

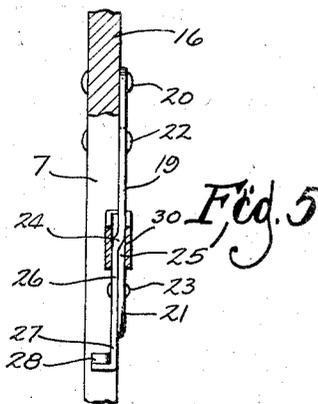
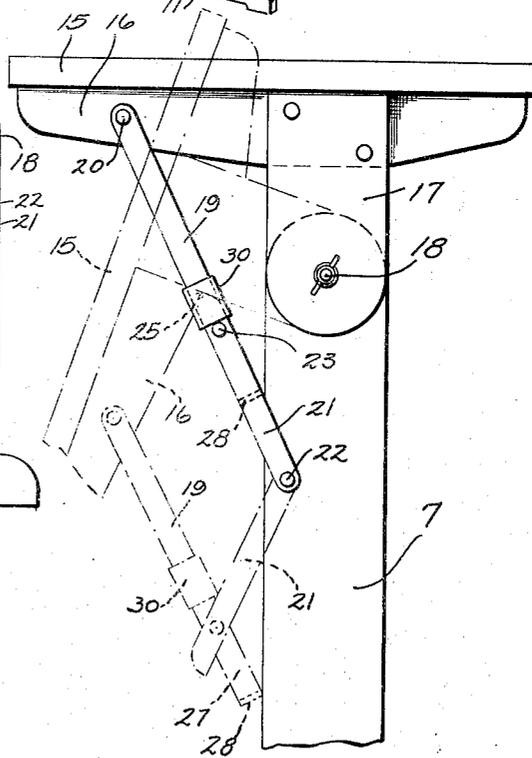
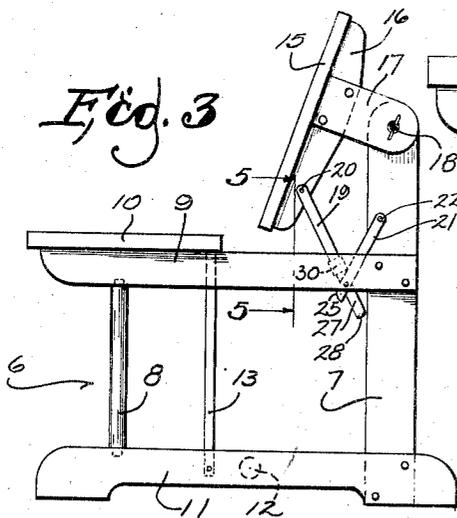
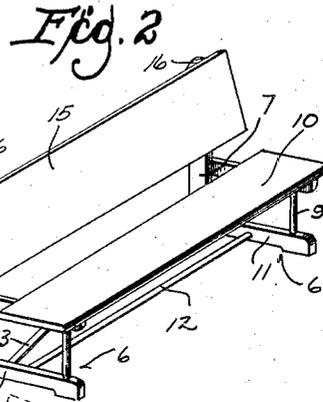
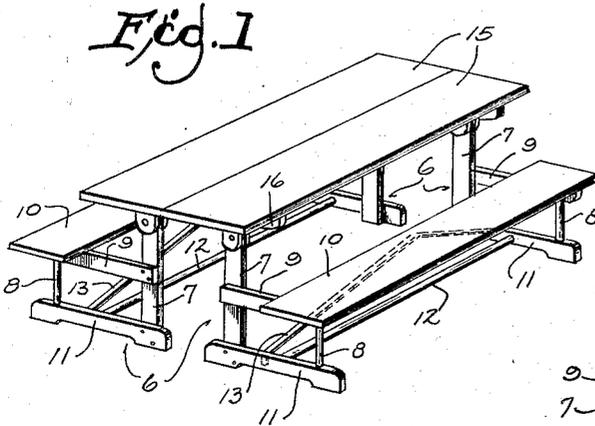
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TABLE AND BENCH UNIT

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TABLE AND BENCH UNIT

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2 Claims. (Cl. 155-43)

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This invention relates to improvements in table and bench units in which portions of the table top tilt to provide a back for each bench.

It is the object of the invention to provide a simple and novel construction in which bench and table units are rigidly supported and the table top portion which provides the back for the respective bench is so mounted as to swing into close proximity to the bench when used for that purpose and to swing upwardly to a horizontal position to be used with the table top portion of another similar unit to constitute a full width table.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a simple and effective means for positioning the tilting table top in each of its respective positions.

Other objects will more fully appear from the following disclosure of the invention.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a view in perspective of the assembly of a complete bench and table unit.

Fig. 2 is a view in perspective of a single bench and table unit in which the table top is pivoted to position for use as a backrest for the bench.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged detailed view in side elevation of the device shown in Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary view in side elevation, further enlarged, showing the two positions of which the table top is capable and showing the means whereby it is releasably secured in each of the respective positions.

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary detailed view in front elevation of a portion of the table top brace, a part thereof being shown in section.

A complete set embodying the invention comprises two units which are identical, each comprising half of the table top and each comprising a bench. The respective table top halves may be swung to horizontal position and when the two units are associated side by side the two halves together constitute a full width table. However, there is no connection between the two units and each unit may be used separately with a half width table if desired. Also each unit may be used as a bench, the half table top thereof being swung in position to serve as a backrest for the bench.

Each unit comprises a pair of end frames generically designated by reference character 6. Each end frame comprises a pedestal 7 and a front support 8 for horizontal member 9 upon which rests the bench seat 10. The pedestal 7 and the front support 8 are both supported on a foot 11. A stretcher 12 connects the feet of

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the respective end frames beneath the bench and a brace 13 is connected centrally beneath the bench seat and extends obliquely downwardly to connection with the respective feet 11 at opposite ends of the unit.

Each unit comprises a table top section 15. The respective sections 15 are each provided with cleats 16 extending transversely thereof, the cleats preferably being disposed in the same vertical plane as the pedestal 7. The respective table top sections 15 are pivoted but instead of being pivoted directly to the pedestals, each table top section is provided with a short link 17 rigidly connected to the top section and to the adjacent cleat 16 and provided at 18 with a pintle bolt connecting it with the pedestal 7. The combined height of the pedestal and the link 17 is appropriate for maintaining the table top section at a suitable level above the bench seat 10. However, the length of the link 17 is sufficient so that, despite the fixed location of the table top section at an adequate distance away from the bench to afford free access, the table top may nevertheless be swung about the pintle 18 to a position where it will serve as a proper backrest for a person using the bench-seat 10, the length of the arm 17 spanning the gap between the pedestal and the bench seat 10 to hold the table top 15 in the desired position.

At each end of each unit I provide a collapsible brace arrangement which serves as means for holding the table top horizontal and also serves to position the table top in its inclined position for use as a backrest. One link element 19 is pivoted to the table cleat 16 at 20. Another link 21 is pivoted to the pedestal 7 at 22. The two links are pivoted together upon a pintle 23 and, inasmuch as this requires that the links be lapped at the point where the pintle 23 is located, and since the cleat 16 and pedestal 7 are in the same plane, the upper link 19 is preferably offset at 24, providing a shoulder against which the beveled extremity 25 of the lower link engages when the two links are aligned in the position shown in full lines in Fig. 4. Below the shoulder the portion 26 of the upper link 19 extends beyond the pintle 23 and its extremity 27 has an angular offset at 28 constituting a stop which, in the dotted line position of the parts shown in Fig. 4, engages the side of the pedestal to define the desired angular position of the table top to serve as a backrest.

A locking sleeve 30 of rectangular cross section slides on the upper link 19 to and from a position of engagement over the free end portion 25

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of the lower link 21. In the full line position of Fig. 4, and also in Fig. 5, the locking sleeve is shown so engaged. In this position it locks the two links together to constitute a single strut or brace, the two links being substantially alined, to maintain the table top horizontal.

When the locking sleeve is slipped upwardly to free the end 25 of the lower link 21, the links may be pivoted upon their connecting pintle 23 and thereupon the locking sleeve will slide downwardly on the upper link 19 to engage the side of the lower link 21 when these links are in the position indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 4. The engagement of the locking sleeve 30 with the side of the lower link 21 occurs simultaneously with the engagement of the pedestal by the offset foot 28 of the upper link 19, thereby constituting a brace which effectively positions the table top for use as a backrest.

Since each of the bench units is complete and independent of the other, either bench unit may be used separately in the manner suggested in Fig. 2. However, if the table top sections are adjusted to table top positions, it will be noted that they may be fitted together, the two units being disposed side by side as shown in Fig. 1 so that the two table top sections constitute a single full width table served by the two benches on opposite sides thereof.

As a supplemental or an alternative means of securing the table top in adjusted position, I may provide each pintle bolt 18 with a wing nut as shown in Fig. 4 and the tightening of the wing nut will serve frictionally to position the table top links 17 respecting their connected pedestal 7.

The right end frames comprising portions of the pedestal 7 on supports 8 and the horizontal members 9 upon which the seats 10 are mounted constitute a desirable feature of the present invention, particularly in conjunction with the pedestal links 17 which throw the table top sections 15 laterally toward the seat 10 when the seat top sections are adjusted to backrest positions. It will also be noted that each of the table top sections 15 is asymmetrically disposed with reference to its supporting link 17, the said supporting link being closer to that margin of the table top section which abuts the margin of the other unit when in use of the table. This is also a desirable feature toward bringing the table top section into proper backrest position.

I claim:

1. In a device of the character described, the combination of a pair of end frames each including a foot extending horizontally, a pedestal arising at the rear of the foot, a front support arising at the front of the foot, a seat support member extending from the front support to the pedestal, together with a seat substantially spaced from the pedestal resting upon the respective members of the respective frames, a brace connected centrally with the seat and extending thence obliquely to the feet of the respective frames, an arm pivotally connected with the top of each pedestal, and a table top section connected with the respective arms and spanning the

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space between said pedestals, said table top section being normally horizontal and having a substantial portion of its width at each side of the pedestals and being pivotally movable with its said arms less than 90° across the pedestals from a horizontal position for use as a table to an inclined position at the side of the pedestals and adjacent the seat for use as a backrest, the table top section being provided with a cleat substantially in the plane of each pedestal, the arm being offset respecting the cleat and respecting the pedestal and a collapsible brace having terminal portions connected with each other and pivotally connected at their free ends with said cleat and pedestal.

2. In a device of the character described, a pair of end frames, each comprising a horizontally elongated foot, a pedestal at the rear of the foot and a front support at the front of the foot and a horizontal seat supporting member supported by the pedestal and by the front support, together with a seat spanning the space between said end frames and resting upon the respective seat supporting members thereof, a stretcher extending between the feet of the respective end frames, a brace having a central portion connected with the seat and extending thence obliquely to a foot of an end frame, an arm pivotally connected to the top of each pedestal, a table top section having a cleat substantially in the same plane as the pedestal and on one side of which the arm is rigidly connected to said section, and a collapsible brace comprising a pair of brace members pivoted to each other and to the table top section cleat and pedestal respectively, and a tubular locking sleeve slidable upon one of the brace members and engageable over the end of the other, said one brace member being extended past the pivotal connection between said brace members and provided with an offset foot engageable with the pedestal in one position of the table top, the table top section being pivotally movable with its respective arms on their pivotal connection with said pedestals between a horizontal position in which it is adapted to be associated with the table top section of another like unit to constitute a table and a generally upright position in which said table top section is disposed adjacent the bench to serve as a backrest therefor, the respective arms supporting said table top section from the pedestal carrying it at a point nearer the bench seat than the pedestal for backrest purposes.

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