April 12, 1966 J. A. WENGER 3,245,720

PODIUM CHAIR

Filed Dec. 18, 1963

FIG. 1

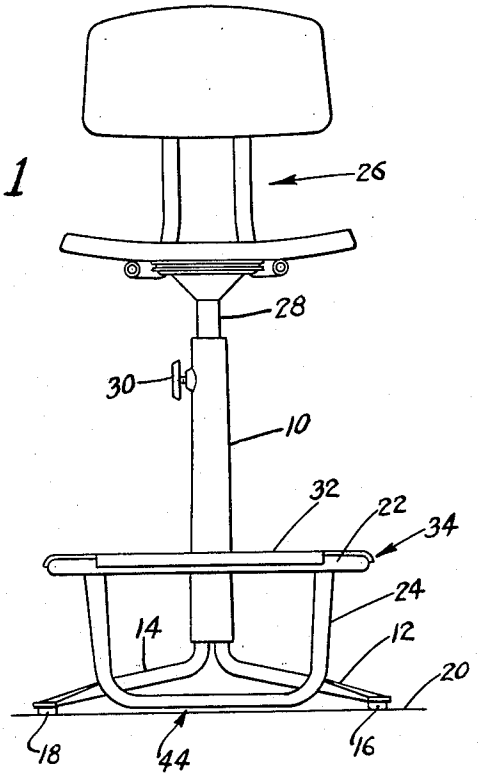
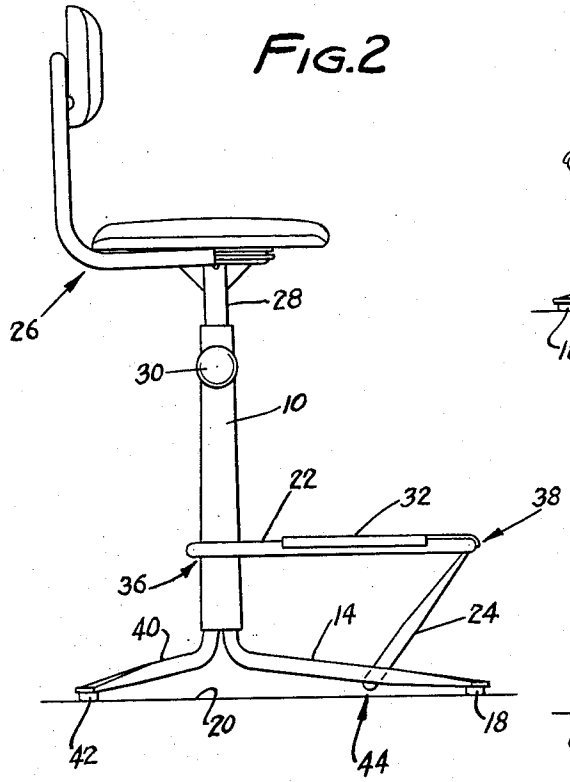


FIG. 2



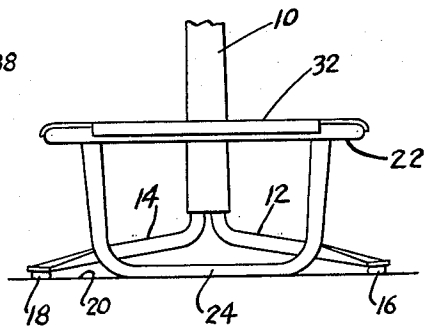


FIG. 3

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3,245,720

PODIUM CHAIR

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This invention is a podium chair. It is novel in combining into a single unit an elevated practice chair for a conductor of a musical organization and a podium integrated with the chair and on which the conductor may stand from time to time to relieve muscle fatigue otherwise resulting from remaining in a sitting position a substantial period of time.

Accordingly, it is a principal object of this invention to provide an improved combination podium and conductor's practice chair.

A further object of this invention is to make an improved conductor's practice chair and podium in which the unit is easily moved to a desired position in front of a musical organization or removed therefrom selectively and at the same time is automatically stable and secure when in use.

It is another object of this invention to make a conductor's practice chair and podium that is safe.

Other and further objects of the invention are those inherent and apparent in the apparatus as described, pictured and claimed.

To the accomplishment of the foregoing and related ends, this invention then comprises the features hereinafter fully described and particularly pointed out in the claims, the following description setting forth in detail certain illustrative embodiments of the invention, these being indicative, however, of but a few of the various ways in which the principles of the invention may be employed.

The invention will be described with reference to the drawings in which corresponding numerals refer to the same parts and in which:

FIGURE 1 is a front elevation of the invention;

FIGURE 2 is a side elevation of the invention with broken lines illustrating hidden parts; and

FIGURE 3 is a fragmentary front elevation of the podium chair support in a different position.

Referring first to FIGURE 1 of the drawings, a vertical post **10**, which is preferably hollow, has radiating legs such as those illustrated at **12** and **14** extending therefrom. The free ends of the legs terminate in friction reducing means such as the glides **16** and **18**. These engage any suitable supporting surface such as the floor represented at **20**.

A podium frame **22** is secured at one side of the vertical post **10** and additionally supported by means of the U-brace **24** extending between and below the legs **12** and **14**. A chair back and seat assembly **26** is secured to the vertical post **10** in any conventional manner so as to make the height of the chair seat and back assembly adjustable. A convenient way is to have the chair seat and back assembly secured to a post **28** that fits telescopically inside the vertical post **10** with any suitable clamping arrangement such as the hand wheel set screw **30** for frictionally clamping the post **28** within vertical post **10**.

Any suitable platform means such as the one **32** is secured to the podium frame **22** and as here shown is a piece of sheet metal having extending members or projections that are at least partially formed to embrace the shape of the material forming frame **22** as seen at **34**. These members or projections from platform **32** that engage the frame **22** are secured thereto by conventional means such as welding for example.

In FIGURE 2, a further showing of the interrelation between frame **22** and vertical post **10** is seen. There the frame **22** may be seen as at **36** to engage the post **10** at one side and is secured there by conventional means such as welding. In this view, also, the configuration of the front member or projection of platform **32** may be seen at **38** curving around the front of frame **22**.

Still in FIGURE 2, U-brace **24** may be seen to slant rearwardly from the front of podium frame **22** to a point spaced back from the free ends of the forwardly extending legs **12** and **14**. Leg **12** is the exact counterpart of leg **14** on the opposite side and accordingly it extends forward from the U-brace in a similar manner.

It will be seen that at least one rear leg **40** terminating in a free end carrying a glide **42** does not radiate as far from the vertical post **10** as do the forward reaching legs. Accordingly, it can be said that this assembly has a substantially forward stance with respect to vertical post **10**.

It will be noted in both FIGURES 1 and 2 at **44** that the brace **24** comes very close to the supporting surface **20** which might be referred to as a plane defined by the free ends of the legs or the lowest reaches of the supporting members for the chair podium. This distance should not be more than one-half inch and may reasonably be as little as one-quarter inch. The point of having the brace come down this close to the floor is to limit the amount of flexing that takes place in the legs **12** and **14** when a person stands on podium platform **32**. Thus, while legs **12** and **14** may flex sufficiently to allow brace **24** to contact the supporting surface **20** as shown in FIGURE 3, the rigidity of brace **24** stops further flexing and thereby assures that legs **12** and **14** will not be flexed beyond their elastic limits. As the result, when weight sufficient to flex the legs **12** and **14** as shown in FIGURE 3 is removed from platform **32**, the legs again raise the brace off the floor surface. With only the glides touching the floor, the podium chair can be easily slid from one place to another with little effort. A weight on platform **32** sufficient to flex the legs as shown in FIGURE 3, however, brings brace **24** into contact with supporting surface. Under these conditions, the podium chair remains substantially immovable. Even violent movements of a conductor are unlikely to cause the podium chair to slide or move when brace **24** contacts floor **20**. The clearance between the floor surface and the bottom of the brace **24** may be varied depending on how resilient legs **12** and **14** are, but to avoid excessive downward movement and the attendant feeling of insecurity that it may give a user, brace **24** should extend to within a half inch of the floor surface and preferably within a quarter of an inch.

By means of thus combining a podium with a chair, the usual hazards of placing a chair on even a fairly large podium are avoided. Similarly, the necessity to get down from the usual elevated practice chair and step on to a podium to provide a restful change in position is unnecessary. In using this combination podium chair, a conductor may sit for a time and suddenly stand for emphasis or merely to change his position to minimize the muscle fatigue that results from staying in any one position for an extended period.

Furthermore, podium platform **32**, when the chair is being used merely as a practice chair, provides a more restful place to support the feet than the usual ring type of foot support over which the heels are hooked. As a result of all of these features, the combination podium chair is a very satisfactory conductor's practice chair and considerably more desirable than any combination of ordinary practice chairs and podiums that can be worked out.

In addition, this chair has proved valuable in other areas. For example, many draftsmen sit on elevated chairs to work at drafting tables. Occasionally, however, it is necessary for them to reach elements that are spaced at the far edges of their drafting boards, and it has been necessary herebefore for the draftsman to step down off his chair in order to do this. Using a combination podium and chair such as offered herein, however, makes it pos-

sible for him to stand up on podium platform **32** to reach the upper edges of the largest drafting board. It has also been thought of as a lecture chair which would provide elevation and better observation for one lecturing without the necessity for standing. The lectern may be provided either independently or incorporated with the unit if desired.

It is apparent that many modifications and variations of this invention as hereinbefore set forth may be made without departing from the spirit and scope thereof. The specific embodiments described are given by way of example only and the invention is limited only by the terms of the appended claims.

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A podium chair comprising, a vertical post, legs secured to and radiating from said vertical post, at an acute angle to the horizontal, some of said radiating legs being longer than others, frame means comprised of a substantially unyielding endless member engaging and secured to said vertical post at one side and extending therefrom horizontally above two of said longer radially extending legs, a U-shaped brace secured at its upper end to said endless member and extending therefrom down and between said two longer radially extending legs and to within one-half inch of the plane defined by the bottoms of said radially extending legs, a platform member of sheet metal having edge portions shaped to conform, at least in part, to the cross-section of said endless member to which said platform member is secured and a chair seat and back assembly secured to the top of said vertical post.

2. The structure of claim **1** in which said radiating legs are resilient and terminate in floor engaging glides, and means secured to said longer radiating legs and extending toward the plane defined by said floor engaging glides to limit flexing of said longer radiating legs to an amount within the elastic limits of the material from which said longer radiating legs are made.

3. A podium chair comprising a vertical post, leg means secured to the lower end section of the post and radiating therefrom, said leg means including two resilient adjacent long legs having a radial length greater than the remainder of the legs, floor engaging glides secured to the terminal ends of said leg means, frame means including a substantially unyielding endless member secured at one side thereof to said vertical post above said leg means, said endless

member projected horizontally from the post and positioned above said long legs and a U-shaped brace secured at its upper end to said endless member and secured at its lower end to said long legs, said U-shaped brace extended downwardly from the endless member and between said long legs, the base of said U-shaped brace spaced within one-half inch of the horizontal plane defined by said floor engaging glides to limit flexing of said long legs to an amount within the elastic limit of the material from which said long legs are made, a horizontal platform of sheet metal secured to the endless member, said platform having edge portions shaped to conform, at least in part, to the cross-section of said endless member, and a chair seat and back assembly secured to the top section of said vertical post.

4. A podium chair having a seat, back and support structure, wherein said support structure comprises: a seat and back support post secured to the seat; a plurality of legs secured to and extending radially from said support post, the front legs of said plurality of legs to extend forwardly a substantial distance and at an acute angle relative to the horizontal; a podium platform rigidly secured to the front of said support post; a brace secured to and depending from said podium platform, said brace being secured to and between adjacent front legs of said plurality of legs at a point spaced inwardly from the ends of the front legs, said brace to be below the front legs within one-half inch of the plane defined by the lowest points of said chair support structure; and, a glide secured to the end of each of said plurality of legs for engaging the supporting surface.

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