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EFFICIENCY DESK

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 1

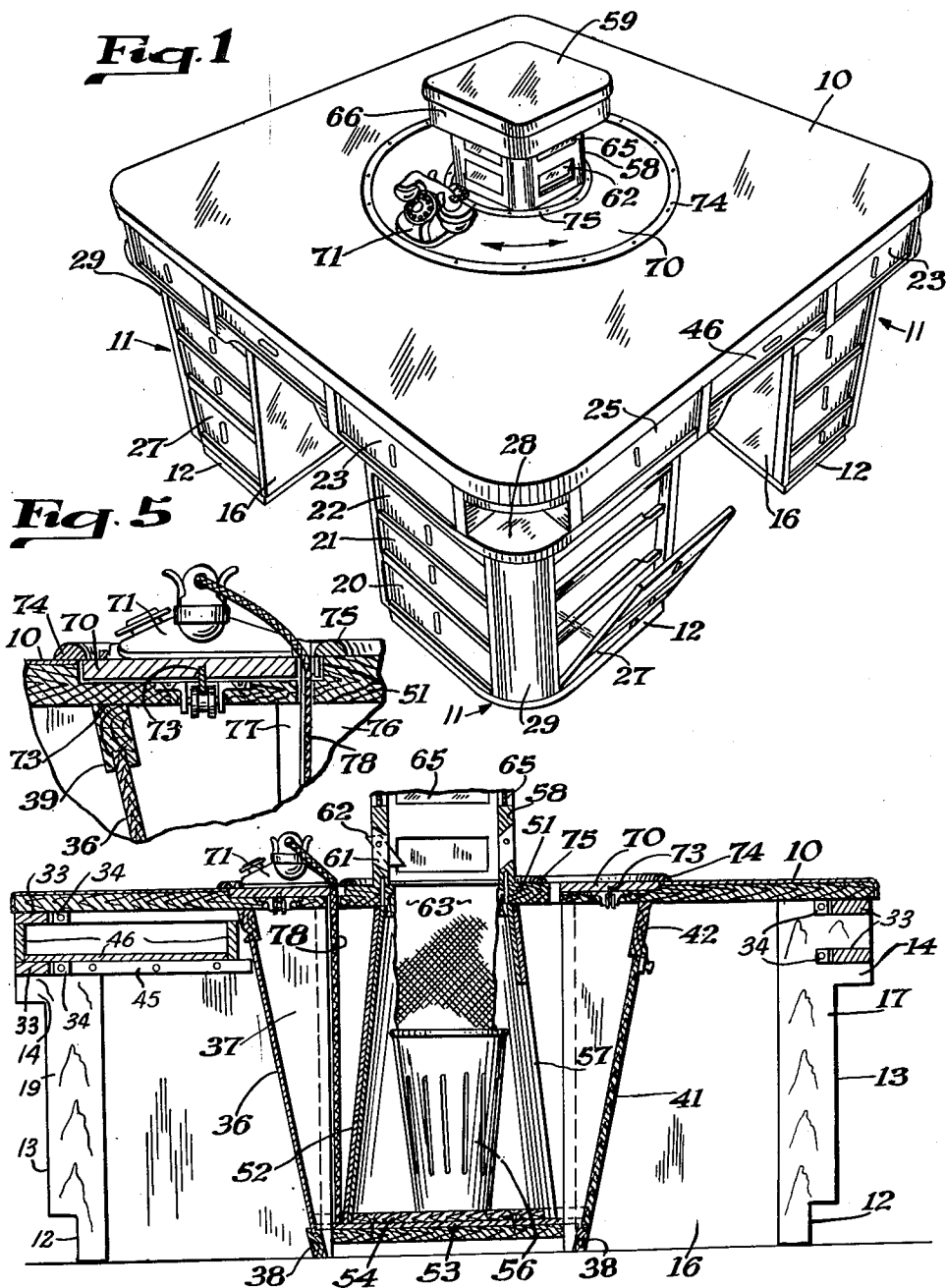


Fig. 3

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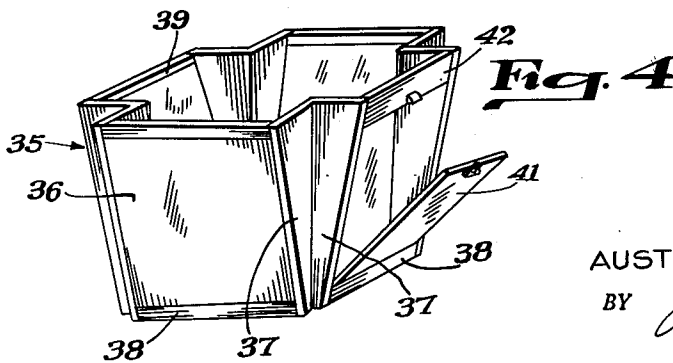
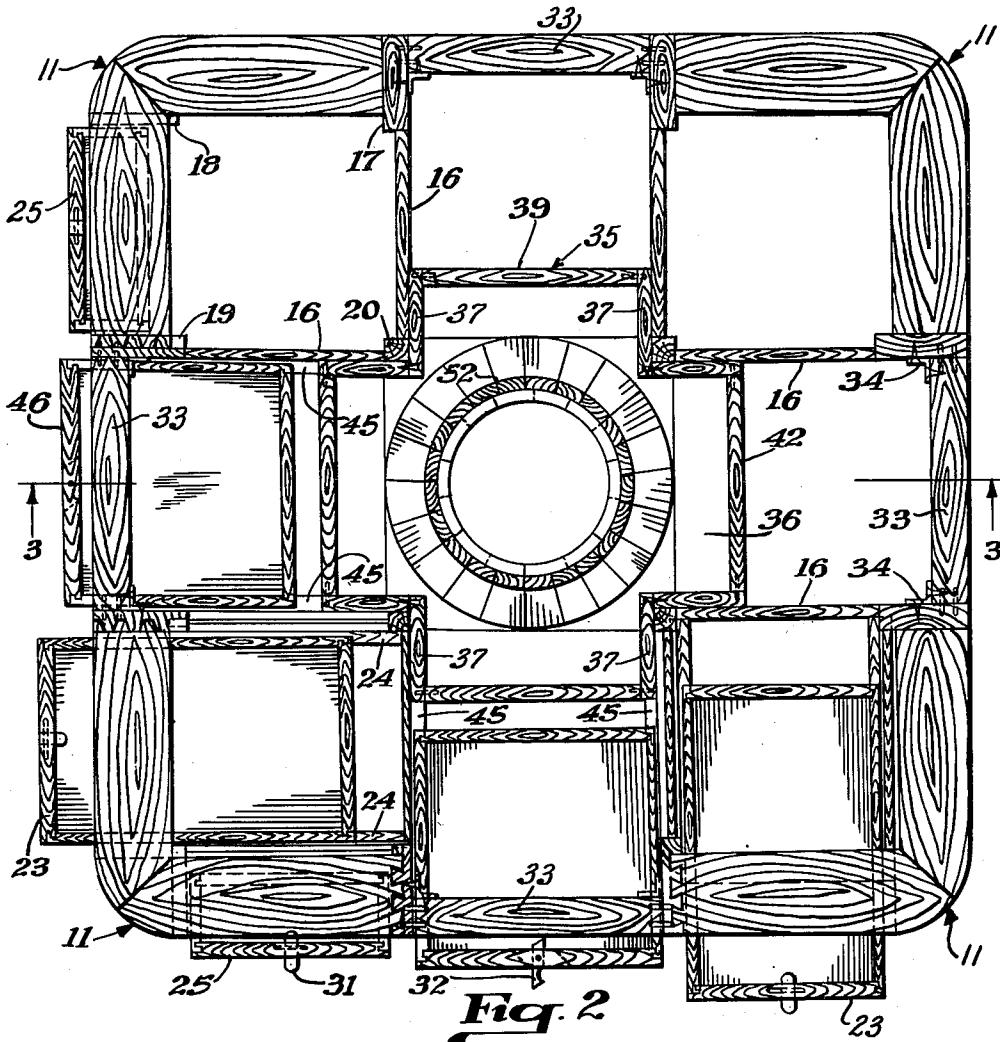
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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2



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EFFICIENCY DESK

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This invention relates to desks, particularly to desks adapted for use by a number of persons.

The usual office desk is adapted for use by only one person, but requires a great deal of floor space. If desk space is to be provided for four persons, four such desks are required, which will fill a rather large room.

Much of the space requirement of desks is wasted, since their superficial area is greater than the normal demand for working space.

Moreover, where duties of the occupants of the desks are such that they need to confer often with each other, no practicable arrangement of individual desks can be made to facilitate communication. The occupants are either separated by a great expanse of desk, or are back-to-back and are then in each other's way unless the desks are widely spaced.

Also, with a number of desks, the provision of such services as light, telephones, call bells, and waste disposal is expensive.

My invention resolves these difficulties by the provision of a single desk particularly adapted for convenient use by a number of persons, preferably four.

In its preferred form, the invention provides adequate desk and drawer space for each of four persons. The arrangement is such that conferences, issuing instructions, and joint activities of all sorts are carried on with maximum convenience. The space requirement of the installation is small. The provision of telephone and other communication apparatus, lights, and waste removal is facilitated. The desk with its equipment is economical in relation to its capacity.

The principal objects of the invention are to provide the most favorable arrangement of a number of persons at a desk, to save office space, to provide utilities conveniently and economically, and to provide a desk with adequate and convenient table and drawer accommodations for a number of persons.

The manner in which these objects are realized, and other more or less ancillary objects of the invention, will be apparent to those skilled in the art from the appended specification and the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a desk for four persons;

Fig. 2 is a plan view with the top removed;

Fig. 3 is a vertical section on the plane indicated in Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the central portion of the desk; and

Fig. 5 is an enlarged detail of Fig. 3.

The desk for four persons comprises a top 10 which is preferably square, and which is preferably rounded at the corners, generally as illustrated. The top is supported on four pedestals 11, one of which is located at each corner of the desk. These pedestals are preferably square in outline. The design of the pedestals from the standpoint of style of the piece of furniture is immaterial to the invention, the style illustrated herein being merely exemplary. The arrangement of drawers and compartments in the pedestals is a feature of the invention contributing to the efficiency of the desk, but of course variations may be made to suit individual tastes and needs as desired.

The physical construction of the pedestals in the illustration herein follows established principles of construction in woodworking insofar as cabinet work or joining is concerned, and therefore no detailed description of the woodworking techniques involved or the details of the forming, fitting, and assembling of the individual members is required, as the construction details are well understood by those skilled in the art of furniture making.

In general, each pedestal comprises a lower or foot portion 12, an intermediate portion 13 overhanging the foot portion, and an upper portion 14 overhanging the intermediate portion. In plan view the sections are rectangular, except that the outer corners are preferably rounded. The two sides of each pedestal which lie under the desk are enclosed by panels 16 and suitable vertical members such as 17, 18, 19, and 20 at the corners of the pedestal constitute parts of the frame. Relatively deep drawers 20, 21, 22, and 23, the length of which is substantially equal to the overall length of the pedestal, slide into the pedestal from one outer face thereof, preferably the face which is disposed to be located at the right hand of a person at the center of the side of the desk. These drawers are of the usual type of construction and slide on rails such as 24 mounted in any suitable manner. The space in the upper overhanging portion of the pedestal between the drawer 23 and the face of the pedestal parallel the side of the drawer 23 is occupied by a relatively shallow drawer 25. A shallow compartment to which access is provided by a swinging door 27 lies beneath the drawer 25 and alongside the drawers 20, 21, and 22. Below the rounded corner of the desk and between the drawers 23 and 25 a shelf 28 is provided, which may be conveniently used for ashtrays or the like, and the corner of the desk is trimmed by a

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quarter-cylindrical panel or molding 29. The drawers and the door 27 are provided with pulls which may be of a disappearing type as indicated at 31 and 32 in Fig. 2. Each of the pedestals 11 is a complete, independent, self-supporting unit and all are preferably identical.

The pedestals are preferably fixed together in proper alignment by tie members 33 secured to the uprights by angle brackets 34 and screws. Their alignment may also be insured by a central enclosure 35 shown most particularly in Fig. 4, which is of generally cruciform shape in plan, being formed with upright side panels 36 inclined slightly outwardly from the base of the enclosure, which reach across between the side panels 16 of the pedestals. The panels 36 are fitted to tapered panels 37 which are joined at right angles and which lie against the inner portion of the side panels 16 of the pedestals. Horizontal frame members 38 and 39 at the bottom and top of the panels 36 and 37, respectively, complete the structure of three sides of the enclosure. On one side a door 41 is hinged to the frame member at 38 and is provided with a catch by which it is latched to the upper cross member 42. The enclosure assembly 35 may be simply fitted between the pedestals or it may be secured to them if desired to increase the rigidity of the assembly.

Rails 45 may be provided on the inner faces of the pedestals to support center drawers 46 immediately under the top of the desk.

Kneehole openings are defined on each side of the desk under the drawers 46 by the side panels 16 of the pedestals and the panels 36. In the form illustrated, the kneehole is enclosed down to the floor, but it will be understood that the desk may be supported on legs clear of the floor if desired.

The top panel 10 may be formed in any conventional manner as by glueing boards together in edge-to-edge relation or may be of plywood, and may be covered with linoleum or other surface material if desired. The top is secured to the pedestals in any conventional manner or may simply rest thereon. The central circular portion 51 of the desk top (Fig. 3) is cut out from the remainder of the top and is supported on a preferably conical pedestal 52 which may be formed from plywood or the like and is in turn supported on a plate 53 fixed to the bottom frame members 38 of the enclosure. Preferably, pedestal 52 is closed at its lower end by a circular board 54 which is screwed to the plate 53. The pedestal 52 provides a convenient place for a wastebasket 56 which may be removed through an opening 57 in the side of the pedestal and the door 41 in the enclosure. A generally rectangular box-like structure 58 surmounted by a cap 59 constitutes a continuation of the pedestal 52 above the top of the desk, being mounted on the section 51 of the desk. Slots 61 in the sides of the box 58, which may normally be closed by flaps 62, provide for the convenient disposition of waste paper and the like by the occupants of the desk. A chute 63, which may be a cylinder of cloth open at both ends, is suspended from the upper part of the column so as to guide the waste into the basket 56. The upper part of the column 58 is provided with glazed openings 65 so that a light or individual lights (not shown) mounted within the column may illuminate the desk. A skirt 66 depending from the cap 59 shields the light from the occupants of the desk.

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In order to provide communication facilities, such as telephones and call buttons, so as to be convenient to all the occupants without unnecessary multiplication of facilities, a rotatable annular platform 70 is fitted in the top of the desk around the column which platform, by way of illustration, is shown as carrying a telephone set 71. The inner portion of the desk top is relieved as indicated at 72 in Fig. 3 to receive the annular platform 70 which may thus be made flush with the surface of the desk. Preferably the platform 70 is fitted on its under surface with an annular track 73 which runs on grooved rollers 74 recessed into the desk top. The edges of the platform 73 may be protected by rings of molding 74 and 75 which may be fixed either to the rotating ring or to the stationary parts of the desk.

In order that the platform may be rotated and carry the telephone handset from one position to another, a clearance slot 76 is provided between the platform 70 and the inner portion 51 of the desk top and a hole 77 is drilled in the platform over the annular slot; the telephone cord 78 is of sufficient length to permit rotation and may simply hang slack against the outer surface of the column 52, leaving a bight between the handset and the fixed end of the cord.

As will be apparent, electrical connections for signaling or intercommunication systems may be provided on the platform 70 in a similar manner to the installation of the telephone handset.

The cap 59 of the desk may be used as a stand for a table lamp if additional illumination is desired. This cap lifts off for access to the lamps within the column.

While the construction of the preferred embodiment of the invention has been described in some detail, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that the construction may be variously modified within the spirit of the invention, which resides principally in the general arrangement of parts to form a new and useful entity rather than in structural details. For example, the principles of the invention may be embodied in a metal desk as well as in a wooden one, and changes in decorative style or in the dimensions and relative disposition of drawers to suit the requirements of individual installations may be made within the scope of the invention.

By appropriate modification of the units of the desk, principally by providing pedestals which are of left and right-hand construction and eliminating the center drawer on two sides, but retaining the desirable features of the desk which fit it for multiple occupancy, a most convenient and efficient desk for two people may be provided. Also, by making the desk pentagonal or hexagonal, for example, a greater number of persons than four may be accommodated. However, the form shown, for four persons, is believed to be the best in most cases for economy and efficiency as well as convenience.

I claim:

1. A desk comprising four substantially square pedestals, a substantially square top supported by a pedestal at each corner thereof, and a central enclosure joining the pedestals adjacent the inner corners thereof, the top, pedestals, and enclosure defining kneeholes at each side of the desk, each pedestal being fitted with drawers withdrawable from one outer side thereof and

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with a compartment at the other outer side thereof, and a door in the said other side for access to the compartment.

2. A desk comprising four substantially rectangular pedestals, a substantially rectangular top supported by a pedestal at each corner thereof, and a central enclosure joining the pedestals adjacent the inner corners thereof, the top, pedestals, and enclosure defining knee-holes at each side of the desk, each pedestal being fitted with drawers withdrawable from one outer side thereof and the pedestals being so located that the drawers of each pedestal are accessible from the adjacent side of the desk.

3. A desk comprising a substantially equilateral polygonal top, pedestals adjacent the corners thereof supporting the top and defining knee-holes at each side of the desk, drawers in the pedestals accessible from one outer side thereof, a cupboard in each pedestal accessible

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from the other outer side thereof, and an enclosure located between the inner corners of the pedestals and closing the inner ends of the knee-holes.

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