

Oct. 19, 1943.

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2,332,291

MOVABLE TABLE TOP

Filed Aug. 11, 1941

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

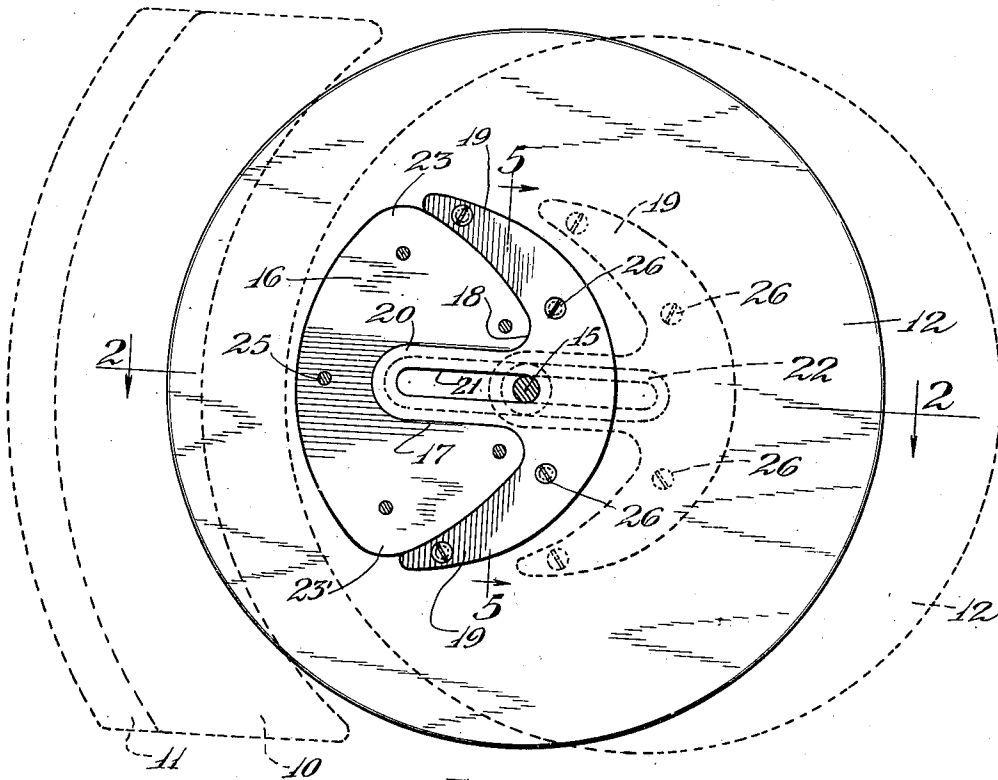


Fig. 1.

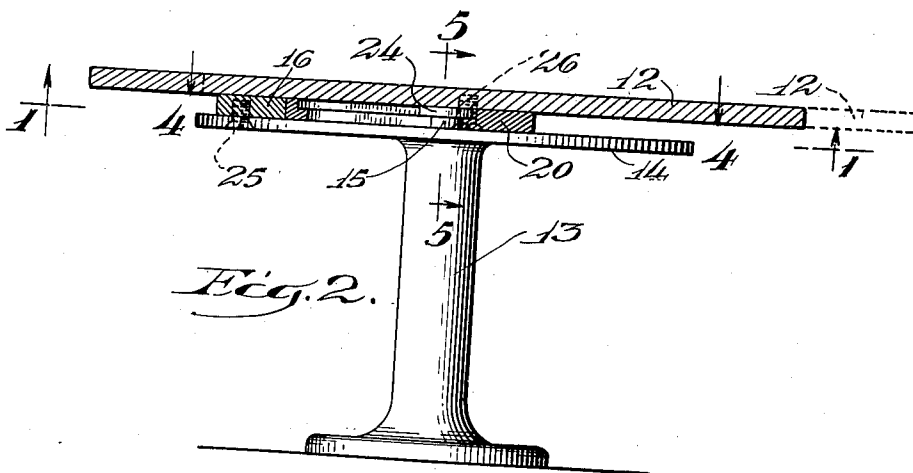


Fig. 2.

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Fig. 3.

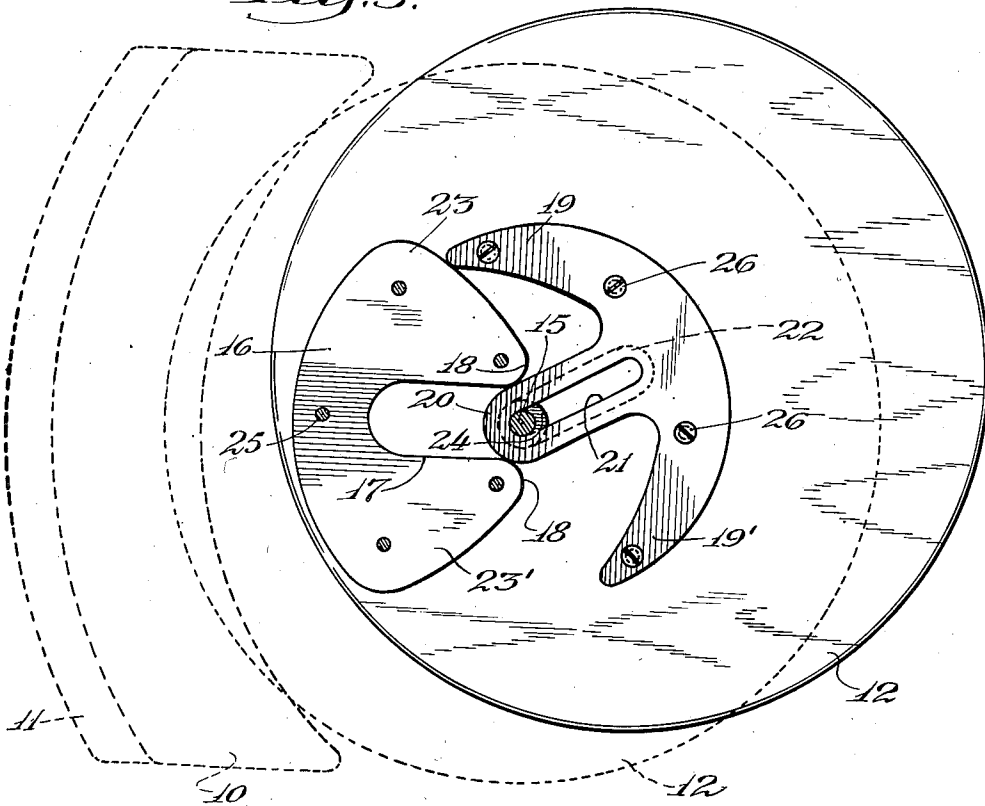


Fig. 4.

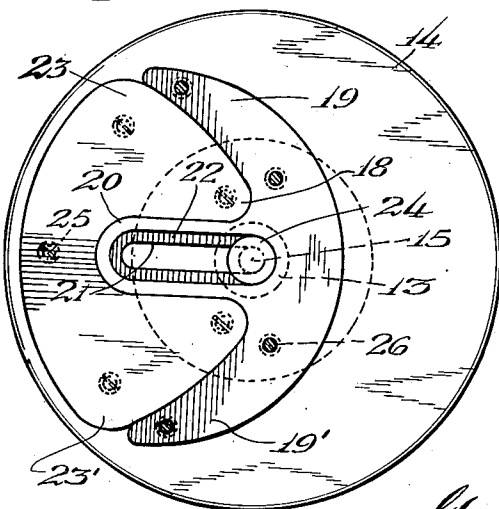
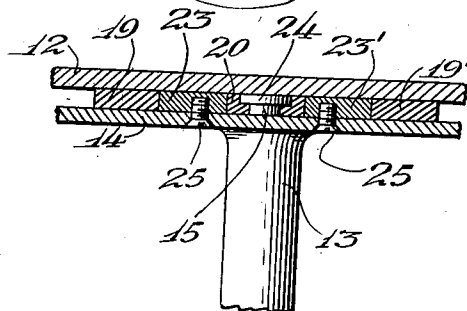


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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MOVABLE TABLE TOP

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8 Claims. (Cl. 311—35)

This invention relates to improvements in tables, and particularly to a movable table top which may be shifted successively first in a straight line and thereafter while so extended in a direction laterally or angularly to its first line of movement.

The invention is particularly adapted for use in combination with tables whose bases are set in a relatively fixed position adjacent to and for use with relatively fixed seats. Such tables are often used in combination with relatively fixed seats both by reason of ornamental design or economy or both.

For example, at present much use is made in restaurants and in places of amusement of circular or disk-like table tops supported on a single standard, the tables being positioned adjacent to semi-circular or arcuate fixed seats or benches. It is evident that for convenience in the use of such tables adjacent to such seats that the clearance between the periphery of the table and the back of the seat must be limited, and that occupants must enter between such seats and tables individually and successively. Also to permit egress of one of the intermediate occupants from around such a circular table requires the other occupants to arise and even precede him in the direction of his desired exit. The use of tables adjacent to such fixed seats, even though the base of the table be not firmly secured to the floor, often causes a disturbance of the contents of the table when an intermediate occupant of the seat or bench attempts to arise and leave the table.

Tables of this nature whether their standards are fixed or relatively fixed to the floor often also find use in connection with stationary elongated seats in the so-called "breakfast nooks" of many homes either by reason of economy of space or design and like problems of ingress or egress from the table are present. The same holds true of similar seating arrangements in automobile trailers and the like compact installations.

It is therefore an object of my invention to provide a table top which may be mounted on a standard or a like mounting support therefor, such standard being either fixed or positioned adjacent to an elongated continuous seat which with its back is substantially parallel to a peripheral or side edge portion of the table top, the table top being provided with means whereby it may be extended first in a straight line in a direction away from the seat, on an axis passing through the center of the table and through the center of the seat, so as to provide an en-

larged space, and thereafter may be additionally moved laterally or pivoted angularly to said axis of first movement, this second movement providing an enlarged space in the direction wherefrom a person may enter or leave without disturbing other occupants of the seat, or without disturbing articles supported on the table such as would be occasioned by movement of the table standard and top simultaneously.

Other objects relate to the economies of construction and the details and arrangement of parts, and particularly the means whereby the table top may be returned in a continuous guided movement from its extended position as aforesaid to its normal centered position, and as more particularly set forth in the following specification and drawings wherein:

Fig. 1 is a sectional view of my novel table top taken on the line 1—1 of Fig. 2, shown in its normal position and straight slidably extended position in dotted lines.

Fig. 2 is a side elevational view with parts in section of my novel table.

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2 showing my novel table top in pivotally extended position, and its normal position in dotted lines.

Fig. 4 is a section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary view partly in section on the line 5—5 of Fig. 2 and Fig. 1.

Referring to the drawings, 10 indicates an elongated semi-circular or arcuate seat or bench having a similarly shaped back 11, and 12 indicates a circular or disk-like table top. It will be understood, however, that the seat 10 as illustrated is purely diagrammatic and may be of longer or shorter arc, and that the table top 12 is not of necessity circular. Thus, for example, a plurality of rectangular or substantially rectangularly topped tables may be positioned close to each other with but little endwise clearance adjacent to a single elongated seat which may be straight or curved to a more or less degree on a large radius, such as is common in many places affording entertainment in combination with restaurant facilities. It is also contemplated that rectangular tables may be used with straight seats in small apartments or trailers and the like places, and other intermediate shapes of tables and seats may likewise be used, and it will therefore be understood that the form of circular table top and arcuate elongated seat shown in the drawings and hereinafter described is solely for the purpose of illustration and not by way of limitation.

My novel slidably and pivotal table top and its

operative parts as hereinafter described may be constructed as a single unit for attachment to suitable supporting means such as the standard 13 illustrated in the drawings. Thus while my novel table top may be initially fixed to a suitable support or standard, it is so constructed and arranged that it may be affixed to an existing standard in place of a fixed top in replacement installations. The means whereby my novel table top may be secured to a support such as the base 13 comprises a supporting plate 14, this supporting plate 14 being secured to the standard 13 or other support such as table legs, in any conventional manner, and therefore details thereof are not specifically shown in the drawings.

Positioned axially of the supporting plate 14 is a headed keeper pin 15. This keeper pin may extend only into the plate 14 or if desired may be extended into the standard 13. Although not shown, the supporting plate 14 may be provided with an upwardly projecting flange so as to aid in preventing dripping of oil from the moving or movable parts positioned between it and the table top 12. Secured to the supporting plate 14 is a table top centering and supporting, guideway member 16 formed with a slot 17, the said slot having a mouth 18 which opens adjacent to the keeper pin 15, in a manner whereby the keeper pin is centered axially of the slot 17. Secured to the table top by means of a pair of laterally extending rocker arms 19 and 19' is a tongue 20 provided with a slot 22. This tongue 20 is slidable within and is formed complementary to the slot 17 of the guideway, and is slidably and pivotally retained by the keeper pin 15. The tongue 20 is undercut around the slot opening 21, as at 22, for reception of the head 24 of the keeper pin 15 so as to permit the tongue 20 and its laterally extending rocker arms 19 and 19' which are secured to the table top 12 to slide freely on the supporting plate 14 while permitting the table top to slide freely over the guideway member 16. In the form of construction illustrated it will be noted that the guideway member 16 and the tongue 20 and its associated rocker arms, which are complementary to the guideway member 16, extend for a sufficient distance about the axial center of the table top to provide ample support for it in its normal position, and likewise form a balanced support when the table top is slidably and pivotally extended, the slidably extended position being illustrated in dotted lines of Fig. 1 and are pivotally extended position being illustrated in full in Fig. 3.

In positioning the table, or table top, for association with a fixed seat in the manner hereinbefore set forth, the common axis of the slots 21 and 17 are aligned with the center of the seat 10 and in a manner whereby the mouth 18 of the guideway 16 extends away from the seat 10. In order to slidably extend the table top 12 it is only necessary to push it from a point preferably adjacent to the center of the seat 10 a distance permitted by the length of the slot 21, as shown in the dotted lines in Fig. 1, and thereafter the table top may be rotated in either clockwise or counter-clockwise direction about the keeper pin 15 as a pivot as shown in Fig. 3. This second pivotal movement provides angularly increased space between the peripheral table top and the seat 10 or its back 11 and is particularly desirable when tables are arranged in small spaces such as a series of tables closely adjacent to each other, or within booths or trailers or

the like spaces, and provides an enlarged space adjacent one end of the seat or in the direction in which the person desires to enter or leave the seat in addition to that afforded by the straight line shifting.

By provision of the rocker arms 19 and 19', pivotal movement may be limited by abutment of the arms 19 or 19' against the extended shoulders 23, 23', respectively of the guideway member 16. It will also be noted that the tip of the tongue 20 is curved as are the lips of the mouth 18 and that the parts are arranged so that the tip of the tongue remains partially within the said lips, and thus when it is desired to return the table top to its normal center position from the limited extended position shown in Fig. 3, pressure against the periphery of the table top 12 guides the tongue 20 by a rolling motion against the lips 18 of the guideway so as to smoothly and successively cause the table top to be returned from its pivotally extended position into guided slidable position into the slot 17.

The guideway member 16 may be suitably secured to the mounting plate 14 by a plurality of screws 25, and the tongue 20 and its associated rocker arms 19 and 19' may be secured to the table top by suitable means such as a plurality of screws 26.

It will be understood that although as shown the tongue 20 is formed integral with the rocker arms 19 and 19', these members may be formed separately, and the rocker arms may merely comprise suitably positioned abutment members. Other like changes in details will be evident to those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit of my invention.

It will also be evident that although I have not illustrated it in my drawings, locking means may be employed such as a detent and locking slot and like well known means for either yieldably or positively retaining the table top in its normal centered position; that such means be manually or spring operated; and such locking means may also be positioned at various points such as extending from the table top into the keeper pin 15 or between a rocker arm 19 and an abutment shoulder 23.

I claim as my invention:

1. A table top comprising means for relative movement thereof with respect to a standard or the like supporting means therefor, said means comprising a mounting plate, an axially positioned keeper pin thereon, a slotted guideway member having a mouth opening adjacent said keeper pin, and a complementary slotted slide-way tongue secured to said table top and slidably and pivotally engaged to said keeper pin for slidable movement within said guideway and for pivotal movement exteriorly thereof in a clockwise and counter-clockwise direction about said keeper pin as a pivot.

2. A table top comprising means for relative movement thereof with respect to a standard or the like supporting means therefor, said means comprising a mounting plate, an axially positioned keeper pin thereon, a slotted guideway member having a mouth opening adjacent said keeper pin, and a complementary slotted slide-way tongue secured to said table top and slidably and pivotally engaged to said keeper pin for slidable movement within said guideway and for pivotal movement exteriorly thereof in a clockwise and counter-clockwise direction about said keeper pin as a pivot, the said tongue being provided with laterally extending rocker arms at

the root thereof for limiting said pivotal movement by abutment against shoulders extending from said guideway.

3. A table top comprising means for relative movement thereof with respect to a standard or the like supporting means therefor, said means comprising a mounting plate, an axially positioned keeper pin thereon, a slotted guideway member having a mouth opening adjacent said keeper pin, and a complementary slotted slide-
way tongue secured to said table top and slidably and pivotally engaged to said keeper pin for slidable movement within said guideway and for pivotal movement exteriorly thereof in a clockwise and counter-clockwise direction about said keeper pin as a pivot, the said tongue being provided with laterally extending rocker arms at the root thereof for limiting said pivotal movement by abutment against shoulders extending from said guideway, the terminus of said tongue and the mouth of said guideway being constructed and arranged in a manner whereby the table top may be urged from its extended limits to its normally centered position in a guided continuous path.

4. A table having a standard and a top in slidable and pivotal engagement therewith and comprising a mounting plate secured over said standard, a keeper pin extending axially of said plate, an abutment and table top centering and supporting slotted guideway member formed with a mouth opening from one side thereof and secured to said mounting plate in a manner whereby the said keeper pin extends medially of and adjacent to the mouth of said slot, and a complementary slotted tongue slidable in said guideway having laterally extending arms and secured to the under side of said table top, the said keeper pin extending within said slot and retaining said tongue in slidable engagement within said guideway and in pivotal engagement exteriorly thereof, the said mounting plate, and the said tongue and arms thereof being constructed and arranged whereby pivotal movement in a clockwise and counter-clockwise direction is limited by abutment of said laterally extending arms against said guideway member.

5. A circular table top adapted to be positioned on a relatively stationary standard or the like support therefor in operative position adjacent a relatively fixed seat and having means for permitting said table top to be moved successively away from said seat on an axis extending through the center of said table and said adjacent seat and thereafter at an angle to said axis, said means comprising a mounting plate adapted to be axially secured to said support, a keeper pin extending axially of said plate, an abutment and table top centering and supporting slotted guideway member formed with a mouth opening from one side thereof and secured to said mounting plate in a manner whereby the said keeper pin extends medially of and adjacent to the mouth of said slot, and a complementary slotted tongue

slidable in said guideway having laterally extending arms and secured to the underside of said table top, the said keeper pin extending within said slot and retaining said tongue in slidable engagement within said guideway and in pivotal engagement exteriorly thereof, the said mounting plate, and the said tongue and arms thereof being constructed and arranged whereby pivotal movement in a clockwise and counter-clockwise direction is limited by abutment of said laterally extending arms against said guideway member.

6. A table top adapted for relative movement thereof with respect to a standard or the like supporting means therefor whereby said table top may be successively shifted in a straight line and then laterally at an angle to said first direction of movement, comprising a mounting surface for said top adapted to be fixedly secured to said standard, an axially positioned keeper pin on said mounting surface, guideway means on said mounting surface extending radially from said keeper pin, and a complementary slotted slide-
way tongue secured to said top and slidably and pivotally retained by said keeper pin for slidable movement within said guideway means and pivoted movement outwardly thereof.

7. A table having a standard and a top in relative movable engagement therewith whereby said top may be successively shifted from its normal position with respect to said standard in a straight line and thereafter laterally and angularly about the normal axis of the standard, and comprising a mounting surface for said top fixedly secured to said standard, an axially positioned keeper pin on said mounting surface, guideway means on said mounting surface extending radially from said keeper pin, and a complementary slotted slideway tongue secured to said top and slidably and pivotally retained by said keeper pin for slidable movement within said guideway means and pivoted movement outwardly thereof.

8. A table having a circular top adapted to be positioned adjacent a seat of generally arcuate contour, said table comprising a top, a standard, a mounting surface for said top secured to said standard, an axially positioned keeper pin on said mounting surface, guideway means on said mounting surface extending radially of said keeper pin, a complementary slotted slideway tongue secured to said table top and slidably and pivotally engaged to said keeper pin for slidable movement within said guideway means and eccentric limited pivotal movement outwardly thereof, whereby said table top may be first shifted radially in a direction away from said seat to uniformly increase the spacing therebetween, and then pivotally about the normal axis of the table top on its supporting standard to provide an angular increased spacing between said top and said seat.

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