REVERSIBLE BACK FOR UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE

Inventor:
Irving Hoffman

By A. DeWitt Goodwin
Attorney
My invention relates to improvements in furniture and particularly relates to upholstered chairs and sofas, having what is known as over-stuffed upholstery, and provided with separate or removable cushions.

The object of my invention is to provide chairs and sofas with reversible backs, whereby the backs may be upholstered in different colors, or materials, on opposite faces thereof and to provide means for detachably securing the backs in the frames of the furniture so that either face of the back may be displayed adjacent to the cushions, which are also finished in different colors, or materials on the top and bottom surfaces thereof, and a further object of my invention is to provide novel means for securing the backs upon the frame of the furniture and for readily releasing and operating the backs.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, Fig. 1, is a perspective view of a sofa, having a portion of the seat and cushions broken away, and showing my improved reversible back, in the released position; Fig. 2, is an enlarged vertical sectional view of the frame and operating mechanism of the sofa as on line 2—2, Fig. 6; Fig. 3, is a rear elevation, partly in section, of a chair, embodying the novel features as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, showing the back locked in the lowered position; Fig. 4, is an enlarged vertical section on line 4—4, Fig. 2, showing the novel back lifting and locking device; Fig. 5, is a horizontal section on line 5—5 Fig. 4; Fig. 6, is a transverse vertical section on line 6—6 Fig. 2, showing upholstering on the front and rear faces of the back; Fig. 7 is a partial sectional view, similar to Fig. 6, showing the back in the lowered, or locked position; Fig. 8, is a perspective view of one end of a back showing the means for locking the back to the posts of the chair or sofa; Fig. 9, is a perspective view of the inner face of a post of the chair or sofa showing the locking means which interlock with the locking means shown in Fig. 8, and Fig. 10, is a vertical section of a modified form of lifting and locking mechanism for the back.

In the accompanying drawings, in which like reference characters refer to like parts, 1 represents a body or frame of a sofa, comprising a seat 2 supported by front posts 3 and 4 and rear posts 5 and 6. Extending between the rear posts 5 and 6 is a vertical panel 8, having a horizontal rib 9 secured thereto. Between the front and rear posts are braces 10 and 12 and the arm supports 13 are fastened to the back of the body 2 in the usual manner. The seat 2 is of the usual form and supports the removable cushions 16 which are upholstered with different colors or designs upon their top and bottom faces.

My novel reversible backs 20 and 20', as shown in Figs. 1, 3 and 6 are provided with upholstering 21 on one face and 22 on the reverse face, and means are provided for readily reversing the back so that either face may be displayed to the front, or adjacent to the cushions. The upholstering 21 and 22 on the opposite faces of the back may correspond in color and design with that upon the different faces of the cushions 16, thus providing means for readily changing the entire appearance of a suit of furniture, which usually consists of a sofa, shown in Fig. 1 and two or more chairs 25, as shown in Fig. 3. The chair 25 differs from the sofa, only in the shape of the back 20', which is smaller in the chair, therefore the parts bear the same reference characters.

The back, 20 or 20', consists of a frame 30 having a lower strip 31, vertical strips 32, and a top panel 33, formed to suit the shape of the back desired. The top panel 33 of the back has end extensions 35 which project over the tops of the rear posts 5 and 6 of the body 2 and said extensions have doweled pins 37 adapted to enter holes 38 formed in the tops of said posts thus permitting the back to be raised into the position shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 6.

Interlocking plates 40 and 41 are secured upon the adjacent surfaces of the vertical end strips 32 of the back and upon the posts 5 and 6, which plates 40 and 41 permit the back to be raised and lowered vertically and also form braces or guides which rigidly hold the back and posts together when the back is lowered, as shown in Fig. 3.

The back 20, or 20', is finished with the different styles of upholstery 21 and 22 which latter extends over and covers the extensions 35 of the frame of the back. The dividing line extending over the top of the back between the edges of the upholstery 21 and 22 may be finished with a strip of gimp 43, as shown in Fig. 6, or the wood frame may be provided with a central ornamentation 44, as shown in Fig. 8, which
may be exposed between the pieces 21 and 22 of the upholstering, as desired. By lifting the back sufficiently to disengage the dowel pins 37 and the fastening devices 40 and 41, it will be seen that the back may be turned endwise to bring either the upholstering or the panel 8 towards the front for changing the appearance of the furniture.

A bearing 50 is secured to the panel 8 and the rib 9 of the body 2. A shaft 51 is secured to a metal brace rib 52 which in turn is secured to the bottom strip 31 of the back. Said shaft 51 is rotatably and slidably mounted in the bearing 50.

The bearing 50 is in the form of a cylinder secured by a plate 54 to the rib 9 and by a strap 55 secured to the inner surface of the panel 8. At the top of the cylinder is a removable cap 57 in which the shaft 51 is guided. Said cap forms a stop for limiting the upward movement of the shaft. By removing the cap 57 the shaft may be removed from the cylinder 50 when desired to remove the back from the body for cleaning purposes.

A yoke 59 is slidably mounted in the cylinder 50 for supporting the shaft 51, which has a collar 60 adapted to rest upon the yoke. Upon said yoke are arms 63 which project outwardly through vertical slots 54 formed in said cylinder. Springs 65 are attached to said arms 63 and to the top plate 54 and tend to lift the shaft and also the back 20. The shaft 51 at its lower end is provided with a head 68 which is engaged by a pawl 69 pivoted upon a shaft 70 secured in the cylinder 50. A spring 71 automatically engages the pawl with the shaft 51 when the latter is forced downwardly against the springs 65. A lever 73 on said pawl forms a means for releasing the pawl by pressing the foot against said lever so that the springs may lift the back into the raised position, shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 6, in which position the back is adapted to be raised or lowered relatively to the body, a spring positioned between said body and back adapted for raising the back whereby said back may be rotated relatively to said posts when in the raised position and means for locking the back in the depressed position.

A chair or sofa comprising a body forming a seat, posts rigidly secured to the body at the rear corners of the seat, a back positioned between said posts, a shaft upon said body positioned parallel with said posts upon which shaft said back is mounted, means permitting said back to be rotatably mounted relatively to said posts, means whereby said back is adapted to be raised or lowered relatively to the body, and fastening devices upon said posts and said back adapted to interlock when said back is depressed.

A chair or sofa comprising a body forming a seat, posts rigidly secured to the body at the rear corners of the seat, a back positioned between said posts, a shaft upon said body positioned parallel with said posts upon which shaft said back is mounted, means permitting said back to be rotatably mounted relatively to said posts, means whereby said back is adapted to be raised or lowered relatively to the body, a spring positioned between said body and said back adapted for raising the back whereby said back may be rotated relatively to said posts when in the raised position and means for locking the back in the depressed position.

A chair or sofa comprising a body forming a seat, posts rigidly secured to the body at the rear corners of the body, said posts projecting above said seat, a back positioned between said posts, a shaft secured to the lower central portion of the back, a bearing secured in the body in which the shaft is rotatably and slidably mounted whereby said back may be rotated relatively to said posts, a spring tending to raise the back, means for holding the back depressed against the action of the spring, and fastening devices upon said posts and upon said back adapted to interlock when the back is depressed against the action of the spring.

A chair or sofa comprising a body forming a seat, posts rigidly secured to the body projecting above the seat, a back adapted to be detachably secured to said posts, a shaft secured to the lower central portion of the back, a cylinder secured in the body portion in which the shaft is rotatably mounted, a spring tending to elevate the shaft in said cylinder, a shoulder formed upon said shaft and a pawl adapted for engaging said shoulder for holding the shaft against said spring.

A chair or sofa comprising a body forming a seat, posts rigidly secured to the body projecting above the seat, a back adapted to be detachably secured to said
posts, a shaft secured to the lower central portion of the back, a cylinder secured in the body portion in which the shaft is rotatably mounted, said cylinder having longitudinal slots formed therein, a yoke slidably mounted within the cylinder upon which the shaft is supported, arms upon said yoke projecting outwardly through said slots of the cylinder, springs adapted for supporting said arms, and means for detachably holding the shaft against the action of said springs.

6. A chair or sofa comprising a body forming a seat, posts rigidly secured to the body at the rear corners of the seat, said posts projecting above the seat, a back adapted to occupy the space between said posts, fastening devices for detachably securing the back to said posts, a shaft secured to the central lower portion of the back, a bearing secured to said body in which the shaft is slidably mounted, a spring tending to lift the shaft for disengaging the back from said fastening devices, a head upon said shaft, a pawl adapted to automatically engage said head for holding the shaft against the action of the spring, a lever adapted for disengaging the pawl from said shaft, and a stop detachably secured upon the bearing adapted for limiting the upward movement of the shaft in said bearing by the action of the spring permitting the shaft to be removed from the bearing when said stop is detached.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

IRVING HOFFMAN.