Feb. 11, 1964 D. ALBINSON 3,120,977

BASE FOR SEATING

Filed Jan. 29, 1962

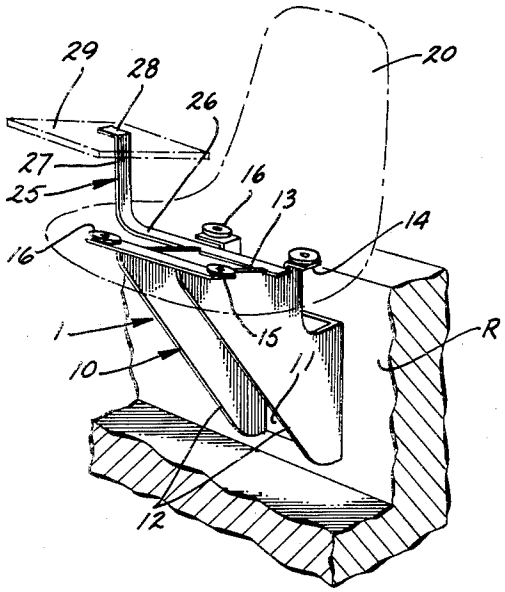


FIG. 1

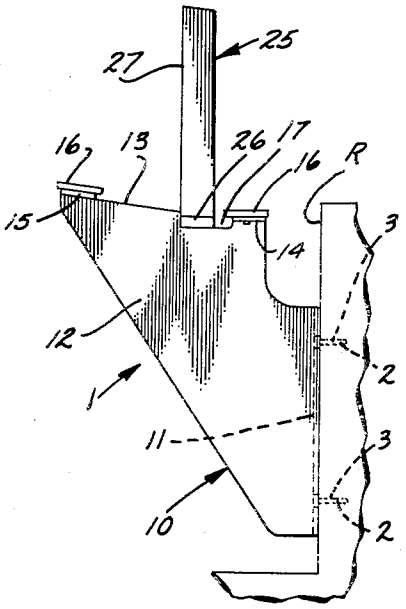


FIG. 2

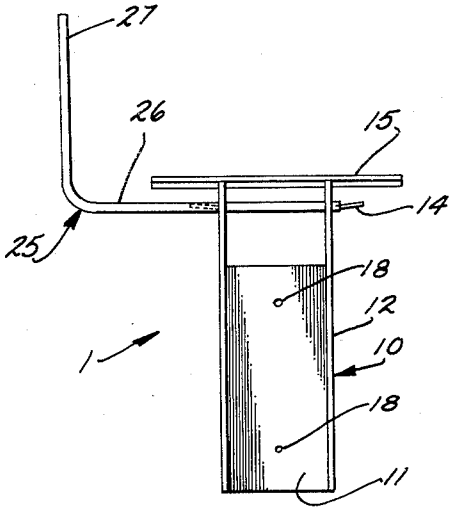


FIG. 3

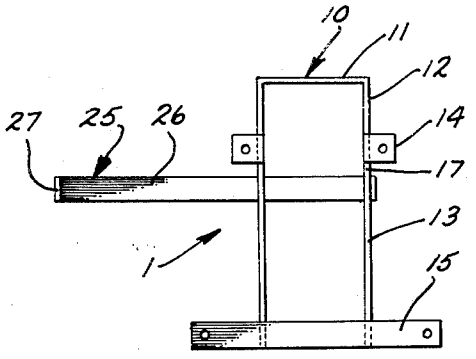


FIG. 4

INVENTOR.
DON ALBINSON
BY Price & Heneveld
ATTORNEYS

United States Patent Office 3,120,977
Patented Feb. 11, 1964

3,120,977

BASE FOR SEATING

Don Albinson, Venice, Calif., assignor to Herman Miller, Inc., Zeeland, Mich., a corporation of Michigan

Filed Jan. 29, 1962, Ser. No. 169,324
4 Claims. (Cl. 297—160)

This invention relates to a base for seating. More particularly, this invention relates to a base especially adapted for use in supporting seating in stadiums, auditoriums and the like having the seating elevation progressively raised.

In constructing stadiums, auditoriums and the like, seating is usually supported such that as seats are progressively more distant from the focal point, their height relative to the focal point is progressively raised. Thus, the floor of such a structure is progressively raised or stepped. Many types of seating bases are presently in existence for securing seats on such a stepped floor. Essentially, these bases are conventional structures which are not well adapted in such an environment. Therefore, it is an object of this invention to provide a specific base for use in such an environment.

Another object of this invention is to provide such a base which is extremely simple in construction, making it relatively inexpensive to fabricate, yet is sturdy and well adapted to withstand the uses to which it may be subjected.

Another object of this invention is to provide such a base which is well adapted to include an arm or tablet support.

A still further object of this invention is the provision of such a base which offers a minimum of interference during use of the seat and is pleasing in appearance in its environment.

These and other objects of this invention will become obvious to those skilled in the seating art upon reading the following specification in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the base of this invention, shown mounted in position together with a chair and arm rest (in phantom) supported thereon;

FIG. 2 is a side view of the base shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a front view of the base shown in FIG. 1; and

FIG. 4 is a plan view of the base shown in FIG. 1.

Briefly, this invention relates to a base for seating adapted for anchoring on an upright support, the base comprising a generally U-shaped member including a bight portion and a pair of legs. Means is associated with the bight portion for anchoring it to the upright support. The legs include supporting surfaces for supporting the bottom of a seat.

Referring more specifically to the drawings, the reference numeral **1** designates the entire base comprising this invention. The base **1** includes a generally U-shaped member **10** and a generally L-shaped arm support **25**. The U-shaped member **10** is of formed, one-piece construction and includes a bight portion **11** and a pair of legs extending outwardly and upwardly therefrom, each designated by the reference numeral **12**, each of the legs **12** terminating with an upper surface **13**. Extending outwardly from the rear portion of the upper surface **13** of each leg **12** is an ear **14**. A supporting bar **15** is mounted to and across the front portions of the

upper surface **13** of the legs **12**. The ears **14** and the bar **15** form supporting surfaces for a seat **20** (FIG. 1). It will be noted that the planes of the supporting surfaces thus formed are generally perpendicular to the plane of the bight portion **11** of the member **10**. The term "generally perpendicular" is used in the specification and following claims since the exact plane of the supporting surfaces may be made to vary in accordance with the contour of the seat to be mounted on the base. Thus, the supporting surfaces, as shown clearly in FIG. 2, are considered to be "generally perpendicular" to the plane of the bight portion. A notch **17** is provided in the upper surface **13** of each leg **12**, the purpose of which will be more fully explained hereinafter. A mounting member **16** is secured to each of the ears **14** and to the extremities of the bar **15**, these mounting members in turn secured to a seating shell **20**. In the embodiment shown, the mounting members **16** are comprised of resilient material adapted to be bonded to the bottom of the seat shell **20**.

The arm support **25** is secured to the U-shaped member **10** as follows. One arm **26** extends across the upper surfaces **13** of the legs **12**, resting in the notches **17** and secured thereto by suitable means, such as welding. The arm **26** extends laterally from the U-shaped member **10** a distance such that the arm **27** extending upwardly passes alongside of the seat shell **20**. A suitable means **28** is provided at the extremity of arm **27** for receiving a tablet **29**.

The base **1** is mounted for support as follows. The bight portion **11** of the U-shaped member **10** is positioned against a vertical or riser portion R (FIG. 1). Screws **2** (FIG. 2) extend through the openings **18** in the bight portion **11** extending into threaded inserts **3** in the riser R. When thus mounted, the legs **12** extend outwardly and upwardly from the riser R. With this simple step, the base **1** is mounted firmly in position, supporting a seat shell **20** and a tablet **29** as described.

It will be noted that the base described hereinbefore is exceptionally simple in construction, yet sturdy and essentially maintenance-free. It may be mounted in position in a stadium or auditorium utilizing risers as described, the mounting being extremely simple—as is the removal thereof if necessary.

While only one embodiment of this invention has been shown and described, it may be possible to practice the invention through the utilization of certain other embodiments without departing from the spirit and scope thereof. Such other embodiments are to be included as part of this invention unless the following claims specifically state otherwise.

I claim:

1. A base for seating adapted for anchoring on an upright support, said base comprising: a one-piece member of generally U-shape in horizontal cross section, said member including a bight portion and a pair of legs extending outwardly and upwardly from said bight portion; means associated with said bight portion for anchoring said bight portion to the upright member; and seat supporting surfaces extending from said legs and lying in planes generally perpendicular to the plane passing through said bight portion.

2. A base as defined in claim 1, said supporting surfaces comprising a pair of ears extending from said legs

for supporting the rear of a seat and a bar secured across said legs for supporting the front of a seat.

3. A base for seating adapted for anchoring on an upright support, said base comprising: a one-piece member of generally U-shape in horizontal cross section, said member including a bight portion and a pair of legs extending outwardly and upwardly from said bight portion; means associated with said bight portion for anchoring said bight portion to the upright member; seat supporting surfaces extending from said legs and lying in planes generally perpendicular to the plane passing through said bight portion; and an arm support secured to said legs including a first arm secured within notches in said legs and lying in a plane generally parallel to the planes of said seat supporting surfaces and a second arm extending upwardly from said seat supporting surfaces.

4. A base as defined in claim 3, said supporting surfaces comprising a pair of ears extending from said legs for supporting the rear of a seat and a bar secured across said legs for supporting the front of a seat.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

491,590	Poulson	Feb. 14, 1893
936,527	Fisher	Oct. 12, 1909
1,495,943	Wiley	May 27, 1924
2,165,125	Bargen	July 4, 1939
2,568,896	Morgan	Sept. 25, 1951
2,669,288	Bargen	Feb. 16, 1954
2,698,049	Lamb	Dec. 28, 1954
2,921,622	Henrikson et al.	Jan. 19, 1960