May 5, 1942. A. I. STEINBERG 2,282,262

ARTICLE OF FURNITURE

Filed Dec. 29, 1939 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

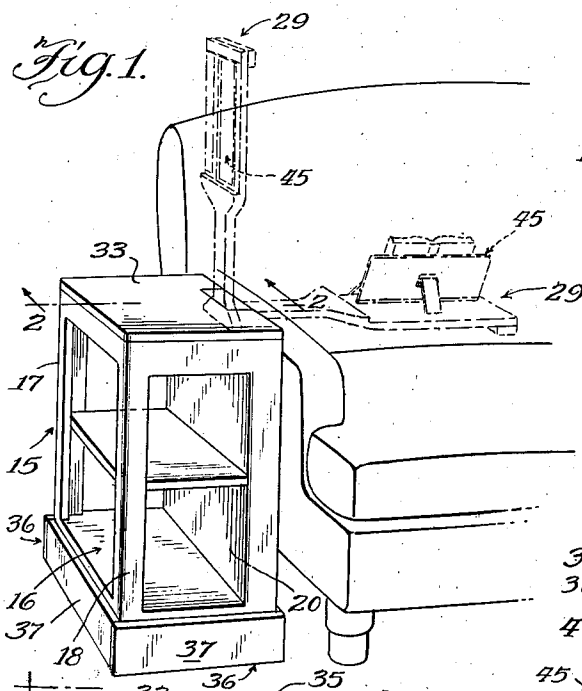
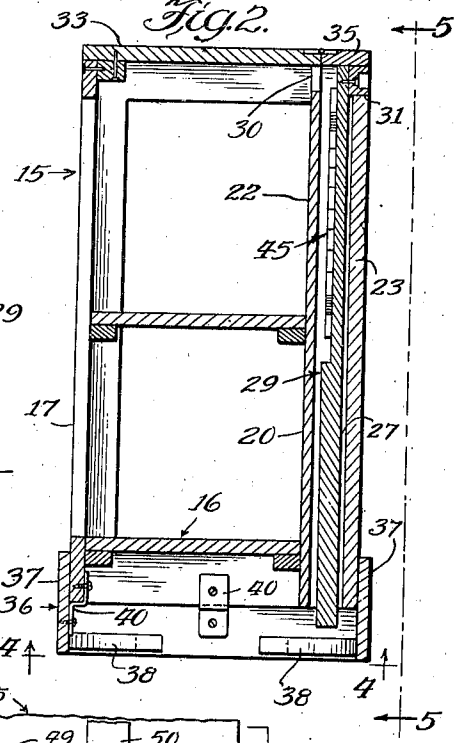


Fig. 2.



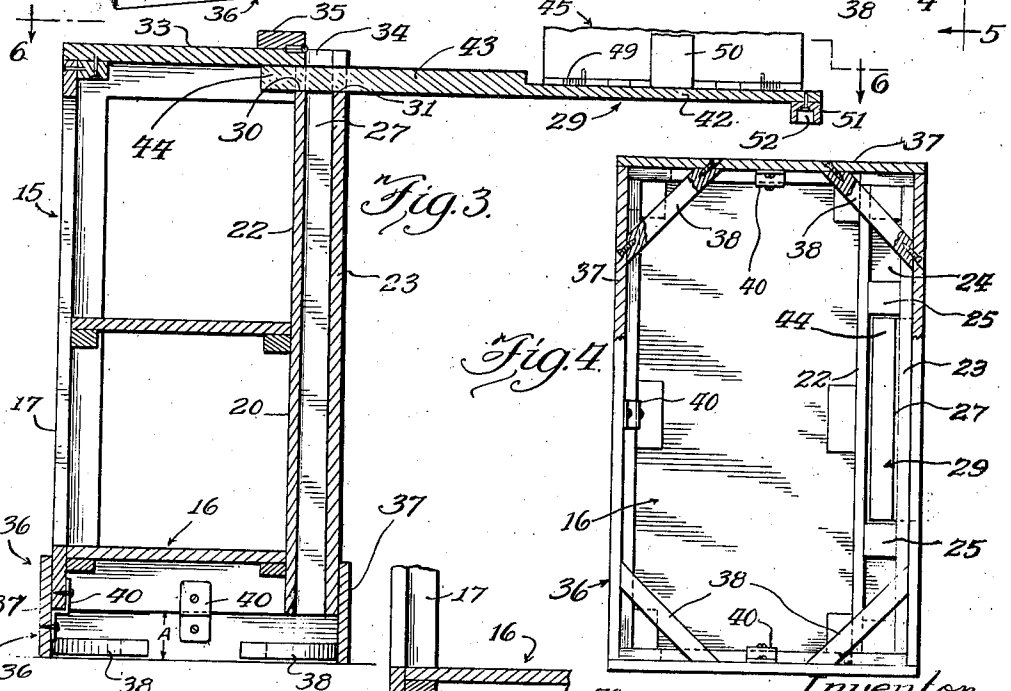


Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

Fig. 3A.

Inventor
Abe I. Steinberg
By Myer Richard Kraus
Atty.

May 5, 1942. A. I. STEINBERG 2,282,262

ARTICLE OF FURNITURE

Filed Dec. 29, 1939 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 5.

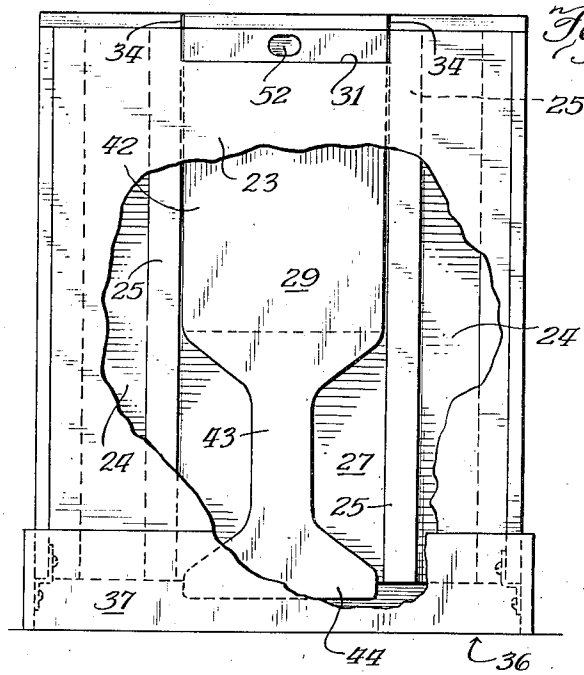


Fig. 9.

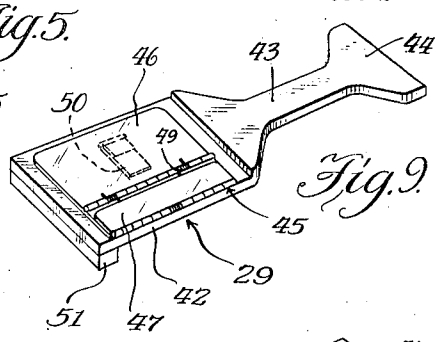


Fig. 10.

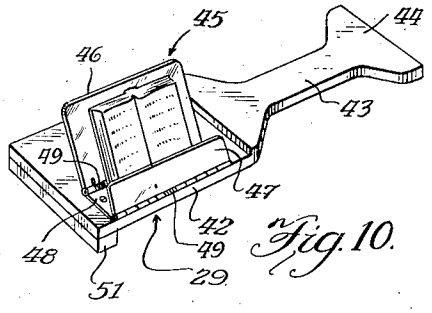


Fig. 6.

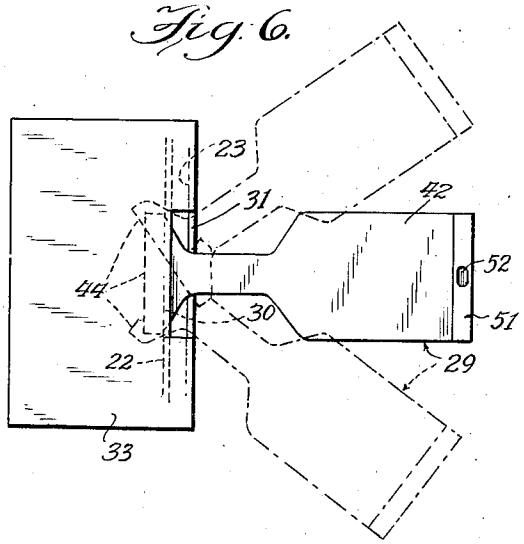
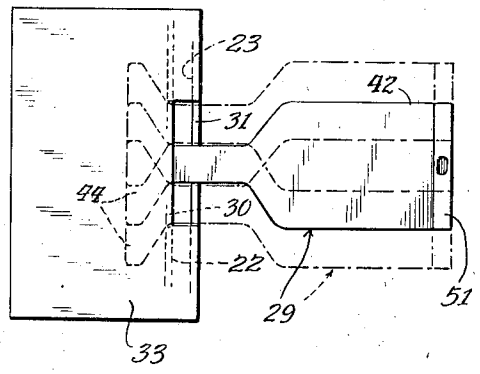


Fig. 7.



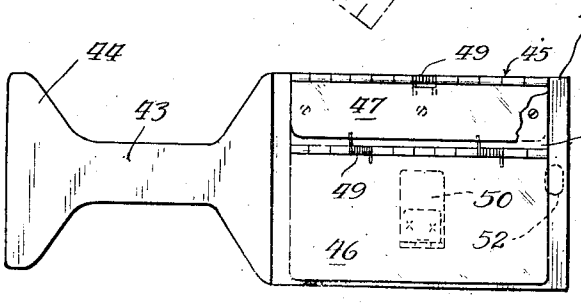


Fig. 8.

Inventor
Abe I. Steinberg
By Mary Richard Kraus
Atty.

Patented May 5, 1942 2,282,262

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,282,262

ARTICLE OF FURNITURE

Abe I. Steinberg, Chicago, Ill.

Application December 29, 1939, Serial No. 311,451

2 Claims. (Cl. 45—57)

This invention relates to an article of furniture and more particularly to a table adapted for use alongside a chair, bed or the like.

One of the objects of this invention is the provision of a table having adjustable supporting means of great utility and adapted for a variety of purposes.

Another object of this invention is the provision of a table having an extensible supporting member which is concealed from view when out of use.

A further object of this invention is the provision of a table having an extensible supporting member which is adjustable to a variety of positions suitable for the convenience and comfort of the user.

A still further object of this invention is the provision of an article of the character described which is simple in construction and cheap to manufacture.

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

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of an embodiment of my invention, alongside a chair, showing in dotted lines, the supporting member in vertical and horizontal positions.

Fig. 2 is a vertical cross sectional view taken on line 2—2 of Fig. 1, with the supporting member in concealed position.

Fig. 3 is a similar view, with the supporting member in extended position.

Fig. 3a is an enlarged fragmentary cross sectional view showing the manner by which an adjustment in the height of the table may be accomplished.

Fig. 4 is a bottom plan view, partly in cross section, looking in the direction of the arrows 4—4 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 5 is an end elevational view, looking in the direction of the arrows 5—5 of Fig. 2, and having parts broken away.

Figs. 6 and 7 are top plan views with the supporting member in an extended and turned over position, and showing, in dotted lines, the range of positions capable of being assumed by said supporting member.

Fig. 8 is a plan view of the supporting member.

Fig. 9 is a perspective view of the supporting member.

Fig. 10 is a similar view of the supporting member, showing a book being supported in reading position.

Referring to the drawings, wherein is shown a preferred embodiment of my invention, the numeral 15 indicates generally, a table which is adapted to serve as an end or side table and which comprises a base portion 16 having associated therewith a pair of upright standards 17 and 18 and a rear wall portion 20, the latter being formed of upright panels 22 and 23 spaced apart to provide a vertical pocket or compartment 24. Spacing members 25 coextensive in length with the upright panels serve to define a central compartment 27, in which is received the supporting member indicated, generally, by the numeral 29 and presently to be described. The panels 22 and 23 are provided with cutouts 30 and 31 respectively, as shown in Figs. 2, 3 and 5, the said cutouts being in alinement with the compartment 27 and having a length substantially coextensive with the width of said compartment.

A table top member 33 is suitably supported and secured on the upright standards 17 and 18 and wall portion 20 and is provided with a cut-out portion 34 having a length coextensive with the width of the central compartment 27 and being in alinement therewith, the said cut out portion serving as the opening for the compartment 27. A closure member 35 is hingedly secured to the top member 33 and is adapted to be received in the cut out portion 34 and to lie flush with the surface of the top member 33, when in closed position.

A housing structure, indicated, generally, by the numeral 36, is formed of walls 37 suitably reinforced by bracing members 38. As will be seen, by reference to Figs. 2, 3 and 3a, the housing 36 encloses the base portion 16 of the table which is arranged for sliding movement therein. This relative movement permits raising or lowering of the table to the desired height. Supporting members 40, shaped and secured to the base portion and housing, substantially as shown in the drawings, serve to fix the height of the table after same has been determined.

In Fig. 3 is shown one position of the base portion and housing, the distance of said base portion from the floor being indicated by the letter A. In Fig. 3a the base portion relative to the housing, is shown in altered position, the distance of said base portion from the floor being indicated by the letter B. It will be apparent that it is only required to remove the screws which secure the members 40 to the housing, in order to make an adjustment in the height of the table.

While the means, shown and described for adjusting the height of the table, provide for a substantially fixed position, it will be understood that other means may be provided for selectively adjusting the height of the table.

The supporting member **29** comprises a flat elongated body portion having a substantially rectangular portion **42** and a reduced neck portion **43** terminating in an enlarged end portion **44**. The portion **42** is reduced in thickness and has secured, on one surface thereof, a book support, indicated generally, by the numeral **45** which comprises a backing member **46** and a front member **47**, both of which are hingedly secured to the member **48** and provided with torsion springs **49** which serve, normally, to maintain said members in flattened position, when out of use, as shown in Fig. 8. A leg **50** hingedly secured to the member **46** serves to adjust the reading angle of the book to suit the convenience of the reader. It will be seen that the member **47** bears upon the pages of the open book and serves to maintain the same in open position while the book is carried on the support. A cross strip **51** mounted on the other surface of the member **29** is provided with a finger engaging recess **52** and serves as a stop and support for the member **29**, as will be presently described.

In out of use position, the member **29** is contained in the compartment **27**, with the cross strip **51** being received in the cutout **31** and bearing upon the bottom thereof. The closure member **35** is normally in closed position, flush with the surface of the table top member **33**.

When it is desired to use the member **29** for supporting a book or a typewriter, or for writing thereon or for other numerous purposes, the closure member **35** is swung back and the member **29** is grasped with the fingers and pulled upwardly, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1. The member **29** is then swung to a horizontal position and the terminal portion **44** is introduced into the recess **30**. In this position the member **29** rests on the bottom of the recess **31** which acts as a fulcrum, with the portion **44** of the said member abutting the under surface of the top member **33**.

The supporting member **29** is movable in the direction of its longitudinal axis, the distance which it can extend beyond the table being thereby capable of variation, as desired, to suit the convenience of the user. The said member when in extended position, is also movable both in vertical and in horizontal directions, either in arcs or in straight lines, the range of positions being shown in Figs. 6 and 7. Because of the wide range of movement, the member **29** can be moved to assume positions not possible with similar articles known in the art. When the member **29** is in extended position, it may be moved in a horizontal arc or straight line to accommodate the book or reading material to the proper focal point suitable to the reader. With the book supported in proper position and at the proper focal point, it is clear that the fatigue and strain usually attendant prolonged reading is substantially eliminated. Should the reader desire to write, at the same time, the table top can be conveniently utilized for writing without interfering with the positioning of the book. If a smooth surface is desired for writing or other purposes, the member **29** may be completely removed from its compartment and turned over to present the other surface of the said member. If during the course of his reading, the reader desires to change his body position, as for example to cross his legs, the supporting member **29** can be moved in a vertical arc to accommodate it to the newly assumed position. Also, should the reader desire to arise from his chair, he is not required to move the entire table or to remove the book from the holder and move the supporting member into retracted position. Merely, by moving the supporting member outwardly, in a horizontal arc, sufficient clearance is provided so that he may arise in a comfortable manner.

It should be noted that the length of the supporting member is relatively greater than the width of the table top and that when the said member is horizontally disposed and moved to its innermost position, it will extend beyond the table top. However, when out of use, the supporting member is received in the compartment provided therefor and is concealed from view, the table presenting a conventional appearance.

It is to be understood that the form of my invention, herewith shown and described, is to be taken as a preferred example of the same, and that various changes in the shape, size and arrangement of parts may be resorted to, without departing from the spirit of my invention or the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. An article of furniture including a vertical compartment, a movable supporting member adapted to be housed in said compartment, said supporting member having on one side thereof a book support and on the other side thereof a smooth surface, said supporting member adapted to be withdrawn vertically from said compartment and to be movable for presenting either the said book support or the said smooth surface, said supporting member adapted to be swung to a horizontal position and to be adjustably movable in said position.

2. An article of furniture including a vertical compartment, a movable supporting member adapted to be housed in said compartment, said supporting member having a relatively wide portion and a relatively narrow portion, and carrying on one side of said relatively wide portion a book support, the other side of said portion being a relatively smooth surface, said supporting member adapted to be withdrawn vertically from said compartment and to be movable for presenting either the said book support or the said smooth surface, the said supporting member being swingable to a horizontal position and being adjustably movable in said position.

ABE I. STEINBERG.