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PORTABLE ARMREST DEVICE

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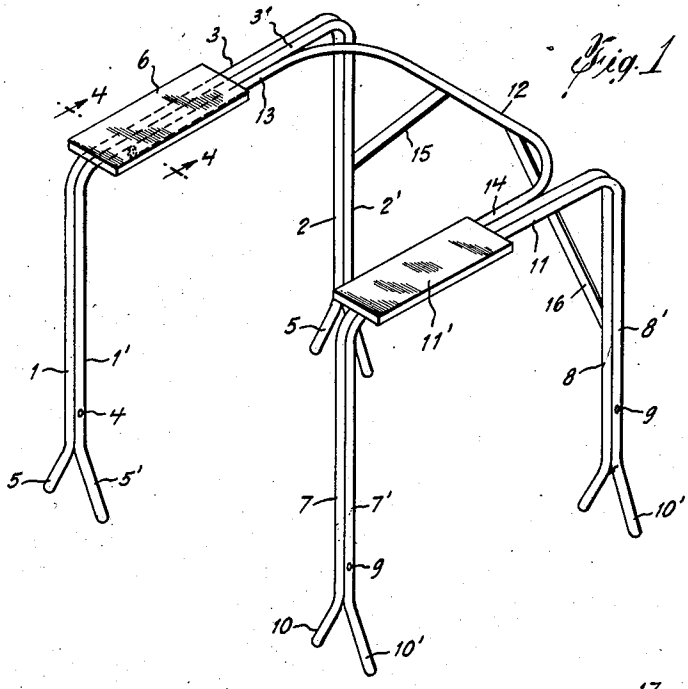


Fig. 1

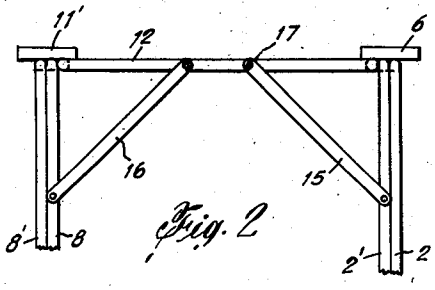


Fig. 2

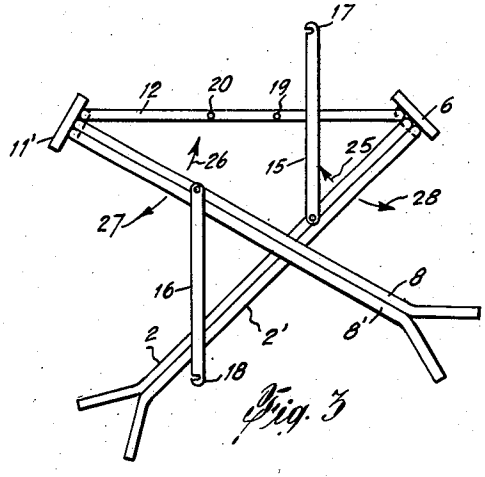


Fig. 3

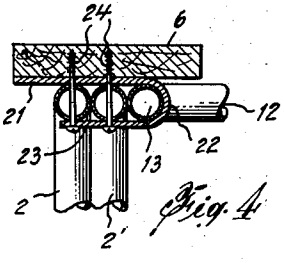


Fig. 4

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PORTABLE ARMREST DEVICE

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7 Claims. (Cl. 155—1)

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The present invention is directed to arm rests, more particularly to a portable form of device and one which may be folded for storage purposes.

Arm rest devices for various purposes have been used to a considerable extent. In some cases they have been used in connection with toilets so that a person thereon may support himself by means of such arm rests. Usually such devices were secured to or made part of the toilet bowl or seat and some of them were rather complicated in construction. They were costly and inconvenient to use and they often could not be readily removed from the toilet.

In another type of device used in the prior art, the arm rests were not attached to the toilet itself but a pair of independent standards were provided which were secured to the floor adjacent to the toilet. This was a great inconvenience, particularly when it was desired to clean the floor or the toilet, or when persons of different sizes attempted to use the device. This device had a considerable number of parts and while a portion thereof had a limited degree of movement, it was so designed as to make it uncomfortable for the user.

The present invention is intended and adapted to overcome the difficulties and disadvantages inherent in devices of the type described, it being among the objects of the present invention to provide an arm rest device which is simple in construction, which is of light weight and portable and which may be easily folded into a small volume.

It is also among the objects of the present invention to provide a device which is not attached to the toilet or its seat, which is movable relative thereto and which may be readily adjusted into a position which is comfortable for the user.

It is further among the objects of the present invention to provide a device of the character described in which there is provided a hinge-like arrangement which is positive in its action and which enables the arm rest to be held rigidly in its operative position for use and which permits easy and quick folding of the arm rest into inoperative position for storage purposes.

In practicing the present invention there is provided a pair of side members, each of which has a pair of legs adapted to rest on the floor, and at the upper end thereof a substantially horizontal member connecting the pair of legs into a unit. Two such side members are provided, spaced a sufficient distance apart to accommodate the body of the user. They are connected together in any one of a number of ways so that when in operative position, the leg members are held rigidly and firmly to bear the weight of the user.

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One or more latch members is provided, usually hinged to one of each pair of legs and adapted to lock into or with the horizontally connecting member. A pair of flat arm rests is secured to the top of the pairs of legs. When it is desired to store the device, the latch or latches are freed and the leg members are nested together in nearly parallel position.

In the accompanying drawing constituting a part hereof and in which like reference characters indicate like parts,

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of an arm rest device made in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary rear elevational view of the device in the open position showing a pair of latches holding the devices in rigid operative position;

Fig. 3 is a rear elevational view of the device showing it in the process of being folded with the latches unhooked from the horizontal member, and

Fig. 4 is a transverse cross-sectional view taken along line 4—4 of Fig. 1, illustrating the manner in which the arm rest and legs are held in position relative to the horizontal connecting member.

In practicing the invention, there are provided a pair of tubes having legs 1 and 1' and 2 and 2' with upper horizontal members 3 and 3'. The tubes are connected together at a suitable number of points such as by rivets 4. The lower ends of the legs are bent as shown at 5 and 5' to give increased stability in resting on the floor.

A second identical pair of legs is provided made of a pair of tubes and providing legs 7 and 7' and 8 and 8' connected together by rivets 9. At the lower end the legs are bent as shown at 10 and 10' to give greater stability on the floor. Connecting member 11 integral with the legs gives an inverted U-shaped appearance to the pair of legs.

An arm rest 6 is mounted on member 3 and fixed thereto, and an arm rest 11' is mounted on and fixed to member 11. The two sets of legs are spaced apart and in the operative position planes passing through them are vertical and parallel. The hinged arrangement for joining the pairs of legs consists of a tubular member having a transverse member 12 and arms 13 and 14, the element being U-shaped. A pair of latches 15 and 16 are pivoted on their lower ends to one of each of the pairs of legs. The free ends 17 and 18 thereof are adapted to hook over pins 19 and 20, respectively, on member 12.

With particular reference to Fig. 4, there is provided a metal holder 21 secured to the under

side of arm rest 6 and having a portion 22 thereof bent into the arc of a circle, approximately equal to the arc of tube 13. The free end 23 of the holder is parallel to 21 and screws 24 pass through 23, 1 and 1' and into arm rest 6 to hold the arm rest in rigid relation to the pair of legs. A sufficient space is left within the loop formed by the holder between tube 1' and curved portion 22, to allow a swiveling action of the horizontal U-shaped member relative to the pair of legs. A duplicate of the arrangement of Fig. 4 is provided with respect to the other pair of legs and is associated with arm rest 11'.

In use latches 15 and 16 are hooked on to pins 19 and 20 and the device is in the form shown in Fig. 1, ready for use. It may be placed over the toilet with the legs resting on the floor. In this position the user may adjust it after being seated so as to be arranged comfortably for the individual. The latches act as braces which in conjunction with the bent ends of the legs hold the device firmly without wobbling. When it is desired to store the device, latches 16 and 15 are removed from the pins as shown in Fig. 3 and legs 1 and 1' are moved in the direction of arrow 25. Then legs 7 and 7' are moved in the direction of arrow 26, whereby all of the legs and the horizontal member, together with the latches, are folded into a small narrow package which occupies very little space.

There are numerous advantages in applicant's construction in that it enables old and sick people to sit down on the toilet and to arise without the assistance of other persons. It is hygienic as the device does not touch the body or the toilet. The opening and folding of the device can be done easily by one person so that even a sick person can very easily manipulate it. It is sturdy and is so constructed as to safely bear the weight of all sizes of individuals and at the same time it is light in weight and may be readily moved. It is adapted for use in various places such as hospitals, homes for the aged, nursing and private homes.

Although the invention has been described setting forth but a single specific embodiment thereof, various changes in the details of construction may be made within the spirit of the invention. For instance, instead of a pair of latches, a single latch may be provided or any locking means suitable for the purpose may be substituted for the latch. Such latches may have variously shaped slots therein, such as L-, T- or keyhole-shapes, into which the pins fit so as to make it unnecessary to remove the latches when folding the device. The pairs of legs need not be made of double tubing but may be of single tubing or from flat strips or strips suitably shaped. The horizontal U-shaped member may be substituted by other constructions adapted to serve the prime purpose of foldability. For instance, the free ends of arms 13 and 14 may be fixed in position and portion 12 of said member may be made in the form of connected links so that the legs instead of folding in the manner shown in Fig. 3 are retained in their parallel planes and the folding is accomplished by the collapsing of two or more links, replacing element 12. It is preferred that the device be made of aluminum as being a light weight rustless material easily handled, but other suitable materials of construction may be used in place thereof. The arm rests 6 and 11' are usually of wood but other suitable materials such as plastics may be used and the manner of connecting the parts may be changed by using mechanical equivalents thereof.

These and other changes in the details may be made without departing from the principles herein set forth and the invention is to be broadly construed and not to be limited except by the character of the claims appended hereto.

I claim:

1. A portable arm rest device comprising a pair of side members each having a pair of legs rigidly connected to a substantially horizontal member and adapted to rest on a floor, and an arm rest on each of said horizontal members, the planes passing through said pairs of legs being substantially vertical and parallel to each other, a transverse member having forwardly extending arms at the rear of said side members, said arms cooperating with said side members providing a hinge arrangement whereby said pairs of legs may be folded together, and a latch extending between a leg and said transverse member adapted to maintain the ends of said legs on said floor.

2. A portable arm rest device comprising a pair of side members each having a pair of legs having feet at the lower ends thereof which are rigidly connected to a substantially horizontal member and adapted to rest on a floor, and an arm rest on each of said horizontal members, the planes passing through said pairs of legs being substantially vertical and parallel to each other, a transverse member having forwardly extending arms at the rear of said side members, said arms cooperating with said side members providing a hinge arrangement whereby said pairs of legs may be folded together, and a latch extending between a leg and said transverse member adapted to maintain the ends of said legs on said floor.

3. A portable arm rest device comprising a pair of side members each having a pair of legs rigidly connected to a substantially horizontal member and adapted to rest on a floor, and an arm rest on each of said horizontal members, the planes passing through said pairs of legs being substantially vertical and parallel to each other, each pair of legs having a pair of tubes secured together along substantially their entire length, said tubes being spread apart at the lower end of said legs to form feet, a transverse member having forwardly extending arms at the rear of said side members, said arms cooperating with said side members providing a hinge arrangement whereby said pairs of legs may be folded together, and a latch extending between a leg and said transverse member adapted to maintain the ends of said legs on said floor.

4. A portable arm rest device comprising a pair of side members each having a pair of legs rigidly connected to a substantially horizontal member and adapted to rest on a floor, and an arm rest on each of said horizontal members, the planes passing through said pairs of legs being substantially vertical and parallel to each other, a transverse member having forwardly extending arms at the rear of said side members, said arms and said pairs of legs being commonly hinged on said arm rests to provide pivoted movement with respect thereto, the central portion of said horizontal member being at the back of said device, and a latch extending between a leg and said transverse member adapted to maintain the ends of said legs on said floor.

5. A portable arm rest device comprising a pair of side members each having a pair of legs rigid-

ly connected to a substantially horizontal member and adapted to rest on a floor, and an arm rest on each of said horizontal members, the planes passing through said pairs of legs being substantially vertical and parallel to each other, a transverse member having forwardly extending arms at the rear of said side members, said arms cooperating with said side members providing a hinge arrangement whereby said pairs of legs may be folded together, and a latch extending between a leg and said transverse member adapted to maintain the ends of said legs on said floor, a holder at the under side of each arm rest, said horizontal member being secured to said holder and arm rest.

6. A portable arm rest device comprising a pair of side members each having a pair of legs rigidly connected to a substantially horizontal member and adapted to rest on a floor, and an arm rest on each of said horizontal members, the planes passing through said pairs of legs being substantially vertical and parallel to each other, a transverse member having forwardly extending arms at the rear of said side members, said arms cooperating with said side members providing a hinge arrangement whereby said pairs of legs may be folded together, and a latch extending between a leg and said transverse member adapted to maintain the ends of said legs on said floor, a holder at the under side of each arm rest, said horizontal member being secured to said holder and arm rest, said holder having a loop, the ends of said horizontal member being held in said loop for rotation relative to said legs.

7. A portable arm rest device comprising a pair of side members each having a pair of legs rigidly connected to a substantially horizontal member and adapted to rest on a floor, and an arm rest on each of said horizontal members, the planes passing through said pairs of legs being substantially vertical and parallel to each other, a transverse member having forwardly extending arms at the rear of said side members, said arms cooperating with said side members providing a hinge arrangement whereby said pairs of legs may be folded together, and a latch extending between a leg and said transverse member adapted to maintain the ends of said legs on said floor, a holder at the under side of each arm rest, said horizontal member being secured to said holder and arm rest, said holder having a loop, the ends of said horizontal member being held in said loop for rotation relative to said legs, said latch when in locked position being diagonal with reference to said legs and transverse member and constituting a brace for holding said device rigid.

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