May 20, 1941. R. C. COXHEAD 2,242,745

DESK OR TABLE

Filed May 21, 1938 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

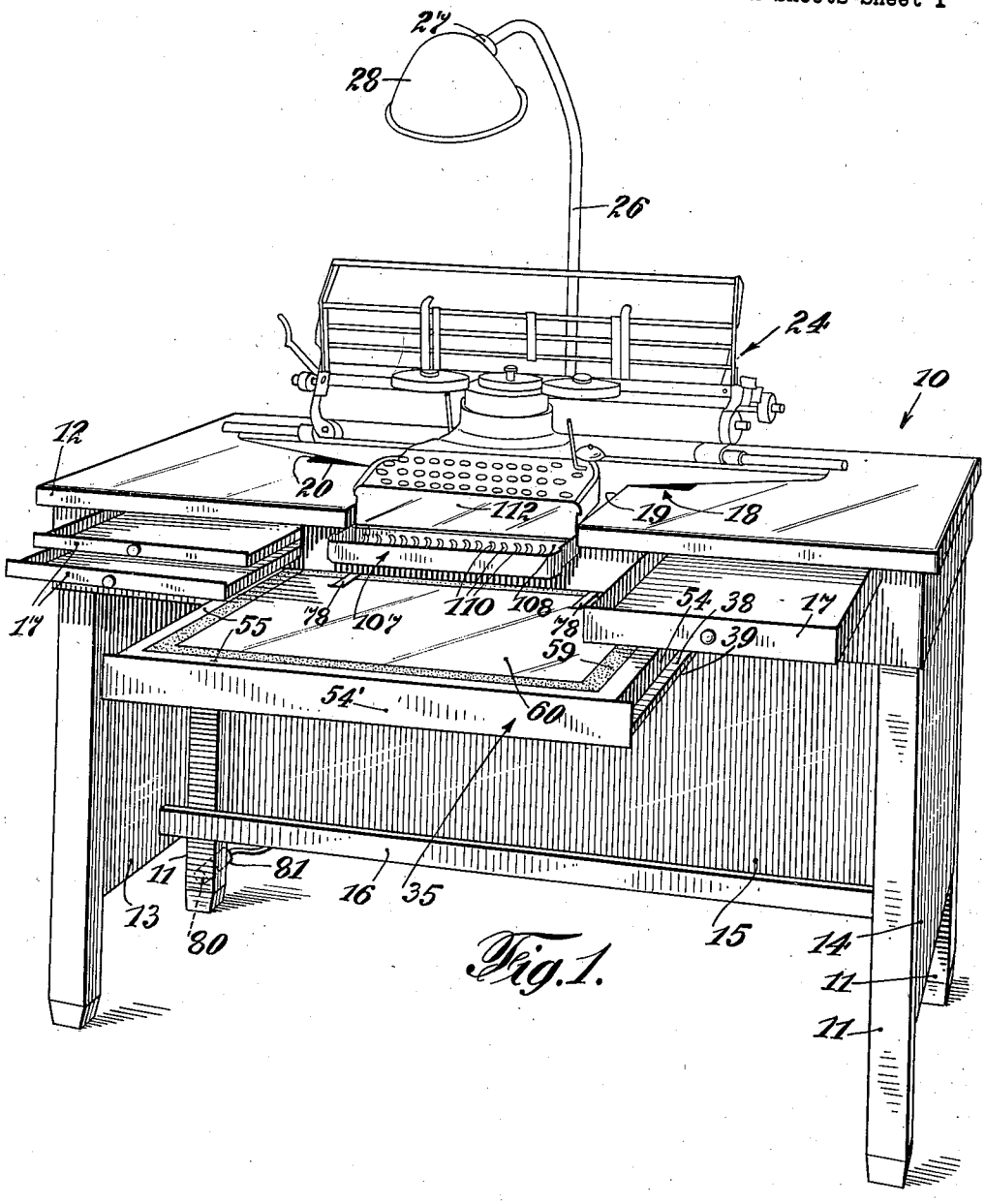


Fig. 1.

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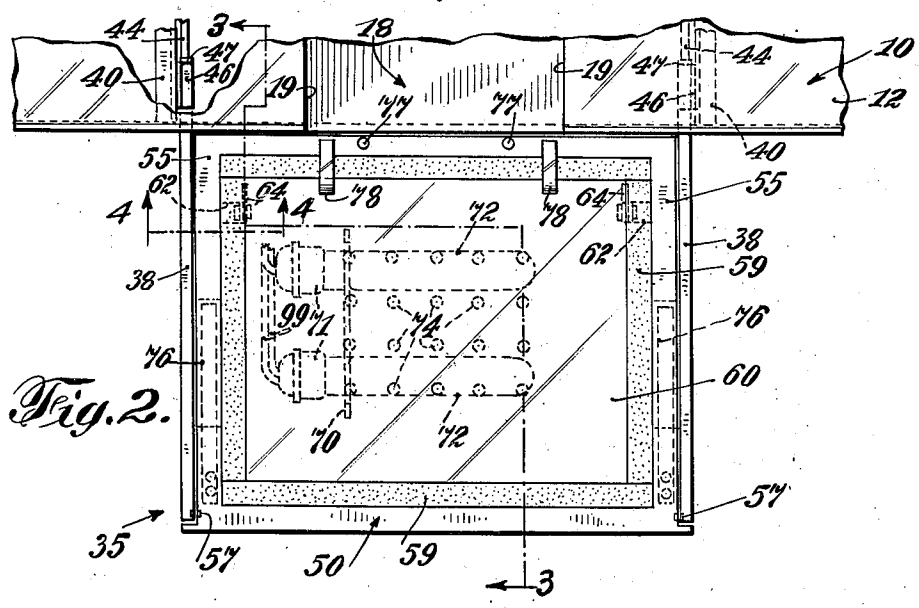


Fig. 2.

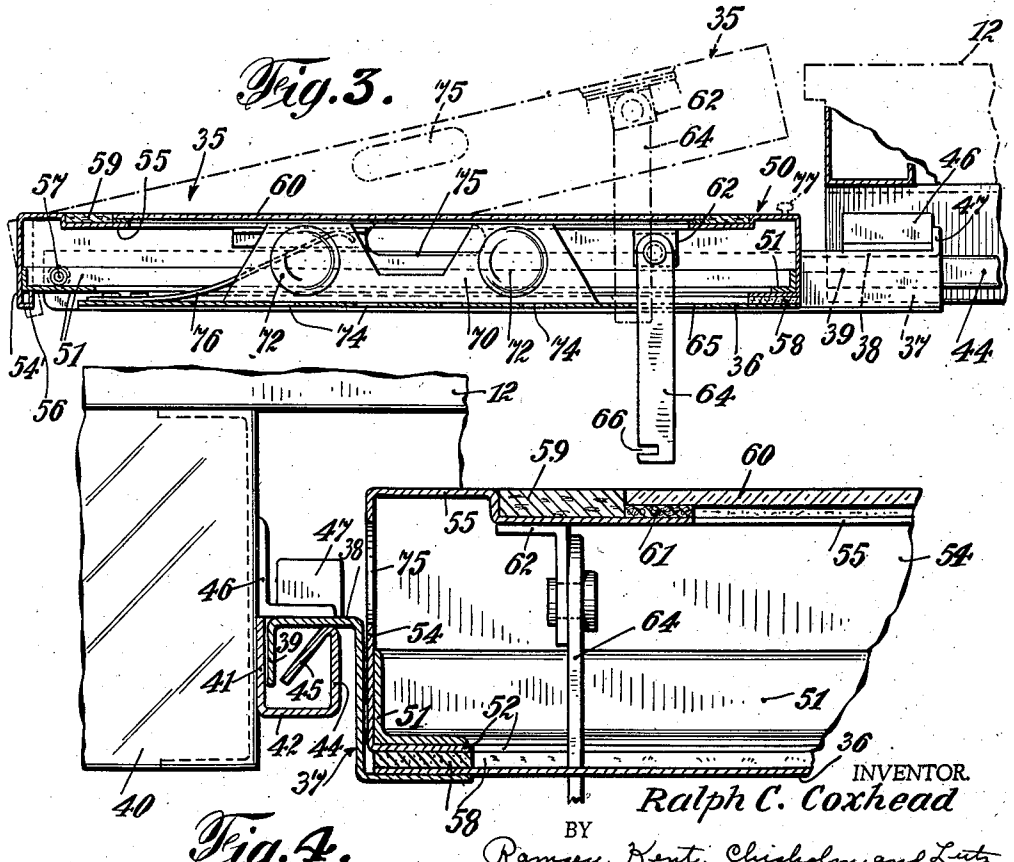


Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,242,745

DESK OR TABLE

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Application May 21, 1938, Serial No. 209,211

3 Claims. (Cl. 45—7)

This invention relates to improvements in desks or tables and more particularly to improvements in desks or tables adapted especially for use in conjunction with and as supports for typewriting machines.

An object of the invention is to provide a table as described with a sliding drawer having a top pivotally mounted thereon at the front end thereof for movement into an inclined plane to serve as an auxiliary desk member.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a slidable drawer in a desk, which drawer has the top pivotally mounted to be tilted and which top has the major portion thereof formed of some translucent material.

An additional object of the invention is to provide illuminating means in a drawer as just described, which illuminating means can be used to illuminate devices resting on the translucent top of the drawer.

In carrying out the foregoing and other objects of the invention, a table is constructed of some suitable material such as steel or other suitable metal, or any other material which has the proper characteristics. In the particular form shown, the table is constructed of steel with hollow corner posts supporting a substantially flat top. The flat top is provided with a well so shaped and of such depth as to receive parts of a typewriting machine. In addition, the table is so constructed as to have a plurality of relatively small drawers mounted slidably adjacent each end thereof. As a further improvement, the table is provided with a central drawer slidably mounted and having a cover pivotally secured to the front end of the drawer. This cover can be tilted to an inclined position and when so tilted, means are provided for supporting the same in such position. The principal part of this cover is made of some translucent material, such as ground glass. Mounted in the drawer are two sockets for the reception of electric light bulbs which can be energized to direct light rays through the translucent top, thereby rendering the top readily usable as a surface for the preparation of stencil sheets and the like. The top of this drawer, of course, can be used as a drawing board or as an auxiliary surface for writing, or for other uses to which a desk is ordinarily put. One rear support of the desk has electric conductors extending upwardly from a socket mounted in the support. A circuit from this common supply line extends to the lamp sockets mounted in the drawer before described.

Other features, objects and advantages will become apparent by reference to the following detailed description of the accompanying drawings illustrating the same:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a table or desk embodying the invention and showing parts thereof in adjusted position;

Fig. 2 is a plan view of a fragment of the desk and showing the drawer with pivoted top in one adjusted position;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged section taken substantially on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a still further enlarged section taken substantially on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2.

Referring now to the drawings, 10 indicates generally a desk or table made in accordance with the invention. This desk is formed with four hollow legs 11 which support a top 12 preferably having secured on the surface thereof some composition material suitable for use in connection with this type of device. In addition, the legs 11 have connected thereto end panels 13 and 14 and a back panel 15. Extending between the panels 13 and 14 and spaced from the back panel 15, is a cross-bar 16. Slidably mounted beneath the top 12 in some suitable fashion, are end drawers 17. These drawers may be of any desired number and of any desired shape.

The top 12 of the desk is provided substantially intermediate the ends thereof with a depressed well, indicated generally at 18, which well has parallel side-walls 19, opposite longitudinal extensions defined each by three walls 20, opposite parallel walls 21 and a rear wall 22. The bottom of this well is formed with a plane surface to which can be attached in some suitable fashion a typewriting machine indicated generally at 24, which may be of any desired character, but which in the present illustration is of the type utilizing arcuate shaped bars containing fonts of type thereon, which bars can be interchangeable. The extensions formed by the walls 20 are provided to receive portions of the machine so that the machine can be in a depressed position relative to the top of the table.

Secured to the top of the table is a base 25 and extending upwardly from such base is a flexible stem 26 terminating in a socket 27 having a shade 28 secured thereto. This socket 27 serves as a receptacle for an electric light bulb and since stem 26 is flexible, the socket can be adjusted to any desired position to illuminate parts of the top of the desk and the machine. The machine has as a part thereof an electric motor 29 and a spring box 30, and also, a lamp standard 31 having associated therewith a socket for the recep-

tion of a light bulb and an enclosing shade 32 which is adjustable so that desired parts of the machine including the motor and spring box can be illuminated.

Slidably mounted substantially midway between the end panels 13 and 14 is a drawer indicated generally at 35. The drawer is composed in part of a shallow tray made up of a bottom 36 and side members 37 secured to the bottom by welding or in some other suitable fashion. By reference to Fig. 4 it will be seen that each side member 37 has a part thereof secured underneath the bottom 36, a right angular part extending upwardly; a horizontal portion 38 and a vertical portion 39 spaced in parallelism to the first mentioned upright portion. This member 37 serves to support the tray in a suitable slide secured to the framework indicated generally at 40 extending downwardly beneath the top 12. The slideway proper is made up of a metallic member having a vertical portion 41 secured to the framework 40 by welding or in any other suitable manner, a bottom horizontal portion 42, a vertical portion 44 in substantial parallelism to the vertical portion 41 and an angular portion 45 extending toward the corner between the parts 41 and 42. The side member 37 is mounted in such fashion that the horizontal part 38 thereof, rests on the bend formed between parts 44 and 45 and the vertical part 39 of the member 37 lies adjacent to the vertical portion 41 of the slide. Secured to the frame 40 immediately above the guideway is an angle bar 46, such bar being located near the front of the desk as indicated in Fig. 3. The horizontal expanse of this angle bar 46 is positioned to overlie the horizontal part 38 of the tray in close proximity to serve as a stop member to prevent tilting of the tray when the same is extended to the Fig. 3 position, and in addition, this horizontal part of the angle bar cooperates with a stop 47 extending upwardly from part 38 to limit outward movement of the tray.

Associated with the tray is a top member indicated generally at 50 (Fig. 3) which top member is made substantially as follows: To an angle bar 51 is secured a metallic member having a horizontal part 52 and a vertical part 54. The vertical part 54 extends upwardly beyond the slide member 38 of the tray and is bent over to form a stepped top part 55. The front panel of this top member formed by vertical part 54' extends beneath the angle member 51 and is turned back as indicated at 56. This extension serves admirably as a handle for the combination drawer made up of tray and top. The top is pivoted to the side members 37 at the front of the drawer as indicated at 57. A strip of leather 58 or other suitable material is positioned along the two sides and the rear of the bottom 36 of the tray to serve as a cushion for the top in its closed position.

Seated in the step formed in the top part 55 of the top member and extending completely around the top, is strip cork material or some other suitable material. This cork stripping 59 serves to form a border for a panel 60 preferably of ground glass which has the edges thereof resting on felt 61 or some other suitable material, which felt has the inner edge thereof coextensive with the top part 55; it being understood of course, that a relatively large opening is provided in the metallic top to be closed only by the ground glass panel 60. Secured to and extending downwardly from the steps of the top part 55 at opposite sides thereof are two angle bars 62 to which are preferably secured props 64. These props are designed to pass through openings 65 in the bottom 36 of the tray and each prop has a notch 66 near the end thereof, of shape and size to engage the edge of the opening 66. When so engaged, or in other words, in the dotted line position of Fig. 3, the props 64 serve to hold the top or cover in an inclined position (the dotted line position Fig. 3). If desired several notches 66 can be provided along the length of the props 64 to permit adjusting the top to any desired angularity.

Extending upwardly from the bottom 36 of the tray is wall member 70 having secured thereto a pair of electric light sockets 71, serving as receptacles for electric light bulbs 72. The bottom 36 of the tray is provided with a plurality of relatively small openings 74 immediately below the light bulbs to permit the entry of air into the interior of the drawer. Also the upright parts 54 of the cover member are provided with openings 75 for the entrance of air, the various openings cooperating to permit circulation of air through the interior to prevent excessive heat. Secured to the bottom 36 of the tray near the opposite edges thereof, are two leaf springs 76 curved upwardly in such fashion that they can rest against the stepped surface of the top 55. These springs act as shock absorbers to prevent the cover being lowered in such fashion as to create a shock or jar which might fracture the glass panel 60. Secured to the inner edge of the cover are two pins or studs 77 and adjacent such studs are two spring clips 78. The purpose of these members will be explained later.

As before stated, the various legs 11 of the device are made of hollow steel construction, and due to such construction, an electric feed line extends upwardly in the interior of one of the rear legs 11 from an electric plug 80 mounted in such leg near the bottom thereof for the reception of a socket 81 on the end of an extension cord. The various wires utilized in providing current carriers for the various devices described hereinbefore are not shown in detail. Suitable conductors for supplying energy to the lamp bulbs 72 together with a control switch are provided.

Since the machine 18 as before described is of a type employing interchangeable fonts of type mounted on arcuate shaped bars, provision is made for storing a plurality of such arcuate shaped bars in such position as to be readily available. For this purpose the base of the machine is provided with a chamber partially defined by the bottom plate of such base. By reference to Fig. 1 it will be seen that the type receptacle comprises a tray 107, the front wall of which conforms to the configuration of the base of the machine. This tray has a forward compartment 108 having a plurality of arcuate shaped partitions therein. These partitions define chambers for the reception of arcuate shaped bars having fonts of type thereon, illustrated at 110. A cover 112 is hinged to the tray in a suitable fashion preferably with the aid of spring means for normally forcing the cover upwardly.

The device hereinbefore described possesses many advantages not present in desks and tables heretofore provided for use in conjunction and cooperation with typewriting machines.

The provision of the sliding drawer 35 makes possible several operations by the user of the

desk without the necessity of requiring additional equipment at some other point in the room. This drawer when moved to its outermost position provides in effect a desk or table top which can be utilized for writing, for drawing or for other purposes. Furthermore, since the panel **60** is of ground glass and light bulbs **72** are mounted underneath the same, it is possible to obtain an illumination of such panel whereby stencils or other partially transparent or translucent devices can be carefully inspected. To this end the upstanding lugs or pins **77** have been provided, which pins can be engaged by the recesses customarily found in stencils or the like, which are prepared on typewriting machines. The spring clips **78** can also be used to secure paper, drawings, or the like to the top of the drawer. The use of the drawer for such purposes is not limited to a position in which the panel **60** extends horizontally, but the top of this drawer can be adjusted angularly (Fig. 3) into such position as to render inspection and the like more efficient. In such angular position the top of the drawer is particularly adapted for use as a drawing board and can be used either with lights **72** energized or not as may be desired.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the present invention provides as a unitary structure, a desk or table which possesses advantages not customarily found in office equipment of this type. It will be understood of course, that other modifications beyond those shown in the drawings can be made; in view of which any limitations imposed thereupon are to be only those set forth in the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A device of the character described, comprising a table, said table having a slidable drawer intermediate the ends thereof, said drawer being composed partially of a tray, and a cover for said tray, said cover having depending side walls of greater height than the side walls of said tray, said cover walls fitting closely in the tray walls whereby the cover extends substantially completely across the top of the tray, said cover being hinged to the forward end of said tray so that the position of said cover can be adjusted from a horizontal position to an angular position, lateral extensions on the side walls of said tray, and means in said table cooperating with said extensions to support said tray and cover in any position of the cover and to prevent substantial tipping of the tray when the cover is in an angular position, the lateral extensions on the side walls of the tray being extended beyond the inner boundary of the cover to support the drawer with the cover elevated beyond the front of the table.

2. A device of the character described, comprising a table, said table having a slidable drawer intermediate the ends thereof, said drawer being composed partially of a tray, and a cover for said tray, said cover having depending side walls fitting closely in the tray walls whereby the cover extends substantially completely across the top of the tray, said cover being supported by said tray with the top of the cover normally lying in a substantially horizontal plane, said cover being hinged to the forward end of said tray so that the position of said cover can be adjusted from a horizontal position to an angular position, lateral extensions on the side walls of said tray, and means in said table cooperating with said extensions to support said tray and cover in any position of the cover and to prevent substantial tipping of the tray when the cover is in an angular position, the lateral extensions on the side walls of the tray being extended beyond the inner boundary of the cover to support the drawer with the cover elevated beyond the front of the table.

3. A device of the character described, comprising a table, said table having a slidable drawer intermediate the ends thereof, said drawer being composed partially of a tray, and a cover for said tray, said cover having depending side walls fitting closely in the tray walls whereby the cover extends substantially completely across the top of the tray, said cover side walls being pivotally secured to adjacent tray side walls near the forward ends thereof so that the position of said cover can be adjusted from a horizontal position to an angular position, said cover having a depending front wall forming the front wall of the drawer, lateral extensions on the side walls of said tray, and means in said table cooperating with said extensions to support said tray and cover in any position of the cover and to prevent substantial tipping of the tray when the cover is in an angular position, the lateral extensions on the side walls of the tray being extended beyond the inner boundary of the cover to support the drawer with the cover elevated beyond the front of the table.

RALPH C. COXHEAD.