Nov. 17, 1959 A. C. ABAJIAN 2,913,040

FOLDABLE CHAIR

Filed Nov. 19, 1957

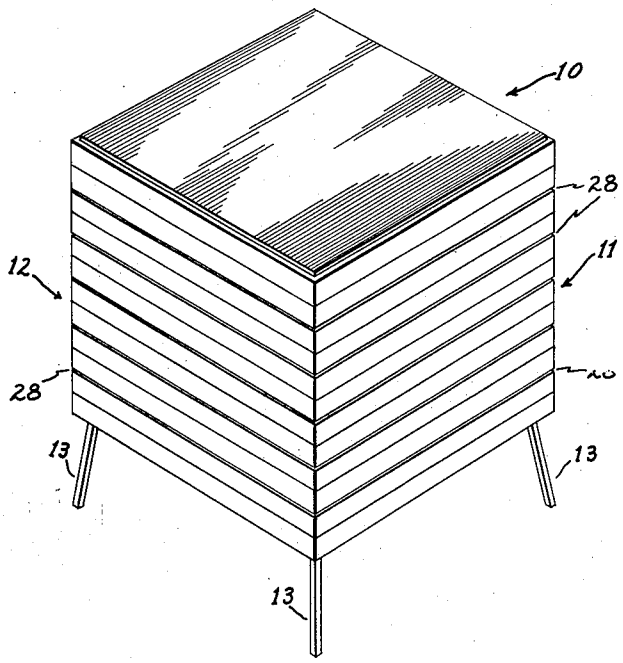



FIG. 1.

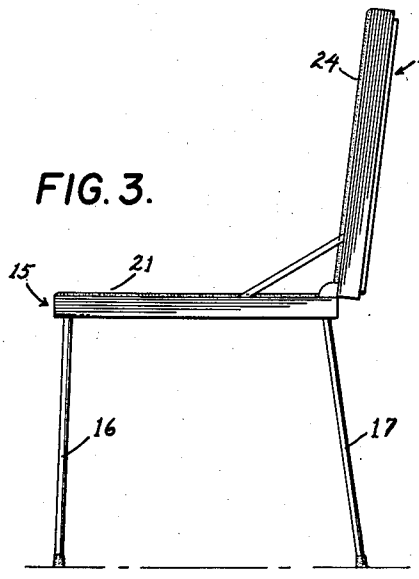



FIG. 3.

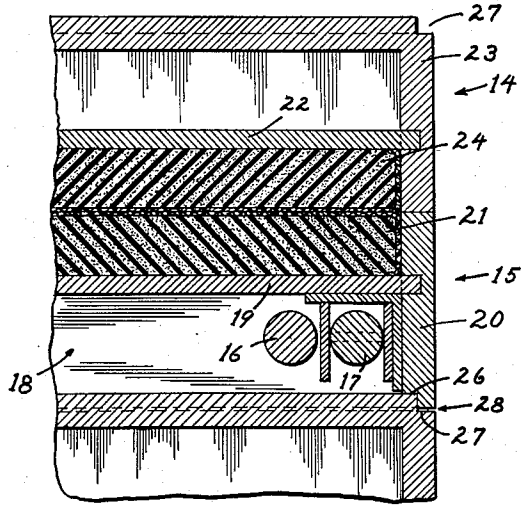



FIG. 2.

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United States Patent Office 2,913,040 Patented Nov. 17, 1959



2,913,040

# FOLDABLE CHAIR

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Application November 19, 1957, Serial No. 697,346

2 Claims. (Cl. 155—148)

This invention relates to furniture and more particularly to foldable chairs adaptable for stacking when not in use.

There are numerous occasions when it is desirable to have extra chairs. However, a supply of such chairs when not in use must be stored and with present day building costs, additional storage space for chairs in many instances cannot be justified.

Accordingly, it is an object of this invention to provide a foldable chair arrangement which permits storage in an attractive manner.

Another object of this invention is to provide a foldable chair of such construction as to permit storage with a plurality of similar chairs in a superimposed relation.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a chair construction such that a plurality of similar chairs cooperate to be useful as a different article of furniture.

These and other objects and advantages of the present invention are obtained in one embodiment thereof by providing a foldable chair having its various elements so uniquely constructed and arranged as to permit a plurality of similar chairs to be stacked in a nesting relationship in order to be useful as a different article of furniture. When the chairs are so stacked, it is contemplated that various features of individual chairs will cooperate with features in the other chairs of the stack to present an overall appearance which is pleasing and attractive and, in addition, is useful for other purposes.

For a more complete understanding of these and other objects of the present invention, reference may be had to the description which follows and to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a plurality of folded, stacked chairs illustrating the principle of the invention;

Figure 2 is a partial cross-sectional view of a folded chair in cooperative, stacked relation with another similar chair; and

Figure 3 is a side view in elevation of an opened chair for seating purposes.

Referring now to an illustrative embodiment of the invention as shown in the drawings, the numeral **10** refers generally to a stack of folded, individual chairs constructed and arranged according to the invention. In the form shown in Figure 1, the arrangement is useful as, for example, a table, and it presents an attractive appearance. A lamp, vase, books, or other objects may be placed on the stack **10** to add further decorative value to this arrangement. Support is provided for this stack **10** by suitable leg members **13** which may, if desired, be fastened to a separate stand or platform, not shown, or alternatively, the legs of the lowermost chair could provide the support for the stack.

For the particular embodiment of the invention illustrated, each chair is dimensioned such that the side surfaces, for example **11** and **12**, of the stack **10** are substantially verticle and flat to present a box-like shape. However, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to this configuration, it being equally adaptable



to other configurations as, for example, pyramidal, cylindrical, or the like. When it is desired to have one or more of the chairs for sitting purposes, each chair unfolds as shown in Figure 3.

The details of construction for a chair to obtain the features described above are shown in Figure 2 of the drawings. In this view, an upright or back portion **14** is shown folded against and in flush engagement with a base or seat portion **15**. The two leg members **16** and **17** are folded within and disappear into a recess or opening **18** on the underside of the seat portion **15**. Any suitable folding mechanism well known to the art may be provided for the leg members **16** and **17** and for the back portion **14**, it only being necessary in the particular embodiment of the invention illustrated that the leg members disappear into the recess **18** and the back portion **14** be foldable against the seat portion **15**.

A partition **19** attached between the sides **20** of the seat portion **15** forms a support for a seat cushion **21**. In like manner, a partition **22** is fixedly positioned between the sides **23** of the back portion **14** to support a back cushion **24**. The material forming these cushions **21** and **24** may be any suitable resilient material such as, for example, rubber, cotton, plastic and the like.

When a plurality of similar chairs constructed in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention are stacked in a superimposed relation, a groove **26** along the lower inside of each side **20** of each seat portion **15** cooperate with a groove **27** along the back edges of the back portion **14** of respective adjacent chairs to permit the folded chairs to form transitive joints between each other. By this arrangement, the chairs form a slight nesting relationship with each other to lock the chairs together and to present a better appearance when stacked. When it is desired to omit the back portion **14**, it is only necessary to form the groove **27** in the upper surface of the side **20** of the seat portion **15**. Of course, it is understood that other joint arrangements may be used as, for example, dowels, notches and the like, the particular joint illustrated being preferred because of the simplicity of construction and because it does not detract from the appearance of the chair when unfolded for seating purposes. However, it is preferred that the joint, whatever type is selected, be of a transitive nature so that a predetermined, overall appearance is achieved. For example, in the embodiment illustrated in the drawings, a slight gap **28** is formed to present a horizontal, lined effect as shown in Figure 1. It is also desirable, in other instances, that no gap be formed so that completely smooth side surfaces are presented by the stacked chairs. Also, it is contemplated that other surface configurations are within the scope of the invention.

The exact configuration illustrated is regarded as the optimum, but some of the desirable results inherent in this disclosure may be obtained by various slight modifications, including some departure from the exact configuration shown, and it is, therefore, to be understood that the scope of the invention be regarded as limited only by the terms of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A foldable chair having a seat portion comprising at least four side members enclosing a substantially rectangular area, a flat partition member supported between said four side members in a substantially horizontal position, said side members and said partition member forming a first recess defined by the upper surface of said partition member and said side members and forming a second recess defined by the lower surface of said partition member and said side members, a first cushion supported by said partition member within said first recess, said first cushion having a thickness substantially equal to the depth of said first recess, leg members ex-

tending from the underside of said seat portion and foldable within said second recess, and said foldable chair having a back portion comprising at least four side members enclosing a substantially rectangular area, a first partition member supported between said side members, said side members and said partition member forming a first recess defined by a first surface of said partition member and said side members and forming a second recess defined by the opposite surface from said first surface of said partition member and said side members, a second cushion attached to said first surface of said partition member within said first recess, said second cushion having a thickness substantially equal to the depth of said first recess, a cover formed integrally with said four side members and totally enclosing said second recess to form a substantially rigid top when said back portion is folded over said seat portion, and at least one hinge pivotally connecting one side member of said seat and back portions.



2. A foldable chair as set forth in claim 1 wherein a groove is formed in said back portion at the junction between said side members and said cover such that a plurality of folding chairs will fit together with transitive joints therebetween.

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