June 2, 1970 M. P. GLOWACKI 3,515,077

SLIDE ASSEMBLY FOR EXTENDABLE TABLES

Filed June 12, 1967 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1

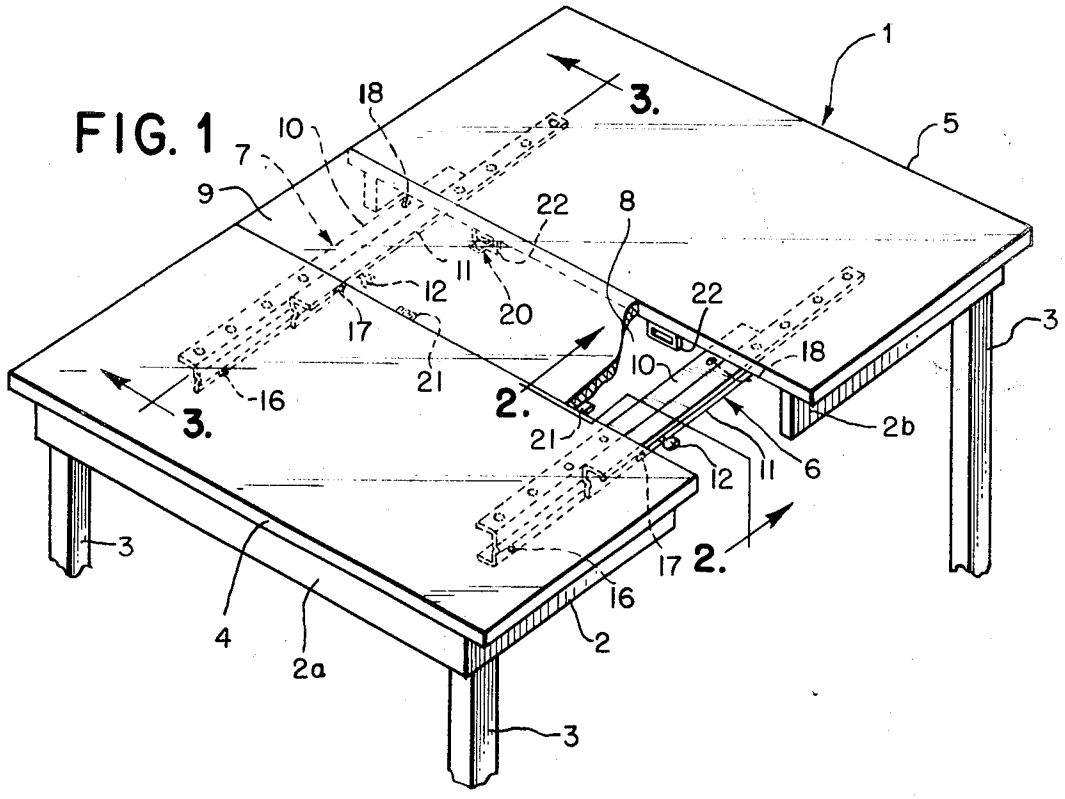


FIG. 2

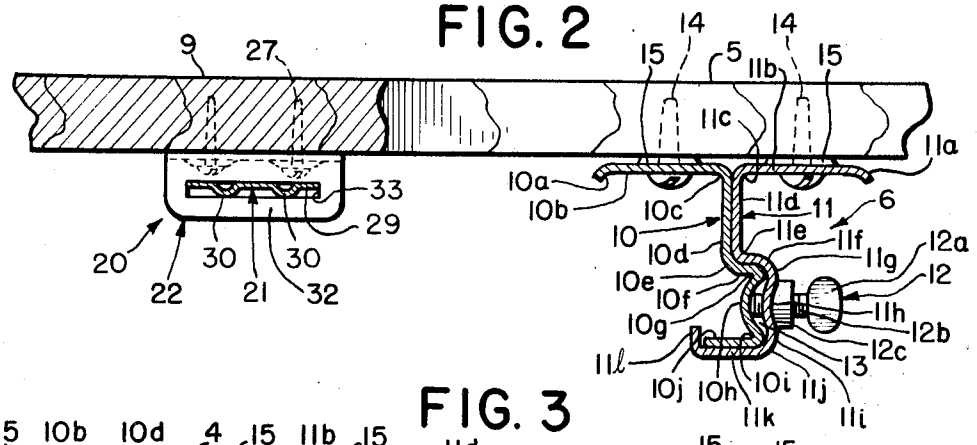
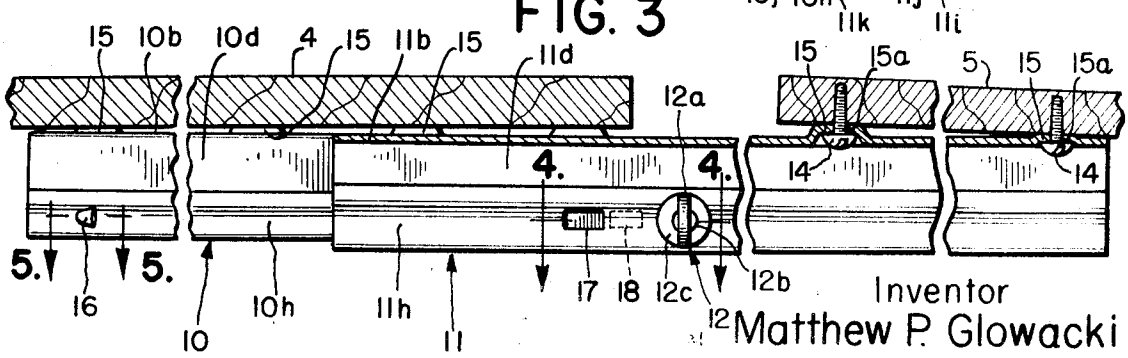


FIG. 3



Inventor
Matthew P. Glowacki

By Richard J. Myers
Attorney

June 2, 1970 M. P. GLOWACKI 3,515,077

SLIDE ASSEMBLY FOR EXTENDABLE TABLES

Filed June 12, 1967 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

FIG. 4

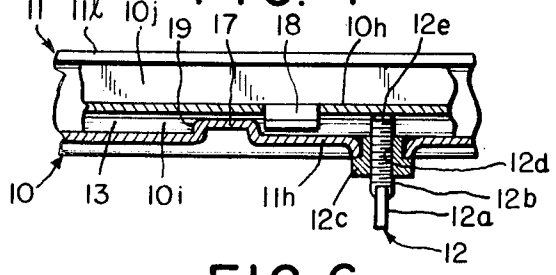


FIG. 5

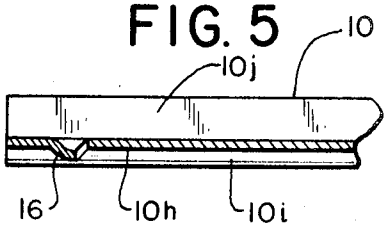


FIG. 6

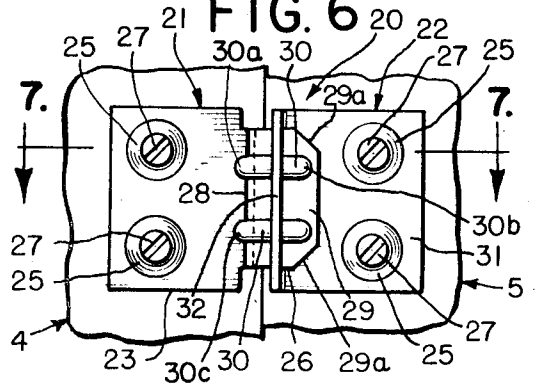
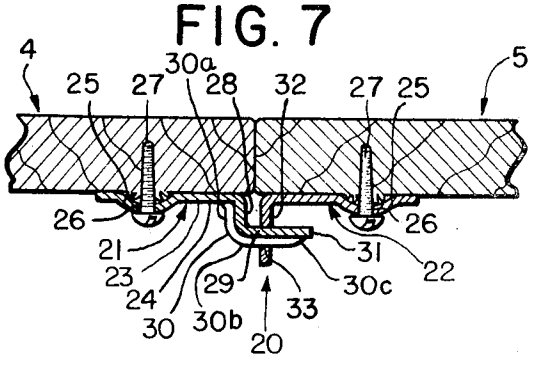


FIG. 7



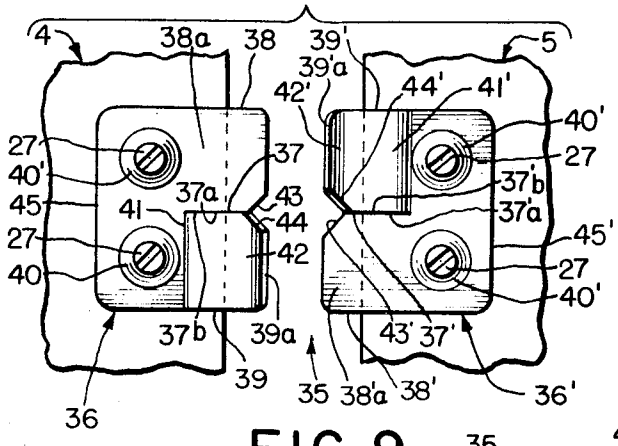


FIG. 8

FIG. 9

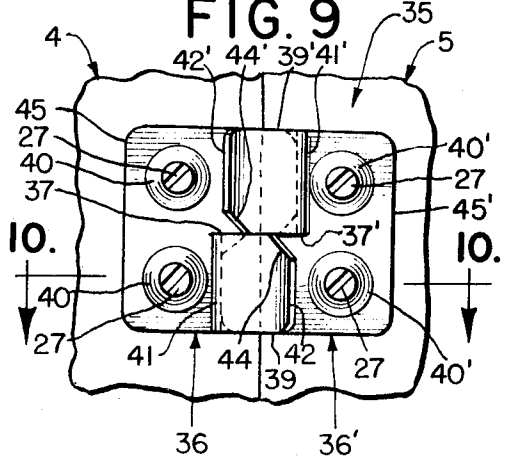
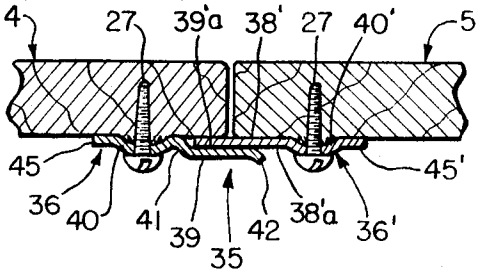


FIG. 10



Inventor

Matthew P. Glowacki

By Richard J. Myers

Attorney

United States Patent Office

3,515,077
Patented June 2, 1970

3,515,077

SLIDE ASSEMBLY FOR EXTENDABLE TABLES

Matthew P. Glowacki, 4447 N. Kenton,
Chicago, Ill. 60630

Filed June 12, 1967, Ser. No. 645,218
Int. Cl. A47b 1/02
U.S. Cl. 108—89 16 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A slide assembly for an extendable table including a pair of slide structures for allowing table portions to be separated from one another for placement of a table leaf between the table portions, each structure being a pair of inter-mating relatively sliding units, and lock means holding the units in locked non-slideable engagement with one another and whereby guide aligner means are provided on the table and leaf portions to intercouple the portions in correctly aligned relation with one another whereby each guide aligner means includes a pair of elements mounted on respective portions, the first mating element having a flat plate with corrugated lug portions for complemental alignment with a vertically extending slotted portion of the other mating element or the slide aligner means may comprise a pair of identically extruded and punched plate tab means, one of which is rotated 180° relative to the other for complemental interlocking with one another.

This invention relates to an improvement in slide assemblies for table and leaf portions attendant to increasing and decreasing the length of a table and in particular relates to a unique slide assembly which provides for intermating parts held together by fastening means which tend to separate each slide unit of the assembly from the other and wherein each slide element is provided with abutment means spaced longitudinally from one another to limit longitudinal movement of one slide unit with respect to the other and further comprehends guide means which permit the table leaf portions and the table portions to be properly aligned and nestle against one another. The invention, therefore, has for its objects, purposes and advantages the unique features of providing for a slide assembly comprising a pair of elements mounted on the under side of a pair of table portions for allowing movement of one table portion away from the other wherein the lower depending portion of each slide element has intermating portions provided with fastening means for urging the portions away from one another to allow for the engagement of one slide element with the other to prevent longitudinal movement of one element relative to the other and wherein there is provided separate guide and aligning means in the form of a pair of intermating guide and aligning elements which prevent horizontal movements of either the table portions or leaf portions relative to one another by fastening the guide and aligner elements on the underside of the respective table and leaf portions, each of the guide and aligning elements having frictional engagement with the other whereby the guide and aligning means are permitted to have flush engagement with the underside surface of the table and leaf portions.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of an extendable table including table and leaf portions for receiving the novel slide assembly and guide and aligning means;

FIG. 2 is a sectional view taken along line 2—2 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a sectional view of FIG. 1 taken along line 3—3 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a sectional view taken along line 4—4 of FIG. 3;

FIG. 5 is a sectional view taken along line 5—5 of FIG. 3;

FIG. 6 is a sectional view taken from the underside of the table and illustrating the novel guide and aligning means;

FIG. 7 is a sectional view taken along line 7—7 of FIG. 6;

FIG. 8 is a partial view of a modified form of the guide and aligning means on the underside of the table portion when the table is in the open position;

FIG. 9 is a view similar to FIG. 8 but showing a guide and aligning means in the table portion in the closed table position; and

FIG. 10 is a section taken along line 10—10 of FIG. 9.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SPECIFICATIONS

With reference to the drawings and in particular with reference to FIGS. 1 through 5 there is shown an extendable type of table **1** having a top **2** mounted on a frame section **2***a* and **2***b* and having legs **3**. The table top **2** is provided with table top sections or portions **4** and **5** which are interconnected with one another by extendable table slide assemblies **6** and **7** which are identical to one another and provide an opening for receiving the removable table top leaf portion or section **9**. Each table slide assembly **6** and **7** has a pair of elongated slide plate structures **10** and **11** which extend longitudinally of the table, the slide plate structure **10** being connected to the table portion **4** and the slide plate structure **11** being connected to the table portion **5**. The elongated slide plate structure **10** comprises a horizontally extending plate portion comprising a downturned end portion **10***a*, central flap portion **10***b* and corner portion **10***c* which is connected to a depending downwardly vertically extending portion comprising vertical arm portion **10***b* connected to corner portion **10***c* and corner portion **10***e* connected to a horizontal portion **10***f* and having a junction portion **10***g* connecting with a bowed portion **10***h* which has a corner portion **10***i* connecting with a flat horizontal portion **10***j*. The slide element **10** is connected to the table portion **5** by the screw **14***e* which extends through an opening **15***a* in the raised protuberance or dimple **15**. The slide element **11** is provided with a flat portion having a downturned end portion **11***a*, a central horizontal portion **11***b* and a corner section **11***c* which is connected to a downwardly extending portion **11***d* which lies against the portion **10***b* as does the corner portion **11***e* against the corner portion **10***e* and seats against the corner portion **10***g* and an outwardly bowed portion **11***h* is aligned with outwardly bowed portion **10***h* and provides a space **13** therebetween, the rounded lower portion **11***i* connecting the bowed portion **11***h* with the corner portion **11***j* resting against the corner portion **11***i* and the horizontal flat portion **11***k* slidingly mating with the end of **10***j* lying adjacent in upturned vertical flange or on **11***l* connecting with **11***k*. The portions **10***b* through **10***i* generally project outwardly in the form of a bowed protuberance to complementally align themselves inwardly in the recessed portion formed by the portion **11***f* through **11***k*. Normally the protuberance of the element **10** can slide relative to the recessed portion of the element **11** unless the screw lock or fastening means **12** has its threaded stem portion **11***b*, as turned by its wing portion **12***a*, extend through its journal portion **12***c* and into and against the concave side of the outwardly bowed portion **10***h* to force the element **10** to have its horizontal arm **10***j*, which has its end butting against upright flange **11***l*, to press the

two elements **10** and **11** close together to prevent any relative reciprocal or sliding movement of one element with respect to the other. Thus it is seen that the respective inter-embracing C-shaped portions of elements **10** and **11** that hang from their respective depending arm portions provide snug engagement between the elements **10** and **11** from a reciprocally sliding motion to a fixed relation by adjustment of the screw means **12** in its extension in the opening **13**, the male and female parts of elements **10** and **11** in the C-shaped zones extending the entire length and being provided with limit or stop means **16**, **17** and **18** to prevent separation of element **10** from element **11**. The limit or stop member **16** is punched out of the belly or bowed portion **10***h* toward one of the element **10**, as viewed in FIG. 3, and projects outwardly as seen in FIG. 5 for engagement with the edge **19** of the element **17**. The element **11** carries towards its left end punched in U-shaped element **17** in the belly or bowed zone of bowed portion **11***h* which abuts or engages punched out protuberance or element **18** in the bowed portion **10***h* of the element **10** and to the right of element **17** as viewed in FIG. 4. Thus the longitudinal motion of one element with respect to the other is limited and the elements **11** and **10** are prevented from separation from each other.

As best seen in FIGS. 6 and 7 there is provided guide and aligner means **20** which are disposed on the table and leaf portions apart from the extendable table slide assemblies **6** and **7**. The guide means **20** includes a guide structure **21** which may be mounted on the undertable portion **4** or table leaf **9** and guide structure **22** which is mounted on the underside of table portion **5** or a leaf **9**, each guide structure **21** and **22** being coupleable with one another as shown in FIGS. 6 and 7. The guide structure **21** is in the form of a plate having an inner plate flat portion **24** being provided with a pair of screw receiving means in the form of a protuberance that projects downwardly from the table in the form of round dimple-like structures **25**, **25** provided with screw receiving holes **26**, **26** for receiving therethorugh threaded screws **27**, **27** which hold the plate portion **24** to the underside of the table or leaf portion. The plate **23** is further provided with a downwardly projecting plate vertical portion **28** connected to a lower flat portion **29** to define with portions **28** and **24** a generally Z-shaped plate **23**. The plate portions **28** and **29** have punched thereout a pair of protuberances or elongated-like dimples **30**, **30** each comprising an upright vertical portion **30***a* and a horizontal portion **30***b* in the portions **28** and **29** respectively. Each dimple **30** has a tapered portion **30***c* flanked by plate taper portions **29***a*, **29***a* of the plate portion. The complemental guiding structure **22** has a flat plate portion **31** suspending a vertical plate portion **32** provided with a rectangular slot **33** to receive the pronged portion **29** of the aligner element **21**. The tapered edges **29***a*, **29***a* of the pronged portion **29** guide the prong **29** which has a vertical extent approximate the vertical extent of the slot **33**, through the slot **33**. The tapered edges **30***c*, **30***c* of the dimples **30**, **30** guide the dimples through the slot **31** and provide for a frictional engagement between the upper and lower walls of the slot **33**. As particularly noticed in FIG. 7, the dished out portions or dimples **25** provide for a cavity between the aligner plate portions and the table portions or leaf portions to allow wood from the table or leaf portions to fill into the cavity as defined by the bell or dished-out portions **25** permitting the flats **23** and **31** of the respective elements **21** and **22** to be flush against the underside of the table portions **4** and **5** or the leaf portions **9**.

In FIGS. 8 through 10 there is shown a modified form of the aligner means as shown in FIGS. 6 and 7, namely modified guide and aligning means **35** being provided with aligner and guide plates **36**, **36'**. Each guide plate **36**, **36'** is identical to the other except that the guide plate **36** has been rotated 180° relative to the guide plate **36'** to allow for their complemental interlocking engagement as shown in FIG. 9 and in FIG. 10. This identical construction is easily noticed from reference to FIG. 8 and where like parts exist on the corresponding guide plate **36** or **36'** they have been distinguished from one another by using a prime (') symbol. Each guide plate structure **36** or **36'** has been punched or pressed out and comprises respective plate slots **37** and **37'** having respective slot edges **37***a*, **37***b* and **37'***a* and **37'***b*. These plate slots **37** and **37'** divide each of the guide plates **36** and **36'** into respective tabs **38** and **38'** and **39** and **39'**, each having respective outer surfaces **38***a* and **38'***a* and inner surfaces **39***a* and **39***a'*. Each guide plate **36** and **36'** is provided with a pair of dimples or protuberances **40** and **40'** complemental in structure to the protuberance **25** of the earlier modification for storage of excess wood to permit flush engagement of the plates **36** and **36'** against the underside of the table portions or leaf portions. The inner part of each tab **39** and **39'** is provided with an upturned edge portion **42'** or **42** for guiding the plates **36** and **36'** into intercoupling relation. Each of the plates **36** and **36'** is provided with a back plate portion **45** and **45'** which carries the dimples or punched protuberances **40** and **40'**. It is thus seen in FIG. 8 that the separated plates **36** and **36'** may be brought together as shown in FIG. 9 such that the tab portion **38** rides under and engages the tab portion **39'***a* that has the upturned portion **42'** and that the upturned tab portion **39***a* glides over and engages over the plate portion **38***a* as shown also in FIG. 10. Tapers **43** and **43'**, **44** and **44'** on the respective plates **36** and **36'** enable careful guiding interlocking relation between the plates **36** and **36'** as their respective plate slots **37** and **37'** cooperate for such careful intercoupling and sliding engagement alignment of the portions of said plates **36** and **36'**. The crimps **41** and **41'** allow overlapping of the tab portions of the respective plates **36** and **36'**. Thus these plates are identical to one another but merely rotate to face one another and provide for accurate, simple and complete guiding aligning and inter-engaging or coupling with one another to permit proper alignment of the table portions **4** and **5** and the leaf portion or portions **9**. It is to be noted that each of the punched-out separable protuberances or dimple-like structures **15** which receive the screws **14** for fastening the elements **10** and **11** to the table vary in elevation, the highest crowned dimple **15** being such to be as close to the end of the table or table portion it is secured to to permit the table edge portions that face one another to be deflected upwardly so that when they are moved in adjacent relation to one another or when a leaf is placed between these table portions **4** and **5** any sagging of the table portion **4** with respect to the table portion **5** will be overcome by the fact that they are toed upward by the gradually increasing protuberances **15** as illustrated in FIG. 3.

It is thus seen that the invention provides for a table slide assembly for inter-coupling table portions. The sliding assembly comprises a pair of longitudinally elongated intermating slide elements **10** and **11**. Each slide element is longitudinally slidable relative to the other. One slide element **10** has a protruding mating portion (**10***f*, **10***g*, **10***h*, and **10***i*), the other slide element **11** has a recessed mating portion (**11***e*, **11***f*, **11***g*, **11***h*, **11***i*, **11***j*, **11***k*, and **11***l*). The protruding portion is nestled within the recessed portion. Lateral movement limiting means are provided and include a pair of laterally opposed stops **10***i* and **11** wherein one slide element portion has its stop **11***l* overlapping the stop **10***j* of the other slide element portion. Laterally moveable means or spreader in the form of screw means **12** laterally move the mating portions **10** and **11** deflectingly away to cause stop **11***l* and **10***j* to engage one another to prevent longitudinal movement of one element **10** with respect to the other element **11**.

The table arrangement is also provided with guide and aligner means which include a pair of aligner elements such as shown in FIGS. 6 and 7 or in alternate modifica-

tion shown in FIGS. 8 through 10. The aligner elements of FIGS. 6 and 7 include a flat plate **21** having an elevated prong receivable in upright slotted plate **20**. The modification shown in FIGS. 8 through 10 shows two identical aligner elements **36** and **36'** one of which has been rotated 180° with respect to the other to present flat and upturned portions opposing each other, the upturned portion being in the form of a prong to fit over the flat portion of the other aligner element.

What is claimed is:

1. A table slide assembly for inter-coupling table portions comprising a pair of longitudinally elongated intermating slide elements each being adapted for connection to a respective table portion, each slide element being longitudinally slideable relative to the other, one slide element having a supported longitudinally elongated and laterally extending protruding mating portion, the other slide element having a supported longitudinally elongated and laterally extending recessed mating portion, said protruding mating portion being nestled within said recessed mating portion and being longitudinally reciprocally slideably guidable relative thereto and laterally movable therefrom, lateral movement limiting means including a pair of laterally opposed spaced apart lateral stops, one lateral stop being constrained for lateral movement with the protruding mating portion and the other stop being constrained for lateral movement with the recessed mating portion, one slide element mating portion having its stop overlapping the stop of the other slide element mating portion in laterally outwardly obstructing movement of one slide element relative to the other slide element to move one stop into engagement with the other to limit longitudinal reciprocal movement of one sleeve element relative to the other, and laterally movable means operatively associated with each of the mating portions and operative to laterally move said mating portions away from one another and said stops into engagement with one another, said recessed mating portion being generally an elongated U-shaped channel and said protruding mating portion being generally a U-shaped channel nestled in the U-shaped channel recessed mating portion, and one lateral stop being a free end leg flange of the U-shaped channel of the protruding mating portion and the other lateral stop being a flange connecting with a free end leg of the U-shaped channel of the recessed mating portion overlapping and spaced from the leg of the protruding mating portion.

2. The invention according to claim **1** and the lateral stop flange of the recessed mating portion being an upturned end part thereof.

3. A table slide assembly for inter-coupling table portions comprising a pair of longitudinally elongated intermating slide elements each being adapted for connection to a respective table portion, each slide element being longitudinally slideable relative to the other, one slide element having a supported longitudinally elongated and laterally extending protruding mating portion, the other slide element having a supported longitudinally elongated and laterally extending recessed mating portion, said protruding mating portion being nestled within said recessed mating portion and being longitudinally reciprocally slideably guideable relative thereto and laterally movable therefrom, lateral movement limiting means including a pair of laterally opposed spaced apart lateral stops, one lateral stop being constrained for lateral movement with the protruding mating portion and the other stop being constrained for lateral movement with the recessed mating portion, one slide element mating portion having its stop overlapping the stop of the other slide element mating portion in laterally outwardly obstructing movement of one slide element relative to the other slide element to move one stop into engagement with the other to limit longitudinal reciprocal movement of one sleeve element relative to the other, and laterally movable means operatively associated with each of the mating portions and operative to laterally move said mating portions away from one another and said stops into engagement with one another, and said laterally movable means comprising a spreader element carried by one mating portion and engageable with the other mating portion for deflecting the other mating portion away from the one mating portion in moving the stop of the other mating portion into engagement with the stop of the mating portion to prevent relative longitudinal movement between each slide element, and said spreader element being screw means threadable through one mating portion and abutting the other mating portion.

4. A table slide assembly for inter-coupling table portions comprising a pair of longitudinally elongated intermating slide elements each being adapted for connection to a respective table portion, each slide element being longitudinally slideable relative to the other, one slide element having a supported longitudinally elongated and laterally extending protruding mating portion, the other slide element having a supported longitudinally elongated and laterally extending recessed mating portion, said protruding mating portion being nestled within said recessed mating portion and being longitudinally reciprocally slideably guideable relative thereto and laterally movable therefrom, lateral movement limiting means including a pair of laterally opposed spaced apart lateral stops, one lateral stop being constrained for lateral movement with the protruding mating portion and the other stop being constrained for lateral movement with the recessed mating portion, one slide element mating portion having its stop overlapping the stop of the other slide element mating portion in laterally outwardly obstructing movement of one slide element relative to the other slide element to move one stop into engagement with the other to limit longitudinal reciprocal movement of one sleeve element relative to the other, and laterally movable means operatively associated with each of the mating portions and operative to laterally move said mating portions away from one another and said stops into engagement with one another, and each mating portion having a part spaced apart from the other part to define a mating spreader space and said lateral movable means comprising a spreader element receivable in said space and cooperatively engageable with the mating portion parts for their deflecting separation from one another.

5. A table slide assembly for inter-coupling table portions comprising a pair of longitudinally elongated intermating slide elements each being adapted for connection to a respective table portion, each slide element being longitudinally slideable relative to the other, one slide element having a supported longitudinally elongated and laterally extending protruding mating portion, the other slide element having a supported longitudinally elongated and laterally extending recessed mating portion, said protruding mating portion being nestled within said recessed mating portion and being longitudinally reciprocally slideably guideable relative thereto and laterally movable therefrom, lateral movement limiting means including a pair of laterally opposed spaced apart lateral stops, one lateral stop being constrained for lateral movement with the protruding mating portion and the other stop being constrained for lateral movement with the recessed mating portion, one slide element mating portion having its stop overlapping the stop of the other slide element mating portion in laterally outwardly obstructing movement of one slide element relative to the other slide element to move one stop into engagement with the other to limit longitudinal reciprocal movement of one sleeve element relative to the other, and laterally movable means operatively associated with each of the mating portions and operative to laterally move said mating portions away from one another, and table portion guide and aligner means adapted for mounting on the underside portions of opposed table edge portions attendant to in-line linking of the table portions,

said aligner means comprising a pair of aligner elements, each aligner element having a generally flat sided portion for engaging flush with the respective underside table edge portion and fastening means for attaching said flat sided portion to the underside of the table edge portion, one aligner element having prong connecting with the flat sided portion and being spaced vertically away from the flat sided portion, the other aligner element having a prong receiving part having a prong engaging surface for slideably receiving said prong in snug frictional engagement and holding said prong away from the table portions during clutching of one aligner element with the other, each of said aligner elements having means limiting lateral and elevational movement of both aligner elements during clutching, said aligner means being cooperative with the side elements to present a flush aligned table.

6. The invention according to claim 5 and said fastening means including an embossment apertured to receive a table portion receiving fastener and having an away from table outwardly bowed portion to define a table material receiving dimple cavity attendant to entry of the fastener in the table portion to provide for flush engagement of the flat sided portion with the underside table edge portion.

7. The invention according to claim 5 and said prong being provided with embossment means and said prong receiving part having a recessed part connecting with the flat sided portion and spaced outwardly therefrom, the recessed portion defining said prong engaging surface and a second prong engaging surface to define a prong receiving slot, said second surface frictionally receiving said embossment means during clutching to prevent vertical movement of one aligner element relative to the other.

8. The invention according to claim 5 and said prong and a prong receiving part being in side by side relation and defining a slot separating one another, each prong and part being connected with the flat sided portion, the prong of the one element facing the prong receiving part of the other element and the prong of the other element facing the prong receiving part of the one element in their assembled positions, each prong being stepped outwardly of its adjacent prong receiving part to slide over its opposed prong receiving part on the other aligner element for frictional clasping engagement of prong of the one element with the prong engaging surface of the prong receiving part of the other element.

9. A table slide assembly for inter-coupling table portions comprising a pair of intermating longitudinally extending slide elements including a first slide element adapted for connection with one table portion, said first slide element including a depending table element portion having a laterally extending protruding mating portion including a stop flange, a second table slide element adapted for connection to the other table portion and slideably connected with the first slide element and including a downwardly extending depending portion having a laterally extending recessed mating portion having a stop flange adjacent the other stop flange, said protruding mating portion having an inwardly bowed section, and said recessed portion having an inwardly bowed section, each of the inwardly bowed sections defining therebetween a laterally extending spreader receiving space, and a spreader element having a portion thereof laterally extendable in said space and cooperatively engageable with each of the bowed portions for urging each stop flange into engagement with the other attendant to limiting sliding movement between each of the slide elements, and the bowed portion of the protruding mating portion having a longitudinally limiting slide end stop adapted for complemental engagement with the edge bowed portion of the recessed mating portion, and said bowed portion of the protruding mating portion having a pair of longitudinally limiting slide stops spaced longitudinally apart from one another and extending into said space and said bowed portion of said recessed mating portion having a longitudinally limiting stop means extending into the space intermediate the stops for engagement with each longitudinally limiting stop of the protruding mating portion whereby the longitudinal limiting stops cooperate with the longitudinally limiting stop means to limit relative longitudinal motion in either direction of the one slide element relative to the other slide element.

10. Guide and aligner means adapted for mounting on the underside portions of opposed slideable table edge portions of a table attendant to in-line linking of the table portions, said aligner means comprising a pair of aligner elements, each aligner element having a flat sided portion for engaging flush with the respective underside table edge portion and fastening means for attaching said flat sided portion to the underside of the table edge portion, one aligner element having a prong connecting with the flat-sided portion and being spaced vertically away from the flat-sided portion, the other aligner element having a prong receiving part having a prong engaging surface for slideably receiving said prong in snug friction engagement and holding said prong away from the table portions during clutching of one aligner element with the other, each of said aligner elements having means limiting lateral and elevational movement of both aligner elements during clutching, said aligner means being cooperative with the slide elements to present a flush aligned table, said prong being provided with embossment means and said prong receiving part having an apertured portion connecting with the flat-sided portion and spaced outwardly therefrom, the apertured portion defining said prong engaging surface and a second prong engaging surface to define a prong receiving slot, said second surface frictionally receiving said embossment means during clutching to prevent vertical movement of one aligner element relative to the other, and said apertured portion having side portions defining said slot for limiting lateral movement of said aligner elements during clutching.

11. Guide and aligner means adapted for mounting on the underside portions of opposed slideable table edge portions of a table attendant to in-line linking of the table portions, said aligner means comprising a pair of aligner elements, each aligner element having a flat-sided portion for engaging flush with the respective underside table edge portion and fastening means for attaching said flat-sided portion to the underside of the table edge portion, one aligner element having a prong connecting with the flat-sided portion and being spaced vertically away from the flat-sided portion, the other aligner element having a prong receiving part having a prong engaging surface for slideably receiving said prong in snug frictional engagement and holding said prong away from the table portions during clutching of one aligner element with the other, each of said aligner elements having means limiting lateral and elevational movement of both aligner elements during clutching, said aligner means being cooperative with the slide elements to present a flush aligned table, said prong being provided with embossment means and said prong receiving part having an apertured portion connecting with the flat-sided portion and spaced outwardly therefrom, the apertured portion defining said prong engaging surface and a second prong engaging surface to define a prong receiving slot, said second surface frictionally receiving said embossment means during clutching to prevent vertical movement of one aligner element relative to the other, and said prong being tapered leading edge means for guidance of the prong into the slot.

12. Guide and aligner means adapted for mounting on the underside portions of opposed slideable table edge portions of a table attendant to in-line linking of the table portions, said aligner means comprising a pair of aligner elements, each aligner element having a flat-sided portion for engaging flush with the respective underside table edge portion and fastening means for attaching said flat-sided portion to the underside of the table edge portion, one

aligner element having a prong connecting with the flat-sided portion and being spaced vertically away from the flat-sided portion, the other aligner element having a prong receiving part having a prong engaging surface for slideably receiving said prong in snug frictional engagement and holding said prong away from the table portions during clutching of one aligner element with the other, each of said aligner elements having means limiting lateral and elevational movement of both aligner elements during clutching, said aligner means being cooperative with the slide elements to present a flush aligned table, and the prong and the prong receiving part being in side by side relation defining a thin slot separating one another, each prong and part being connected with the flat-sided portion, the prong of the one element facing the prong receiving part of the other element and the prong of the other element facing the prong receiving part of the one element in their assembled positions, each prong being stepped outwardly of its adjacent prong receiving part to slide over its opposed prong receiving part on the other aligner element for frictional clasping engagement of prong of the one element with the prong engaging surface of the prong receiving part of the other element.

13. The invention according to claim **12** and each prong having a leading upturned edge portion provided for gliding and clearing of the prong over the prong receiving part.

14. The invention according to claim **12** and said prong and said prong receiving part of each aligner element adjacent said slot having leading tapered edges providing for proper guiding and aligning of the prongs and prong receiving parts, said slot allowing frictional overlapping engagement of the prongs and prong receiving parts of the aligner means.

15. Guide and aligner means adapted for mounting on the underside portions of opposed slideable table edge portions of a table attendant to in-line linking of the table portions, said aligner means comprising a pair of aligner elements, each aligner element having a flat-sided portion for engaging flush with the respective underside table edge portion and fastening means for attaching said flat-sided portion to the underside of the table edge portion, one aligner element having a prong connecting with the flat-sided portion and being spaced vertically away from the flat-sided portion, the other aligner element having a prong receiving part having a prong engaging surface for slideably receiving said prong in snug frictional engagement and holding said prong away from the table portions during clutching of one aligner element with the other, each of said aligner elements having means limiting lateral and elevational movement of both aligner elements during clutching, said aligner means being cooperative with the slide elements to present a flush aligned table, and said one aligner element comprising a generally flat flange having the table attaching portion being generally flat for table undersurface attachment and defining said generally flat sided portion, said flange having a second flange portion connecting with the flat-sided portion and for extension beyond the table edge and comprising two forwardly extending separated laterally aligned tab portions, one tab portion being generally flat and defining a second prong receiving part, the other tab portion having a forward generally horizontal and flat portion defining said prong and having a rear outwardly vertically extending portion connecting said flat-sided portion for outwardly offsetting said prong for placement over said first named prong receiving part.

16. The invention according to claim **15** and said other aligner element being of identical construction to said one aligner element but oriented 180° about a vertical axis with respect to said one aligner element for mounting on the undersurface of an adjacent table portion to receive said one aligner element attendant to complemental interlocking of the tab portions of each of the aligner elements.

References Cited

UNITED STATES PATENTS

913,204	2/1909	Dickson	108—83
1,531,810	3/1925	Pelton	308—3.6
1,692,618	10/1928	Bowers	308—3.6
2,626,844	1/1953	Cooper	308—3.6
2,712,972	7/1955	Manson et al.	308—3.6
2,844,430	7/1958	Bogar	308—3.6
2,865,684	12/1958	Meyer et al.	308—3.6
3,042,468	7/1962	Rudow et al.	108—83
3,084,639	4/1963	Manson	108—89
3,202,117	8/1965	Zimmerman	108—89
3,215,475	11/1965	Manson	308—3.6
3,360,307	12/1967	Mutchnik et al.	308—3.6

BOBBY R. GAY, Primary Examiner

G. O. FINCH, Assistant Examiner

U.S. Cl. X.R.

108—83