
Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**1. Field of the Invention**

The present invention proposes an improved means of exhibiting and displaying images on table surfaces. The images can include but are not limited to: print, computer-aided graphics, drawings, photographs, and other designs for advertisement purposes.

2. Description of the Prior Art

Presently, the surfaces of tables at restaurants and other food & beverage establishments are commonly used as a medium by which to display advertisements. The previous methods of creating such table surface displays, however, contain a number of weaknesses.

First, once the substrate is affixed in its position and there is no allowance for any on-the-spot adjustments to correct the alignment of the substrate. This inability to correct the alignment and position of the substrate, once covered over by the laminate sheet, would result in a less than ideal level of workmanship.

Second, once the sealant is adhered over the laminate layer and substrate, the substrate cannot be readily replaced by another substrate. The substrate can only be retrieved through forceful removal of the sealant, which could cause irreparable damage to the table surface.

Third, the coverage of the sealant stops at the edges of the table thus creating a fine space in-between the sealant and table surface for the lodgment of liquids, food particles, dirt, and other residue that may seep through. The difficulty of removing such residue from the table can create hazards relating to food safety and public hygiene.

OBJECTIVES AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The primary aim of the present invention is to create an improved method for exhibiting and displaying images on table surfaces. In view of the limitations of prior art, the present invention sets out to remedy the flaws of previous methods with the following objectives:

(a) to provide a process by which to create table surface displays in a swift and effortless manner compared to previous methods;

(b) to allow the flexibility to make quick touch-ups and alignment corrections, thereby enhancing workmanship quality;

(c) to prevent damages to the table surface created by removal of the sealant; and

(d) to increase food safety and public hygiene standards by preventing liquids, food particles, dirt, and other residue from entering the crevice between the sealant and table surface.

(e) to enhance the advertising medium on table surface with the use of designs or images printed on the laminate.

The proposed method of the present invention achieves the abovementioned objectives by way of the following improvements, which are broadly summarized in a step-by-step manner as the preferred method:

(i) producing images on the upper surface of the substrate that will be exposed for viewing – each table will have one substrate of any size up to the surface area of the table surface and each substrate can accommodate more than one image, thereby making the creation of a table surface display a swift and effortless process;

(ii) applying a laminate sheet with adhesive properties on its lower surface over the upper surface of the substrate to safeguard the image; and

(iii) applying water or alkaline solution to the table surface with such that the adhesive lower surface of the substrate does not immediately adhere to the table surface upon contact – this allows for multiple repositioning of the substrate on the table surface until a desired placement is achieved; and

(iv) applying a laminate that may bear indicia with adhesive properties on its lower surface over the entire table surface such that it not only covers the laminate sheet and substrate, but also extends over and sheathes the edges and sides of the table to prevent residue from entering the crevice between the sealant and the table surface.

(v) applying water or alkaline solution to the table surface and laminated substrate surface such that the adhesive lower surface of the laminate does not immediately adhere to the table surface upon contact – this allows for multiple repositioning of the laminate on the table surface until a desired placement is achieved.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention in its preferred embodiment is described in detail below with reference to the attached illustration, wherein:

Figure 1 is a cross-section view of the table surface display depicting the various components of the preferred embodiment as they relate to one another. The thickness of the individual components (1-9) is exaggerated for visibility and clarity purposes.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Figure 1 illustrates a table surface display (10) assembled in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. Construction of the table surface display (10) involves the following steps in detail:

(i) The table (8) and its table surface (1) may be a newly manufactured or an existing source found in restaurants and other food & beverage establishments.

(ii) The substrate (2) can consist of paper, polyvinyl chloride, plastics, metal, or any other suitable material. The substrate (2) may be of any size up to the surface area of the table surface. The images—which can include but are not limited to print, computer-aided graphics, drawings, photographs, and other designs—are preferably printed on the substrate (2) with colour ink. The pattern and number of images on the substrate may be selected as a matter of design preference.

(iii) Once the images are printed on the substrate (2), a laminate sheet (3) with adhesive (6) on its lower surface is applied over the upper surface of the substrate (2). The laminate sheet acts as a buffer such that the images on the substrate (2) are safeguarded from the adhesive lower surface of the laminate (9).

(iv) Water or alkaline solution is applied to the table surface (1) to prevent the adhesive on the lower surface of the substrate (2) from fully contacting the table surface even when pressure is applied. This enables the laminated substrate to be positioned or repositioned as many times as necessary before the final application. In order to create an even surface, a roller or other suitable object may be used to press against the laminated substrate thus removing any trapped air between the laminated substrate and table surface.

(v) Remove any excess water or alkaline solution from the table surface, then apply the laminate (9) with adhesive (7) on its lower surface over the entire table surface (8) thus covering not only the laminated substrate but also ensuring that the edges and sides of the table (8) are fully covered in the laminate as well. In order to create an even surface, a roller or other suitable object may be used to press against the laminate thus removing any trapped air between the laminate, the laminated substrate, and the table surface.

The invention has been described with reference to the preferred embodiment illustrated in the attached drawing. It is noted that equivalents may be employed and substitutions made herein without departing from the scope of the invention as recited in the claims.

Claims

We claim:

1. A method of making advertisement media for table surface, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) producing an image or design on the upper surface of a substrate;
 - (b) adhering a laminate over the upper surface of the substrate to protect the image on the upper surface of the substrate;
 - (c) adhering the lower surface of the substrate to the upper surface of the table surface; and
 - (d) applying a layer of laminate over laminated substrate.
2. The method as set forth in claim 1, step (b) including the step of applying a layer of adhesive to a portion of the upper surface of the substrate and/or to the lower surface of the laminate.
3. The method as set forth in claim 1, step (c), further including the step of applying a layer of adhesive to a portion of the upper surface of the table surface and/or to the lower surface of the substrate.
4. The method as set forth in claim 1, step (c), further including the step of applying water or alkaline solution between lower surface of the substrate to the upper surface of the table surface.
5. The method as set forth in claim 1, step (c), further including the step of rolling a roller across the upper surface of the laminated substrate to remove air from between the substrate and the upper surface of the table surface to flatten the substrate on the table surface.
6. The method as set forth in claim 1, the upper surface of the table surface having a surface area, wherein the substrate has a surface area only slightly less than the table surface surface area.
7. The method as set forth in claim 1, the table surface having side edges extending downwardly from the table surface upper surface, wherein the layer of laminate is applied to the table surface so that it covers substantially all of the uppermost surface of the table surface and extend over the side edges.
8. The method as set forth in claim 1, step (d), further including the step of applying water or alkaline solution between the upper surface of the laminated substrate, upper surface of the table, and the lower surface of the laminate.
9. The method as set forth in claim 1, after step (d), further including the step of rolling a roller across the upper surface of the laminated substrate to remove air from between the upper surface of the laminated substrate and the lower surface of the laminate to flatten the laminate on the table surface.