UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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WRITING SHELF FOR CHAIRS

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2 Claims. (Cl. 155—3)

The present invention relates to seating and more particularly to a writing shelf accessory for auditorium chairs or the like.

The primary objects of the invention are to provide an accessory for auditorium seating which may be utilized to provide a writing shelf for the occupant of each chair; to provide such a device which may be installed on the back of one chair and used as a shelf for writing or other purpose by the occupant of the next chair to the rear; to provide such devices which when so installed on the backs of chairs in a seating installation may be moved to positions of non-use depending alongside the chair backs, thus to provide ample clearance between the rows of seating for the ingress and egress of people, but which may also be individually moved to positions of use wherein they provide writing shelves for the chair occupants; to provide such a device which is noiseless in operation; and in general to provide a writing shelf accessory which is convenient in use, 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 rear and side perspective view of two auditorium chairs in front-to-rear alignment, each of the chairs being provided with the writing shelf accessory of the present invention, the shelf on the forwardmost chair being shown in an elevated position for use by the occupant of the rearwardmost chair, and the shelf on the rearwardmost chair being shown in a lowered position of non-use depending alongside the chair back.

Figure 2 is an enlarged, fragmentary, substantially horizontal sectional view taken on line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a fragmentary vertical sectional view taken on line 3—3 of Figure 2; and

Figure 4 is a fragmentary substantially vertical sectional view taken on lines 4—4 of Figures 2 and 3.

Referring now in detail to these drawings, wherein like parts are designated by the same numerals in the several views, the auditorium chairs shown in Figure 1 are, per se, of more or less conventional construction, each comprising supporting standards 10, a seat 11, and a back 12 of plywood or the like supported by and between the standards 10 in a forwardly downwardly sloping position. The present invention is intended as an accessory to such conventional chairs or seating, and the chairs may be supplied for installation either with or without this accessory which consists of a writing shelf attachment.

Each attachment comprises a pair of vertically elongated brackets 13 having mutually inwardly extending flanges 14, the brackets being secured to the chair back 12 in rearwardly extending horizontally spaced relation as by means of woodscrews 15 passing through apertures in the flanges 14 and threaded in the plywood chair back 12. A tie-bar 16, here shown in the form of a rod, connects the brackets 13 in their upper rearward regions, said tie-bar 16 having its opposite ends reduced in diameter and passed through apertures in the brackets and then spun over to form a rivet-like head. Studs 17 are secured in like manner to the brackets 13, being located forwardly and upwardly of the tie-bar 16 and extending mutually inwardly. The studs 17 are formed with reduced, rounded inner ends.

A writing shelf 18, preferably of wood and of generally rectangular form, has its opposite side edges provided with grooves 19 into which extend the studs 17 on the brackets, and the writing shelf is thus mounted on the studs for movement between positions of use or non-use. When in its non-use position shown at the right in Figure 1, the shelf depends alongside the chair back and is supported thus by contact of the studs 17 with the upper ends of the shelf's grooves 19. These ends of the grooves 19 are desirably provided with rubber inserts 20 which provide for noiseless lowering of the shelf to its non-use position. Also, the brackets 13 are provided with mutually inwardly extending lugs 21 against which the shelf rests so that it is supported in substantial parallelism with the forwardly downwardly sloping chair back. It will be seen that when the shelf is in this depending non-use position, ample clearance will be provided between the chair on which it is installed and the next chair to the rear thus to permit passage of persons between the chairs.

In order to position the writing shelf 18 for use as shown at the left in Figure 1 and also in Figures 2, 3 and 4, the shelf is lifted by means of its handle recess 22 and then lowered rearwardly until the forward upper edge of the shelf engages beneath inwardly extending abutments 23 on the upper forward ends of the brackets 13. The underside of the shelf then rests on, and the shelf is supported by, the tie-bar 16 when the shelf is thus in its position of use.

It will thus be seen that the invention provides a writing shelf accessory for auditorium seating which may conveniently be lowered to provide
clear passageway between rows of seating or moved to a rearwardly extending position of use for writing or other purposes. While but one specific embodiment of the invention 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 the same is defined by the following claims.

I claim:

1. In combination with an auditorium chair or the like, a pair of brackets attached to the back of the chair and extending rearwardly therefrom; a horizontal tie-bar connecting said brackets and spaced rearwardly from the chair back; mutually inwardly extending abutments on said brackets above and forwardly of said tie-bar; studs extending mutually inwardly from the brackets between the tie-bar and said abutments; and a shelf having in its opposite side edges grooves into which extend said studs, said shelf being thus movable on the studs between positions of use and non-use, and said shelf when in its non-use position depending between the brackets alongside the chair back so as to provide maximum space in the rear of the chair and being supported in such position by contact of the studs with the upper ends of said grooves, and said shelf when in its use position extending rearwardly from the chair back and having its forward edge abutting the undersides of said abutments and being supported rearwardly thereof on said tie-bar.

2. In combination with an auditorium chair or the like having a forwardly-downwardly sloping back, a pair of vertically elongated brackets attached to the back of the chair and extending rearwardly therefrom; a horizontal tie-bar connecting said brackets and spaced rearwardly from the chair back; mutually inwardly extending abutments on said brackets above and forwardly of said tie-bar; studs extending mutually inwardly from the brackets between the tie-bar and said abutments; a shelf having in its opposite side edges grooves into which extend said studs, said shelf being thus movable on the studs between positions of use and non-use, and said shelf when in its non-use position depending between the brackets alongside the chair back so as to provide maximum space in the rear of the chair and being supported in such position by contact of the studs with the upper ends of said grooves; mutually inwardly extending lugs on the brackets below the tie-bar, against which lugs the depending shelf may rest so that the shelf when in its non-use position is supported in substantial parallelism with the sloping back of the chair; and said shelf when in its use position extending rearwardly from the chair back and having its forward edge abutting the undersides of said abutments and being supported rearwardly thereof on said tie-bar.

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