July 27, 1948. H. D. NIBLACK 2,446,098

MASSAGE TABLE

Filed July 18, 1946 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

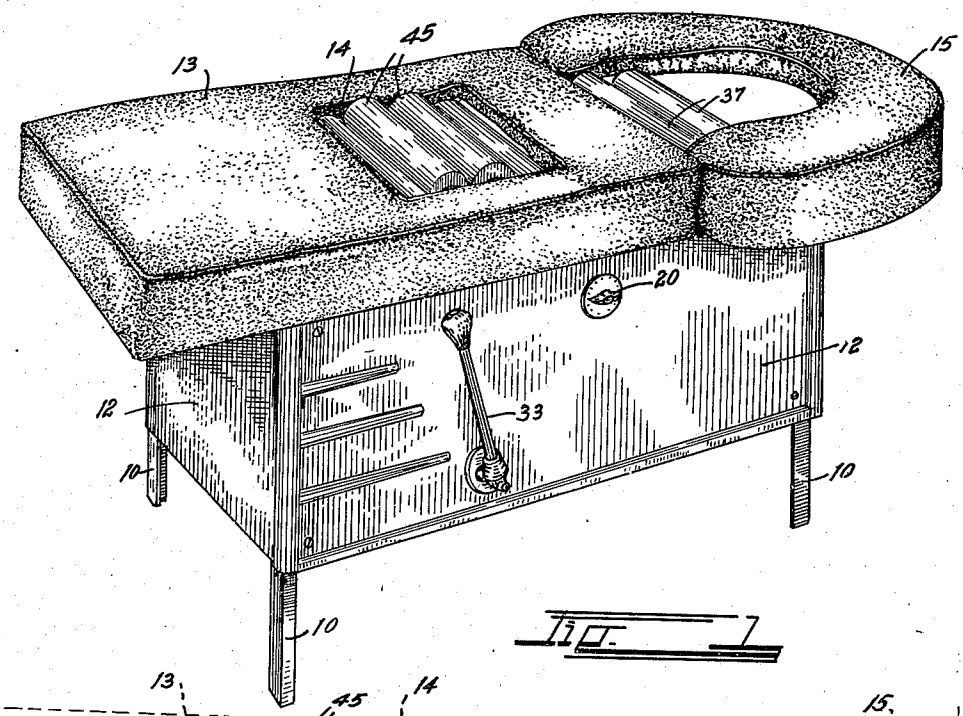


Fig. 1

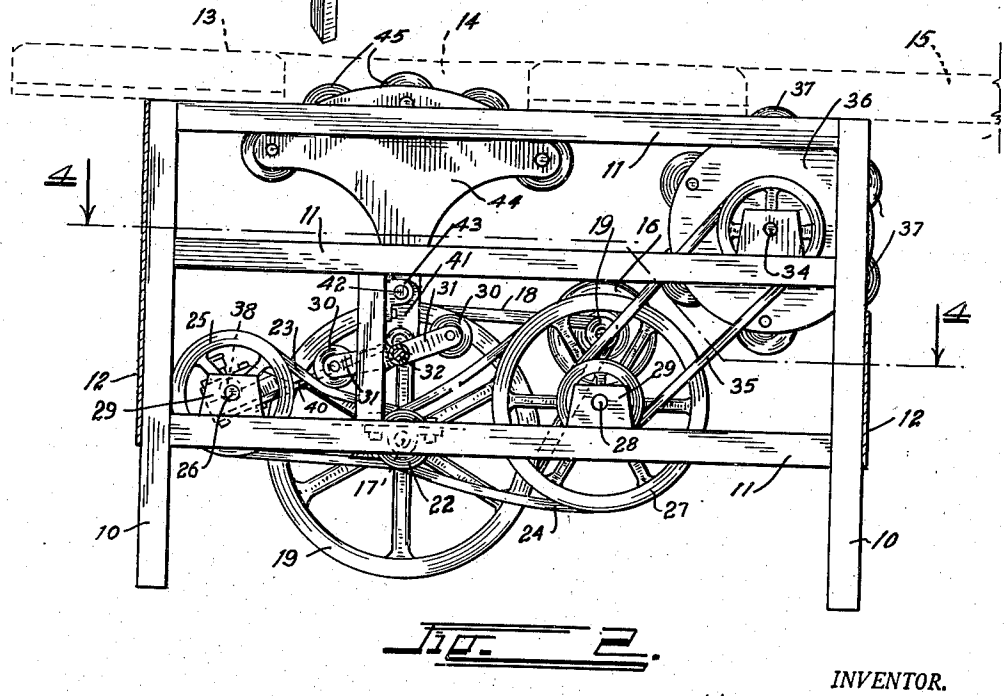


Fig. 2

INVENTOR.
HARLEY D. NIBLACK.
BY
ATTORNEY.

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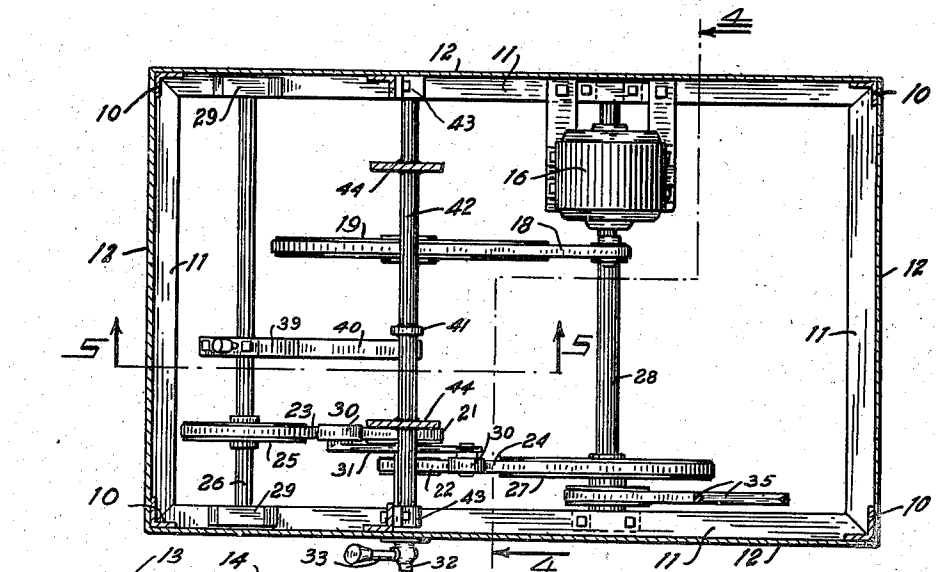


Fig. 3.

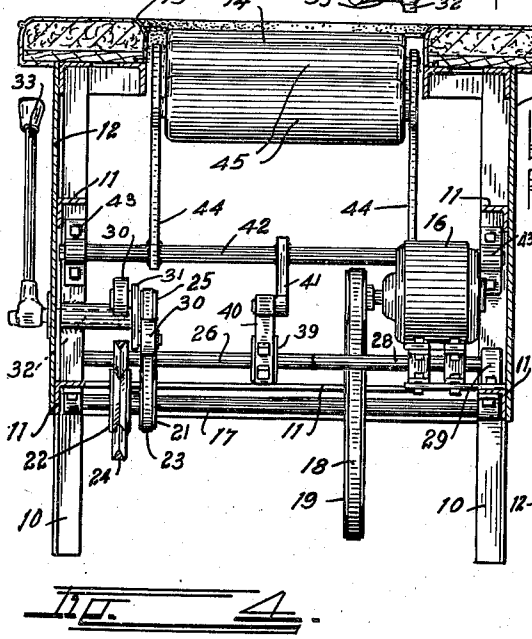


Fig. 4.

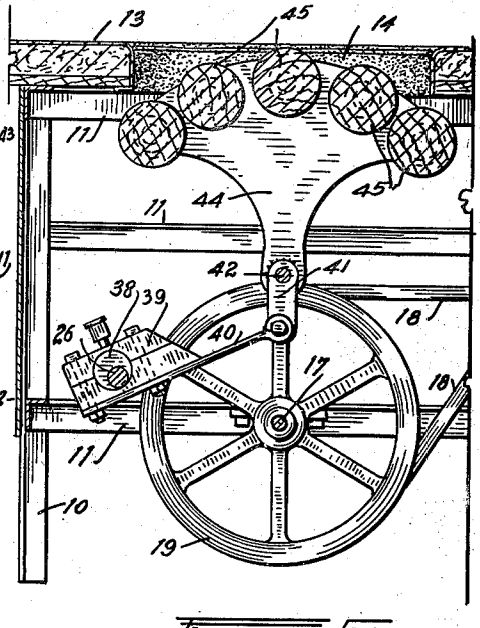


Fig. 5.

INVENTOR.
HARLEY D. NIBLACK.

BY

ATTORNEY.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,446,098

MASSAGE TABLE

Harley D. Niblack, Denver, Colo.

Application July 18, 1946, Serial No. 684,493

3 Claims. (Cl. 128—57)

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This invention relates to a massaging table for the reduction of obesity and has for its principal object the provision of a device of this character which will combine in one machine means for accomplishing a wide variety of massaging operations.

Other objects and advantages reside in the detail construction of the invention, which is designed for simplicity, economy, and efficiency. These will become more apparent from the following description.

In the following detailed description of the invention, reference is had to the accompanying drawing which forms a part hereof. Like numerals refer to like parts in all views of the drawing and throughout the description.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the improved massage table;

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary side elevation of the frame of the improved massage table, illustrating the mechanical operating elements thereof;

Fig. 3 is a plan view of the supporting frame of the table of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a cross-section therethrough, taken on the line 4—4, Fig. 3; and

Fig. 5 is a detail, enlarged section, taken on the line 5—5, Fig. 3.

The improved massage table is supported on a supporting frame consisting of vertical members 10 which form the legs of the table, and horizontal members 11 which support the various machine elements. The supporting frame is enclosed by means of suitable ornamental side and end panels 12 which conceal the operating mechanism.

The frame supports a rectangular, padded table top 13 which projects beyond one end of the supporting frame, as shown in Fig. 1, and which is provided with a medial opening 14 through which massaging elements, to be later described, project. The opposite end of the supporting frame carries an open semi-annular cushion 15 projecting beyond that extremity of the frame.

The mechanical elements of the table consist of an electric motor 16 which drives a drive shaft 17 through the medium of a V-belt 18 and V-belt pulleys 19. Current through the motor is controlled by means of a suitable start-stop rheostat 20, preferably mounted on one of the side panels 12.

The drive shaft 17 carries two drive pulleys 21 and 22, from which loose belts 23 and 24, respectively, extend. The belt 23 extends to a driven pulley 25 mounted on an eccentric shaft

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26. The belt 24 extends to a relatively large belt pulley 27 mounted on a counter-shaft 28. The shafts 17, 26, and 28 are mounted in suitable bearing boxes 29 on the horizontal members 11.

A pair of idler pulleys 30 are carried on the oppositely extending idler levers 31 secured on a counter-shaft 32 which extends to the exterior of the massage table, terminating in a control handle 33.

It can be readily seen that, if the handle 33 is shifted forward and back, it will cause the idler pulleys 30 to alternately tighten and loosen the belts 23 and 24 so as to cause the power from the motor 16 to be transmitted either to the eccentric shaft 26 or to the counter-shaft 28, as desired.

The rotation of the counter-shaft 28 is transmitted to a roller shaft 34 through the medium of a transmission belt 35. The roller shaft 34 carries two, spaced-apart roller supporting discs 36, between the peripheries of which a plurality of freely rotatable massaging rollers 37 extend. These rollers project into the opening defined by the cushion 15, as shown in Fig. 1.

The rotation of the eccentric shaft 26 is transmitted to an eccentric 38 mounted thereon. The eccentric 38 is surrounded by a split eccentric follower block 39, within which it is rotatable.

The follower block 39 is connected by means of a connecting rod 40 with an operating crank 41 secured to and extending downwardly from a rocker shaft 42. The rocker shaft extends completely across the table and is mounted in suitable bearing boxes 43 thereon.

Two arcuate, T-shaped, roller-supporting plates 44 are welded or otherwise secured to the shaft 42 and extend upwardly therefrom in aligned, spaced-apart relation.

A plurality of massage rollers 45 are journalled in and extend between the plates 44 so as to project above the supporting frame within the opening 14 of the table 13.

The operation of the device is believed to be readily apparent from the above. For certain types of massage the patient lies on the table 13 over the rollers 45. The lever 33 is swung to the left. This tightens the belt 23 and causes the eccentric to oscillate the plates 44, giving an oscillating roller action of the rollers 45 on the patient.

For other types of reduction the patient sits upon the cushion 15, holding selected portions of the legs against the rollers 37, or the patient may stand upon the floor within the embrace of the open cushion 15 and bring portions of the body to bear against the rollers 37. The lever 33 is then swung to the right, loosening the belt 23 and stop-

ping action of the plates **44**. This movement also tightens the belt **25** and causes the series of rollers **37** to rotate against those portions of the body it is desired to massage.

While a specific form of the improvement has been described and illustrated herein, it is desired to be understood that the same may be varied, within the scope of the appended claims, without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed and desired secured by Letters Patent is:

1. A massage table comprising: a supporting frame; a table top on said frame extending beyond one extremity thereof; a semi-annular cushion extending beyond the other extremity of said table; a plurality of rotatably mounted rollers supported by said table within the confines of said semi-annular cushion; a second plurality of reciprocally mounted rollers extending upwardly through an opening in the table top; and means for selectively imparting movement to either set of rollers as desired.

2. A massage table comprising: a supporting frame; a table top on said frame extending beyond one extremity thereof; a semi-annular cushion extending beyond the other extremity of said table; a plurality of rotatably mounted rollers supported by said table within the confines of said semi-annular cushion; a second plurality of reciprocally mounted rollers extending upwardly through an opening in the table top; an eccentric for imparting an eccentric motion to the second set of rollers; a drive shaft; and means for selectively connecting said drive shaft either to said eccentric or to said first set of rollers as desired.

3. A massage table comprising: a supporting frame; a horizontal table top supported by said frame; an opening in said table top; a shaft extending horizontally across said frame below said opening; horizontal spaced-apart, roller-supporting members mounted on and extending upwardly from said shaft at each side of said opening; rotatable rollers journalled in and extending between said members and across said opening; and means for oscillating said members back and forth about the axis of said shaft and longitudinally of said opening.

HARLEY D. NIBLACK.

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