May 24, 1932. W. C. WETMORE 1,859,320

ONE-LEGGED TABLE

Filed July 19, 1928

Fig. 1.

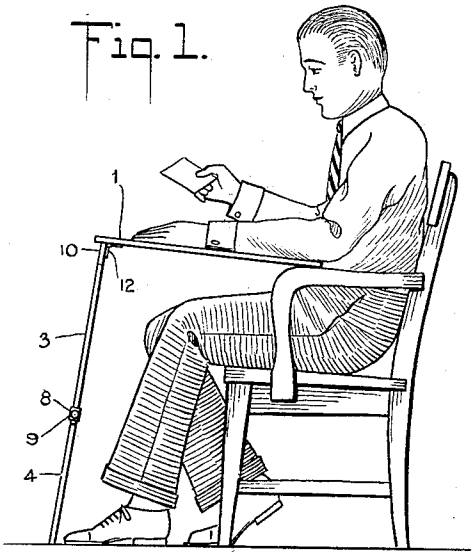


Fig. 2.

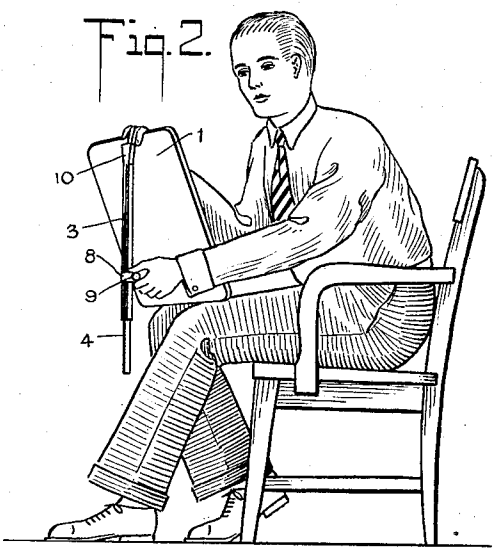


Fig. 3.

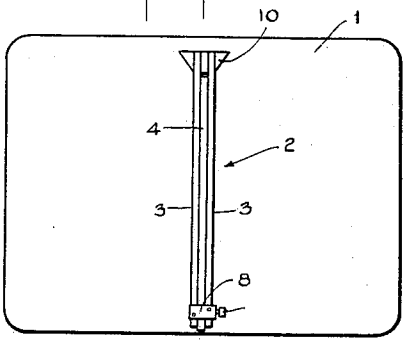


Fig. 4.

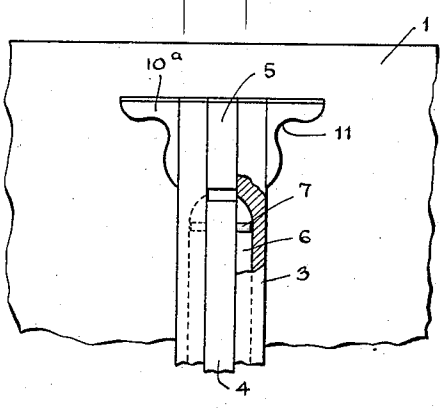
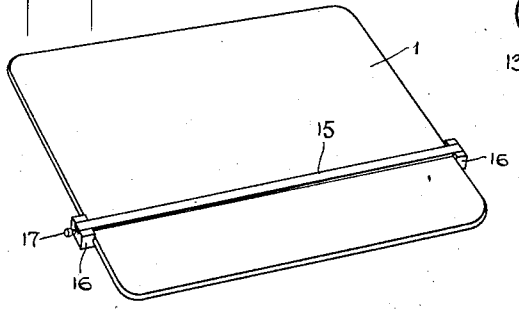


Fig. 6.



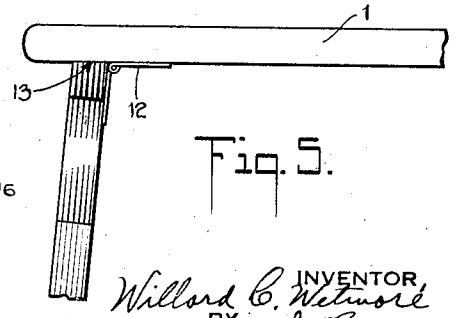


Fig. 5.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

WILLARD C. WETMORE, OF SAYBROOK, CONNECTICUT

ONE-LEGGED TABLE

Application filed July 19, 1928. Serial No. 293,871.

My invention relates to one-legged tables, suitable for use in playing card games, especially solitaire, writing, and other uses for which lap boards are usually employed.

The object is to provide a table of convenient size, having a single, extensible, and readily adjustable, folding leg, so constructed and arranged as to practically automatically remain in table-top supporting position, when the table is in use, without necessity for a definite fastening, to properly laterally brace the leg, and to arrange the upper leg structure or lateral brace as a convenient finger-grip for the easy carrying of the table when the leg is in "folded" position.

Further features and objects of the invention will be more fully understood from the following detail description of the accompanying drawings, in which

Fig. 1 is a side elevation, showing a table, embodying the invention in one form, in use.

Fig. 2 is a similar view, explaining one mode of manipulating or adjusting the leg.

Fig. 3 is a bottom plan with the leg folded.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged detail in bottom plan, showing a somewhat modified brace and finger-grip construction.

Fig. 5 is a detail, in side elevation, enlarged.

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the table top, showing an adjustable and detachable ledge or cleat, which may be provided when desired.

The table-top 1 may be of any suitable material or construction—usually wood. The leg 2 is foldable and extensible. For the purpose of extension or adjustment, it comprises spaced side-bars 3 and an intermediate bar 4 slidably mounted between them. The upper ends of bars 3 are held in spaced relation by an interposed block 5. Slide bars 3 have channels 6 in their inner faces, and a pin 7 passing through the upper end of bar 4 has its ends located in the channels to guide that part of bar 4 slidably in relation to the outer bars. The lower ends of the side bars are connected and spaced by a metal fitting or clip 8, which also has a threaded aperture to receive a clamping screw 9 which passes through one of the side bars and has direct or indirect engagement with the sliding bar. The details of this adjusting clamp may vary and are therefore not particularly illustrated. Blocks 10, Fig. 3, are secured to outer faces of the upper ends of the side bars, these blocks together constituting a lateral brace to prevent lateral tilting of the leg or sidewise wabbling of the top upon the leg when the table is in use. As shown in Fig. 3, these brace blocks may be of simple triangular form, and in that case their angular faces serve as finger-grips to enable the table to be carried conveniently when the leg is in folded position. Otherwise, as shown in Fig. 4, the braces 10*a* may have in their outward sides, finger-socket formations 11 affording more positive means for insertion of two fingers of one hand for the secure and easy carrying of the table.

The leg is foldably secured to the top by a hinge 12, the upper end of the leg being arranged centrally and near one edge at the top, and the hinge being located at the inward side of the leg to enable the leg to be folded flat against the under surface of the top and to be located entirely within the area of the top when in collapsed condition, as sufficiently shown in Fig. 3.

To practically automatically retain the leg in proper extended or table supporting position as shown in Fig. 1, the upper face 13 of the composite leg structure, (that is, the upper faces of the various parts 3, 5 and 10 or 10*a*), is beveled, or "finished" at an acute angle to the leg axis, so that the leg naturally assumes a slightly angular or tilted position in relation to the top, that is to say, the leg assumes an angular position relative to the under face of the top of an angle greater than 90°, when the beveled end of the leg engages the under face of the top, the free end of the leg being positioned beyond the contour of the sides of the top. Accordingly, when the table is in use the weight of the top and pressure applied to it tend to retain the leg in its proper extended or top supporting position when the forward part of the top rests upon the lap of the user, or upon chair arms, as shown in Fig. 1.

As appears from the drawings, the adjust-

able leg is pivotally connected to the under face of the table top at the side opposite to the position of the user and to swing in a vertical plane transverse to the direction of length of the top, that is to say, to swing in a plane at right angles to the top and to the inner and outer edges of the top. Accordingly, when it is desired to place the table in position for use, the user grasps the table top in a natural position and tilts the opposite side of the top upwardly, to automatically swing the leg to its proper position. Upon the leg swinging to engage at its upper face 13 with the under face of the table top, as is illustrated in Fig. 1, the leg is thereby located in "rigid" engagement with the table and such "rigid" engagement is not disturbed in the normal use of the table.

Should it be desired to adjust or readjust the leg, the simple movement of tilting the opposite side of table top upwardly automatically swings the lower portion of the leg, and therewith the clamping screw 9, within convenient reach of the user for attaining such adjustment.

By pivoting the leg to the table top to swing transversely of the direction of length of the table top, the setting up and collapsing of the table is most conveniently and effectively accomplished; such arrangement also facilitates the manual grasping of the table by its leg when setting up and storing away.

Fig. 2 shows how the adjustment screw 9 may easily be manipulated to extend the leg to any desired length for the support of the top at the proper elevation and angle.

A ledge or cleat 15 is desirably provided in some cases to retain objects or articles, such as cards, upon the table. This cleat consists of a strip of suitable material, usually wood, of moderate thickness, extending across the table top and having at its ends clamping blocks 16 socketed to engage the edges of the top. One of these blocks is movable and is held in clamping relation to the table top by a screw 17, so that the cleat may be moved to any desired position toward or away from the body of the user and then secured by manipulation of the screw; or if not wanted, the cleat may easily be removed from the table by loosening the screw.

I claim:

1. A table of the class described, comprising a top, a leg hingedly connected to the under surface of the top near the outer edge thereof and adapted to swing in a plane at right angles to the top and to the inner and outer edges of the top, the upper end of said leg being beveled to incline the leg at an angle greater than a right angle and to project the free end of the leg beyond the contour of the sides of the top when said beveled end of the leg engages the surface of said top, said leg serving as the sole leg of the table, the table being arranged to be supported when in use by supplemental support in addition to said sole leg.

2. A table of the class described, comprising a top, a leg hingedly connected to the under surface of the top near the outer edge thereof and adapted to swing in a plane at right angles to the top and to the inner and outer edges of the top, the upper end of said leg being beveled to incline the leg at an angle greater than a right angle and to project the free end of the leg beyond the contour of the sides of the top when said beveled end of the leg engages the surface of said top, said leg serving as the sole leg of the table, the table being arranged to be supported when in use by supplemental support in addition to said sole leg.

In testimony whereof I have signed this specification this 22nd day of May, 1928.

WILLARD C. WETMORE.