

No. 701,112.

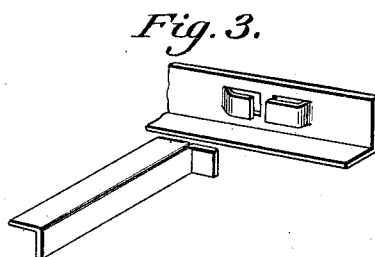
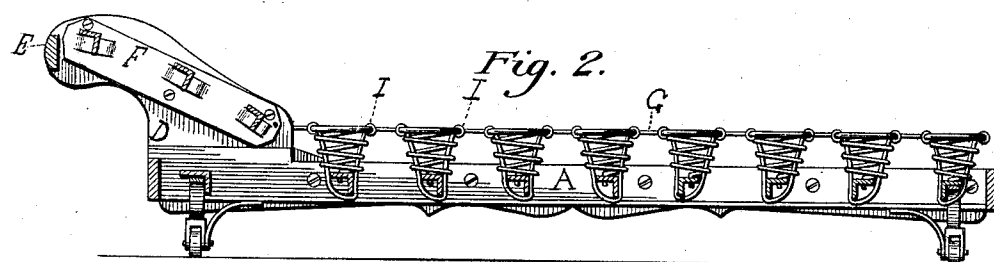
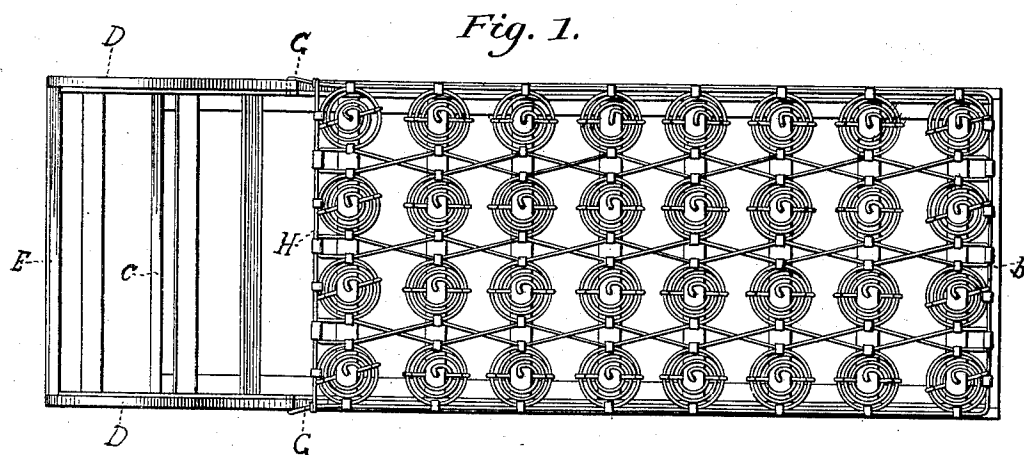
Patented May 27, 1902.

J. WATKINS.

COUCH FRAME.

(Application filed July 26, 1901.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOEL WATKINS, OF JOLIET, ILLINOIS.

COUCH-FRAME.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 701,112, dated May 27, 1902.

Application filed July 26, 1901; Serial No. 69,819. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOEL WATKINS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Joliet, in the county of Will and State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Couch-Frames, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an improved couch-frame which is made principally of steel instead of wood. The slats of the same are also made of steel.

The objects of my improvement are—

First. To make a better frame than the wooden frames now in use. It is lighter, stronger, more durable, and more likely to be free from vermin than those now in use.

Second. To cheapen the cost of the construction of couches by using less material. No wood, nails, or glue are necessary. This invention dispenses with a large part of the labor now employed in making wooden couch-frames. In making the wooden frame by the present method of construction eight or nine persons are necessary to prepare it to the point where it is ready for upholstering. By my plan one man can construct the frame after the material is made ready.

Third. After the material is manufactured it can be shipped cheaply into districts where it is designed to be sold and there put together easily and upholstered.

Fourth. The invention set forth in this specification can be used not only in couch-frames, but also in the construction of bedsteads and almost all kinds of household furniture.

I accomplish these objects in the manner illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a top view of the frame as one would look downward upon it. Fig. 2 is a view of the inner side of one of the steel sides and shows also the springs and the location of the slats. Fig. 3 is a view of the method of fastening the slats to the sides.

Letters refer to the several parts throughout the said views.

On the lower side of the steel sides A a flange is turned at right angle with the side one-half inch or more in width to allow the lower edge of the slats to rest on the same.

The said steel sides are of the usual length of that part of a couch—about five feet seven inches.

The style of slat shown in Fig. 3 is made of steel, about two inches wide, (before being formed into slats.) Both the slats and the steel sides are made of 14 gage steel or lighter, if required. The said slat (shown in Fig. 3) being of the width of about two inches before being made up and being then a flat piece of steel is first slit down the middle from each end to a point about one inch back from the end. Then the two points are turned in opposite directions to a right angle with the body of the slat. Then this piece of steel, with the points turned as aforesaid, is bent in the middle lengthwise to a right angle and the slat, Fig. 3, is completed.

The manner of providing for fastening the slat to the frame (shown in Fig. 3) is by cutting from the sides and forcing inward two flanges or catches to receive the points of the slats, (bent as aforesaid,) and by inserting the two points in the two catches, and forming an interlock and pushing the slat downward until the lower edge of the same rests on the said flange on the lower side of the steel sides. No rivets or screws or other means of fastening than as here described are used in fastening this slat to the sides. The parts of the steel sides forced in to form the catches of the said interlock are usually about five-eighths inch wide and three-fourths inch in length. The lower edges of the said catch are about three-sixteenths of an inch (or more, if necessary) above the angle where the flange is turned on the side.

All slats have in their upper sides holes to receive spiral springs for upholstery.

The frame is designed to be used with from seven to nine slats in the bottom (more or less, according to the number of springs required) and with three slats in the head elevation, which will be made of whatever style described herein that is being used in the bottom of the frame.

The open angles in the slats at the point of the head elevation and at the foot end of the springs may be filled with wood.

A piece of thin carved wood (the lower edge and ends of which may be seen projecting

under and at the ends of the steel sides in Fig. 2) is fastened with screws to the outside of the steel sides. This piece of wood is chiefly for ornament and covers the steel sides completely, except the part of the same at the head end, which is wider than the rest. Where the ends of this piece of wood project beyond the steel sides at the ends of the couch-frame, a piece of wood is fastened across from one side to the other to connect the sides and to afford a place to fasten upholstery. These two wooden pieces are shown in Fig. 1 as B and C. Upholstering is fastened on the sides also.

An irregular-shaped piece of wood D is used in the head elevation. This is fastened to the above-described wide part of the steel side by three screws and fits closely against the above-described long piece of wood on the side. D and D are connected firmly by a piece of wood E, which is also used as a place for fastening upholstery.

F is a flat piece of steel of the same material as the steel sides, fastened to the inside of the wooden head by three screws. Three slats are connected with the same for the head elevation. F is about eighteen inches long and about three inches wide.

This couch-frame is provided with steel legs braced to steel sides and to the nearest slats and upon which no patent is claimed.

Springs of the same kind as above described and used in that same manner and fastened

the same are intended to be used in the head elevation.

I know that couch-frames made of wood and of the general shape and appearance of this one have been made and used so long that I do not know when they were first brought into use; but

The particular points which I claim to have invented in this frame are—

An interlock on the sides of a couch-frame or bedstead, for the purpose of connecting the sides with the slats, which said interlock is a part of the same piece as the sides themselves, and consists of two points or catches facing each other, for receiving the ends of the slats, in combination with an angle-shaped slat having the ends slit, thus making two points of the same dimensions, one of which points extends out from the body of the slat at a right angle with the same, and the other of which points extends downward at a right angle from the body of the slat and toward the angle between the two sides of the same, the said two points being for the purpose of connecting the slat to the sides of a couch-frame or bedstead.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOEL WATKINS.

Witnesses:

MARY E. DAVID,
JAMES A. MCKEOWN.