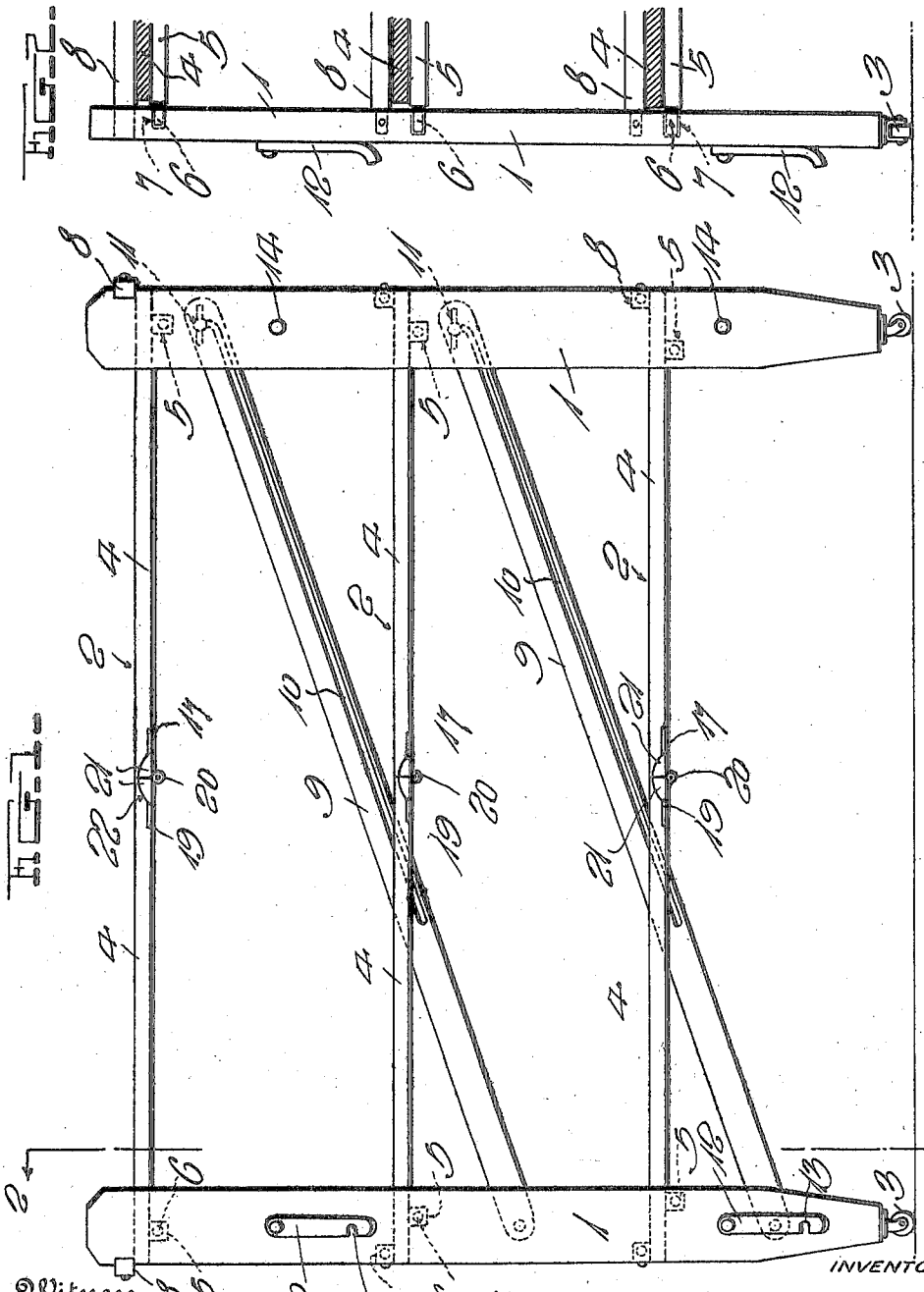
Jan. 9, 1923. 1,442,019.

W. L. WHITESIDES.

TABLE.

FILED MAY 25, 1922. 2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



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TABLE.

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

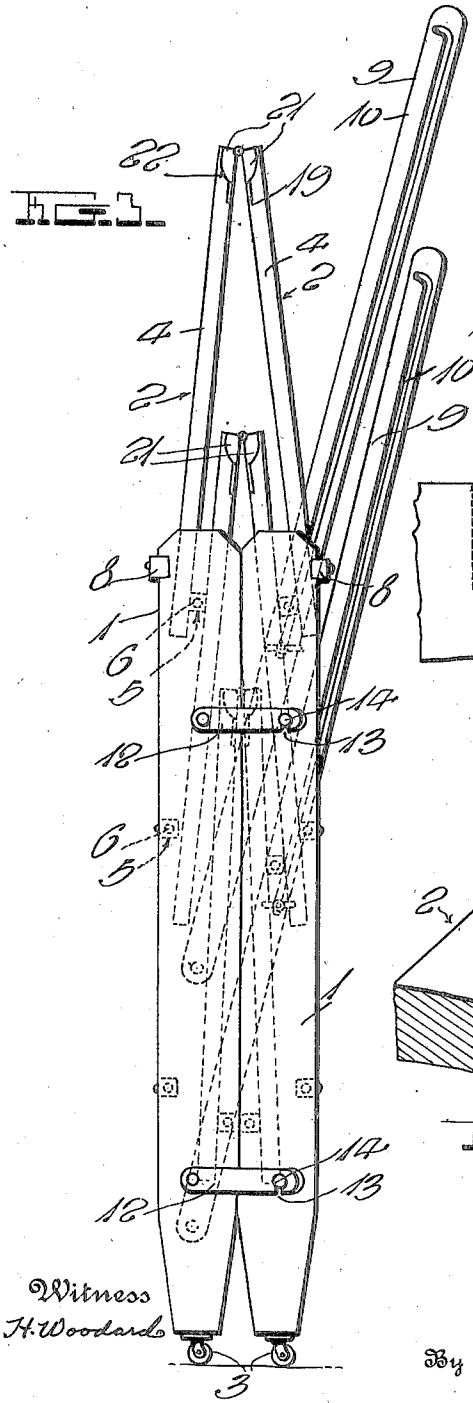


FIG. 3.

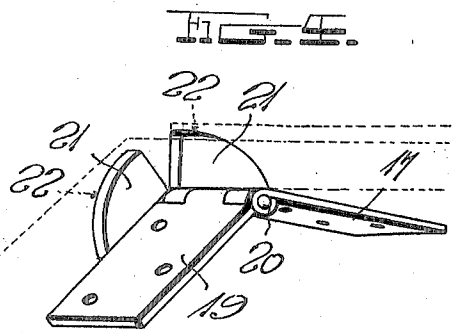


FIG. 4.

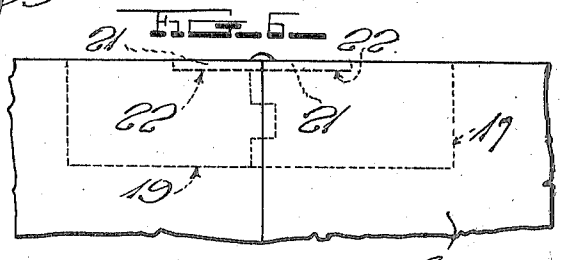


FIG. 6.

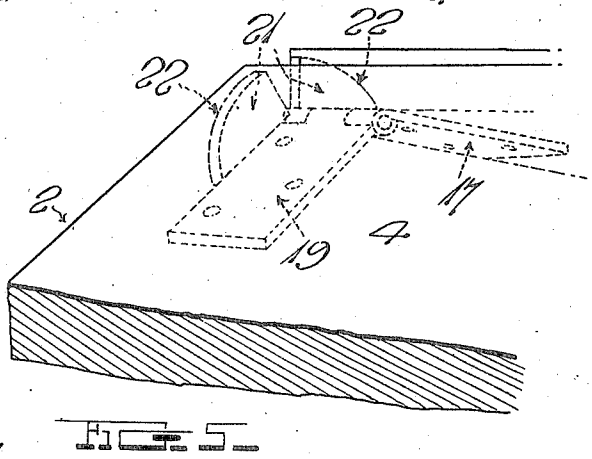


FIG. 5.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WALTER L. WHITESIDES, OF LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA.

## TABLE.

Application filed May 25, 1922. Serial No. 563,467.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WALTER L. WHITESIDES, a citizen of the United States, residing at Long Beach, in the county of Los Angeles and State of California, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Tables; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to an improved table which is adaptable for use as a display table, although it is primarily designed for use as a kitchen table.

The principal object of the invention is to provide an improved table which is capable of being collapsed or folded into compact form so as to enable it to be stored in an out-of-the-way place when not in use.

It is another object of the invention to generally improve upon tables of this class by providing one of extreme simplicity and durability, which is comparatively inexpensive to both the manufacturer and the user.

More specifically speaking, it is a further object of the invention to devise a unique table embodying a plurality of foldable superposed supporting surfaces for various articles, these being pivotally connected at their outer ends with legs designed to be brought into abutting relation when the table is folded and not in use.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent during the course of the following description.

In the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification and in which like numerals are employed to designate like parts throughout the same:

Figure 1 is a side elevational view of a table constructed in accordance with this invention.

Figure 2 is a sectional view taken substantially on the plane of the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Figure 3 is a side elevation showing the table folded or collapsed.

Figure 4 is an enlarged detail perspective view of the improved connecting member for the sections of the superposed supporting members.

Figure 5 is a similar view showing said member connected with the sections of one of the supporting members with said sections partially folded.

Figure 6 is a top plan view of these parts of the invention showing the sections folded into the same horizontal plane.

In carrying out the invention, I contemplate using a table which comprises a plurality of vertically disposed legs 1 between which are arranged a plurality of horizontally disposed superposed article supports 2, the upper one of which may be conveniently referred to as a top, and the remaining ones as shelves. Inasmuch as the top is constructed exactly like the shelves and is connected with the legs in precisely the same manner, the description will be in the singular, it being understood that the same reference characters serve to designate all like parts. Before proceeding to describe the construction of the table top, it may be mentioned that if desired, the legs may be provided at their lower ends with rollers or casters 3 to facilitate movement of the table from place to place. Although the table top could be constructed otherwise, it is preferably composed of duplicate sections 4 having their inner ends arranged in abutting relation and connected together by novel connecting members or hinges to be hereinafter specifically described. It will be noted that at their outer ends, the sections 4 rest on and are secured to horizontal cross-bars 5 which extend between the legs 1 in the manner shown. So that the legs may approach one another to permit folding of the table, it is necessary that the cross-bars 5 be movable and although they may be connected with the legs in any other manner they are preferably formed at their outer ends with reduced journals 6 rotatably receivable in sockets 7 formed in the inner faces of the legs. Co-operative with the cross-bars 5 are other cross-bars 8 which are rigidly secured with the legs in any suitable manner. The last named cross-bars 8 are disposed above the movable ones so as to permit the ends of the top sections to be disposed between the bars as illustrated. The stationary bars 8 are thus permitted to function as stops and

they serve to limit the upward swinging movement of the outer ends of the sections 4 as is obvious. To hold the parts in operative position when the table is in use, I employ diagonal braces or sustaining members 9 formed with longitudinal slots 10 for cooperation with the thumb-screws 11 intended to be positioned in the laterally directed upper ends of the slots. Any other suitable type of braces may be employed if desired. It is of course desirable to make use of some means for holding the table in the collapsed condition shown in Figure 3 and although any other means could be employed, I simply use pivoted latches 12 having notches 13 at their free ends for engagement with headed pins or studs 14 carried by one of the legs.

It has been before intimated that I employ special means for connecting the meeting edges of the sections of the table top together. Therefore, I direct attention to Figures 4 to 6 wherein this means is more clearly shown. Although the construction of the connecting members could be of other design, each member preferably comprises a pair of apertured leaves or plates 17 and 19 which are pivotally connected together at their inner ends by the knuckles and pintle as indicated at 20. In practice these leaves are adapted to be set in recesses formed in the under sides of the sections 4 so that a leaf will be connected with each section on opposite sides of the meeting ends. So that the sections cannot sag at this point, each leaf is equipped with a laterally disposed sectors 21 which are adapted for reception in shallow recesses 22 formed in the outer edges of the supporting sections 4. The inner adjacent edges of these sectors 21 are adapted to abut one another so as to limit the swinging movement of the hinged leaves in an upward direction, whereby to hold them in a true horizontal plane when the table is in use. It is of course understood that two connecting members will be used for each supporting surface, one being disposed at each of the outer longitudinal edges of the sections 4 as indicated in the drawings. It is obvious that connecting members of this type are particularly advantageous in that they are extremely inexpensive and very simple in construction, yet they are such as to effectively accomplish the desired ends. It is to be noted that the laterally disposed sectors 21 do not extend to the upper surface of the top and they are practically invisible when looking down upon the supporting surfaces.

It has been already set forth that the shelves beneath the top are constructed exactly like the top and are connected with the legs in precisely the same manner. Therefore, it is unnecessary to enter additional description on these details of the invention.

Assuming that the table is in use, it appears as shown clearly in Figure 1, the several sections of the top and shelves being disposed in the same horizontal plane permit numerous articles to be supported thereon either for use in a kitchen or for display purposes. The braces 9 serve to hold the legs upright. By loosening the thumb-screws however, it will be seen that the several legs 1 could be moved into abutting relation. While the legs are approaching one another, the sections of the top and shelves are automatically broken, swung up, and assume the divergent positions shown. When the legs come together, the latches 12 are engaged with the pins 14 to hold the parts in this folded condition. Hence, the table can be stored in a relatively small space.

It is evident from the foregoing description in connection with the drawings, that persons familiar with devices of this class will doubtless be able to obtain a clear understanding of the invention. Therefore, a more lengthy and detailed description is deemed unnecessary.

Since probably the best results may be obtained with the construction and arrangement herein shown and described, this is taken as the preferred embodiment of the invention. However, I wish it to be understood that minor changes coming within the scope of the invention as claimed may be resorted to if desired.

I claim:

1. A folding table comprising a plurality of supporting legs, cross-bars pivotally connected with said legs, and a sectional top, the sections thereof resting on said cross-bars and being secured thereto.

2. The structure set forth in claim 1, together with stops arranged on the legs above said cross-bars and engageable with the upper sides of the top to limit the upward movement of the pivoted sections thereof.

3. A folding table comprising a plurality of vertically disposed supporting legs, a horizontal top composed of sections pivotally connected together at their inner ends, horizontally disposed upper and lower spaced bars connected with the legs, the outer ends of the sections of the top being disposed between said bars, the lower bars being pivoted and the upper bars being rigid and said sections of the top being secured to the pivoted bars.

4. A folding table comprising a plurality of vertically disposed spaced legs formed with horizontal bearing sockets, horizontally disposed bars having their outer ends reduced to form journals rotatable in said

sockets, and a top composed of folding sections, said sections being secured at their outer ends to said bars.

5. The structure set forth in claim 4, together with additional horizontal bars rigidly secured to the legs and spaced above the first named bars, said rigid bars being engageable with the upper faces of the sections of said top to limit the swinging movement of these in one direction.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

WALTER L. WHITESIDES.

Witnesses:

BERTHA L. HILLARY,

LAURA B. SCOTT.