April 24, 1956 E. HOWARD 2,743,147

MOUNTING MEANS FOR FOLDING TABLE LEGS

Filed Feb. 23, 1954

Fig. 1.

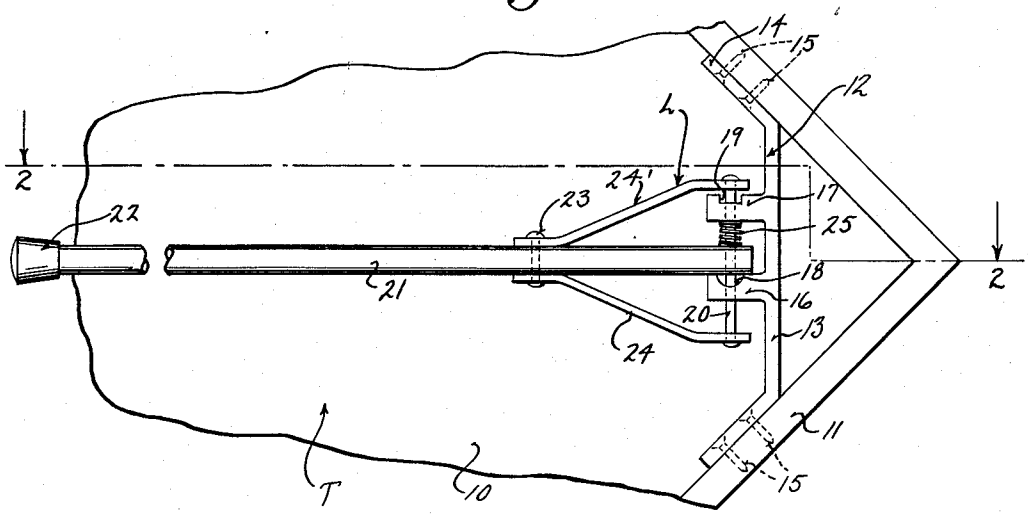


Fig. 2.

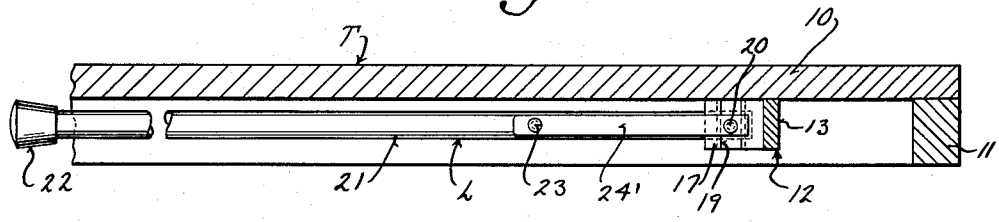


Fig. 3.

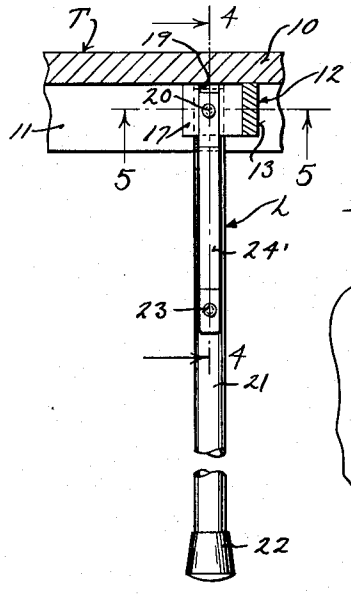


Fig. 4.

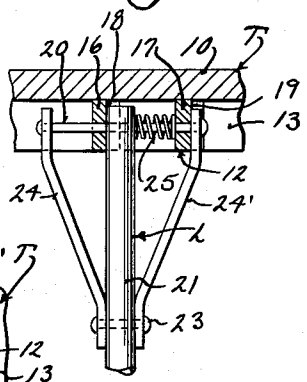
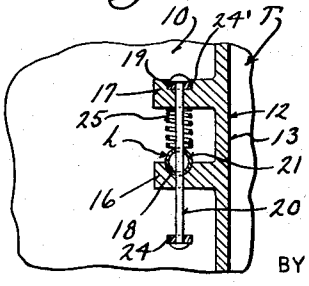


Fig. 5.



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MOUNTING MEANS FOR FOLDING TABLE LEGS

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2 Claims. (Cl. 311—99)

This invention appertains to folding tables, such as card tables, and more particularly to a novel folding or collapsible leg therefor.

One of the primary objects of my invention is to provide a folding leg structure, which will be durable and efficient in use, one that will be simple to manufacture and one which can be placed upon the market and incorporated with a table top at a low cost.

Another salient object of my invention is to provide means whereby the leg will be automatically and firmly locked in its extended position, as the leg is swung outwardly, without the manipulation of latches, etc. by the user.

A further important object of my invention is to provide a folding leg structure in which the releasing of the leg to permit collapsing or folding thereof is accomplished by the mere shifting of the leg laterally as a unit.

A still further object of my invention is to provide novel means for bracing the leg and for utilizing a part of the brace means and leg itself as the lock for holding the leg in its set up or extended position.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists in the novel construction, arrangement and formation of parts as will be hereinafter more specifically described and claimed and illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which drawing,

Figure 1 is a fragmentary bottom plan view of a table equipped with one of my novel folding legs, the leg being shown in its folded or collapsed out of the way position;

Figure 2, is a fragmentary vertical sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1, looking in the direction of the arrows;

Figure 3 is a view similar to Figure 2, but showing the leg in its extended set up position;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary vertical sectional view taken at right angles to Figure 3 and on the line 4—4 of Figure 3, and

Figure 5 is a fragmentary detail horizontal sectional view taken on the line 5—5 of Figure 3, looking in the direction of the arrows.

Referring to the drawing in detail, wherein similar reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several views, the letter T generally indicates a table equipped with my novel folding leg structure and lock L.

While I have shown the folding leg associated with a table, it is to be understood that the leg can be used with any desired type or character of furniture. As illustrated, the table T includes a top **10** having a depending marginal rim or skirt **11**.

The folding leg and lock structure L includes an attaching bracket **12**, which in the present form includes a straight body portion **13** and angularly extending branches **14**. These branches **14** are secured to the inner surface of the rim **11**, in any desired way, such as by screws **15**. The bracket **12** has been formed to fit in a corner

of a table, but it is to be understood that the shape of the bracket can be changed to suit various applications. In accordance with my invention, however, the straight body portion **13** has formed thereon a pair of inwardly extending spaced parallel arms **16** and **17**, and these arms **16** and **17** are arranged in parallel relation to the lower surface of the table top **10**. The inner surface of the arm **16** has formed therein a substantially semi-circular keeper recess **18** and the outer face of the arm **17** has formed therein a keeper recess **19**. The keeper recesses **18** and **19** extend transversely of their respective arms and at right angles to the table top **10**.

Slidably and rotatably mounted within the arms **16** and **17** is a shaft or pivot rod **20** and this shaft has rigidly secured thereto for movement therewith the upper end of a leg **21**. The leg can be of any desired shape in cross-section and in the present instance, the same has been shown of a cylindrical shape and can be made from a length of tube, if so desired.

The outer lower end of the leg can be provided with any preferred type of foot **22**. By referring to Figures 1, 4 and 5, it can be seen that the leg is disposed between the arms **16** and **17**. Rigidly secured to the opposite sides of the leg below the shaft **20**, such as by a rivet **23**, are outwardly extending brace straps **24** and **24'**. The extreme upper ends of these straps receive the terminals of the shaft **20**. The straps are rigidly secured to the shaft **20** for movement therewith in any desired way. For a purpose, which will now appear, the recess **18** is shaped to receive the upper end of leg **21** and the recess **19** is shaped to snugly receive the upper end of the brace strap **24'** when the leg is in its upright vertical position. Coiled about the shaft **20** and confined between the leg **21** and the arm **17** is an expansion spring **25** and this expansion spring normally tends to urge the leg **21** toward the inner face of the arm **16** and the brace strap **24'** adjacent to the arm **17** toward said arm **17**.

Considering that the leg **21** is in its collapsed folded position, as shown in Figures 1 and 2, and it is desired to open and lock the leg, then it is merely necessary for the user to grasp the leg and swing the same outward to its vertical position. When the leg reaches its vertical position, the spring **25** will automatically shift the leg **21**, the shaft **20** and the brace straps **24**, **24'** laterally and the leg and the brace **24'** adjacent to the arm **17** will snap into the keeper recesses **18** and **19** respectively. Hence the leg will be automatically locked when moved to its open position. The inter-engagement of the above parts will firmly lock the leg in its open position and the brace straps **24**, **24'** prevent side wabble of the leg. When it is desired to collapse the leg and move the same under the table top, it is merely necessary to shift the leg laterally to move the leg and its associate parts out of the recesses **18** and **19** against the tension of the spring **25**. At this time, the leg can be swung inwardly.

The spring **25** exerts sufficient tension to hold the leg in its collapsed position.

Changes in details may be made without departing from the spirit of this invention or the scope of the appended claims, what I claim as new is:

1. In a table including a top; a folding leg structure therefor including a bracket carried by the inner face of said top having a pair of inwardly directed spaced parallel arms, a shaft slidably and rotatably carried by said arms, said shaft having a length greater than the distance between the outer opposite sides of said arms, a table leg rigidly secured to the shaft for movement therewith having its upper end disposed between the arms, one of said arms being provided with a vertical keeper

recess and said leg being movable into said recess when in its extended vertical position, and an expansion coil spring coiled about said shaft confined between the leg and one of said arms for normally urging the leg into the keeper recess when the leg is in its vertical position.

2. In a folding table having a top; a folding leg structure therefor including a bracket carried by the inner surface of said top including a pair of spaced parallel inwardly directed arms, a shaft rotatably and slidably carried by the arms, said shaft having a length greater than the distance between the outer opposites of said arms, a table leg having its upper end rigidly secured to the shaft for movement therewith disposed between said arms, brace straps rigidly secured to the opposite sides of the leg and diverging outwardly from said leg and having their upper ends rigidly secured to the opposite ends of the shaft, said arms being provided with

keeper recesses for receiving respectively the leg and one of said brace straps when the leg is in a vertical extended position, and an expansion spring coiled about the shaft and confined between the leg and one arm for normally urging the leg toward its keeper recess.

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