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(54) **CONVERTIBLE ROCKER**

(71) Applicant: **KIDS II, INC.**, Atlanta, GA (US)

(72) Inventors: **Avelina KAPANZHI**, Atlanta, GA (US); **Trevor MAST**, Atlanta, GA (US); **Jacob SCLARE**, Dacula, GA (US)

(73) Assignee: **KIDS II, INC.**, Atlanta, GA (US)

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(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC ***A47D 1/08*** (2013.01); ***A47D 1/002*** (2013.01); ***A47D 13/102*** (2013.01)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A convertible child seat or support device having a rocker and an adjustable support frame. The convertible rocker generally comprises a frame and attached child support assembly. The convertible rocker is configured to support an infant in a generally supine position and a toddler in an inclined position. In example embodiments, the frame includes an adjustment mechanism to adjust the angle of incline of the backrest of the child support assembly between an infant position and a toddler position. In other embodiments, the child support assembly is configured to support a child in both an infant and toddler position based on the child's orientation in the child support assembly.

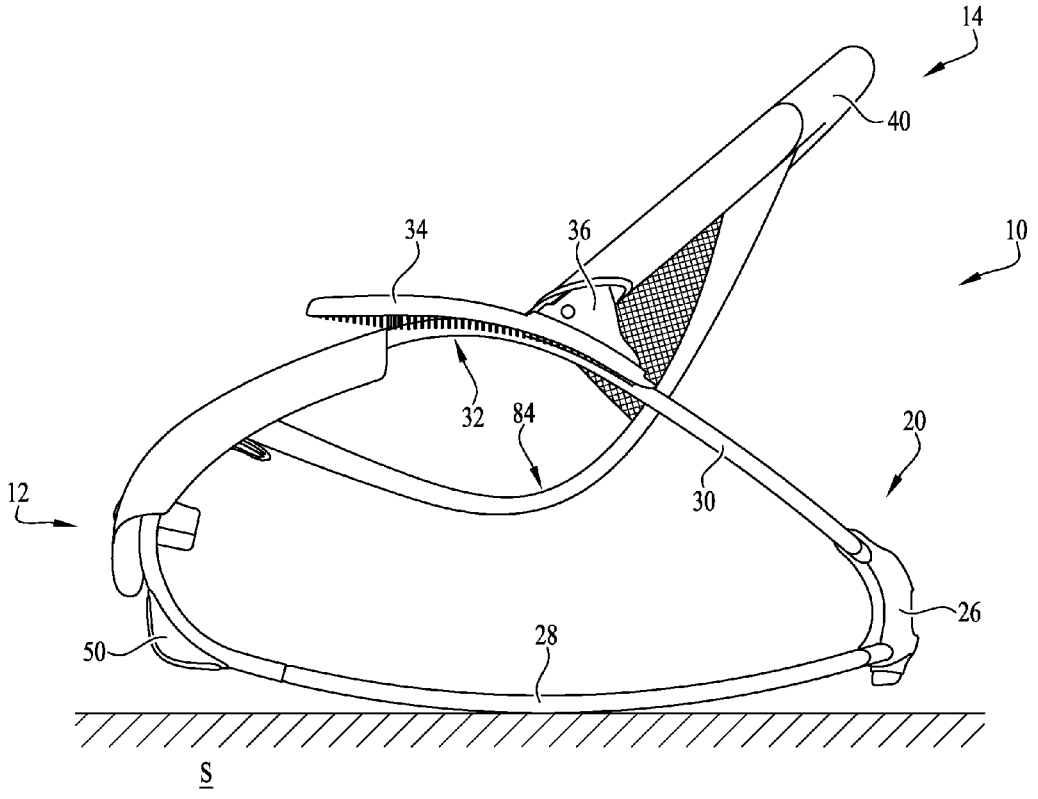
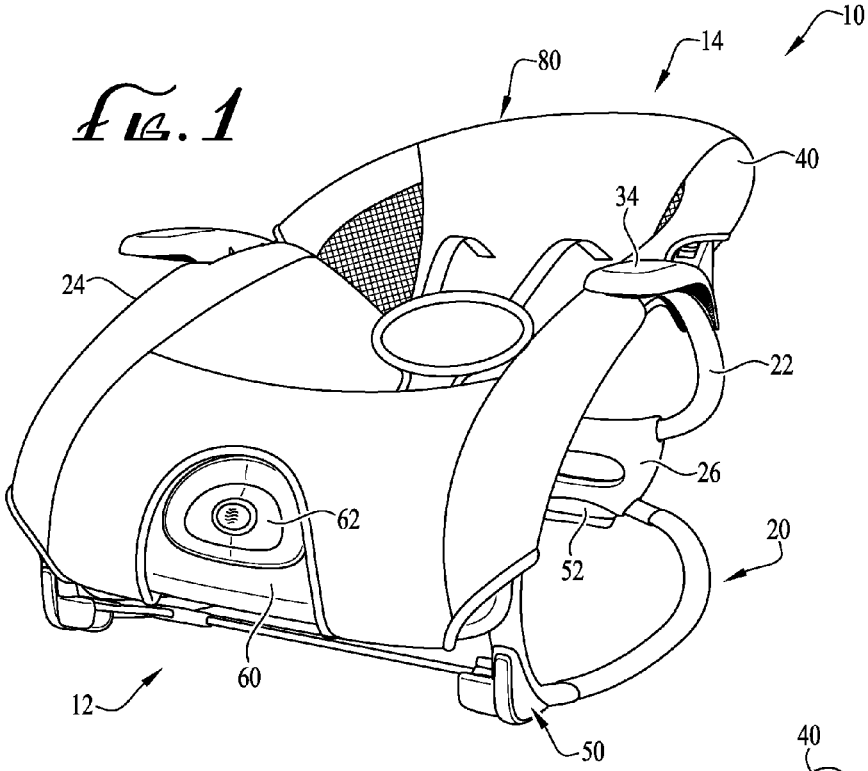


FIG. 1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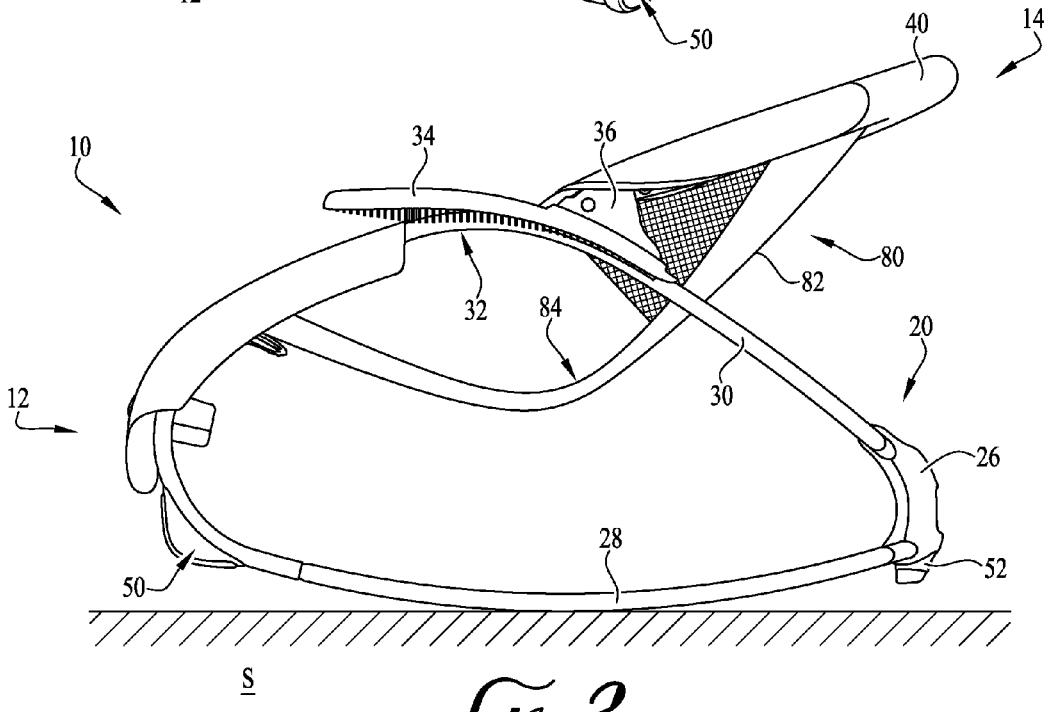
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FIG. 2

FIG. 3

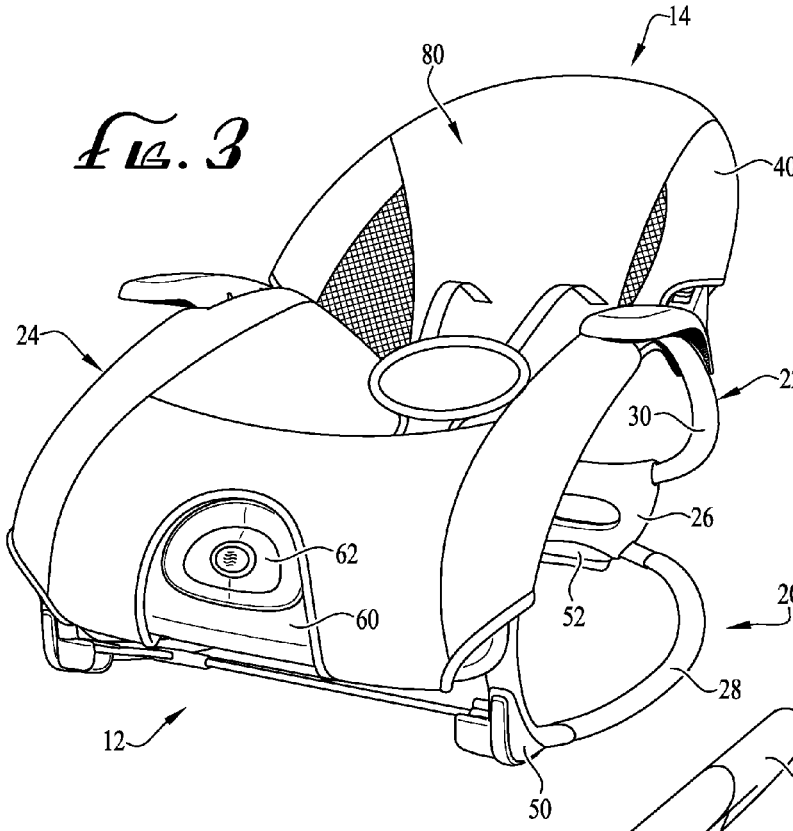
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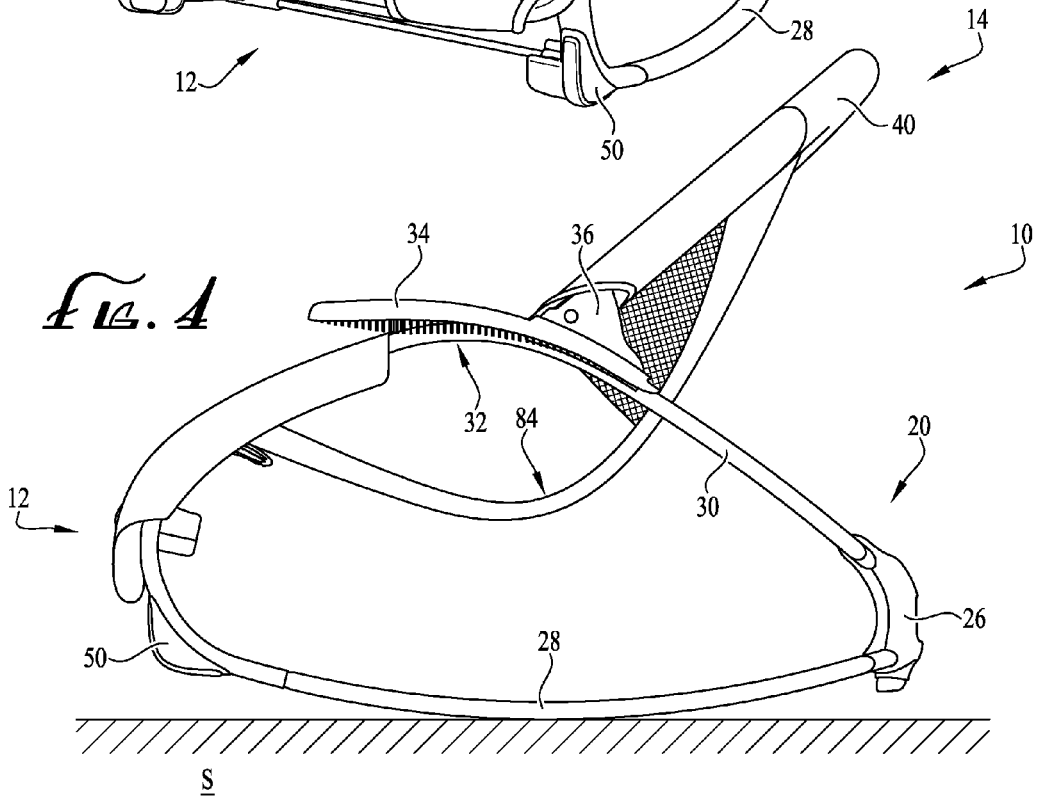
FIG. 4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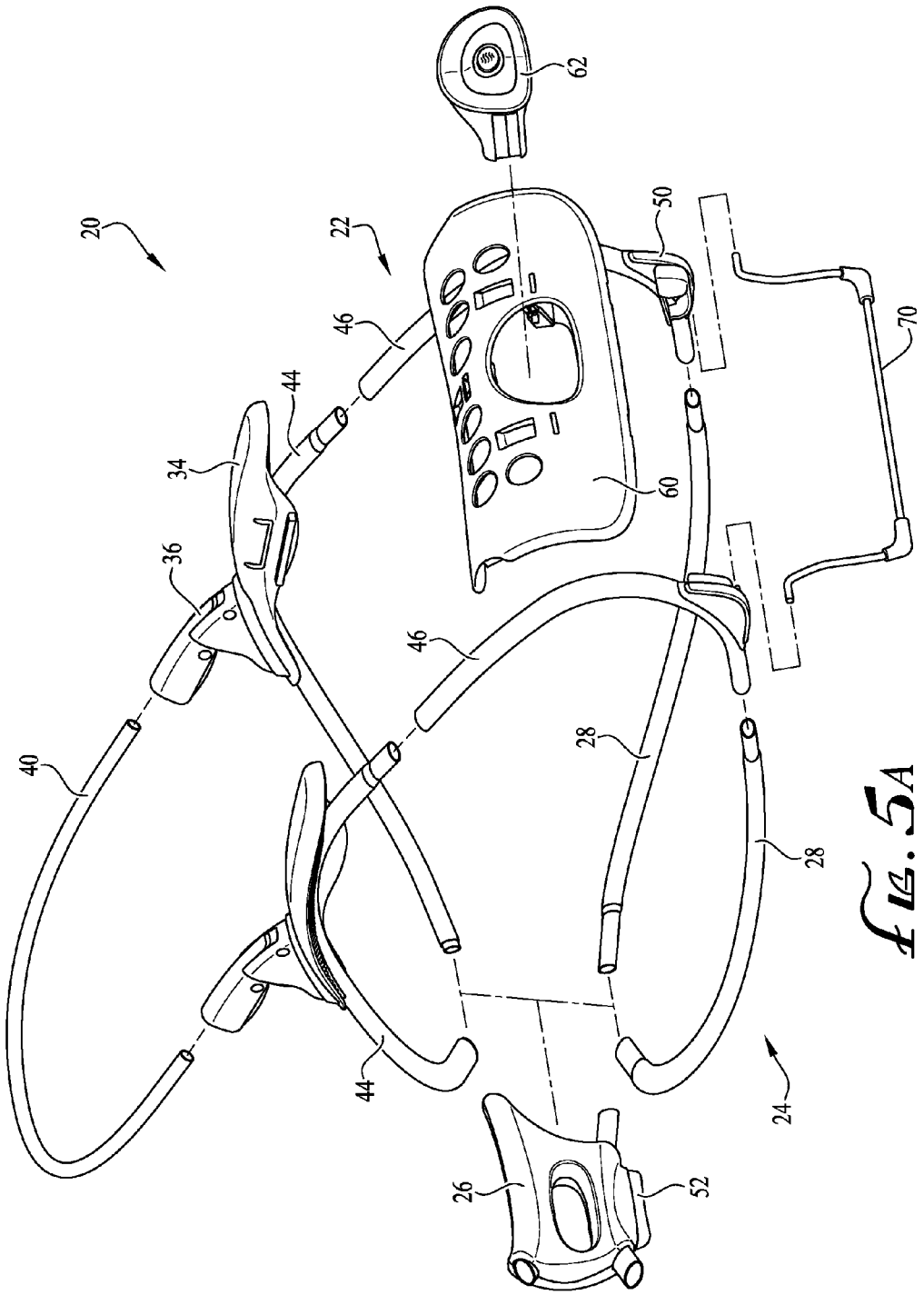


FIG. 5A

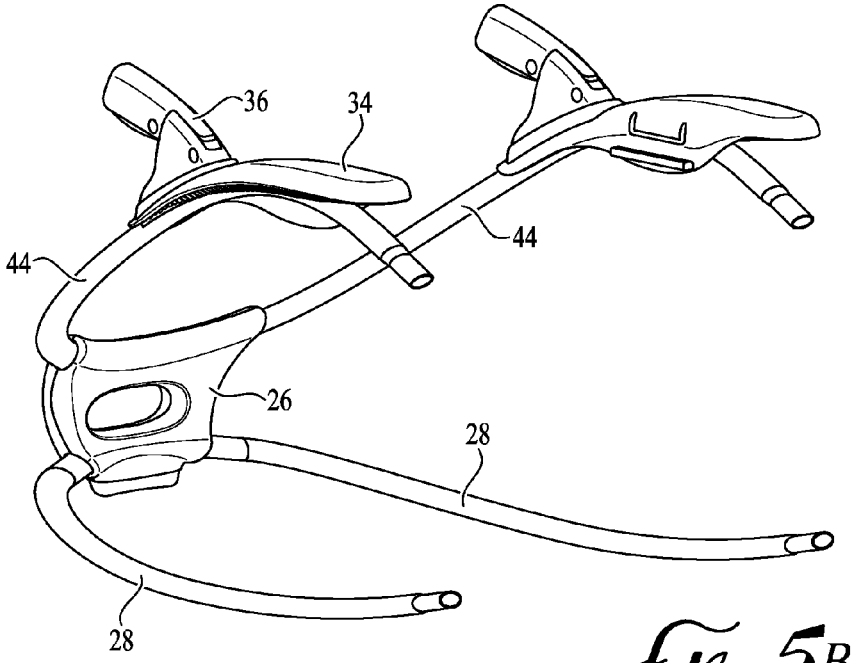


FIG. 5B

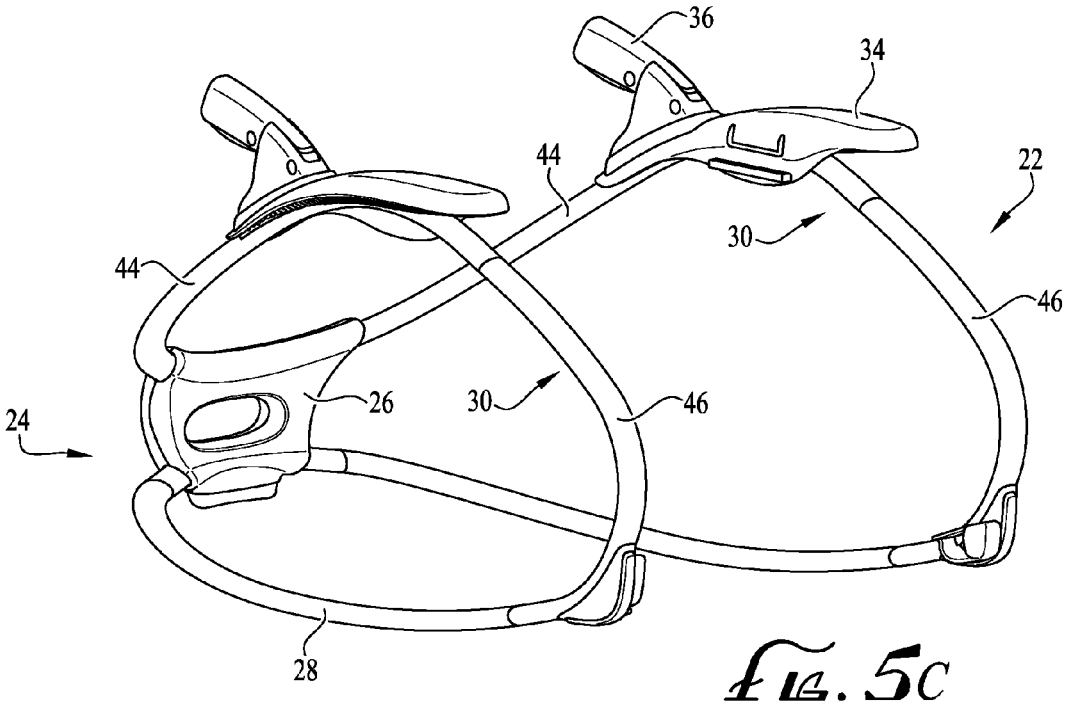


FIG. 5C

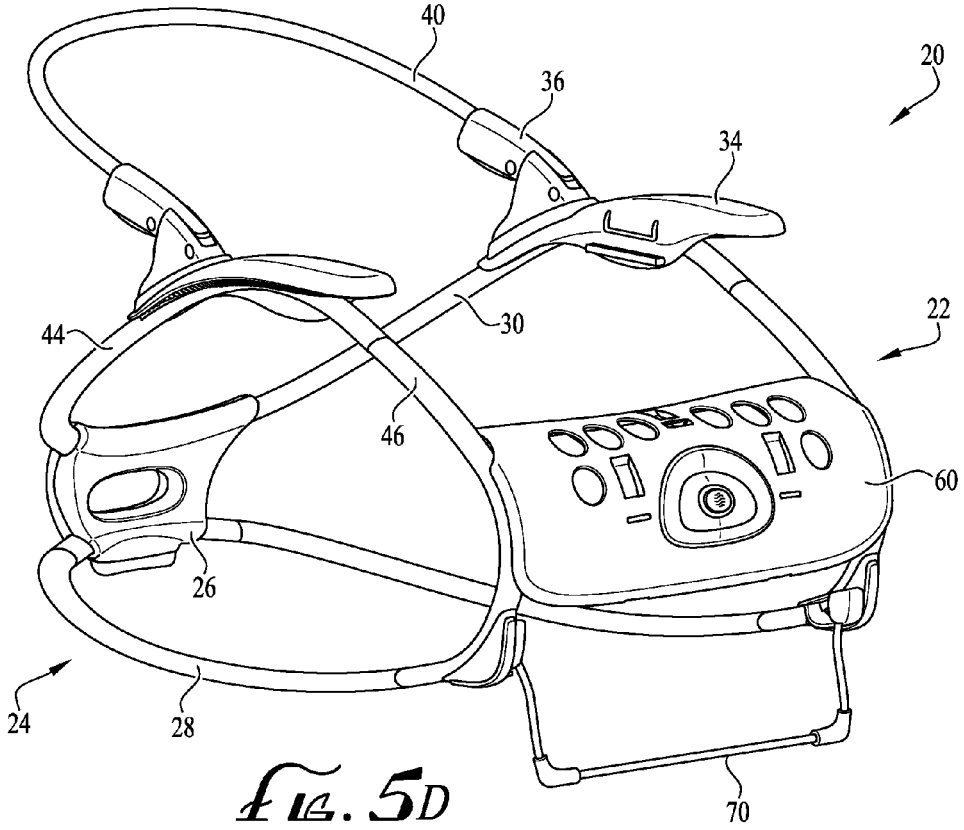


FIG. 5D

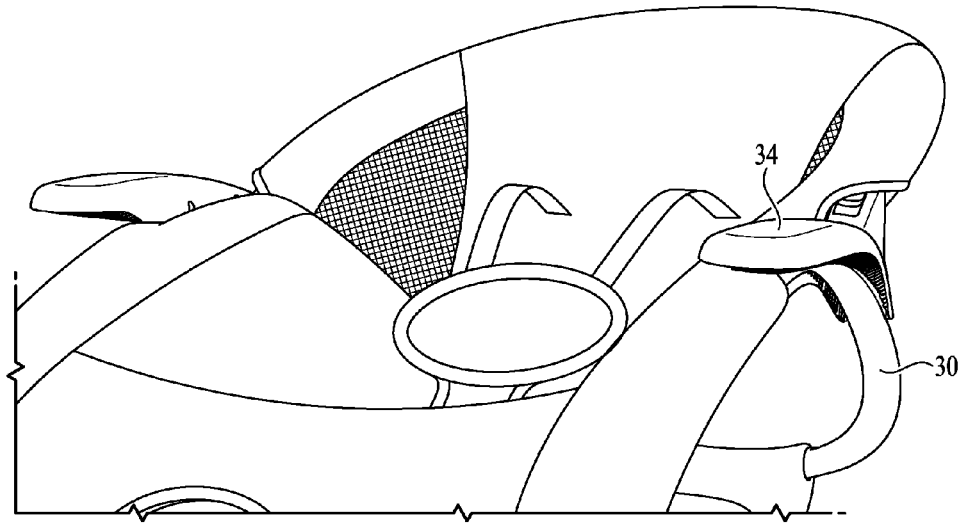


FIG. 6

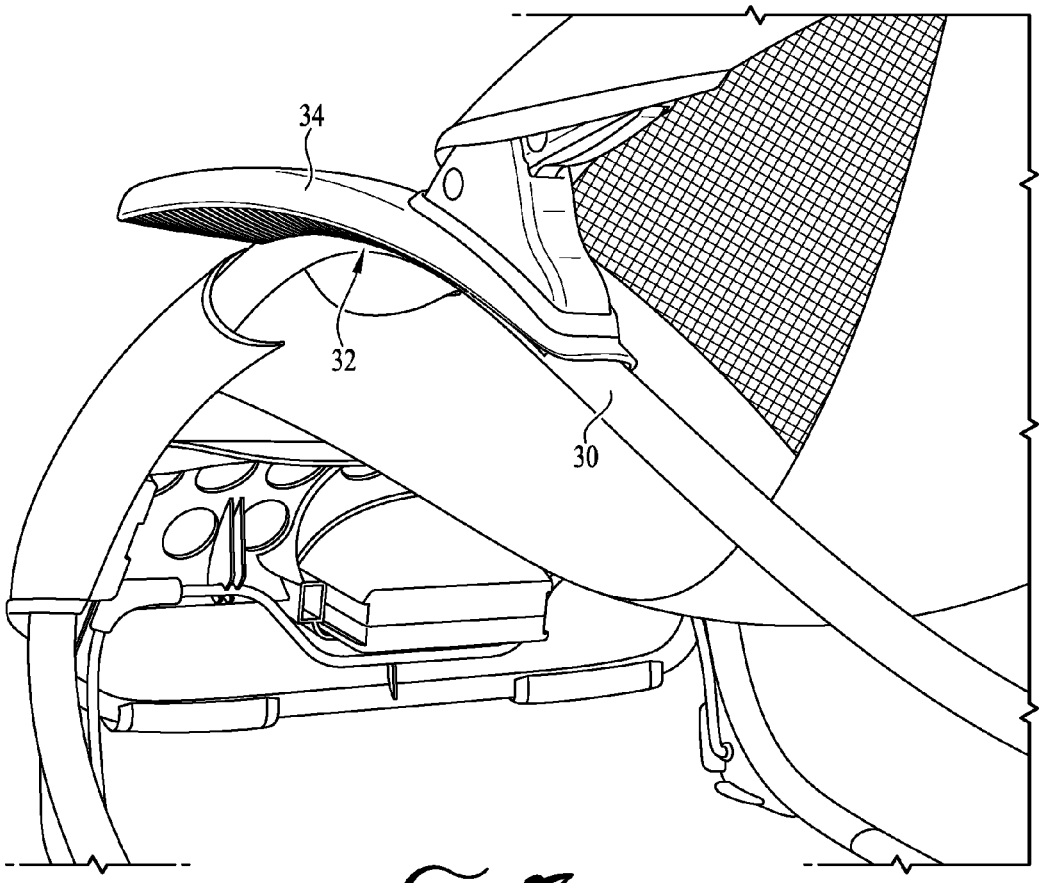


FIG. 7

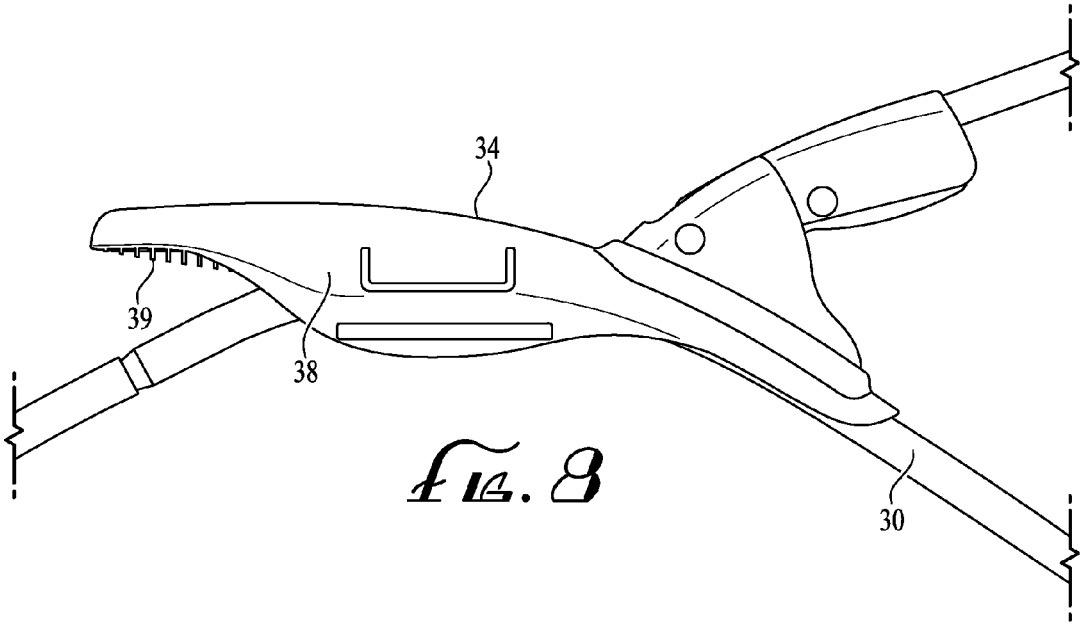
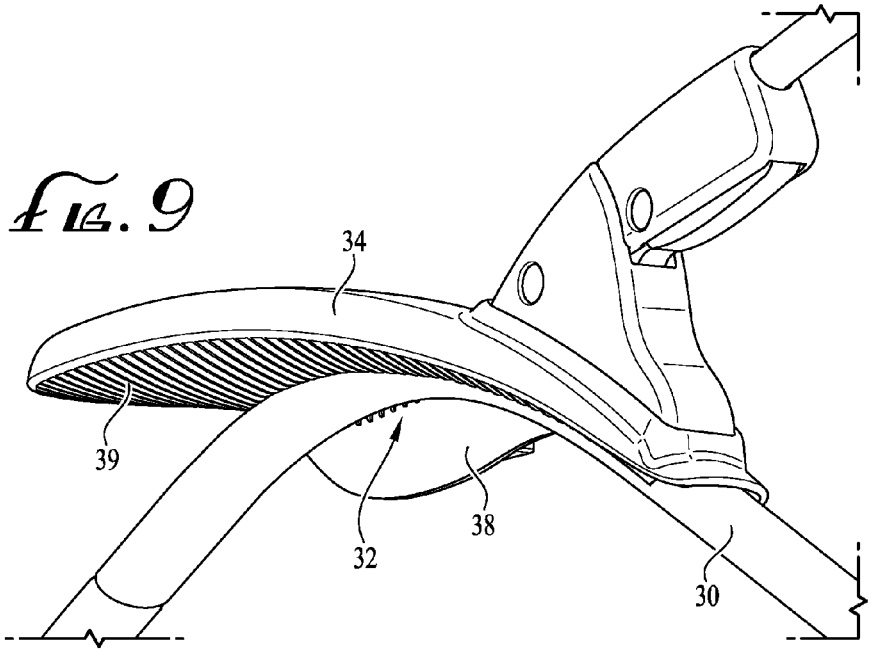


FIG. 8



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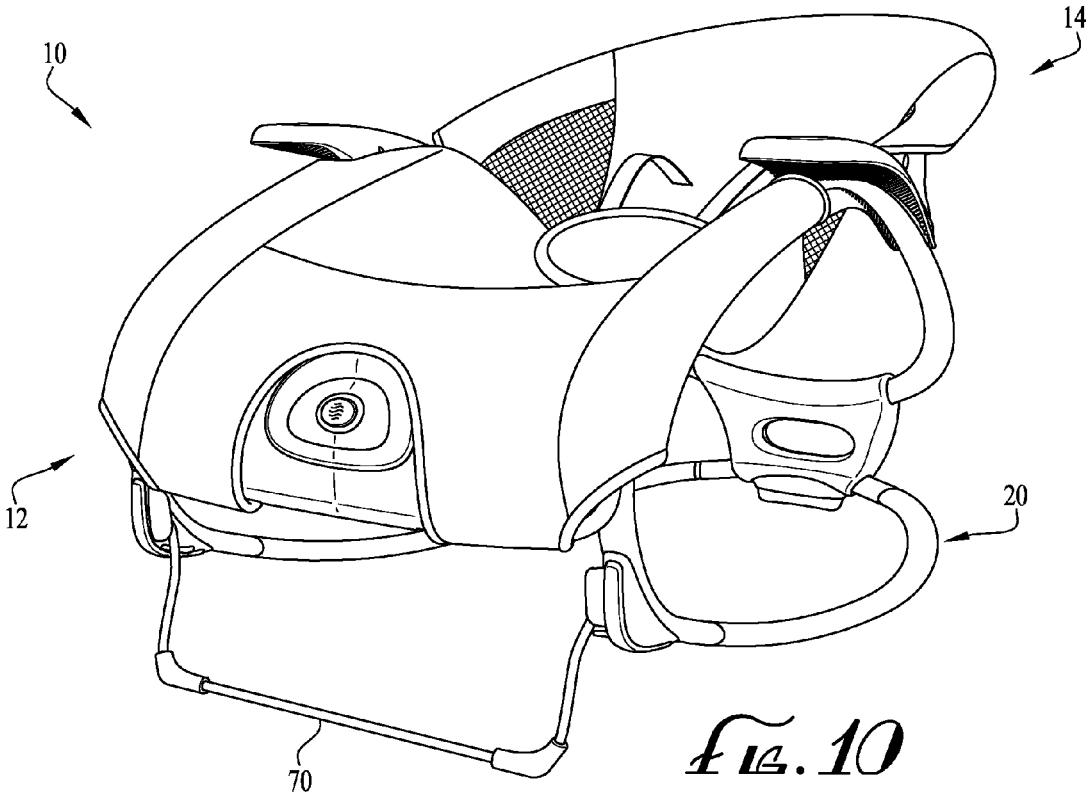
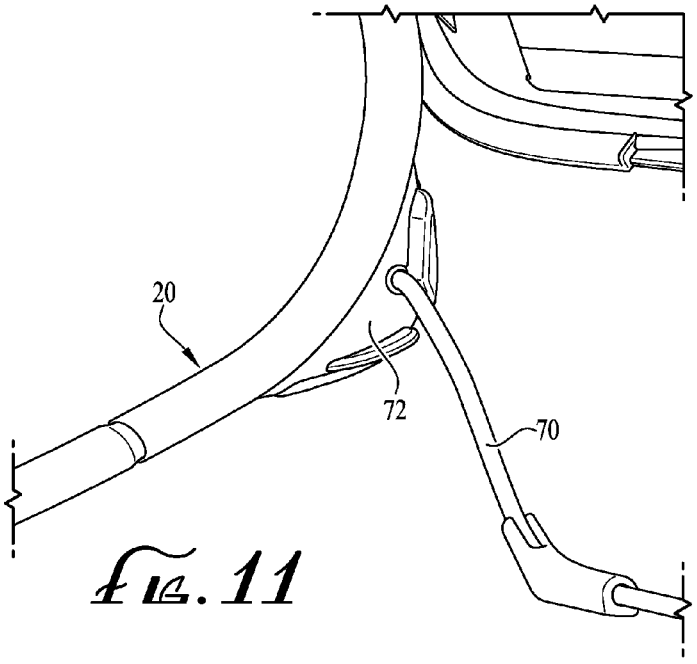


FIG. 10



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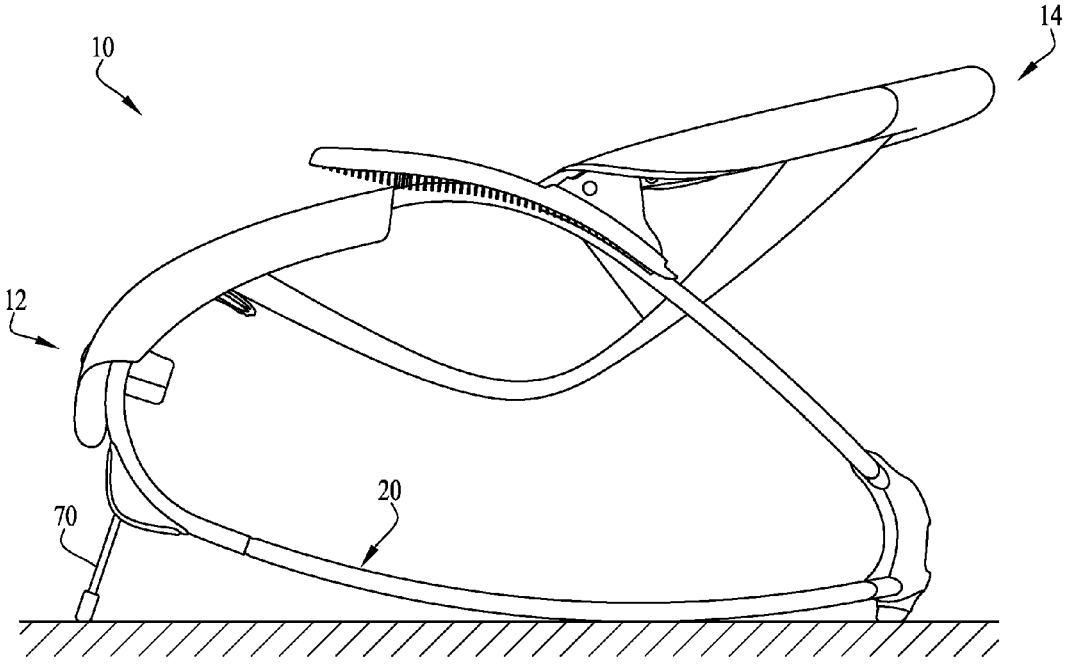
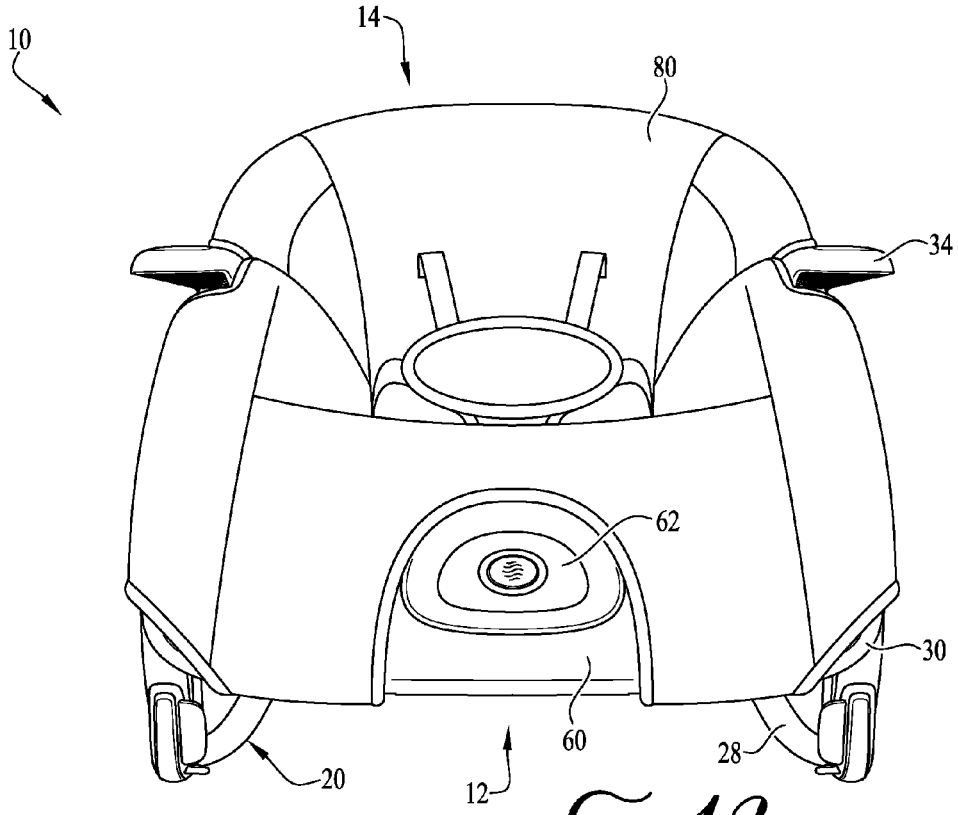


FIG. 12



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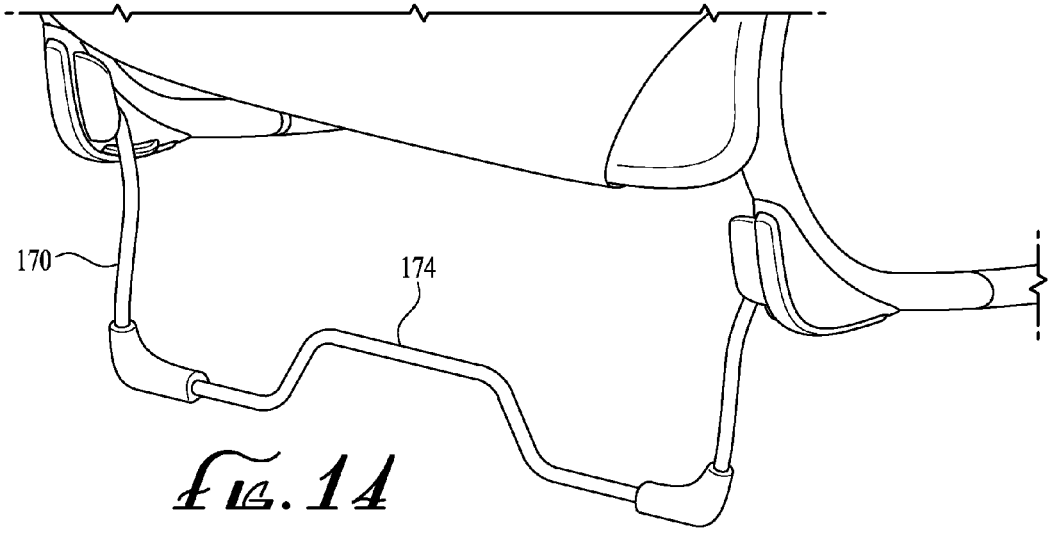
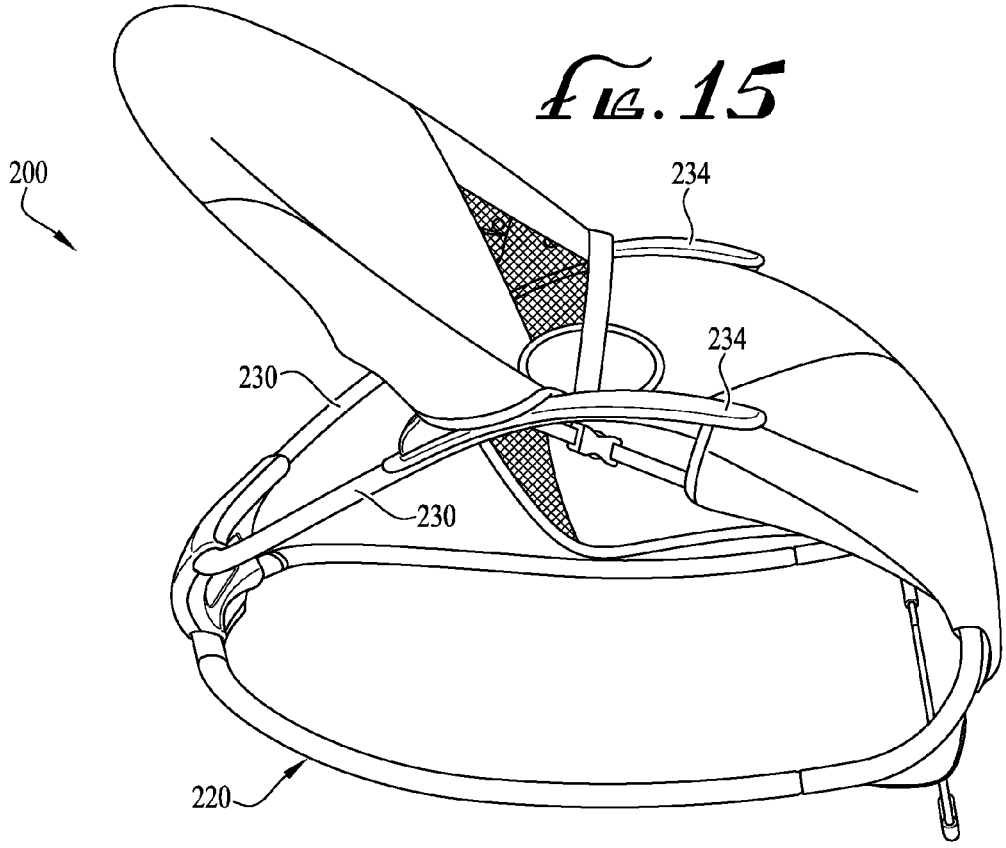
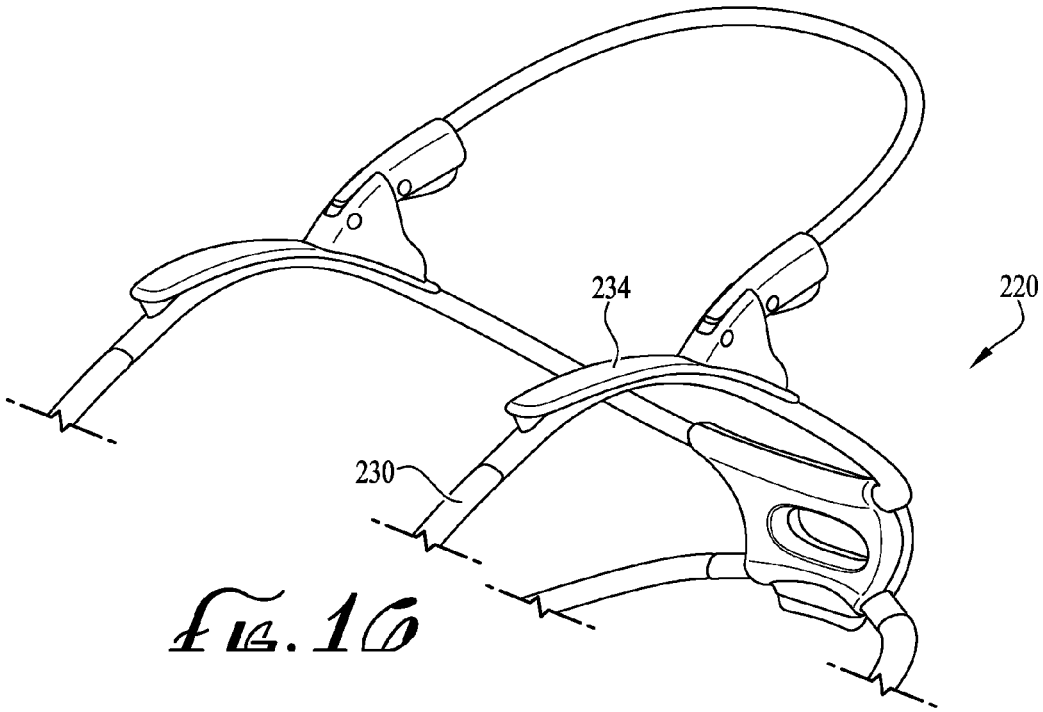


FIG. 14

FIG. 15





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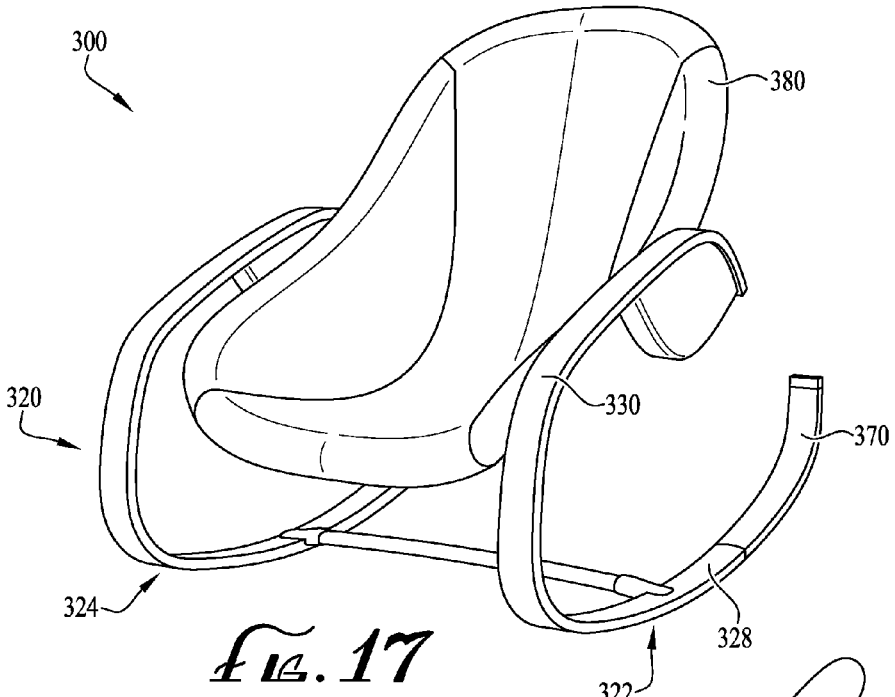

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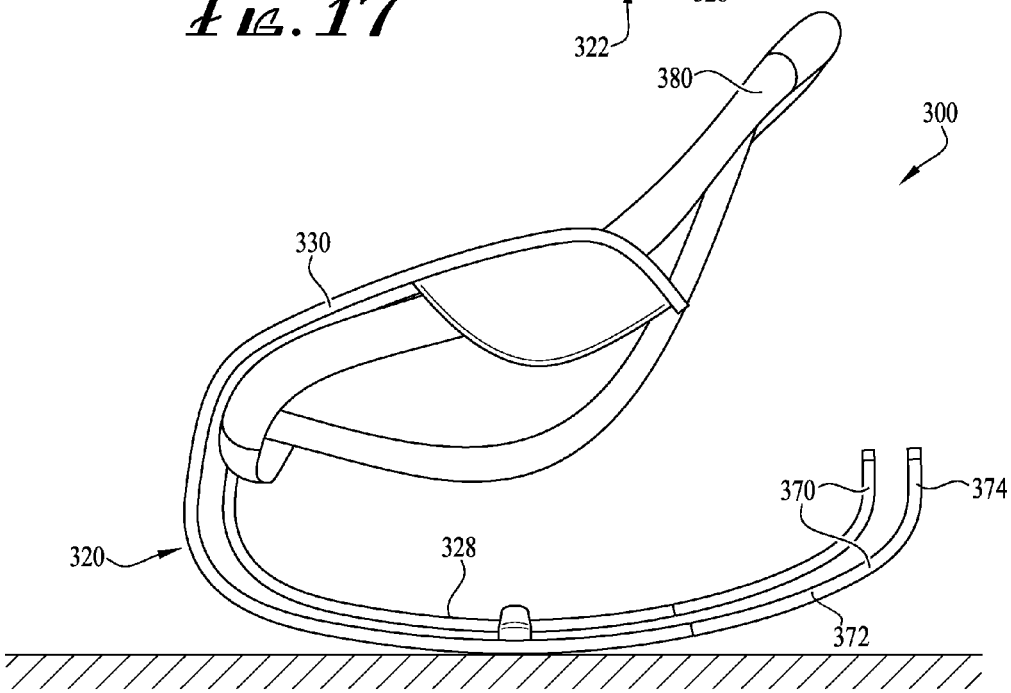


FIG. 18

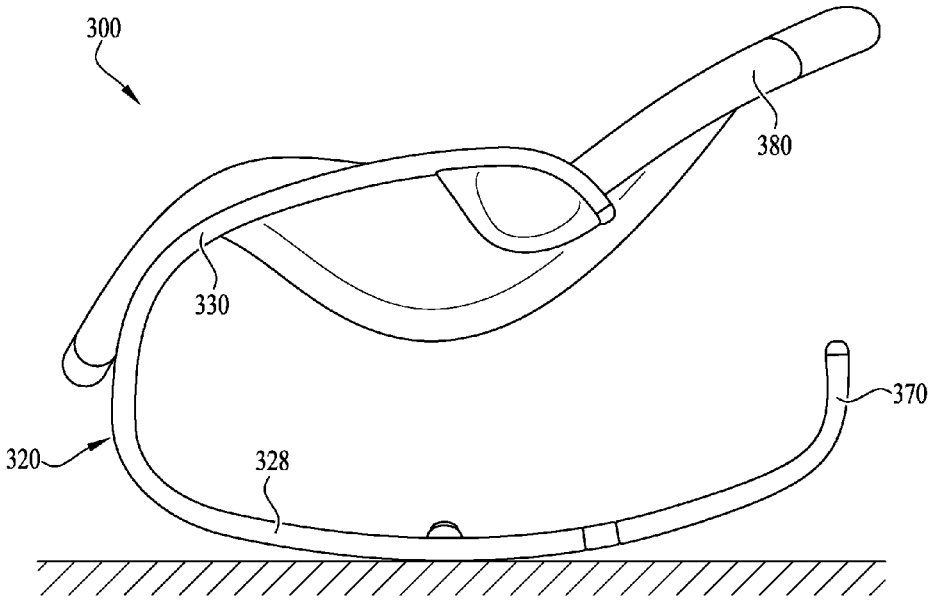


FIG. 19

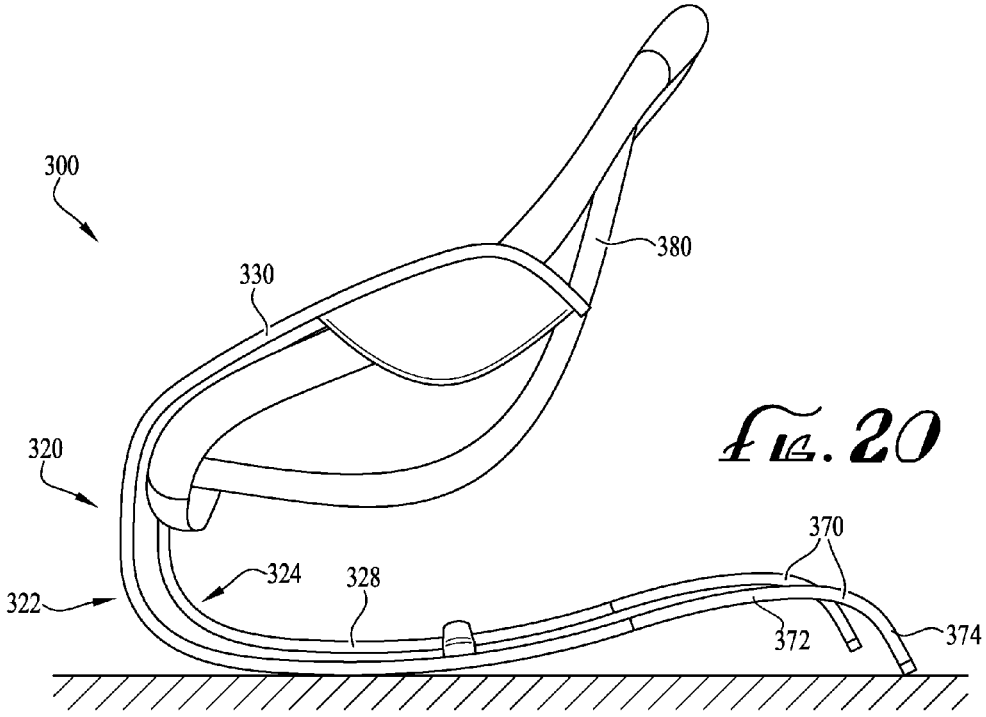


FIG. 20

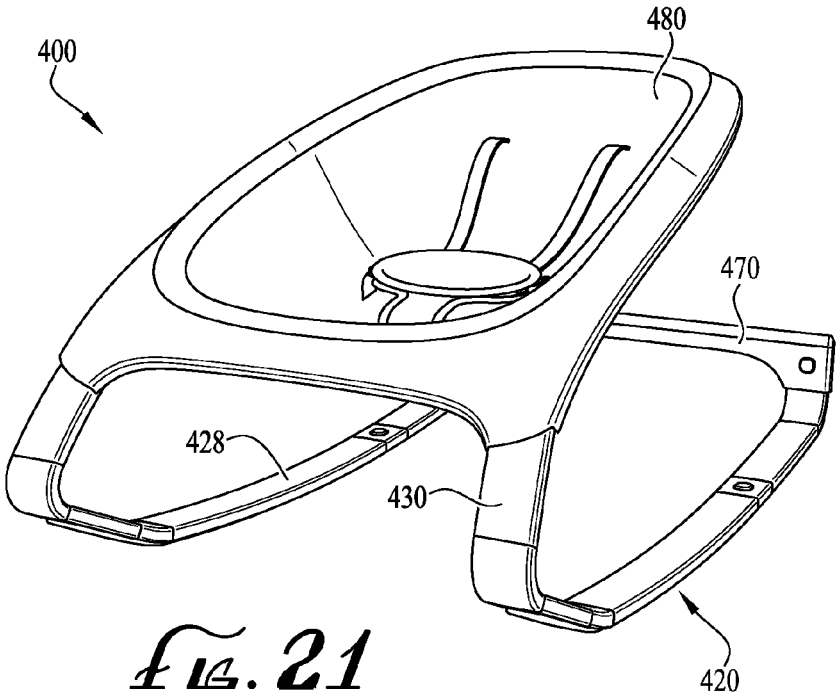


FIG. 21

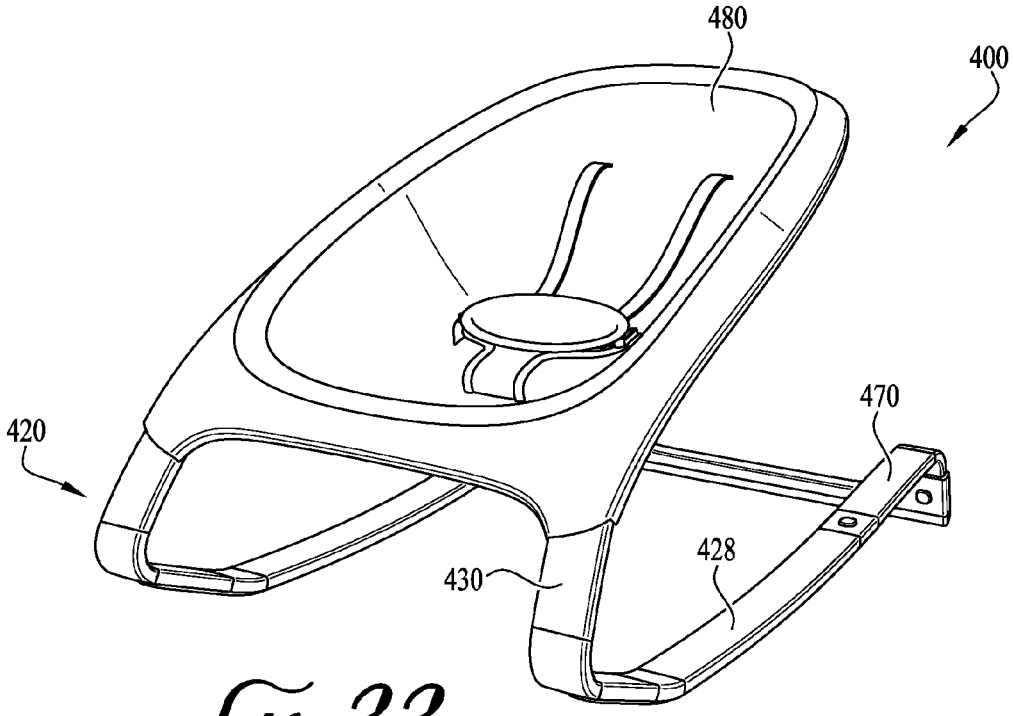
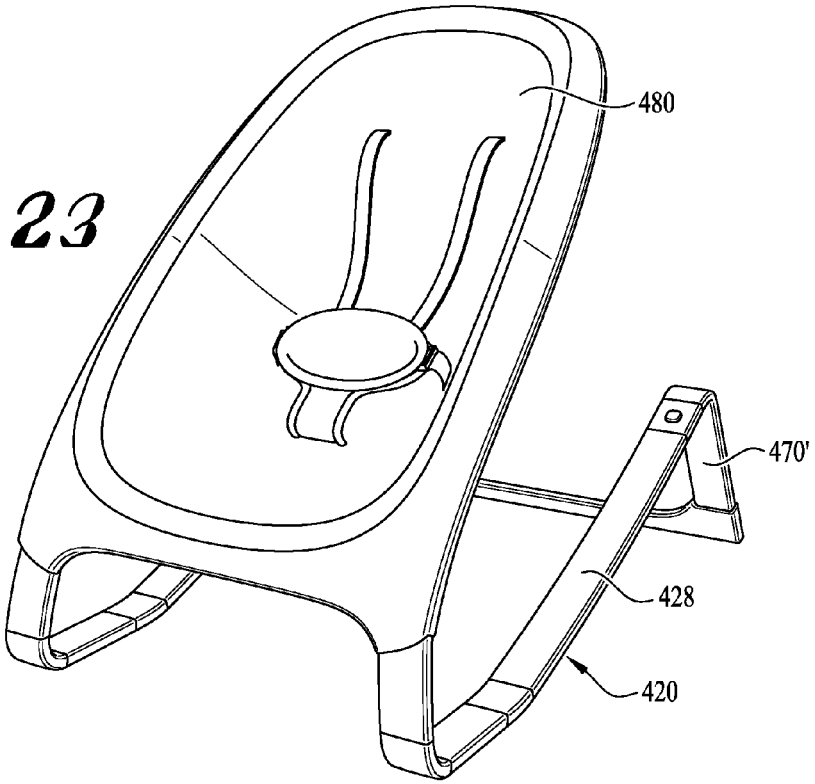


FIG. 22

FIG. 23



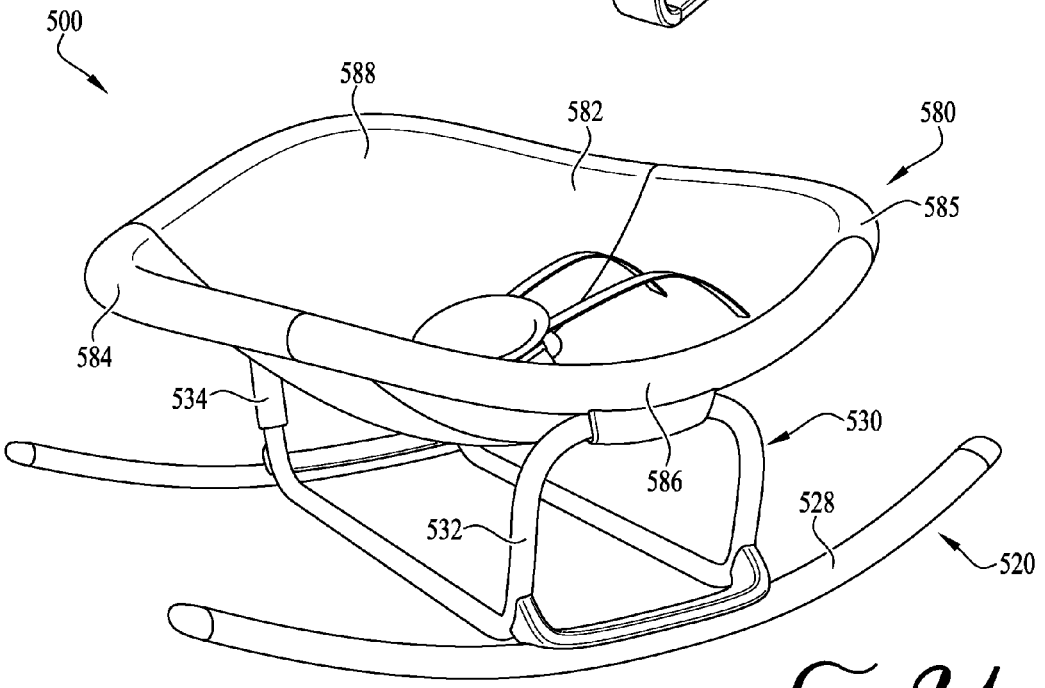


FIG. 24

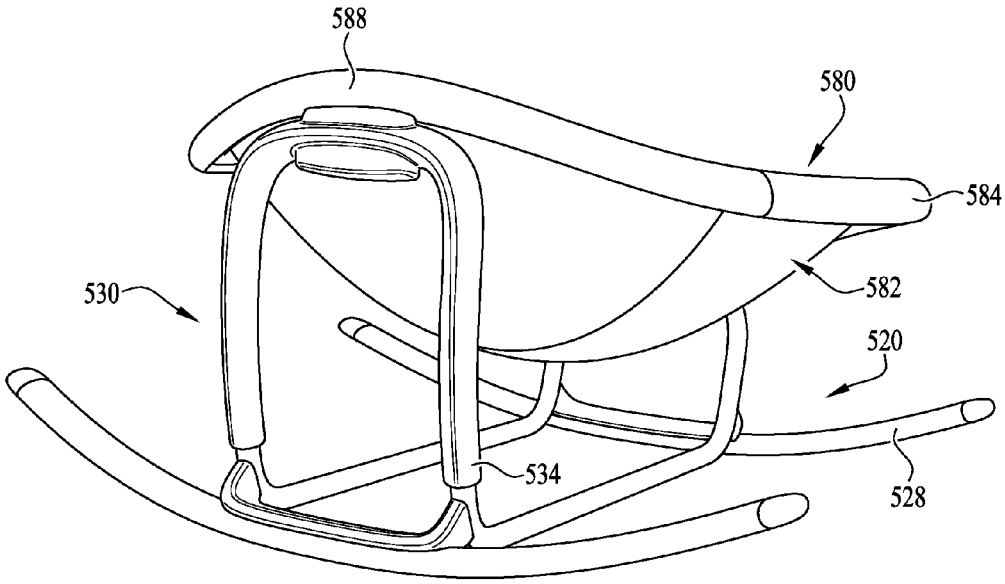


FIG. 25

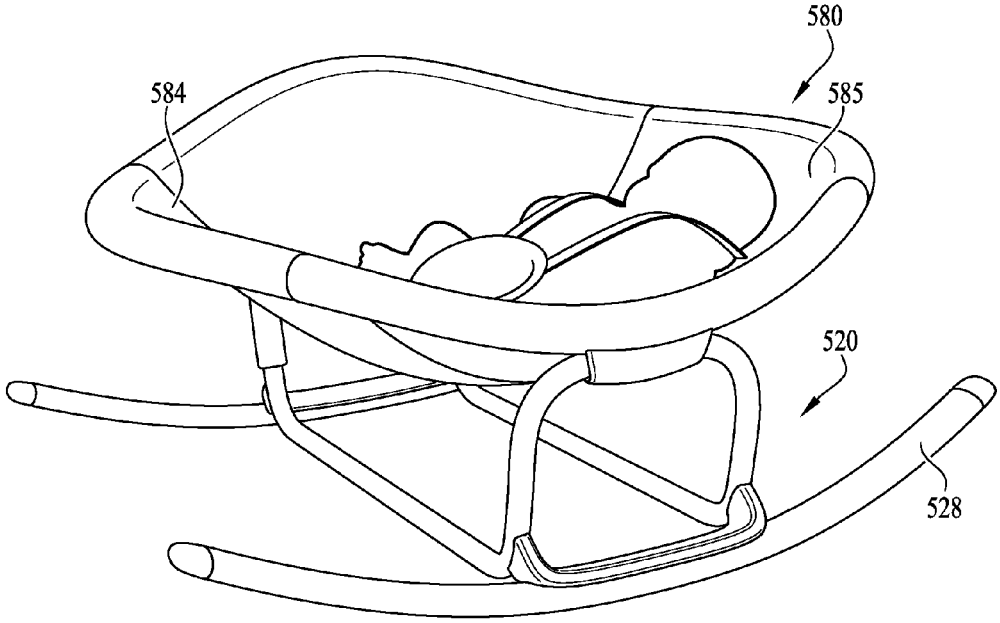


FIG. 26

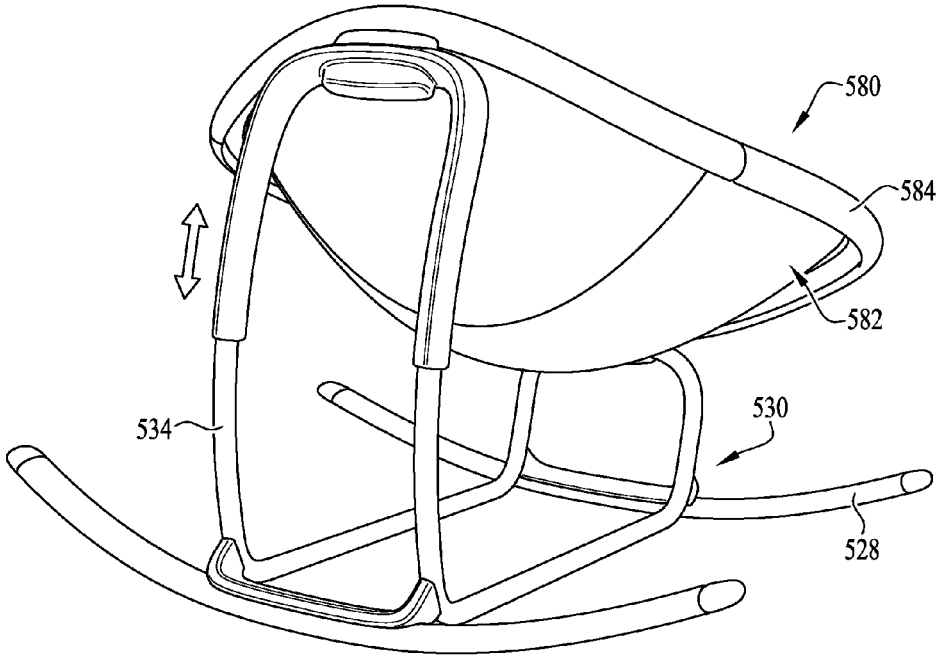


FIG. 27

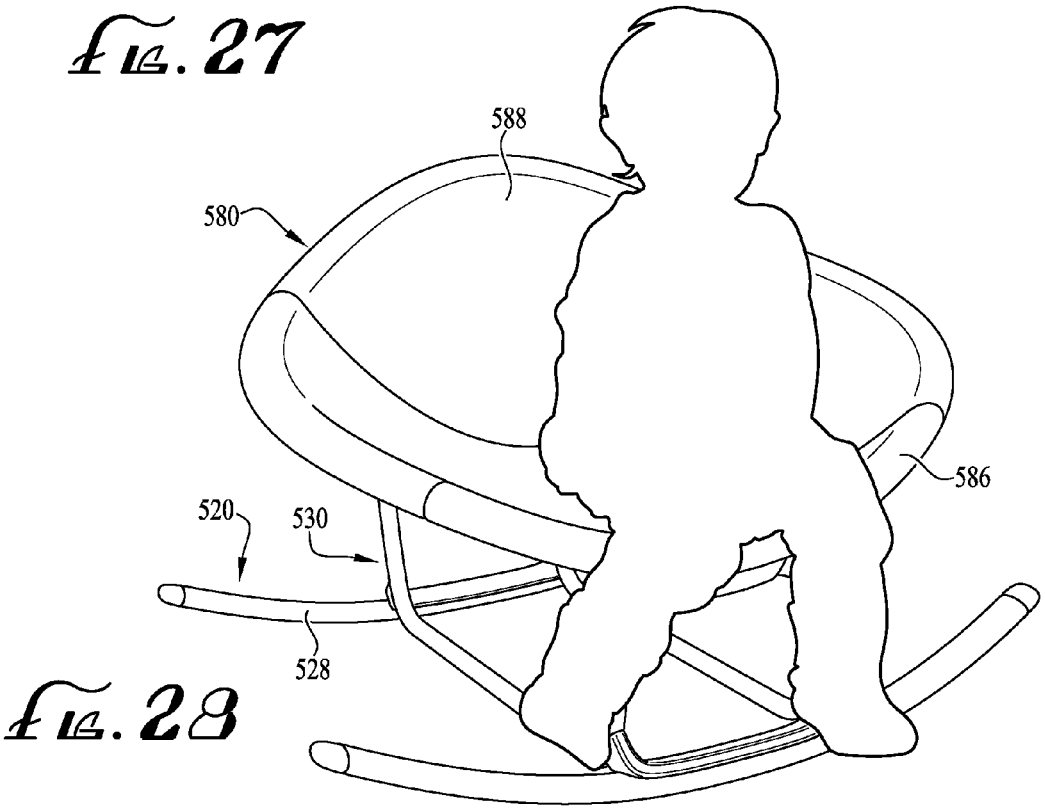


FIG. 28

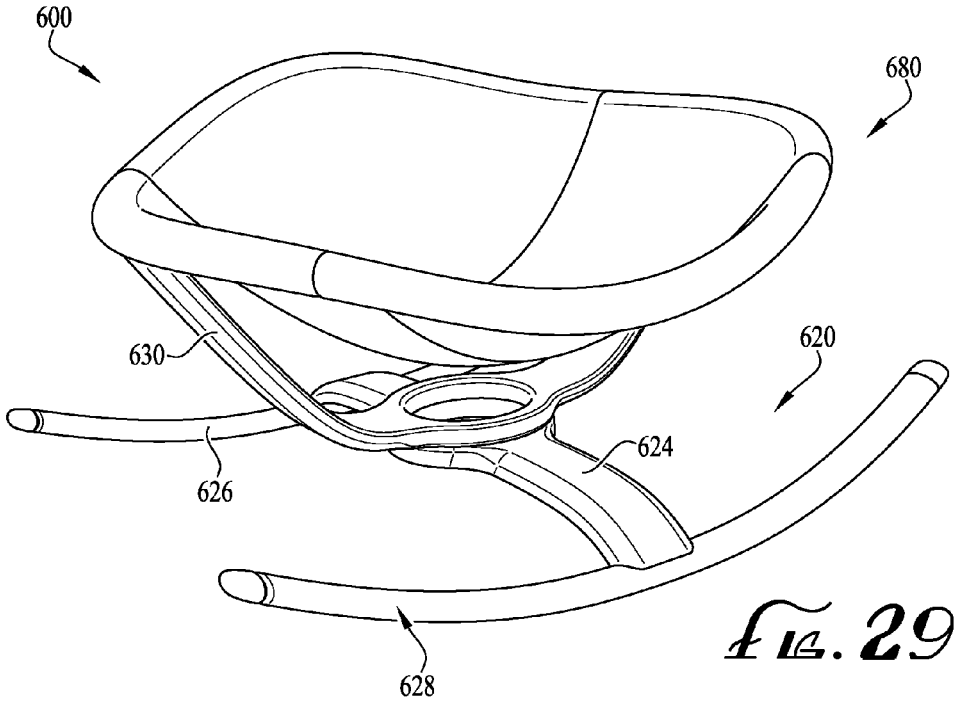


FIG. 29

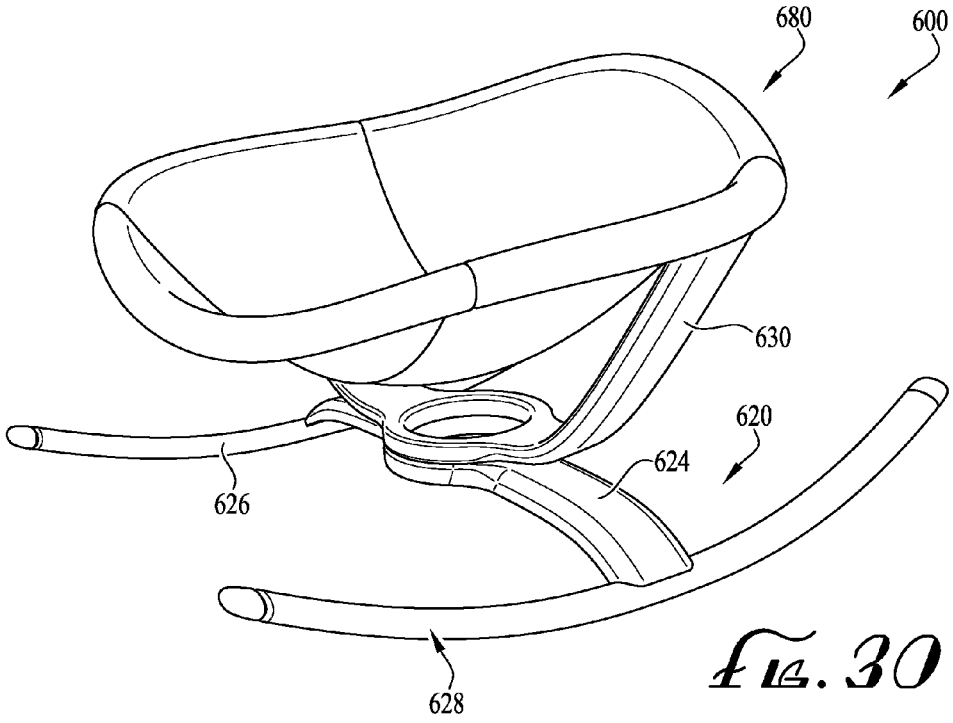


FIG. 30

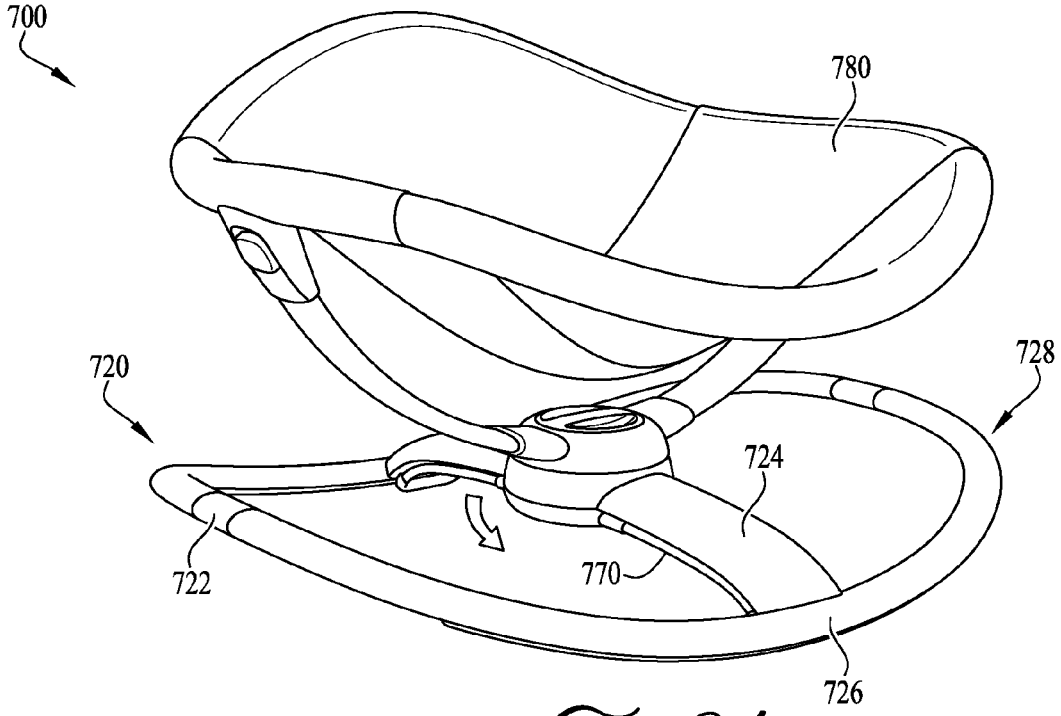


FIG. 31

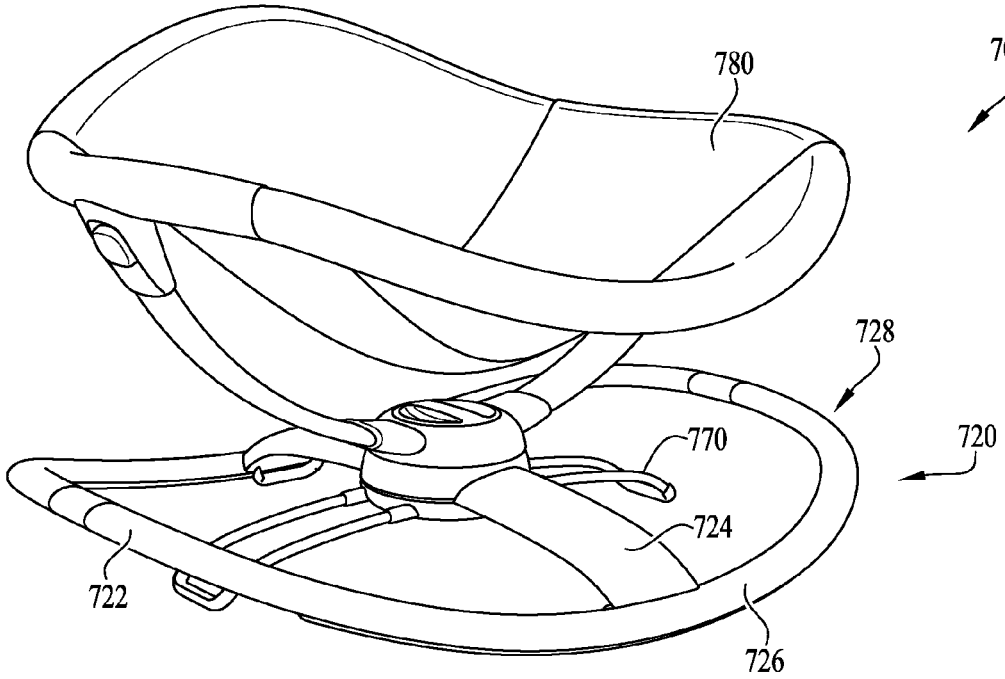


FIG. 32

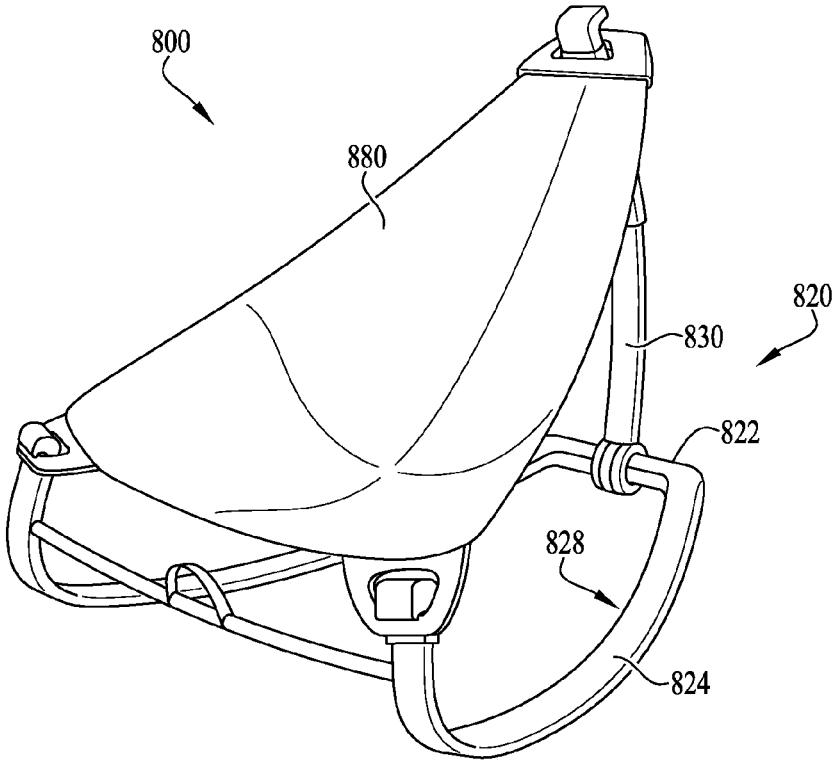
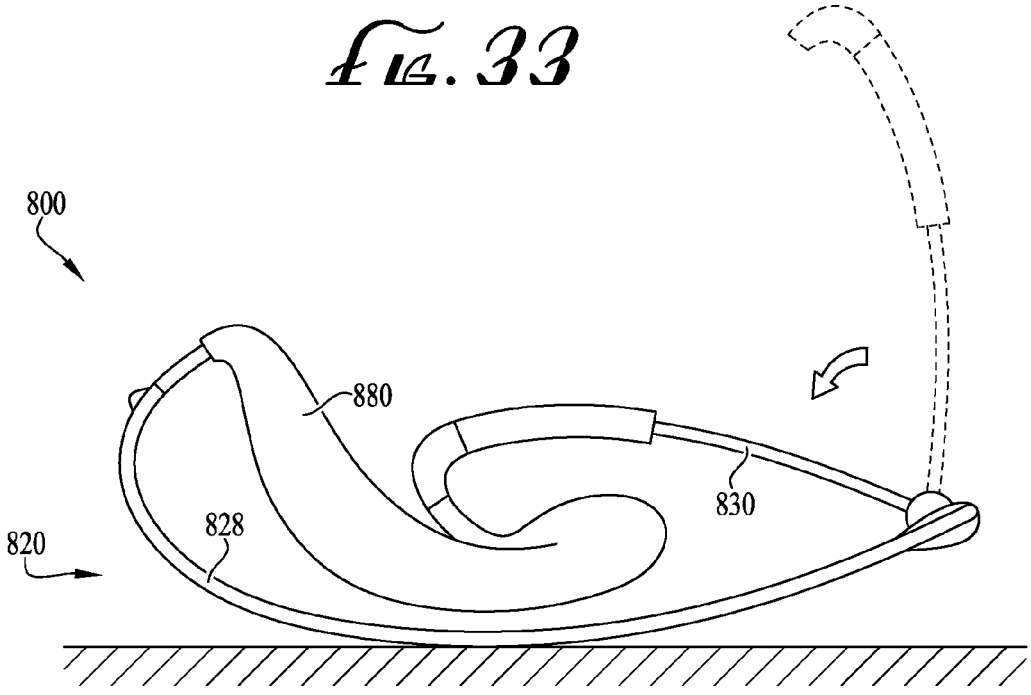


FIG. 33



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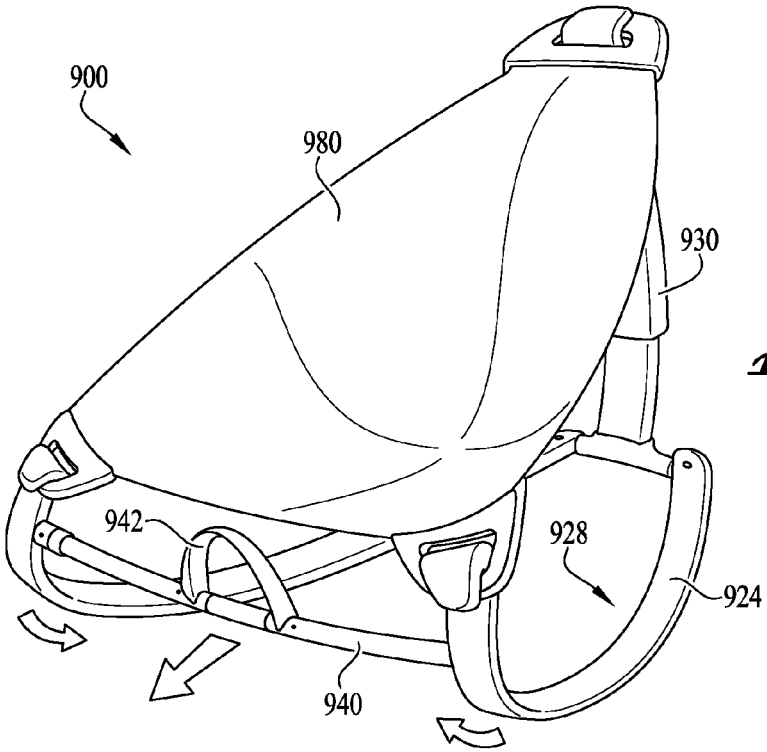

FIG. 35

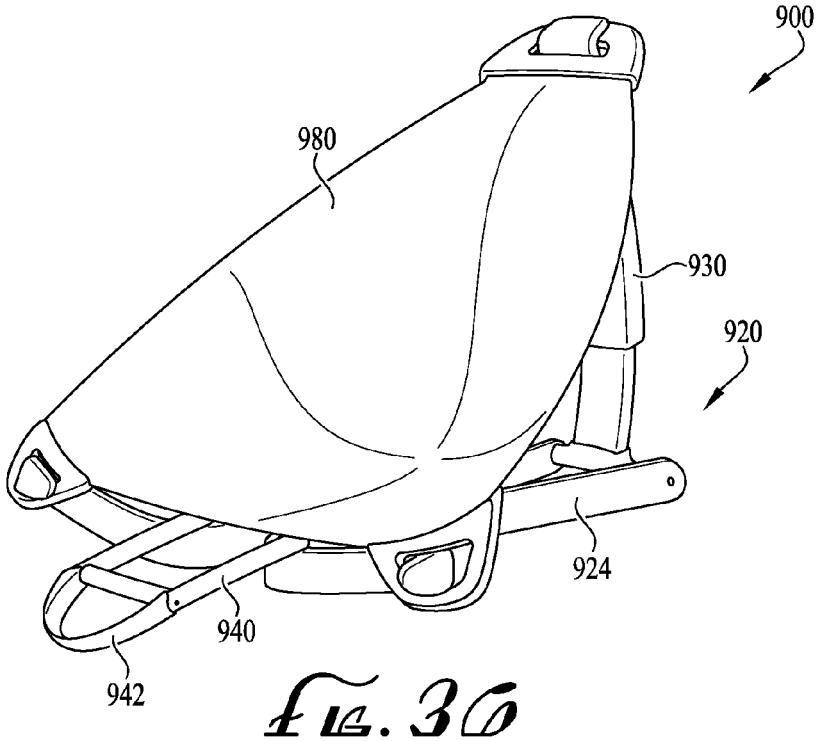

FIG. 36

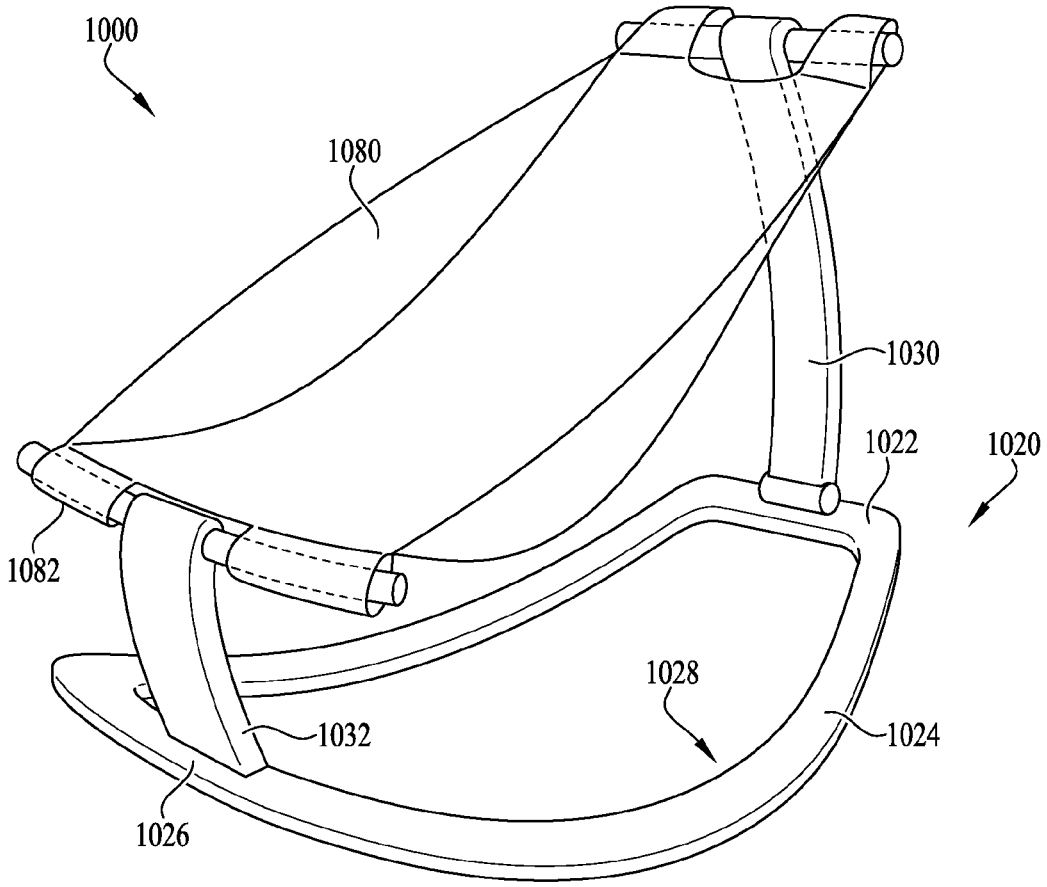

FIG. 37

CONVERTIBLE ROCKER

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 62/407,221 filed Oct. 12, 2016, the entirety of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0002] The present invention relates generally to the field of children's accessories, and more particularly to a child seat or support device having a rocker base and adjustable support frame.

BACKGROUND

[0003] Support devices such as seats, rockers, bouncers, sleepers, bassinets, and the like are commonly used to hold infants and other small children during rest, play, and entertainment. Infants are supported in a supine position whereas toddlers and other small children are supported in a more inclined position. In many instances, a caregiver acquires a new seat or rocker when the child transitions from an infant to a toddler. Continuing developments and improvements are sought in the field of child seats and rockers that accommodate the seating position of both infants and toddlers.

[0004] It is to the provision of a convertible rocker meeting these and other needs that the present invention is primarily directed.

SUMMARY

[0005] In example embodiments, the present invention provides a convertible child seat or support device having a rocker and an adjustable support frame. The convertible rocker generally comprises a frame and attached child support assembly. The convertible rocker is configured to support an infant in a generally supine position and a toddler in an inclined position. In example embodiments, the frame includes an adjustment mechanism to adjust the angle of incline of the backrest of the child support assembly between an infant position and a toddler position. In other embodiments, the child support assembly is configured to support a child in both an infant and toddler position based on the child's orientation in the child support assembly.

[0006] In one aspect, the present invention relates to a convertible seat and rocking apparatus comprising a frame and a child support assembly. The frame comprises at least one rocking element and the frame is configured to rest on a support surface. The child support assembly has a head end, a foot end, and a back rest portion. The child support assembly is coupled to the frame and the back rest portion is supported at an angle relative to the support surface. The frame comprises at least one adjustable feature configured to adjust the support angle of the back rest portion between an infant support position and a toddler support position.

[0007] In another aspect, the invention relates to a convertible seat and rocking apparatus comprising at least one frame member, a child support assembly, and a kickstand. The at least one U-shaped frame member comprises at least one rocking element configured to rest on a support surface. The child support assembly has a head end, a foot end, and a back rest portion. The child support assembly is coupled to the frame and the back rest portion is supported at an angle relative to the support surface. The kickstand is repositionally coupled the frame for repositioning between an extended position preventing rocking motion of the apparatus and a retracted position allowing rocking motion. The back rest portion is repositionable between a supine infant support position and an inclined toddler support position.

[0008] In still another aspect, the invention relates to a seat and rocker apparatus comprising a frame and a child support assembly. The frame comprises at least one rocking element configured to rest on a support surface. The child support assembly has a front end, a rear end, and a two sides, wherein the child support assembly has a lengthwise axis extending between the front end and the rear end and has a widthwise axis extending between the sides. The child support assembly is coupled to the frame. A child positioned in the child support assembly along the widthwise axis is supported in an infant, supine position and a child positioned in the child support assembly along the lengthwise axis is supported in a toddler, inclined position.

[0009] These and other aspects, features and advantages of the invention will be understood with reference to the drawing figures and detailed description herein, and will be realized by means of the various elements and combinations particularly pointed out in the appended claims. It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following brief description of the drawings and detailed description of example embodiments are explanatory of example embodiments of the invention, and are not restrictive of the invention, as claimed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010] FIG. **1** is a perspective view of a convertible rocker in a first seating position according to an example embodiment of the present invention.

[0011] FIG. **2** is a side view of the convertible rocker of FIG. **1**.

[0012] FIG. **3** is a perspective view of the convertible rocker of FIG. **1** in a second seating position.

[0013] FIG. **4** is a side view of the convertible rocker of FIG. **3**.

[0014] FIG. **5**A is an exploded view of the frame of the convertible rocker of FIG. **1**.

[0015] FIG. **5**B is a perspective view of the rear hub, rocker portion and back child support portion of the frame of FIG. **5**A.

[0016] FIG. **5**C is a perspective view of the rear hub, rocker portion, and child support portion of the frame of FIG. **5**A.

[0017] FIG. **5**D is a perspective view of the frame of the convertible rocker of FIG. **1**.

[0018] FIG. **6** is a detailed view of the armrest of the convertible rocker of FIG. **1**.

[0019] FIG. **7** is a detailed view of the armrest of the convertible rocker of FIG. **1**.

[0020] FIG. **8** is an inside side view of the armrest of the convertible rocker of FIG. **1**.

[0021] FIG. **9** is a detailed view of the armrest of the convertible rocker of FIG. **1**.

[0022] FIG. **10** is a perspective view of the convertible rocker of FIG. **1** with the footrest deployed.

[0023] FIG. **11** is a detailed view of the footrest of FIG. **10**.

[0024] FIG. **12** is a side view of the convertible rocker of FIG. **10**.

[0025] FIG. **13** is a front view of the convertible rocker of FIG. **1**.

[0026] FIG. **14** is a perspective view of a foot rest for a convertible rocker according to an example embodiment of the present invention.

[0027] FIG. **15** is a perspective view of a convertible rocker according to an example embodiment of the present invention.

[0028] FIG. **16** is a detailed view of the armrest of the convertible rocker of FIG. **15**.

[0029] FIG. **17** is a perspective view of a convertible rocker according to an example embodiment of the present invention.

[0030] FIG. **18** is a side view of the convertible rocker of FIG. **17**.

[0031] FIG. **19** is a side view of the convertible rocker of FIG. **17**, with the child support assembly in an inclined position.

[0032] FIG. **20** is a side view of the convertible rocker of FIG. **17**, with the kickstand in a deployed position.

[0033] FIG. **21** is a perspective view of a convertible rocker according to an example embodiment of the present invention.

[0034] FIG. **22** is a perspective view of the convertible rocker of FIG. **21**, with the kickstand in a deployed position.

[0035] FIG. **23** is a perspective view of the convertible rocker of FIG. **22**, with the child support assembly in an inclined position.

[0036] FIG. **24** is a perspective view of a convertible rocker according to an example embodiment of the present invention.

[0037] FIG. **25** is a perspective view of the back of the convertible rocker of FIG. **24**.

[0038] FIG. **26** is a perspective view of the convertible rocker of FIG. **24** with an infant in the child support assembly.

[0039] FIG. **27** is a perspective view of the back of the convertible rocker of FIG. **24**, with the child support assembly in an inclined position.

[0040] FIG. **28** is a perspective view of the convertible rocker of FIG. **27**, with a toddler in the child support assembly.

[0041] FIG. **29** is a perspective view of a convertible rocker according to an example embodiment of the present invention, with the child support assembly in a first position.

[0042] FIG. **30** is a perspective view of the convertible rocker of FIG. **29**, with the child support assembly in a second position.

[0043] FIG. **31** is a perspective view of a convertible rocker according to an example embodiment of the present invention.

[0044] FIG. **32** is a perspective view of the convertible rocker of FIG. **31**, with the kickstand in the deployed position.

[0045] FIG. **33** is a perspective view of a convertible rocker according to an example embodiment of the present invention.

[0046] FIG. **34** is a side view of the convertible rocker of FIG. **33**, in a folded position.

[0047] FIG. **35** is a perspective view of a convertible rocker according to an example embodiment of the present invention.

[0048] FIG. **36** is a side view of the convertible rocker of FIG. **35**, in a folded position.

[0049] FIG. **37** is a perspective view of a convertible rocker according to an example embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXAMPLE EMBODIMENTS

[0050] The present invention may be understood more readily by reference to the following detailed description of example embodiments taken in connection with the accompanying drawing figures, which form a part of this disclosure. It is to be understood that this invention is not limited to the specific devices, methods, conditions or parameters described and/or shown herein, and that the terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments by way of example only and is not intended to be limiting of the claimed invention. Any and all patents and other publications identified in this specification are incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

[0051] Also, as used in the specification including the appended claims, the singular forms "a," "an," and "the" include the plural, and reference to a particular numerical value includes at least that particular value, unless the context clearly dictates otherwise. Ranges may be expressed herein as from "about" or "approximately" one particular value and/or to "about" or "approximately" another particular value. When such a range is expressed, another embodiment includes from the one particular value and/or to the other particular value. Similarly, when values are expressed as approximations, by use of the antecedent "about," it will be understood that the particular value forms another embodiment.

[0052] With reference now to the drawing figures, wherein like reference numbers represent corresponding parts throughout the several views, FIGS. **1-13** show a convertible rocker apparatus **10** according to an example embodiment of the invention. In example embodiments, the convertible rocker **10** generally comprises a frame **20** and attached child support assembly **80**. In the depicted embodiment, the frame **20** can be constructed of one or more members of metal, wood, plastic and/or other structural material, for example comprising multiple elements attached together to form a substantially rigid assembly or as an integral unitary construction. In the depicted embodiment, the child support assembly **80** is formed from soft goods attached to the frame **20**. The frame **20** is configured to rest on a support surface, such as the floor, and support the child support assembly **80** above the support surface. The rocker **10** generally has a front end **12** or foot end and a rear end **14** or head end.

[0053] In the depicted example embodiment, the frame **20** comprises first and second side members **22**, **24** attached at a rear hub **26**. In example embodiments, the side members **22**, **24** have a generally triangular shape when the rocker **10** is viewed from the side as in FIGS. **2** and **4**. In other embodiments, the side members can have a different shape such as oval, rectangular, or polygonal. Each side member **22**, **24** includes an elongate, convexly curved, arcuate rocker portion **28** extending generally parallel to a lengthwise axis of the frame **20**. The rocker portion **28** is configured to rest on the support surface. As shown in FIGS. **1** and **2**, the rocker portion **28** has an arcuate curve relative the lengthwise axis of the frame **20**. The arcuate configuration of the rocker portions **28** allows the device to be rocked back-and-forth on the floor or other support surface. The rocker portion **28** also has an arcuate, convex curve relative to a

widthwise axis of the frame **20**. In other words, the rocker portion **28** bows outwards from the centerline of the frame **20**. Differently put, the rocker portion **28** has a first convex curvature in a first dimension and a second convex curvature in a second dimension, wherein the second dimension is offset from the first dimension.

[0054] Each side member **22**, **24** also includes a child support portion **30** extending between a front end of each rocker portion **28** and the rear hub **26**. The child support portion **30** is also convexly curved. However, whereas the rocker portions **28** are curved at a relatively uniform angle, whereas the peak of the curve is generally centered along the rocker portion, the curve of the child support portions **30** is off-center or skewed. In the depicted embodiment, the peak **32** of the curve of the child support portion **30** is skewed toward the front or foot end **12** of the rocker **10**. In other words, the angle of the front end **12** of the child support portion **30** relative to the support surface S is larger than the rear end **14** of the child support portion relative to the support surface. Differently put, the length of the child support portion **30** o the frame between the front end and the peak **32** is shorter that the length between the peak and the rear hub **26**. The skewed curve of the child support portions **30** creates the triangular or tear-shape to the side members **22**, **24** as shown in FIGS. **2** and **4**. The shape of the side members **22**, **24** can also be described as wing-shaped, blade-shaped, sail-shaped, or shaped like an airfoil. In alternate embodiments, the peak **32** of the child support portion **30** of the side members **22**, **24** can be centered along the child support portion or skewed towards the rear end **14** of the rocker. In example embodiments, the length of the side members **22**, **24** is greater than the height of the side members. In other embodiments, the length of the side members **22**, **24** is generally equal to the height of the side members or the height of the side members is greater than the length of the side members. The child support portions **30** of the frame **20** can also include armrest **34**. In the depicted embodiment, the armrest **34** is attached to the child support portions **30** between the rear hub **26** of the child support portion and the peak

[0055] The frame **20** also includes a back rest member **40** pivotally attached to the first and second side members **22**, **24**. In the depicted embodiment, the back rest member **40** is U-shaped with each end attached to the child support portion **30** of the first and second side members. The back rest member **40** provides support for the head end **14** of the child support assembly **80**. Generally, the angle of the back rest member **40** relative to the child support portions **30** is adjustable in order to adjust the angle of the back rest **82** of the child support assembly **80**. In the depicted embodiment, the ends of back rest member **40** are attached to pivot hubs **36** integrally formed in the armrests **34**. The pivot hubs **36** include a releasable locking mechanism, such as a push button locking mechanism, configured to hold the back rest portion **40** in at least two support angles. The first back rest portion **40** support angle, shown in FIGS. **1** and **2**, provides a supine child support surface **84** suitable to an infant. The second back rest portion **40** support angle, shown in FIGS. **3** and **4**, provides a more inclined, or seated child support surface **84** suitable to a toddler. In example embodiments, the angle of the back rest portion **40** can be adjusted at least 30°. The back rest portion **40** can also be adjusted to an intermediate position between the first back rest portion support angle and the second back rest portion support angle.

[0056] The frame **20** can also include stop surfaces configured to prevent the rocker **10** from rocking past a prescribed angle. The depicted embodiment includes a stop surface **50** on each of the first and second side members. The stop surfaces **50** are positioned at the front end of the child support portions **30**. Example embodiments also include a stop surface **52** positioned on the rear hub **26**. The frame can also include a bridge **60** formed from a plate attached between the front ends **12** of the child support portions **30** of the first and second side members **22**, **24**. The bridge **60** provides rigidity to the frame **20**. The bridge **60** can also house one or more electronic features and controls. For example a vibration unit **62** can be mounted on the bridge **60**. Various other features may optionally be provided, for example an audio unit, automatic rocker, heater, lights, a control unit, wired or wireless connections to a remote control device, cell phone, computer or other electronic device and/or other electronic features. The frame can also include a kickstand **70** discussed further below.

[0057] The rocker frame **20** can be disassembled for packaging and storage, as shown in FIGS. **5**A-D. The disassembled rocker frame **20** can include the rear hub **26**, the rocker portions **28** of the first and second side frames **22**, **24**, the back rest portion **40**, the bridge **60**, and the electronics unit **62**. In the depicted embodiment, the child support portions **30** of the first and second side frames **22**, **24** are each disassembled into two pieces, a rear child support portion **44** including the armrest and the front child support portion **46**. To assemble the rocker frame **20**, the rocker portions **28** and rear child support portions **44** are fitted into the rear hub **26** as shown in FIG. **5**B. Next, the front child support portions **46** are fitted to the ends of the rocker portions **28** and rear child support portions **44**. Next the bridge **60** is attached between the front child support portions **46** and the back rest portion **40** is fitted into the pivot hubs **36** in the armrests **34**.

[0058] In the depicted embodiment, the armrest **34**, shown in detail in FIGS. **6-9**, are configured to nest over the tubing frame of the child support portion **30** of the side members **22**, **24**. The armrest **34** generally follows the curve of the child support portion **30** of the side member **22**, **24**. In the depicted embodiment, a portion of the armrest **34** extends beyond the curve of the child support portion **30**. The armrest **34** can also be configured to extend beyond the outer edge of the frame **20** to provide a wider armrest surface. The inner side of the arm rest **34**, shown in FIG. **8**, includes an extended wall **38**. The extended wall **38** is designed to prevent gaps between the frame **20** and the child support assembly **80**. The underside of the armrest **34** can include a plurality of ribs **39**. The ribs **39** are designed to create volume and structure for the armrest **34**. In example embodiments, the ribs **39** are positioned around 5 mm apart from one another.

[0059] The frame **20** optionally further comprises a kickstand or brace component **70**, shown in detail in FIGS. **10-12**. In the depicted embodiment, the kickstand **70** is hingedly coupled to the front end **12** of the frame **20**, and is pivotally repositionable between a folded or retracted position (FIG. **1**) for allowing the rocking of the device **10** on an underlying support surface, and an open or extended position (FIGS. **10-12**) for preventing rocking of the device and

maintaining the frame **20** in a stable fixed position relative to the support surface. In alternate embodiments, the kickstand **70** can be coupled at or adjacent the rear end **14** or elsewhere on the frame. In the depicted embodiment, the kickstand **70** is a U-shaped component having a central cross-member portion connected by a hinge joint **72** to the front end **12** of the frame **20**. In other embodiments, the central cross-member portion of the kickstand **170** includes a handle **174** projecting therefrom for allowing a user to grip and pull or push the kickstand into position as desired, as shown in FIG. **14**.

[0060] FIGS. **15** and **16** show a convertible rocking apparatus **200** according to another example embodiment of the invention. The rocking apparatus **200** includes a frame **220** substantially similar to the frame **20** of the previous embodiment **10**. However, in the depicted embodiment, the armrests **234** are formed as part of the child support portion **230** of the frame **220** such that the armrest and the child support portion of the frame are a single component.

[0061] FIGS. **17-20** show a convertible rocking apparatus **300** according to another example embodiment of the invention. The rocker **300** includes a frame **320**, a child support assembly **380**, and a kickstand **370**. In the depicted embodiment, the frame **320** comprises first and second side members **322**, **324** that are generally U-shaped. Each side member **322**, **324** includes an elongate, convexly curved, arcuate rocker portion **328** and a child support portion **330**. The L-shaped child support portion **330** extends upward from the front end of the rocker portion **328**. The child support assembly **380** is pivotally attached to the child support portion **330** of the frame **320** such that it can be pivoted between an inclined toddler position (FIG. **18**) and a supine infant position (FIG. **19**). In the depicted embodiment, the kickstand **370** is formed from two L-shaped members pivotally attached to the rear end of the rocker portion **328** of the frame such that the proximal section **372** of each kickstand extends outwards from the end of the rocker portion and the bent distal section **374** extends in a direction generally perpendicular to the proximal section. The end of the proximal section **372** of each kickstand **370** is coaxially aligned with, and continuously curving from, the end of the rocker portion **328**. The kickstand **370** is configured to pivot or twist about an axis coaxially aligned with the end of the rocker portion **328**. The kickstand **370** is pivotally repositionable between a retracted position (FIG. **18**), where the distal ends of the L-shaped kickstand are pointing upward, to a deployed position (FIG. **20**), where the distal ends of the L-shaped kickstand are pointing downward and engage with the support surface to prevent rocking of the device **300**.

[0062] FIGS. **21-23** show a convertible rocking apparatus **400** according to another example embodiment of the invention. The rocker **400** includes a frame **420** substantially similar to the frame **320** of the previous embodiment **300**. However, in the depicted embodiment, the kickstand **470** is formed from a single U-shaped component with L-shaped end members. Each end member is attached to end of rocking portion **428** of the frame **420** opposite the child supporting portion **430**. To change the kickstand **470** from the retracted to the deployed position, the kickstand **470** is detached from the frame **420** and reattached with the L-shaped end members facing downward. In the depicted embodiment, the angle of incline of the child support assembly **480** is adjusted by adjusting the length of the free ends of the kickstand **470'** as shown in FIG. **23**.

[0063] FIGS. **24-28** show a convertible rocking apparatus **500** according to another example embodiment of the invention. The rocker **500** includes a frame **520** and a child support assembly **580**. The frame **520** includes two elongate, convexly curved, arcuate rocker portions **528** and a child support portion **530**. The child support portion **530** is coupled between the rocker portions **528**. The child support portion **528** is configured to support the child support assembly above a support surface. In the depicted embodiment the child support portion **530** includes four legs, two legs **532** supporting the front of the child support assembly **580** and two legs **534** supporting the back of the child support assembly. The child support assembly **580** is formed from an asymmetrically convex bowl with an angled peripheral wall **582**. The wall has a first side **584**, a second side **585**, a front **586**, and a back **588**. The bowl **580** has a lengthwise axis extending between the front **586** and back **588** of the bowl and a widthwise axis extending between the first side **584** and second side **585** of the bowl. In the depicted embodiment, the sides of the wall **584**, **585** are of generally equal height. The front **586** of the wall **582** is generally shorter than the sides **584**. The back **588** of the wall **582** is generally taller than the sides **584**. In the depicted embodiment, the angle of the first side **584** of the peripheral wall **582** and the second side **585** of the peripheral wall are generally equal. The angle of the back **588** of the peripheral wall **582** is generally larger than the angle of the front **586** of the peripheral wall. The radius of curvature along the lengthwise axis of the bowl **580** is generally shorter than the radius of curvature along the widthwise axis. The bowl **580** is configured such that an infant positioned in the bowl along the widthwise axis, with its head positioned adjacent one side of the bowl and its feet positioned adjacent the other side will be supported in a generally supine position, as shown in FIG. **26**. A toddler that sits in the bowl **580** facing the front **586**, along the lengthwise axis will be positioned in an inclined seated position, as shown in FIG. **28**. The rocking portion **528** of the frame is positioned such that a child placed in the rocker in the infant position (FIG. **26**) will be rocked in a front-to-back motion and a child placed in the rocker in the toddler position (FIG. **28**) will be rocked in a side-to-side motion. In the depicted embodiment, the back legs **534** of the child support portion **530** of the frame are extendable, as shown in FIG. **27**, in order to increase the angle of incline of the back **586** of the wall **582** of the bowl **580** relative to the support surface.

[0064] FIGS. **29-30** show a convertible rocking apparatus **600** according to another example embodiment of the invention. The rocking apparatus **600** includes a child support assembly **680** and frame **620** substantially similar to that of the previous embodiment **500**. In the depicted embodiment, the rocking portion **628** of the frame **620** includes a crossbar coupled **624** between the two curved rockers **626**. The child support portion **630** of the frame is pivotally attached to the crossbar **624** such that the child support assembly **680** can be pivoted between at least a front-facing position, shown in FIG. **29**, and a side-facing position, shown in FIG. **30**. In other embodiments, the child support assembly **680** can be pivoted to a series of other positions. In this embodiment, a child can be rocked in both a side-to-side motion and a front-to-back motion in either the infant or toddler positions.

[0065] FIGS. **31** and **32** show a convertible rocking apparatus **700** according to another example embodiment of the invention. The rocking apparatus **700** includes a child sup-

port assembly **780** and frame **720** substantially similar to that of the previous embodiment **600**. In the depicted embodiment, the rocking portion **728** of the frame **720** is formed from an oval-shaped rocker. Each length of the rocking portion **728** forms a convex, acuate rocker **726**. The rockers **726** are connected by curved end portions **722**. The depicted embodiment also includes a kickstand **770** pivotally coupled to the frame **720**. The kickstand **770** is formed from an acuate member configured to nest under the crossbar **724** of the frame **720** in the retracted position, as shown in FIG. **31**. To move the kick stand to the deployed position, the kickstand **770** is rotated relative to the crossbar **724** until it is positioned generally perpendicular to the crossbar. The kickstand **770** is configured to engage the support surface in the deployed position and prevent the side-to-side rocking motion of the rocking apparatus **700**.

[0066] FIGS. **33** and **34** show a convertible rocking apparatus **800** according to another example embodiment of the invention. The rocking apparatus **800** includes a frame **820** and a child support assembly **880**. The frame **820** includes a rocking portion **828** and a child support portion **830**. In the depicted embodiment, the rocking portion **828** is formed from a generally V-shaped member having a crossbar **822** positioned at the head end of the rocker and two acuate rockers **824** extending at an angle from the crossbar. The child support portion **830** of the frame **820** includes a support bar pivotally attached to the crossbar **822** of the rocking portion **828** of the frame. In the depicted embodiment, the child support assembly **880** is formed from soft goods suspended between the distal ends of the rockers **824** and the distal end of the child support portion **830** of the frame. In example embodiments, the length of the child support portion **830** is adjustable to move the child support assembly **880** from an infant supporting position to a toddler supporting position. The child support portion **830** of the frame **820** can also be pivoted between a use position, shown in FIG. **33**, and a folded position shown in FIG. **34**.

[0067] FIGS. **35** and **36** show a convertible rocking apparatus **900** according to another example embodiment of the invention. The rocking apparatus **900** includes a child support assembly **980** and frame **920** substantially similar to that of the previous embodiment **800**. In the depicted embodiment, the rocking portion **928** of the frame is formed from two acuate rockers **924**. The proximal end of each rocker **924** is pivotally attached to the base of the child support portion **930** of the frame. The rockers **924** can be pivoted between the use position, shown in FIG. **35** and a folded position, shown in FIG. **36**. In the folded position, the rockers are pivoted inwards toward the lengthwise axis of the rocker **900**. The frame **920** can include a locking bar **940** configured to releasably hold the rockers **924** in the use position. The locking bar **940** includes a handle **942** that can be pulled to separate the bar **940** into segments and allow the rockers **924** to pivot inward.

[0068] FIG. **37** shows a convertible rocking apparatus **1000** according to another example embodiment of the invention. The rocking apparatus **1000** includes a child support assembly **1080** and frame **1020** substantially similar to that of the previous embodiment **800**. In the depicted embodiment, the rocking portion **1028** of the frame **1020** is oval-shaped having a rear crossbar **1022** and a front crossbar **1026** with the rockers **1024** coupled in between. The child support portion **1030** of the frame is attached to the rear crossbar **1022** as in the previous embodiment. The front of the child support assembly **1080** is attached to a T-shaped member **1032** extending upward from the front crossbar **1026**. The child support assembly **1080** includes sleeves **1082** configured to fit over the T-shaped cross-bar **1032**.

[0069] While the invention has been described with reference to example embodiments, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that a variety of modifications, additions and deletions are within the scope of the invention, as defined by the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A convertible seat and rocking apparatus comprising:

a frame comprising at least one rocking element, wherein the frame is configured to rest on a support surface; and

a child support assembly having a head end, a foot end, and a back rest portion, wherein the child support assembly is coupled to the frame, and wherein the back rest portion is supported at an angle relative to the support surface;

wherein the frame comprises at least one adjustable feature configured to adjust the support angle of the back rest portion between an infant support position and a toddler support position.

2. The convertible seat and rocking apparatus of claim **1**, wherein the at least one rocking element has a first convex curvature in a first dimension and a second convex curvature in a second dimension, wherein the second dimension is offset from the first dimension.

3. The convertible seat and rocking apparatus of claim **1**, wherein the frame comprises first and second triangular-shaped side members, wherein one side of each side member includes a rocking apparatus.

4. The convertible seat and rocking apparatus of claim **3**, wherein each of the first and second triangular-shaped side members comprises an armrest.

5. The convertible seat and rocking apparatus of claim **4**, wherein each armrest includes a sidewall positioned between the side member and the child support assembly.

6. The convertible seat and rocking apparatus of claim **4**, wherein the at least one adjustable feature comprises a U-shaped back rest support bar having two ends, wherein the first end of the back rest support bar is pivotally coupled to the armrest of the first side member and the second end of the back rest support bar is pivotally coupled to the armrest of the second side member.

7. The convertible seat and rocking apparatus of claim **1**, further comprising a kickstand pivotally coupled for repositioning between an extended position preventing rocking motion of the apparatus and a retracted position allowing rocking motion.

8. The convertible seat and rocking apparatus of claim **3**, wherein the frame further comprises a bridge coupled between the first and second side members.

9. The convertible seat and rocking apparatus of claim **3**, wherein a first side of the triangular shaped side members comprises a rocker portion configured to rest on a support surface.

10. The convertible seat and rocking apparatus of claim **9**, wherein a second and a third side of the triangular shaped side members comprises a child support portion configured to support the child support assembly above the support surface.

11. The convertible seat and rocking apparatus of claim **10**, wherein the second side and third side of the triangular shaped side members are not equal length.

12. A convertible seat and rocker apparatus comprising:

At least one U-shaped frame member comprising at least one rocking element configured to rest on a support surface;

a child support assembly having a head end, a foot end, and a back rest portion, wherein the child support assembly is coupled to the frame, and wherein the back rest portion is supported at an angle relative to the support surface; and

a kickstand repositionally coupled the frame for repositioning between an extended position preventing rocking motion of the apparatus and a retracted position allowing rocking motion;

wherein the back rest portion is repositionable between a supine infant support position and an inclined toddler support position.

13. The convertible seat and rocking apparatus of claim **12**, wherein the kickstand comprises an L-shaped member.

14. The convertible seat and rocking apparatus of claim **13**, wherein a proximal end of the L-shaped member is pivotally coupled to an end of the at least one U-shaped frame member, wherein the L-shaped member has a free, distal end.

15. The convertible seat and rocking apparatus of claim **14**, wherein in the retracted position, the free end of the L-shaped member is pointed away from the support surface and in the extended position, the free end of the L-shaped member is pointed toward and engages with the support surface.

16. The convertible seat and rocking apparatus of claim **14**, wherein the length of the free end of the L-shaped member is adjustable, wherein adjusting the length of the free end of the L-shaped member in the extended position adjust the angle of support for back rest portion of the child support assembly.

17. A seat and rocker apparatus comprising:

a frame comprising at least one rocking element configured to rest on a support surface; and

a child support assembly having a front end, a rear end, and a first and second side, wherein the child support assembly has a lengthwise axis extending between the front end and the rear end and has a widthwise axis extending between the first side and the second side, wherein the child support assembly is coupled to the frame;

wherein a child positioned in the child support assembly along the widthwise axis is supported in an infant, supine position; and

wherein a child positioned in the child support assembly along the lengthwise axis is supported in a toddler, inclined position.

18. The seat and rocker apparatus of claim **17**, wherein the child support assembly is formed from a bowl having a peripheral sidewall wherein the peripheral sidewall has a height at the front end, the rear end, and the first and second sides of the child support assembly.

19. The seat and rocker apparatus of claim **18**, wherein the height of the peripheral sidewall at the front end of the child support assembly is lower than the height of the peripheral sidewall at the first and second sides of the child support assembly.

20. The seat and rocker apparatus of claim **18**, wherein the height of the peripheral sidewall at the rear end of the child support assembly is higher than the height of the peripheral sidewall at the first and second sides of the child support assembly.

21. The seat and rocker apparatus of claim **17**, wherein the child support assembly is pivotally coupled to the frame such that the orientation of the child support assembly relative to the rocking element can be adjusted.

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