United States Patent [19]

Kayner

[11] **3,875,872**

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[54] **WORK TABLE**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **108/1**

[51] **Int. Cl.** **A47f 5/12**

[58] **Field of Search** 108/1, 3, 6, 14

[56] **References Cited**

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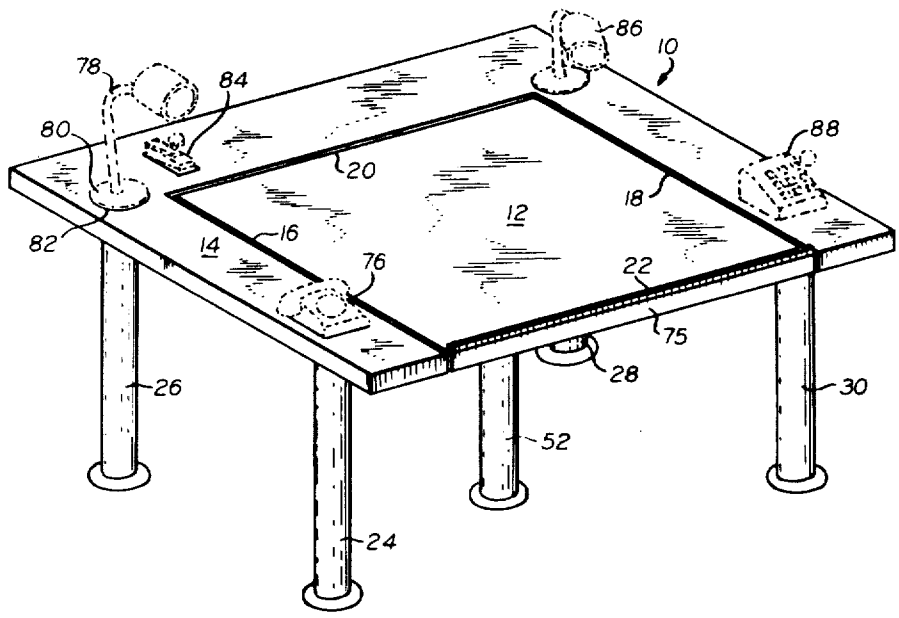
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A work table or desk top having a central work member and a separate marginal member preferably surrounding the central work member on three sides. The central work member is mounted on a pedestal separate from the legs for the marginal work member so that they may be moved vertically relative to one another. The central member may be tilted as well. Means are provided in the marginal member for receiving of various desk implements such as, for example, a telephone, a lamp, a stapler, an adding machine, etc.

5 Claims, 5 Drawing Figures



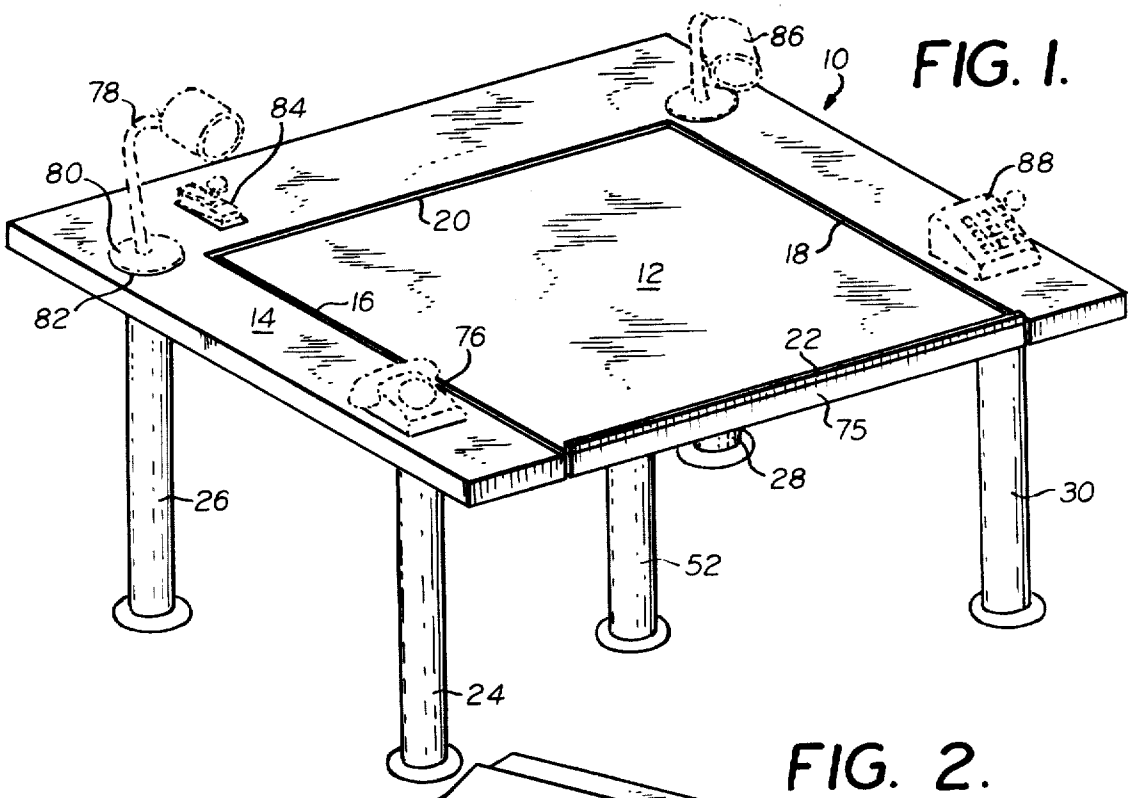
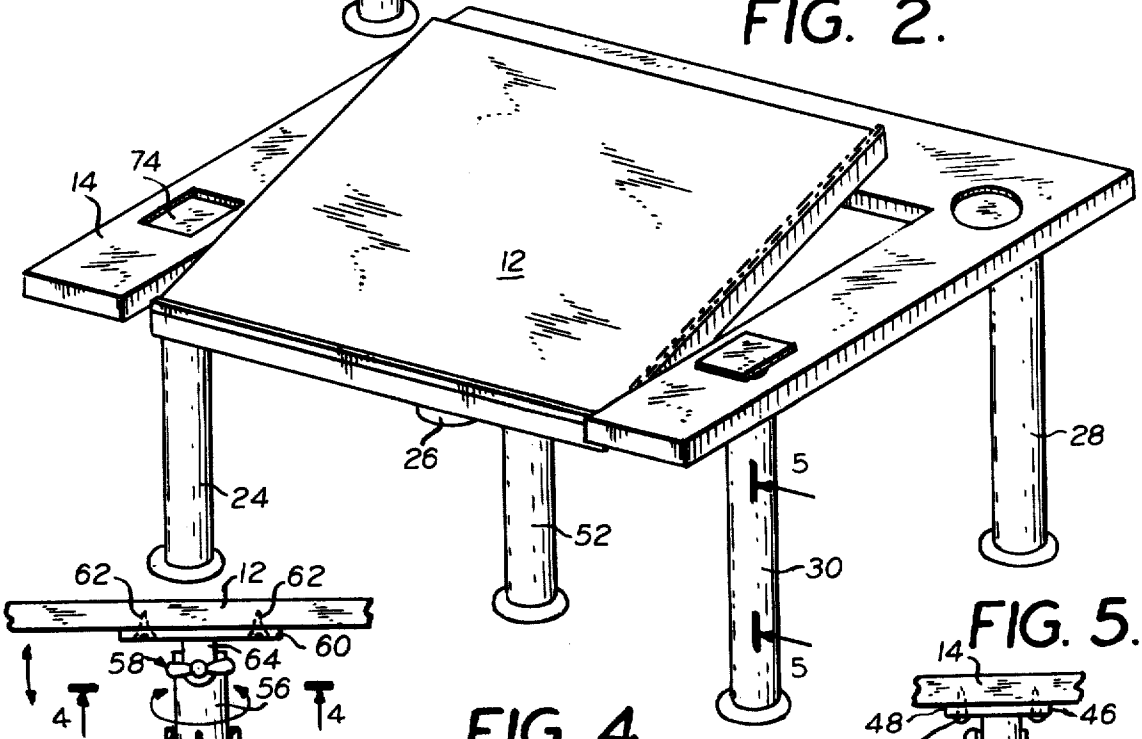


FIG. 1.

FIG. 2.



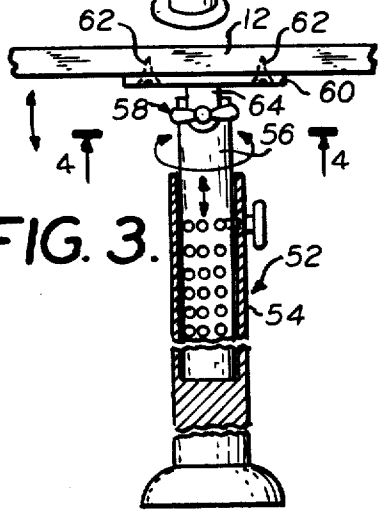


FIG. 3.

FIG. 4.

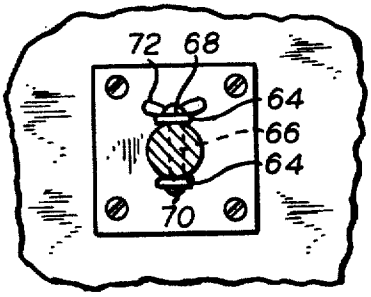
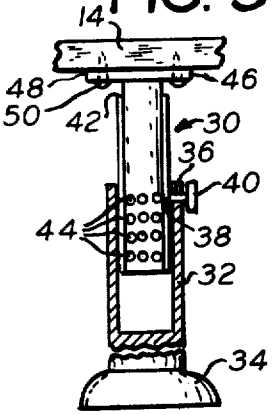


FIG. 5.



WORK TABLE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates to work tables and desks.

2. The Prior Art

It has heretofore been suggested in U.S. Pat. No. 2,707,663 to provide a work surface surrounded by a marginal surface with the work surface being pivotable relative to the marginal surface. Adjustable legs have also been suggested as in U.S. Pat. No. 3,523,702. Moreover, a provision on desks for means to receive with appliances has heretofore been suggested.

However, it has not been suggested heretobefore to provide for a central work surface that is vertically adjustable relative to a surrounding marginal desk portion and which is also tiltable with respect thereto.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A desk or table top comprising a central work member supported by a vertically telescoping pedestal connected to the underside of the central member by a swivel joint. Surrounding the central member on three sides is a marginal work member supported by four legs, preferably vertically adjustable. On the marginal portion, there are complementary means such as protrusions and grooves for receiving implements such as telephones, lamps, staplers, adding machines and the like. The front edge of the central portion of the work surface may be provided with a ridge to prevent pencils and the like from falling off when the central work surface is tilted.

By providing the marginal portion with complementary means for holding a variety of implements, the central work member can be adjusted to whatever attitude is desired by the user without interfering with or knocking over the implements on the marginal member, the implements being securely mounted on the marginal portion of the desk and thus not being affected by the change of attitude of the central portion.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

In the drawing:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a work table embodying the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of said work table from a different vantage, the central portion thereof being tilted out of the plane of the marginal portion;

FIG. 3 is a vertical sectional view of the support pedestal for the central portion of the table;

FIG. 4 is a sectional view taken along the line 4—4 of FIG. 3; and

FIG. 5 is a sectional view taken along the line 5—5 of FIG. 2.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring now to the drawing in detail, the invention is illustrated in the form of a work table **10.** However, as will be obvious to those skilled in the art, the invention is equally applicable to a desk.

The work table **10** comprises a substantially planar central work board or member **12** and a marginal substantially planar work member **14,** the marginal work member herein shown as surrounding the work board **12** on the two sides **16** and **18** and the front **20,** the rear

22 of the work board being accessible to the user generally sitting on a chair or stool or the like.

The U-shaped marginal board is supported by four legs **24, 26, 28** and **30,** which legs are preferably adjustable in length. Leg **30** is shown in section in FIG. **5** by way of example.

Referring now to FIG. **5,** leg **30** comprises a lower tubular member **32** having a flanged bottom or base **34** and a threaded aperture **36** in the wall thereof through which a set screw **38** threadedly extends, the set screw having a hand wheel **40** secured to the outer end thereof for tightening and loosening thereof. Telescoped within the outer tube **32** is an upper inner cylindrical member **42** here shown to have a plurality of rows of apertures or indentations **44** at the lower end thereof, each of said apertures being adapted to receive the set screw **38** for fixing the upper cylinder **42** relative to the lower tube **32.** Clearly, by loosening the set screw **38,** the vertical adjustment of the upper tube **42** relative to the lower tube **32** can be achieved whereby to adjust the overall length of the leg **30.** The leg **30,** and the other legs **24, 26** and **28** may be secured to the marginal table top portion **14** in any suitable manner. As shown by way of example in FIG. **5,** a mounting plate **46** is welded to the top or upper tube **42,** the mounting plate having a plurality of screw holes **48** through which screws **50** extend into the U-shaped table top portion **14.** Clearly, a variety of other means may be employed for effecting this attachment. Suffice it to say, the legs **24** through **30** are all vertically adjustable and are preferably arranged to maintain the marginal table portion **14** in a horizontal plane.

The central work board or member **12** is mounted on a central pedestal **52** which is adjustable in length. Specifically, the central pedestal **52** includes a lower telescoping tube **54** and an upper telescoping cylinder or tube **56** which may be substantially identical in construction to corresponding parts of the legs **24** through **30.** However, the upper tube **56** is not secured rigidly to the under surface of central work board **12** in the manner of the legs **24** to **30.** Instead, interposed between the top of the member **56** and the bottom of the central work member **12** is a pivot **58** which will permit the member **12** to pivot from the position shown in FIG. **1** to the position shown in FIG. **2.**

Specifically, a connecting plate **60** is threadedly secured to the underside of the central member **12** as by screws **62.** Fixed to the bottom of plate **60** by welding or the like are a pair of depending, spaced apart ears **64,** the space between them being about equal to the diameter of the upper tube **56.** Provided adjacent the upper end of tube or pipe **56** is an aperture **66** extending diametrically therethrough. The aperture **66** is registrable with apertures **68** in the ears **64.** Extending through the registered apertures **64** and **66** is a screw **70** having a wing nut **72** threadedly mounted thereon. When the wing nut is tightened, the ears **64** are fixed against pivotal movement relative to the tube **56.** However, when the wing nut is loosened, the ears can pivot whereby to permit the pivotal movement of the central member **12** as hereinbefore described.

Thus, it will be seen that the central leg **52** may be vertically adjusted to adjust the vertical position of the central member **12** relative to the marginal U-shaped member **14.** To prevent articles from rolling or sliding off the central member **12** when it is tilted, a strip **75** which extneds above the plane of central member **12**

is fixed to the rear edge **22** thereof, preferably along the entire length of said edge.

As may best be seen in FIGS. **1** and **2**, the marginal U-shaped member **14** is provided with a plurality of means that are complementary to the bases of a number of implements for holding said implements on said U-shaped member. Thus, for example, a rectangular recess **74** may be provided, as in the left hand leg of member **14**, for receiving the base of a telephone **76** therein whereby to locate the telephone and to releasably hold it in that desirable position. Likewise, a lamp **78** may have its base **80** located within a recess **82** in the member **14**. Other implements such as a stapler **84**, a spotlight **86** and a calculator **88** may be releasably located on the U-shaped member **14** as by means complementary to the bases thereof. If the base of the implement is hollow, then a protruding complementary means may be provided on member **14**; if the base of the implement is solid, then a hollowed out recess may be provided in member **14** to receive the base of the implement.

The work table or desk top is disposed with the legs on the floor. The legs **24** through **30** are adjusted to a height that is desired by the user. The pedestal **52** is also adjusted vertically so that central member **12** may be in or out of co-planar relationship with the U-shaped member **14**, depending on the desires of the user. In addition, depending upon the work to be done by the user, he may change the angular attitude of the central member **12** as from a horizontal attitude to a slanting attitude. In accordance with one important feature of the present invention, it will be noted that the two portions **12** and **14** may be maintained co-planar and adjusted to any desired height or they may be adjusted so that the central member **12** is in a different plane than the member **14**, either above or below. Further, the member **12** can be readily tilted without interfering with the applicances that are securely held in the complementary means on the marginal portion **14**. Clearly, this could not be achieved if the applicances were to be mounted on the central portion.

If the invention is to be incorporated in a desk, especially one having a chest of drawers, then one or both of the legs of U-shaped marginal member **14** will be proportioned to overlie said chest or chests of drawers. If it is desired to maintain the feature of vertical adjustability for marginal portion **14**, then the legs can be maintained and located outboard or inboard of said chest or chests of drawers, or vertically adjustable members can be interposed between the top of said chest or chests of drawers and the bottom of said marginal member. If the chest is to be only on one side, then legs will be employed to support the other side.

With a table top or desk embodying the features as above described, it will be seen that the table top or desk is adaptable to a number of different tasks by virtue of the movable central member **12** relative to the marginal portion **14**. Thus, for example, the entire surface can function as a unit as a standard desk when the two portions of the top are co-planar as shown in FIG. **1**. Alternatively, the central portion, still horizontal, can be moved upwardly or downwardly toward the eyes of the viewer to adapt to different types of work and the central portion may be tilted so as to perfect drafting exercises or the like and in the tilted position, it may be raised or lowered. All of this can be done with the implements remaining steady and undistrubed on the marginal portion, being releasably held thereon by the complementary holding means. Thus, the desk or table top described herein yields enormous versatility in use, adaptability to the vision and nature of work of particular users and it produces predetermined locations for implements commonly associated with the desk.

While I have herein shown and described the preferred form of the present invention and have suggested modification thereto, other changes and modifications may be made therein within the scope of the appended claims without departing from the spirit and scope of this invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A desk-table top comprising:

a central portion;

a marginal portion separate from and disposed alongside of at least one edge of said central portion;

a first leg means supporting said marginal portion;

a second adjustable length leg separate from said first leg means and means connected to said central portion for vertically adjustably positioning said central portion relative to said marginal portion;

pivot means connecting said second adjustable length leg means to said central portion for permitting the selection of the angular attitude of said central portion; and

operatively connected to said second leg means and said central portion means releasably holding said central portion in any selected angular attitude.

2. The desk-table top of claim **1**, wherein said marginal portion is U-shaped and surrounds said central portion of three sides.

3. The desk-table top of claim **2**, wherein said leg means for said marginal portion are adjustable length.

4. The desk-table top of claim **3**, further comprising means on said marginal portion for releasably holding a plurality of implements thereon.

5. The desk-table top of claim **4**, wherein said adjustable length leg means for both said marginal portion and said central portion comprise a pair of elongated telescoping members and means for releasably holding said telescoping members in a selected position.

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