United States Patent [19]

Sullivan

[11] **3,841,701**

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[54] **CONNECTABLE LOUNGE CHAIRS**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.**..... **297/248,** 297/249, 297/416, 297/443, 297/455

[51] **Int. Cl.**..... **A47c 15/00**

[58] **Field of Search**..... 297/248, 249, 414–416, 297/443, 454–456

[56] **References Cited**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

Lounge chair, serially connectable to form a lounge system comprising contiguous, self-supporting seat and back means which are connected by means of spaced connectors each having an upstanding leg member which receives an arm rest means and/or a ganging means connecting abutting lounge chairs.

9 Claims, 8 Drawing Figures

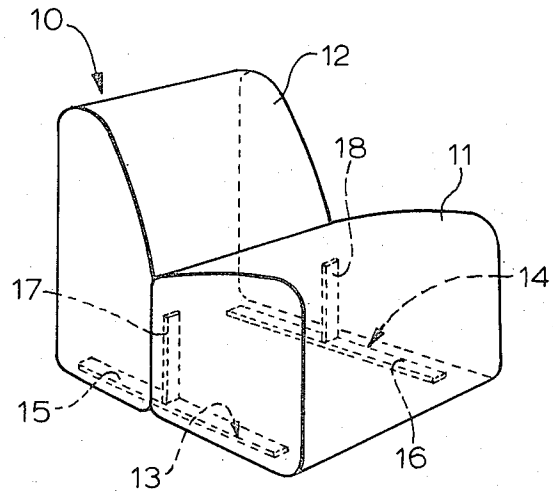


FIG. 1

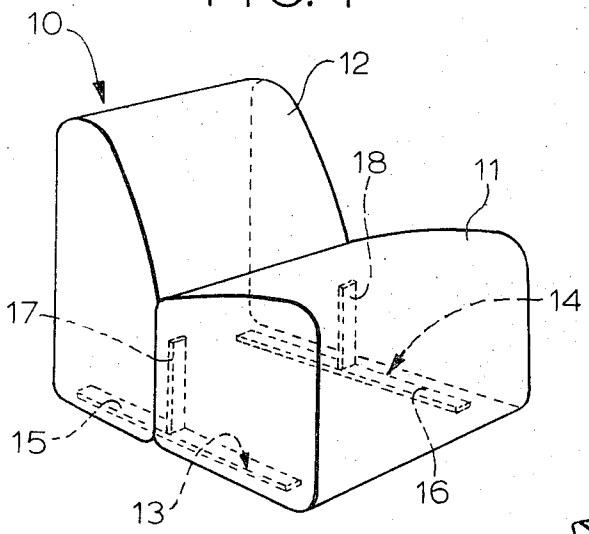


FIG. 3

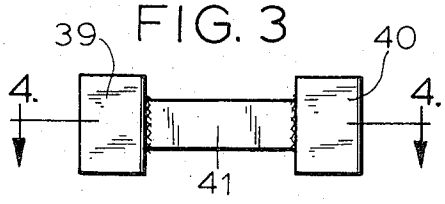


FIG. 4

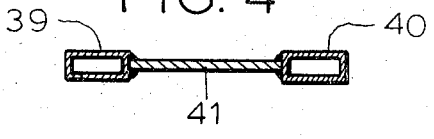


FIG. 5

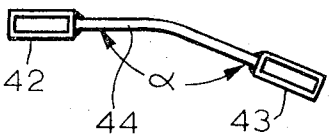
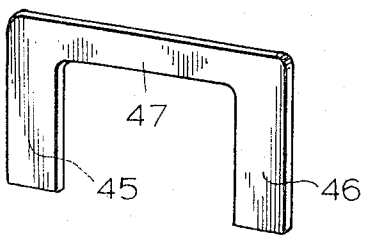


FIG. 6



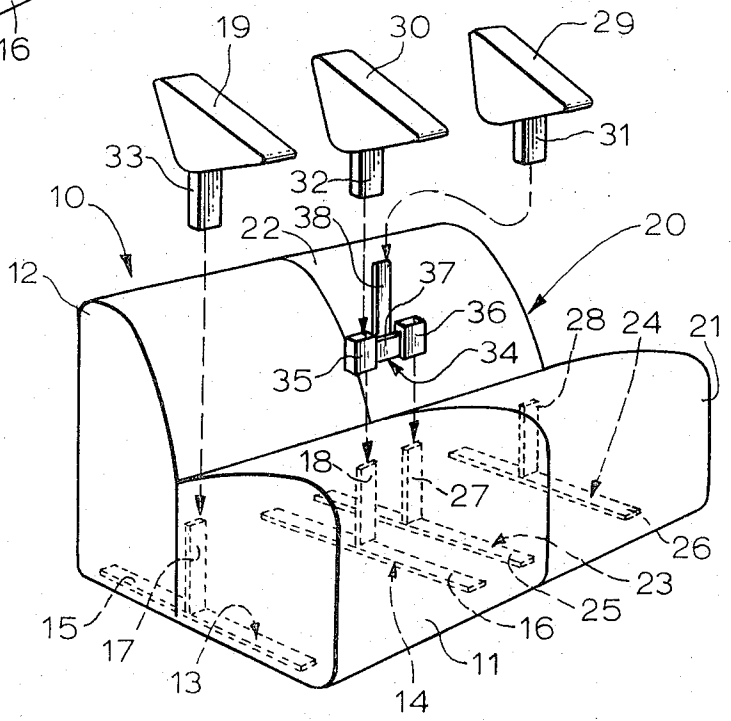


FIG. 2

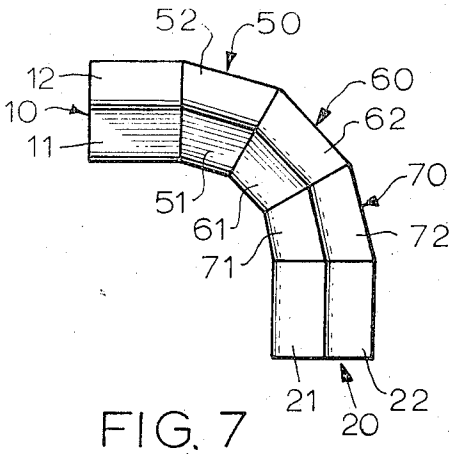


FIG. 7

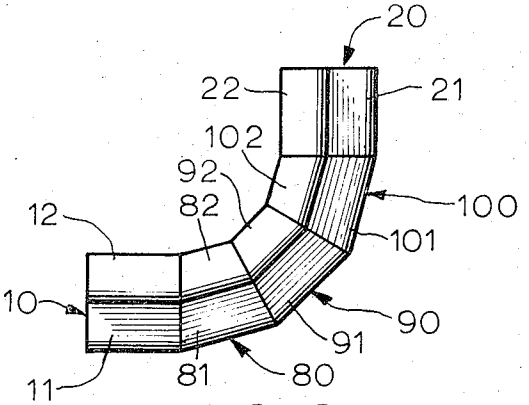


FIG. 8

CONNECTABLE LOUNGE CHAIRS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to seating systems and elements thereof.

It is an object of the present invention to provide lounge chairs which are serially connectable to form a lounge system.

It is a further object of this invention to provide means for removably connecting lounge chairs.

Yet another object of this invention is to provide a lounge chair having removable arm rest means.

Still other objects of this invention will readily present themselves to the skilled artisan upon reference to the ensuing specification, the drawing, and the claims.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention contemplates a lounge chair, serially connectable to form a lounge system. The lounge chair comprises a self-supporting seat means; a self-supporting back means contiguous with said seat means; and a pair of spaced connector means each having a substantially horizontal member and an upstanding leg member, joining said seat means and said back means. Each horizontal member of said connector means is secured to said back means and to said seat means, and each upstanding leg member is interposed between said back means and said seat means.

To form a lounge system, a plurality of abutting lounge chairs is connected with a ganging means which comprises a pair of spaced locking members joined to opposite ends of an elongated bar and slidably engaged by adjacent upstanding leg members secured to abutting lounge chairs.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the drawings,

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a lounge chair embodying the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a partially exploded perspective view of a lounge system embodying the present invention;

FIG. 3 is a side elevational view of a ganging means;

FIG. 4 is a sectional view of the ganging means shown in FIG. 3 taken along line 4—4;

FIG. 5 is a plan view of another ganging means;

FIG. 6 is a perspective view of yet another ganging means;

FIG. 7 is a plan view of a lounge system arranged at a 90° seating angle; and

FIG. 8 is a plan view of a lounge system arranged at a 270° seating angle.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Referring to FIG. 1, lounge chair **10** comprises self-supporting seat **11** and self-supporting back **12** contiguous to seat **11.** Inverted-T connectors **13** and **14,** each having a substantially horizontal member, such as members **15** and **16,** and an upstanding leg member, such as members **17** and **18,** are secured to seat **11** and back **12** on the underside thereof by screws or the like, thereby joining seat **11** to back **12.** Connectors **13** and **14** are spaced relative to each other, and upstanding leg members **17** and **18** are interposed between said seat and back.

As shown in FIG. **2,** lounge chair **10** is serially connectable to another, substantially similar, lounge chair

20 which comprises seat **21** and back **22** joined by inverted-T connectors **23** and **24,** having respective substantially horizontal members **25** and **26** and upstanding leg members **27** and **28.** Connection between abutting lounge chairs **10** and **20** is effected by ganging means **34** which slidably engages upstanding leg members **18** and **27.**

Ganging means **34** comprises a pair of spaced locking members such as collars **35** and **36** affixed to opposite ends of elongated bar **37.** Ganging means **34** can be further provided with upstanding integral member **38,** affixed to bar **37,** which serves as a handle for ganging means **34** and also receives and retains arm rest **29.** Downwardly-depending member **31** is tubular and is slidably received over member **38.** Alternatively, downwardly-depending member **31** can be solid and member **38** can be tubular in which event downwardly-depending member **31** is slidably received within member **38.**

In a similar manner, downwardly-depending member **33** of arm rest **19** slidably engages upstanding leg member **17.** Also, arm rest **30** can be attached to upstanding leg member **18,** after ganging means **34** is in place, by sliding downwardly-depending member **32** over upstanding leg member **18.** By standardizing the cross-sectional configurations of both the upstanding leg members, the upstanding members of the ganging means, and the downwardly-depending members of the arm rests, interchangeability of arm rests is readily achieved.

Another ganging means is illustrated in FIGS. **3** and **4,** wherein collars **39** and **40** are welded to bar **41** at opposite ends thereof. In this particular embodiment the upstanding leg members of adjacent inverted-T connectors are relied upon for providing anchor points for arm rests.

In order to arrange serially-connected lounge chairs in configurations other than a straight line, for example, at a 90° seating angle as shown in FIG. **7** or at a 270° seating angle as shown in FIG. **8,** a ganging device of the type shown in FIG. **5** can be utilized. In this particular embodiment collars **42** and **43** are affixed to opposite ends of elongated bar **44** which is bent, at about the midpoint thereof, at an angle α. For the seating arrangement of FIGS. **7** and **8,** α has a value of about 150°.

Referring to FIG. **7,** between lounge chairs **10** and **20** are interposed abutting wedge-shaped lounge chairs **50, 60** and **70** having respective seat units **51, 61** and **71,** and respective back units **52, 62** and **72** contiguous thereto. In like manner, in FIG. **8,** abutting wedge-shaped lounge chairs **80, 90** and **100,** having respective seat units **81, 91** and **101,** and respective back units **82, 92** and **102** contiguous thereto, are interposed between lounge chairs **10** and **20.** In each instance, abutting lounge chairs are connected by a ganging means which slidably engages the upstanding leg members of adjacent inverted-T connectors secured to the abutting lounge chairs.

In the lounge system of FIG. **7,** wedge-shaped lounge chairs **50, 60** and **70** have opposed sides converging back-to-front at an angle of about 30°. In the lounge system of FIG. **8,** opposed sides of wedge-shaped lounge chairs **80, 90** and **100** are converging front-to-back at an angle of about 30°.

In embodiments of this invention where the upstanding leg members such as leg members **17, 18, 27** and **28**

in FIG. 2 are tubular, e.g., having a cross-section of a rectangular tube, a ganging device of the type shown in FIG. 6 can be used. This ganging device comprises pin members 45 and 46 which depend downwardly from elongated bar 47 and are integral therewith.

The foregoing description and the drawings are illustrative and are not to be taken as limiting. Still other variations and rearrangements of parts are possible without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

I claim:

1. Lounge chair, serially connectable to form a lounge system, which comprises

a self-supporting seat means;

a self-supporting back means contiguous with said seat means; and

a pair of spaced connector means each having a substantially horizontal member and an upstanding leg member, and joining said seat means and said back means;

each horizontal member of said connector means being secured to said back means and to said seat means, and each upstanding leg member being interposed between said back means and said seat means.

2. The lounge chair in accordance with claim 1 wherein an arm rest means is provided with a downwardly-depending member which slidably engages said upstanding leg member and secures said arm rest means to the lounge chair.

3. The lounge chair in accordance with claim 2 wherein said downwardly-depending member is tubular and is slidably received over said upstanding leg member.

4. The lounge chair in accordance with claim 1 wherein each connector means has an inverted-T configuration.

5. A lounge system comprising

a plurality of abutting lounge chairs, each abutting lounge chair including a self-supporting seat means, a self-supporting back means contiguous with said seat means, and a pair of spaced connector means each having a substantially horizontal member secured to said back means and to said seat means and an upstanding leg member interposed between said seat means and said back means; and

a ganging means connecting said abutting lounge chairs and comprising a pair of spaced locking members joined to opposite ends of an elongated bar and slidably received by upstanding leg members of adjacent connectors secured to abutting lounge chairs.

6. The lounge system in accordance with claim 5 wherein said ganging means is further provided with an integral upstanding member for receiving an arm rest means.

7. The lounge system in accordance with claim 5 wherein said elongated bar is bent, at about the midpoint thereof, at a predetermined obtuse angle in a plane normal to the longitudinal axes of said locking members.

8. The lounge system in accordance with claim 5 wherein said ganging means comprises a pair of spaced collars, having substantially parallel longitudinal axes, joined to opposite ends of an elongated bar and slidably received over upstanding leg members of adjacent connectors secured to abutting lounge chairs.

9. The lounge system in accordance with claim 5 wherein each connector means has an inverted-T configuration.

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