April 9, 1929. C. W. CALDWELL 1,708,080

SLAB FOR TABLES AND THE LIKE

Filed April 7, 1927

Fig. 1.

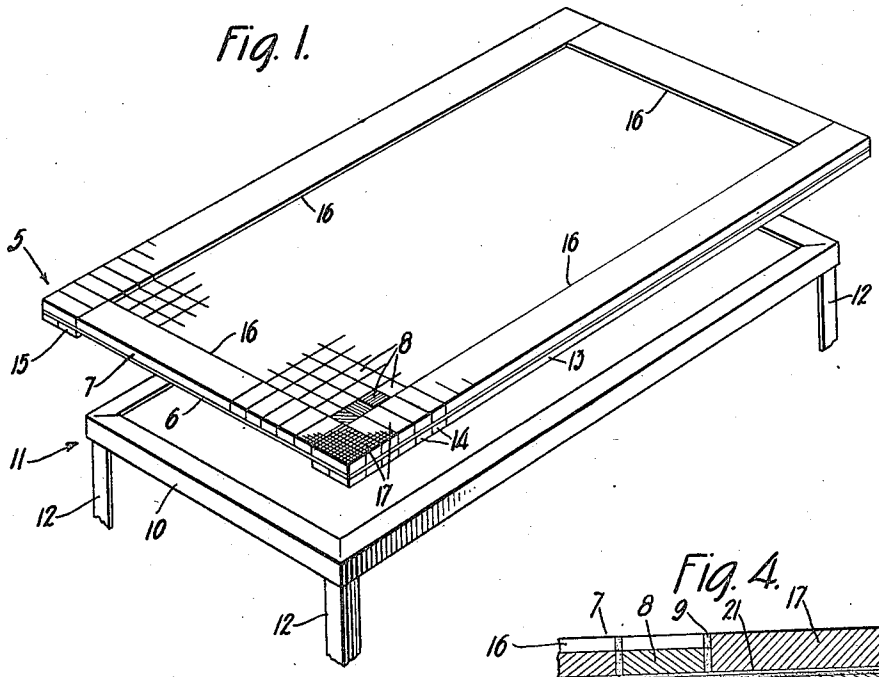


Fig. 4.

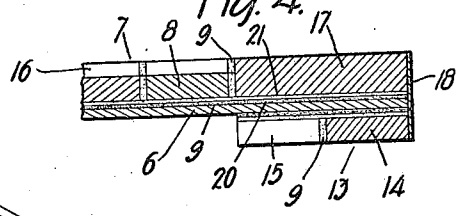


Fig. 2.

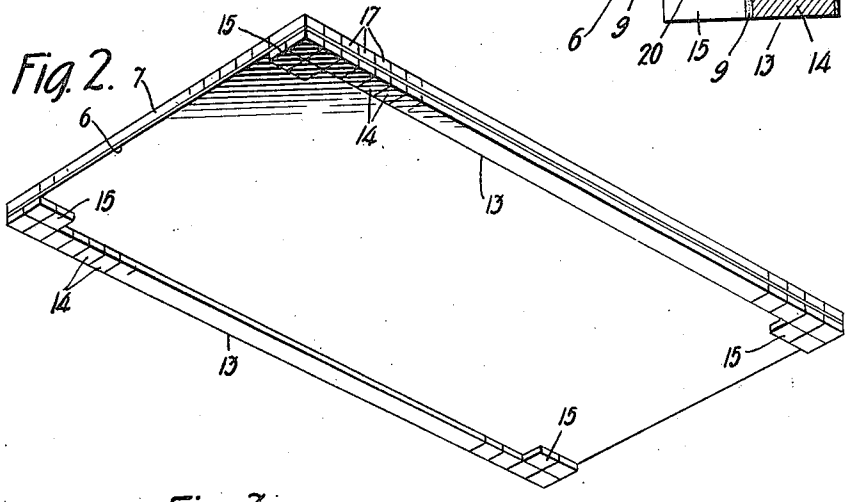
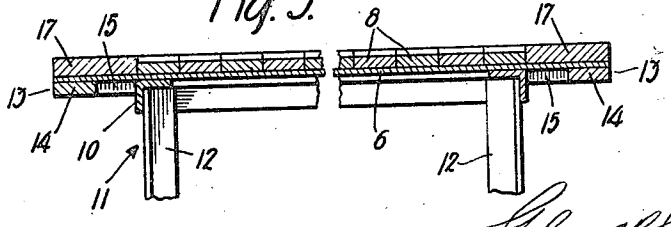


Fig. 3.



Inventor
Charles W. Caldwell.

by
George C. Dean Attorney

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES W. CALDWELL, OF LAWRENCE, NEW YORK.

SLAB FOR TABLES AND THE LIKE.

Application filed April 7, 1927. Serial No. 181,689.

This invention is shown as embodied in a table and includes improvements in slabs suitable for use as tops of tables, cigar stands, tabourets, shelves and for other purposes where heretofore marble or slate slabs have been used. Where marble or slate tops are removably supported on a stand so that they may readily be washed, it frequently happens that the slabs are accidentally dropped and in many cases this results in breaking or marring to such an extent as to render the slab useless. Moreover, marble is easily scratched or stained.

An object of the present invention is to provide a slab that may be highly ornamental, yet practically unbreakable and proof against scratching or staining by any of the ordinary incidents of use. To this end, the present invention includes a base, which may be composed of sheet metal, preferably a rolled sheet or plate of substantial thickness. Upon this base is cemented a slab, which may be composed of comparatively small blocks or tiles cemented to each other and to the metal base.

By building the slab of mosaic tile of various shapes and colors, various fanciful, beautiful or artistic designs may be had on the surface of the slab. Slabs of any size and shape may readily be made by building it up of small parts. The exposed surface of the blocks are preferably glazed to resist scratching.

If desired, a row or rows of tile blocks at the edge of the slab may be made higher than the inner blocks, preferably by using tiles of greater thickness. This provides ridges that greatly increase the mechanical strength of the slab and also serve to retain dishes from sliding or spilled liquids from running over the edge.

The layer of blocks and the metal plate reenforce each other and resist bending, the blocks serving mainly as thrust elements and the metal as tension as well as thrust element of the composite structure. In this respect, the composite slab has some of the qualities of reenforced concrete. Preferably, two rows of blocks are provided, on the bottom of the metal plate, extending along the opposite edges thereof. These further strengthen the slab while serving the purpose of cleats to keep the slab from sliding off the supporting stand. Abutments are also provided by blocks on the bottom of the slab to engage the frame work of the stand to position the slab on said stand.

The edges of the slab may be finished by grinding and then painting.

Other features and advantages will hereinafter appear.

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the slab as seen from above and slightly raised from the stand.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the slab as seen from beneath.

Fig. 3 is an end view, in section, showing the slab supported on the stand.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary sectional view of a portion of the slab.

The slab 5 includes a base, 6, which may be composed of a rolled metal plate of suitable thickness, as, for example, 14 gauge. One top of the base 6 is secured to a thin slab section, 7. Said slab section may be composed of mosaic tile blocks, 8, which are secured to each other and to the base 6 by cement, 9 (Fig. 4), to form with the base 6 an integral unit. The slab 5 may be supported on a frame, 10, of a stand 11 having legs 12 extending downwardly from the frame 10.

To keep the slab from sliding in the direction parallel to the shorter side of the frame 10, the bottom of the base 6 is provided with two ridges, 13, composed of tile blocks 14 secured to said base by cement 9, said ridges extending along the frame 10. Abutments, 15, formed of tile blocks, cemented to the bottom of the base 6, engage the frame as in Fig. 3 to locate the slab 5 on the frame 10.

To prevent accidentally spilled liquid from running over the edge of the slab 5, it is provided at its edge with a ridge 16 composed of blocks 17 slightly thicker than the blocks 8, the blocks 17 being also cemented to the base 6.

The blocks 8 and 16 may be glazed on their exposed surfaces to resist scratching and to beautify the surface. The blocks may be of different colors, arranged according to a predetermined design.

The edges of the slab may be finished, by grinding, after the tile blocks have been cemented to the top and bottom of the plate 7. The finished edges may then be painted as indicated at 18 in Fig. 4.

The cement, 9, may be composed of two layers, a layer, 20, such as, for example,

Pilett cement, which adheres readily to metal, and over this is spread a layer of the usual white, waterproof cement, 21, which prevents spilled liquids from soaking through to the plate, 6, and rusting the latter.

It will be understood that the slab section 7 reenforces the plate 6 against bending and vice versa, and that the ridges 13 at the bottom of the plate 6, and the ridges 16 on the top of said plate, also reenforce the slab 5.

The slab may readily be removed from the stand to be washed. It may also be used as a tray. Should it be set down on another table, the ridges 13 serve as feet to rest upon, which keep the plate 6 sufficiently high to enable the fingers to get hold of the slab to lift it from a flat object.

It should also be understood, in addition to the features herein pointed out, that the slab of this invention may be made much more readily and more economically than the marble slab used heretofore, and that it may be marketed at a considerably lower price.

I claim:

1. In a table, a supporting stand, a table top therefor comprising a slab, said slab including a heavy sheet metal plate, a covering layer comprising tile blocks cemented to each other and to said plate, and means on said plate for holding the slab on the supporting stand.

2. In a table, a supporting stand, a table top therefor comprising a slab, said slab including a heavy sheet metal plate, a covering layer comprising tile blocks cemented to each other and to said plate, and means comprising tile blocks on said plate for holding the slab on the supporting stand.

Signed at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York this 6th day of April, A. D. 1927.

CHARLES W. CALDWELL.