June 3, 1958 C. SHORE 2,837,141

FOLDING TABLE AND SEAT ASSEMBLY

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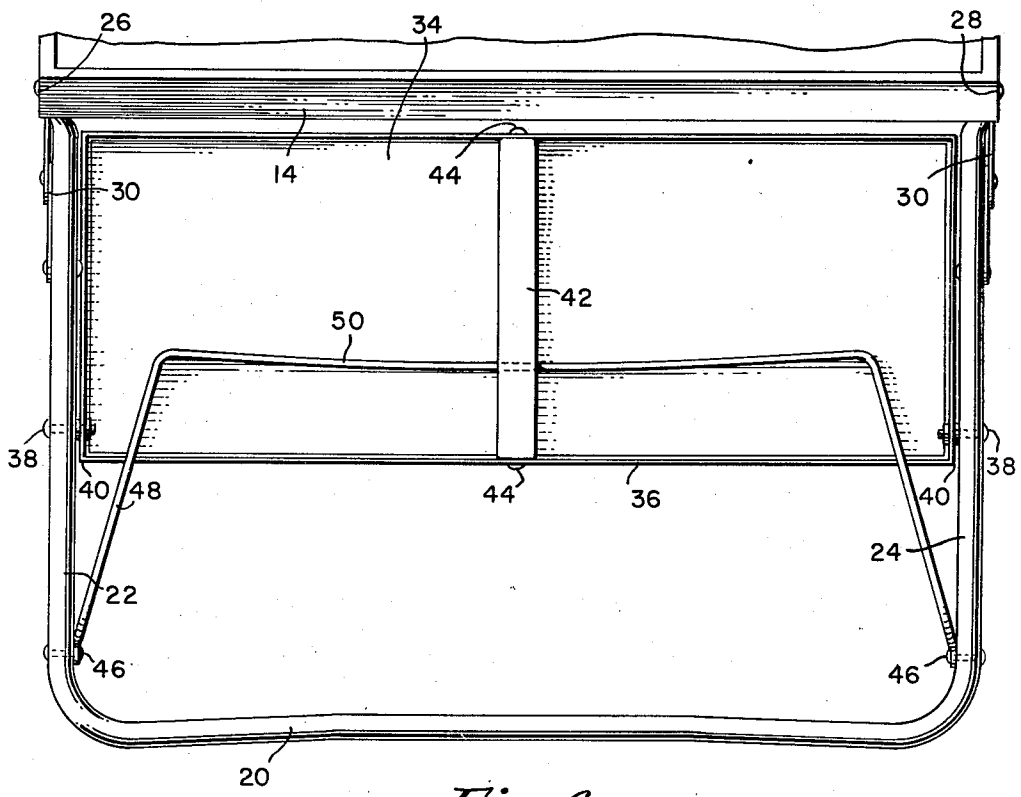

Fig. 6.

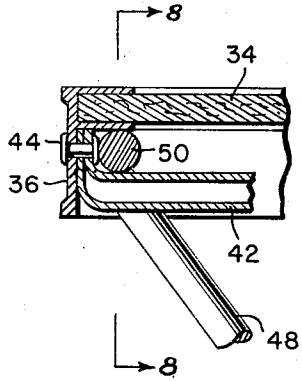

Fig. 7.

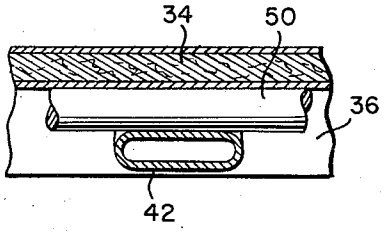

Fig. 8.

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FOLDING TABLE AND SEAT ASSEMBLY

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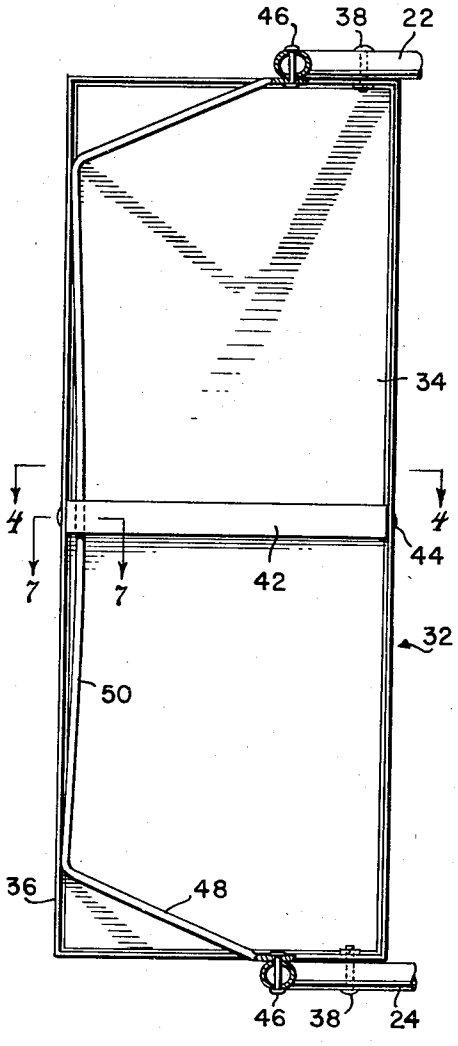

Fig. 3.

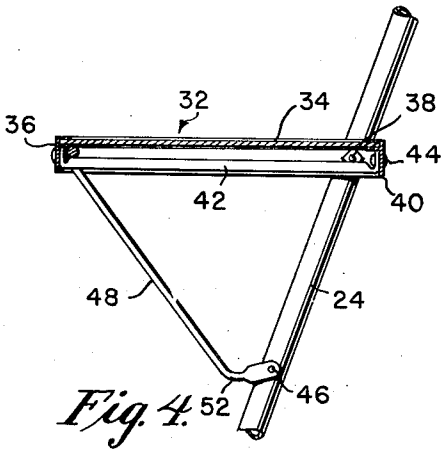

Fig. 4.

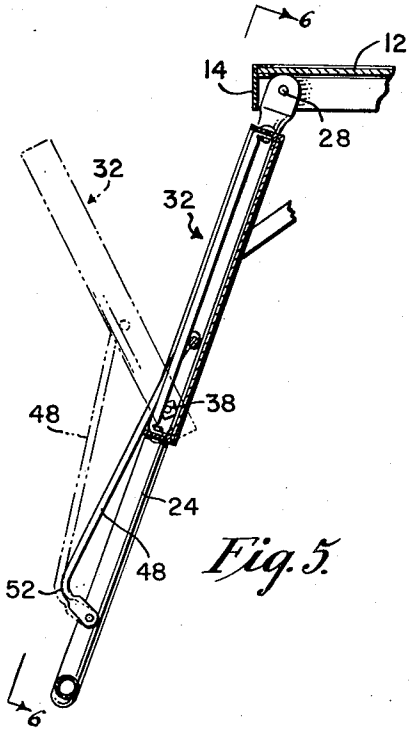

Fig. 5.

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FOLDING TABLE AND SEAT ASSEMBLY

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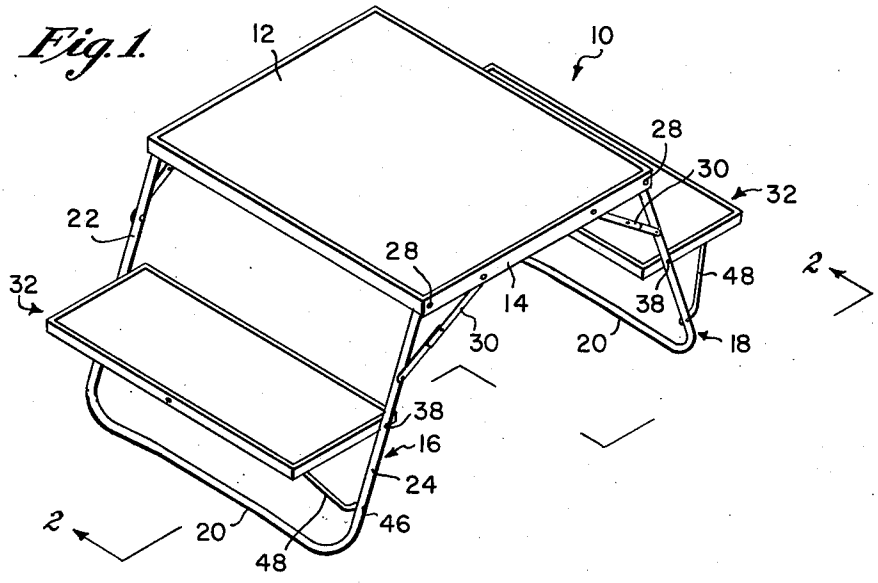
Fig. 1.



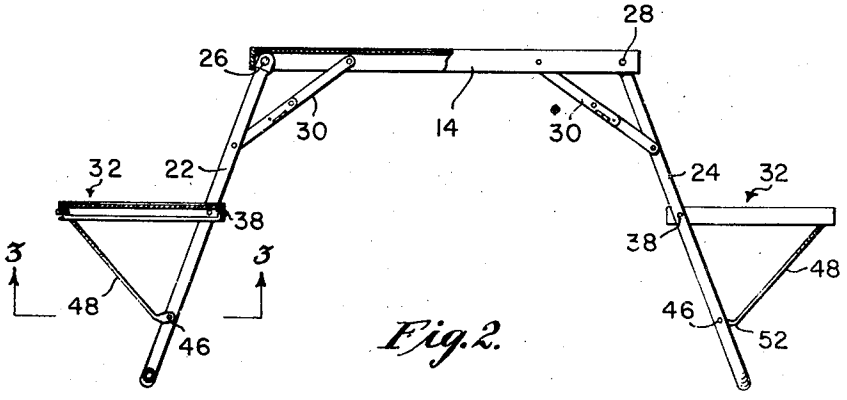


Fig. 2.

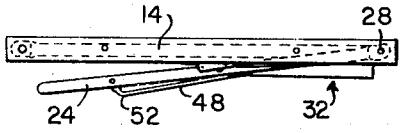


Fig. 3.

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United States Patent Office

2,837,141

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2,837,141

FOLDING TABLE AND SEAT ASSEMBLY

Charles Shore, Cheltenham, Pa.

Application June 13, 1957, Serial No. 665,551

2 Claims. (Cl. 155—124)

This invention relates to a table and seat assembly the primary object of which is to provide an assembly of the picnic table and bench type which is light in weight, unitary and capable of being folded and unfolded with ease of manipulation.

Another object of the invention is to provide a folding table and seat assembly of the character described in which the supporting legs, between and on which the seats are hinged, are divergent when fully opened to restrain the table assembly from toppling when a load is applied to the seats.

Another object of the invention is to provide a folding table and seat assembly in which the legs when folded overlap and extend in planes substantially parallel to the table top and the size and manner in which the seats are pivotally secured to the legs is such that the seats when folded lie substantially in the planes of the legs thereby resulting in an assembly which is compact when it is folded and ready to be carried.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide a folding table and seat assembly with a positive smoothly operative means to selectively retain the seats in the folded position within the plane of the legs to which it is attached and in an unfolded position perpendicular to the plane of the legs and parallel to that of the table top.

These and other objects will become more apparent as the following description proceeds in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the invention;

Figure 2 is a section taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a section taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a section taken on the line 4—4 of Figure 3;

Figure 5 is a fragmentary vertical section through the seat, one side of the table top and leg;

Figure 6 is an elevational view looking from the line 6—6 on Figure 5;

Figure 7 is a section taken on the line 7—7 of Figure 3;

Figure 8 is a section taken on the line 8—8 of Figure 7; and

Figure 9 is a side view showing the invention in a folded condition.

Specific reference is now made to the drawings wherein similar reference characters are used for corresponding elements throughout.

The table and seat assembly is shown at 10 and can be used for a variety of purposes, such for example as an indoor utility table and bench unit, an outdoor picnic table and bench combination, a nursery unit and so forth.

The unit includes a substantially rectangular table top 12 which may be fibrous board, aluminum or similar material and which is preferably retained in a frame having a peripheral skirt 14 depending therefrom. The leg units 16 and 18 are preferably tubular U-shaped units

each having a ground engaging web portion 20 which is practically coextensive with the length of the table top unit. Each leg unit 16 also includes leg portions 22 and 24 which are flattened at their ends and there hinged by suitable rivet or other means 26 and 28 to the skirt 14 inwardly thereof and adjacent each corner of the table top.

A conventional break-type brace 30 is terminally pivoted to each of the leg portions 22, 24 and to the skirt 14 and the length of the brace is such that when it is in the fully open and locked position, the leg units 16 and 18 are divergent to restrain the table against rocking when a load is applied to the seats. It will here be understood that the leg portions 22 and 24 may be separate instead of integrally connected as shown.

Each seat member 32 comprises a substantially rectangular flat member 34 of fibrous material, aluminum or like materials which is retained in a frame including a depending peripheral skirt 36. The seat member is narrower than the table top and slightly less in length. Intermediate the ends of each pair of leg portions 22 and 24 there is provided headed bolts or rivets 38 which engage the skirt 36 of the seat member adjacent its inner corners 40. The width of each seat member and the location of the pivot pins 38 relative to the length of the leg portions 22 and 24 are such that the seat member when folded, as shown in Figure 6, is disposed substantially in the plane of the leg portions 22 and 24 and also clears the table top.

A means is provided to guidingly and selectively retain each seat member in the folded position as aforementioned and in the unfolded or support position wherein the seat member extends generally perpendicular to the plane of the leg portions 22 and 24 and generally parallel to the table top 12. This means includes a guide member, preferably a flat tube 42, which extends transversely of the seat member. The ends of the guide member are inturned and secured by any suitable means as at 44 to the skirt 36 of the seat member. Thus the guide member has a portion which is coextensive with the width of the seat member and is spaced from the underside of the flat portion 34 of the seat member, the guide member being confined within the bounds of the skirt 36.

Hinged by any suitable means as at 46 to each pair of leg portions 22 and 24 beneath each seat member 32 are the ends of a generally U-shaped brace rod 48, the same including a web portion 50 which extends lengthwise of the seat member between the guide member 42 and the underside of the flat member 34 of the seat, as clearly shown in Figures 5–8. Thus when the seat member is pulled up to the folded position, the web portion 50 of the brace rod occupies one position as shown in Figure 6 and releasably retains the seat member in said folded position. When the seat member is pulled down to the seating position, the web portion bears against the outer longitudinal portion of the seat skirt 36 where it meets the flat member 34, as shown in Figure 3, thereby acting to support a load on the seat member.

It will be seen that adjacent their free or pivoted ends, the leg portions of the brace rod 48 are bent as at 52 at an obtuse angle. The reason for the bend is to allow the web portion 50 of the brace rod 48 to be confined within the seat skirt 36 when the seat is folded and thereby is disposed within the plane of the leg portions 22 and 24, otherwise the outermost longitudinal portion of the seat skirt 36 would interfere with the leg portions of the wire brace.

Minor variations may be made in the construction and arrangement of parts without departing from the spirit of the invention and the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A folding table and seat assembly comprising a substantially rectangular table top and a peripheral skirt depending therefrom, two pairs of substantially U-shaped legs each pivoted at its ends to said skirt adjacent its corners, releasable brace means to retain said legs in erect divergent positions, two substantially rectangular seats each including a peripheral skirt depending therefrom, means hingedly securing said skirt to each seat adjacent a pair of its corners to and between each U-shaped leg, and means guidingly and selectively retaining each seat in a folded position generally in the plane of the U-shaped leg to which it is hinged and in an unfolded position generally parallel to the table top, said last-named means including a guide bar secured at its ends to each seat skirt and offset from said seat and a generally U-shaped brace rod pivoted at its ends to each U-shaped leg beneath said seat, said brace rod having a web portion extending between said guide bar and said seat, the ends of said brace rod adjacent its pivots being bent at an obtuse angle to permit the seat when folded to be positioned in the plane of the U-shaped leg.

2. A folding table and seat assembly comprising a substantially rectangular table top, two pairs of legs pivoted at one of their ends to said table top adjacent its

corners, releasable brace means to retain said legs in erect divergent positions, at least one substantially rectangular seat hinged at a pair of its corners to and between one of said pairs of legs, a guide bar secured at its ends to and across said seat and offset therefrom, and a generally U-shaped brace rod having a web and legs pivoted at their ends to said one pair of legs beneath said seat, said web extending between said guide bar and seat, the legs of said brace rod having an obtuse angle bend whereby the seat may be guidingly folded from a support position substantially parallel to said table top to a folded position substantially in the plane of said one pair of legs.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

Patent No. 2,837,141 June 3, 1958

Charles Shore

It is hereby certified that error appears in the printed specification of the above numbered patent requiring correction and that the said Letters Patent should read as corrected below.

Column 3, line 9, for "to each" read --of each--.

Signed and sealed this 7th day of October 1958.

(SEAL)

Attest:

KARL H. AXLINE

Attesting Officer

ROBERT C. WATSON
Commissioner of Patents