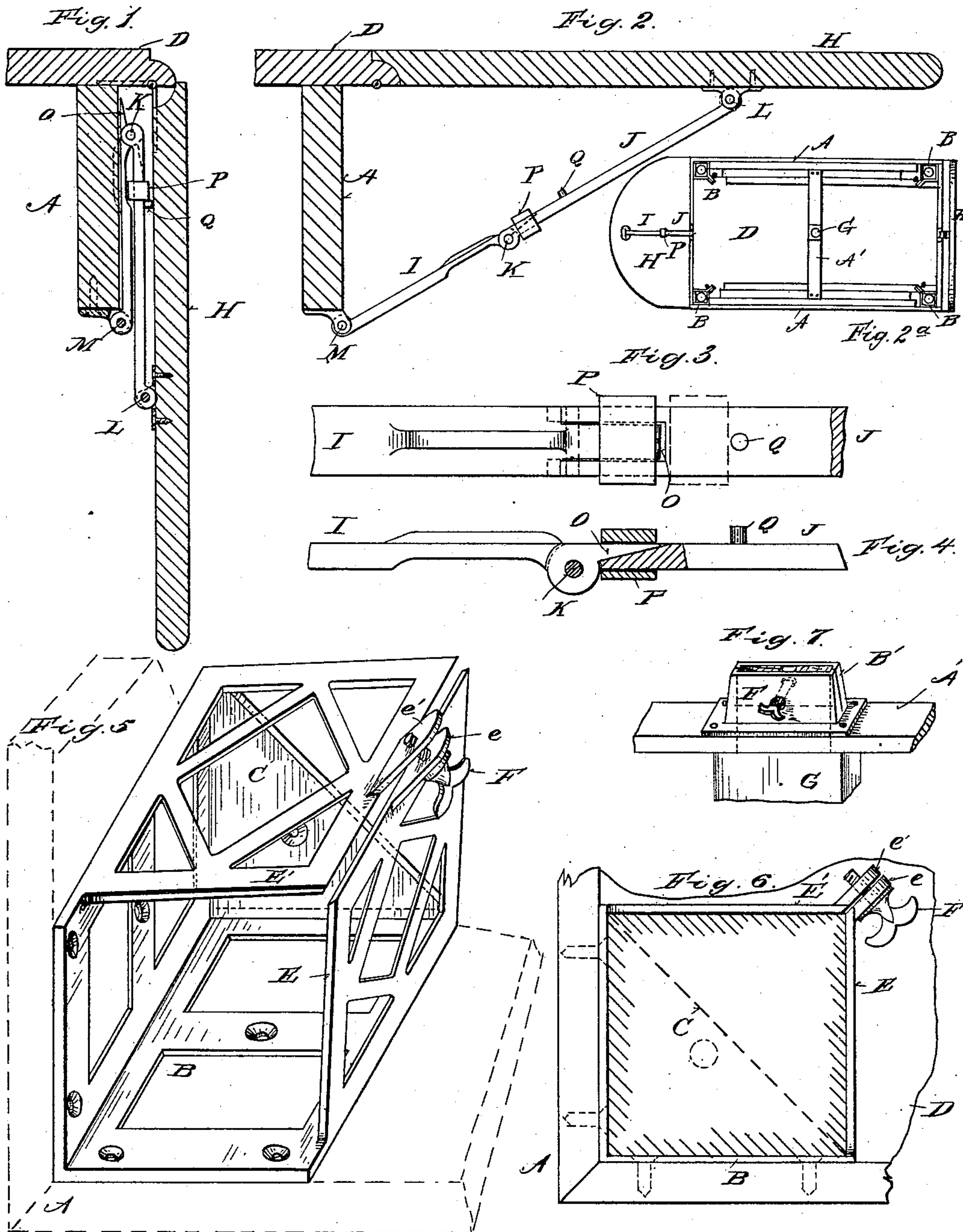


(No Model.)

J. H. MARTIN.  
TABLE.

No. 471,676.

Patented Mar. 29, 1892.



WITNESSES  
*H. M. Plaisted.*  
*J. G. Dawley.*

INVENTOR  
*Joseph H. Martin,*  
*By H. A. Pauline,*  
*Attorney.*



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH H. MARTIN, OF SPRINGFIELD, OHIO.

## TABLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 471,676, dated March 29, 1892.

Application filed June 19, 1891. Serial No. 396,816. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOSEPH H. MARTIN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Springfield, in the county of Clark and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Tables, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

My invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in tables.

My improvements have reference to detachable legs for said table and clamping-sockets for said legs, have reference to a special form of clamping-socket adapted to brace the sides of the table and adapted to open automatically for the insertion of the legs, have reference to a hinged-leaf support and gravitating locking means, and have reference to other points of detail hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, on which like reference-letters indicate corresponding parts, Figure 1 represents a cross-section of a portion of a table and leaf hinged thereto, the latter being in its vertical position; Fig. 2, a similar cross-sectional view showing the leaf raised and supported by my leaf-support; Fig. 2<sup>a</sup>, a bottom view of a table; Fig. 3, a plan view of a portion of said leaf-support in its locked position; Fig. 4, a side and partial sectional view of Fig. 3; Fig. 5, a perspective view of a form of clamping-socket in its open position; Fig. 6, an end view of the said socket clamped about a table-leg, the latter being in section; and Fig. 7, a portion of a center leg and its mountings.

In the transportation of tables and other like articles having legs secured thereto the space required for storing said tables and the accompanying labor of handling the same is considerable, mainly on account of the space and obstruction due to said legs. I propose to provide means whereby the legs of tables and other similar articles may be readily detached therefrom and stored within the casing of the table or other article, whereby the space required for storing the table is much reduced and the articles are much more easily handled by reason of their much more compact condition.

Referring to the drawings, the letter A designates the side and end boards of a table or

other similar article, and the letter B a clamping-socket adapted to be screwed into the angle of said side and end boards and provided with a cross-brace or stiffening-web C to be screwed to the top D of said table. The top, side, and end boards are thus firmly secured together. The opposite portions of said socket consists of wings or extensions E E', forming a rectangular or other convenient shape of socket, in which is slipped the end of the table-leg. A set-screw F, mounted in legs e e' on the respective wings E E', allows of bringing the said wings more closely together, and thereby exerts a clamping action upon the inserted leg. The normal tendency of said wings or extensions is to open, and thus allow the ready insertion of the leg. When brought together by the screw F, as shown in Fig. 6, the said wings firmly engage by frictional contact with the inserted leg; but will readily spread apart to allow the withdrawal of the same when the said screw F is loosened. The metal or other material composing the socket will allow of said spring action. Any convenient form of wings other than that shown may be employed; but an open braced frame-work gives sufficient gripping-surface with a minimum of material.

In extension-tables having a central leg-support the latter may be detachably secured thereto by means of a split socket B', secured to the cross-piece A' of the table and adapted to receive the tenon or other portion of the central supporting-leg G. A set-screw F, Fig. 7, exerts a pressure on said split socket, acting to close the wings upon the said tenon to secure it in place.

For tables having hinged or drop leaves H, I have provided a leaf-support consisting of a bar I, forming one member, and a bar J, pivoted thereto at K and to the leaf at L. The bar I is also pivoted at one end M to the side board A of the table. One of the bars— I, for instance—is provided with a portion O, extending beyond the pivot K, adapted to engage with a portion of the bar J to prevent operating the pivot K past a certain point, at which the pivots L, K, and M are substantially in line. A brace for the lid H is thus formed. To prevent accidentally lifting of the brace or support by the knee or otherwise, a gravitating piece P is slidingly mount-



ed on the bar J or otherwise adapted to inclose the projection O and adjacent portion of the opposite bar, with which it is engaged, as shown in Figs. 2, 3, and 4. The support is thus locked in its open position; but by raising the gravitating piece by hand the members may be readily freed from their locking engagement and assume the position shown in Fig. 1, the piece or collar P being conveniently supported by a pin or stud Q. The bars are locked automatically, however, by simply raising the lid to its horizontal position, when the gravitating piece slides down upon its supporting-bar and locks the members without other assistance. As shown in Figs. 3 and 4, the extension O fits in a socket between the bifurcations at the pivot K. Any other convenient form of connection and locking-piece actuated by gravity may, however, be employed. I do not wish to limit myself to the exact form and construction herein illustrated.

Referring to Fig. 5, it will be observed that the wings of the clamping-socket are cut away to give free access to the screws at one end of the angle portions.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a table, a rectangular clamping-socket consisting of bracing portions at right angles to each other and directly connected together to adapt them to be secured to the side and end portions of said table at the junction thereof and wing portions projecting toward each other from opposite edges of said bracing portions, thereby forming the remaining

sides of the rectangular socket for the table-leg, and means to compress said wing portions on said leg and effect a detachable engagement therewith.

2. In a table, a clamping-socket consisting of three bracing-webs, all extending from a common point and each at right angles to the other two, whereby they may be secured to the top, side, and end portions of a table to brace the joining parts thereof, and wing portions extending outward from opposite bracing portions, their outer edges being adjacent to each other, and thus constituting a rectangular socket to receive the shoulder of the table-leg, and a clamping-screw mounted in said outer edges of the wing portions to bring said wing portions near together without acting on the said bracing portions, whereby the corner portions of the table are firmly held and braced and the leg is detachably secured therein.

3. In a table, a leaf-support consisting of two bars pivoted together at one end and to the leaf and table, respectively, at the other end of each, one bar having a tongue or projection adapted to engage with the other bar in their bracing position, and a gravitating piece slidably mounted on one bar and adapted to automatically inclose said tongue by gravitating action to lock the bars, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JOSEPH H. MARTIN.

Witnesses:

OLIVER H. MILLER,  
JOHN E. FENWICK.