

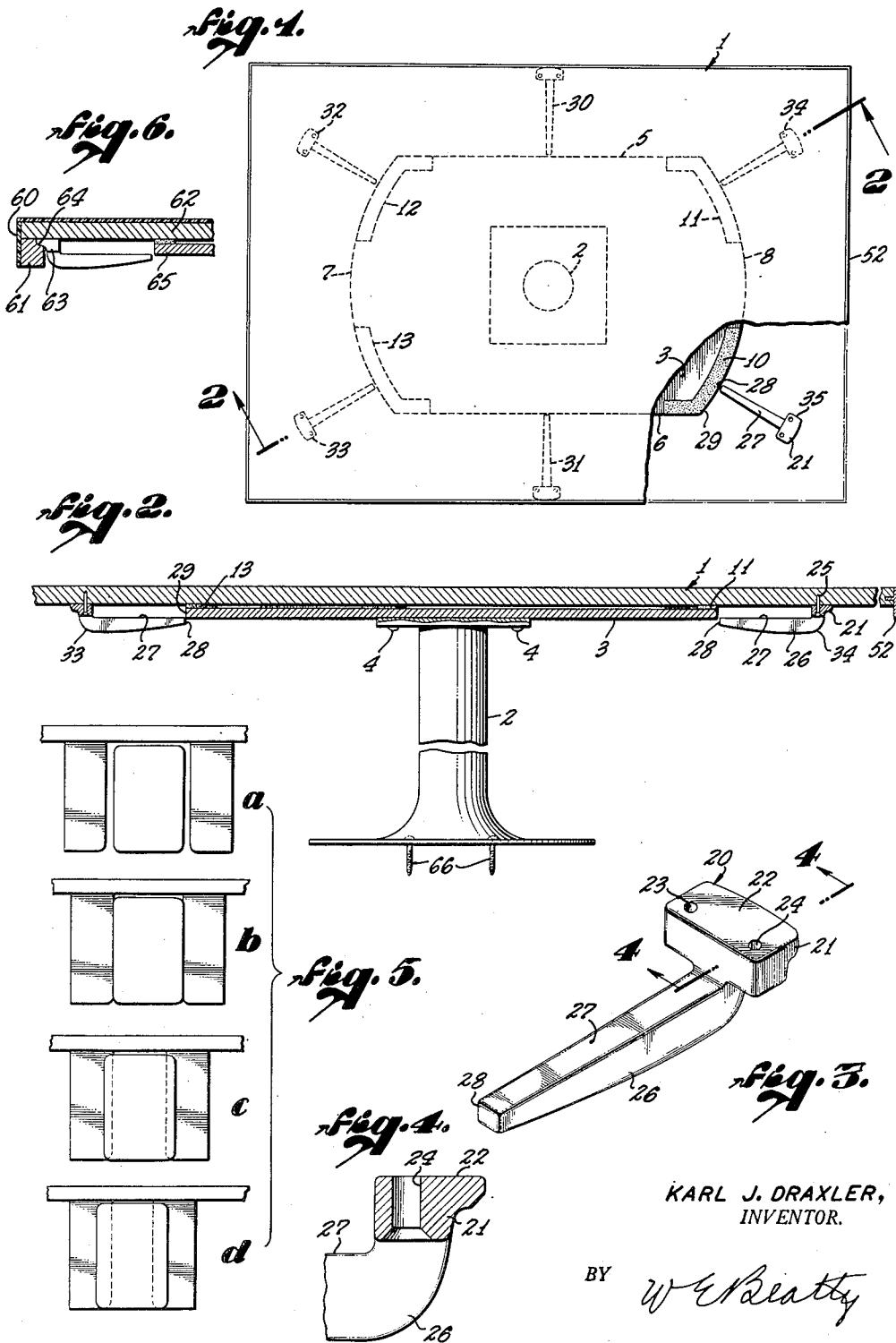
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SLIDING TABLE TOP

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SLIDING TABLE TOP

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1 Claim. (Cl. 311—35)

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The invention relates to a floating table top and more particularly to improvements in my Patent No. 2,307,396, issued January 5, 1943, for sliding table top construction.

An object of the present invention is to provide an improved sliding table top which can be adapted to existing tables. In the patented construction, the use of the spacing ring 3 and the retaining ring plate 4 and the rail 7, and wherein the opening in the ring plate 4 is smaller than the diameter of the sub-table 2, practically require that these elements be associated in an original table in a furniture factory or the like.

According to the present invention the construction which makes it possible for the table top to slide is simplified in the form of a plurality of brackets which can be installed in an existing table without removing the table from the premises. This is of advantage in converting existing tables, for example, in a restaurant, so that they will have the sliding top feature. In this case, the original pedestal may be used and provided with a sub-top, the brackets having an offset arm to receive the sub-top. The device may be installed simply with the use of a screw driver to fasten the brackets in place.

The brackets of the present invention have a number of advantages over the patented construction. For example, the brackets may be so positioned that the ends thereof lie at a greater diameter than that of the sub-top whereby the table top is removable. Also the brackets can be arranged in a small compact package for shipment to users of the invention. A further advantage is that a bracket-type floating table top would be about one-third cheaper than the patented construction requiring only one element, namely, the bracket instead of several elements as described above.

While the invention is of particular advantage in converting existing tables, the invention, of course, may be also applied to original tables being made in a factory, table manufacturers being particularly interested in the above-mentioned advantage of simplicity of construction and reduction in cost as well as removability of the table top.

For further details of the invention reference may be made to the drawings wherein Fig. 1 is a plan view of a sliding table top according to the present invention, certain of the brackets, a part of the sub-top, certain felt pads and the pedestal being shown in broken lines with a part of the table top broken away showing the position of one bracket and other elements.

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Fig. 2 is an enlarged sectional view on line 2—2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of one of the brackets. Fig. 4 is a sectional view on line 4—4 of Fig. 3. Fig. 5 is a schematic view illustrating various positions of the sliding table top with reference to the seats of a tooth. Fig. 6 is a side view in elevation, partly in section of the bracket applied to a plastic type table with parts broken away.

Referring in detail to the drawings, the table top 1 is here shown as rectangular although it could be of any other shape. The table top 1 may have been removed from the pedestal 2 in the case of conversion of an existing table. The pedestal 2 is provided with a sub-top 3 fixed to the pedestal 2 by screws like 4. The sub-top 3 is illustrated as having parallel opposite sides 5 and 6 and convex ends 7 and 8. To the top of each corner of the sub-top 3, is glued a thin felt pad as indicated at 10, 11, 12 and 13. The table top 1, rests on the felt pads 10 to 13 which provide desirable sliding friction and adhesion and also provide a space between the table top 1 and sub-top 3 to allow for warping of sub-top 3 which may be of plywood. The space created by the felt pads 10 to 13 is adapted to receive a high spot in the table top 1 or sub-top 3 created by warping to prevent a pivotal spinning of the table top 1 on such a high spot.

As shown in Fig. 3, the bracket 20, which may be a metal casting or stamping made out of any of a number of materials, is in the form of a base 21 having a flat upper surface 22 to rest against the under surface of the table top 1. Base 21 has upright holes 23, 24 for screws like 25 in Fig. 2.

From the base 21 laterally projects an arm 26 having a flat upper surface 27 downwardly offset from surface 22 to provide a pocket or space into which the sub-top 3 is adapted to slide. Each arm like 26 extends downwardly from its base with a thickness substantially as great as the width of the base, this thickness tapering in height from a greater value at the base 21 to lesser values towards the outer end of the arm to provide greatest upright strength where the tipping force is greatest. The brackets like 20 are screwed in spaced relation around the bottom of table top 1, preferably with the extremity like 28 of the arms like 26 slightly outside of the periphery 29 of the sub-top 3, whereby the table top 1 can be lifted off from sub-top 3, or mounted on it, when the table top 1 is centered with the sub-top 3. As shown in Fig. 1, one bracket indicated at 30 may be arranged at one side, bracket

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31 on the opposite side, two brackets 32 and 33 at one end and two brackets 34, 35, at the other end. The brackets 30 to 35 thus provide a pocket completely around the periphery of the sub-top 3, the depth of this pocket being the length of the surface 27. It is thus possible to slide the table top 1 in any direction as desired, with one or more of the brackets in position to underlie the sub-top and limit the sliding movement and prevent the table top from tipping.

Figures 5a, b, c, d progressively and graphically illustrate the feature of saving valuable restaurant or barracks floor space inherent in this invention, showing a rectangular table, although any other shaped table would accomplish the same. In Fig. 5d the overhang of the table top amounts to the normal sideward sliding range of the table top. If this table top is moved against its base as far as it will go, its edge will still be flush with the edge of the seat as in Fig. 5b. Entering such a booth will not be appreciably more difficult than entering the booth shown in Fig. 5b, yet there is a saving of floor space per booth amounting to twice the overhang. Fig. 5a shows a gap between the edge of the table top and the edge of the seat, an arrangement often used with fixed restaurant table tops, to facilitate entrance of the booth by patrons. The addition of the floating table top feature now permits the use of bigger table tops without altering anything else, bringing the advantage of the bigger table top which will hold more dishes. The advantage of replacement of such narrow table tops, would obviously stimulate sale of the brackets to table manufacturers who would fill these orders. Fig. 5c shows an intermediate position which compromises between floor space saving and comfort for the patron in entering and leaving the booth.

Fig. 2 shows a table top 1 with a conventional metal moulding 52 which is slightly dropped to partly obscure the brackets 29 from view. Fig. 6 shows a conventional plastic self-edge 60, glued against a wooden build-up 61 extending below the table top 62. In this case the bracket bases 63 may be set into recesses 64 cut into the wood of the build-up 61 to permit their setting as close to the table top edges as possible. This permits the use of a relatively large sub-top 65 which gives maximum support to make this movable table top 62 as steady as possible. Many table tops have no edging of any kind.

These brackets may also be made of different lengths to give greater sliding range to larger

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table tops. As these table tops move, the bases are often anchored to the floor by screws 66 as shown in Fig. 2, making the sub-tops as rigid as the floor itself and eliminating wobbling, also saving the greater expense of weight bases.

In addition to facilitating ingress into and egress from a booth, these floating table tops offer the advantage of adjustability of the table top for parties while seated, while the base remains in the same position. Small people may pull the top to themselves, while large people may push it away from themselves.

The brackets permit sliding movement of the table top in any horizontal direction, while limiting such sliding movement and preventing the table from tipping when one or more of the brackets underlie the sub-top.

Various other modifications may be made in the invention without departing from the spirit of the following claim.

I claim:

A sliding table top device comprising a relatively stationary sub-top and a set of spaced brackets secured to the underside of the sliding table top, each of said brackets comprising a unitary metal member having a base having a flat upper surface and a downwardly offset arm projecting laterally from said base, each of said arms having a substantially flat upper surface substantially parallel to said flat upper surface of its base and each of said arms having a thickness which tapers from a greater value at the inner end of said arm to lesser values towards the outer end of said arm, each of said bases having an upright aperture there-through for fastening means extending into said table top, each of said arms extending freely at any and all points under said sub-top for horizontal sliding movement of said table top.

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