May 23, 1967 V. D. LILIENSTERN ET AL 3,321,240

PROTECTIVE COVERING FOR OUTDOOR FURNITURE

Filed May 20, 1964

Fig. 1.

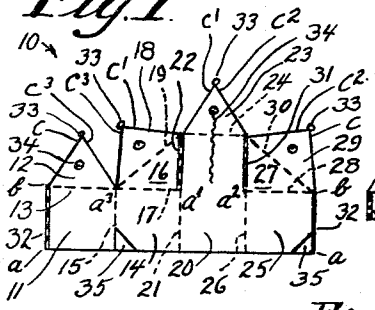


Fig. 4.

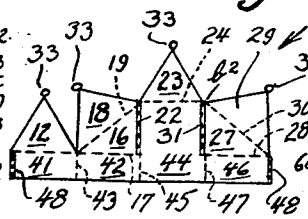


Fig. 6.

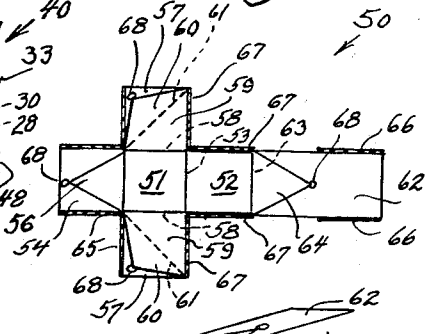


Fig. 3.

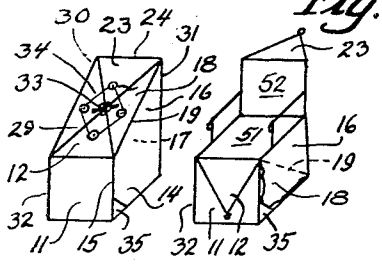


Fig. 5.

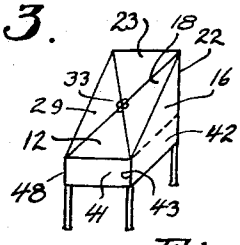


Fig. 7.

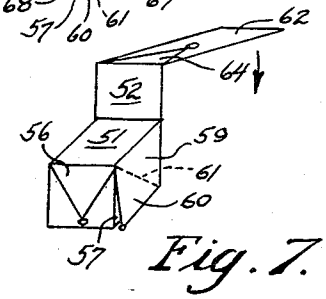


Fig. 2.

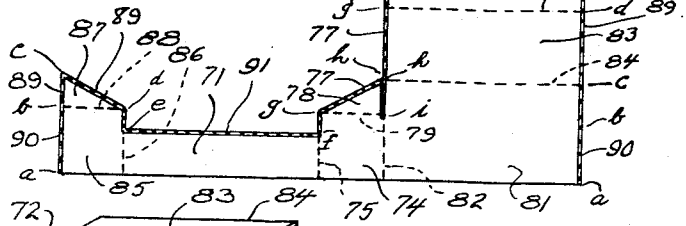


Fig. 8.

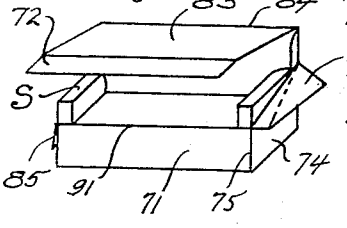


Fig. 9.

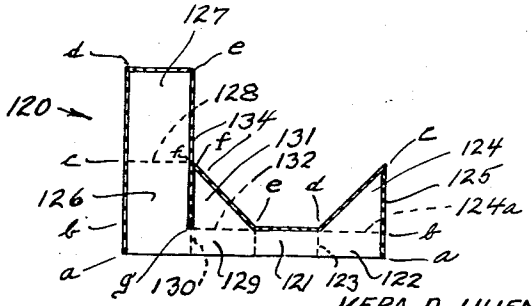


Fig. 10.

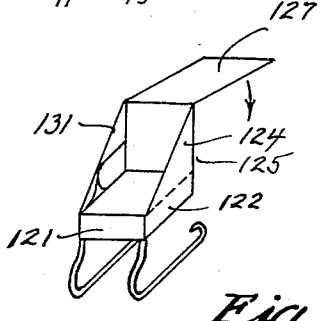


Fig. 11.

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3,321,240

PROTECTIVE COVERING FOR OUTDOOR FURNITURE

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14 Claims. (Cl. 297—184)

The present invention relates to protective coverings, and more particularly, to protective covering for use with outdoor furniture to protect such furniture or upholstery therefor against the elements.

The use of outdoor furniture has become more widespread in recent years as people spend greater leisure time outdoors. The use of such furniture outdoors, however, presents several problems which have not been satisfactorily solved to date. A major one is the problem of protection and maintenance of the furniture against the elements. Some users normally leave the furniture outdoors with no protective shields thereover. This practice is objectionable since, in the case of metal furniture, a problem of rusting exists, and with wooden furniture, decay thereof is hastened.

Other users of outdoor furniture employ covers which are placed over the furniture in overall enveloping relationship as shields against the elements. This is undesirable since it necessitates the removal and storage of such coverings when the furniture is to be used, and a replacement thereof when not in use. Moreover, unless the coverings are placed over the furniture immediately after use, there is always a possibility of heavy rain when no one is present to place the coverings over the furniture. Accordingly, the use of such enveloping coverings or shields has not been fully satisfactory as protective means for outdoor furniture.

Another problem with respect to the use of outdoor furniture is one basically of comfort. Since there is a problem of damage by the elements, such furniture obviously cannot be upholstered in the normal manner of indoor furniture. Thus, outdoor furniture is normally provided with removable pads or cushions which are upholstered to a degree but still do not provide the degree of comfort as does the furniture used indoors. Moreover, such pads or cushions must be covered with water-resistant or waterproof material which presents a surface in no way comparable to conventional furniture fabric. This problem of providing adequate comfort and still provide proper protection of the furniture against the elements is a major one which has not been solved prior to the advent of the present invention.

In the elimination of the foregoing and related disadvantages it is therefore a principal object to provide new and novel protection for outdoor furniture against the elements.

Another object of the present invention is the provision of new and novel protective covering means for outdoor furniture.

A further object of the present invention is the provision of new and novel protective covering means for outdoor furniture which need not be removed for storage.

A further object of the present invention is the provision of new and novel protective covering means for outdoor furniture which may remain affixed to the furniture as a permanent part thereof at all times.

Still another object of the present invention is the provision of new and novel covering means for all forms of outdoor furniture and related equipment which will protect such articles against the elements.

Yet another object of the present invention is the provision of new and novel protective covering means which

makes it possible to utilize all forms of really comfortable cushions, seats, pads, and the like without fear of harm thereto from the elements.

Yet another object of the present invention is the provision of new and novel protective covering means which will permit the upholstering of the furniture to a far greater degree of comfort than heretofore possible without damage thereto by the elements.

Other and additional objects of the present invention will become manifest from the ensuing description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

Broadly stated, the protective covering for outdoor furniture made in accordance with the present invention comprises a first covering section hingedly secured along one edge to a top edge of an article of furniture, a second covering section hingedly secured along one edge to the top edge of the article of furniture in opposed relation to said first covering, and at least one other cover section hingedly secured along one edge to another top edge of said article of furniture, each of said cover sections normally extending downwardly and along the outside of the article of furniture when same is in use, and when the furniture is not in use, each of said sections being folded over said furniture and being united to one another to protect said furniture against the elements.

To the accomplishment of the foregoing and related ends, the present invention then consists of the means hereinafter fully described and particularly pointed out in the claims, the annexed drawing and the following description setting forth in detail certain means in the carrying out of the invention, such disclosed means illustrating, however, but one of various ways in which the principle of the invention may be employed.

The present invention is illustrated, by way of example, in the accompanying drawings, in which, diagrammatically:

FIGURE 1 is a top plan view of one form of a protective covering made in accordance with the present invention in a laid-out state which is to be employed with furniture of the chair type.

FIG. 2 is a perspective view illustrating the protective covering shown in FIG. 1 in assembled relationship with an illustrative embodiment of a chair with the covering in a closed, protecting state.

FIG. 3 is a perspective view illustrating the protective covering shown in FIG. 2 in an open, non-protecting state.

FIG. 4 is a top plan view of another form of protecting covering made in accordance with the present invention in a laid-out state which is to be employed with a chair of the type shown in FIG. 5.

FIG. 5 is a perspective view illustrating the protective covering shown in FIG. 4 in assembled relationship with a chair of the type shown in FIG. 3 with the covering in a closed, protecting state.

FIG. 6 is a top plan view of still another form of a protective covering made in accordance with the present invention in a laid-out state which is to be employed with the type of chair shown in FIG. 7.

FIG. 7 is a perspective view of the protective covering shown in FIG. 6 in assembled relationship with a chair of the type shown in FIG. 7, with the covering in a partially open, non-protecting state.

FIG. 8 is a top plan view of a form of protective covering made in accordance with the present invention in a laid-out state which is for use with furniture of the couch type.

FIG. 9 is a perspective view illustrating the association of the protective covering shown in FIG. 8 in assembled relationship with a couch of a typical construction, with the protective covering in partially on position.

FIG. 10 is a top plan view of a form of protective

covering made in accordance with the present invention in a laid-out state which is to be employed with a chair of the spring metal type.

FIG. 1 is a perspective view illustrating the association of the protective covering shown in FIG. 10 in association with a spring metal cair of typical construction, with the covering in partially open position.

Referring now to the drawings and with particular reference to FIGS. 1–3, a protective covering made in accordance with the present invention and generally designated by reference numeral **10** is illustrated therein. or may not have arms, and which may be made wholly of metal or wood, or a combination of the two, plastic material, or the like. Further, the furniture may be upholstered or may have detachable separate upholstery pads.

The protective covering **10**, as best illustrated in FIG. 1, comprises a front panel **11** having a height and width at least corresponding to or slightly greater than the front width of the chair and the vertical height or distance of the forward end of the arms of the chair. The front panel **11** thus functions as the covering means for the front portion of the chair. In the event the chair has no arms, the vertical height of the panel section **11** need only be equal to the height of the seat of the chair from the ground. The top edge of the panel section **11** is integrally secured to a triangular shaped flap portion **12** integrally joined thereto and foldable therewith along a fold line **13**. The triangular flap portion **12** will serve to provide protection against the elements in a manner to be more fully described hereinafter.

A first side panel **14** of a width corresponding to at least the width or depth of the chair is secured along one side edge of hte front panel section **11** along a vertical fold line **15**. A first flap portion **16** which is triangular in configuration of the right angle type is secured along its base line to the top edge of the side panel **14** in integral relationship forming a fold line **17**. The altitude side of the triangular flap portion **16** forms a continuation of the vertical side of the panel section **14** remote from the side connected to the front panel section **11**. The altitude of the triangular flap portion **16** extends at least to and preferably slightly above the vertical height of the back of the chair with which the covering is to be associated. The hypotenuse of the triangular flap portion **16** will extend from the top rear edge of the chair downwardly to the front edge of the chair and will function to encase or cover the arm portion of the chair, when present. However, as will be readily apparent, the flap portion may be included and work equally as well whether or not the chair contains an arm portion.

A second triangular flap portion **18** is joined along its base line to the hypotenuse of the first triangular flap portion in integral relationship forming a fold line **19**. The triangular flap portion **18** is of a vertical height to extend at least to the mid-point of the width of the chair, as is best illustrated in FIG. 2, and is associated with the other triangular flap portions **12**, **23** and **29** in a manner to be more fully described hereinafter to provide the desired protection for the furniture.

A back panel **20** is integrally secured along a portion of one side edge thereof to the side panel section **14** forming a vertical fold line **21**. The back panel **20** is of a vertical height at least equal to the vertical height of the chair back from the ground, and is of a width at least equal to or slightly greater than the width of the chair with which it is to be associated, but under any circumstances is of a width substantially identical to the width of the front panel section **11**. The remainder of the vertical length of the side edge of the back panel **20** is equal to the altitude of the first triangular flap portion **16** and is adapted to be detachably secured thereto by means of a watertight zipper construction **22**. It is to be clearly understood that while a zipper construction is illustrated, any other fastening means which will render the union watertight may be employed equally as well. A triangular flap portion **23** corresponding in configuration and dimensions to the flap portion **12** is integrally secured to the top edge of the rear panel section **20** along its base line and foldable with respect thereto along a fold line **24**, and functions to cooperate with the triangular flap portions **12** and **18** to provide the necessary protection for the chair in a manner to be more fully described hereinafter.

A second side panel **25** identical in configuration and dimensions with the first panel **14** is secured along its side edge to the lower side of the back panel **20** forming a vertical fold line **26** with respect thereto. A right angle triangular flap portion **27** identical in configuration and dimensions with the right angle flap portion **16** is secured in integral relationship to the top edge of the side panel **25** forming a horizontal fold line **28** therewith. A triangular flap portion **29** identical in configuration and dimensions to the triangular flap portion **18** of the side panel section **14** is integrally secured along its base to the hypotenuse of the triangular flap portion **27** forming a fold line **30**. The triangular flap portion **29** when in association with the triangular flap portions **12**, **18**, and **23** forms a somewhat conical shield or covering when in an assembled relationship with one another to prevent water, moisture or the like, as well as the sun, from contacting the furniture. The altitude side of the right angle flap portion **27** is secured to the side edge of the back panel **20** adjacent the top thereof by means of a zipper **31** which is of identical configuration and function to the zipper **22** uniting the triangular flap section **16** with the opposite side of the back panel section **20**. The opposite side edge of the second side panel **25** is provided with closure means **32**, such as, for example, a zipper, for a distance corresponding to the vertical height of the front panel section **11**. The remaining free side edge of the front panel section **11** is provided with a mating fastener **32** to effect the detachable engagement of the second side panel **25** to the front panel **11**.

As will be seen from the foregoing description, the protective covering **10** made in accordance with the present invention is a unitary one-piece article, although, as will be readily apparent, if desired the covering could be made in one or more pieces and assembled with one another. The protective covering **10** may be any suitable natural or synthetic material which is waterproof, or may be treated to render same waterproof. Examples of such materials are nylon, polyethylene, polyvinyl chloride, oil cloth, waterproofed cotton fabrics, waterproofed wool fabrics, leather and the like. The foregoing are illustrative of but a few of the types of material of which the protective covering **10** can be made and the present invention is not to be limited to any particular type of material.

In the utilization of the protective covering made in accordance with the present invention, reference is to be had to FIGS. 2 and 3 wherein the protective covering **10** shown in FIG. 1 is illustrated in a closed, protecting state and in an open state, respectively. In the assembly of the protective covering **10**, the front panel section **11** extends from the top of the seat of the chair C and functions to cover the front face of the chair C from the seat to the ground. The first side panel **14** is at right angles to the front panel **11** along the fold line **15** and serves to protect or cover one side of the chair. The right angled triangular flap portion **16** forms a vertical continuation of the first side panel **14** and functions to protect or cover the arm portion of the chair, with the hypotenuse edge of the right angle forming a direct straight line from the top of the rear of the chair to the top of the seat or arm portion of the chair. The back panel **20** is in right angled relationship to the side panel **14** and functions to protect or cover the entire back surface of the chair. The right angled triangular flap portion **16** is secured along its altitude side to the upper portion of the back panel section **20** by means of the zipper **22** or similar fastener. The op-

posite side panel **25** is positioned in precisely the same manner with the opposite side edge of the chair C as the first side panel **14**, with the right angled triangular flap portion **27** being associated in the same manner as the right angled triangular flap portion **16**. The second panel **25** is secured to the front panel section **11** by means of the zipper **32** or similar fastener means.

The triangular panel sections **12, 18, 23,** and **29**, as shown in FIG. 2, are folded inwardly along their respective fold lines until they converge forming a unitary conical section completely covering the chair. To secure the panel sections **12, 18, 23** and **29** to one another in the closed conical relationship, the apex point of each triangular flap section is provided with a small ring **33** which are brought into registry with one another and a pin or similar retaining element is snapped thereinto. It will be found desirable with this particular embodiment to make sure that the side free edges of each of the triangular portions overlap in order to provide the proper shielding from the moisture. It will also be found particularly advantageous with this particular embodiment to use tie strings **34** to insure the free side edges of the triangular portions remaining in overlapping relationship, preferably of the string-and-button type, as shown.

It is to be clearly understood that the fastening means **33** and the tie strings **34** are illusrtative of but many types of fastening means that may be employed in bringing the triangular flap portions **12, 18, 23,** and **29** into overlapping weathertight relationship. For example, each of the free side edges of the triangular flap portions **12, 18, 23,** and **29** may be provided with weathertight zippers of the type illustrated in U.S. Patents Nos. 2,928,156 and 3,005,-247. Still another form of fastening means can be the spaced positioning of small magnets along the free side edges of each of the triangular flap portions such that when folded inwardly the respective magnets will be in registry with one another to retain the triangular flap sections in closed, overlapping relationship. There are still other forms of fastening means readily available that can be employed to provide the desired weathertight closing of the triangular flap portions **12, 18, 23,** and **29** with one another in the manner shown in FIG. 2.

As will be observed with the protective covering **10** in assembled relationship in the manner shown in FIG. 2, the chair is protected absolutely against any inclement weather and will keep the furniture in a highly protected state against moisture, sun and the like. To utilize the furniture for its intended purpose from a covered protective state, the pin is removed from each of the locking rings **33** and the flap portions **12, 18, 23,** and **29** are folded outwardly along their respective fold lines. The triangular right angled flap portions **16** and **27**, respectively, are detachably disengaged from the respective side edges of the back panel **20** by operation of the zippers **22** and **31**, thus dropping each of the right angled flap sections outwardly and downwardly along with the triangular sections **18** and **29**, respectively. This results in a complete freeing of the chair from any protective covering above the seat section, with the triangular sections hanging therebelow in a suspended position. To insure that the triangular sections will not become unduly worn by the free hanging, the outside bottom edge of the panel sections **11, 14, 20,** and **25** may be provided with a pocket to receive the free ends therein, thereby keeping same out of contact with the ground, at **35**.

Reference is now to be had to FIGS. 4 and 5 wherein another embodiment of a protective covering made in accordance with the present invention and generally designated by reference numeral **40** is shown. In this embodiment, the basic triangular sections utilized in the covering **10** shown in FIGS. 1–3 will be utilized, and the corresponding parts in the form of the invention shown in FIGS. 4 and 5 will bear the same reference numerals as the corresponding parts shown in the covering **10** of FIG. 1. The protective covering **40** is primarily for use

with chairs having metal legs wherein a problem of weather protection is not essential.

As illustrated, the protective covering **40** comprises a front panel **41** of a length corresponding to the lateral width of the chair and has a vertical height just sufficient to engage the front seat portion of the chair or the seat portion and the arm portion of the chair, leaving the remainder of the legs of the chair unencumbered and uncovered. A triangular flap portion **12** is secured along a fold line **13** to the top edge of the front panel **41** in the same manner as the panel section **12** of the covering **10**. A side panel **42** having the same height as the front panel **41** is secured thereto along a vertical fold line **43**. A right angle triangular flap portion **16** is secured along its base to the top edge of the side panel section **42** forming a fold line **17** therealong. A triangular flap portion **18** is secured along its base line to the hypotenuse side of the right angled triangular flap section **16** forming a fold line **19**, and is detachably secured along its altitude side to the adjacent side edge of the back panel **44** by means of a zipper **22**.

A rear panel **44** corresponding in dimensions to the front panel **41** is secured along one side edge to the side panel **42** along a vertical fold line **45**. The back panel **44** is of a vertical height sufficient to extend from the bottom edge formed by the front panel and side panel **41** and **42** to the top of the back of the chair. The top free edge of the back panel **44** is provided with an integral triangular flap portion **23** secured thereto along a fold line **24**. A second side panel **46** is secured to the opposite side edge of the back panel section **44** along the fold line **47** and is of dimensions precisely corresponding to the dimensions of the first panel **42**. A right angled triangular flap portion **27** is secured along its base to the top edge of the second panel section **46** forming a horizontal fold line **28** therealong. The triangular section **27** is detachably secured along its altitude side to the adjacent side edge of the back panel section **44** by means of a zipper **31**. The triangular flap portion **29** is secured in integral relationship along its base to the hypotenuse of the triangular section **27** forming a fold line **30** therealong. The free edge of the second side panel section **46** and the front panel section **41** are provided with a cooperating zipper construction **48** to secure the retention of the two members to one another in detachable relationship.

Referring now to FIG. 5, it is seen that the protective covering **40** is mounted on the chair C in precisely the same manner as the protective covering **10** in FIG. 2 with the exception that no protective covering extends below the seat portion of the chair. To open the protective covering shown in FIG. 5, the operation hereinbefore described in connection with the protective covering **10** will be followed with respect to opening the protective covering 4. The closing of the respective parts to protect the furniture will be the reverse thereof.

Referring now to FIGS. 6 and 7, another form of protective cover made in accordance with the present invention and generally designated by reference numeral **50** is illustrated therein. This embodiment of the protective covering **50** is to be employed with a chair construction of the same general type as that illustrated in the forms of the invention shown in FIGS. 1–5. The major distinction of this present form of covering made in accordance with the present invention is that in this form of protective covering means, the covering includes upholstered sections for the seat and back. This form of the invention thus provides an upholstered protective covering which can be positioned easily and quickly on outdoor furniture to provide the desired degree of comfort and yet a high degree of weather protection.

The protective covering **50** comprises a main seat portion **51** and a main back portion **52** joined to one another along a fold line **53**, with the area of the seat portion **51** and the area of the back portion **52** being at least equal to or slightly greater than the area of the seat portion

and back portion, respectively, of the chair with which the protective covering **50** is to be associated.

The seat and back portions **51** and **52** are to be upholstered and are of a thickness sufficient to provide adequate comfort to a person occupying the chair. The seat and back portions **51** and **52** may be filled with any desired upholstering material, such as, for example, foam rubber, cotton batting, wool batting, and the like, to provide the desired body and softness thereto. The material covering the seat and back portions **51** and **52** may be any suitable natural or synthetic fabrics, sheeting, or the like. Any of the materials hereinbefore enumerated with respect to the protective coverings **10** and **40** may be utilized. In addition, since the seat and back sections **51** and **52** will be fully protected, it is possible to utilize highly decorative fabrics which are not waterproof or sunfast. However, it is to be emphasized that such fabrics can be utilized only for the surface of the seat and back portions **51** and **52**, which will be fully protected.

A front panel **54**, as illustrated, of a width and height corresponding to the front portion of the chair in the manner of the front panel **11** is integrally secured to the front edge of the seat portion **51** along a fold line **55**. However, it is to be noted that the front panel section **54** may be, if the chair legs are metal, short in the manner of the front panel **41**. Secured along the fold line **55** to the seat section **51** is a triangular flap portion **56** which is of a dimension corresponding generally to the triangular flap portion **12** of the covering **10**. In this form of the invention, the triangular flap portion **56** or the front panel **54** may either be integrally formed with the seat portion **51** or with one another, or one or both members may be secured thereto by sewing or the like along the fold line **55**.

A side panel **57** is secured along one edge to each side edge of the seat portion **51** along a fold line **58**. Each side panel **57** is identical in configuration and is of a length or vertical height corresponding to the length or vertical height of the front panel **54** and possesses a width at least equal to that of the seat section **51**. A right angled triangular flap portion **59** is secured along its base line to each side edge of the seat section **51** along the fold line **58**. The triangular flap portion **59** may be integrally formed with the seat section or the side panel, or it may be secured to the seat section by sewing or the like. The altitude of each of the triangular flap portions **59** will be of a height or vertical length equal to that between the seat portion and the top of the back portion in the same manner as the triangular flap portion **16** shown in FIG. 1. The hypotenuse of each of the triangular flap portions **59** will extend along each side from the top rear edge of the chair downwardly to the front edge thereof.

A second triangular flap portion **60** is joined along its base line to the hypotenuse of each of the triangular flap portions **59**, preferably in integral relationship therewith along the fold line **61**. Each of the triangular flap portions **60** is of the same vertical height as the triangular flap portion **56** and will be associated therewith in a manner to be more fully described hereinafter to provide the necessary protection for the furniture.

A back panel **61** is secured along one edge to the rear or back edge of the back portion **52** along a fold line **63**. The back panel **62** is of a width corresponding to the width of the front panel **54** and possesses a length at least equal to the vertical height of the back of the chair to the ground and functions as the covering means for the back portion of the chair. A triangular flap portion **64**, which is of a dimension corresponding to that of the triangular flap portion **56**, is secured along one edge or base of the fold line **63**, either in integral relationship or otherwise fastened relationship. The triangular flap portion **64** functions in the same manner as the flap portions **56** and **60** to provide a conical covering in the same manner as with the other forms of the invention hereinbefore described.

To provide means for securing the various panels of the covering **60** in detachable relationship with one another for assembly with a chair, the front panel **54** along each side edge thereof and the forward edge of each of the side panels **57** is provided with cooperating zippers **65**. While zippers have been shown as the illustrative and preferred form of fastening means, it is to be clearly understood that there are readily available other forms of fastening means equally suitable. The rear edge of each of the side panels **57** and each side of the back panel **62** adjacent the lower end thereof also is provided with cooperating zippers **66**. Thus, the operation of the zippers **65** and **66** will serve to enable the securing of the front and back panels and the side panels to one another around the perimeter of the chair or the perimeter of the legs of a chair in the same manner as the panels **11, 14, 20**, and **25** in the form of the invention shown in FIG. 1. To insure the retention of the triangular flap portions **59** in assembled relationship to the back seat portion, the altitude of each of the triangular flap portions **59** and each side edge of the back portion **52** is provided with a zipper **67** or similar fastening means. Thus, each of the triangular flap portions **59** is secured to the back portion, when in assembled relationship with a chair, in the same manner as the triangular flap portions **16** and **17** are secured to the back panel **20** in the form of the invention shown in FIG. 1. Each of the triangular flap portions **56, 60**, and **64** is provided at its outermost or apex end with a connecting ring **68** to serve as locking means for securing the panels to one another in a protective state in the same manner as the locking rings **33** in the form of the invention shown in FIG. 1. However, to the same extent, rather than employing locking means and a pin assembly, each free side of the triangular flap portions **56, 60**, and **64** may be provided with cooperating weathertight zipper means or similar fastening means to insure the retention of the flap portions in a weathertight state.

Referring now to FIG. 7, the protective cover means **60** made in accordance with the present invention is shown in assembled relationship with a chair C. As shown, the upholstered seat section **51** and the upholstered back portion **52** are placed against the respective seat and back portions of the chair to provide the desired comfort to the user. The front panel section **54** will extend downwardly along the fold line **55** from the front edge of the seat section **51** in right angled relationship thereto and will serve to protect the chair below the seat portion thereof. The triangular flap portion **56** is shown in a downwardly folded state and will be in this position when the chair is being used. However, the flap portion **56** will be folded upwardly and inwardly for cooperation with the other flap portions **60** and **64** to provide the desired protection in the same manner as hereinbefore described with other forms of the invention.

Each side panel **57** will be folded downwardly along a fold line **58** from each side edge of the seat section **51** in right angled relationship thereto and serves to cover and protect each side of the chair below the seat portion thereof. Each of the side panels **57**, as shown, is secured to each vertical side of the front panel **54** by means of the zippers **65** to insure retention thereof to the chair as well as providing a weathertight seal between the two. The right angled triangular flap portions **59** secured to each side edge of the seat section **51** along the fold line **58** and the associated triangular flap portions **60** are shown in detached, partially open relationship. When in a closed relationship to provide protection for the chair, the triangular flap portions **59** will be secured to each side edge of the back section **52** by means of the zipper **67**, and the flap portions **60** will be in association with the other flap portions **56** and **64**. To release the flap portions **56, 60**, and **64** and the flap portions **59** to permit

the chair to be used, the operation of the zipper 67 or similar fastener means will permit each triangular flap portion 59 and its associated flap portion 60 to be swung outwardly and dropped downwardly.

The rear panel 62 extends from the top of the chair to the ground and will serve to function as a covering or protective means for the entire back portion or part of the chair C. The back panel 62 when in assembled relationship will be secured along each lower side edge to the rear edge of each side panel 57 by means of the zippers 66. The back panel 62 is shown in partially separated position in FIG. 7, but when in assembled relationship will be swung downwardly against the back of the chair and secured to each rear side edge of the side panels 57 adjacent its lower end by means of the zippers 66. The triangular flap portion 64 is secured to the back panel along the fold line 63 and is swingable inwardly to cooperate with the other flap portions to cover and protect the chair. The flap portion 64 will be, when in an open state, against the back panel.

Reference is now to be had to FIGS. 8 and 9 wherein a protective covering means made in accordance with the present invention is shown which is to be used with furniture of the type known as a couch, settee, or the like. As illustrated, the protective covering 70 comprises a front panel 71 of a length or width at least equal to the length of the couch or settee with which it is to be associated. The vertical height of the front panel 71 will be equal to the height of the top of the seat portions of the furniture to the ground. The edge portion of the top panel 83 is provided with a top front panel portion 72 which is foldable along a horizontal fold line 73. The vertical height of the top front panel portion 72 from the fold line 73 is at least equal to the vertical height between the top of the saet portion of the furniture to the top of the arm portion such that it may be swung outwardly and downwardly in a manner to be described more fully hereinafter. A first side panel section 74 of a length at least equal to the depth or width of the couch with which it is to be associated and of a vertical height equal to the vertical height of the front panel 71 is secured thereto along a fold line 75. The upper portion of the side panel 74 along its forward edge is provided with zipper means 77 or like fastener means to engage one side edge of the top panel portion 72 of the front panel 71 in detachable relationship therewith. A right angled triangular flap portion 78 is secured along its base edge to the top edge of the side panel 74 along a fold line 79 and functions to provide protection for one side of the couch in the same manner as the triangular flap portions 16 and 27 in the form of the invention shown in FIG. 1. The hypotenuse side of the right angled triangular flap portion 78 will extend from the top edge of the rear of the couch to the forward top edge of the arm portion of the couch. The triangular flap portion 78 at the rear edge thereof is provided with a zipper 80 or similar fastener means which will function to secure same thereto in detachable relationship to one upper side of the back panel 81.

The back panel 81 is secured along a lower edge thereof to the rear edge of the side panel 74 along a vertical fold line 82. The back panel 81 is of a width equal to the width of the front panel 71 and possesses a vertical height equal to the vertical height of the back of the couch with which the covering is to be associated, and serves to function as the protective means for the entire rear or back portion of the couch. A top cover panel 83 is secured along one long edge thereof to the top edge of the back panel 81 along the horizontal fold line 84 and functions as the cover means for the couch with which the covering means 70 is to be associated in a manner to be more fully described hereinafter. The top cover panel 83 has a width at least equal to the width of the back panel 81 or the front panel 71 and has a length at least equal to and preferably slightly greater than the hypotenuse of the right angled triangular flap portion 78, since when in a folded protecting state the top panel 82 will extend along the hypotenuse lines to the front of the couch, with the forward free end of the top panel 83 carrying the top edge of top front panel 73, as aforesaid.

A second side panel 85 corresponding precisely to the dimensions of the first side panel 74 is secured along one vertical edge to the lower edge of the remaining side of the front panel 71 along a fold line 86, and a right angled triangular flap portion 87 is secured along horizontal fold line 88 to the top edge of the side panel portion 85. The right angled triangular portion 87 is secured in detachable relationship to the upper edge of the back panel 81 by means of a zipper 89. Thus the second side panel 84 and its associated parts are identical with the first side panel 74 and its associated parts and serves to cover and protect the other side of the couch with which the covering 70 is to be associated. The remaining side edge of the second panel 85 and the free side edge of the back panel 81 are provided with a zipper 90 or similar fastening means to insure the attachment and retention of the covering 70 around the furniture.

Referring now to FIG. 9, the protective covering 70 is shown in association with a couch S with the protective covering shown in partially open position. As shown, the front panel 71 and the side panels 74 and 84 and the back panel 81 extend completely around the couch S in a vertical state and in very snug relationship with the respective sides, front, and back parts of the couch and is held in this state by means of a zipper 90 connecting the back panel 81 and the side panel 85. The top panel portion 72 is shown in a partially folded out state with the side edges thereof being in detached relationship from the top forward edges of the side panels 74 and 85. When the couch S is to be used, the top panel portion 72 will be secured to the top forward edge of the side panels 74 and 84 by means of the zippers 77 and 89 to provide the necessary protection for the front of the couch and the forward ends of the arm portions. The triangular flap portions 78 and 87 are shown in a partially folded out state on either side of the couch. When the couch S is to be employed, the triangular flap portions 78 and 87 will normally extend downwardly and will rest against the outside face of the side panels 74 and 84. When the couch is not to be used, the triangular flap portions 78 and 87 will be secured along the altitude side to the top portion of each side edge of the back portion 81 by means of the zippers 80 and 89, respectively. The top cover 82 is shown in FIG. 9 in a partially closed position. When the couch S is to be in use, the top cover 83 will be folded along the line 84 downwardly and will engage and rest against the outside face of the back panel 81. When the couch S is to be covered, the top cover 83 will be swung along the fold line 84 with each side edge engaging the hypotenuse side of each of the triangular flap portions 78 and 87. The lower edge of the top front panel portion 72 will engage the top edge of front panel portion 71. The top panel 82 may be secured to the triangular flap portions 78 and 87 and the top front panel portion 72 may be secured to the front panel portion 71 by any suitable fastening means. It is preferred, to insure a completely watertight operation, that a watertight zipper 89, 91 be provided to secure the top panel 82 along its three sides to the side panels 78 and 87 and the top edge of the front panel portion 71. It is seen from the foregoing description that the form of the invention shown in FIGS. 8 and 9 provides a protective covering which can be placed in a protective covering state on the furniture or in a state where the furniture can be employed quite easily and quickly.

Referring now to FIGS. 12 and 13, still another form of protective covering means made in accordance with the present invention and generally designated by reference numeral 120 is shown. The protective covering 120 will be of particular utility with spring metal chairs in which the legs thereof are one-piece in construction and inclined

outwardly therefrom. The protective covering **120** comprises a front panel **121** that is of a length equal to the width of the chair and possesses a vertical height just sufficient to engage the front surface of a chair in the manner of the front panel **41** shown in the protective covering **40** of FIGS. 4 and 5. The front panel **121** will serve to engage and protect the front seat portion of the chair.

A first side panel **122** is secured along a vertical fold line **123** to the front panel **121**. The side panel **122** is of the same vertical height as the front panel **121** and is of a length at least equal to the depth of the chair. The side panel **122** will function to engage with the chair and protect one side thereof in the same manner as the panel **42** of the form of the invention shown in FIGS. 4 and 5. A right angled triangular flap portion **124** is secured along its base line to the top edge of the side panel **122** along a fold line **124***a*. The altitude side of the triangular flap portion **124** is equal to the height of the back portion of the chair with the hypotenuse side of the flap portion **124** extending from the top edge of the back portion to the front edge of the seat portion and will function to cover and protect the side area of the chair. The altitude side of the flap portion **124** is provided with a zipper construction to permit same to be held in detachable relationship with one side edge of the back portion **126**.

The back portion **126** is secured to the other edge of the side panel **122** and is of a width coresponding to the width of the front panel **121**. The vertical height of the panel **126** is at least equal to the vertical height of the back supporting area of the chair and functions to provide protection for the rear of the chair. A top cover member **127** is secured along the horizontal fold line **128** to the top edge of the back panel **126**. The top cover member **127** is of a length at least equal to the hypotenuse of the triangular flap portion **124** since it will function to cover and protect the top area of the chair by extending along the hypotenuse side of the triangular flap portion **124** to the upper edge of the front panel **121** in a manner to be described more fully hereinafter.

A second side panel **129** of identical configuration and dimensions as the first side panel **122** is secured along the vertical fold line **130** to the other edge of the back panel **126** and functions to engage and protect the other side edge of the chair. A right angled triangular flap portion **131** identical with the right angled flap portion **124** is secured along a horizontal fold line **132** to the top edge of the second side panel **129** and serves the same function as the triangular flap portion **124**. The triangular flap portion **121** is held in detachable relationship with the upper side edge of the back portion **126** by zipper means **125**. To insure the engagement of the front, sides, and back panels to one another in association with the covering **120** with a chair, the free edge of the back panel **126** and the free edge of the side panel **122–124** are provided with a cooperating zipper means which will permit the covering **120** to be detachably engaged with the chair in the manner shown in FIG. 11.

Referring now to FIG. 11, it is seen that a front panel **121**, side panels **122** and **129**, and back panel **126** are held in tight engagement with the outer perimetral edge of the chair T in the immediate vicinity of the seat portion and the right angled triangular flap portions **124** and **131** are in secured relationship with each of the side edges of the back panel **126**. The side panels **124** and **131** will be in this state when the chair T is not to be in use. In this state, the hypotenuse sides of each of the triangular flap portions **124** and **125** will engage the top cover member **127** to provide the desired shielding of the furniture. When the chair is to be used, the right angled flap portions **124** and **131** will be disengaged from the side edges of the back panel **126** and will drop downwardly along the outer side of the side panels **122** and **129**, respectively, thus freeing the arm portions of the chair.

The back panel **127** is shown in FIG. 11 in a partially open state. If the chair is to be used, the back panel **127** will drop rearwardly and will be in engagement with the back area of the chair and out of contact with the person using the chair. When the chair is not in use, the top front cover **127** will be swung forwardly over the chair T with each side edge engaging the hypotenuse side of each of the triangular flap portions **124** and **131**, and the forward free edge engaging the top edge of the panel **121**. To secure the top cover member **127** in weathertight engagement with the triangular flap portions **124** and **131** and the front panel **121**, zipper means **134** is provided on the associated parts in the manner shown. It is to be understood that other fastener means achieving this end result may be employed if so desired.

As will be seen from the foregoing description of various forms of the invention, the type of material that may be employed in making covering means in accordance with the present invention has been set forth in certain particular embodiments of the invention. However, it is to be clearly understood that the same material may be employed equally as well in all forms of the invention. To the same extent certain forms of the invention have been illustrated in which one type of fastening means is shown with one form of the invention and another type of fastening means are used with other forms of the invention. However, it is to be clearly understood that any particular fastener means capable of securing weathertight engagement of the associated parts with one another to provide the desired protection of the furniture may be utilized.

It should be further noted that in the forms of the invention shown in FIGS. 1–7, each of the triangular flap portions which are united to one another when the covering is in a closed state could use a conical effect in which the apex thereof will lie above the chair. This will produce four conical sides inclined downwardly and outwardly which will provide downwardly inclined surfaces against which any moisture or rain will contact and run off to the ground. It may be found desirable in many instances in order to insure proper shedding of any moisture to have overlapping portions between the cooperating side edges of the triangular flap portions. This will further insure a weathertight engagement between the panel sections. It will also be found advantageous in many instances to provide stiffening means for the triangular flap portions, such as, for example, **12**, **18**, **23**, and **29**, which will insure the maintenance of such flap portions in a conical, inclined, water-shedding state. This can be accomplished by having stay rods of plastic, wood, metal or the like immediately positioned on each of the triangular flap portions adjacent each free edge, or a single stay rod may be centrally positioned in the triangular flap portion **18**. Similarly, with the form of the invention shown in FIGS. 8, 9, 10, and 11, reinforcing stays may be found advantageous to insure rigidifying the cover member so that a proper run-off of any moisture that may engage the top cover member **82** or **127**, respectively, will occur.

It is to be clearly understood that it is within the scope and purview of the present invention that the protective coverings made in accordance with the present invention need not be detachable from the furniture. Rather, the protective covering and the results achieved thereby may be accomplished by having the covering as an integral part of the furniture or in a non-detachable state with respect thereto. For example, in the forms of the invention shown in FIGS. 1–5, the panels which encircle the chair, i.e., panels **11**, **14**, **20**, and **25** may be made integral with the chair as skirts or actual front, side, and rear upholstery or covering panels. In this event, the respective flap portions similarly become integral therewith and function in the same manner as hereinbefore described with the detachable protective coverings. The provision of protective coverings integral with the furniture may be employed in a like manner with the forms of the invention shown in FIGS. 8–11.

In each of the forms of the invention, provision may be made for securing the various disassociable elements together with a minimum number of zipper fasteners without conflict, and preferably with all the sliders assembled at a common apex when the unit is closed.

Thus in FIG. 1, the slider of the zipper **32** (preferably of the separable type) may engage at *a* and rest at *b* when the cover is in place but open, and this same slider may move to the apex *c* when the cover is closed. Other zippers (of the non-separable type) may have their sliders rest at a^1, a^2, and a^3 in the open position of cover, these sliders moving to c^1, c^2, and c^3 when the cover is closed. All four sliders will then be located at the common apex *c*, c^1, c^2, c^3 (i.e., where rings **33** are shown) in the closed position of the cover, facilitating location of all sliders which must be moved for properly opening the cover. Alternatively, two separable zippers may be used in lieu of the zipper running from *a* to *b* to *c*, one of which may run from *a* to *b* and the other of which may engage at *b* and run to *c*.

The same zipper arrangements may likewise be used with the embodiment of FIG. 4.

In the form of FIG. 6, similar provision may be made through the use of separable and non-separable zippers. For chairs without arms, back and seat cushions may also be applied to the form of FIG. 1, for example, by hinging the seat cushion to the inside of the cover at the fold line **17**, and by hinging the back cushion to the inside of the cover at the fold line **24**, so that the hinged elements may lie on top of the chair seat and hang in front of the chair back when the cover is in place. With this arrangement, only the four zippers as described for FIG. 1 just above need be employed.

In the forms of FIGS. 8 and 10, an arrangement is disclosed in which a single separable zipper can be engaged at *a*, rest at *b* when the cover is applied to the article but is open, and can then move to *c*, *d*, *e*, *f* and *g*, which completes the closure in the case of FIGS. 12–13, and in the case of FIGS. 8–9, on to *h* and *i* to complete the closure. Alternatively, a separable zipper may be used from *a* to *b* in these figures, and a non-separable zipper can start at the other end of the run in those forms, the two zippers meeting at *b* or elsewhere as may be arranged. Or the panels **81–83–72** and **126–127** may be made separate from the remaining portions of FIGS. 8 and 10, at the lines **82** and **130** respectively, and a double ended zipper with two separable sliders may engage at *a* and at the lower ends of the separations at **82** and **130**, may then rest at *b* and *g* in FIG. 12 (and at *b* and *i* in FIG. 8) when the cover is applied but open, and may be brought together at any desired point intermediate therebetween when the cover is closed.

While there have been described herein what are at present considered preferred embodiments of the invention, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that modifications and changes may be made therein without departing from the essence of the invention. It is therefore to be understood that the exemplary embodiments are illustrative and not restrictive of the invention, the scope of which is defined in the appended claims, and that all modifications that come within the meaning and range of equivalency of the claims are intended to be included therein.

We claim:

1. A protective covering for furniture comprising panel means for positive engagement with the outside surface of a piece of furniture, said panel means having front, side and back portions adapted for positive, relatively tight engagement with at least a portion of the outside surface of the corresponding parts of a piece of furniture for providing an outside cover for each corresponding part thereof, and covering means secured to at least a portion of said panel means for covering said furniture, said covering means including at least one covering portion hingedly secured along a fold line to the top edge of at least the back portion of said panel means, said covering means being normally foldable outwardly and downwardly against the outside surface of said panel means when the article of furniture is to be used by a person, said covering means being foldable along said fold line and forming a downwardly inclined covering means in non-contoured relationship with the piece of furniture for protecting same against the elements when the furniture is not in use, said inclined covering means causing rain and the like to run off when contacting said covering means.

2. A protective covering in accordance with claim **1**, wherein said panel means include means for securing same to furniture in detachable relationship.

3. A protective covering in accordance with claim **1**, wherein said panel means is fixedly secured to the furniture.

4. A protective covering in accordance with claim **1**, in which said covering means include at least one more covering portion secured along a fold line to at least one of the side and front portions of the panel means.

5. A protective covering in accordance with claim **4**, in which means are provided for securing each of the covering portions of the covering means to one another in detachable relationship therewith.

6. A protective covering for furniture comprising front panel means, side panel means and back panel means secured to one another for tight positive engagement with at least a portion of the outside surface of a piece of furniture for providing an outside cover for each corresponding part thereof, covering means hingedly secured along a fold line to the top corresponding edge of each of said panel means, each of said covering means being normally foldable outwardly and downwardly against the outside surface of the respective panel means when the latter is in use, each of said covering means being foldable upwardly and inwardly when the furniture is not in use, with the side edges of each of said covering means mating with one another to provide a downwardly inclined weathertight covering for the piece of furniture in non-contoured relationship therewith thereby causing rain and the like coming into contact therewith to run off therefrom, and means for detachably securing each of said covering means to one another when in a closed state.

7. A protective covering in accordance with claim **6**, wherein said panel means include means for securing same to furniture in detachable relationship.

8. A protective covering in accordance with claim **6**, wherein said panel means is fixedly secured to the furniture.

9. A protective covering in accordance with claim **6**, wherein said means for detachably securing said covering means to one another are zipper means.

10. A protective covering in accordance with claim **6**, in which the covering means each is triangular in shape, with the apex of each of the triangular shaped portions provided with ring means, with each of said ring means cooperating with one another to maintain the covering means in assembled relationship when in mating relationship for protecting the piece of furniture.

11. A protective covering for furniture comprising a seat panel conforming to the dimensions of the seat portion of the furniture for engagement therewith, an inside back panel conforming to the inside back dimensions of the furniture for engagement therewith secured along a fold line to the back edge of said seat panel, front and side panels secured along respective fold lines to the front and side edges respectively and adapted to hang downwardly therefrom when associated with furniture against the respective outside surfaces thereof, an outside back panel secured along one edge to the top edge of said inside back panel and so dimensioned to cover the back of the furniture when associated therewith, said front, side, and outside back panels adapted to be secured to one another in detachable relationship along vertical edges

thereof to encircle the perimetral area of the furniture and engage same in positive relationship therewith, flap portions secured along one edge to the front and side edges of said seat portion, a flap portion secured along one edge to the top edge of said inner back panel, each of said flap portions foldable outwardly and downwardly to engage the outside face of the front, side, and outside back panels when the furniture is in use, each of said flap portions foldable inwardly in cooperation with one another to form a downwardly inclined, conical shaped, protective covering means in non-contoured relationship with the furniture when same is not in use, said inclined protective covering means causing rain and the like to run off when contacting said covering means, and means for securing said flap portions to one another in detachable relationship.

12. A protective covering in accordance with claim **11**, wherein zipper means are provided for securing the flap portions to one another.

13. A protective covering for furniture comprising front panel means, side panel means and back panel means secured to one another along vertical fold lines respectively and adapted for positive tight engagement with the outside perimetral edge of the furniture, back covering means hingedly secured along a horizontal fold line to the top edge of the back panel means, side covering means hingedly secured along a horizontal fold line to each side panel means, each of said covering means being normally foldable outwardly and downwardly against the outside surface of the respective back and side panel means when the furniture is in use, said covering means being foldable along said fold lines inwardly when the furniture is not in use forming downwardly inclined covering means in non-contoured relationship with the furniture for protecting same, said inclined covering means causing rain and the like to run off when contacting said covering means, and means for detachably securing at least said back covering means to at least said front covering means when in a folded state.

14. A protective covering for furniture comprising front panel means, side panel means and back panel means secured to one another and adapted for tight positive engagement with the outside perimeter of a piece of furniture, front and back covering means hingedly secured respectively along a horizontal fold line to the front and back panel means, triangular side panel portions hingedly secured along a horizontal fold line to each of said side panel means, side covering means hingedly secured along one edge to one edge of each of said triangular side panel portions, each of said covering means being normally folded downwardly and outwardly on the outside of the furniture when the latter is in use, each of said covering means being foldable upwardly and inwardly when the furniture is not in use, with the side edges of each of said covering means mating with one another to provide a downwardly-inclined, weathertight covering in non-contoured relationship with the furniture for protecting same against the elements, said inclined covering means causing rain and the like to run off when contacting said covering means, and means for detachably securing each of said covering means to one another when in a protective state.

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