United States Patent [19]

Amos

[11] **3,926,488**

[45] **Dec. 16, 1975**

[54] **STORAGE ATTACHMENT FOR TABLES, WALL PICTURES, AND THE LIKE**

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[22] Filed: **Nov. 11, 1974**

[21] Appl. No.: **522,984**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **312/241;** 312/204; 312/284

[51] **Int. Cl.**[2] **A47B 85/00**

[58] **Field of Search** 312/137, 196, 241, 284, 312/204; 273/5; 108/60

[56] **References Cited**

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Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Schlesinger, Arkwright, Garvey & Dinsmore

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A storage attachment for tables, wall pictures and like objects having planar surfaces. The attachment includes a semiflexible collar having walls engaged with the outer periphery of the planar surface, and extending beyond the limits thereof, thereby providing a storage area between the collar walls. The storage area may be enclosed by placement of a member over the storage area and in engagement with that portion of the collar remote from the planar surface.

12 Claims, 4 Drawing Figures

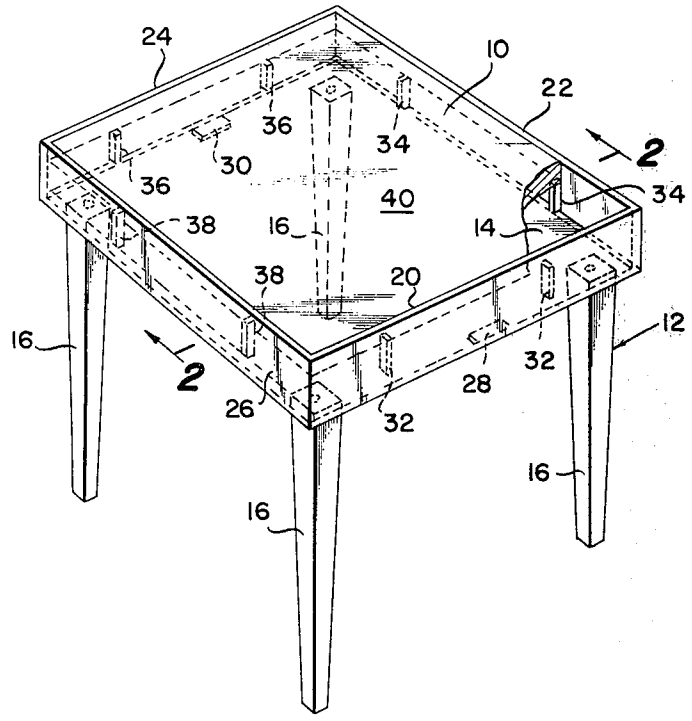


Fig. 1

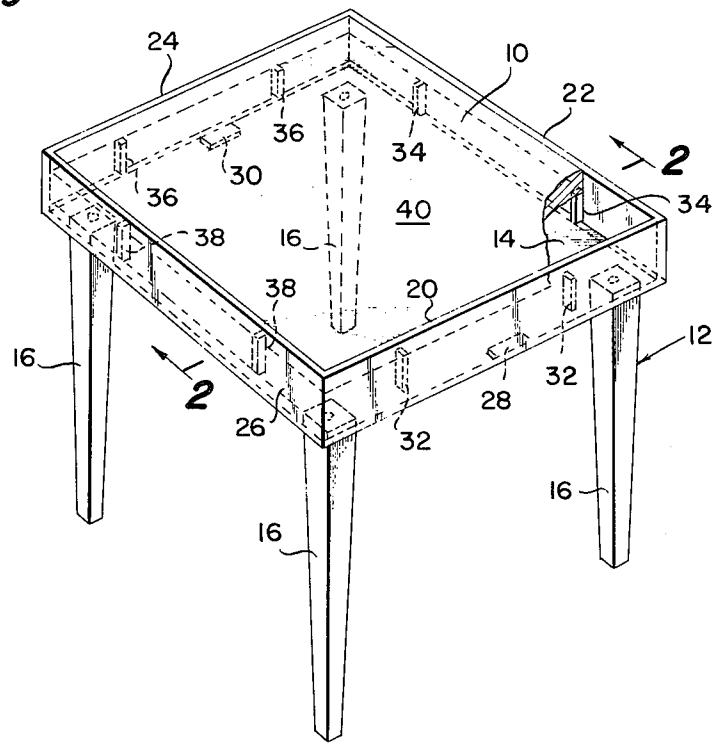

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Fig. 2

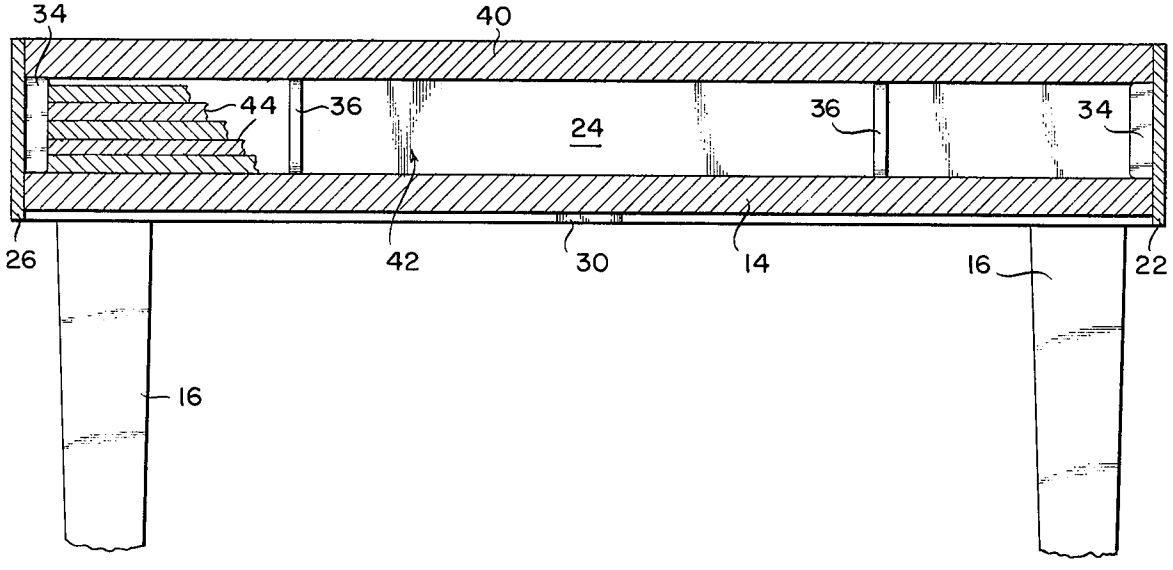

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Fig. 3

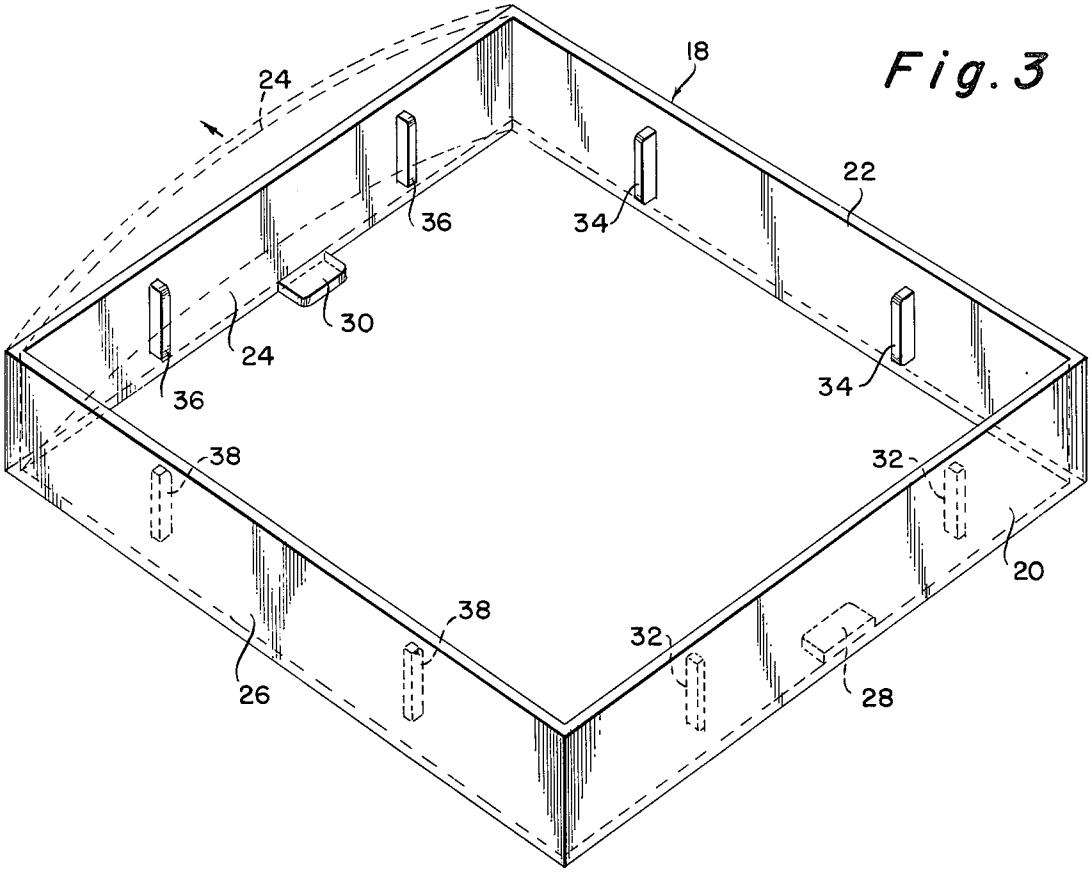
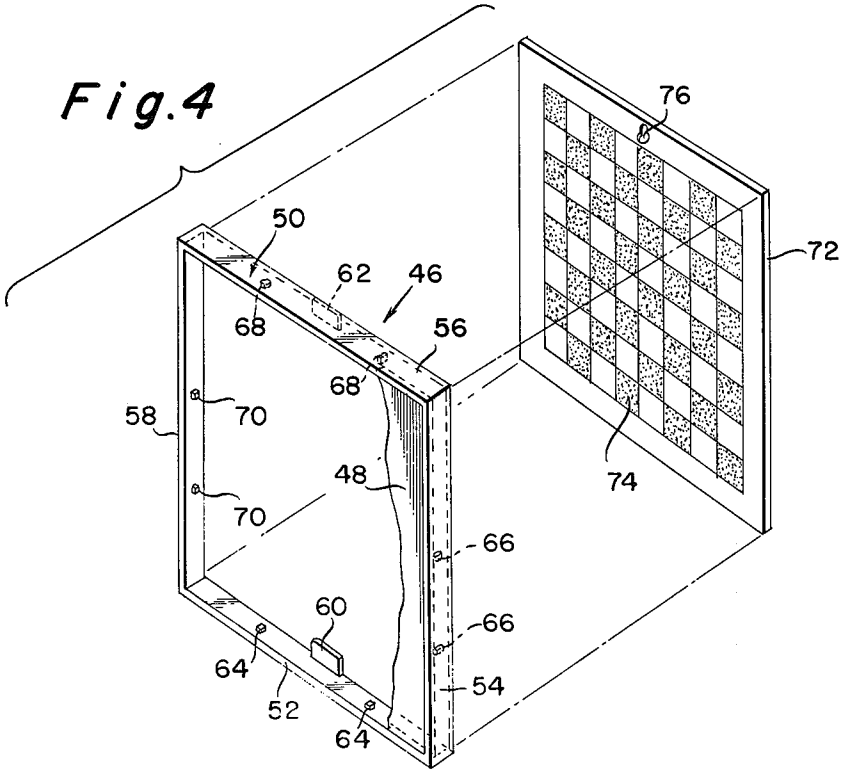

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Fig. 4


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STORAGE ATTACHMENT FOR TABLES, WALL PICTURES, AND THE LIKE

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTS

It frequently occurs that many living or work facilities lack sufficient storage areas for relatively small items such as gameboards, game pieces, tools, and other articles normally used in certain areas of the facilities. Even where there are storage areas, such as cabinets, closets, etc., such are made with the sole purpose of being for storage and do not serve any other useful purpose.

It is an object of this invention to provide a storage attachment for commonly used household items such as tables, wall pictures and the like, which attachment is readily engaged with the table or picture to enable them to perform a storage function in addition to the utility or decorative function of the item.

Another object is to provide a storage attachment of the character described which is readily engaged with a planar surface of the article to which it is attached, the attachment including means for hiding from view the items stored therein, but wherein the items are readily accessible when needed.

A further object is to provide a storage attachment which comprises a collar adaptor which may be readily fitted to a table or wall picture, the collar being of economic construction and readily manufactured in different shapes and sizes for attachment to a variety of articles having planar surfaces.

Other objects will be apparent from the following description of the presently preferred forms of the invention, taken in connection with the appended drawings.

DESCRIPTION OF FIGURES OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the storage attachment of the present invention, illustrating its use as applied to a table, a portion thereof being broken away to disclose details of construction;

FIG. 2 is an enlarged sectional view taken along the line 2—2 of FIG. 1, looking in the direction of the arrows;

FIG. 3 is an enlarged perspective view of the collar forming a part of the storage attachment of the invention, and

FIG. 4 is an exploded perspective view of the storage attachment of the present invention illustrating its application to a wall picture, a portion thereof being broken away to disclose details of construction.

DESCRIPTION OF FORM OF INVENTION ILLUSTRATED IN FIGS. 1 TO 3

In FIGS. 1 and 2 there is illustrated a storage attachment constructed in accordance with the present invention which is generally designated **10** applied to a conventional table **12** which includes a table top **14** and legs **16.**

Referring to FIG. 3, storage attachment **10** comprises a collar **18** adapted for contiguous engagement with the edges of the table top which collar is preferably constructed of a semirigid material such as polypropylene. Collar **18** is of polygonal shape, and includes side members **20, 22, 24** and **26** which are of a predetermined height. Sides **20** and **24** are provided with opposed, inwardly extending supporting tabs **28** and **30** which are preferably coplanar with the lower edges of walls **20** and **24.** Sides **20, 22, 24** and **26** are further provided

with a plurality of spaced ribs indicated at **32, 34, 36** and **38,** which ribs extend transversely of the sides, are of uniform length and in the same predetermined spaced relation with respect to the longitudinal edges of the side members.

It will be noted from FIG. 2 that a terminal of ribs **32** and **36** are transversely spaced from tabs **28** and **30,** a distance which is substantially equal to the thickness of table top **14.** The opposite terminal of each of said ribs **32, 34, 36** and **38** is spaced from a longitudinal edge of the side members a distance substantially equal to the thickness of a removable cover member **40** adapted for fitting engagement within the confines of the collar, the top of the cover being substantially coplanar with the upper edge of the collar. Cover **40** and table top **14** lie in a spaced relation thereby providing a storage area **42** therebetween which is adapted to receive household items such as gameboards **44,** or other articles which are to be stored.

The storage attachment of the present invention is readily engaged with table **12** by placing the same over table top **14** and then successively bowing sides **20** and **24** (see FIG. 3) thereof to permit tabs **28** and **30** to be positioned beneath table top **14.** Tabs **28** and **30** then serve as abutments or stops to prevent any relative upward movement of the collar with respect to the table, and vertical ribs **32, 34, 36** and **38,** engaged with the upper face of table top **14,** positively prevent any downward movement of the collar with respect to the table. Cover member **40** may be positioned within the confines of the collar, ribs **32, 34, 36** and **38** serving as stops or abutments to maintain the top thereafter in substantially flush position with respect to the upper edge of the collar.

When it is desired to remove any object or objects from the storage chamber, it is only necessary that any of walls **20, 22, 24** or **26** be bowed outwardly slightly with one finger, while inserting the other finger into the space between the bowed wall and cover member **40** to lift the latter out of engagement with the collar. In the event that gameboards **44** or other large items which take up substantially all of the space between the sides of the collar are stored within chamber **42,** any of of flexible walls **20, 22, 24** and **26** may be urged outwardly to facilitate removal of the item from the storage area.

DESCRIPTION OF FORM OF INVENTION ILLUSTRATED IN FIG. 4

In FIG. 4, the attachment of the present invention is designated **46** and is shown in engagement with a wall picture **48,** the attachment serving as a frame for the picture. Attachment **46** includes a collar **50** embodying four sides **52, 54, 56** and **58,** sides **52** and **56** being provided with opposed, inwardly extending supporting tabs **60** and **62,** each of which lies in coplanar relation with a longitudinal edge of the side with which it is engaged and in spaced relation to other longitudinal edges thereof. Sides **52, 54, 56** and **58** are respectively provided with ribs **64, 66, 68** and **70** which are in spaced relation to the longitudinal edges of their respective sides. One terminal of ribs **64, 66, 68** and **70** serve to position picture **48** and may be adhesively secured, or affixed in any other suitable manner to thereby retain the picture in place within the attachment when hung on the wall. The opposite terminal of ribs **64** and **68** are spaced from tabs **60** and **62** respectively a distance equal to the thickness of a cover member **72,** one side of which may be a gameboard **74.** An

opening **76** is provided to facilitate hanging of the picture on the wall.

Cover member **72** may be applied to collar **50** in the same manner as in the form of invention illustrated in FIGS. **1** to **3**, with tabs **60** and **62** engaged with the outer face of cover member **72**. There is thereby formed a storage area between picture **48** and cover **72** which may be used for storage of game pieces for the gameboard or any other items to be stored.

With the attachment of the present invention, there is provided simple, low cost means for providing storage area for furniture, wall pictures, and other household items having a planar surface. With this invention also, the items stored are readily inserted into the storage area and are easily accessible when needed. When stored, these items are hidden from view, the item to which the present invention is attached serving its normal function in addition to its storage capacity.

While there has been herein shown and described the presently preferred forms of this invention, it is to be understood that such has been done for purposes of illustration, and various changes may be made therein within the scope of the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. A storage attachment for a member having a planar surface of polygonal shape, the attachment including:

a. a polygonal collar comprising a plurality of sides of predetermined height in contiguous relation with the peripheral edges of the planar surface of the member,

b. said collar being constructed of a semiflexible material to permit relative movement of the component parts thereof,

c. internal ribs extending transversely of the sides of said collar and spaced from the longitudinal edges thereof, and

d. supporting tabs engaged with a plurality of the sides of said collar and extending inwardly thereof,

e. each of said supporting tabs being substantially coplanar with a longitudinal edge of a side of said collar, whereby edges of the planar surface may be positioned between said supporting tabs and transverse ribs by flexing one of the sides of said collar,

f. the height of the sides of said collar being greater than that of the planar surface to provide a storage area defined by the planar surface and collar.

2. The storage attachment of claim **1** with the addition of:

a. a cover member having a second planar surface,

b. the sides of said collar being in substantially contiguous relation with the periphery of said cover member and said second planar surface being supported by said internal ribs in spaced relation to the planar surface of the member.

3. A storage attachment for a member having a planar surface of polygonal shape, the attachment including:

a. a polygonal collar comprising a plurality of sides of predetermined height in contiguous relation with the peripheral edges of the planar surface of the member,

b. said collar being constructed of a semiflexible material to permit relative movement of the component parts thereof,

c. internal ribs extending transversely of the sides of said collar and spaced from the longitudinal edges thereof,

d. supporting tabs engaged with a plurality of the sides of said collar and extending inwardly thereof,

e. each of said supporting tabs being substantially coplanar with a longitudinal edge of a side of said collar, and

f. a cover member positioned within said collar between an edge of said collar and said internal ribs by flexing one of the sides of said collar,

g. the planar surface of the member being positioned within said collar in spaced relation to said cover member, whereby a storage area is formed therebetween.

4. A storage attachment for a member having a planar surface, the attachment including:

a. collar means in contiguous engagement with the peripheral edges of the planar surface,

b. said collar means being constructed of a semi-flexible material and comprising a plurality of side members,

c. a portion of said collar means extending beyond the limits of the planar surface to provide a storage area defined by the collar means and planar surface,

d. supporting tabs extending inwardly of said collar means into engagement with the member,

e. rib means extending transversely of said collar means and spaced from said supporting tabs,

f. the planar surface of the member being engaged with said rib means at a point remote from said supporting tabs, and

g. a cover member positioned within said collar means between said rib means and a limit of said collar means,

h. said cover member being in spaced relation to the planar surface of the member.

5. A storage attachment for a member having a planar surface, the attachment including:

a. collar means in contiguous engagement with the periphery of the member,

b. said collar means being constructed of a semiflexible material to permit relative movement of portions thereof, whereby engagement of the collar means with the member is facilitated,

c. a portion of said collar means extending beyond the limits of the member to provide a storage area defined by the collar means and the planar surface of the member, and

d. means for holding said collar means in engagement with the member.

6. The storage attachment of claim **5**, with the addition of:

a. a cover member engaged with said collar means in spaced relation to the planar surface of the member.

7. The storage attachment of claim **6**, wherein:

a. said cover member has a second planar surface,

b. the inner periphery of said collar means being in substantially contiguous relation with the outer periphery of said cover member.

8. The storage attachment of claim **7**, with the addition of:

a. means carried by said collar means for holding said cover member in spaced relation to the planar surface of the member.

9. A storage attachment for a member having a planar surface of polygonal shape, the attachment including:

a. a polygonal collar comprising a plurality of sides of predetermined height in contiguous relation with the peripheral edges of the planar surface of the member,

b. said collar being constructed of a semiflexible material to permit relative flexing movement of the sides of said collar, whereby engagement of said collar with the member is facilitated,

c. a portion of said collar extending beyond the limits of the member to provide a storage area defined by said collar and the planar surface of the member, and

d. supporting tabs engaged with a plurality of the sides of said member and extending inwardly thereof into engagement with the member.

10. The storage attachment of claim **9,** with the addition of:

a. a cover member engaged with said collar in spaced relation to the planar surface of the member.

11. The storage attachment of claim **10,** wherein:

a. said cover member has a second planar surface,

b. the inner periphery of said collar being in substantially contiguous relation with the outer periphery of said cover member.

12. The storage attachment of claim **11,** with the addition of:

a. spaced abutment means on the inner periphery of the sides of the collar for supporting said cover member in spaced relation to the planar surface of the member.

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