June 24, 1952 O. S. ALLBRITTON 2,601,357

FOLDING CLASSIFICATION TABLE

Filed Sept. 4, 1947 2 SHEETS—SHEET 1

Fig. 2

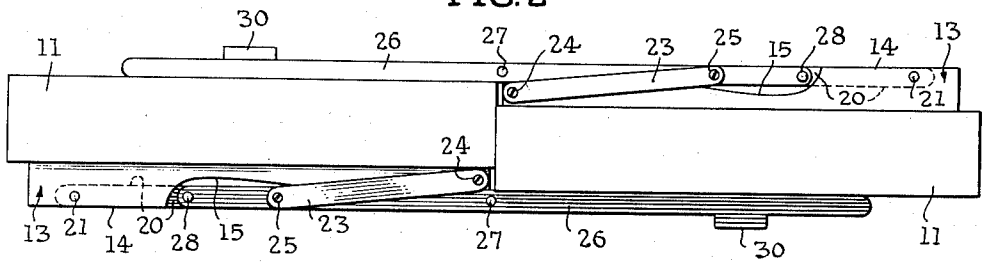



Fig. 1

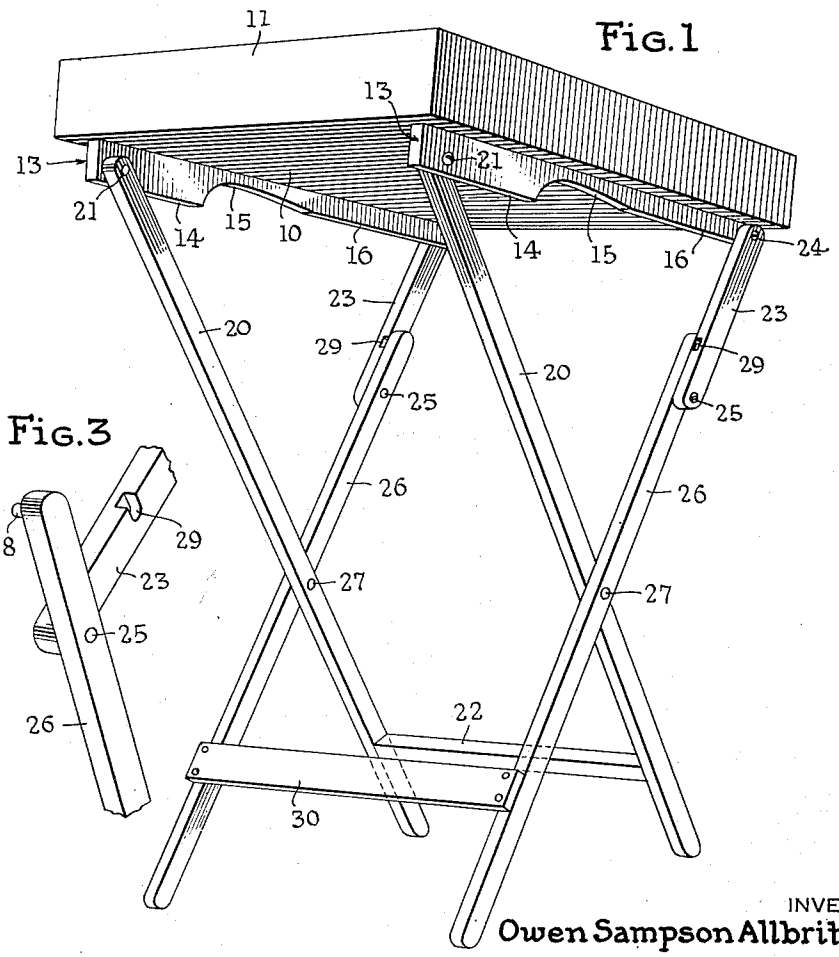



Fig. 3




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Fig. 4

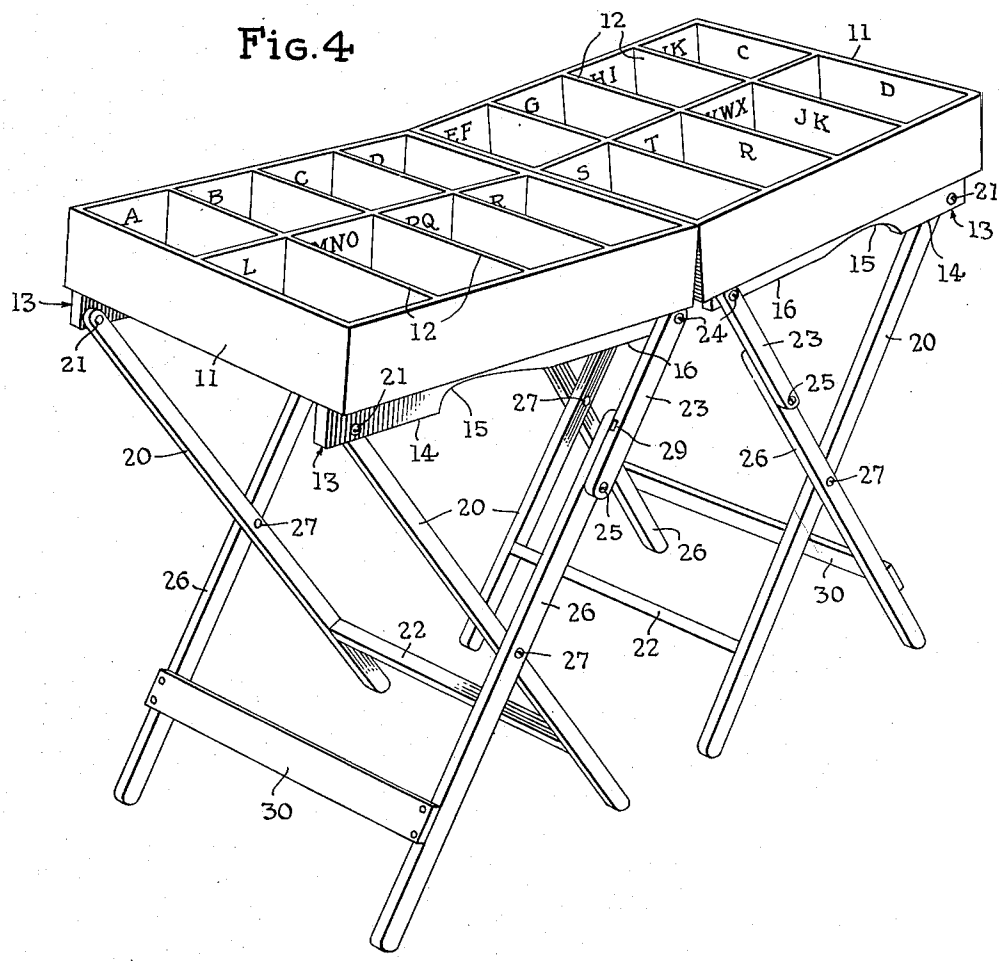
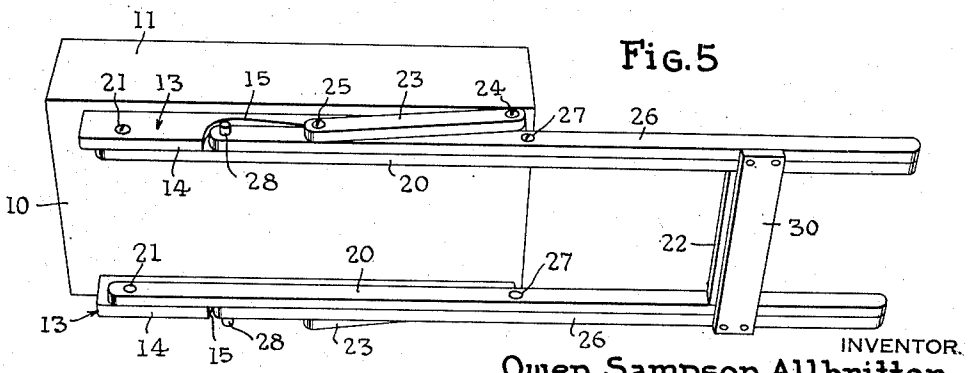



Fig. 5




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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,601,357

## FOLDING CLASSIFICATION TABLE

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Application September 4, 1947, Serial No. 772,137

1 Claim. (Cl. 211—132)

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This invention relates to folding table structures and has particular relation to a folding table provided with a compartmented table top for use in classifying and sorting checks, deposit slips, charge slips, paper money and the like in assembled and stacked relationship. The table of the present invention is so constructed that a pair of cooperating duplicate tables may be internested together in collapsed position so as to define a substantially rectangular package.

Business offices such as banks and the like often require a classifying and sorting operation for alphabetically arranging papers such as correspondence, checks, deposit slips, charge slips, paper money and the like. This classifying and sorting operation is generally performed in connection with the opening and closing of the business day and it has generally been considered inefficient from a space standpoint to provide a permanent working space for this operation. Moreover, present classifying and sorting compartmented working spaces, such as tables and the like, have a horizontal top which causes the papers, checks, and the like, to pile up in irregular fashion so that they must be stacked by hand in order to achieve the desired neat and orderly arrangement.

The folding table structure of the present invention generally comprises a compartmented table top supported at an angle to the horizontal by means of a supporting structure. The compartmented top is supported by the frame in such a position that in normal use the table top is inclined at an effective angle to the horizontal so that sheet articles, such as checks and the like, when placed in the compartments will slide downwardly along the inclined top against the lower sides of the compartments, into assembled and stacked relationship. In a preferred form, two adjacent inner sides of each compartment are provided with suitable indicia to enable the user to identify the various compartments, when the tables are placed side by side with the tops parallel, or are placed with the lower edges adjacent so that the indicia appear in the regular and desired order to the user, in either of said described positions.

The supporting structure generally includes, in duplicate, a supporting strip secured edgewise to the underside of the table, a long leg pivoted to one side of the supporting strip and a link pivoted at its upper end to the opposite side of the supporting strip, a short leg pivoted intermediate its ends to the long leg and pivoted at its upper end to the lower end of the link,

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the short leg being in the same plane as the supporting strip and adapted when folded to engage against the lower edge of the supporting strip, the supporting strip being formed to accommodate folding movement of the short leg so that when folded the short leg lies in parallel juxtaposition with the long leg and with the supporting strip. In open position, the short leg and its link are locked in straight line, extended position by abutment means which also serve to limit unfolding of the leg beyond parallel juxtaposition. The tables are so constructed that duplicate pairs thereof may be cooperatively used and placed together in folded position to define a substantially rectangular space for storage or shipping purposes.

An object of the present invention is to provide a compartmented folding table which is particularly adapted to be used either singly or in pairs for classifying and sorting checks, deposit and charge slips and the like, into assembled and stacked relationship.

Another object of the invention is to provide a folding table which is adapted to cooperate and internest with a duplicate table in collapsed position so as to define a rectangular shipping and storing package.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a compartmented folding table which is of sturdy construction, which may be readily collapsed and unfolded in locked position for use and which may be cooperatively nested with a duplicate table in folded position into a minimum volume rectangular space for storage and shipping purposes.

A further object of the invention is to provide a folding compartmented table structure which will enable the user to classify and sort papers, checks and the like, in a desired neat and orderly arrangement in an efficient manner.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a compartmented folding table which is adapted to be used cooperatively with another duplicate table when placed side by side therewith so that the table tops are parallel or with the lower edges adjacent, the compartments being provided with substantial indicia in the regular and desired order to enable the user to identify the various compartments from either of the aforementioned positions.

These and other objects of the invention will be readily understood by reference to the following description and accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a folding com-

partmented table embodying the present invention shown in open, locked position;

Fig. 2 is a side view showing a duplicate pair of tables embodying the present invention folded in cooperative nested relationship for shipping and storage;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged perspective view of the link and locking portion of one of the short legs shown in partially collapsed position;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view showing a duplicate pair of open, locked tables embodying the present invention arranged in end to end relationship for normal use with their lower edges in abutment for sorting sheets having a greater length than width, and

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a table structure embodying the present invention shown in collapsed or folded position.

Referring now to the drawings showing a preferred embodiment of the table structure comprising the present invention, the table top 10 is provided with outer compartment sides 11 and inner compartment sides 12, two adjacent sides of the compartments being provided with suitable indicia, as shown, in such fashion that the indicia appear in the regular and desired order from one side or its adjacent lower side. The supporting frame work for the table top includes a pair of supporting strips 13 which are secured edgewise and parallel to the underside of the table top. The bottom edges 14 of the supporting strips are provided with a recessed portion 15 and a cut away portion 16 which is parallel to the table top. The purpose and function of the recessed and cut away portions 15 and 16 will be hereinafter described.

A pair of long legs 20 are pivotally mounted at 21 in parallel arrangement at their upper ends to the inner sides of the supporting strips 13, adjacent an end thereof. The lower ends of the long legs 20 are provided with a transverse supporting bar 22 lying in the same plane as the parallel long legs.

Link members 23 are pivotally mounted as at 24, in parallel arrangement at their upper ends to the outer sides of the supporting strips 13 at the outer ends of the cut away portions 16. The lower ends of the linked members 23 are pivotally connected, as at 25, adjacent the upper ends of the short legs 26 on the outer sides of the short legs. The short legs 26 are pivotally mounted, as at 27, intermediate their ends to the outer sides of the long legs 20. The outer upper end portions of the short legs 26 are provided with abutment members 28 which cooperate with recesses 29 provided on the inner sides and intermediate the end portions of the link members 23 for holding the short legs 26 in open, locked position. A transverse bar 30 connects the outer lower end portions of the short legs in rigid fashion and also serves as abutment means for resisting folding movement of the legs, as will be hereinafter described.

Referring now to operation of the present table structure from its open, locked position, as shown in Fig. 1, to its collapsed and folded position as shown in Fig. 5, it will be apparent that the short legs 26 and the links 23 are maintained in locked position and in extended parallelism by means of the abutment members 28 seated in the recesses 29.

By virtue of its novel construction the present table structure stands rigidly fixed in locked position, the transverse bars 22 and 30 serving to strengthen the legs 20 and 26 against lateral



movement and to maintain both pairs of complementary legs in parallelism. In addition, the link and locking arrangement on the upper end of the short legs 26 is such that additional weight placed on the table top 10 is transferred through the legs 20 downwardly against the pivots 27 thereby forcing the abutments 28 into rigid, locking contact in the recesses 29.

The table structure may be readily collapsed by moving the upper ends of the short legs 26 toward the upper ends of the long legs 20 in scissors fashion. As hereinbefore described, the short legs 26 lie in the same plane as the supporting strips 13. The short legs 26, as they are folded inwardly, are displaced upwardly toward the supporting strips 13 due to the inward and upward arcuate movement described by the lower end portions of the link members 23. During folding movement the upper ends of the short legs 26 fit into the recessed portions 15 of supporting strips 13. Upon completion of the folding operation it will be noted that the short legs 26 lie in co-planar contacting juxtaposition with the lower cut away portions 16 of the supporting strips 13. During the folding operation the long legs 20 pivot toward the table top until they are in parallel juxtaposition at their lower end portions with the entire length of the short legs 26 and are in parallel juxtaposition at their upper end portions with the inner side portions of the supporting strips 13, adjacent the lower end portions 14. It will also be apparent that, by virtue of the present construction, the short legs 26 and the long legs 20 lie in parallel juxtaposition with each other and also lie in parallelism with the table top. Thus, in collapsed, folded position, the legs 20 and 26 are in parallel juxtaposition with each other and their upper end portions are also in parallel juxtaposition with the supporting strips 13, both sets of legs being parallel to the table top. In addition, the upper ends of the short legs 26 occupy the space defined by the recessed portions 15 and the lower cut away portions 16 of the supporting strips 13. It will be noted that the long legs 20 lie in planes which are parallel and adjacent to the planes occupied by the supporting strips 13 and the short legs 26; whereas the link members 23 lie in planes which are adjacent the opposite sides of the supporting strips 13 and their other sides are parallel with the compartmented, outer sides 11 of the table structure.

Folding movement of the legs beyond parallel juxtaposition is prevented by means of abutment bar 30 contacting the lower end portions of the long legs 20 and also by means of the leading edges of the upper ends of the short legs 26 abutting in parallelism against the cut away portion 16 of the supporting strips 13.

It will be apparent that the position of the long legs 20 and the links 23 may be reversed with respect to the sides of the supporting strips 13 so that the long legs 20 are pivotally mounted on the outer sides of the supporting strips 13 and the links are pivotally mounted on the inner sides of the supporting strips 13. With this construction, it will be apparent that the transverse bar 30 may be mounted on the outer sides of the long legs 26.

As hereinbefore stated, two adjacent inner sides of each compartment are provided with suitable indicia to enable the user to identify the various compartments. In a preferred embodiment wherein a duplicate pair of table

structures of the present invention are used, the indicia are so arranged that when the tables are placed side by side with the tops parallel (not shown) or with the lower edges in abutment, as shown in Fig. 4, the indicia appear in regular and desired order to the user. Thus it will be apparent that by virtue of the present construction an operator is enabled to sort sheets having greater length than width, such as deposit slips and charge slips, when the tables are placed end to end; that is, with their lower edges in abutment. In addition, when a duplicate pair of table structures are placed side by side with their tops parallel (not shown) the operator is enabled to sort sheet material such as checks having a greater width than length. It will be understood that the above sorting operation also may be accomplished with a single table structure.

As the sheets of paper are dropped in the various compartments they tend to slide along the inclined bottom of the table top against the lower sides of the compartment in assembled and stacked relationship due to the inclination of the table top. By virtue of this novel feature of the present table structure, the user is readily and conveniently able to assemble and remove the various piles of paper sheets in assembled and stacked relationship. After a duplicate pair of the present table structures have been folded and collapsed, as hereinbefore described, they may be internested together in collapsed position so as to define a rectangular package, due to the novel construction whereby the long and short legs when folded extended well beyond the table top to define a substantially rectangular space into which the compartmented top of the other table fits, with its legs extended over the compartmented top of the other table. In this manner, a duplicate pair of tables may be conveniently stored or shipped in a minimum volume of space.

While the invention has been described in a preferred form, it will be understood that the invention may be practiced in other forms, falling within the scope of the invention which is



intended to be limited only by the prior art and as set forth in the appended claim.

I claim:

A folding table, comprising a top, a pair of substantially parallel supporting strips extending underneath the top, each provided with a recess along its lower edge for a portion of its length, a pair of long legs respectively pivoted at their upper ends to one side of said supporting strips at one end of said supporting strip, a pair of links pivoted at their respective upper ends to the other side of said supporting strips at the other end of said supporting strip, a pair of short legs respectively pivoted intermediate their ends to said long legs and also respectively pivoted near their upper ends to that side of said link which bears against its cooperating supporting strip, whereby each shorter leg is offset from its cooperating link and is in the same plane with its cooperating supporting strip, in both extended and folded positions, the upper part of each shorter leg being positionable in the said recessed portion of its associated supporting strip when in folded position, and in such position bears against the lower edge of its associated strip and abutment means carried by the connected ends of said shorter legs and said pivoted links, for holding the shorter legs and the pivoted links in alignment.

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