April 30, 1957 C. DUSEK 2,790,452

CANOPY CONSTRUCTION AND THE LIKE

Filed Aug. 8, 1955

Fig. 3



Fig. 1

Fig. 2

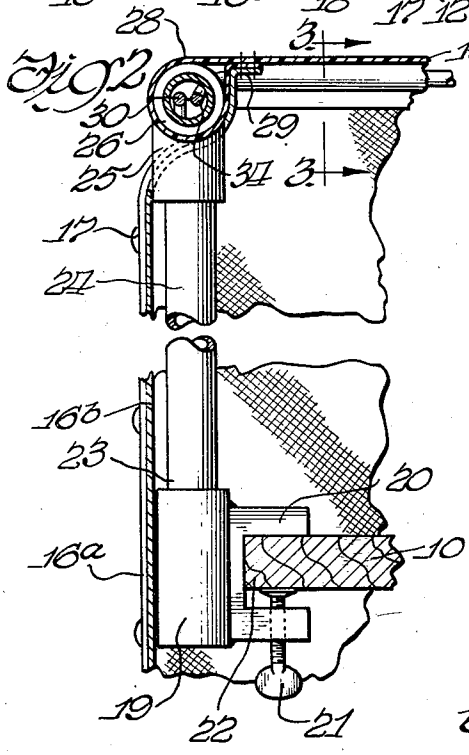
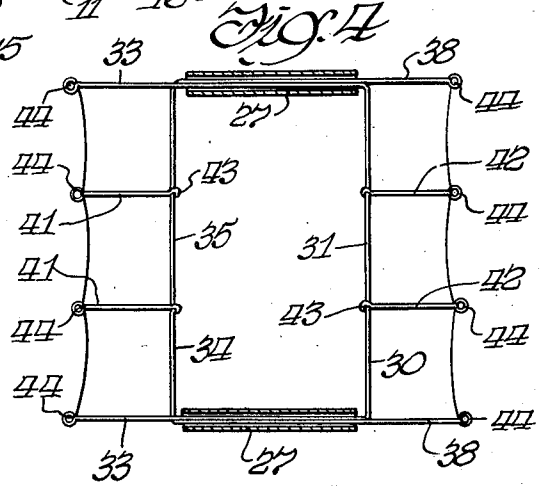


Fig. 4



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United States Patent Office 2,790,452 Patented Apr. 30, 1957

2,790,452

CANOPY CONSTRUCTION AND THE LIKE

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Application August 8, 1955, Serial No. 526,815

3 Claims. (Cl. 135—1)

This invention relates to the tent art. Particularly it relates to a canopy construction or the like adapted for use with picnic benches or tables.

To preclude disappointment on outings resulting from rain or insects, a suitable covering such as a tent or canopy adapted to afford shelter during meals is a frequent requirement.

Conventional picnic benches, in wide use, comprise a wooden table on opposite sides of which a pair of elongated seats, for multiple seating, are rigidly secured. Such conventional picnic benches customarily are of uniform length and width, the standard length being six (6) feet. An efficient protective cover should be easily portable and should also be characterized by the fact that it is easily mountable about a picnic bench in a rigid construction.

It is an object of the instant invention to provide a canopy or tent-like construction adapted for use with picnic benches.

It is another object of this invention to provide a portable canopy or tent-like construction adapted to be secured to the opposite ends of a picnic table and providing a stable shelter about the table to protect the table, its contents and those within the shelter.

It is an additional object of this invention to provide a canopy or tent-like construction for a picnic bench and the like having a plurality of panels forming a shelter and extending from above the picnic bench and securable to the ground with tent stakes, and having a pair of hollow bracing members supporting the uppermost of the panels at opposite ends of the picnic bench and being secured at their lower ends to the table top, and a pair of oppositely extending cords extending through the bracing members, the opposite end portions of each chord supporting the opposite ends of the side panels, respectively.

Other and further objects of the invention will become apparent from the following description and appended claims, reference being had to the accompanying drawings and numerals of reference thereon.

On the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of one embodiment of the invention shown disposed about a picnic bench, parts of the tent or canopy being broken away for the purpose of illustration.

Fig. 2 is a view taken on section line 2—2 of Fig. 1 and looking in the direction of the arrows.

Fig. 3 is a view taken on section line 3—3 of Fig. 2 and looking in the direction of the arrows.

Fig. 4 is a schematic plan view of the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 1 and illustrating the relative relationship of the cords.

Referring now more particularly to the drawings, a conventional picnic bench or table **10** is shown in Fig. 1. The picnic bench or table **10** is provided with two pair of crossed legs **11**, each pair of which is rigidly connected to the top of table **10** in any suitable fashion. A pair of

parallel transversely extending seat supports **12**, each of which is rigidly connected to an opposite pair of legs **11**, as illustrated in Fig. 1, provide two pair of shoulders on which a pair of longitudinally extending seats **13** are rigidly secured on opposite sides of table **10**.

A portable collapsible tent or canopy, generally designated as **14**, is shown in mounted position in Fig. 1 to provide a shelter for table **10**. The canopy or tent **14** comprises a top panel **15** of any suitable fabric construction such as transparent, non-rigid, plastic or mosquito netting, or the like. Top panel **15** is secured along its opposite side edges to a pair of side panels **36** by means such as stitching or the like. At each opposite end of the top panel **15** it is secured to the top of one of a pair of end panels **16**. The side panels **36** and the end panels **16** are preferably of non-rigid fabrication and may be of transparent plastic material or mosquito netting or the like. A preferred construction of the canopy or tent **14** embodies a plastic top panel **15** and the remainder of the panels of mosquito netting.

The end panels **16** are each openable to provide access into the shelter when in mounted position. One means for permitting access is illustrated on the illustrated end panel **16** in Fig. 1. Such means form panel **16** in two sections **16***a* and **16***b*. Section **16***b* has secured to along the inner margin thereof a plurality of connectors such as buttons **17**, or the like disposed in vertical alignment. To close panel **16**, as illustrated in Fig. 1, buttons **17** are extended through aligned apertures in the reinforced, margin **18** of panel **16***a*.

A bracket comprising a well **19** and having a pair of integral jaws **20** and a clamp screw **21** threaded through the lower of the jaws **20** is releasably securable on each end flange **22** of the top of table **10**. An enlarged view of one of said brackets is illustrated in Fig. 2. Each of the wells **19** is adapted to releasably seat the lower end **23** of a vertical standard **24**. In the preferred construction a T connector **25** is threaded on the upper end of each standard. The inner ends of a pair of hollow tubes **26** are threadingly mounted in the opposite sides of each connector **25** to provide a pair of transversely extending hollow braces **27** which are disposed in opposed relationship in a horizontal plane when mounted as illustrated in Fig. 1, for example.

Fabric loops or a conduit **28** is formed in each of the opposite ends of top panel **15** by turning each end edge back and securing same by lines of stitching **29** which extend through a double thickness of the top panel **15** and the upper end of a respective panel **16**, as illustrated in Fig. 2. To accommodate the connectors **25** an intermediate portion of each conduit **28** is cut away, the respective pairs of tubes **26** each being carried in said conduits **28**.

A cord **30** extends through each of the hollow braces **27**, as illustrated in Fig. 4. Intermediate portion **31** of cord **30** underlies and supports side **32** of top panel **15**. The opposite end portions **33** of cord **30** emerge from the braces **27** on a side opposite the cord portion **31**. A cord **34** extends through each of the braces **27**, as illustrated in Fig. 4. An intermediate portion **35** of cord **34** underlies and supports side **37** of top panel **15**. The opposite end portions **38** of cord **34** emerge from braces **27** on a side opposite the cord portion **35**. Upon pulling the opposite end portions **33** and **38** of respective cords **30** and **34** taut, rigid support is given the sides of top panel **15**. To align the intermediate portions **31** and **35** properly, each may be extended through a corresponding loop **39** formed in the upper end of each of the sides **36**. The formation of one such loop or conduit **39** is shown in Fig. 3, illustrating that lines of stitching **40** are used to make the conduit and secure the upper end of the respective side panel **36**.

The end portions **33** of cord **30** underlie and support the corners of the canopy **14** on one side and the end portions **38** of cord **34** underlie and support the opposite corners of canopy **14**. To additionally support each side of the canopy **14** a plurality of cords **41** are provided for one side **36** and a plurality of cords **42** are provided for the other side **36**. The upper end of each of the cords **41** and **42** has an eyelet **43**. Said eyelets **43** are arranged in opposed aligned pairs and cord portions **31** and **35** extend through said eyelets **43**, as illustrated in Fig. 4. Of course appropriate portions of the loops **39** should be cut away to accommodate the connection between the eyelets **43** and the cord portions **31** and **35**.

There is provided an eye **44** at the outer end of each cord to permit securance to the ground by means such as tent stakes, or the like.

The instant disclosure provides an inexpensive construction for rapidly erecting an enclosure about a picnic bench. Such construction is easily disassembled and readily portable and supplies a long standing need in the art.

And inasmuch as many changes could be made in the above described construction, and inasmuch as many apparently widely different embodiments of the invention within the scope of the claims could be constructed without departing from the scope and spirit thereof, it is intended that all matter contained in the accompanying specification shall be interpreted as being illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

I claim:

1. A canopy construction adapted to cover picnic benches, comprising a top panel; a pair of end panels, each end panel, at the upper end thereof, being secured to an opposite end of said top panel; a pair of side panels, each side panel, at the upper end thereof, being secured to an opposite side of said top panel; a plurality of loops, said loops being formed at opposite ends of said top panel and the upper ends of said end panels to provide a pair of opposed conduits; a pair of standards, each of said standards comprising a depending support and a transversely extending tube, each tube extending through one of said conduits and supporting one end of said top panel; a first flexible cord, extending through both of said tubes, said first cord having an intermediate portion thereof between a first end of each of said tubes disposed in engagement with and supporting one side of said top panel, the ends of said first cord extending freely from a second

end of each of said tubes; a second flexible cord disposed in both of said tubes and extending in a direction opposite to said first cord, said second cord having an intermediate portion thereof between the second end of each of said tubes disposed in engagement with and supporting the other side of said top panel, the ends of said second cord extending freely from the first end of each of said tubes, the opposite free ends of said first and second cords being adapted to be pulled to provide a taut frame for said top panel.

2. A canopy construction comprising a top panel, a plurality of side panels secured at their upper end portions to said top panel, said side panels being adapted to be secured to the ground; a plurality of opposed loops formed at the opposite end portions of said top panel; a pair of opposed braces mounted in said loops, said braces having therein a pair of bores; a pair of opposed flexible cords extending through said bores and between said braces, each of said cords forming an opposed side support for opposite sides of said top panel and said side panels, respectively, and a pair of standards connected to said braces.

3. A canopy construction comprising a top panel; a pair of side panels; a pair of end panels, said side and end panels being secured together at their edges, and at their upper ends to the sides and ends of the top panel; a first cord, an intermediate portion of said first cord engaging and supporting one side of said top panel; a second cord, an intermediate portion of said second cord engaging and supporting the other side of said top panel; a pair of opposed standards, each thereof including a hollow transversely extending brace supporting an opposite end of said top panel, the non-supporting portions of each of said cords extending through and freely out of said braces in opposite directions, whereby a rigid frame is formed for said canopy construction when said non-supporting ends are drawn taut.

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