

April 15, 1952

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2,592,839

FOLDING TABLE

Filed Aug. 19, 1947

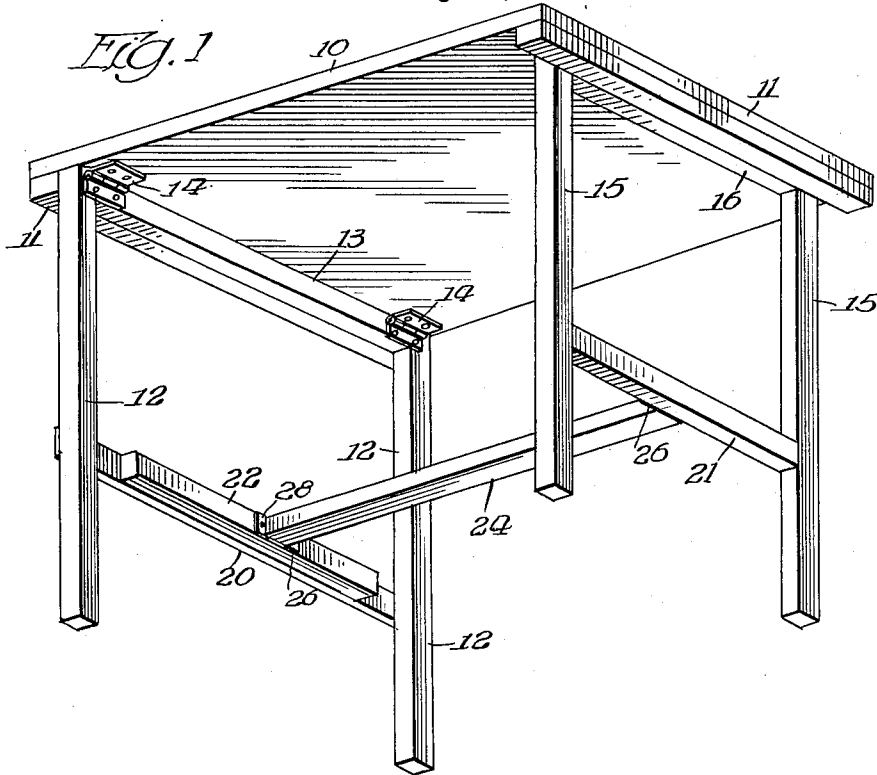
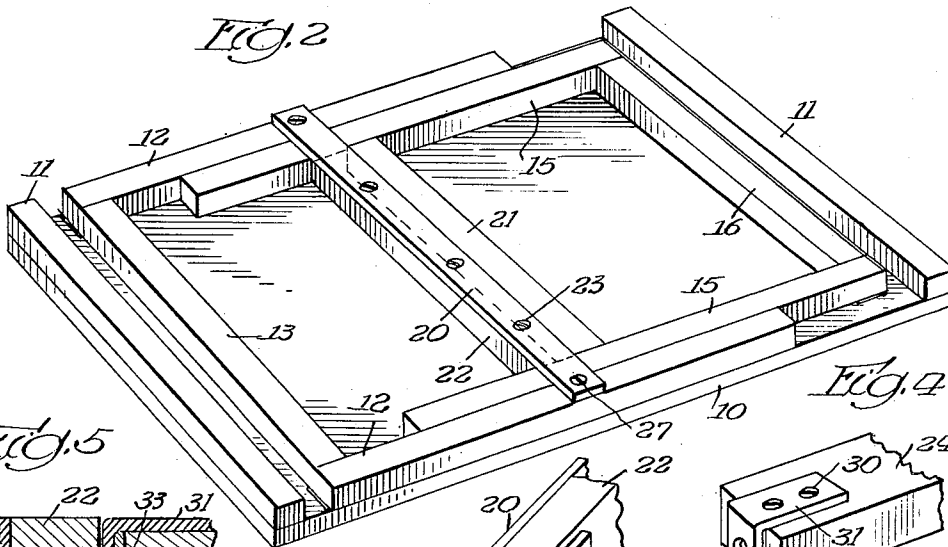
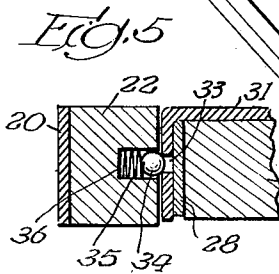


Fig. 3

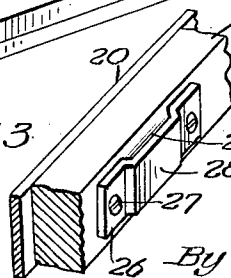
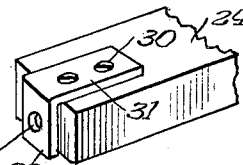


Fig. 4



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,592,839

FOLDING TABLE

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Application August 19, 1947, Serial No. 769,398

1 Claim. (Cl. 311—84)

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The invention relates to folding tables.

One object of the invention is to provide a folding table which is simple in construction, rigid when unfolded for use and in which the leg structures can be folded against the underside of the table for storage or transportation.

Other objects of the invention will appear from the detailed description.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view from the underside of a table unfolded for use;

Fig. 2 is a perspective of the folded table;

Fig. 3 is a perspective illustrating one of the lower cross members and the socket-forming plate thereon;

Fig. 4 is a perspective of one end portion of the strut bar with a hook-plate thereon for connection to the lower cross members; and

Fig. 5 is a vertical section through one end of the strut with the hook-plate thereon and a lower cross member with the spring detent for securing the strut in its operative position.

The invention is exemplified in a table comprising a top 10 and a pair of leg structures hinged to the underside of and along opposite edges of the top. Cleats 11 are rigidly secured to the underside of and extend along opposite edges of the top with their outer faces coplanar with the contiguous edge. One of the leg structures includes a pair of legs 12 and an upper cross bar 13 rigidly secured to said legs. Hinges 14 pivotally connect said leg structure and the top so that the outer face of cross bar 13 and the upper portions of legs 12 fit snugly and abut against the inner face of the contiguous cleat 11.

The opposite leg structure comprises legs 15 and an upper cross bar 16 which rigidly connects the upper ends of said legs and is also connected by hinges 14 to the underside of top 10. The outer face of bar 16 and the upper end portions of legs 15 fit snugly and abut against the inner face of contiguous cleat 11. Legs 15 are spaced apart so that they are adapted to fold between the legs 12.

The legs 12 are rigidly cross connected by a lower member which includes a metal strip 20 which is secured by screws 27 to the coplanar outer faces of said legs. The legs 15 are rigidly connected by a lower cross member which consists of a bar 21. A block 22 is secured by screws 23 to the inner face of metal strip 20 and terminates inwardly of legs 12 to provide spaces between said block 22 and legs 12 into which legs 15 are foldable.

A metal plate is secured by screws 27 to the

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inner face of block 22 and is provided with a central offset portion 28 which forms a socket 29 between the plate and the contiguous face of said block. A similar plate 26 is secured to the inner face of bar 21.

A strut bar 24 is adapted to extend between the lower cross members of the leg structures and to lock them in vertical position so that the outer faces of the upper cross bars 13 and 16 will firmly abut against the inner faces of cleats 11. This strut bar is detachably connected to the cross members to permit the leg structures to be folded. Each end of strut bar 24 has fixedly secured thereto by screws 30 an angle plate 31 which is provided with an angular extension or tongue 32 which is adapted to slidably fit in one of the sockets 29 on the cross bars. Each angular extension 32 is spaced from the contiguous end of bar 24 to provide a space for receiving one of the plates 28 and is adapted to be hooked into either of the sockets 29. Each extension 32 is provided with a hole or recess 33. A ball 34 is confined in a socket 36 which is drilled into block 22 and a spring 35 is confined in said socket to urge ball 34 outwardly to engage recess 33, for holding the strut bar against accidental displacement. A similar spring-pressed ball is provided in the cross bar 21.

When the table is extended or unfolded for use as illustrated in Fig. 1, the upper ends of the leg structures will firmly abut against the inner faces of the cleats 11 and the strut bar 24 will be securely connected to the lower cross members of the leg structures and hold the leg structures firmly and rigidly in vertical relation. When the table is to be folded, the strut bar 24 is unhooked from sockets 29.

The recesses 33 in plates 31 will cam the spring-pressed balls 34 to permit withdrawal of extensions 32 from sockets 29. When the strut bar has been thus disconnected, the leg structure 15, 16, 21 will be folded to lie against the underface of the top. The leg structure 12, 13 with strip 20 and block 22 will next be folded against the underface of top 10, the legs 12 fitting outwardly of and along side legs 15 with the strip 20 overlying the legs 15. The spaces between the ends of block 22 and legs 12 permit the legs 15 to underlie the metal bar 21.

The top 10, cleats 11 and the leg structures with the exception of bar 21 are usually formed of wood. The metal strip 20 provides a stable connection between the legs 12.

The invention exemplifies a foldable table which is simple in construction, readily foldable

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and which when unfolded will form a sturdily supported structure. The strut bars 24 and the inter-fitting connections between plates 31 and 26 and the spring-pressed balls 34 firmly secure the strut bars between the leg structures so that the strut bar will form a rigid lower connection between them. When it is desired to fold the table it is only necessary to disconnect the strut bars 24 from the sockets 29, the spring-pressed balls 34 permitting this to be done. To release the leg structures for folding, it is only necessary to disconnect the strut bar from the leg structures. In unfolding the table it is only necessary to swing the leg structures in a vertical position and secure the strut bar to the lower cross members of the leg structures.

The invention is not to be understood as restricted to the details set forth since these may be modified within the scope of the appended claim without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

Having thus described the invention what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

A folding support comprising: a top; leg structures hinged to and foldable under the top, each structure including a pair of legs and a cross-bar having its ends rigidly secured to one pair of legs; a strut adapted to extend between the cross-bars; devices for detachably connecting the ends of the strut to the cross-bars, each device including a plate formed of flat metal bent to form integral horizontal and vertical flanges, the horizontal flange fitting on and secured on the top face of the strut, each end of the strut being spaced from and parallel to one of the

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vertical flanges, and a plate formed of flat metal having its ends fitting against and secured to inner face of a cross-bar and a central outstruck portion parallel to the inner face of the cross-bar to form an open-ended socket substantially conforming in cross-section to the cross-sectional shape of said vertical flanges, the outstruck portions fitting snugly between the ends of the struts and the vertical flanges, and devices for yieldingly securing the vertical flanges in the offset portions, each including a socket in a cross-bar, a spring-pressed ball in said last named socket and a seat for the ball in the outer face of one of the vertical flanges.

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