Dec. 1, 1931. D. E. NELSON 1,834,345

ROCKING CHAIR CASTER

Filed Aug. 28, 1929

Fig. 1.

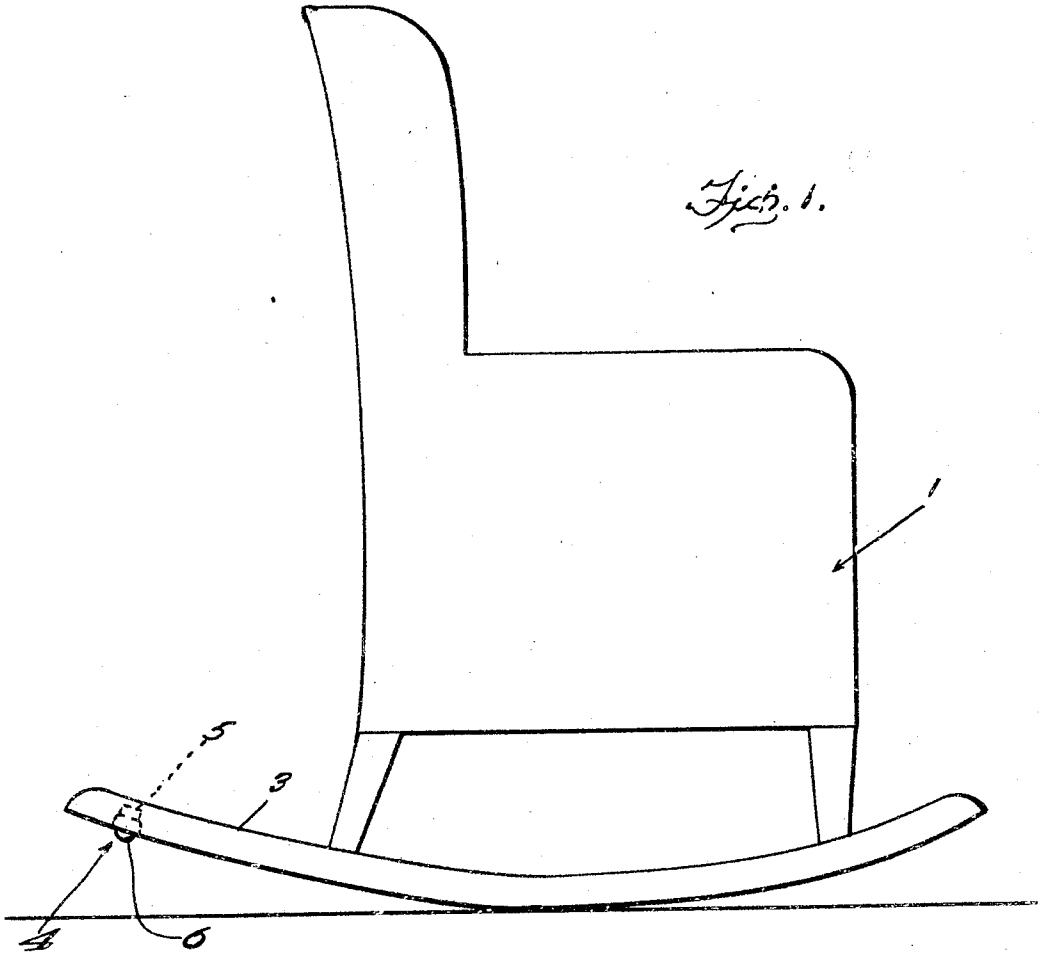


Fig. 2.

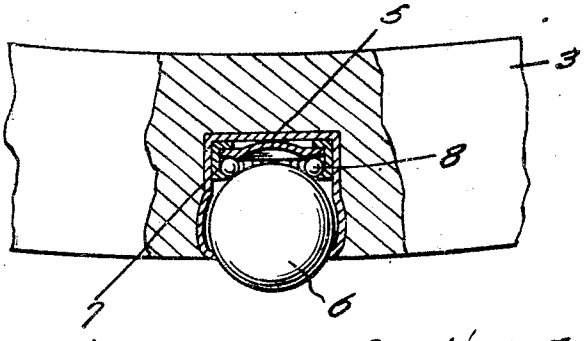


Fig. 4.

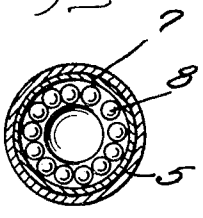
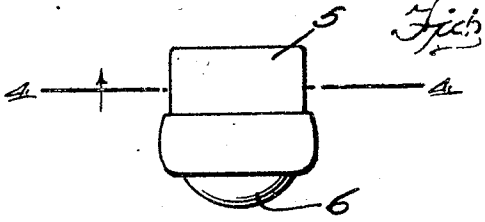


Fig. 3.



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Patented Dec. 1, 1931 1,834,345

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

DONALD E. NELSON, OF IRON MOUNTAIN, MICHIGAN

ROCKING CHAIR CASTER

Application filed August 28, 1929. Serial No. 389,012.

This invention relates to a roller bearing caster for use particularly in connection with rocking chairs.

It is a matter of common knowledge that many rocking chairs are quite heavy and are unhandy to move from place to place unless dragged across the floor. This scars and frequently ruins the floor and is quite objectionable.

The purpose of the invention is to provide simplified roller bearing casters which are secured to the rear end portions of the rockers in a position to be out-of-the-way so as not to interfere with the rocking motion of the chair, but to enable the chair to be rolled from place to place by merely tilting it up on the casters and pushing it bodily.

In carrying the invention into effect, I have evolved and produced what I believe to be an unusually simple and inexpensive caster construction, which is practically invisible, and which not only facilitates the transportation or movement of the chair in the room but acts as a safety measure to prevent one from rocking over backwards because of its peculiar rolling action, which takes place in the event that such accidental turning over of the chair would otherwise be inevitable.

In the drawings:—

Figure 1 is a side view of a rocking chair, equipped with the improved casters.

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary view in section and elevation showing the caster embedded in the rocker.

Figure 3 is a detail view of the improved caster.

Figure 4 is a section on the line 4—4 of Figure 3.

In the drawings, the numeral 1 designates generally the body portion of the ordinary rocking chair, and 2 indicates the usual curvate rockers. In accordance with the invention, the rear end portion 3 of each rocker is provided near its extremity and on its bottom, with a caster generally designated by the reference character 4. This caster is preferably of a type to include a socket 5 which is embedded in the rocker, and which carries a roller ball 6, the ball being so arranged as to project a sufficient distance below the bottom of the rocker to accomplish the desired result.

It is to be noted that the socket construction in reality includes a cup-like portion and a curvate marginal or mouth rim portion. Seated in the cup-like portion is a ballrace 7 provided with a multiplicity of anti-friction balls 8. Consequently the main roller ball 6 cooperates with the smaller balls 8 in providing a free operating caster.

A rocking chair equipped with casters of this type may be readily and easily rolled from place to place without scarring or injuring the surface of the modern polished floors. Moreover, it minimizes labor in this respect and makes it possible for the housewife to shift the rocking chair from place to place without physical effort.

The casters are so located as to permit the chair to be easily balanced and handled in that they are close to the rear ends of the rockers and on the bottom thereof, at the proper place, to secure appropriate leverage by merely tilting the chair up on the rockers and resting the bulk of the weight on the casters.

Moreover as before indicated, if the chair happens to be occupied by a child or one who is inclined to rock in a hap-hazard manner, it will be difficult to turn the chair over by tilting backwards. Instead of the chair turning over, when the rollers are brought down into contact with the floor, the chair will shift or roll along the floor instead of turning backward. Thus the casters are a combined safety and handling means.

The simplicity of the device seems to make a more lengthy description unnecessary. It is thought that persons skilled in the art to which the invention relates will doubtless obtain a clear understanding of the construction and advantages and features by considering the description in conjunction with the drawings.

Minor changes in shape, size, materials, and rearrangement of the details, coming within the field of invention claimed, may be resorted to in actual practice if desired.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new is:—

In a rocking chair including its body, rockers and legs connecting the body with the rockers, each rocker having a recess therein opening out through the under edge thereof and located between the rear leg and the rear end of the rocker and a ball caster located in said recess with the ball slightly projecting from the recess.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

DONALD E. NELSON.