July 22, 1924. 1,502,215

M. A. SOHST

CLAMP

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Fig. 1.

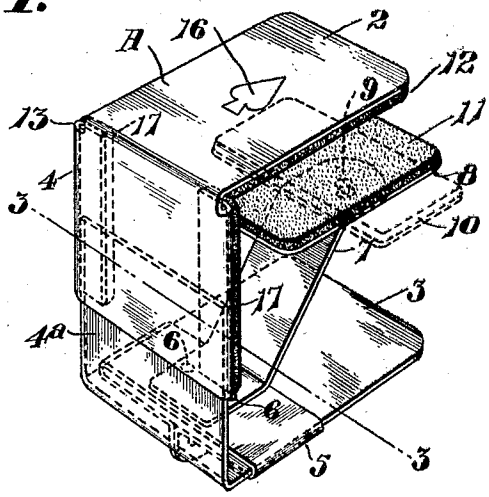


Fig. 2.

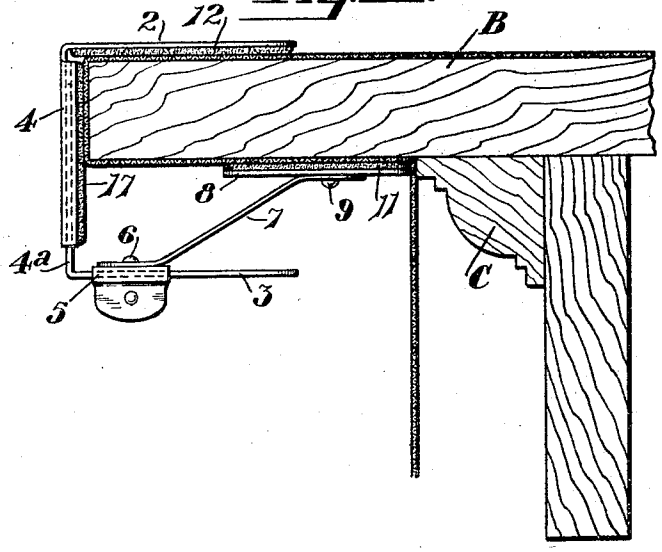
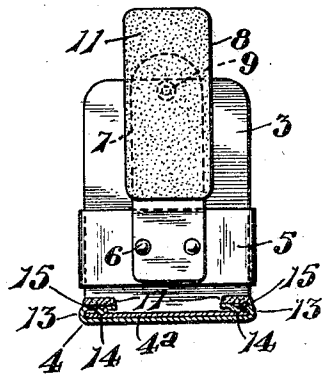


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MARTIN A. SOHST, OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

CLAMP.

Application filed November 1, 1922. Serial No. 598,241.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MARTIN A. SOHST, a citizen of the United States, residing at the city and county of San Francisco and State of California, have invented new and useful Improvements in a Clamp, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a clamp and especially to an adjustable spring clamp which may be readily attached to the edge of a table for the purpose of securing the table cloth in a stretched or taut condition and against accidental displacement or removal.

The object of the present invention is to generally improve and simplify devices of the character described; to provide a clamp which will grip the table edge and cloth with spring tension and prevent tearing of the cloth or marring of the table; and further a clamp which may be quickly attached or removed, and which is both vertically and longitudinally adjustable to take care of table tops of varying thickness and depth. Other objects will hereinafter appear.

One form which my invention may assume is exemplified in the following description and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the clamp.

Fig. 2 is a partial sectional view of a table showing the application of the clamp.

Fig. 3 is a cross section on line 3—3, Fig. 1.

Referring to the drawings in detail, and particularly to Figs. 1 and 3, A indicates in general a U-shaped clamp, consisting of a top leg 2, a lower leg 3, and a vertical leg 4. Slidably mounted on the lower leg 3 is a clip 5, and attached thereto as at 6 is a leaf spring 7, on the upper end of which is mounted a clamping plate 8. This plate is pivotally attached to the upper end of the leaf spring, as shown at 9, and may therefore be turned to assume the position shown in Fig. 1, or the transverse position indicated by dotted lines at 10.

The upper surface of the clamping member 8 is covered with felt or a similar fabric, as shown at 11, to prevent marring of the table edge or tearing of the cloth, and the lower face of the upper leg 2 is similarly lined as at 12. The clamp as a whole in reality consists of two sections, that is the vertical leg 4, which connects the upper and lower legs, is so constructed that it may be vertically adjustable to take care of table edges of varying thickness. This is accomplished by forming a pair of inturned flanges as shown at 13. These flanges are formed as an integral part of the leg 4, and the top leg 2, and these flanges form a guide for a leg 4^a, which is formed as an integral part of the lower leg 3. The leg 4^a passes upwardly between the inturned flanges 13 and as such permits extension or construction of the vertical leg.

For the purpose of locking the vertical leg sections 4 and 4^a against extension when adjusted, a spring lock is employed. This lock is produced by indentations 14 formed in the leg section 4^a, and similar shaped projections 15 are formed in the inturned flanges 13.

Most table tops, such as shown at B in Fig. 2, vary in thickness and such thickness may be readily taken care of in the present instance by adjusting the vertical legs 4 and 4^a with relation to each other, and it may also be taken care of due to the fact that the clamping member 8 is resiliently supported with relation to the lower leg 3 by means of the interposed leaf spring 7. The edge clearance between the outer edge of the table top and the trim or molding shown at C also varies to a considerable extent and this may be taken care of by longitudinal adjustment of the clip 5, and in some instances by turning the clamping member 8 to assume the transverse position shown by dotted lines at 10 in Fig. 1.

The clamp has many uses, for instance, when playing cards or other games it is often desirable to cover the table with a cloth or the like. In such instances the cloth often becomes displaced or accidentally removed and as such is more or less of a nuisance, but by employing clamps such as here shown, the cloth may be securely fastened and stretched and a smooth surface is thus presented, which will neither be displaced nor accidentally removed.

The top legs of the clamp may be ornamented, for instance by placing one of the card symbols on the upper surface as shown at 16, or the owner's initials may be engraved thereon, etc.; that is the clamp is not only useful in connection with card tables, but also on dining room tables and

otherwise, and in that instance the clamp may be silver-plated and when applied to the table, it does not only add an ornamental effect, but positively secures the cloth against displacement or removal. This is a decided advantage, particularly where small children are running about as it is well known that they often grasp the edge of the table cloth and thereby cause considerable confusion and damage.

The clamp is exceedingly simple in construction and when applied grips the table edge and the cloth with spring tension. It may therefore be quickly applied or removed, and, as it is both vertically and longitudinally adjustable, practically any type or size of table may be taken care of.

By referring to Fig. 3 it will be noted that the inturned flanges are also covered with felt or a like material as shown at 17, and as this is the case it can readily be seen that marring of the table is positively prevented as all parts of the clamp which contact therewith are felt lined or otherwise covered.

While certain features of the present invention are more or less specifically illustrated, I wish it understood that various changes in form and proportion may be resorted to within the scope of the appended claims, similarly that the materials and finish of the several parts employed may be such as the experience and judgment of the manufacturer may dictate or various uses may demand.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is—

1. In a clamp of the character described, an upper and a lower leg, means permitting vertical adjustment of said legs, a right-angular extension on each leg, a clip slidably mounted on the extension of the lower leg, a leaf-spring secured to said clip, a clamping plate carried by said leaf-spring and resiliently supported thereby, said clamping plate cooperating with the right-angular extension of the upper leg to form a clamp, and means permitting turning movement of the clamping plate with relation to the leaf-spring.

2. A clamp consisting of two angle shaped plates, means permitting a telescoping action of the legs of the plates, frictional means resisting such telescoping action and normally maintaining a fixed spacing between the plates, a clip slidably mounted on one of the plates, and a resiliently supported clamp supported by said clip and cooperating with the other plate to form a clamp.

3. A clamp of the character described, comprising an upper and a lower leg, an inturned flange formed on each side of the upper leg, said inturned flanges serving as guides and gripping means for the lower leg, a right-angular extension on each leg, and a spring supported clamping member carried by the right-angular extension on the lower leg and cooperating with the right-angular extension on the upper leg to form a clamp.

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