June 28, 1949. A. SCHOMBURG 2,474,596

DESK AND TABLE COMBINATION

Filed July 13, 1946 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

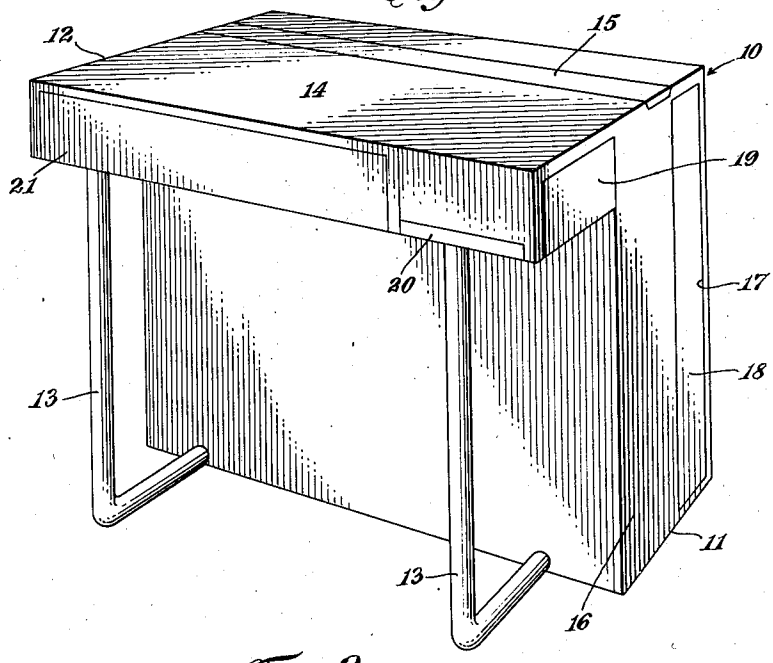
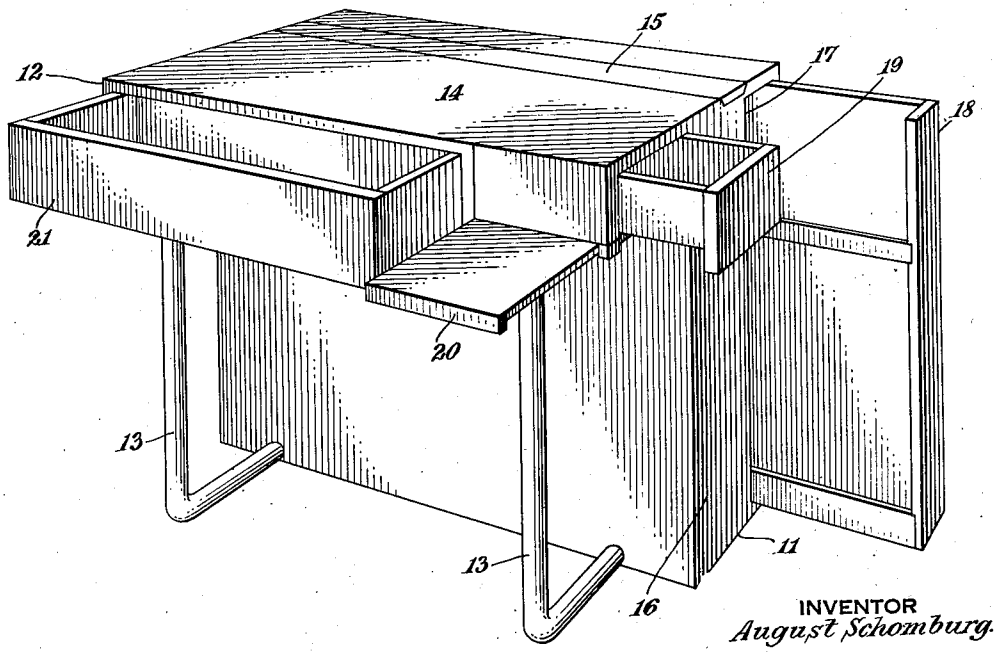


Fig. 2.



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Filed July 13, 1946 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 3.

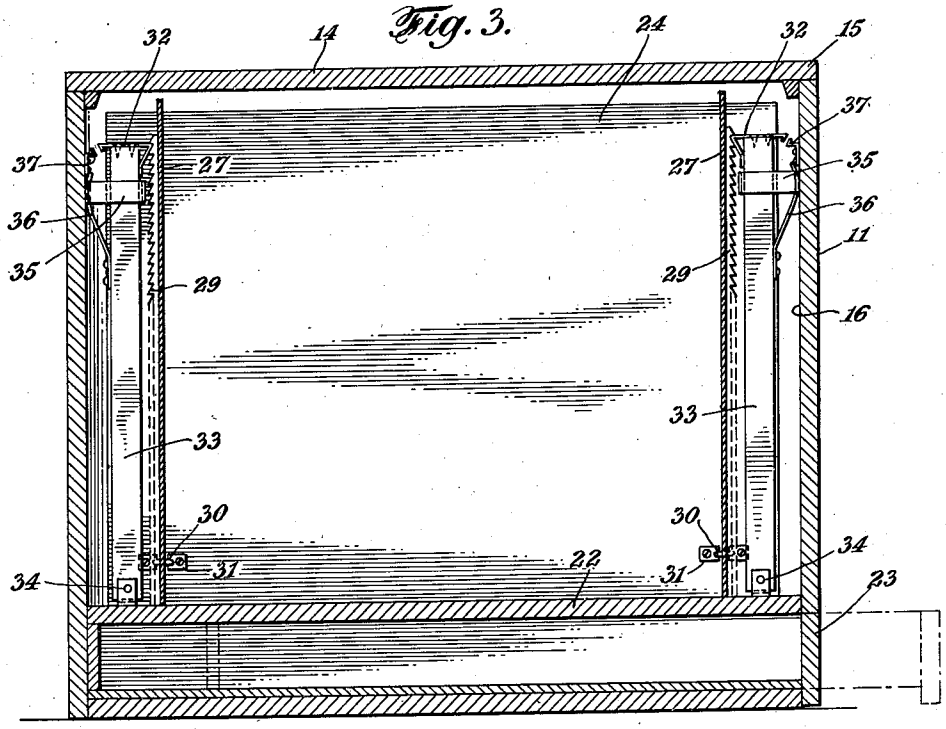


Fig. 4.

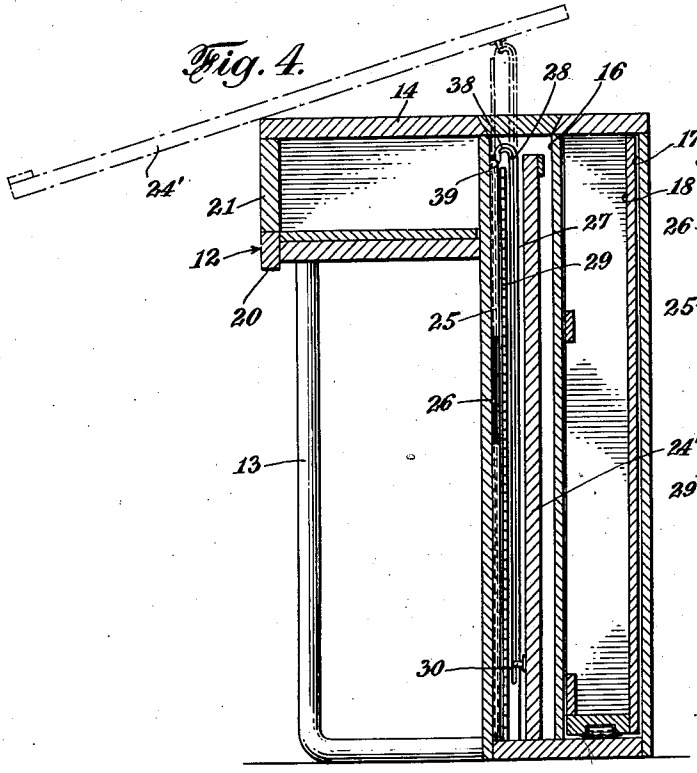
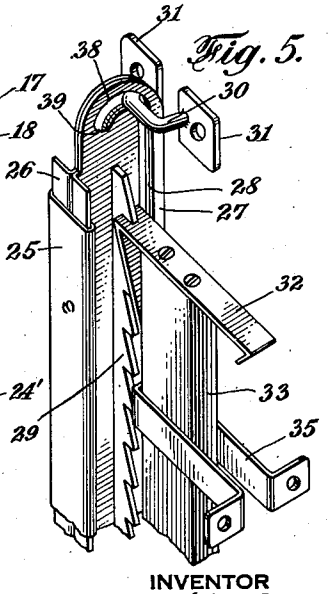


Fig. 5.



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DESK AND TABLE COMBINATION

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Application July 13, 1946, Serial No. 683,368

6 Claims. (Cl. 45—70)

1

This invention relates to a combination desk and drawing table or the like.

One of the objects of this invention is the provision of a convertible, decorative piece of furniture adapted for use either as a desk or side table, or, upon instant conversion, as drawing table, and wherein means are provided to facilitate such conversion by one person and without the use of tools or the like.

Another object of the present invention is the provision of a combination desk-side table and drawing table device wherein a drawing board is completely hidden from view when not in use, while the device is to serve as desk or side table, and in the body of which device are arranged various types of drawers for the reception of essential articles required by draftsmen or artists.

Another object of this invention is to provide a combination desk and drawing table of a relatively simple, inexpensive and effective construction, and wherein a retractable drawing board is conveniently housed in a portion of the desk, and which drawing board may be moved to its operative position, swung over the desk top and positioned at different heights for use by a person sitting either on a low chair or on a stool, or using the board at standing position, in short, the board may be adjusted to any position which is most convenient for the user.

The foregoing general and more specific objects and important advantages of this invention will become more fully apparent from the ensuing description in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the device when used as side table or desk;

Fig. 2 is a similar perspective view of the device with its several drawers in etxended position;

Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view taken through the frontal compartment of the rear upright desk portion in one of its preferred forms;

Fig. 4 is a vertical cross section through another form of the device; and

Fig. 5 is an enlarged perspective, fragmental detail view of the board operating mechanism employed in this device.

Referring now specifically to the figures, numeral 10 denotes a desk structure composed of a floor-supported upright portion 11 and a forwardly extending elevated portion 12, spaced from the floor, and from which elevated portion depend two tubular supports or legs 13 bent rearwardly at their lower ends and extending into the bottom front of rear upright portion 11. The

2

lower horizontal portions of supports 13 as well as the bottom of upright desk portion 11 are intended to rest upon a common support, such as the floor. Rear upright portion 11 and forwardly extending portion 12 have a continuous desk or table top 14 in which is removably secured a cover 15 for a frontal compartment 16 provided within upright rear portion 11. Adjacent to compartment 16 there is a rear compartment 17 in which is operatively mounted a sidewisely movable, vertical drawer 18, preferably extending over the entire width of the desk or table structure and serving for the reception of drawing paper, T-square and similar long, bulky articles used in connection with drafting. At the right side of upper forward extension 12 there is operatively mounted a relatively narrow drawer 19 and beneath that drawer operates an extension board 20, and next to the board and opening forward is another, long drawer 21.

Fig. 3 represents a longitudinally taken vertical cross section through frontal compartment 16 of rear upright portion 11. In that embodiment compartment 16 has a horizontal partition 22, which divides the compartment into upper and lower portions, in which latter is operatively mounted an auxiliary drawer 23 for storing long drawing instruments, such as a beam compass or the like. In Fig. 4 drawer 23 is omitted. In consequence of the inclusion of drawer 23, drawing board 24 in Fig. 3 is of a lesser width than drawing board 24' illustrated in Fig. 4. Otherwise, however, the principal arrangement of the two embodiments remains the same, especially the operating mechanism for the drawing board housed within compartment 16. This mechanism comprises two vertical guide members 25 (Figs. 4 and 5) which are held fixedly against the front wall of compartment 16, and in which are slidably mounted at 26 guide rails 27, provided with longitudinal guide slots 28, and from which rails extend at right angles tooth racks 29. Within guide slots 28 operate loop-shaped brackets 30 which are attached by flanges 31 to the undersurface of board 24 or 24'.

Normally engaging the teeth of racks 29 are detents 32 attached to supports 33 which are hinged at their bottom ends at 34 and which are guided within guide brackets 35 and are normally urged towards racks 29 by means of springs 36. When it is desired to disengage detents 32 from racks 29, supports 33 are moved towards the ends of the compartment into engagement with detent holders 37.

As may be readily conceived from Figs. 4 and 5,

guide rails 27 are movable relative to guide members 25 and may be adjusted to any vertical position in respect to the latter, and in which adjusted position guide rails 27 are automatically held by means of detent 32. It will be also observed that the drawing board is operative relative to guide rails 27 in that brackets 30 are movable in slots 28.

Referring now specifically to the upper end of guide rails 27, it will be observed that slots 28 terminate into a semi-loop 38, the end 39 of which semi-loop serves as rest or support for brackets 30 when the drawing board is swung to the position shown in Fig. 4, and at which position it contacts with a front edge of forward desk or table extension 12. While in that position the board may be adjusted angularly in respect to the top 14 at any desired degree by simply moving rails 27 to the required position at which they are held by detents 32.

When it is required to lower the board, that is to bring detents 32 out of engagement with the tooth racks 29, supports 33 are swung in outward direction until detents 32 engage detent holders 37, and, when the board is at its desired height, the detents are released to re-engage the teeth of the racks.

Obviously the board can be placed into either an angular position as indicated, or may be placed with its bottom surface against the top of the table. When the use of the board is no longer required, it is swung towards the rear so that brackets 30 are returned to slots 28, in which position of the brackets the board may be lowered into compartment 16, whereupon cover 15 is replaced. This cover, in its closing position, forms a continuation of top 14.

While in the foregoing description a specific structure of the operating mechanism for the drawing board is described, changes and improvements may be incorporated therein when applying the principal scope of this invention to devices containing boards of different sizes. In any event, however, both the board adjusting mechanism and the board are completely hidden from view when the board is not to be used and is in its retracted position within the body of the device. While the board is within its compartment and the compartment is closed by cover 15, the device may be readily employed as side table or desk, and as such may serve as an attractive piece of furniture. Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. In a device of the class indicated, a desk structure having an upright, hollow floor-supported rear portion and a forwardly directed hollow extension integral with the rear portion and being spaced from the floor, a pair of spaced supporting members for the extension depending from the latter and having rearwardly directed continuations adapted to rest upon the floor, and a drawing board operatively mounted within and movable relative to said rear portion and being adapted to swing into contacting position with said hollow extension, and an adjusting mechanism for the drawing board provided in said rear portion.

2. In a device as per claim 1, said adjusting mechanism comprising oppositely disposed, fixedly held guide elements, sliding elements operative in said guide elements, retractable detents normally in engagement with said sliding elements, means for holding said detents in retracted position, said drawing board being operatively secured to, movable relative to, and together with said sliding elements.

3. In a device as per claim 1, said adjusting mechanism for the drawing board comprising two oppositely disposed, fixedly held guide members, a sliding member operative in each guide member and consisting of a rail having a guide slot extending along substantially the entire length of the rail and terminating at its upper end in a semi-loop, a tooth rack associated with the rail, a retractable detent for and normally in engagement with the tooth rack, means for holding the detent in retracted position when desired, a connecting element secured to the drawing board and being slidable in said guide slot of the rail, said connecting element being adapted to pass into the semi-loop terminus of the guide slot to facilitate swinging of the board to a contacting position with the hollow extension of the desk structure.

4. In a device as per claim 1, said adjusting mechanism for the drawing board comprising two oppositely disposed, fixedly held guide members, a sliding member operative in each guide member and consisting of a rail having a guide slot extending along substantially the entire length of the rail and terminating at its upper end in a semi-loop, and a tooth rack associated with the rail, a retractable detent for and normally in engagement with the tooth rack, means for holding the detent in retracted position when desired, a connecting element secured to the drawing board and being slidable in said guide slot of the rail, said connecting element being adapted to pass into the semi-loop terminus of the guide slot to facilitate swinging of the board to a contacting position with the hollow extension of the desk structure, and guide means for the detent arranged within said frontal compartment.

5. In a device as per claim 1, said adjusting mechanism for the drawing board comprising two oppositely disposed, fixedly held guide members, a sliding member operative in each guide member and consisting of a rail having a guide slot extending along substantially the entire length of the rail and terminating at its upper end in a semi-loop, and a tooth rack associated with the rail, a resilient, retractable detent normally in engagement with the tooth rack, a detent support hinged at its lower end, a resilient element normally urging said support, and thus the detent, into engaging position with the tooth rack, a releasable detent-holding element for retaining the detent in retracted position when desired, and a looped member secured to the drawing board and being in sliding engagement with the rail guide slot.

6. In a device as per claim 1, said mechanism comprising two vertical guide members, one at each end of the front wall of said compartment, guide rails sliding in said guide members and having longitudinal guide slots terminating in semi-loops at their upper ends, and having teeth racks at their outer side faces; detents normally engaging the teeth racks, detent supports hinged at their bottom, spring means for urging the detent supports, and thus the detents into engagement with the teeth racks, a catch for each detent for holding it in disengaging position relative to the teeth racks, a pair of loops attached to the undersurface of the drawing board and in sliding engagement with the guide slots provided in the guide rails, said guide rails, movable in their vertical guide members, being adapted to be held in

position by said detents, the drawing board being adapted to move both in respect to and together with the guide rails, and to be adjustable to any angular position relative to the desk top, while resting against the frontal edge of said hollow extension.

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