Oct. 8, 1963 D. BERLIN 3,106,295

TRAY CONSTRUCTION

Filed Sept. 22, 1961

FIG. 1

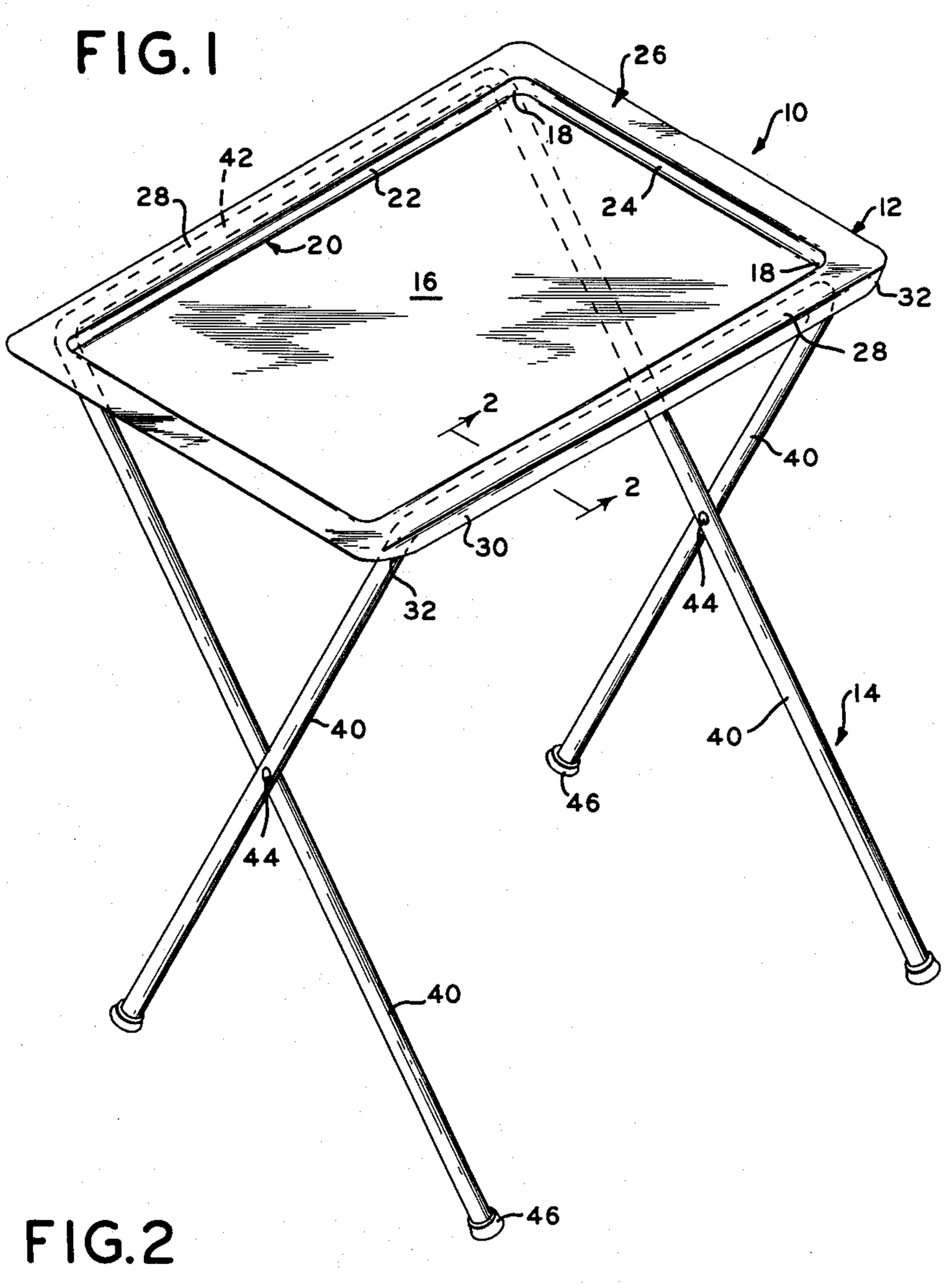
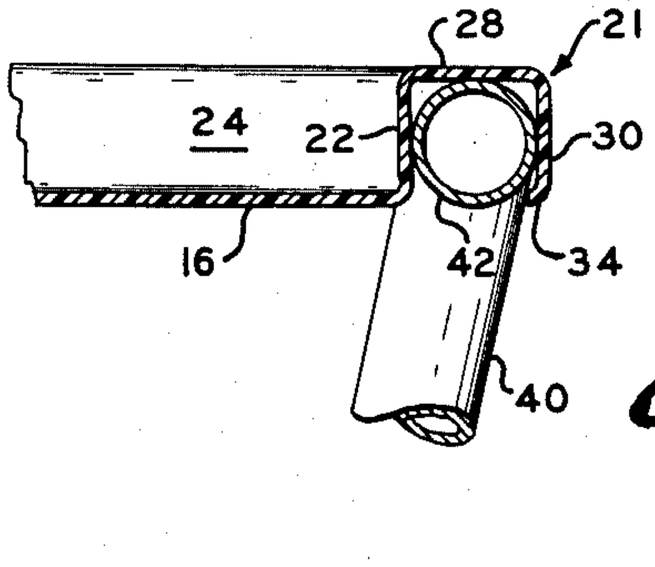


FIG. 2



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TRAY CONSTRUCTION

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This invention relates to a novel construction of a tray to be used in the well-known tray or TV tables.

In the past, these tables normally comprised a pair of pivoted tubular legs, a tray, and means for securing the tray to the legs. The securing means conventionally used comprised a plurality of spring clips which were riveted or otherwise secured to the underside of the tray.

The table construction referred to in the immediately preceding paragraph suffers from one serious disadvantage. During use, as when assembling the table, the spring clips are often inadvertantly broken off from the tray. Since these spring clips cannot easily be replaced, the tray is rendered useless for its intended purpose when but a single clip has been broken.

It is, therefore, an object of this invention to provide a tray construction which overcomes the aforementioned problem.

It is another object of this invention to provide a tray construction which is decorative in appearance and durable in use.

These and other objects are accomplished by providing a tray construction comprising a flat surface and leg securing means which are integral with said flat surface.

Other objects and many attendant advantages of this invention will be readily appreciated as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description when considered in connection with the accompanying drawings wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of the tray construction of this invention with its associated legs; and,

FIGURE 2 is a sectional view taken along the line 2—2 of FIGURE 1.

Referring now in greater detail to the various figures of the drawings wherein similar reference characters refer to similar parts, a tray table embodying the present invention is shown at **10** in FIGURE 1. Table **10** basically comprises tray **12** and legs **14**.

Tray **12** comprises a flat central portion **16** which is generally rectangular in shape but has rounded corners **18**. Integral with central portion **16** and arranged at right angles thereto is an upstanding wall **20** having long parallel sides **22** and short parallel sides **24**. Integral with and extending outwardly at right angles from wall **20** is a peripheral flange **26**. Integral with and extending perpendicularly downward from long sides **28** of peripheral flange **26** are flanges **30**. The outer edges of flanges **30** are bevelled, as at **32**, to provide a decorative effect.

Thus, as seen in FIGURE 2, the tray comprises a recessed flat central portion **16** and a U-shaped leg-engaging means **21** integral with said central portion. The U-shaped leg-engaging means **21** comprises upstanding wall **22**, peripheral flange **28**, and downwardly extending flange **30**. Although not readily apparent in FIGURE 2, flange **30** is slightly inclined inwardly or towards wall **22** to provide a resilient grip on legs **14** when inserted within the U-shaped leg-engaging means **21**. The lower edge of flange **30** is bent inward to form a lip **34** which acts as an additional means for securing legs **14** in place.

Referring again to FIGURE 1, each leg **14** comprises a U-shaped tubular member having side members **40** and horizontal bridging section **42** uppermost. Legs **14** are pivoted at their mid-sections about pins **44**. The open ends of each leg can be covered with rubber caps **46**. It is to be understood that in place of the caps **46** which are illustrated, other closing means such as metal plugs or wheels may be used on the ends of the tubular legs.

In use, a pair of pivoted legs **14** is spread apart with a bridging section **42** being uppermost. Tray **12** is then secured to the legs by snapping the legs into the substantially U-shaped leg-engaging means **21** shown in FIGURE 2. As is apparent in FIGURE 2, the weight of the table and the objects thereon is supported by peripheral flange **28**.

The tray of this invention can be made of numerous resilient materials, such as various metals, such as steel, or polystyrene, polyvinylidene chloride, polyethylene or other well-known synthetic resins. Where desired, the resin may be fiberglass reinforced.

The legs of this table are preferably made of tubular metal such as aluminum or thin steel. The aluminum legs can be anodized or surface treated by other known methods. Likewise, the steel legs can be brass plated or lacquered.

Obviously, many modifications and variations of the present invention are possible in the light of the above teachings. It is, therefore, to be understood that within the scope of the appended claims, the invention may be practiced otherwise than as specifically described.

What is claimed as the invention is:

1. In a tray table comprising a pair of pivoted legs and a tray releasably secured to said legs, the improvement comprising a tray fabricated of resilient material and having a central surface portion and leg-engaging portions integral therewith, said leg-engaging portions each comprising a wall extending perpendicularly upward from said central surface portion, a peripheral flange extending perpendicularly outward from said wall, and a dependent flange extending perpendicularly downward from said peripheral flange, said legs being resiliently gripped within said leg-engaging portions.

2. The tray of claim 1 wherein said dependent flange is slightly inclined toward the wall to provide the resilient grip on said legs.

3. The tray of claim 1 and including a small finger extending inwardly from the lower end of said dependent flange.

4. The tray of claim 1 wherein said resilient material is metal.

5. The tray of claim 1 wherein said resilient material is a synthetic resin.

6. The tray of claim 5 wherein said resin is fiberglass reinforced.

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