

Feb. 17, 1948.

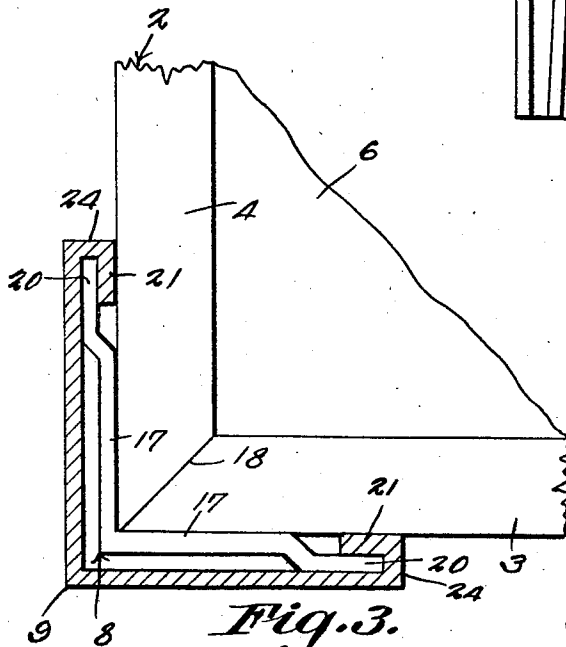
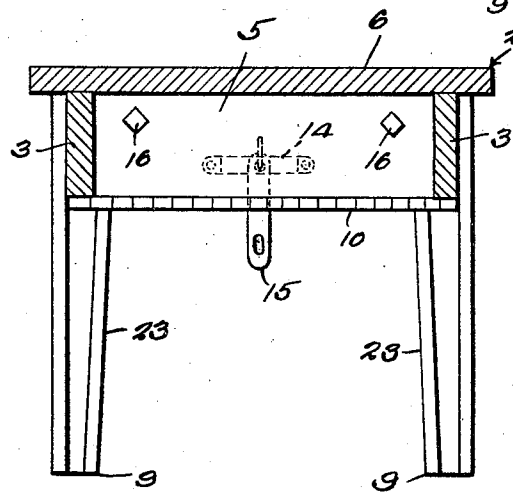
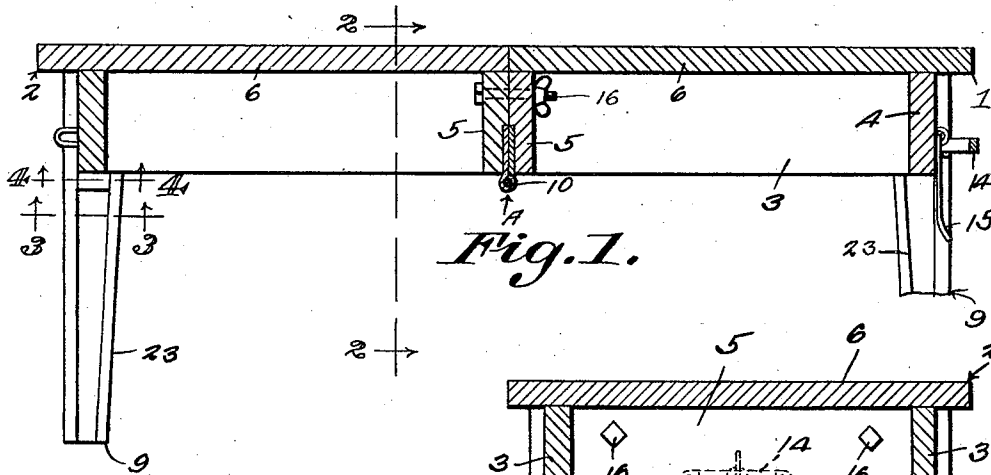
G. L. PROTHRO, SR

2,436,056

FOLDING TABLE

Filed July 11, 1944

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

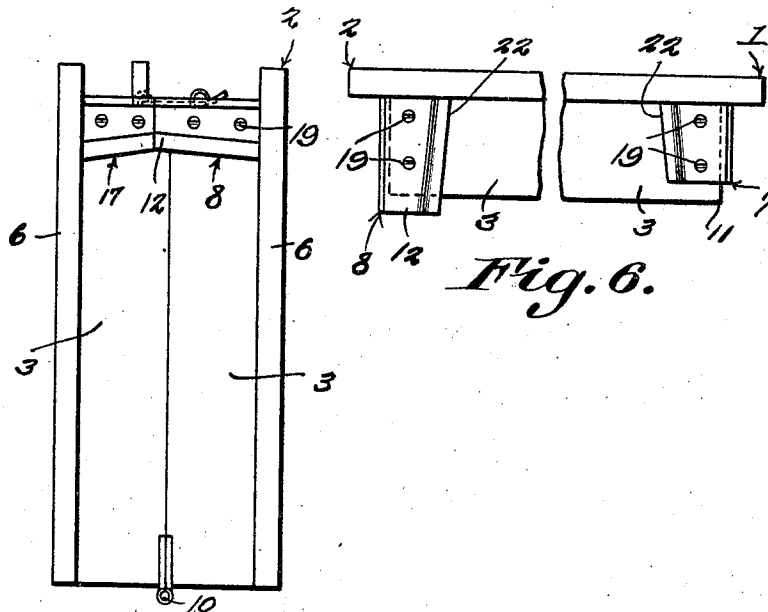
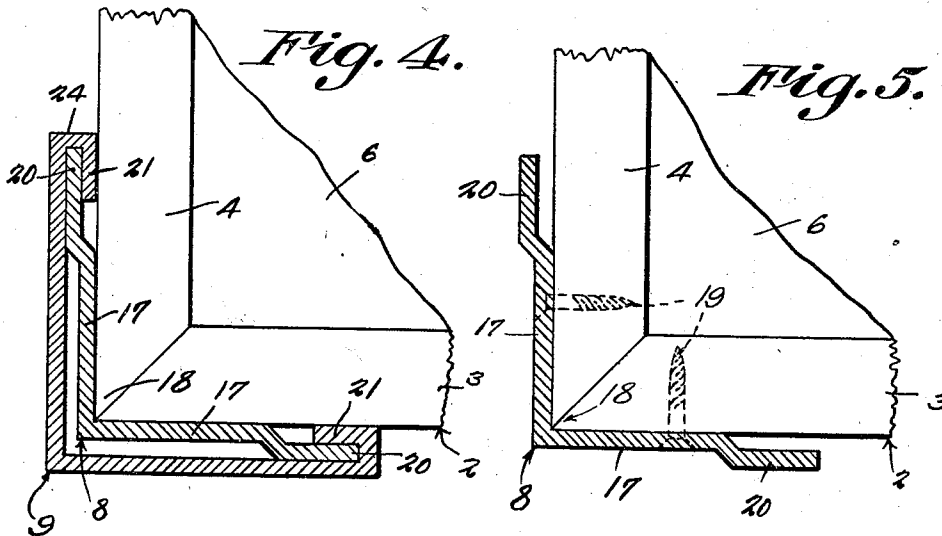


Fig. 7.

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FOLDING TABLE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 311-90)

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The device forming the subject matter of this application is a table comprising frames connected by a hinge, and adapted to be folded to form a carrying case, in which picnic equipment and the detachable legs of the table may be stowed, when the table is not being employed for the purpose which its name indicates.

When the table is in use, the legs are assembled with the frames by means of retainers on the frames. One object of the invention is so to construct the retainers that they will have a double function. One function of the retainers is to provide a mounting for the legs. Another function of the retainers arises out of the fact that the retainers on the outer corners of one frame receive the outer corners of the other frame, when the table is folded, the frames being held in alignment, strain being taken off the hinge, which connects the frames and a stable carrying-case resulting.

A further object of the invention is to improve the connection between the legs and the retainers.

Other objects will be brought out as the description proceeds.

Within the scope of what is claimed, the structure described and shown may be changed, without departing from the spirit of the invention.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a longitudinal section showing a table constructed in accordance with the invention, parts being broken away;

Figs. 2, 3, and 4 are sections taken, respectively, on the lines 2-2, 3-3 and 4-4 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 5 is a fragmental bottom plan showing a portion of one of the table-frames, the retainer being in sections;

Fig. 6 is an elevation showing the frames, the legs being removed and parts being broken away;

Fig. 7 is an end elevation showing the table folded to form a carrying-case.

The table comprises an open-bottomed first frame 1 and an open-bottomed second frame 2. The frames 1 and 2 are of the same outline.

Each of the frames 1 and 2 includes sides 3, outer end members 4, inner end members 5 and a top 6. The frames 1 and 2 preferably are rectangular in top plan.

Substantially vertical, angular retainers 7 receive the outer corners of the frame 1 and secured thereto. Similar retainers 8 receive the outer corners of the frame 2 and are secured thereto.

Legs 9 are detachably assembled, in a manner to be pointed out hereinafter, with the retainers 7 and 8. The inner end members 5 of the frames

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1 and 2 are connected at their lower edges by an upwardly opening hinge 10.

Referring to Fig. 6, the retainers 7 of the first frame 1 are short enough to expose portions 11 at the corners of that frame. The retainers 8 of the second frame 2 project, as shown at 12, beyond the lower edge of that frame and receive the corner portions 11 of the frame 1, when the table is folded on the hinge 10 to form a carrying-case as in Fig. 7. The legs 9 are of such a length that they may be housed in the aforesaid carrying-case.

Since the projecting parts 12 of the retainers 8 receive the portions 11 of the corners of the frame 1, when the table is folded as in Fig. 7, a stable carrying-case results, strain is taken off the hinge 10. It should be noted that the retainers 7 and 8 have a two-fold office; they attach the legs 9 to the frames 1 and 2, and they receive the corner portions 11 of the frame 1, as hereinbefore mentioned. It is unnecessary to resort to pins and sockets, and similar constructions, distinct from the leg retainers, in order to prevent strain from being thrown on the hinge 10, when the device is in the folded form of Fig. 7.

A handle 14 on the outer end member of the frame 1 contributes to portability. The end members 4 carry a hasp and eye structure 15, permitting the use of a lock (not shown) when the device is in the carrying-case condition depicted in Fig. 7.

Referring to Fig. 1, if an attempt is made to lift the table from places otherwise than at the ends, the table will tend to break upwardly, in the direction of the arrow A, unless some means is supplied to prevent such an operation. The means to that end may be bolts 16, forming a detachable connection between the inner end members 5 of the frames 1 and 2, and located as desired.

The legs 9 are angle-members, receiving the retainers 7 and 8, as shown in Fig. 4. The retainers 7 and 8 include angularly disposed wings 17, receiving the angles 18 of the frames 1 and 2. The wings 17 are secured to the members 3 and 4 of the frames 1 and 2 by fastening devices 19, for example screws. The outer portions of the wings 17 are offset, to form flanges 20, which are spaced from the frames 1 and 2.

The lateral walls of the legs 9 have hook-flanges 21, receiving the offset portions 20 of the retainers 7 and 8, as indicated in Fig. 4. The outer edges of the flanges 20 of the retainers 7 and 8 have a downward wedge-slant, as shown at 22 in Fig. 6. The legs 9 have a downward taper,

as indicated at 23, to cause portion 24 of the hook-flanges 21 to conform to the aforesaid wedge-slant 22 of the flanges 20 of the retainers. The legs 9 have a firm hold upon the retainers 7 and 8, in that they are engaged therewith, not only hook-wise, but wedge-wise as well.

The device forming the subject matter of this application is a substantial table, capable of being folded readily for carrying.

The material used may be selected as the manufacturer sees fit. Lightness, combined with strength, is a consideration to be carried in mind.

What is claimed is:

A table comprising an angular frame structure, retainers including angularly-disposed wings receiving the angles of the frame structure, and means for securing the retainers to the frame structure, the outer portions of the wings being offset to form flanges spaced from the frame structure, the outer edges of the flanges having a downward wedge-slant, and angle-member legs receiving the retainers, the lateral parts of the

legs having hook-flanges receiving the flanges of the retainers, the legs being downwardly tapered, to cause portions of the hook-flanges to conform to the aforesaid wedge-slant.

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