March 29, 1966 D. R. HOYT 3,242,882

TABLE

Filed Dec. 18, 1964 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

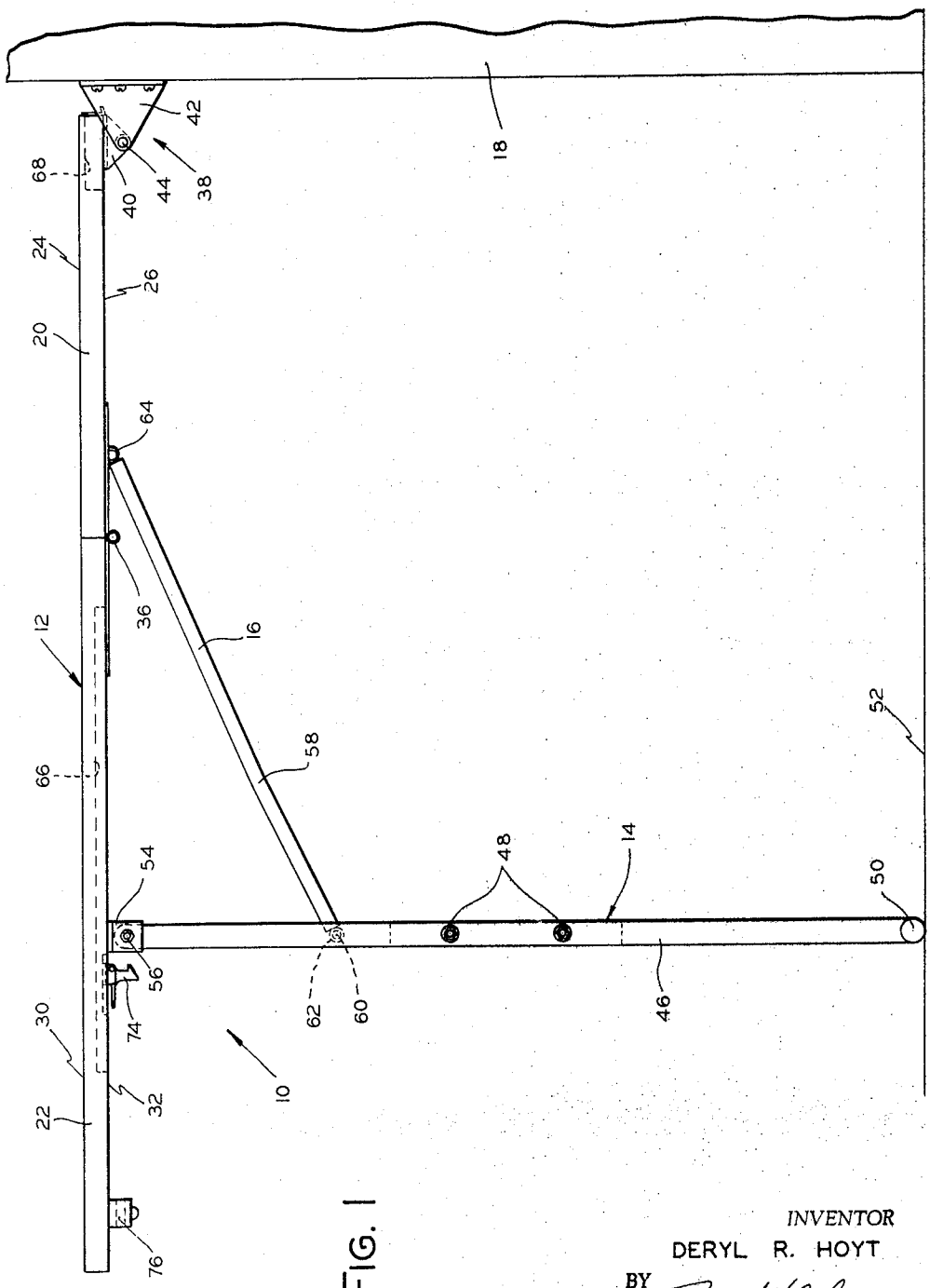


FIG. 1

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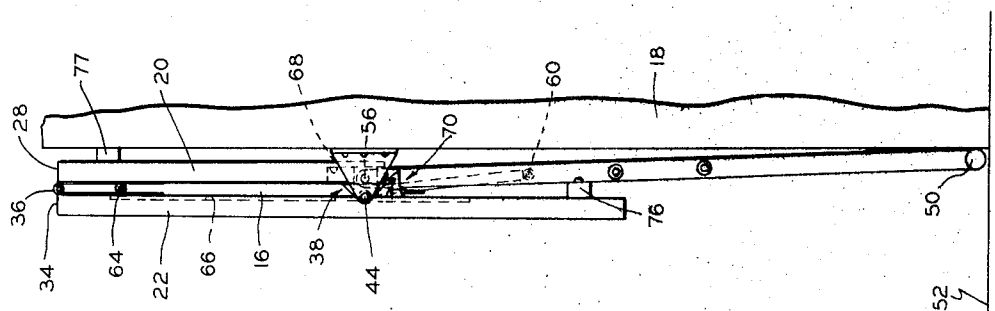


FIG. 3

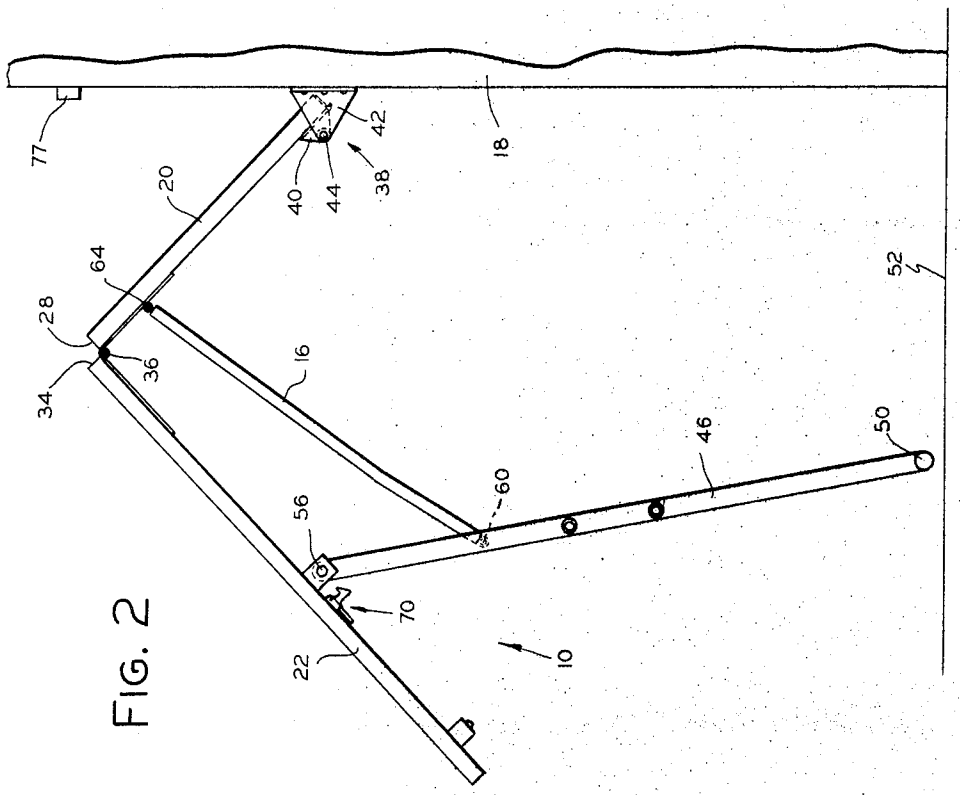


FIG. 2

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FIG. 4

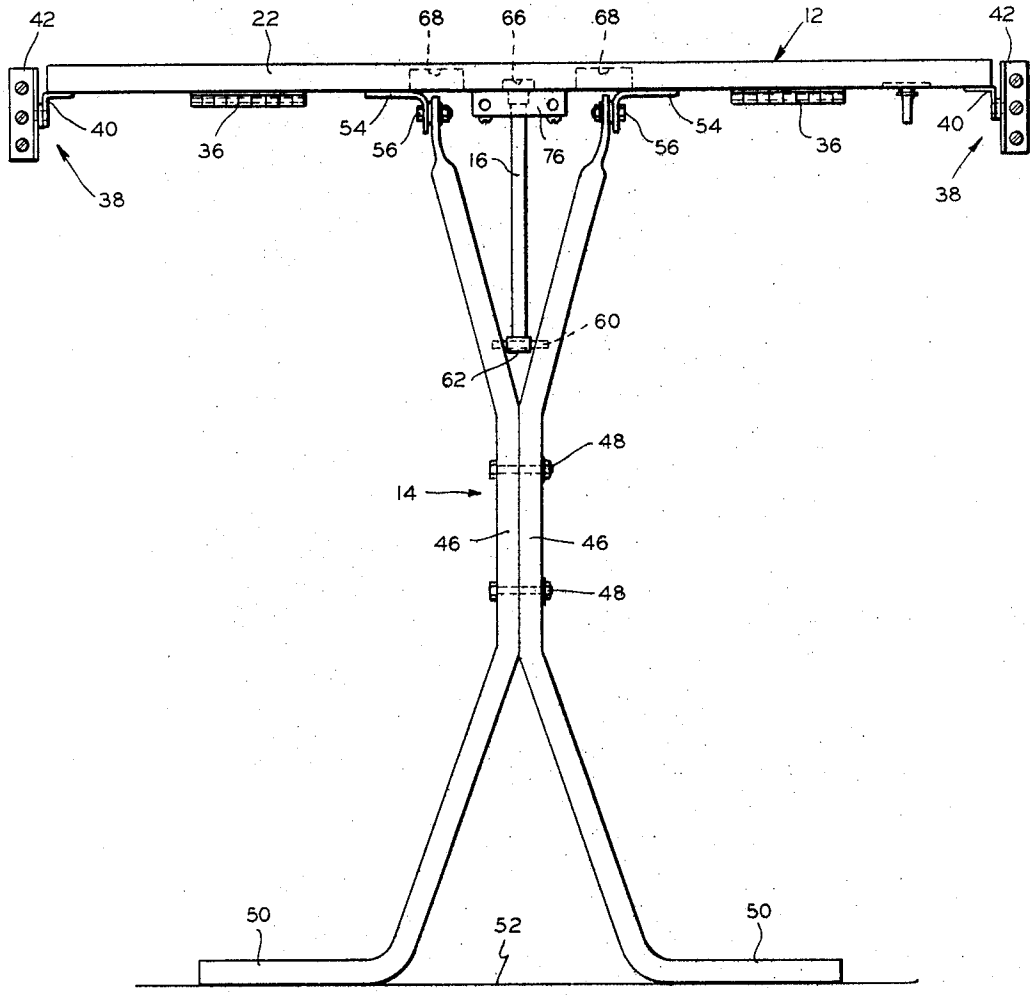
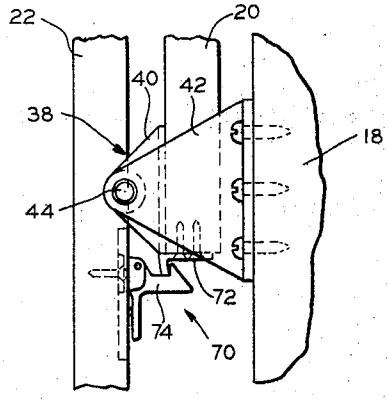


FIG. 5



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United States Patent Office 3,242,882 Patented Mar. 29, 1966

3,242,882

TABLE

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Filed Dec. 18, 1964, Ser. No. 419,305
2 Claims. (Cl. 108—48)

This invention relates to tables, and more particularly to a table which may be folded into a storage position when not in use.

In conjunction with boats, so-called motor homes, camping trailers, and the like it is often desirable to provide a table which may be stored in an out-of-the-way location when it is not in use. Generally speaking such tables include a one-piece table-top which is supported adjacent one end by a support wall and at the other end by legs which extend to the floor or by a brace which angles back to the support wall. Such tables usually may be removed from the wall and the one-piece table-top and the legs or brace then stored in some convenient location. Such removable table constructions are inconvenient to assemble for use and disassemble for storage.

It is therefore a principal object of my invention to provide a table construction which is readily foldable from a use position to a storage position.

Another object of my invention is to provide a generally improved folding table construction.

In carrying out my invention in a preferred embodiment I provide a table-top having first and second portions, each portion having an upper and lower surface. The table-top portions are pivotally connected together for movement between a position in which the upper surfaces are substantially co-planar to a position in which the lower surfaces are in confronting relation. Also, the first table-top portion is pivotally connected to a supporting wall or the like. A leg is pivotally connected adjacent one end thereof to the second table-top portion and adapted to engage the floor at the other end thereof. A brace is pivotally connected at one end thereof to the leg and is pivotally connected at the other end thereof to the first table-top portion.

The above and other objects, features and advantages of my invention will be more readily understood from the following description when considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawing in which:

FIGURE 1 is a side elevation of the table fully extended for use;

FIGURE 2 is similar to FIG. 1 and shows the table partially folded;

FIGURE 3 is similar to FIGS. 1 and 2 with the table fully folded to a storage position;

FIGURE 4 is a front elevation of the table in the position shown in FIG. 1; and

FIGURE 5 is an enlarged fragmentary view showing to better advantage the lock for retaining the table in storage position.

Referring to the figures, reference numeral **10** denotes generally the table of my invention which includes a table-top **12**, a leg assembly **14** and a brace **16**. As can be seen from FIG. 1 table **10** is designed to be supported partially by leg assembly **14** and supported partially by a wall **18**, for example, or other similar structure.

Table-top **12** is a two piece assembly which includes first and second portions **20** and **22** which are substantially rectangular in shape. The first table-top portion **20** has an upper surface **24** which is substantially plane, a lower surface **26** which is substantially parallel to upper surface **24**, and an end **28** (FIG. 2). Likewise, the second table-top portion **22** includes similar upper and lower surfaces **30** and **32** and an end **34**.

Table-top portions **20** and **22** are pivotally joined or hinged by hinges **36** adjacent the lower edge of ends **28** and **34**. Table-top portion **20** also is pivotally connected to the wall or support **18** by means of a pair of hinges **38**, each hinge including an L-shaped bracket **40** connected to table-top portion **20**, an L-shaped bracket **42** connected to support **18** and a hinge pin **44** pivotally connecting brackets **40** and **42**. As will be noted from FIG. 1 table-top portions **20** and **22** are hinged together so that the adjacent ends **28** and **34** thereof abut each other and maintain upper surfaces **24** and **30** substantially co-planar when table-top portions **20** and **22** are folded out to the position shown in FIG. 1.

Leg assembly **14** includes a pair of tubular members **46** which are bolted together at **48**. The upper portions of members **46** diverge, as shown, in order to provide good lateral stability at the hinged connection of leg assembly **14** to table-top portion **22**. The bottom portions of tubular members **46** likewise diverge, as shown, in order to increase lateral stability and the extreme bottom portions are turned in opposite directions to form a pair of feet **50** which are adapted to engage a floor **52** or other supporting structure. Leg assembly **14** may be said to have an X-shaped configuration when viewed as in FIG. 4. Leg assembly **14** is pivotally connected to undersurface **32** of table-top portion **22** by means of a pair of angle brackets **54** and a pair of bolt and nut assemblies **56** which engage respectively the upper portions of tubular members **46** and the adjacent angle brackets **54**, as best shown in FIG. 4.

Brace **16** preferably is tubular, although, obviously, other shapes can be used, and has a slight downward bend at **58** of approximately 5° which faciltates holding leg assembly **14** against wall **18**, as will be explained in more detail shortly. Brace **16** is pivotally connected adjacent one end thereof to leg assembly **14** by means of a pin **60** which is disposed between the upper portions of tubular members **46** and on which is rotatably journaled a sleeve **62** to which brace **16** is connected by any suitable means, such as welding. The other end of brace **16** is pivotally connected to undersurface **36** of table-top portion **20** by means of a hinge **64**.

It will be noted at this point that the axes of the various pivotal or hinged connections are all substantially parallel.

A cut out portion **66** is provided in the undersurface **32** of table-top portion **22** in order to provide clearance for brace **16** when table **10** is folded into the storage position shown in FIG. 3. Similarly, a pair of cutouts **68** are provided in undersurface **26** of table-top portion **20** in order to provide clearance for the pivotal connections **54**, **56** of leg assembly **14** to table-top portion **22** when table **10** is folded to the storage position shown in FIG. 3.

Table **10** is held in the folded storage position shown in FIG. 3 by means of a lock **70** which includes a catch **72** fixed to the edge of table-top portion **20** adjacent wall **18** and a latch **74** connected to undersurface **32** of table-top portion **22**, as shown. Latch **74** is arranged to engage catch **72** when table **10** is in the position shown in FIG. 3.

In order to prevent table **10** from rattling when it is disposed in the position shown in FIG. 3 brace **16** is provided with a bend at **58** of about 5°, as mentioned hereinabove, so that the bottom of leg assembly **14** abuts wall **18**. Also, a bumper **76** of any suitable resilient material is fastened to undersurface **32** of table-top portion **22** so that it engages leg assembly **14**, as shown, when table **10** is folded to the position shown in FIG. 3. In addition, a bumper **77** of any suitable resilient material is fastened to support **18** so that it engages table-top portion **20**, as shown, when table **10** is folded to the position shown in FIG. 3.

In operation, assume that table **10** is in the position shown in FIG. 1 and it is desired to fold it to the storage position shown in FIG. 3. One grasps table-top **12** and

raises it slightly so as to lift leg assembly **14** away from floor **52**. Next, one raises table-top **12** in the vicinity of hinge **36**, causing it to buckle upwardly. Table **10** is now substantially in the position shown in FIG. 2. Now, one merely pushes table-top portion **22** toward wall **18** and the entire table **10** folds to the position shown in FIG. 3 in which latch **74** engages catch **72** to lock table **10** in the FIG. 3 position. It will be noted that brace **16** serves, during folding movement of table-top **12**, to actuate leg assembly **14** from its substantially right angle disposition relative to table-top **12** to a disposition approaching parallel with table-top portions **20** and **22**, as shown in FIG. 3. In order to unfold table **10** from the position shown in FIG. 3 to the position shown in FIG. 1, it is necessary merely to release lock **70**, and then grasping table-top portion **22**, pull outwardly and slightly upwardly.

From the foregoing it will be appreciated that I have provided a relatively simple table construction which, while it is extremely rigid and sturdy, can, nevertheless be easily folded from a use position to a storage position and vice versa.

Although I have described and illustrated a preferred embodiment of my invention, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that modifications may be made in the structure, form and relative arrangement of parts without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Accordingly, it should be understood that I intend to cover by the appended claims all such modifications which fall within the scope of my invention.

I claim:

1. A folding table for use with a support, said table comprising a table-top having first and second generally rectangular portions, each portion including an undersurface and an edge, said portions being pivotally connected together for movement between a use position in which said portions are substantially co-planar and said edges are in abutment and a storage position in which said undersurfaces are in confronting relation and substantially

parallel, said first portion also being pivotally connected to the said support, a generally X-shaped leg assembly pivotally connected adjacent one end thereof to said undersurface of said second portion and disposable substantially perpendicular to said second portion when said portions are in said use position, and a rigid brace pivotally connected adjacent one end thereof to said undersurface of said first portion and pivotally connected adjacent the other end thereof to said leg assembly intermediate the ends thereof so that movement of said portions from said use position to said storage position actuates said leg assembly from said perpendicular position to a position between and substantially parallel to said portions.

2. A table as set forth in claim **1** and including a lock for holding said portions in said storage position and a resilient member fixed to said table-top and disposed to abut said leg assembly when said portions are in said storage position and said leg assembly and brace cooperate so that the end of said leg assembly remote from said table-top abuts the support when said portions are in said storage position so that rattling of the table in said storage position is minimized.

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