March 26, 1963 M. T. BEDOL 3,083,066

FOLDING TABLE

Filed Aug. 29, 1962

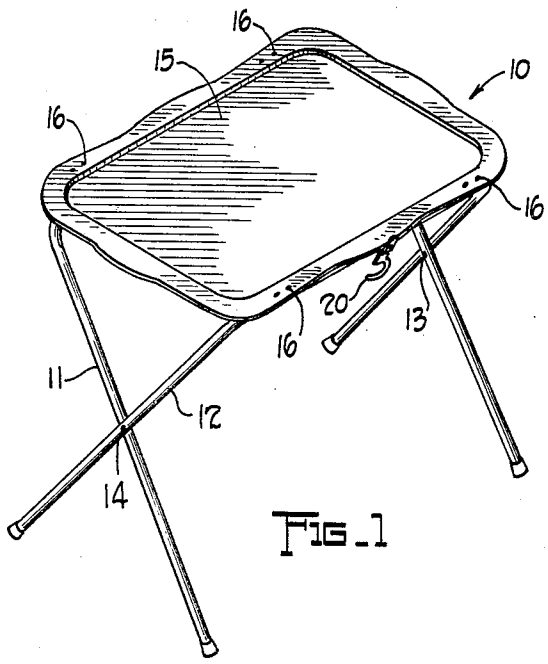


Fig. 1

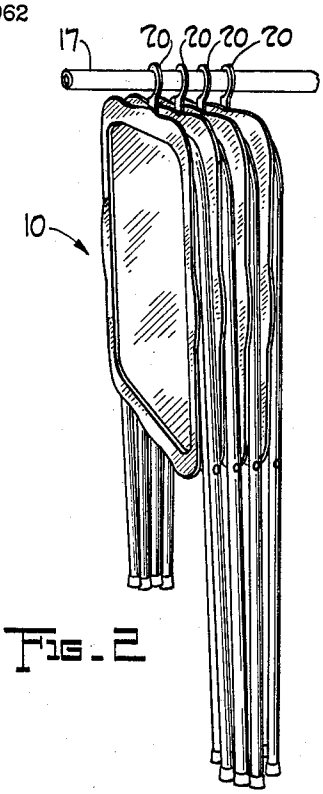


Fig. 2

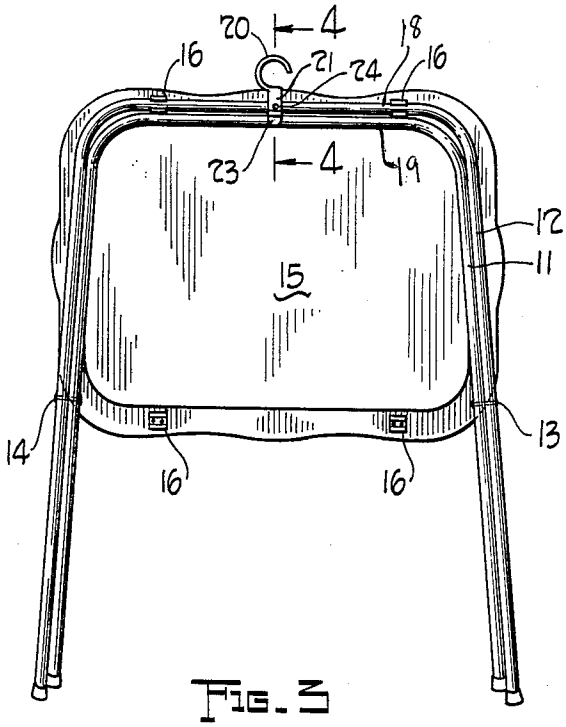


Fig. 3

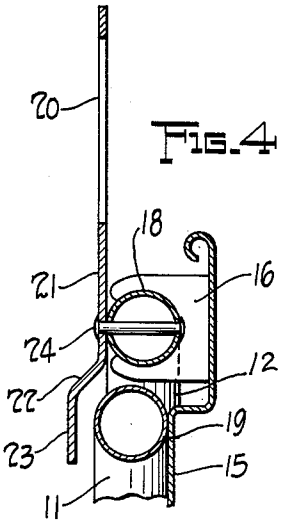


Fig. 4

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FOLDING TABLE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 108—50)

This invention relates to furniture and particularly to folding tables of small size and light weight which are well adapted for occasional use on lawns, terraces, porches and in the home, for supporting small objects.

The advantage of a folding table which may be collapsed when not in use, and quickly erected when needed, is well known and many types and designs of tables of this character have heretofore been suggested and placed in use.

However, no matter how compact they may be when in their collapsed state such tables must be stored on their legs against a wall or in a closet, where they are easily dislodged or upset when jarred, or when the closet is being cleaned.

If not stored loosely, it is often the practice to provide storage racks, especially when the tables are sold in sets of four.

Such racks in themselves take up room, and also add to the cost of the table set.

The primary object of this invention, therefore, is to provide a collapsible table having hanger, or handle means, whereby the folded table may be easily suspended from a rod or bracket, clear of the floor, and safe against accidental dislodgement.

Another object is to provide suspension means that will not interfere with the normal use of the device as a table.

A further object is to provide a collapsible table, having suspension storage means, that may be easily and economically manufactured.

These and other objects of the invention will become apparent from a reading of the following specification and claims, together with the accompanying drawing, wherein like parts are referred to and indicated by like reference numerals, and wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of one of the tables that is the subject of this invention, showing it in its erected condition;

FIGURE 2 is a perspective view, showing a set of four of such tables, in their folded condition, suspended from an overhead rod, as they would be stored in a clothes or broom closet;

FIGURE 3 is a rear view of a table in its folded condition; and

FIGURE 4 is a cross-sectional view of the same, taken along the line and in the direction of the arrows 4—4 of FIGURE 3.

Referring more particularly to FIGURE 1 of the drawing, there is seen the folding table that is the subject of this invention, broadly indicated by reference numeral **10**, as it appears in its erect, or unfolded condition.

The table top **15** is preferably rectangular in shape and is fabricated from light gauge sheet material such as fiber, composition, plastic, or metal, attractively painted, enameled or otherwise decorated.

The top **15**, illustrated, has four spaced resilient clamps **16** positioned on the underside of its two long edges, which are adapted to detachably engage the supporting frame described hereinafter.

Thus the top **15** may serve as a tray when not engaged with the frame, to form a table.

Reference numerals **11** and **12** indicate U-shaped support, or frame, members, having their legs pivotally connected intermediate their ends through pivot pins **13** and **14**.

First support member **12** has a horizontal section **18**, and second support member **11** has a horizontal section **19**.

These support members are preferably made of tubular stock in order to provide a maximum of rigidity with a minimum of weight.

It will be observed, in FIGURE 3, that support **11** is slightly smaller than support **12**, so that it may be nested entirely within the plane of support **12** (in a second, or closed position) or pivoted to a first, or open, position, as seen in FIGURE 1, wherein supports **11** and **12** form an X-shaped supporting frame for the table top **15** which is attached thereto through the clamps **16**.

Reference numeral **21** indicates a handle, or hanger, fabricated from flat stock and swivelly mounted through pivot pin **24** on the horizontal section **18** of support **12** in a plane tangent to section **18** and parallel to the plane of the legs of support **12**.

The hanger **21** has a hook **20** at one end and an offset **22** terminating in a dependent locking flange **23**.

The hanger **21** is mounted at the center point of the horizontal section **18**.

The top, or tray, **15** is mounted on the support section **18** by means of two of the clamps **16** along one edge thereof.

The supports **11** and **12** are then pivoted to their first, or X-shaped, position, wherein the horizontal section **19** of support **11** is spaced from the horizontal section **18** of support **12**, and the two clamps **16** on the far side of the tray **15** are engaged with the horizontal section **19** of support **11** to provide a table having its top **15** parallel to the floor, as seen in FIGURE 1.

At the same time the hanger **21** is free to swivel, on its pin **24**, inwardly, so that the hook end **20** thereof is positioned under the edge of the table top **15**, out of the way.

To fold the table, the clamps **16** are disengaged from the support section **19**, and the support **11** is swung into alignment with support **12**.

At the same time the top **15** will rotate downward on section **18** to take a position against and parallel to the two nested supports **11** and **12**, as seen in FIGURE 3.

The hanger hook **20** is then grasped by the fingers and swung upward to the position shown in FIGURE 4 wherein the flange **23** is positioned opposite the horizontal section **19** of support **11**, thereby holding support **11** nested within support **12** and against the back of top **15**.

The so folded unit **10** may then be easily suspended from a rod **17**, as seen in FIGURE 2, where it is securely stored out of the way, safe from accidental dislodgment, but readily available for use, when desired.

The hanger **21** acts not only to support the folded table, but, through its locking flange **23**, maintains the table in its flat, folded, condition by preventing movement of the support **11** out of its nested position within support **12**.

It will now be clear that there is provided a device which accomplishes the objectives heretofore set forth.

While the invention has been disclosed in its preferred form, it is to be understood that the specific embodiment thereof, as described and illustrated herein, is not to be considered in a limited sense, as there may be other forms or modifications of the invention which should also be constructed to come within the scope of the appended claim.

I claim:

A folding tray table, comprising in combination, first and second U-shaped supports with their respective legs pivotally connected intermediate their ends to form an X shape when in a first, or open, position; the second of said supports being of a size to nest within the plane of the first support when pivoted to a second or closed position; a tray pivotally mounted along one edge on the horizontal section of said first support, with its body hanging parallel

to and against both the first and second support legs, when they are in their second or closed positions, the other edge of the tray being engageable with the horizontal section of the second support, to provide a table top, when the two supports are in their first, or X shaped, position; and a handle swivelly mounted at the mid-point of the horizontal section of the first support, rotatable in a plane parallel to the plane of its legs and including a hook portion at one end and an offset locking flange at the other end; the hook portion being free to extend above the edge of the tray to engage and support the entire assembly from a suspension rod when the tray and legs are in their folded, or second, position; with the hook so positioned the locking flange extends downward behind the horizontal section of the second support to hold it nested within the first support, against the dependent tray; the handle hook being free to rotate downward and out of the way when the tray and legs are in their first positions wherein they form a table.

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