March 22, 1927. 1,621,720

G. H. HARPER

TABLE COVER HOLDER

Filed Sept. 15, 1926

Fig. 1.

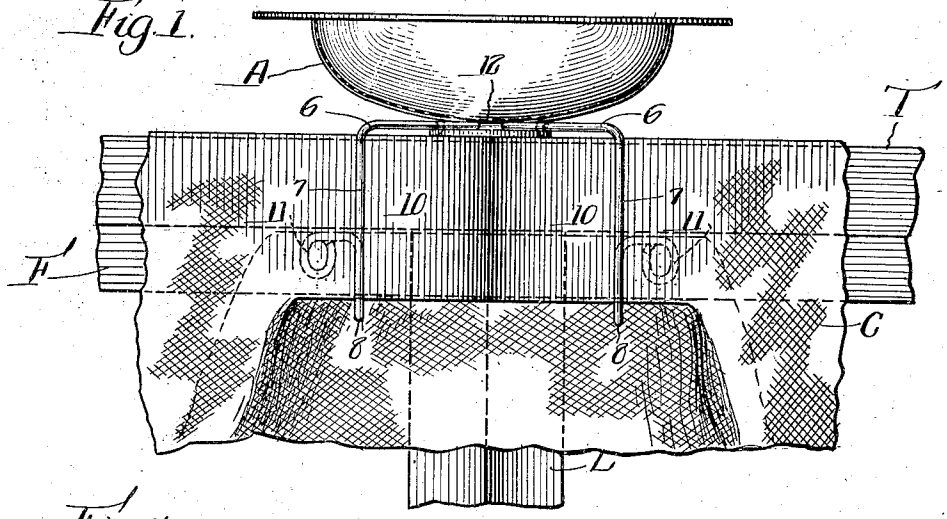


Fig. 4.

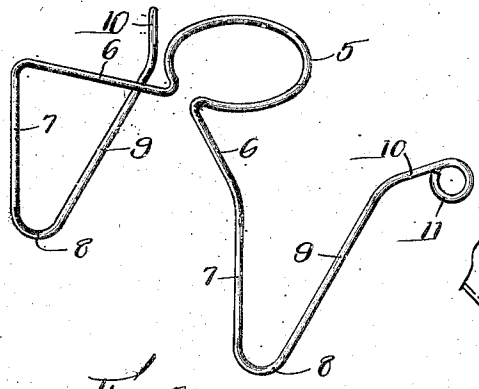


Fig. 2.

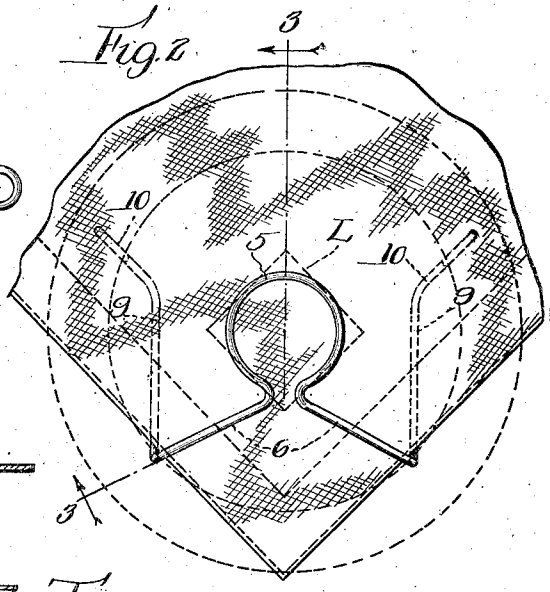
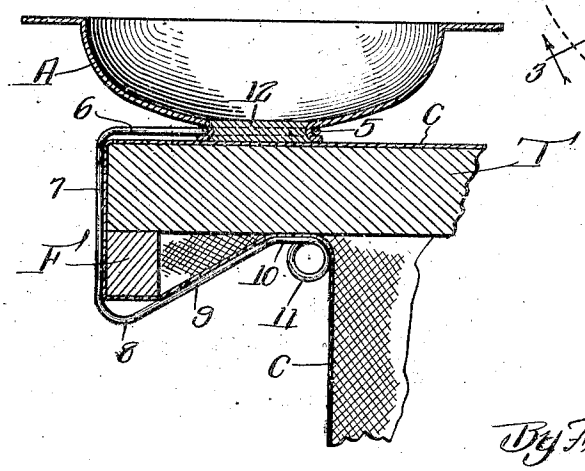


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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TABLE-COVER HOLDER.

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This invention relates to devices, in the nature of clamps, for holding table cloths or covers securely in place, and has been designed more especially for use in connection with card tables. The means at present generally employed for securing the cloth cover of a card table against slip consists of a pair of depending cords at each corner of the cover that are drawn and tied around the upper portion of the leg of the table just beneath the corner of the latter. This fastening device is somewhat awkward to manipulate, easily becomes untied, functions but imperfectly to draw the cloth smooth over the surface of the table, and is adaptable only to a fixed size of table.

One object of my present invention is to provide a very simple and inexpensive device, in the general nature of a wire clamp, that may easily and quickly be applied to a side edge or corner of the table top to securely clamp the table cover thereto, and may be as easily withdrawn. Another object is to provide such a device that will be readily adaptable not only to table tops of varying thicknesses but also to table tops which are equipped on their edges with depending flanges or moldings. The device of my invention is preferably applied to a corner of the table, although it may also be applied between the corners, and a further object is to provide a device which will readily straddle the leg.

In its preferred form my invention is adapted to function not only as a table cover clamp but also as a convenient holder for an ash tray, coaster, or any other article or accessory either usefully or artistically associated with the function of the table itself.

In the accompanying drawing I have illustrated a practical and preferred form or embodiment of my invention, and its preferred manner of use in connection with a table and table cover, and referring thereto—

Fig. 1 is an elevation of a corner of a card table and table cloth or cover, showing my improved fastener applied thereto and also showing a receptacle, such as an ash tray, mounted in and held by the fastening device;

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of Fig. 1, with the receptacle indicated in dotted lines;

Fig. 3 is a vertical section on the bent line 3—3 of Fig. 2; and

Fig. 4 is a perspective elevation of the wire clamp.

Referring to the drawing, my improved fastening device is bent to shape from a single length of steel or other spring wire, and is formed with a central flat open loop 5 designed to lie flat on the top of the table and its cover and make a pressure contact with the latter. Extending from the loop 5 at a wide angle (ninety degrees or more) from each other are a pair of horizontal limbs 6 also adapted to lie flat on the table top and its cover in pressure contact therewith. Continuous with the outer ends of the arms 6 are a pair of vertical depending limbs 7 that are adapted to lie in contact with the edges of the table top, preferably on opposite sides respectively of the corner of the latter. In the drawings I have designated by T the table top, by L one of the legs of the table, by F a depending flange or molding commonly found on the edge of the table top, and by C the table cloth or cover. The depending limbs 7 are made of a length ample to span not only the edge of the table top T but also the flange or molding F, as clearly shown in Fig. 3. Continuous with the lower end of each vertical limb 7 is an upward bend or loop 8 that, in the instance shown, underlies the flange F, and continuous with the bends or loops 8 are a pair of upwardly and inwardly inclined arms 9 substantially parallel with each other and preferably outwardly bent or splayed at their upper end portions as shown at 10; these outwardly bent portions 10 preferably terminating in substantially vertical closed loops or eyes 11.

In applying the clamp to the corner of the table, as indicated in the drawings, the cover having been spread over the table top, the inclined limbs 9 are bent downwardly sufficiently to clear the flange F, or the lower surface of the table top in the case of a table having no flange, and the clamp is then pushed inwardly until the vertical limbs 7 come into contact with the edges of the table top adjacent to the corner. Upon releasing the arms 9, the latter spring upwardly into contact with the lower side of the table top, clamping the depending portion of the cover C thereagainst. At the same time, the spring action draws the central loop 5 and arms 6 down into pressure contact with the portion of the table cover overlying the corner of the table top, so that the cover is frictionally held and pressed against the table top by the loop 5, the arms 6, the depending limbs 7, and the free end portions 10 of the arms 9,

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whereby the entire portion of the cover at the corner of the table is neatly and smoothly pressed against the top, edges and bottom of the table top, and securely held from drawing out or wrinkling.

The structural features of the clamp as shown and described well adapt the same to serve as a holder or carrier for an accessory such, for example, as an ash tray shown at A, this latter being formed with a circumferentially grooved short stem or shank 12 adapted to be embraced and held by the loop 5. When the device is equipped with such an accessory, the lower side of the stem or shank 12 lies in pressure contact with the table top and its cover. By grasping the limbs 9 by the thumb and forefinger and pressing downwardly, the device may be removed by a simple outward movement, thus freeing the cover.

While I have herein shown the device applied to the corner of a table top, and, by suitably spreading the limbs 9 have adapted it to such a position wherein it straddles the leg of the table, yet it is manifest that the device may, with equal facility, be applied to the edge of the table at any point between adjacent corners of the latter.

The device is constructed of wire that is tempered to have sufficient elasticity to afford the automatic clamping action described, and yet is sufficiently pliable to enable the lower clamping arms 9 to be bent at the loops 8 more or less upwardly or downwardly so as to adapt the device to table tops of varying thicknesses. As hereinabove noted, the device may be used on table tops with or without the depending marginal flange or molding F; but many tables are made with such a flange or molding, and for such tables, the described formation of the parts 7, 8 and 9 is useful as enabling the device to straddle the flange or molding and grip the top in the manner shown and described. By virtue of the numerous points of pressure contact, a friction grip is obtained that will not allow the table cover or cloth to slip after the clamp has been adjusted in place, especially in view of the fact that the device draws the table cover tightly over two more or less sharp edges or corners, which afford high frictional resistance. Furthermore, the device is usable with any size of table and any size of cloth large enough to cover the table.

In lieu of the ash tray shown, the loop 5 may be used to carry an ornamental button or disc to convey any special design, color or sentiment that the owner or user may desire. The lower free ends of the limbs 9 being carried well beneath the table and also being protected by the cloth or cover do not offer any opportunity for catching on the garments of a person seated at the table.

I am aware that tidy holders bent into a generally U form from a single length of spring wire and adapted for application to the backs of chairs, mantel pieces and the like, have heretofore been proposed; but my present invention differs therefrom not only functionally but also in structural details important in a table cover clamp or holder, as defined in the following claims.

I claim—

1. A table cover fastener, comprising a spring wire clamp bent to provide a central loop adapted to press upon the cover on the table top, limbs extending at an obtuse angle to each other from said loop, substantially parallel depending limbs extending at a right angle from said divergent limbs adapted to hold the cover against the edge of the table top on opposite sides of a corner of the latter, and upwardly inclined limbs beyond said depending limbs adapted to straddle a table leg and at their inner ends press the cover against the under surface of said table top.

2. A table cover fastener, consisting of a spring wire clamp bent to provide a central open loop adapted to press upon the cover on the table top, divergent limbs extending from said loop in the plane of the latter, depending limbs extending from said divergent limbs adapted to hold the cover against the edge of the table top, U-shaped bends continuous with the lower ends of said depending limbs adapted to underlie a marginal flange of the table top, and upwardly inclined limbs continuous with said loops adapted at their inner ends to press the cover against the under surface of said table top.

GEORGE H. HARPER.