Aug. 12, 1952 D. B. SHAFFER ET AL 2,606,339

HINGE FOR STEAM TABLE COVERS

Filed Nov. 27, 1950

Fig. 1.

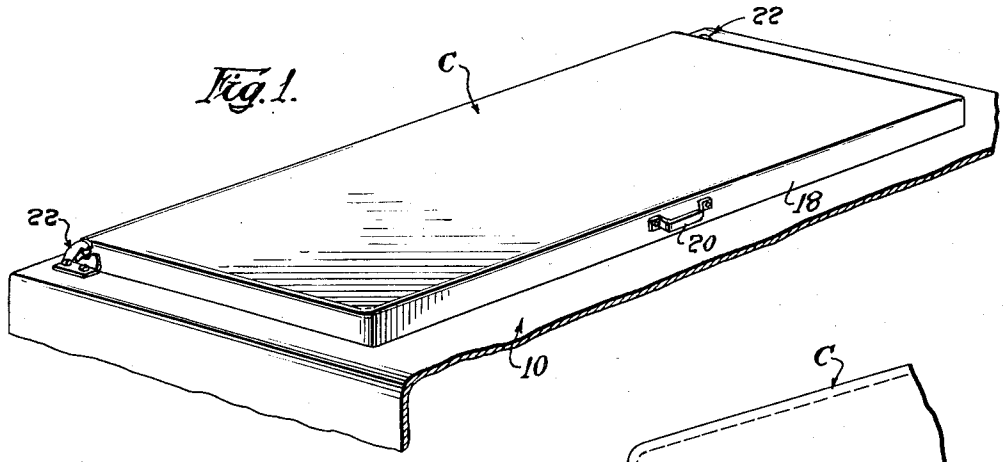


Fig. 2.

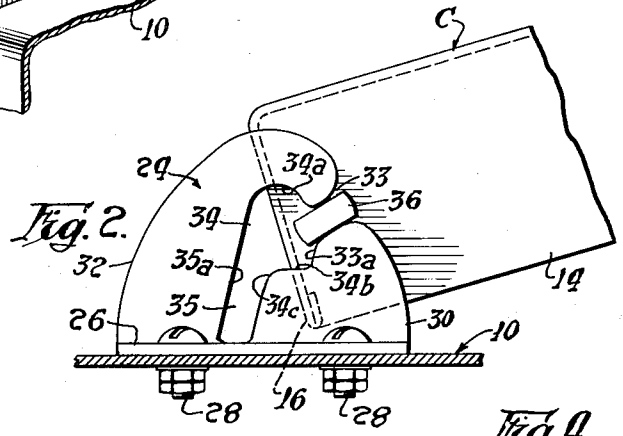


Fig. 3.

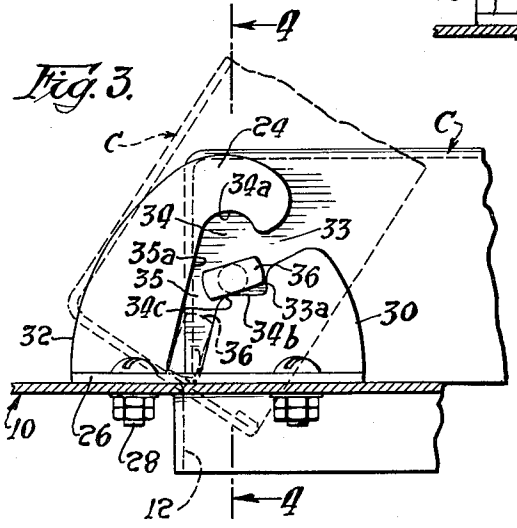
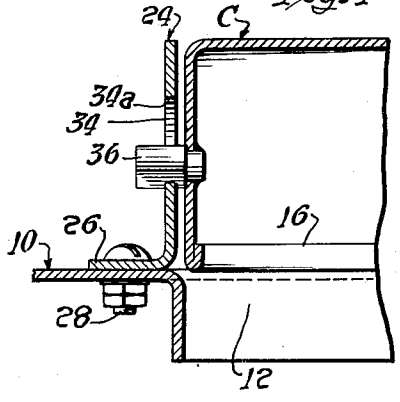


Fig. 4



INVENTORS:
David B. Shaffer,
Irwin Shaffer,
BY
Wilfred E. Lawson
Attorney.

Patented Aug. 12, 1952 2,606,339

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,606,339

HINGE FOR STEAM TABLE COVERS

David B. Shaffer and Irwin Shaffer,
Los Angeles, Calif.

Application November 27, 1950, Serial No. 197,726

1 Claim. (Cl. 16—171)

1

This invention relates to improvements in hinges for covers such, for example, as those used to cover receptacles from which food is served as in salad or steam tables or the like, although, while the invention is designed primarily for such use it is not limited thereto, but may be used upon any similarly mounted cover or like structure.

In salad table structures, a large cover is commonly employed for several large food receptacles and such cover must be mounted on a suitable hinge, or pivot, which will permit it to be lowered to covering position or raised and mounted in an elevated position, and it also becomes necessary at times, to completely remove the cover for cleaning, or other purposes.

It is a primary object of the present invention to provide an improved and novel hinge means whereby such a cover, or any other covering unit similar thereto, may be freely raised and lowered and when raised, can be easily locked in such position and whereby, also, the cover may be removed, or replaced, easily and quickly without loosening or unfastening any parts of the hinge but merely by raising the cover to a predetermined extent short of its fully raised position.

Another object of the invention is to provide such a hinge means which is simple in construction, whereby it may be easily and inexpensively manufactured and easily installed or set up.

The invention will be best understood from a consideration of the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing forming a part of the specification, with the understanding, however, that the invention is not to be limited to the exact details of construction shown and described since obvious modifications will occur to a person skilled in the art.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a view in perspective of a portion of a salad table top, with a typical cover and showing the application of hinges constructed in accordance with the present invention.

Figure 2 is a view in side elevation, on an enlarged scale of the hinge and a portion of the cover, showing how the cover may be removed, or installed, by reason of the novel hinge construction.

Figure 3 is a similar view to Figure 2 showing the relative positions of the hinge parts when the cover is fully closed, or when raised to a locked open position.

Figure 4 is a sectional view taken substantially on the line 4—4 of Figure 3.

2

Referring now more particularly to the drawing, the numeral 10, generally designates a portion of a salad table top which has therein an elongated opening, a part of which is shown in Figure 4 and designated 12.

The reference C generally designates the cover unit for closing, or covering, the opening 12, such unit having the end walls 14, back wall 16 and front wall 18 which carries a handle 20.

At each end of the cover unit, the end wall 14, is detachably joined, at its rear end, to the table top by a hinge unit 22 constructed in accordance with the present invention.

The hinge unit 22 comprises a plate of relatively heavy metal which has a portion turned laterally to provide a supporting flange or foot 26, by which the plate is supported in upright position, such foot flange being bolted, as at 28 or otherwise secured, to the tabel top, in a position to dispose the plate at the side edge of the table opening 12, as shown in Figure 4.

While the plate is here shown as having the curved, upwardly converging front and back edges 30 and 32 respectively, such form is not essential, but is preferred.

In the upper part of the front edge 30 of the hinge plate is formed an entrance slot 33, which leads, or extends, in a rearward and downward direction into a pivot stud turning opening 34 and this area leads into the relatively long downwardly and rearwardly directed locking slot 35, the bottom of which is about level with the top of the foot flange 26.

The entrance slot 33 is only slightly elevated at its front end from the horizontal while the locking slot 35 is inclined slightly forwardly at its top end from the vertical and the larger pivot stud turning space or opening joins the two.

As shown, the back edge 35a of the locking slot 35 extends up above the lowest end of the entrance slot 33 and then curves downwardly to join the top edge 33a of the slot 33, thereby forming the recess 34a which defines the top of the space 34.

Directly below the recess 34a is a substantially horizontal ledge 34b forming the bottom part of the space 34 and this merges at its front end with a substantially vertical shoulder 33a which joins the bottom edge of the slot 33. At its rear end the ledge joins the rounded corner, or knee, 34c which continues into the front edge of the slot 35.

As will be readily apparent the cover C positions between the two hinge plates 24, and each end wall has fixed thereto a short outwardly ex-

tending pivot stud or pin **36**, in a position to project through the opening **34** and rest on the ledge **34***b* forming the bottom of the opening, when the cover is in closed position.

The pivot stud **34** is, as shown in Figures 2 and 3, of rectangular cross section and is of a thickness to fit snugly in the slots **33** and **35**. It is also set so that the bottom face will be at a slight inclination from the horizontal when the cover is closed and will bear upon the rounded corner or knee **34***c* as shown in Figure 3.

When the cover is to be maintained in opened position, the front is raised by the handle **20**, the stud flat under surface pivoting on the knee **34***c* until the under and upper surfaces of the stud are in planes parallel with the edges of the slot **35** whereupon the back of the lid will drop down to rest upon the back edge of the table opening **12** and the pivot stud will slip down to the bottom of the locking slot as shown in broken lines in Figure 3.

When the cover is to be removed from the table it is raised slightly to the position shown in Figure 2 until the edge of the stud is in line with the entrance slot whereupon by pulling forward on the cover the pivot studs will slip forwardly through their respective slots, and the cover is free.

In providing the downwardly directed recess **34***a*, a means is provided for preventing accidental escape of the stud from the longer slot **35**, when the cover is pulled up to elevate the stud from the lower end of the slot **35** as is necessary when returning the cover to its closed position over the salad table opening.

We claim:

In a hinge for the cover of a steam table and the like, an L-shaped member of metal plate having its vertical portion provided with an upwardly and forwardly inclined slot and a second similarly inclined slot opening through the forward edge of the vertical portion, said second slot connecting with the first slot below the upper end thereof, the upper end of the forward edge of the first slot having an offset opening into the inner end of the lower edge of the second slot and forming a ledge, and a pivot stud adapted to be carried at an end of the cover for snug sliding engagement in said slots and adapted to rest on said ledge when the cover is disposed in its closed position, the upper end of the rear edge of the first slot curving forwardly and downwardly and merging into the upper edge of the second slot.

DAVID B. SHAFFER.
IRWIN SHAFFER.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
553,650	Kingsland	Jan. 28, 1896
1,335,999	Stover	Apr. 6, 1920
1,496,466	Jackson	June 3, 1924
1,622,927	Serpa	Mar. 29, 1927
2,051,341	Madsen	Aug. 18, 1936

FOREIGN PATENTS

Number	Country	Date
259,513	Great Britain	Oct. 14, 1926
875,760	France	Oct. 2, 1942