C. P. TURNER.

ADJUSTMENT FOR RECLINING CHAIRS.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 20, 1917.

1,251,709. **Patented Jan. 1, 1918.**

Fig. 1.

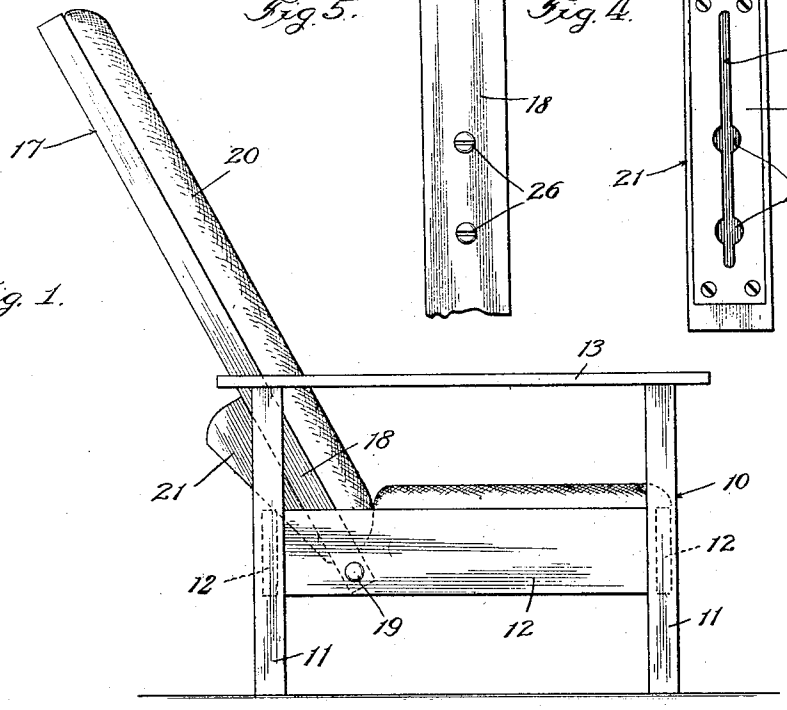


Fig. 5.

Fig. 4.

Fig. 2.

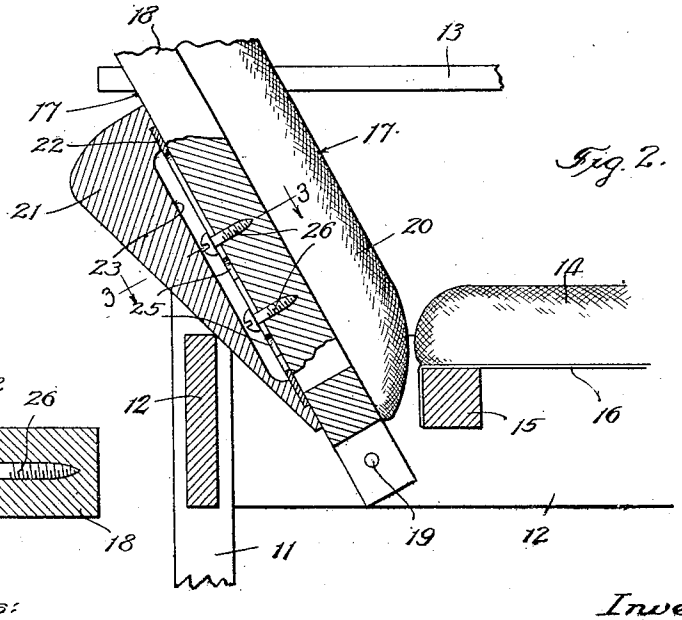
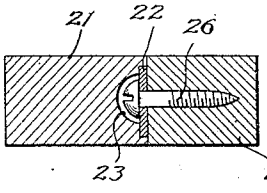


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES P. TURNER, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

ADJUSTMENT FOR RECLINING-CHAIRS.

1,251,709. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Jan. 1, 1918.

Application filed April 20, 1917. Serial No. 163,338.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES P. TURNER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented new and useful Improvements in Adjustments for Reclining-Chairs, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in adjusting means for reclining chairs of that character comprising a back pivotally connected to the chair frame and designed to be adjusted backwardly or forwardly to any desired inclination the comfort of the user demands.

In the manufacture of chairs of this character, of which the so-called "Morris" chair is a well known example, there are employed several kinds of adjusting means, varied in construction and degree of complication in parts and operation, for the purpose of adjusting the chair back, although a type of adjusting devices commonly used includes metal parts such as rods and brackets, which project beyond the body of the chair. These types are unsightly in appearance, inconvenient of manipulation, and objectionable because of the liability of injury to other articles of furniture by contact with the projecting parts of the device in moving the chair about, or the catching and tearing of a person's clothing in moving about the chair.

The purpose of this invention is to provide a simple and dependable adjusting means for reclining chairs, which will largely eliminate the difficulties hereinbefore mentioned, and at the same time enhance the appearance of the chair by reason of its inconspicuous construction and location.

The features of the invention are hereinafter more fully described and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein—

Figure 1 is a view in side elevation of a reclining chair embodying the novel adjusting device;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged detail view in section taken through the adjustment device and adjacent parts of the chair;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged detail view taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a view in elevation of the contact or inner face of the adjustment device; and

Fig. 5 is a view in elevation of the part of the chair back to which the device is attached, showing the means for so doing.

A chair of the reclining type and one particularly suited to the purposes of the adjusting device, comprises a body or frame 10, including vertical legs 11, horizontal side, front, and rear frame members 12 extending between the legs, and side arms 13. The side and front frame members support a suitable seat or cushion 14, there being provided cross bars 15 (Fig. 2) extending between the side frame members 12 and a suitable reinforcement 16, of leather or the like, extending over and connected to the cross bars 15. The seat 14 terminates short of the rear legs 11, providing a space occupied by the adjustable chair back, comprising a frame 17 of wood, preferably consisting of longitudinal side rails 18, 18 and transverse cross bars connecting said rails, the back frame being pivotally connected to the chair body by means of suitable pins 19 or the like extending through the lower ends of the side rails 18, 18 and the side frame members 12, 12 of the chair body. Secured or attached to the front surface of the back frame is the usual back cushion 20.

The chair back thus mounted is manifestly capable of being tilted from substantially vertical position rearwardly to an angle of considerable inclination, its rearward movement being limited by its contact with the rear horizontal frame member 12 of the chair body. In order to support the chair back in any intermediate position of inclination, the adjusting device embodying the features of the invention is employed, the same comprising parts as follows: Attached to the rear side of the chair back and preferably to each of the rails 18, 18 of the chair back and adjacent to the lower end thereof, is a triangular or wedge shaped block, capable of limited endwise movement along the rails, by the provision of suitable connecting

means, hereinafter to be described. The wedge shaped blocks 21, 21 are preferably of wood similar to that of which the chair is made, and are cut in the shape of a wedge, as before suggested, having a contact face extending flatwise along the rails and an outer face inclined to the rails, with the narrow end or apex of the wedge pointing downwardly. The path of endwise movement of each block is throughout the portion of the rails adjacent to the rear frame member, said blocks forming a wedge insertible between the back 17 and said frame member 12, the inclination of the back being manifestly determined by the position of the blocks relative to the rails 18, 18.

As a preferable means for attaching the blocks to the rails 18, 18, the following means is employed. Secured to the inner or contact face of each block is a metal plate 22 extending substantially throughout the length thereof and preferably countersunk in said face, there being further provided beneath said plate a groove or rabbet 23. Within the plate 22 is a longitudinally extending slot 24 of comparatively narrow width, said slot having enlarged openings 25, 25, formed in spaced relation and adjacent its lower end and at the central portion thereof. Mounted in the rails 18, 18 are provided screws 26, 26, arranged longitudinally thereof and spaced apart a distance equal to that between the enlarged openings 25, 25 in the plate 22 of the block. By this means a block may be removably attached to the chair back by inserting the screw-heads into the openings in the plate 22 and moving the block endwise so that the heads pass out of registering relation with said openings. The block is free to be moved endwise along the rail throughout the distance permitted by the length of the slot 24 and the screws 26, the heads of the latter being housed within the groove or rabbet 23.

To operate a reclining chair provided with the adjustment device herein described, it is only necessary to adjust the blocks 18, 18 upwardly or downwardly to a position such that the distance between the chair back and the rear frame member 12 is such as to produce the desired inclination. This adjustment can be accomplished by a person while seated in the chair, particularly when it is desired to adjust the back from a reclining to a more erect position, by swinging the back forwardly and allowing the blocks to slide or drop downwardly by gravity, thus becoming further wedged between the back and the rear frame member 12 and supporting said back in a more upright position. To lower the back it is only necessary to raise the blocks to the desired position and allow the back to be forced into contact therewith, thus holding the blocks in position by friction. The blocks can be lifted by the person, from a seated position, by reaching behind the back of the chair and grasping the blocks or by passing behind the chair and adjusting the blocks in the usual manner.

An adjusting device of this character embraces not only all the features of strength and range of adjustments of the ordinary devices in general use, but other advantageous features, as follows. The use of wood and the application of the wedge principle make it possible to obtain a simple and inexpensive device for the purpose, there being required but a single member, operating in conjunction with a permanent member of the chair frame. The fact that the device is of the same material as the chair, and is mounted upon the back in such a manner that all connecting parts are covered and furthermore located inwardly from the sides of the chair, eliminates laterally projecting parts, as well as making the device quite inconspicuous, thus enhancing the general appearance of the chair. A further feature of the device is the type of connecting members employed, which makes it possible to attach the device to chairs not originally provided therewith, the simplicity of the method of attaching making it comparatively easy for the unskilled person to apply the device.

I claim as my invention:

1. A reclining chair having a back pivotally connected with the chair body, a wedge shaped block located between said back and a part of said chair body, and means connecting said block with one of the parts between which it extends so that said block will be permitted to move by gravity relatively to said back for adjusting the inclination thereof.

2. A reclining chair having a back pivotally connected with the chair body, a wedge shaped block located between said back and a part of said chair body, and means connecting said block with said back so that said block will be permitted to move by gravity relatively to said back for adjusting the inclination thereof.

3. A reclining chair having a back pivotally connected with the chair body, a wedge shaped block located between said back and a part of said chair body, and means connecting said block with said back, comprising fixed members on said back extending into a slot in said block so that said block will be permitted to move by gravity relatively to said back for adjusting the inclination thereof.

4. A wedge shaped block for the purpose set forth, having a flat inner face adapted to bear against the back of a chair and an inclined outer face adapted to bear against a part of the chair body, a plate secured to the

inner face of said block, said plate being provided with an elongated slot having at least one enlarged portion in the length thereof, and said block being provided in that portion of its inner face covered by said plate with an elongated groove registering with said slot.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention, I affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses, this 11th day of April, A. D. 1917.

CHARLES P. TURNER.

Witnesses:
EUGENE C. WANN,
CHARLES H. POOLE.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."