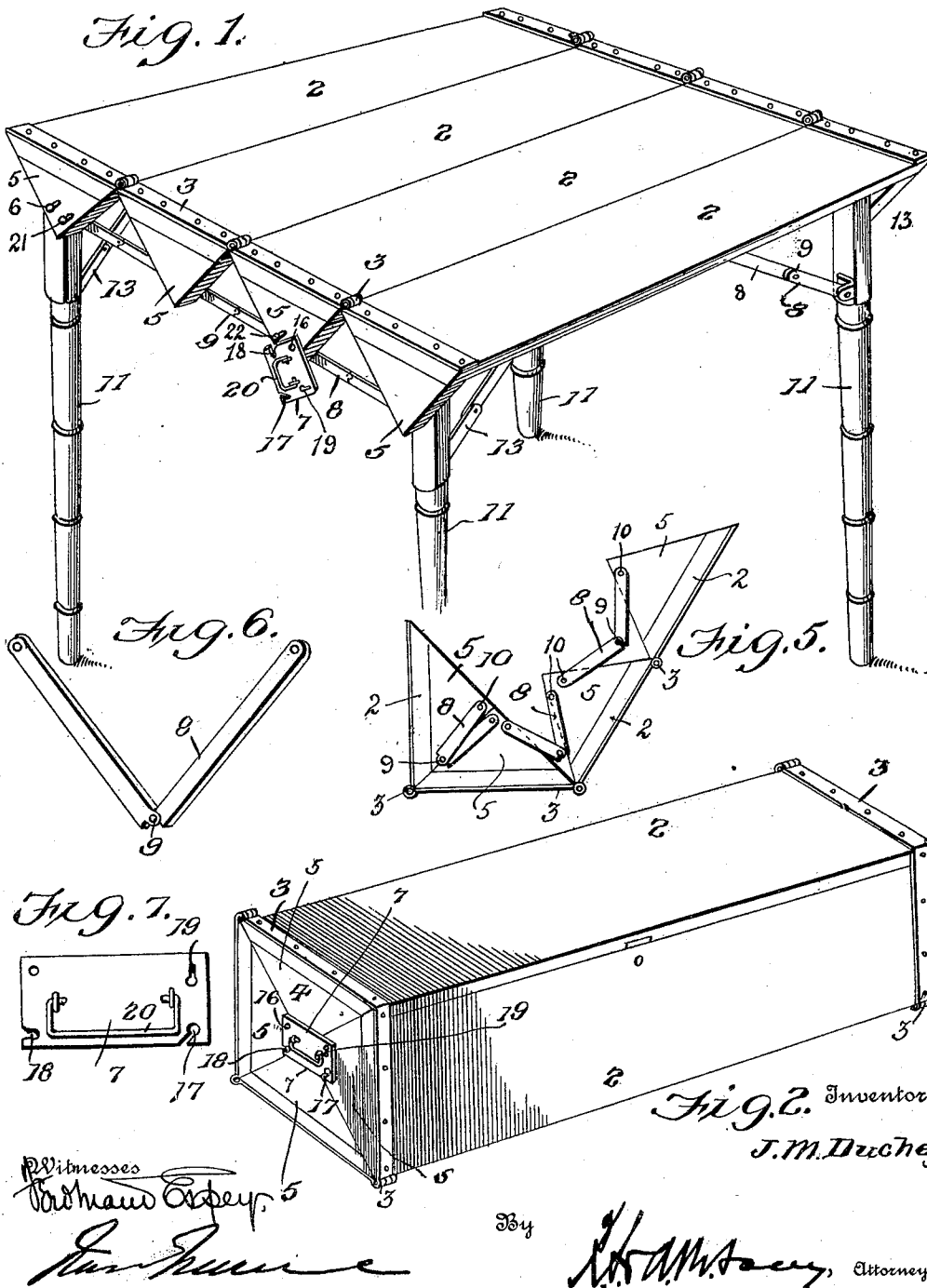


J. M. DUCHEZ.  
 CONVERTIBLE TABLE.  
 APPLICATION FILED AUG. 5, 1913.

1,103,869.

Patented July 14, 1914.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



Witnesses  
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Fig. 3.

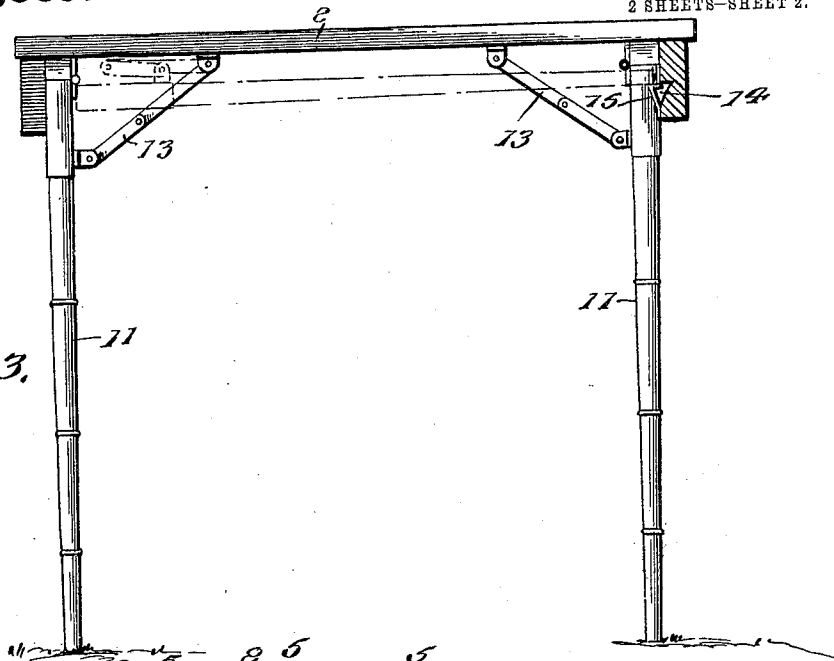
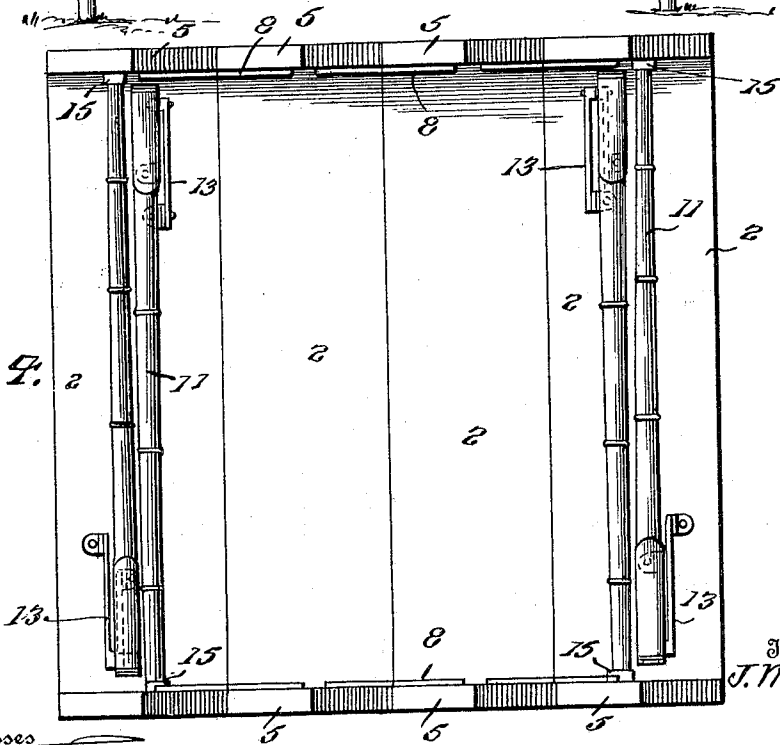


Fig. 4.



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334

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JEROME M. DUCHEZ, OF SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA.

## CONVERTIBLE TABLE.

1,103,869.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented July 14, 1914.

Application filed August 5, 1913. Serial No. 783,175.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JEROME M. DUCHEZ, citizen of the United States, residing at Sacramento, in the county of Sacramento and State of California, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Convertible Tables, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to convertible articles of furniture and particularly to a structure which is convertible from a table into a box or trunk or vice versa.

The primary object of my invention is the provision of an article of this character so constructed that it may either be used as a table or converted into a receptacle adapted to be carried upon the running board of an automobile or other vehicle.

A further object of the invention is the provision of an article such as before described, formed in foldable sections, the sections being provided with means whereby they may be braced either when the sections are folded up to form a box or trunk or when unfolded to form a table.

A further object of the invention is the provision in an article of the character described, of foldable legs which when extended act to support the table and when folded into position parallel with the body sections of the device, act as additional braces or reinforcements to these body sections when folded to form a box.

A further object of the invention is to provide an article of the character described having the sections hinged together, these sections being adapted to be shifted into angular relation to thereby form a box and to provide end pieces for the box attached to the foldable sections, these end pieces being preferably formed in sections so that the edge face of one section will abut against and be braced against the end face of an adjacent section so that when the body sections are folded into rectangular relation, end pieces will be provided closing in the ends of the box and bracing the body sections from each other.

Further objects will appear in the course of the following description.

My invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein; Figure 1 is a perspective view of my construction unfolded so as to form a table. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of my invention folded so as to form a box or trunk. Fig. 3 is a side

elevation of the structure when unfolded to form a table, parts of the structure being broken away to show the internal construction. Fig. 4 is an inside plan view of the structure shown in Fig. 3, the legs 11, however, being folded down against the body sections. Fig. 5 is an end view of the body sections partially folded. Fig. 6 is a perspective detail view of the braces whereby the body sections are held in the same plane to form a table top and whereby the legs are held in vertical position. Fig. 7 is a face view of the handle and latch plate.

My improved convertible structure includes the parallel longitudinally extending body sections designated 2. These sections may be made of any suitable material such as wood, metal or composition, each of the sections having preferably the same width and length and these sections are hinged to each other as at 3. Preferably the hinges are continuous strap hinges, each hinge element extending transversely across its corresponding body section 2, being attached thereto in any suitable manner and acting to reinforce or brace the body section. This is plainly illustrated in Fig. 1. It will be seen that these body sections 2 being hinged together as described, may be turned into a rectangular relation so as to form the top, bottom and opposite sides of a box or container as illustrated in Fig. 2. In order to form the ends of the container or box I provide end pieces which are attached to the opposite ends of the body sections 2. Specifically, the end piece designated generally 4 in Fig. 2 is formed in sections, each of these sections being designated 5. There are as many end sections as there are leaves or body sections 2, there being one of these end sections 5 attached at each end of each body section 2 and depending therefrom as illustrated plainly in Fig. 1.

As illustrated in the drawings, my improved convertible article is formed of four leaves or sections 2 and, therefore, there are eight end sections, two for each one of the leaves or body sections 2, and disposed at opposite ends thereof. Each of these sections 5 is triangular in form so that when the body sections or leaves 2 are folded into rectangular relation as illustrated in Fig. 2, the edges of the end sections will abut against each other and form a rectangular end piece 4 at each end of the box and close

the ends thereof. One of these end sections is provided with a stud 6 as illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 while the oppositely disposed end section is provided with a latch 7 pivoted to the last named end section and having a notch adapted to engage over the stud so that when the leaves or body sections are folded in rectangular relation they may be held locked together by means of the latch 7. There is, of course, one of these latches 7 at each end of the structure. It is to be particularly noted here that, as illustrated clearly in Figs. 2 and 5, the end sections 5 of the end pieces 4, when the structure is folded up, abut against each other, so that the box when formed is supported against any collapse or crushing strain and it will, furthermore, be seen that these end sections 5 when the device is unfolded so as to form a table, act as cleats or reinforcements to the several leaves.

In order to hold the leaves or body sections 2 all in the same plane so as to form a table top I preferably provide the braces 8 which extend between and are attached to the end sections 5. These braces 8, as illustrated in Fig. 6, are each composed of two sections pivoted to each other at the center as at 9, each section being pivoted at its opposite end as at 10, to one of the triangular end pieces 5 near the apex thereof. The joint 9 between these braces 6 is, of course, disposed opposite to the corresponding joint between the leaves or body sections 2 so that the jointed braces may fold up into angular relation to each other when the parts are moved to the position shown in Fig. 2. When the sections of these jointed braces are shifted into alinement with each other they will resist any folding movement of the body sections 2 and will support these body sections in one plane so as to provide a firm and level table top.

Hingedly mounted upon the under side of certain of the body sections or leaves 2, are the legs 11, these legs being disposed adjacent to the corners of the table top formed by the sections. As illustrated, there are four of these legs, there being a pair of legs hinged to each of the marginal sections 2. These legs are hinged adjacent to the end pieces 5 of the body sections so that when the legs are turned into vertical position as illustrated in Fig. 3, the legs will abut the corresponding end section and be braced thereby. These legs 11 are of such length that when the legs are turned down to the position shown in Fig. 4, the free end of each of the legs will substantially abut against the inner face of the adjacent end sectional member 5 so as to brace the end members against any force tending to press them inward. In order to brace the legs I preferably provide each leg with a folding brace 13 of the same construction as the

brace illustrated in Fig. 6 which will fold up compactly when the leg is closed. In order to hold the leg in its closed position I preferably form the inner face of the end piece 5 corresponding to the leg with a recess 14 and with a spring latch 15 which yields as the leg is folded into position parallel to the table top and then springs outward to engage the leg and hold it as illustrated in dotted lines in Fig. 3.

While I do not wish to be limited to its use I preferably use a combined latch and handle plate upon the ends of the box. This plate is designated generally 7. The plate is pivoted upon a stud 16 and the opposite end of the plate is formed with a key-hole notch 19 engageable with the stud 6 previously referred to. At the end of the plate below the stud 16 is an open slot 18 for engagement with another stud 22 on the same member 5 upon which the pivot 16 is located, while the opposite end of the plate at its lower corner is formed with an oblique slot 17 engaging with a screw stud 21 on the same member 5 which contains the stud 6. It will be seen that this plate 7 acts as a latch and also supports the handle 20. When the parts are moved into the position shown in Fig. 2, the key-hole notch 19 in the plate 7 is engaged with the stud 6 and the notches 17—18 engage respectively with the screw studs 21—22 and the plate is then locked from movement by setting up the screw studs tightly. The plate 7 then acts as a handle plate and also braces the sections 5 at their meeting point. It is to be particularly noted that the hinges 3 are continuous strap hinges and preferably these hinges are disposed upon the outer face of the leaves 2 and at the extreme ends thereof so as to reinforce not only the leaves 2 but also the sections 5. These hinges act as braces for the four leaves, preventing them from warping or bending, and as braces also for the triangular pieces which constitute the ends of the leaves.

In order that the box shall be air-tight and dust-proof the leaves at their junction are beveled so that when the leaves are folded as a box there will be no empty space between the leaves. A lock of any suitable character is used for the purpose of holding the box closed, this lock being preferably of the character used on roller top desks.

The operation of my invention will be fully understood from what has gone before. Under normal circumstances the device is folded to form a box and is adapted to rest upon the running board of an automobile or other vehicle. It is particularly useful in carrying food to be afterward served upon the table to which the box may be converted though, of course, it may be used for other articles. When it is desired to convert the box or trunk into a table,

the locking means is unfastened, the box opened, and the contents removed. The latches 7 are then disengaged from the studs 6—21—22 and the several leaves or body sections 2 turned into one plane and the braces 8 shifted into alinement with each other whereby the body sections are locked in one plane. The table legs 11 are then turned into the position shown in Fig. 1 and locked by the braces 13. The table is then ready for use and can not be accidentally collapsed. When it is desired to convert the table into a box the reverse operation takes place and the parts are folded as shown in Fig. 5 until they take the relation shown in Fig. 2.

My invention is simple, readily operated, may be cheaply made, and is very convenient, and it will be seen that a maximum space is provided for holding food when the parts are moved into the position shown in Fig. 2 and when the legs are disposed within the interior of the box.

While I have illustrated what I believe to be the best and most convenient form of my invention it is obvious that it may be varied in many details without departing from the spirit thereof and that it may be made up from a large variety of material.

Having described my invention, what I claim is:

1. A convertible box or table comprising four leaves hinged to each other for movement into a common plane or into rectangular relation, end pieces divided into four triangular sections, each section being attached to and depending from a corresponding leaf, said sections when the leaves are folded into rectangular relation abutting against each other and forming end pieces for the box, and means for locking the leaves either in a common plane or in angular relation.

2. A convertible box or table comprising four members hinged to each other for movement into a common plane or into rectangular relation, end pieces divided into four triangular sections, each section being attached to and depending from a corresponding leaf, said sections when the leaves are folded into rectangular relation, abutting against each other and forming end pieces for the box, legs hinged to the inner faces of the leaves and movable either into a position perpendicular to the leaves or

into a position parallel thereto, and means for holding the legs in a perpendicular position.

3. A convertible box or table comprising a plurality of leaves hinged to each other for movement into a common plane or into angular relation, end pieces each formed in sections, the sections corresponding in number to the number of leaves, each section being attached to and depending from a corresponding leaf, said sections when the leaves are folded into angular relation abutting against each other, jointed braces attached to and disposed between said sections and movable into position to hold the sections in alinement with each other and the leaves in a common plane, and legs hinged to the inner faces of the leaves.

4. A convertible box or table comprising a plurality of leaves hinged to each other for movement into a common plane or into angular relation, end pieces each formed in sections, said sections corresponding in number to the number of leaves, each section being attached to and depending from a corresponding leaf, said sections when the leaves are folded into angular relation abutting against each other, jointed braces attached to and disposed between said sections and movable into position to hold the sections in alinement with each other and the leaves in a common plane, and legs hinged to the inner faces of the leaves, said legs being of such length that the free end of the leg abuts against the adjacent end section when the leg is folded into a position parallel to the leaves.

5. A convertible box or table comprising a plurality of leaves hinged to each other for movement into a common plane or into angular relation, end pieces each formed in sections, each section being attached to a corresponding leaf, legs hinged to the inner faces of the leaves and movable into a position parallel or perpendicular thereto, and yielding latches mounted upon the end pieces and engageable with the lower ends of the legs when the legs are folded to hold the legs in folded position.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JEROME M. DUCHEZ. [L. s.]

Witnesses:

A. A. BAT,

HEDWIG J. ANDERSON.