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(72) Inventor: **Sandeman, David Christopher  
Reigate, Surrey, RH2 0AA (GB)**

(74) Representative: **Laredo, Jack Joseph  
Laredo and Associates,  
Ingleby Lodge,  
1 Victoria Road  
Ealing, London W5 1TB (GB)**

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(71) Applicant: **Sandeman, David Christopher  
Reigate, Surrey, RH2 0AA (GB)**

(54) **Wedge**

(57) A wedge for use with the legs of tables or like furniture to secure such legs in position and to prevent rocking or wobbling in use. The wedge comprises a wedge-part shaped and dimensioned to allow such wedge-part to be put in position between the undersurface at the foot of the leg to be supported and the surface of the floor intended to support the table or like piece of furniture and, integrally therewith, or fixedly attached

thereto, a strap-part which is flexible enough to be wrapped around the said leg and securely but detachably attached thereto. In use, the wedge can be secured to the leg on a permanent or strictly temporary basis whilst being detachable therefrom as needed, and the wedge-part can be employed to fulfill its desired function as and when needed. The wedge part is composed of a sufficiently deformable but resilient material to allow its intended purpose to be satisfied.

## TABLE WEDGE

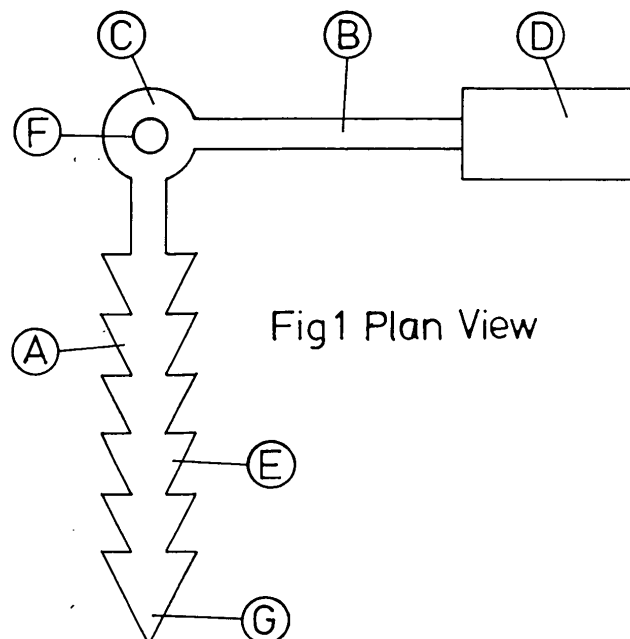


Fig1 Plan View

## Description

**[0001]** This invention relates to wedges, and is particularly concerned with a wedge for steadying a table or like piece of furniture.

**[0002]** A common problem with tables, eg. in restaurants, is caused by the fact that they are often placed on uneven floor surfaces, so that, in use, they often rock or wobble.

**[0003]** At present, the restaurant, pub and hotel trade currently uses various items to prevent a table from rocking, eg. a folded paper table napkin, a book of matches, a business card or a cork. All of these are difficult to put in position, and are often ineffective as they are readily detached from the position in which they secure the table or like piece of furniture from rocking or wobbling, and in some cases the temporary expedients used are unhygienic and/or unsightly. In any event, such temporary expedients involve a cost element since members of staff are normally called upon to deal, for example, with a table in a restaurant which is causing trouble. Furthermore, customers are often irritated by the very fact that they have been put at an unsatisfactory table, by the need to address staff to put the matter right, and by the delay which often occurs when busy staff have other things on their minds.

**[0004]** I have sought to remedy this problem which belongs to the prior art.

**[0005]** The solution I propose for solving this problem is to provide a wedge composed of a resilient material such as a natural and/or synthetic elastomeric material, eg. a rubber or rubber-like material, and integral with such wedge or fixedly attached thereto means for detachably but securely fastening the said wedge to the table or like piece of furniture to be stabilized, more specifically to a table leg.

**[0006]** The solution provided by the invention is a quick and tidy way of stabilizing a table situated on an uneven floor which prevents the table from rocking or wobbling.

**[0007]** For a better understanding of the invention reference is now made to the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of one constructional form of table wedge according to the invention; and

Fig. 2 is a corresponding side elevation.

**[0008]** The table wedge shown in the drawings is in the shape of an "L", the body A of the L-shaped wedge being provided with a series of protuberances integral therewith and in the shape of arrow heads or barbs E, and the foot B of the wedge shown vertically in Fig. 1 having an enlargement D at its free outer end which is wedge-shaped in order to fulfill the purposes of the illustrated wedge (see the side elevation constituting Fig. 2). An aperture F is formed in the joining part C linking

the parts A and B of the wedge at the right angle of the L.

**[0009]** The illustrated wedge may be composed of a variety of elastomeric materials which are resilient enough to accept slight deformation when the wedge is in use whilst exerting outward pressure on the surfaces contacted by the wedge-shaped outer extremity D of the part B of the wedge. In a preferred form, the wedge is composed of a high friction rubber or rubber-like material to aid grip between the wedge and the contacting surfaces, for example, on the underside of a table leg and the floor on which the table is located, respectively. The longer part A of the wedge is sufficiently flexible to allow this strap-like part to be wrapped around a table leg for example and to be stretched, at least to some extent. In a preferred mode, the part A can be stretched up to 100% of its natural length.

**[0010]** When the illustrated wedge is used, the strap part A is wrapped around the leg to a desired extent and the free end G of the part A is passed through the aperture F at C. The barb-like protuberances E of the strap part A retain the latter securely in position so that the wedge cannot be readily displaced in error, but allow the wedge to be removed when needed. The wedge part D is positioned when needed between the foot of the table leg and the floor on which the leg is supported. When necessary, eg. for cleaning purposes, the wedge is simply removed by pulling the part D away from its wedging location and drawing out the strap part A of the wedge through the aperture F in the part C against the resistance of the barbs E. The wedge is then free and can be removed as desired and replaced when needed.

**[0011]** It is recommended that wedges in accordance with the invention should be fitted to adjacent legs of a table so as to overcome any problems occasioned by rocking or wobbling of the table making it unstable.

**[0012]** The wedge of the invention has a number of advantages over the known prior art. Thus, the strap A fits any table leg in common use and the wedge part D will fill any gap between 4mm and 13mm, being infinitely adjustable within that range. Where needed, wedges fitting larger or smaller gaps may be provided. The insertion of the wedge in position can be rapidly and easily effected as can its removal. No tools are required or special skills, and, as mentioned above, the wedge or wedges are readily removable so as to be themselves cleaned or so as to allow cleaning of the room in which they are employed and its furniture. When the table is moved about the room, the wedge secured to a table leg follows and is not lost. It also cannot be swept up or vacuumed up during cleaning. The use of the wedge is so simple and trouble-free that the wedge can be operated by the customer himself/herself who can replace the wedge without problems if the table is accidentally moved in such manner as to displace the wedge or wedges from their locking positions. Customers will become aware of, and appreciate, the unified way in which this known problem has been resolved. Furthermore, although the wedge of the invention has a particular ap-

plication, for instance, in pubs, hotels or restaurants, the wedge of the invention is not limited to such locations but may also be usefully employed in the home or in the office.

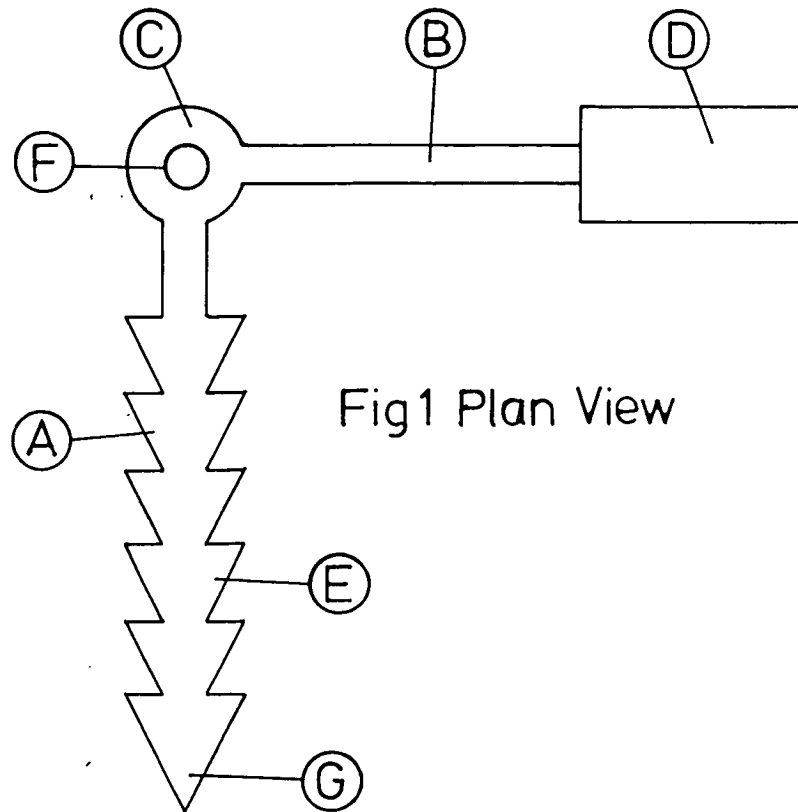
**[0013]** Amongst the features of the invention in its preferred form, the use of a stretchable rubber strap to fit legs of various dimensions, the use of a 'barb' design so as to achieve secure fastening of the strap and hence the wedge to the table leg and the combination of the functions of the wedge-shaped part and the strap-part of the wedge, which solves at once two problems currently facing the present state of the art, namely, the need for secure wedging and the loss of temporary wedges, as an inevitable feature of conditions in a pub., hotel or restaurant, are all features of the invention which are of value and are not presently part of the state of the art.

like elastomeric material, the material of the wedge being sufficiently deformably resilient to allow the wedge-part to carry out its wedging function whilst being sufficiently flexible to allow the strap-part to be wrapped around the leg and detachably secured thereto.

## Claims

1. A wedge for use with the legs of tables or like furniture to secure such legs in position and to prevent rocking or wobbling in use, having a wedge-part comprising a tapering portion having a surface positionable between the under-surface at the foot of the leg to be supported and the surface of the floor intended to support the table or like piece of furniture and inclined when so positioned at an acute angle to said floor surface, said wedge-part being composed of a sufficiently deformable but resilient material to allow said tapering portion to effect its wedging function, **characterized in that** the wedge additionally comprises a strap-part composed of a material which is sufficiently flexible to allow the strap-part to be wrapped around said leg and securely but detachably attached thereto.
2. A wedge according to claim 1 which is of L-shaped form, and is further **characterized by** the fact that its strap-part is constituted by the body of the wedge and its wedge-part is constituted by the foot of the wedge.
3. A wedge according to claim 2, further **characterized in that** the strap-part of the wedge is provided with barb-shaped protuberances along the length thereof and **in that** the right-angled join between the two parts of the L is provided with an aperture therein for receiving the free end of said strap-part when the latter has been wrapped around a leg, the barbs on the strap-part preventing the latter from being unsecured in error but being sufficiently resilient to allow withdrawal of the strap-part from said aperture to release the wedge when desired.
4. A wedge according to any one of claims 1-3, which is composed of a high friction rubber, rubber-like or

# TABLE WEDGE





European Patent  
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 03 02 2093

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	US 6 290 294 B1 (VOLZ DOROTHY D) 18 September 2001 (2001-09-18) * the whole document *	1,4	A47B91/16 A47B91/12
A	US 5 249 767 A (MELLEN FLOYD F) 5 October 1993 (1993-10-05) * column 3 - column 4 *	1-4	
A	EP 1 169 945 A (HAEYERE ALAIN D) 9 January 2002 (2002-01-09) * the whole document *	1-4	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			A47B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
MUNICH		16 January 2004	Cardan, C
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone                      Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category                      A : technological background                      O : non-written disclosure                      P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention                      E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date                      D : document cited in the application                      L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>&amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 03.02 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 03 02 2093

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
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16-01-2004

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82