June 16, 1925. 1,542,783

W. A. BILGER

SUPPORTING PLATFORM OR TABLE

Filed Oct. 25, 1922 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. I.

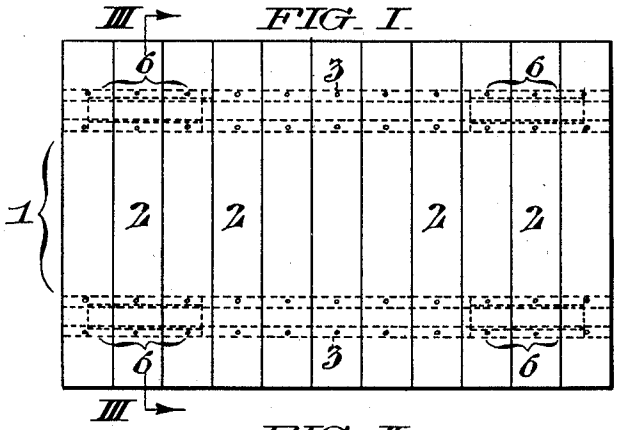


FIG. II.

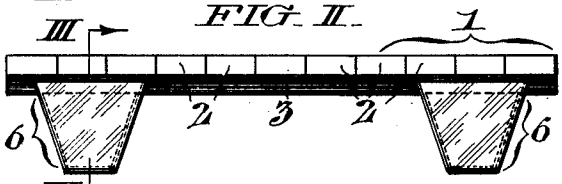


FIG. III.

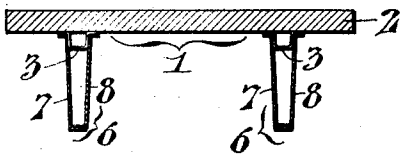


FIG. IV.

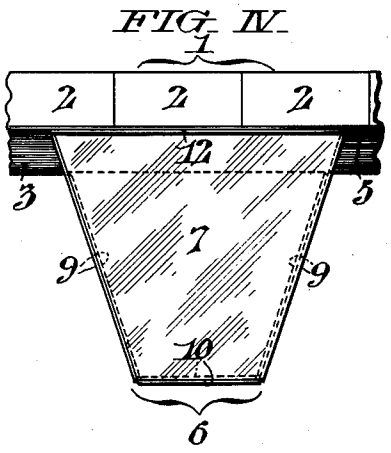


FIG. V.

FIG. VIII.

FIG. VI.

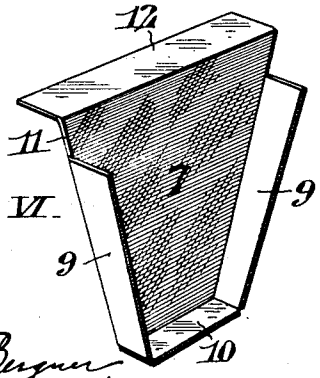
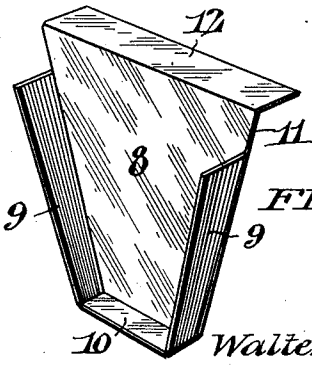


FIG. VII.



WITNESSES:
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Alfred E. Eschinger.

INVENTOR:
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ATTORNEYS.

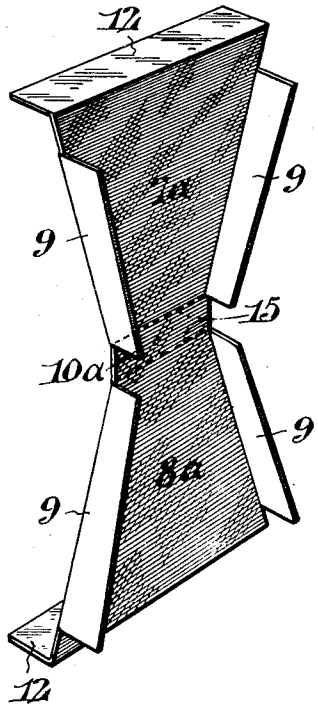
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FIG. IX.



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Patented June 16, 1925. 1,542,783

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WALTER A. BILGER, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNOR TO THE AMERICAN PULLEY COMPANY, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, A CORPORATION OF PENNSYLVANIA.

SUPPORTING PLATFORM OR TABLE.

Application filed October 25, 1922. Serial No. 596,814.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WALTER A. BILGER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Philadelphia, county of Philadelphia, and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Supporting Platforms or Tables, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

My invention relates generally to tables or platforms and more specifically to a type upon which articles of manufacture, for example, may be placed for transfer from place to place about factories, through aid of what are known as lifting trucks adapted to be inserted or introduced beneath the supporting surfaces of the platforms.

The primary object of my invention is to provide a device for the purpose stated characterized by utmost lightness though possessed of great strength and rigidity for capacity to withstand rough usage, and which is capable of being constructed of elements susceptible of economic manufacture and ease of assembling.

Other objects and attendant advantages of my invention will become readily apparent from the detailed description thereof which follows while its scope will be readily understood from the appended claims.

Referring to the drawings, Fig. I is a plan view of a supporting platform or table conveniently embodying my invention.

Fig. II is a side view of the structure viewed from the bottom of Fig. I.

Fig. III is a cross section of the same taken as indicated by the arrows III—III in Figs. I and II.

Fig. IV is a side view of one of the leg members on an enlarged scale showing its relation to the other parts of the structure in greater detail.

Fig. V is a perspective view of one of the longitudinal rails or battens forming one of the strengthening elements of the table or platform structure.

Figs. VI and VII are perspective views of the two counterpart component portions of one of the leg members.

Fig. VIII is a cross section on an enlarged scale showing the manner in which the component portions of the leg members are assembled and secured, and

Fig. IX shows a slight modification in the method of forming the leg members.

Referring first more particularly to Figs. I, II and III, the platform structure there shown will be observed to comprise a supporting surface 1 constructed of a number of uniform lengths of planking 2—2 laid side by side and united to form an oblong configuration by longitudinally extending relatively spaced bars or battens 3—3. These battens, as shown in perspective in Fig. V are constructed of sheet metal, and each has formed in it a medial channel 4 which is flanked by lateral flanges 5—5 for attachment of the planking 2—2 which may be secured by means of screws, nails, or any other appropriate fastening devices.

As a means for maintaining the supporting surface 1 at an elevation, I have provided hollow leg members of rectangular cross section comprehensively indicated at 6 and each constituted of two complementary counterpart portions or components such as designated by the numerals 7, 8 in Figs. VI and VII respectively. These component leg portions, like the battens 3—3 are preferably made of sheet metal appropriately stamped and bent to the configuration shown. It will be observed that the leg portions 7—8 are quadrilateral in form,—to be more exact,—trapezoids with their parallel faces horizontally disposed in the completed or assembled structure. The two inclined sides are complementarily sloped and together with the bottom edges of the trapezoids are turned at right angles to the main or body parts of the component leg portions to afford flanges 9—9 and 10 by which they are substantially reinforced and strengthened. Such dished formation may be obtained by a bending operation upon sheet metal blanks notched at the corners at which the flanges are to abut and uniting the abutting edges by soldering or welding after bending, or by a simple stamping operation upon a plain or unnotched blank to set up the flanges 9—9 and 10 in integral continuation at the corners. To those familiar with the art of sheet metal stamping, it will at once be apparent that the last described method may be readily practiced without danger of fracture of the metal at the corner regions

for considerable flange depths. The flanges 9—9 are terminated short of the tops of the component leg portions, as clearly shown in the perspective illustrations as a result of which the main webs of the components are isolated and prolonged upwardly to form attachment tabs 11 with margins turned laterally to produce horizontal flanges 12. The bending or stamping of the leg portions 7—8 is so ordered that one becomes a complement of the other and will interfit therewith when the leg member is assembled (with the flanges disposed in opposition) with the other elements of the platform structure as clearly shown in Fig. VIII. From this illustration it will be observed that the tabs 11 of the component leg portions overlap the sides of the channel of the battens 3 while their laterally turned flanges 12 are superposed upon the flanking flanges 5 of said channel members. After being thus assembled, attachment may be effected by riveting or welding the leg members both to the sides of the channels of the battens 3 and to their flanges. If desired, however, the leg components may be assembled with the battens to form units which may be subsequently secured to the supporting surface of the platform structure. In the course of assembling, in order to permanently secure the leg components to one another, the lapping flanges 9, 9 and 10 may also be soldered or welded together. By properly proportioning the leg members as to width, at their tops, absolute stability of the table or platform structure is assured, and with proper spacing and by virtue of the divergency of the sides of two aligned legs, ample space is provided in the interval between them for insertion or introduction of the lifting truck beneath the supporting surfaces. Furthermore by reason of the comparative narrowness of the legs laterally, the table or platform structures may be stacked upon each other without appreciable loss of supporting surface area.

As an alternative, the leg members may be formed from a single piece of metal as shown in Fig. IX. Here the portions 7^a and 8^a, corresponding to the components 7 and 8 of the first described form, are joined by an intermediate width of metal 10^a designed to take the place of the flanges 10—10. After turning up the flanges 9—9 as shown, the leg member is formed by bending the blank along the transverse dotted lines 15—15 until the flanges of the two portions 7^a and 8^a are brought into proper coincidence. Joinder of the flanges to each other, and of the completed leg to the other parts or elements of the platform or table structure may be effected in the manner previously explained.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. A supporting platform including in combination a supporting surface, channel section strengthening battens formed with flanking flanges for the supporting surface, and leg members therefor comprising complemental sheet metal units having a base, marginal and upper lateral integral flanges adapted to be secured at opposite sides and to the aforesaid flanges of the battens, and said marginal flanges terminating below the plane of the lateral flanges so as to engage the bottom face of the battens.

2. A supporting platform including in combination a supporting surface, channel section strengthening battens formed with flanking flange for the supporting surface, and hollow leg members therefor, each said leg comprising opposed counterpart rectangularly dished interfitting sheet metal units having reversely and laterally flanged upper parts adapted to be secured at opposite sides and to the aforesaid flanking flanges of the battens, and said dished units having portions terminating below the plane of the lateral flanges for engagement with the bottom face of the battens.

3. A supporting platform including in combination a supporting surface, channel section strengthening battens having lateral flanking flanges for the supporting surface, and leg members each comprising opposed component portions in the form of counterpart interfitting die stampings of quadrilateral configuration with reversely directed upper lateral flanges adapted to be secured at opposite sides and to the aforesaid flanking flanges of the battens, and said stampings having perimetrical recessions adapted to abut the underface of the battens.

4. A supporting platform having battens of channel cross-section with flanking lateral flanges for attachment to said supporting surface, and hollow sheet metal leg members of trapezoidal outline with extensions on the upper parallel edges adapted to overlap the sides of the battens, said extensions having reversely directed lateral securing flanges for superposition on the flanking flanges of the battens, and overlapping marginal flanges on the oblique edges of said leg members, the oblique flanges being recessed to engage the lower face of the channel section battens.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto signed my name at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, this 18th day of October, 1922.

WALTER A. BILGER

Witnesses:
EDNA M. MASSEY,
G. HAROLD KOSENGREN.