be suggested to those skilled in the art or fall within the scope of the following claims.

Having described a preferred form of our invention, we claim:

1. In a table of the character described, a box embodying a removable top, a bottom, ends, side rails and having unclosed sides, side leaves hinged to said box and adapted to be swung upwardly to form a table with said top and to be swung against said side rails to form sides for the box, said top being removable independently of said side leaves, whereby access may be obtained to the box through the top when the sides are swung downwardly, means to support said leaves in said first-mentioned position, means to lock the leaves in said side-forming position and legs detachably connected to said box.

2. A table of the character described, comprising a box embodying a removable top, a bottom, ends, side rails, and having unclosed sides, side leaves hinged to said box and adapted to be swung upwardly to form a table with said top and to be swung against said side rails to form sides for the box, said top being removable independently of said side leaves whereby access may be obtained to the box through the top when the side leaves are swung downwardly, and means operative when said leaves are moved to said side-forming position to lock the leaves in this position.

3. In a table of the character described, a box embodying a removable top, a bottom, ends, and side rails and having unclosed sides, side leaves hinged to said box and adapted to be swung upwardly to form a table with said top and to be swung against said side rails to form sides for the box, a compartment in said box having a removable top and door opening from the side of said box and means to lock said leaves in each of said positions.

4. In a table of the character described, a box embodying a removable top, a bottom, ends, and side rails and having unclosed sides, side leaves hinged to said box and adapted to be swung upwardly to form a table with said top and to be swung against said side rails to form sides for the box, a compartment in said box having a removable top and door opening from the side of said box, a shelf for said table extending over said top, detachable legs for supporting said shelf, and means for locking said shelf over said top.

5. In a table of the character described, a box embodying a removable top, a bottom, ends, and side rails and having unclosed sides, said leaves hinged to said box and adapted to be swung upwardly to form a table with said top and to be swung against said side rails to form sides for the box, a compartment in said box having a removable top and door opening from the side of said box, a shelf for said table extending over said top, detachable legs for supporting said shelf, and legs detachably connected to the ends of said box.

In witness that we claim the foregoing we have hereunto subscribed our names this 14th day of July, 1919.

WILLARD M. WEBSTER.
GEORGE D. WERNLI.

Witness:
VIRGINIA I. BERINGER.