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INFANT'S TRAVELLING HIGH CHAIR

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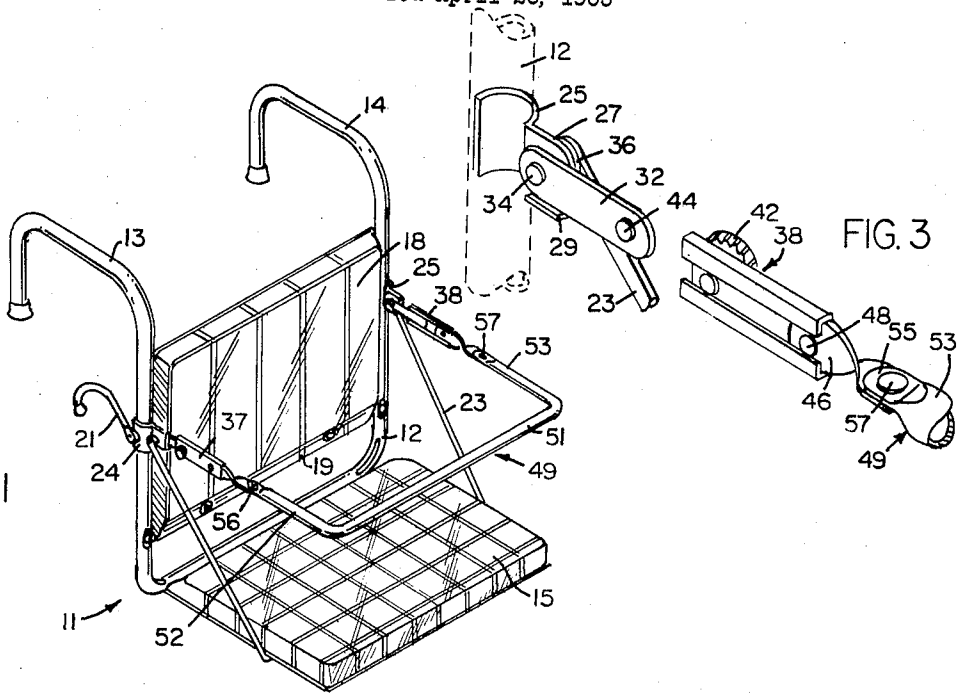


FIG. 1

FIG. 3

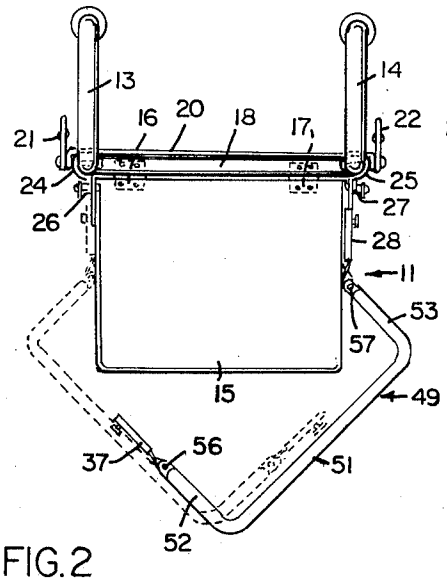


FIG. 2

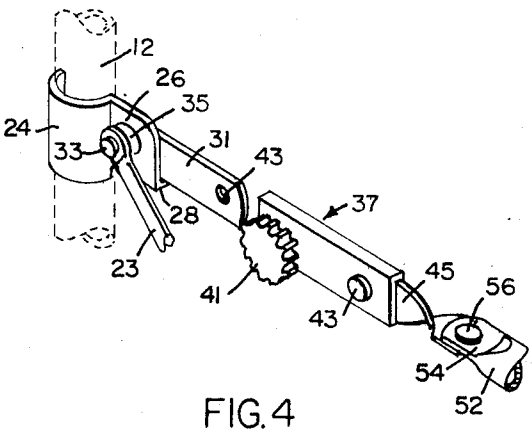


FIG. 4

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INFANT'S TRAVELLING HIGH CHAIR

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This invention relates to a suspensible seat especially useful as a travelling high chair for an infant or a small child. It especially relates to such a suspensible chair equipped with a normally closed child encircling gate and adapted to be opened from either side to permit the child to be placed into, and to be removed from, the chair.

Suspensible seats are in widespread use for infants and small children since they provide a child size seat adapted to be supported on the backs of full size seats and chairs of all sorts. As they have evolved such seats generally comprise a frame adapted to rest against the back of a full size seat, a pair of hooks adapted to pass over the top of the seat and to hold the frame in position, a seat member pivotally mounted to the frame, suspension means to hold the seat member in a horizontal position and a horizontally extending child encircling guard bar pivotally mounted on the frame at a position sufficiently above the seat to permit the child's legs to pass between the guard bar and the seat. Additionally optional hooks may be provided to permit the seat to be suspended on the backs of full size seats or chairs having back portions of various thicknesses such as straight chairs as contrasted to seats with upholstered backs.

Such seats are generally used from the time a child is capable of sitting up comfortably until the child is two, three, or sometimes even four years old. While the specific function of the seat varies with the particular age of the child, the general function of such a seat is to provide a combination safety seat and travelling high chair proportioned to the size of the child, and designed to keep the child in place in the sense that it is difficult for the child to crawl out of or fall out of the seat.

The very design features that make it difficult for the child to get out of the seat make it more difficult for the parent to place the child into or take the child from the seat. If the child is very small and the parent can stand next to the seat, it is possible to lift the child over the guard bar bodily. As the child gets larger and heavier this becomes increasingly difficult, if not impossible, and for this reason guard bars are generally typically mounted on the frame so that the bar may be raised over the child's head as the child sits in the seat. This latter arrangement is satisfactory while the child is short enough, but becomes somewhat inconvenient for obvious reasons when the bar no longer passes freely over the child's head as the child sits in the seat.

To overcome this difficulty suspensible travel seats have been provided where the guard bar in addition to being pivotally mounted to the frame is provided with a hinge member on one arm and a clamp member on the other arm to permit the guard bar to be opened laterally in a single direction. Normally the clamp member is located on the right hand side of the guard bar, and the hinge member on the left. This arrangement permits a child to be slipped into the seat easily from the side that opens.

However, it is not always possible or convenient to place a child in a train, an airplane, a bus or frequently in a restaurant in such a way on a seat that the parent is seated on the side of the suspensible chair toward which the guard bar opens. It is quite impossible in an automobile if the guard bar opens on the right as is conventional.

Both for convenience and safety it would be desirable to open the guard bar from either side so that the child could be slipped into and out of the travel seat in either direction.

It is an object of this invention to provide a novel clamp and hinge arrangement adapted to be included on both arms of a guard bar of a travel seat.

It is a further object of this invention to provide both arms of the guard bar of a travel seat with such a hinge and clamp arrangement whereby the guard bar may be opened horizontally from either side.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a travel seat with a guard bar that may be completely removed when no longer needed.

These and other objects of the present invention will be more clearly understood from the detailed description which follows in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the travel seat of the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a top view of a travel seat of the present invention with the guard bar shown partially open in its alternate opening position.

FIG. 3 is a perspective view showing the clamp and hinge element of the present invention in place on the left hand arm of the guard bar.

FIG. 4 is a perspective view showing the clamp and hinge element of the present invention in place on the right hand arm of the guard bar.

Travel seat **11** comprises a U-shaped frame **12** to which are pivotally attached U-shaped hook members **13** and **14**. A seat member **15** is attached by means of hinges **16** and **17** to the base portion of frame **12**, and a back rest member is attached between the side arms of frame **12** by means such as backrest supports **19** and **20**. Auxiliary hook members **21** and **22** may be provided to permit the travel seat **11** to be suspended on the back of an ordinary chair, and a U-shaped seat support member **23** which cooperates with a hook member (not shown) mounted on the base of seat **15**, may be provided to support seat **15** in a horizontal position. Hook members **21** and **22** and seat support member **23** are conveniently pivotally mounted on brackets **24** and **25** which in turn are mounted on the side arms of frame **12**. Upper backrest support **20** may also be conveniently mounted between brackets **24** and **25**.

Brackets **24** and **25** are each provided with a forwardly extending extension **26** and **27** respectively. At the bottom of each forward extension **26** and **27** there is provided an integral inwardly extending tab portion **28** and **29** respectively. A short metal strap **31** and **32** respectively is pivotally mounted at **33** and **34** on each forward extension **26** and **27** of brackets **24** and **25** in such manner that the bottom edge of each strap **31** and **32** rests against the top edge of the respective tabs **28** or **29** when the strap extends horizontally (i.e. vertically to frame **12**). The edge of each of straps **31** and **32** adjacent the corresponding pivot **33** or **34** is rounded about a radius centered on pivot **33** or **34** so that straps **31** and **32** may be located upwardly about pivots **33** or **34**. Seat support member **23** may be conveniently mounted on pivots **33** and **34** in which case a spacer member **35** and **36** respectively may be provided between seat support member **23** and the outer edge of the corresponding extension **26** or **27**.

A detachable clamping member **37** and **38** is provided adapted to receive and to cooperate with the free end of strap **31** and **32** respectively. Clamping members **37** and **38** are each a channel member having a web portion adapted to overlie one side of strap **31** or **32** and provided with short return flanges adapted to overlie a portion of the other side of strap **31** or **32** adja-

cent the top and bottom thereof. Each clamping member **37** and **38** is provided with a set screw **41** and **42** respectively having a large shouldered head and passing through an associated tapped aperture provided in the web portion of clamping member **37** or **38** near one end thereof. The free end of strap **31** and strap **32** are each provided with an aperture or as shown an indented partial aperature **43** and **44** respectively adapted to receive set screw **41** and **42** respectively. To engage clamping member **37** or **38** with the respective strap **31** or **32** the clamping member is slidingly passed over the respective strap and the respective set screw **41** or **42** is tightened into engagement with said cooperating aperture **43** or **44**.

A second pair of metal strap members **45** and **46** is provided partially inserted in clamping members **37** and **38** respectively, and extending outwardly therefrom. Strap members **45** and **46** are arranged in clamping members **37** and **38** such that the inner ends thereof abut against the ends of strap members **31** or **32** respectively when clamping members **37** or **38** are in engaging relation with strap members **31** or **32** with set screws **41** or **42** in engaging relation with apertures **43** or **44**. Strap members **45** and **46** are attached to clamping members **37** and **38** by means of fasteners such as rivets **47** and **48** which pass through apertures provided therefor in strap members **45** and **46** and in clamping members **37** and **38**.

Beyond the limits of clamping members **37** and **38** strap members **45** and **46** are twisted about the longitudinal axis a half turn so that while the free ends of strap members **45** and **46** extend longitudinally from the remainder thereof, the faces of the free ends are oriented perpendicularly to the corresponding faces of the portions thereof retained within clamping members **37** or **38**.

The free ends of each of arms **52** and **53** of guard bar **49**, a U-shaped tubular member, are flattened to form terminal tabs **54** and **55** which extend in the same plane as portion **51** of guard bar **49**. Each arm **52** and **53** of guard bar **49** is pivotally mounted to the corresponding free end of strap member **45** and **46** by means of a pivot **56** and **57** respectively each of which passes through an aperture provided therefor in tabs **54** or **55** and the corresponding free end of strap **45** or **46** respectively. Pivots **55** and **56** act as hinge elements permitting guard bar **49** to be swung open laterally when the clamping member **37** and **38** associated with the opposite arm **52** or **53** is disengaged. Thus guard bar

49 can be raised or it can be opened laterally from either side.

I claim:

1. In an infant's travel seat comprising a frame adapted to rest against the back of a full size seat, a pair of hooks adapted to pass over the top of the full size seat and to hold the frame in position, a seat member pivotally mounted to the frame and suspension means to hold the seat member in a horizontal position; a horizontally extending child encircling guard bar pivotally mounted for vertical movement on the frame at a position sufficiently above the seat to permit the child's legs to pass between the guard bar and the seat, said guard bar comprising a generally U-shaped member provided with parallel arms of equal length, each said arm being provided at the end thereof with a short strap member pivotally mounted for lateral movement with respect thereto, each said strap member being provided at the end opposite the said pivotal connection with a clamping member attached thereto, each said clamping member adapted to engage and cooperate with a second strap member, said second strap member being pivotally mounted for vertical movement to said frame.

2. An infant's travel seat as claimed in claim **1** wherein each said clamping member comprises a channel member having a web portion adapted to overlie one side of the associated said strap member and provided with short return flanges adapted to overlie a portion of the other side of each said strap member adajacent the top and bottom thereof, and wherein a set screw is provided passing through said web portion adapted to engage said second strap member.

3. An infant's travel seat as claimed in claim **2** wherein each said second strap member is provided with an aperture at least partially indented adapted to receive said set screw.

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