Nov. 25, 1969 J. W. SELLNER Re. 26,725

COMBINED RECLINING EXERCISING AND MASSAGING DEVICE

Original Filed Dec. 16, 1963

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

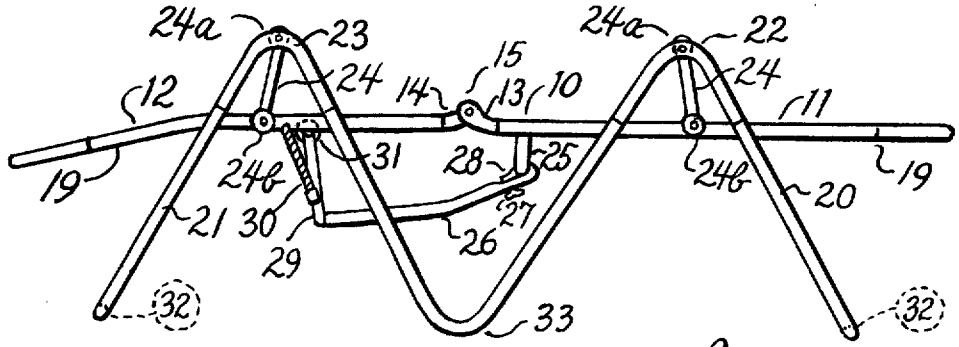


Fig 1.

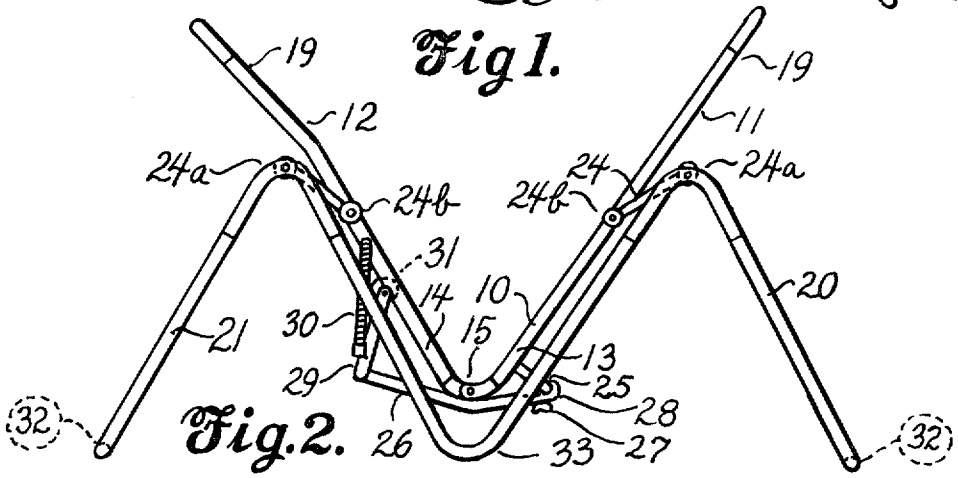


Fig.2.

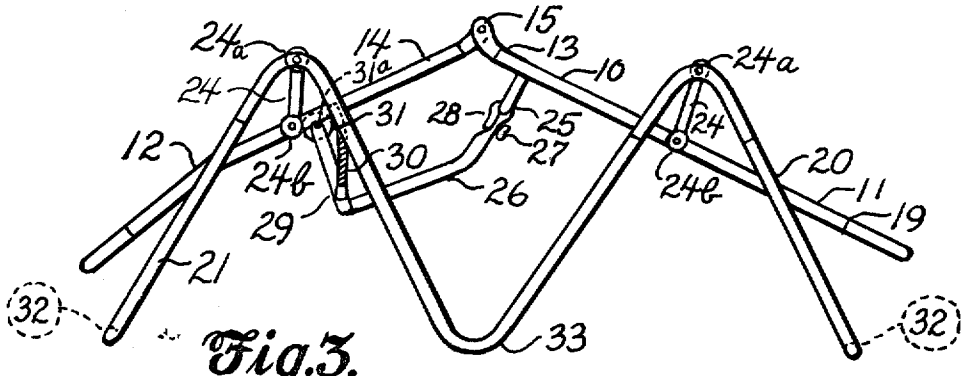


Fig.3.

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COMBINED RECLINING EXERCISING AND MASSAGING DEVICE

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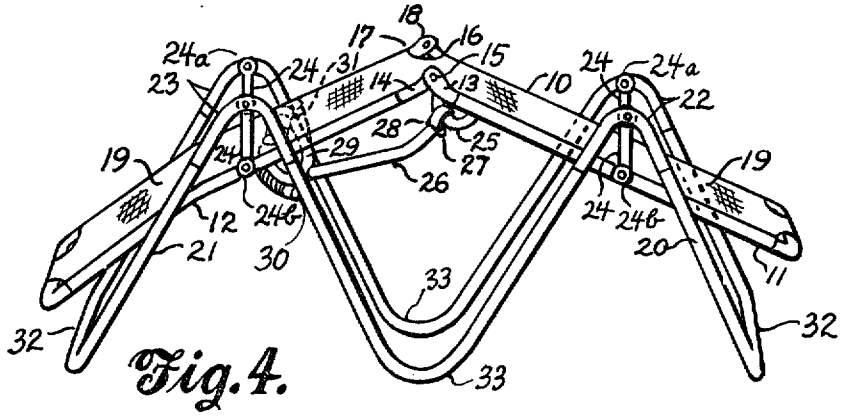


Fig. 4.

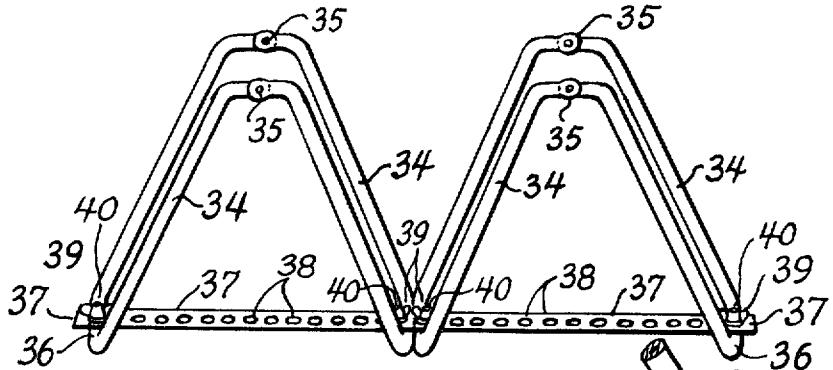


Fig. 5.

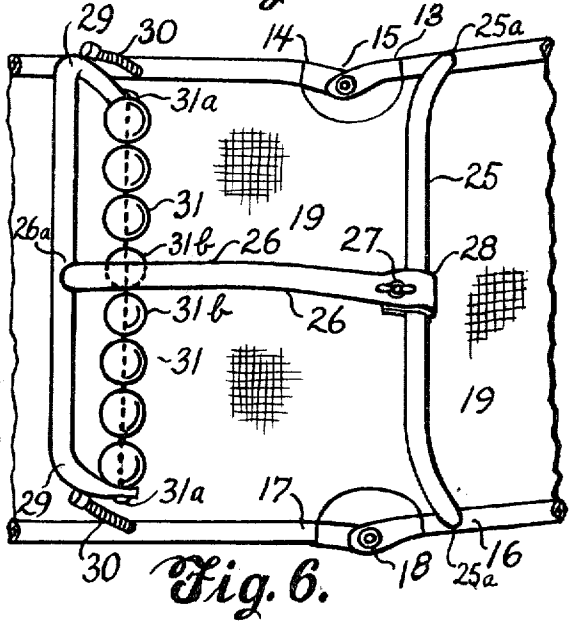


Fig. 6.

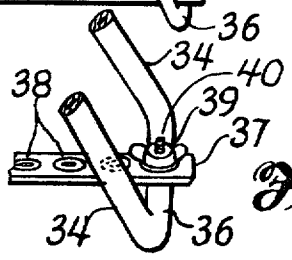


Fig. 7.

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26,725
COMBINED RECLINING EXERCISING AND MASSAGING DEVICE

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Int. Cl. A61h *15/00*

U.S. Cl. 128—57 5 Claims

Matter enclosed in heavy brackets [ ] appears in the original patent but forms no part of this reissue specification; matter printed in italics indicates the additions made by reissue.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A reclining and exercising device having a double M-shaped adjustable base and a pair of pivotally interconnected body supporting frame members supported within the base member by flexible members pivotally mounted on each side of the base member.

This invention relates to reclining and exercising devices and refers more particularly to such a device actuated by the individual user thereof, or power driven, as may be desired, said device being operable to various positions for use as a body supporting, exercising and massaging device.

More specifically it refers or relates to an attachment to said apparatus, and forming part thereof, which upon activation of the apparatus, will massage portions of the human body during stretching and exercising of the body upon the apparatus, whether self administered or activated by suitable power driven means, whichever may be desired.

The invention also specifically refers to improvements in construction and assembly of the device whereby stability of the supporting elements is assured, better balance effected, and smoother operation of the entire combined apparatus thus attained.

A further object of the invention is the provision of means whereby the device may be assembled or unassembled for use with a minimum of time and effort.

These objects as well as others may be better comprehended in the course of the following description of an apparatus embodying the invention and taken in connection with the accompanying drawings in which:

FIGURE 1 is a side elevational view of a body supporting, exercising and massaging device in accordance with the invention.

FIGURE 2 is a side elevational view of the device showing the members thereof in an attitude of use different from FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 3 is a side elevation showing the members of the device in still another attitude of use.

FIGURE 4 is a perspective view of the device embodying the invention.

FIGURE 5 is a side elevation showing a modification of the supporting frame of the apparatus.

FIGURE 6 is a perspective view taken from below the device of that portion of the assembly embodying the massaging element.

FIGURE 7 shows a detailed enlarged portion of the supporting frame illustrated in FIGURE 5.

In FIGURES 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, there is illustrated a reclining and body exercising apparatus **10**, in which are shown the body supporting elements of the apparatus including tubular frame sections **11** and **12** pivotally secured together at their flattened end points **15** at the center of the entire body supporting section. In greater

detail in FIGURE 4, ends **13** and **14** of frame sections **11** and **12**, hinged at **15** are shown, as well as ends **16** and **17** of frame sections **11** and **12**, hinged at **13**.

A canvas or other suitable flexible covering **19** is stretched over the frame composed of elements **11** and **12**, and is held in place thereon by clamps or other securing means (not shown) as may be available.

Pivotally interconnected frame sections **11** and **12** are mounted in tubular base members **20** and **21**, by flexible members or slings **24—24** below the apexes **22** and **23** of said base members to afford a lower center of gravity of the entire assembly, and thus insuring greater stability thereto. These strap slings or members **24—24** have, in the apparatus as here illustrated, bearings at each end indicated at **24a** and **24b**. Although this strap member has been found to be effective, applicant does not wish to limit himself to the specific construction as shown, as chains or other flexible supports may be employed.

The tubular base members **20–21** are so formed and shaped as to be spaced apart laterally at **32—32** and longitudinally at **33—33** to form a tapered double M shape and thus assure a maximum of stability to the entire assembly.

Below one end of the body supporting frame at **13** and **16**, see FIGURE 6, and extending downward in an arc therefrom, is a member **25**, secured by welding or otherwise to frame ends **13** and **16**. To this arched member **25** is pivotally secured at **28** by adjustable member **27**, a curved rod or pipe member **26**, which extends past the junction of the frame sections at points **15** and **18**, and has its forward end rigidly secured to the center of a U-shaped member **29** at point **26a**. This U-shaped member is flexibly secured to sections **14** and **17** of the body supporting frame by springs **30—30** in such a manner as to exert sustained pressure of the U-shaped member and a plurality of soft sponge rubber balls **31–31b** supported between the upper ends of the U-shaped member on rod **31a**, against the underside of the flexible cover **19**, so that in operation of the exercising portion of the apparatus, more specifically, the reciprocating movement of the body supporting member, the massaging assembly will be actuated to massage those portions of the operator's body resting over the point of contact of the rubber balls with the underside of the fabric cover **19**. It has been found practical to have the balls **31—31** of larger diameter than the balls **31b—31b**, so that in use the massaging action will be accentuated adjacent the ends of the ball supporting rod **31a**, and reduced adjacent the center of the rod. This arrangement provides greater massage manipulation on the muscles of the operator's back when said operator lies supine upon the body supporting member **10**, with his back resting upon the covering fabric **19**.

In FIGURES 5 and 7, an alternative supporting section of the apparatus is shown composed of two inverted V-shaped tubular members **34—34**, shaped as shown and hinged at points **35—35** to be movable longitudinally to elevate or depress the hinged portions of the members, and so conformed at the base **36—36** of the supporting members to rigidly form lateral spacing between the parallel sides of said members. A flexible band **37** is provided, having closely spaced grommets **38** therein, which are secured in base **36** over bolts **40—40** extending upward from the base, and secured thereon by thumb screws **39—39** in the desired position, and secured sufficiently to prevent longitudinal slippage of the base members, thus avoiding possible collapse.

The body supporting frame **10** may be secured by flexible members **24—24** from hinge points **35—35** in the same manner as it is suspended from the base assembly shown in FIGURE 1 through FIGURE 4.

The inverted V members are shown in FIGURES 5 and 7 in juxtaposition and secured by flexible band **37** so

that they are equal in height from base to apex. The height may be varied between the adjacent members by increasing or decreasing the angle formed at the hinges 35—35, to allow one-half of this base assembly to be more elevated than the other half, and then secured in this position, by first adjusting the flexible band over the bolts and then securing the thumb screws in place.

What I claim is:

1. A combination body supporting, exercising and massaging device comprising a pair of pivotally interconnected body supporting frame members, a longitudinally adjustable base member, flexible members mounted pivotally on each side of said base member and securing said body supporting member within said base member, a massaging device comprising a supported curved member extended below and rigidly secured to each side of one of the body supporting members, an arched member below the other body supporting member and extending between the two sides of the other body supporting member, spring members connecting the ends of the arched member to the sides of the other body supporting member, a rigid rod having one end rigidly connected at one end to said arched member and at the other end pivotally connected to said curved member, a plurality of soft rubber balls of varying sizes mounted within said arched member and so arranged as to massage a human body resting upon the body supporting members when the device is actuated.

2. In a device of the character described, comprising two pivotally interconnected body supporting frame members, a double M-shaped base member, means within said base member to adjust same longitudinally, flexible means mounted pivotally on each side of said base member and securing the body supporting member within said base member, massaging means comprising a supported curved member extending below and rigidly secured to both sides of one of the body supporting members, an arched member below the other body supporting member and extending between the two sides of the other body supporting member, spring members securing the ends of the arched member to the sides of the other body supporting member, a rigid rod having one of its ends solidly secured to said arched member and its other end pivotally connected to said curved member, a plurality of sponge rubber balls of varying diameters mounted within said arched member and so arranged as to massage a human body resting upon the body supporting members when the device is actuated.

3. A body supporting and exercising device comprising a pair of elongated frame sections disposed end-to-end and connected together at their adjacent ends to pivot relative to each other about a transverse axis, a base member adapted to rest on the floor and including a respective upwardly extending support adjacent an intermediate portion of each side of each frame section, a separate respective upwardly extending sling secured at its lower end to each side of a frame section, and means securing the upper end of each sling to a respective support so the frame sections are supported between and below the upper ends of the supports.

4. A device according to claim 3 in which each sling is secured at its ends to pivot about a transverse axis relative to the element to which the sling end is secured.

5. A body supporting and exercising device comprising a pair of elongated U-shaped frame sections disposed end-to-end with the open ends of the two frame sections secured together to pivot relative to each other about a transverse axis, a cover over the frame sections, a transverse upwardly opening U-shaped brace disposed under the frame sections, means securing each end of the U-shaped brace to at least one respective side of a frame section adjacent the pivot point of the two frame sections, a base member adapted to rest on the floor and including a respective upwardly extending support adjacent an intermediate portion of each side of each frame section, a separate respective upwardly extending sling secured at its lower end to each side of a frame section, and means securing the upper end of each sling to a respective support.

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L. W. TRAPP, Primary Examiner

U.S. Cl. X.R.

272—58

PO-1050
(5/69)

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

Patent No. Re. 26,725 Dated November 25, 1969

Inventor(s) John W. Sellner

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent are hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 2, line 13, "These strap slings or members . . ." should read --These slings or strap members . . .--

SIGNED AND
SEALED
JUL 28 1970

(SEAL)
Attest:

Edward M. Fletcher, Jr.
Attesting Officer

WILLIAM E. SCHUYLER, JR.
Commissioner of Patents