Jan. 13, 1959 E. F. HAMILTON 2,868,601

ARTICLE OF FURNITURE

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Fig. 1.

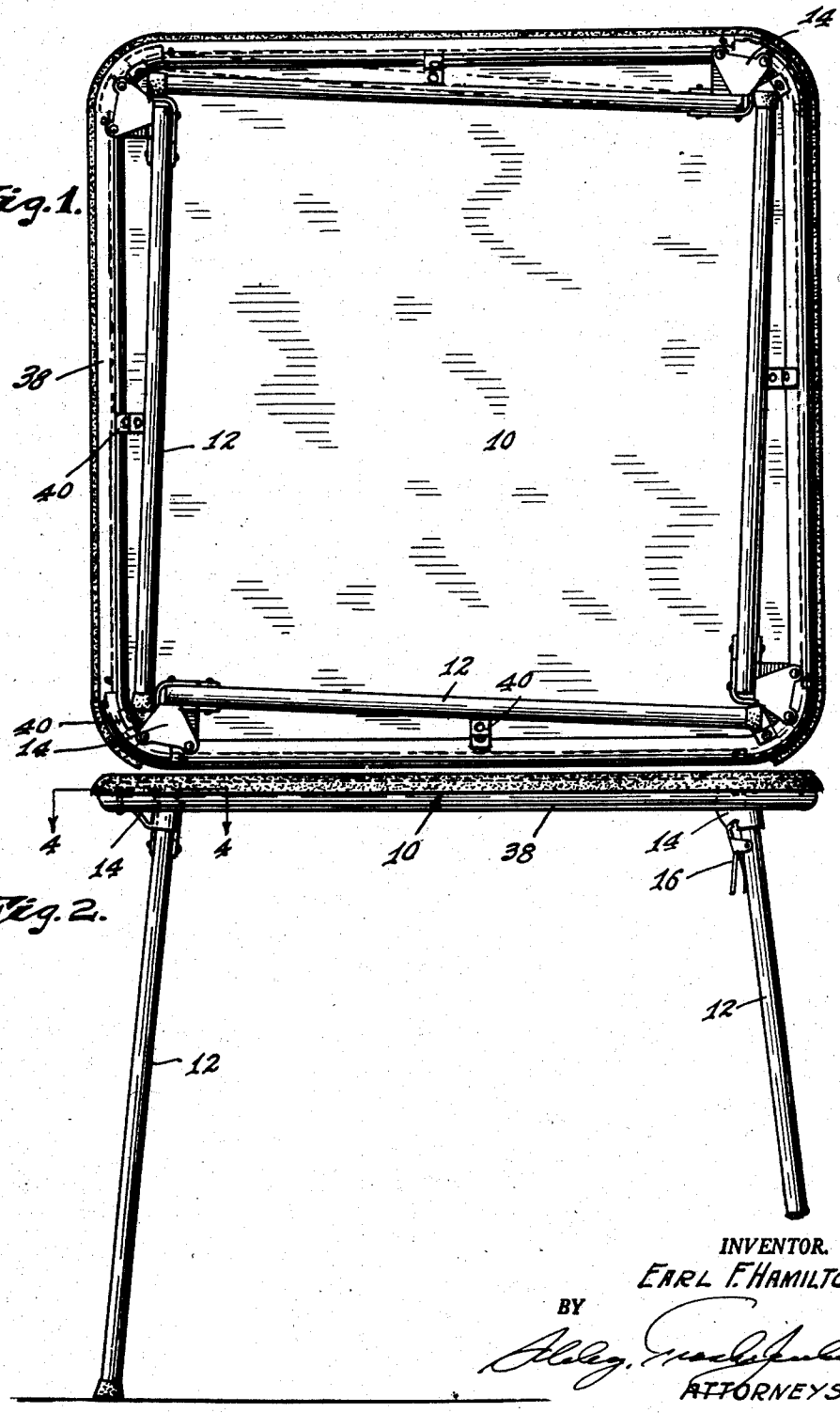


Fig. 2.

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Fig. 3.

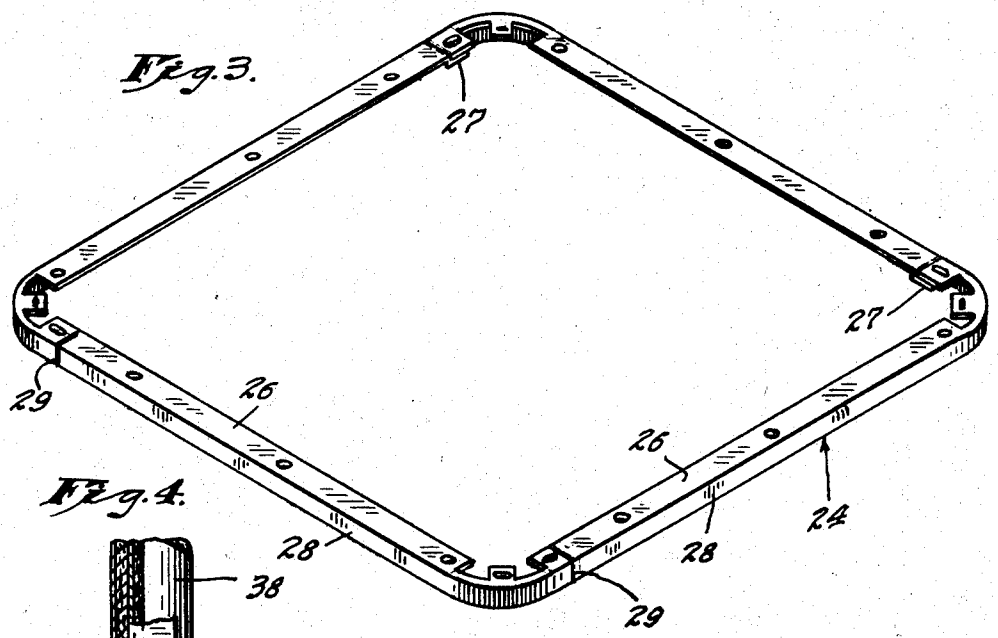


Fig. 4.

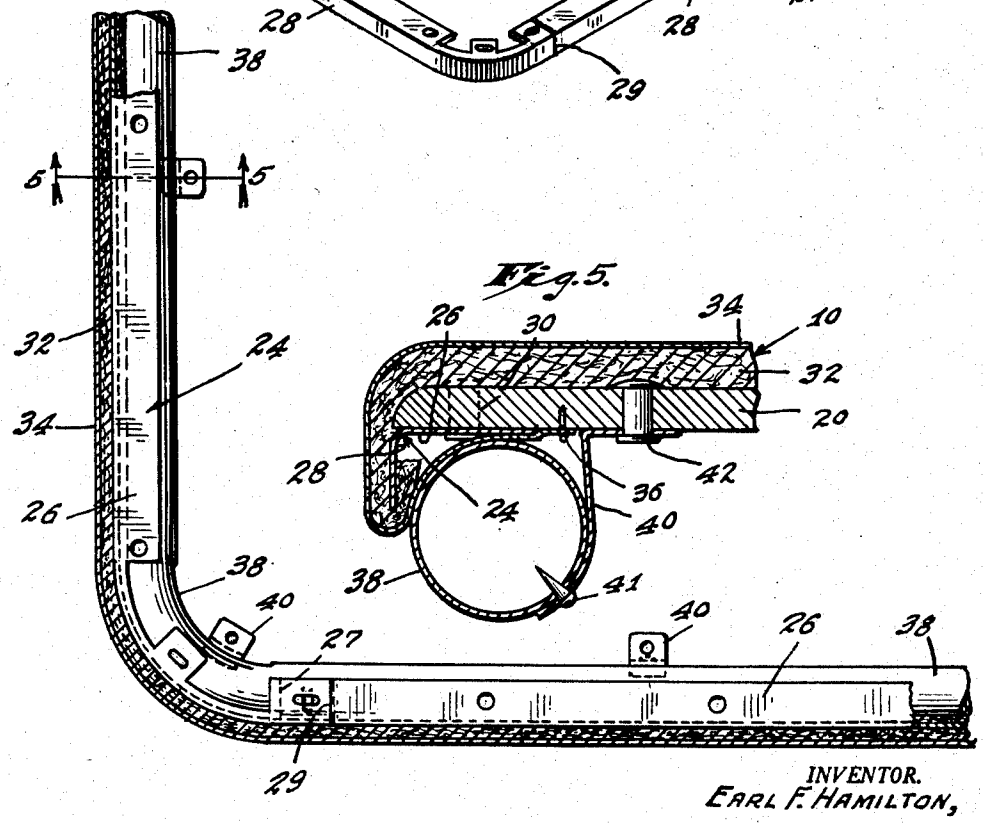


Fig. 5.

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ARTICLE OF FURNITURE

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7 Claims. (Cl. 311—107)

This invention relates to panel-like furniture elements such as table-tops, chain seats, or the like, and particularly to panel-like elements which require peripheral reinforcement and are covered with flexible sheet material.

It is an object of my invention to provide for such a panel-like element an improved form of peripheral reinforcement which will not only strengthen and stiffen the element but will also play a part in anchoring and tightening the flexible covering.

In carrying out my invention in its preferred form, I provide a panel of the desired shape and material, and to such panel I secure a peripheral reinforcement, preferably sectional and made of sheet-metal of L-shape in cross-section to provide one flange which is secured to the back of the panel and another flange which lies substantially flush with the panel margin and projects perpendicularly from the panel. The face of the panel is then covered with flexible material, such as fabric or sheet plastic, the edges of which are brought around the edge of the projecting reinforcement flange and secured to the back of the panel at points spaced inwardly from such flange to leave stretches of the covering material extending obliquely from the edge of the flange to the panel.

A rigid peripheral frame, conveniently made of metal tubing and of such size as to fit loosely within the projecting reinforcement flange, is positioned against the obliquely extending stretches of covering material and forced into engagement with the panel, in which position the frame is secured to the panel in any convenient manner.

The accompanying drawings illustrate one embodiment of my invention. In such drawings:

Fig. 1 is a bottom plan of a collapsible card table embodying my invention, the table legs being shown in collapsed position;

Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the table shown in Fig. 1 with the legs in extended operative position;

Fig. 3 is an isometric view of the peripheral reinforcement;

Fig. 4 is a horizontal section taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2; and

Fig. 5 is a vertical section taken on the line 5—5 of Fig. 4.

The invention is shown in the accompanying drawings as embodied in a collapsible card table. As illustrated, the table is provided with a top **10** supported at each of its corners by a leg **12** engageable with the floor or other supporting surface. For purposes of convenience, each leg **12** is pivotally mounted to the table top **10** by means of brackets **14** so that the legs may be pivoted to lie against the lower face of the table top in a collapsed storage position, as shown in Fig. 1. The legs **12** are further provided with any suitable locking means **16** for retaining them in an upright operating position.

In accordance with my invention the table top **10** comprises a main structural panel **20** formed of ply-wood, hardboard, or other appropriate material and desirably having rounded edges, as indicated at **22**. A peripheral

frame **24**, conveniently formed of sheet-metal bent into an L-shaped cross-section to provide mutually perpendicular flanges **26** and **28**, is secured to the lower face of the panel, as by a plurality of rivets **30** received in aligned openings pierced in the panel and the flange **26**. Desirably, the frame **24** is secured to the lower panel face so that its flange **28** is flush with and forms a depending extension of the marginal edge of the panel **20**.

In the case of the table top illustrated, the frame is conveniently made of four similar sections, each section extending along one side of the top and being bent at one end to continue around a corner of the top. If so constructed, the flanges **28** of adjacent sections desirably abut each other as at **29** while the flanges **26** overlap each other as at **27**. To permit such overlapping, the end of the straight stretch of each flange **26** may be offset downwardly for the thickness of the metal.

A pad **32** formed from any suitable material, such as foam-rubber or the like, is disposed over the upper face of the panel **20** and may be secured thereon in any suitable manner such as by gluing. Desirably, the pad **32** is of sufficient size that its margins may extend downwardly over the frame **24** to embrace the lower edge of the flange **28**. Overlying the pad **32** is a thin sheet **34** of plastic or cloth forming an attractive cover for the pad and panel and holding the pad on said panel. The margins of the sheet **34** extend around the edge of the flange **28** and are firmly secured to the lower panel face as by staples **36** which are located inwardly of the frame **24**. With the pad **32** and the sheet **34** each having a greater extent than the panel **20**, their margins overlap the outer face of the flange **28** to form an attractive padded border for the table top **10**.

Strength and rigidity are added to the panel **20** by a tubular metal frame **38** adapted to fit loosely within the flange **28** of the frame **24**. If the frame **38** is properly proportional it will, when positioned within the flange **28**, engage those portions of the cover **34** which extend obliquely from the edge of the flange **28** to the staples **36**. If the frame is then forced toward the panel to the position shown in Fig. 5, those oblique cover portions will be deformed and the cover tightly stretched. While held in cover stretching position the frame is affixed to the panel as by a plurality of clips **40** each having one of its ends secured to the panel **20** by a rivet **42** and its opposite end bent to partially overlap the underside of the frame **38**. Desirably, the lower ends of the clips **40** and the tubing of the frame **38** are pierced for the reception of tapered, headed pins **41** which bindingly retain the clips in contact with the frame.

By employing the construction described, the frames **24** and **38** reinforce and stiffen the panel **20** and cooperate to draw the cover **34** tightly over the panel **20** and pad **32**, thus preventing the cover from wrinkling.

Although I have described my invention as embodied in a card table top, it is to be understood that other modifications and embodiments may be employed which are within the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in the claims which follow.

I claim as my invention:

1. In an article of furniture, a panel, a peripheral reinforcement secured to one face of said panel and having a flange which projects from the panel generally flush with the edges of the panel, a covering for the other face of the panel comprising a sheet of flexible material extending around the edge of said flange and obliquely therefrom to the first mentioned panel-face, means spaced inwardly from said flange for affixing the flexible material to the first mentioned panel-face, a frame fitting loosely within said flange and engaging the obliquely extending portions of said flexible material, and means for securing said frame to said panel in such position that

it distorts and stretches said obliquely extending portions.

2. The invention of claim 1 with the addition that said frame is formed of metal tubing.

3. The invention of claim 1 with the addition that said means comprises a plurality of L-shaped clips each having one leg secured to said panel and the other leg partially embracing and secured to the material of said frame.

4. The invention of claim 1 with the addition that said panel has straight sides and rounded corners, said peripheral reinforcement comprising a plurality of similar sections each having a straight main portion extending along one side of the panel and a curved end portion extending around a corner of the panel and meeting the opposite end of an adjacent section.

5. In an article of furniture, a panel, a peripheral reinforcement secured to one face of said panel and having a flange which projects from the panel generally flush with the edges of the panel, said panel having straight sides and rounded corners, said peripheral reinforcement comprising a plurality of similar sections each having a straight main portion extending along one side of the panel and a curved end portion extending around a corner of the panel and meeting the opposite end of an adjacent section.

6. The invention of claim 5 with the addition that each of said sections is of L-shaped cross-section.

7. A method of tightening a flexible sheet-like covering on a panel having a peripheral flange projecting from one face of the panel adjacent the margin thereof and a reinforcing frame loosely receivable within said flange, comprising the steps of applying the covering to the other face of the panel, bringing the marginal portions around said flange and securing them to the first mentioned face of the panel at a distance from said flange whereby said marginal portions will extend obliquely from the edge of the flange to such panel-face, positioning said frame in contact with said obliquely extending portions, forcing the frame toward the panel into a position such that it distorts and stretches such portions, and securing the frame to the panel in such position.

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