June 22, 1926. 1,589,540

R B MEEK

FOLDING TABLE

Filed Nov. 5, 1923 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

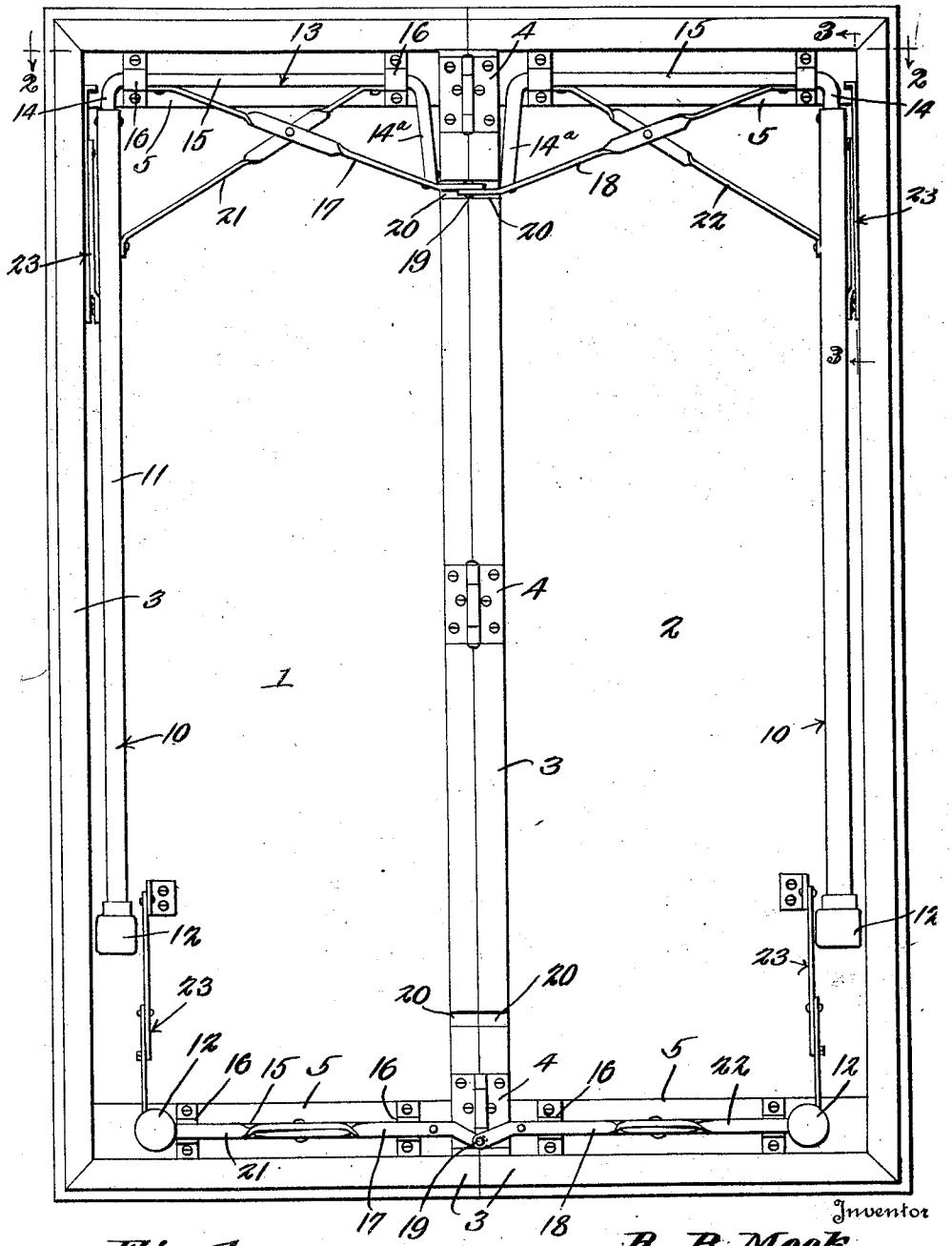


Fig. 1.

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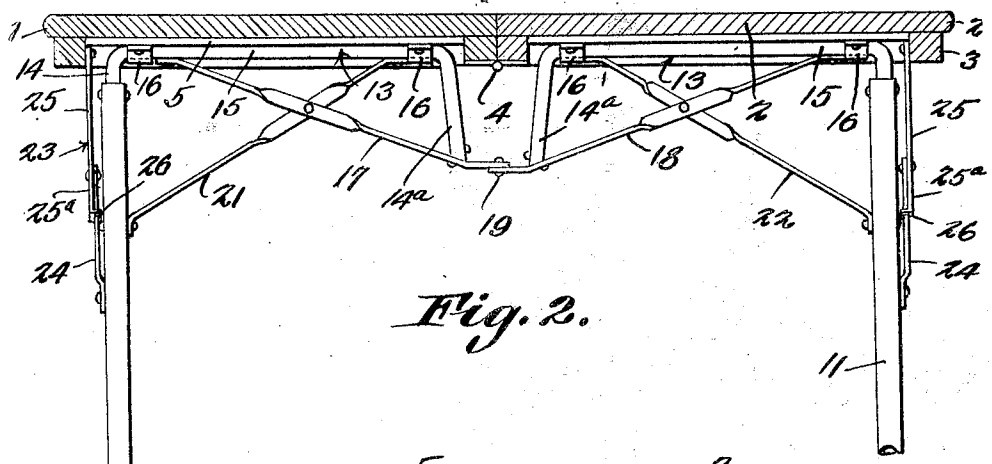


Fig. 2.

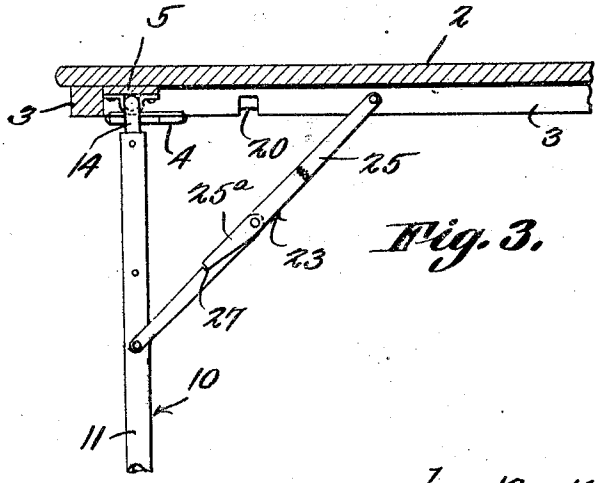


Fig. 3.

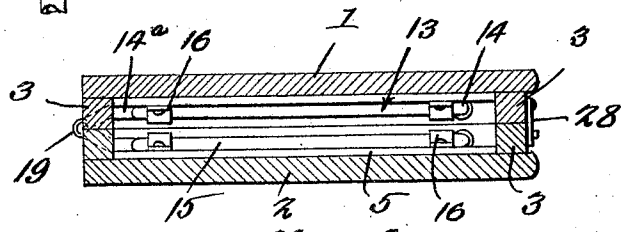


Fig. 4.

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Patented June 22, 1926. 1,589,540

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

R B MEEK, OF BRISTOL, COLORADO, ASSIGNOR OF FIFTY-ONE ONE-HUNDREDTHS TO ALICE MEEK AND FORTY-NINE ONE-HUNDREDTHS TO HARRY L. MORAN, BOTH OF BRISTOL, COLORADO.

FOLDING TABLE.

Application filed November 5, 1923. Serial No. 672,893.

This invention relates to folding tables for various uses.

The object of the invention is to provide a table of this character which when folded will occupy a minimum amount of space, the braces, legs, etc., being completely housed when the table is in this position and which may be quickly opened up for use and when so opened will be rigid and strong.

With the foregoing and other objects in view which will appear as the description proceeds, the invention resides in the combination and arrangement of parts and in the details of construction hereinafter described and claimed, it being understood that changes in the precise embodiment of the invention herein disclosed, may be made within the scope of what is claimed without departing from the spirit of the invention.

In the accompanying drawings:—

Figure 1 represents a bottom plan view of a table constructed in accordance with this invention with the leaves opened and the legs folded.

Fig. 2 is a transverse section taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1, with the legs and braces in open position.

Fig. 3 is a detail sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1; and

Fig. 4 is a transverse section through the table when folded.

In the embodiment illustrated the table constituting this invention comprises two leaves or top sections 1 and 2 provided on their lower faces with peripherally extending cleats 3. These sections 1 and 2 are here shown rectangular in form and of uniform size and are arranged edge to edge and hingedly connected as shown at 4 so that when folded the cleats 3 will rest on each other and form a housing to conceal and protect the supporting legs and their braces.

End cleats 5 of considerably less thickness than the cleats 3 are secured to the lower faces of the sections 1 and 2 adjacent the cleats 3 at the ends of said sections. These cleats 5 are designed to support the legs 10 four of which are shown one being located at each corner of the table when the sections 1 and 2 are in open position.

The legs 10 are here shown formed of tubular metal outer sections 11 having feet 12 at their free ends their inner ends being telescopically engaged with one arm 14 of an inverted U-shaped rod 13, the cross bar 15 of which is extended transversely of one of the table sections and mounted to turn in bearings 16 carried by the end cleats 5. The inner arms 14^a of the members 13 extend inwardly when the legs are in folded position and preferably flare slightly outward with their terminals beveled and rigidly secured to brace rods 17 and 18 which are hingedly connected at 19 and said hinged portions adapted to fit within notches 20 arranged transversely in the inner cleats 3 of the sections 1 and 2 as is shown clearly in Fig. 1. These braces 17 and 18 extend diagonally and are connected at their other ends to the cross bars 15 of the two members 13 located at one end of the table. Similar braces 21 and 22 intersect the braces 17 and 18 and are riveted together at their points of intersection. These braces 21 and 22 connect the legs 11 with the cross bars 13 and thereby securely brace the legs and adapt them to withstand severe strain.

The cross bars 13 of one pair of legs are made shorter than those of the other so that when the table is folded the legs at one end will fit within those at the other, (see Fig. 1).

Break joint braces 23 connect the legs 10 with the lower faces of the side portions of the sections 1 and 2 and are constructed of two sections 24 and 25 pivotally connected respectively with the legs 10 and the table top as shown in Fig. 3, their inner ends being pivotally connected with each other and one having a longitudinally extending finger 25^a the terminal of which has a lateral lip 26 which enters a notch 27 in the upper edge of section 24 when the brace is in extended operative position thereby locking it against accidental collapse.

In the use of this table which is especially designed to be carried in an automobile for camping purposes, the parts being in the position shown in Fig. 4 and the sections 1 and 2 secured together by catches 28, when it is desired to open up the table the catches 28 are released and the sections 1 and 2 swung into open position as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. The legs 10 are then opened outwardly as shown at the lower end of Fig. 1 and in Fig. 2 and the braces 23 opened

into the position shown in Figs. 1 and 3. When so opened the leaves or sections 1 and 2 will be rigidly supported in connected relation and form a table of a width corresponding to the combined width of the leaves.

When the table is to be collapsed the operation above described is reversed, the joints and the braces 23 being broken to permit the legs to fold flat against the sections 1 and 2, the pivotal connection of the braces 17 and 18 being arranged to register with the space between the hingedly connected cleats 3 so that when the leaves or sections are folded together these braces will also pivot and permit said leaves to fold without obstruction. After the leaves have been folded in the position shown in Fig. 4 the catches 28 are secured and the table may be stored in a comparatively small space.

I claim:—

1. A folding table comprising a top composed of leaves hingedly connected along their side edges and adapted to fold inwardly in superposed relation, U-shaped members arranged transversely of said leaves on their lower faces and alining one with the other, legs carried by the outer arms of said members, braces connecting the inner arms with the cross bars, said braces extending beyond said arms and pivotally connected with each other, the pivotal connection of said braces registering with the joints between the leaf sections to permit them to fold when the sections are collapsed, the cross bars of the legs of one leaf being made shorter than those of the other so that when the table is folded the legs of one leaf will fit within those of the other.

2. A folding table comprising a top composed of leaves hingedly connected along their side edges and adapted to fold inwardly in superposed relation, U-shaped members arranged transversely of said leaves on their lower faces and alining one with the other, legs carried by the outer arms of said members, and braces connecting the inner arms with the cross bars, said braces being extended beyond said arms and pivotally connected with each other the pivotal connections of said braces registering with the joint between the sections to permit them to fold when the sections are collapsed.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature.

R B MEEK.