May 14, 1946. H. G. TREFRY 2,400,320

PORTABLE DISPLAY TABLE

Filed Jan. 5, 1945 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

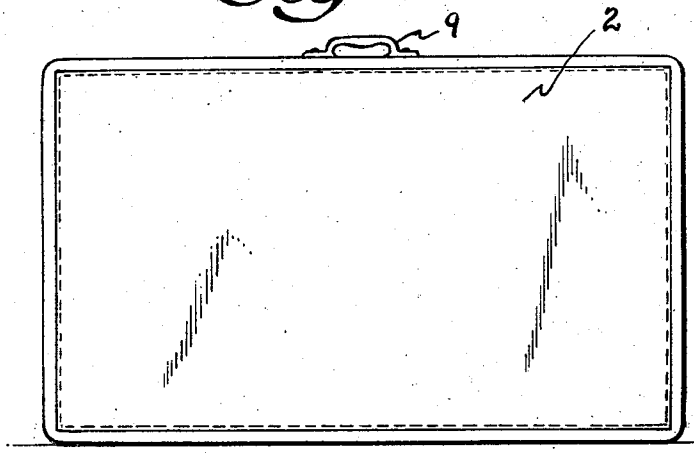


Fig. 2.

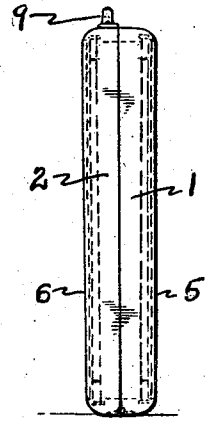
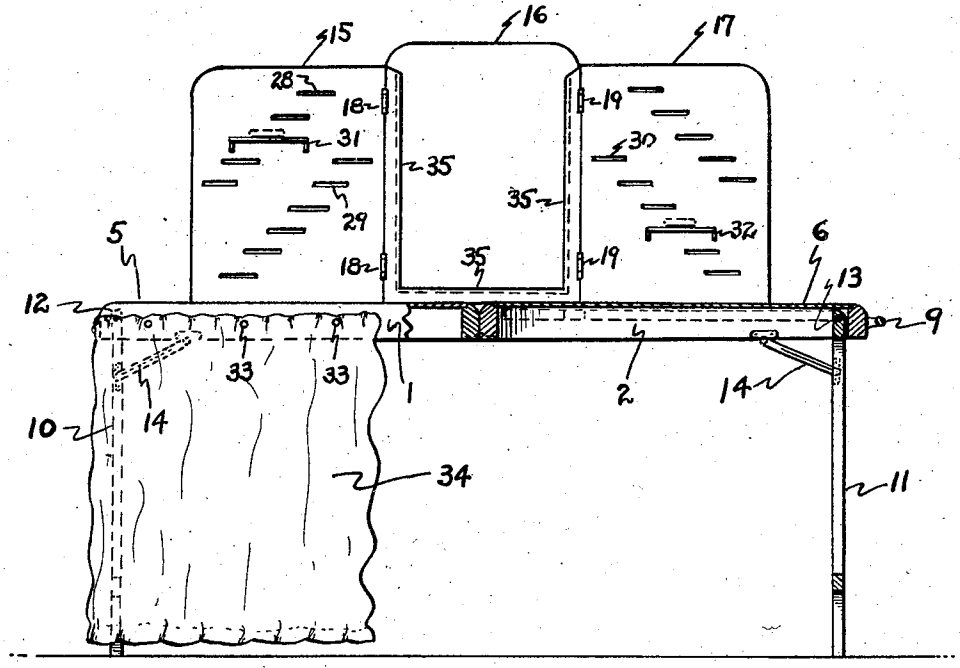


Fig. 3.



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Filed Jan. 5, 1945 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 4

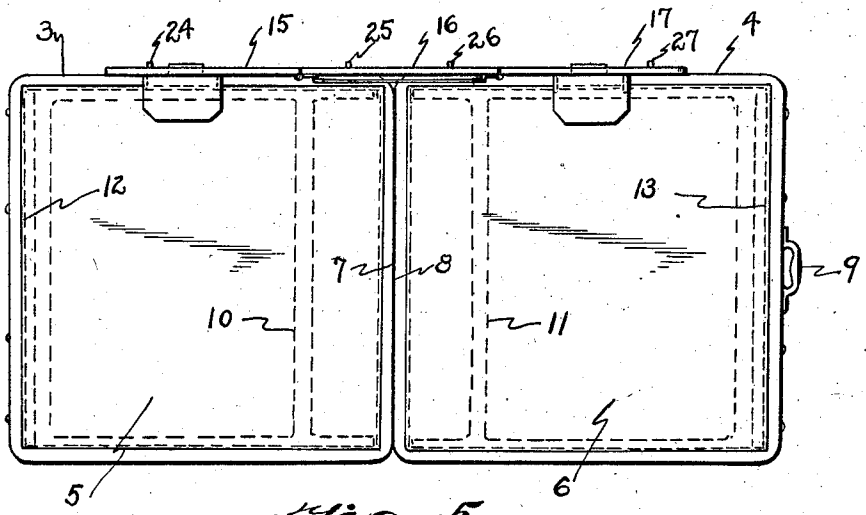


Fig. 5

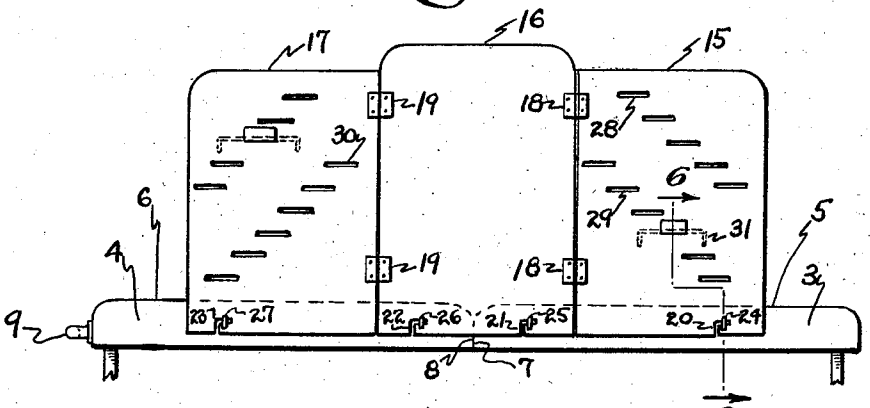
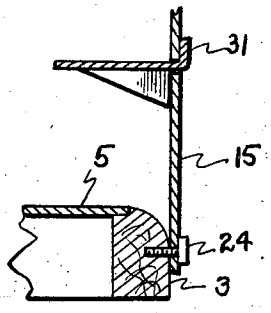
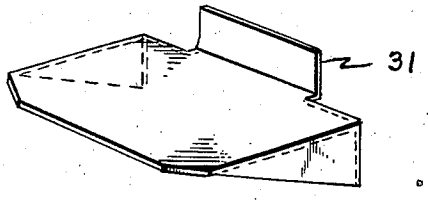


Fig. 6

Fig. 7





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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,400,320

PORTABLE DISPLAY TABLE

Harry G. Trefry, Belmont, Mass.

Application January 5, 1945, Serial No. 571,529

6 Claims. (Cl. 211—177)

This invention relates to portable tables but more particularly to those used by salesmen and demonstrators for promotional display work.

The most common type of portable tables now in use are those comprising two compartments of a carrying case hinged together, which when opened up and inverted form the flat top of a table which is supported by legs which are usually folded up or carried sectionally divided within the case. These tables cannot sustain any appreciable weight nor do they provide any means or fixtures for promotional display and sales activity.

A primary object of my invention is to provide a portable display table that is capable of supporting heavier weights as a result of my improved back bridge or yoke which when attached to table also provides display fixtures and promotional equipment.

In accordance with my invention there is produced a compact, light weight portable display table. It can be easily assembled or dismantled. These operations are completed without the use of the usual wing nuts or springs. It is rigid and firm and can support heavy weights. The combination multi-panel display back and yoke is quickly and securely put into place. The adjustable braced hook shelves of varying sizes and designs are instantly placed and removed. The ease and facility with which the entire device may be set up and artistically arranged is of tremendous advantage in sales and promotional display work where time is of the essence.

Further objects of the invention will hereinafter appear from the following description of a preferred embodiment illustrative of the invention and shown in the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a front view of the device converted into a carrying case.

Fig. 2 is a side view of the same.

Fig. 3 is a front view of the device erected as a display table and partly broken away.

Fig. 4 is a plan view of the same with legs folded into case.

Fig. 5 is a partial rear view of the same, multi-panel back in place.

Fig. 6 is a section of line 6—6 of Fig. 5.

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of a demountable braced hook shelf.

The device consists of a pair of hollow box like sections with sides and upper surface hinged together on one outer edge so that they can be folded together and fastened on the other edge forming a carrying case and provided with a handle for portability and transportation. Hinged internally within each section is a pair of supporting legs which may be folded out to support the covers when opened and inverted so that the upper surfaces form a flat table.

A multi-panel display back hinged together in sections to fit within the case may be opened up and fastened to the sides of the opened case perpendicular to the upper surfaces to act as a combination yoke, display back and shelf holder. Demountable braced hook shelves of various shapes and sizes are provided for use with the display back. Provisions are also made for hanging detachable draperies around the front and sides of the table and providing the display back with means for holding removable advertising cards.

Referring to the drawings, the device therein shown, as illustrative of one embodiment of my invention comprises a pair of hollow box like sections 1 and 2 with outer sides 3 and 4 and upper surfaces 5 and 6 hinged together at outer edges 7 and 8 and provided with a fastener or lock forming a carrying case provided with a handle 9. Pairs of supporting legs 10 and 11 are hinged at one end inside the covers at 12 and 13 so that they may fold into the box like sections and are provided with folding brace arms 14. The multi-panel display back is comprised of three or more sections indicated by 15, 16, and 17 hinged together at 18 and 19. The lower edges of this sectional panel is provided with spaced inverted L shaped right angle slots 20, 21, 22, and 23 so disposed and adapted that when panel is opened up said slots will engage with the T head studs 24, 25, 26, and 27 extending at right angles from the outer sides 3 and 4 of the box sections which form the back of the table. All panels are provided with a multiplicity of horizontal slots 28, 29, and 30 of varying lengths and parallel sides and spaced at varying distances from each other and designed to receive and support the demountable braced hook shelves 31 and 32. "Dot" fasteners 33 are applied to drapery 34. Associated fastener posts are provided on the front and sides of the opened table. Guide channels 35 are disposed to the vertical edge of the panels.

To set up the portable display table, the sections 1 and 2 are opened up so that the upper surfaces 5 and 6 are in the same plane. The multi-panel display back 15, 16, and 17 is removed from the case in addition to the portable shelves 31 and 32. The pairs of legs 10 and 11 are opened out on their hinges 12 and 13 and folding brace arms 14 are arranged to keep the legs in a posi-

tion perpendicular to the upper surfaces 5 and 6. The entire device is inverted so that it forms a table standing on legs 10 and 11.

The multi-panel display back 15, 16, 17 is opened up so that all sections are in the same plane. The vertical portion of the right angle slots 20, 21, 22, and 23 are placed over the shanks of the studs 24, 25, 26, and 27. The panel back is then dropped down until the studs reach the horizontal portion of the slots 20, 21, 22, and 23 when back is then slipped to the right along said horizontal portions. The complete engagement of the center slots 21 and 22 in the central panel 16 of the back with the center studs 25 and 26 locks the sections 1 and 2 securely together maintaining the upper surfaces 5 and 6 in the same plane. This central panel of the display back therefore bridges the outer sides 3 and 4 forming a yoke between them. The engagement of the remaining slots 20 and 23 with the associated studs 24 and 27 maintains the panels 15, 16, and 17 in the same plane and fastens them rigidly erect. The braced hook shelves 31 and 32 or a multiplicity of similar shelves hooked in place through any of the slots 28, 29, and 30 accommodate articles to be displayed or to carry out any predesigned artistic layout. Any one or more of the panels may be provided with display advertising which may be further supplemented by having guide channels 35 placed adjacent to its outer edges so as to receive and hold in place one or more removable show cards or sheets. The drapery 34 may be then hung by engaging its "Dot" fasteners 33 with their associated fastener posts. These fastener posts may also be used as hangers from which to depend other articles to be displayed.

The entire device may be constructed of wood or some light weight metal such as aluminum or magnesium or plastic or various combinations of all three depending on the size, weight, or use to which the device is to be put.

While the preferred embodiment of my invention has been described in detail, it will be understood that I do not wish to be limited to the particular construction set forth, since various changes in the form, material, proportions and arrangements of the parts, and in the details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention, or departing from or destroying any of the advantages contained in the same, heretofore described and defined in the subjoined claims.

I claim:

1. In combination with a portable display table, comprising two hollow box like sections each with outer sides and upper surface, hinged together at one outer edge forming a carrying case when folded together, each of said sections provided internally with a pair of supporting legs hinged at one end folding into the box like section, a multi-panel display back removably connected to said outer sides and extending perpendicularly from said upper surface, the panel of said back adjacent to said hinged edge bridging the outer sides of said box like sections, forming a yoke between said sections, and maintaining said upper surfaces in the same plane.

2. In combination with a portable display table, comprising two hollow box like sections each with outer sides and upper surface, hinged together at one outer edge forming a carrying case when folded together, each of said sections provided internally with a pair of supporting legs hinged at one end and folding into the box like section, a multi-panel display back removably connected to said outer sides and extending perpendicularly from said upper surface, the lower edge of said panels being provided with spaced right angle slots extending from said lower edge, the outer sides of said box like sections being provided with similarly spaced lugs extending at right angles from said sides, said panels being maintained in the same plane and the panel adjacent to said hinged edge forming a yoke by the connection of said slots with said lugs.

3. In combination with a portable display table, comprising two hollow box like sections each with outer sides and upper surface, hinged together at one outer edge forming a carrying case when folded together, each of said sections provided internally with a pair of supporting legs hinged at one end folding into the box like section, a multi-panel display back removably connected to said outer sides and extending perpendicularly from said upper surface, said panels being provided with a multiplicity of horizontal slots of varying lengths and with parallel sides and spaced at varying distances from each other, said slots being adapted to accommodate hook shelves of varying size and design.

4. In combination with a portable display table, comprising two hollow box like sections each with outer sides and upper surface, hinged together at one outer edge forming a carrying case when folded together, each of said sections provided internally with a pair of supporting legs hinged at one end and folding into the box like section, a multi-panel display back removably connected to said outer sides and extending perpendicularly from said upper surface, the panel of said back adjacent to said hinged edge bridging the outer sides of said box like sections, forming a yoke between said sections, and maintaining said upper surfaces in the same plane, said panels being provided with a multiplicity of horizontal slots of varying lengths and with parallel sides and spaced at varying distances from each other, said slots being adapted to accommodate hook shelves of varying lengths and widths.

5. In combination with a portable display table, comprising two hollow box like sections each with outer sides and upper surface, hinged together at one outer edge forming a carrying case when folded together, each of said sections provided internally with a pair of supporting legs hinged at one end and folding into the box like section, a multi-panel display back removably connected to said outer sides and extending perpendicularly from said upper surface, the lower edge of said panels being provided with spaced right angle slots extending from said lower edge, the outer sides of said box like sections being provided with similarly spaced lugs extending at right angles from said sides, said panels being maintained in the same plane and the panel adjacent to said hinged edge forming a yoke by the connection of said slots with said lugs, said panels being provided with a multiplicity of horizontal slots of varying lengths and with parallel sides and spaced at varying distances from each other, said slots being adapted to accommodate hook shelves of varying lengths and widths.

6. In combination with a portable display table, comprising two hollow box like sections each with outer sides and upper surface, hinged to-

gether at one outer edge forming a carrying case when folded together, each of said sections provided internally with a pair of supporting legs hinged at one end and folding into the box section, a multi-panel display back removably connected to said outer sides and extending perpendicularly from said upper surface, the lower edge of said panels being provided with spaced right angle slots extending from said lower edge, the outer sides of said box like sections being provided with similarly spaced lugs extending at right angles from said sides, said panels being maintained in the same plane, the panel adjacent to said hinged edge forming a yoke, said panels being provided with a multiplicity of horizontal slots of varying lengths and with parallel sides and spaced at varying distances from each other, said slots being adapted to accommodate hook shelves, said panels when folded over each other being of predetermined size and fitting within the said hollow box like section.

HARRY G. TREFRY.