June 9, 1959 J. M. LEPRY ET AL 2,890,088

ROTATABLE OFFICE UTILITY TABLE WITH DRIVE MEANS

Filed June 18, 1958

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig.1

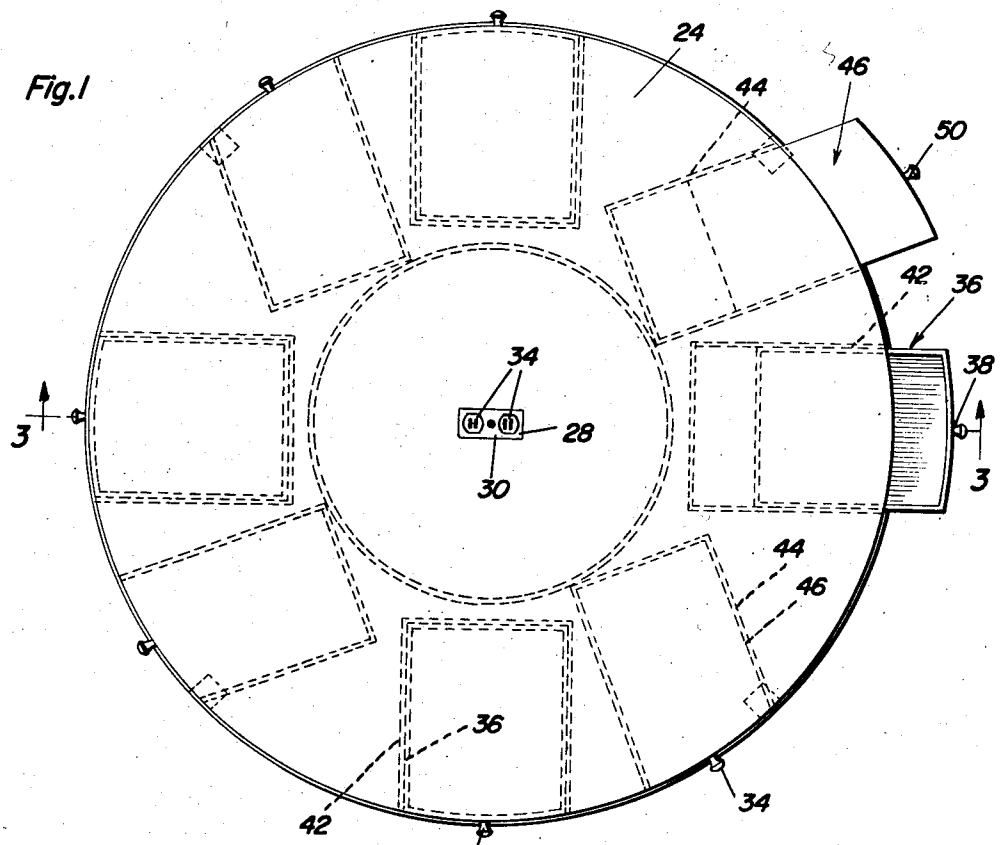
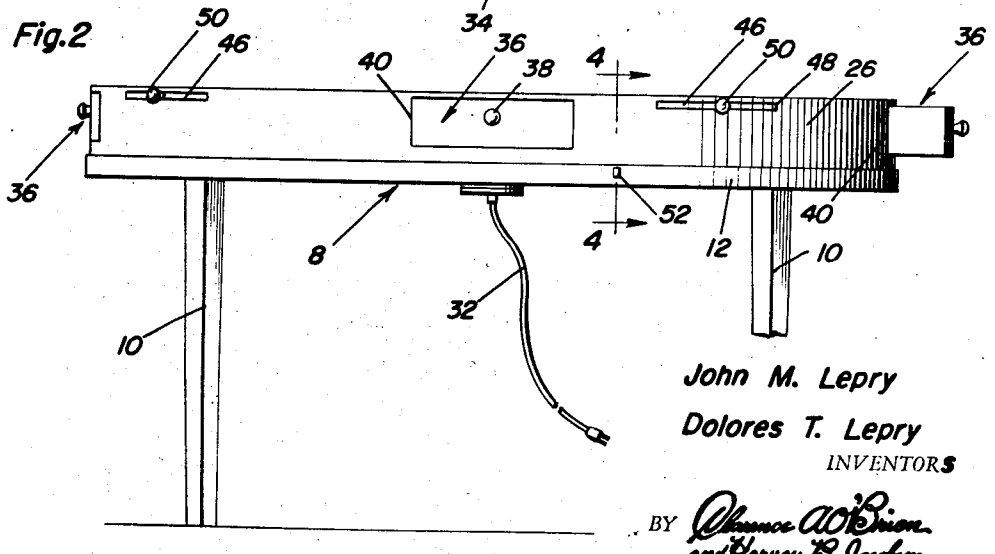


Fig.2



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Fig.3

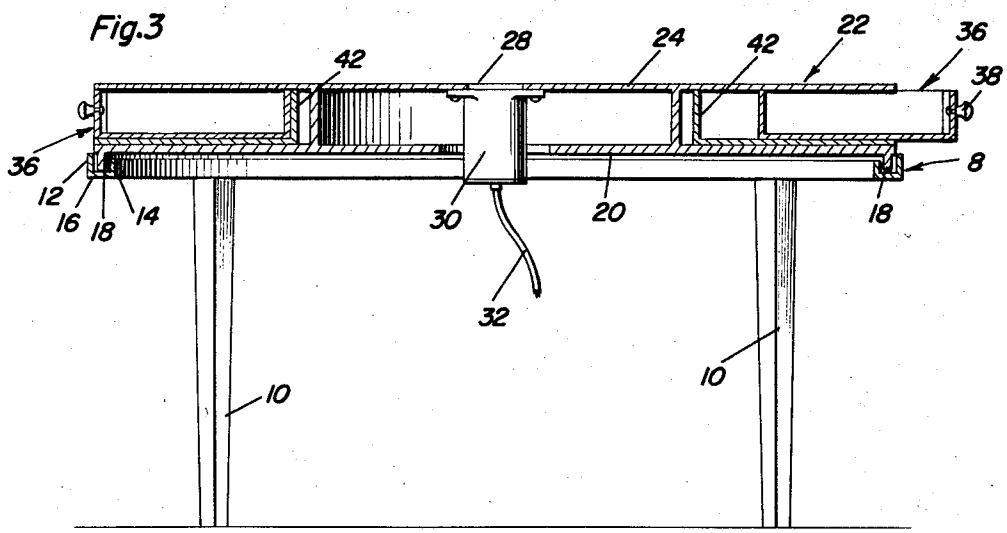


Fig.5

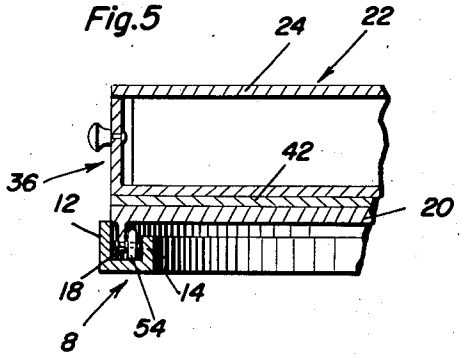


Fig.4

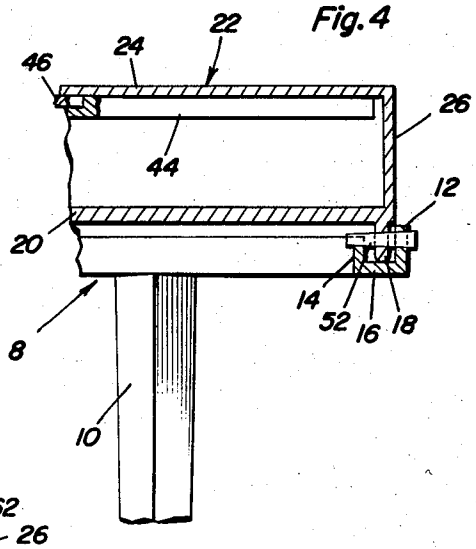
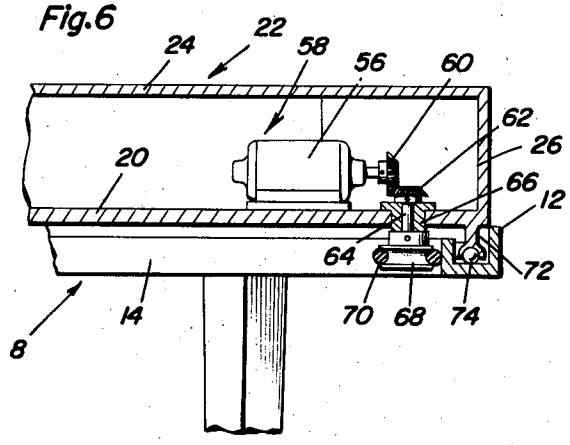


Fig.6



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ROTATABLE OFFICE UTILITY TABLE WITH DRIVE MEANS

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Application June 18, 1958, Serial No. 742,770

1 Claim. (Cl. 311—32)

The present invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in a multipurpose work table which is expressly, but not necessarily, adapted for use in a place of business, an office, for example, and has to do with a construction which is characterized by a rotary table or platform which may be turned by hand or, if preferred, by an electric motor.

An object of the invention is to place at the disposal of a single attendant or employee office machines, stationery and equipment and, in fact, all needed appliances and paraphernalia to expeditiously and systematically handle varying jobs, particularly where step-by-step procedures and techniques are the other of the day.

An office having this unique and practical time and labor saving table can economize and accomplish daily work needs with facility and reliability.

The range of utility and purposefulness attending an innovation such as is here under advisement could well meet with widespread endorsement and usage, especially where one job follows another on a similar project. For example, papers could be run off on a copy machine, then placed systematicaly in piles and collated by rotating and bringing the intended zones or areas in front of the work station of the operator. Papers could then be run, for instance, through a machine for perforating them, then the table moved around to the next or second machine, say a binding machine for binding them. These are just a few ideas exemplifying the diversified usefulness of the table herein disclosed and subsequently fully described.

By eliminating walking and concentrating one's efforts from a selected station, either standing or sitting, time-saving jobs can be taken care of. In addition, and because the table can be placed in an out-of-the-way corner of the office, it can be swung or turned to bring into play the needed or necessary equipment without reaching or straining. Not only this, the broad flat expansive work surface provides available area for all of the things ordinarily needed.

Because of the construction employed, this table can actually add to the neatness and appearance of the office area. It offers comfort and convenience and is therefore an ideal piece of furniture considered from any practical point of view. Furthermore, it is equipped with circumferentially spaced sliding drawers at equidistant circumferentially spaced areas or zones and intervening projectible and slidable shelves thus contributing greatly to the over-all appropriateness and practical simplicity of the invention.

Other objects, features and advantages will become more readily apparent from the following description and the accompanying drawings.

In the drawings wherein like numerals are employed to designate like parts throughout the views:

Fig. 1 is a top plan view of a multipurpose office table constructed in accordance with the principles of the

present invention, showing in dotted and full lines the general plan and construction herein under advisement.

Fig. 2 is an edge or side elevational view of the same.

Fig. 3 is a cross-section on the central line 3—3 of Fig. 1 looking in the direction of the arrows.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary view in section and elevation on a slightly enlarged scale showing how the insertable and removable retaining wedge or key is employed.

Fig. 5 is a view fragmentarily shown and primarily in section and illustrating a modification.

Fig. 6 is a view in section and elevation further amplifying this modified aspect of the concept.

Referring now to the drawing in detail with the aid of reference numerals, the frame, which is of suitable size and materials, is denoted generally by the numeral **8** and it is supported by suitable legs **10**. This frame is annular in plan and is channel-shaped in cross-section. For example and as seen in Fig. 4, it is characterized by an outer upstanding peripheral wall **12** and an inner opposed base wall **14** joined by a flat web **16** and thus defining an endless track or trackway accommodating, as also seen in Fig. 4, a depending endless flange or runner **18** on the bottom **20** of a hollow circular or disk-like table or platform **22**. The top of the platform **24** is prefectly smooth and flat and is joined to the bottom by a vertical wall or rim **26**. The top will have to be finished in some manner to render it durable and to meet the varying office needs and purposes. There is an opening **28** at the center beneath which a suitable outlet **30** is supported and arranged. The outlet **30** is of the slip ring type and current is supplied to the outlet by a conductor **32** having plug (not shown) for connection to a wall outlet. The exposed top portion of the outlet means **30** is provided with receptacles **34** to accommodate applicance cords to operate an electric lamp or electrical machines which may be supported on the platform or table itself.

In plan view the table may be thought of as presenting or offering for use selectively usable zones or areas. These are to be brought in front of the seated operator, clerk or attendant, as the case may be. These areas may be treated as stations or zones and they are more or less delineated by the positions of the circumferentially equidistant sliding drawers and shelves. The drawers are all the same and denoted by the numeral **36**. Each drawer has a knob **38** and is of suitable construction, operates through an opening **40** in the rim and is slidingly mounted in an encasing housing or compartment **42** suitably built into the space between the top and bottom parts of the table. Similarly provided are smaller compartments or housings **44** in which the projectible and retractible shelves or leaves **46** are mounted for selective use. These shelves and drawers are arranged in pairs and one drawer and one shelf will be found at each operating station, as it were. The shelves operate through openings or slots **48** provided in the rim toward the top side of the platform or table. The shelves too are provided with handy operating knobs.

As seen in Fig. 4, the runner or flange **18** and the walls of the channel are provided with aligned openings to accommodate an insertable and removable wedge **52** which is used as the means for stopping and retaining the platform at any predetermined station.

It will be evident that this novel table construction is one which may be operated by hand or power. In the arrangement seen in Fig. 4, the runner **18** engages the cooperating surface of the web **16** and in this construction it will be found advisable to wax the surfaces to facilitate rotating the platform or table **22**. In the slight modification seen at the left in Fig. 5, instead of having the runner contact the web, the runner may be provided

with free rotating wheels **54** which travel around the track or trackway in an obvious manner.

For the arrangement in which power is preferred, reference is had to Fig. 6 wherein it will be seen that a suitable motor **56** is appropriately mounted in the compartment space **58** of the platform or table and the motor shaft is provided with a bevel gear **60** driving a cooperating pinion or gear **62** on the upper end of a driven stub shaft **64** mounted in a bushing **66** and provided on the lower end with a pulley **68** having a rubber tire **70** and providing a friction driving wheel. This wheel contacts the friction surface of the inner channelled wall **14** thus imparting traveling motion to the platform. Current is supplied to the motor **56** either through the outlet **30** or another slip ring type connector (not shown). In this arrangement the depending flange **72** may, if desired, be provided with free turning ball bearings **74**.

The invention, as already mentioned, has to do with a utility table which was specially designed for a small office where it will doubtless help increase the efficiency of the service given by the employee. It will make office equipment easily available and set up what might be thought of as an "assembly line" procedure. One can visualize the stations or zones of the table or platform supporting a copy machine, a binding machine, a punch machine, a paper cutter, automatic typewriters (if the table is at sufficient low height) and ever so many appliances and devices which have to be used for mailing, stamping and so on and so forth.

From the foregoing, the construction and operation of the device will be readily understood and further explanation is believed to be unnecessary. However, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction shown and described, and accordingly all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention as claimed.

What is claimed as new is as follows:

A rotary table construction comprising a fixed base unit, a rotatable table unit, and a drive unit, said fixed base unit including an annular track in the form of an upwardly opening channel member, a plurality of circumferentially spaced legs secured to the underside of said trackway in depending relation and forming supports for said trackway, said table unit being of the drum table type and including a circular table top, a circular bottom wall and an annular flange interconnecting said table top and said bottom wall, said annular flange having a lower portion corresponding in outline to said trackway and being seated therein, said annular flange having antifriction members in engagement with said trackway to reduce the frictional contact between said annular flange and said trackway, said drive unit being carried by said table unit, said drive unit including an electric motor having a power cord with a rotary connection, a drive shaft having a vertical axis and being disposed adjacent said trackway on the inner side of said trackway, means drivingly connecting said electric motor to said shaft, and a friction drive wheel secured to said shaft and engaging the inner side of said trackway to rotate said table unit, said electric motor being disposed within said rotatable table unit and said drive shaft extending through and being supported by said bottom wall.

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