

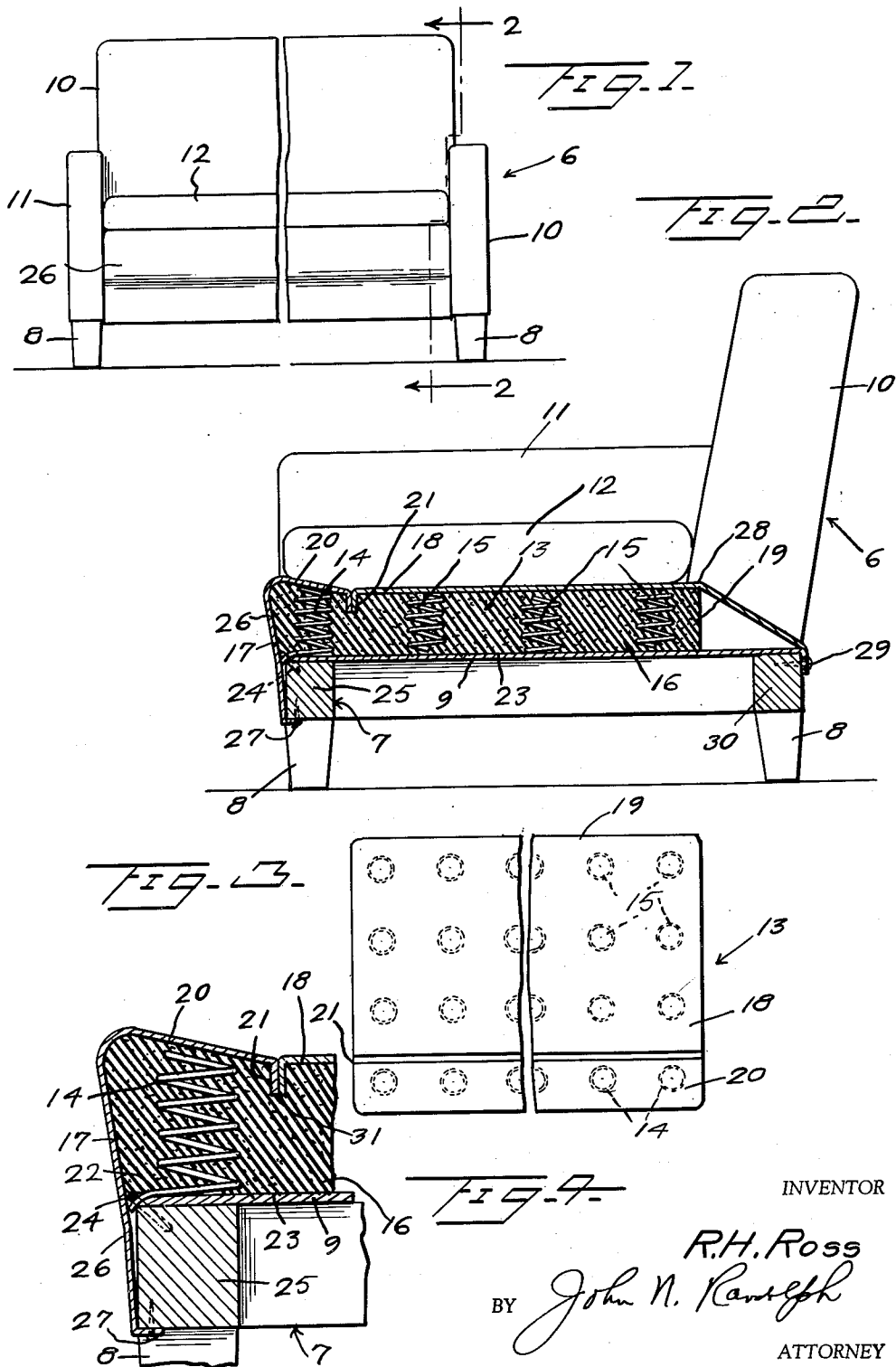
April 18, 1961

R. H. ROSS

2,980,168

MOLDED BASE UNIT FOR FURNITURE

Filed Dec. 18, 1959



INVENTOR

R.H. Ross

BY

John N. Ranselph

ATTORNEY

1

2,980,168

MOLDED BASE UNIT FOR FURNITURE

Robert H. Ross, 1419 Belknap St., Superior, Wis.

Filed Dec. 18, 1959, Ser. No. 860,405

6 Claims. (Cl. 155—181)

This invention relates to a novel molded base unit for loose cushioned furniture such as chairs and sofas.

It is a primary object of the present invention to provide a molded unit including coiled springs which can be quickly applied to a frame of a piece of furniture thereby eliminating many steps in connection with furniture construction and which is normally required to assemble a base unit so that the coiled springs will be properly secured and properly padded.

Another object of the invention is to provide a molded base unit the upper surface of the forward portion of which is sloped downwardly and rearwardly, to retain the cushion against forward displacement, and which eliminates numerous steps in connection with conventional furniture construction to form such an inclined surface by folded and sewn fabric.

Various other objects and advantages of the invention will hereinafter become more fully apparent from the following description of the drawing, illustrating a presently preferred embodiment thereof, and wherein:

Figure 1 is a fragmentary front elevational view of a piece of furniture equipped with the molded base unit;

Figure 2 is an enlarged cross sectional view, partly in elevation thereof;

Figure 3 is a fragmentary plan view of the molded base unit, removed from the piece of furniture, and

Figure 4 is an enlarged fragmentary cross sectional view showing in detail a part of the invention as illustrated in Figure 2.

Referring more specifically to the drawing, the article of furniture designated generally 6 and as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 may constitute either a chair, sofa or other piece of furniture having a loose cushion. As illustrated, the piece of furniture 6 includes a rectangular frame 7 preferably formed of wood, having depending supporting legs 8 at the corners thereof. The opening formed by the rectangular frame 7 is covered by webbing 9 which is secured to parts of the frame 7 in a conventional manner. The piece of furniture 6 also includes a back rest 10, arm rests 11 and one or a plurality of loose cushions 12. The parts 7 to 12 are conventional and have been illustrated and briefly described merely to afford a better understanding of the novel base unit 13, comprising the invention. The base unit 13 comprises a plurality of coil springs 14 and 15 which are molded in upright positions within a molded body portion 16 of said base unit. The body portion 16 is formed of molded foam rubber, molded polyurethane foam, molded vinyl foam or similar foam products. The base unit 13 may be of any desired length and width and of any desired thickness, depending upon the length of the springs 14 and 15 to determine the thickness thereof. The molded body 16 preferably has a front face 17 which is upwardly and outwardly inclined slightly. The top surface 18 of the molded body 16 is substantially flat from the back edge or face 19 thereof to a point spaced from the front face 17. The molded body 16 has a downwardly and rearwardly inclined top portion 20 extending from the upper edge of

2

the front face 17 rearwardly to adjacent the forward edge of the flat top portion 18. A slot 21, as best seen in Figure 4, is molded into the foam body portion 16 between the top surface portions 18 and 20 and between the front row of springs 14 and an adjacent row of springs 15, as best seen in Figures 2 and 3.

To apply the molded base 13 to the frame 7, said base is placed upon the webbing 9 so that the front face 17 thereof extends upwardly from the front portion of the frame 7. The front row of springs 14 differs slightly from the springs 15 in that each spring 14 has a bottom convolution 22, a forward part of which protrudes or substantially protrudes from the bottom surface 23 of the molded foam body 16, near the front face 17, so that staples or other driven fastenings 24 can engage over a part of each bottom convolution 22 and be driven into the front bar 25 of the rectangular frame 7 for anchoring the molded base unit 13 to said frame. A strip of fabric 26 has a longitudinal edge portion secured as by means of fastenings 27 to the front frame member 25. Said fabric strip 26 extends from end-to-end of the front frame member 25. The fabric strip 26 extends upwardly from its anchored bottom edge across the front face 17 and across the inclined top surface 20 of the foam body member 16 and has its other longitudinal edge seated in the slot or groove 21. The fabric strip 26 preferably corresponds to the material covering the remainder of the piece of furniture 6, as is conventional.

A piece of lightweight fabric material 28, known as "decking," also extends from end-to-end of the frame 7 and has one longitudinal edge thereof secured, as by means of driven fastenings 29, to the rear member 30 of the frame 7. The fabric piece 28 extends forwardly across the upper surface 18 and has its other longitudinal edge seated in the groove 21. The groove 21 contains a suitable cement or other bonding medium 31 for anchoring the edges of the fabric strips 26 and 28 therein.

As seen in Figure 2, the loose cushion or cushions 12 rest upon the portions of the fabric pieces 26 and 28 which cover the molded base unit 13 and are prevented from sliding forwardly by the upwardly and forwardly inclined front surface 20 of said unit. The foam rubber or other foam material forming the body 16 provides a sufficient support and enclosure for the springs 14 and 15 so that said springs do not have to be tied to one another or to any part of the frame of the furniture and no padding is required between the springs and the cushions 12.

Various modifications and changes are contemplated and may be resorted to, without departing from the function or scope of the invention as hereinafter defined by the appended claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. In combination with a piece of furniture including a base frame having a webbing covering, fabric pieces anchored to front and rear portions of the base frame, and a loose seat cushion; a molded base unit for the furniture piece comprising a relatively thick resilient body portion formed of a molded foam material and including a bottom surface and a top surface, a plurality of coiled springs embedded in said body portion in upright positions, the bottom surface of said body portion resting upon and being supported by the webbing, and said fabric pieces extending from their anchored edges upwardly and across the top surface of the molded base unit for enclosing and covering the base unit, said base unit providing a support for the loose cushion.

2. In a combination as defined by claim 1, the top surface of said base unit including a downwardly and rearwardly inclined forward portion for resisting forward displacement of the cushion.

3. In a combination as defined by claim 1, the top surface of said molded body portion having a groove extend-

3

ing from end-to-end thereof, said groove being spaced from front and back edges of the molded body portion and containing a bonding medium, and adjacent longitudinal edges of said fabric strips being secured in said groove by the bonding medium.

4. In a combination as defined by claim 1, said molded body portion having a front face, certain of said coil springs, located adjacent said front face, including a bottom convolution partially exposed adjacent the corner formed by the bottom surface and front face, and staples engaging over said exposed convolution portions and anchored in the frame base for securing the molded base unit to the frame base.

5. In a combination as defined by claim 1, the top surface of said molded base unit including a downwardly and rearwardly inclined forward portion for resisting forward displacement of the cushion and a groove extending from end-to-end of the top surface adjacent said forward portion in which adjacent longitudinal edges of

4

said fabric strips are received, and said groove containing a bonding medium for anchoring said adjacent edges of the fabric strips in the groove.

6. In a combination as defined by claim 5, certain of said coil springs having upper convolutions disposed directly beneath said downwardly and rearwardly inclined forward portion and forwardly of said groove.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

1,725,479	Rissman	Aug. 20, 1929
2,101,054	Eaton	Dec. 7, 1937
2,315,791	Hiatt et al.	Apr. 6, 1943
2,656,880	Graupner	Oct. 27, 1953
2,779,031	Arpin	Jan. 29, 1957
2,779,036	Platt	Jan. 29, 1957
2,882,959	Burkart	Apr. 21, 1959