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FURNITURE CLAMPING DEVICE

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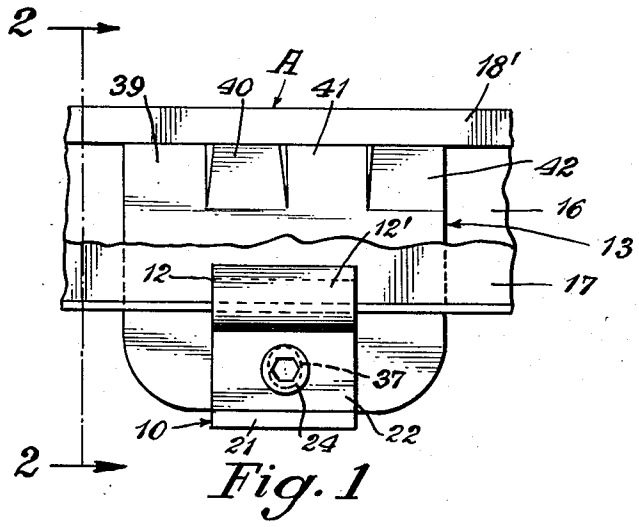


Fig. 1

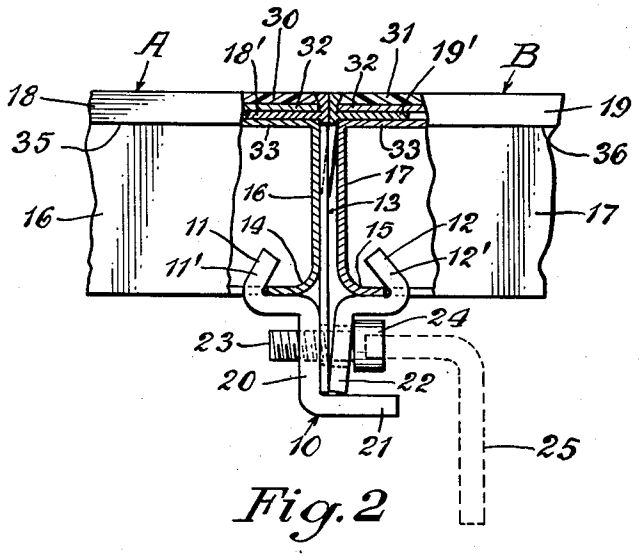


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

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FURNITURE CLAMPING DEVICE

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This invention relates to clamping devices especially adapted for connecting adjoining pieces of furniture units, such as tables or desks, with their tops in horizontal alignment.

It has heretofore been common practice to connect furniture units together in side-by-side relation, with their adjoining top surfaces in substantially the same horizontal plane, but with certain types of units, especially those having metal bindings along the edges of their top surfaces, it is difficult to provide a satisfactory form of fastening or clamping means which will insure perfect horizontal alignment of the adjoining top surfaces.

The main object of the present invention is to provide a simple, inexpensive, and yet efficient form of clamp for connecting furniture tops of the character above described.

The invention may best be understood by reference to the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a side view of a clamping device made in accordance with the invention, and showing it in position for connecting two adjoining table or desk tops together;

Figure 2 is a section taken on line 2—2 of Figure 1; and

Figure 3 is a top view of the spacing plate forming part of the clamping device.

In the illustrative embodiment of the invention shown in the drawing, the clamping device is indicated generally at **10**, and consists essentially of two clamping jaws **11** and **12** and a spacing plate **13**. The clamping jaws **11** and **12** have outwardly offset upper end portions **11'** and **12'** of similar upwardly inclined conformation, adapted to engage the lower flanged edges **14** and **15** of depending side walls **16** and **17**, respectively, of adjoining table or desk tops indicated generally at A and B. One of the clamping members **11** has a downwardly extending leg **20**, with a laterally extending flange **21** integral therewith, adapted to receive the lower end of a downwardly extending leg **22**, formed integrally with the opposite clamping member **12**, as seen in Figure 2.

A bolt **23** is threaded through one of the legs of the clamping members, as, for instance, the leg **20**, and has a head **24** at its opposite end, adapted to engage the leg **22** of the other clamping member **12**, to hold the two clamping members together in position to draw the adjacent side walls **16** and **17** of the tables A and B together. The bolt or screw may be manipulated in any suitable manner, as, for instance, by a hand wrench indicated in phantom at **25** in Figure 2.

It will be understood that the clamping device as above described is especially adapted for use with table or desk tops which are provided with binding strips **18** and **19** suitably fixed along and around the upper margins of said table tops, respectively. Binding strips of this kind are more or less conventional additions to table and desk tops of many types, and usually project slightly beyond the upright side walls of their respective table tops, as, for instance, the side walls **16** and **17** of the desk or table

tops A and B, as shown in the drawing. These binding strips are usually made of metal, their principal object being to protect the upper edges of the table or desk tops, and particularly when said table or desk tops are covered with sheets of plastic or fibre material, as indicated at **30** and **31** in Figure 2.

It will be further understood that the binding strips **18** and **19** may be secured along the upper edges of the table tops in any suitable manner, in the illustrative form shown herein, said strips each having inwardly extending portions **18'** and **19'**, which are inserted between and held by horizontal metal panels **32** and **33**, forming part of the table top structure. It will be understood, however, that the manner in which the binding strips are fixed to the table top is immaterial to the present invention; the essential feature is the arrangement whereby such binding strips are of uniform width and project laterally beyond the upright side walls **16** and **17** of the table tops so as to form downwardly facing shoulders **35** and **36**, which are equidistant from the top surfaces of the adjoining table or desk tops A and B, respectively.

Referring again to the clamping member **10**, the spacing plate **13** which forms a part thereof is adapted to be assembled in upright position, with its lower end disposed between the legs **20** and **22** of the clamping members **11** and **12**, respectively, and with the bolt **23** passing through a vertically elongated aperture **37** in said plate. The lower edge of the spacing plate **13** is also slidably supported on the flange **21**, as shown in Figure 2.

The body of the plate **13** is of such thickness that it will be readily accommodated in the narrow space left between the side walls **16** and **17** of the adjoining table tops A and B when the projecting side strips **18** and **19** are moved into direct abutting engagement with each other, as seen in Figure 2.

In the form shown herein, the spacing plate **13** is of substantially less thickness than the space between the side walls **16** and **17**. In such case, in order to insure mutual engagement of the upper edge of said spacing plate with both shoulders **35** and **36** of the binding strips **18** and **19**, the upper edge of said spacing plate is widened by forming a plurality of corrugated plate sections **39**, **40**, **41** and **42**, therealong, arranged to increase the effective thickness of said upper edge. In the form shown herein, these corrugations are formed by offsetting alternate plate sections **40** and **42** at a slight angle from the normal plane of the plate **13**, while the adjacent sections **39** and **41** remain in the normal plane of said plate. It will be manifest, however, that the entire spacing plate may be made of greater thickness, provided it can be fitted in the space between the side walls **16** and **17**.

The use and application of the device will be understood by reference to Figures 1 and 2, wherein it will be seen that when two adjacent desk and table tops are to be secured together with their upper surfaces in alignment with each other, the clamping device **10** is applied from beneath the desk or table tops, with the spacing plate **13** projecting upwardly between said tops into mutual engagement with the shoulders **35** and **36** of the metal binding strips **18** and **19**. The two clamping members **11** and **12** are then drawn together by tightening the bolt **23**, so as to engage the flanged lower edges **14** and **15** of the side members **16** and **17**. The vertically slotted aperture **37** in the spacing plate **13** permits sufficient vertical adjustment of the plate so as to insure snug fitting engagement of the upper edge of said plate against both shoulders **35** and **36** of the binding strips **18** and **19**, while the bolt **23** is being tightened. During this tightening operation, the lower end of legs **20** and **22** of the clamping members will be tilted toward each other and into direct clamping relation with the lower edge of the spac-

ing plate **13**, as seen in Figure 2, so as to secure the entire assembly in substantially rigid relation, thus securing the top surfaces of the desks or tables A and B together in the desired horizontal alignment.

Due to the slidable fitting engagement afforded between the laterally projecting flange **21** of leg **20** of the clamping member **11** with the lower end of leg **22** of the opposite clamping member **12**, and the arrangement whereby the adjacent lower edge of the spacing plate **13** also rests on the flange **21** between legs **20** and **22**, the two clamping members and the spacing plate will be maintained in substantial upright alignment relative to each other during fastening or unfastening of the clamping members by the bolt **23**.

Although I have shown and described certain embodiments of my invention, it will be understood that my invention is not limited to the specific form shown or described herein, but that various modifications thereof can be made without departing from the spirit of the invention, as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A clamping device for table tops and the like comprising two opposed generally parallel apertured jaw members, an apertured filler plate between them, a holding bolt loosely penetrating the aperture in one jaw member and the filler plate and threaded in the aperture in the other member, the jaw member in which the bolt is threaded having a perpendicular extension below the bolt adapted to contact the lower edges of the filler plate and

the other jaw member, opposed clamping hooks carried by the jaw members above the bolt, the filler plate extending upwardly above the hooks.

2. A clamping device for table tops and the like comprising two opposed generally parallel apertured jaw members, an apertured filler plate between them, a holding bolt loosely penetrating the aperture in one jaw member and the filler plate and threaded in the aperture in the other member, the jaw member in which the bolt is threaded having a perpendicular extension below the bolt adapted to contact the lower edges of the filler plate and the other jaw member, opposed clamping hooks carried by the jaw members above the bolt, the filler plate extending upwardly above the hooks and corrugated adjacent its upper edge to increase its effective thickness.

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