Jan. 3, 1967 J. A. BROWN 3,295,891

FURNITURE CONSTRUCTION

Filed Nov. 10, 1965 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

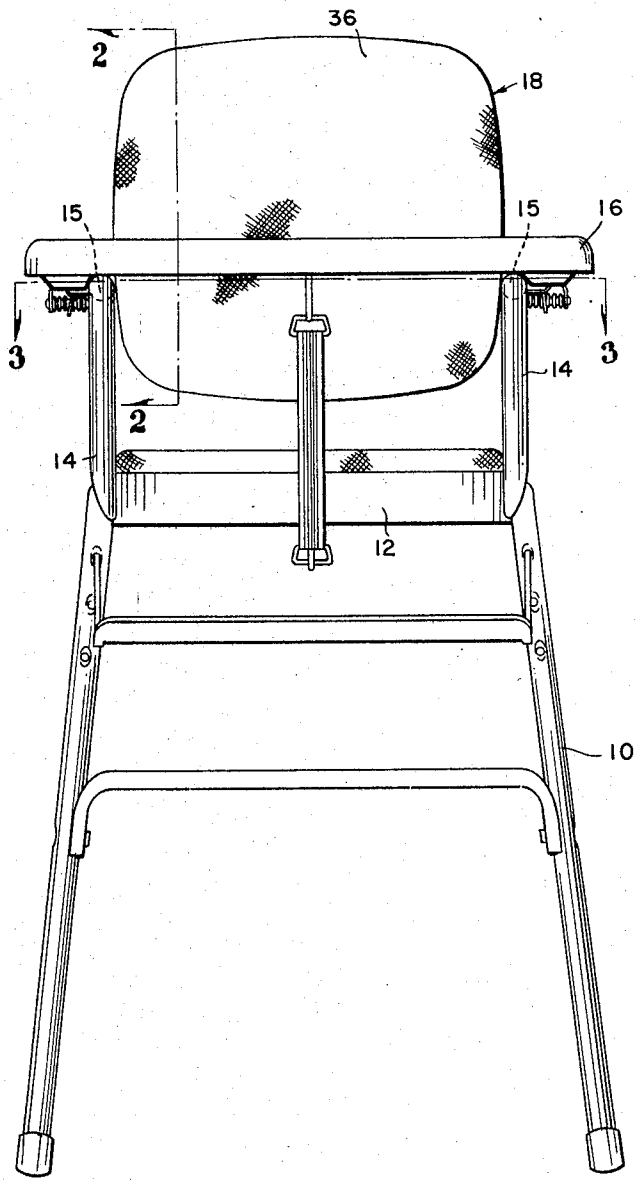


Fig. 1

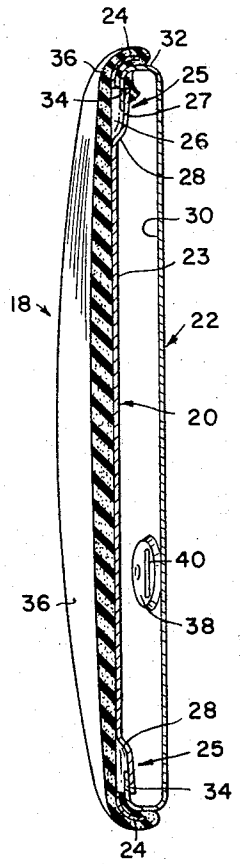


Fig. 2

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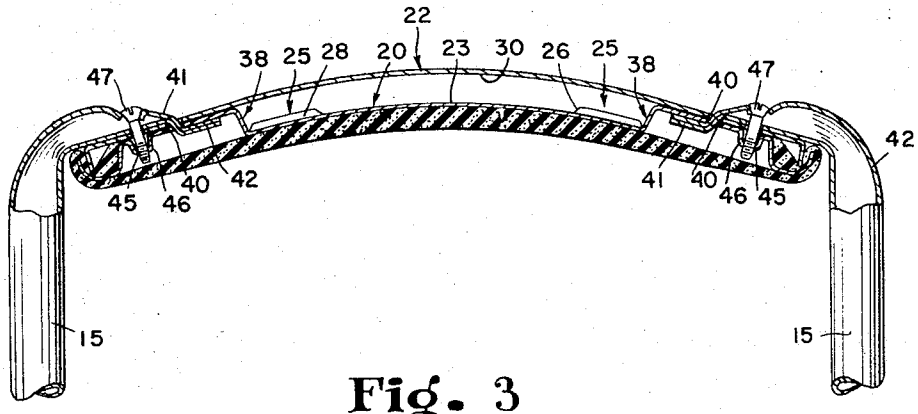


Fig. 3

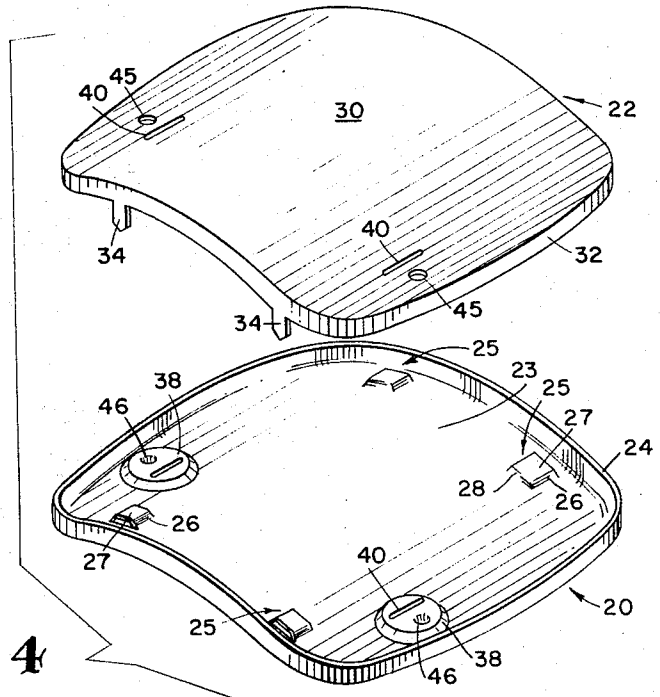


Fig. 4

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FURNITURE CONSTRUCTION

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8 Claims. (Cl. 297—452)

This invention relates to a furniture construction and more particularly to the construction of a back rest, seat, or the like for an article of furniture.

It is an object of the invention to provide such a back rest, seat, or the like which can be quickly and easily assembled, which will retain a covering thereon, which can be easily connected to other furniture components, which will be comfortable to the user, and which will be of attractive appearance.

In accordance with one form of the invention, as it is embodied in a chair back rest, there is provided a pair of opposed shells each having a central portion terminating at its edges in a peripheral flange generally normal thereto. One of said shells has a plurality of pockets formed therein with their open ends disposed toward the shell periphery. The other of said shells has a plurality of tongues projecting outwardly from its flange received in said pockets for locking the shells together in interfitting relationship. Said one shell has a greater cross-sectional extend than said other shell whereby the flange on said other shell is received within the flange on said one shell. Desirably, a fabric type covering extends over said one shell with its marginal edges bindingly received between the flanges on the pair of shells for thus retaining said covering over said one shell.

Conveniently, the pair of shells are provided with aligned openings in their central portions for the reception of arms or other furniture components for interconnecting the back rest to said arms or other components.

Other objects and features of the invention will become apparent from the more detailed description which follows and from the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a line front elevation of a high chair employing a back rest embodying the invention;

FIG. 2 is a vertical section taken on the line 2—2 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a horizontal section taken on the line 3—3 of FIG. 1; and

FIG. 4 is an exploded perspective view of the shells shown in FIGS. 2 and 3 prior to their assembly.

For convenience of description, the instant invention is shown and described as embodied in a back rest for an infant's high chair. The illustrated chair comprises a plurality of ground-engageable legs **10** supporting a seat **12**. A pair of side arms **14** are connected to the upper ends of the legs and are provided with upper stretches **15** supporting a tray **16** and connected to a back rest **18** embodying the invention.

As shown in the drawings, said back rest comprises a pair of interconnected shells **20** and **22** conveniently formed as sheet-metal stampings. The shell **20** has a central portion **23** terminating at its edges in a curved peripheral flange **24** generally normal to the plane of the central portion **23**. Pairs of laterally spaced offsets are formed in the central portion **23** adjacent the upper and lower ends thereof to define pairs of pockets **25** each having sidewalls **26** joined to the central portion and interconnected by a backwall **27**, and a bottom wall **28**. As shown, each of the pockets **25** has its open end disposed toward the adjacent edge of the shell.

The shell **22**, which has a smaller cross-sectional area than the shell **20**, comprises a central portion **30** terminating at its edges in a curved peripheral flange **32** generally normal to the central portion **30**. Pointed tongues **34** project outwardly from the flange **32** in alignment with the pockets **25** in shell **20**. To assemble the shells in operative interfitting relationship, the shell **22** is forced against the back face of the shell **20**, whereupon the tongues **34** will bend around the curved interconnection between the flange **24** and central portion **23** of shell **20** so that said tongues will enter into the pockets **25** for thus interconnecting the shells. With the shell **20** having a greater cross-sectional extent than the shell **22**, the flange **32** will be disposed within the extent of the flange **24** immediately adjacent thereto. As shown in FIG. 2, with the shells in their assembled relationship, the tongues **34**, pockets **25**, and shell central portions **23** and **30** are disposed in generally parallel planes.

Desirably, a padded covering **36** is mounted on the back rest over the front face of the shell **20** with its marginal edges wrapped around the flange **24**. In assembling the shells **20** and **22**, the tongues **34** pierce the marginal edges of said covering as they are moved into the pockets **25**. With said tongues received in the pockets, the marginal edges of the covering will be bindingly retained between the interfitting flanges **24** and **32** for thus retaining the covering **36** on the back rest. With the covering extending over the front face of the shell **20**, all of the interconnections between the shells will be hidden from view to thus enhance the appearance of the back rest.

As shown in FIG. 3, the central portion **23** has a pair of offset areas **38**, offset rearwardly toward the central portion **30** of the shell **22**. The areas **38** are in horizontal alignment with each other adjacent the opposite edges of the central portion **23**. A pair of aligned openings **40** are formed in the central portions **23** and **30** within the extent of each of the areas **38** for the reception of the flattened ends **41** of the arm stretches **15**. The arm stretches **15** are curved inwardly, as at **42**, to lie against the back face of the shell **20** to permit their ends **41** to be received in the openings **40** against the front faces of the areas **38** between the shell **20** and covering **36** for thus interconnecting the arms to the back rest.

Desirably, openings **45** are formed in the shell **22** adjacent the margins thereof and are disposed in alignment with apertured bosses **46** formed in the areas **38**. As shown, the openings **45** and bosses **46** are disposed immediately adjacent the openings **40**, and are adapted to receive screws **47** or other fastening elements extending through the arm structure **15** for further interconnecting the arms to the back rest should such additional interconnection be desired.

While the invention has been described as being embodied in a back rest, it is to be understood, of course, that it can be employed in the manufacture of seats, arm rests, and like furniture components. It is to be further understood, of course, that the structure illustrated in FIG. 3 is adapted for connecting various furniture components other than chair arms to the invention.

I claim:

1. In a furniture construction for a back rest, seat, or the like, first and second opposed shells each having a central portion terminating at its edges in a peripheral flange generally normal thereto, a plurality of pockets in the central portion of said first shell having their open ends disposed toward the periphery of said first shell, and a plurality of tongues projecting outwardly from the flange on said second shell received in said pockets for locking said shells together in interfitting relationship, said first shell having a greater cross-sectional extent than said second shell whereby the flange on said second shell is received within the flange on said first shell.

2. The invention as set forth in claim **1** in which said

pocket and tongues are in planes generally parallel to the planes of said central portions.

3. The invention as set forth in claim 1 with the addition that said shells have aligned openings in their central portions for the connection of additional furniture components thereto.

4. The invention as set forth in claim 3 in which said shells have first sets of aligned openings for the reception of said additional furniture components, and second sets of aligned openings adjacent said first sets for the reception of fastening elements for connecting said additional furniture components to said shells.

5. The invention as set forth in claim 1 in which each of said pockets has a pair of side walls joined to said central portion of the first shell and interconnected by a back wall.

6. In a furniture construction for a back rest, seat, or the like, first and second opposed shells each having a central portion terminating at its edges in a peripheral flange generally normal thereto, a plurality of pockets in the central portion of said first shell having their open ends disposed toward the periphery of said first shell, a plurality of tongues projecting outwardly from the flange on said second shell received in said pockets for locking said shells together in interfitting relationship, said first shell having a greater cross-sectional extent than said

second shell whereby the flange on said second shell is received within the flange on said first shell, and a covering extending over said first shell with its marginal edges bindingly retained between the flanges on said shells.

7. The invention as set forth in claim 6 in which said tongues extend through the marginal edges of said covering.

8. The invention as set forth in claim 6 in which the central portion of said first shell has a pair of areas offset toward said second shell, and aligned openings are formed in said shell within the extent of said areas for connection of additional furniture components to said shells between said first shell and said covering.

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