Aug. 3, 1937. V. DI GIACOMO ET AL 2,089,090

COLLAPSIBLE BABY CHAIR

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Fig. 1.

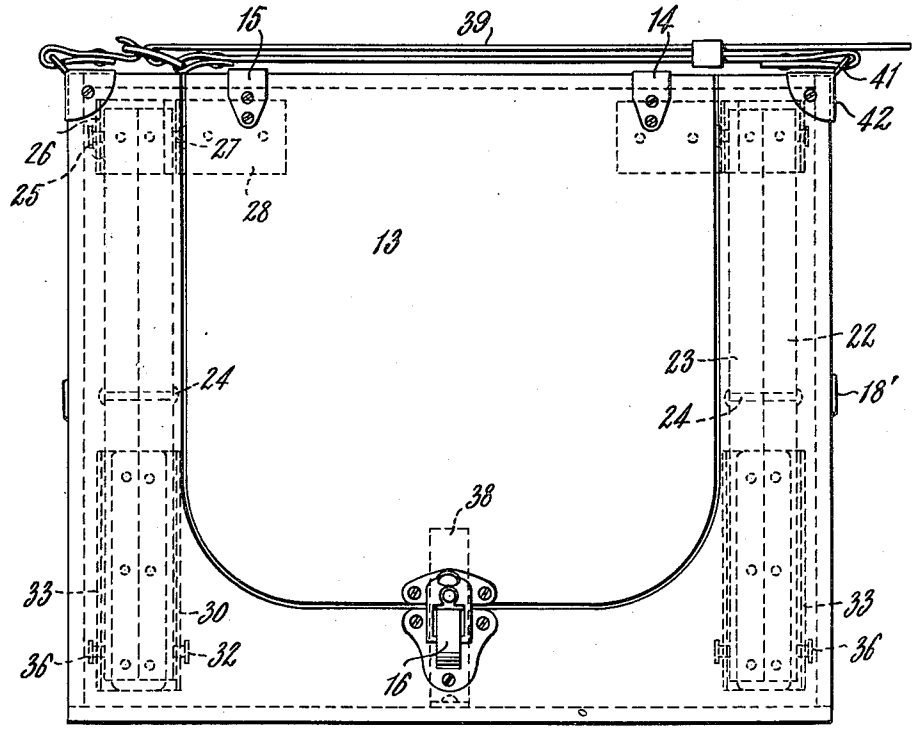


Fig. 2.

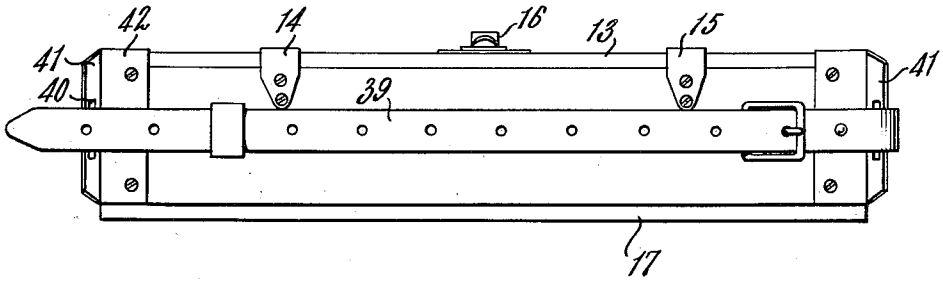
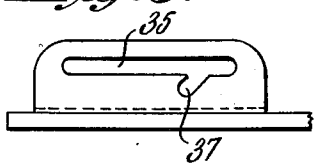


Fig. 3.



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Fig. 4.

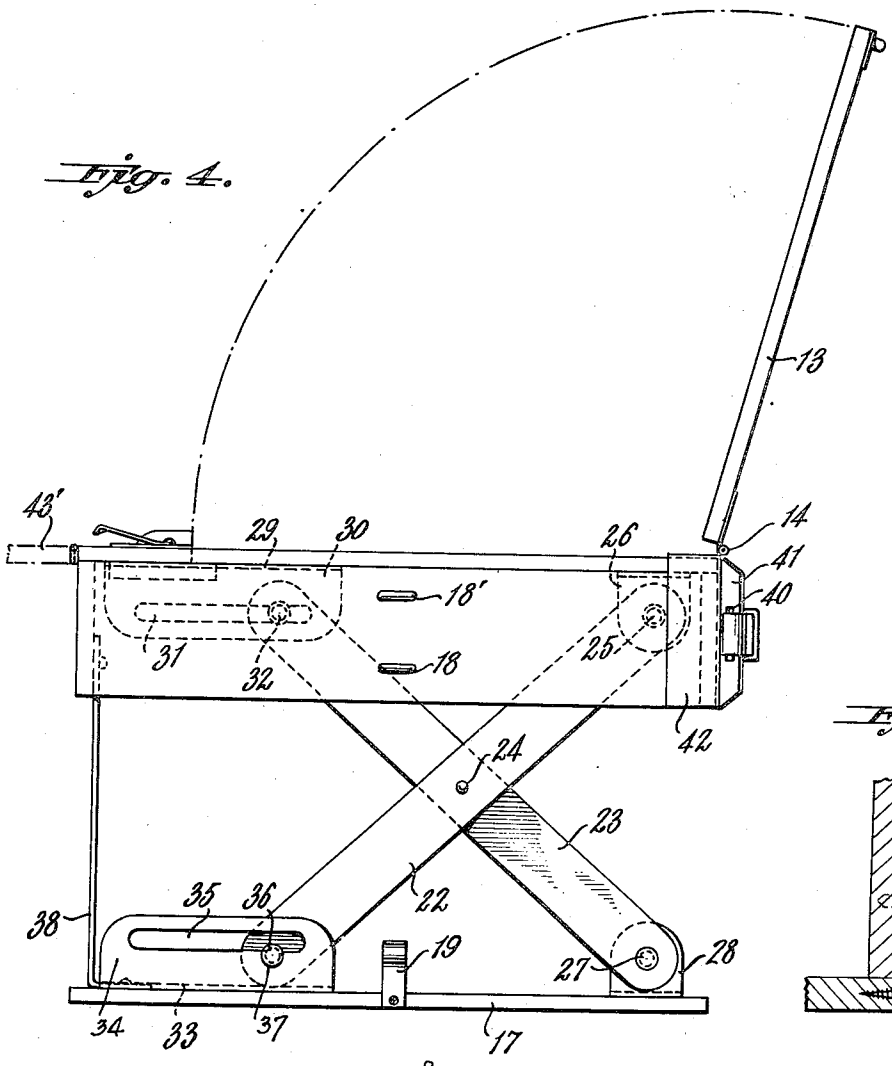
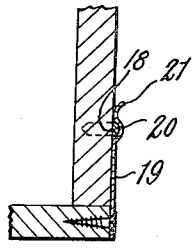


Fig. 5.



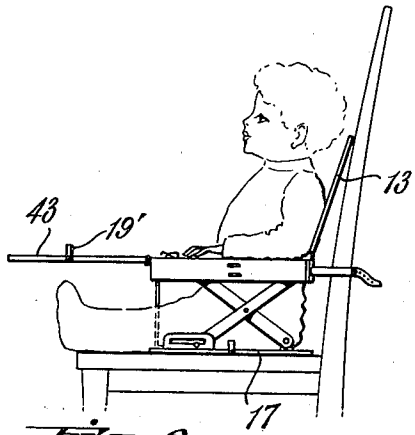


Fig. 6.

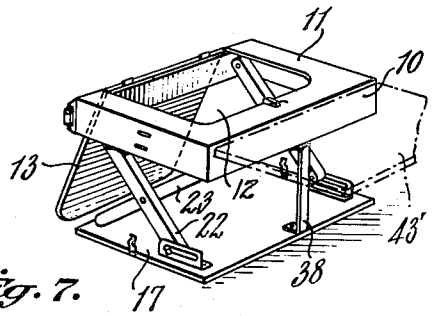


Fig. 7.

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COLLAPSIBLE BABY CHAIR

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3 Claims. (Cl. 190—8)

This invention relates to accessories for the care of babies and more particularly refers to improvements in means for holding a baby in a sitting posture so as to keep him free from harm.

When a mother having a young baby leaves her home to go visiting or camping or some place where a baby's chair is not likely to be found, she is generally compelled to hold the baby in her arms or lap during practically all of the time. This causes discomfort and fatigue and otherwise interferes with the pleasure of a trip or outing, so that as a result on frequent occasions it is necessary for the mother to forego such diversions.

The care of a baby on such occasions also makes it necessary to carry along various articles such as the baby's milk bottle, diapers, extra garments, etc., and this also constitutes an additional burden making it desirable to have a convenient package on hand for carrying all these articles.

The primary object of this invention is to provide a collapsible structure which is very compact and unobtrusive when contracted and which is composed of articulated elements expansible into an open top receptacle within which a baby can be seated, said receptacle having a bisected open front through which the baby's legs can extend.

Another object is to provide an article of the character specified which when contracted forms a small box or carrying case within which the various articles necessary for the care and comfort of the baby can be conveniently carried.

A further object is to provide a collapsible structure which when expanded forms an open top receptacle within which a baby can be seated, said receptacle being adapted to be placed upon an ordinary chair and securely fastened in position so that the baby cannot fall or change his position.

A still further object is to provide an article of the character specified composed of a relatively small number of parts, adapted to be easily and quickly operated and produced at relatively small cost.

Other objects and advantages of the present invention will more fully appear as the description proceeds and will be set forth and claimed in the appended claims.

Our invention is illustrated by way of example in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of the device in its contracted condition;

Fig. 2 is a rear view in elevation thereof;

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary side view in elevation of the bottom board illustrating one of the locking guide brackets;

Fig. 4 is a side view in elevation of the device in its expanded condition ready for use;

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary transverse section on an enlarged scale illustrating a spring catch automatically locking the device in its collapsed condition;

Fig. 6 is a side view in elevation showing the device in use placed and secured upon an ordinary chair; and

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of the device in its expanded condition placed on the floor ready for use.

Our device as illustrated comprises a relatively shallow open bottom rectangular casing 10, the top of which 11 is provided with an opening 12 wide enough to permit the body of a small child to be inserted therethrough.

Opening 12 is normally closed by a lid 13 hinged to its rear edge as shown at 14, 15 and retained in its closed position, where it is flush with the top 11, by a suitable locking device, such as for instance shown at 16.

The device also comprises a bottom board 17, the outline of which corresponds to the outline of the casing, said board being adapted to rest against the open bottom of said casing as shown in Fig. 2, forming a closure therefor when the device is in its contracted position.

The bottom board 17 is secured in position of abutment against the lower edge of the casing by some suitable releasable means. For instance, in the drawings each end wall of the casing is shown provided with an outwardly projecting burr or lug constituted in this case by the transverse member of a staple 18 driven through the wall board.

The bottom board is shown provided with upwardly extending spring catches 19, one at each end, said spring catches having their outer end embossed to form a bead or depression 20 adapted to engage and interlock with member 18, and having their tip end slightly rounded outwardly as shown at 21, so as to cause said tip end to ride over member 18 whereby bar 18, and catches 19, will automatically interlock when bottom board 17 is pressed in position against the lower edge of the casing.

The bottom board is connected to the casing by a lazy tongs system comprising two articulated cross arms 22, 23, at each end of the structure. Said two arms are pivotally connected to each other at their central point 24. The rear end

of arm 22 is pivotally connected to the rear of the casing as shown at 25, said connection being preferably effected through the intermediary of a single bracket 26.

In a similar manner the rear end of arm 23 is pivotally connected at 27 to an angle bracket 28 upwardly projecting from the bottom board 17 in proximity to the rear of its corresponding end. The front ends of said arms 22, 23 are slidably and pivotally connected to the front part of bottom board 17 and casing 10 respectively, in order to permit the articulated structure formed by each set of cross arms to contract or expand with the casing and bottom board structure.

To this end the front part of the lower surface of top 11 of the casing is provided, in proximity of each end, with an angle bracket 29 having a vertical depending rib 30 the outer surface of which is substantially on the same plane as the inner surface of its corresponding arm 23. Said rib 30 is provided with an elongated slot 31, extending in a front to rear direction, within which can slide a stud 32 carried by and laterally projecting from the front end of arm 23, the same establishing a sliding and pivotal connection between rib 30 and arm 23.

In a similar manner the front part of bottom board 17 is provided at each end with an angle bracket 33 having a rib 34 vertically extending therefrom in a front to rear direction. Said rib is provided with an elongated slot 35 within which is inserted a stud 36 carried by and laterally extending from the front end of arm 32.

In proximity of its rear end said slot 35 is provided with a notch 37 adapted to receive stud 36 when the device is in its expanded position shown in Fig. 4, said notch forming a stop retaining its corresponding lazy tongs structure in its expanded position until the lower end of arm 22 is forced upwardly by hand so as to disengage its stud 36 from notch 37 and reset said stud 36 in the runway formed by slot 35.

At the front the casing and the bottom board are connected by a centrally disposed flexible band 38 made of leather or some other suitable material which will be fully extended when the device is in its expanded position.

At the rear the casing is provided with a strap 39 running horizontally from one end to the other, said strap forming a handle for the device when in its collapsed condition and serving to carry the device in suitcase fashion.

Preferably the strap is inserted at each end through a slot such as shown at 40 in Fig. 4 provided in rib 41 outwardly extending from a corner piece 42 which serves to connect the rear and side walls as well as the top of the casing together, and which also acts as a reinforcement for the structure.

The strap is long enough to encircle the back of a chair when unfastened and extended, so that when the device in its expanded position is placed upon a chair as shown in Fig. 6, the strap can be used to securely fasten the device onto the chair.

The manner of using the device is clearly shown in Fig. 6, where it is seen that the baby can be inserted through top opening 12 and seated upon the bottom board 17 so that his legs will extend from the space left open at the front between the lower edge of the casing and the bottom board, one leg at each side of strap 38. The lid 13 has been raised against the back of the chair and provides a back rest for the child, who will thus be sitting in a very comfortable and proper posture.

When the device is placed upon the floor as shown in Fig. 7, the lid is turned all the way back until it rests against the floor so as to form an inclined prop for the rear of the structure. The lid is held in this position by fastening the strap 39 over it, and will positively prevent the structure from overturning if the child should bend his legs and brace or press with his feet against some obstacle in front of him.

The device, due to its breadth, is likewise also very stable at both ends so that once the child is placed in it he cannot cause it to topple over.

When the device is in its collapsed condition it forms a rectangular box of which lid 13 forms a closure, so that when moving from place to place the device can be utilized as a receptacle within which all the things necessary to the care of the baby can be placed and carried. As stated, the device then acquires the appearance of a small suitcase which can be conveniently carried by means of a handle formed by strap 39.

The device can be quickly extended from its contracted or closed position to its expanded or open position merely by holding the casing at the two ends and forcing open the two spring catches 19 by pressing against their out-turned tip ends 21. The weight of the bottom board and articulated arms 22, 23 will cause these parts to automatically drop to their outermost extended position.

The device is then placed on the floor or upon a chair as explained and the front ends of the articulated arms 22, 23 will slide a short distance until studs 36 fall into notches 37 and the device remains stabilized in its expanded position.

To close it, it is sufficient to hold the bottom board at each end and by inserting the index finger of each hand under the front end of the adjoining arm 22, force it up enough to free its stud 36 from notch 37; the device will then collapse of its own weight and will be locked and retained in its collapsed condition by spring catches 19.

If desired, the casing can also be equipped at the front with a hinged board adapted to be folded over its top or to be extended frontwardly thereof as shown in full lines at 43 in Fig. 6, and in dotted lines at 43' in Figs. 4 and 7. Said hinged board will provide an additional convenience in the form of a table extending directly in front of the child for holding playthings and other articles.

From the foregoing it will be seen that we provide a novel and improved type of collapsible baby chair which can be conveniently carried about and which can also serve as a receptacle for holding the baby's necessities.

The constructional details of our invention can vary to some extent from those shown without departing from the inventive idea. The drawings will therefore be understood as being intended for illustrative purposes only and not in a limiting sense.

Accordingly, we reserve the right to carry our invention into practice in all those ways and manners which may enter, fairly, into the scope of the appended claims.

We claim:

1. A combined luggage case and collapsible baby's chair comprising a top member, a bottom member detachably connected thereto, sides on one of said members adapted to engage the other member when in connected position to form a box like container, extensible connections between said top member and bottom member for holding

the top member in superimposed horizontal extended position relative to said bottom member, forming an open front therebetween, means engaging and retaining said connections in their extended position, said top member having an opening through which the body of a baby sitting upon said bottom member can be inserted so that its upper part remains above and surrounded on three sides by said top member, with its legs extending through the open front, a closure member for said opening, means for hinging said closure member to the rear edge of said top member, and means for latching said closure member to close said opening.

2. A combined luggage case and collapsible baby's chair comprising a top member, a bottom member detachably connected thereto, sides on one of said members adapted to engage the other member when in connected position to form a box like container, extensible connections between said top member and bottom member for holding the top member in superimposed horizontal extended position relative to said bottom member, forming an open front therebetween, means engaging and retaining said connections in their extended position, said top member having an opening through which the body of a baby sitting upon said bottom member can be inserted so that its upper part remains above and surrounded on three sides by said top member, with its legs extending through the open front, a closure member for said opening, means for hinging said closure member to the rear edge of said top member, means for latching said closure member to close said opening, and an extensible member connecting at the front said top and bottom member, bisecting the open front therebetween.

3. A combined luggage case and collapsible baby's chair comprising a top member, a bottom member detachably connected thereto, sides on one of said members adapted to engage the other member when in connected position to form a box like container, extensible connections between said top member and bottom member for holding the top member in superimposed horizontal extended position relative to said bottom member, forming an open front therebetween, means engaging and retaining said connections in their extended position, said top member having an opening through which the body of a baby sitting upon said bottom member can be inserted so that its upper part remains above and surrounded on three sides by said top member, with its legs extending through the open front, a closure member for said opening, means for hinging said closure member to the rear edge of said top member, means for latching said closure member to close said opening, and a table member hinged to the front edge of said top member and tiltable to a position where it extends frontwardly therefrom.

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