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(71) Applicant and

(72) Inventor: **KEY, Christine, Ann** [GB/GB]; 62 Rochford Avenue, Waltham Abbey, Essex, EN9 1SE (GB).

(74) Agents: **MACKENZIE, Andrew, Bryan** et al.; Scott & York, 45 Grosvenor Road, St Albans, AL1 3AW (GB).

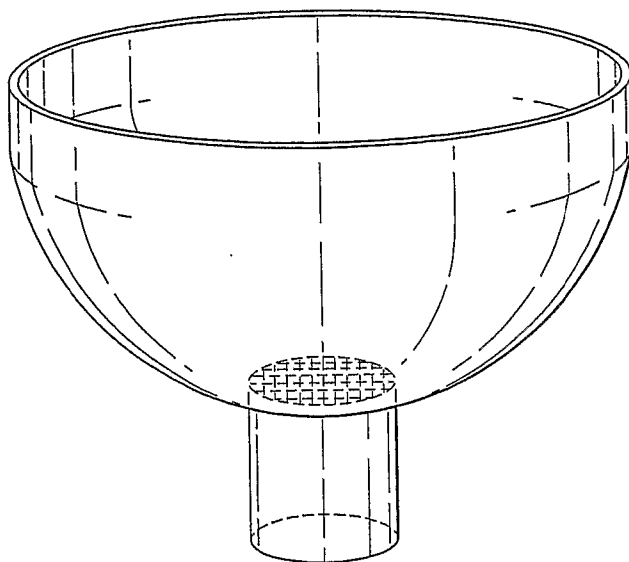
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(54) Title: IMPROVED TABLETOP PLANTERS AND OTHER TABLETOP ARTICLES



(57) Abstract: A tabletop planter or flowerpot, comprising a first portion shaped and configured to define a void for accommodating a plant, and a second portion shaped and configured to locate in a hole in the tabletop of a garden table in use. The second portion may advantageously provide drainage and/or stability to the planter in use. Also provided is a tabletop article, comprising a first portion shaped and configured to rest on the tabletop of a garden table in use, and a second portion shaped and configured to locate in a hole in the said garden table in use, the second portion being for: providing drainage of water from the article through the hole in the tabletop; and/or providing stability to, or enhancing the stability of, the first portion on the tabletop. The tabletop article may be, for example, a flowerpot; a planter; a vase; a bowl; a platter for serving condiments or food; a revolving tray for serving condiments or food; a candlestick or candleholder; or a lamp.

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IMPROVED TABLETOP PLANTERS AND OTHER TABLETOP ARTICLES

This invention relates to tabletop items, including, but by no means limited to, planters and flowerpots.

5

BACKGROUND TO THE INVENTION

Garden tables are often provided with a hole in the centre of the table. Such a hole is generally provided to accommodate an umbrella or parasol, the shaft of which passes through the hole in the table. However, not all owners of garden tables own an umbrella or
10 parasol, or wish to use an umbrella or parasol in conjunction with their table. Others may wish to use an umbrella which is suspended from one side over the table by a cantilever arm.

Thus, in many cases, the hole in the centre of the garden table is not used. Although some
15 garden tables are provided with plugs for filling the hole if the hole is unused, such plugs can readily become misplaced or lost. If the unused hole is left open and is not plugged, it can be unsightly, and small tabletop items may fall through the hole, which is inconvenient for the user.

20 A further problem relates to flowerpots and tabletop planters when placed outdoors on a garden table. In many cases, it is desirable to put a flowerpot or a planter on a garden table, with a plant in the flowerpot or planter, to serve as a table decoration or centrepiece. However, when it rains, the flowerpot or planter will fill with water, which may drown the plant. Moreover, rainwater overflowing from the flowerpot or planter may make a
25 considerable mess on the table, and may cause a wooden table to rot or become marked.

Even if the flowerpot or planter is provided with drainage holes, these will still cause the rainwater to pass through onto the tabletop, and again may cause a wooden table to rot or become marked.

- 5 Yet further problems are experienced with flowerpots, tabletop planters, and other tabletop articles (e.g. candlesticks or bowls) when placed outdoors on a garden table. Such articles may be destabilised in windy conditions, causing them to topple over and possibly break. Their contents may also spill, or become damaged or broken, which is undesirable. Such articles are also vulnerable to being knocked over or broken, by people by accident, or by
10 animals or birds.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

- According to a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a tabletop planter or flowerpot, comprising a first portion shaped and configured to define a void for
15 accommodating a plant, and a second portion shaped and configured to locate in a hole in the tabletop of a garden table in use.

- The term "void for accommodating a plant" should be interpreted broadly, to encompass any void or space which may receive or contain at least part of a flowerpot containing a plant, or
20 at least part of a plant itself (such as its root structure) together with some soil, earth or potting compost etc.

Thus, the planter or flowerpot may be located in the hole of a garden table, advantageously obscuring and covering the hole, whilst providing a floral centrepiece or table decoration.

Further, the second portion may advantageously provide drainage and/or stability to the planter or flowerpot in use, as will be described in more detail below.

5 Preferably the second portion incorporates a conduit therein, the conduit being in communication with the void of the first portion. This advantageously enables water received in the first portion to drain down inside the conduit, rather than accumulating in the first portion or overflowing from the first portion. Accordingly, this mitigates against plants in the planter or flowerpot drowning in excess water, or excess water overflowing onto the tabletop and causing mess and damage, or rotting the tabletop if the tabletop is made of
10 wood.

Preferably the second portion is tubular. This advantageously enables water received in the first portion to be drained down the length of the second portion.

15 Particularly preferably the end of the conduit distal from the first portion is open-ended. This advantageously enables water to drain out of the bottom of the conduit, thereby preventing water from accumulating within the conduit.

20 Preferably the planter or flowerpot further comprises means for preventing soil, earth or debris from falling from the first portion into the second portion. Preferably the said means comprise a mesh or a grille.

Particularly preferably the second portion is configured to provide stability to, or enhance the stability of, the first portion when the second portion is located within a hole in the tabletop of

a garden table in use. This advantageously mitigates against the planter or flowerpot being blown over in windy conditions, or accidentally knocked over by a user or an animal or bird.

Preferably the first and second portions are integrally formed. This may advantageously enhance the rigidity of the planter or flowerpot, and in many cases may facilitate manufacture.

Preferably the first and second portions are concentrically aligned.

10 Alternatively, the first and second portions may be eccentrically aligned.

The geometry of the first and second portions may be such that, were the second portion absent and were there consequently no stabilising effect provided by virtue of the second portion locating within a hole in the tabletop of a garden table in use, the first portion would be unstable (e.g. wobbly) in use. Moreover, the geometry of the first and second portions may be such that, were the second portion absent and were there consequently no stabilising effect provided by virtue of the second portion locating within a hole in the tabletop of a garden table in use, the first portion would be unable to stand upright in use. In such a manner, an unusual and interesting centrepiece or table decoration may be provided, since the planter or flowerpot appears to defy gravity in use (onlookers being unable to readily see the second portion locating within the hole in the table).

The end of the conduit distal from the first portion may be provided with means for attachment to a hosepipe. By routing the hosepipe to a desired location such as a flowerbed

or a water butt, this advantageously provides a way of conserving rainwater or putting it to use.

According to a second aspect of the invention there is provided a tabletop article, comprising
5 a first portion shaped and configured to rest on the tabletop of a garden table in use, and a second portion shaped and configured to locate in a hole in the said tabletop in use, the second portion being for: providing drainage of water from the article through the hole in the tabletop; and/or providing stability to, or enhancing the stability of, the first portion on the tabletop.

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Thus, the second portion may incorporate a conduit therein, for drainage, and may be tubular. The end of the conduit distal from the first portion may be open-ended.

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Preferably the first and second portions are integrally formed. This may advantageously enhance the rigidity of the article, and in many cases may facilitate manufacture.

Preferably the first and second portions are concentrically aligned.

20

Alternatively the first and second portions may be eccentrically aligned.

The geometry of the first and second portions may be such that, were the second portion absent and were there consequently no stabilising effect provided by virtue of the second portion locating within a hole in the tabletop of a garden table in use, the first portion would be unstable in use. Moreover, the geometry of the first and second portions may be such
25 that, were the second portion absent and were there consequently no stabilising effect

provided by virtue of the second portion locating within a hole in the tabletop of a garden table in use, the first portion would be unable to stand upright in use. In such a way, an unusual and interesting tabletop article may be provided, which appears to defy gravity in use (onlookers being unable to readily see the second portion locating within the hole in the
5 table).

The tabletop article may be selected from a group comprising: a flowerpot; a planter; a vase; a bowl; a platter for serving condiments or food; a revolving tray for serving condiments or food; a candlestick or candleholder; a lamp. This list should not be regarded as exhaustive,
10 and those skilled in the art of product design will readily be able to apply the present invention to other articles for use on garden tables.

According to a third aspect of the invention there is provided a method of placing a tabletop planter or flowerpot on a garden table, the tabletop of the garden table incorporating a hole
15 for receiving an umbrella, said method comprising: obtaining a tabletop planter or flowerpot in accordance with the first aspect of the invention; and locating the said second portion in the hole in the tabletop of the garden table.

According to a fourth aspect of the invention there is provided a method of placing a tabletop
20 article on a garden table, the tabletop of the garden table incorporating a hole for receiving an umbrella, said method comprising: obtaining an article in accordance with the second aspect of the invention; and locating the said second portion in the hole in the tabletop of the garden table.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Embodiments of the invention will now be described, by way of example only, and with reference to the drawings in which:

Figure 1 illustrates a side view of a tabletop planter according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 2 illustrates a plan view from above of the tabletop planter of Figure 1;

Figure 3 illustrates a side view in cross section of the tabletop planter of Figure 1, in use on a garden table;

Figure 4 illustrates a perspective view of the tabletop planter of Figure 1; and

Figure 5 shows the tabletop planter in use on a garden table, the planter containing plants.

Figures 6a to 6c illustrate alternative embodiments of the tabletop article.

In the figures, like elements are indicated by like reference numerals throughout.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The present embodiments represent the best ways known to the applicant of putting the invention into practice. However they are not the only ways in which this can be achieved.

Figures 1, 2, 3 and 4 illustrate side, plan, cross section and perspective views respectively of a tabletop planter 10 according to an embodiment of the present invention. It will be appreciated that a planter is a pot or container in which plants or small trees may be grown or maintained. A plant may be planted in a separate flowerpot, which may then be placed in the planter 10 for display purposes. Alternatively, the planter 10 may itself serve as a flowerpot. That is to say, soil, earth or potting compost may be placed directly inside the planter 10, and a plant may be planted directly in the said soil, without using an internal flowerpot.

The planter 10 is formed of a first portion 12 that is shaped and configured substantially like a conventional planter, the side walls of the first portion 12 defining an internal void for accommodating a plant. In use, a plant may first be planted in a flowerpot which is then
5 placed within the first portion 12, or alternatively a plant may be planted in soil directly within the first portion 12, without using an internal flowerpot.

The planter 10 further comprises a second portion 14 that is shaped and configured to locate in the hole in the tabletop of a garden table 20 in use. Such holes may be a variety of
10 shapes and sizes, but are typically circular with a diameter in the approximate range of 25 mm to 70 mm, possibly more, and possibly less.

Thus, it will be appreciated that the second portion 14 of the planter 10 may be substantially cylindrical in shape, having a circular cross-section having an external diameter which is
15 smaller than the internal diameter of the hole in the garden table 20. The external diameter of the second portion 14 may be only slightly smaller than the internal diameter of the hole in the table, in order to provide a reasonably snug fit between the planter 10 and the table, thereby providing stability to the planter 10 when located in the hole in the table in use. Alternatively, the external diameter of the second portion 14 may be significantly smaller
20 than the internal diameter of the hole in the table, thereby making it easier to introduce or remove the planter 10 to or from the table in use, and also enabling a single size of outer diameter of the second portion 14 to be used with a range of different sizes of holes in garden tables.

In some embodiments the second portion 14 may not be of a circular cross-section, and may alternatively be, for example, square in cross-section, or some other shape. In use, this may enable the second portion 14 to locate within a non-circular hole in a garden table.

- 5 In the presently preferred embodiments, the purpose of the second portion 14 is primarily to provide a drainage pipe for the planter 10, whilst also providing stability to, or enhancing the stability of, the planter on the garden table. Consequently, the second portion 14 is preferably of the form of a cylindrical tube, in communication with the void defined by the first portion 12, and having an open distal end 18. Thus, in use, water entering the first portion
- 10 12 will flow down the conduit formed by the second portion 14, through the hole in the garden table, and will drain out of the distal opening 18. This prevents the plant drowning in excess water, and also prevents water from overflowing from the planter onto the tabletop, thus mitigating against rot of the table if the table is made of wood.
- 15 A grill or mesh structure 16 may be provided at the interface between the first portion 12 and the second portion 14, in order to allow drainage of water whilst preventing earth or mud from being carried down the second portion 14 and out of the distal end 18. The grill 16 may be removable from the rest of the planter 10 in order to facilitate cleaning.
- 20 The distal end 18 of the second portion 14 may be provided with means by which a hosepipe may be attached, thereby enabling any water draining through the second portion 14 to be conducted away, for example to water butt or a flowerbed, thus providing a way of conserving rainwater, or at least not wasting it.

As mentioned above, as well as acting as a drainage pipe, the second portion 14 may also serve to provide stability to, or enhance the stability of, the planter 10 on the tabletop in use. This advantageously mitigates against the planter being blown over in windy conditions, or accidentally being knocked over by a user or an animal or bird.

5

With many embodiments, the first portion 12 and the second portion 14 of the planter 10 may be arranged concentrically, for example as illustrated in the figures, thereby giving a conventional outward appearance during use. However, by virtue of the stabilising effect provided by the location of the second portion 14 in the hole in the garden table, the rest of the planter 10 (and particularly the first portion 12) may be shaped in an irregular or otherwise unconventional manner. For example, the first portion 12 could be shaped such that, were it not for the stabilising effect provided by the second portion 14 in the hole, the planter would be inherently unstable, or even unable to stand up of its own accord.

15 Thus, the second portion 14 need not be aligned concentrically with respect to the first portion 12 and, for example, the first portion 12 could extend more to one side than the other, resulting in an unusually shaped planter that, in use, would appear to defy gravity since an onlooker would be unaware of the stabilising effect provided by the second portion 14 locating in the hole in the garden table 20. Those skilled in the art will readily be able to envisage a number of geometries, both conventional and unconventional, in which the planter 10 may be formed.

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It should be noted that, in some embodiments, the second portion 14 may be provided solely to provide drainage for the first portion 12, without providing a stabilising effect to the planter.

This may be the case if the external diameter of the second portion 14 is considerably less than the internal diameter of the hole in the garden table.

Conversely, in other embodiments, the second portion 14 may be provided solely to provide
5 stability to, or enhance the stability of, the planter, without providing a drainage function. In
such cases, the second portion 14 might not incorporate a drainage conduit or channel, or
might not be in communication with the void of the first portion 12. However, it should be
emphasised that, in the presently preferred embodiments, the second portion 14 serves to
provide both drainage and stability to the planter 10, whilst also usefully plugging the hole in
10 the garden table.

The planter 10 may have a decorative external surface, to provide an attractive outward
appearance whilst concealing a flowerpot or soil within.

15 The planter 10 may be manufactured from any appropriate material, as will be readily
appreciated by those skilled in the art of materials selection and manufacturing techniques.
For example, the planter may be made from a plastics material, which may be injection
moulded, or formed using some other kind of moulding procedure. Advantageously, plastics
materials are inexpensive, well suited to mass production, insusceptible to damage during
20 normal use, and are water resistant. Alternatively, the planter 10 could be made from a
ceramic material such as earthenware, terracotta or porcelain, which may be painted to
provide an attractive decoration once fired. In further alternatives, the planter 10 could be
made from metallic materials such as iron or steel, or composite materials.

Planters according to embodiments of the invention may be made in a variety of shapes, sizes and geometries to suit different sizes of plants or small trees to be planted therein, to suit different sizes of garden tables, and to locate within different shapes and sizes of holes in garden tables.

5

The first and second portions 12, 14 may be integrally formed, to facilitate manufacture and to enhance the overall rigidity and strength of the planter 10. Alternatively, the first and second portions 12, 14 may be formed separately and then joined together prior to use. This may enable the user to select a first portion 12 of a size suitable to accommodate a particular plant or flowerpot, and a second portion 14 having an external diameter appropriate for a particular size of hole in the table, and then to join the two portions together (e.g. by means of a screw thread acting between the two portions) prior to use.

10

Figure 5 illustrates an example of a planter 10 in use on a garden table 20, the planter containing plants 22. It will be appreciated that the second portion 14 is not visible during use, and that only the first portion 12 is outwardly visible.

15

It should be noted that the principles described herein are applicable to other tabletop articles other than planters or flowerpots. For example, the article may be a vase or a bowl, or a platter for serving condiments or food, or a revolving tray (a so-called "Lazy Susan") for serving condiments or food, or a candlestick or candleholder, or a lamp. This list of possible articles should not be regarded as exhaustive, and those skilled in the art of product design will readily be able to apply the present principles to other articles for use on garden tables. In such cases, the stability of the article on a garden table may be enhanced by providing a downwardly-extending portion (like the second portion 14 of the planter 10) shaped and

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configured to locate within the hole within the tabletop of the garden table. Additionally, or alternatively, the downwardly-extending portion may provide a drainage function, as described above.

CLAIMS

1. A tabletop planter or flowerpot, comprising a first portion shaped and configured to define a void for accommodating a plant, and a second portion shaped and configured to locate in a hole in the tabletop of a garden table in use.

2. A tabletop planter or flowerpot as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the second portion incorporates a conduit therein, the conduit being in communication with the void of the first portion.

3. A tabletop planter or flowerpot as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the second portion is tubular.

4. A tabletop planter or flowerpot as claimed in Claim 2 or Claim 3, wherein the end of the conduit distal from the first portion is open-ended.

5. A tabletop planter or flowerpot as claimed in any of Claims 2, 3 or 4, further comprising means for preventing soil, earth or debris from falling from the first portion into the second portion.

6. A tabletop planter or flowerpot as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the said means comprise a mesh or a grille.

7. A tabletop planter or flowerpot as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the second portion is configured to provide stability to, or enhance the stability of, the first

portion when the second portion is located within a hole in the tabletop of a garden table in use.

- 5 8. A tabletop planter or flowerpot as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the first and second portions are integrally formed.
9. A tabletop planter or flowerpot as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the first and second portions are concentrically aligned.
- 10 10. A tabletop planter or flowerpot as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 8, wherein the first and second portions are eccentrically aligned.
11. A tabletop planter or flowerpot as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the geometry of the first and second portions is such that, were the second portion
15 absent and were there consequently no stabilising effect provided by virtue of the second portion locating within a hole in the tabletop of a garden table in use, the first portion would be unstable in use.
12. A tabletop planter or flowerpot as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the geometry of the
20 first and second portions is such that, were the second portion absent and were there consequently no stabilising effect provided by virtue of the second portion locating within a hole in the tabletop of a garden table in use, the first portion would be unable to stand upright in use.

13. A tabletop planter or flowerpot as claimed in any of Claims 4 to 12, wherein the end of the conduit distal from the first portion is provided with means for attachment to a hosepipe.

5 14. A tabletop article, comprising a first portion shaped and configured to rest on the tabletop of a garden table in use, and a second portion shaped and configured to locate in a hole in the said tabletop in use, the second portion being for:

providing drainage of water from the article through the hole in the tabletop;
and/or

10 providing stability to, or enhancing the stability of, the first portion on the tabletop.

15 15. A tabletop article as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the second portion incorporates a conduit therein.

16. A tabletop article as claimed in Claim 14 or Claim 15, wherein the second portion is tubular.

20 17. A tabletop article as claimed in Claim 15 or Claim 16, wherein the end of the conduit distal from the first portion is open-ended.

18. A tabletop article as claimed in any of Claims 14 to 17, wherein the first and second portions are integrally formed.

19. A tabletop article as claimed in any of Claims 14 to 18, wherein the first and second portions are concentrically aligned.
20. A tabletop article as claimed in any of Claims 14 to 18, wherein the first and second
5 portions are eccentrically aligned.
21. A tabletop article as claimed in any of Claims 14 to 20, wherein the geometry of the first and second portions is such that, were the second portion absent and were there consequently no stabilising effect provided by virtue of the second portion locating
10 within a hole in the tabletop of a garden table in use, the first portion would be unstable in use.
22. A tabletop article as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the geometry of the first and second portions is such that, were the second portion absent and were there
15 consequently no stabilising effect provided by virtue of the second portion locating within a hole in the tabletop of a garden table in use, the first portion would be unable to stand upright in use.
23. A tabletop article as claimed in any of Claims 14 to 22, being selected from a group
20 comprising: a flowerpot; a planter; a vase; a bowl; a platter for serving condiments or food; a revolving tray for serving condiments or food; a candlestick or candleholder; a lamp.

24. A method of placing a tabletop planter or flowerpot on a garden table, the tabletop of the garden table incorporating a hole for receiving an umbrella, said method comprising:

obtaining a tabletop planter or flowerpot as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 13;

5 and

locating the said second portion in the hole in the tabletop of the garden table.

25. A method of placing a tabletop article on a garden table, the tabletop of the garden table incorporating a hole for receiving an umbrella, said method comprising:

10 obtaining an article as claimed in any of Claims 14 to 23; and

locating the said second portion in the hole in the tabletop of the garden table.

26. A tabletop planter or flowerpot substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated in any combination of the accompanying drawings.

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27. A tabletop article substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated in any combination of the accompanying drawings.

20

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on
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1. A tabletop article, comprising a first portion shaped and configured to define a void,
and a second portion shaped and configured to locate in a hole in the tabletop of a
5 garden table in use; the second portion incorporating a conduit therein, the conduit
being in communication with the void of the first portion at a junction between the first
and second portions; wherein the junction is configured to receive a separation
means.
- 10 2. A tabletop article as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the separation means
comprises a mesh, a grille or means to block the conduit.
3. A tabletop article as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the second portion is tubular.
- 15 4. A tabletop article as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the end of the conduit
distal from the first portion is open-ended.
5. A tabletop article as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the second portion is
configured to provide stability to, or enhance the stability of, the first portion when the
20 second portion is located within a hole in the tabletop of a garden table in use.
6. A tabletop article as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the first and second
portions are integrally formed.

7. A tabletop article as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the first and second portions are concentrically aligned.

5 8. A tabletop article as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 6, wherein the first and second portions are eccentrically aligned.

9. A tabletop article as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the geometry of the first and second portions is such that, were the second portion absent and were there consequently no stabilising effect provided by virtue of the second portion locating
10 within a hole in the tabletop of a garden table in use, the first portion would be unstable in use.

10. A tabletop article as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the geometry of the first and second portions is such that, were the second portion absent and were there consequently
15 no stabilising effect provided by virtue of the second portion locating within a hole in the tabletop of a garden table in use, the first portion would be unable to stand upright in use.

11. A tabletop article as claimed in any of Claims 4 to 10, wherein the end of the conduit
20 distal from the first portion is provided with means for attachment to a hosepipe.

12. A tabletop article as claimed in any of Claims 1, 3, 4 or 6-10, wherein the second portion is configured to:

25 provide drainage of water from the article through the hole in the tabletop;
and/or

provide stability to, or enhance the stability of, the first portion on the tabletop.

13. A tabletop article as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the article is selected from a group comprising: a flowerpot; a planter; a vase; a bowl; a platter for serving
5 condiments or food; a revolving tray for serving condiments or food; a candlestick or candleholder; a lamp.

14. A method of placing a tabletop article on a garden table, the tabletop of the garden table incorporating a hole for receiving an umbrella, said method comprising:

- 10 obtaining an article as claimed in any preceding claim; and
locating the said second portion in the hole in the tabletop of the garden table.

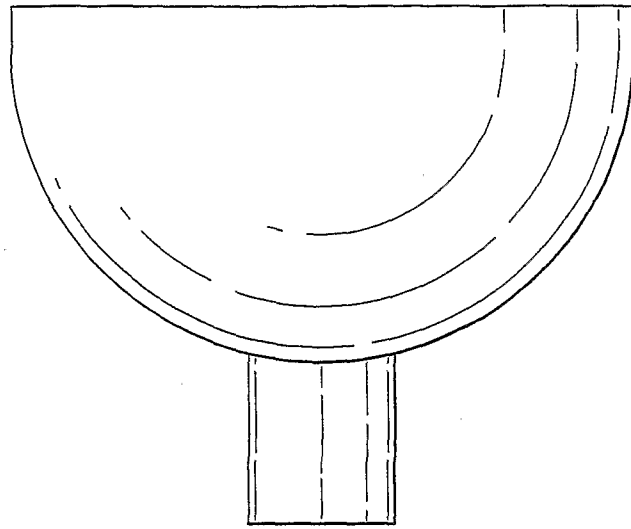


Fig.1

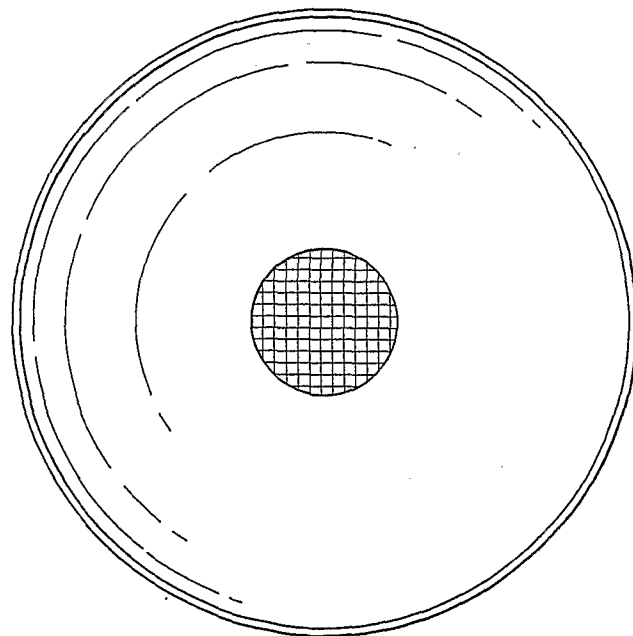


Fig.2

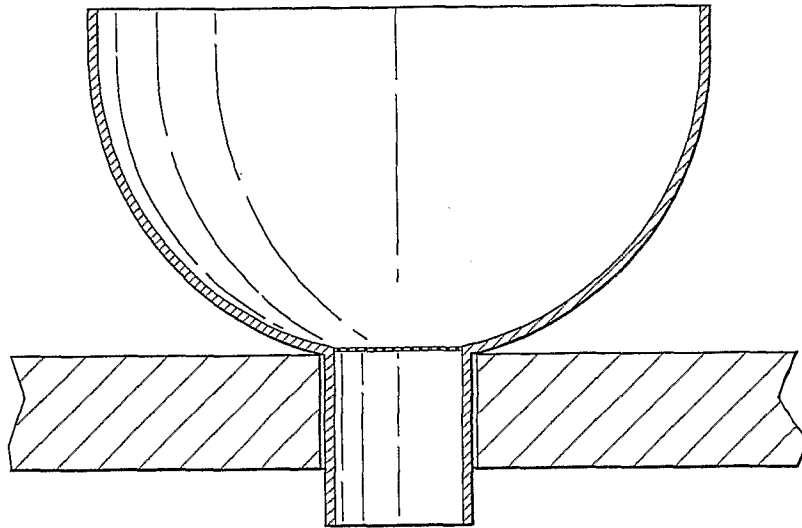


Fig.3

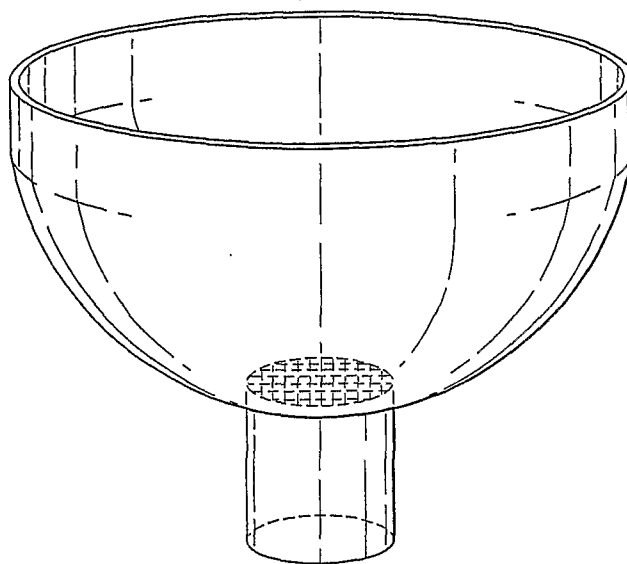


Fig.4

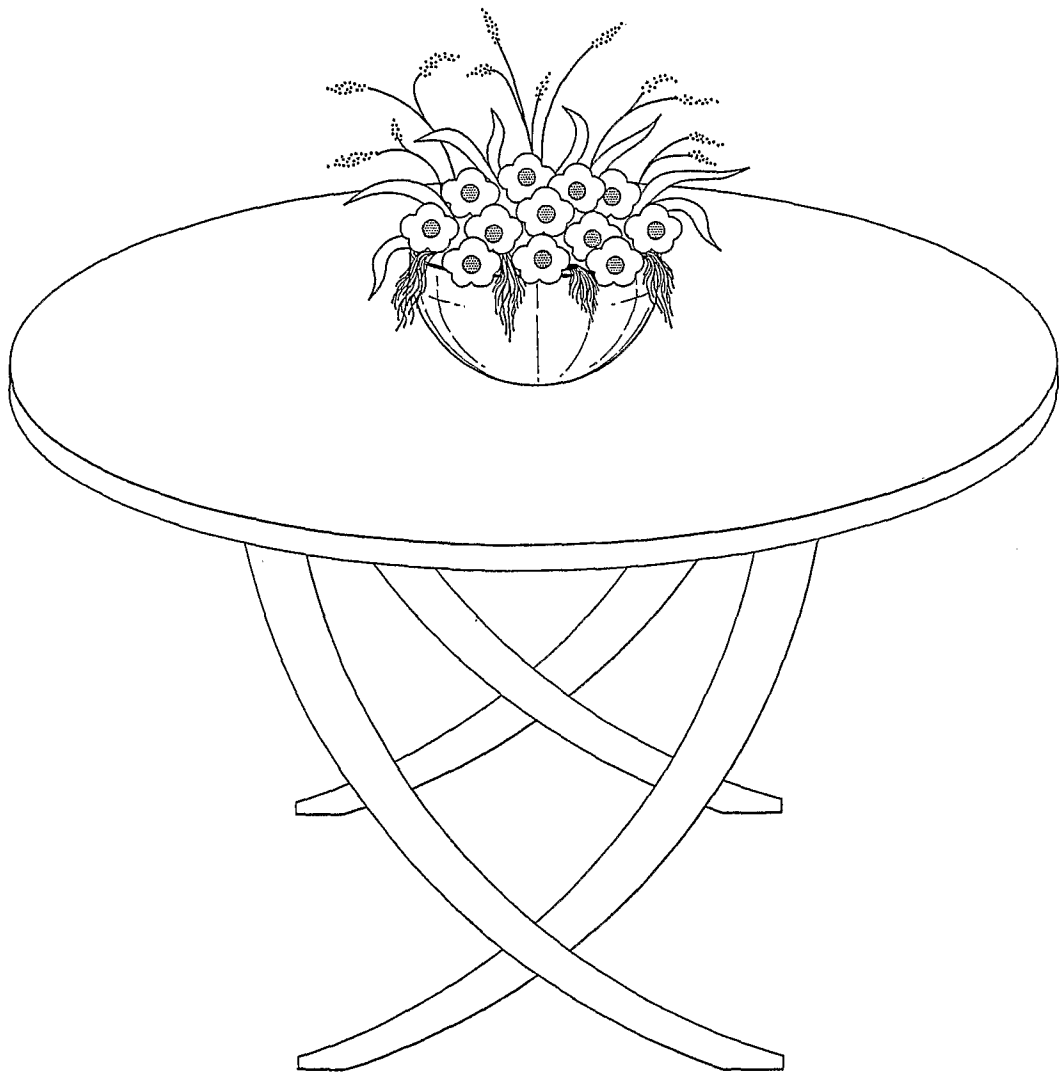


Fig.5

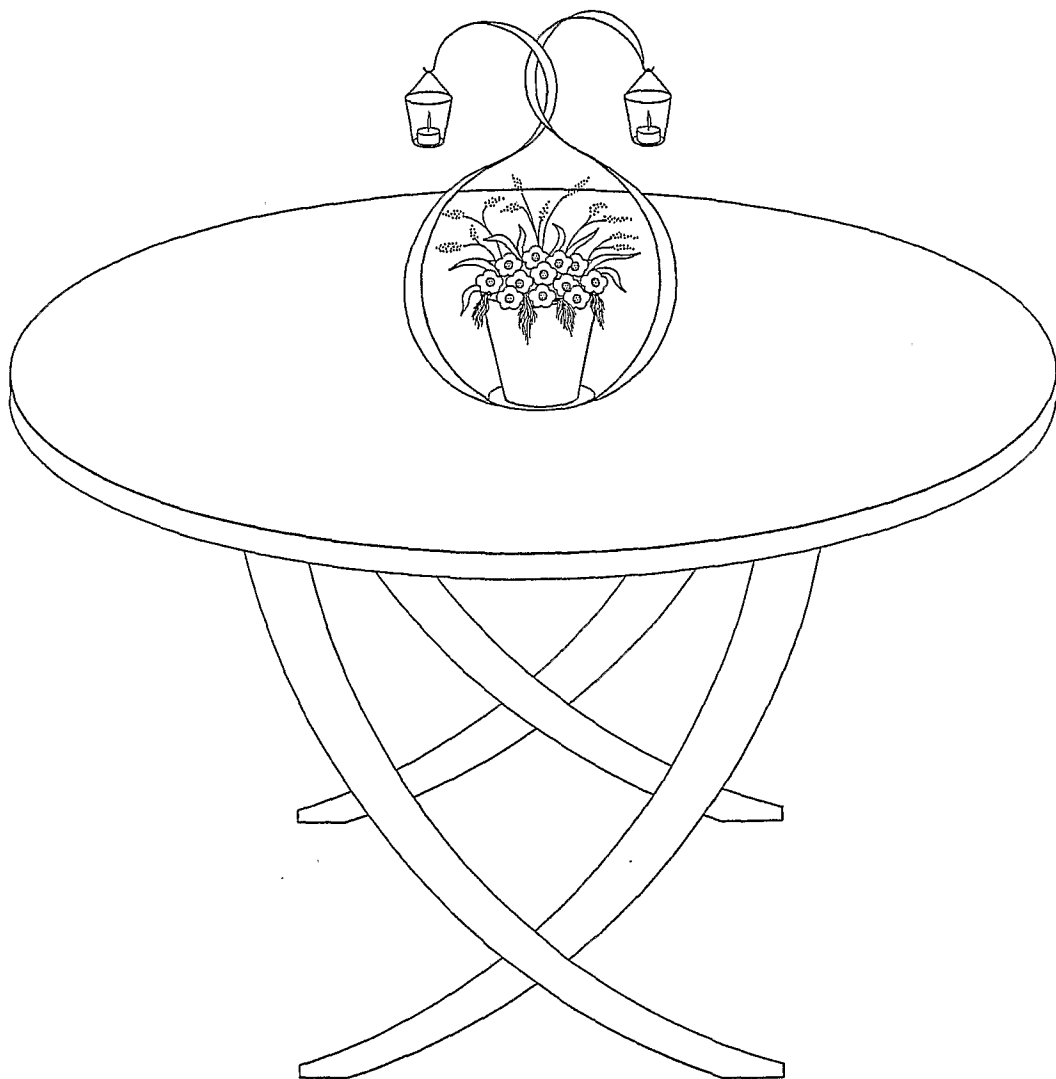


Fig.6a

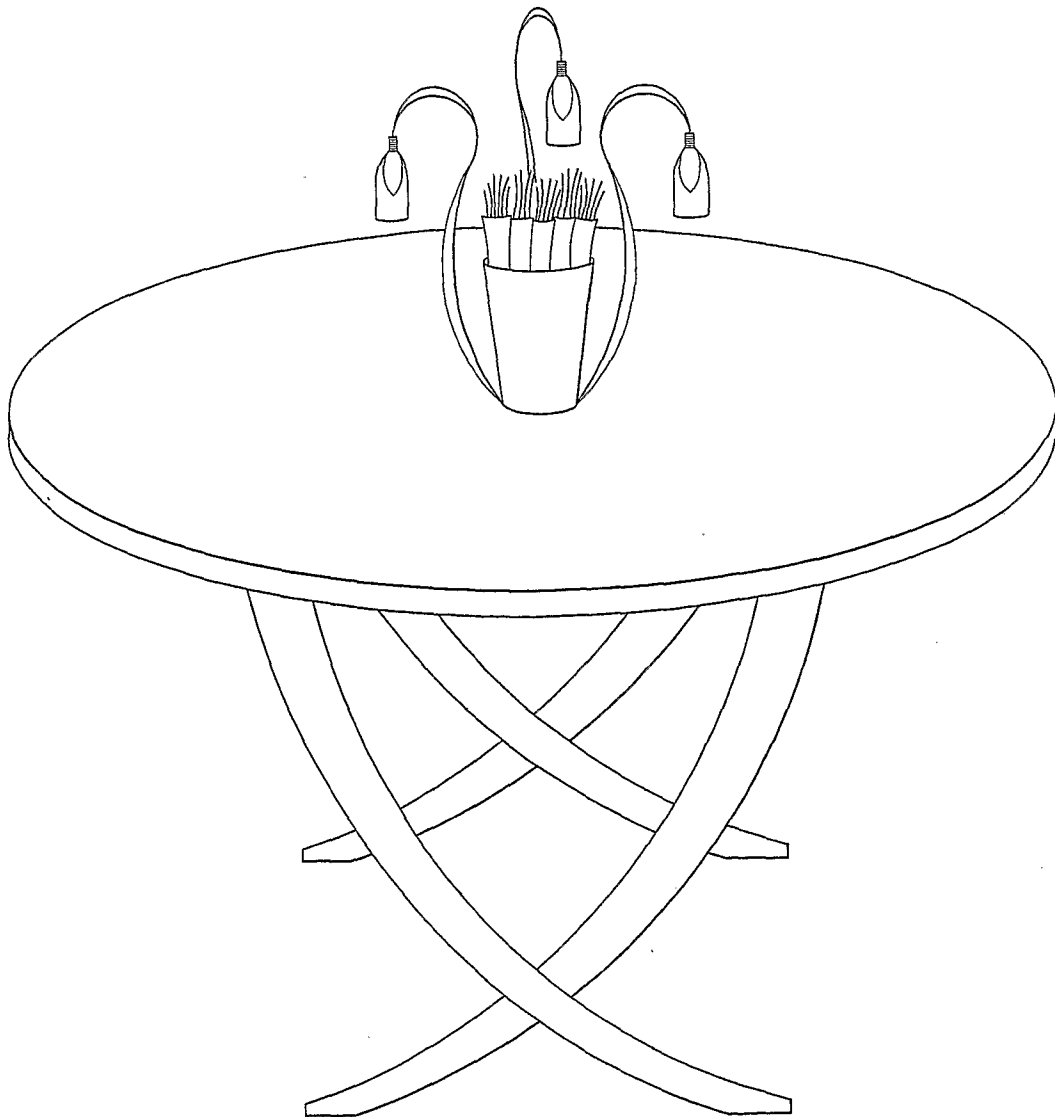


Fig.6b

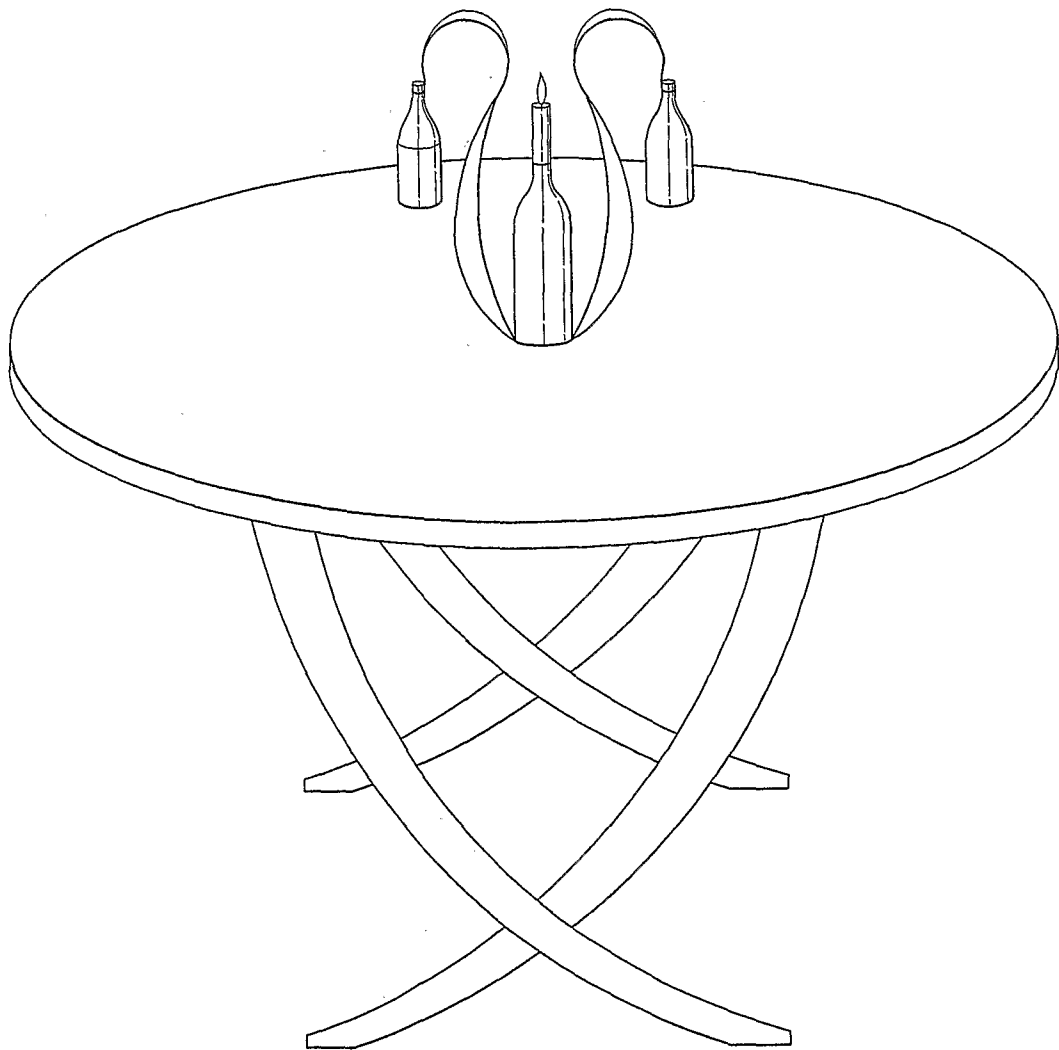


Fig.6c

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/GB2006/004568

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. A01G9/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

A01G

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	CA 2 258 477 A1 (FARRON SUSAN [CA]) 30 June 2000 (2000-06-30) the whole document	1-5, 7-9, 13-19, 23-27
X	US 2 228 575 A (FRANK LUIPERSBEK) 14 January 1941 (1941-01-14) page 1, left-hand column, lines 25,41; figures 1,2	1, 6
X	US 6 539 665 B1 (LLONA MARCOS [US]) 1 April 2003 (2003-04-01) figures 1-3	1, 10, 14, 20
X	EP 1 464 217 A (ITO TAKAMI [JP]) 6 October 2004 (2004-10-06) figures 1-3	1, 11, 12, 14, 21, 22
	-/--	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

19 April 2007

Date of mailing of the international search report

08/05/2007

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Bunn, David

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/GB2006/004568

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2 003 986 A (FRANK WITTHUHN) 4 June 1935 (1935-06-04)	1
Y	page 2, line 3 - line 5; figure 2 -----	5,6
Y	GB 17945 A A.D. 1910 (SEXTON ELIZA CATHERINE) 15 December 1910 (1910-12-15) page 1, line 5 - line 9 page 1, line 27 - line 33; figures -----	5,6
X	FR 2 310 695 A1 (GAUTROT RENE [FR]) 10 December 1976 (1976-12-10)	1,5
A	page 1, line 24 - line 37; figure 2 -----	6

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/GB2006/004568

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US 2003986	A	04-06-1935	NONE	
GB 191017945	A	15-12-1910	NONE	
FR 2310695	A1	10-12-1976	NONE	