Sept. 2, 1969 E. M. BIEN 3,464,069

PORTABLE SUNBATHING COT

Filed May 5, 1967

FIG. 1

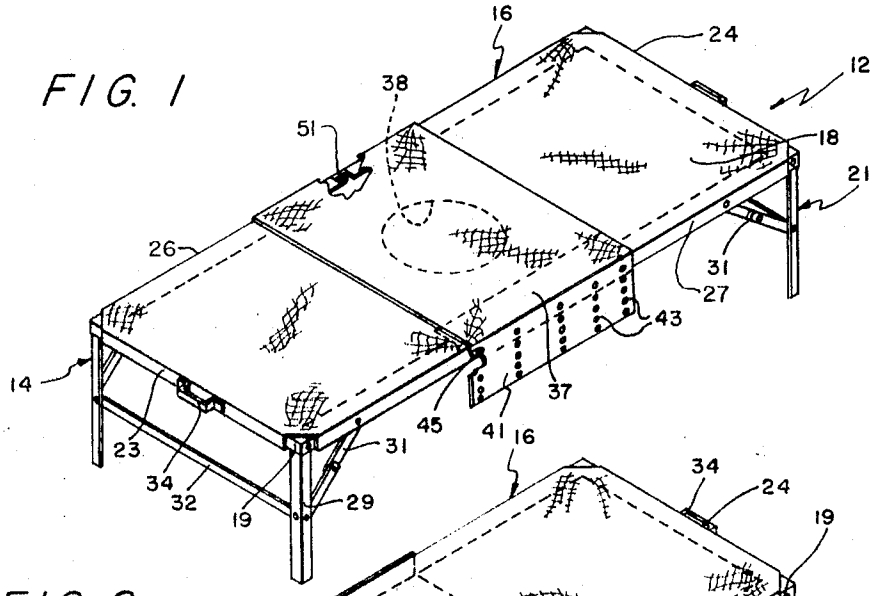
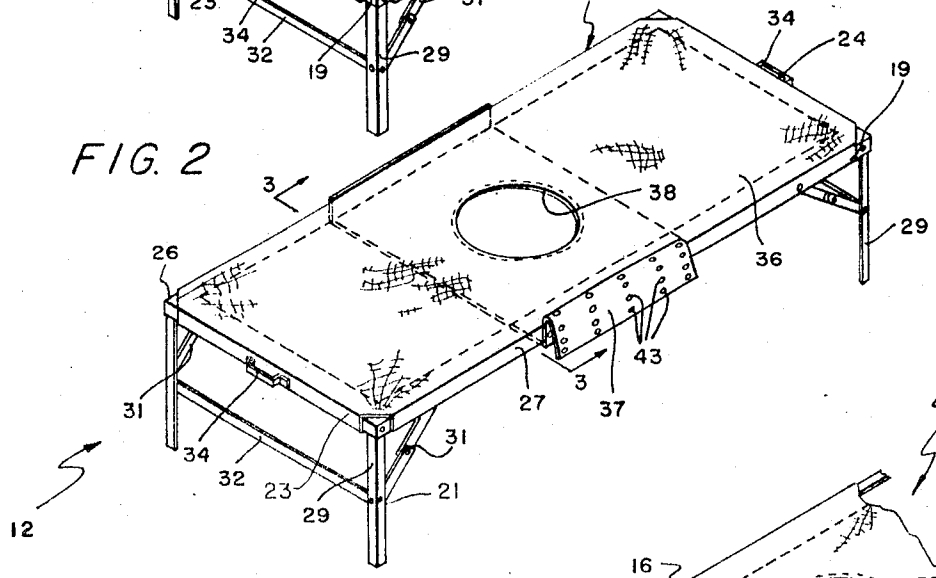


FIG. 2



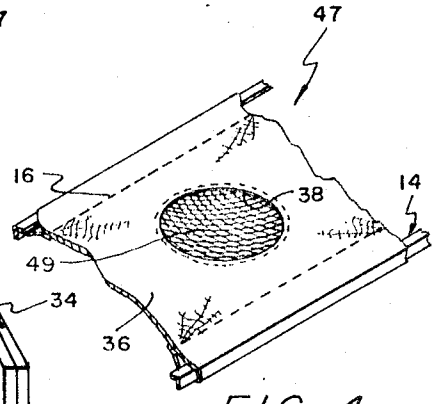


FIG. 4

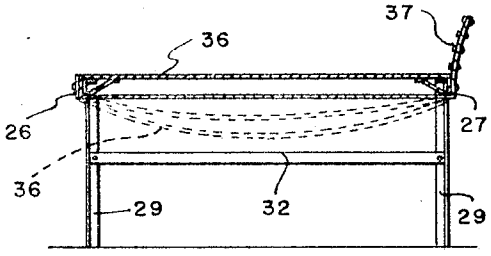


FIG. 3

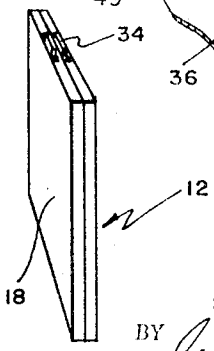


FIG. 5

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PORTABLE SUNBATHING COT

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U.S. Cl. 5—110 3 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

This invention relates to a new and novel sunbathing cot structure and, more particularly, to a readily portable sunbathing cot structure adapted for usage by people with enlarged abdomen areas, namely, pregnant women. Still, more specifically, this invention relates to a sunbathing cot structure having an upper horizontally extended support surface with an enlarged opening therein adapted to receive one's enlargement abdomen area and an auxiliary cover member adapted to expose or cover the enlarged opening as desired. Additionally, this invention relates to a sunbathing cot structure having an upper support surface with a central portion thereof formed of elastic material so as to resiliently receive and support one's abdomen area.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Numerous types of portable and retractable cot structures are known to the prior art having an upper horizontally extended support surface adapted to support one while sunbathing, resting, and the like. However, the prior art cot structures are generally bulky in size and weight and cannot be readily moved by a person from one location to another. Additionally, the prior art devices are not comfortable for persons with enlarged abdomen areas such as with pregnant women trying to lie face down upon the upper support surface of the cot member. Additionally, in the conventional prior art cot structures, the lying face down on the cot by a pregnant woman is quite uncomfortable and might be harmful to both the expectant mother and child.

In one preferred specific embodiment of the sunbathing sun cot structure of this invention, a frame means is provided including an upper bed frame supported at each corner by a retractable leg assembly and having the upper bed frame supporting a horizontally extended cover means thereon. The cover means, preferably constructed of canvas or plastic material, operates to provide a slightly resilient and strong supporting surface for one lying thereon. The cover means is provided with a centrally positioned enlarged opening adapted to receive one's abdomen when lying face down upon the cot structure. An auxiliary cover section, preferably constructed of same material as the cover means, is attached to one side of the upper bed frame and extendable across the frame and attachable to the opposite side thereof. In this position, the cover section is operable to overlay the enlarged opening whereby the entire portable cot structure can be used in a normal way. The cover section is provided with a plurality of fastening buttons so that the tension of the cover means can be readily adjusted. Additionally, the cover section may be released and brought underneath the entire upper frame bed and adjustably connected to the other side thereof whereupon the cover section acts as a secondary support surface positioned below the upper cover means. In this second position, the protrusion of an enlarged abdomen through the enlarged opening may rest upon the cover section so as to provide support thereto for additional comfort.

In another embodiment of this invention, a frame means is provided having an upper cover means thereacross in a manner substantially identical to the first embodiment. However, the cover means is provided with an enlarged opening which has been replaced with a resilient or elastic material. It is obvious, therefore, that the second embodiment would be operable in a manner substantially identical to the first except that the resilient or elastic material within the opening permits the same to give under a load while still providing the necessary support.

Accordingly, it is an object of this invention to provide a new and novel portable sunbathing cot structure overcoming the above mentioned disadvantages of the prior art devices.

Another object of this invention is to provide a sunbathing cot structure including a collapsible and portable frame means having an upper supporting surface with an enlarged opening adapted to receive an enlarged abdomen area such as those commonly found on pregnant women.

Still, one further object of this invention is to provide a sunbathing cot structure having an upper support means mounted upon a frame means, an enlarged opening in the support means, and another cover section secured to one side of the frame means adapted to cover the enlarged opening when desired.

A further object of this invention is to provide a readily portable sunbathing cot structure having an upper support area supported on a frame means and provided with an enlarged centrally positioned opening covered by a resilient material adapted to receive an enlarged abdomen area commonly found on pregnant women, to allow the protrusion of the abdomen area below the support while providing desirable resilient support by the resilient material.

One other object of this invention is to provide a sunbathing cot structure readily usable by pregnant women that is economical to manufacture, simple to use, and readily adjustable to provide a plurality of varying vertical support areas for the abdomen.

Still, one other object of this invention is to provide a collapsible and portable sunbathing cot structure that is easy to convey, simple to collapse and assemble, and readily convertible from a conventionally appearing cot structure to a specially designed cot structure adapted to be used by one having an enlarged abdomen such as pregnant women.

Various other objects, advantages and features of the invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from the following discussion, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the sunbathing cot structure of this invention;

FIG. 2 is a view similar to FIG. 1 having an upper cover section positioned in another usage position;

FIG. 3 is a sectional view taken along line 3—3 in FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 is a fragmentary perspective view of a second embodiment of the sunbathing cot structure of this invention; and

FIG. 5 is a perspective view illustrating the sunbathing cot structure of this invention in its folded transport or storage condition.

The following is a discussion and description of preferred specific embodiments of the new portable sunbathing cot structure of this invention, such being made with reference to the drawings, whereupon the same reference numerals are used to indicate the same or similar parts and/or structure. It is to be understood that such discussion and description is not to unduly limit the scope of the invention.

Referring to the drawings in detail and in particular

to FIG. 1, a sunbathing cot structure of this invention, indicated generally at **12**, is illustrated in the normal usage or upright assembled condition. The cot structure **12** includes a collapsible frame means **14** having a cover means **16** secured thereto so as to form an upper horizontally extended support surface **18**.

More specifically, the frame means **14** includes an upper support bed frame **19** of generally rectangular shape having each corner thereof connected to a leg assembly **21**. The rectangular support bed frame **19** is preferably constructed of angle iron material having parallel end members **23** and **24** and side members **26** and **27**. The upper support surface **18** is of an area to sufficiently support an adult person thereon in a comfortable manner.

Each leg assembly **21** is provided with a leg member **29** held in an upright position by collapsible strut members **31**. Adjacent leg members **29** are secured to common end members **23** and **24**, respectively, and additionally supported by laterally extended support bars **32**. The collapsible strut members **31** are of a common type having a mid-portion pivotally interconnected plus opposite ends pivotally connected and held in the assembled position of FIG. 1 as by detent members thereon. It is seen that at opposite ends of the support bed frame **19** are laterally extended handle members **34** operable to be engaged for conveyance when the cot structure **12** is in the collapsed or folded position of FIG. 5 as will be explained.

The cover means **16** includes an enlarged main body **36** and a smaller auxiliary cover section **37**. The main body **36** is of a size to extend across the entire opening of the support bed frame **19** and is secured to the side members **26**, **27** and end members **23**, **24** as by screw members, rivets, or the like. The peripheral edge of the main body **36** is wrapped about the bed frame **19** so as to be attractive in appearance. A mid-portion of the main body **36** is provided with an enlarged circular opening **38** adapted to receive abdomen areas of persons as will be explained. It is obvious that the main body **36** is preferably constructed of a plastic or canvas material so as to have a slight resiliency but providing comfort and support to one thereon.

The auxiliary cover section **37** is secured at one end to the side member **26** of the support bed frame **19** and may be stretched across the upper surface of the main body **36** so as to cover the entire enlarged opening **38**. It is seen that an opposite end portion **41** of the cover section **37** is provided with a plurality of aligned rows of fastener or snap members **43** adapted to be engageable with a corresponding row of receiving fastener members **45** secured to the side member **27** in a conventional manner. It is also seen that the cover section **37** is preferably constructed of a canvas material matching the main body **36** so that when the same is stretched over the upper surface and secured to the bed frame **19** as shown in FIG. 1, the sunbathing cot structure **12** appears similar to any other cot structure.

In the use and operation of the portable sunbathing cot structure **12** of this invention, it is obvious that the frame means **14** can be assembled as shown in FIG. 1 whereupon the support bed frame **19** is maintained in an elongated position above the ground surface as by the upright leg assemblies **21**. With the cover section **37** extended across the bed frame **19** as shown in FIG. 1, it is obvious that the cot structure **12** is usable in a conventional manner to support a person thereon. However, as shown in FIG. 2, the end portion **41** of the cover section **37** may be unsnapped from the receiving fastener members **45** and the same brought over and then under the entire main body **36** so as to expose the enlarged opening **38**. Then, it is obvious that a selected one of the rows of the fastener members **43** may be again connected to the receiving fastener members **45** so as to achieve a neat appearing structure with the enlarged opening **38** exposed. As best shown in FIG. 3, it is seen that the cover section **37** can be adjusted vertically when pulled across the underneath side of the support bed frame **19** so as to provide support to an object protruding through the enlarged opening **38**.

It is obvious, that the sunbathing cot structure **12** can be used by a person having an enlarged abdomen area, namely pregnant women, who desire to lie upon face down so as to receive a complete sun tan. In doing this, conventional sunbathing cot structures are extremely uncomfortable and the added pressure upon the abdominal area of pregnant women can be extremely unpleasant and perhaps harmful to the unborn child. However, with the cot structure **12** of this invention, it is seen that the enlarged abdominal area of a pregnant woman may be placed within the enlarged opening **38** so as not to put any undue pressure thereon and the cover section **37** extended under the opening **38** offers an auxiliary supporting surface for the abdominal area. It is obvious that the plurality of rows of fastener members **43** allows for the adjustability of the cover section **37** underneath the enlarged opening **38** so as to provide the desired support to the abdominal area as the same changes during different stages of pregnancy and the adjustable feature can be varied to take this into account.

In another embodiment of this invention as shown in FIG. 4, it is seen that a sunbathing cot structure **47** is provided having an identical frame means **14** as previously described with the cover means **16** having the main body **36** with the enlarged opening **38** therein. However, the opening **38** is covered by a resilient or elastic material **49** thereacross so as to achieve a neat appearing structure. The material **49** provides limited vertical support across the opening **38**. The use and operation of the cot structure **47** is substantially identical to that previously described in the first embodiment; however, the use of the elastic material **49** within the enlarged opening **38** permits an overall continuous support to the abdominal area of one using the cot structure while allowing the abdominal area to project below the main body **36** to relieve any undue pressure thereon.

As shown in FIG. 5, the sunbathing cot structures **12** and **47** of this invention are readily collapsible by retraction of the supporting strut members **31** and folding the leg members **29** inwardly toward the support bed frame **19** whereupon the entire frame means **14** is pivotal about central joints **51** to place the handle members **34** adjacent. It is obvious that strap members (not shown) could be secured to the end members **23** and **24** adjacent the handle members **34** so as to secure the collapsed cot structures **12** and **47** in this condition. It is obvious that the collapsible and portable features of this invention are extremely desirable so that the cot structures **12** and **47** can be readily carried by one in a weakened condition, namely pregnant women, to sunbathing areas and the like without putting any undue strain thereon due to weight or size.

It is seen that the sunbathing cot structure of this invention provides a neat appearing multi-utility structure that is readily collapsible for transport to the desired usage area, economical to manufacture, simple to assemble and disassemble, and compact for storage.

As will be apparent from the foregoing descriptions of preferred specific embodiments of application's sunbathing cot structures, relative simple and inexpensive means have been provided to achieve a readily collapsible and portable cot structure presenting a supporting surface adapted to receive and comfortably support one's abdomen area. Applicant's construction presents a new and novel sunbathing cot structure for persons with enlarged abdominal areas, namely pregnant women, so as to properly support this area while sunbathing.

I claim:

1. A portable sunbathing cot structure desirable for persons with enlarged abdominal areas comprising:

(a) a frame means having a support bed frame mounted on retractable leg members and handle members

mounted at opposite ends of said bed frame whereby said frame means is collapsible so as to be readily carried by one with said handle members,

(b) cover means secured to said frame means having an elongated support surface extended in a common plane, said cover means having enlarged opening therein to receive the abdominal area of one resting on said surface, and said cover means having a support cover section securely anchored at one end to said bed frame operable in one position to cover said opening to present a continuous extension of said support surface and anchored so as to support a person thereon in the same manner as the other portions of said cover means and operable in a second position to present as auxiliary support surface below said opening which would then be exposed and being readily adjustable to provide a preselected, adjusted second support surface.

2. A sunbathing cot structure as described in claim 1, wherein:

(a) said support cover section having the other side provided with a plurality of fastener snap members connectable to receiving fastener snap members secured to the opposite side of said support bed frame, and

(b) a plurality of adjacent but spaced rows of said fastener snap members are operable to adjustably regulate said second position to provide more or less space between said support surface and said second support surface so as to support abdominal areas of various sizes, and said innermost row of said fastener snap members operable to provide said support cover section in a taut condition so as to provide support equal to that of said cover means in said common plane so that said cot structure now resembles a conventional structure and may be used as same.

3. A sunbathing cot structure as described in claim 1, wherein:

(a) said support cover section having the opposite end of said support cover section provided with a plurality of paralleled spaced horizontal rows of fastener snap members, and

(b) said frame means provided with a row of receiving fastener members secured to a side member of said support bed frame operable to be in cooperating alignment with certain rows of said fastener snap members operable in one position being trained over the top surface of said cover means and having the innermost row of said fastener snap members secured to said receiving fastener members to provide said support cover section being in said common plane of said cover means so as to provide a rigid structure, and said support cover section operable to be trained under said cover means and preselected ones of said fastener snap member secured to said receiving fastener members adjustably positioned to present said second support surface below said opening.

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U.S. Cl. X.R.

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