

July 21, 1953

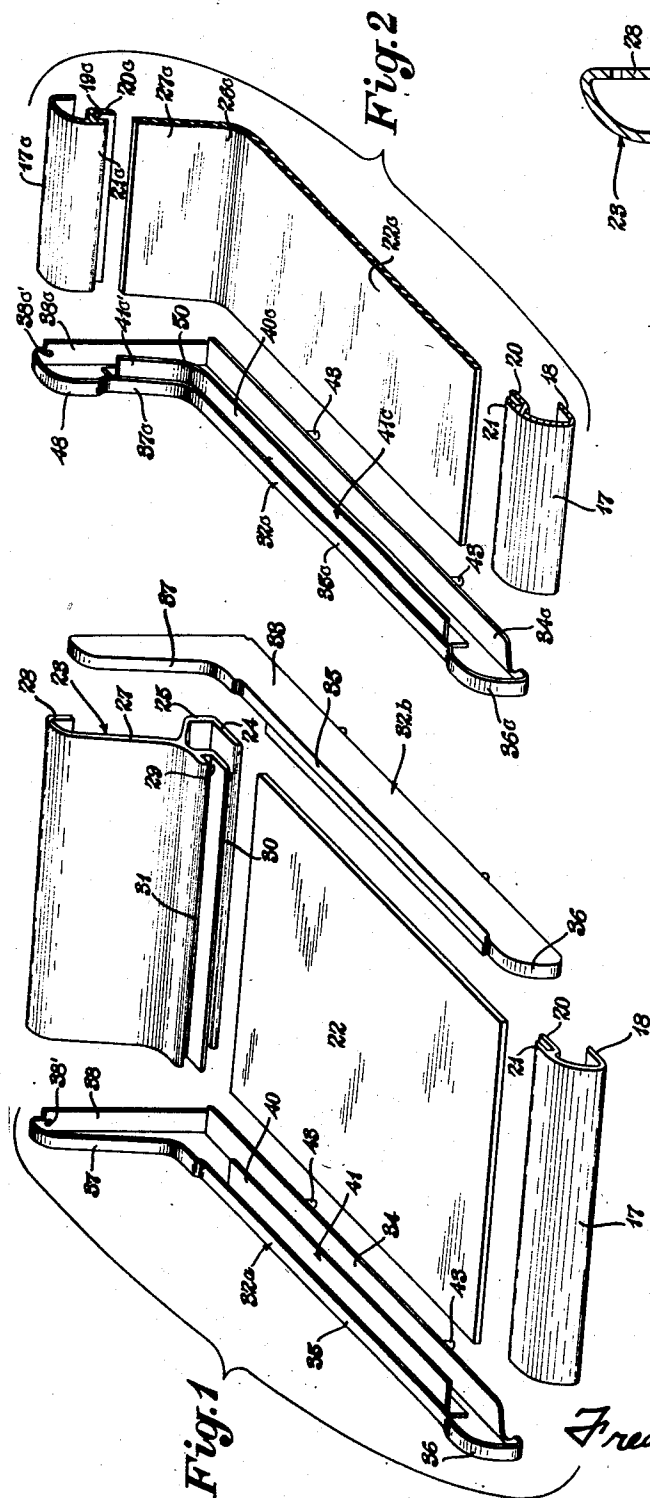
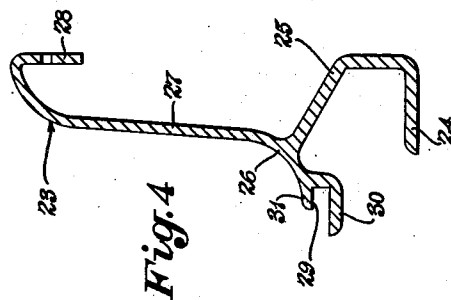
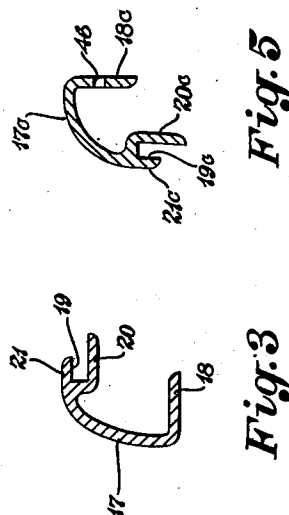
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2,646,326

KNOCKDOWN TABLE TOP AND BACK SPLASH CONSTRUCTION

Filed Feb. 12, 1951

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

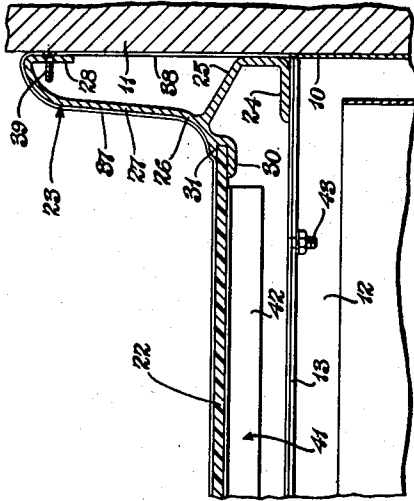


Fig. 6

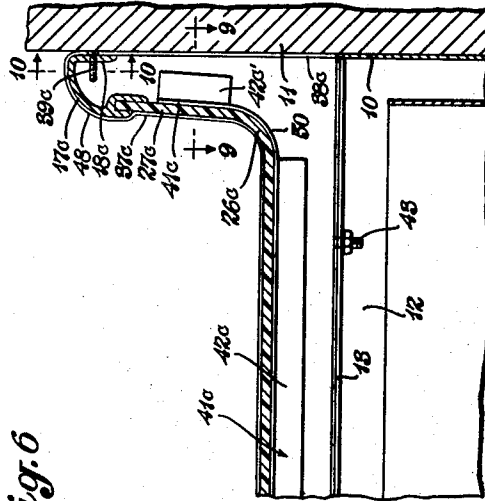


Fig. 7

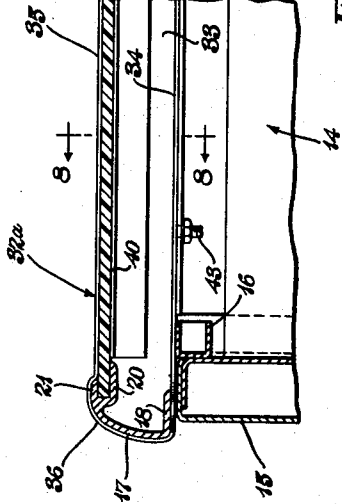


Fig. 8

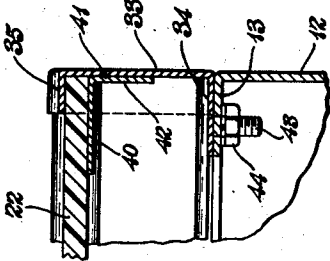


Fig. 9

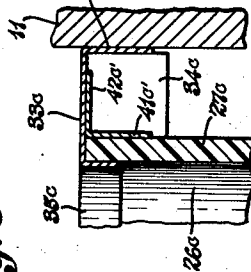
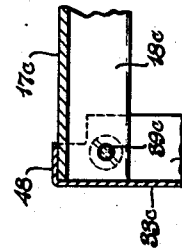


Fig. 10



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,646,326

KNOCKDOWN TABLE TOP AND BACK
SPLASH CONSTRUCTION

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8 Claims. (Cl. 311-106)

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The invention relates generally to flat table tops with upright back splash members for kitchen cabinets, sinks and the like, such as shown in my prior U. S. Patents 2,439,027, dated April 6, 1948, and 2,492,541, dated December 27, 1949. More particularly, the invention relates to a novel knock-down table top and back splash construction which can be easily cut to size and assembled in the field to suit a variety of conditions.

The table top shown in Patent No. 2,439,027 requires a structural frame and is prefabricated to a predetermined size, so that it cannot be changed in the field. The table top shown in Patent No. 2,492,541 can be changed in width in the field to fit varying space requirements, but such changes require laboriously cutting off one side and flange of the entire table top supporting member including one end of its transverse reinforcing channel. This operation not only tends to produce a poor fit, but also weakens the table top on one side.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a novel knock-down table top and back splash which can be cut to size and assembled in the field without sacrificing fit, appearance or strength.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a novel knock-down table top and back splash which can be made with a rigid plastic sheet terminating at the base of a separate back splash, or having an upturned flange forming the major surface of a back splash.

A further object is to provide a novel knock-down table top and back splash which eliminates the need for a separate table top member supporting the plastic covering.

A still further object is to provide a novel table top and back splash which when cut to size requires cutting only of the plastic covering and front and rear trim members.

These and other objects apparent to those skilled in the art may be obtained by the devices, constructions, arrangements, and combinations comprising the present invention, the nature of which is set forth in the following general statement, preferred embodiments of which are set forth in the following description and shown in the drawings as exemplifying the best known mode of carrying out the invention, the invention being particularly and distinctly set forth in the appended claims forming part hereof.

In general terms, the nature of the present improvements may be stated as including a front nosing trim member adapted for receiving the

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front marginal edge of a sheet of plastic material forming the table top surface, a back splash trim member adapted for receiving the rear edge of said sheet either in the same horizontal plane as the sheet or at an elevated location above a cove, the side marginal edges of the plastic sheet being normally supported on angles carried by end cap pieces which conform to and fit over the ends of the front and back trim members to complete the table top, said end caps having means for attachment to a base cabinet supporting said assembled table top. By securing the assembled table top to the supporting cabinet the five components of the top are automatically locked to form a rigid structure.

Referring to the drawings forming part hereof, in which preferred embodiments of the improved knock-down table top and back splash construction are illustrated by way of example;

Figure 1 is an expanded perspective view of one embodiment of the novel table top construction, showing the parts in position to be assembled;

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary expanded perspective view of another embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged cross sectional view of the front nosing or trim member used in both embodiments;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged cross sectional view of the back splash trim member of the embodiment shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 5 is an enlarged cross sectional view of the back splash trim member of the embodiment shown in Fig. 2;

Fig. 6 is an enlarged cross sectional view of the table top construction shown in Fig. 1 assembled in position upon a base cabinet;

Fig. 7 is a similar view of the embodiment shown in Fig. 2;

Fig. 8 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view as on line 8-8, Fig. 6;

Fig. 9 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view as on line 9-9, Fig. 7; and

Fig. 10 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view as on line 10-10, Fig. 7.

Similar numerals refer to similar parts throughout the drawings.

The embodiment of the improved table top shown in Fig. 1 is shown in Fig. 6 assembled and mounted on a conventional sheet metal base cabinet having a back wall 10 abutted against the room wall 11, and having end walls 12 with top horizontal intumed flanges 13 extending along the ends of the cabinet. The cabinet may have a sliding drawer indicated generally at 14 with a drawer head 15 abutting a drawer stop 16 in

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closed position. Fig. 7 shows the embodiment of Fig. 2 assembled and mounted on the same or a similar base cabinet.

Referring first to the embodiment of Figs. 1 and 6, the novel table top includes a front nosing or trim member 17 which is substantially channel shaped in cross section, as shown in Figs. 3 and 6, having a normally horizontal intumed bottom leg or flange 18, and a groove 19 extending along its upper edge formed between a lower supporting flange 20 and an upper flange 21 partially overhanging the flange 20. The height of the groove 19 is such as to receive the front marginal edge portion of a plastic panel or sheet 22 with a tight or friction fit.

The back splash trim member indicated generally at 23 includes a bottom intumed horizontal flange 24 connected to an upwardly and inwardly directed flange 25 which is connected at its upper end to the cove portion 26 merging with the upwardly extending flange 27 of the back splash. The upper end of the flange 27 curves rearwardly and then merges with a downturned vertical flange 28, as best shown in Fig. 4. A groove 29 is formed at the base of the cove 26 by a horizontal supporting flange 30 and an upper flange 31 partially overhanging the flange 30. The height of the groove 29 is such as to receive the rear marginal portion of the plastic covering 22 with a tight fit.

The plastic sheet 22 is preferably a relatively thick rigid sheet of plastic material, but may be made of sheet steel or other metal having cemented thereon a sheet of linoleum or other plastic materials having a smooth surface suitable as a table top. The plastic sheet is made with a width from front to back to fit into the grooves 19 and 29 of the trim pieces 17 and 23 when they are positioned on top of a base cabinet of conventional size, as shown in Fig. 6. In order to meet space requirements in the field with respect to the length of the table top between its ends, the trim pieces 17 and 23 and the sheet 22 may be cut to length during the installation of the table top.

The end caps for the table top are indicated generally at 32a and 32b, being identical except that 32a is for the left end and 32b is for the right end. The end caps are generally channel shaped as best shown in Fig. 8, and each includes a vertical web 33 with a horizontal intumed bottom leg 34, and a horizontal intumed top leg 35. The front and rear ends of the end caps are made to conform to the cross sectional contours of the front and back splash trim members 17 and 23 respectively, and each intumed upper leg 35 curves downwardly at the front end 36 and upwardly at the rear end 37 so as to conform to and overlap the adjoining ends of the front and rear trim members.

As shown in Figs. 1 and 6, the front curved portion 36 of flange 35 joins the bottom leg 34, and the rear curved portion 37 merges with a rear vertical flange 38 which extends downwardly and terminates at the rear edge of bottom leg 34. Thus, as shown in Fig. 6, when the caps 32a and 32b are assembled on the ends of the trim members 17 and 23, the curved portions 36 and 37 of the top flanges conform to and overlap the ends of the trim members, and the front and rear ends of bottom legs 34 underlie the bottom flanges 18 and 24 of the front and rear trim members respectively.

As shown in Figs. 1 and 6, the upper portion of each rear flange 38 may be provided with a

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hole 33' for attachment with trim flange 28 by means of a screw 39.

The side marginal portions of the plastic sheet 22 are supported upon the upper horizontal flanges 40 of angles indicated generally at 41 and having vertical legs 42 attached as by spot welding to the webs 33 of the end caps. The flanges 40 are spaced below the upper flanges 35 so as to provide a groove for receiving the side marginal portions of the sheet with a tight fit, as shown in Fig. 8. The flanges 40 extend inwardly beyond the flanges 35 a substantial distance to provide firm supports for the side marginal portions of the plastic sheet. As best shown in Fig. 8, the bottom legs 34 of the end caps are provided at intervals with depending threaded studs 43 for projecting through holes in the flanges 13 of the base cabinet, and nuts 44 may be screwed on the studs for attaching the end caps tightly to the base cabinet.

In installing the novel table top on a base cabinet in the field, the front and back splash trim pieces and the plastic sheet are cut to proper length, and the grooves 19 and 29 of the trim pieces are forced over the front and back edge portions of the plastic sheet. Next, the end caps are forced over the side marginal edges of the sheet with their curved end portions 36 and 37 overlapping the ends of the trim members and the grooves between the flanges 35 and 40 fitting over the side marginal portions of the sheet. The assembled table top is then positioned on top of the base cabinet with the screw studs 43 dropping into holes provided in the flanges 13 of the cabinet, and the nuts 44 are then applied from beneath, tightly clamping the table top to the top of the base cabinet.

If the span between the end caps is such that additional support is required for the central part of the plastic sheet, adequate support is provided by placing an intermediate member of wood or the like in the field. As shown in the drawings the sheet 22 is normally self-supporting within its marginal edges.

Referring to the embodiment of the invention shown in Figs. 2 and 7, the front nosing or trim member 17 is identical in construction with the front trim member 17 of the embodiment shown in Fig. 1, and includes a horizontal intumed bottom leg 18 and a supporting flange 20 running along its upper edge and partially overhung by an upper flange 21 to form a groove for receiving the front marginal edge portion of a plastic sheet 22c.

The plastic sheet 22c is curved upwardly along its rear portion to provide a cove portion 26c which merges with an upwardly extending back splash portion 27c, so that the table top, cove and back splash are all one continuous surface formed by the plastic sheet. The upper rear edge of the sheet is received in a trim member 17c which is substantially identical in construction to the front trim member 17, except that the flanges 20c and 21c forming the groove 19c are not quite parallel with the flange shown at 18c which is vertically disposed and is provided at its ends with holes 46 for receiving the screws 39c attaching the flanges 16c to the rear vertical flanges of the end caps.

One of the end caps for the embodiment shown in Fig. 2 is indicated generally at 32c, the other end cap being identical except that it is the opposite hand. The end cap 32c is generally channel shaped in cross section and includes a vertical web 33c with a horizontal intumed bottom leg

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34c and a horizontal inturred top leg 35c. The front end 36c of the end cap is made to conform to the cross sectional contour of the front trim member 17, and is identical with the front end 36 of the end cap 32a.

Similarly, the rear upper end 48 of the end cap 32c conforms to the cross sectional contour of the rear trim piece 17c, and its upper curved flange merges with a rear vertical flange 38c which extends downwardly and terminates at the rear edge of bottom leg 34c. The upper portion of the rear flange 38c is provided with a hole 38c' for receiving the attachment screw 39c when the end cap is assembled over the end of trim member 17c.

Between the front end 36c and the back splash portion 37c at the rear end of the end cap, a horizontal support angle indicated generally at 41c is attached as by spot welding its vertical leg 42c to the web 33c. The upper horizontal leg 40c of the angle is spaced below the upper flange 35c to provide a horizontal groove receiving the side marginal portion of the flat or table top part of the plastic sheet 22c. The leg 40c extends laterally inward a substantial distance beyond the leg 35c so as to provide a firm support for the flat marginal side portion of the sheet.

In order to provide a support for the cove 26c and back splash portion 27c of the plastic sheet, the upper leg 40c of the angle 41c is extended and curved rearwardly upward as shown at 50 to follow the contour of the cove 26c. Behind the back splash portion 27c, the curved portion 50 merges with a straight portion 41c' supporting the back splash portion 27c and having a vertical angle leg 42c' attached as by spot welding to the web portion of the end cap. As shown, the top flange 35c curves rearwardly upward and overlaps the edge of the cove and back splash portions 26c and 27c. The supporting angle 41c including the curved upper leg 50 and the end portion 41c', may be formed by first notching out the vertical leg 42c where the curve 50 is to be formed and then bending the upper leg 40c at the notched portion to provide the curved portion 50 and the upwardly extending angle portion 41c', whereupon the angle legs 42c and 42c' are spot welded to the web of the end cap.

The novel table top construction shown in Figs. 2 and 7 is assembled and installed on a base cabinet 14 in the same manner as the embodiment of Fig. 1, and the cove and back splash portions 26c and 27c of the plastic sheet are firmly supported at their side marginal portions by the curved upper leg portion 50 and the upwardly extending portion 41c' of the supporting angles 41c. The bottom legs 34c of the end caps are provided with depending threaded studs 43 for attachment with the upper flanges 13 of the base cabinet, in the same manner as the embodiment of Fig. 1.

Both embodiments of the invention provide a novel knock-down table top and back splash which can easily be cut to size and assembled in the field without sacrificing fit, appearance or strength, and which does not require as a part of the construction a metal member supporting the table top covering between the end caps.

In the foregoing description, certain terms have been used for brevity, clearness and understanding, but no unnecessary limitations are to be implied therefrom beyond the requirements of the prior art, because such words are used for descriptive purposes herein and are intended

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to be broadly construed. For example, the term "plastic sheet" is intended to include a sheet of any material or combination of materials which can be formed or shaped to a desired contour.

Moreover, the embodiments of the improved construction illustrated and described herein are by way of example, and the scope of the present invention is not limited to the exact details of construction.

Having now described the invention, the construction, the operation and use of preferred embodiments thereof, and the advantageous new and useful results obtained thereby; the new and useful constructions, and reasonable mechanical equivalents thereof obvious to those skilled in the art, are set forth in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. Knock-down table top construction including a sheet of plastic material forming the top work surface, a front nosing trim member having groove means slidably receiving and supporting the front marginal edge of said plastic sheet, a back splash trim member having groove means slidably receiving and supporting that marginal edge of said plastic sheet opposite the front edge thereof, cap members having front and back portions conforming to and slidably fitting over said front and back trim members, and the intermediate portions of said cap members having groove means receiving and supporting the side marginal edges of said plastic sheet, said sheet being self-supporting within its marginal edges.

2. Knock-down table top construction including a sheet of plastic material forming the top work surface, a front nosing trim member having means slidably receiving and supporting the front marginal edge of said plastic sheet, a back splash trim member having means slidably receiving and supporting that marginal edge of said plastic sheet opposite the front edge thereof, cap members having front and back portions conforming to and slidably fitting over said front and back trim members, the intermediate portions of said cap members having laterally projecting flanges supporting the side marginal edges of said plastic sheet, said sheet being self-supporting within its marginal edges, and laterally projecting overlapping flanges on said intermediate portions.

3. Knock-down table top construction including a sheet of plastic material forming the top work surface, a front nosing trim member having means slidably receiving and supporting the front marginal edge of said plastic sheet, a back splash trim member having means slidably receiving and supporting that marginal edge of said plastic sheet opposite the front edge thereof, channel-shaped cap members having front and back portions conforming to and slidably fitting over said front and back trim members, the intermediate portions of said cap members having their upper channel legs fitting over the side marginal edges of said plastic sheet, flanges on said cap members between their upper and lower legs supporting said side marginal edges, and studs on the lower legs of said cap members for attachment to the top of a base cabinet.

4. Knock-down table top construction including a flat sheet of plastic material forming a top work surface, a front nosing trim member having groove means slidably receiving and supporting the front marginal edge of said plastic sheet, a back splash trim member having a cove

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portion and groove means adjacent said cove portion slidably receiving and supporting the rear marginal edge of said plastic sheet, cap members having front and back portions conforming to and slidably fitting over said front and back trim members, the intermediate portions of said cap members having groove means slidably receiving and supporting the side marginal edges of said plastic sheet, and means on said cap members for attachment to a base cabinet.

5. Knock-down table top construction including a sheet of plastic material having a flat work surface portion and an integral rear back splash portion, a front nosing trim member having groove means slidably receiving and supporting the front marginal edge of said plastic sheet, a rear trim member having groove means slidably receiving and supporting the marginal edge of the back splash portion of said plastic sheet, cap members having front and back portions conforming to and slidably fitting over said front and rear trim members, the intermediate portions of said cap members having means slidably receiving and supporting the side marginal edges of said plastic sheet flat portion, and means on the cap back portions supporting the side marginal edges of said plastic sheet back splash portion.

6. In knock-down table top construction including front and back splash trim members engaging a plastic top sheet and end caps, groove means on said trim members slidably receiving and entirely supporting the front and rear marginal edges of said sheet, laterally projecting flanges on said end caps extending under and supporting the side marginal portions of said sheet, said sheet being self-supporting within its marginal edges, laterally projecting flanges on said end caps overlapping said side marginal portions of said sheet,

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and means on said end caps for attachment to a base cabinet.

7. In knock-down table top construction including front and back splash trim members engaging a plastic top sheet and end caps, the end caps being channel shaped with upper and lower intumed legs, groove means on said trim members slidably receiving and entirely supporting the front and rear marginal edges of said edges of said sheet, flanges on said end caps between their upper and lower legs supporting the side marginal portions of said plastic sheet, the upper channel legs overlapping said side marginal portions, and studs on the lower channel legs for attachment to the top of a base cabinet.

8. In knock-down table top construction including front and back splash trim members engaging the front and rear edges of a plastic top sheet having a back splash portion, end caps slidably fitting over the ends of said trim members, flange means on the intermediate portions of said end caps supporting and overlapping the marginal side portions of the flat part of said top sheet, flange means on the back ends of said end caps supporting and overlapping the marginal side portions of the back splash part of said top sheet, and means on the intermediate portions of said end caps for attachment to a base cabinet.

JACQUES STANITZ.

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