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2,670,567

TABLE PAD

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FIG. 1

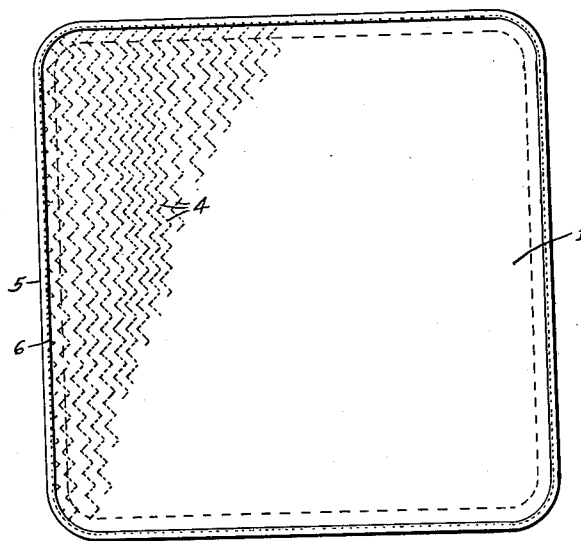


FIG. 2

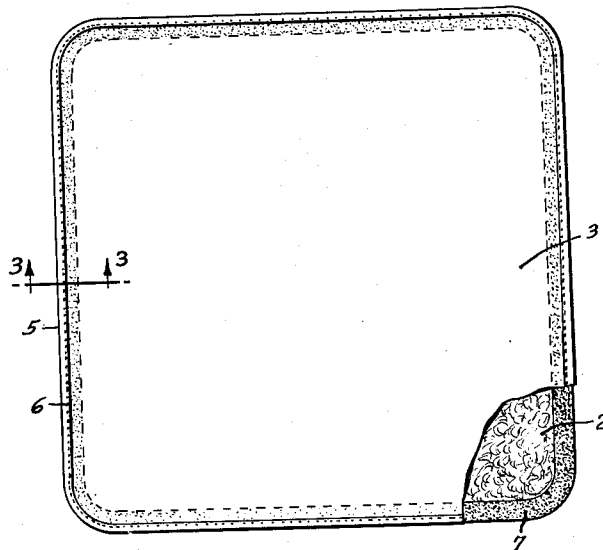
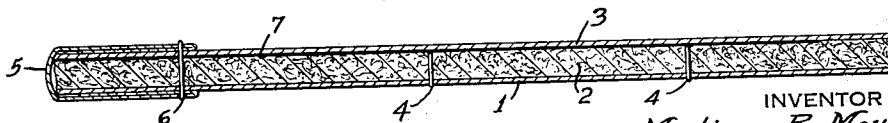


FIG. 3



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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TABLE PAD

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4 Claims. (Cl. 45—68.4)

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This invention relates to protective pads, principally intended for use on dining tables, to protect them against normal spilling of foods, the heat of plates and of utensils, and the like.

Various types of pads to be used beneath the tablecloth have heretofore been proposed. The first requirements of such pads are that they be heat-resistant and waterproof. It is further necessary that the surface of the pad in contact with the table be formed of a material which will not react with varnish or other finish of the table. In the present invention I provide a pad having these characteristics and also having sufficient flexibility to permit its use on tables of different sizes and shapes. Thus, the necessity of custom-built pads to fit particular tables is avoided.

In carrying out the invention I provide a pad having a base layer of a non-plasticized film, an intermediate layer of padding sufficiently thick to protect the table against the heat of plates or of utensils, and an upper layer of a vinyl plastic which is waterproof and flexible. The base layer may be secured to the intermediate layer in any suitable manner. In the specific embodiment of the invention herein disclosed, the base layer consists of a polyethylene film which is quilted to an intermediate layer of cotton batting, sufficiently thick to provide the necessary protection against heat. The upper or facing layer, preferably, consists of a vinyl chloride resin film which is sufficiently flexible and is waterproof.

The method of securing the facing or upper layer to the pad is an essential feature of the invention. To prevent wrinkling or gathering when a binding strip is placed around the edge of the pad, the upper layer of vinyl film is secured to the intermediate cotton batting by a layer of glue extending inwardly from the perimeter of the pad a distance of several inches. The adhesive employed is preferably a poly-vinyl resin emulsion which will sufficiently soften the vinyl film to cause it to become firmly glued to the cotton batting to provide a continuous seal around the entire perimeter of the pad. A binding is then applied by an ordinary sewing machine operation and with the facing adhesively secured to the intermediate padding layer before the binding is secured to the edge, the difficulties normally encountered in sewing two or more materials of uneven thickness, such as gathering, wrinkling or the like, are avoided.

In the accompanying drawing I have shown

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a protective pad to which the invention is applied. In this showing:

Fig. 1 is a bottom plan view;

Fig. 2 is a top plan view; and

Fig. 3 is a detailed, sectional view on line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Referring to the drawing the pad consists of a base film 1, a padding 2 of cotton batting, and an upper film or layer 3. The base layer 1, which is in contact with the varnish or other surface finish of the table, must be formed of a material which is compatible with the varnish or other finish and will not react with it. At the same time it should be flexible and tough. For this purpose I preferably employ a film of polyethylene. It is secured to the intermediate layer of cotton batting by quilting, as indicated at 4, or in any other suitable manner. The outer layer of film is preferably formed of a material that is heat resistant and fire resistant and is tough and flexible. For this purpose I preferably employ a vinyl chloride resin, such as "Velon" manufactured by the Firestone Plastic Company. The three layers are held together by a binding 5 arranged around the perimeter of the pad and secured to the layers by stitching 6.

In order to apply the binding 5 without gathering or wrinkling, it is necessary to first secure the layer 3 to the intermediate layer 2. For this purpose I employ a vinyl resin and apply it in a band around the entire edge of the pad as indicated at 7 in Fig. 3 of the drawing. If both the upper and lower facings of the pad were formed of vinyl compositions, it would be possible to heat seal or electronically seal the layers together and produce a smooth, even joint. However, the vinyl compounds cannot be used for the base layer of the pad as they would mar the finish of the table. The polyethylene material is not compatible with the vinyl resins for heat sealing or electronic sealing.

The vinyl adhesive is thus applied to the film 3 entirely around the edge causing the surface of the vinyl film to soften and permitting it to be firmly secured to the pad 2. This produces a smooth finish and permits the binding 5 to be placed on the pad by an ordinary sewing machine operation.

If the layers 2 and 3 were not initially secured to each other by adhesive prior to the sewing operation, the uneven tension of the sewing operation on the materials of such differences in thickness would cause gathering or wrinkling and not produce a satisfactory product. The initial securing of the layers by the adhesive also saves

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time in matching the layers prior to the sewing operation. It produces a pad with a continuous smooth edge which will not cause wrinkling of the table-cloth when the pad is used on the table.

As stated, the pad is flexible permitting its use on tables of different sizes. It is easily cleaned as the surfaces may be wiped with a damp cloth. Sealing the top layer 3 to the intermediate layer by the adhesive results in a great time saving in the sewing of the binding 5. A pad of this type is generally about seven feet in perimeter. Sewable lengths, which would have to be matched in the absence of the adhesive, are about eighteen inches. Thus much time would be wasted in matching these lengths to insure the production of a smooth, unwrinkled pad.

I claim:

1. A table pad comprising a bottom film of polyethylene, an intermediate layer of cotton batting secured to said bottom film at least around the perimeter thereof, a water impervious top film of a vinyl plastic, and an adhesive layer between the cotton batting and the vinyl film, the adhesive layer extending inwardly from the edge of the pad substantially entirely around the pe-

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rimeter thereof and securely bonding the vinyl film to the cotton batting.

2. A table pad as defined in claim 1 and having a binding on the edge thereof sewed through the three layers of the pad.

3. A table pad as defined in claim 2 in which the adhesive layer is a vinyl compound.

4. A table pad as defined in claim 1 in which the bottom film of polyethylene is quilted to the intermediate layer of cotton batting.

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