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TABLE MAT.

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932,267.

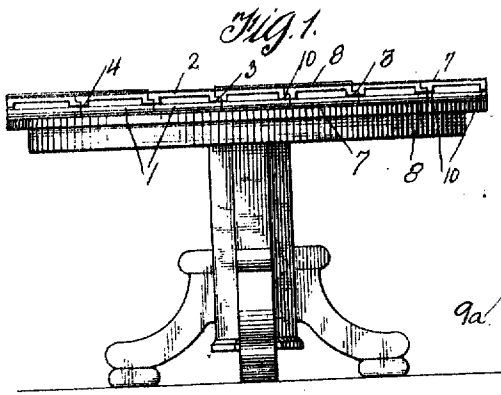


Fig. 1.

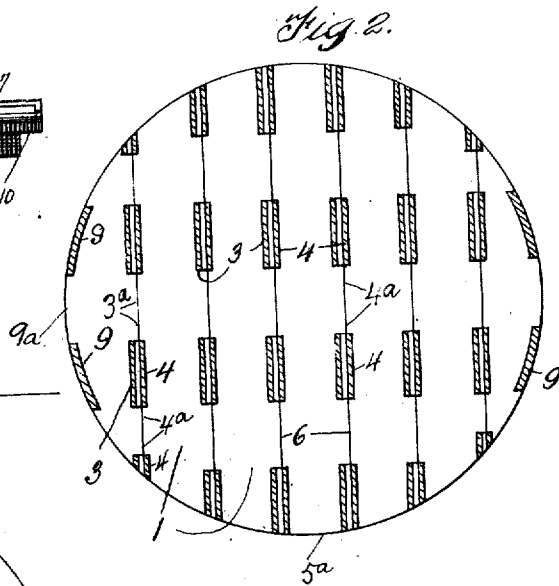


Fig. 2.

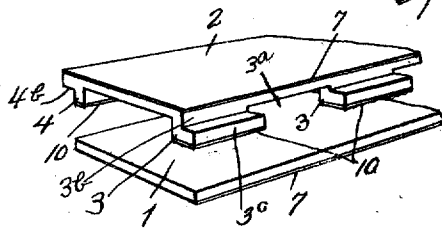
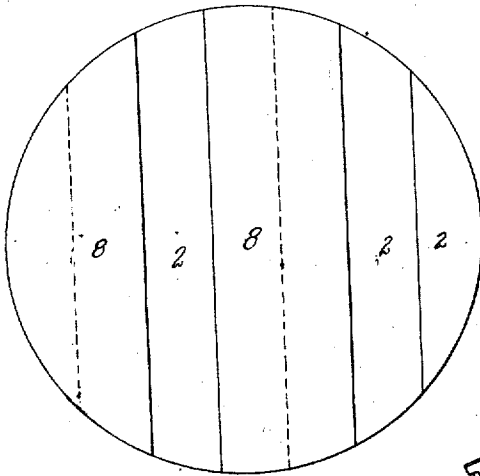
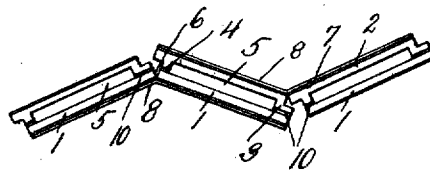


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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TABLE-MAT.

932,267.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, HARRY F. GALBRAITH and CHARLES F. BLACK, citizens of the United States of America, residing at Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Table-Mats, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawing.

This invention relates to a table mat and the object thereof is to provide in a manner as hereinafter set forth a folding mat that can be used on highly polished table tops to prevent the surface thereof from being injured by hot dishes, such as plates and receptacles.

A further object of the invention is to provide a folding table mat in a manner as hereinafter set forth through which air can freely circulate for cooling purposes thereby preventing any particular part of the table top from being heated.

A further object of the invention is to provide a table mat in a manner as hereinafter set forth with means forming communicating and intersecting air chambers or passages whereby there is insured a distribution of air throughout the mat.

A further object of the invention is to provide a table mat in a manner as hereinafter set forth whereby the mat is formed of a plurality of foldable and interlocking sections, said sections when folded forming a small and compact parcel which can be conveniently handled or stored in a small space.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, the invention consists of the novel construction, arrangement and combination of parts as hereinafter more specifically described and illustrated in the accompanying drawings wherein like characters of reference denote corresponding parts throughout the several views, and in which,

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a table showing the adaptation therewith of a mat in accordance with this invention. Fig. 2 is a sectional plan. Fig. 3 is a top plan. Fig. 4 is an elevation of a portion of the mat showing a plurality of sections thereof partly folded, and, Fig. 5 is an enlarged perspective view of one of the sections of the mat disassembled, said section being broken away at one end.

A mat in accordance with this invention comprises a plurality of sections adapted to

be folded one upon the other when the mat is not in use and to be extended with respect to one another so as to provide a flat mat constituting a protective medium for a table top. By way of example, the mat is illustrated as circular so as to conform to the shape of, completely cover and protect the top of the circular table shown in Fig. 1.

As before stated the mat is formed of a plurality of sections which are foldable with respect to each other and which are also hinged together. Each of said sections with the exception of the end sections comprises a bottom plate 1 and a top plate 2, the latter being arranged over and spaced from the plate 1 to form an elongated air space 5. To provide for the formation of the air space 5, the plate 2 at one longitudinal edge is formed with a depending rib 3 cut-away at equidistant points throughout its length to provide openings 3^a for a purpose to be hereinafter referred to and to further provide short supporting lugs 3^b. Each of the latter has formed integral therewith a laterally extending protuberance 3^c constituting a ledge for a purpose to be hereinafter referred to. The protuberances 3^c are arranged in longitudinal alinement with respect to each other. Formed integral with and depending from the lower face of the plate 2 at a point removed from its other longitudinal edge is a rib 4 cut-away at various points throughout its length to provide openings 4^a which register with the openings 3^a of an adjoining section. The lower face of the rib 4 is in alinement with the lower face of the lugs 3^b and protuberances 3^c and secured to the said lower faces is a strip of cork or other equivalent non-conducting material 10. The providing of the rib 4 in the manner as stated forms a seat 4^b which is adapted to engage the ledges provided by the protuberances 3^c on an adjacent section. When the plates 1, 2, are in operative position with respect to each other, the strips 10 are mounted upon the upper face of the plate 1 whereby the air chambers 5 which extend in the direction of the length of the plates are provided. The openings 3^a and 4^a constitute means for establishing communication between the air passages or channels 5. Each outer section of the mat has its inner side constructed similar to the inner side of an inner section, and each of said outer sections has its outer side provided with spaced grooved lugs 9

forming openings 9^a. Each of the air passages or channels 5 is open at each end as at 5^a. The lower face of each of the plates 1 and the outer face of each of the plates 2 has secured thereto a thin sheet of cork 7 or other cushioning material. The top plates of the sections are connected to the bottom plates by suitable adhesive substance, that is to say, the cork strips are provided with adhesive substance for connecting the plates together.

The sections are hinged together by strips of flexible material indicated by the reference character 8, the strips being upon both sides of the mat and alternately disposed with respect to each other so that the sections when desired, can be folded one upon the other. When the mat is extended to cover the table, the openings 3^a, 4^a register so that the by-passes 6 formed by the openings 3^a, 4^a, will establish communication between the spaces or channels 5 and form an air chamber throughout the mat.

It is evident from the foregoing construction of table mat, that if a hot plate or other dish be placed upon one portion of the mat, that the air between the plates 1 and 2 of the mat sections will prevent these latter from becoming hot and that the heat from the plate 2 upon which the plate or receptacle rests will be disseminated throughout the air chamber.

Having now described our invention, what we claim as new is:

1. A table mat comprising a plurality of foldable sections hinged together, each of said sections embodying a top and a bottom plate, said top plate provided at one side with a seat, and spacing means connected to the bottom plate and said top plate further provided at its other side with spacing means and ledges adapted to be secured to the bottom plate, spacing means at each side of said top plate being cut-away to provide openings, said spacing means in connection with said top and bottom plate forming an air passage, said openings in said spacing means of one section adapted to communicate with the openings in the spacing means of an adjacent section, whereby

communication is established between the air passages of the sections.

2. A table mat comprising a plurality of foldable sections hinged together, each of said sections embodying a top and a bottom plate, said top plate provided at one side with a seat, spacing means connected to the bottom plate and said top plate further provided at its other side with spacing means and ledges adapted to be secured to the bottom plate, spacing means at each side of said top plate being cut-away to provide openings, said spacing means in connection with said top and bottom plate forming an air passage, said openings in said spacing means of one section adapted to communicate with the openings in the spacing means of an adjacent section, whereby communication is established between the air passages of the sections, and a plurality of flexible strips alternately disposed upon and secured to the top and bottom of the sections whereby the sections are hinged together.

3. A table mat comprising a plurality of foldable hollow sections forming air passages, said sections provided with means whereby the passages of one section will communicate with the passages of the other section, said passages opening into the atmosphere at each end, and means secured to the sections for hinging them together, said means being alternately disposed with respect to the top and bottom of the sections whereby the sections can be folded upon each other.

4. A table mat comprising a plurality of hinged and foldable hollow sections, each constituting an elongated air passage, each of said sections provided with means at each side for establishing communication between the air passage of one section and the air passages of two adjacent sections.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures in the presence of two witnesses.

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Witnesses:

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