Nov. 16, 1954 W. E. NORDMARK 2,694,442

FOLDING CHAIR

Filed July 5, 1949

Fig. 1

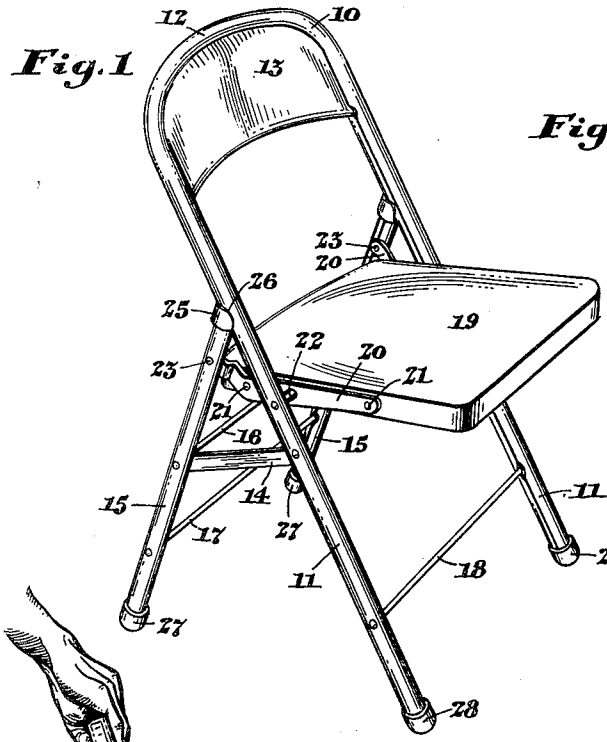


Fig. 4

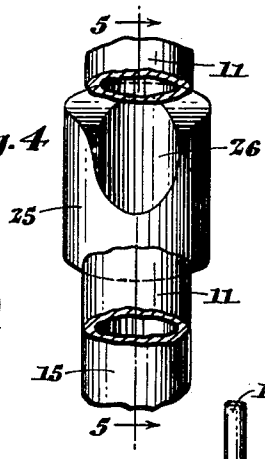


Fig. 3

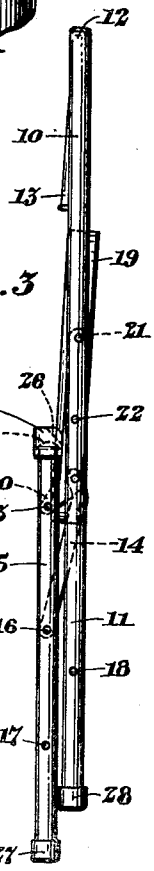


Fig. 2

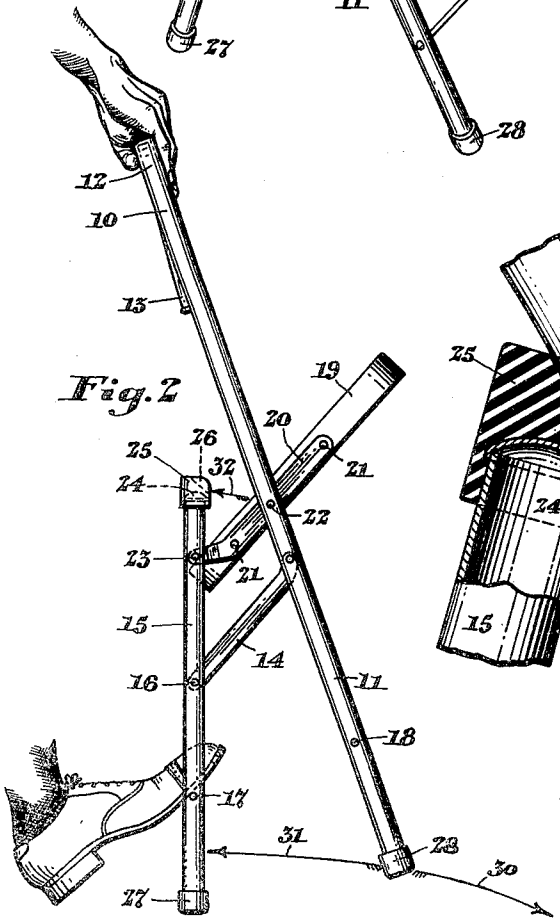
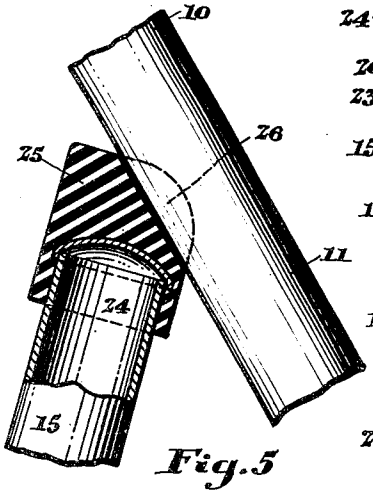


Fig. 5



INVENTOR.

Walter E. Nordmark

BY John S. Braddock

Attorney

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FOLDING CHAIR

Walter E. Nordmark, Grand Rapids, Mich., assignor to American Seating Company, Grand Rapids, Mich., a corporation of New Jersey

Application July 5, 1949, Serial No. 103,081

3 Claims. (Cl. 155—142)

The present invention relates to folding chairs and more particularly to metal-frame folding chairs of the inverted Y type.

Many folding chairs of the inverted Y type have been devised in which metal bars of tubular or channel form are employed to provide the U-shaped front frame which forms the back support and front legs of the chair, and rear legs pivoted to the front legs. In most of these chairs the seat is pivoted to the front legs, and links or other means connect the rear of the seat to the rear legs so that when the seat is folded upwardly in the front the entire chair is folded with the rear legs lying alongside the front legs. This type of folding chair requires both hands to fold or unfold, one hand being employed to lift the frame so that the rear legs are off the floor, while the other hand is employed to manipulate the seat.

One of the primary objects of the present invention is to provide a Y-type folding chair which may be unfolded by using one hand and folded by using one hand and one foot, the other hand being thus left free to carry a second chair which may likewise be folded and unfolded by using that hand and one foot. The importance of this is that it makes possible seating a hall with folding chairs, and clearing the hall, in about one-half the time formerly required by enabling the individuals doing the work to handle two chairs at a time.

Another object of the invention is to provide a Y-type folding chair which does not have a tendency to "jack-knife," i. e. a chair in which the seat will not pivot even though the occupant shifts his weight rearwardly of the pivotal connections between the seat and the front legs of the chair. Such "jack-knifing" is common in present-day Y-type folding chairs.

Other objects of the invention are to provide such a folding chair which is simple and sturdy in construction, reasonably economical in manufacture, and attractive in appearance.

An illustrative embodiment of the invention is shown in the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the new folding chair in an unfolded position for occupancy;

Figure 2 is a side elevational view of the same in a semifolded position;

Figure 3 is a side elevational view of the chair completely folded;

Figure 4 is an enlarged fragmentary front elevational view of parts of the chair; and

Figure 5 is a vertical sectional view of the same taken on line 5—5 of Figure 4.

Referring now in detail to this drawing wherein like parts are designated by the same numerals in the several views, the folding chair there shown is of tubular metal frame construction, having a main frame **10** of inverted U-shape the legs of which form the front legs **11** of the chair and the bight **12** of which forms a support for the back **13** of the chair. Links **14** at opposite sides of the chair are pivotally connected at their front ends to the front legs **11** respectively, slightly below the middles of said front legs. Rear legs **15** are pivotally connected, at their approximate middles, to the rearward ends of links **14** respectively. The rear legs **15** are rigidly interconnected by means of metal rods or struts **16**, **17**, and the front legs **11** are similarly interconnected by a strut **18**.

The chair seat **19** has seat arms **20** secured as by means of rivets **21** to the opposite sides of the seat. The seat is pivotally connected at opposite sides thereof to the front legs **11** by means of pins **22**, and is also pivotally connected in the rear to the rear legs **15** by means of studs **23** passing through said rear legs and through the rearward ends of the seat arms **20**.

The upper ends of the rear legs **15** are provided with metal caps **24** secured thereto as by welding, and with resilient rubber socket members **25** snugly fitted over the caps **24** and the upper end portions of the rear legs. The sockets **26** in the upper forward faces of these socket members **25** receive and engage the rearward surfaces of the chair's front legs **11** when the chair is unfolded, thus to support the chair in such unfolded position as best seen in Figure 1. Rubber feet **27** are fitted on the lower ends of the rear legs **15** and similar rubber feet **28** are fitted on the lower ends of the front legs **11**.

It will be seen by reference to Figure 3 that when the chair is in a completely folded condition the rear legs **15** extend slightly beyond and below the front legs **11** at their lower extremities. In order to unfold the chair the operator holds the chair in one hand grasping the top of the main frame **10**, and then engages the rubber feet **27** on the rear legs with the floor. He then simply pushes the main frame forwardly and downwardly as indicated by the arrow **30** in Figure 3. In order to fold the chair, the operator places his foot on the bottom strut **17** which connects the rear legs **15**, grasps the main frame **10**, and merely lifts the chair into folded condition as indicated by the arrows **31** and **32** in Figure 3. These unfolding and folding operations can be quickly and easily performed with two chairs at a time, inasmuch as only one hand is required for each chair.

When the chair is in its unfolded position for occupancy, as shown in Figure 1, the seat **19** cannot be "jack-knifed" because of its fixed pivotal connections with both the front legs **11** and the rear legs **15**.

It will thus be seen that a novel folding chair has been provided which may quickly and easily be unfolded for use or folded for storage, which is simple and sturdy in construction and attractive in appearance, and while but one specific embodiment of the chair has been herein shown and described it will be understood that numerous details may be altered or omitted without departing from the spirit of the invention as defined by the following claims.

I claim:

1. A folding chair comprising a tubular frame forming a back support and spaced front legs, links pivotally connected to the front legs and extending rearwardly therefrom, tubular rear legs pivotally connected to the rearward ends of said links and extending above the links, a seat pivoted at its opposite sides to the front legs and to the rear legs, the chair being thus foldable to a position with the seat lying between the front legs and with the rear legs lying adjacent and rearwardly of the front legs, and the chair being unfoldable to an inverted Y-form position in which the rear legs are inclined rearwardly-downwardly and the front legs are inclined rearwardly-upwardly, and resilient members fitted to the upper ends of the tubular rear legs and provided with sockets therein within which seat intermediate portions of the chair's tubular front legs in the unfolded position of the chair.

2. A folding chair comprising a tubular frame forming a back support and spaced front legs, links pivotally connected to the front legs and extending rearwardly therefrom, tubular rear legs pivotally connected approximately midway between their upper and lower ends to the rearward ends of said links, a seat pivoted at its opposite sides to the front legs above the latter's pivotal connections to the links and said seat being pivoted in the rear to the rear legs above the latter's pivotal connections to the links, the chair being thus foldable to a position with the seat lying between the front legs and with the rear legs lying adjacent and rearwardly of the front legs, and the chair being unfoldable to an inverted Y-form position in which the rear legs are inclined rearwardly-downwardly and the front legs are inclined rearwardly-upwardly, and resilient members fitted to the upper ends of the tubular rear legs and provided with sockets therein within which seat intermediate portions of the chair's tubular front legs in the unfolded position of the chair.

3. A folding chair comprising a tubular frame forming a back support and spaced front legs, links pivotally connected to the front legs and extending rearwardly therefrom, tubular rear legs pivotally connected to the rearward ends of said links and extending above the links, a seat pivoted at its opposite sides to the front legs and to the rear legs, the chair being thus foldable to a position with the seat lying between the front legs and with the rear legs lying adjacent and rearwardly of the front legs, and the chair being unfoldable to an inverted Y-form position in which the rear legs are inclined rearwardly-downwardly and the front legs are inclined rearwardly-upwardly, and resilient members fitted to the upper ends of the tubular rear legs against which abut intermediate portions of the chair's tubular front legs in the unfolded position of the chair.

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