April 25, 1933. R. NEUSCHOTZ ET AL 1,906,213

CARD TABLE

Original Filed March 29, 1930

Fig. 1

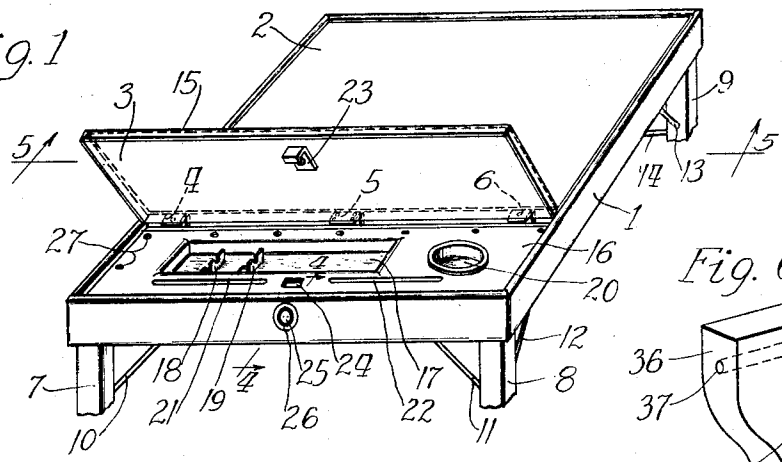


Fig. 6.

Fig. 2.

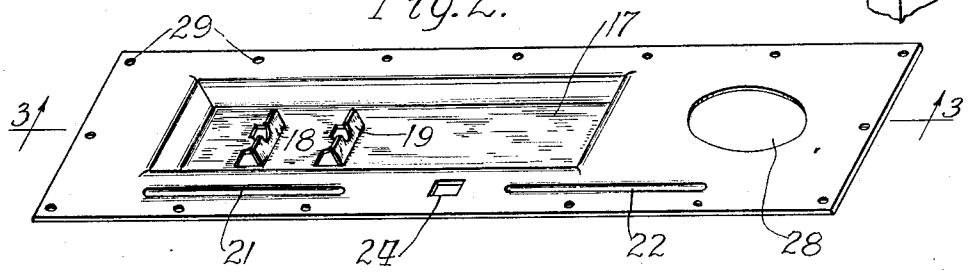


Fig. 3.

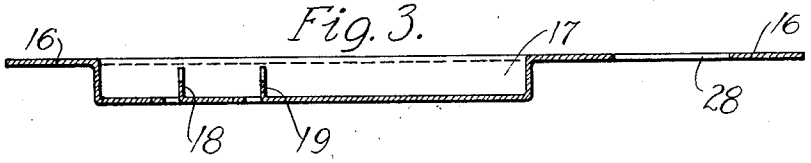


Fig. 4.

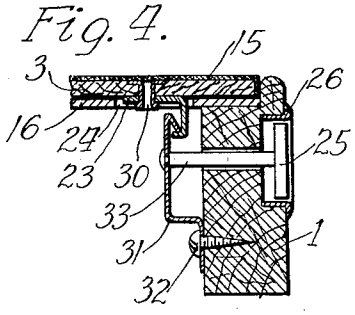
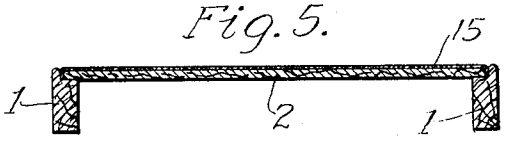


Fig. 5.



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Patented Apr. 25, 1933 1,906,213

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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CARD TABLE

Application filed March 29, 1930, Serial No. 439,912. Renewed July 30, 1932.

The present invention relates, broadly stated, to tables, and is particularly concerned with a novel and improved card table, having a plurality of receptacles concealed below its top plate, for holding cards and other game implements, together with simple and efficient provisions for gaining access to the receptacles to expose their contents.

The ordinary card table consists usually of a suitably covered top plate disposed on stationary or folding legs. It represents merely one necessary implement required for playing a game of cards. The cards, score blanks, pencils, etc., must be kept separately. This necessity of separating certain game implements from the card table renders an awkward arrangement and induces chances for misplacing these implements. It is furthermore desirable to have the top of a card table unobstructed by such or by other implements not used in the game, while playing. In the absence of a convenient receptacle integral with the table of the usual construction, an additional table is frequently used by players for holding certain implements, or the top of the card table is used for disposing of these implements, obstructing the top plate and irritating the players.

Various inventions have been disclosed in the past for overcoming these inconveniences inherent in ordinary card tables. For example, there is a card table described in the patent to Vornbrock, No. 463,654, of November 24, 1891, having drawers which can be pulled out from various sides of the table to accommodate the players who may want to dispose of implements while playing and for receiving these implements when the table is not in use. Another invention described in the patent to Faulkner, No. 919,708, of April 27, 1909, proposes a table having circularly arranged receptacles, particularly for the game of poker, and having provisions for adjusting the table top according to the number of players.

These and other constructions present various objections and the most important objections which can be voiced against them are concerned with the cost of such a table, which is relatively high on account of the more or less complicated arrangement, without rendering a table entirely satisfactory in use.

The principal aim of our invention resides in producing a novel card table which is characterized by rugged, simple and efficient structure, provided with concealed receptacles, collectively arranged, conveniently located and instantly accessible, for receiving implements for a card game, such as cards, chips, score blanks, pencils and the like, and which, at the same time, is easily manufactured and can be produced economically within the price limits demanded for such tables.

The various objects relating to structural and functional details may be briefly stated as follows:

One object is concerned with the provision of a sectional table top having a stationary principal section and a movable auxiliary section arranged within the peripheral margin of the table top.

Another object relates to the provision of a principal receptacle, or pan, below the movable auxiliary section of the table top for receiving certain game implements.

Still another object has to do with the provision of recesses and the provision of an auxiliary receptacle within the principal receptacle which can be removed therefrom.

A further object resides in the provision of spring hinges for attaching the movable auxiliary section of the table top to the stationary principal section thereof, and to the provision of a spring lock for holding the movable auxiliary section in place against the force of the spring hinges.

Still another object has to do with the provision of a spring controlled push button arrangement for releasing the spring lock to gain access to the receptacles concealed below the movable auxiliary section.

Another object is concerned with the provision of a suitable cover of cloth or fabric for covering the surface of both top sections in common so that the table presents a

smooth and uniform appearance of the top surface.

A further object relates to shaping the legs for the table in such a manner as to provide for stabilizing and strengthening the entire structure.

The table top of our invention may be provided on folding legs or on stationary legs, as desired. The structural and functional details may be changed and proportioned in a variety of ways to suit the individual requirements, without departing from the spirit of our invention. The essence of the invention, it will be understood, resides in the provision of concealed, instantaneously accessible receptacles, in an economical, unitary card table which answers the purposes of the requirements of a card game fully and efficiently and which overcomes the deficiencies of known structures.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying single sheet of drawing which shows various views of one embodiment of the invention, and views of details to guide others in applying the invention to practical use. In the drawing:

Figure 1 represents the card table of our invention in perspective view, with the movable auxiliary top section open, exposing the concealed receptacles;

Figure 2 shows the principal receptacle proper, which is made of sheet metal, punched and suitably formed;

Figure 3 illustrates a cross-section of the principal receptacle taken on line 3—3 in Figure 2;

Figure 4 shows a cross-section, illustrating the spring lock, as taken on line 4—4 in Figure 1;

Figure 5 represents a cross-section of the table top as taken on line 5—5 in Figure 1, and

Figure 6 shows the upper part of a leg used with the table.

Referring now particularly to Figure 1, the table comprises a marginal peripheral frame, with the upper edges rounded, and designated by numeral 1. The cross-section of this marginal frame can be seen best in Figures 4 and 5, which will be explained presently. Disposed within this frame 1 is a stationary principal top plate 2. Hinged to this plate is a movable auxiliary top plate 3. The hinges are indicated by reference numerals 4, 5 and 6. One or more of these hinges may be provided with a coiled spring tending to open the auxiliary section 3, as illustrated. The hinges are shown attached to the edges of top sections 2 and 3, but it will be understood that they may be as well attached to the surface of the section and buried in grooves to prevent projections on the surface of the table top and disposed so that a smooth top surface may be accomplished.

The table is supported by legs, such as 7, 8, 9, which may either be stationary or folding legs, and, in case of a table having folding legs, provided with movable braces, as shown and indicated by numerals 10 to 14, inclusive.

The top surface of the table is covered with a suitable cloth or fabric 15, which is common to both sections and presents a smooth playing surface.

Numeral 16 indicates the top plane of the principal receptacle, provided with a recessed portion 17. This recessed portion has two partitions, 18 and 19, integral with the receptacle, to provide three separate receptacles for the reception of certain game implements. It is, of course, understood that the number of partitions and receptacles as shown is arbitrary. Any suitable number may be provided without departing from the spirit of the invention. A hole is punched in the plane surface and an auxiliary receptacle 20, which may be an ash tray, is shown located in this hole. Two grooves 21 and 22 are disposed in the top plane of the receptacle for holding pencils, etc.

A latch member 23 is fastened to the inner surface of the movable top section, as shown. When this section is closed on the receptacles to conceal the same, the latch 23 will project through the hole 24 provided in the plane of the principle receptacle and will engage a spring lock which is particularly shown in Figure 4.

A push button 25 is provided in the lateral front face of the frame, movable within a bushing 26, to operate the spring lock to release the movable section when access to the receptacles is desired. The principal receptacle is fastened to the inner margin of the frame by means of screws or nails, such as 27.

The principal receptacle is illustrated in Figures 2 and 3. The opening for the ash tray or auxiliary receptacle 20 is indicated in these figures by reference numeral 28, and the peripherally arranged holes 29 may be provided for fastening the receptacle to the margin of the frame on three sides, as explained, while one side may be fastened to the stationary section.

Other details of the receptacle have been explained in connection with the description of Figure 1 and will be readily understood without additional discussion.

The structure and the operation of the spring lock and of the push button is particularly illustrated in Figure 4. It will be seen from this figure, which shows the movable auxiliary top section in closed relation to the stationary section, that the plane 16 of the receptacle is fastened to the inner margin of the frame 1. The movable section 3, covering the receptacle, is provided with a suitable surface cover cloth 15. The

latch 23 is attached to the movable section 3 by a rivet 30. A push button 25, having a shaft 33, extends through the front frame laterally through the bushing 26. Attached to the shaft 33 is a spring member 31 which is fastened to the frame by means of a screw 32. This spring member 31 is adapted to engage the latch 23 as shown in the drawing, holding the movable auxiliary top section closed above the receptacle, so that the surface of the table is smooth and uniform. When it is desired to gain access to the receptacle, the push button 25 is depressed, moving, in turn, the spring member 31 and releasing the latch 23, so that the section 3 can move, following the force of the spring hinges as explained previously.

Figure 5 will be readily understood from remarks made above. It shows merely how the top 2 of the table, which is provided with a suitable cover cloth 15, is resting and suitably attached to the inner margin of the frame 1 of the table.

It will be understood, of course, that instead of having an offset inner margin on the frame as shown, the frame may be provided with a separate member attached to the frame interiorly, or the sections of the table top may be suitably peripherally recessed to be suitably attached to the frame, if desired.

Figure 6 illustrates the preferred shape of the upper part of a leg as used in connection with the table. It will be seen that the upper portion 36 of the leg 35 is wider than the leg portion proper, to provide for stabilizing and strengthening the entire table structure when the leg is attached to the table. Numeral 37 designates a hole for receiving a mounting pin when the leg is attached, so as to fold parallel to the table top. The upper brace portion may be integral with the leg, or, if desired, a separate brace block may be attached to the upper portion of the leg.

Our invention may be modified in various ways within the scope of the disclosure without introducing novel matter. We therefore do not desire to be limited in the application of the invention to the precise structure which we have shown and explained, but intend to apply the invention in practice within the limits defined in the following claims, in which we have expressed what we believe is new over the art as known.

We claim:—

1. A card table, having a substantially square supporting frame, a marginal shoulder extending internally near the top edge of said frame, a principal top plate permanently disposed on said shoulder within the confines of said frame, a receptacle permanently disposed on said shoulder within the confines of said frame and depending therefrom adjacent said principal top plate, an auxiliary top plate for covering said receptacle, spring operated means for movably securing said auxiliary top plate to said principal top plate and adjacent thereto, the surface of said plates forming a plane horizontal top within said frame, a latch secured to said auxiliary top plate and perpendicularly depending therefrom adjacent to and parallel with the adjacent side of said frame, a leaf spring mounted on said side of said frame internally thereof for engaging said latch to hold said auxiliary plate on said receptacle against the force of said spring operated means, said latch adapted to extend through said receptacle for engagement with said leaf spring, a rod secured to said leaf spring and extending transversely through said frame to the outside thereof, and a button secured to said rod for manually releasing said leaf spring to release said latch for exposing said receptacle by moving said auxiliary top plate by the force of said spring operated means in response to releasing said latch.

2. A card table, having a sectional top plate comprising a stationary horizontally disposed plate section and a strip section movable attached to said stationary plate section adjacent thereto and across the entire width thereof, a common cover for said sections attached to the surface thereof, spring operated means for moving said movable section out of the plane of said stationary section, locking means for securing said movable section in the horizontal plane of said stationary section against the force of said spring operated means, a stamped metal principal receptacle disposed permanently below said movable section, a plurality of partitions in said principal receptacle, an auxiliary receptacle disposed within said principal receptacle, a substantially square frame for peripherally enclosing said sectional top plate and said receptacle circumferentially thereof and perpendicularly thereto, said frame having an internal shoulder for directly supporting said plate section and said receptacle, said strip section being disposed on said receptacle in closed position, and means extending through said frame for releasing said locking means to move said movable section to expose said receptacles.

3. A card table of the class described, having a substantially square supporting frame, an internal shoulder on said frame, a sectional top plate disposed on said shoulder within said frame and comprising a stationary horizontally disposed section and a movable strip section attached to said stationary section adjacent thereto and across the entire width thereof, a common cover for said sections permanently attached to the surface of both of said sections, spring hinge means at the joint between said stationary top section and said strip section for moving said movable strip section out

of the plane of said stationary section, a bracket secured to said strip section and perpendicularly depending therefrom in parallel with and adjacent to the frame to constitute a latch for securing said movable section in the horizontal plane of said stationary section against the force of said spring operated means, a stamped principal metal receptacle for receiving game implements disposed permanently below said movable section on said shoulder of said frame, an auxiliary receptacle disposed removably in said principal receptacle, a leaf spring disposed on said frame for engaging said latch and for locking said strip section, said latch extending through said principal receptacle for engagement with said leaf spring, and means secured to said leaf spring and extending through said frame to the outside for moving said leaf spring to release said latch to move said movable strip section responsive to the force of said spring operated means for exposing said receptacles, and supporting legs for said table adapted to be folded parallel to the plane of said sectional top plate.

4. A card table of the class described, having a substantially square supporting frame, a sectional top plate positioned within said frame and comprising a stationary horizontally disposed principal section and a movable strip section attached movably to said stationary section adjacent thereto and across the entire width thereof within said frame, spring operated hinge means at the joint of said strip section and said stationary principal section for moving said movable strip section out of the plane of said stationary section, movable locking means secured to the inside of said frame below said movable strip section for securing said movable strip section in the plane of said stationary section within said frame against the force of said spring operated hinge means, a stamped sheet metal base disposed below said strip section within said frame, stationary receptacle means integral with said base, removable receptacle means supported by said base, and operating means projecting through said frame for releasing said locking means to move said movable section by the force of said spring operated means for exposing said receptacles.

5. In combination, in a table of the class described, a frame comprising bars joined end to end and defining a substantially square opening, a shoulder on each of said bars registering with the corresponding shoulders of adjoining bars and forming a continuous internal shoulder in said frame opening, a substantially rectangular top plate disposed within and partially filling said opening, said top plate being positioned with three sides on said continuous shoulder, a shoulder on the free side of said top plate forming a continuous rectangularly extending internal shoulder with the shoulder of the remaining frame opening, an elongated auxiliary plate disposed on said shoulder in said remaining frame opening, means for movably hinging said auxiliary plate to said top plate, means on said frame for locking said auxiliary plate in position forming a continuous surface plate with said top plate, and means projecting thru one of said frame bars for releasing said auxiliary plate to gain access to said opening normally covered thereby.

6. In combination, in a table of the class described, a frame comprising bars joined end to end and defining a substantially square opening, a shoulder on each of said bars registering with the corresponding shoulders of adjoining bars and forming a continuous internal shoulder in said frame opening, a substantially rectangular top plate disposed within and partially filling said opening, said top plate being positioned with three sides on said continuous shoulder, a shoulder on the free side of said top plate forming a continuous rectangularly extending internal shoulder with the shoulder of the remaining frame opening, a stamped sheet metal container disposed on said shoulder in said remaining frame opening extending across the entire width of said frame at one side thereof and parallel to the frame bar defining said side, receptacle means removably disposed in said container, an elongated auxiliary plate positioned on said container and furnishing a cover therefor, means for movably hinging one side of said auxiliary plate to said top plate, means internally disposed on one of said frame bars for locking said auxiliary plate in position covering said container and forming with said top plate a continuous surface, and means connected with said locking means and projecting thru said frame bar to the outside for releasing said auxiliary plate to gain access to said container normally covered thereby.

7. In combination, in a table of the class described, a frame comprising bars joined end to end and defining a substantially square opening, a shoulder on each of said bars registering with the corresponding shoulders of adjoining bars and forming a continuous internal shoulder in said frame opening, a substantially rectangular top plate disposed within and partially filling said opening, said top plate being positioned with three sides on said continuous shoulder, a shoulder on the free side of said top plate forming a continuous rectangularly extending internal shoulder with the shoulder of the remaining frame opening, a stamped sheet metal container disposed on said shoulder in said remaining frame opening extending across the entire width of said frame at

one side thereof and parallel to the frame bar defining said side, receptacle means removably disposed in said container, an elongated auxiliary plate positioned on said container and furnishing a cover therefor, means for movably hinging one side of said auxiliary plate to said top plate, means internally disposed on one of said frame bars for locking said auxiliary plate in position covering said container and forming with said top plate a continuous surface, means connected with said locking means and projecting thru said frame bar to the outside for releasing said auxiliary plate to gain access to said container normally covered thereby, and a common fabric cover secured to the surface of said top plate and said auxiliary plate and extending over the edges thereof between said plates and said bars defining said frame.

8. In a table of the class described, having a stationary top section and a movable auxiliary top section adjacent said stationary section and forming a continuous surface therewith, a lateral frame for said sections comprising members joined end to end and extending perpendicularly to and peripherally around said sections, said stationary section being rigidly joined with said frame and said auxiliary section being hingedly secured to one side of said stationary section, and locking means for securing said auxiliary section in the plane of said stationary section within said frame, said locking means comprising a rigid angular bracket rigidly attached to said auxiliary section and depending therefrom adjacent the edge thereof, a leaf spring secured internally to the frame member adjacent said auxiliary section for engaging said rigid bracket, and an operating member secured rigidly to said leaf spring and projecting thru said frame member to the outside for moving said leaf spring to release said rigid bracket.

In witness whereof, we hereunto subscribe our names this 14 day of March, 1930.

ROBERT NEUSCHOTZ.
NATHANIEL C. RATNER.