United States Patent

[11] 3,568,967

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[21] Appl. No. **814,643**
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[45] Patented **Mar. 9, 1971**

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[54] **MODULAR FURNITURE BASE**
4 Claims, 4 Drawing Figs.

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **248/188.1,** 52/727, 297/232
[51] **Int. Cl.** **F16m 11/20**
[50] **Field of Search** ..... 248/163, 165, 188.1, 188.7; 108/150, 156; 297/232, 248; 52/727, 728; 312/204; 287/189.3 (G)

[56] **References Cited**

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ABSTRACT: Furniture items are mounted on a support bar which is carried by a plurality of base assemblies each including feet and an upright leg and a bar supporting channel, the leg having fairing strips at opposite sides thereof merging with the feet and the bar supporting fitting and interlocked with the feet of the fitting to be retained in position without separate connection.

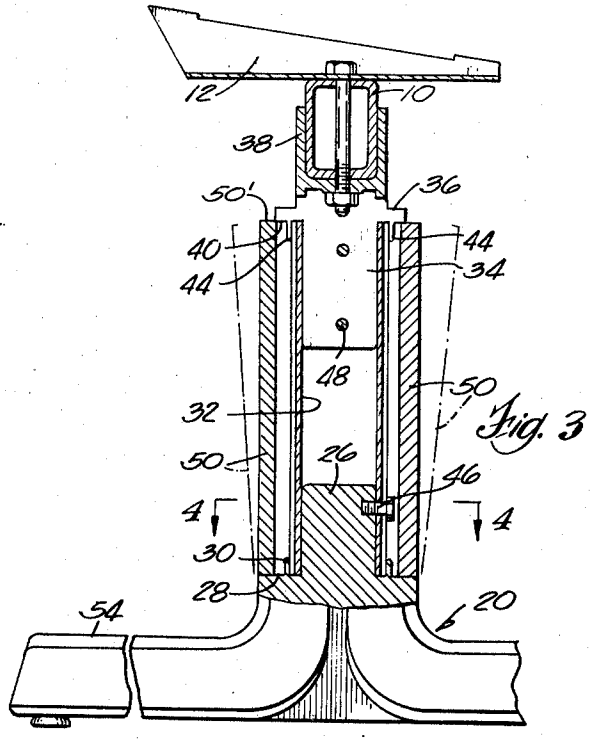


Fig. 3

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Fig. 1

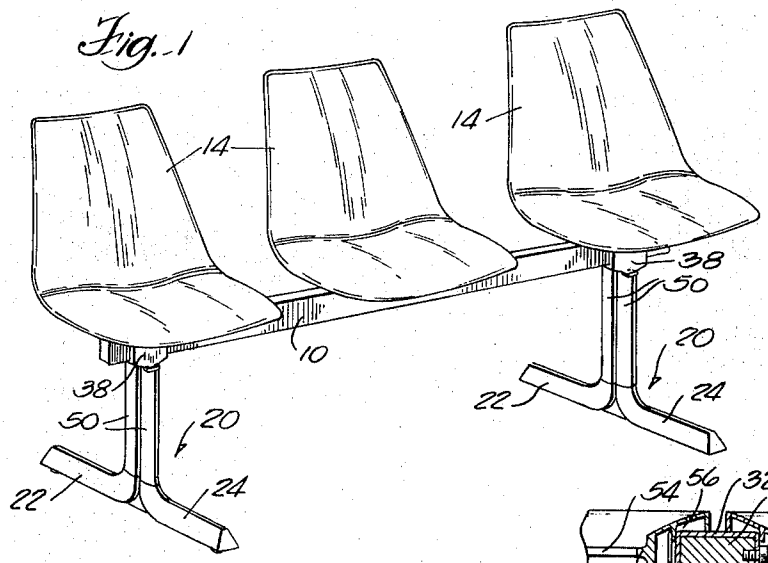


Fig. 4

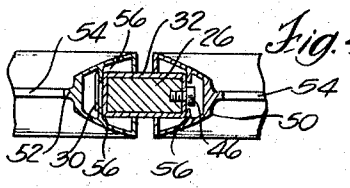


Fig. 2

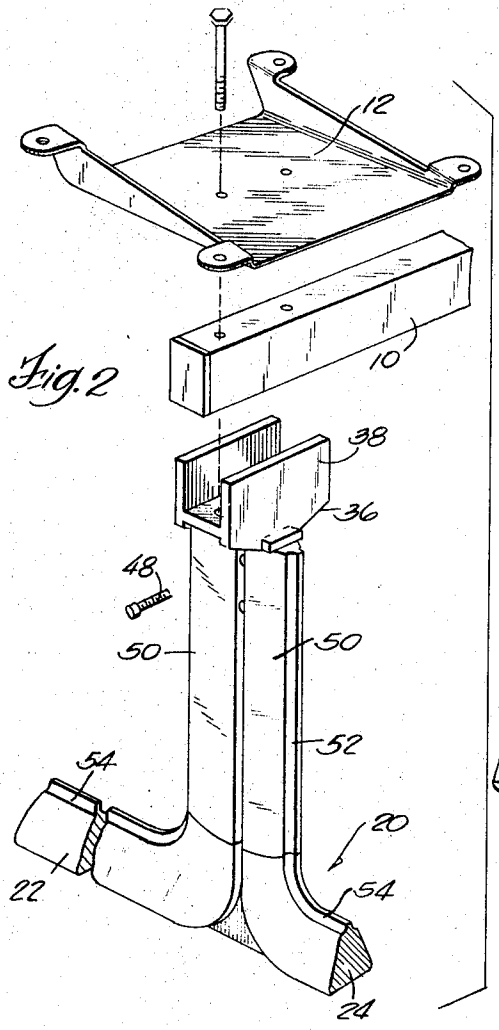
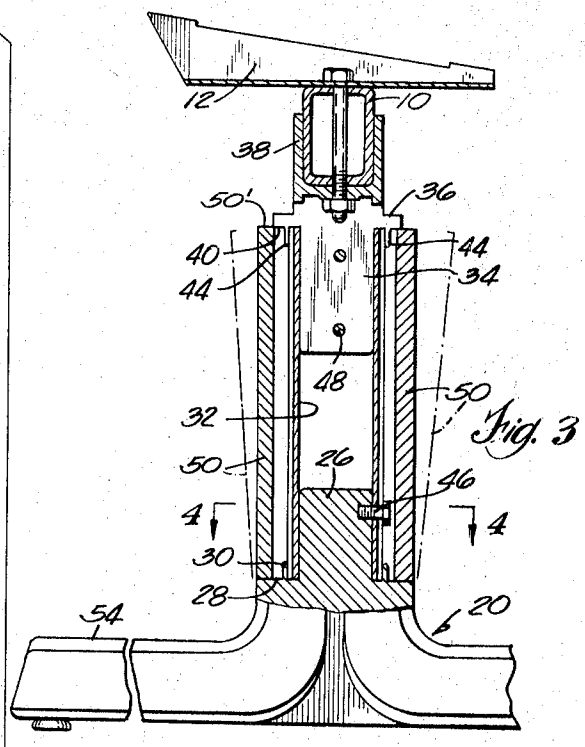


Fig. 3



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MODULAR FURNITURE BASE

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

In many modular furniture bases, the leg and feet and bar support are made in one piece.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

The instant construction makes it possible to provide separate castings and other parts which are made of material best suited for their particular function and interlockingly connected in a manner which is simple and convenient and provides unusually strong support for the bar upon which the furniture units are mounted. It enables generally standard parts to be used for making a base of any desired height merely by selecting leg elements of appropriate length.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a view in perspective of a modular furniture assembly.

FIG. 2 is an enlarged view showing perspective the mutually separated components of such an assembly.

FIG. 3 is a view partially in end elevation and partially in vertical front to rear section, showing one of the base units as assembled.

FIG. 4 is a detail view taken in section on the line 4–4 if FIG. 3.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The so-called modular furniture generally comprises a supporting bar **10** upon which fittings **12** are mounted for connection with seats **14**, these being representative of various furniture elements usually carried in spaced relation on bar **10**.

As herein shown, each of the supports for the bar **10** comprises a foot casting **20** which may include in one piece feet **22** and **24** extending in a direction from front to rear beneath the bar **10**. The foot members **22** and **24** are so formed as to appear to extend upwardly at the center beneath the **10**. At their apparent juncture, , there is a heavy dowel member **26** extending upwardly directly beneath the bar (FIG. 3). At each side of the dowel member **26**, the casting **20** is provided with a shoulder **28** on which there is an upstanding flange **30** spaced from the dowel member **26**.

Telescoped onto the dowel member **26** is the leg tube **32** which may be of any desired length. One of the advantages of the invention is to enable the height of the support to be determined at will, or modified, according to the length of a selected tube **32**. Telescoped into the tube at its upper end is another dowel member **34** which extends downwardly from a fitting **36** equipped with a channel **38** for the bar **10**. The fitting **36** has a shoulder at **40** supported on the upper end of the leg tube **32** and provided at both sides of the leg tube with a flange **44**.

Bolts are sued to connect the leg tube **32** to the upper and lower dowels **34** and **26**. These bolts may be inserted from the front as indicated at **46** in FIG. 3 or may be inserted from the side as indicated at **48**. The lateral location is preferred for the bolts at the top of the leg in order to facilitate assembly and disassembly. The location shown at **46** is preferred for the bolts at the bottom of the leg because these bolts are concealed by the fairing member presently to be described.

The two fairing members **50** are substantially identical. The cross section of each is made to merge with the cross section of the individual feet as clearly appears in FIGS. **1** and **2**. Each of the fairing members **50** comprises a channel having an ornamental rib at **52** aligned with the corresponding rib **54** on the respective foot. From the sides of the channel, the flanges **56** project inwardly. The ribs or flanges **30** of the foot member **20** are engaged behind these flanges **56** of each fairing

member **50** near the bottom of the leg and similar flanges **44** are interlocking engaged with flanges **56** of members **50** near the top of the leg. When the screw **48** are in place, they are practically invisible between the front and rear fairing elements **50**, and screws **46** are completely concealed.

When the screws **48** are removed, the upper dowel fitting **36** and bar supporting channel **38** as part thereof can readily be lifted from the leg tube **32** and this exposes the upper ends of the respective fairing members **50**. Thereupon the upper ends **50'** of these fairing members may readily be swung outwardly as indicated in dotted lines in FIG. 3 to facilitate their being lifted from interlocking engagement with the foot unit **20**. As soon as the front fairing member **50** is removed, the screws **46** are exposed and may be withdrawn to permit the leg tube to be lifted from dowel **26**.

Reassembly is equally simple. The leg tube **32** is first telescoped onto the dowel portion **26** of the foot unit **20** and is anchored by screw **46**. Thereupon the fairing elements **50** are applied by interlocking their lower ends with the flanges **30** which project upwardly from the shoulders **28** of the foot unit **20**. With the lower ends of the fairing members thus anchored, they are pivoted toward the full line positions best shown in FIGS. 3 and 4. With the fairing members upright, each will partially embrace the leg tube **32**.

The top unit **36** is then applied by telescoping its dowel portion **34** into the leg tube, and hooking its flanges **44** over the flanges **56** which project inwardly from the channeled fairing members **50**. This holds the fairing members at their upper ends. The interlocking connection is then made permanent by application of the bolts **48**.

The base is now complete and the bar **10** or other furniture support may be mounted, as by the bar in the channel **38**.

We claim:

1. A furniture base made up of interlocking sections including a foot section with divergent feet, a top section, a leg tube telescopically engaged with dowel portions with which the foot section and top section are respectively provided, and channel-shaped fairing elements engaged with opposite sides of the said tube and having terminal interlocking connection both with the foot section, together with means for holding foot and top sections in assembly with said leg tube and in engagement through said interlocking connection with said fairing elements for holding said elements in position.

2 A furniture base according to claim 1 in which each of said fairing elements has sides from which flanges project inwardly, the said sections having transverse flanges engaged with the said flanges of said fairing elements to provide the interlocking connection aforesaid.

3. A furniture base according to claim 2 in which the cross section of the respective fairing units merges with and matches the cross section of the foot section.

4. A furniture base comprising a foot casting having forwardly and rearwardly extending foot portions and provided between said portion with an upwardly extending dowel having a generally horizontal shoulder at each side thereof and an upstanding flange projecting from the shoulder and spaced from the dowel, a leg tube telescopically received upon the dowel, a top casting having dowel telescopically engaged within the leg tube and provided with outwardly projecting shoulders having flanges spaced from the dowel and the leg tube, said top casting including bar supporting means, channel-shaped fairing members embracing the leg tube at opposite side thereof and registering at their lower ends with the shoulders of said foot casting, said fairing members having their sides provided with oppositely directed flanges interlockingly engaged with the flanges projecting from the respective shoulders with which the foot casting and the top casting are provided, and means for detachably connecting the top casting and the foot casting to said leg tube whereby interlocking connection of said flanges holds the fairing members in assembly.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

Patent No. 3,568,967 Dated March 9, 1971

Inventor(s) Ronald T. Furtak and Robert W. Schier

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

Column 1, Line 22, "in" should be inserted after the word showing

Column 1, Line 57, "sued" should read-----used------

Column 1, Line 64, "member" should read---members---

Column 2, Line 2, "interlocking" should read------- interlockingly-------

Column 2, Line 3, "screw" should read----screws----

Column 2, Line 7, "a" should be inserted after the word as

Column 2, Line 40, "and the top section" should be in after the word section

Column 2, Line 54, "portion" should read----portions-

Column 2, Line 58, "a" should be inserted after the w having

Column 2, Line 63, "side" should read------sides-----

Column 2, Line 69, "the" should be inserted after the word whereby

Signed and sealed this 10th day of August 1971

(SEAL)
Attest:

EDWARD M.FLETCHER,JR.
Attesting Officer

WILLIAM E. SCHUYLER, J
Commissioner of Patent