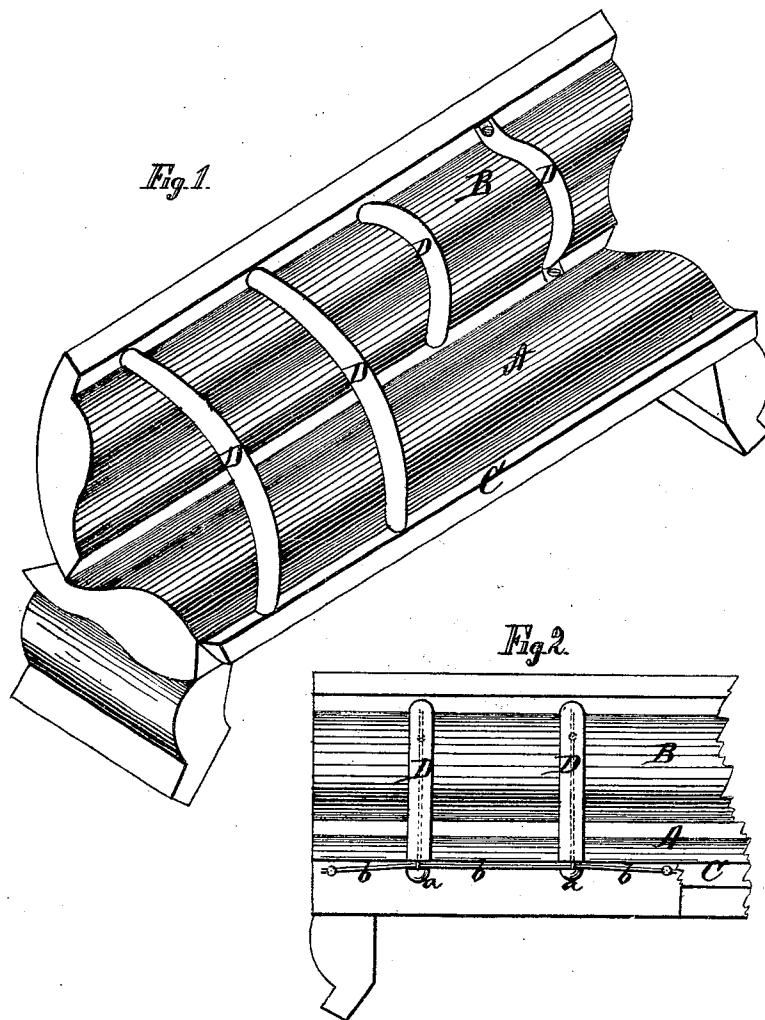


T. J. D. BECK.

Improvement in Flexible Divisions for Seats.

No. 128,098.

Patented June 18, 1872.



Witnesses:

James O'Hutchinson  
C. L. Evert,

Thomas J. Dorsey Beck  
per Alexander Mason

Attorneys.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS J. DORSEY BECK, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

## IMPROVEMENT IN FLEXIBLE DIVISIONS FOR SEATS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 128,098, dated June 18, 1872.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, THOMAS J. DORSEY BECK, of Washington, in the county of Washington and in the District of Columbia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Flexible Divisions for Seats; and do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing and to the letters of reference marked thereon making a part of this specification.

The nature of my invention consists in flexible divisions for seats, to indicate the space each person ought to occupy, and yet yield so as to admit of a very large person occupying one of said spaces, as will be hereinafter more fully set forth.

In order to enable others skilled in the art to which my invention appertains to make and use the same, I will now proceed to describe its construction and operation, referring to the annexed drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a seat with flexible divisions attached, and Fig. 2 is a front view of a part thereof with a portion of the front rail removed.

A represents the bottom, B the back, and C the front rail of a seat, constructed in any of the known and usual ways. At suitable intervals on this seat I place flexible divisions D D, made of rubber tubing or other suitable material. These divisions may be attached to the upper and lower edges of the back B, or they may be attached to the upper edge of the back and the front edge of the bottom A. In this latter case there is a slot made at the in-

ner edge of the front rail C, and a button, *a*, or other suitable device, attached to the front end of each division D, moves under the rail, and, being attached to a rubber band, *b*, or other suitable spring, which will allow the front or lower end of the division to yield when a very large person sits down. The divisions attached entirely to the back will also yield without any such additional attachment. The divisions D D may be attached as high up or low down as may be desired, or in any suitable manner, and may be applied on any seats—for instance, such as seats in street-cars, where passengers are often annoyed and compelled to stand up by others occupying more than one seat. It may also be used in churches, theaters, public halls, or, in fact, anywhere where it is desired to indicate the space each person ought to occupy.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a seat, A, with back B, for containing several persons, the flexible divisions D, as and for the purposes set forth.

2. In combination with a flexible division for seats, the button *a* and rubber band *b* or their equivalents, substantially as and for the purposes herein set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 9th day of April, 1872.

THOS. J. DORSEY BECK.

Witnesses:

A. N. MARR,  
C. L. EVERT.