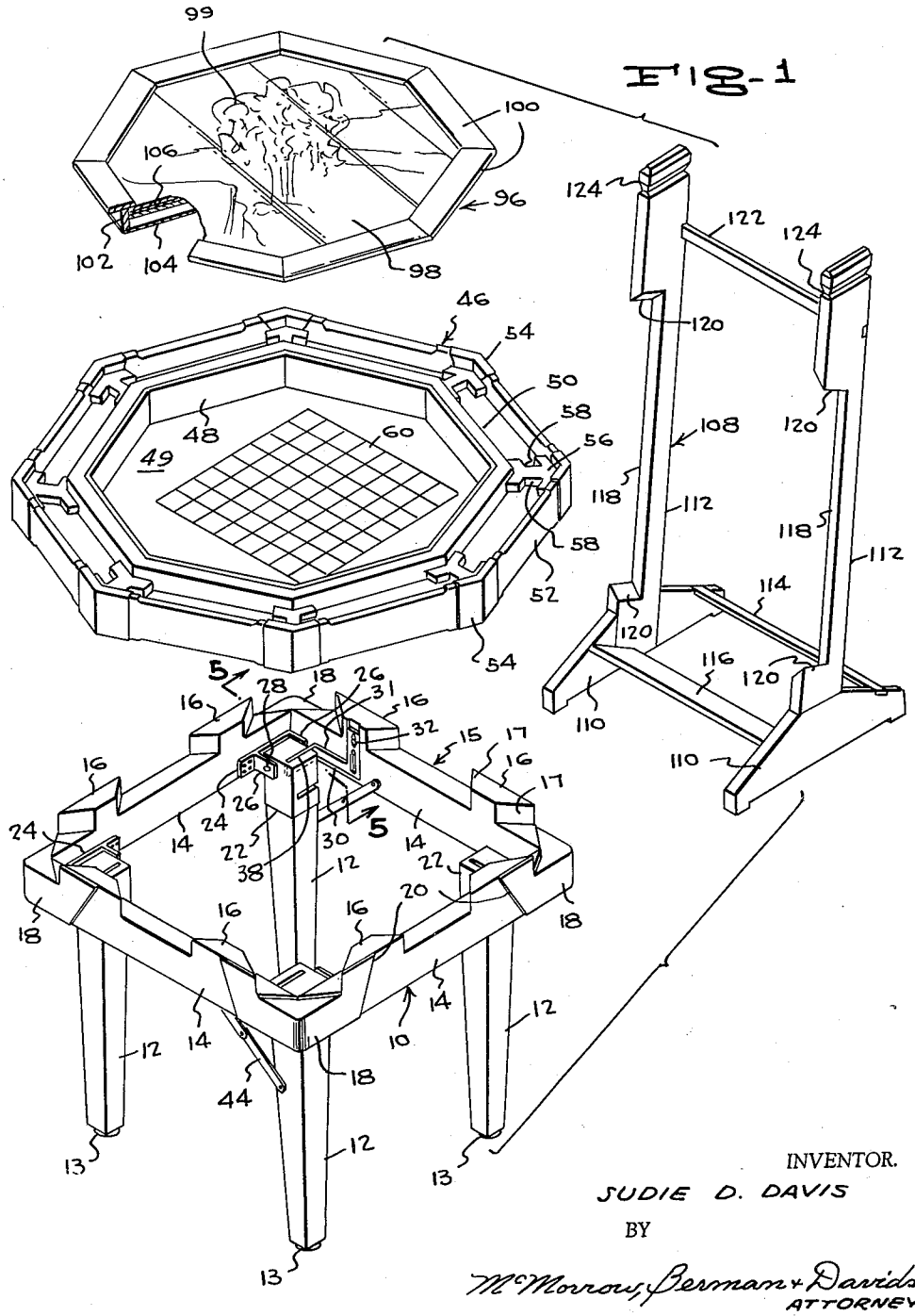
Sept. 26, 1961 S. D. DAVIS 3,001,843

CONVERTIBLE TABLE

Filed April 24, 1959 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG-1



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CONVERTIBLE TABLE

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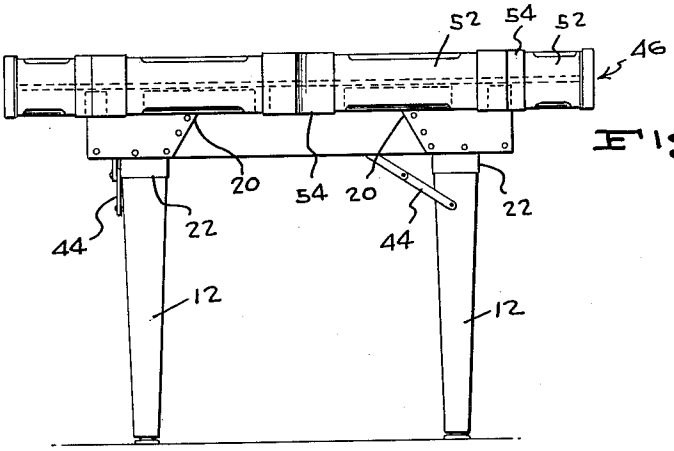


FIG-2

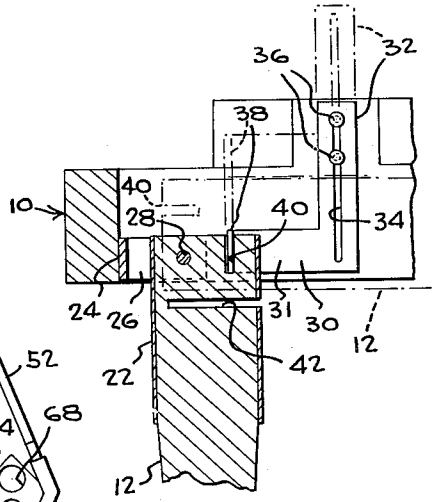


FIG-5

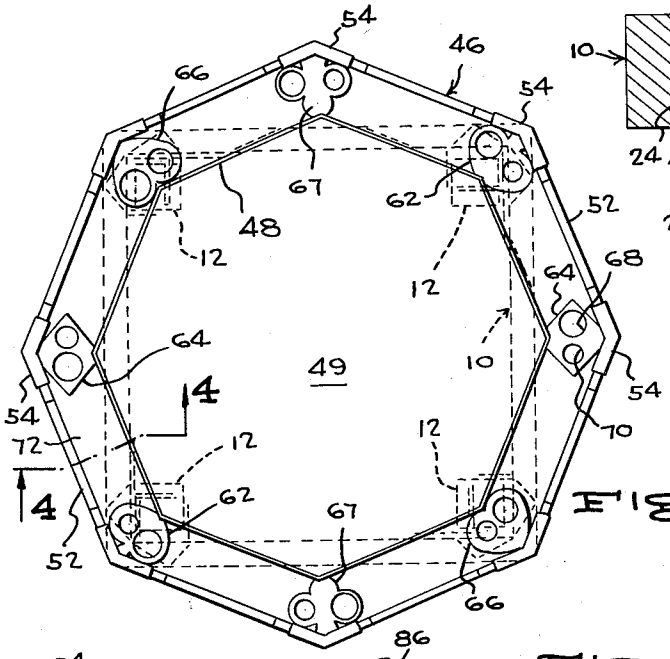


FIG-3

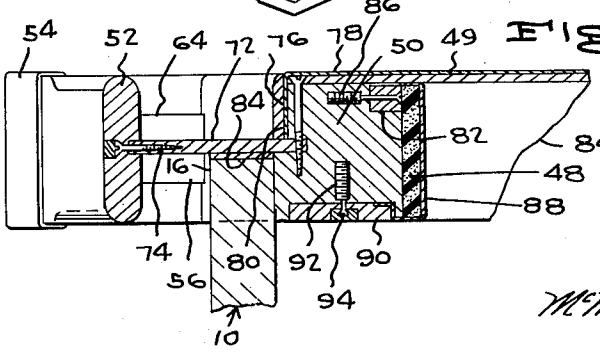


FIG-4

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3,001,843
CONVERTIBLE TABLE

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Filed Apr. 24, 1959, Ser. No. 808,801
5 Claims. (Cl. 311—3)

This invention relates generally to articles of furniture, and more particularly has reference to convertible furniture, in particular tables adapted to be converted to different uses.

One important object of the present invention is to provide a convertible table which when not in use will comprise an attractive article of furniture on which a picture may be displayed vertically, said picture being incorporated directly in the furniture piece.

Another object is to provide a convertible table which, when not in use, will occupy a minimum amount of space by reason of the fact that the table top is vertically disposed upon a novelly designed support or stand which in itself can be so formed as to blend with adjacent pieces of furniture.

Another object is to provide a convertible table that will be so formed that it can be swiftly converted for use as a card table.

Another object is to permit the equally swift conversion of the table for use as a table on which checkers or chess can be played.

Another object is to provide a novel means for mounting foldable legs upon the table, said means being so designed as to provide maximum rigidity when the legs are extended for use, while still permitting the legs to be folded in a minimum amount of time and with a minimum amount of difficulty.

Another object is to provide a convertible table of the type stated which will be so designed as to insure to the maximum extent against marring or other damage of the surface thereof, due to the provision of felt coverings over portions of the table that are particularly subject to being scratched.

Another object is to provide a convertible table of the character described which, when used as a card table, will have novelly designed means for supporting glasses, and other articles, in an out-of-the-way location where they will not interfere with playing of the cards.

Still another object is to so form the convertible table that it can be manufactured at a comparatively low cost, considering the particular versatility thereof, its adaptability for quick assembly or disassembly, and the wide range of its uses.

Other objects will appear from the following description, the claims appended thereto, and from the annexed drawings, in which like reference characters designate like parts throughout the several views, and wherein:

FIGURE 1 is an exploded perspective view, partially in section, of the furniture piece comprising the present invention, the legs of the support frame being in unfolded, operative positions;

FIGURE 2 is an elevational view of the table;

FIGURE 3 is a top plan view;

FIGURE 4 is an enlarged, detail sectional view substantially on line 4—4 of FIGURE 3; and

FIGURE 5 is an enlarged, detail sectional view showing the connection of one of the legs to the support frame, the leg and the connecting means being shown in full lines with the leg unfolded, and in dotted lines with the leg folded.

Referring to the drawings in detail, the item of furniture comprising the present invention includes a support frame generally designated **10**. The support frame or base **10** includes four supporting legs **12**, which at their lower ends may be provided with threaded sockets in

which are engaged the shanks of adjustable feet **13**, thus to permit leveling of the device for adjustment of the height of the table surface.

In any event, designated at **14** are the side rails of the horizontal, open-center, rectangular frame **15** comprising the top portion of the base **10**. Side rails **14** are identical to one another, each side rail being formed, at locations adjacent its opposite ends, with upwardly projecting tongues **16**.

The tongues **16** are so formed as to be progressively decreased in width, in a direction from the outer faces to the inner faces of the side rails on which they are formed. There are two tongues on each side rail, said tongues of each side rail being identical to one another. The outer and inner faces of the tongues are coplanar with the corresponding faces of the side rails proper, while the side faces **17** of the tongues converge in a direction toward the inside face thereof.

Extending about each corner of the horizontal, open-center frame **15** is a protective plate **18**, which at its opposite ends may have upwardly projecting extensions **20** overlying a portion of the outer faces of the adjacent tongues **16**.

At this point, it is to be understood that there will be no attemept to specify particular materials, such as nickel, aluminum, or the like, nor should dimensions be specified herein, since it is not desired to limit the protection sought to certain materials or certain dimensions. Rather, it is intended, of course within the scope of the appended claims, to protect the basic principles of the invention, and the relative form and arrangement of the component parts thereof.

Designated at **22** are rectangular cuffs or sleeves (see FIGURES 1 and 5), in which are tightly fitted the upper ends of the several legs **12**. Adjacent each leg is a connecting bracket **24**. Each connecting bracket comprises an elongated, flat length of material secured by screws or equivalent means to the inner surface of an adjacent rail **14**. Then, projecting outwardly from the elongated body portion or main part of the bracket are ears or arms **26**, disposed in embracing relation to the sleeve **22**, as will be clearly seen from FIGURE 1. The ears **26**, and the sleeve **22**, have registering openings, receiving a pivot pin **28**, so that each leg **12** is hingedly mounted, for swinging movement between operative and inoperative positions angularly spaced **90** degrees apart, and shown in full and dotted line positions respectively, in FIGURE 5.

In any event, the device comprising the present invention includes a lock means for releasably engaging the legs in both their operative and inoperative positions. Said lock means comprises an L-shaped, vertically slidable locking plate **30**. As will be seen from FIGURE 1, the support bracket **24** of each leg is connected to one rail **14**, while the locking plate **30** used to engage the same leg in the operative and inoperative positions of the leg is mounted upon the adjacent rail **14**, that is, the rail **14** cooperating with the leg-supporting rail, in forming one corner of the base.

The locking plate **30** includes a wholly planiform, L-shaped portion, which L-shaped portion has a horizontal part **31** and a vertical part **32**. The vertical part **32**, as seen from FIGURE 5, has a longitudinal, vertical slot **34**. Extending through the slot **34** are vertically spaced, headed rivets or similar fastening elements **36** that extend into the adjacent side rail **14**. As a result, the L-shaped locking plate is mounted for vertical sliding movement between the full and dotted line positions shown in FIGURE 5.

At the end of the horizontal part **31** remote from the vertical part **32**, the locking plate **30** is formed with a laterally, inwardly projecting locking arm **38**. This is extendable into a transverse, upwardly opening locking

slot 34 formed in the upper ends of the leg 12 and sleeve 22.

A short distance downwardly from the upper extremity of the leg, there is provided a slot 42 disposed wholly in a plane perpendicular to the plane of the slot 40. Slot 42 opens upon the inner side surface of the sleeve and leg 12.

Due to this arrangement, it will be seen that when the leg is swung to its operative, vertical position shown in full lines in FIGURE 5, locking plate 30 may be shifted downwardly from its dotted line position so as to engage arm 38 in slot 40. As a result, the leg is locked in its operative position. It is important to note, in this connection, that in no circumstances would the leg be capable of being accidentally unlocked. This often happens with respect to foldable card table legs, that is, one's knee may strike the locking brace such as the typical articulated bracing linkage 44 shown in FIGURE 1 and also in FIGURE 2. When one's knee strikes such a linkage, it often happens that the leg is collapsed, at least partially, so that the table may partially collapse, causing mixing of cards, or movement of checker or chess pieces.

At such time as it is desired to collapse the leg, one merely shifts the locking plate 30 upwardly to the dotted line position shown in FIGURE 5. This disengages arm 38 from the slot 40. The leg may now be swung upwardly into a position extending along the inner face of the adjacent side rail, as shown in dotted lines in FIGURE 5. With the leg in this position, slot 42 in now facing upwardly, in coplanar relation to the arm 38. The locking plate is now dropped sufficiently to engage the arm 38 in the slot 42, and as a result, the leg is now locked in its upwardly swung or collapsed position.

Generally designated at 46 is a table top which can, when one side is faced upwardly, be used for playing cards. When the other side is faced upwardly, the table top can be used for playing chess or checkers. When one views FIGURE 3, one sees the side used for playing cards, while in FIGURE 1, the surface used for playing chess or checkers is faced upwardly.

In any event, the table top 46 is preferably of octagonal outer configuration, and is adapted to be removably supported upon the frame 15 of base 10. The table top 46 includes an octagonal inside rail 48, and at 49 there is shown a flat plate member. This is peripherally reinforced by a support rail 50, which extends about and is secured to the inside rail 48.

Designated at 52 is an outside rail, and at the several corners of the octagonally shaped table top, protective corner brackets 54 are provided. Extending radially inwardly from each corner are connecting, spacer pieces 56, which can be arrow shaped by the provision of notches 58 in their opposite sides. These are disposed in position to be seen when the table top is in the FIGURE 1 position, that is, when the table top is disposed with its plate member at the bottom, and with the checker or chess playing area 60 available for use.

Referring to FIGURE 3, also at the several corners of the table top there are spaced blocks 62, 64, 66, and 67, shaped as spades, diamonds, hearts and clubs respectively. In other words, there are diametrically opposed blocks 62 shaped as spades, a pair of diametrically opposed blocks 64 shaped as diamonds, etc. In each block there are shallow recesses 68, 70 adapted to receive glasses or similar objects.

Designated 72 are flat filler pieces disposed in a common plane midway between the top and bottom edges of the octagonally shaped rails (see FIGURE 4). The filler pieces 72 are secured along their outer edges by screws 74 to the outside rails 52, and the inside edge portions of the filler pieces are secured by screws 76 extending downwardly from the peripheral portion of the plate 49. Plate 49 is in the plane of one edge of rails 52, that is, the plate 49 is the uppermost portion of the table top when the table top is being used for playing a card game. The table top would be in this position when seen as in FIGURES 3 and 4.

A felt covering 78 is applied to the surface of the table top used for playing cards, and has a marginal portion 80 turned downwardly and engaged in a slot formed in the support rail 50. In this connection, the inside rail 48 is preferably formed of sponge rubber in an illustrated embodiment, and is covered by felt 88 which is anchored along one edge by a felt-covered strip 90 that is secured to rail 50 by fastening means 92 having a reduced head 94.

The other edge portion of the felt 88 is secured between plate 49 and a felt retaining strip 82, that is connected to rail 50 by a screw or similar means 86.

As will be understood, the tongues 16 extend in the space between the inside and outside rails, regardless of which face of the table top is turned upwardly, that is, each tongue 16 extends into engagement with a selected spacer plate 72 as shown in FIGURE 4. The table top is thus locked against rotatable movement relative to the base, and is firmly supported in proper position, ready for use, whether it is to be used for card playing, or on the other hand for chess or checker playing.

The blocks 56, of course, are disposed in contact with and are secured to one face of the spacer plates 72, while the blocks 62, 64, 66 and 67 are secured to the opposite face. Again, this is clearly shown in FIGURE 4.

Referring now to FIGURE 1, generally designated at 96 is a cover plate, which is designed to provide an attractive picture when the device is not in use. The cover plate 96 has a flat, plate-like center portion 98, on which may be provided a picture 99 which could be a photograph, or perhaps some sporting scene such as a fox hunt, etc. The center portion 99 is octagonally shaped, and is bordered by a series of framing strips 100 which have miter joints where they are in abutting relation. The strips 100 provide an octagonal border on the cover plate 96, and reinforcing the periphery of the plate is a marginal reinforcement strip 102. Secured to the strip 102 in underlying relation to plate 99 are backing plates 104, 106 respectively.

Designated generally at 108 is a stand which supports the device when not in use. Stand 108 includes transversely spaced base members 110, and rigid with and extending upwardly from said base members are standards 112 of identical though opposite construction. Base members 110 are connected in transversely spaced relation by cross members 114, 116, with cross member 116 being disposed in an inclined position. Formed in the front edges of the standards 112 are elongated recesses 118, the opposite end walls of which are oppositely beveled as at 120. Fixedly connected between the upper end portions of the standards is an upper cross bar 122, and at its upper extremity, each standard may be ornamentally shaped through the provision of a circumferential groove 124.

When the device is not in use, the peripherally flanged cover plate is adapted to seat upon the table top, with the flange defined by strips 100 in overlying relation to rail 50. Strip 102 and backing plates 104, 106 extend into the well defined by the rail 48 and plate 49 in FIGURE 1. There is a snug fit of the cover plate upon the table top, so that it remains assembled therewith at all times.

With the legs folded, the base 10 can be engaged in the recesses 118, and in these circumstances, the beveled wall 120 of said recesses will be in firm engagement with the several side rails 14. The side rails 14 will be in a diamond-shaped arrangement, that is, they will all be inclined, rather than disposed in horizontal positions. The table top 46 remains in engagement with the tongues 16, and the cover plate is engaged in the table top in the manner previously described. The result will be that the device will be supported in such a way that it could cover a fireplace or be otherwise located where it will comprise an attractive piece of furniture, displaying the pictorial representations 99. Of course, the posts for standards

112 are inclined from the vertical, so that there will be no danger of the base, table top, and cover plate falling forwardly of their properly supported positions.

It will be seen that the device has a highly versatile construction, permitting it to be used for many purposes. At the same time the device is quite sturdy, and can be assured of remaining in any position selected therefor, with minimum danger of its dislodgement from such position. This of course interferes to the minimum extent with card playing, chess playing, etc.

It is believed apparent that the invention is not necessarily confined to the specific use or uses thereof described above, since it may be utilized for any purpose to which it may be suited. Nor is the invention to be necessarily limited to the specific construction illustrated and described, since such construction is only intended to be illustrative of the principles of operation and the means presently devised to carry out said principles, it being considered that the invention comprehends any minor change in construction that may be permitted within the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A convertible table including a base, said base including a frame and legs depending therefrom; a table top removably seating on said frame in engagement therewith; said legs being rectangularly spaced on the base, the frame being of rectangular configuration with the legs being disposed at the corner of the frame, said legs being connected to the frame for swinging movement between vertically depending, operative positions and horizontal collapsed positions in which the legs are disposed in the general plane of the frame, said frame including locking plate means at the several corners thereof adapted for releasably engaging the several legs in the operative and inoperative positions of the legs so as to lock the legs in said positions, said locking plate means comprising a plurality of locking plates disposed adjacent the several corners of the frame and mounted upon the frame for vertical sliding movement between locking and unlocking positions respectively, each locking plate having an extension, the adjacent leg having slots one of which registers with said extension in the operative position of the leg and the other of which registers with the extension in the inoperative position of the leg, said extension engaging in a selected slot responsive to sliding of the plate to its locking position.

2. A convertible table comprising a supporting, rectangular frame having folding legs at its corners, a table top having marginal, spaced, parallel rails, octagonal in form and of substantial depth, a plate attached to the inner of said rails at one edge, spanning the central area of the table top and providing a working surface which is flush with the table in one position of the table top and is recessed in the inverted position thereof, a web plate extending between said rails medially of their depth and throughout their extent about the table, and defining channel-form pockets on opposite sides of the table, and reinforcing blocks between the rails at each associated pair of corners of the respective rails in each of said pockets, said supporting frame having, in its upper edge, medially of each side, a slot with angularly disposed end faces to accommodate the inner of said rails at a corner, to avoid turning movement of the table top, and also having a recess at each corner to accommodate said blocks with either of said pockets in downward position, and a storage stand for said table in folded position comprising a frame with a pair of uprights having slots with angularly disposed end faces.

3. A convertible table comprising a supporting, rectangular frame having legs at its corners, a table top having marginal, spaced, parallel rails, octagonal in form and of substantial depth, a plate attached to the inner of said rails at one edge, spanning the central area of the table top and providing a working surface which is flush with the table in one position of the table top and is recessed in the inverted position thereof, a web plate extending between said rails medially of their depth and throughout their extent about the table, and defining channel-form pockets on opposite sides of the table top, and reinforcing blocks between the rails at each associated pair of corners of the respective rails in each of said pockets, said supporting frame having, in its upper edge, medially of each side, a slot with angularly disposed end faces to accommodate the inner of said rails at a corner, to avoid turning movement of the table top, and also having a recess at each corner to accommodate said blocks with either of said pockets in downward position.

4. A convertible table top comprising a supporting, rectangular frame having legs at its corners, and a table top having marginal, spaced, parallel rails, octagonal in form and of substantial depth, a plate attached to the inner of said rails at one edge, spanning the central area of the table top and providing a working surface which is flush with the table in one position of the table top and is recessed in the inverted position thereof, a web plate extending between said rails medially of their depth and throughout their extent about the table, and defining channel-form pockets on opposite sides of the table top, and reinforcing blocks between the rails at each associated pair of corners of the respective rails in each of said pockets, said supporting frame having, in its upper edge, medially of each side, a recess to accommodate the inner of said rails at a corner, and also having a recess at each corner to accommodate said blocks with either of said pockets in downward position.

5. A convertible table comprising a supporting, rectangular frame having legs at its corners, and a table top having marginal, spaced, parallel rails, octagonal in form and of substantial depth, enclosing a central working space on the table, a web plate extending between said rails medially of their depth and throughout their extent about the table, and defining channel-form pockets on opposite sides of the table top, and reinforcing blocks between the rails at each associated pair of corners of said rails in each of said pockets, said supporting frame having, in its upper edge, medially of each side, a recess to accommodate the inner of said rails, and a recess at each corner to accommodate said blocks with either of said pockets in downward position.

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