Jan. 24, 1967 W. J. BOUCHE 3,300,246

BENCH

Filed Feb. 3, 1966

Fig.1

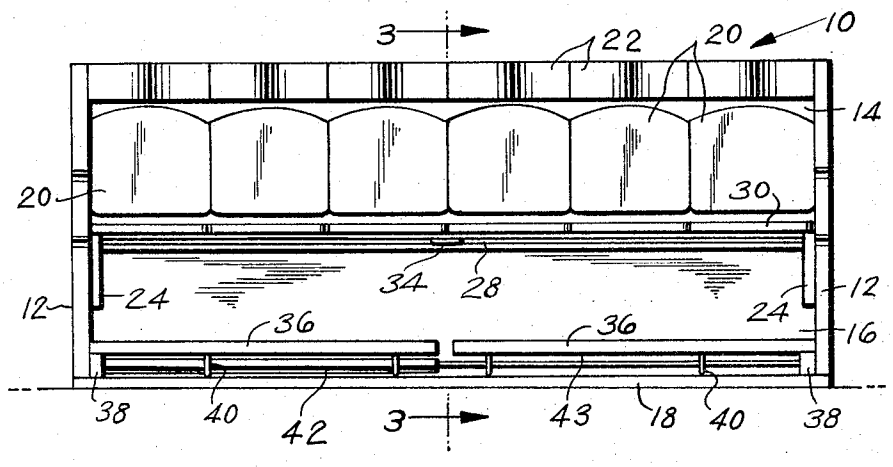


Fig.2

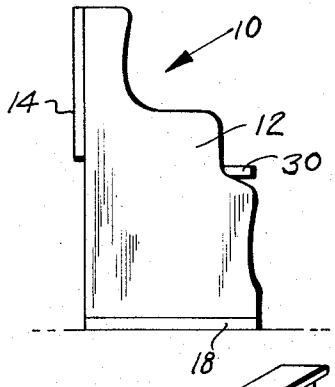


Fig.3

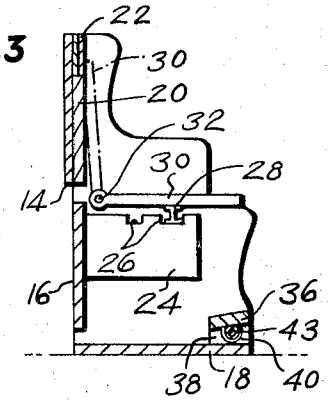


Fig.4

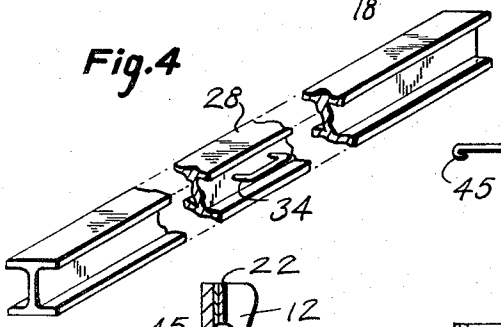


Fig.5

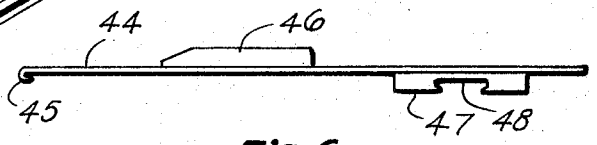


Fig.6

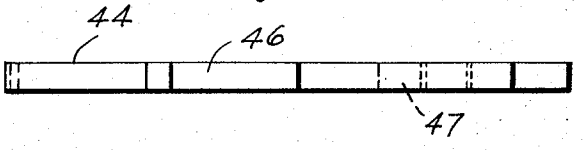
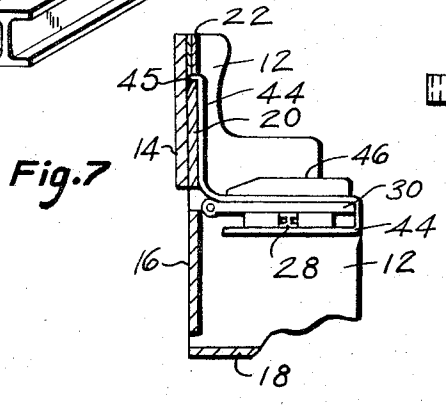


Fig.7



INVENTOR.

Walter J. Bouche

United States Patent Office 3,300,246 Patented Jan. 24, 1967

3,300,246

BENCH

Walter J. Bouche, 1020 Hickory Hill Drive, Green Bay, Wis. 54304

Filed Feb. 3, 1966, Ser. No. 525,798
5 Claims. (Cl. 297—232)

This invention relates to various seating arrangements, and more particularly a bench.

It is therefore the main purpose of this invention to provide a bench having adjustable seats and being designed in such a manner that there are no obstructions under the seat members thereby reducing labor to a minimum in sweeping and cleaning of the floor.

Another object of this invention is to provide a bench which is provided with foldable seats and removable arm rests.

Another object of this invention is to provide a bench for use in churches, theaters, auditoriums, stadiums, and the like.

Still another object of this invention is to provide a bench which is of rigid construction, inexpensive to manufacture and provides maximum utility to its users.

Other objects and advantages of this invention will become apparent from a consideration of the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing wherein a satisfactory embodiment of the invention is shown. However, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the details disclosed but includes all such variations and modifications as fall within the spirit of the invention and the scope of the appended claims.

In the drawing:

FIGURE 1 is a front view of this invention.

FIGURE 2 is an end view of FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 3 is a cross-sectional view taken along the lines 3—3 of FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 4 is a perspective view of the I-beam shown removed from the invention.

FIGURE 5 is a elevated end view of the armrest arrangement.

FIGURE 6 is a top view of FIGURE 5.

FIGURE 7 is a cross-sectional view of the bench showing the armrest arrangement attached thereto.

Referring now in detail to the drawing, a bench **10** includes a pair of vertical side frames **12** which are fixedly secured to a rectangular upper rear panel **14**. A rectangular lower rear panel **16** is spaced apart from the upper rear panel **14** and is fixedly secured between side frames **12** thus providing maximum rigidity for bench **10**. A rectangular base **18** is fixedly secured to the lowermost portions of side frames **12**. Also, plurality of back rest members **20** are secured to the front of the upper rear panel **14**. Headrests **22** are affixed to the front of the upper rear panel **14** above the backrest members **20** thereby providing means for the persons sitting upon bench **10** to comfortably rest their heads on rest members **22**. A rectangular support member **24** is fixedly secured to the inside portion of each side frame **12**, which frame is provided with at least a pair of U-shaped cutouts **26** for admitting an elongated I-beam **28** therein. The beam **28** is arranged to support seats **30** which are interconnected by an elongated pivot bar **32**. Said bar is secured within the side frames **12** of bench **10** thereby providing pivotable action for seats **30**. U-shaped handle **34** is secured to the center of I-beam **28** for raising all of the seats **30** when it is necessary to clean the base **18**. A pair of spaced apart knee rests members **36** are secured to a pair of spaced apart sides **38** which may be affixed upon or may be placed forwardly of bench **10** if desired. A plurality of spaced apart U-shaped members **40** are fixedly secured beneath knee rest members **36** thereby providing support

means for telescoping sleeves **42** and **43** respectively. Sleeves **42** and **43** are adapted to provide means of extending the length of knee rest members **36** when desired.

In use, seats **30** of bench **10** may be raised collectively by grasping handle **34** and lifting I-beam **28**. I-beam **28** may be moved forward or rearward to compensate for any weight adjustment necessary by removing it from one set of openings **26** and placing it into another set of openings. It shall be noted that bench **10** may be constructed of wood, plastic or any other substance.

In its modified form the invention provides for a strip of flexible material **44**, one end of which is provided with a hook **45** for securing said strip to the uppermost extremity of the rest member **20** and thereby providing an armrest for the user of bench **10**. The top portion of strip **44** is provided with an armrest padding **46** suitably secured to said strip. The bottom portion of said strip (see FIGURE 5) is provided with a substantially rectangular support member **47** having a lateral slot **48** therein which is adapted to be enclosed around a portion of I-beam **28** for affixing the other end of strip **44** to the bottom portion of seat **30**. FIGURE 7 shows the positioning of the armrest arrangement when in use. If it is desired to remove said arrangement from the bench **10**, hook **45** is raised and removed from the rest member **20**, afterwards the support member **47** is pushed downwardly releasing it from I-beam **28**.

What I now claim is:

1. A bench comprising, in combination, a pair of side frames adapted to provide armrest means for the occupants seated at the ends of said bench, a rectangular base member carried by said side frames providing ground rest means for said bench, a rectangular upper rear panel supported by said side frames, a rectangular lower rear panel supported between said side frames in cooperation with said upper rear panel adapted to provide support means for said bench, a plurality of headrests and a plurality of backrests supported on said bench, a plurality of pivotable seat members interposed between said side frames of said bench, an I-beam cross-member providing support means for said pivotable seat members, a pair of slotted support members carried by said side frames adapted to support the ends of said I-beam a pair of telescoping knee rests members adapted to provide knee and feet rest means for said bench, said knee rest members are adapted to be removed from said bench during the cleaning operations, said knee rest members being laterally adjacent to each other and having a plurality of U-shaped members of their underside supported on a telescoping sleeve unit, and at least one portable armrest member adapted to be removably secured between said backrests, said armrest member including a flexible strip having a substantially resilient cushion thereon for positioning arms and hands of the persons sitting on said bench, a hook member for the top portion of each said strip for securing said strip to the top portion of said backrest, the other end of said strip being provided with a slotted securing member for affixing the other end of said strip to said I-beam.

2. The bench according to claim **1**, wherein said upper rear panel is provided with at least one recess for admitting said hook member of said armrest member.

3. The bench according to claim **1**, wherein at least one said headrest is in alignment with at least one said backrest, said headrest and said backrest are spaced apart from each other and are secured to the front side of said upper rear panel for providing substantially vertical relationship therebetween.

4. The bench according to claim **1**, wherein said pivotable seat members are adapted to be received by an elongated bar secured between said side frames thereby allow-

ing a plurality of seat members to be lifted at once by raising said I-beam.

5. The bench according to claim 4, wherein a U-shaped handle secured to said I-beam for lifting said beam by manual effort.

References Cited by the Examiner

UNITED STATES PATENTS

579,027	3/1897	Webb	297—396
1,104,360	7/1914	Kusterer	297—423
1,531,184	3/1925	Hodges	297—232
1,662,378	3/1928	Duke	297—257
2,258,864	10/1941	Rieger	297—257
2,633,180	3/1953	Reed	297—194

FRANK B. SHERRY, *Primary Examiner.*

FRANCIS K. ZUGEL, *Examiner.*