

Dec. 13, 1927.

1,652,942

E. F. JAMES
FOLDING STOOL OR TABLE

Filed Aug. 5, 1926

3 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

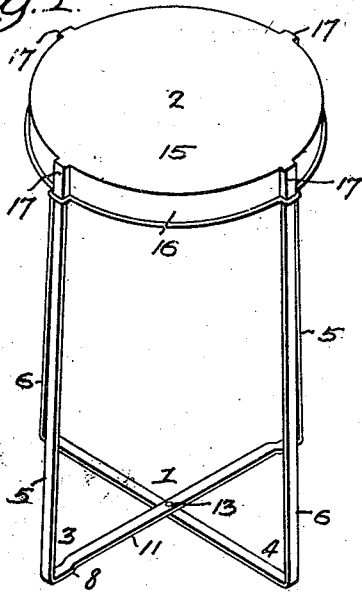


Fig. 2.

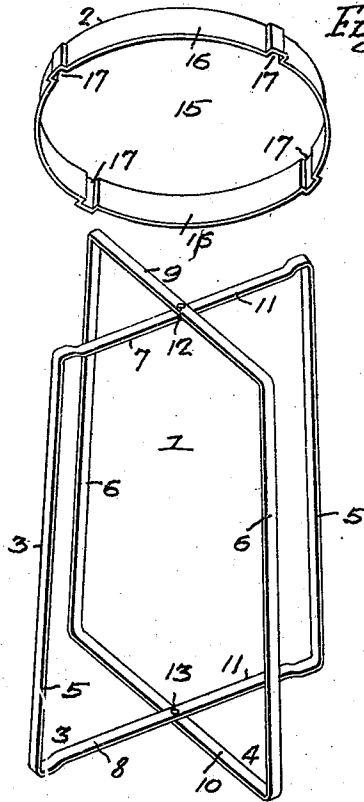


Fig. 3.

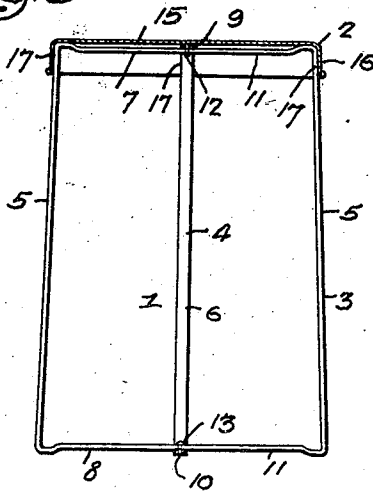


Fig. 4.

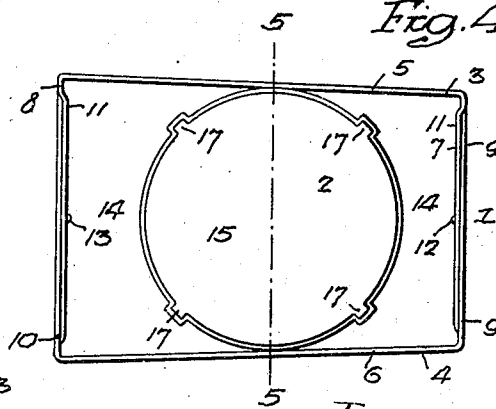
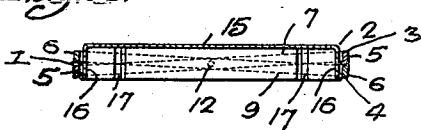


Fig. 5.



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Fig. 6.

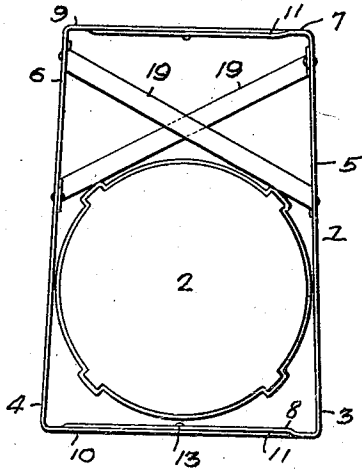


Fig. 7.

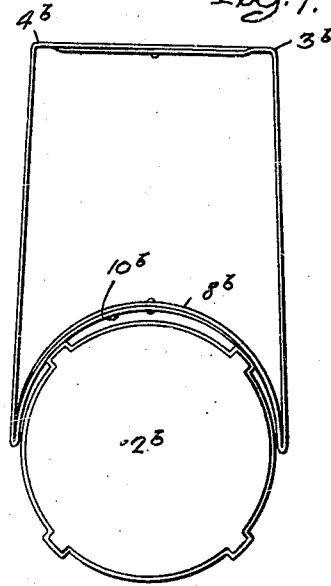


Fig. 8.

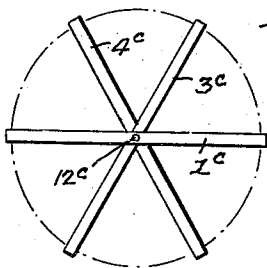


Fig. 9.

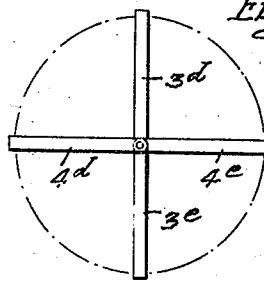
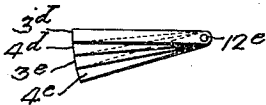


Fig. 10.



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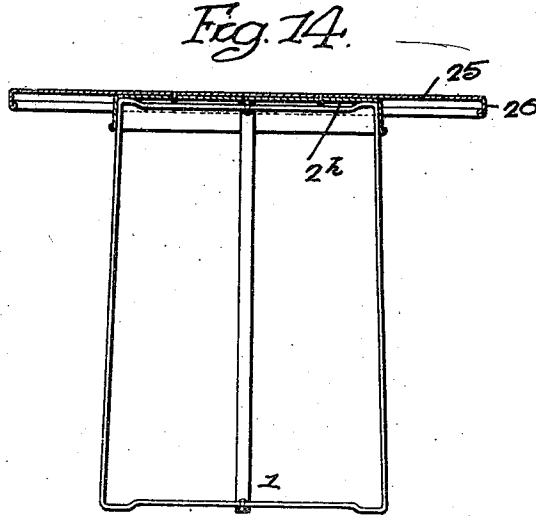
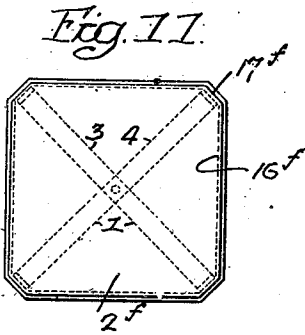


Fig. 13.

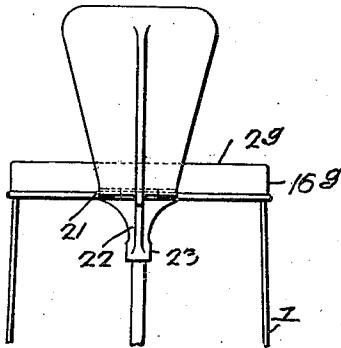
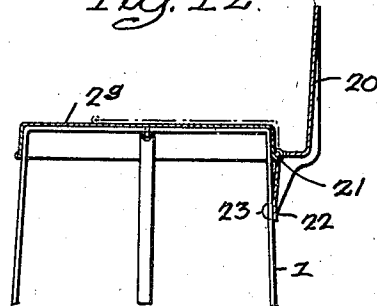


Fig. 12.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWIN F. JAMES, OF ABINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

FOLDING STOOL OR TABLE.

Application filed August 5, 1926. Serial No. 127,320.

My invention relates to articles of furniture such as stools and tables and the principal object of my invention is to form such an article in a manner permitting of its being collapsed or folded and compactly assembled, when in its collapsed state, into a form requiring a minimum amount of storage space.

Another object of my invention is to construct a stool of two separate elements, viz: a folding frame and a removable seat. When assembled for use the frame element is adapted to be spread, for providing a substantial support for the seat element, and the seat element is adapted to be placed upon the frame element in a manner to maintain the frame element in its spread or open state and prevent accidental collapsing of the frame. When in its compact state the frame element is adapted to be folded and the seat element is adapted to fit within the folded frame element in a manner to permit of its being conveniently carried from place to place, or stored in a minimum amount of space.

Other advantages and the details of the construction of my invention will be more fully disclosed hereinafter, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, of which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a stool embodying the principles of my invention;

Fig. 2 is a detached perspective view of the separate elements constituting a stool constructed in accordance with the principles of my invention;

Fig. 3 is a sectional elevation of the stool illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2;

Fig. 4 is a view of the stool in its collapsed state, illustrating the elements assembled for storage or carrying;

Fig. 5 is a sectional view taken on the line 5-5 of Fig. 4;

Figs. 6 and 7 are views, similar to Fig. 4, illustrating modified forms of the invention;

Figs. 8 and 9 illustrate modified forms of the frame element;

Fig. 10 illustrates the modification, as shown in Fig. 9, as being in a collapsed or folded state;

Fig. 11 illustrates a modified form of the seat element;

Figs. 12 and 13 illustrate a modified form of the seat element provided with a folding back; and

Fig. 14 illustrates the principles of my invention as being applied to a table.

Referring to Figs. 1 to 5 inclusive, my improved stool comprises a collapsible supporting frame element 1 and a removable seat element 2.

The supporting frame 1 consists of a pair of substantially rectangular rigidly constructed frame sections 3 and 4, each being provided with longitudinal substantially vertically extending leg members 5, 5 and 6, 6 respectively. The leg members 5, 5 are connected at their ends by integral transverse members 7 and 8; and the leg members 6, 6 are connected by their ends by integral transverse members 9 and 10.

The leg members 5, 5 and 6, 6 are of substantially equal lengths and in order to permit the frame 1 to be folded, from the form illustrated in Fig. 2 to that illustrated in Figs. 4 and 5; the transverse members 7 and 8 of the frame section 3 are offset as shown at 11, in order that the frame section 3 can be placed within the frame section 4 and the transverse members 7 and 8 in operative engagement with the transverse members 9 and 10 of the frame section 4.

The frame sections 3 and 4 are pivotally attached to each other by means of rivets 12 and 13 passing through the transverse members 7-9 and 8-10 respectively.

By means of the offset portions 11 in the transverse members 7 and 8 the length of the legs 5, 5 and 6, 6 are maintained equal and folding of the frame sections is permitted, thus the stool in its open state is steady and level, and when folded the legs 5, 5 and 6, 6 of the frame sections 3 and 4 lie parallel and immediately adjacent to each other and provide an open space 14 of dimensions sufficient to accommodate the seat element 2.

The seat element 2 comprises a seat proper, 15, of substantially circular form having an integral rolled-edge flange 16. The flange 16 is provided with pockets 17 adapted to accommodate the upper ends of the legs 5, 5 and 6, 6 when the stool is assembled for use and thereby prevent accidental collapsing or folding of the frame element 1. The

internal diameter of the flange 16 is such, relative to the spread of the upper portion of the frame 1, that said flange fits snugly over said frame and requires some force to
 5 remove the seat element 2 from the frame element 1.

The pockets 17 may be dispensed with if desired and the frictional engagement of the flange 16 with the frame 1 be depended upon
 10 to maintain the frame in its spread state.

In Fig. 6, the frames 3^a and 4^a are each provided with an angularly disposed brace member 19 which is only employed when the frames are constructed of light gage material or the stool is adapted to support extreme weight.
 15

Fig. 7 illustrates the frames 3^b and 4^b as having semi-circular lower transverse members 8^b and 10^b, respectively, for the accommodation of the seat element 2^b when the frame is in a collapsed state.
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Fig. 8 illustrates a frame element comprising three rectangular frame sections 1^c, 3^c and 4^c, pivoted to each other at a common pivotal centre 12^c and adapted to be folded or collapsed in the same general manner as illustrated in Fig. 5.
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Figs. 9 and 10 illustrate a frame element composed of a plurality of semi-rectangular frame sections 3^d, 3^e, 4^d and 4^e having a common pivot 12^e. The frame when collapsed is in the form of a fan as illustrated in Fig. 10.
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In Fig. 11, I have illustrated a seat element 2^f which is in the form of a square, having a depending flange 16^f and being shaped at its four corners to form angular portions 17^f which function in a manner similar to the pockets 17 of the seat element 2 (Fig. 1) for reception of the upper end of each of the frame sections 3 and 4.
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In Figs. 12 and 13, I have illustrated the stool as having a folding back rest 20 pivoted at 21 to the flange 16^g of the seat element 2^g. The seat element 2^g is adapted to be placed within the folded frame element 1 in the manner above described, and when in such position the back rest 20 assumes a position illustrated in broken lines in Fig. 12. The back rest 20 is provided with a depending arm 22 having ears 23 which engage the leg portion of one of the frame sections for steadying the back rest and also preventing relative movement between the frame and seat sections.
 45 50 55

In Fig. 14, I have illustrated my invention as applied to a table. The construction is identical with that shown in Figs. 1 to 3 being of greater dimensions in proportion to a stool, with an additional element 25 secured to the element 2^h, which corresponds to the seat element 2 in Fig. 1. The element 25 is of greater diameter than the element 2^h and functions as a table top. When
 60 65 folded or collapsed the element 2^h lies with-

in the flattened frame element and said frame element lies within the flange 26 of the table top 25.

I claim:

1. An article of furniture comprising a collapsible frame member and a top member adapted to fit snugly upon one end of the frame member when said frame member is in an extended condition and to be entirely removed therefrom to permit collapse of said frame member; the collapsible frame member comprising a pair of substantially similar sections each of which consists of a pair of spaced leg elements and a pair of transverse elements integrally connecting the said leg elements immediately adjacent the extreme ends thereof, each of said frame sections having a substantially rectangular formation outlined by said leg and transverse elements and providing an open and unobstructed centre of sufficient dimensions to receive the said top member therewith when the same is entirely removed from said frame member; means for pivotally connecting each adjacent pair of transverse elements on a pivotal centre line common to both pairs of adjacent transverse elements permitting said frame member to be collapsed to a state wherein the leg elements of each section thereof lie immediately adjacent the leg elements of the other frame section; said top member comprising a substantially flat portion having a depending flange extending entirely around said circular flat portion and adapted to grip the outer side of said leg elements of the frame member adjacent one end thereof when the frame is in an extended condition, said top member being of such dimensions as to fit within the open unobstructed centre of the frame member when the frame is in a collapsed condition.
 70 75 80 85 90 95 100 105

2. An article of furniture comprising a collapsible frame member and a top member adapted to fit snugly upon one end of the frame member when said frame member is in an extended condition and to be entirely removed therefrom to permit collapse of said frame member; the collapsible frame member comprising a pair of substantially similar sections each of which consists of a pair of spaced leg elements and a pair of transverse elements integrally connecting the said leg elements immediately adjacent the extreme ends thereof, each of said frame sections having a substantially rectangular formation outlined by said leg and transverse elements and providing an open and unobstructed centre of sufficient dimensions to receive the said top member therewith when the same is entirely removed from said frame member; means for pivotally connecting each adjacent pair of transverse elements on a pivotal centre line common to both pairs of adjacent transverse elements permitting
 110 115 120 125 130

said frame member to be collapsed to a state wherein the leg elements of each section thereof lie immediately adjacent the leg elements of the other frame section; said top member comprising a substantially flat portion having a depending flange extending entirely around said circular flat portion and adapted to grip the outer side of said leg elements of the frame member adjacent one end thereof when the frame is in an extended condition; pockets formed in said depending flange into which said leg elements are adapted to fit to maintain said frame member in an extended condition, said top member being of such dimensions as to fit within the open unobstructed centre of the frame member when the frame is in a collapsed condition.

3. An article of furniture comprising a collapsible frame member and a top member adapted to fit snugly upon one end of the frame member when said frame member is in an extended condition and to be entirely removed therefrom to permit collapse of said frame member; the collapsible frame member comprising a pair of substantially similar sections each of which consists of a pair of spaced leg elements and a pair of transverse elements integrally connecting the said leg elements immediately adjacent the

extreme ends thereof, each of said frame sections having a substantially rectangular formation outlined by said leg and transverse elements and providing an open and unobstructed centre of sufficient dimensions to receive the said top member therewithin when the same is entirely removed from said frame member; means for pivotally connecting each adjacent pair of transverse elements on a pivotal centre line common to both pairs of adjacent transverse elements permitting said frame member to be collapsed to a state wherein the leg elements of each section thereof lie immediately adjacent the leg elements of the other frame section; an offset formed in one of each of the adjacent pairs of transverse elements to facilitate the collapsing of said frame member; said top member comprising a substantially flat portion having a depending flange extending entirely around said circular flat portion and adapted to grip the outer side of said leg elements of the frame member adjacent one end thereof when the frame is in an extended condition, said top member being of such dimensions as to fit within the open unobstructed centre of the frame member when the frame is in a collapsed condition.

EDWIN F. JAMES.