Nov. 21, 1944. M. SUGARMAN 2,363,271

SLIP COVERS FOR FURNITURE

Filed May 8, 1943

Fig. 1.

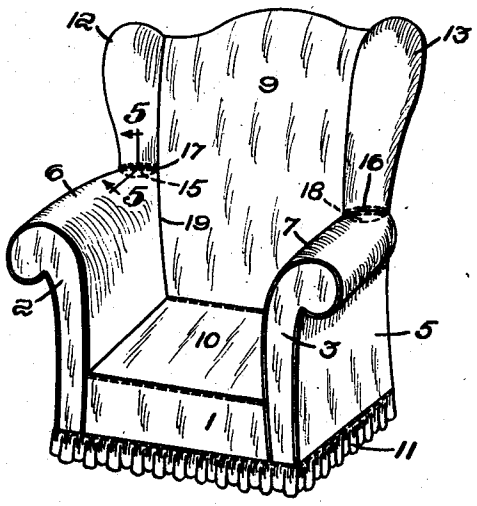


Fig. 2.

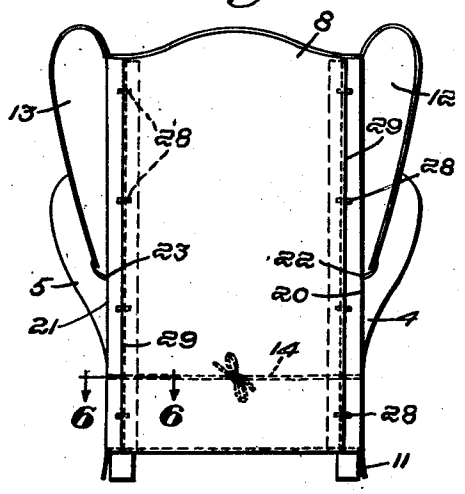


Fig. 3.

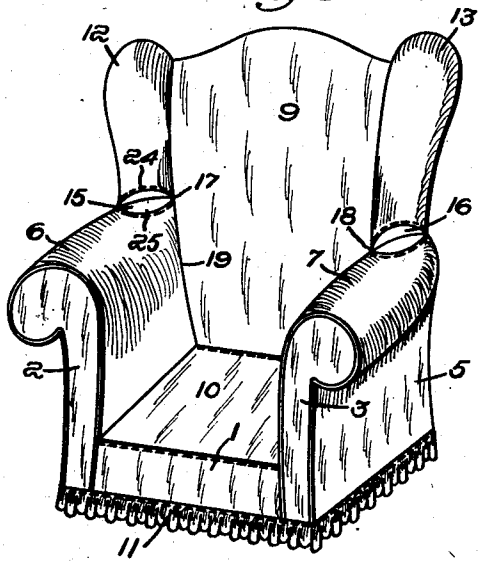


Fig. 4.

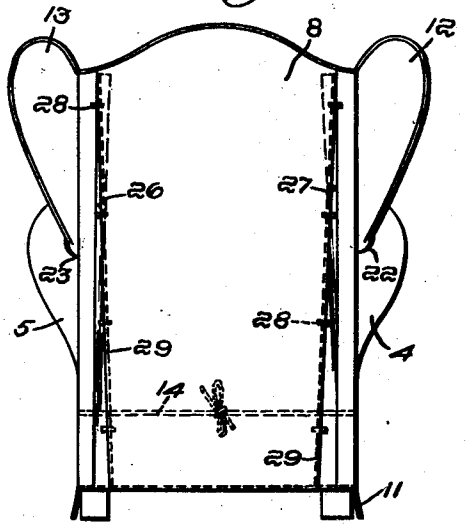


Fig. 5.

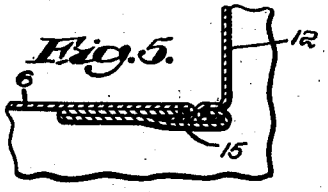


Fig. 6.



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SLIP COVER FOR FURNITURE

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Application May 8, 1943, Serial No. 486,118

3 Claims. (Cl. 155—182)

The present invention relates to adjustable slip covers for upholstered furniture.

Upholstered or over-stuffed furniture varies so greatly in size and shape that the best fitting and most attractive covers are still custom made to fit each article. Many attempts have been made, with varying degrees of success, to make adjustable slip covers. Some covers have been made of elastic material, some have had separate panels individually adjusted in place, and others have provided considerable surplus material along the margins of the panels and have had various arrangements of draw-strings or tying tapes. While some of these adjustable covers are less expensive than custom-made covers, it is still common practice to have removable furniture covers custom made, even at greater cost, for the sake of appearance and fitting qualities.

The object of the present invention is to provide an adjustable slip cover which, although adapted to fit a variety of shapes and sizes of furniture, has the appearance of a custom-made cover, avoiding the baggy, loose appearance so often characteristic of adjustable covers when applied to small articles of furniture and the drawn, stretched appearance often present when they are attached to large articles.

The present invention also eliminates the necessity of using elastic covering fabric and reduces the amount of surplus material usually provided where the panels of the cover are joined. The adjustability of the cover is principally derived from two inserts or gussets at the front and two long inserts or inturned pleats at the back of the cover. The front inserts permit expansion or contraction of the cover by providing material adapted to be folded inwardly in proportion to the amount to be taken up as the cover is fitted to a small article, the take-up being greatest at the central part of the insert. The back inserts provide for expansion or contraction of the cover along straight lines which may be substantially vertical or may be greater at either top or bottom of the cover, the fold line itself being hidden.

The invention will best be understood from the following description in conjunction with the accompanying drawing.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a chair showing one application of a cover embodying the invention;

Fig. 2 is a rear elevation of the chair shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a chair showing another application of the cover shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a rear elevation of the chair shown in Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a detail view partly in section of an insert;

Fig. 6 is a detail view partly in section of a pleat.

In Figs. 1 and 3, a slip cover embodying the invention is shown as applied to a small and a large over-stuffed arm chair, respectively. The cover is a unitary structure having the customary panels, viz. a front panel 1, front arm panels 2 and 3, outer side panels 4 and 5, inner side panels 6 and 7, outer and inner back panels 8 and 9, a seat panel 10, and a skirt 11. When applied to a wing-back chair, the portions of the back panels adapted to cover the wings may for convenience be described as the wing panels 12 and 13. This division of the cover into panels is, in a sense, arbitrary and perhaps superficial, since several of the so-called "panels" are in reality one piece of material, i. e., the panels 9 and 10 are in fact one length of cloth with a fold line at the juncture between the back and the seat of the chair. The description of the cover as comprising definite panels, therefore, principally employed to show the location of the parts with reference to the furniture on which it may be placed. A tape 14 is secured to the side panels 4 and 5 and is brought across the back of the chair underneath the back panel 8 and tied, so that it holds the side panels in closely to the chair and also draws the panels 2 and 3 tightly against the arms of the chair. All of the foregoing is well understood in the art and does not require extensive explanation.

In accordance with the present invention, an insert piece 15 is interposed between the panels 6 and 12 and an insert 16 is placed between the panels 7 and 13, i. e., at the point where the top of the chair arm and the back are joined. The inner end of each insert is located approximately at the points indicated at 17 and 18, but the end will not ordinarily be visible, as it is intended that it shall be tucked into the crease, indicated at 19, formed between the arms and back of the chair. The outer ends of the inserts are located at the seams 20 and 21 where the back panel 8 joints the side panels, approximately at the point indicated at 22 and 23. The inserts 15 and 16 may be made of substantially rectangular pieces of material having their sides sewn to the adjacent panels as indicated at 24 and 25, and their outer corners brought together and sewn at the points indicated at 22 and 23 and their inner corners at 17 and 18. The insert may also be substantially oval in shape, the flattened side of the oval being secured to the adjacent panels and the points of the oval strip being secured at the juncture of the panels in the same way as described above. As shown in Figs. 1 and 3, the inserts or gussets may be infolded to a greater or less degree, and the de-

gree of infolding determines the extent to which the panels are let out or brought together. The more the gussets are reduced in surface area by infolding, the closer the panels are drawn together to enable the cover to fit a small article. Conversely, the more the gussets are expanded, the further the panels may be drawn apart in order to fit a large article. In both cases the adjustment takes place within the area covered by the gussets, allowing the panels to be smoothly and tightly fitted, and preventing fullness or bagginess.

The in-folding of the oval inserts tends to draw the panels more at the mid-point of the inserts and the out-folding, conversely, tends to allow greater separations of the panels at the mid-point of the inserts. The result is that adjustment of the panels by this means causes greatest adjustment at the mid-point of the arms of the article of furniture and progressively less in both directions until the ends of the inserts are reached. This new feature eliminates stretching the material of the panels in the center or bunching of the material at the ends of the adjustment area. There is ample material at the exact spot where increase is desirable (generally, the area between the mid-point of the top of the arm and the adjacent portion of the back), but there is no surplus at the sides beyond the points indicated, as is the case with covers in which both the side and back panels are provided with a substantially equal amount of surplus material all along the lines where the panels are joined.

The angle between the arm and the back of the chair makes it necessary to fold the material of the corner at this point whenever the cover is used on any except the largest possible chair, and one feature of the present invention is that this fold line is made to come within predetermined limits (the area defined by the insert) so that the excess material may easily be folded under in a flat layer (see Fig. 5) and concealed. When a cover embodying the invention is used on a small chair, as shown in Fig. 1, the inserts are folded longitudinally and tucked underneath one of the panels so that they lie flat against it, and the edges of the two panels come together or nearly together as shown in Figs. 1 and 5. There is no bunching of the material in the panels at the ends of the infolded insert because the panels abut instead of overlapping, and the "take up" occurs within the zone defined by the insert.

When the cover is applied to a large chair, as shown in Fig. 3, the insert is opened out so that the edge **24** is pulled upward and the edge **25** is pulled outwardly on the arm of the chair. The material of the cover is not stretched because the greatest amount of separation is permitted at the mid-point of the arm where the greatest extent of out-folding takes place. The insert is preferably made of the same material and with the same pattern as the rest of the cover, so that the dividing line between the panels and the insert is not readily noticeable. The spreading of the panels does not cause undue stretch at the point of greatest expansion because the insert provides surplus material at that point, and there is no undesirable looseness at either end of the insert because the panels are secured to each other without any extra fullness beyond the ends of the insert.

The back panel is also provided with inserts as shown at **26** and **27** (see Fig. 4). These back inserts correspond to the front inserts in the sense that extra material is provided which may be folded in and lie flat against the back of the chair as shown in Fig. 2, or be pulled out to make the cover fit a larger chair as shown in Fig. 4. The outer edges of the inserts are secured to the side panels and the inner edges are secured to the back panel **8**. Hooks **28** fastened in the seam joining the panel **8** and inserts **26** and **27** are adapted to hook into the material of the side panels or the inserts to hold the back panel in place at the sides. The fold line of the inserts are kept hidden, so that the edge of the panel always presents a neat, straight line as indicated at **29**.

While the material provided for adjustment of the back panel has been shown in the form of separately cut inserts sewn to the back and side panels, the particular form shown and described is not intended to prohibit the use of an inturned pleat of material integrally formed with the back or side panels, and the word insert as used in the claims is to be construed to cover such equivalent structure.

No cover for the cushion of the chair has been shown, as it may be formed and applied in any well-known manner.

I claim:

1. An adjustable slip cover for upholstered furniture, having, in combination, suitable panels for covering the several parts of an article of furniture, and substantially elliptical pieces of material inserted between the back covering panels and the arm covering panels, the central portion of said inserts being located adjacent that part of the arm covering panels which covers the highest part of the arms of the article of furniture to which the cover is applied.

2. An adjustable slip cover for upholstered furniture having, in combination, suitable panels for covering the several parts of an article of furniture, and substantially elliptical pieces of material secured at each end in the seams joining the back covering panels and the arm covering panels, said pieces having one edge thereof secured to one of said panels and the other edge secured to the other of said panels, so that said panels may be pulled apart in the region of the inserted pieces to enable them to fit a larger article and by infolding the material of the inserted pieces the panels may be drawn together to enable them to fit a smaller article.

3. In an adjustable slip cover having covering portions for the various parts of an article of furniture, including arm and back covering portions, and having means for pulling the covering portions tightly about the article, in combination, inserted infolding material located between said arm and back covering portions with its center portion located approximately at the top of the arm, said inserted material having the greatest capacity for infolding and outfolding approximately in the center thereof with decreasing capacity progressively in either direction down the sides of the arm of the article of furniture, so that when the cover is placed on an article having a relatively large surface area the arm and back covering portions may be separated without stretching and when the cover is placed on a relatively small article the arm and back covering portions may be drawn together without bunching.

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