July 7, 1953 H. POLLACK ET AL 2,644,506

CONVERTIBLE ARTICLE OF FURNITURE

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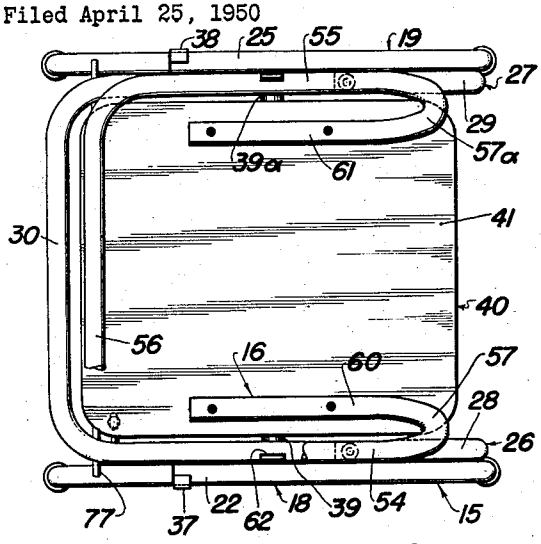


FIG. 2.

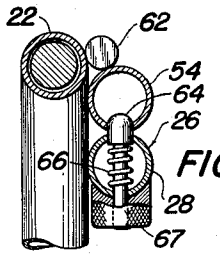


FIG. 4.

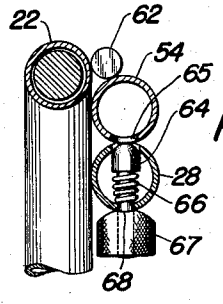


FIG. 5.

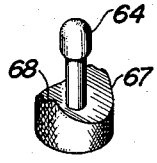


FIG. 6.

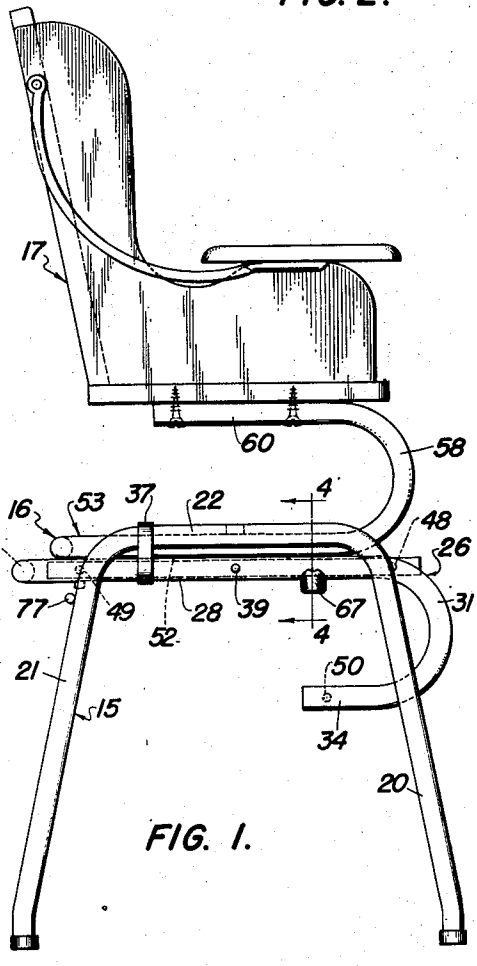


FIG. 1.

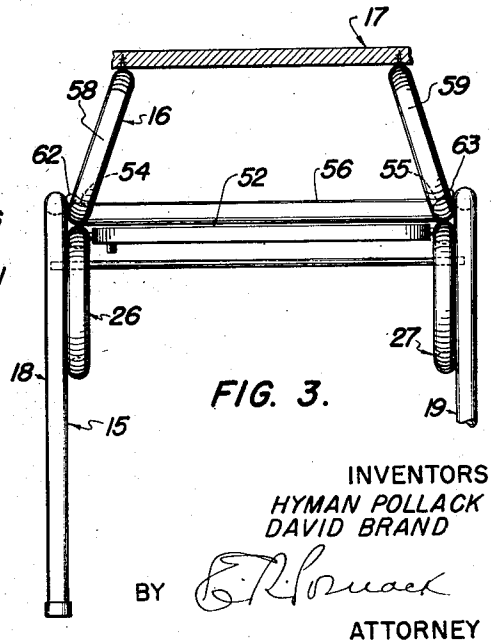


FIG. 3.

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CONVERTIBLE ARTICLE OF FURNITURE

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FIG. 8

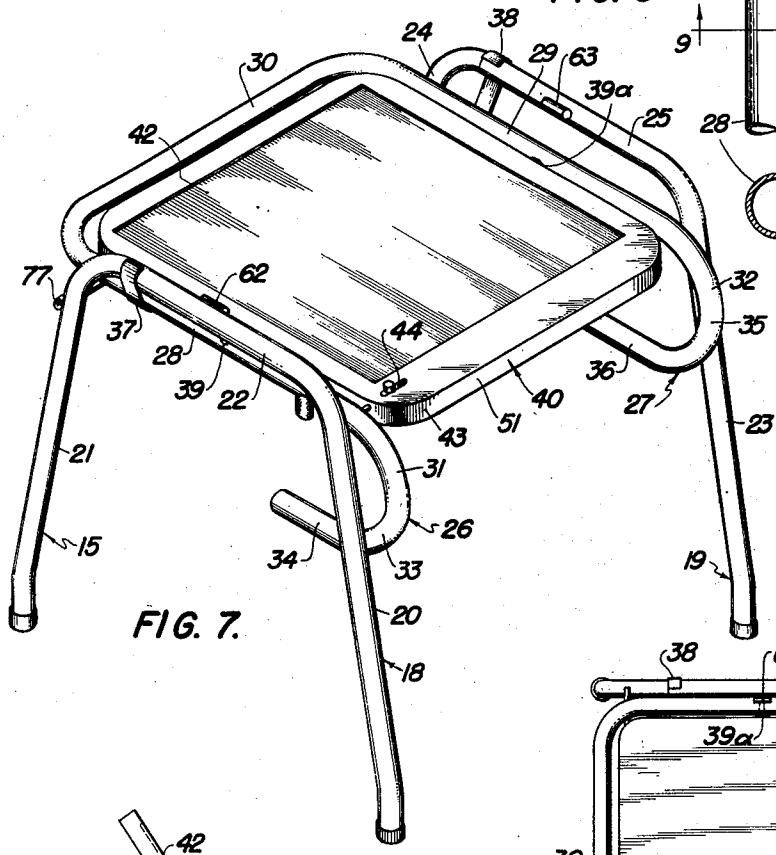


FIG. 7.

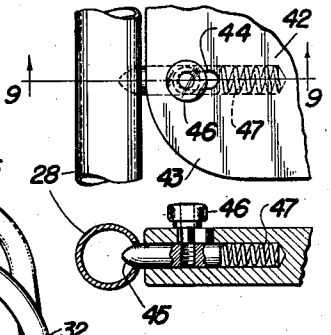


FIG. 9.

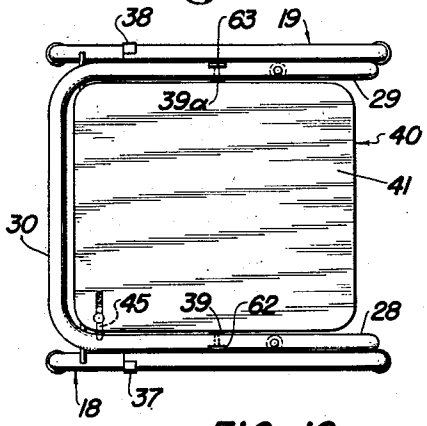


FIG. 10.

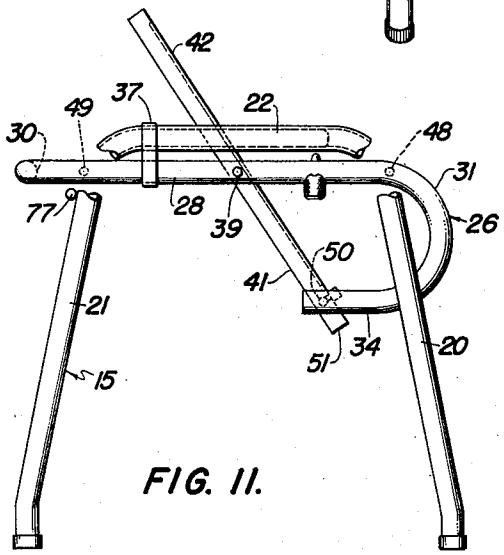


FIG. 11.

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CONVERTIBLE ARTICLE OF FURNITURE

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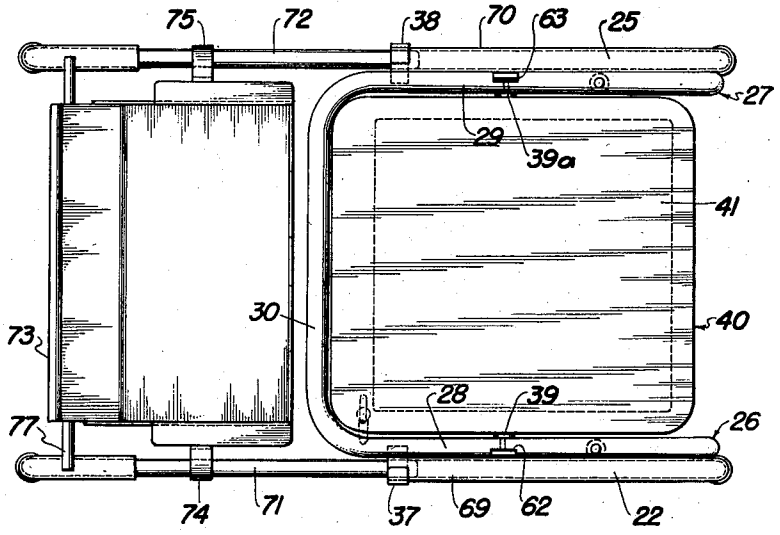


FIG. 13.

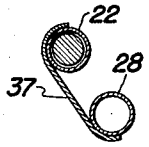


FIG. 14.

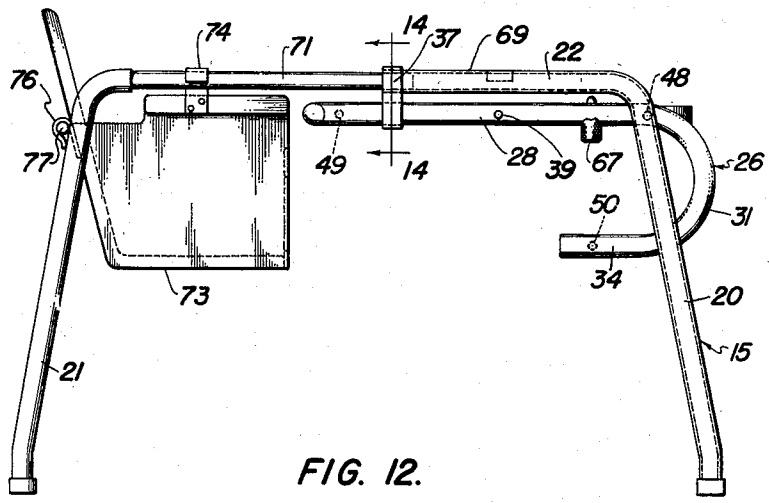


FIG. 12.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,644,506

CONVERTIBLE ARTICLE OF FURNITURE

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Application April 25, 1950, Serial No. 157,894

11 Claims. (Cl. 155—39)

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This invention relates to convertible articles of furniture, more particularly to a combination table and superstructure support.

It is primarily within the contemplation of our invention to provide an article of furniture having a table understructure separably associated with a superstructure adapted for supporting a chair or other device, the table portion being independently usable. And in this aspect of our invention it is an object, in a preferred form thereof, to enable the superstructure member to support a high-chair, and the table member to be revolvable and adapted for operative association with a baby-tender or seat, whereby the invention may serve as a convertible juvenile article of furniture.

It is a further object of this invention to provide the understructure with a revolvable table member releasably securable in three different positions, so that one side of the table may contain a writing or play surface and the opposite side a feeding surface, both sides being employable in horizontal positions, and the play surface being positionable at a convenient inclination. In this aspect of our invention it is another object to provide easily manipulable releasable locking means for firmly maintaining the table member in a selected one of said positions.

Another object of our invention is the provision of means for enabling the superstructure to be readily and firmly attached to and quickly detached from the understructure. And in this aspect of this invention it is a further object to provide automatic locking means for connecting the superstructure to the understructure, so that both hands may be free to manipulate the superstructure into position. It is also an object of this invention to provide convenient hand gripping means, for enabling the superstructure member to be readily grasped for assembly and disassembly.

It is further within our contemplation to employ hand-gripping means on the understructure both to enhance the aesthetic appearance of the device, and provide an effective anchoring means for maintaining the table member in its inclined position.

Another object of our invention is to maintain the table member, when in either of its horizontal positions, free from contact with the superstructure, thereby preventing a marring of the surfaces thereof.

It is also an object of this invention to provide a structural support for the entire unit without obstructing the underside thereof, so that the legs

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of an infant seated in the baby-tender will be free for positioning under the table.

Still another object is to enable the understructure member to be extended rearwardly and adapted for supporting a baby seat rearwardly and substantially at the level of the table, so that a child in said seat may conveniently use the table for play or feeding.

Other objects, features and advantages will appear from the drawing and the description hereinafter given.

Referring to the drawing,

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a preferred form of our invention, showing the under and superstructures in assembled relation, and supporting a high chair.

Figure 2 is a plan view of Figure 1 with the high chair removed, portions being broken away for clarity.

Figure 3 is a front view of Figure 1, only a fragment of the high chair being shown.

Figure 4 is a fragmentary section of Figure 1 taken along line 4—4, the releasable stop means for the upper and lower sections being shown in locked position.

Figure 5 is a view like Figure 4, but with the stop member in retracted position.

Figure 6 is a perspective view of the locking element of Figures 4 and 5.

Figure 7 is a perspective view of the understructure section of our invention, showing the table locked in one horizontal position.

Figure 8 is a fragmentary plan view of the corner of Figure 7 showing the table retractable locking member in locked position.

Figure 9 is a section of Figure 8 along line 9—9.

Figure 10 is a plan view of the understructure of our invention with the table member shown reversed with respect to Figure 7.

Figure 11 is a side view of the understructure, showing the table in its inclined position, portions being broken away for clarity.

Figure 12 is a side view of the understructure portion of our invention in extended condition, shown supporting a baby seat.

Figure 13 is a plan view of Figure 12, and

Figure 14 is a section of Figure 12 taken along line 14—14.

In the preferred form of our invention illustrated, the device comprises an understructure generally designated as 15 in interlocking engagement with a superstructure generally designated as 16. In the particular embodiment shown, the superstructure has operatively mounted thereon a chair member 17, so that the

entire device in its assembled form constitutes a high chair. It is understood, however, that instead of the chair 17 any other suitable device may be supported by the superstructure 16.

The understructure comprises two inverted U-shaped leg members 18 and 19, member 18 consisting of front leg 20, rear leg 21 and lateral connecting bar 22, and leg member 19 consists of front leg 23, rear leg 24 and lateral connecting bar 25. Attached to the inner surfaces of leg members 18 and 19 are the rail members generally designated 26 and 27, containing the parallel rails 28 and 29 respectively, joined by the rear bar 30, the forward portions of said rail members containing the hand gripping loops 31 and 32, respectively. Loop 31 contains the downwardly extending arcuate section 33 and the rearwardly extending lower section 34; and loop 32 contains the downwardly extending arcuate section 35 and the rearwardly extending section 36. In the preferred structure illustrated, the rails 28 and 29 are connected to the lateral bars 22 and 25 of the leg members by strips 37 and 38 either soldered, welded or otherwise attached thereto; and it is also preferred that the loops 31 and 32 be attached to legs 20 and 23 respectively, at their intersections.

Pivotly mounted at 39 and 39*a* of the rails 28 and 29, and disposed therebetween, is the table 40, the rear connecting bar 30 of the rails being disposed behind the table. In the form of our invention illustrated, the upper surface 41 of the table (Figure 10) contains an ordinary flat surface which may be used for feeding or other purposes; and the opposite side of the table 42 (Figure 7) contains a slate wall or other writing surface. As will be noted, the table is revolvable into three operative positions, Figures 7 and 10 showing two reverse positions thereof, and Figure 11 showing an inclined position.

The table is maintained in any of its three said operative positions by means of releasable locking means. One corner 43 of the table contains an apertured portion 44 within which is slidably mounted the elongated retractable element 45 carrying the knob 46 for manual manipulation; and at the rear of element 45 is the spring 47 normally urging element 45 outwardly so that it may enter one of three apertured portions in the adjacent rail member 26. Two of said apertures are on the rail 28, the front one being 48 and the rear one 49; and the third of said apertures 50 is disposed on the lower rearwardly extending section 34. The arrangement is hence such that upon a manual retraction of element 45, the table 40 may be swung into any one of the three positions, the table being releasably locked in one of said three apertures 48, 49 or 50.

It is preferred that the foremost portions of loops 31 and 32 be disposed forwardly of the front edge 51 of the table, so as to facilitate grasping said loops when it is desired to move the structure, or to hold it while the table is being operatably manipulated. It is also preferred that the thickness of table 40 be less than the diameters of the rails 28 and 29, and that the table be mounted centrally upon said bars so that the uppermost surfaces of the rails will be above the opposite surfaces of the table when it is in either of its two horizontal positions. As will more clearly hereinafter appear, this will keep the table at all times spaced from the superstructure when it is operatively mounted upon the rails (Figure 3), there being a space 52 between the table and the base of the superstructure. It is also preferred that the lateral bars 22 and 25 of the leg members be disposed above the rails 28 and 29, thereby providing lateral supports against which the superstructure can slidably move when being operatively assembled thereon, as will hereinafter appear.

The superstructure comprises the base portion 53 consisting of the two side bars 54 and 55 connected together by the rear connecting bar 56 (Figures 1, 2 and 3), the forward portions of the side bars 54 and 55 being respectively connected to hand gripping portions 57*a* and 57, these respectively comprising the loops 58 and 59 and the upper inwardly extending supports 60 and 61, the latter being preferably horizontal and disposed inwardly relative to the side bars 54 and 55. The said supports 60 and 61 are adapted to support some upper article, such as the chair 17, by suitable fasteners.

The lateral bars 22 and 25 of the leg members have mounted thereon two inwardly extending guiding elements 62 and 63 respectively, these being preferably, although not necessarily, cylindrical members, said members being spaced above the respective rails 28 and 29. The distance between element 62 and rail 28, and between element 63 and rail 29, is preferably such as to permit the base bars 54 and 55 of the superstructure to slidably move therebetween, as clearly shown in Figure 3. Hence, in operatively placing the superstructure into interlocking engagement with the understructure, the side bars 54 and 55 are placed upon rails 28 and 29 at a point forwardly of the guiding elements 62 and 63, and slid rearwardly into interlocking engagement.

The device is further provided with stop means for stopping the forward or rearward movement of the superstructure upon the understructure, and releasably locking it in said predetermined assembled position. Said stop means, in the preferred form illustrated, comprises (see Figures 4, 5 and 6) an elongated element 64 extending through the rail 28 and proportioned to enter the aperture 65 in the base bar 54. Disposed below and in abutting engagement with the head of element 64 is the spring 66 positioned within the rail 28, the lower portion of element 64 having fixably mounted thereon the cam knob 67 containing thereon the cam surface 68. In the position shown in Figure 5, the highest point of the cam surface is in engagement with the under side of rail 28, thereby causing a downward retraction of element 64 and its withdrawal from aperture 65. In this position, the superstructure can readily be made to slide over the rail. Upon a rotation of knob 67 through an angle of 90°, the lowest portion of the cam surface 68 comes into engagement with the under side of rail 28, thereby permitting the locking element 64 to enter the aperture 65, and effect an interlocking of the rail 28 and bar 54. When this occurs it is obvious that the superstructure cannot move relative to the understructure unless the interlocking engagement is released by operatively manipulating the knob 67.

The arrangement is hence such that the hands are left free to grasp the loops 58 and 59 of the superstructure and manipulate it slidably upon the understructure, since the cam knob 67 will frictionally maintain itself in its unlocked position after it had been moved thereto.

It will also be observed that the loops 31 and 32 of the understructure and the loops 58 and 59

of the superstructure extend in opposite directions and together form an aesthetically attractive design; yet, in addition to their ornamental value, they serve the utilitarian purposes hereinabove described.

In the preferred form of our invention, the lateral connecting bars 22 and 25 consist of two sections in telescopic engagement, the front sections 69 and 70, and the rear sections 71 and 72, the joints of said sections being disposed in the region of the strips 37 and 38. The arrangement is hence such that the rear portion of the leg members can be extended backwardly to the position shown in Figures 12 and 13. In this position, the chair member 73 can be operatively supported on said rear portions of the leg members, the hooks 74 and 75 being supported on bars 71 and 72, and the hooked portion 76 being supported on the rear bar 77 connecting the two rear legs of the structure.

In the position shown in Figures 12 and 13, a baby may be seated on the chair 73, and disposed rearwardly of the table, so that the table may be employed either for feeding purposes, or as a play surface. Since the chair is disposed below the table, and since there are no obstructing elements disposed in front of the chair, it is obvious that the child's legs may freely be disposed below the table.

It is thus apparent that our invention for a convertible article of furniture has several uses. It may combinatively be used as an attractive article of furniture such as a high chair; it may be readily converted, by simple manual manipulation, into a play table with the table portion movable to one of three different positions; or it may be used as an extended table with a baby-tender attached.

In the above description, the invention has been disclosed merely by way of example and in preferred manner; but obviously many variations and modifications may be made therein. It is to be understood, therefore, that the invention is not limited to any specific form or manner of practicing same, except insofar as such limitations are specified in the appended claims.

We claim:

1. In a convertible article of furniture, an understructure and a superstructure removably supported thereby; the said understructure comprising leg members, two parallel rail members secured to said leg members, a table pivotally mounted upon and between said rail members, locking means releasably securing said table to one of said rail members, whereby the table may be held fixed relative to the rail members, and guiding elements secured to each of said leg members and spaced above said rail members; the superstructure comprising a base portion and an upper supporting portion connected thereto, said base portion being slidably disposed upon said rail members and in underlying slidable engagement with said guiding elements, whereby the said superstructure is supported by and in slidable inter-engagement with the said understructure.

2. In a convertible article of furniture, an understructure and a superstructure removably supported thereby; the said understructure comprising leg members, two parallel rail members secured to said leg members and having their forward portions bent into arcuate and rearwardly extending sections to form hand gripping loops, a table pivotally mounted upon and between said rail members and revolvable for horizontal and inclined positioning, locking means releasably securing said table to the said rearwardly extending section of at least one of said loops, for holding the table in an inclined position, and guiding elements secured to each of said leg members and spaced above said rail members; the superstructure comprising a base portion and an upper supporting portion connected thereto, said base portion being slidably disposed upon said rail members and in underlying slidable engagement with said guiding elements, whereby the said superstructure is supported by and in slidable inter-engagement with the said understructure.

3. In a convertible article of furniture, the combination according to claim 2, characterized by said arcuate sections being disposed forwardly of the foremost edge of said table.

4. In a convertible article of furniture, an understructure and a superstructure removably supported thereby; the said understructure comprising leg members, two parallel rail members secured to said leg members and having at their forward portions hand gripping loops, a table pivotally mounted upon and between said rail members and revolvable for horizontal and inclined positioning with both opposite sides adapted to be upwardly disposed, said gripping loops each having a downwardly and a rearwardly extending section, locking means releasably securing the table with front and rear portions of at least one of said rail members and with at least one of said rearwardly extending sections thereof, and guiding elements secured to each of said leg members and spaced above said rail members; the superstructure comprising a base portion and an upper supporting portion connected thereto, said base portion being slidably disposed upon said rail members and in underlying slidable engagement with said guiding elements, whereby the said superstructure is supported by and in slidable inter-engagement with the said understructure.

5. In a convertible article of furniture, an understructure and a superstructure removably supported thereby; the said understructure comprising leg members, two spaced rail members secured to said leg members and comprising parallel rails, front gripping loops with downwardly and rearwardly extending sections and a rear bar connecting said rails, a table pivotally mounted upon and between said rails and forwardly of said bar, said table being revolvable for horizontal and inclined positioning with both opposite sides adapted to be upwardly disposed, locking means releasably securing the table with front and rear portions of at least one of said rails, and with at least one of said rearwardly extending sections thereof, and guiding elements secured to each of said leg members and spaced above said rail members; the superstructure comprising a base portion and an upper supporting portion connected thereto, said base portion being slidably disposed upon said rail members and in underlying slidable engagement with said guiding elements, whereby the said superstructure is supported by and in slidable inter-engagement with the said understructure.

6. In a convertible article of furniture, the combination according to claim 1, characterized by the leg members extending above said rail members, the base of the superstructure being in slidable engagement with the inner portions of said leg members.

7. In a convertible article of furniture, an

understructure and a superstructure removably supported thereby; the said understructure comprising leg members, two parallel rail members secured to said leg members, a table pivotally mounted upon and between said rail members, said table being revolvable for horizontal and inclined positioning with both opposite sides adapted to be upwardly disposed, the uppermost portions of said rail members are above the level of either side of the table when said table is horizontally disposed, locking means releasably securing said table to one of said rail members, whereby the table may be held fixed relative to the rail members, and guiding elements secured to each of said leg members and spaced above said rail members; the superstructure comprising a base portion and an upper supporting portion connected thereto, said base portion being slidably disposed upon said rail members and in underlying slidable engagement with said guiding elements, whereby the said superstructure is supported by and in slidable inter-engagement with the said understructure, and spaced above the table when it is in a horizontal position.

8. In a convertible article of furniture, the combination according to claim 2, characterized by said leg members comprising two front and two rear legs and lateral bars connecting the front and rear legs, said bars being disposed above said rail members, said guiding elements extending inwardly from said lateral bars, said rearwardly extending sections of said gripping loops intersecting and being secured to said two front legs.

9. In a convertible article of furniture, an understructure and a superstructure removably supported thereby; the said understructure comprising leg members, two parallel rail members secured to said leg members and having at their forward portions hand gripping loops, a table pivotally mounted upon and between said rail members and revolvable for horizontal and inclined positioning with both opposite sides adapted to be upwardly disposed, said gripping loops each having a downwardly and a rearwardly extending section, a retractable locking member adjacent an edge of said table, apertured portions on front and rear portions of the rail member adjacent said edge and on the rearwardly extending section of said rail member, said locking member being operatively engageable with said apertured portions, and guiding elements secured thereto and spaced above said rail members; the superstructure comprising a base portion and an upper supporting portion connected thereto, said base portion being slidably disposed upon said rail members and in underlying slidable engagement with said guiding elements, whereby the said superstructure is supported by and in slidable inter-engagement with the said understructure.

10. In a convertible article of furniture, the combination according to claim 5, and a spring loaded retractable elongated stop element extending vertically through one of said rails and the said base portion of the superstructure, whereby the latter is releasably held against movement.

11. In a convertible article of furniture, an understructure and a superstructure removably supported thereby; the said understructure comprising leg members, two spaced rail members secured to said leg members and comprising parallel rails, front gripping loops with downwardly and rearwardly extending sections and a rear bar connecting said rails, a table pivotally mounted upon and between said rails and forwardly of said bar, said table being revolvable for horizontal and inclined positioning with both opposite sides adapted to be upwardly disposed, locking means releasably securing the table with front and rear portions of at least one of said rails and with at least one of said rearwardly extending sections, and guiding elements secured thereto and spaced above said rail members; the superstructure comprising a base portion and an upper supporting portion connected thereto, said base portion being slidably disposed upon said rail members and in underlying slidable engagement with said guiding elements, whereby the said superstructure is supported by and in slidable inter-engagement with the said understructure, said upper supporting portion having at the front thereof two upper hand gripping loops extending downwardly and rearwardly, the rearwardly extending portion forming lateral bars whereby an article of furniture may be secured thereon.

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