Sept. 10, 1935. H. L. LA FETRA 2,014,257

COLLAPSIBLE TABLE UNIT

Filed Jan. 16, 1935 4 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1

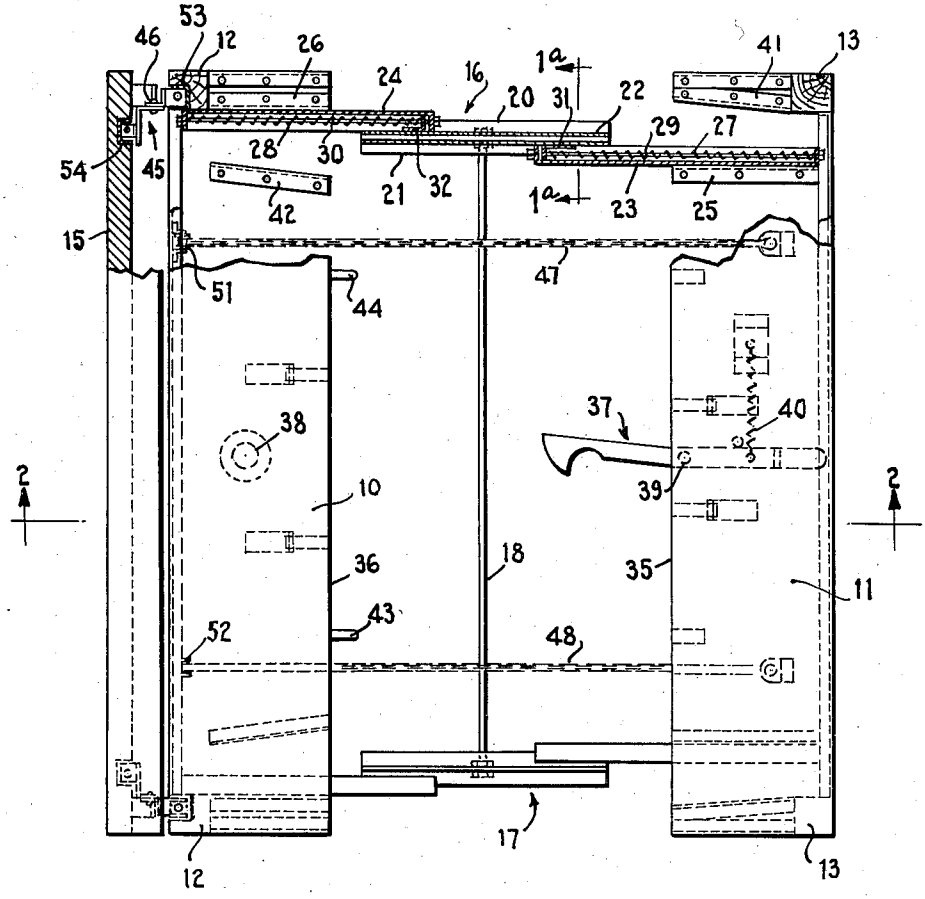
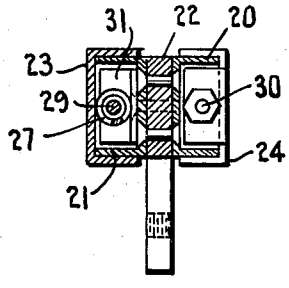


FIG. 1a



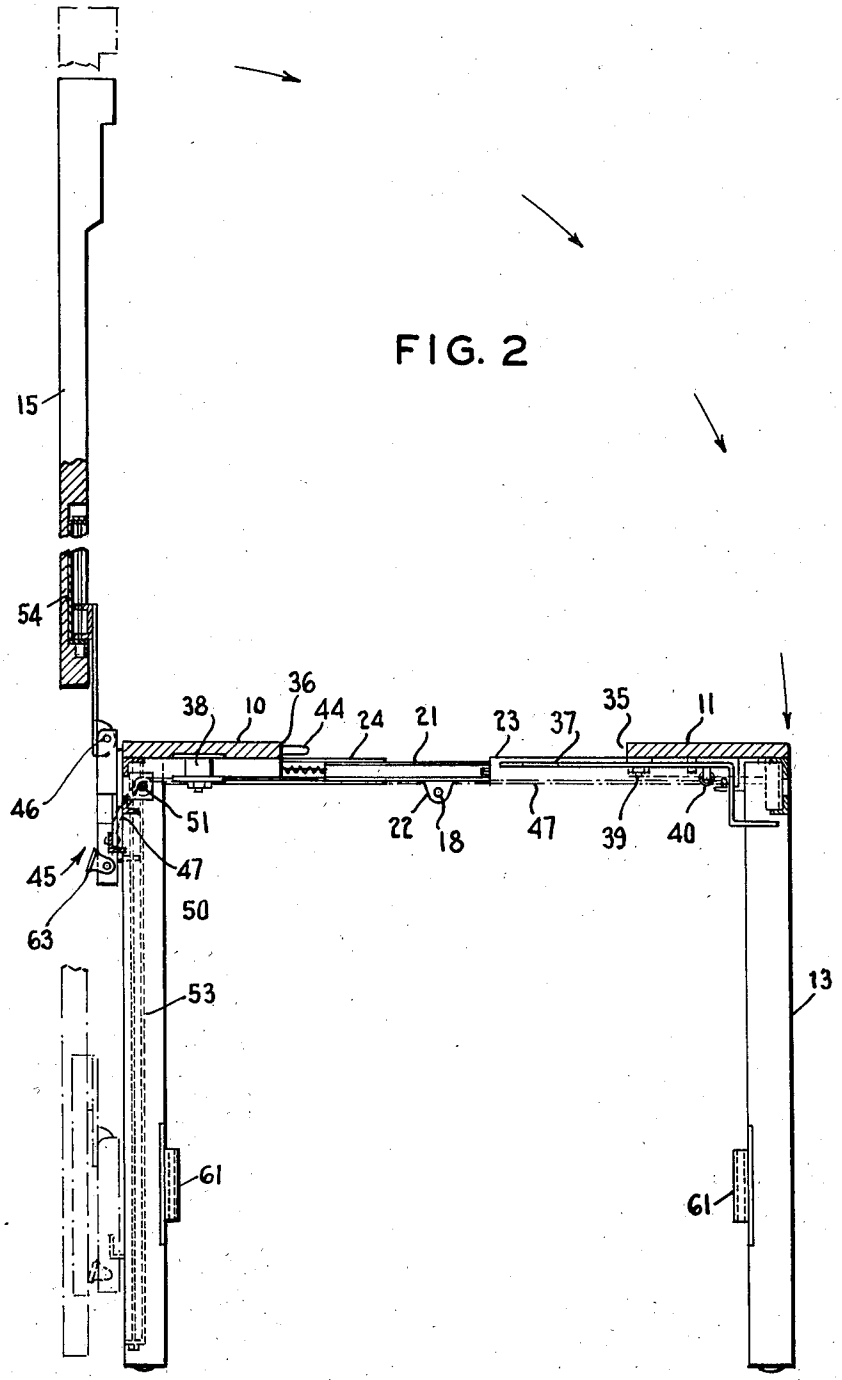
INVENTOR.
HARRY L. LA FETRA
BY
ATTORNEY.

Sept. 10, 1935. H. L. LA FETRA 2,014,257

COLLAPSIBLE TABLE UNIT

Filed Jan. 16, 1935 4 Sheets-Sheet 2

FIG. 2



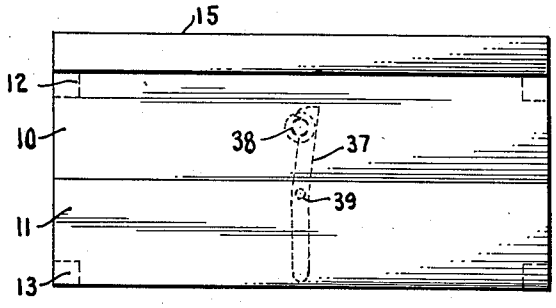
INVENTOR.
HARRY L. LA FETRA
BY
ATTORNEY.

Sept. 10, 1935. H. L. LA FETRA 2,014,257

COLLAPSIBLE TABLE UNIT

Filed Jan. 16, 1935 4 Sheets-Sheet 3

FIG. 3



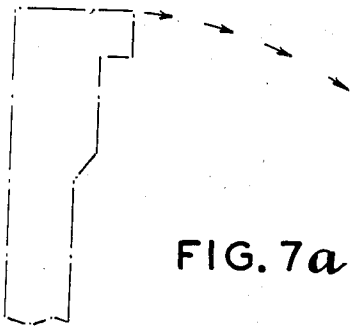
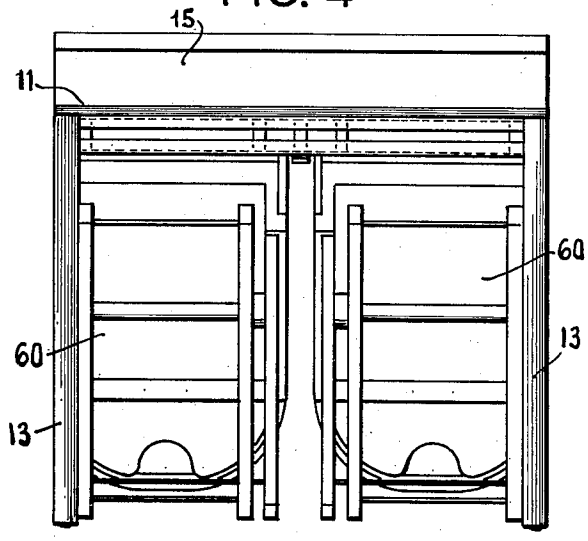


FIG. 7a

FIG. 4



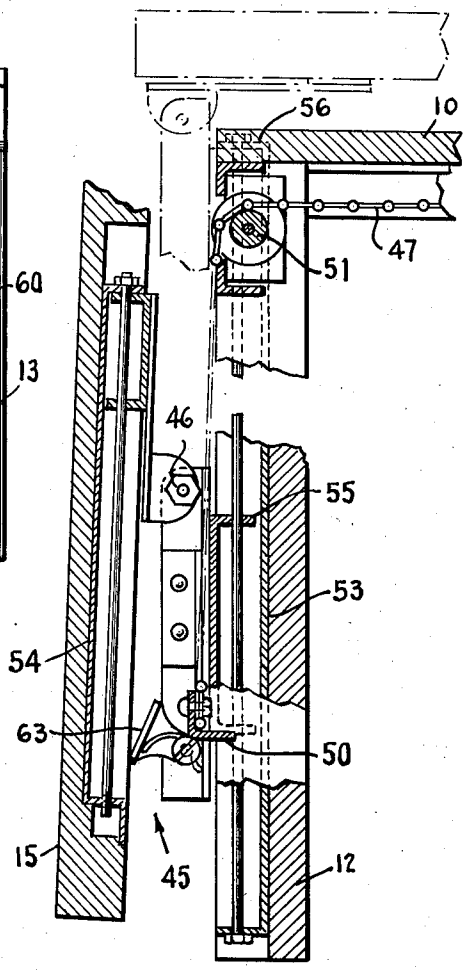
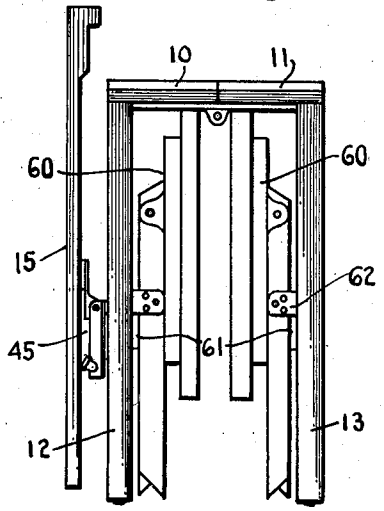


FIG 5



INVENTOR.
HARRY L. LA FETRA
BY
ATTORNEY.

Sept. 10, 1935. H. L. LA FETRA 2,014,257

COLLAPSIBLE TABLE UNIT

Filed Jan. 16, 1935 4 Sheets-Sheet 4

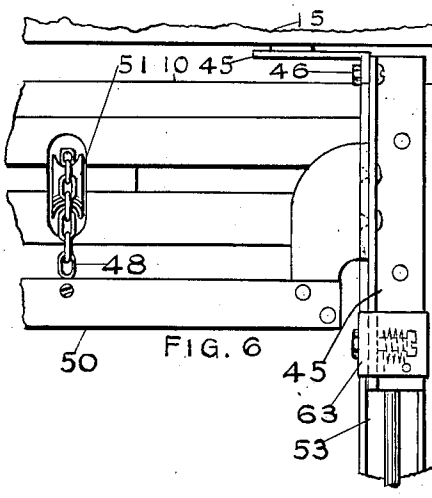


FIG. 6

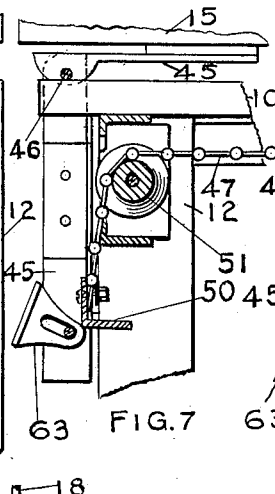


FIG. 7

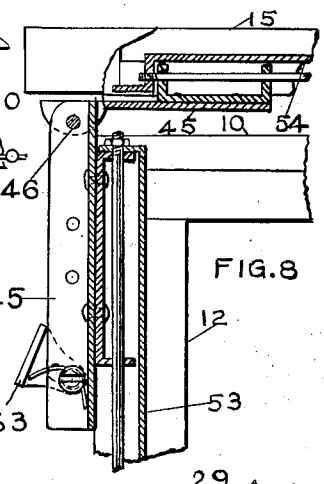


FIG. 8

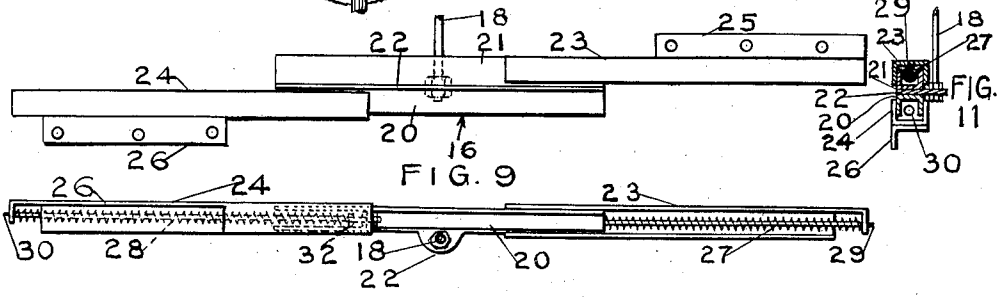


FIG. 9

FIG. 11

FIG. 10

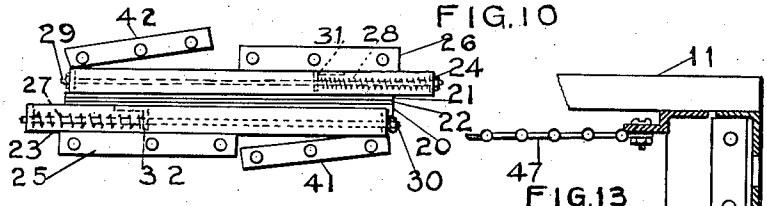


FIG. 12

FIG. 13

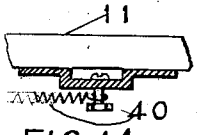


FIG. 14

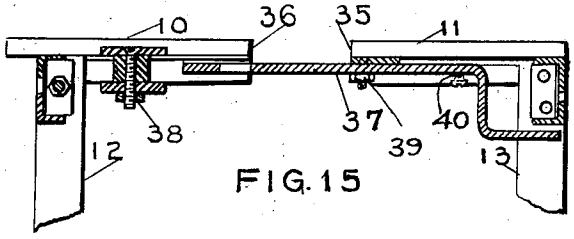


FIG. 15

INVENTOR.
Harry L. La Fetra
BY
Fred K. Schuetz
ATTORNEY

Patented Sept. 10, 1935

2,014,257

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,014,257

COLLAPSIBLE TABLE UNIT

Harry L. La Fetra, New York, N. Y.

Application January 16, 1935, Serial No. 1,999

7 Claims. (Cl. 311—41)

The invention relates to an article of furniture, and more especially to a combined table and chair unit suitable for many purposes, for example as a card table, dinette or cabaret table, etc.

It has for an object the provision of a unit of this nature which may readily be collapsed to compact proportions for convenient storage when not in use, thus rendering the same particularly suitable where space is limited.

A still further object of the invention resides in the provision of a table which, when folded, will accommodate also the accompanying chairs, the same being located within the leg space of the table element and the chairs to this end being also collapsible and of a width equivalent, for example, to the combined width of a chair seat, back and one leg thereof.

Another object of the invention resides in the provision of a table unit embodying chairs of the aforesaid nature and so constructed that the latter may be either permanently or removably attached to the table unit, as to the respective individual supporting legs thereof.

The invention has for an object, also, the provision of a table unit which may readily be set up for use, as by manually pressing upon or pulling on a handle to extend the table-supporting element to the required width of the table and then swinging thereover the table top.

Still another object of the invention resides in such table unit which, when collapsed, may be stored in association with a further article of furniture if desired.

In carrying out the invention, four supporting legs are provided, the same being rigidly carried by a sub-table top element consisting of two separable members to which opposite pairs of legs are fixedly attached. Means embodying telescopic connections between the separable members are provided for slidably connecting the said members, so that the same may be brought together when the unit is to be collapsed. Over this sub-table element is designed to be brought the table top proper which, when the table is folded or collapsed, swings downwardly in front of the outer edge of one of the separable members. The drawing over of this table top is effected simultaneously with the separation of the separable members, as through flexible connections, such as chains, connecting the underside of the said top with the underside of the outer separable member.

A set of four chairs, constructed to fold compactly, is arranged for attachment, either permanently or removably, to the respective legs of the table unit; and, when the latter is collapsed or folded together, these chairs lie within the space included between the table legs and beneath the sub-top element with the top proper as a foreground.

The nature of the invention, however, will best be understood when described in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of the table, fully extended but with the top still in a vertical position, and with portions of the separable end members of the table unit broken away.

Fig. 1ª is a vertical section taken on the line 1ª—1ª, Fig. 1, and looking in the direction of the arrows; and Fig. 2 is a similar view taken on the line 2—2, Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a plan view of the table in folded position; and Fig. 4 is a rear elevation and Fig. 5 a side elevation thereof.

Figs. 6, 7 and 8 are fragmentary detail views of the slide mechanism for the table top.

Fig. 7ª is an enlarged fragmentary view illustrating the manner in which the table top may be folded over the sub-table portion of the unit.

Figs. 9–11 are respectively a plan, elevation, and transverse section of telescoping channel members for connecting the separable members of the sub-table top element.

Fig. 12 is a plan view illustrating the channels in folded position.

Fig. 13 is a fragmentary vertical section illustrating the means of attachment of flexible members to the sub-table top; and Fig. 14 is a similar view illustrating the spring connection to the sub-table top locking device.

Fig. 15 is a fragmentary vertical section illustrating the locking members for maintaining the table in collapsed condition.

Referring to the drawings, the table structure comprises essentially separable end members 10 and 11 constituting a sub-table top element and to each of which is fixedly attached a pair of legs 12 and 13, respectively, while over these members is designed to be brought the table top proper 15. The two separable members 10 and 11 are arranged to be held together through suitable connecting members 16 and 17 at either side of the table and which are united by a transverse tie rod 18.

These connecting members, which are more particularly shown in Figs. 9–11, inclusive, are of a telescoping nature; and, furthermore, are designed to distend or separate the two separable members when the same are released, as hereinafter set forth. To this end, the said members,

which are similarly constructed, comprise, for example, two channel pieces **20** and **21** secured back to back to an intermediate plate **22** which carries the tie rod **18**. About the respective channels are mounted table channel pieces **23** and **24**, respectively, carrying securing angles **25** and **26**, respectively, for attachment to the respective separable members. Respective compression springs **27** and **28** are mounted about guide rods **29** and **30** and are supported in their respective channel pieces, which rods serve also to hold the pairs of cooperating channels together, as by means of perforated angle pieces **31** and **32** attached to the channel pieces **21** and **20**. These angle pieces serve, furthermore, as stops to limit the extension of the channel elements. The said springs tend normally to extend outwardly the said table channel elements which are attached to the respective separable members.

By this expedient, when suitable locking means hereinafter set forth are released, the said separable members will automatically separate under the action of said springs. Thus, when the said separable members have their respective inner edges **35** and **36** in contact, as when the table is collapsed, Fig. 3, a latch or hook element **37** carried by the member **11** snaps into position over a keeper or pin **38** carried by the member **10**. Latch **37** is fulcrumed to member **11** as at **39** and is yieldingly urged in the direction of the keeper **38** by a spring **40** attached to the underside of separable member **11**, as shown in Fig. 14.

To guide the channel members **23** and **24** when sliding into place, angles **41** and **42** are secured to the respective separable members **11** and **10**; and when these members are brought together preparatory to collapsing the table, dowels **43** and **44** suitably mounted in the inner edge of one of the said members are designed to fit into corresponding sockets of the other member to secure proper registry of the members and insure ready collapse of the various parts.

When the sub-table element has been extended through separation of the separable members **10** and **11**, as aforesaid, the top **15** of the table is to be brought over the same for support thereby. This may be effected by slidably mounting said top, for example through a pair of extension members **45** to the table legs **12** of the near separable member, the said top being pivotally connected to the said extension as at **46** so that it may be swung into a horizontal position over the said separable members **10** and **11**. Flexible connections, as the pair of chains **47** and **48**, connect the far separable member **11** with the table top **15** through a transverse bar **50** connected to said pair of extension members **45**. These chains pass over respective pulleys **51** and **52** attached to the underside of separable member **10**.

Furthermore, said extension members **45** are slidably mounted in their respective associated leg members **12** through suitable longitudinal guideways **53** provided therein, as well as in guideways **54** provided in the underside of the table top to accommodate the drop of the said table top to the necessary degree and which is not afforded by the coming together of the separable members of the sub-table top element. Thus, after the latch **37** has released the separable members and the same are forced apart, extension piece **45** with attached top **15** will have been elevated until the channel piece **55** thereof contacts channel **56** of the upper side of member **10**—assuming then the broken-line position, Fig. 7[a], with pivotal connection **46** clearing the sub-table top. The top **15** is then further drawn out manually with the upper part of extension **45** sliding in guideway **54**, and then brought down over said sub-table top by pulling the top **15** in the direction indicated by the arrows, Fig. 7[a], to the horizontal position indicated by the broken lines.

For supporting chairs of the collapsible type and as indicated at **60**, each of the legs may be provided with a socket or eye element **61** to receive a pintle or hook **62** or the like fixed to a chair. The chairs are then to be swung inwardly about the said socket as an axis and under the corresponding separable member, the collapsed width of a chair being substantially of the width of said member. Thereupon, the table top is lifted and swung about its pivotal connection to the extension members **45** and then forced downwardly before the separable member **10**, drawing with it the other separable member **11** until the two automatically lock. A pair of spring-urged pieces **63** attached to the respective extension members **45** serve to maintain the said top substantially in a vertical plane when thus located.

I claim:

1. A collapsible table unit, comprising two separable end members constituting a sub-table top element, telescoping means connecting the two members to permit of the same being brought into contact along their respective inner edges, two pairs of legs, one pair supported by one of the separable members and the other pair supported by the other of the separable members, and a table top pivotally attached to one of the separable members and adapted to be swung over and to be dropped in front of an outer edge thereof.

2. A collapsible table unit, comprising two separable end members constituting a sub-table top element, telescoping means connecting the two members to permit of the same being brought into contact along their respective inner edges, two pairs of legs, one pair fixedly supported by one of the separable members and the other pair fixedly supported by the other of the separable members, and a table top pivotally attached to one of the separable members, slidable in the legs of said member and adapted to be swung over and to be dropped in front of an outer edge thereof.

3. A collapsible table unit, comprising two separable end members constituting a sub-table top element, telescoping means connecting the two members to permit of the same being brought into contact along their respective inner edges, two pairs of legs, one pair supported by one of the separable members and the other pair supported by the other of the separable members, means acting to separate the said end members, and a table top pivotally attached to one of the separable members and adapted to be swung over and to be dropped in front of an outer edge thereof.

4. A collapsible table unit, comprising two separable end members constituting a sub-table top element, telescoping means connecting the two members to permit of the same being brought into contact along their respective inner edges, two pairs of legs, one pair supported by one of the separable members and the other pair supported by the other of the separable members, a table top pivotally attached to one of the separable members and adapted to be swung over and to be dropped in front of an outer edge thereof,

and flexible means connecting the far one of the separable members with said table top.

5. A collapsible table unit, comprising two separable end members constituting a sub-table top element, telescoping means connecting the two members to permit of the same being brought into contact along their respective inner edges, two pairs of legs, one pair supported by one of the separable members and the other pair supported by the other of the separable members, a table top pivotally attached to one of the separable members and adapted to be swung over and to be dropped in front of an outer edge thereof, a pair of chains connected with the far one of the separable members and with the table top, and a pair of guide pulleys mounted on the near separable member and over which the respective chains pass.

6. A collapsible table unit, comprising two separable end members constituting a sub-table top element, telescoping means connecting the two members to permit of the same being brought into contact along their respective inner edges, two pairs of legs, one pair supported by one of the separable members and the other pair supported by the other of the separable members, a table top pivotally attached to one of the separable members and adapted to be swung over and to be dropped in front of an outer edge thereof, and means to lock the two separable members together when the same are in juxtaposed relation.

7. A collapsible table unit, comprising two separable end members constituting a sub-table top element, telescoping means connecting the two members to permit of the same being brought into contact along their respective inner edges, two pairs of legs, one pair supported by one of the separable members and the other pair supported by the other of the separable members, a table top, extension pieces slidable in the top and in the legs of one of the separable members, said extension pieces being pivotally attached to the top and adapted to be swung over and to be dropped in front of an outer edge of the said separable member to which it is attached, and flexible means connecting the other of said separable members with said table top.

HARRY L. LA FETRA.