NOTES

A Space-Saving Media Table

LEE ANNE McGONAGLE,* GERTRUD SCHMIDT, SAM ENG, AND KARLA WIRSING

Department of Laboratory Medicine, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98195,* Small Hospital Laboratory Improvement Program, Regional Medical Program, Seattle, Washington 98105, and Rainier Brewing Company, Seattle, Washington 98134

Received for publication 21 April 1975

A space-saving media table designed to facilitate pouring large quantities of plated media in a small area is described.

Drop-leaf, multi-tiered plate pouring tables have been in use in the clinical microbiology laboratories in the University Hospital for 8 years. Proven very space saving and convenient, 240 100-mm petri plates can be accommodated on a three-tier table (24 by 60 inch [ca. 60.96 by 212.4 cm]) at one time.

The construction of the table is analogous to that of a book with Formica-covered plywood pages attached by piano hinges to a plywood

---

Fig. 1. A drop-leaf multi-tiered table in use for pouring large quantities of plated media.
binding which rests vertically against the wall at the back of the table.

When one table leaf is covered by poured plates, a new table leaf is lowered from its vertical to a horizontal position above the previous leaf, and the pouring process is repeated (Fig. 1). Sturdy wooden spacing blocks, which also serve as legs, on the underside of each leaf maintain a distance of about 3 inches (ca. 7.62 cm) between each leaf. While not in use, the table leaves can be held in their vertical resting position by a hook, clamp, or wing nut.

The basic unit consists of a 24 by 60-inch (ca. 60.96 by 212.4 cm) table top supported by four 2.5 by 2.5-inch (ca. 6.25 by 6.25 cm) posts, 28 inches (ca. 71.12 cm) high. The table top is 1.5-inch (ca. 3.81 cm) plywood covered with glossy black, acid-resistant Formica. A 17 by 60-inch (ca. 42.98 by 212.4 cm) piece of 0.75-inch (ca. 2 cm) plywood is attached vertically along the length of one side of the table with 12 inches (ca. 30.48 cm) extending above the table top. Attached to this piece are two parallel support strips of wood which run the full 60-inch (ca. 212.4 cm) length. The lower support strip is mounted 2.5 inches (ca. 6.25 cm) above the table top and is 1.5 by 1.875 by 60 inches (ca. 3.81 by 4.76 by 212.4 cm) with the 1.5-inch (ca. 3.81 cm) side mounted flush against the vertical plywood board. The lower edge of the second strip is mounted 5.5 inches (ca. 13.97 cm) above the table top and is 2.375 by 0.8125 by 60 inches (ca. 6.03 by 2.06 by 212.4 cm), with the 2.375-inch (ca. 6.03 cm) side flush against the plywood board. Two additional table tops, each 0.875 inches (ca. 1.42 cm) thick, are then attached at the top edge of the support strips using continuous metal piano hinges. The lower drop-leaf table top is 22 by 60 inches (ca. 55.88 by 212.4 cm), whereas the upper drop leaf table top is 23.125 by 60 inches (ca. 58.84 by 212.4 cm). On the bottom of each of these two drop-leaf table tops are two legs, 1.5 by 1.5 by 3 inches (ca. 3.81 by 3.81 by 7.62 cm), mounted near the front corners. When these drop-leaf table tops are in the down position, there are three parallel table surfaces with a 3-inch (ca. 7.62 cm) clearance between the individual table tops. At the mid-

Fig. 2. A front perspective of a three-tiered pouring table.
point of the back side of the table, a 1 by 3 by 40-inch (ca. 2.54 by 7.62 by 101.6 cm) post is attached at a right angle to the vertical plywood board. Mounted on this post is an L-shaped metal fastener which holds the top drop-leaf table in an upward position (Fig. 2). On the under side of this table top another L-shaped metal fastener is mounted to hold the second table top in an upward position.

This plan can easily be modified to other dimensions and could include additional levels of drop-leaf table tops. The table surfaces must be level so that uniform depth of media is obtained.

The original design was by Karla Wirsing and built by the University Carpentry Shop. The photography was done by Mary Lampe.