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Furniture Ensemble with Sofa Table Island

**Abstract**

A furniture ensemble includes a tuxedo sofa, a two-level sofa table island piece adapted to be disposed behind the tuxedo sofa, stools or other additional seating behind the sofa table island piece, and an ottoman or, alternatively, a cocktail table with nesting footstools for further seating. The sofa table island piece has a front horizontal shelf member supported between left and right side walls and a rear counter top member a few inches higher than the front shelf. The front horizontal shelf member of the island piece is at the same level as the top of the sofa back. An open space is formed below the counter top member. Stools or similar seating units with their seat portions higher than the sofa seating space are removably stored in the island piece. This group provides seating for a group of persons with an unobstructed view of activities taking place ahead of the furniture ensemble.

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### *Claims*

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1. In combination: a tuxedo sofa adapted for seating a plurality of persons, and having a seating space, the seating space having a predetermined height and width, arms disposed at left and right sides of the seating space each with a horizontal top surface having a width and a predetermined height above the height of said seating space, and a sofa back disposed behind said seating space and having a horizontal top surface of a predetermined width and a height equal to the height of arm top surfaces; a two-level sofa table island piece adapted to be disposed behind the sofa back of said tuxedo sofa, the sofa table island piece including side walls; a front horizontal shelf member affixed on said side walls and extending a width distance at least equal to the width of said seating space, and having a height equal to the height of the top surface of the sofa back, so that the front horizontal shelf member of said sofa table island piece is configured to be at the same level as said sofa back top surface when the sofa table island piece is positioned directly behind said tuxedo sofa; a vertical riser wall extending up from a rear edge of said front horizontal shelf member; a rear horizontal counter member extending rearwardly from an upper edge of said riser wall and extending laterally a width distance at least equal to the width of said seating space, and having a height greater than the height of said front horizontal shelf member; said side walls and said rear counter member defining an open space between the side walls and beneath said rear counter member; and a plurality of seating units, each having a seat portion supported on a leg portion such that the seat portion is at a height greater than the height of the sofa seating space, with said open space of said sofa table island piece being configured for removably storing said seating units therein.
2. The combination of claim 1 wherein said sofa table island piece further includes at least one horizontal shelf mounted on at least one of the side walls thereof at a level below the level of said front horizontal shelf member.
3. The combination of claim 1 wherein said sofa table island piece further includes at least one horizontal shelf mounted on at least on of the side walls thereof at the level of said front horizontal shelf member.
4. The combination of claim 1 wherein the height of the front horizontal shelf member of said sofa table island member is substantially 27 inches, and the height of said rear counter member is substantially 36 inches.
5. The combination of claim 1 wherein the horizontal top surfaces of the arms of said sofa have a width of substantially 12 inches.
6. The combination of claim 1 said sofa table island piece having a cord slot formed at a rear side of said front horizontal shelf member defining a space between said front horizontal shelf member and said vertical riser wall that is configured to permit passage therethrough of an electrical power or communications cord.
7. The combination of claim 6 wherein said cord slot has a wide portion therein of greater dimension than said cord slot for permitting passage of a cord connector.
8. The combination of claim 1 further comprising an ottoman adapted to be positioned in front of the seating space of said tuxedo sofa, and having a width and height substantially the same as the width and height of said seating space, respectively.
9. The combination of claim 1 further comprising a cocktail table adapted to be positioned in front of the seating







[0023] FIG. 5 is a front elevational view of the sofa table island piece of this embodiment.

[0024] FIGS. 6, 7, and 8 are a side elevation, top plan, and rear elevation thereof.

[0025] FIG. 9 is a front perspective of the sofa table island piece featuring the cable slot(s).

[0026] FIG. 9A is an enlargement of a portion of FIG. 9 showing detail of the cable slots(s).

[0027] FIGS. 10, 11 and 12 are environmental perspective views of the sofa and sofa table island piece of this embodiment.

[0028] FIG. 13 is a perspective view of the ensemble of furniture of an embodiment that features a cocktail table and footstools that nest beneath it.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0029] With reference to the Drawing Figures, and initially to FIGS. 1 to 4, a sofa 10, here a so-called Tuxedo sofa, is shown to have a wide seating area 12 with one or more seat cushions, and with arms 14 positioned at left and right ends, and a sofa back 16 behind the seating area 12 and extending between the rear portions of the two sofa arms 14. In this case, the arms each rise more or less vertically to a wide top surface that is about generally flat and about ten to twelve inches in width, and at a height of about twenty-seven inches above the floor. The sofa back 16 also rises vertically and has a wide flat top surface of about ten to twelve inches front-to-back and at a height to match the side arms (i.e., twenty-seven inches).

[0030] In this embodiment, an ottoman 18 is positioned in front of the sofa 10, and has a height and width to match the seating area 12 of the sofa. A number of pillows, cushions and bolsters on the sofa can be repositioned by persons seated on the sofa.

[0031] Immediately behind the back 14 of the sofa 10 is a two-level sofa table or island piece 20, serving as a connecting piece between the sofa 10 and additional seating for persons behind the sofa table island piece 20, that is, for persons who may be seated on additional seating such as stools 70.

[0032] As shown additionally in FIGS. 5 to 8, the sofa table island piece 20 has left and right side walls 22 and 24, with a staggered top edges higher at the rear side. A front shelf 26 is supported on the front part of the side walls and extends horizontally, i.e., left to right, at a height of twenty-seven inches so as to be at the same height as the back top surface of the back 16 of the sofa 10. In this embodiment the left-to-right distance of the shelf 26 matches the width of the sofa back 14. The shelf extends front-to-back between eight and twelve inches, and its front edge is at the position of the front edge of the two side walls 22 and 24. In this embodiment, the side walls are each one piece and solid across their width, but in other possible embodiments they could have one or more open sections.

[0033] An upper, rear counter top or shelf 28 extends across the top rear of the two side walls 22, 24 at a height above the level of the front shelf 26, and in this embodiment the counter top 28 is about thirty-six inches above the floor. A riser panel 30 extends up from the rear edge of the front shelf 26 to the front edge of the upper counter top 28, and a lower panel 36 beneath the front edge of the lower front shelf 26 extends downward and also extends from the left side wall 22 to the right side wall 24. The rear side of the sofa table island piece 20 is open beneath the upper rear counter top 28 and the two side walls 22 and 24 to create an open space 38 for storage of additional seating and to create leg room for persons seated at the rear counter top 28.

[0034] Referring now to FIGS. 9 and 9A, at the junction of the lower front shelf 26 and the riser panel 30 there is are narrow slots or cutouts 32 formed, one at each side of the center of the shelf and riser, and these slots 32 are intended to create a passage for electrical cords and/or communications cables for lamps, digital devices, etc. that persons may have present on the sofa table island piece 20. At the end of each of these slots or cutouts 32

nearer the center of the island piece there is an enlarged portion 34 to permit a plug or cable connector to pass through. The cord slots help keep cord clutter or tangle from the top and outer surfaces of the island piece furniture unit.

[0035] Referring again to FIGS. 4 to 8, the sofa table island piece unit 20 has upper side shelves 50 disposed respectively at the upper parts of the right and left side walls 22, 24 and contiguous with the ends of the front shelf 26. These are supported by brackets (not numbered) that are fastened to the outer surface of the side walls. Beneath these shelves are lower side shelves 52, and associated support brackets. These side shelves 50 and 52 can provide places for books or other articles (See FIG. 10).

[0036] Pillows 60, rear cushions, and other movable cushions such as bolsters can be present as shown in FIGS. 10 to 12, and can be repositioned as desired for occupant comfort. Also shown in FIG. 12 are sofa seat cushions 62, of which there are two in this embodiment. Of course in other embodiments the sofa may be designed to have only a single cushion, or perhaps three cushions.

[0037] Returning now to FIGS. 1 and 2, and referring also to FIG. 13, additional seating units 70, here shown as bar stools, provide seating at a higher level than the seating area 12 of the sofa. These seating units or stools 70 fit into the space 38 beneath the counter top 28 when they are not needed, but can be easily pulled out for persons to occupy, either behind the sofa table island piece 20, or to the side of it (see FIG. 13) or elsewhere. Here, the units 70 are traditional, backless high-seating stools, but these units could be seating with backs, and in some cases with arms.

[0038] The furniture ensemble with a cocktail table 40 instead of the ottoman 18 is shown in FIG. 13. In this embodiment, the cocktail table 40 has a generally square or rectangular top 42, and this is supported on a set of L-shaped legs 44. These legs 44 each have a vertical member that centers on a respective edge of the table top 42, and a horizontal member that meets the other horizontal leg members beneath the center of the cocktail table 40. This arrangement creates four corner receptacles or spaces 46 under the top 42. A set of footstools 48 are provided, generally as illustrated here, which fit in a respective corner space 46 and can be pulled out when needed for additional seating, for example, for younger children.

[0039] With the furniture arrangements or ensembles of this invention, as described and illustrated, a space in the room ahead of the sofa 10 and ahead of the ottoman 18 or cocktail table 40, can be an event space, including e.g., a large-screen television, or a Christmas tree, or a recital space (for piano and singer), or for many other occasions where a number of persons may want to gather. Persons may also seat themselves comfortably on the arms 14 of the sofa. In each case, the persons seated behind have a view that is not obstructed by the persons seated ahead of them.

[0040] The sofa table island piece 20 makes this possible by creating a table space (i.e., the shelf 26) immediately behind the sofa back 16 to serve the purpose of side tables for persons to put food plates or drink glasses, or to use as a place for smart-phones and tablet devices, and for their charging stations, as well as a place for lamps, floral arrangements, books, or other items. The higher-level counter top 28 provides a work space or table space for persons seated on the stools 70 behind the island piece 20, with the stools being stored within the footprint of the island piece until needed for additional seating. The counter top 28 then provides space for those persons to set food plates, drink glasses, or other items.

[0041] The cocktail table 40 with its footstools 48 that nest beneath it, provide further additional seating ahead of the sofa 10 with the seating at a lower level than the sofa seating area 12.

[0042] The sofa can be of various width dimensions, selected for the size of the room space, e.g., sofa width of seventy-eight inches or ninety inches. The island piece 20 can then be of a corresponding width dimension so as to match the lower front shelf 26 with the width of the sofa back 14. This in turn means the wider space 38 beneath the wider counter top 28 can store four stools 70, instead of the three shown in the illustrations.

[0043] The sofa 10 can be covered with leather, with upholstery cloth, or in some cases can have bare wood

