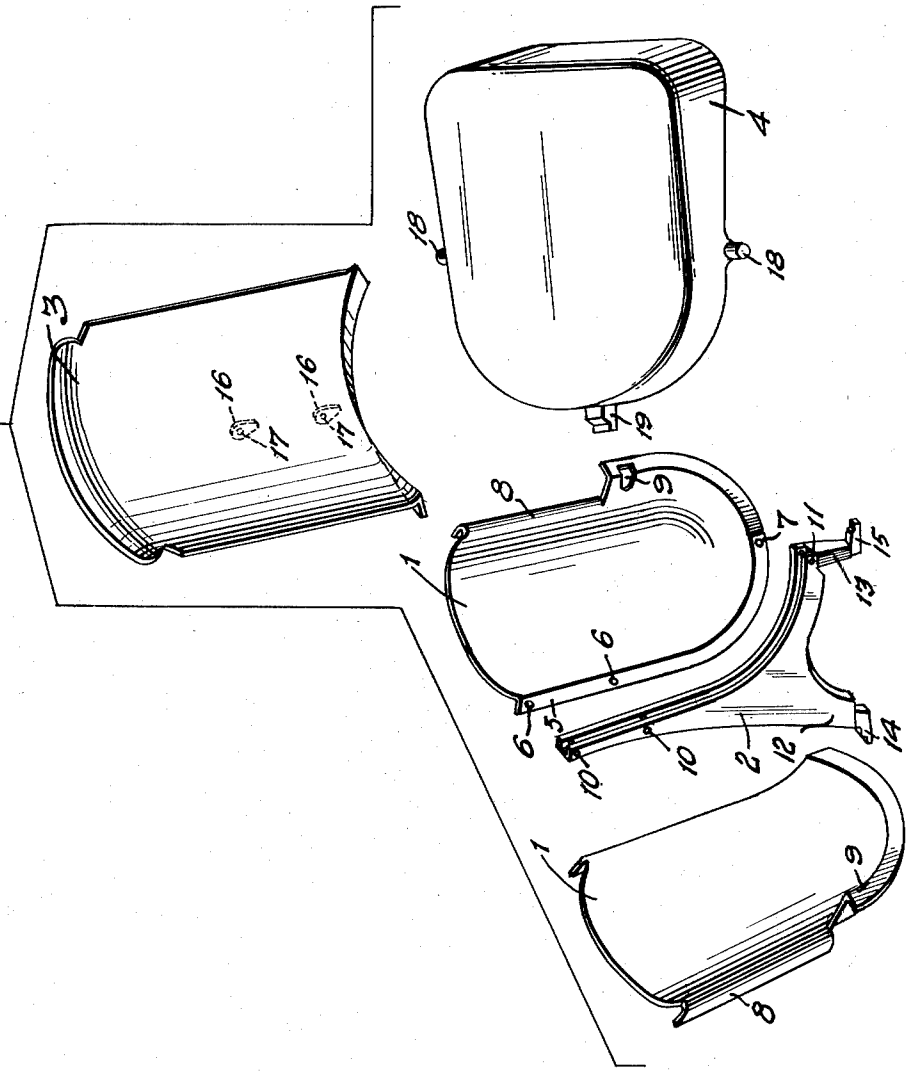
Dec. 25, 1951 R. A. CHAILLOT 2,579,795

THEATER CHAIR

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Fig. 1.



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Fig. 1a.

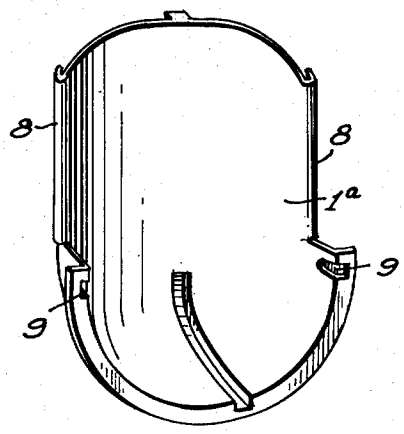
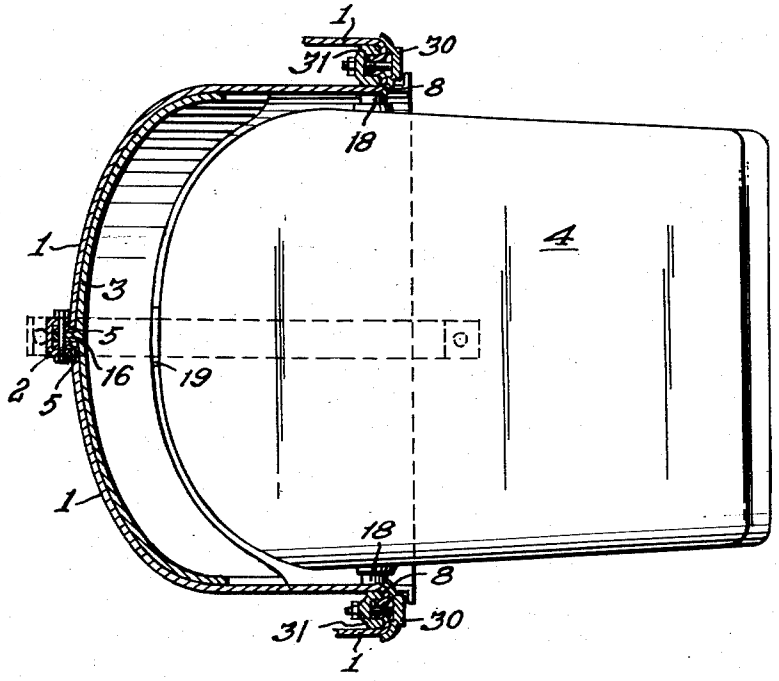


Fig. 5.



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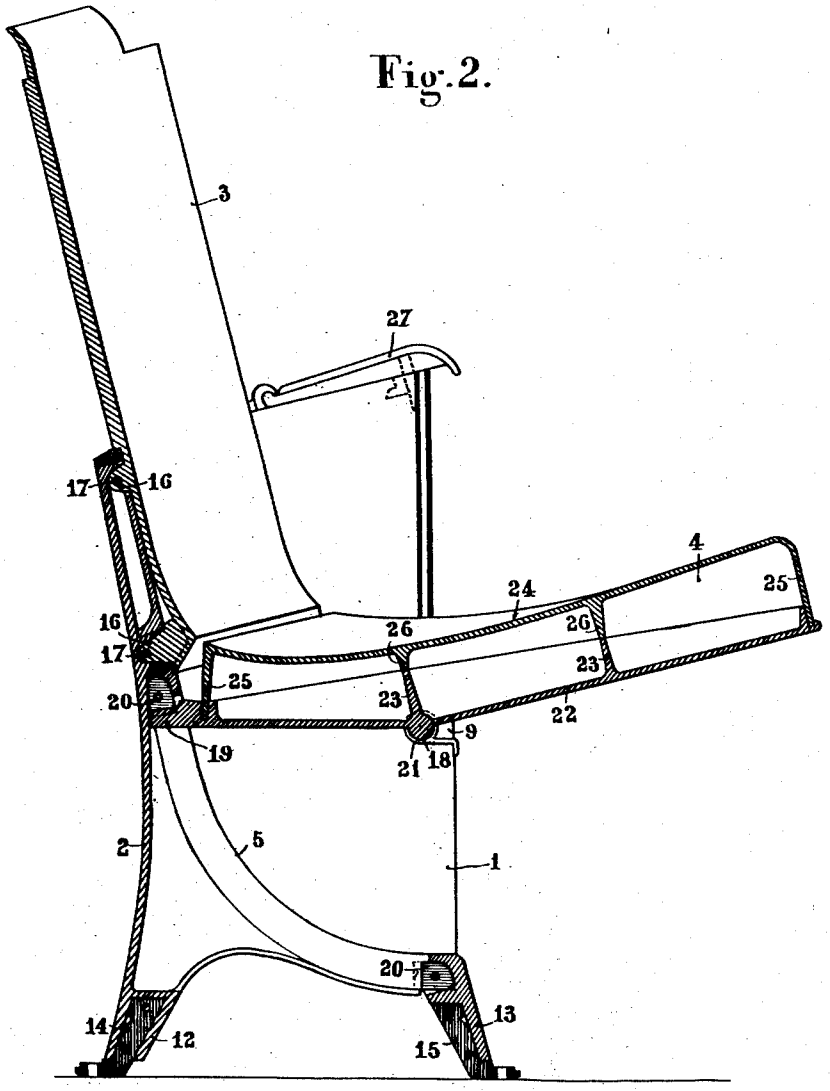
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THEATER CHAIR

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Fig. 2.



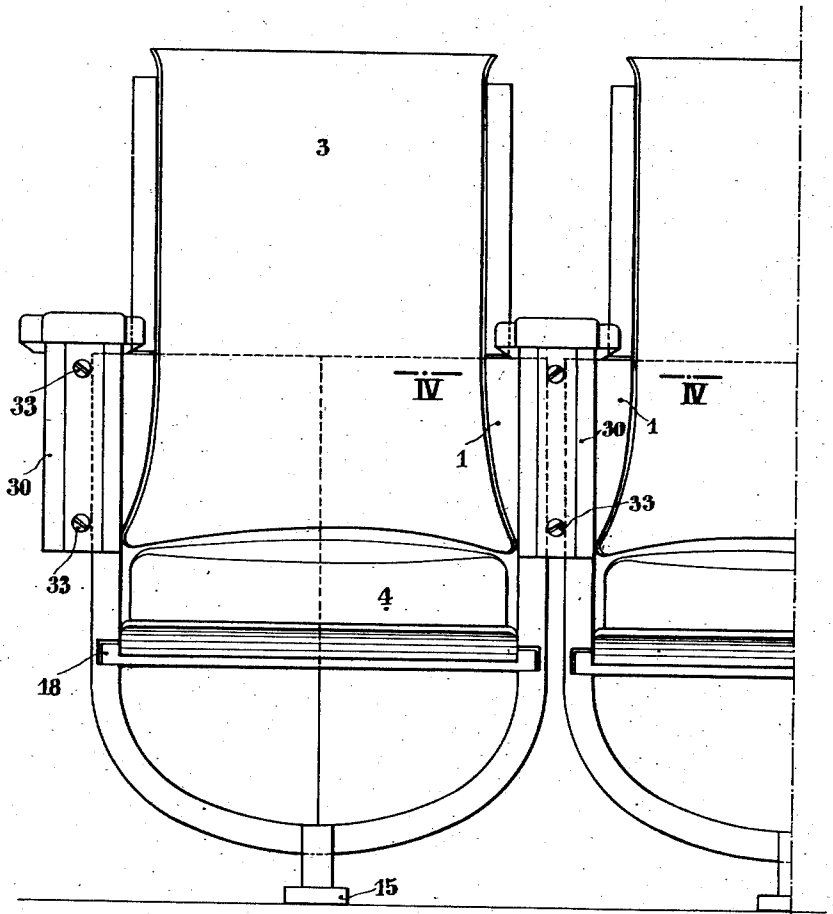
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THEATER CHAIR

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Fig. 3.



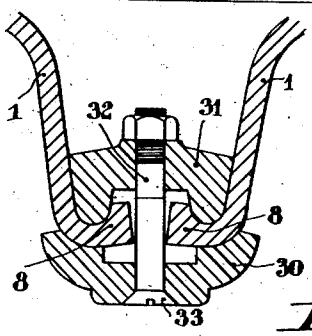


Fig. 4.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,579,795

THEATER CHAIR

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Application August 30, 1945, Serial No. 613,589
In France December 8, 1944

10 Claims. (Cl. 155—191)

1

The present invention relates to a chair and more particularly to a chair of the type utilized in public places such as theaters, auditoriums and the like.

It is an object of the present invention to provide such a chair, preferably of pressed material, so constructed and arranged so as to avoid the many drawbacks attendant to wood or metal framed chairs conventionally utilized in public places.

It is an additional object to provide a chair frame structure such that with a single frame type more varied styles, colors and artistic effects of the seating arrangement are obtained while simultaneously providing the utmost in comfort and a structure that complies with all the safety regulations in force as regards fire hazards and sanitation.

Moreover, the chair according to this invention is far stronger than those in use at present and cannot damage the occupant's clothes.

The chair according to this invention is of improved construction and comprises a frame consisting of a pair of similar shell halves connected with each other in the plane of symmetry of the chair: said shell halves are assembled preferably by means of lugs bent into said plane of symmetry and received in a supporting and stiffening member conforming to the curvature of the shells and having a U-shaped section, between the flanges of which said lugs are secured, for instance, by means of bolts and nuts.

Where such chairs are used in play-houses or at least are grouped in rows of similar elements interconnected laterally, one single front leg and one single back leg are preferably provided in each supporting element, in the plane of symmetry of the chair, and rigid with respect to the supporting member.

The shell halves forming the frame are designed so that the frames when grouped in rows can be secured easily. For that purpose they are provided, preferably at the front of their outer edges, with bent lugs to be secured by pairs in any suitable way, to interconnect them rigidly.

Arm-rests are laid on flat or plane portions provided for that purpose on the top of the outer edges of the shell halves; said arm-rests can be designed to interconnect two adjacent chairs and thus strengthen the connection already secured as described.

The chair can be fitted with a tiltable seat, particularly if used in a play-house and said seat is fulcrumed on a rod the ends of which pivot in recesses provided therefor in the outer

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edges of the respective companion shell halves. Said seats are designed so that they can be pressed easily; they are made advantageously of two superimposed parts, which permits of altering their appearance more readily and likewise the utilization of padding.

An attached back is formed in the axis of symmetry thereof with lugs to be inserted between the bent lugs on the shell halves and also between the flanges of the supporting member straddling said lugs and to be secured thereto, for instance, by means of bolts and nuts; additional means can be provided on the side edges of the backs for interconnecting the abutting edges of two adjacent elements.

Other peculiarities will appear from the following description of an embodiment of this invention, reference being had to the appended drawing wherein:

Figure 1 is an isometric perspective view of the various parts whose assemblage provides the chair.

Figure 1*a* is an isometric perspective view of a shell in one single piece.

Figure 2 is a longitudinal sectional view on the axis of symmetry of the chair.

Figure 3 is a front elevational view showing how two adjoining chairs are assembled, and Figure 4 is an enlarged sectional view taken on line IV—IV in Fig. 3.

Figure 5 is a horizontal sectional view taken opposite part 16 in Fig. 2.

The chair shown comprises a frame having substantially the shape of a quarter sphere having upwardly and forwardly extending edges and consisting of a pair of symmetric shell halves 1, a supporting and stiffening member 2, a back 3 and a tiltable seat 4. In Figure 1*a* a single shell 1*a* constitutes a frame component and will be described in detail hereinafter.

Each shell half is formed with an inner edge 5 bent at right angles and drilled with two holes 6 at its upper portion and with one hole 7 at its lower portion; its outer edge is formed with a tongue 8 to be used for attaching a similar juxtaposed element, and with a bore 9 to receive one of the trunnions about which the seat 4 is tiltable.

The supporting and stiffening member has a U-shaped section, the flanges of which are drilled with a pair of holes 10 at their upper portions and one hole 11 at their lower ends. The supporting and stiffening member is formed or provided with a back leg 12 and a front leg 13; the legs 12 and 13 can be fitted at their ends with

bearing members 14 and 15 suited to the particular way in which the chair is anchored, such as by nailing, screwing, sealing.

The back 3 is provided on its rear surface in its axis of symmetry thereof, with a pair of lugs 16 to be inserted between the bent edges 5 of the pair of shell halves 1 providing the seat frame, which in turn are inserted between the flanges on supporting and stiffening member 2. The lugs 16 are drilled with holes 17 while bolts are passed through holes 10, 6 and 17 for holding the supporting member, the two shell halves and the back in assembled relation.

The seat is provided with a pair of trunnions 18 to be received in recesses 9 provided for that purpose. The seat is also provided at the rear thereof and in its plane of symmetry with a flat finger 19 to be engaged in the guide provided therefor by the groove or space existing between the bent edges 5 of the companion shell halves which in turn are straddled by the flanges on the supporting member. Yielding abutments 20 stop said finger in its end positions. A spring 21 wound about the trunnions 18 urges the seat permanently towards its lifted position by a rocking motion about the axis of its trunnions 18.

Said seat is made of two parts, namely, a frame 22 carrying the trunnions 18 and formed with ribs 23 and a member 24 providing a cover and having its edges 25 fitted over the edges of the frame 22, the ribs 26 being in alignment with the frame ribs 23.

Removable arm-rests 27 are secured by any suitable means on top of the sides of the shell halves.

For the purpose of uniting two adjoining chairs in a row the connecting arrangement illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4 may be used: the lugs 8 provided at either outer edge of the shell halves 1 are clamped between fish-plates 30, 31 by means of bolts 32 whose heads 33 are flush with fish-plate 30; the said fish-plates are suitably shaped in cross section to firmly hold the lugs 8, while the front face of fish-plate 30 is so designed that a pleasant appearance of the whole is secured.

It will be appreciated that this particular provision of only two legs for each chair, arranged in the plane of symmetry of the latter, enables the chairs pertaining to the same row to be arranged easily in any desired curve, particularly in an arc of a circle, which is often desirable in a theater, auditorium or the like.

It is to be understood that this embodiment of the invention is given only by way of a non-limiting example and that many modifications can be made thereto without thereby departing from the scope of the invention.

In this connection and as previously indicated, in lieu of the two shell halves 1 illustrated in Figure 1 a single shell member 1*a* as illustrated in Figure 1*a* can be utilized. In this arrangement the front and rear faces of this shell member are provided respectively with a groove and an outwardly extending lug or rib located in the plane of symmetry thereof. The groove in the front face accommodating the finger 19 of the seat 4 and the protuberance or rib on the rear face cooperating with the flanges on the supporting and stiffening member 2.

It is to be remarked, however, that the utilization of two shell halves permits the use of much smaller dies thereby rendering the pressing operation more economical and simpler. It is obvious that the supporting and stiffening member could be provided with a different cross section

other than the U-shaped section illustrated although as readily appreciated such a section is particularly advantageous in view of the many purposes for which this member 2 must serve.

What I claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A chair designed more particularly for use in play-houses comprising a frame having substantially the shape of a quarter sphere having upwardly and forwardly extending edges, bores located adjacent the front edges of said frame, means to support the frame in spaced relation to a supporting surface, a seat having trunnions for engaging said bores mounted for tilting motion in said frame, the rear edges of said seat having a substantially circular outline and remaining in close proximity to the substantially spherical bottom portion of the frame which conforms to the shape of the rear edge of the seat throughout the tilting movement of the same from its dropped to its canted position.

2. A chair according to claim 1 comprising a rounded back secured to the frame, the bottom portion of said rounded back merging into the rear portion of the seat.

3. A chair according to claim 1 designed to provide one element in a row of similar chairs anchored at their sides to one another and in which the means for supporting the frames includes a longitudinal supporting and stiffening member located in the longitudinal plane of symmetry of the chair, adapted to support the frame and conforming to the curvature thereof, and front and rear legs located respectively at the front and rear of the bottom portion of the supporting and stiffening member.

4. A chair according to claim 1 designed to provide one element in a row of similar chairs anchored at their sides to one another and in which the means for supporting the frames includes a longitudinal supporting and stiffening member of channel shape section located in the longitudinal plane of symmetry of the chair, adapted to receive portions of the frame and to support the frame, and front and rear legs secured respectively to the front and rear bottom portion of the supporting and stiffening member.

5. A chair according to claim 1 wherein each frame is composed of two similar halves connected with each other in the longitudinal plane of symmetry of the chair.

6. A chair according to claim 1 designed to provide one element in a row of similar chairs anchored at their sides to one another and in which the means for supporting each chair frame includes a longitudinal supporting and stiffening member located in the longitudinal plane of symmetry of the chair for supporting the frame and conforming to the curvature thereof, front and rear legs arranged respectively at the front and rear of the bottom portion of the supporting and stiffening member, and wherein each frame is made up of two similar halves connected with each other on the plane of symmetry of the chair, the longitudinal supporting and stiffening member having a U-shaped section and the inner edges of either frame half being bent out and received and secured in the U-shaped section of the said member.

7. A chair according to claim 1 designed to provide one element in a row of similar chairs anchored at their sides to one another and in which the supporting means for the frame includes a longitudinal supporting and stiffening member located in the longitudinal plane of sym-

metry of the chair, adapted to support the frame and conforming to the curvature thereof, front and rear legs arranged respectively at the front and rear of the bottom portion of the supporting and stiffening member, and wherein each frame is made up of two similar shell-like halves connected with each other in the plane of symmetry of the chair, the longitudinal supporting and stiffening member having a U-shaped section, and the inner edges of either frame half being bent out and received and secured in the U-shaped section of the stiffening member, and a back formed in the longitudinal plane of symmetry thereof with a rib received and secured between the inner bent edges of the pair of frame halves.

8. A chair according to claim 1 designated to provide one element in a row of similar chairs anchored at their sides to one another and in which the supporting means includes a longitudinal supporting and stiffening member located in the longitudinal plane of symmetry of the chair, adapted to support the frame and conforming to the curvature thereof, and front and rear legs arranged respectively at the front and rear of the bottom portion of the supporting and stiffening member, the supporting and stiffening member having a U-shaped section, the frame formed in its longitudinal plane of symmetry with a U-shaped portion received in the U-shaped section of the stiffening member, and a rocking seat being provided at its rear edge in its plane of symmetry with a stud guided in the U-shaped portion of the frame.

9. A chair according to claim 1 designed to provide one element in a row of similar chairs anchored at their sides to one another and in which the supporting means for the frame includes a longitudinal supporting and stiffening member located in the longitudinal plane of symmetry of the chair for supporting the frame and conforming to the curvature thereof, and legs situated at the front and rear of the bottom portion of the supporting and stiffening member, and each frame being provided at either side thereof with lugs serving to anchor the same to the adjoining chairs in the row.

10. A chair according to claim 1 designed to provide one element in a row of similar chairs anchored at their sides to one another and in which the supporting means includes a longitudinal supporting and stiffening member located in the longitudinal plane of symmetry of the chair for supporting the frame and conforming to the curvature thereof, and front and rear legs arranged respectively at the front and rear bottom portion of the supporting and stiffening member, each frame being provided at either side thereof with lugs serving to anchor the same to the adjoining chairs in the row, and means to be secured to the lugs on two adjoining chairs allowing same to pivot in said means.

ROGER ANDRÉ CHAILLOT.

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