April 14, 1953 H. V. FRYE 2,635,023

CONVERTIBLE FURNITURE BASE

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Fig. 1.

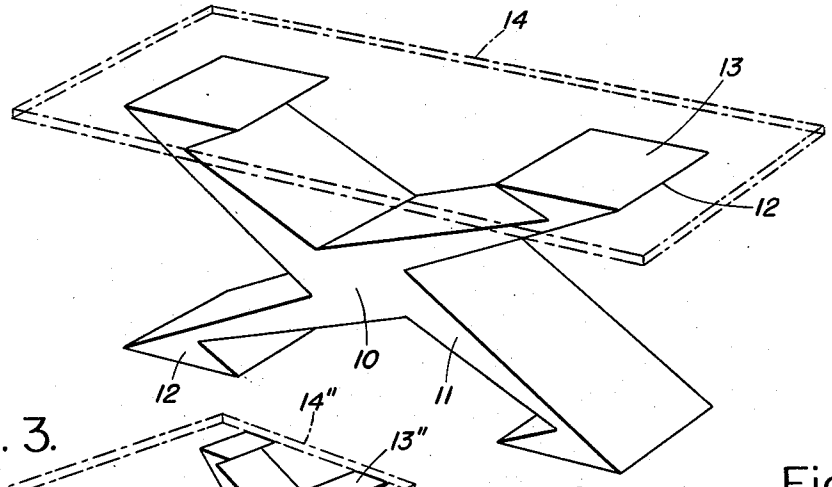


Fig. 3.

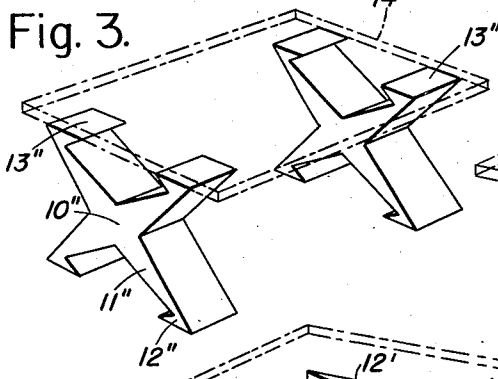
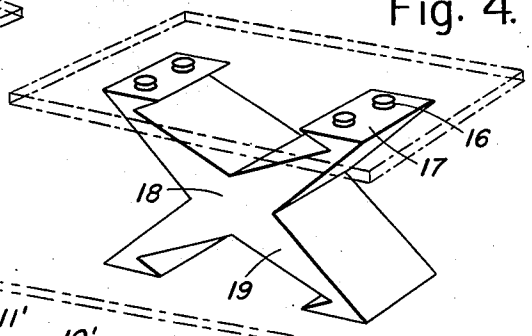


Fig. 4.



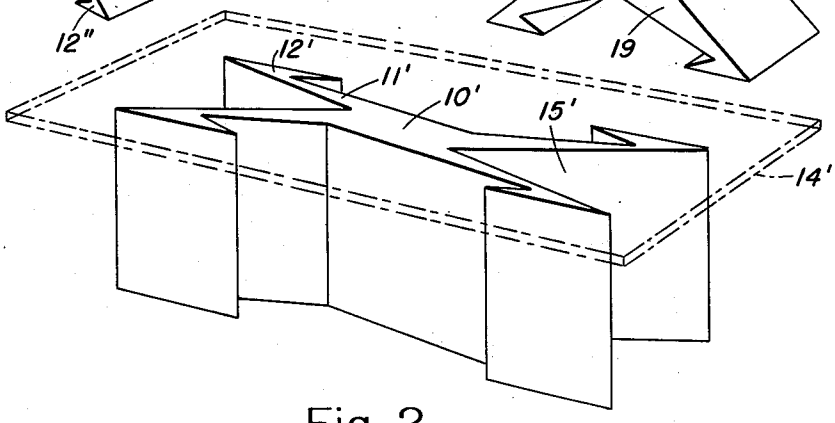


Fig. 2.

INVENTOR.
HELEN VARNER FRYE
BY Donald F. McCarthy
ATTORNEY

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CONVERTIBLE FURNITURE BASE

Helen Varner Frye, Sedona, Ariz.

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1 Claim. (Cl. 311—109)

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This invention relates to furniture, and more particularly to bases for tables, chairs, and the like.

It is an object of the invention to provide a furniture base which combines solidity of construction and large supporting capacity with economy of material and simplicity of manufacture.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a base for coffee tables, occasional tables and small tables of any description which, individually or combined in pairs, may be used in a variety of positions and with a variety of décors so as to permit various transformations in the appearance, height or design of the tables.

Another object of the invention is to provide a convertible base for tables and the like.

Other objects, and the manner in which the same are obtained, will be apparent from the following description.

In the drawing accompanying the specification and forming part thereof, specific embodiments of the invention are shown diagrammatically by way of example, but I wish it to be understood that I do not desire to be limited to the details of design, construction and operation shown and described as numerous modifications falling within the scope of the appended claim suggest themselves, without departing from the general concept of the invention.

In the drawing,

Fig. 1 is a diagrammatic showing, in perspective, of one embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 2 shows, in perspective, the base of Fig. 1 used in a different position;

Fig. 3 shows, in perspective, a table top resting on a pair of bases of the type shown in Figs. 1 and 2, while

Fig. 4 shows, in perspective, a modified form of the invention.

Referring now to the drawing, and more particularly to Fig. 1, the base according to the invention is shown as comprising a center portion 10 from which four legs 11 extend in a somewhat radial pattern, to terminate in base or supporting portions 12.

As seen in Fig. 1, the triangularly shaped supporting portions 12 offer comparatively large surfaces 13 for the support of the base on the floor, as well as for the support on the base of a table top 14 (shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1).

The large area of the supporting surfaces 12, and the associated construction of the legs 11 and the entire base insure a stable and rugged support of the base on the floor as well as of the

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table top or other structure supported by the base, while accomplishing a substantial economy of material.

In addition to this impressive stability and economy of material, bases of the invention present the additional facility, without significant variation in stability, of comprising lateral faces which can be made supporting surfaces as illustrated in Fig. 2, presenting a table of radically different appearance. By suitable variation in the décor of the faces at right angles to each other, an apparently complete transformation in the nature of the table can be accomplished. Moreover, by providing a suitable variation between the height and thickness of the base, as in Fig. 1, transformation to a lower table, such as a coffee table, is readily effected by laying the base over on its side as illustrated in Fig. 2.

Referring to Fig. 2, wherein parts corresponding to those shown in Fig. 1 are indicated by identical, but primed reference numerals, it is seen that the function of supporting surfaces is now assumed by the lateral faces of the base shown in Fig. 1, including the center portions 10', leg portions 11' and terminal portions 12' shown in Fig. 2. The total area of these supporting surfaces is very considerable compared to the economy of material used in the structure, so as to insure stability of support for the base on the floor, as well as for the table top 14' on the base.

Apart from being an essential factor in the economy of material used in the base, the somewhat triangular cut-outs or free spaces, indicated at 15' in Fig. 2, serve the additional purpose of accommodating the feet of people sitting around the coffee table.

The change of position, illustrated by Figs. 1 and 2, respectively, results in a signal change in the structural appearance of the table. Its modification may be emphasized still further by suitable variations in the décor of the base. Thus, the surfaces exposed to view as lateral faces of the table, in the position shown in Fig. 2, may be finished in colors or color-schemes different from the lateral faces of the table in the position shown in Fig. 1.

The furniture bases according to the invention may be used individually, as illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2, or, as shown in Fig. 3, combined in pairs, the table top 14'' in this instance being supported by the supporting surfaces 13'' of the two bases which also include center portions 10'', leg portions 11'' and supporting portions 12''.

This modification affords additional possibilities in varying the structural appearance and the

décor. For example, the lateral faces of the two bases shown in Fig. 3 which are on the outside may be finished in one color, and the lateral faces which in the drawing of Fig. 3 are located on the inside, may be finished in a different color. Manifestly, if these bases are turned around and used in positions where the former outside faces are located on the inside, and vice versa, the appearance of the table is changed markedly. Also, the faces of the cut-outs may be finished in colors and color-schemes different from the finish of the lateral faces and, if desired, different for the two bases. If the two bases are superposed in positions corresponding to the position of the single base shown in Fig. 2, where the faces of the cut-outs become the lateral faces of the table, there will again be a radical change in the appearance of the table. Thus, it will be seen that the novel bases lend themselves to a wide variety of variations or combinations which permit the user to adapt the table to various occasions as well as to a variety of interior decoration schemes.

The table top may simply rest on the supporting surfaces of the base when the nature of the materials employed for the base and top, respectively, is such as to provide for sufficient friction to minimize the danger of slipping. Preferably, the table top is held in place on the base by any conventional means of removable attachment or detent. Thus, sheets of rubber, for example, sponge rubber, may be placed, either removably or permanently attached, over the supporting surfaces such as surfaces 12 in Fig. 1, to hold the table top in place by friction.

As another example of a convenient mount for the table top, Fig. 4 illustrates a number of suction cups 16 made of rubber which are distributed over the supporting surfaces 17, and which by compression and the resulting vacuum created in the two end portions of the cup, attach securely to the base and in turn, firmly mount the table top. The base shown in Fig. 4 differs somewhat in design from the bases illustrated in Figs. 1, 2 and 3 in that the leg portions 19 extend from the center portions 18 in a symmetric pattern, as distinguished from the somewhat offset, off-center relationship of the corresponding portions 10 and 11 shown in Fig. 1, for example. This difference in design, however, entails no changes in the general function of the several parts, nor does it sacrifice any of the advantages enumerated above with reference to Figs. 1, 2 and 3.

While particular utility attaches to the use of the novel furniture bases according to the invention as supports for dining room tables, coffee tables, occasional tables and any other kind of standard or small tables, the bases are also adaptable for the support of seats, stools, book shelves and any other kind of furniture.

The simplicity of construction of the novel bases results in a signal reduction of manufacturing costs which permits the marketing of occasional tables and the like at prices which are but a fraction of the prices now prevailing which are so high because of the costly cabinet work involved in the construction of conventional furniture. The simple construction of the present bases invites manufacture on a mass production basis whereby the cost is cut still further. In the manufacture of the novel bases, any convenient and economical process may be employed, the ultimate choice depending on the material used. Thus, molding, casting, pressing, stamping and similar processes may be used in the manufacture of these bases.

The novel bases according to the invention may be constructed of any type of material heretofore employed in furniture manufacture, but in view of the simplicity of construction and design, materials not so employed up to now may lend themselves for the manufacture of these bases in addition to the conventional materials. Thus, apart from wood of any description, including solid wood, plywood, sawdust or composite fibrous materials, metals, including chromium plated steel, etc., or glass, plastic compositions of any description may lend themselves particularly well to the purposes of the invention. The novel bases may be provided with a variety of décors, such as ornamentation, colors or color-schemes, which when applied to the several faces of one base, or to the members of a pair of bases used jointly, may result in numerous striking variations in the appearance of the table or the like.

I claim:

A self-supporting convertible base for tables and the like comprising a unitary structure having a solid central portion, four legs integral with said central portion and projecting radially whereby there is provided a structure in the general form of an X, the front and rear faces of said X lying in spaced apart parallel planes whereby said base has sufficient thickness to support itself in a vertical position, each of said legs tapering in thickness from said central portion toward its end, the upper and lower opposed surfaces of the legs being offset near their outer ends and extending inwardly toward each other so that there is provided at the outer end of each leg a substantially triangularly-shaped portion having one apex at the end of each leg and providing parallel flat surfaces at the top and bottom of said X, said triangularly-shaped offset portions of said legs extending inwardly to the left on right radially extending legs and inwardly to the right on left radially extended legs whereby when said base is in said vertical position there is a V-shaped notch at each side of said base between adjoining legs and a diamond-shaped notch with one apex cut off at the top and bottom of said base between adjoining legs.

HELEN VARNER FRYE.

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