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[Continued on next page]

(54) **Title**: POWER ACTUATED WALL PROXIMITY FURNITURE MEMBER

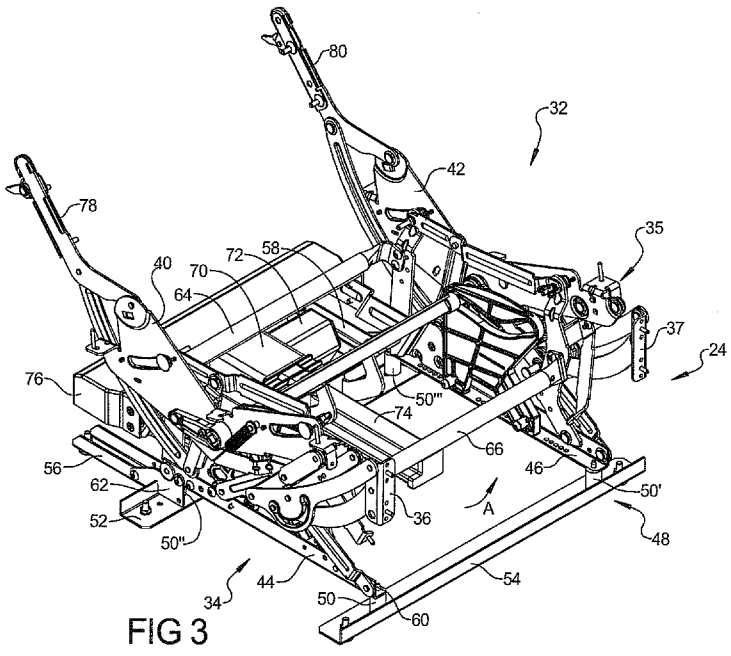

FIG 3

(57) **Abstract**: An electrically operated wall proximity furniture member includes a frame and an actuation mechanism rotatably connected to the frame. The actuation mechanism includes first and second independently rotatable seat back support members oriented to face a wall outer surface. An electrically powered drive assembly operates to rotate the seat back member between fully upright and fully reclined positions inclusive. A point of the seat back support members when positioned in the fully upright position defines a rear-most extent of the actuation mechanism. The rear-most extent defines a vertical plane having no portion of the actuation mechanism extending beyond the rear-most extent toward the wall outer surface during any operation of the actuation mechanism.

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What is claimed is:

1. An electrically operated wall proximity furniture member, comprising:

a frame;

an actuation mechanism connected to the frame including at least one rotatable seat back support member and an electrically powered drive assembly operating to rotate the seat back support member between fully upright and fully reclined positions inclusive; and

a link displacing the seat back support member between the fully upright and fully reclined positions inclusive with the seat back support member moved substantially forward from the fully upright position to the fully reclined position such that the fully upright position defines a rear-most extent of the seat back support member.

2. The electrically operated wall proximity furniture member of Claim 1, wherein the actuation mechanism includes an extendable and retractable leg rest assembly, the electrically powered drive assembly operating to move the leg rest assembly between fully retracted and fully extended positions inclusive.

3. The electrically operated wall proximity furniture member of Claim 2, further including a drive rod translatable in a forward direction by the drive assembly to move the seat back support member from the fully upright to the fully reclined position, the seat back support member in the fully extended position of the leg rest assembly being positioned forward of the position of the seat back support member in the seat back fully upright position.

4. The electrically operated wall proximity furniture member of Claim 3, wherein the actuation mechanism includes opposed sequencing plates each having an elongated channel individually receiving one end of the drive rod, the drive rod being both axially rotated and translated within the elongated channel

of each of the sequencing plates during extension and retraction of the leg rest assembly and only translated during seat back support member movement.

5. The electrically operated wall proximity furniture member of Claim 4, wherein the actuation mechanism includes first and second end walls of the elongated channel of each sequencing plate and a lowest elevation channel position positioned elevationally below both the first and second opposed end walls, the drive rod when positioned in the lowest elevation channel position defining the fully extended position.

6. The electrically operated wall proximity furniture member of Claim 1, wherein the actuation mechanism includes a drive rod both axially rotatable and translatable by the drive assembly to extend or retract a leg rest assembly.

7. The electrically operated wall proximity furniture member of Claim 6, wherein the actuation mechanism includes opposed sequencing plates each having an elongated channel individually receiving one end of the drive rod, the drive rod being both axially rotated and translated within the elongated channel of each of the sequencing plates during extension and retraction of the leg rest assembly.

8. The electrically operated wall proximity furniture member of Claim 1, wherein the actuation mechanism includes:

a drive rod operating to displace an extendable and retractable leg rest assembly, the electrically powered drive assembly operating to axially rotate and translate the leg rest assembly between fully retracted and fully extended positions;

opposed sequencing plates each having an elongated channel including first and second end walls and a lowest elevation channel position positioned between the first and second end walls;

the drive rod having ends received in the elongated channels of the opposed sequencing plates and being positioned proximate to the first end walls with the leg rest assembly in the fully retracted position; and

the leg rest assembly reaching the fully extended position when the drive rod is positioned at the lowest elevation channel positions.

9. The electrically operated wall proximity furniture member of Claim 1, further comprising:

a drive rod having opposed ends each moving in an elongated channel between a first channel end wall to a lowest elevation channel position in response to motion of the drive assembly; and

the at least one seat back support member including first and second seat back support members rotatably positioned between the fully upright position and the fully reclined position inclusive, the first and second seat back support members being positioned in the fully upright position until the drive rod reaches the lowest elevation channel position after which further actuation of the drive assembly displaces the drive rod without axial rotation from the lowest elevation channel position toward a second channel end wall elevated above the lowest elevation channel position, the first and second seat back support members positioned in the fully reclined position when the drive rod is positioned proximate to or in contact with the second end wall.

10. The electrically operated wall proximity furniture member of Claim 1, wherein the actuation mechanism includes opposed sequencing plates each having an elongated channel individually receiving one of opposed ends of a drive rod, the drive rod being translated without axial rotation within the elongated channel of each of the sequencing plates during rotation of the seat back support member between the fully upright and fully reclined positions inclusive.

11. The electrically operated wall proximity furniture member of Claim 1, wherein the rear-most extent of the seat back support member defines a

vertical plane at a wall facing point of the seat back support member wherein no portion of the seat back support member extends rearwardly of the rear-most extent.

12. An electrically operated wall proximity furniture member, comprising:

a frame;

an actuation mechanism rotatably connected to the frame, the actuation mechanism including first and second rotatable seat back support members and an electrically powered drive assembly operating to rotate the seat back support members between fully upright and fully reclined positions inclusive; and

a point of each of the seat back support members when positioned in the fully upright position defining a rear-most extent of the seat back support members between the fully upright and fully reclined positions.

13. The electrically operated wall proximity furniture member of Claim 12, wherein the rear-most extent of the seat back support members further defines a vertical plane spaced from a wall face wherein no portion of the seat back support members extends beyond the vertical plane toward the wall face.

14. The electrically operated wall proximity furniture member of Claim 12, further including a pin positioned in an elongated slot and in contact with a forward facing first end of the elongated slot defining the fully upright position, the pin displacing to a rear facing second end of the elongated slot defining the fully reclined position when the seat back support members are rotated from the fully upright position to the fully reclined position.

15. The electrically operated wall proximity furniture member of Claim 12, wherein the frame further includes:

right and left support members;

front and rear cross members; and

a plurality of elastic support elements disposed between ends of the right and left support members and the front and rear cross members.

16. The electrically operated wall proximity furniture member of Claim 12, wherein the actuation mechanism further includes an extendable and retractable leg rest assembly, the electrically powered drive assembly further operating to move the leg rest assembly between retracted and extended positions inclusive.

17. The electrically operated wall proximity furniture member of Claim 12, wherein the actuation mechanism includes:

a drive rod rotatably connected through at least one linkage to the seat back support members;

opposed sequencing plates each having an elongated channel individually receiving one end of the drive rod, the drive rod being both axially rotated and translated within the elongated channel of each of the sequencing plates during extension and retraction of the leg rest assembly.

18. An electrically operated wall proximity furniture member, comprising:

a frame;

an actuation mechanism rotatably connected to the frame, the actuation mechanism including an extendable and retractable leg rest assembly and first and second rotatable seat back support members oriented to face a wall outer surface;

an electrically powered drive assembly operating to move the leg rest assembly between retracted and extended positions inclusive and to further rotate the seat back support members between fully upright and fully reclined positions inclusive; and

a point of the seat back support members when positioned in the fully upright position positioned at a rear-most extent of the seat back support members, the rear-most extent defining a vertical plane spaced from the wall

outer surface having no portion of the seat back support members extending beyond the vertical plane and closer to the wall outer surface than the vertical plane when the seat back support members are repositioned to the fully reclined position.

19. The electrically operated wall proximity furniture member of Claim 18, wherein the drive assembly further includes an electric motor, the electric motor and the drive assembly both co-axially rotatable about an axis of rotation.

20. The electrically operated wall proximity furniture member of Claim 19, wherein the drive assembly further includes a gear drive assembly co-rotatable with the electric motor.

21. The electrically operated wall proximity furniture member of Claim 18, wherein the frame includes:

right and left support members each having an end;

front and rear cross members oriented substantially transverse to the right and left support members; and

a tubular shaped elastic support element fastenably connected in a substantially vertical orientation between individual ones of the ends of the right and left support members and the front and rear cross members.

22. The electrically operated wall proximity furniture member of Claim 18, wherein the frame includes first and second extension members and wherein the drive assembly is at least partially protected by a cover, the first and second extension members and the cover being positioned forward of the rear-most extent of the seat back support members in the fully upright position.