

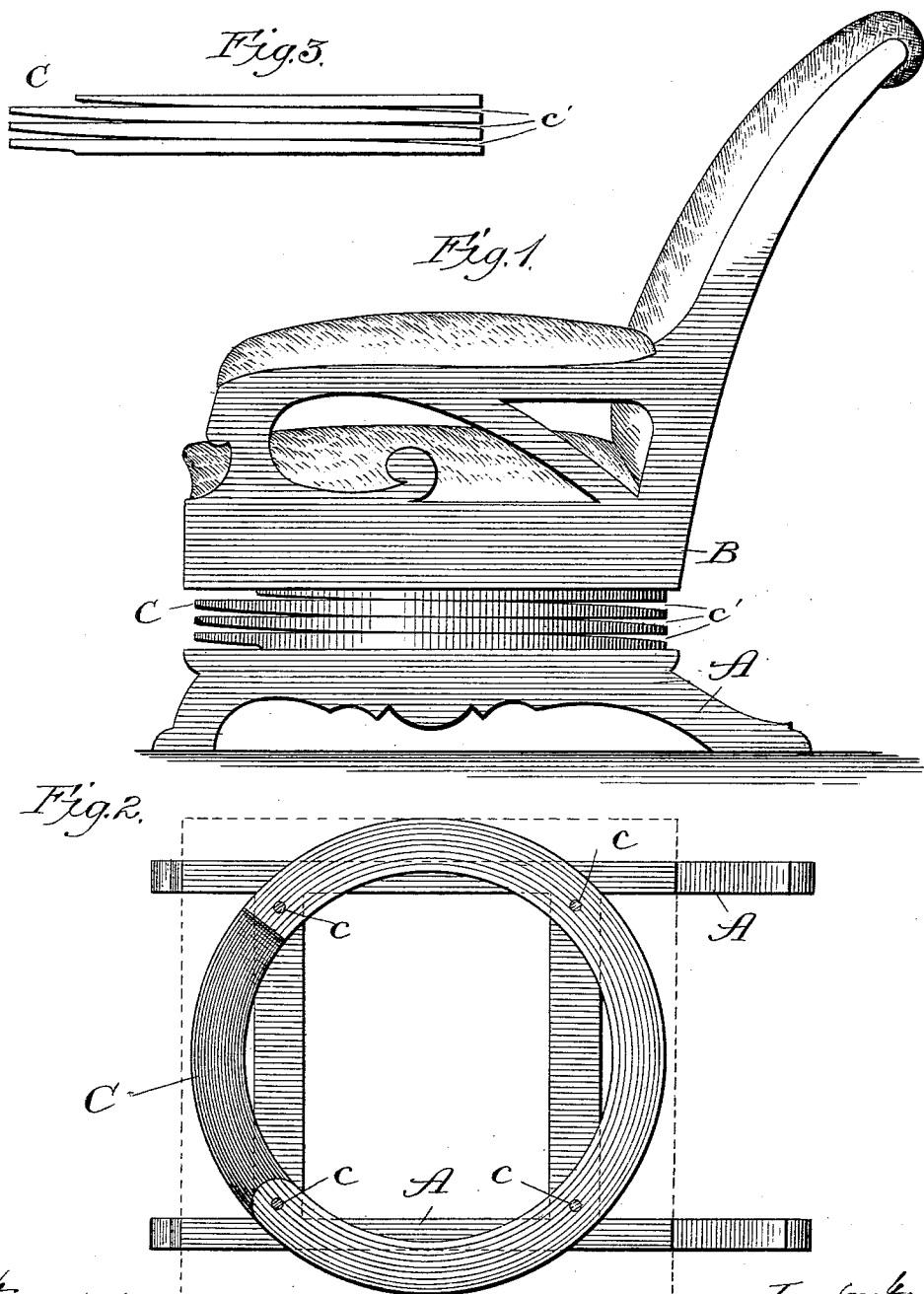
(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

W. I. BUNKER.
PLATFORM ROCKING CHAIR.

No. 569,446.

Patented Oct. 13, 1896.



Witnesses:
Chas. E. Gaylord
Lute D. Alter

Inventor:
William I. Bunker,
By Banning & Banning
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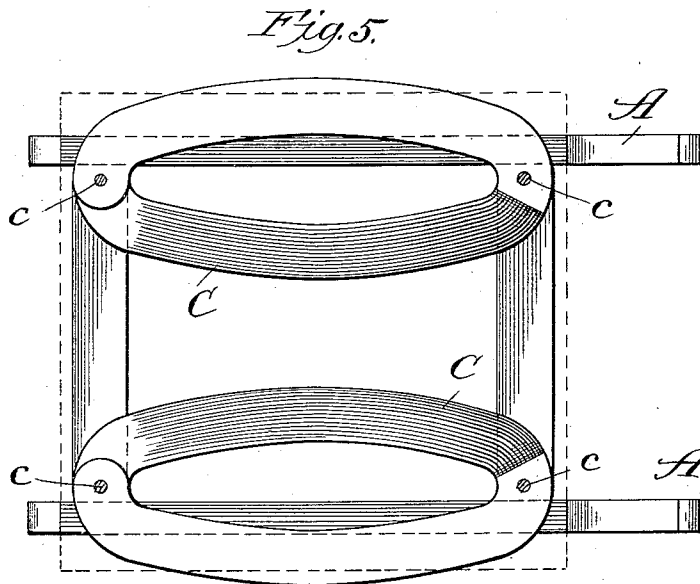
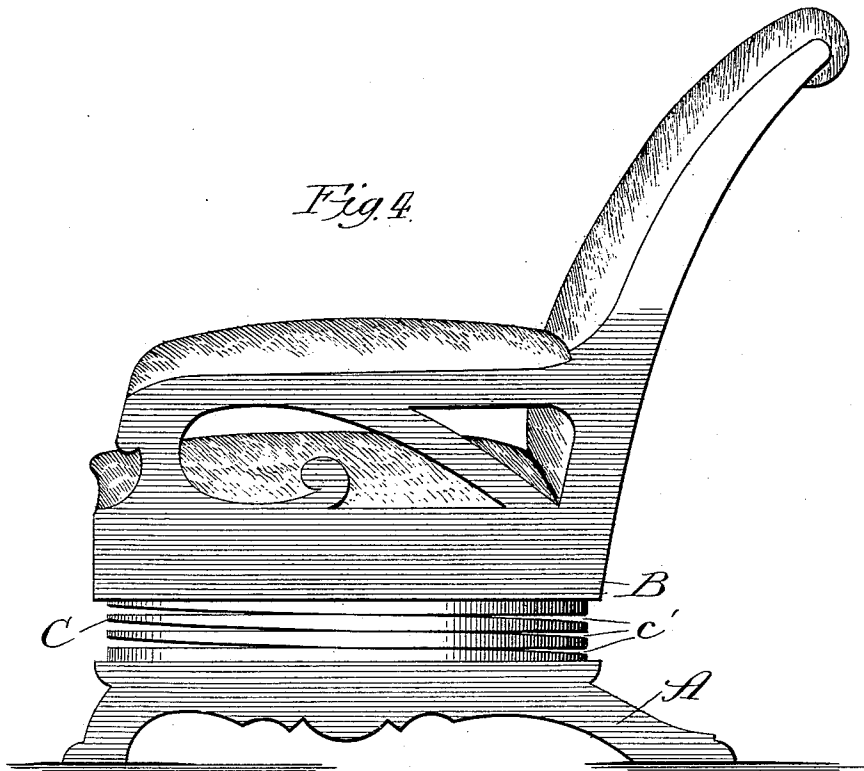
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2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

W. I. BUNKER.
PLATFORM ROCKING CHAIR.

No. 569,446.

Patented Oct. 13, 1896.



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Inventor:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM I. BUNKER, OF LA GRANGE, ILLINOIS.

PLATFORM ROCKING-CHAIR.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 569,446, dated October 13, 1896.

Application filed December 12, 1893. Serial No. 493,481. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM I. BUNKER, a citizen of the United States, residing at La Grange, Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Platform Rocking-Chairs, of which the following is a specification.

My invention, while it has relation to platform rocking-chairs, has more specifically to do with the means by which the rocking is effected; and the invention consists, in general terms, in the construction and arrangement of parts, as hereinafter described and claimed.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation of a platform rocking-chair containing my invention; Fig. 2, a plan view of the same with the seat portion of the chair removed; Fig. 3, an elevation of the rocking coil or spring; Fig. 4, a side elevation of a rocking-chair provided with a modified form of coil or spring; Fig. 5, a plan view of the same with the seat portion removed.

In making my improved platform rocking-chair I preferably make a base A and a seat portion B in the usual way, except that neither the base nor the seat portion is provided with a rocking-surface. On the contrary, the upper surface of the base-rails and the lower surface of the chair-frame may be plain horizontal surfaces which would prevent the one from rocking on the other unless other means were provided for securing rocking-surfaces. I interpose between the base and the chair-frame, where both are used, a rocking coil or spring C, which holds them apart so that their surfaces do not contact with each other. The rocking coil or spring may be made in different ways, and I have illustrated two forms in which it may be constructed in the drawings. In the first three figures I have represented the helical coil or spring as of a diameter practically equal to the diameter of the chair, as will be understood from an inspection of Fig. 2. The helical coil or spring is preferably made up of a continuous strip of material, the lower and upper ends of which are fastened to the chair-base and chair-frame in any suitable manner. Fig. 2 shows holes *c*, through which the fastening may be effected by screws or other convenient means. The strip compos-

ing the rocking coil or spring is thin or beveled at its front and rear sides, so as to leave spaces, as at *c'*, between the coils. This thinning or beveling of the coils forms the rocking-surfaces, which enable the seat portion of the chair to rock or oscillate back and forth when the chair is in use.

The material composing the rocking coil or spring may be made of bent wood or of steel or other suitable material, but I do not desire to limit myself in this respect. As the chair oscillates on the rocking coil or spring the coils composing it will open in front as the chair oscillates backward and in the rear as the chair moves forward. Of course as the coils open in front they will close in the rear, and vice versa, thus operating as stops to limit the extent of the backward or forward movement, which can be regulated by the extent to which the coils are thinned at the front and rear, thus making large or small spaces between them.

In the drawings I have shown the bottom surface of the bottom coil of the rocking coil or spring as flat, so as to adapt it to rest on a plain or flat surface. This will permit the platform to be dispensed with and the rocking coil or spring itself to rest upon the floor. In such case it can, of course, be provided with casters to facilitate the movement of the chair from place to place. In like manner where the chair-frame is made circular, as is frequently the case, it can correspond to the size of the upper coil of the rocking-coil, so that the rocking-coil and the chair-frame will thus virtually merge the one into the other.

In Figs. 4 and 5 I have shown two rocking-coils, one at each side of the chair. In this arrangement the coils are elliptical instead of circular in form. In other respects, however, they are in construction and operation substantially the same as in the first three figures of the drawings, and what I have said in describing them is also applicable to the modified form shown in Figs. 4 and 5. In both arrangements I have a portion adapted to receive a rocking motion and a portion that is adapted to serve as a combined stationary and rocking support therefor.

While I have shown and described the parts forming my improved platform rocking-chair with some minuteness of detail, I do not mean

to limit myself to such details further than I
may call for or specify the same in the claim.
I regard the rocking coil or spring as embody-
ing the essential, or at least the most impor-
5 tant, feature of my present invention, whether
used by itself or in connection with a platform
or base, and I desire in my claim to broadly
cover such rocking coil or spring. I may also
say that I do not mean to confine myself in
10 the use of the rocking coil or spring to chairs
technically, but expect to use it in connection
with cribs, cradles, and similar articles. For
convenience, however, I have used the term
"chair" in the specification and claim to des-
15 ignate all of the various articles to which my
rocking coil or spring may be applied.

My improvements are intended as being
applicable to rocking-chairs only as contra-
distinguished from tilting chairs in that in

mine the rocking-surfaces form a continuous 20
changing fulcrum, while tilting chairs are un-
derstood as having one or more points which
act as positive fulcrum-points and do not give
the easy gradual rocking motion of the rock-
ing-chair with its constantly and continuously 25
changing fulcrum.

What I regard as new, and desire to secure
by Letters Patent, is—

In rocking-chairs, the combination of a por-
tion adapted to be rocked, a rocking coil or 30
spring the coils of which are thinned or bevel-
eled on that side of the center of oscillation
in which the rocking is to take place, and a
base, substantially as described.

WILLIAM I. BUNKER.

Witnesses:

THOMAS F. SHERIDAN,
SAMUEL E. HIBBEN.