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(54) **HIGH CAPACITY MOVABLE
MERCHANDISE DISPLAY TABLE**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

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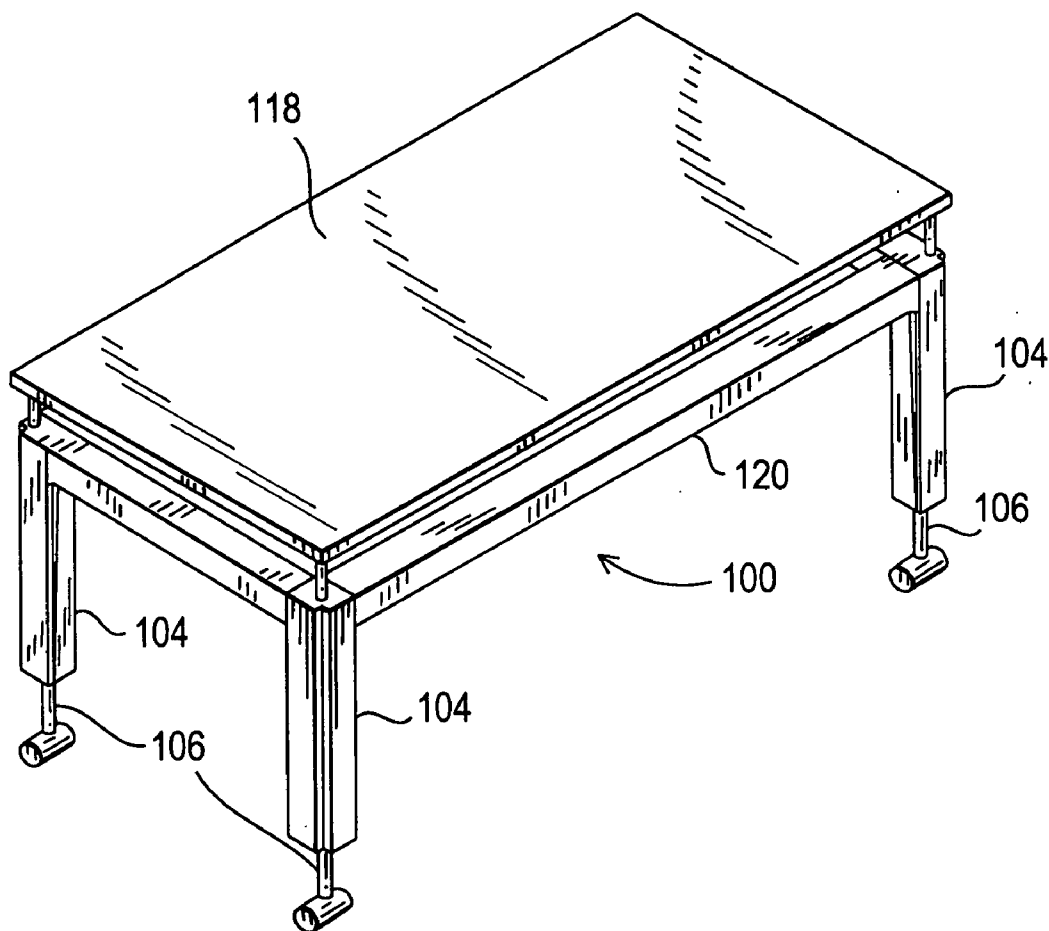
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A high capacity retail merchandise display table movable over a floor for repositioning the display table without having to disturb the merchandise includes a table top which may be spaced from the table base by steel rods to provide a floating effect, a table base having a plurality of vertically extending legs, and a plurality of structural steel supporting members extending downwardly from the legs and structurally tied thereto, with the table preferably being made of wood. The steel supporting members consist of a steel rod vertically extending from the leg and a horizontally extending tubular steel foot which forms both a structural support for the table and a caster housing for a ball bearing caster centrally mounted to a steel plate which spans the interior of the tubular foot. The ball bearing may have a diameter substantially less than the horizontal extent of the support plate to which it is mounted in the foot member.



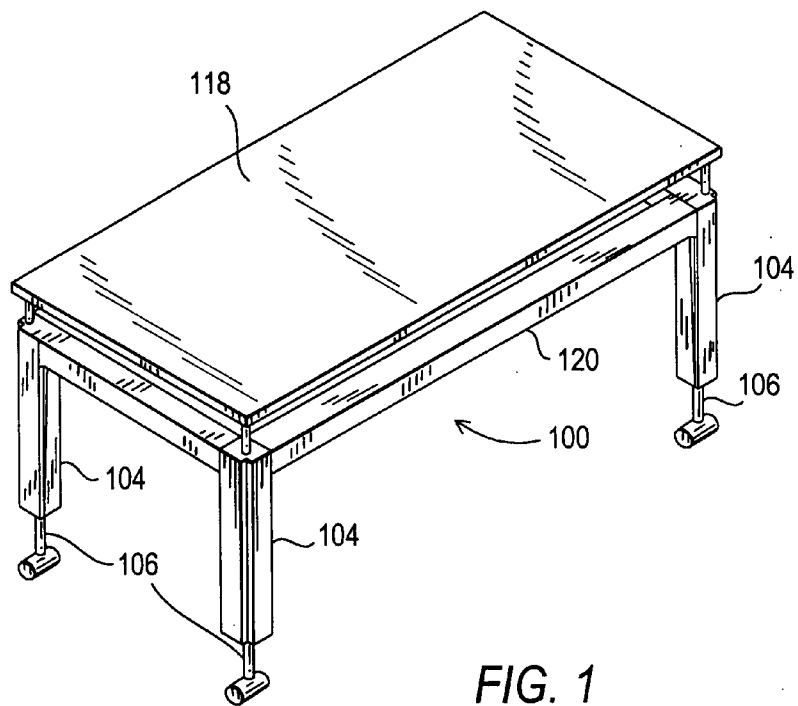


FIG. 1

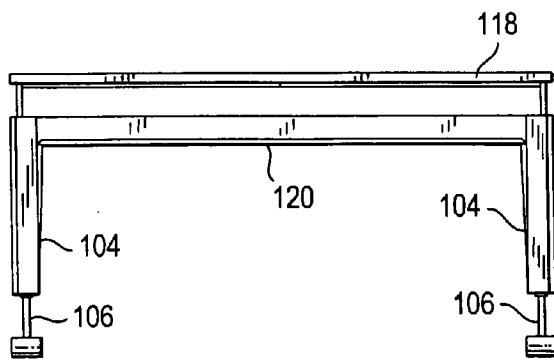


FIG. 2

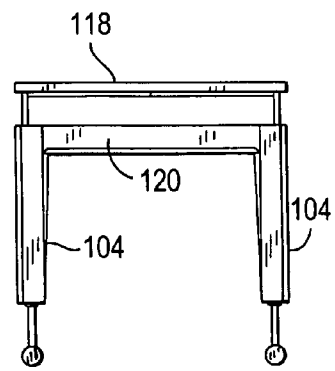


FIG. 3

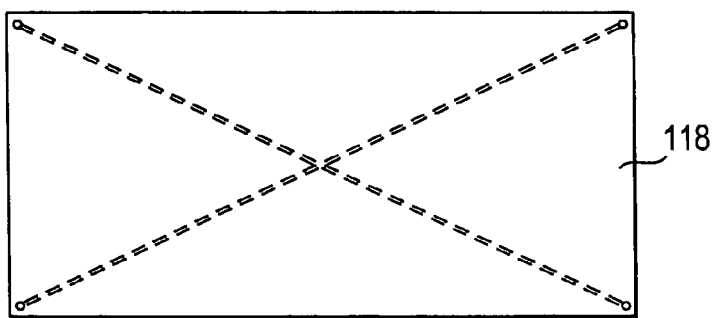
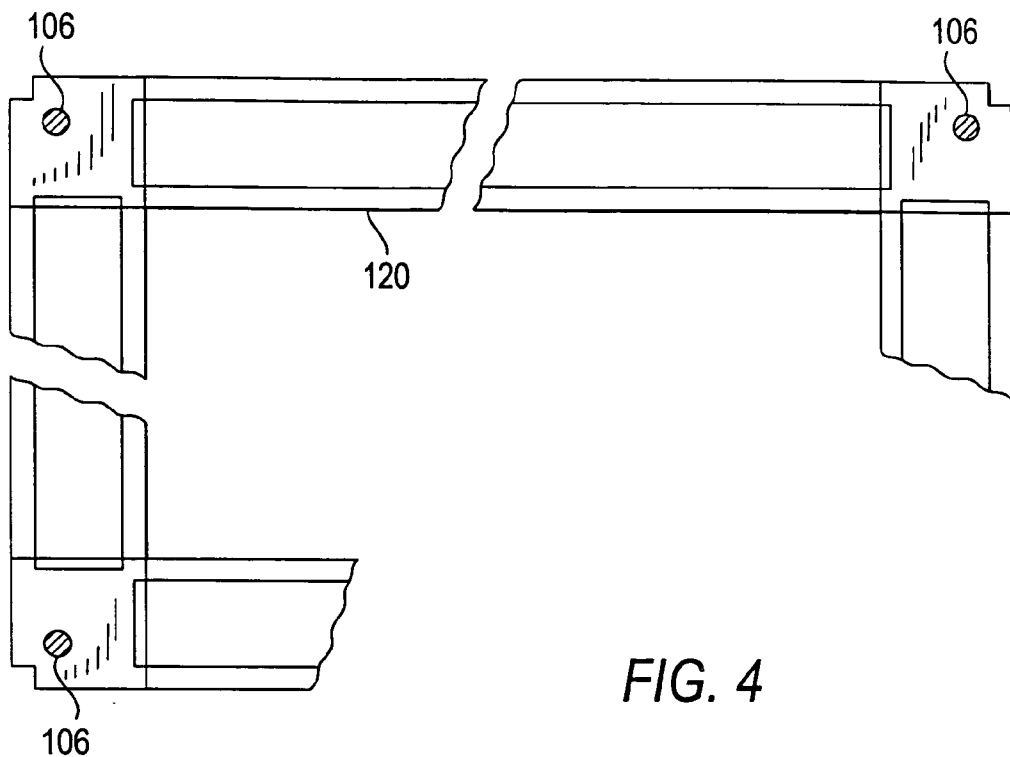


FIG. 5

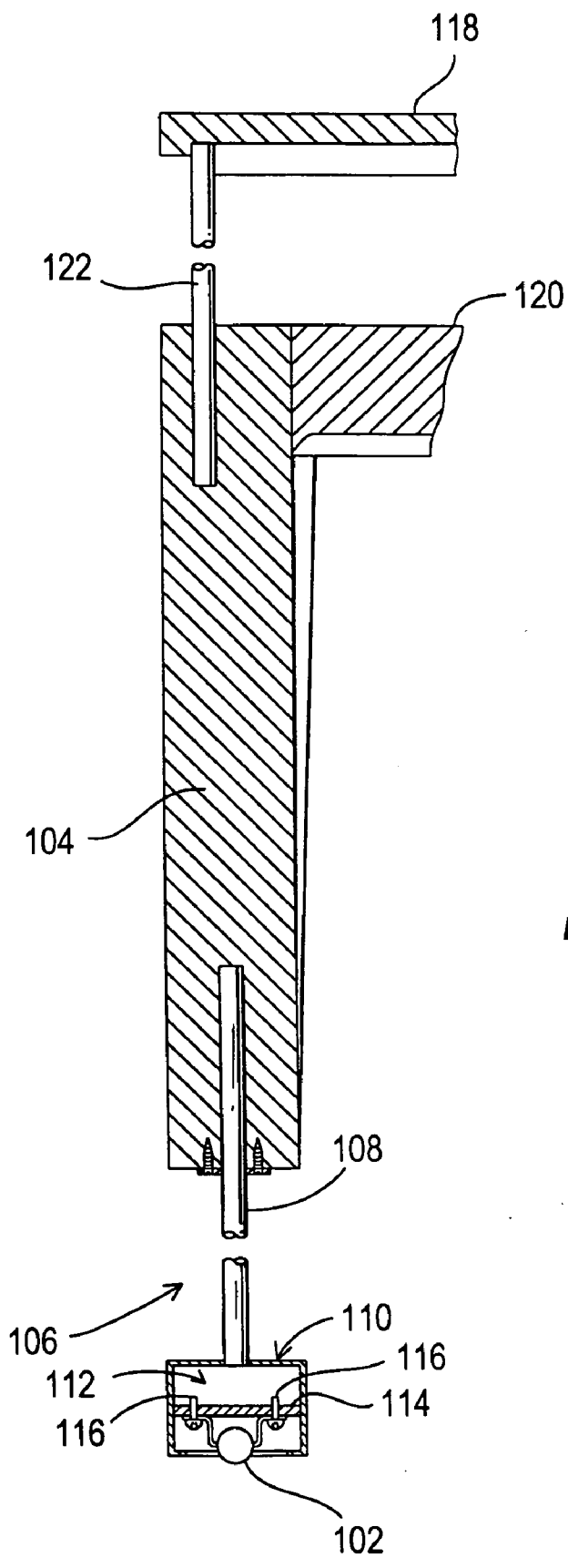


FIG. 6

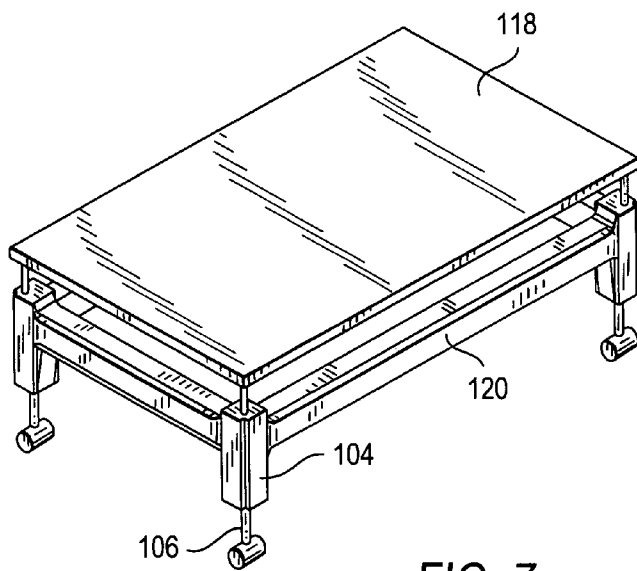


FIG. 7

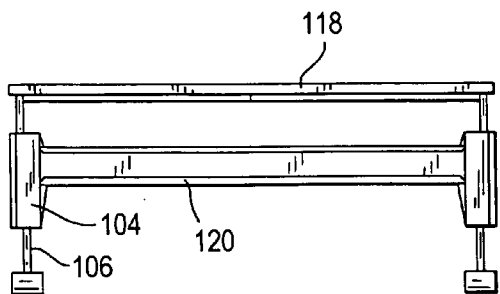


FIG. 8

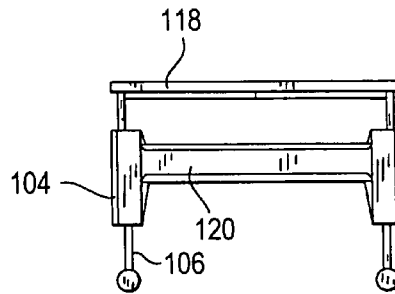


FIG. 9

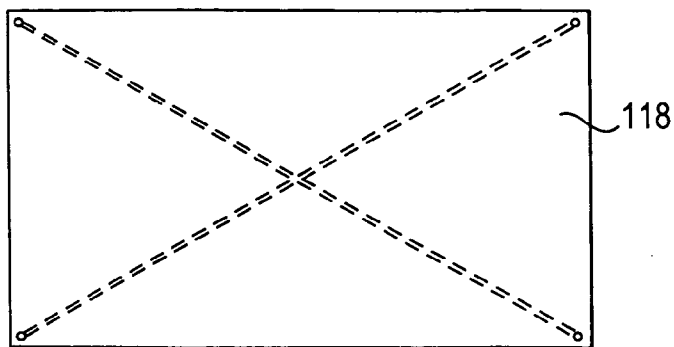


FIG. 10

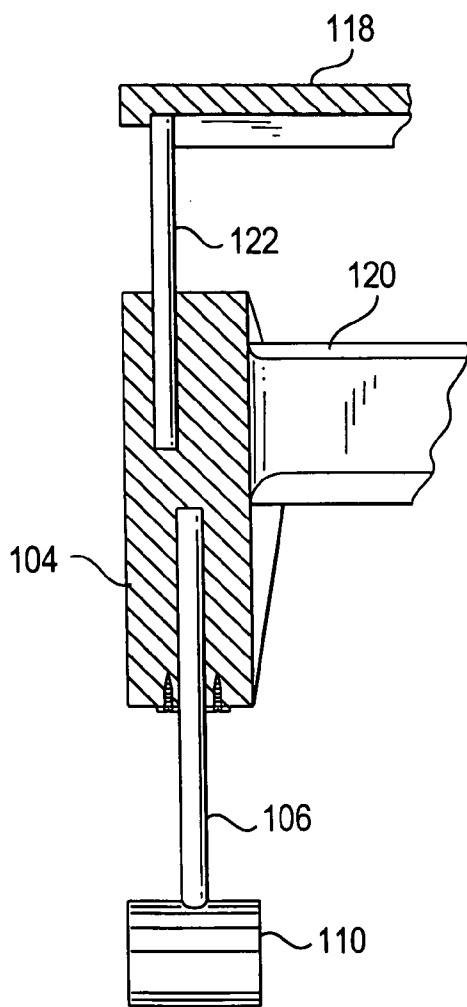


FIG. 11

**HIGH CAPACITY MOVABLE MERCHANDISE
DISPLAY TABLE**

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] 1. Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to the field of merchandise display fixtures and particularly to movable retail merchandise display tables which are both decorative and capable of bearing high capacity loads under both static and dynamic conditions.

[0003] 2. Description of the Prior Art

[0004] The art of display fixtures for retail merchandise is practically as old as mankind itself, as has the desire to be able to easily move the display fixture when loaded with merchandise from place to place without having to remove or rearrange the displayed merchandise before, during, and/or after a relocation of the display table. As such, retailers have always been faced with the dual problem of displaying merchandise in an aesthetic manner to attract the buyer as well as providing the best possible loading characteristics for the display fixture so that it doesn't collapse under the weight of the merchandise or when merchandise is moved to a new location for display. Attempts to solve this dilemma in a static display fixture have taken many forms such as illustrated, by way of example, in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,482,238; 4,585,131; 4,898,285; 6,053,460; 5,924,663; and 5,718,398; and British Patent No. GB 2,189,138. Moreover, although attempts have been made to use concealed casters in furniture or possibly in display fixtures, such concealed casters have a tendency to break under heavy loads during movement of the table. Thus, prior art solutions, to this have failed to effectively and satisfactorily combine aesthetics and high capacity load bearing support in an attractive movable retail merchandise display table. These problems in the prior art are overcome by the present invention which structurally integrates the decorative components of the movable display table with the dissimilar structural framework using an effective hidden caster arrangement mounted within a steel supporting member to provide a high capacity load bearing movable display table.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] A high capacity retail merchandise display table movable over a floor for repositioning the display table without having to disturb the merchandise includes a table top which may be spaced from the table base by steel rods to provide a floating effect, a table base having a plurality of vertically extending legs, and a plurality of structural steel supporting members extending downwardly from the legs and structurally tied thereto, with the table preferably being made of wood. The steel supporting members consist of a steel rod vertically extending from the leg and a horizontally extending tubular steel foot which forms both a structural support for the table and a caster housing for a ball bearing caster centrally mounted to a steel plate which spans the interior of the tubular foot. The ball bearing may have a diameter substantially less than the horizontal extent of the support plate to which it is mounted in the foot member.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0006] **FIG. 1** is a perspective view of a presently preferred embodiment of a movable merchandise display table in accordance with the present invention;

[0007] **FIG. 2** is a front view of the display table of **FIG. 1**;

[0008] **FIG. 3** is a side view of the display table of **FIG. 1**;

[0009] **FIG. 4** is a sectional view, taken along line A in **FIG. 2**, of the display table of **FIG. 1**;

[0010] **FIG. 5** is a plan view of the display table of **FIG. 1**;

[0011] **FIG. 6** is an enlarged partial view, in section, of the leg portion of the display table of **FIG. 1**;

[0012] **FIG. 7** is a perspective view of an alternative embodiment of the display table of **FIG. 1**;

[0013] **FIG. 8** is a front view of the display table of **FIG. 7**;

[0014] **FIG. 9** is a side view of the display table of **FIG. 7**;

[0015] **FIG. 10** is a plan view of the display table of **FIG. 7**; and

[0016] **FIG. 11** is an enlarged partial view, similar to **FIG. 6**, of the leg portion of the display table of **FIG. 7**.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE
PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS**

[0017] Referring now to the drawings in detail, and initially to **FIGS. 1-6**, the presently preferred embodiment of a high capacity movable retail merchandise display table **100** is shown. As shown and preferred, and as will be explained further, the display table preferably has hidden ball bearing casters **102** (**FIG. 6**) for each of the support legs **104** of the display table **100** to provide both static and dynamic support for the moving display table **100** without sacrificing any of its load bearing capacity or its aesthetics. As shown and preferred in **FIG. 6**, each of the support legs **104** of the table **100**, which is preferably made of wood, is supported on the floor by means of a steel supporting member **106**. The steel supporting member **106** preferably consists of a vertically extending steel support rod **108** which is structurally tied to and mounted in the wood support leg **104**, and a steel foot member **110** integrally formed therein and which is horizontally extending to maximize its supporting surface. The foot member **110** is preferably formed of tubular steel to provide a caster cavity **112** therein. A metal plate **114** preferably horizontally spans the caster cavity **112** and is structurally tied, such as by welding, to the walls of the foot member **110**. The ball bearing caster **102** is mounted in the caster cavity **112** to the metal plate **114**, such as by rivets or bolts **116**, to transfer any load through the structural steel support member **106**. As shown and preferred in **FIG. 6**, the ball bearing caster **102**, which is preferably centrally mounted within the cavity **112**, has a diameter which is substantially less than the horizontal extent of the plate **114** and is hidden within the cavity **112**. Preferably the protrusion of the rolling surface of the ball bearing caster **102** is such that it just permits rolling movement of the display table while enabling heavy loads on the display table **100** in a static condition to be borne primarily by the support member **106**. **FIG. 4** illustrates the positioning of the support members **106** about the display table **100**.

[0018] As further shown and preferred in FIGS. 1-6, the table top 118 may be suspended above the table base 120 which contains the wooden legs 104, by steel support rods 122 extending vertically upward from the wooden legs 104 of the base 120 in order to provide a floating effect for the table top 118. Preferably both the steel support members 106 and the steel table top support rods 122 are made of 1/2 inch diameter steel.

[0019] Referring now to FIGS. 7-11, an alternative embodiment 200 of the movable display table of FIG. 1 is shown. As illustrated in FIGS. 7-11, the principles are the same as in the embodiment 100 of FIGS. 1-6, with the basic difference being in the aesthetics of the display table 200, such as the height of the legs, etc. These aesthetic differences do not affect the structural arrangement and high capacity support provided by the present invention. FIG. 11 is similar to FIG. 6 but does not show the ball bearing caster which is hidden from view as it would be in normal use of the table.

[0020] While the present invention has been described herein with reference to specific embodiments, those examples are intended to only be illustrative thereof and are not intended to limit the spirit or scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A high capacity retail merchandise display table movable over a floor for repositioning the display table, said table comprising:

- a display table top for displaying retail merchandise thereon;
- a display table base, said table top being disposed above said base, said base having a plurality of legs vertically extending therefrom for supporting said table base above said floor; and
- a plurality of structural steel supporting members extending downwardly from said table base toward the floor, said structural steel supporting members being structurally tied to said legs with one of said supporting members extending from each of said legs, said table and said table legs being composed of a dissimilar material from said supporting members, each of said

structural steel supporting members comprising a vertically extending support rod and an integral horizontally extending tubular foot member, said tubular foot member comprising a caster housing for housing a hidden caster member within while providing structural support for said display table, said caster housing comprising a horizontally extending steel plate spanning the interior thereof and a steel ball bearing caster member structurally tied to said horizontally extending plate and hidden within said housing for providing rolling support for said display table.

2. A movable retail merchandise display table in accordance with claim 1 wherein said table dissimilar material is composed of wood.

3. A movable retail merchandise display table in accordance with claim 1 wherein said caster member is centrally disposed in said caster housing.

4. A movable retail merchandise display table in accordance with claim 3 wherein said ball bearing caster member has an associated diameter substantially less than the horizontal extent of said steel plate.

5. A movable retail merchandise display table in accordance with claim 4 wherein said display table top is suspended above said table base and spaced therefrom by a plurality of structural steel supporting members extending upwardly from said table legs, with one of said table top supporting members extending upwardly from each of said legs.

6. A movable retail merchandise display table in accordance with claim 5 wherein said table dissimilar material is composed of wood.

7. A movable retail merchandise display table in accordance with claim 1 wherein said display table top is suspended above said table base and spaced therefrom by a plurality of structural steel supporting members extending upwardly from said table legs, with one of said table top supporting members extending upwardly from each leg.

8. A movable retail merchandise display table in accordance with claim 7 wherein said table dissimilar material is composed of wood.

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