Dec. 10, 1935. J. L. KLEINMAN 2,023,844

TENNIS SET

Filed Nov. 4, 1933 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1

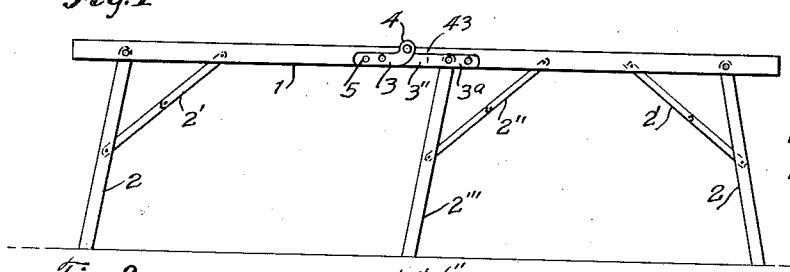


Fig. 6

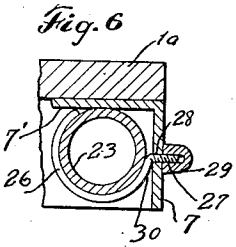


Fig. 2

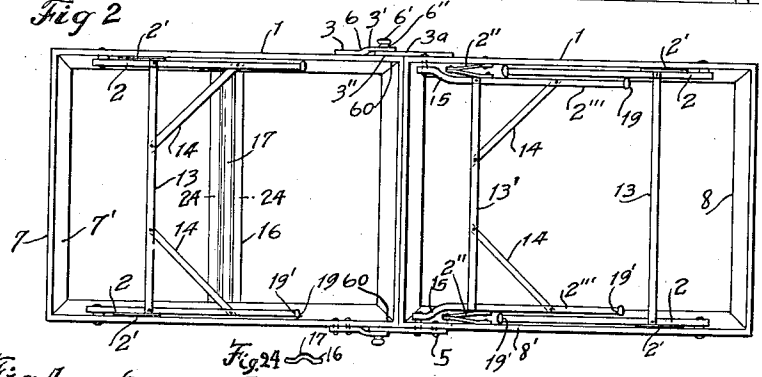


Fig. 5

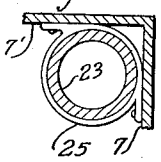


Fig. 3

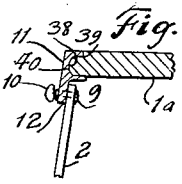


Fig. 4

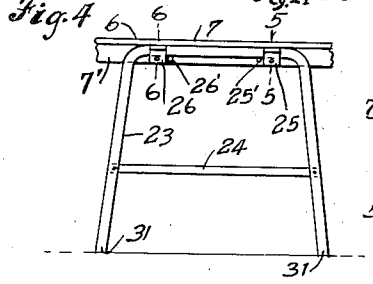


Fig. 8

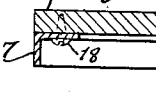


Fig. 9

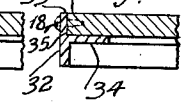


Fig. 11

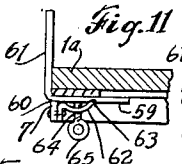


Fig. 12

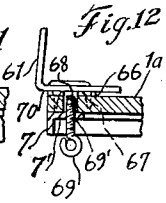


Fig. 13

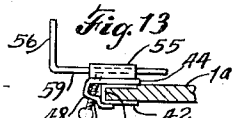


Fig. 10



Fig. 7

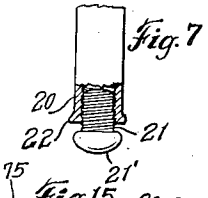


Fig. 17

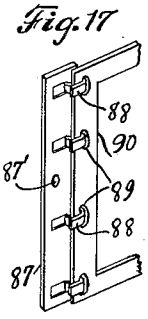


Fig. 16

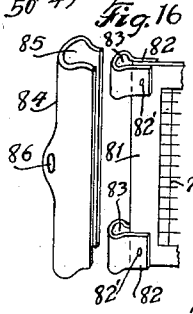


Fig. 22

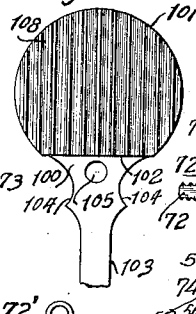


Fig. 14

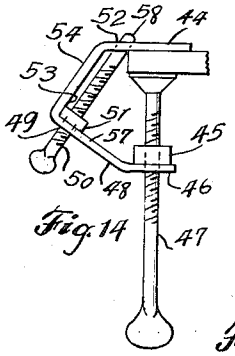


Fig. 15

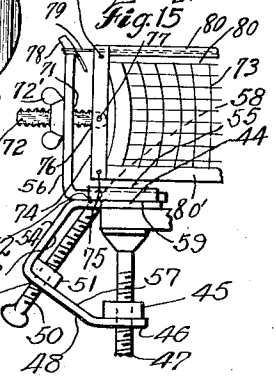


Fig. 21

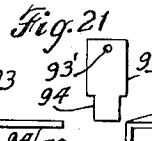


Fig. 19

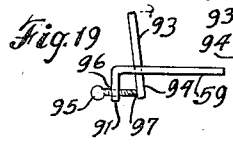


Fig. 20

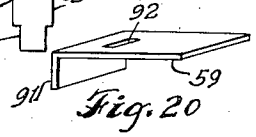
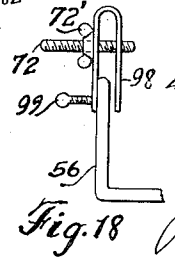


Fig. 18



INVENTOR-

Jacob L. Kleinman

Dec. 10, 1935. J. L. KLEINMAN 2,023,844

TENNIS SET

Filed Nov. 4, 1933 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 25

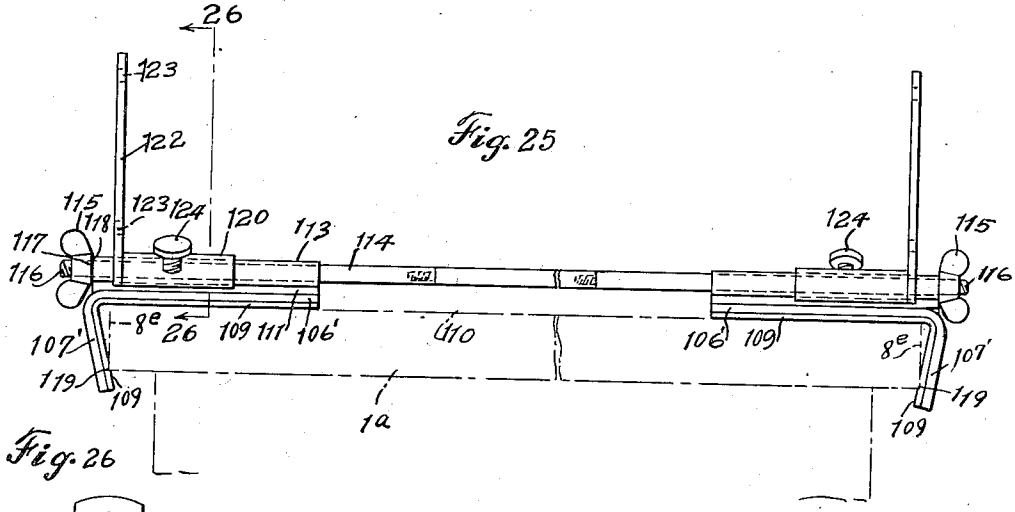


Fig. 26

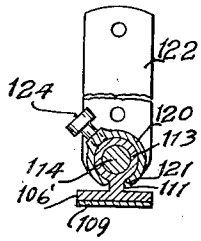


Fig. 27

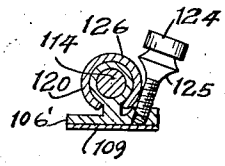


Fig. 28



Fig. 29

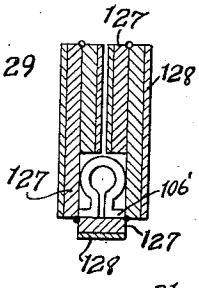


Fig. 30

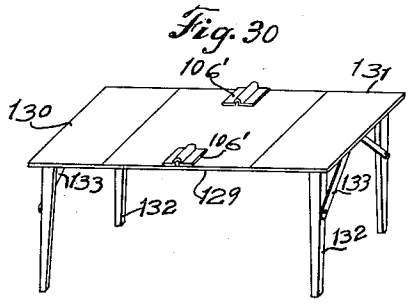


Fig. 32

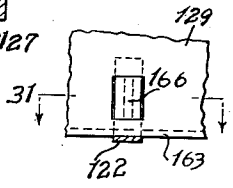


Fig. 36

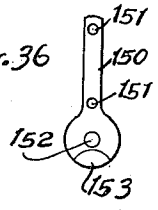


Fig. 31

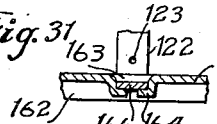


Fig. 33

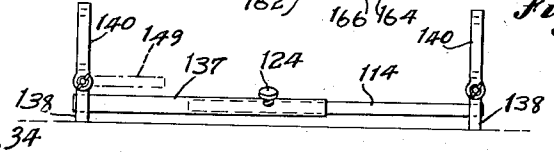


Fig. 34

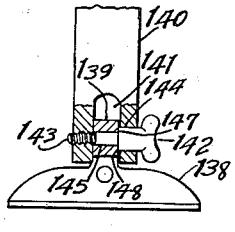


Fig. 35

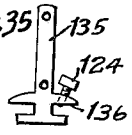
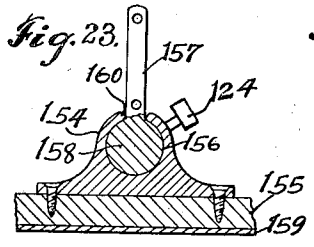


Fig. 23



INVENTOR-

Jacob L. Kleinman

Patented Dec. 10, 1935 2,023,844

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,023,844

TENNIS SET

Jacob L. Kleinman, New York, N. Y.

Application November 4, 1933, Serial No. 696,633

27 Claims. (Cl. 273—30)

The invention relates to a device constituting a table and accessories used in connection therewith in playing the game familiarly known as "ping-pong" and more properly designated as table tennis. The invention consists in providing a table of unique construction, and more particularly of a table top and supporting structure therefor, as well as a net holder and racket of novel design and construction.

An object of the invention is to provide a table tennis playing surface consisting of a table top having edges reinforced so as to minimize warping and protected against the possibility of breakage.

Another object is to provide a table tennis playing surface having a guiding member associated therewith.

A further object of the invention is to provide a table comprising two portions detachably secured together by means of hinges so as to form a single unitary structure and provide a smooth and even playing surface.

Also an object of the invention is the provision of a table having readily adjustable legs for supporting the table top.

A further object is to provide a construction of table capable of permitting the tensioning of a net applied thereto, by means of a member slidably mounted within a slot provided on the side of the table.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a net holder device, capable of application to my novel structure of table, such net holder being adapted to have its movement controlled by means of a screw and a U-shaped member having an off-set back position.

A still further object is to provide, in a net holder, means for obtaining a firm edge line of the net stretched between the supporting posts, irrespective of the state of tension of the net or the adjustment of said tension, and means for raising or lowering the net, in order to obtain the proper height of such net.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a racket for table tennis having gripping means at its neck position, having a removable striking surface, such surface having portions thereof concaved so as to afford a better gripping and control of the ball during play.

Other objects of the invention include the provision of a net holding stand capable of being placed upon a table without the necessity of using clamps, and which stand is adjustable to fit any table width.

All of the above objects will be seen to be directed toward providing a practical and durable device simple in construction and therefore, economical in cost of manufacture.

Other objects and advantages of the present invention will appear from the description hereof to follow, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings in which—

Fig. 1 is a side view of table embodying my present invention.

Fig. 2 is a horizontal view of the table with the legs thereof in the folded position.

Fig. 3 is a sectional view of a portion of the frame, top and leg.

Fig. 4 is a modified form of the leg construction.

Fig. 5 is a cross-section view along the line 5—5 of Fig. 4.

Fig. 6 is a cross-section view along the line 6—6 of Fig. 4.

Fig. 7 is a view of the bottom of the leg, partly broken away, to reveal the internal structure.

Fig. 8 is a cross-sectional view of a portion of the frame and top of the table.

Fig. 9 is a modified form of the structure shown in Fig. 8.

Fig. 10 is a modified form of the structure shown in Fig. 9.

Fig. 11 is a sectional view of the table and net post.

Fig. 12 is a modified form of the structure shown in Fig. 11.

Fig. 13 is a sectional view of the table top, net post holder and post.

Fig. 14 is a modified form of the structure shown in Fig. 13.

Fig. 15 is an assembled view of the net-post and net.

Fig. 16 is a modified form of a portion of the structure shown in Fig. 15.

Fig. 17 is a modified form of the structure shown in Fig. 16.

Fig. 18 is a modified form of the net-post.

Fig. 19 is a modified form of a portion of Fig. 15.

Fig. 20 is a top view of a portion of Fig. 19.

Fig. 21 is a front view of a portion of Fig. 19.

Fig. 22 is a front view of the racket.

Fig. 23 is a modified form of the structure of Fig. 34.

Fig. 24 is a cross-sectional view along the line 24—24 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 25 is a modified form of the net holder attached to the table.

Fig. 26 is a cross-sectional view along the line 26—26 of Fig. 25.

Fig. 27 is a modified form of the structure shown in Fig. 26.

Fig. 28 is a view of the rod, partly broken away, to reveal the internal structure.

Fig. 29 is a modification of the table top.

Fig. 30 is a modification of Fig. 1.

Fig. 31 is a cross-sectional view along the line 31—31 of Fig. 32.

Fig. 32 is a modified form of the structure shown in Fig. 11.

Fig. 33 is a modified form of Fig. 25.

Fig. 34 is an end view of Fig. 33.

Fig. 35 is a modified form of the structure of the post, and

Fig. 36 is another modified form of the post and stand structure.

The reference character 1 indicates the table top made of any suitable material, for example wood, metal, or fibre, supported by legs 2, held in position by brackets 2'. These legs and brackets are pivoted so that they may be folded to a position flush with the underside of the table. The table is made in two sections connected together by suitable hinges, for instance, hinge 3, raised at its center as at 4, so as to permit the folding and closing of the table. This hinge 3 may be attached to top 1 in any desirable manner, for example, by being riveted or screwed thereto, as at 5. One portion of the hinge is bent as at 6 (see Fig. 2), overlapping the other portion thus providing an even surface to match the even surface of the sides of the top 1. These hinges may be riveted together in a manner loose enough to permit swinging, but a suitable removable screw 6' may be used instead of a rivet, such screw passing loosely through an opening 6'' in member 3' and engaging, by means of thread opening 3'' of member 3a (see Fig. 2). (The threaded portion of the screw and openings are not shown). Thus, in addition to providing hinged means to fold the table, I also provide means for separating the two halves (because screw 6 may removed if so desired) so that instead of carrying the full weight of the table, one may carry one-half of the weight at a time to the desired place and then join same together, or, if it is desired to use a section of the table for a different game, for example, bridge, then only one-half could be used while the second half may be stored away.

It is, of course, understood that top 1 may be made of one solid portion, and if desirable, the table may be made as a stand and have a separate top attached thereto. In such case top 1 may be made of any desirable material and shaped as exemplified by Figures 2, 3, 8, 9, 10 and 13. Referring to Figs. 2 and 8, frames 7 and 8 are made of angle iron and in the following manner. A full length is obtained, then mitred, then bent to form a closed frame, the end portions being brought together and joined to each other in any suitable manner, for instance, welded, riveted, soldered or screwed. If desired, these frames may be made of several sections. To the side of these frames are attached legs 2 in any suitable manner, either by rivets or screws. If screws are used, leg 2 is provided with an interiorly threaded bushing or member 9 (see Fig. 3) and a screw 10 is loosely inserted through an opening in member 11 so as to engage said bushing. When it is desired to swing the leg, screw 10 is loosened, and when the leg 2 is placed in desired position, screw 10 is tightened, thereby pulling leg 2 close to portion 12 and holding the leg in a locked position. A member 13 (see Fig. 2) is secured to each pair of legs 2, a sub-member 14 being then secured to legs 2 and to member 13, thus making each pair of legs a strong and rigid structure. If desired, member 13 may be provided with end portions turned or bent at right angles (not shown) in the same manner as top portion of leg 23 as in Fig. 4 and then attached in a suitable manner to legs 2, thus forming a unitary structure. It is important that when the leg sections are folded they shall lie flatly against the angle iron and not be bulky for packing, and yet not touch or injure the underside of top 1a. In order to accomplish this purpose, I provide the center set of legs 2''' with a member 13' shorter in length than members 13 (see Fig. 2) and make the end portions of this pair of legs bent as at 15 and brackets 2'' also bent or shaped to correspond with the space between portion 8' of frame 8 and leg 2''', so that the legs 2 and 2''' lie beside each other and not on top of each other. To the frame 7 is attached a member 16. This member 16 may be of angle, T-shaped, channelled or of a corrugated shape as at 17 (see Fig. 24). This, of course, strengthens the frame considerably. If desired, the other sections of the frame may also be made of corrugated material, thus greatly reducing the weight of the structure. Frame 7 and member 16 are provided with openings (not shown) and when top 1a is placed upon top 1 which consists of frames 7 and 8, then screws 18 are placed into said openings and inserted into top 1a, but not extending all the way through said top 1a so as to allow the upper surface of said top 1a to have a smooth uninterrupted finish (see Fig. 8). Legs 2 and 2''' may be made of tubing and in such a case the extreme ends are provided with lugs 19 so as to prevent direct contact between the tubular legs and the floor, thus eliminating injuries to such floor.

In some cases the floor may not be perfectly even and the table will therefore shake. In order to prevent such shaking, I have provided a threaded member 20 (see Fig. 7) and a plug 21' provided with a threaded portion 21, said member 20 being inserted into the extreme bottom end portion of legs 2 and 2''' as at 19' until flange edge or top portion 22 engages said bottom end portion. By turning plugs 21' the leg may be adjusted to the proper length so that the table will reach a desirable height, thus assuring an even playing surface. If desirable, the leg itself may be threaded and plug 21' may be attached directly to said threaded leg portion. The legs may also be made of a piece of tubing bent or shaped to a U-shaped member 23 (see Fig. 4) and if desired, a corrugated cross bar, angle or tubing 24 of any desirable form may be secured to said U-shaped member and said U-shaped member may be attached to said angle portion 7 and 7' in any suitable manner. For example, tubular members 25 and 26 are telescoped over the member 23 before bending same to U-shape. Said member 23, when bent, is placed in position and members 25 and 26 are then attached to portion 7 and 7' by means of screws, solder or welding (see Fig. 5). A round hook, or member 26, (see Fig. 6) provided with a threaded end portion 27, may be used instead of member 25 in which case, portion 27 is positioned in opening 28 of portion 7 and a nut 29 is placed over said portion 27 covering same and at the same time tightly engaging the outer wall of portion 7. The angle portion 30 of member 26 engages tightly the inner wall of portion 7 thus making this a solid structure. This por-

tion 27 is shorter than the depth of the nut 29 thus allowing the tightening of these sections and at the same time permitting the swinging of member or legs 23 in the same manner as with respect to legs 2. Of course, plugs 19 or 20 may be applied to the end 31 in the same manner as applied to ends 19'.

With respect to Fig. 9, instead of a plain angle forming top 1 to receive top 1a, a T-shaped member 32 is used to form said top 1, thereby providing a casing, frame or shell 33 and top 1a is dropped into this frame or shell and supported by flange 34. This casing, shell or frame 33 protects the edge 35 of top 1a. In this case, screws 18 may be inserted through portion 33 so that longer screws may be used and yet not affecting the upper surface of top 1a.

A table tennis top is usually made of several plies or layers of material and frequently those layers or plies become loose or separated from each other, after the glue dries, especially when made of wood. In such case, the top becomes useless. The structure of the present invention not only protects the edges of the tops from breaking, but also hides such separation from view, thus greatly minimizing the possibility of losses to the manufacturer and dealer.

The frame 33 may be made without flange 34 and in case of wooden or fibre tops, such frame 33 may also be made of wood or fibre, as the case may be. Fig. 10 shows that the side of top 1a may be provided with a groove or opening 36 and portion 33 is provided with a rib or hook 37 and instead of dropping top 1a into the shell, said top may be shifted sideways until the groove engages said rib, thus eliminating the use of screws. The same is true with respect to Fig. 3 but with this difference, that the side 38 of said top is rounded and provided with a recess 39 and portion 11 is provided with a groove or channel 40 and when assembled the edge of top 1a is thus reinforced and well protected against injury. In Fig. 13 the edge 41 of top 1a is covered with a channel member 42 and thus reinforces and may be attached to any kind of a stand or legs and yet edge portion 41 will be well protected against injuries.

It is to be noted that particularly when top 1a is made of ply wood, the several thin layers on the top during handling because of the thinness of such layers, break off very easily. The prevention or minimizing of such breakage of the edges by their reinforcement and protection is of great importance. The reinforcement and protection of the edges of top 1a will strengthen such edges considerably and will also help to greatly reduce the possibilities of warping of said top 1a. In addition to this, member 42 may also be a guide, by taking the place of the white stripe which is about ¾ of an inch in width, and is positioned at the end portions guiding the playing surface, thus saving the cost of the painted stripe which is quite expensive. (As a guide, member 42 could be made of any suitable material, style, shape or color). These are very important matters in an article of this sort.

Referring to Fig. 1, it will be noted that portion 4 of hinge 3 is away from the center of the table, as indicated at 43. This is done with the purpose of providing room for U-shaped member 44 (see Figs. 13 and 14) to be positioned at the center of the table. The U-shaped member (see Fig. 14) is at its bottom portion 46 provided with an interior threaded tubular portion 45. A screw 47 is positioned therein, thus securing said U shaped member to said top. Said U shaped member is provided with an outwardly flared, offset or angular shaped rear end portion, or extension 48, said end portion being provided with an opening 49. A screw 50 is positioned within the opening 49 and passes through a threaded nut 51 and also an opening 52 of portion 44, the nut, non-circular in shape, is positioned against the inner wall 53 of wall portion 54. The nut, therefore, will not rotate upon the rotation of the screw 50 but will travel up or down. The portion 44 (see Fig. 13) is formed into member 55 and provided with a net holder 56 (see also Fig. 15). (For details of construction of the member 55 and the net holder 56, see my United States Patent No. 1,862,118 dated June 7, 1932).

Fig. 11 shows a slot 60 formed in portion 7, a net holder 61, inserted into said slot 60, a member 62 being secured to portion 7 by rivet, screw or welding, said member 62 being provided with an end portion 63 assisting in the guiding of portion 59 of net holder 61. Member 62 is shaped with its center away from portion 59, said center being provided with a screw threaded opening 64 through which passes a screw 65, the end of which engages the underside of portion 59 thus controlling the movement of same. The reason for having the member 62 shaped downwardly at about the center is to provide sufficient room for the screw 65 so that a few back turns of said screw would not cause displacement thereof.

With respect to Fig. 12, portion 7' is provided with a screw threaded opening 69'; a member 66 is attached by means of screws 67 to top 1a and an opening 68 is formed in said member 66 and in said top 1a. A screw 69 is inserted, engaging the threaded opening and passing loosely through the opening 68 until its top end engages the underside 70 of net holder 61, thus controlling the movement thereof. When net holder 56 is placed in proper position (see Figs. 13, 14, and 15) screw 50 is turned. Nut 51, being unable to rotate, moves downwardly and engages wall 57 of portion 48. Further turning of screw 50 forces such screw upwardly and the end 58 then engages the underside 59 of net holder 56 thus preventing its movement. Referring to Fig. 13, U-shaped member 44 may be made of a spring material and thus be supported by frictional engagement without the use of screw 47. The threads may be formed in opening 49, thus eliminating the use of nut 51.

Referring to Fig. 15, net holder 56 is provided with a non-circular opening 71. A non-circular shaped notched or threaded member 72 is placed within the opening 71, in a position non-rotatable, a thumb or wing nut 72' is associated with said member 72 and a net 73 having its edges taped with a tape of a straight weave 80' and provided at its end with a straight bar portion 74 of which at least a portion or one side thereof may be, in part or in whole, grooved, or be made of channel shape, or of any other suitable form and attached to same by suitable means, for example, fastening elements or eyelets 75. The solid portion 74 is provided with an opening 76 wherein is placed the end portion of member 72, said member 72 and solid portion 74 being provided with openings 77. A rivet, screw or special pin may be inserted into the openings 77 to hold these members together, and to provide hingeable means for same. Net holder 56 is also provided with a top portion having its end 78 bent away from the net so that the string 79 which passes loosely through the tape 80 may be tightened around said end portion 78. The net may

thus be tightened or loosened by operating wing nut 72' without affecting or loosening the firm edge of the net formed by the tautness of string 79. Tape 80' being of a straight weave and connected to member 74 as at 75, and because of the pivotal connection between members 72 and 74, the member 74 will hinge, equalize, and evenly divide the tension between both edges of the net. Although such edges may be tensioned as desired and string 79 may hold the top edge quite firm, yet, the center portion of the net 73 will be loose enough to eliminate "balls" during play. (A ball rolling over the net after hitting same is called a "ball"; such "balls" are very objectionable.)

Referring to Fig. 16, net 73 is provided with a member 81 made of any suitable material, end sections 82 being provided with tubular portions 83, a channel member 84 being provided with a partly tubular form 85 and an opening 86. In this case, member 84 is attached to portion 72 in the same manner as is member 74 (see Fig. 15) and the end portions 82 slide into the opening 85 and are held there by frictional engagement.

Referring to Fig. 17, member 87 is provided with hooks 88 stamped out of its body to receive the openings 89 of net member 90. In this case, portion 72 would be slotted at its end portion 76 and receive the center portion of member 87 and be secured to same by a rivet or screw passing through openings 77 and 87', and a net may thus be hooked on or off.

In Figs. 19, 20 and 21 a modified form of net holder is shown. Member 59 is bent as at 91; an opening 92 is formed in said member 59, member 93 having an opening 93' to receive portion 72 and is also provided with a reduced end portion 94 positioned in said opening 92. A screw 95 is inserted in opening 96 of portion 91 and when said screw 95 is turned, its end 97 presses against reduced portion 94 so that member 93 pulls and tensions the net.

Fig. 18 shows net holder 56 provided with an additional member 98 carrying member 72 so that by moving said member 98 up or down the height of the net may be regulated and secured stationary at such height by suitable means, for example, screw 99, said member 98 may be produced in any desirable size, shape, form or style, and such member a side extension not shown but such as, for example, 78 of Fig. 15 may be formed thereon, such member may be suitably attached to any post for the purpose as herein set forth.

Referring to Fig. 25, members 106' having their ends bent as at 107' are provided with felt or other soft means 109 so that when placed on top 1a the fine surface finish 110 will not be injured in any way. Each of said members 106' is provided with a neck 111 and a tubular portion 113 through which passes a rod 114 composed of sections so that it can be made longer or shorter to correspond with the width of the table to which it is applied. The rod 114 is provided with threaded end portions 116 over which are secured wing nuts 115 so that when said wing nut is being operated, its wall 117 will engage the end wall 118 of member 113 thus pulling both members 106' to each other. The ends 119 of top 8e will engage the felt 109 of portion 107' in such a way that the members 106' will be mounted tightly upon top 1a. A reverse turning of wing nut 115 will loosen said members 106' so that they may be removed if desired. Upon portion 113 is positioned a member 120, its end 121 (see Fig. 26) engaging loosely neck 111 so as to prevent same from rotating. The member 120 is also provided with an upstanding flange 122 having openings 123 (see Fig. 25) to receive the ends of a net so that when members 120 are moved away from each other, the net becomes adjusted to the proper tension; the screw 124, carried by member 120, locks same in place. Fig. 27 shows that screw 124 instead of being carried by member 120, may be carried by member 106', and that a shoulder 125 engages portion 126 of member 120 thus preventing the movement of same. Fig. 28 shows the structure of rod 114 and that because of the threaded ends same can be made shorter or longer. Fig. 29 shows top 1a made of sections 127 provided with a soft portion such as felt or other suitable material 128 so that when opened and placed upon a table the sections 127 will not injure the surface of such table. Fig. 30 shows a type of folding table provided with member 106' positioned on top of table 129, legs 132 being hingedly connected to sections 130 and 131 and supported by brackets 133. This table folds with the legs inwardly, is very light in weight, could be used for various purposes, and will not take up much room. Figs. 31 and 32 show a table top 129 without member 106' but a portion of said top near the edge 163 is opened and bent to shape as at 164. A sliding member 166 carrying a post or flange 122 being provided with means 123 adapted to receive a portion of a net is slidably mounted therein. Figs. 33 and 34 show a stand 138, a collapsible member 140, a rod 114 positioned within a tubular member 137, carrying a screw 124 for tightening the rod 114 after adjustment thereof. Said stand 138 is provided with a portion 139 having an opening 145. The member 140 is provided with a cut-out section 141 and an opening 144 larger in diameter than the opening 145 so that when screw 142 is positioned therein, threaded portion 143 passes these openings and engages the last threaded opening. When tightening of member 140 to the portion 139 is required, a turn of the screw 142 will cause shoulder 148 to engage one side of portion 139 pushing same towards the threaded portion of member 140 thus tightening said post to said stand. When folding is wanted, then, turning screw 142 the opposite way will loosen the parts, permitting the pivoting and folding of same as at 149. Fig. 35 shows post 135 provided with shoulder portions 136 and screw 124 carried by one of such shoulders to secure same to table top 129. Fig. 36 shows post 150 provided with means 151 for the purpose of receiving the ends of a net, an opening 152 to receive rod 114 and also the bottom section provided with a weight 153 to keep said post in an upstanding position.

It will be noted that the structure of Figs. 33, 34, and 36 are of a type that are not clamped to any table but may be placed on top of a table; therefore when a ball hits the net and throws the net assembly over, means for bringing same back to position are of importance. Fig. 23 shows stand 154 screwed to member 155 provided with felt or other suitable means 159 and also provided with an opening 156 wherein a post 157 having a circular portion 158 is placed and prevented from rotating or side movements by shoulder 160 but movable to adjust the tension of the net and to be secured to proper position by means of a screw 124.

Although I have mentioned in describing my invention of what materials certain parts may be made and how they may be assembled, yet I desire it to be understood that this structure, or parts thereof, may be made of any suitable material, in any form, shape or style, and assembled in any desirable manner and that various changes in details may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention.

I claim:

1. A table structure including a top section, means on said section adapted to receive a movable net supporting member and means within said section adapted to check the movements of said member.

2. In a tennis game, a member adapted to be connected to a table top, and provided with means adapted to receive a movable net supporting element, a portion of said member underneath said element being provided with an opening, and means threaded into said opening adapted to check the movement of said element.

3. In an apparatus adapted to be used for table tennis and similar games, a net supporting element extending upwardly approximately as high as the upper edge of the net and provided with an opening, a member within said opening, a second member hingeably connected with said first mentioned member, a net connected with said second member, and a string loosely connected with said net and adapted to engage a portion of said element.

4. A table structure, at least one of the sides of said structure provided with an opening below its upper surface, for the purpose of receiving a movable net supporting member, a portion of said structure near said opening adapted to carry an element for the purpose of engaging and checking the movements of said member.

5. A net structure, for tennis or the like, straight bar elements secured to the side sections of said net at points near the top and bottom portions of same, said elements provided with means at about the center thereof for the purpose of being pivotally connected to net supporting members, thereby providing self adjustable means for said net, said connection adapted to be disconnected to separate the elements from the members.

6. A net holder comprising an upstanding post, said post provided with an aperture, a movable member loosely positioned within said aperture, a net, a straight bar pivotally connected to said member, said bar adapted to engage said net at the end portions of the side thereof, said pivotal connection comprising a pin passing through said member and bar.

7. In a net holder for table tennis and similar games, a U-shaped member comprising a back wall and upper and lower flanges, a net supporting element slidably engaging said upper flange, said flanges provided with openings, a threaded member passing through said openings and a threaded nut resting on the lower flange, a side wall of the nut being positioned against said back wall, thereby preventing the rotation of said nut, and causing said member to move longitudinally when rotated, the upper end of said threaded member engaging the underneath of said slidable element, thereby controlling the movement of same.

8. In a net holder for table tennis and similar games, a U-shaped member, the back portion of said member provided with an extension, a net supporting element movably engaging said U-shaped member, said extension portion provided with a movable member adapted to engage the net supporting element, thus controlling the movement of same.

9. In a net holder as set forth in claim 8 wherein said extension is provided with a threaded opening and said movable member being threaded and positioned within said threaded opening thus moving longitudinally upon rotation.

10. In an apparatus suitable for table tennis and similar games, a pair of upstanding posts adapted to be associated with a playing surface, said posts provided with means adapted to support a net, said net provided with a straight bar adapted to be pivotally connected to said means, a string loosely mounted at about the edge portion of said net, the upper portions of said posts extending upwardly approximately as high as the upper edge of the net and adapted to receive the end portions of said string whereby a firm edge line of said net may be obtained.

11. In a net holder for table tennis and similar games, a U-shaped member adapted to engage a table top, the upper flange of said member provided with means adapted to receive a movable net support, the lower flange of said member being positioned below said table top, a movable member connected to said lower flange and adapted to engage the underneath of said table top, thus securing said U-shaped member thereto, said flanges provided with aligned openings, a headed member positioned within said openings, the end portion of said headed member adapted to engage the underneath of said net support to clamp the same in said means.

12. In a structure as set forth in claim 11, wherein said lower flange is provided with a second opening, a nut secured to said lower flange registering with said opening, said movable member provided with a thread and positioned within said nut for engaging the underneath of said table top.

13. In a structure as set forth in claim 11, wherein said U-shaped member is provided with a comparatively straight wall, said headed member is provided with a screw thread and is positioned within the opening in the lower flange, a nut is threaded on said threaded member, one side wall of said nut being positioned against the straight wall, thereby preventing the rotation of same, said nut engaging the lower flange thus forcing said screwed threaded member to move longitudinally when being rotated.

14. In a structure as set forth in claim 11, wherein said U-shaped member is provided with a wall, said wall is provided with an off-set portion, the corresponding openings are formed in said off-set portion, a nut positioned within said off-set portion, said headed member provided with a thread and positioned within said openings, and said nut, said threaded member adapted to move up or down when being rotated.

15. A structure as set forth in claim 6, including a device for adjusting said member within said opening.

16. In a structure as set forth in claim 6, wherein said bar and said member are provided with openings at their connecting points, at least one of said openings being provided with a thread, a portion of said pin being provided with a thread and adapted to be positioned within said threaded opening and to provide the hingeable means for said bar.

17. In a table top, at least one of the side por-

tions of said top provided with an opening below its upper surface, said opening adapted to receive slidably therein a portion of a member forming a net support, a part of said side portion near said opening provided with means adapted to carry an element for the purpose of engaging said member, thus holding same in a firm position.

18. In a structure as set forth in claim 17, wherein said element comprises a rotatable means and when being rotated engages said member thereby holding same in firm position.

19. In a structure as set forth in claim 17, wherein said means comprises a threaded opening and said element being provided with a threaded portion positioned within said opening and adapted, upon operation, to move longitudinally thus engaging said member and holding same in a firm position.

20. A table structure, at least one of the sides of said structure provided with an opening below its upper surface for the purpose of receiving a movable net supporting member, and a portion of said structure adapted to support a device operable to engage said member to hold the latter in selected position.

21. In an apparatus suitable for table tennis and similar games, the combination with the table top structure of the table, of members adapted to support a table tennis net above the structure, said members being of angular shape and having portions engaging said structure beneath the surface of the table, the under structure of the table being provided with a threaded aperture and screw means engaging said threaded aperture and adapted to secure the said member in selected position.

22. In an apparatus suitable for table tennis and similar games, the combination of an approximately vertically extending member adapted to be supported by a table top or similar surface, said member provided with a non-circular opening adapted to support a moveable element, a portion of said element adapted to support a net, means for moving said element within said opening for the purpose of tensioning the net, said element being non-circular in cross-section, thereby preventing the rotation of same when the latter is being moved within said opening, thus preventing the twisting of the net.

23. In a structure as set forth in claim 22, wherein the sides of said element are provided with threaded portions, said means comprising a nut rotatably mounted upon said threaded portion and having one of its walls facing one of the walls of said extending member, said nut upon rotation being adapted to move said element thus tensioning the net.

24. In a structure as set forth in claim 22, wherein a portion of at least one of the side walls of said element is provided with notches and means adapted to engage said notched wall thus holding said member in selected position.

25. A tennis net, straight bar elements secured to the side sections of said net at points near the top and bottom portions of same, each of said elements being provided with an opening at about the center thereof for receiving a member therein, said member adapted to be hingeably connected to said element and means for connecting said member to net supporting means, said hinged connection being releasable, so as to separate the elements from said net supporting means.

26. In a structure as set forth in claim 5, wherein said bar elements are provided with side portions facing each other, and at least a part of said side sections of the net being positioned between the side portions of said bar elements, and means for clamping said side portions against the net.

27. In a structure as set forth in claim 5, wherein said bar is provided with a channel-shaped section, said side section of the net being positioned within said channel-shaped section, said bar and net being provided with openings near the top and bottom portions thereof, and fastening elements within said openings connecting said bar and net together.

JACOB L. KLEINMAN.