Nov. 21, 1933. W. J. JOHNSON 1,935,718

FURNITURE BUFFER

Filed May 22, 1931

FIG. 1.

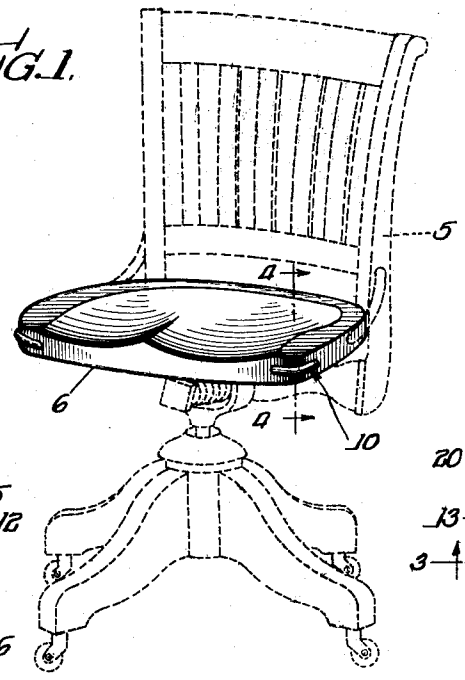


FIG. 2.

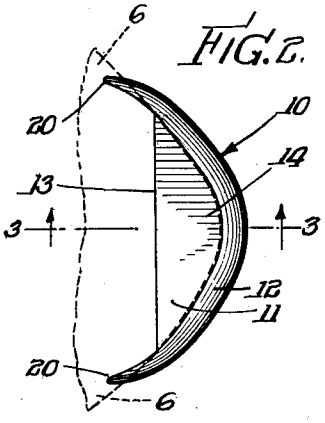


FIG. 3

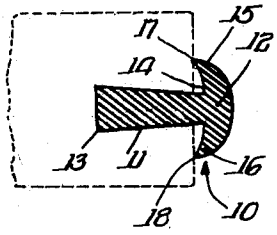


FIG. 4.

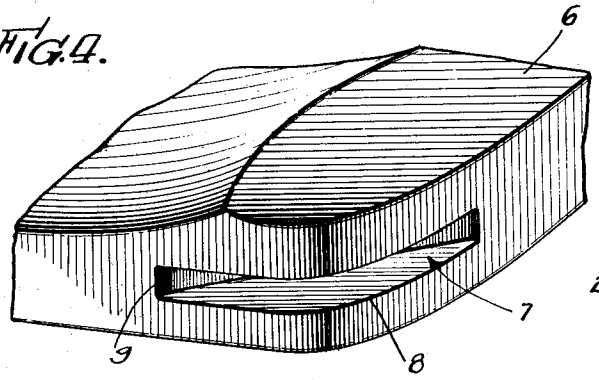


FIG. 5.

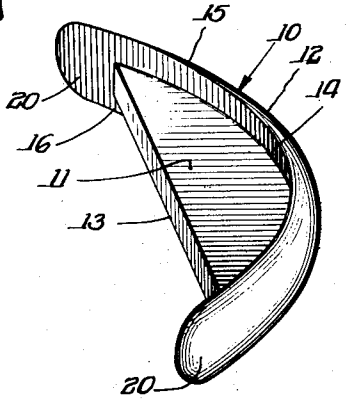
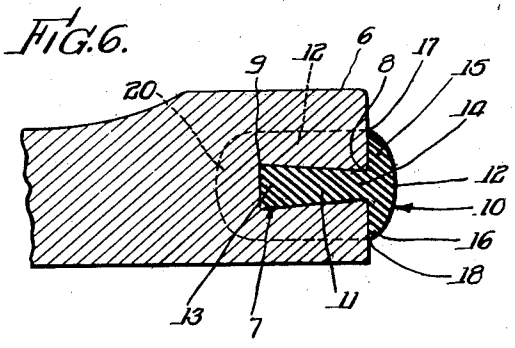


FIG. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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FURNITURE BUFFER

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Application May 22, 1931. Serial No. 539,247

7 Claims. (Cl. 45—137)

This invention relates to furniture buffers, and particularly to a device applied to an article of furniture such as a chair to prevent the chair from maring or scratching a desk or other object against which it may strike.

An object of the invention is to provide a furniture buffer which has a tongue adapted to engage a slot or groove provided in a furniture piece to which the buffer is mounted for securely locking the buffer in place; which has a buffing portion pre-formed with inclined edges adapted to snugly engage the surface to which the buffer is applied; which is made of a resilient shock absorbing material and compressible within certain limits to provide a tight fit with the article to which it is applied; which may be applied and fixed to an article of furniture without the use of screws, nails, or other fastening members; and which can be readily and economically manufactured.

A further object is to provide a corner buffer for articles of furniture and provided with an arcuate flange which is integrally connected to a chord-like tongue, the flange being biased inwardly for hugging the article of furniture.

Still another object is the provision of a furniture buffer which has a tongue frictionally engaging the sides of a slot, and which has a flange adapted to be spread whereby the normal resiliency of the material from which the buffer is made causes the buffer to fit snugly against the article to which it is applied.

Numerous other objects and advantages will be apparent throughout the progress of the following specification.

The accompanying drawing illustrates a selected embodiment of the invention and the views therein are as follows:

Fig. 1 is a detail perspective view of a chair having the improved buffer applied thereto.

Fig. 2 is a detail plan view of the improved buffer indicating its normal shape before being applied.

Fig. 3 is a detail sectional view on line 3—3 in Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a detail perspective view of a chair seat showing a buffer receiving slot provided therein.

Fig. 5 is a detail perspective view of the improved buffer.

Fig. 6 is a detail sectional view on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

In the particular embodiment herein shown, 5 designates a chair having a seat 6 which is provided with a slot or groove 7. The slot or groove 7 is in the corner of the chair seat and extends inwardly and radially from the corner of the chair and is open at the front at the corner. The groove may be of any shape practicable and may be provided with sloping sides to provide a restricted opening 8 which is wider at its bottom 9, although the sides of the slot may be parallel if desired. A buffer 10, provided for absorbing shocks and to prevent the chair from scratching or marring a piece of furniture when the chair may come in contact with the furniture article, may be secured in the slot, and this buffer is preferably formed of soft yieldable material, such as rubber.

The buffer 10 comprises an inner portion or chord-like tongue 11 which is preferably made integral with the outer arcuate flange or buffer portion 12. The tongue 11 acts as a chord for the arcuate flange 12 and may be thicker at its inner edge 13 than it is at its outer end 14 where it connects with the buffer flange 12.

The tapering tongue or web 11 is thus adapted to dovetail with the groove to hold the buffer in place without the use of any screws, nails, or other fastening means. However this tongue may be made in any shape desirable just so it cooperates with a suitable slot so that when assembled therein the tongue will be frictionally engaged by the sides of the slot or groove to hold the buffer securely in place.

The arcuate flange 12 has upper and lower edges 15 and 16 respectively which are biased or pre-formed to incline inwardly and overhang the tongue to provide feather edges 17 and 18 as shown in Fig. 3, which cause a tight or snug fit with the surface on which the device is mounted.

The biased or inclined upper and lower edges of the arcuate flange 12, in conjunction with the resilience of the material of which the device is formed, causes the edges to give or spread outwardly when the buffer is applied in the slot and thus to form a tight fit between the edges of the buffer and the surface of the article to which it is applied, thereby eliminating gapping or open edges between the edges of the buffer and the article.

The flange 12 extends beyond the ends of the tongue 11 to provide ears 20 which are also preferably feathered and pre-formed inwardly so that when the buffer is applied in position these ends will snugly engage the surface on which the device is positioned and prevent gapping between the parts. Also, these ears spread laterally when in applied position and cause the buffer to

conform to the shape of the article to which it is applied and form a snug fit therewith.

For chairs, as specifically shown herein, the slot is preferably provided at the front forward corner of the chair as clearly shown in Figs. 1 and 4. The buffer element also is preferably made in the shape shown in Fig. 5 and when used as a corner guard for chairs presses into place to hold it in position. When the tongue 11 is in a similarly shaped slot, the buffer will be securely held in position, and while permitting withdrawal thereof, prevents it from being withdrawn unless sufficient pressure is applied. The beveling or under-cutting of the edge of the buffer locks the buffer in position, and the inclined feather edging of the contact parts causes a perfectly snug fit with the surface to which it is applied.

The buffer provides a resilient contacting edge and when applied to an article, such as a chair, will prevent the chair from marring or scratching a desk, should the chair come in contact with a part of the desk. The use of the buffer on chairs prevents the scuffing and scratching of a desk and prevents sharp edges and splinters from being formed on the desk. These splinters and sharp edges would damage the clothes of the worker at the desk by causing thread snags in wearing apparel. The use of the flexible buffer thereby prevents marring of the furniture or scratching of the furniture finish.

Changes may be made in the form, construction, and arrangement of the parts without departing from the spirit of the invention or sacrificing any of its advantages, and the right is hereby reserved to make all such changes as fairly fall within the scope of the following claims.

The invention is hereby claimed as follows:

1. The combination with an article of furniture having a corner and a slot at the corner, said slot extending inwardly and radially from said corner and being open at the front at the corner, of a soft flexible rubber-like buffer engageable with said slot and frictionally supported therein by the elastic characteristics of the buffer and comprising an exterior flange having inner walls adapted to contact with the outer surfaces of the chair seat on each side of the corner, said buffer having its upper and lower edges extending above and below respectively of the upper and lower surfaces of the seat surrounding the slot, and a tongue integral with the flange and extending inwardly from the inner surface thereof, said tongue being insertable in the front open face of the slot by pressure exerted on the outer face of the flange, the tongue being frictionally anchored in position in the slot due to the resilient characteristics of the buffer.

2. A soft flexible rubber-like buffer having an arcuate flange and a chord-like tongue, the chord-like tongue being arranged inwardly of the flange and perpendicular thereto, the upper and lower edges of the flange being parallel to the horizontal plane of the tongue.

3. A soft yieldable and flexible rubber-like buffer for furniture corners comprising an arcuate flange for contacting the corner surfaces of the furniture and protecting it, and a tongue intermediate the upper and lower horizontal edges of the flange and subtending the arc of the flange for bracing the flange and anchoring it to the article of furniture by the inherent elastic characteristics of the tongue.

4. A soft yieldable and flexible rubber-like buffer for furniture corners comprising a horizontal arcuate flange for contacting the corner surfaces of the furniture and protecting it, and a horizontal inwardly extending tongue located intermediate the upper and lower horizontal edges of the flange and subtending the arc of the flange for bracing the flange and anchoring it to the article of furniture, said flange being inclined inwardly and vertically above and below the upper and lower horizontal surfaces of the tongue whereby the outer upper and lower edges of the flange will snugly contact with the article of furniture when applied thereto.

5. A soft yieldable and flexible rubber-like buffer for furniture corners comprising a horizontal arcuate flange for contacting the corner surfaces of the furniture and protecting it, a horizontal inwardly extending tongue located intermediate the upper and lower horizontal edges of the flange and subtending the arc of the flange for bracing the flange and anchoring it to the article of furniture, said flange being inclined inwardly and vertically above and below the upper and lower horizontal surfaces of the tongue whereby the outer upper and lower edges of the flange will snugly contact with the article of furniture when applied thereto, and ears integral with the flange and extending beyond the inner extreme edge of the tongue, said ears conforming with the cross sectional configuration of the flange.

6. A soft flexible rubber-like buffer having an arcuate flange and a chord-like tongue, the chord-like tongue being arranged inwardly of the flange and perpendicular thereto, the upper and lower edges of the flange being parallel to the horizontal plane of the tongue, the inner sides of the flanges above and below the tongue inclining inwardly.

7. A buffer for chair seats comprising a soft flexible rubber-like buffer having an arcuate flange and a chord-like tongue, the chord-like tongue being arranged inwardly of the flange and perpendicular thereto, the upper and lower edges of the flange being parallel to the horizontal plane of the tongue, said tongue adapted to be received in a horizontal slot formed in the corner of the seat and the arcuate flange adapted to fit against the edges of the seat at the corner.

WALTER J. JOHNSON.