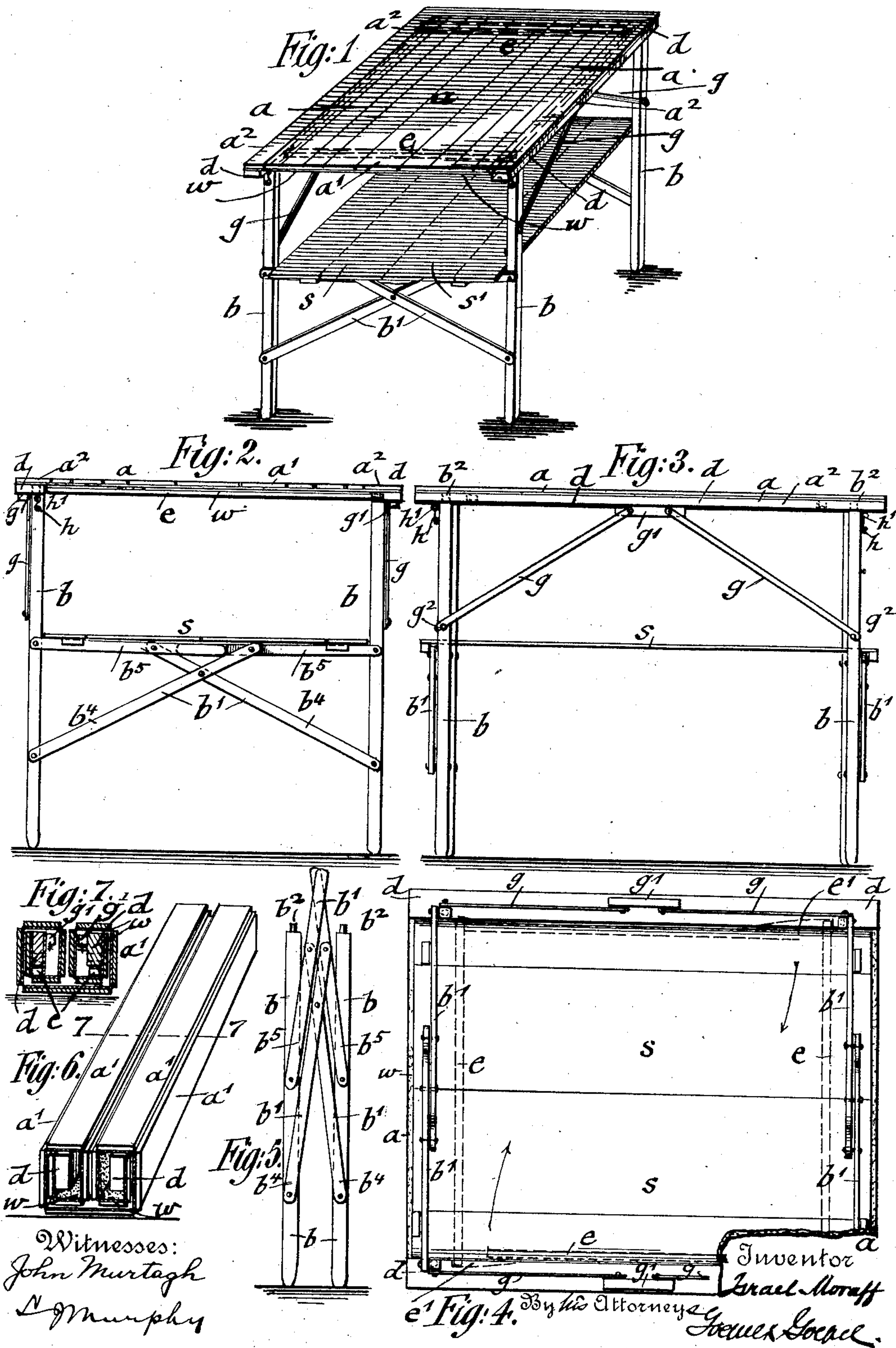


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FOLDING TABLE.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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FOLDING TABLE.

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Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ISRAEL MORAFF, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city of New York, borough of the Bronx, county of New York, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Folding Tables, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improved folding-table, which is intended for use in camping and for out-of-door use in general, also for use as a card-table, especially for euchre parties where a large number of tables are required and which can be folded away and stored until required for use again.

The invention consists of a folding-table, which comprises a top made of rolling slats which gradually increase in size from the side-slats toward the center, transverse braces hinged to the side-slats at diagonally opposite ends, recesses at the remaining diagonally-opposite ends of said side-slats for receiving said braces, detachable folding toggle-lever brace-frames connecting with the side-slats, and inclined braces pivoted to the side-rails at their upper ends and engaging at their recessed lower ends headed studs on the upright legs of the folding brace-frames.

The invention consists further in certain details of construction which will be fully described hereinafter and finally pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents a perspective view of my improved folding-table; Figs. 2 and 3 are, respectively, end and side elevations of the table; Fig. 4 is a bottom view of the table; Fig. 5 is an elevation of one of the toggle-lever brace-frames folded up; Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the folding top folded up; and Fig. 7 represents a vertical transverse section taken on the line 7—7, Fig. 6.

Similar reference characters indicate corresponding parts throughout the several figures.

Referring to the drawings, *a* represents the top of my improved folding-table, *b* the supporting-legs and *b*¹ the transverse toggle-lever brace-frames for the same. The top is made of a number of slats *a*¹ and side-rails *a*², which are connected at their under sides by a web *w* of stout canvas or other suitable fabric, so that the slats can be rolled up inwardly toward each other, as shown in

Figs. 6 and 7. For this purpose the center slat *a*¹ is made widest, the adjacent slats somewhat less wide, the next following slats of a still smaller width in order, and so on toward the side-slats *a*², so as to permit the folding up of the slats toward the widest center slat from both ends of the top, as shown in Figs. 6 and 7. The side-slats *a*² are reinforced by rails *d*, which are attached to the under sides of the side-slats and web *w*.

To diagonally opposite ends of the side-rails *d* are hinged transverse brace-pieces *e*, which are folded alongside of the side-rails when the top has to be folded up and which are moved transversely toward the opposite side-rails when the top is to be held in unrolled position for use. The outer ends of the hinged brace-pieces *e* then engage in tapering recesses *e*¹, which are arranged in the inner faces of the remaining diagonal ends of the side-rails *d*. When the hinged brace-rods are in proper position, extending from one end of the side-rails to the opposite side-rail, the side-rails and the brace-pieces hold the slats firmly in horizontal position, so as to present a smooth and even top for the table and prevent the sagging of the same between the side-rails.

Near the ends of the side-rails *d* are arranged the supporting legs *b*, which are provided at their upper ends with tenons *b*², which are inserted into mortises arranged at the under side of each end of the side-rails *d*. Each pair of legs *b* is connected by the transverse folding toggle-lever brace-frame *b*⁴, which is formed of a pair of intercrossing braces *b*⁴ that are pivoted at their point of crossing, and also at their lower ends to the legs *b*, and at their upper ends to a pair of toggle-levers *b*⁵ at some distance from their ends, the toggle-levers being pivoted at their outer or lower ends to the middle portion of the legs *b*, as shown clearly in Figs. 2 and 5. The toggle-lever brace-frames can readily be folded up into the position shown in Fig. 5 when the same are detached from the table-top *a*. The upper ends of the legs are connected by means of pivot-hooks *h* with eyes *h*¹ at the under side of the side-rails, so as to prevent the detaching of the top from the legs when lifting the table for moving it from place to place. The legs *b* are further connected with the middle portions of the side-rails by means of inclined braces *g*, which are pivoted at their upper ends to

cleats g^1 , attached to the under side of the middle portions of the side-rails d , and by their lower recessed ends to headed pins g^2 on the inner faces of the legs b . The legs 5 and their toggle-lever brace-frames are preferably made of wood, while the inclined braces g are preferably made of metal, so as to permit the folding of the latter to the under side of the rails when detaching the 10 legs and their brace-frames from the table-top. When the parts are connected to each other, a strong and firm table is obtained, the parts being firmly held in position by the toggle-lever brace-frames of the legs 15 and the inclined braces g and by the transverse brace-pieces e extending between the ends of the side-rails, by which the top is held firmly in unrolled position.

When it is desired to fold up the table for 20 shipment and storage, the hooks h of the legs are first detached from the eyes h^1 at the end of the side-rails, after which the tenons b^2 of the legs are removed from the mortises in the side-rails and the inclined braces g 25 detached from the headed pins g^2 on the legs and folded onto the under side of the side-rails d in line with the inner surfaces of the cleats g^1 . The legs and their brace-frames are then folded toward each other, 30 as shown in Fig. 5, after which the hinged brace-pieces e of the table-top are released from the recesses at diagonally opposite ends and folded toward the side-rails to which they are hinged, so that the slats of the 35 table-top can be rolled up from the sides toward the center into the shape shown in Figs. 4 and 7. Two separate packages are made for shipment and storage, as shown in Figs. 5 and 6.

40 On the upper horizontal portions of the extended brace-frames can be supported a shelf s , which, like the top, is made of rolling slats s^1 backed by a web or by means of suitable hinges. This shelf, when supported 45 on the extended brace-frames b^1 between the legs, serves for placing different articles thereon. The shelf is also folded up after use and is then tied up and packed away with the rolled-up top and folded-up leg 50 brace-frames so that the parts are readily available for use again.

The advantages for my improved folding-table are that it takes up comparatively small space when folded up, that it can be 55 manufactured at a small expense, and that it can be used by all persons when camping and can be bought by persons of moderate means.

Having thus described my invention, I 60 claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. In a folding table, a rolling top com-

posed of a plurality of slats having flexible connections therebetween, the middle slat being the widest, the alternate slats of the re- 65 maining slats progressively diminishing in width toward the end slats by increments as great as the thickness of the slats; side rails attached to the underside of the end slats, transverse brace pieces hinged respectively 70 to diagonally opposite ends of the side rails and adapted to be locked by their outer ends to the remaining diagonally opposite ends of the side rails; detachable legs at the ends of the side rails; and transverse toggle lever 75 brace frames between the legs of adjacent ends of opposite side rails, said frames each consisting of brace levers pivoted one each to the lower part of each leg respectively, said brace levers being pivoted together near 80 their upper ends, and toggle levers pivoted to the upper part of the legs and each pivoted near its inner end to the upper end of the brace lever pivoted to the opposite leg, the inner ends of the toggle levers being free and 85 adapted when the table is set up to rest upon the brace lever pivoted to the same leg.

2. In a folding table, a rolling top composed of a plurality of slats having flexible connections therebetween, the middle slat 90 being the widest, the alternate slats of the remaining slats progressively diminishing in width toward the end slats by increments as great as the thickness of the slats; side 95 rails attached to the underside of the end slats, transverse brace pieces hinged respectively to diagonally opposite ends of the side rails and adapted to be locked by their outer ends to the remaining diagonally opposite 100 ends of the side rails; detachable legs at the ends of the side rails; transverse toggle lever brace frames between the legs of adjacent ends of opposite side rails, said frames each consisting of brace levers pivoted one 105 each to the lower part of each leg respectively, said brace levers being pivoted together near their upper ends, and toggle levers pivoted to the upper part of the legs and each pivoted near its inner end to the upper end of the brace lever pivoted to the 110 opposite leg, the inner ends of the toggle levers being free and adapted when the table is set up to rest upon the brace lever pivoted to the same leg, and to form a straight edge with the other toggle lever; and a fold- 115 ing-shelf supported on the straight edge formed by the toggle lever brace frames.

In testimony, that I claim the foregoing as my invention, I have signed my name in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ISRAEL MORAFF.

Witnesses:

PAUL GOEPEL,
JOHN MURTAGH.