June 14, 1949. O. E. FENSKE, JR 2,473,022

COMBINED CARRYING CASE AND TABLE

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FIG. 1

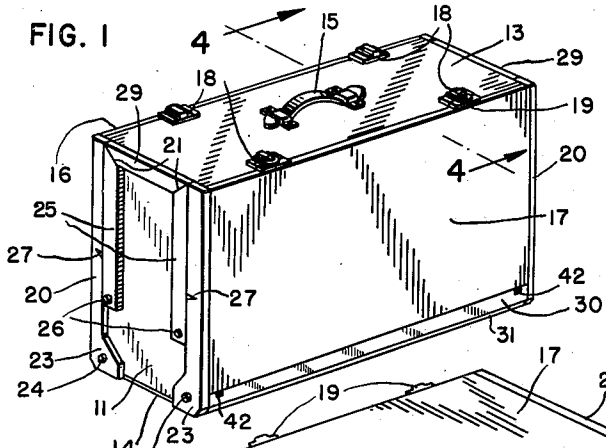


Fig. 5.

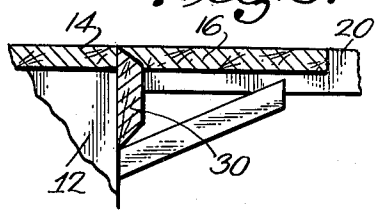


FIG. 2

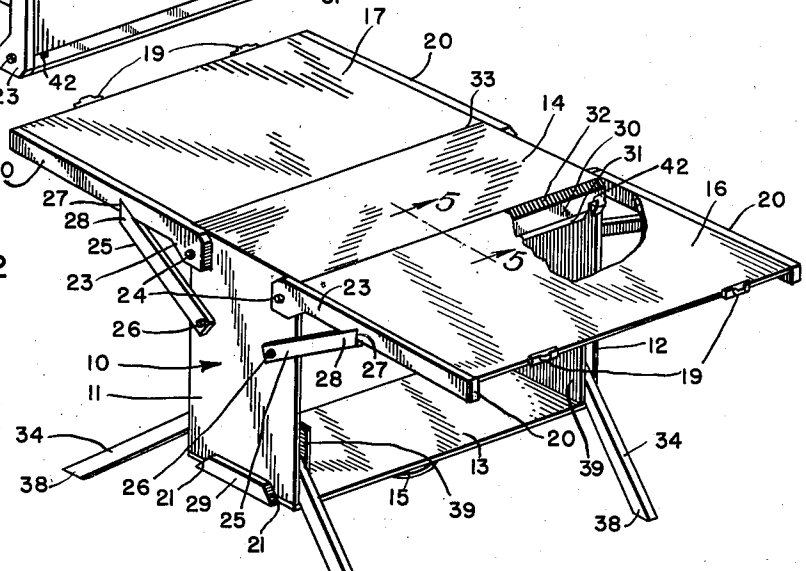


FIG. 4

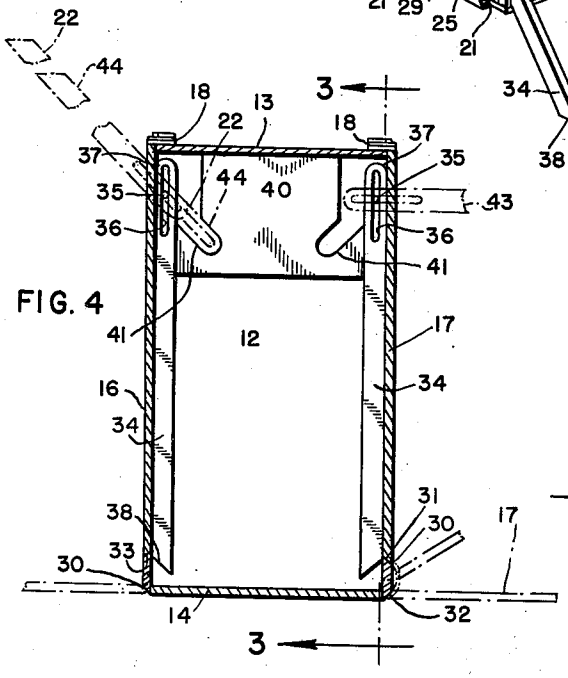
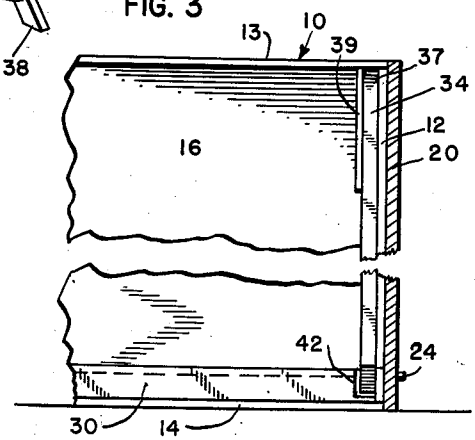


FIG. 3



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COMBINED CARRYING CASE AND TABLE

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3 Claims. (Cl. 311—90)

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This invention relates to improvements in a combined carrying case and table, that is to say, a carrying case which has the appearance and all of the utility of a grip and which is readily and simply convertible into a sturdy table.

The principal object of my invention is to provide a device of the character described in which a frame member comprises the body of the grip and has strips with beveled edges for cooperating with swinging leaves to form a smooth and unobstructed table top when the device is opened and presents a smooth and unobstructed surface when the device is closed.

A further object of the invention is to provide novel manners for supporting the table top.

A still further object of the invention is to provide novel structure whereby the table top is rendered smooth and unobstructed, whilst at the same time being amply supported and capable of carrying much weight.

With the foregoing and other objects in view which will appear as the description proceeds, the invention consists of certain novel features of construction, arrangement and a combination of parts hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawing, and particularly pointed out in the appended claims, it being understood that various changes in the form, proportion, size and minor details of the structure may be made without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

For the purpose of facilitating an understanding of my invention, I have illustrated in the accompanying drawing a preferred embodiment thereof, from an inspection of which, when considered in connection with the following description, my invention, its mode of construction, assembly and operation, and many of its advantages should be readily understood and appreciated.

Referring to the drawing in which the same characters of reference are employed to indicate corresponding or similar parts throughout the several figures of the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a combined carrying case and table embodying my new invention and showing the device in a closed condition ready for travel.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the traveling case shown in Fig. 1, same having been opened and converted into a table, a portion of the table top being broken away to show certain details.

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary sectional view of my device in a closed condition taken generally along line 3—3 of Fig. 4 and in the indicated direction.

Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken generally along

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the line 4—4 of Fig. 1 and in the general direction indicated.

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary sectional view taken generally along the line 5—5 of Fig. 2 and in the general direction indicated.

The reference character 10 designates generally the frame member of the case which comprises two end walls 11 and 12 suitably attached to the top and bottom walls 13 and 14 respectively. The top wall 13 is provided with a carrying handle 15 secured thereto in any desired manner. The open sides formed by the frame member 10 are provided with leaves or panels 16 and 17 adapted to be positioned as shown in Fig. 1, closing the open sides of the frame member 10 to form a hollow carrying case, or to be positioned as shown in Fig. 2 with the leaves or panels supported in a substantially horizontal plane perpendicular to the frame 10 to form therewith a table.

It will be noted that to convert the traveling case from a condition shown in Figs. 1 and 4 to a table as shown in Fig. 2, it is necessary to turn same upside down. Thus, the handle 15 is on the bottom of frame 10 when the device is used as a table.

For the purpose of securing the leaves or panels 16 and 17 in position when the device is closed, that is, forms a traveling case or grip, the top wall 13 is provided with spring catches or clasps 18 which are adapted to be engaged with the tongues 19 fastened to the leaves 16 and 17 on the edges thereof.

Each of the leaves 16 and 17 is provided along opposite edges with a strengthening member 20 adapted to assist in framing the panels or sides. Each of the members 20 is provided with an enlarged portion 23 having a pin 24 therein pivotally attaching the leaves 16 and 17 to the end walls 11 and 12. It will be noted in Fig. 1 that when the leaves 16 and 17 are folded in closed position over the frame 10, the members 20 serve to enhance the appearance of the case, acting as ornamental trim therefor.

To maintain the leaves 16 and 17 in an open position when the device is serving as a table, there are provided members 25 pivotally attached at 26 to the side walls and which are adapted to engage within notches 27 provided therefore in members 20. These notches 27 are substantially triangular in shape and the ends of the members 25 are pointed, as shown at 28 in order to snugly cooperate therewith. In the process of assembly, the members 25 are moved to position, the leaves 16 and 17 raised above the horizontal until the

pointed ends 28 can enter notches 27, and then the leaves are lowered seating the ends 28.

When the leaves 16 and 17 are in a folded position, the members 25 are placed alongside the side walls 11 and 12, and together with the members 20, also serve as ornamental trim. In order to prevent the movement of the members 25 to positions inwardly of the sidewalls 11 and 12 and beyond those shown in Fig. 1 while acting as trim, stop members 29 are provided having pointed ends 21 mitred to engage ends 28. These members 29 are thus also used as ornamental trim.

A cross member 30 is attached to the frame 10, on either side thereof extending between walls 11 and 12 adjacent the pivoted edges of the leaves 16 and 17. The long edges of these cross members are both beveled as shown at 31 and 32, the edges 32 being flush with the long edges of the bottom wall 14. When the leaves 16 and 17 are folded, the bottom of the case thus presents a smooth beveled appearance. The adjacent edges of the leaves 16 and 17 are cooperatively beveled as shown at 33 so that when they are opened to horizontal positions as shown in Fig. 2 there will be a smooth close fitting joint where bevels 33 and 32 come together, thereby providing the resultant table top with a smooth, unobstructed flat surface.

When the leaves are folded to a closed position, the beveled edges 33 clear the member 30 as shown by broken lines in Fig. 4 during rotation, and seat against the beveled edges 31 of the cross members 30 thereby providing an unbroken surface for the side of the traveling case. The leaves 16 and 17 can clear the members 30 because of the offset positions of the pivot pins 24.

Four leg members 34 are provided for bracing the device when used as a table. Each leg member 34 is normally carried within the case and alongside the end walls 11 and 12 of the frame 10. These members 34 are pivotally attached to the frame 10 by pins 35 which engage in elongated slots 36 provided in said members 34. The pivoted ends of the members 34 are preferably rounded as at 37 to permit rotation thereof while the opposite free ends thereof are mitred as at 38 so that when the legs are in position for supporting and bracing the table as shown in Fig. 2, they may be arranged at a considerable angle thereto whereby a stable platform may be secured. The members 34 are each adapted to rotate between the inner face of one of the walls 11 and 12 and a plate member 39 spaced therefrom by a block member 40. The block member 40 is provided on opposite sides thereof and adjacent each leg member 34 with a slot 41 (see Fig. 4) which is of a cross section identical with that of members 34 and which is arranged at an angle to the open face of frame 10. The slots 41 in each block 40 together with the inner faces of the respective plate members 39 and side walls 11 or 12 form sockets within which the ends of the members 34 are adapted to engage as will be presently pointed out.

In moving the leg members 34 to an open position, they are first rotated from their initial position as shown in solid lines in Fig. 4 about pivot pins 35, so that the free ends 38 pass by the cross member 30 and through cut away portions 42 of said member 30 provided for that purpose. The members 34 are rotated to the position shown by the broken lines 43 of Fig. 4 and thence up to broken lines 22 of Fig. 4. The rotative motion of the members 34 may be limited by having edges thereof abut against either the edges of the

block 40 or the edges of the wall 13. In order to seat the members 34 in their open position, they are now moved inwardly and translated along their longitudinal axes so that the rounded ends 37 enter and engage within the sockets formed by slots 41 which thereby hold said members rigidly for stabilizing the table. This position is shown by broken lines 44 of Fig. 4. The translating movement is permitted by reason of the elongated slots 36 provided in members 34 for cooperation with the pins 35.

From the above description it is believed obvious how a sportsman or camper or the like may carry divers articles in the case and, when desired, open said case, removing the articles if necessary, and quickly and readily convert same into a rigid and well-supported table. The inside of the case may be provided with hooks, clamps, brackets or the like, for the accommodation of accessories, supplies, or articles of equipment. The case may be made from wood, fabric, synthetic resins, leather or sheet metal, or combinations thereof, without in any way departing from the invention.

It is believed that my invention, its mode of construction and assembly, and many of its advantages should be readily understood from the foregoing without further description, and it should also be manifest that while a preferred embodiment of the invention has been shown and described for illustrative purposes, the structural details are nevertheless capable of wide variation within the purview of my invention as defined in the appended claims.

What I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A portable traveling case adapted to be readily convertible into a table, and comprising a rectangular frame member having opposed hinged sides swingable to form the leaves of the table, members normally carried within said frame member and movable to positions constituting same legs therefor, and bracing members normally carried externally of said frame member and movable to positions constituting same as braces for said table leaves, said frame member having a pair of cross-members extending between two sides thereof and adjacent the sides to which said leaves are hinged, said cross-members having beveled edges adapted to cooperate with beveled edges provided on said leaves whereby when said case is in a closed position the sides thereof present a substantially smooth surface, and when in an open position, the leaves present a table top having a smooth surface.

2. A portable traveling case adapted to be readily convertible into a table, and comprising a rectangular frame member having opposed hinged sides swingable to form the leaves of the table, members normally carried within said frame member and movable to positions constituting same legs therefor, and bracing members normally carried externally of said frame member and movable to positions constituting same as braces for said table leaves, said frame member having a pair of cross-members extending between two sides thereof and adjacent the sides to which said leaves are hinged, said cross-members having beveled edges adapted to cooperate with beveled edges provided on said leaves and having notched portions for clearing the free ends of said leg members while same are being moved from closed to open position.

3. A portable traveling case adapted to be readily convertible into a table, and comprising

a rectangular frame member having opposed hinged sides swingable to form the leaves of the table, members normally carried within said frame member and movable to positions constituting same legs therefor, and bracing members movable to positions constituting same as braces for said table leaves, said frame member having a strip along an edge of each open face thereof parallel to the axis of rotation of said sides, the edges of said strip being beveled, and said leaves each having a beveled edge to cooperate with the beveled edges of the strips, whereby when open the top of the table is smooth, unobstructed and without grooves, and yet when closed the surface of the case is smooth, unobstructed and without grooves.

OTTO E. FENSKE, JR.

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