United States Patent [19]

White

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[54] **PORTABLE FURNITURE DEVICE**

[76] Inventor: **Benjamin White,** 7723 S. Michigan, Chicago, Ill. 60619

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **52/36,** 52/71, 312/140.2, 312/258

[51] **Int. Cl.** **A47b 96/14**

[58] **Field of Search** 52/36, 29, 71, 79, 173; 108/48, 112, 113; 312/248, 245, 258, 140.2

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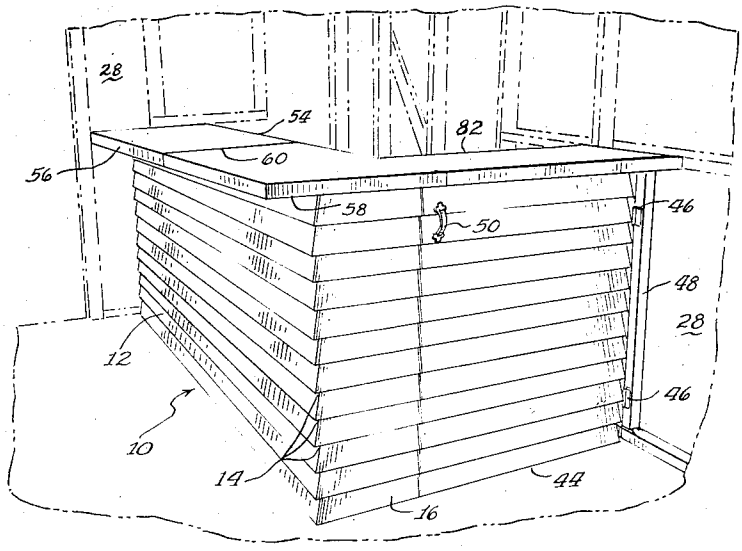
Primary Examiner—Price C. Faw, Jr.

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Alter, Weiss, Whitesel & Laff

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A portable decorative furniture device, such as a bar, which gives the appearance of a permanent structure, although being fully portable or removable. Six structural pieces form a portable bar when set up, and fold or move away when the bar is not in use. Removable fastening means and support members provide strength to the device, adding to the appearance of permanency of the structure.

10 Claims, 8 Drawing Figures



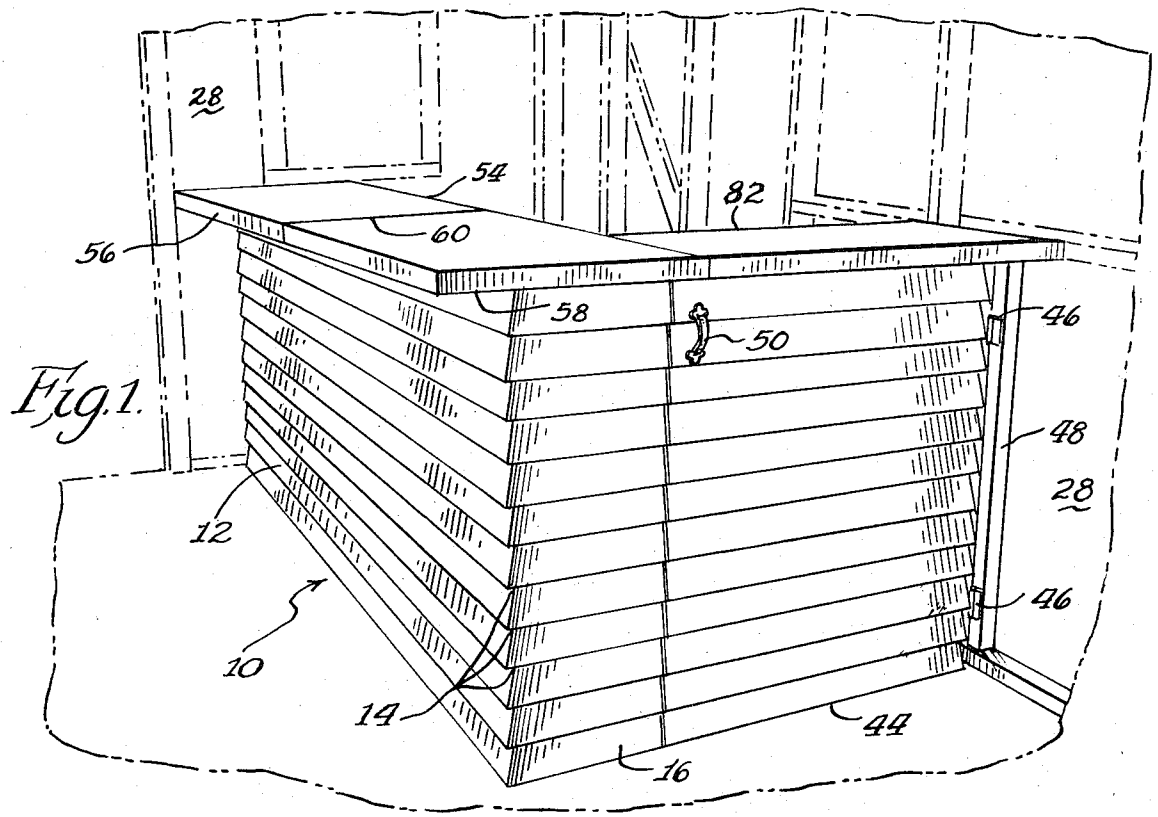

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Fig. 1.

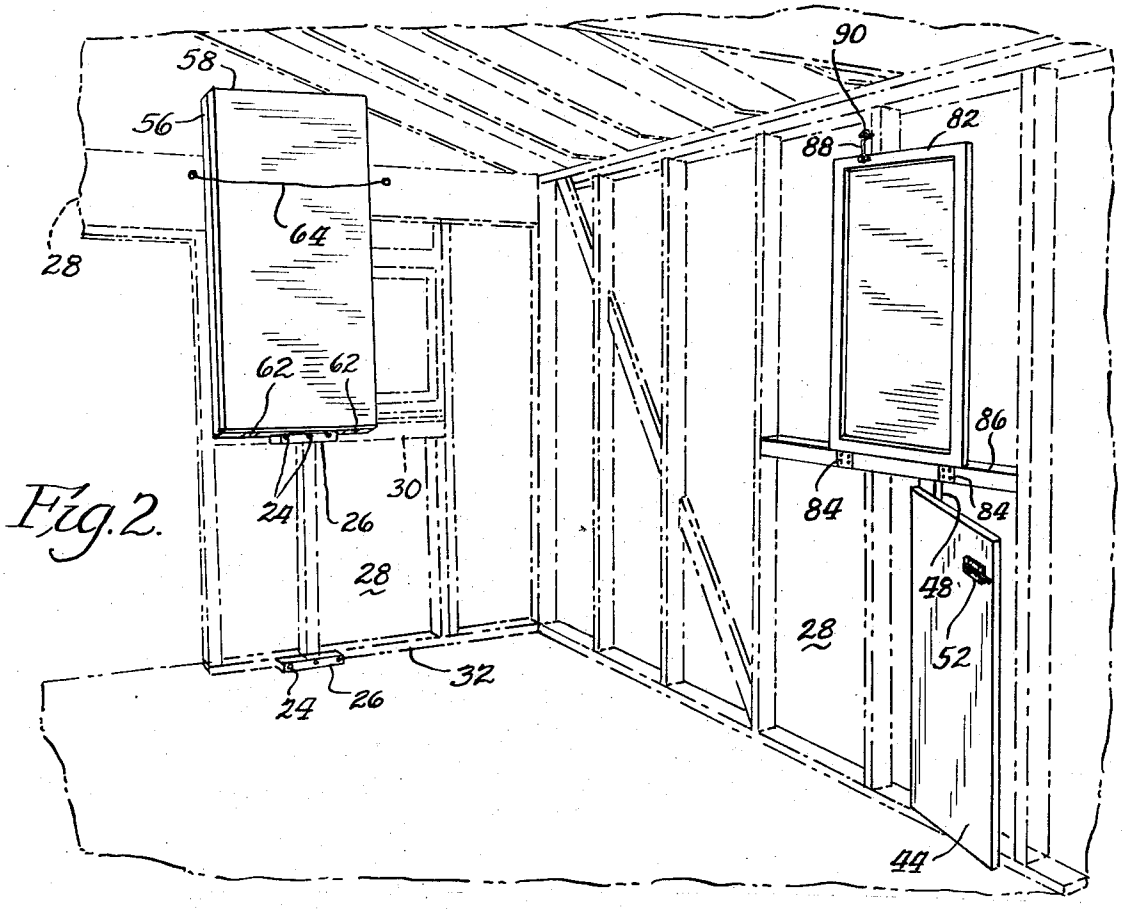

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Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

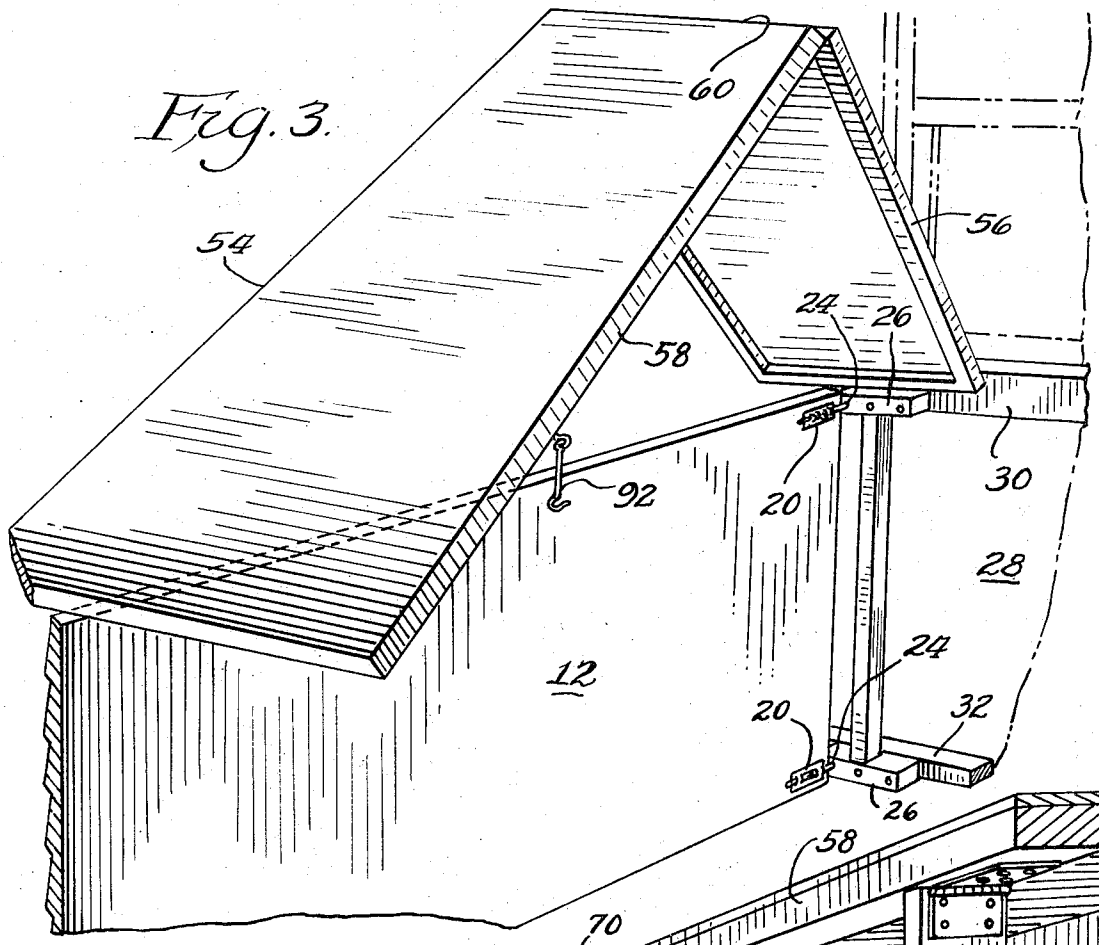
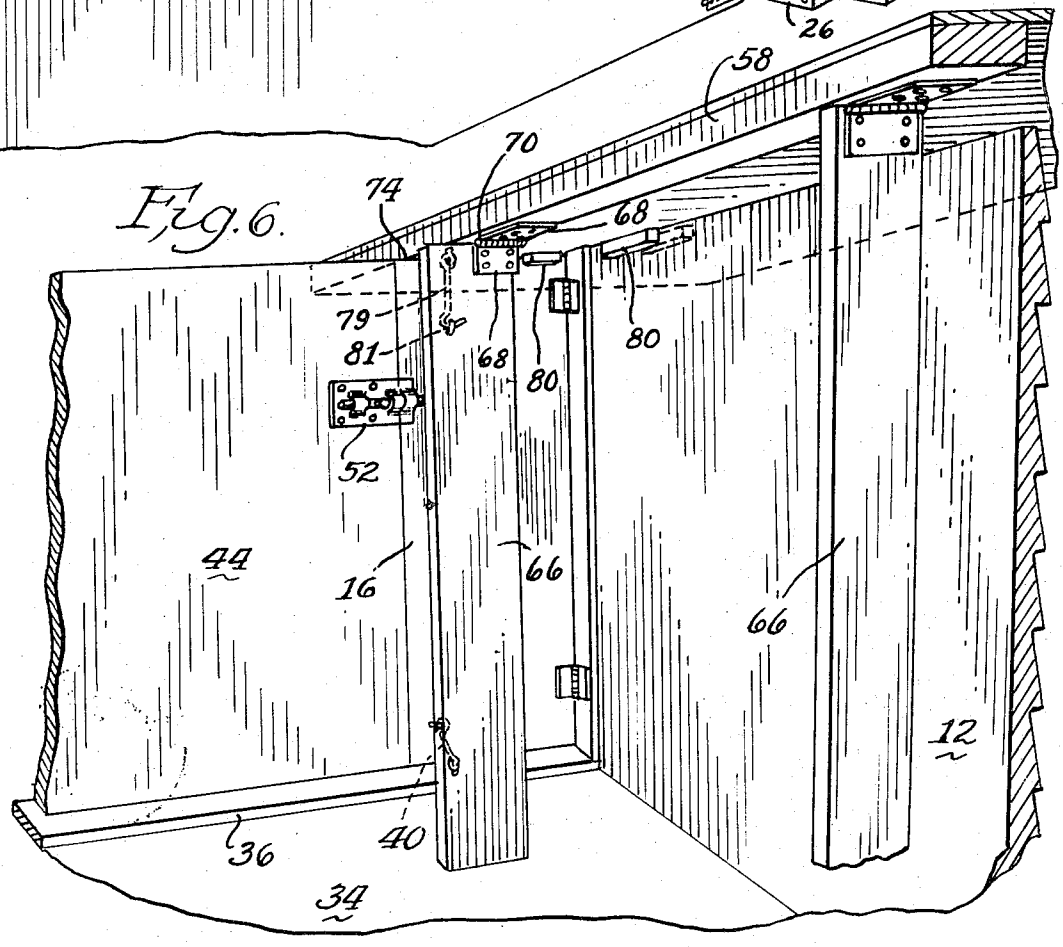

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Fig. 6.


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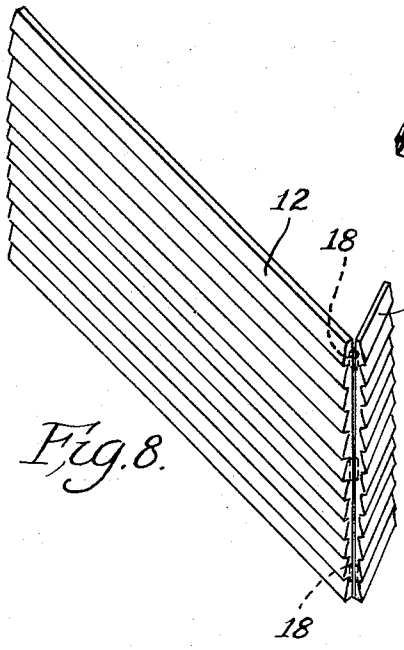


Fig. 8.

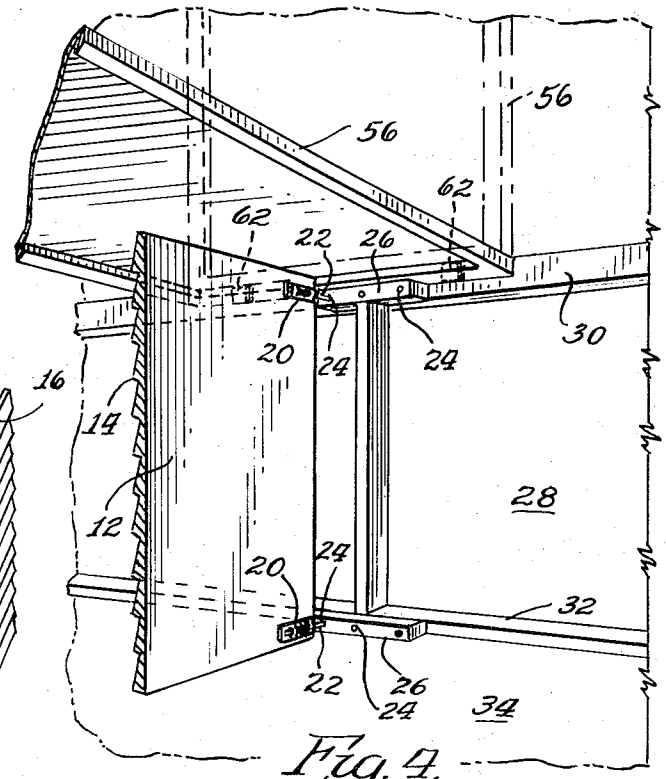


Fig. 4.

Fig. 7.

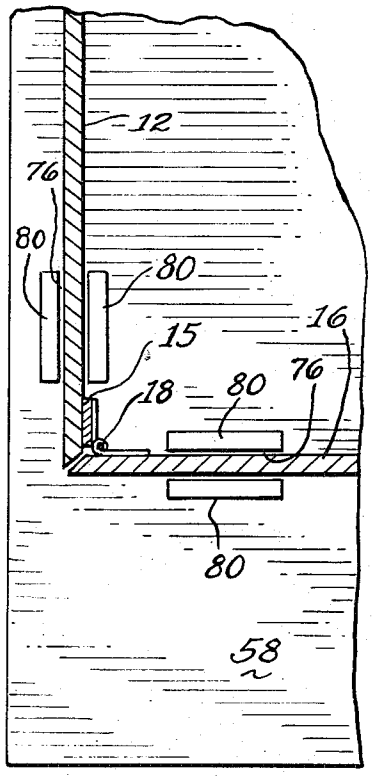
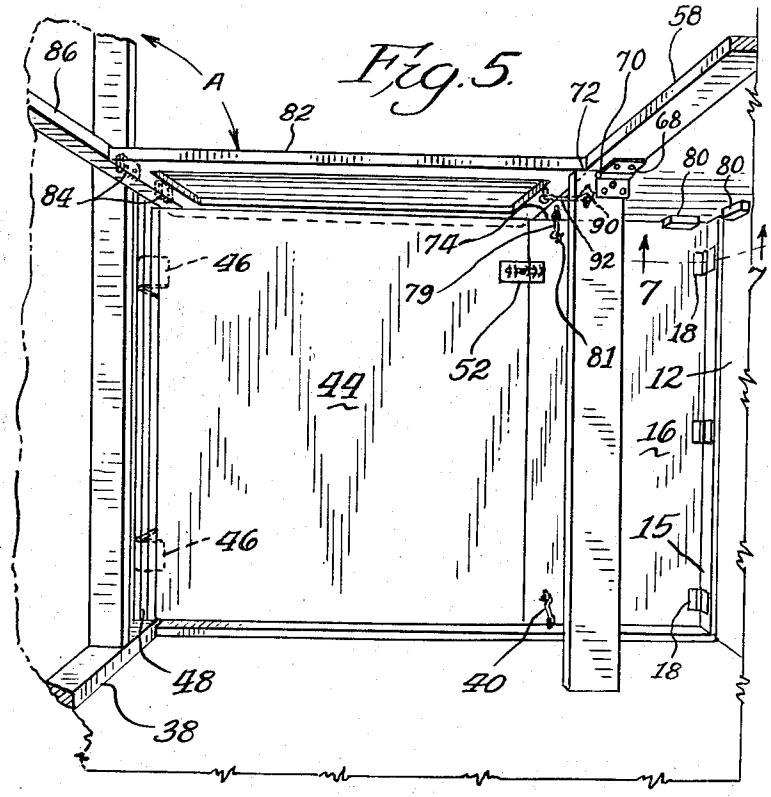


Fig. 5.



PORTABLE FURNITURE DEVICE

This invention relates to portable furniture devices, and in particular to portable furniture, such as a bar, which has the appearance of permanence when installed in a given location, but can be readily removed and stored when not in use, leaving the same location available for other purposes.

Many homes, offices, and other buildings and edifices are constructed with bars for the service of beverages in one or more of the rooms for purposes of entertaining guests. Where space is no problem, these bars are built-in, permanent structures, comprising a plurality of vertical panels supporting a horizontal, usually plastic laminate serving surface. If desired, stools are provided in front of the bar to seat guests, and shelves for storing beverages, glasses, and other bar accessories may be provided behind the bar. In addition, service lines carrying gas, water, and drainage facilities may be attached to the bar.

In many instances, the home, office, or other edifice may not come equipped with a bar due to lack of space, or lack of desire for such a structure on the part of the original owner of the building. The owner or tenant may install a permanent bar himself, or as is usually the case, have one constructed in a suitable location by a contractor or carpenter. Bar structures are also available in ready-built form from retail outlets, and are usually large and bulky, and difficult to store. Built-in bars are also large, but are constructed as a permanent piece of furniture in a location where there is persumably ample space.

However, the owner or tenant of a small home or office may desire to install a portable bar in a location which is also to be used for other purposes. In these situations, a portable or collapsible bar is preferred which moves or folds out of the way when not in use. A portable bar may be located in a playroom, and when children are playing in the room, or it is used for other recreational purposes such as billiards or ping-pong, the bar must be removed.

Additionally, a garage may be constructed to also serve as a recreational facility when the car or cars are removed. Many modern garages are built with a wide door at the rear, opening onto a patio or the like in the back yard of a home. A pleasant, large recreation and entertainment area is thus created when the garage is void of cars and the rear door is open. To enhance the recreational value of the area, the owner or tenant may desire to have a bar located in the garage. However, the bar must be of the type that can be removed and stored when the car or cars are returned to the garage. A permanent structure would not be feasible unless the garage was large enough to handle both the bar and the cars.

Therefore, it is an object of the present invention to provide a portable furniture device, preferably a bar, which gives the appearance of being built-in and permanent when set-up, assembled and installed, yet which is completely removable when not in use.

An additional object of my invention is to provide a portable furniture device which comprises only six major parts which can be installed or disassembled in a matter of moments.

Still another object of my invention is to provide a portable furniture device which has the strength, beauty, and functional durability of a permanent, built-in structure.

Yet another object of my invention is to provide a portable furniture device which while completely portable, provides sufficient internal structural elements to impart the strength of a permanent structure to the device.

The nature of the preferred embodiment of my invention will become more apparent from a study of the attached drawings in conjunction with the following specification wherein:

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of my portable furniture device as installed and assembled in a given area of a building;

FIG. **2** is a perspective view of the area of FIG. **1** with the portable furniture device disassembled and removed;

FIG. **3** is a perspective view of an interior portion of my portable furniture device, showing the horizontal top panel members in a partially folded position;

FIG. **4** is an additional perspective view of the interior portion of my portable furniture device illustrated in FIG. **3,** showing the means of attachment of the vertical front panel to the edifice;

FIG. **5** is a perspective interior view of another portion of my portable furniture device, particularly illustrating the means of attaching and securing the door and second horizontal top panel;

FIG. **6** is a perspective view of an interior portion of my portable furniture device showing the structural members adjacent the door panel;

FIG. **7** is a detail view of a portion of the underside of one of the top panel members of my portable furniture device, showing the means for maintaining the alignment between the front and side panels and the horizontal panels; and

FIG. **8** is a detail view of the front and side vertical panels forming part of my invention, showing these elements disassembled from the portable furniture device.

Referring to FIG. **1,** there is shown a portable bar **10** as the preferred embodiment of my portable furniture device. The bar **10** comprises a vertical front panel **12,** shown with decorative slats **14** on the forward face thereof. It is to be understood that various decorative treatments can be applied to the forward face of front panel **12** in place of slats **14.** At one end of the undecorated or rear side of panel **12** a vertical board member **15** is attached to provide strength and a means of attaching hardware to panel **12.**

The bar **10** also includes a vertical side panel **16** pivotally attached by means of hinges **18** (FIG. **7**) to front panel **12.** Side panel **16** is capable of extending at right angles from panel **12,** as shown in FIG. **7,** or of being folded against panel **16** for storage, as will be explained. Hinges **18** are secured to panel **16** by fastening them to board member **15** (FIG. **5**).

One end of top panel **12** includes two sliding bolt fastening means **20** secured thereto, each including a laterally slidable bolt **22.** One fastening means **20** is located adjacent the top of panel **12,** and the other is located at or near the bottom. Each bolt **22** is adapted to be received in apertures **24** drilled in blocks **26,** which in turn are secured to portions of building or edifice **28.** Upper block **26** is secured, with nails by way of example, to a beam **30** which is part of the structure of edifice **28.** The other block **26** is secured to beam **32,** also

forming part of the structure of building **28,** and preferably also attached to the floor **34** of the building. When the bar **10** is installed, panel **12** is held upright by positioning the panel adjacent apertures **24** in blocks **26,** and at right angles to the blocks. Bolts **22** are aligned with apertures **24** and moved horizontally until they extend into the apertures. Panel **12** is thus secured in its assembled position.

The opposite end of panel **12** is held upright by extending side panel **16** so that it forms a right angle with front panel **12.** The angle thus formed supports both panel **16** and the adjacent end of panel **12** in a vertical position. To assist in properly aligning panel **16,** a block **36** of minimal thickness (FIG. **5**) is located on floor **34,** and extends outward along floor **34** at right angles from beam **38** which forms part of the structure of building **28.** When installing bar **10,** side panel **16** is aligned along the edge of block **36,** as shown in FIG. **5.**

Fastening means are provided to hold panel **16** against block **36.** Screen door hook **40** is secured to block **36,** and arranged to mate with eyelet **42** adjacent the bottom of panel **16.** The end of block **36** abuts the bottom of board member **15** and positions the adjacent end of panel **16** at the proper distance from beam **38.**

The end of the bar **10** includes a door panel **44,** which extends between side panel **16** and one of the walls of edifice **28.** The outside of the door panel is formed with decorative slats **14** to present the same appearance as the outside of panels **12** and **16.** Door panel **44** is pivotally attached by means of hinges **46** to vertical strut **48,** which forms part of the wall structure of edifice **28.** A handle **50** is provided on the outside of door panel **44,** to enable the door to be manually opened or closed.

When closed, as best seen in FIG. **5,** the bottom of door panel **44** abuts a vertical edge of block **36.** A sliding bolt latch **52** adapted to engage side panel **16** is located on the inside edge of panel **44** to provide means for maintaining door panel **44** in a closed position. When fully opened, door panel **44** lies flush against the wall of edifice **28** to which it is hinged.

The top of bar **10** includes a first horizontal top panel **54** comprising two top members **56, 58.** In the preferred embodiment, the top members **56, 58** are each of equal length, and comprise a plastic laminate surface over a plywood base and frame. However, any suitable material may be used to fabricate top members **56, 58** within the scope of my invention. A plastic laminate surface is preferred due to its ease of maintenance and resistance to marking.

Top members **56, 58** are hinged together at juncture **60** such that they may either lie coplaner on top of front panel **12** and side panel **16,** as shown in FIG. **1,** or may be folded one against the other for storage, as shown in FIGS. **2** and **3.** One end of top panel **56** is also pivotally fastened by means of hinges **62** to beam **30,** which forms part of the structure of edifice **28.** FIG. **1** shows top panel **54** in its fully installed position. To place the top panel in its storage position, the hinged joint between members **56, 58** is raised, as seen in FIG. **3,** and the two members are folded one against the other as shown in FIG. **2.** In this storage position, members **56, 58** fit practically flush against the wall of edifice **28** above beam **30.** Attachment means such as flexible strap **64** are seamed to a portion of edifice **28** and extend over members **56, 58** to hold them in their storage position. One end of strap **64** preferably comprises a releasable member, such as a hook, to permit the strap to be readily removed when the bar **10** is assembled.

It is also possible within the scope of my invention to provide means for completely removing horizontal top panel **54** when the bar **19** is disassembled. By removing the pins from hinges **62,** top members **56** and **58** may be detached from beam **30** and stored elsewhere.

When the bar **10** is assembled and installed, horizontal top panel **54** rests on and is supported by front panel **12** and side panel **16.** Additional support for top panel **54** is provided by removably attaching a plurality of legs **66** (FIG. **6**) to the underside of the top panel, which legs extend to the floor **34.** Each leg **66** is secured to the top panel by means of hinge-like device **68.** Each hinge-like device **68** includes a pin **70** joining the two elements of the hinge. By removing each of the pins **70,** the legs can be removed from top panel **54,** which is accomplished prior to raising the top panel to its storage position. For ease of insertion and removal, each pin **70** includes a head of larger diameter than the pin shaft, which head is gripped manually.

The width of the leg **66** closest to door panel **44** is such that the upper portion of the leg extends horizontally beyond the edge of top panel **54.** This extension forms a support shelf **72,** the purpose of which will be described. Additionally, the widths of top member **58** and side panel **16** are non-uniform such that a portion of the upper edge of side panel **16** extends beyond top member **58,** and forms a support shelf **74,** the purpose of which will also be explained.

To assist in maintaining the alignment of the horizontal top panel **54** with front and side panels **12** and **16,** a pair of right angular channels **76** and **78** (FIG. **7**) are provided on the underside of top panel **54.** Each channel consists of a pair of downwardly extending blocks **80** which are spaced apart and parallel to one another. As best seen in FIGS. **6** and **7,** when top member **58** is positioned atop front and side panels **12, 16,** the upper edge of front panel **12** is received by channel **76,** while the upper edge of side panel **16** is received by channel **78.** The channels thereby hold the upper portions of front and side panels **12** and **16** firmly when the bar **10** is assembled.

To aid in holding horizontal top panel **54** in position, a hook **79** is provided on the underside of the top panel. This hook **79** is adapted to mate with eyelet **81** secured to side panel **16.**

A second horizontal top panel **82** is provided at the end of bar **10** above door panel **44.** The construction of top panel **82** is similar to top members **56, 58** i.e.,: a plastic laminate surface over a plywood base and frame assembly. One end of top panel **82** is pivotally attached by means of hinges **84** or the like to a beam **86** forming part of edifice **28.** The top panel is capable of being pivoted about hinges **84** from the position shown in FIG. **1** (horizontal) to the position shown in FIG. **2** (vertical). When in the vertical position, the top panel is practically flush against the wall to which it is attached. To maintain top panel **82** in its vertical position, a hook **86** extends from part of the supporting wall and mates with an eyelet **88** which is located on the underside of the top panel. If desired, the pins of hinges **84** may be withdrawn and top panel **82** removed from its supporting wall and stored in a convenient location.

When in its horizontal or assembled position, the free end of top panel **82** rests on support shelves **72, 74,** as seen in FIG. **5.** The edge of the top panel is located adjacent the side edge of first horizontal top panel **54** and forms substantially a continuous surface therewith. To bring top panel **82** into abutting proximity to horizontal top panel **54,** a hook **92** is provided on the underside of panel **54,** which hook is adapted to mate with eyelet **90** on the underside of top panel **82.**

In operation, the portable bar **10** is installed by first locating vertical front and side panels **12, 16** in their proper location as shown in FIG. **1.** Bolts **22** (FIG. **4**) are moved into apertures **24** to hold one end of front panel **12** in proper position. Side panel **16** is extended at right angles to front panel **16** and positioned adjacent block **36** (FIG. **6**) with the end of block **36** in abutment with board member **15** of front panel **12.** Hook **40** is mated with eyelet **42** to maintain side panel **16** in its place.

Next, strap **64** is released, and top members **56, 58** are lowered into a horizontal position over front and side panels **12, 16,** care being taken to ensure that the edges of the front and side panels fit into channels **76, 78** respectively. Legs **66** are attached to horizontal top panel **54** by aligning the holes of hinge-like devices **68** and inserting pins **70** through each of the holes. The opposite end of each leg is then placed on the floor to support top panel **54.** Hook **79** is mated with eyelet **81** (FIG. **5**) to ensure that top panel **54** is held down against front and side panels **12, 16.**

Door panel **44** is next pivoted to its closed position adjacent side panel **16** and block **36.** Latch **52** is closed, holding door panel **44** against further pivotal movement. Hook **88** is released, and second top panel **82** pivoted downward until its free end rests on support shelves **72, 74.** Hook **92** is then mated with eyelet **90** (FIG. **5**) to secure top panel **82** in abutment with horizontal top panel **54.** The bar **10** is now assembled and ready for normal use.

To disassemble the bar **10,** hook **92** is disengaged from eyelet **90,** and top panel **82** pivoted upward until it meets the wall of edifice **28.** Hook **88** is mated with eyelet **90** to hold top panel **82** in its vertical position. Door panel **44** is unlatched and pivoted until it is flush against the wall of edifice **28.**

Next, hook **79** is disengaged from eyelet **81** and pins **70** removed from hinge elements **68.** Legs **66** are removed and stored in a convenient location, and horizontal top panel **54** is raised (FIG. **3**) to its vertical position adjacent the wall of edifice **28** (FIG. **2**). Flexible strap **64** is stretched over the folded top panel and secured.

Hook **40** is disengaged from eyelet **42,** and bolts **22** withdrawn drawn from apertures **24.** Front and side panels **12, 16** are folded together and moved to a convenient location for storage. The bar has now been completely disassembled in a matter of moments, and the space it formerly occupied is available for other purposes. For example if edifice **28** is a garage, an automobile may be moved into the area formerly occupied by portable bar **10.** Block **36** may remain in place since it will not interfere with the passage of a car tire rolling over the block.

From the foregoing detailed description, it will be evident that there are a number of changes, adaptations, and modifications of the present invention which come within the province of those skilled in the art. However, it is intended that all such variations not departing from the spirit of the invention be considered as within the scope thereof as limited solely by the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A portable furniture device adapted to be installed in and removed from a particular location in an edifice having a floor, comprising:

a vertical front panel;

a vertical side panel secured by hinges to said front panel and adapted for pivotal movement relative to said first panel about said hinges;

one end of said front panel being removably attached to said edifice;

a first horizontal top panel fastened by hinge means to said edifice above said front panel and adapted to lie adjacent and be supported by said front and side panels in one position and to be rotated to a second vertical storage position about said hinge means;

said first horizontal top panel comprising two members hinged together whereby one member is adapted to be folded against said other member when said first horizontal top panel is rotated to said second storage position about said hinge means;

door means pivotally attached to said edifice and extending between said edifice and said vertical side panel;

said door means adapted to alternately lie adjacent said edifice or to extend from said edifice;

a second horizontal top panel fastened by additional hinge means to said edifice above said door means and adapted to lie adjacent and be supported by said door means in one position and to be rotated about said additional hinge means to a second vertical storage position.

2. The portable furniture device of claim **1** including alignment means on the underside of said first horizontal top panel adapted to hold said top panel in place on top of said vertical front and side panels.

3. The portable furniture device of claim **2** wherein said alignment means includes a first channel for receiving said front panel and a second channel disposed at right angles to said first channel for receiving said side panel.

4. The portable furniture device of claim **1** including support legs removably attached to the underside of said horizontal top panel and adapted to extend from the underside of said panel to the floor of said edifice when said top panel is supported by said front panel.

5. The portable furniture device of claim **1** including removable fastening means extending between said first and second horizontal top panels for holding said top panels together when said top panels are supported by said front and side vertical panels.

6. The portable furniture device of claim **1** including removable fastening means extending between said floor and at least one of said vertical front and side panels.

7. The portable furniture device of claim **1** including removable fastening means extending between said edifice and said first and second top panels when said top panels are in said second storage positions to maintain said top panels in said second storage positions.

8. The portable furniture device of claim 1 including means on said floor to maintain said side panel at right angles to said front panel.

9. The portable furniture device of claim 1 wherein said front and side panels each include decorative surfaces on at least one of their faces.

10. The portable furniture device of claim 1 wherein said first and second horizontal top panels comprise plastic laminate surfaces on the upper side thereof.

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