March 8, 1955 J. PUCCI 2,703,741

COLLAPSIBLE TABLE

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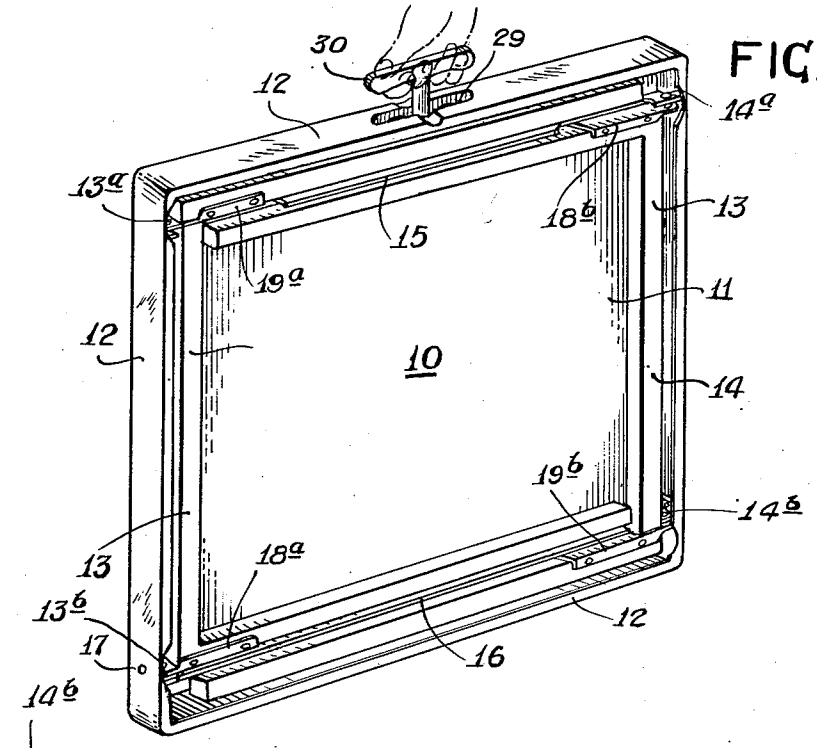


FIG. 1.

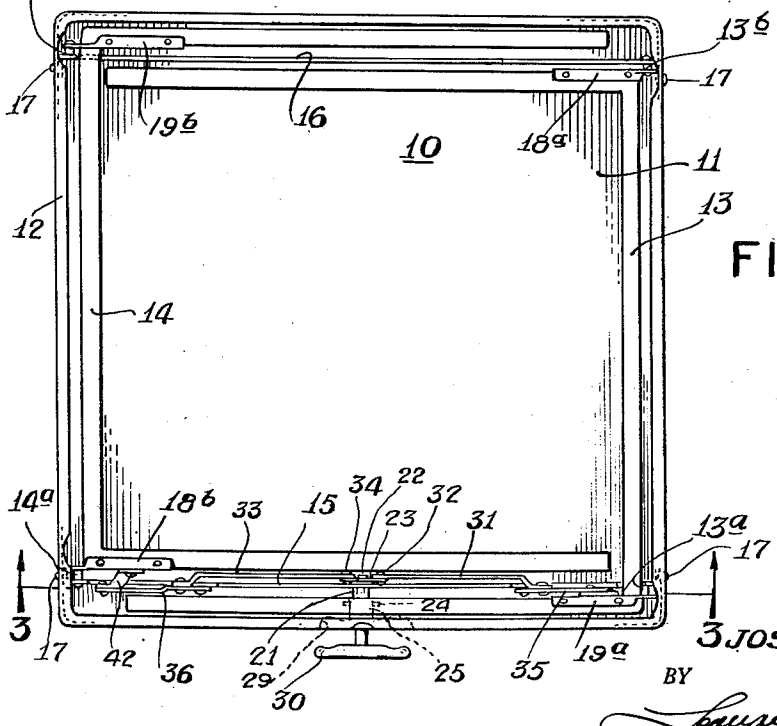


FIG. 2.

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COLLAPSIBLE TABLE

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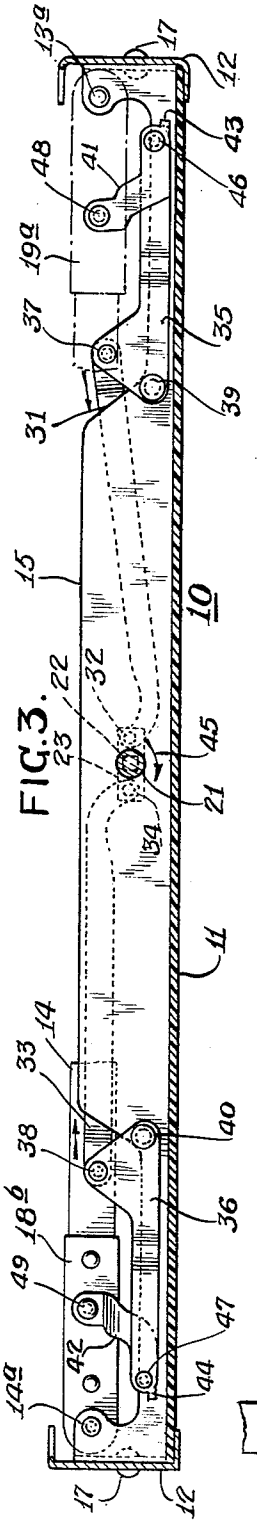


FIG. 3.

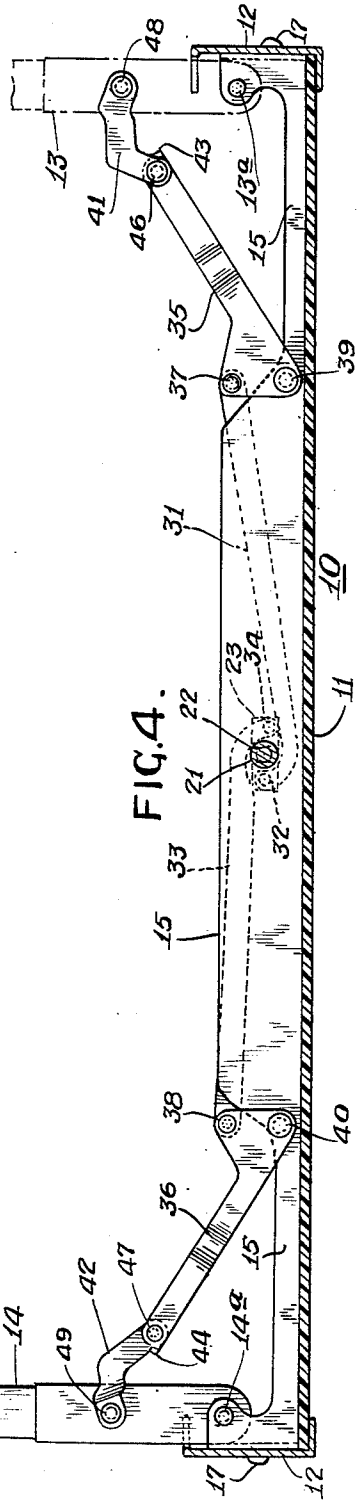


FIG. 4.

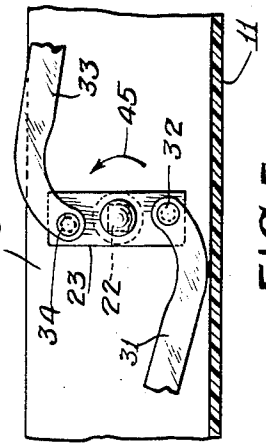


FIG. 5.

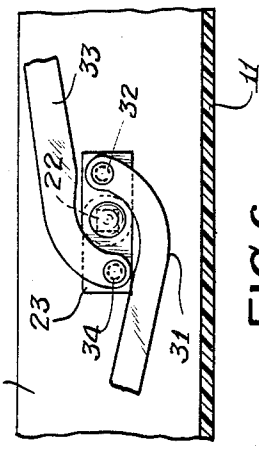


FIG. 6.

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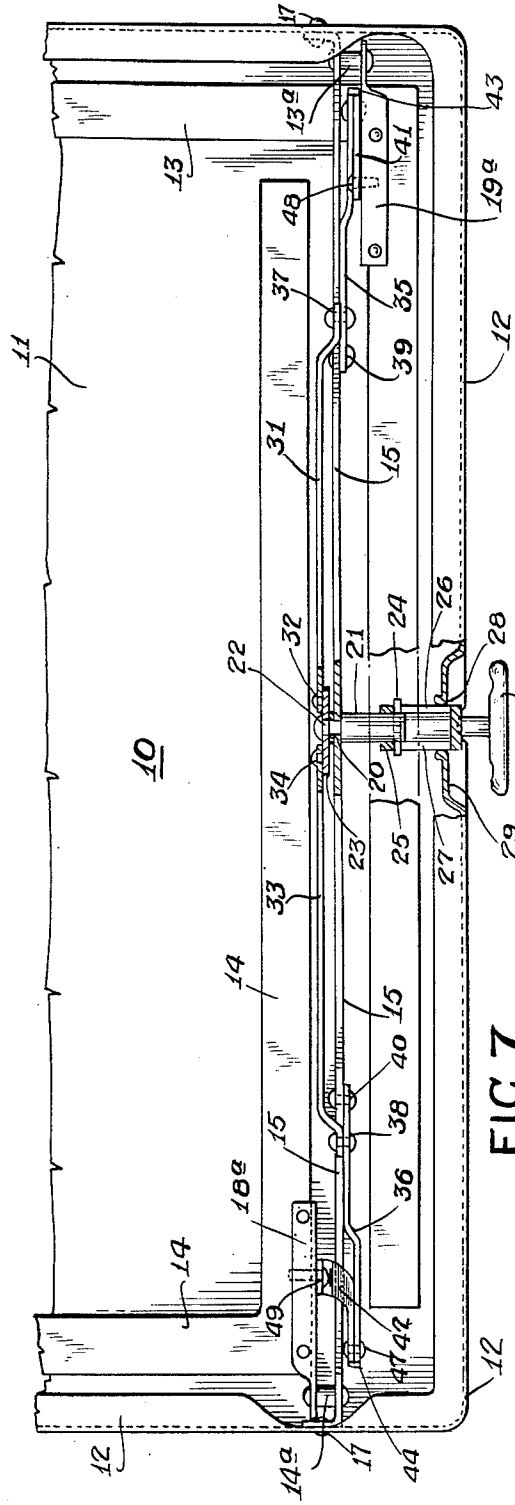


FIG. 7.

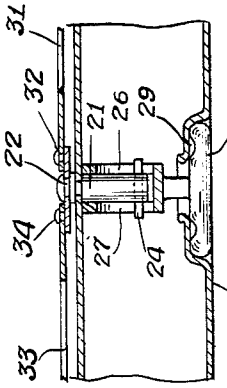


FIG. 8.

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United States Patent Office

2,703,741

Patented Mar. 8, 1955

2,703,741

COLLAPSIBLE TABLE

Joseph Pucci, Philadelphia, Pa., assignor to P. B. R. Manufacturing Co., Philadelphia, Pa., a partnership

Application August 30, 1950, Serial No. 182,291

2 Claims. (Cl. 311—85)

The present invention relates to foldable or collapsible tables such as card tables or the like.

An object of the present invention is to provide a handle for carrying a folded card-table or the like; said handle also providing control and/or operating means for opening the legs of the table to operative, extended position.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a carrying hand-grip which may be concealed when not in use and which also serves as control means to move the legs of the table from inoperative to operative position and back to inoperative position.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a sturdy, rigid and light-weight card-table construction, the legs of which may be locked in inoperative position by a table-carrying handle; said legs being movable to open or operative position and locked therein by the same table-carrying handle.

Further objects of the present invention will be apparent by reference to the appended specification, claims and drawings.

For the purpose of illustrating the invention, there is shown in the accompanying drawings one form thereof which is at present preferred, although it is to be understood that the various instrumentalities of which the invention consists can be variously arranged and organized and that the invention is not limited to the precise arrangements and organizations of the instrumentalities as herein shown and described.

In the drawings wherein like reference characters indicate like parts:

Figure 1 represents a perspective view of the under-side of the card-table of the present invention; the legs thereof disposed in retracted, inoperative position and the carrying-handle in extended position for transferring the card-table.

Figure 2 represents a plan view of the under-side of the card-table of the present invention, with the legs disposed in inoperative position and with the table-carrying handle extended to its operative position.

Figure 3 represents a fragmentary cross-sectional view taken generally along line 3—3 of Figure 2; the legs of the table being shown in the retracted or inoperative position.

Figure 4 represents a fragmentary cross-sectional view, similar to that of Figure 3, but showing the legs in extended or operative position.

Figure 5 represents a fragmentary cross-sectional view showing the inner end of the control-handle; said handle being rotated 90° from its limiting positions, at which time the legs of the table would be partially extended.

Figure 6 represents a fragmentary cross-sectional view similar to that of Figure 5 but showing the control-handle rotated 180° from the position of Figure 3 to a position similar to that shown in Figure 4.

Figure 7 represents a plan view, similar to that of Figure 2, but on a larger scale, showing the under side of the card-table; portions thereof being shown in cross-section.

Figure 8 represents a fragmentary cross-sectional view of the control-handle shown in its recessed or inoperative position.

In the drawings, the carrying-handle and control-means of the present invention is shown as being applied to a card-table or bridge-table, but it is to be understood that the present invention may be applied to any portable table or support having retractable legs whereby the table may be folded for carrying, storing or the like.

The table **10** may have a top **11** with a peripheral flange or skirt **12** secured thereto and extending therefrom whereby to provide a relatively shallow open-ended box-like structure. The flange or skirt **12** may be made of metal having a generally U-shaped cross-section and may be secured to the peripheral edge of the top **11** by any suitable means.

A pair of U-shaped legs **13** and **14** are pivotally supported, as at **13**–*a*, **13**–*b*, **14**–*a* and **14**–*b*, to a pair of angle irons **15** and **16**, respectively. The angle irons **15** and **16** may have flanges formed at the ends thereof; said flanges being secured to the skirt **12** as by the rivets **17**.

The legs **13** and **14** may be formed of generally tubular light-weight metal such as aluminum or the like having a square cross-section; each U-shaped leg being rigid and sturdy and the depending portions thereof being rigidly interconnected with the cross-member so as to be movable in unison about the pivots **13**–*a* and **13**–*b*, and **14**–*a* and **14**–*b*.

Pivot-engaging brackets **18**–*a* and **18**–*b* and **19**–*a* and **19**–*b* are secured to the depending portions of the legs **13** and **14** near the juncture with the transverse portions of the legs and are pivotably secured to the pins **13**–*b*, **14**–*a*, **13**–*a* and **14**–*b*, respectively. Thus, the U-shaped leg **13** may be pivoted about the pins **13**–*a* and **13**–*b* so as to be disposed generally at a right-angle to the top **11**. Likewise, the U-shaped leg **14** also may be pivoted about the pins **14**–*a* and **14**–*b* to be disposed at a right angle to the top **11**.

So that the legs **13** and **14** may be swung to an extended or operative position about the pins **13**–*a* and **13**–*b* and **14**–*a* and **14**–*b* in one free, easy motion, I provide the control-means and carrying-handle described hereinbelow.

A shaft **21** is rotatably journalled in a pivot-hole **20** disposed generally at the center of the angle bracket **15**. This shaft **21** has an extension **22** adapted to engage a cross bar **23** and to be non-rotatably secured thereto whereby the shaft **21** and the cross-bar **23** may rotate in unison but will be axially immovable with respect to each other and to the angle bracket **15**. The shaft **21** has a pin **24** extending transversely therethrough.

A generally tubular sleeve **25** is adapted to slide over the shaft **21** with the ends of the pin **24** extending transversely or radially outwardly through a pair of slots **26** and **27** in the sleeve **25**. The outer end of the sleeve **25** may be journalled or otherwise supported in an aperture **28** in the skirt **12**; and more particularly in a recessed portion **29** thereof.

A handle **30** is non-rotatably secured to the sleeve **25** and is adapted to nest or to be concealed within the recess **29** in the skirt **12**.

Thus, the handle **30** may be moved axially inwardly, as shown in Figure 8, or may be pulled out to operative position, as shown in Figure 7, without rotating the shaft **21** or the cross-bar **23**. However, when the handle **30** is in the operative position shown in Figure 7, it may be rotated, and through engagement of the pin **24** in the slots **26** and **27** the shaft **21** and the cross-bar **23** will also rotate in unison therewith.

Likewise, when the handle **30** is pulled out to its operative position shown in Figures 1 and 7, it may be used as a carrying handle for transporting the table (without rotating the handle or moving the legs to the extended or operative position).

A connecting link **31** is pivotably secured at one end by the pivot-pin **32** to one end of the cross-bar **23**, while a second connecting link **33** is connected at one end to the other end of the cross-bar **23** by the pivot-pin **34**. The outer ends of the connecting links **31** and **33** are pivotably secured to rotatable links **35** and **36** as by the pins **37** and **38**, respectively. The rotatable links **35** and **36** are fastened to the angle-bracket **15** by the pivot-pins **39** and **40**, respectively, with the outer ends thereof connected through the links **41** and **42** to the brackets **19**–*a* and **18**–*b*, respectively. Also at the outer ends of the rotatable links **35** and **36** are the ears **43** and **44**, respectively, which provide stop-members or locking-ears to prevent excessive rotation of the rotatable links **35** and **36**, as will be hereinafter explained.

The operation of the control-handle and leg-extending member is as follows:

When it is desired to use the table of the present invention, it may be removed from storage (in a folded condition) by lifting the handle **30** from the socket **29** (as shown in Figure 1) and carried to a place where the table will be used. Thereupon, the handle **30** may be rotated, whereby to pivot the shaft **21** and the cross-arm **23** from the position shown in Figure 3 (in the direction of the arrow **45**), through the half-open position shown in Figure 5 to the fully opened position shown in Figures 4 and 6. This rotation of the cross-arm **23** moves the connecting links **31** and **33** inwardly, pivoting the rotating links **35** and **36** about the pivot-pins **39** and **40** so as to elevate the outer ends thereof and, through the links **41** and **42**, pivots the brackets **19**–*a* and **18**–*b* (and the legs **13** and **14**) to the extended position shown in Figure 4.

When the legs **13** and **14** are fully extended in operative position, the locking ears **43** and **44** prevent further rotation by engagement with the links **41** and **42** and bring the pivots **46** and **47** (at the outer end of the rotating links **35** and **36**) to a stop slightly out of line with the pivots **46**—**48** and **47**—**48**, respectively. Thus, the legs **13** and **14** are locked in place and no force exerted against the outer end thereof wil fold them to an inoperative position until the rotating links **35** and **36** are pivoted back to the inoperative position shown in Figure 3. This can be accomplished only by rotation of the cross-arm **23**. However, as is shown particularly in Figure 6, the inner ends of the connecting links **31** and **33** are curved so that the pivot pins **32** and **34** will pass beyond a line drawn between the center of rotation of the shaft **21** and the pivot pins **37** and **38** so that the connecting links **31** and **33** cannot move to the position shown in Figure 3 until the handle **30** is first rotated back to the inoperative position shown in Figure 3.

Thus the legs are securely locked in their extended position and will not be inadvertently dislodged and the mechanism of the present invention will prevent accidental collapsing of the card-table.

When the card-table is erected, the handle **30** may be moved into the recess **29** so as to be generally inconspicuous and locked in a non-rotatable position within the recess **29**.

To collapse the table it is necessary only to withdraw the handle **30** from the recess **29** and rotate it counter to the direction of the arrow **45** whereupon the rotatable links **35** and **36** will be pivoted so that the outer end thereof swings against the under-side of the top **11** drawing the links **41** and **42** and the legs **13** and **14** to the retracted position shown in Figure 3.

I have thus provided a unitary carrying-handle and control means for extending the legs of a foldable card-table or the like.

It is to be understood that suitable pivot-means or supports are provided for the legs at the pivot-pins **13**–*b* and **14**–*b*. However, the operating and control-linkages heretofore described are necessary only on one side of the table.

The entire device may be constructed of light weight metal such as aluminum or magnesium or the like to provided a sturdy, easily transportable, foldable table which can be carried and set up with a minimum of trouble.

The present invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the spirit or essential attributes thereof, and it is therefore desired that in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive, reference being had to the appended claims rather than to the foregoing description to indicate the scope of the invention.

Having thus described the invention, what I claim as new and desire to protect by Letters Patent is the following:

1. A table having a top, a peripheral skirt extending generally transversely to said top, pivotable legs retractable behind said skirt beneath said top, pivotal supports operatively interconnecting said top and said legs, a rotatable control-member, articulated links operatively connected to said supports and to said control-member whereby rotation of said control-member is transmitted through said articulated links to said supports and swings said table legs, a rotatable carrying handle telescopically connected to said rotatable control-member behind said skirt and extending externally of said skirt through an aperture therein, for rotating said control-member and swinging said legs, said carrying handle being axially movable in respect to said control-member and transversely movable in respect to said skirt, a recess in said skirt for receiving said carrying handle when said carrying handle is in non-carrying position, said carrying handle being without said skirt when in carrying position, in which position said handle may be rotated to pivot said table legs.

2. A table having a top, a peripheral skirt extending generally transversely to said top, paired pivotable legs retractable behind said skirt beneath said top, each pair of said legs comprising adjacent legs rigidly connected by a cross-bar, pivotal supports operatively interconnecting said top and said legs, a rotatable control-member, articulated links operatively connected to said control-member and to a pair of pivotable suports of adjacent non-paired legs whereby rotation of said control-member is transmitted through said articulated links to said pair of supports and swings both pairs of said table legs, a rotatable carrying handle telescopically connected to said rotatable control-member behind said skirt and extending behind said skirt for but a minor portion of the width of said table top, said handle extending externally of said skirt through an aperture therein, for rotating said control-member and swinging said legs, said carrying handle being axially movable in respect to said control-member and transversely movable in respect to said skirt, a recess in said skirt for receiving said carrying handle when said handle is in non-carrying position, said carrying handle being without said skirt when in carrying position, in which position said handle may be rotated to pivot said table legs.

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