F. S. BROOK.

COMBINATION FOLDING SUITCASE.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 3, 1918.

1,293,685. Patented Feb. 11, 1919.

Fig. 1.

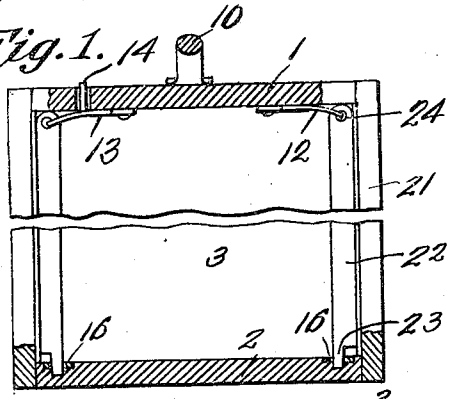


Fig. 6.

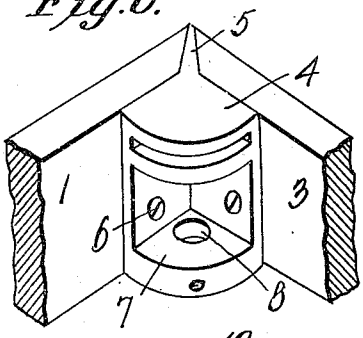


Fig. 2.

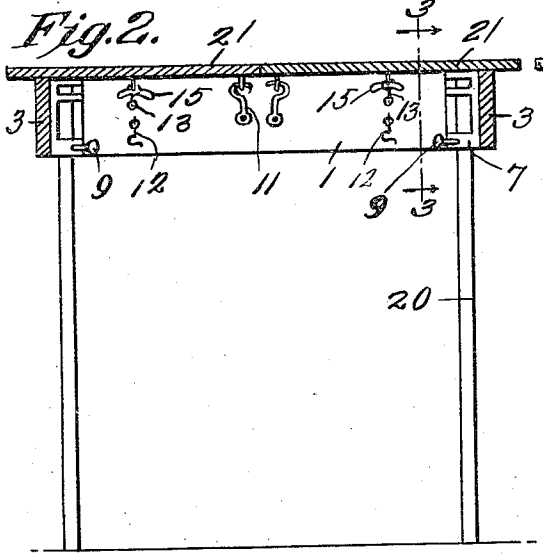


Fig. 3.

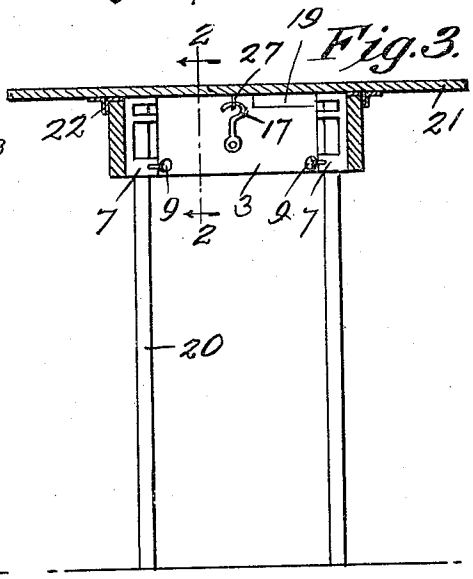


Fig. 4.

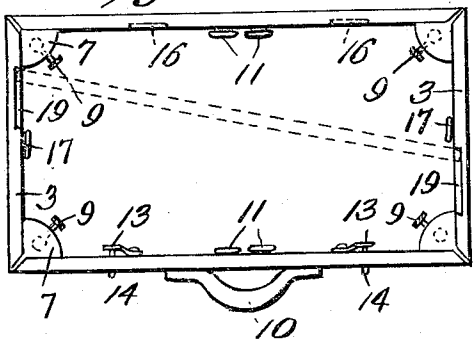
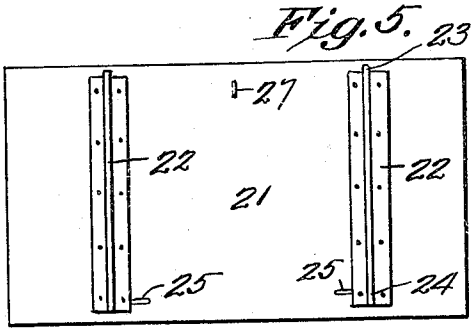


Fig. 5.



Witnesses

James F. Brown,

N. L. Collamer

By

Inventor

Foster S. Brook,

Richard B. Owen,

Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FOSTER S. BROOK, OF WICHITA, KANSAS.

COMBINATION FOLDING SUITCASE.

1,293,685. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Feb. 11, 1919.

Application filed July 3, 1918. Serial No. 243,185.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FOSTER S. BROOK, a citizen of the United States, residing at Wichita, in the county of Sedgwick and State of Kansas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Combination Folding Suitcases, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to furniture, and more especially to tables having a sectional top; and the object of the same is to provide a knock-down table which may be converted into a suit case or receptacle for dishes and other small articles, as well as containing the legs which are employed when the device is used as a table. The structure is particularly designed for military men at the front, for automobilists, and the like.

An object of the invention is to produce a structure which when set up as a table may be of full size or half size, according as one or both of the panels are employed.

Other objects will appear in the following specification and claims, and reference is made to the drawings, wherein:—

Figure 1 is a sectional view of the structure serving as a suit case,

Fig. 2 is a sectional view of the structure serving as a table taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 3,

Fig. 3 is a similar section on line 3—3 of Fig. 2,

Fig. 4 is a plan view of the frame,

Fig. 5 is a bottom plan view of one top panel,

Fig. 6 is a perspective detail of one corner of the frame and its casting.

Broadly speaking this device comprises a frame, two top panels whereof each is the same size as the frame, a set of legs, and means for connecting the parts. I do not wish to be limited to proportions and materials, but by preference the frame is a wooden structure and the panels also may be of wood and preferably lighter than that employed in the frame; whereas the legs may be pipes or rods, and the remaining or hardware elements are of metal.

The frame is made up of a top strip 1, a bottom strip 2, and two end strips 3, and in Fig. 6 is shown a form of casting which I preferably employ for connecting the strips at the corners of the frame. It has a quadrant shaped body 4 with a fin 5 projecting from its angle and intended to stand between the mitered extremities of strips as seen, its body being held by fastening devices such as screws 6 passing through the walls into the strips which are connected. It has top and bottom elements which might be called shelves, the lower shelf having an opening 8 for the leg, and a set screw 9 passes into the edge of the shelf and intersects this opening. The top strip 1 is provided on its outer face with a handle 10, on its inner face opposite said handle are two pivoted hooks 11, near its ends and adjacent its lower edge as seen in Fig. 2 are two other pivoted hooks 12, and just above them are two more pivoted hooks 13, each having a pin 14 on its bill which projects through an arcuate slot 15 in the strip 1, as best seen in Figs. 1 and 4, so that this hook can be swung on its pivot from the outside of the strip. The bottom strip 2 has escutcheon plates 16 inset into its inner face at four points directly opposite the bills of the four hooks 12 and 13. Each end strip carries a hook 17 at about its mid-length. The hooks 11 and 17 are for holding on the cover or table top panels, and I have preferably made them larger in the drawings in order that they may be distinguished from the others, although of course this is not absolutely necessary.

The legs 20 are four in number and may be short sections of rods or pipes, or perhaps might be of wood. When in use as seen in Figs. 2 and 3 their upper ends are passed upward through the holes in the lower shelf 7 and a corresponding hole (not shown) in the shelf above, so that they are mounted in the casting within the corner of the frame, and the set screw 9 is tightened up to hold them in place as best seen in Fig. 3. When not in use these legs may be stored away by disposing them obliquely within the frame 4 as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 4, for which purpose each end strip is provided with a recess 19 as indicated. The legs should be of such size that when so stored away they do not occupy much space within the interior of the device, because this space is useful for storing other articles as will be clear.

The table top panels 21 are duplicates, and I need describe but one. Each is of a contour corresponding with that of the frame as a comparison of Figs. 4 and 5 will disclose. Each has across its lower face a pair of cleats 22, preferably made of angle

iron so as to strengthen the panel, and one end of each cleat has a projection or hook 23 adapted to enter the opening in one of the escutcheon plates 16, while the other end of the cleat has an eye 24 adapted to be engaged by the bill of a hook. Just inside of the plates and adjacent one edge of the panel 21 is a pair of eyes 25 and centrally disposed adjacent the other edge of the panel is a single eye 27.

In setting up this device as a suit case, the frame is stood on edge as seen in Fig. 1, and one panel 21 is brought up against its right side, the hooks 23 at the lower ends of the cleats being inserted into a pair of escutcheon plates 16; then the upper edge of this panel is swung inward and this side of the frame is closed; and finally the operator reaches through the yet open opposite side of the frame and swings the hooks 12 so that their bills engage the eyes 24 as seen at the right of Fig. 1. Now the opposite or left hand panel is brought into position at the other side of the frame, the hooks 23 of its cleats similarly engaged with the remaining pair of escutcheon plates, and its upper edge swung against the frame; and then the operator by manipulating the pins 14 can swing the hooks 13 so that their bills engage the eyes of this pair of cleats. A neat container is thus produced, simulating a suit case and in which any desired articles may be stored and carried.

When the device is to be used as a single-leaf table, one panel 21 as shown in Fig. 5 is to be connected with the frame as shown in Fig. 4. If we assume that the panel is turned over to the left onto the frame as seen, it will be obvious that the hooks 23 on the cleats can be engaged with the two escutcheon plates 16, and thereafter the hooks 13 within the frame can be engaged with the eyes 24 on the cleats; and this is true whether the panel 21 shown is applied to that edge of the frame which carries the hooks 13, or to the other edge which carries the hooks 12. The legs are then inserted into the corner castings and fastened by setting up the set screws 9.

When the device is to be used as a two-leaf table, both panels 21 must be employed and they are laid across and fastened to the frame in a position at right angles to that occupied by the single panel in the smaller table just described. Now the cleats 22 pass outside the side strips 1 and 2 of the frame as seen in Fig. 3, and therefore the fastening devices which co-act with the hook 17 in the end of the frame and its two remaining eyes 25 come into position to be engaged by a pair of hooks 11, the engagement of course being effected by reaching up under the frame in a manner which will be clear. The legs are applied last and the table set up. Thus, whatever the use of the device, the cleats are highly essential toward strengthening the top panels which may be of rather light stock and for serving as means for holding the panels in place, or for preventing them from slipping when they are hooked in place. All fastening devices are on the inner faces of the panels and the strips, and the last hooks to be swung into engagement with the eyes 24 have the projecting pins 14 so that they can be actuated from the exterior. These pins by preference project through two arcuate slots 15 in the strip 1 of the frame so that when the suit case is carried around by its handle 10 the pins will not contact with the ground or other support and the possibility that the hooks will be accidentally disengaged from the eyes is reduced to a minimum.

The foregoing description and the drawings have reference to what may be considered the preferred, or approved form of my invention. It is to be understood that I may make such changes in construction and arrangement and combination of parts, materials, dimensions, et cetera, as may prove expedient and fall within the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:—

1. In a table, the combination with a frame of rectangular contour, the legs, and a top panel of the same size as the frame; of a pair of cleats secured across the bottom of the panel and spaced to pass outside the side strips of the frame when the panel stands at right angles to said frame, the cleats being of a length to pass inside said side strips when the panel is superposed on the frame in parallelism therewith, and means for fastening the panel to the frame in either position.

2. In a table, the combination with a frame of rectangular contour, the legs, and a top panel of the same size as the frame; of a pair of cleats secured across the bottom of the panel and spaced to pass outside the side strips of the frame when the panel stands at right angles to said frame, the cleats being of a length to pass inside said side strips when the panel is superposed on the frame in parallelism therewith, means at the extremities of the cleats for fastening the panel to the frame in the last-named position, and other means for fastening the panel to the frame in the first-named position.

3. In a table, the combination with a frame of rectangular contour, the legs, and a top panel of the same size as the frame; of a pair of cleats secured across the bottom of the panel and spaced to pass outside the side strips of the frame when the panel stands at angles to said frame, the cleats being of a length to pass inside said side strips when

the panel is superposed on the frame in parallelism therewith, means at the extremities of the cleats for fastening the panel to the frame in the last-named position, and hooks and eyes within the frame and in the under side of the panel for fastening the latter to the frame in the first-named position.

4. In a table, the combination with a frame whereof one side strip has a pair of escutcheon plates inset in its inner face, a pair of hooks pivoted within the opposite pair of plates, and the legs; of a top panel, a pair of cleats secured to the under side of the frame and having hooks at one extremity and eyes at the other for respective engagement with said escutcheons and hooks of the frame.

5. In a convertible structure of the class described, the combination with a frame whereof one side strip has an arcuate slot near one edge, a hook pivoted within said strip and having a pin on its bill projecting through said slot, a hook pivoted within the strip near its opposite edge, and escutcheon plates carried by the inner face of the opposite side strips; of a pair of panels of the same size as the frame, and a cleat across the inner face of each panel and having a hook at one extremity for engaging one of said escutcheon plates and an eye at the other extremity for engagement the bill of one of said hooks, for the purpose set forth.

6. In a convertible structure, the combination with a frame made up of a pair of side strips and a pair of end strips; of a quadrant casting in each corner of the frame comprising a hollow body with upper and lower shelves, the latter being perforated, a set screw through this shelf into said perforation, and a fin at the angle of the quadrant standing between the contiguous ends of the adjacent strips, means for fastening the quadrant to said strips, and a removable leg insertible through said perforation beneath the set screw.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

FOSTER S. BROOK.

Witnesses:
GEO. CHARLTON,
T. M. VOSS.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."