

June 19, 1934.

E. J. SCHWABE

1,963,594

SERVING TABLE

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Fig.-1

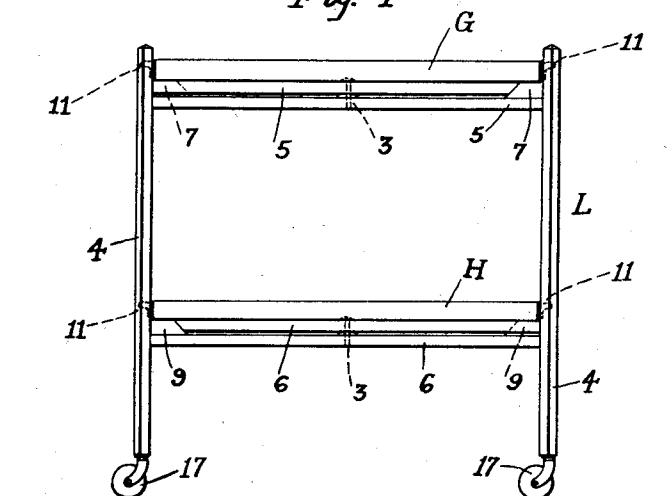


Fig.-2

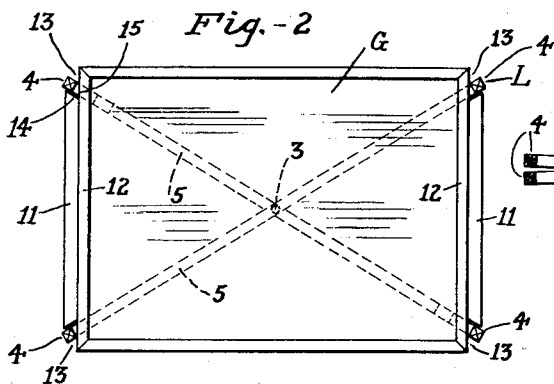


Fig.-4

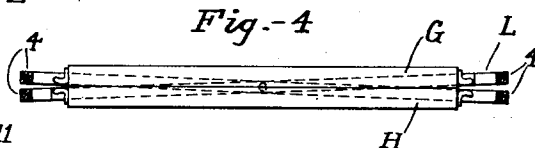


Fig.-3

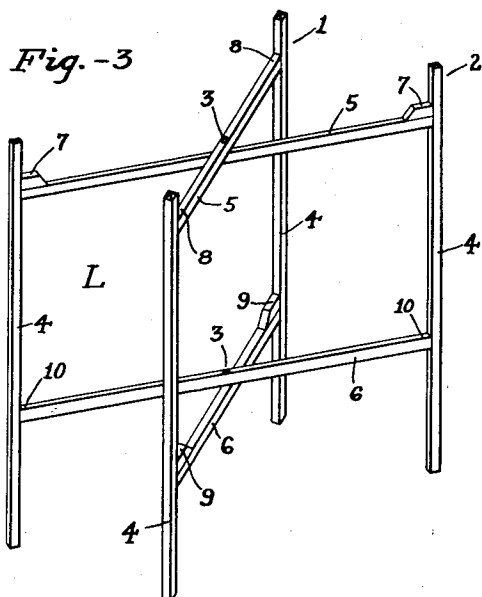
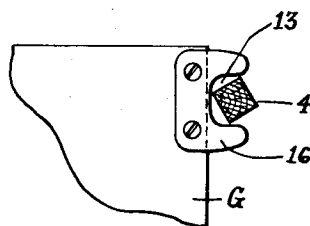


Fig.-5



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SERVING TABLE

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4 Claims. (Cl. 45-11)

This invention relates to a serving table, and an object of the invention is to provide an article of furniture of this character which may be collapsed for storage or otherwise whenever required.

A further object is to so construct the device that it may include one or more separately formed trays detachable for individual use separate from their carrying frame.

A further object is to so construct the carrying frame that it may be readily collapsed when the trays have been removed.

A further object is to so construct the device that when one or more of the trays is assembled with the carrying frame it will be held against displacement and will at the same time serve to hold the frame in a suitably distended condition appropriate for the proper support of the tray and in table forming relation.

A further object is to so design the device that the tray or trays when detached may be nested together with the collapsed carrying frame so that the whole will occupy a minimum of space for storage.

A further object is to so construct the device that it may if desired be fitted with suitable wheels constituting it as a serving wagon.

A further object is to so construct the device that it will be strong and substantial and of attractive appearance, and so that it may be manufactured at small cost.

Other objects and aims of the invention, more or less specific than those referred to above, will be in part obvious and in part pointed out in the course of the following description of the elements, combinations, arrangements of parts and applications of principles constituting the invention; and the scope of protection contemplated will be indicated in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawing which is to be taken as a part of this specification, and in which I have shown merely a preferred form of embodiment of the invention:—

Fig. 1 is a side elevational view of an article of furniture constructed in accordance with this invention, showing the same as it appears in its distended condition ready for use.

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the structure seen in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the collapsible carrying frame employed.

Fig. 4 is a horizontal sectional view showing the carrying frame in its collapsed condition and the trays being shown as nested within the collapsed carrying frame, and

Fig. 5 is an enlarged fragmentary detail view illustrating a slight modification.

Referring to the drawing for describing in detail the exemplary structure as illustrated therein, the reference character L indicates gen-

erally the carrying frame while the reference characters G and H indicate respectively top and bottom trays.

The carrying frame consists of two separate frame members as 1 and 2 pivotally connected together on a vertical axis as at 3—3.

As illustrated each of the frame members 1 and 2 consists of a pair of legs as 4—4 and upper and lower cross members 5 and 6 by which the two legs of the respective frame members are connected together in general rectangular form as clearly indicated in the drawing. The two top cross members 5—5 are connected by one of the pivots 3 and the bottom cross members 6—6 are similarly connected together by the other pivot member 3, so that the two frame members are capable of swinging with respect to each other on said pivots 3—3 from a distended or tray supporting condition as illustrated in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, to a collapsed condition as in Fig. 4.

With reference to Fig. 4 it is noted that when the trays are removed from their supported positions of use upon the carrying frame and the carrying frame is collapsed, then the two trays may be laid flat against each other and nested in the space provided between the legs and cross members of the collapsed supporting frame, as clearly illustrated in this figure, thereby greatly economizing in the amount of space required for the storing of all of the parts constituting this article of furniture, it being noted in this connection further that either one or both of the trays may be withdrawn from their nested positions within the collapsed carrying frame for use at any time, and as readily returned again, without disturbing the collapsed condition of the supporting frame.

When the carrying frame is in its distended condition the two upper cross members 5—5 constitute a four-point support for the top tray and the two bottom cross members 6—6 constitute a similar four-point support for the bottom tray.

Suitable fillers as 7—7 are provided at the ends of one of the cross members 5 in order to constitute two of the points of support for the upper tray in a common horizontal plane with the corresponding upper surface portions 8—8 of the other cross member 5.

Similar fillers as 9—9 are provided at the ends of one of the cross members 6 in order to constitute two of the points of support for the lower tray in a common horizontal plane with the corresponding surface portions 10—10 of the other cross member 6.

As above referred to, it is a feature of this invention that when the carrying frame is distended and a tray is supported thereon in a position of use the tray will be held against displacement and will at the same time hold the carrying frame against collapse. To this end the drawing herewith shows the trays to be provided with handle

members 11—11 extending along their opposite end wall parts 12—12 but terminating at their opposite ends short of the ends of said wall parts 12—12 so as to define in effect four notches or seats as 13—13 one at each end of each handle and between the end surfaces 14 of the handles and the adjacent angularly disposed surfaces 15 of the end wall parts 12, said notches or seats being adapted to receive and fit around the respective adjacent legs 4 of the carrying frame.

The surfaces 14 and 15 bear such relation to the pivot 3 as to oppose any swinging movement of either of the legs about said pivot 3 as will be readily apparent from an inspection of the drawing Fig. 2.

In Fig. 5 a slight modification is shown in which the notches or seats 13 are provided in a separately formed member as 16, preferably of sheet metal or the like, screwed or otherwise fastened onto the tray one at each corner of the tray.

A tray, either as in Fig. 2 or as in Fig. 5, may be readily placed in position upon the supports 7—8 or 9—10, and when so placed the notches or seats 13 at its four corners will stand always, and of necessity, in such relation to the four legs of the carrying frame that the frame will be positively retained against either collapse or further distention so long as the tray remains in position, and the tray will at the same time of course also be held against accidental displacement by engagement of its wall parts 14—15 with the frame legs.

If it is desired to utilize this article of furniture as a serving wagon, any type of wheels, as for instance the castor wheels 17 shown, may be attached onto the legs 4 of the carrying frame as indicated in Fig. 1 so that the table may be rolled around as a serving wagon whenever desired.

It will of course be understood that the seats 13 may be formed in any appropriate manner other than as disclosed herein, the pre-requisite being simply that the tray or trays shall be in such form or contour, either of themselves or in association with attached pieces such for instance as the piece 16 Fig. 5, as to provide wall surfaces which when the tray is in position between the legs 4 will stand in opposition to any appreciable swinging movement of the legs about the pivot 3.

As many changes could be made in this construction without departing from the scope of the invention as defined in the following claims, it is intended that all matter contained in the above description, or shown in the accompanying drawing, shall be interpreted as illustrative only and not in a limiting sense.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

1. A serving table including a tray and a separately formed carrying frame therefor, the carrying frame consisting of two frame members crossing each other and pivotally connected together so that they may be readily collapsed or distended at will about a vertical axis substantially at the vertical center line of the table, each of said frame members having two supporting legs and means to receive the tray in supported relation thereon, and the tray being of a character to rest in supported relation upon said tray supporting means and having parts adjacent to each leg which when the frame members are distended and the tray is supported upon said tray supporting means engage relatively opposite parts of said adjacent

legs to hold said frame members against both collapse and further distension.

2. A serving table including a tray and a separately formed carrying frame therefor, the carrying frame consisting of two frame members pivotally connected together so that they may be readily collapsed or distended at will, each of said frame members having two supporting legs and means to receive the tray in supported relation thereon, and the tray being of a character to rest in supported relation upon said tray supporting means and having four seats provided thereon one adjacent each of its four corners adapted respectively to receive the four legs of the carrying frame and providing opposite wall parts arranged to engage relatively opposite parts of said legs to hold the frame members against both collapse and further distention.

3. A serving table including a carrying frame and a tray formed separate from the carrying frame and usable independently thereof, the carrying frame consisting of two frame members each of general rectangular form including two legs spaced apart and two cross members also spaced apart and extending between and connecting the legs together, pivot means extending between the cross members of one frame and those of the other whereby the two frame members are pivotally connected together to swing between collapsed and distended positions, a cross member of one frame member being co-operative with a cross member of the other frame member when in distended position to constitute means to receive the tray in supported relation thereon, and the tray being of a character to rest removably in supported relation upon said tray supporting means and having end edge surfaces to engage the legs of the frame members to hold the frame members against further distention and having projecting handle parts to engage the legs and hold the frame members against collapse.

4. A serving table including a carrying frame and a tray formed separate from the carrying frame and usable independently thereof, the carrying frame consisting of two frame members each of general rectangular form including two legs spaced apart and two cross members also spaced apart and extending between and connecting the legs together, pivot means extending between the cross members of one frame and those of the other whereby the two frame members are pivotally connected together to swing between collapsed and distended positions, a cross member of one frame member being co-operative with a cross member of the other frame member when in distended position to constitute means to receive the tray in supported relation thereon, the tray being of a character to rest removably in supported relation upon said tray supporting means and being of rectangular form providing opposite end edge surfaces one standing to engage one leg of each frame member in the path of distention movement of said legs and the other standing to engage the remaining leg of each frame member in the path of distention movement of said legs whereby to hold the frame members against further distention, and means provided at said opposite edge surfaces standing in the path of collapse movement of said legs whereby to hold the frame members against collapse.

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