Feb. 6, 1951 H. T. GENGE 2,540,875

FOLDING TABLE WITH CROSSLEGS

Filed Nov. 30, 1948

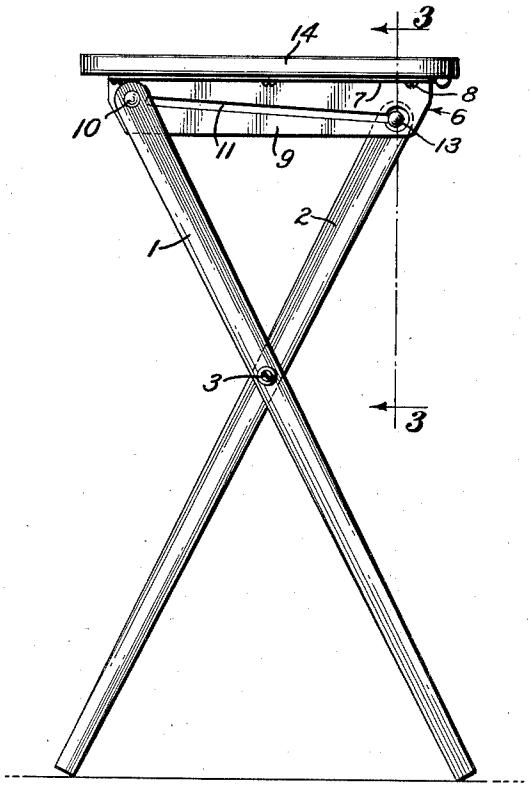

Fig. 1

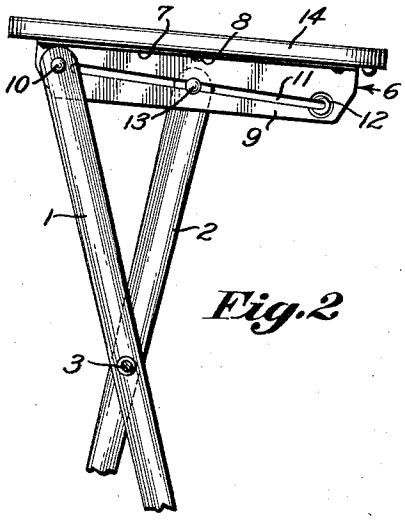

Fig. 2

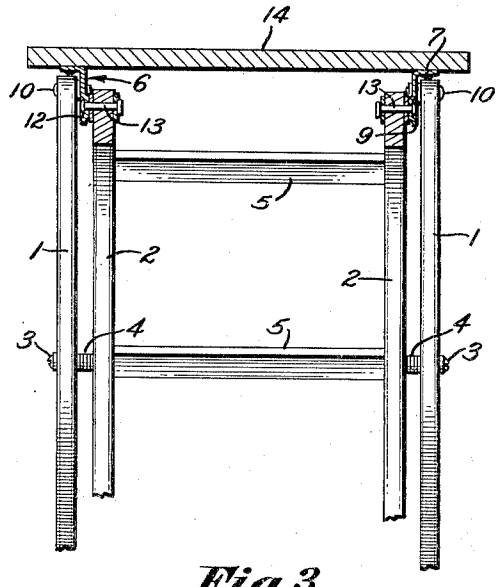

Fig. 3

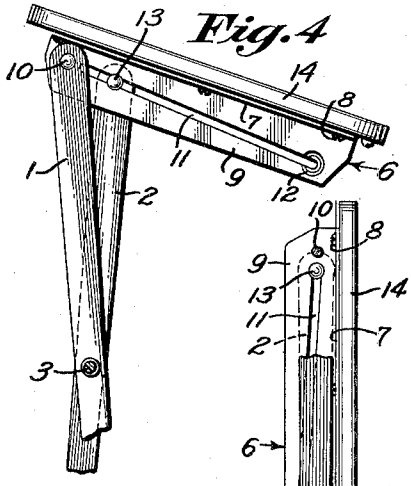

Fig. 4

Fig. 5

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FOLDING TABLE WITH CROSSLEGS

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2 Claims. (Cl. 311—83)

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This invention relates to folding tables and more particularly to that type of folding table in which the legs are arranged in pairs and pivoted with respect to each other intermediate their ends.

An object of the present invention is to provide an improved folding table of the type indicated in which the legs and the connecting means by which they are associated with a table top can be readily and conveniently folded to extend in a common plane substantially parallel with and closely adjacent the table top so that the table when folded will occupy the minimum amount of space for storage purposes.

A further object of the invention is to provide a table of the type indicated in which the mechanical operation of folding and unfolding the legs with respect to the top can be performed with the minimum exercise and attention on the part of the operator.

Further objects will more particularly appear in the course of the following detailed description.

The invention consists in the novel construction, arrangement and combinations of parts hereinafter more particularly described and claimed.

One sheet of drawings accompanies this specification as part thereof, in which like reference characters indicate like parts throughout.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is an end elevation of a table embodying the present invention;

Figure 2 is a fragmentary end elevation showing the legs in the operation of folding or unfolding;

Figure 3 is a vertical cross section taken on line 3—3 of Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary elevation similar to Figure 2, but showing the legs more nearly folded; and

Figure 5 is a fragmentary end elevation showing the legs in their final folded position.

Referring to the drawings the table top 14 may be of any desired configuration but is illustrated as rectangular and has secured to its under face two depending brackets 9 arranged parallel with respect to each other and spaced apart, preferably one adjacent each end of the top. These brackets 9 as herein illustrated are of L-cross section, the vertical flange 6 depending below the table, while the flange 7 is secured to the under surface of the table top by screws 8.

The legs are arranged in pairs, the leg 1 of each pair being slightly longer than the leg 2,

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and the legs of each pair are associated by a pivot 3 intermediate their ends, this pivot 3 being equally spaced from the lower end of each of the legs. Preferably, the lower ends of the legs are formed perpendicular to the long axis of the leg, and cut square to improve the engagement of the legs with rugs or other floor coverings. The difference in distance between the intermediate pivot 3 and the upper pivots 10 and 13, by means of which the upper ends of the legs 1 and 2 are connected with the bracket, is less than the width of the depending bracket 9, and is illustrated, the pivot 10 by means of which the long leg 1 is associated with the bracket, is positioned adjacent one end of the bracket and near the upper or table edge thereof. From a point adjacent this pivot 10 the bracket is provided with a downwardly inclined slot 11 which extends to a point adjacent the opposite end and lower edge of the bracket 9, the amount of the declination of this slot 11 being equal to the difference in the distances between the medial pivot 3 and the pivots 10 and 13. The pivot 13 extends through the upper end of the shorter leg 2 and through the slot 11, it being understood that the legs 1 and 2 are positioned on opposite faces of the depending flange 9. The bracket 9 is further provided adjacent the lower end of the slot 11 with a depressed dimple 12 into which the head of the pivot 13 can resiliently spring when the legs are in extended position, thus forming a resilient stop at this point.

Suitable washers 4 are positioned intermediate the legs 1 and 2 in connection with the medial pivot 3 so as to maintain the legs 1 and 2 in parallel relationship, and the shorter legs being positioned innermost are preferably connected by spacing rungs 5—5 to maintain same in parallel relationship.

From a consideration of Figures 2, 4 and 5 it will be apparent that in the folding and unfolding operation the table top 14 will form a varying angle with respect to leg 1 so that the table will automatically start the opening of the legs when the top begins its initial movement from the closed position shown in Figure 5, and will similarly automatically completely align the legs at the completion of the closing operation parallel with the top, thus avoiding any necessity for making such an initial separation of the legs prior to the opening steps.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. Folding table comprising a top, spaced parallel downwardly directed brackets secured to the under face of the top, legs arranged in pairs and

pivoted together intermediate their ends, each of the brackets having a pivot orifice adjacent one end and a straight slot extending from a point horizontally adjacent said orifice downwardly at an angle to the plane of the top, said brackets formed with dimples at and concentric with the lower ends of said slots, one leg of each pair being longer than the other by a distance equal to the difference in the vertical distances of the pivot orifice and the dimpled end of the slots in the brackets from the under face of the table, rivets pivotally securing the upper ends of the longer legs through the pivot orifices in the brackets, rivets pivotally securing the upper ends of the shorter legs through the bracket slots, said last mentioned rivets having heads to engage said dimples at the extended position of the table, the legs of each pair being of equal length between the medial pivot and their lower ends.

2. Folding table comprising a top, spaced parallel downwardly directed brackets secured to the under face of the top, legs arranged in pairs and pivoted together intermediate their ends, each of the brackets having a pivot orifice adjacent one end and a straight slot extending from a point horizontally adjacent said orifice downwardly at an angle to the plane of the top, one leg of each pair being longer than the other by a distance equal to the difference in the vertical distances of the pivot orifice and the remote end of the slots in the brackets from the under face of the table, rivets pivotally securing the upper ends of the longer legs through the pivot orifices in the brackets, rivets pivotally securing the upper ends of the shorter legs through the bracket slots, the legs of each pair being of equal length between the medial pivot and their lower ends.

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