March 4, 1958 H. POST 2,825,390

COLLAPSIBLE COMBINATION TABLE AND SEATS OR BENCHES

Filed June 8, 1956 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1

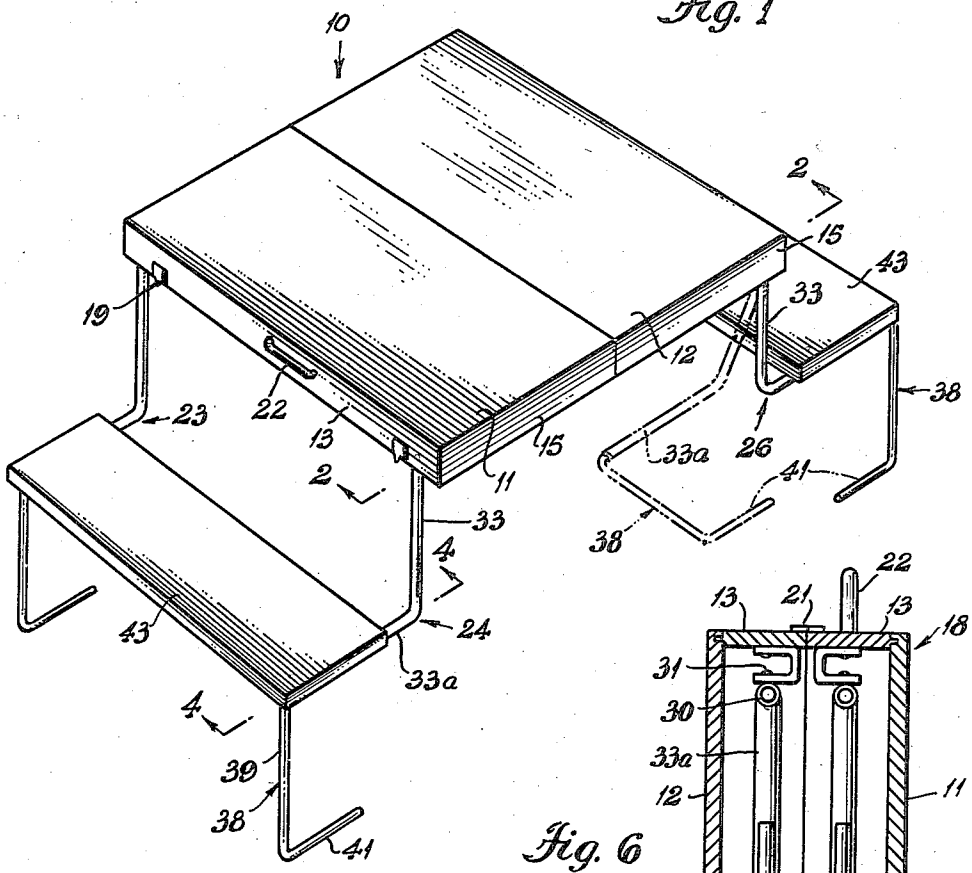
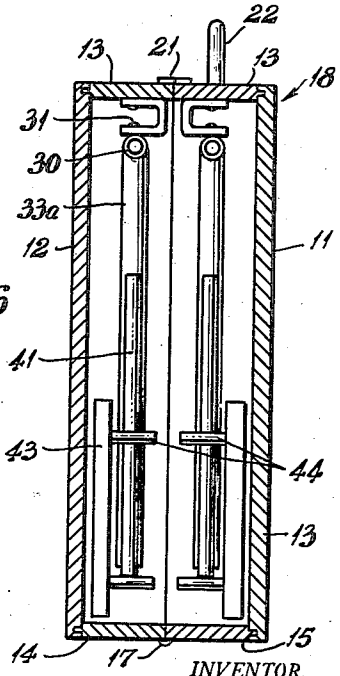


Fig. 6



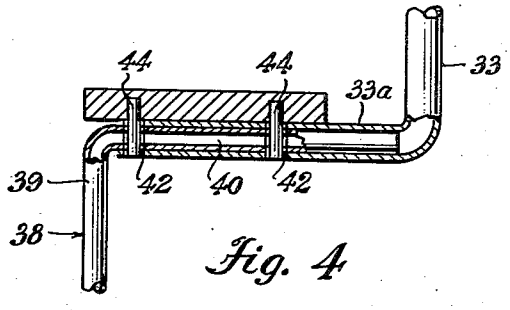


Fig. 4

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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

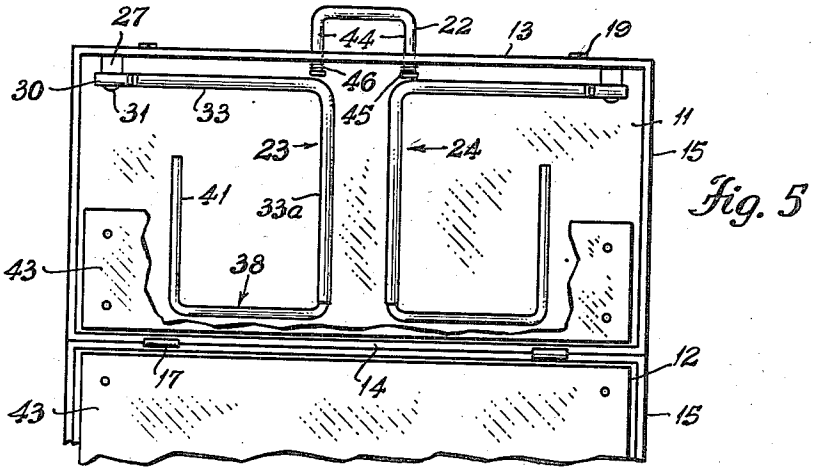


Fig. 5

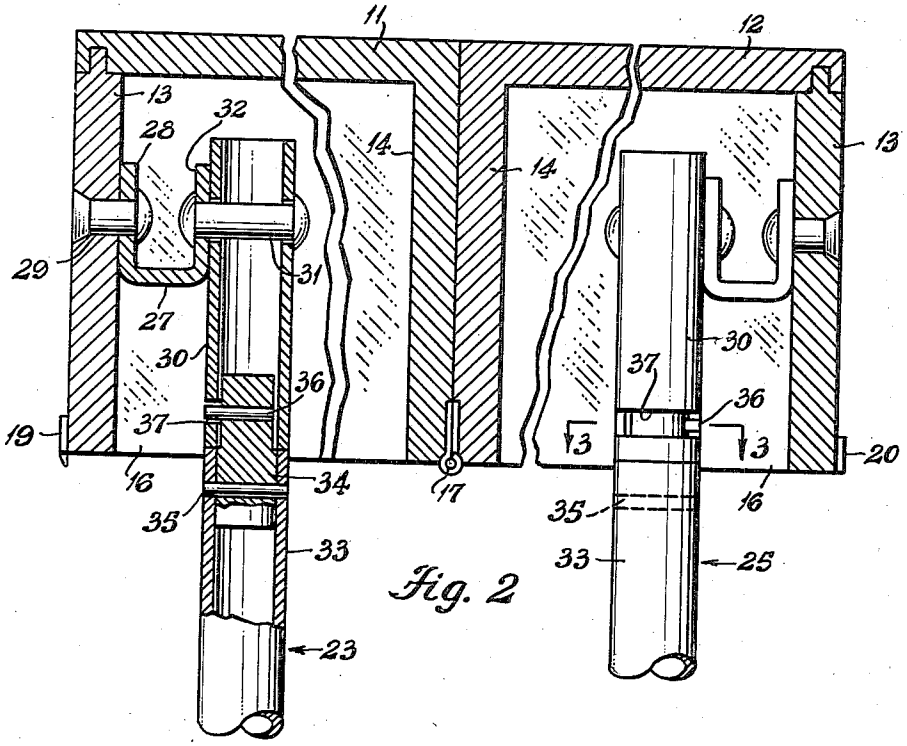


Fig. 2

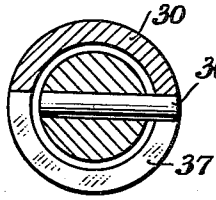


Fig. 3

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COLLAPSIBLE COMBINATION TABLE AND SEATS OR BENCHES

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4 Claims. (Cl. 155—124)

This invention relates to outdoor furniture of the picnic table type, and the main object is the provision of certain new and useful improvements in a collapsible combination table and benches whereby the combination, when not in use, may easily and readily be collapsed into a small compact mass.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a collapsible combination table and chairs wherein the table is formed of two mutually hinged sections into which the legs of both the table and the benches are adapted to be folded and which themselves provide the two sides of a suitcase-like container when suitable swung about their common hinge, so that, with the further provision of latching means and a handle permit of readily carrying the entire collapsed combination.

The above broad as well as additional and more specific objects will be clarified in the following description wherein reference numerals refer to like-numbered parts in the accompanying drawing. It is to be noted that the drawing is intended solely for the purpose of illustration and that it is therefore neither desired nor intended to limit the invention necessarily to any or all of the exact details of construction except insofar as they may be deemed essential to the invention.

Referring briefly to the drawing, Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a combination collapsible table and benches in extended condition ready for outdoor use, embodying features of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary plan view looking down into the open container formed by the two halves or sections of the table, with the collapsed table and bench supports and the bench boards or panels positioned therein.

Fig. 6 is an end elevational view of the suitcase-like container when closed and latched, with the end wall thereof cut away to expose the interior.

Referring in detail to the drawing, the numeral 10 indicates the table top which is composed of two half-sections 11 and 12. Each section has depending longitudinal flanges 13 and 14 of which the latter are mutually adjacent when the table and bench combination is in position for use, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, and each section further has depending end flanges 15 and 16. The two sections are hinged together by a hinge 17 joining the flanges 14 back-to-back at their lower edges, Fig. 2. It is thus apparent that either section may be swung about the hinge 17 with respect to the other through an angle of 180 degrees to form the box-like container 18 shown in Fig. 6. Latches for the container are provided in the form of slide bolts or the like 19 on the lower edge of one flange 13 and keepers or the like 20 on the lower edge of the other flange 13; one of the latches is shown

at 21 in Fig. 6. Further, a carrying handle 22 is provided for the container.

The device has four combination table and bench panel supports 23, 24, 25 and 26, all of which are alike, one at each corner. For each such support, a U-shaped bracket 27 has one arm 28 secured by a rivet or the like 29 against the flange 13 beneath the table top. A stub tube 30 has one end pivoted by means of a pin 31 on the other arm 32 of the bracket. A second tube 33 is joined to and in alignment with the other end of the tube 30 by a means which permits rotation through an arc of the tube 33 with respect to the tube 30. Such means may comprise a plug 34 anchored by a pin 35 in the tube 33 and projecting into the tube 30, with a pin 36 rigid in the plug projecting into a semicircumferential slot 37 in the tube 30, to permit rotation of the tube 33 through an arc of 180 degrees. Thus the connection between the tube 33 and the bracket 27, and hence between the bracket 27 and the support 23, constitute a universal joint.

The tube 33 is L-shaped, having the normally horizontal portion 33*a* thereof extending outward as shown in Fig. 1. A U-shaped tube 38 has the normally upright cross-member 39 and the two parallel arms 40 and 41, the former registering slidably and rotatably in the portion 33*a* of the tube 33. With the tubes 33 and 38 in their respective poistions shown in Figs. 1 and 4, spaced aligned holes pass vertically through the portion 33*a* and the arm 40. Each seat panel 43 has similarly spaced pins 44 extending downward from the ends thereof, which pins, at each end of the panel, are adapted to register in the aligned holes 42 and thus not only support the seat panel but also maintain the support 23, 24, 25 or 26 rigid.

To collapse the device shown in Fig. 1, the seat panels 43 are first lifted to disengage the pins 44 from the holes 42. Then each of the said supports is collapsed and fitted between the table flanges in the following manner. Referring to the support 26 as an example, although any other of the supports will serve as well, the tube 33 is swung clockwise (Fig. 1) through an arc of 180 degrees with respect to the stub tube 30, then the member 38 is swung about its arm 40 as an axis, and the tube 32 is finally pivoted inward about the axis 31 to position the support against the underside of the table panel, in the positions shown for the supports 23 and 24 in Fig. 5. Of course, all of the turning or pivoting motions just described may be done concurrently in collapsing and folding the support into the table panel. When in the extended position of the device shown in Fig. 1, the arms 41 of the members 38 serve as feet resting on the ground.

It is to be noted, Fig. 5, that the handle 22 comprises a yoke whose arms 44 are slidably mounted in openings through a flange 13. Enlargements 45 on the ends of the arms 44 serve to confine coiled springs 46 between the flange and the enlargement and thus normally urge the yoke arms inward into the container, so that when the device is extended as in Fig. 1 the handle lies flush against the flange and out of the way. In order to fold the supports 23 and 24 into the section 11 as shown in Fig. 5, the handle must be pulled outward, and when the supports are so positioned and the handle is released, it will remain in the position shown, raised outward from the flange 13, because the lower ends of the arms are stopped by the tubes 33. Hence the handle will always be readily accessible to be gripped for carrying the collapsed device.

With supports stored as shown in Fig. 5, the two seat panels 43 are also placed in the sections 11 and 12, one in each section, and then the two sections are folded together into the position shown in Fig. 6, and the latches 21 are closed. Thus, the entire collapsed device may be readily carried about in the manner of a suitcase.

I claim:

1. A device of the class described comprising a table top composed of two half-sections, each of said sections being rectangular in outline and having downwardly extending flanges on the sides and ends thereof, the juxtaposed side flanges of the sections being mutually hinged together along their lower edges whereby the sections are pivotable about the hinge axis to bring the lower edges of the flanges on one section into contact with the lower edges of the flanges on the other section to form a container, each of the outer side flanges of the table top having a bracket secured to the underside thereof at each end thereof, the device having a support at each corner, the supports each comprising a stub tube pivoted at one end to one of said brackets on an axis parallel with the end flanges, an L-shaped tube having one arm thereof rotatably joined to and aligned with the other end of the stub tube, a U-shaped member having the base of the U normally upright and having the upper arm thereof rotatably registering in the other arm of the L-shaped tube, two seat panels, each of said other arms of the L-shaped tubes associated with one of said sections being adapted to support one of said seat panels thereon, and means partly on the seat panel and partly on said other arms of the L-shaped tubes and partly on said upper arms for locking said upper arms against rotation, the lower arms of the U-shaped members serving as feet to rest on the ground, each of said supports after having said seat panels removed being adapted to have said one arm of the L-shaped tube rotated through 180 degrees to position said other arm thereof and said U-shaped member thereon under the associated table top section and then swung on said bracket axis while rotating said upper arm on said other arm of the L-shaped tube to bring said supports wholly within the confines of the flanges of said associated section, means for latching said sections together when forming a container as aforesaid.

2. The device set form in claim 1, said first-named means comprising spaced pins extending downward from the ends of the seat panel, said upper arm and said other arm of the L-shaped tube having holes therethrough in alignment when said U-shaped member is positioned normally upright, said pins registering in said aligned holes.

3. The device set forth in claim 1, having a carrying handle comprising a yoke having the arms thereof extending slidably through one of said side flanges, resilient means normally urging the yoke arms inward into the container, said one arms of the L-shaped tubes of that one of said sections which includes said last-named one of said side flanges being positioned, when the L-shaped tubes are wholly within the confines of the flanges of the section, in mutual alignment closely adjacent said last-named one of the side flanges and in the path of inward movement of said yoke arms whence said one arms serve as limit stops to the inward movement of the yoke arms and maintain the yoke spaced outward from said last-named side flange while simultaneously said resilient means tends to prevent rotary movement of the L-shaped arms on the axes of the stub tubes.

4. A collapsible combination table and seats having the table top divided into two half-sections hinged together, four rigid L-shaped members each comprising a vertical arm and a horizontal arm, a universal joint secured to each corner of the underside of the table top on the end of one axis thereof, each of said vertical arms being secured to one of the universal joints on the end of the other axis of the universal joint, said one axis of the universal joint lying parallel with the table top and said other axis lying at right angles to said one axis, said L-shaped members in normal extended position having the vertical arms thereof extending downward at right angles to the table top and having the horizontal arms thereof extending outward from the area defined by the table top in two pairs on opposite sides of the table top with each of the horizontal arms on one side of the table top lying in parallel planes, said members being adapted to be swung into position under the table top about the axes of the universal joints, two seat panels each adapted to be supported on the two horizontal arms of each of said pairs, means partly on the seat panels and partly on said members for locking said members in said extended position, said sections being adapted to be swung together on the hinge axis thereof, and means for releasably locking said sections together, said horizontal arms being hollow, four rigid U-shaped members each including two spaced normally horizontal portions and a normally vertical portion, the upper of said horizontal portions registering rotatably in said horizontal arms, said first-named means comprising pins extending from the seat panels, said horizontal portions having vertical holes therethrough, said horizontal arms having vertical holes therethrough, said pins said holes in said horizontal portions and said holes in said horizontal arms being in alignment, said pins registering in said aligned holes, said U-shaped members being adapted to be swung through an arc of 180 degrees prior to swinging said L-shaped members into position under the table top as aforesaid.

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