

July 21, 1953

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2,646,325

DESK TOP CONSTRUCTION

Original Filed Sept. 18, 1946

5 Sheets-Sheet 1

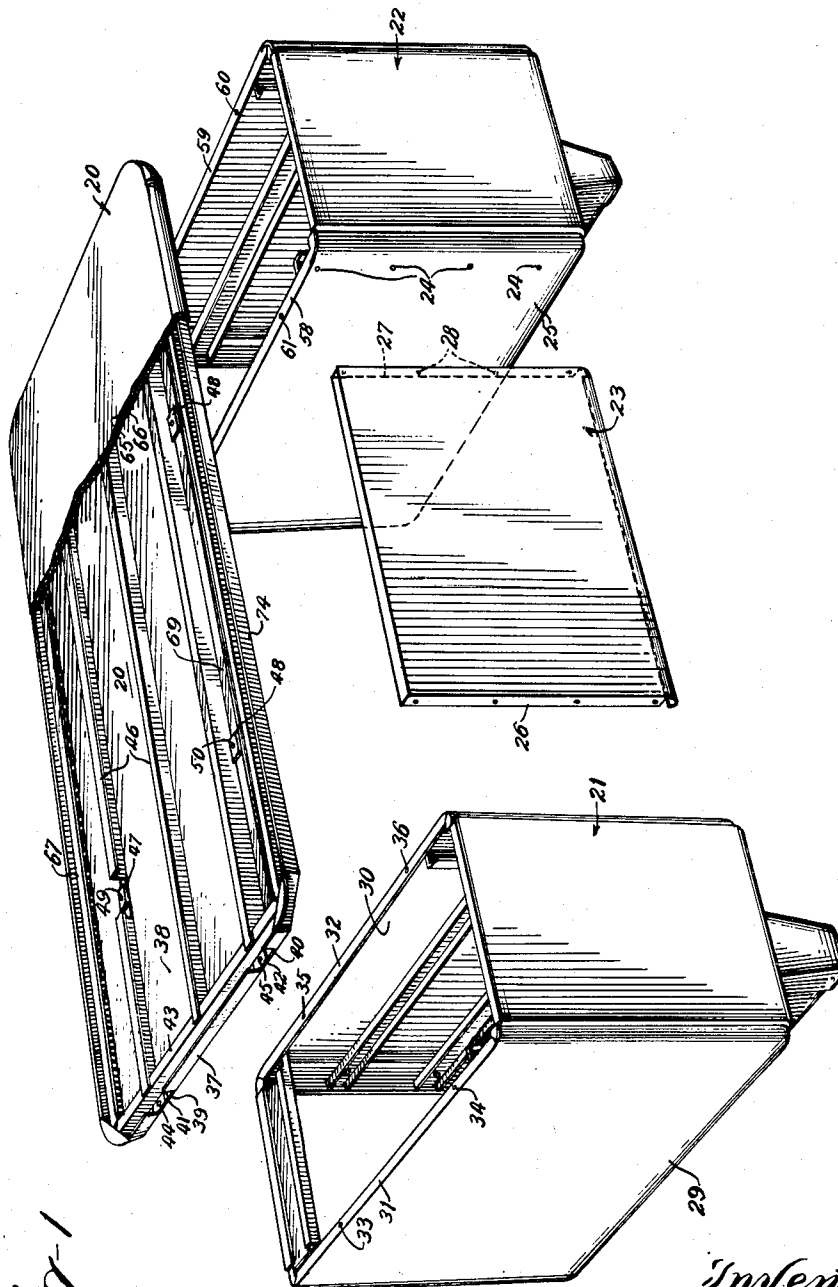


Fig. 1

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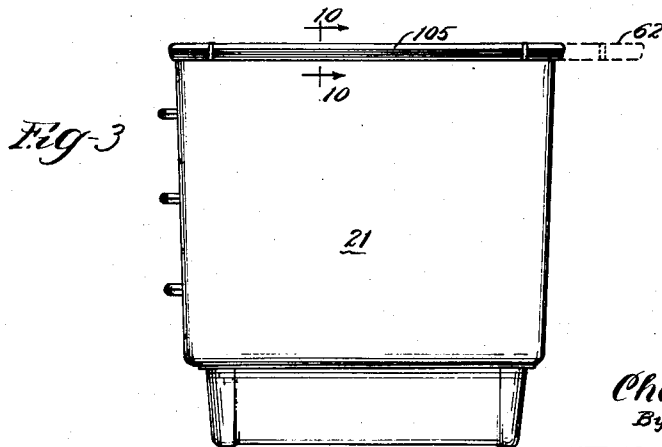
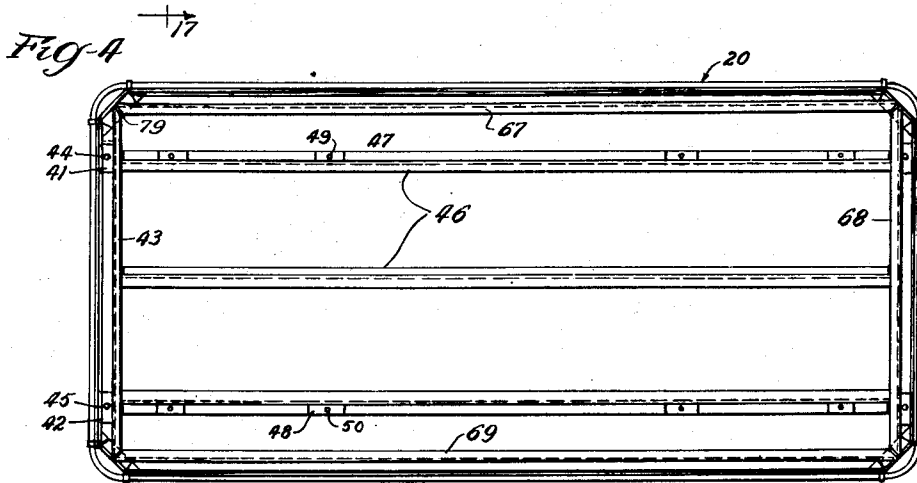
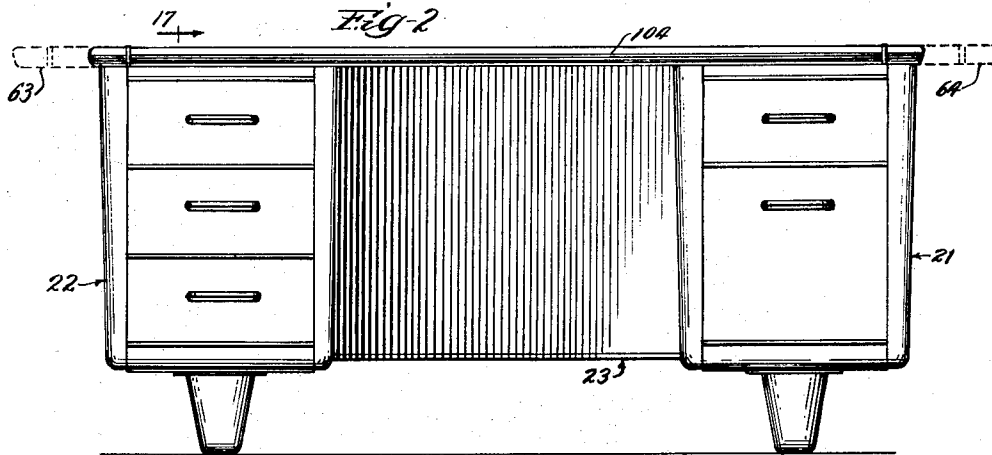
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DESK TOP CONSTRUCTION

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DESK TOP CONSTRUCTION

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5 Sheets-Sheet 3

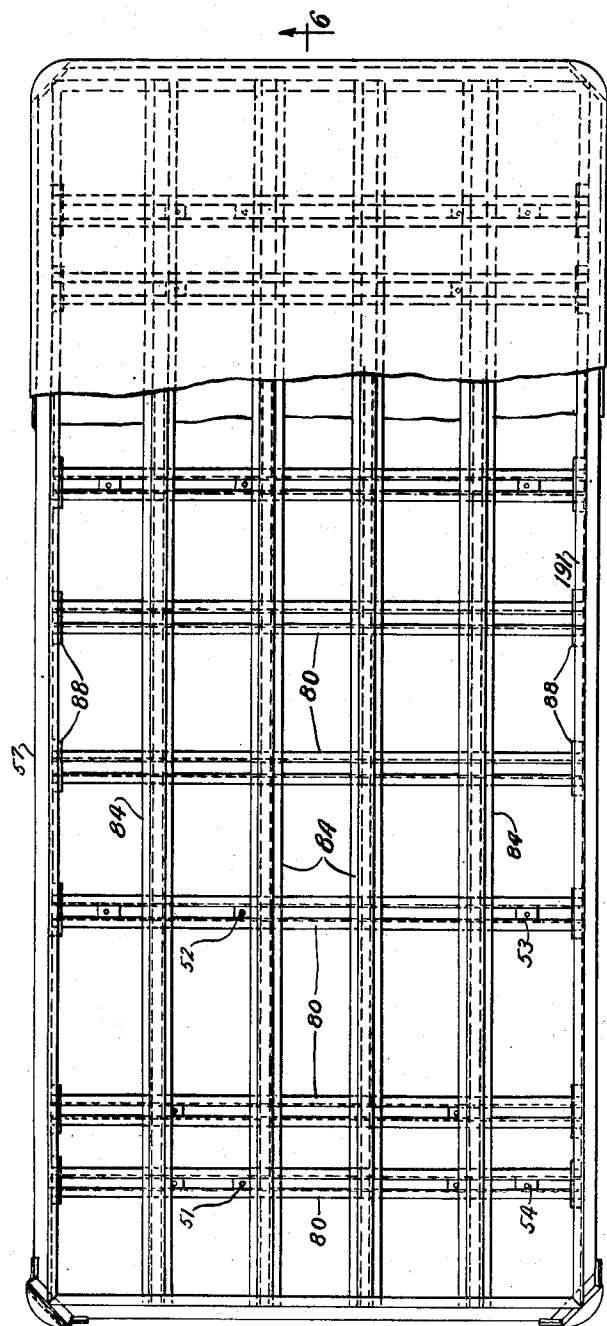


Fig-5

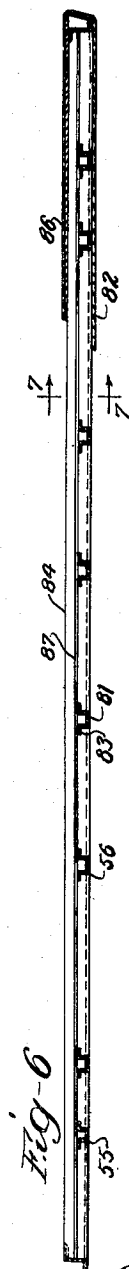
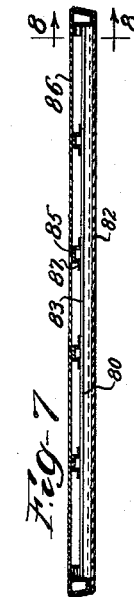
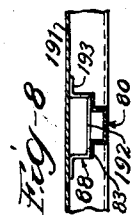


Fig-6



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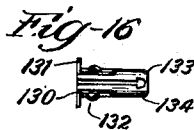
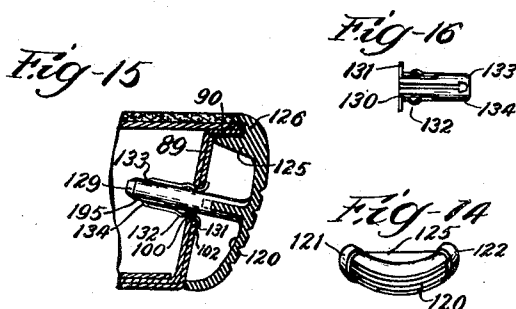
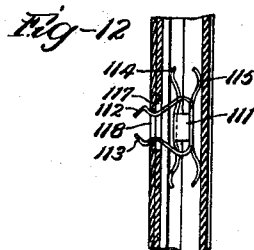
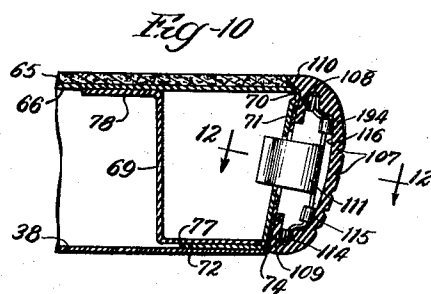
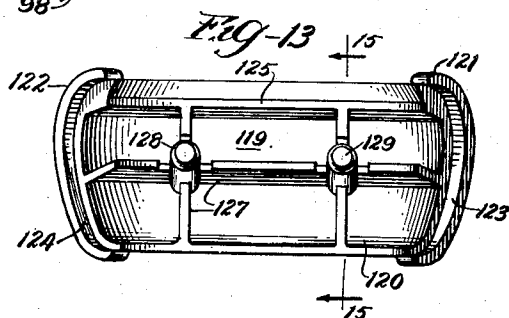
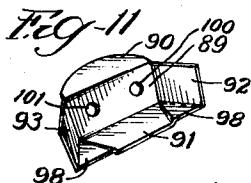
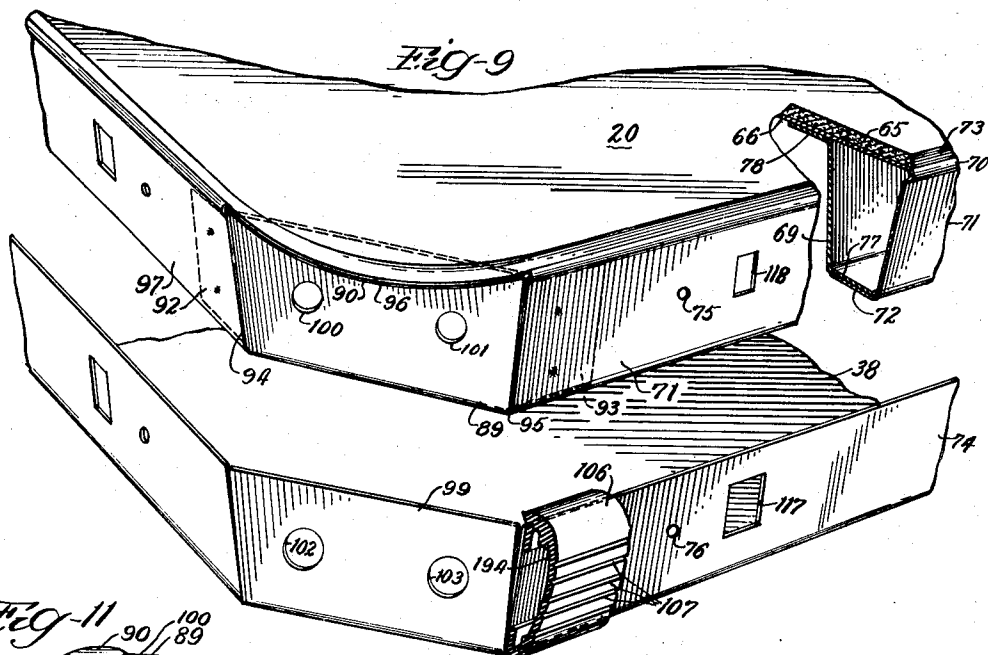
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**2,646,325**

## DESK TOP CONSTRUCTION

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5 Sheets-Sheet 4



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Fig-17

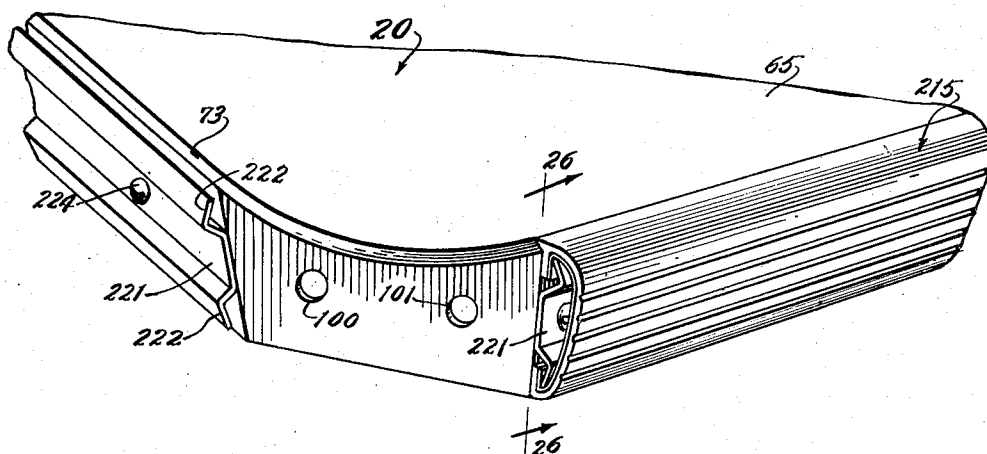
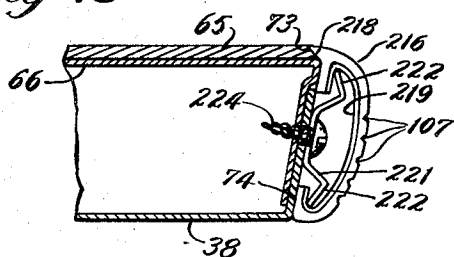
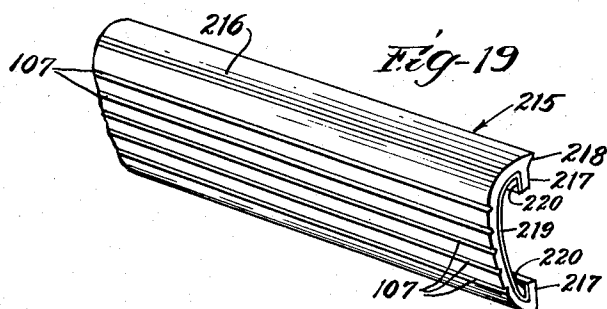


Fig-18



*Feb-19*



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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,646,325

## DESK TOP CONSTRUCTION

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Original application September 18, 1946, Serial  
No. 697,760, now Patent No. 2,560,400; dated  
July 10, 1951. Divided and this application  
January 29, 1948, Serial No. 5,102

3 Claims. (Cl. 311-106)

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My invention relates to a desk top construction of a type which is particularly suited for use in a knockdown pedestal type desk adapted for general office work. The present application is a division and continuation-in-part of my earlier application Serial No. 697,760, filed September 18, 1946, now U. S. Patent No. 2,560,400, the disclosure of which application is incorporated herein by reference.

The principal object of this invention is to provide metal desk tops which are convenient to make, inexpensive to manufacture, light in weight, and attractive to the eye, the various desk tops being so constructed that various sizes of desk tops may be utilized with a single pair of desk pedestals to produce either clerical or executive type desks.

In large organizations particularly the current requirements for desks may vary considerably from time to time, and it is extremely convenient to have a knockdown type of desk which may be stored in a minimum of space when not in use, and which may be equipped with interchangeable desk tops of different sizes to suit the particular need. Desks of this type are becoming more and more popular because of their versatility, and the desk constituting the present invention wholly satisfies those requirements.

More specifically, it is among the objects of the present invention to provide new and improved desk tops for use with a knockdown type pedestal desk having, among others, the following features:

1. Desk tops which may be affixed to and detached from the pedestals quickly and easily without requiring special tools or special skills.

2. Interchangeable desk tops of different sizes are provided which may be removably affixed to the pedestal type structure.

3. The desk tops are of light weight, reinforced, hollow nested pan construction, giving them exceptional rigidity.

4. The desk top has rounded corners of special construction which facilitate assembly and gives the desk a nice appearance.

5. The desk top is provided with a continuous molding made up of straight extruded sections along the four sides of the top which interfit with molded corner caps to give the desk a finished appearance.

6. A molding which is simple and economical to form and assemble, and which will be extremely serviceable.

7. The overall construction is of minimum

weight, consistent with strength, and presents a pleasing appearance.

These and other objects of my invention will become apparent from the following detailed descriptions taken in conjunction with the attached drawings, in which

Fig. 1 is an exploded perspective of the desk as viewed from the left rear, and in which the desk drawers are omitted and the desk top is shown broken away in part;

Fig. 2 is a front elevational view of the desk, assembled, and shows in dotted outline the overhanging of an oversized desk top;

Fig. 3 is an end elevational view of the desk, assembled, and shows in dotted outline the overhanging of an oversized desk top;

Fig. 4 is a plan view of the desk top, looking down on it from above, in which the linoleum top covering and the top pan construction, upon which the linoleum is placed, has been omitted, in part, to reveal the desk top reinforcement construction;

Fig. 5 is a plan view of an alternate desk top construction preferably used when a larger desk top is required and in which the linoleum top covering and the top pan construction, upon which the linoleum is placed, are broken away in part to reveal the desk top reinforcement construction;

Fig. 6 is a cross-sectional view taken on the line 6-6 of Fig. 5;

Fig. 7 is a cross-sectional view taken on the line 7-7 of Fig. 6;

Fig. 8 is a sectional view taken on the line 8-8 of Fig. 7;

Fig. 9 is a perspective view of a portion of the desk top corner with the sub-top being shown as spaced from the filler top, and in which the sub-top is broken away in part to reveal the edge construction;

Fig. 10 is a cross-sectional view of the desk top edge taken on the line 10-10 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 11 is a perspective view of the corner reinforcing plate for the desk top corners;

Fig. 12 is a cross-sectional view taken on the line 12-12 of Fig. 10;

Fig. 13 is an elevational view looking at the interior of the molding corner cap;

Fig. 14 is a perspective view of the molding corner cap as viewed from the exterior;

Fig. 15 is a cross-sectional view on the line 15-15 of Fig. 13, showing the molding corner cap assembled to the desk top;

Fig. 16 shows a molding corner cap retaining

member;

Fig. 17 is a perspective view of a desk corner, illustrating an alternative means for securing a molding to the periphery of the desk top;

Fig. 18 is a sectional view taken on the line 18—18 of Fig. 17; and

Fig. 19 is a perspective view of the alternative form of molding.

To facilitate an understanding of the various novel features of the embodiments of my invention which I have illustrated in the drawings, topic headings are employed to identify parts of the detailed description applicable to these various features.

#### *Knockdown arrangement*

The term "knockdown" as used in the specification and claims refers to a construction which can be easily assembled or disassembled at the point of use. While, relatively speaking, all parts of a desk could be made readily separable from each other, there is a practical limit to which this may be carried to permit rapid assembly of the component parts at the point of use, and also to permit certain component parts to be constructed as units of permanent form. With this in mind, and referring to Fig. 1, I have chosen the readily separable units to be the desk tops 20, pedestals 21 and 22, and the knee space panel 23. The term "knee space" refers, of course, to the space bounded by the pedestals, desk top and the rear plate connecting the two pedestals together. This latter plate is the knee space panel 23.

Each pedestal has adjacent the rear edge of the pedestal side facing the knee space a series of spaced aligned openings. Thus, in pedestal 22 spaced openings 24 are provided adjacent the rear edge of pedestal side member 25. The knee space panel 23 has substantially right angle flanges 26 and 27 at the sides thereof which face toward the knee space. Each of these flanges is provided with a series of spaced aligned openings which, for the respective flanges, match the openings at the rear of the pedestal sides. Thus, flange 27 has the spaced aligned openings 28 which match the openings 24. With this construction, when the knee space panel is placed between the pedestals and the pedestals are moved toward each other until they abut against the knee space panel, the respective openings in the knee space panel and pedestals can be aligned so that bolts can be passed therethrough to detachably connect the parts together.

The pedestal sides have inturned substantially horizontal flanges at the tops thereof. With reference to Fig. 1, sides 29 and 30 of the pedestal 21 are provided with flanges 31 and 32. Each of these flanges has openings therein, such as openings 33 and 34, in flange 31 and openings 35 and 36 in flange 32. Pedestal 22 is similarly constructed.

The desk top is provided with openings through the bottom thereof which, when the desk top is placed in position over the pedestals, match up with the openings in the substantially horizontal flanges at the tops of the pedestal sides. In the desk top construction shown in Fig. 1 the reinforcing Z-bars have attached thereto, at appropriate points, integrally threaded nuts held by nut retainers or by welding, and these nuts receive the threaded bolts used to couple the desk top to the pedestals. For example, the upturned flange 37 of the desk top bottom pan 38 is broken away at 39 and 40 to reveal nut retainer members 41 and 42, each of which retains an internally threaded nut, mounted on the bottom flange of Z-bar 43. For purposes of reference, the open-

ings in the nuts held by nut retainers 41 and 42 are identified as 44 and 45.

The openings 44 and 45 are spaced apart the same distance as the openings 33 and 34 so that when the desk top is placed in position over the desk pedestals, opening 44 will match up with opening 33 and opening 45 will match up with opening 34. Similarly, certain of the longitudinal Z-bars 46 have mounted thereon internally threaded nuts held by nut retainers. Thus, nut retainers 47 and 48 are shown mounted on the indicated bottom flanges of longitudinal Z-bars 46. These nut retainers retain internally threaded nuts, the openings of which are indicated at 49 and 50 are so positioned that when the desk top is placed in position over the desk pedestals, opening 49 will match up with opening 35 and opening 50 will match up with opening 36. The construction at the other end of the desk top 20 is the same, so that this end of the desk can be coupled to pedestal 22. Obviously, when the top is positioned over the desk pedestals so that the openings in the pedestal side flanges coincide with the internally threaded openings in the nuts retained within the desk top, threaded bolts can be passed through the pedestal side flanges and threaded into the nuts retained in the desk top to detachably secure the desk top to the pedestals.

When a larger size desk top is used which overhangs the pedestals at the sides and rear of the desk, the nut retainers, and nuts retained thereby, are positioned within the desk top in from the rear edge and sides thereof sufficiently so that the nut openings will match up with the openings in the pedestal side flanges. For example, in the desk top construction shown in Fig. 5, wherein flanged channel members are used to reinforce the desk top, the nuts and nut retainers are positioned for connecting the desk top to one pedestal, at 51, 52, 53 and 54. Referring to Fig. 6, this positioning is in the valleys of flanged channel members 55 and 56. In this arrangement the edge 57 is the rear edge of the desk top; i. e., the edge which overhangs at the rear of the desk. For the pedestals illustrated in Fig. 1, the threaded openings at 51, 52, 53 and 54 would match up with the openings in the pedestal side flanges 58 and 59 of pedestal 22. Thus, the internally threaded opening at 51 would match up with the opening 60 in flange 59, and the internal threaded opening at 52 would match up with the opening 61 in flange 58. Likewise, the threaded openings at 53 and 54 match up with the openings in the pedestal side flanges at the forward part of pedestal 22; i. e., the openings corresponding in position to the openings 35 and 33 shown for pedestal 21.

In assembling the desk top, pedestals and knee space panel, the top is first placed underside up, preferably on a pair of horses or a bench. On top are placed the right-hand and left-hand pedestals, their drawers removed, at their respective ends of the inverted table top, with the drawer openings up and the open top of the pedestals toward the assemblers, the distance between the pedestals being slightly greater than the length of the knee space panel 23. The knee space panel is inserted between the pedestals, flush side down, the pedestals are moved toward the knee space panel until they abut it, and the openings 28 in the knee space panel are aligned with the corresponding openings 24 in the pedestal sides 25 and 30. Bolts are passed through these openings and tightened to retain there parts

securely together. Following this the assembly, consisting of the two pedestals and the knee space panel, is slid slightly to the rear, away from the assemblers, and rotated 90 degrees toward the assemblers so that the open tops of the pedestals are now adjacent to the underside of the desk top. The openings in the pedestal side top flanges are aligned with the corresponding openings in the bottom of the desk top. As the drawer openings are now facing the assemblers, convenient access may be had to the interior, and fastening screws or bolts are inserted through the openings in the pedestal side top flanges and screwed into the nuts retained within the desk top. The completed assembly is removed from the support, inverted so that it now stands on the pedestals, and the drawers replaced. Of course, this method of assembly is merely illustrative and the desk components which I have illustrated could be assembled in other manners; but in the method described ease of access may be had for the insertion and tightening of all connecting bolts.

#### Top construction.

For use interchangeably with the same pedestal and connecting knee space panel assembly, I provide different sizes of desk tops. What might be termed the standard size, say, 28" x 60", is illustrated in Figs. 1 and 4, and is the solid line top construction shown in Figs. 2 and 3. It will be noticed that the edges of this size of desk top are substantially flush with the outer sides, backs and fronts of the desk pedestals.

The overhanging of a desk top of greater width than 28", say 36" x 60", is indicated by the dotted outline 62 in Fig. 3. Similarly, when an even larger size of desk top, say, 36" x 76", is used it will not only overhang the rear of the pedestals, as is indicated at 62 in Fig. 3, but will also overhang the outer sides of the pedestals, as is indicated at 63 and 64, in Fig. 2.

These various sizes of desk tops differ only in size and in details of reinforcement. Otherwise, they all include a hollow nested pan construction with reinforcing members within the hollow space between the pans and at the edges thereof, and additional corner reinforcing members plus a top surface covering and molding for the edge of the desk top.

Thus, referring to Fig. 1, the standard size desk top 20 is shown with the linoleum top surface 65 and the sheet metal sub-top 66, upon which the linoleum surface 65 lies, broken away to expose the reinforcing members within the desk top. The sub-top 66 is coextensive with the top area of the desk top and has downturned flanges along its straight edges. The sub-top flange arrangement is shown in Figs. 9 and 10. Referring to Fig. 9, the sub-top 66 is shown as having a beaded edge 70 from which extends downwardly and integral therewith a flange 71, which is inclined slightly toward the interior of the desk top. At its lower extremity, the flange 71 is bent horizontal, as is shown at 72. The linoleum surface 65 overlies sub-top 66 throughout the latter's entire area and has a beveled edge 73. From this description it is evident that the linoleum surface rests upon a sheet metal plate which has downwardly extending skirts at the straight sides thereof and that these skirts are provided with upturned flanges. In effect the sub-top is an inverted shallow pan construction.

The bottom surface of the desk top is likewise a shallow pan construction, but it has upturned flanges at the edges thereof which mate with the

downturned flanges on the sub-top. Thus, the bottom surface of the desk, which is termed the "filler top," is designated at 38 (see Fig. 9), and has the upturned flange portion 74 which has the same slope as flange member 71 on the sub-top 66. Obviously, although flange 74 is shown for only two of the straight sides of the filler top 38, each of the four sides thereof has an upturned flange. With this arrangement, and since flanges 74 and 71 are substantially of equal height, the sub-top 66 will nest within the filler top 38 to form a hollow top construction. In Fig. 10 this nested relation is shown, and it will be noticed that flange 74 is set inward a sufficient amount, by virtue of beaded portion 70, to accommodate flange 74 and cause the latter to lie substantially flush with the edge of the beaded portion 70. Flanges 71 and 74 are provided with a series of aligned openings, such as 75 and 76, into which self-tapping screws can be threaded to retain the sub-top and filler top together.

The hollow nested pans, i. e., the sub-top 66 and filler top 38, are reinforced by a plurality of Z-bars. Referring to Figs. 1 and 4, Z-bars 43, 67, 68 and 69 form a rectangular outline adjacent the flanges of the sub-top. Z-bars 43 and 68 extend crosswise of the desk top; that is, in the direction of the width of the desk top and Z-bars 67 and 69 extend lengthwise of the desk top. The positioning of these particular Z-bars with respect to the flanges of the sub-top can be best observed in Fig. 9. There, Z-bar 69 has its lower horizontal flange 77 overlying the upturned horizontal portion 72 of flange 71 and has its upper horizontal flange 78 attached to the underside of sub-top 66. The arrangement is the same for the Z-bars adjacent the edges of the other sides of the desk top. In all cases the lower horizontal flanges of the Z-bars extend outward from the center of the desk and the upper horizontal flanges of the Z-bars extend inward toward the center of the desk. The upper horizontal flanges, such as 78, of the Z-bars adjacent the edges of the desk top are beveled at the corners of the desk top in order to match up correctly, as is indicated at 79 in Fig. 4.

In addition to the Z-bars constituting a rectangular framework for the hollow desk top, additional Z-bars extend lengthwise of the desk top and likewise lie between the sub-top and filler top. These Z-bars are indicated at 46, Figs. 1 and 4. Their upper horizontal flanges contact the underside of the sub-top 66, and their lower horizontal flanges contact the upper surface of filler top 38. All of the Z-bars are attached to the sub-top by spot welds.

For the oversize desk top construction, say, 36" x 76", illustrated in Figs. 5-8 inclusive, the sub-top, filler top and edge Z-bar construction is the same as that which has been described for the so-called standard size top, illustrated in Figs. 1 and 4. However, the longitudinal Z-bars 46, used for reinforcing the central portion of the desk top, illustrated in Figs. 1 and 4, are replaced in the construction shown in Figs. 5-8 inclusive, by crisscrossed flanged channel members. A series of flanged channels 80 is placed crosswise of the desk top with the channel web 81 lying against the upper surface of the filler top 82. In this position the channel flanges 83 face upward. Abutting against the cross channels 80, and extending at right angles thereto and lengthwise of the desk top, are a second series of flanged channel members 84. As is shown in Fig. 7, the channel webs 85 lie against and are spot welded to

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the underside of the sub-top 86, and the channel flanges 87 abut against flanges 83 of the cross channels 80. Where the respective channel flanges so abut, the channel members are preferably spot welded together.

Also, where the cross channels 80 extend under the top flanges of the edge Z-bars which extend lengthwise of the desk top, such as top flange 191, an additional flanged channel section 88, shown in Fig. 8, is provided to fill the space between the ends of the cross channels and the top flanges of the lengthwise edge Z-bars, thereby providing an additional reinforcement at these points. As is shown in Fig. 8, the channel section or spacer clip 88 is oversized as compared to the cross-channels 80 whereby the web portion 192 of channel 88 extends across the flanges 83 of the cross-channel 80 and is spot welded thereto. The flanged portions, such as 193, abut against and are welded to the underside of Z-bar top flange 191. It will be understood that a channel clip 88 is provided at each end of each cross-channel 80.

The crisscross arrangement of the flanged channel reinforcing members gives a reticulated or grid construction which is very strong and which adequately strengthens the overhanging edges of the desk top. Obviously, if the desk top is not to overhang the sides of the desk but only the rear of the desk, then fewer crisscross channel members 80 will be required.

#### Top corner construction

Additional reinforcement is provided for the rounded corners of the desk top by means of a corner plate which fits into the desk corners. This corner plate is illustrated in Fig. 11 and includes an inclined plate portion 89 having a substantially horizontal arc-shaped top flange or shelf 90 integral therewith, and a substantially horizontal bottom flange 91 integral therewith. As is shown in Fig. 9, the downwardly extending flanges of the sub-top 63, such as flange 71, extend only along the straight edges of the sub-top 66 and are discontinuous at the rounded corner portions of the sub-top. For example, see Fig. 9, the sub-top flanges shown discontinue at 94 and 95. This leaves gaps between the sub-top flanges, said gaps being located at the rounded corners of the desk top and the corner reinforcing members, illustrated in Fig. 11, fill these gaps to complete the flange arrangement of the sub-top and also to strengthen the desk corners.

Referring to Fig. 9, the plate portion 89 fills the gap between edges 94 and 95 of the sub-top flanges 71 and 97, and the arc-shaped upper horizontal shelf 90 on plate 89 abuts against the underside of the projecting rounded corner portion 96 of sub-top 63 and is coextensive therewith. Corner plate side flanges 92 and 93 lie against the inner sides of sub-top flanges 97 and 71 and are spot welded thereto. This positioning is indicated in dotted outline in Fig. 9. Also, the lower horizontal flange 91 on plate member 89 extends inward toward the center of the desk top, and tab members extending from the flange 91 overlie the lower horizontal flange portions of the sub-top flanges to form a substantially continuous lower horizontal flange throughout the lower periphery of the desk edge. For example, tab member 98, shown in Fig. 11, overlies flange member 72, shown in Fig. 9, the lower flange 77 of the Z-bar 69 being suitably cut away for this purpose. The filler top 38 has a flange portion 99 inclined upwardly and of substantially the same size as

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the plate member 89. Thus, when the sub-top is nested into the filler top, the inner surface of flange 99 abuts against the outer surface of plate 89. Openings 100 and 101 are formed in plate 89 and are aligned with openings 102 and 103 in flange 99. The arrangement of parts, described for one corner of the desk top, is the same for all four corners of the desk top.

#### Molding construction

The exposed surfaces of the filler top flanges, such as flange 74, and the exposed surfaces of the corner flanges, such as flange 99, are covered by molding. The molding is formed in straight strip portions which cover the straight edges of the desk top and corner cap portions which overlie the ends of the straight strip portions, and which also cover the rounded edges of the desk top.

The appearance of the straight strip molding is shown at 104 in Fig. 2, and 105 in Fig. 3, and a section 106 of this molding is illustrated in greater detail in Fig. 9 and in cross-section in Fig. 10. As will be seen in both Figs. 9 and 10, the strip molding which is preferably an extruded plastic molding, is, in cross-section, a crescent configuration having integral intumed flanges 108 and 109 at the ends of a crescent-shaped wall portion 194. The outer surface of the molding is artistically grooved, as indicated at 107. In the example shown, the intumed flanges 108 and 109 abut against the outer surface of flange 74 on filler top 38. The top of the strip molding is provided with a beveled flange 110, which lies against the beveled edge 73 of the linoleum surface 65 to form a smooth continuation of this surface.

The strip molding is retained in place by spring finger fasteners, such as fastener 111, illustrated in Figs. 10 and 12. Fastener 111 has a pair of forwardly extending spring fingers 112 and 113, and also has flat type spring arms 114 and 115. The flat type spring arms 115 bear against the inner surface 116 of the crescent-shaped wall portion 194, and the spring arms 114 bear against the interior surfaces of flanges 108 and 109 on the strip molding, i. e., the surfaces that face the inner surface 116 of wall portion 194. Thus, the spring arms 114 and 115 wedge the spring fastener 111 in place within the strip molding. When so positioned the spring fingers 112 and 113 extend from the interior of the strip molding, and, in the example shown, are inserted through aligned openings 117 and 118 in flanges 74 and 71, respectively. Opening 117 is slightly larger than 118, and the spring fingers 112 and 113 engage the sides of opening 118 to retain the molding in place. A plurality of aligned openings, such as 117 and 118, are provided along the edges of the desk top, and a corresponding number of fasteners are used to retain the strip molding in place. Prior to attaching the straight molding strips to the edges of the desk top, the spring fasteners are easily inserted into each molding strip from either end thereof.

Molded plastic corner caps, such as is illustrated in Figs. 13 and 14, complete the molding around the desk edges. These corner caps are, of course, rounded to conform to the round desk top corners and are grooved on the exterior in the same manner as is the strip molding, so that a continuous molding appears. In effect the corner caps are elbow sections which have integral offset flanges at the ends of the elbow which overlie the ends of the strip molding. Thus, referring to Figs. 13 and 14, each corner cap is

shown as including an elbow shaped wall portion 120, of crescent shape as viewed in a cross-section taken at a right angle to the elbow curve, see Fig. 15, and having offset flanges 121 and 122 integral therewith. The ends of the strip molding fit into notched recesses 123 and 124 in the flanges 121 and 122. A shelf section 125 projects inward from the top portion of wall 120. This shelf underlies the rounded flange 90 which projects outwardly from the corner plate portion 89. A continuation, shown at 126, of the wall portion 120 abuts against the beveled edge 73 of the linoleum top surface 65 to form a smooth continuation of this surface. In addition to the shelf portion 125, inner strengthening ribs 127 are formed integral with the wall portion 120. Also formed integral with the wall portion 120, and projecting beyond the strengthening ribs 127, are a pair of post members 128 and 129. When the molding corner cap is attached to a corner of the desk top, such as is illustrated in Fig. 9, post member 128 extends through aligned openings 103 and 101, and post member 129 extends through aligned openings 102 and 100. The arrangement is the same at all four corners of the desk top.

To retain the corner caps in position at the corners of the desk top, a spring finger gripping member, shown at 130 in Fig. 16, is provided for each set of aligned corner openings, such as, for example, aligned openings 102 and 100. The gripping member 130 has an annular collar portion 131 which abuts against the outer surface of the filler top corner flanges, such as flange 99. A second annular collar portion 132 abuts against the inner surface of the corner plate portions, such as 89. In this manner the gripping member 130 is held at the aligned openings, such as 102 and 100, so that when one of the molding corner cap post members, such as post 129, is inserted through the aligned openings it will also pass centrally through the gripping member 130. Gripping fingers 133 and 134 are biased against the outer surface 195 of the post member, and are turned inward to bite into this surface, should one attempt to pull the corner cap away from the desk top. By this construction the molding corner caps are easily applied to the desk corners and are strongly held in position thereon.

In Figs. 17, 18 and 19 there is illustrated an alternative form of molding and means for mounting the molding for use with the desk tops previously described. The molding, generally designated 215, is made up of an extruded plastic outer covering 216, having generally the same crescent-shaped configuration as the molding previously described. Grooves 107 may be formed in the outer face of the plastic to provide the desired finished appearance. The plastic sheath has two inner, substantially parallel, legs 217 to abut the outer flange surface 74 of the desk top, and a beveled flange 218 which lies against the beveled edge 73 of the linoleum surface 65.

In order that the molding be less frangible, I prefer to use a plastic, such as ethyl-cellulose, which is not brittle even at fairly low temperatures and which will withstand moderate high temperatures without deformation. To give the plastic sufficient rigidity to maintain the desired shape I provide a steel liner 219, the exterior configuration of which is substantially the same as the interior configuration of the plastic sheath 216, with legs 220 of the liner 219 bearing against the inner faces of the legs 217 of the plastic

sheath. Such metal and plastic construction provides a molding which is sturdy, simple and inexpensive in construction, and which will retain its shape in spite of the normal blows received by a desk top during assembly, transportation and use. If plastics are used which inherently have more rigidity, the metal liner may be dispensed with.

As an alternative form of mounting the molding, I provide a metal strip 221 having the shape of a deformed channel section with two outwardly extending arms 222. The mounting strip 221 is adapted to be received within the inner crescent of the molding assembly 215, with arms 222 bearing against the inner faces of the metal legs 220. The mounting strip 221 may be affixed to the desk as by means of self-tapping screws 224, which screws may be engaged within holes 75 and 76 of Fig. 9 and serve to assemble the filler top 38 with the sub-top 66.

The mounting of the alternative form of molding is a simple procedure. After the sub-top 66 and filler top 38 have been nested together, the mounting strip 221 is attached to the top assembly by means of screws 224. The side molding 215 may be then slid into place from any corner, the molding sliding longitudinally along the mounting strips with arms 222 engaged behind flanges 220 of the reinforcing member 219. Corner caps, as previously described, may be employed, and these serve to prevent the molding from moving longitudinally on the mounting strips.

It will be apparent that the mounting clips 111 may be used to mount the alternative form of molding, or that the alternative form of mounting, consisting of mounting strips 221, may be used as a method for mounting molding 106.

While I have described particular embodiments of my invention, I wish it to be understood that I do not intend to be restricted thereto, but that I intend to cover all modifications thereof which are apparent to one skilled in the art and which come within the subject and scope of the appended claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. A desk top comprising a sub-top having downwardly extending marginal flanges, a filler top having upwardly extending marginal flanges overlapping the marginal flanges of the sub-top, fastening means securing said overlapping flanges together, reinforcing members between said tops extending between opposed portions of said marginal flanges, and means for securing at least some of said reinforcing members to the under side of said sub-top.

2. In a desk top as set forth in claim 1, the combination therewith of a molding secured to said overlapping flanges and masking said fastening means.

3. A desk top comprising a sub-top having downwardly extending marginal flanges, a filler top having upwardly extending marginal flanges overlapping the marginal flanges of the sub-top, a first series of parallel reinforcing members between said tops and extending between opposed portions of said marginal flanges, a second series of parallel reinforcing members between said tops and located beneath said first series of members in abutting relationship and at right angles thereto, and means for securing at least some of said first series of members to the under side of the sub-top and for securing at least some of said abutting and crossing members rigidly together

## 11

to form a unitary, rigid, lightweight top construction.

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