March 18, 1958 M. K. BOYAJIAN 2,827,352

COMBINATION FOLDING PICNIC AND GAME TABLE AND CARRYING CASE FOR FOLDING CHAIRS AND OTHER APPLIANCES

Filed June 29, 1955 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

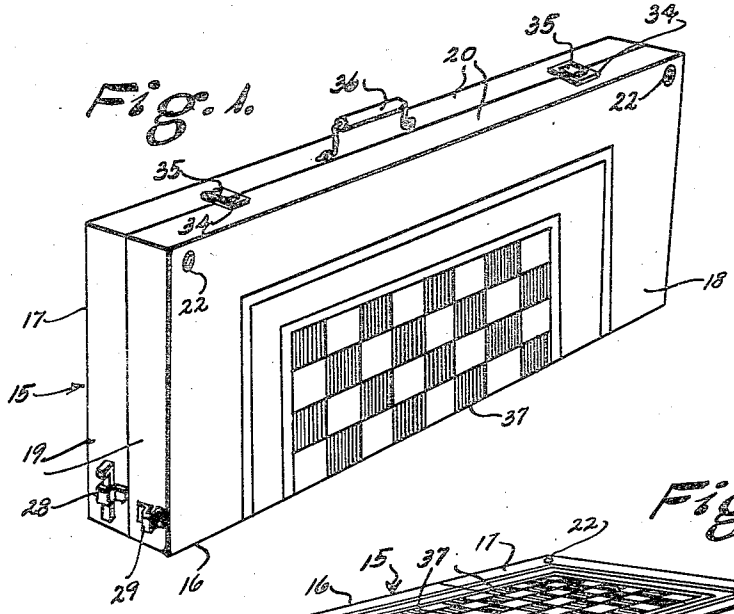



Fig. 3.

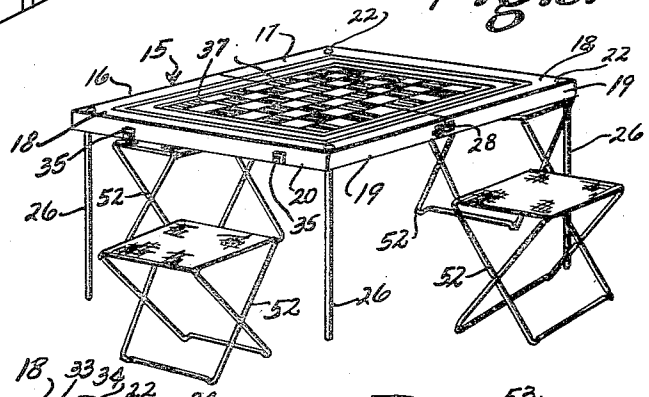
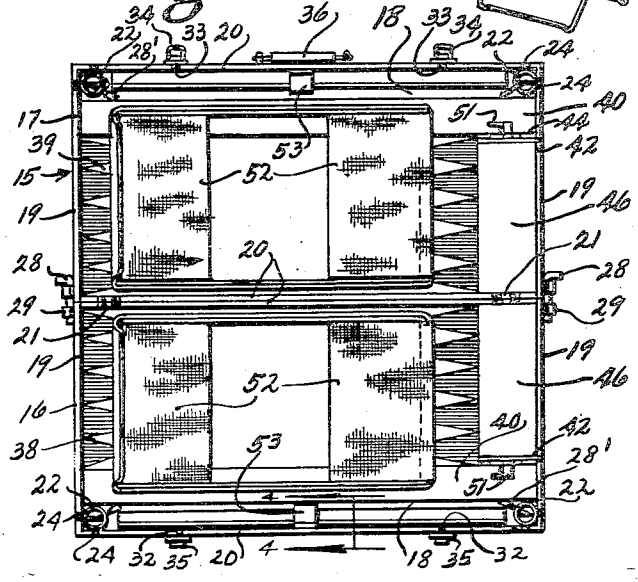



Fig. 2.



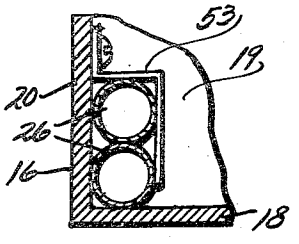




Fig. 4.

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Filed June 29, 1955 3 Sheets-Sheet 2

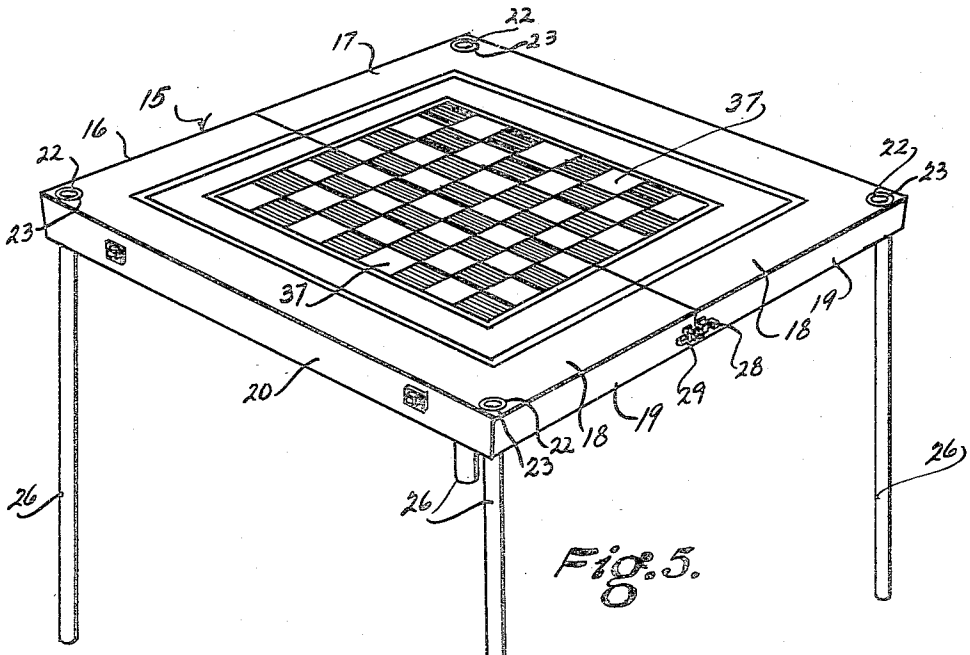



Fig. 5.

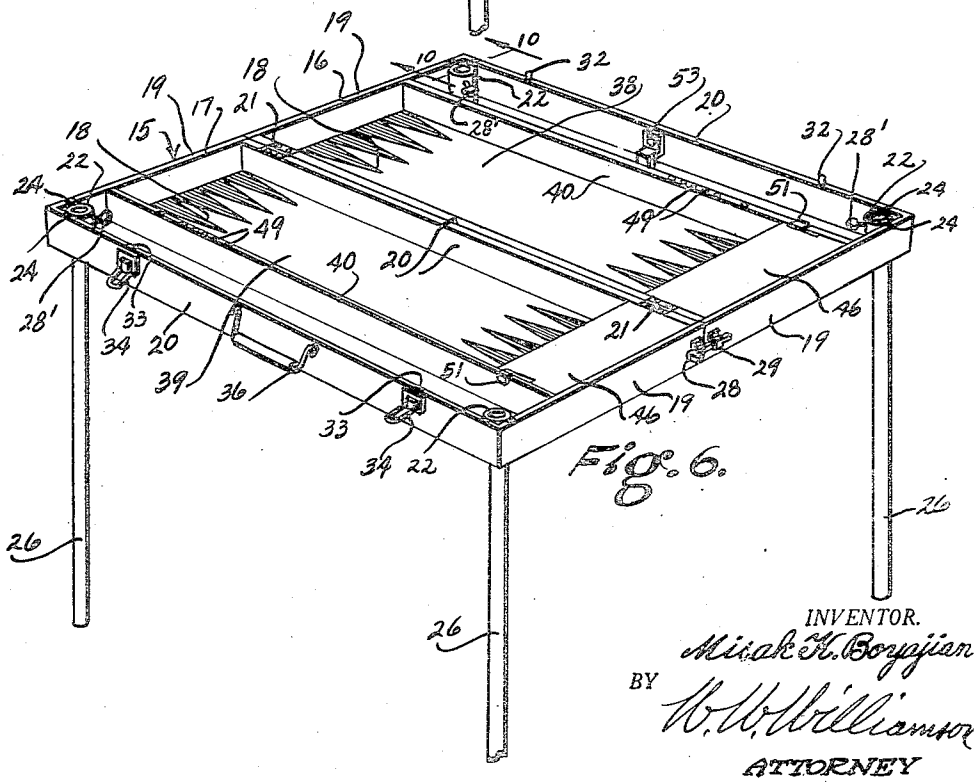



Fig. 6.

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Filed June 29, 1955 3 Sheets-Sheet 3

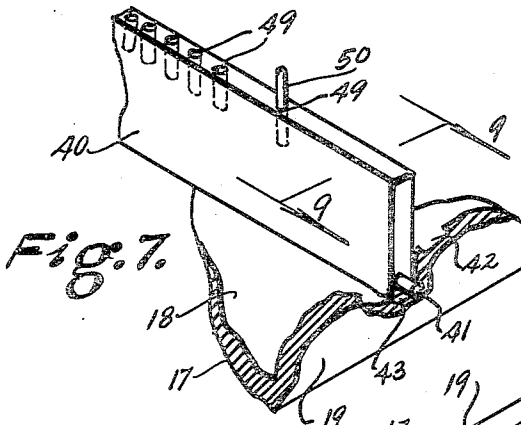



Fig. 7.

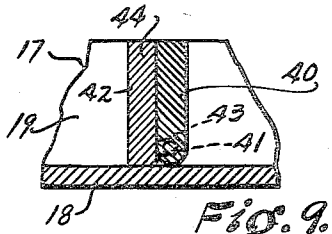



Fig. 9.

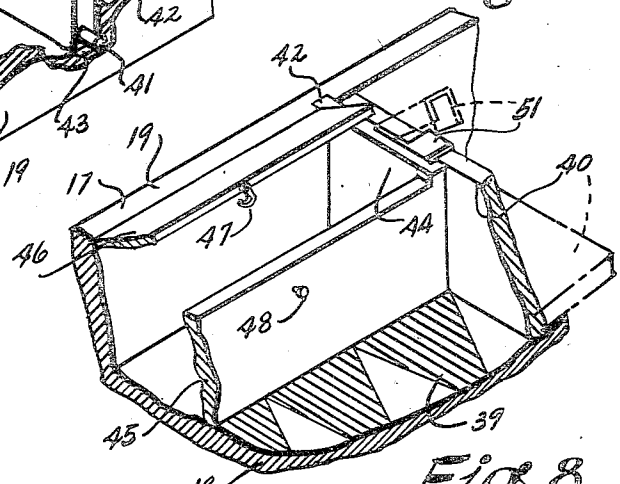



Fig. 8.

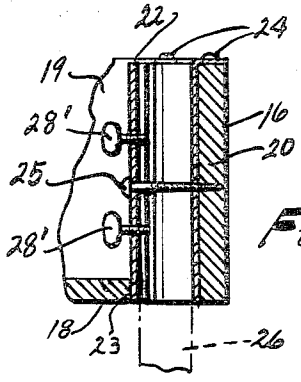



Fig. 10.

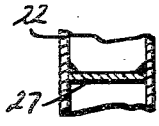



Fig. 11.

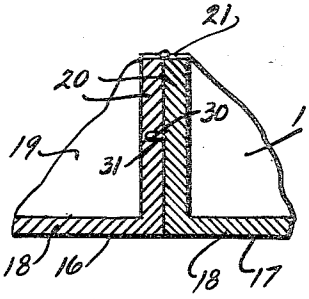



Fig. 13.

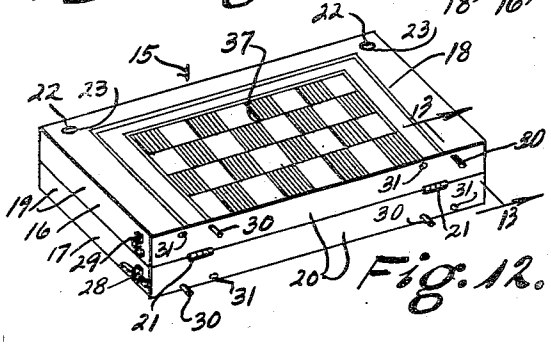



Fig. 12.

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# COMBINATION FOLDING PICNIC AND GAME TABLE AND CARRYING CASE FOR FOLDING CHAIRS AND OTHER APPLIANCES

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Application June 29, 1955, Serial No. 518,771

4 Claims. (Cl. 311—90)

My invention relates to new and useful improvements in a combination folding picnic and game table and carrying case for folding chairs and other appliances and has for one of its objects to provide a reversible table top which is supported by the same legs in either position.

Another object of the invention is to provide a table top, preferably consisting of two hinged box-like sections, having sockets opening on both or opposite faces of said table top whereby legs may be selectively entered into either end of the sockets for supporting the table top with either face uppermost.

Another object of this invention is to provide a novel, self-contained folding table unit which, when closed resembles a suitcase in external appearance and is adapted to hold folding chairs, game apparatus, food, tableware, detachable legs and/or other appliances, and which, when open, can be mounted with either face uppermost on the legs to be utilized for playing games or as a support for dishes, food and the like.

Another object of the present invention is to fit the interiors of the box-like sections of the table top with means to hold game pieces and apparatus, other means to retain the detached legs in certain positions, and additional means to define game field areas, said last means being foldable or retractible to provide unobstructed space for foldable chairs or other relatively wide articles.

Another object of the invention is to provide means for locking the table top in an open position to prevent it from collapsing especially while the open face thereof is uppermost.

A further object of this invention is to provide means for reinforcing the joints between the table top sections when in either the open or closed positions and to utilize portions of the reinforcing means which strengthen the joint at the hinged side of table top sections, when open, as feet for resulting carrying case when the table top is in closed condition.

A still further object of the present invention is to provide a novel construction of swinging or pivoted game field side boards or partitions and box elements which retain said side boards or partitions in place after the box elements are mounted in position.

With the above and other objects in view, which will become apparent from the following description, this invention consists of the details of construction and combination of elements hereinafter set forth and then designated by the claims.

In order that those skilled in the art to which this invention appertains may understand how to make and use the same I will describe its construction in detail referring by numerals to the accompanying drawing forming a part hereof, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the table when knocked down and closed for use as a carrying case.

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the device in open condition and looking into the open side thereof showing the stored legs and chairs.



Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the device set up in one form of table with chairs disposed thereabout.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2 showing the means for holding the stored legs in place.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the table by itself set up with the closed side uppermost.

Fig. 6 is a similar view with table top reversed or inverted showing the open side uppermost.

Fig. 7 is an enlarged fragmentary view, partly in elevation and partly in section illustrating details of construction of one end of one of the side boards or partitions and the method of connection to its respective table top section prior to assembly of the associated box elements.

Fig. 8 also is a fragmentary perspective view, partly in section and partly in elevation, of the side board in Fig. 7 looking at the inside of one table top section with the associated box or receptacle assembled and its lid partly open and showing the two positions of the side board.

Fig. 9 is a section on the line 9—9 of Fig. 7 with one element of the box or receptacle in place.

Fig. 10 is an enlarged detail section of one of the leg sockets and contiguous portions of a table top section on the line 10—10 of Fig. 6.

Fig. 11 is a fragmentary longitudinal section of a modified form of leg socket showing how it can be closed midway its ends.

Fig. 12 is a perspective view of the folded device lying on one side to show the means constituting feet and reinforcing elements.

Fig. 13 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view on the line 13—13 of Fig. 12 with the table top sections open to illustrate the manner of operation of the reinforcing means.

In carrying out the invention as herein embodied 15 represents the table top unit consisting of two similar box-like sections 16 and 17 appropriately hinged together, as will presently be described, whereby said sections may be closed to form a carrying case having an exterior appearance resembling a suitcase.

Each table top section includes a panel 18, end walls 19 and side walls 20. The end and side walls project from the inner or reverse face of their associated panel leaving the outer or obverse face substantially smooth and clear of all protuberances as seen in Figs. 3 and 5.

The two sections are hinged together at 21 along the edges of contiguous side walls whereby the panels will lie in the same plane when the device is open and similar side and end walls will align with one another when the device is closed.

In each of the two outer corners of each table top section, which constitute the four outer corners of the completely open table top unit, but within the inner angle or inside of the section, is provided an appropriate socket 22 which, for purposes of illustration is shown as comprised of a metal tube open at both ends and so mounted that one end terminates at the edges of adjoining end and side walls 19, 20, respectively, Fig. 10, and the other or opposite end projects through a hole 23 in the panel and said other end terminates substantially flush with obverse face of the panel. Each socket, when formed as above described, has a pair of ears 24 at one end positioned at right angles to each other and disposed over the edges of adjoining end and side walls, see also Figs. 2 and 6, and through which fastening devices, such as screws or nails, are projected into said end and side walls for partially securing a socket in place. The positioning of one end of the socket in the hole 23 also assists in securing the socket and it may be further held by a screw 25 projected through the socket midway its ends and into

a wall of the table top. This screw functions, particularly, as a stop for a leg **26**, there being four such legs, when inserted in either end of the socket.

When the legs are inserted in the socket ends having the ears **24** the obverse face of the table top is uppermost, Fig. 5, but when inserted in the socket ends terminating at the obverse face of the panels said table top will be inverted and the reverse side of said table top will be uppermost. In either case the screws **25** will be engaged by the inner ends of the assembled legs so the table top will be level in either position. In lieu of the screw **25**, a partition **27**, Fig. 11, may be used as the stop and such partition prevents entrance of dust or other foreign matter into the case when closed.

The legs are temporarily fastened in place by appropriate retaining means such as thumb screws **28'**, one on each side of the stop **25**, **27**, having threaded engagement with a wall of each socket and projecting into the interior thereof for contact with a leg in either end of the respective sockets.

When the table top is in an open position as depicted in Figs. 5 and 6 the table top sections **16** and **17** are temporarily locked in place by slide bolts **28** on the outer surfaces of the end walls of one section and cooperating with keepers **29** on the outer surfaces of the end walls of the other section. Actually the slide bolts can be mounted on either and the same table top section with the keepers on the companion section or the opposite end bolts can be mounted on different sections and the keepers are similarly suitably mounted.

The two table top sections, when open, are further reinforced by a plurality of pegs or dowels **30** on the outer surface of the inner or hinged side walls of each table top section, Figs. 12 and 13, for entrance into holes **31** in the opposed inner side walls of both of said companion table top sections. When the table top sections are closed as shown in Fig. 12 said pegs or dowels **30** function as feet for the closed case when resting upon a supporting surface. Further the table top sections are reinforced, when closed, by other pegs or dowels **32** on the meeting edge of an outer side wall of a section, Figs. 2 and 6, for entrance into holes **33** in the meeting edge of the outer side wall of the other section.

The said table top sections are temporarily retained in the closed condition by appropriate latches **34** on the outer surface of an outer side wall of one section for cooperation with a keeper **35** on the outer surface of the outer side wall of the other section. In order to conveniently carry the closed case a single handle **36** is fastened to the outer surface of the outer side wall of one table top section only in close proximity to the edge of said outer side wall.

On the obverse face of each table top section is one half of a game board or field **37**, Fig. 1, so that when the table top sections are open a complete game board is provided as shown in Figs. 3 and 5. Another game board or field, such as that used for playing backgammon, is provided on the reverse face of the table top and is divided into two parts **38** and **39**, one part in each of the table top sections **16** and **17**. The playing field parts **38**, **39** should be of less width than the width of the respective table top sections wherefore there is provided a partition **40** in each table top section adjacent an outer side wall so that the playing field part is bounded by said partition, the inner side wall of the respective section and portions of the end walls of said section as shown in Fig. 6. If the partitions **40** were rigidly or permanently mounted the storage spaces in the table top sections would be considerably restricted and therefore said partitions are arranged to be collapsed or swung down flat against the inside of the respective panels. To accomplish this each partition has a trunnion **41** on each end, one of which is shown in Figs. 7 and 9, contiguous the inner face of the panel and these trunnions are journalled in openings in the end walls of the respective table top sections. Specifically, the



trunnion at one end of each partition is inserted in a hole in one end wall of a table top section and the trunnion at the other end of each partition is slipped into a slot **42** in the inner surface of the opposite end wall of the same table top section and moved laterally into a notch **43** at the bottom of and communicating with said slot. Each slot **42** is perpendicular to the panel of its respective table top section and the notch **43** is parallel to said panel. The trunnions which are inserted in the notch **43** are locked or held in place, to thereby swingingly mount the partitions, by means of portions of relatively small boxes or receptacles to be next described.

A box or receptacle for packs of cards and game pieces or apparatus is provided in each table top section and each box includes an end wall **44** in parallel spaced relation to an inner side wall **20** of a table top section which side wall functions as the other end wall of the box, Fig. 2. An edge of the box end wall **44** is inserted in the slot **42** and coacts with the partition trunnion in the notch, Fig. 9, to hold the latter in place and thus swingingly mount the partition in position. In addition each game piece holding box includes a front wall **45**, Fig. 8, and a lid **46** which is journalled for swinging movements by means of trunnions at the ends of said lid similar to the mounting of the partitions **40**. The lid **46** is recessed into the edge of the front wall **45** when said lid is closed and is temporarily held in the closed position by a suitable latch means, such as a hook **47** and a cooperating eye **48**. In the case of the box lid its trunnions may both be inserted in holes during the assembly of the box structure after which the box end and front walls are secured to elements of the associated table top section.

It might be well to state at this time that the free longitudinal edges of the partitions **40** have a series of holes **49** for the reception of a counting peg **50** for keeping score of the games as played.

Each partition **40** is temporarily retained in an upright position as shown in Figs. 6 and 8 by a pivoted catch **51** attached to an end wall **44** of the game piece holding box and adapted to straddle the free longitudinal edge of the partition.

When the partitions are collapsed as in Fig. 2 and as indicated by dotted lines in Fig. 8 the interiors of both table top sections are substantially clear between the respective side walls thereof providing plenty of space for the storage of the folding chairs **52**, Fig. 2, vacuum bottles, dishes or other tableware, food and the like and the chairs, after removal, may be set up for use as suggested in Fig. 3.

The legs **26** also may be stored by arranging them in pairs and placing one on top of another, Figs. 2 and 4, against the insides of the outer side walls of the respective table top sections where they are temporarily held by pivoted catches **53** attached to said outer side walls.

In operation, when it is desired to use the apparatus as a game table the table top sections are fully opened and fastened in position by the slide bolts **28**. Next, it is determined which game field or board is to be employed. If the game field consisting of the two halves **37** is to be used the legs **26** are inserted in the ends of the sockets **22** at the reverse side of open table so that when the complete table is set up the obverse face will be exposed for use, as in Fig. 5. On the other hand if it is desired to play a game on the game field or board represented by the game board parts **38** and **39** then the open table top is inverted and the backgammon game field will be exposed for use as in Fig. 6. In the latter case the legs **26** are inserted in the ends of the sockets **22** terminating on the obverse side of the open table top. While the table is set up with the obverse side uppermost, as in Fig. 5, it can be utilized for playing any card or other games requiring merely a flat surface or food can be served therefrom and persons can be seated on chairs placed about the table as suggested in Fig. 3. Preferably, the chairs are of the folding type shown in Figs. 2 and 3 at **52** and of a size that, when folded, will permit them to be stored within the

table top sections, for example, two chairs in each of the sections after the respective partitions **40** have been swung out of the way or collapsed as shown in Fig. 2. It is to be understood that the legs **26** previously have been detached and assembled within the table top sections as shown in Figs. 2 and 4. Also game pieces or paraphernalia are placed in the boxes and the lids **46** closed and latched. In addition other articles can be stored in any empty spaces in the table top sections and after the bolts **28** have been retracted said sections may be closed and latched as in Fig. 1 to form a carrying case which may readily be transported by hand with everything packed together in a unitary parcel.

Of course I do not wish to be limited to the exact details of construction herein shown and described as these may be varied within the scope of the appended claims without departing from the spirit of my invention.

Having described the invention what I claim as new and useful is:

1. A table structure of the kind described comprising a pair of complemental hinged recessed sections which when closed form a carrying case and when opened form a table top having an obverse flat side and a reverse recessed side, a plurality of open-ended sockets each fixed in one of said sections with one socket end substantially flush with the flat side of its respective section and its other end located within the recess of its respective section, a plurality of separate and individual legs each selectively insertable into a desired end of a respective socket to support the associated table top with either its obverse or reverse side uppermost, said legs being of a size for reception in the carrying case defined by said sections in their closed condition, and means to temporarily fasten said legs in place in said sockets.

2. The structure according to claim 1 wherein each table top section includes a panel, side and end walls and the sockets are tubular members projected through holes in the panel of each section whereby both ends of all sockets are accessible when the table top sections are open.

3. A combination folding table and carrying case comprising a pair of complementary hollow sections hingedly connected together for swinging movement between a



closed condition defining a carrying case and an open condition defining a table top having a substantially flat obverse side and a recessed reverse side, a plurality of open-ended tubular sockets fixedly secured in each of said sections remote from their hinged connection, each of said sockets having one end substantially flush with the obverse side of said table top and its other end located within the recess of its respective section to open on both sides of said table top without obstructing swinging movement of said sections, a plurality of separate and individual legs each selectively insertable into a desired end of a respective socket to support the associated table top with either its obverse or reverse side uppermost, said legs being of a size for reception in the carrying case defined by said sections in closed condition, and means to temporarily fasten said legs in place.

4. A combination folding table and carrying case according to claim 3, in combination with a partition extending across each of said tubular sockets intermediate the ends thereof, said partitions serving as stops for abutting engagement with leg ends inserted into either side of said sockets and to insure complete closure of the carrying case defined by said sections in closed condition.

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