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(54) **Height-adjustable table**

Höhenverstellbarer Tisch

Table à hauteur réglable

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EP 1 437 066 B1

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Description

[0001] The present invention relates to a height-adjustable table.

[0002] The invention is preferably used in tables for domestic furniture, such as kitchen or living-room tables.

[0003] In particular, the invention can be applied preferably to models of tables that have a single central leg with a floor stand.

[0004] Currently there are various types of height-adjustable table.

[0005] Most of these kinds of table consist of tables with telescopic legs.

[0006] There are many commercially available reversible locking mechanisms for the telescopic sliding of said legs; each one of these mechanisms has virtues and drawbacks, depending on the type of use.

[0007] One typical problem of these mechanisms is access to the locking-release control, which is often difficult.

[0008] Other mechanisms have extremely laborious movements to be performed for locking (or release).

[0009] Moreover, other mechanisms are complicated and expensive.

[0010] Furthermore, in tables provided with a single central leg, there are reversible locking mechanisms that are typically (but not necessarily) associated with gas cylinders that allow to lift the table top without effort.

[0011] Such tables have a telescopic central leg, inside which a gas cylinder is provided that can be actuated by a lever. Such a table is described in DE 39 38 496.

[0012] Often, however, the actuation of the gas cylinder is impulsive and it is not possible to adjust effectively the lifting of the table top, which tends to rise suddenly and with a force that is difficult to contrast.

[0013] The aim of the present invention is to provide a height-adjustable table that can be adjusted easily.

[0014] Within this aim, an object of the present invention is to provide a height-adjustable table provided with reversible locking means that are easy to use.

[0015] Another object of the present invention is to provide a height-adjustable table that allows to contrast effectively the impulsive thrust of gas cylinders.

[0016] Another object of the present invention is to provide a height-adjustable table that can be manufactured with known systems and technologies.

[0017] This aim and these and other objects that will become better apparent hereinafter are achieved by a height-adjustable table, comprising a top supported by at least one leg that is provided with a floor stand and can be extended telescopically, and means for reversible locking of the extension of said at least one leg, said at least one leg comprising a first outer element that is telescopically coupled to a second element arranged inside it, said table being characterized in that said reversible locking means comprise a first jaw and a second jaw that act, during locking, on mutually opposite parts of a same convex portion of said second inner element, said first

jaw being connected, by means of a threaded coupling, to a pivot that is rigidly coupled to the hub of an actuation handwheel that is external with respect to said first outer element, said second jaw being arranged between said hub and said first jaw, said second jaw being movable substantially parallel to the axis of said pivot, said pivot drawing, during the locking step, said first jaw onto said second inner element, said second jaw being instead in contact with said second inner element.

[0018] Further characteristics and advantages of the present invention will become better apparent from the following detailed description of a preferred but not exclusive embodiment thereof, illustrated by way of non-limiting example in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a partially sectional front view of the table according to the invention;

Figure 2 is an enlarged-scale detail of the front view of Figure 1 related to the reversible locking means; Figure 3 is a transverse sectional view of a leg of the table according to the invention, illustrating the reversible locking means during release;

Figure 4 is a transverse sectional view of a leg of the table according to the invention, illustrating the reversible locking means during locking.

[0019] With reference to the figures, a height-adjustable table according to the invention is generally designated by the reference numeral 10.

[0020] The table 10 comprises a top 11, which in this embodiment is preferably circular and is supported by a single central leg 12.

[0021] Such leg 12 can extend telescopically.

[0022] The table 10 further comprises means 13, described in greater detail hereinafter, for reversibly locking the extension of the central leg 12.

[0023] The leg 12 is constituted by a first outer element 15 that is telescopically coupled to a second element 16 that is arranged inside it.

[0024] The first outer element 15 is a cylinder provided with a through hole 17, which in this embodiment is eccentric.

[0025] The second inner element 16, constituted by a tubular body 16a, is arranged slidingly in the through hole 17.

[0026] The first outer element 15 is partially inserted in the upper opening of a hollow post 18 that is arranged vertically and constitutes the end structure by means of which the leg rests on the floor.

[0027] Such hollow post 18 has a circular floor stand 19 whose maximum width is greater than the maximum width of the post.

[0028] The tubular body 16a can move with respect to the first outer element 15, which does not move with respect to the floor.

[0029] The reversible locking means 13 comprise a first jaw 20 and a second jaw 21, which act during locking on mutually opposite parts 22 and 23 of a same cylindrical

convex portion of the tubular body 16a.

[0030] The mutually opposite convex parts correspond to portions of cylindrical surfaces that are mutually opposite with respect to a common diametrical line of the tubular body 16a.

[0031] Such jaws 20 and 21 are slidingly accommodated inside a cylindrical seat 13a that is formed at right angles to the tubular body 16a inside the outer element 15 and intersects the through hole 17, thus forming an opening for connection to the through hole and therefore allowing the jaws to act on the tubular body 16a.

[0032] The jaws 20 and 21 are constituted respectively by a first cylindrical bush 24 and a second cylindrical bush 25, both of which have a portion, designated by the reference numerals 24a and 25a respectively, that is shaped complementarily to the contour of a corresponding one of the mutually opposite parts 22 and 23.

[0033] The first jaw 20 is connected, by way of a threaded coupling, to a pivot 30 that is rigidly coupled to the hub 31 of an actuation hand wheel 32 that is external with respect to the first outer element 15.

[0034] The pivot 30 passes through the second bush 25, while the first bush is internally threaded complementarily to a thread 33 provided at the end of the pivot 30.

[0035] The tubular body 16a is also partially contained inside the post 18; a gas cylinder is associated with the tubular body 16a and can be actuated by a valve that is associated by means of kinematic systems with an actuation lever 35 that is arranged below the top 11.

[0036] Such lever 35 cantilevers out from an end body 36 of the tubular body 16a that acts as a support for the top 11.

[0037] The gas cylinder and the valve with the corresponding kinematic systems are not shown in the figures for the sake of graphic clarity, since they are in any case components that are widely used in the current art and are therefore of a known type.

[0038] In another embodiment of the invention (not shown in the figures), the second bush 25 is internally threaded complementarily to a second thread that is substantially opposite with respect to the first thread 33 and is provided on a corresponding portion of the pivot 30.

[0039] In this manner, both bushes are subjected to a translational motion by means of the rotary motion of the pivot.

[0040] The operation of the invention is as follows.

[0041] Starting from a step in which the table 10 is released, in order to lift the top 11 it is sufficient to move upward the lever 35, accordingly actuating the gas cylinder that pushes the top upward.

[0042] Once the top has reached the intended position, the handwheel 32 is turned, thus making the jaws 20 and 21 move mutually closer until they clamp onto the tubular body 16a, thus contrasting both the axial thrust and any rotation of the tubular body 16a.

[0043] By adjusting the pressure applied by the jaws 20, 21 it is possible to raise the top, contrasting appropriately the impulsive force of the axial thrust of the gas

cylinder, accordingly avoiding sudden upward motions of said top.

[0044] In practice it has been found that the invention thus described solves the problems noted in conventional height-adjustable tables; in particular, the present invention provides a height-adjustable table that can be used easily and is provided with reversible locking means whose operation is intuitive and effective.

[0045] In practice, the materials employed, so long as they are compatible with the specific use, as well as the dimensions, may be any according to requirements and to the state of the art.

[0046] Where technical features mentioned in any claim are followed by reference signs, those reference signs have been included for the sole purpose of increasing the intelligibility of the claims and accordingly such reference signs do not have any limiting effect on the interpretation of each element identified by way of example by such reference signs.

Claims

1. A height-adjustable table, comprising a top (11) supported by at least one leg (12) that is provided with a floor stand and can be extended telescopically, and means (13) for reversible locking of the extension of said at least one leg (12), said at least one leg (12) comprising a first outer element (15) that is telescopically coupled to a second inner element (16) arranged inside it, said table being **characterized in that** said reversible locking means (13) comprise a first jaw (20) and a second jaw (21) that act, during locking, on mutually opposite parts (22, 23) of a same convex portion of said second inner element (16), said first jaw (20) being connected, by means of a threaded coupling, to a pivot (30) that is rigidly coupled to the hub (31) of an actuation handwheel (32) that is external with respect to said first outer element (15), said second jaw (21) being arranged between said hub (31) and said first jaw (20), said second jaw (21) being movable substantially parallel to the axis of said pivot (30), said pivot (30) drawing, during the locking step, said first jaw (20) onto said second inner element (16), said second jaw (21) being instead in contact with said second inner element (16).
2. The height-adjustable table according to claim 1, **characterized in that** said first and second jaws (20, 21) are respectively constituted by a first cylindrical bush (24) and a second cylindrical bush (25), both of which have a portion that is shaped complementarily to the contour of a corresponding one of said mutually opposite parts (22, 23) of said same convex portion of said second inner element (16), said pivot (30) passing through said second bush (25), said first bush (24) being instead internally threaded com-

plementarily with respect to the thread (33) provided at the end of said pivot (30), said hub (31) directly or indirectly pushing, during locking, said second jaw (21) onto said second inner element (16).

3. The height-adjustable table according to claim 1, **characterized in that** said first and second jaws (20, 21) are constituted respectively by a first cylindrical bush (24) and a second cylindrical bush (25), both of which have a portion that is shaped complementarily to the contour of a corresponding one of said mutually opposite parts (22, 23) of said same convex portion of said second internal element (16), said first bush (24) being internally threaded complementarily with respect to the first thread (33) provided at the end of said pivot (30), said second bush (25) being instead internally threaded complementarily with respect to the second thread, which is substantially opposite with respect to said first thread (33) provided on a corresponding portion of said pivot (30).
4. The height-adjustable table according to one or more of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said second inner element (16) has a cylindrical contour.
5. The height-adjustable table according to one or more of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said first outer element (15) does not move with respect to the floor on which said at least one leg (12) rests, said second inner element (16) being instead movable with respect to said first outer element (15) and being associated with said top (11).
6. The height-adjustable table according to claim 5, **characterized in that** said first outer element (15) is partially inserted in the upper opening of a hollow post (18) that is arranged vertically and constitutes the end structure for floor contact of said at least one leg (12).
7. The height-adjustable table according to claim 6, **characterized in that** said vertically elongated hollow post (18) has a footing (19) whose maximum width is greater than the maximum width of said post (18).
8. The height-adjustable table according to one or more of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** it comprises a single central leg (12) for supporting said top (11).
9. The height-adjustable table according to one or more of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said second inner element (16) is contained at least partially inside said post (18), a gas cylinder being associated with said second inner element (16) and being actuatable by a valve that is associated by

means of kinematic systems with an actuation lever (35) that is arranged below said top (11) and cantilevers out from an end body (36) of said second inner element (16) that acts as a support for said top (11), said gas cylinder pushing said top (11) upward during the locking step when said valve is open.

10. The height-adjustable table according to one or more of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said top (11) is circular.
11. The height-adjustable table according to one or more of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said post (18) has a circular contour.
12. The height-adjustable table according to one or more of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said first outer element (15) is a cylinder provided with an eccentric through hole (17) in which said second inner element (16) is arranged so that it can slide, said second inner element (16) being constituted by a tubular body (16a).
13. The height-adjustable table according to claim 12, **characterized in that** said jaws (20, 21) are slidingly accommodated within a cylindrical seat (13a) that is formed at right angles to said tubular body (16a) inside said outer element (15) and intersects said through hole (17), accordingly forming an opening for connection to said through hole and allowing said jaws (20, 21) to act on said tubular body (16a).

Patentansprüche

1. Höhenverstellbarer Tisch, umfassend eine Platte (11), die von mindestens einem Bein (12) getragen wird, das mit einem Bodengestell versehen ist und teleskopisch verlängert werden kann, und Mittel (13) für reversierbares Feststellen der Verlängerung des mindestens einen Beins (12), wobei das mindestens ein Bein (12) ein erstes äußeres Element (15) umfaßt, das teleskopisch mit einem innerhalb desselben angeordneten zweiten inneren Element (16) gekuppelt ist, wobei der Tisch **dadurch gekennzeichnet ist, daß** die reversierbaren Feststellmittel (13) eine erste Klemmbacke (20) und eine zweite Klemmbacke (21) umfassen, die während der Feststellung an beiderseits gegenüberstehenden Teilen (22, 23) ein und desselben konvexen Bereichs des zweiten inneren Elements (16) angreifen, wobei die erste Klemmbacke (20) mittels eines Gewindestücks mit einem Drehzapfen (30) verbunden ist, der fest mit einer Nabe (31) eines Betätigungshandrads (32) gekuppelt ist, das bezüglich des ersten äußeren Elements (15) außenliegend ist, wobei die zweite Klemmbacke (21) zwischen der Nabe (31) und der ersten Klemmbacke (20) angeordnet ist, wobei die

- zweite Klemmbacke (21) im wesentlichen parallel zu der Achse des Drehzapfens (30) bewegbar ist, wobei der Drehzapfen (30) während des Feststellschrittes die erste Klemmbacke (20) auf das zweite innere Element (16) zieht, während die zweite Klemmbacke (21) mit dem zweiten inneren Element (16) in Kontakt ist.
2. Höhenverstellbarer Tisch nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß** die erste und die zweite Klemmbacke (20, 21) durch eine erste zylindrische Buchse (24) bzw. eine zweite zylindrische Buchse (25) gebildet sind, welche beide einen Abschnitt besitzen, der komplementär zu der Kontur eines entsprechenden der beiderseits gegenüberstehenden Teile (22, 23) desselben konvexen Bereichs des zweiten inneren Elements (16) geformt ist, wobei der Drehzapfen (30) durch die zweite Buchse (25) hindurchgeht, während die erste Buchse (24) komplementär zu dem am Ende des Drehzapfens (30) vorgesehenen Gewinde (33) mit Innengewinde versehen ist, wobei die Nabe (31) während des Feststellens die zweite Klemmbacke (21) direkt oder indirekt auf das zweite innere Element (16) schiebt.
 3. Höhenverstellbarer Tisch nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß** die erste und die zweite Klemmbacke (20, 21) durch eine erste zylindrische Buchse (24) bzw. eine zweite zylindrische Buchse (25) gebildet sind, welche beide einen Abschnitt besitzen, der komplementär zu der Kontur eines entsprechenden der beiderseits gegenüberstehenden Teile (22, 23) desselben konvexen Bereichs des zweiten inneren Elements (16) geformt ist, wobei die erste Buchse (24) komplementär zu dem ersten am Ende des Drehzapfens (30) vorgesehenen Gewinde (33) mit Innengewinde versehen ist, wobei die zweite Buchse (25) komplementär bezüglich des zweiten Gewindes, welches im wesentlichen entgegengesetzt bezüglich des ersten Gewindes (33) an einem entsprechenden Bereich des Drehzapfens (30) vorgesehen ist, mit Innengewinde versehen ist.
 4. Höhenverstellbarer Tisch nach einem oder mehreren der vorangehenden Ansprüche, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß** das zweite innere Element (16) eine zylindrische Kontur hat.
 5. Höhenverstellbarer Tisch nach einem oder mehreren der vorangehenden Ansprüche, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß** das erste äußere Element (15) sich nicht mit Bezug auf den Boden, auf welchem das mindestens eine Bein (12) ruht, bewegt, wobei das zweite innere Element (16) mit Bezug auf das erste äußere Element (15) bewegbar und mit der Platte (11) verbunden ist.
 6. Höhenverstellbarer Tisch nach Anspruch 5, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß** das erste äußere Element (15) teilweise in die obere Öffnung eines hohlen Pfostens (18) eingeführt ist, der vertikal angeordnet ist und die Endstruktur für den Bodenkontakt des mindestens einen Beins (12) bildet.
 7. Höhenverstellbarer Tisch nach Anspruch 6, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß** der vertikal langgestreckte hohle Pfosten (18) einen Fuß (19) besitzt, dessen maximale Breite größer ist als die maximale Breite des Pfostens (18).
 8. Höhenverstellbarer Tisch nach einem oder mehreren der vorangehenden Ansprüche, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß** er ein einziges zentrales Bein (12) für das Tragen der Platte (11) enthält.
 9. Höhenverstellbarer Tisch nach einem oder mehreren der vorangehenden Ansprüche, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß** das zweite innere Element (16) mindestens teilweise im Inneren des Pfostens (18) aufgenommen ist, wobei ein Gaszylinder mit dem zweiten inneren Element (16) verbunden ist und betätigbar ist durch ein Ventil, das mittels eines kinematischen Systems mit einem Betätigungshebel (35) verbunden ist, der unterhalb der Platte (11) angebracht ist und von einem Endkörper (36) des zweiten inneren Elements (16) ausragt, der als Träger für die Platte (11) dient, wobei der Gaszylinder die Platte (11) während des Feststellschrittes aufwärts schiebt, wenn das Ventil geöffnet ist.
 10. Höhenverstellbarer Tisch nach einem oder mehreren der vorangehenden Ansprüche, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß** die Platte (11) kreisförmig ist.
 11. Höhenverstellbarer Tisch nach einem oder mehreren der vorangehenden Ansprüche, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß** der Pfosten (18) eine kreisförmige Kontur hat.
 12. Höhenverstellbarer Tisch, nach einem oder mehreren der vorangehenden Ansprüche, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß** das erste äußere Element (15) ein Zylinder mit einem exzentrischen Durchgangsloch (17) ist, in welchem das zweite innere Element (16) verschiebbar angeordnet ist, wobei das zweite innere Element (16) durch einen rohrförmigen Körper (16a) gebildet ist.
 13. Höhenverstellbarer Tisch nach Anspruch 12, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß** die Klemmbacken (20, 21) verschiebbar innerhalb eines zylindrischen Sitzes (13a) untergebracht sind, der rechtwinklig zu dem rohrförmigen Körper (16a) innerhalb des äußeren Elements (15) ausgebildet ist und die Durchgangsbohrung (17) schneidet und damit eine Öff-

nung zur Verbindung mit der Durchgangsbohrung bildet und es den Klemmbacken (20, 21) ermöglicht an den rohrförmigen Körper (16a) anzugreifen.

Revendications

1. Table à hauteur réglable, comprenant un haut bout (11) supporté par au moins un pied (12) qui est muni d'un socle et qui peut être allongé de façon télescopique, et des moyens (13) pour un verrouillage réversible de l'allongement dudit au moins un pied (12), ledit au moins un pied (12) comprenant un premier élément externe (15) qui est couplé de façon télescopique à un deuxième élément interne (16) agencé à l'intérieur de celui-ci, ladite table étant **caractérisée en ce que** lesdits moyens (13) de verrouillage réversible comprennent une première mâchoire (20) et une deuxième mâchoire (21) qui agissent, pendant le verrouillage, sur des parties (22, 23) mutuellement opposées d'une même partie convexe dudit deuxième élément interne (16), ladite première mâchoire (20) étant reliée, au moyen d'un couplage fileté, à un pivot (30) qui est rigidement couplé au moyeu (31) d'une manivelle d'actionnement (32) qui est externe par rapport audit premier élément externe (15), ladite deuxième mâchoire (21) étant agencée entre ledit moyeu (31) et ladite première mâchoire (20), ladite deuxième mâchoire (21) étant mobile sensiblement parallèlement à l'axe dudit pivot (30), ledit pivot (30) fermant, pendant l'étape de verrouillage, ladite première mâchoire (20) sur ledit deuxième élément interne (16), ladite deuxième mâchoire (21) venant en revanche en contact avec ledit deuxième élément interne (16).
2. Table à hauteur réglable selon la revendication 1, **caractérisée en ce que** lesdites première et deuxième mâchoires (20, 21) sont respectivement constituées par un premier manchon cylindrique (24) et un deuxième manchon cylindrique (25), qui présentent tous les deux une partie qui est formée de façon complémentaire au contour d'une desdites parties mutuellement opposées (22, 23) correspondante de ladite même partie convexe dudit deuxième élément interne (16), ledit pivot (30) passant à travers ledit deuxième manchon (25), ledit premier manchon (24) étant en revanche fileté intérieurement de façon complémentaire par rapport audit filetage (33) prévu à l'extrémité dudit pivot (30), ledit moyeu (31) poussant directement ou indirectement, pendant le verrouillage, ladite deuxième mâchoire (21) sur ledit deuxième élément interne (16).
3. Table à hauteur réglable selon la revendication 1, **caractérisée en ce que** lesdites première et deuxième mâchoires (20, 21) sont respectivement constituées par un premier manchon cylindrique (24) et un deuxième manchon cylindrique (25), qui présentent tous les deux une partie qui est formée de façon complémentaire au contour d'une desdites parties mutuellement opposées (22, 23) correspondante de ladite même partie convexe dudit deuxième élément interne (16), ledit premier manchon (24) étant fileté intérieurement de façon complémentaire par rapport audit premier filetage (33) prévu à l'extrémité dudit pivot (30), ledit deuxième manchon (25) étant en revanche fileté intérieurement de façon complémentaire par rapport au deuxième filetage, qui est sensiblement opposée par rapport audit premier filetage (33) prévu sur une partie correspondante dudit pivot (30).
4. Table à hauteur réglable selon l'une ou plusieurs des revendications précédentes, **caractérisée en ce que** ledit deuxième élément interne (16) présente un contour cylindrique.
5. Table à hauteur réglable selon l'une ou plusieurs des revendications précédentes, **caractérisée en ce que** ledit premier élément externe (15) ne se déplace pas par rapport au socle sur lequel ledit pied (12) repose, ledit deuxième élément interne (16) étant en revanche mobile par rapport audit premier élément externe (15) et étant associé audit haut bout (11).
6. Table à hauteur réglable selon la revendication 5, **caractérisée en ce que** ledit premier élément externe (15) est en partie inséré dans l'ouverture supérieure d'un montant creux (18) qui est agencé verticalement et qui constitue la structure d'extrémité pour le contact au sol dudit au moins un pied (12).
7. Table à hauteur réglable selon la revendication 6, **caractérisée en ce que** ledit montant creux (18) allongé verticalement présente une base (19) dont la largeur maximale est plus grande que la largeur maximale dudit montant (18).
8. Table à hauteur réglable selon l'une ou plusieurs des revendications précédentes, **caractérisée en ce qu'elle** comprend un seul pied central (12) pour supporter ledit haut bout (11).
9. Table à hauteur réglable selon l'une ou plusieurs des revendications précédentes, **caractérisée en ce que** ledit deuxième élément interne (16) est contenu au moins en partie à l'intérieur dudit montant (18), un cylindre à gaz étant associé audit deuxième élément interne (16) et étant actionnable par une valve qui est associée au moyen de systèmes cinématiques à un levier d'actionnement (35) qui est agencé sous le haut bout (11) et qui est en porte-à-faux hors d'un corps d'extrémité (36) dudit deuxième élément interne (16) qui agit comme support pour ledit haut bout (11), ledit cylindre à gaz poussant ledit haut

bout (11) vers le haut pendant l'étape de verrouillage lorsque ladite valve est ouverte.

10. Table à hauteur réglable selon l'une ou plusieurs des revendications précédentes, **caractérisée en ce que** le haut bout (11) est circulaire. 5
11. Table à hauteur réglable selon l'une ou plusieurs des revendications précédentes, **caractérisée en ce que** ledit montant (18) présente un contour cylindrique. 10
12. Table à hauteur réglable selon l'une ou plusieurs des revendications précédentes, **caractérisée en ce que** ledit premier élément externe (15) est un cylindre muni d'un trou traversant excentrique (17) dans lequel ledit deuxième élément interne (16) est agencé de façon à ce qu'il puisse coulisser, ledit deuxième élément interne (16) étant constitué par un corps tubulaire (16a). 15
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13. Table à hauteur réglable selon la revendication 12, **caractérisée en ce que** lesdites mâchoires (20, 21) sont logées de façon coulissable dans un siège cylindrique (13a) qui est formé perpendiculaire audit corps tubulaire (16a) à l'intérieur dudit élément externe (15) et qui croise ledit trou traversant (17), formant ainsi une ouverture pour la liaison audit trou traversant et permettant auxdites mâchoires (20, 21) d'agir sur ledit corps tubulaire (16a). 25
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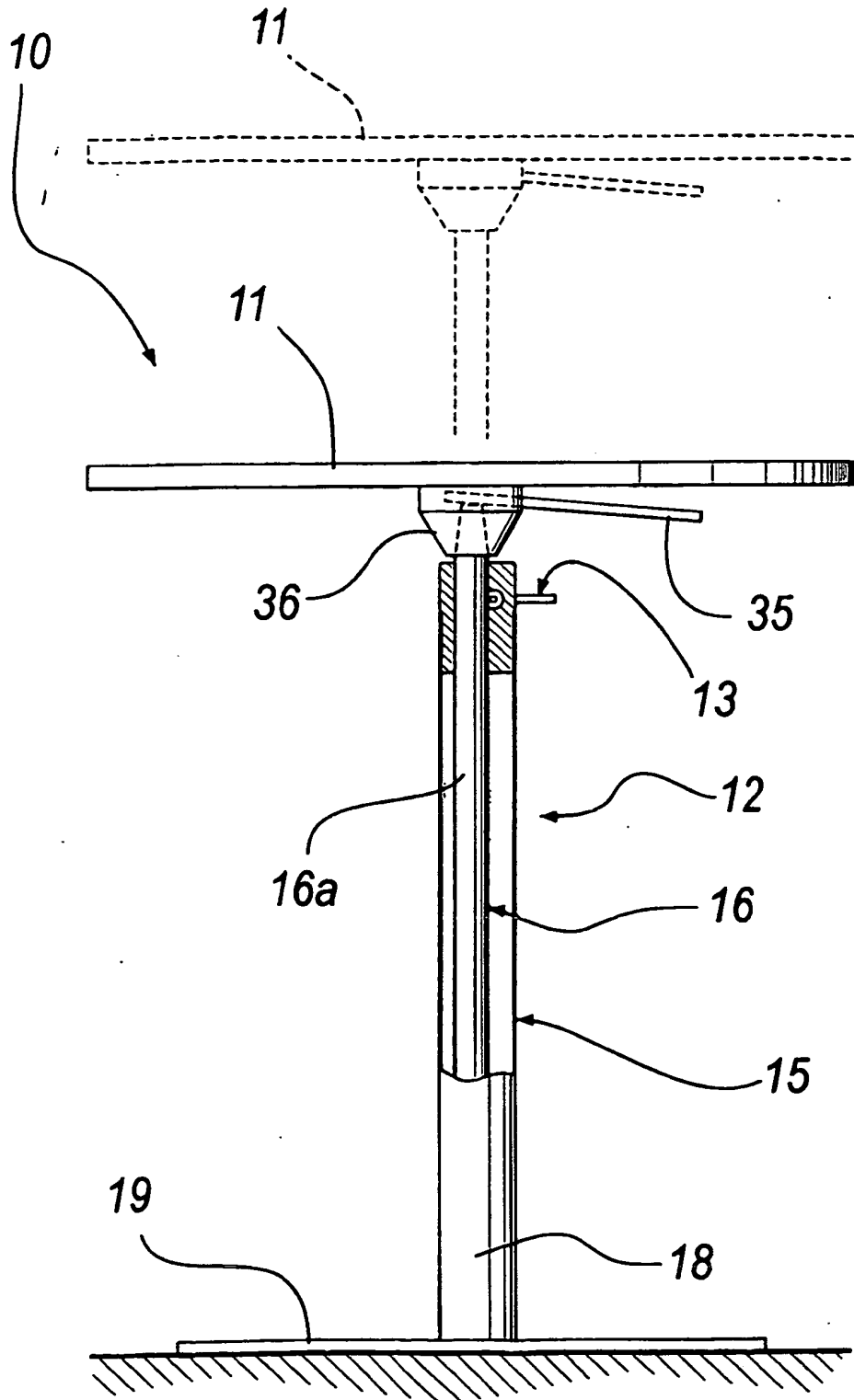


Fig. 1

