

Oct. 14, 1941.

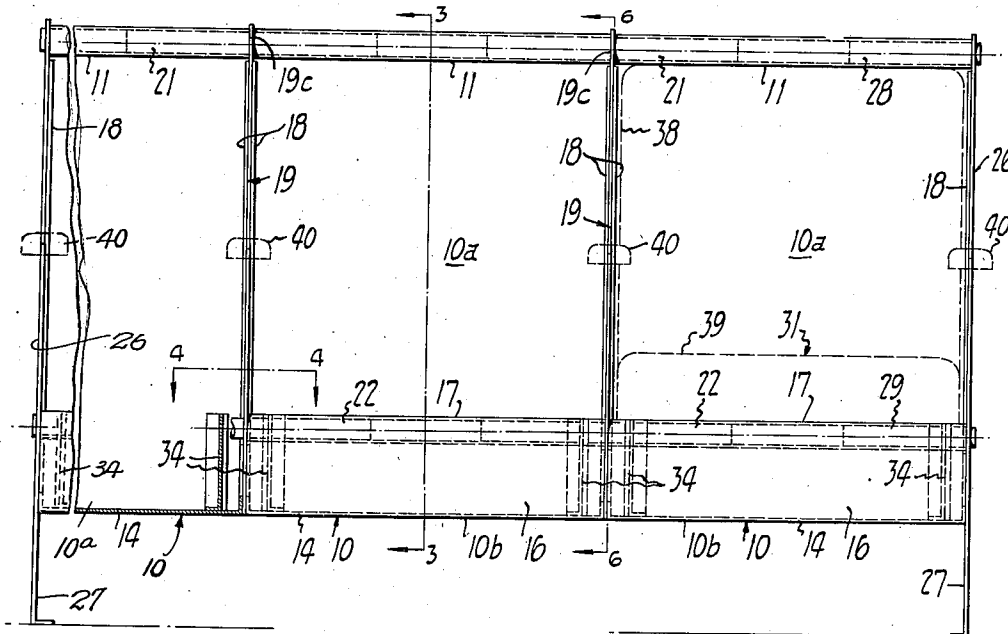
C. RIEGER

**2,258,864**

THEATER CHAIR

Filed Aug. 8, 1938

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



FIG\_1\_

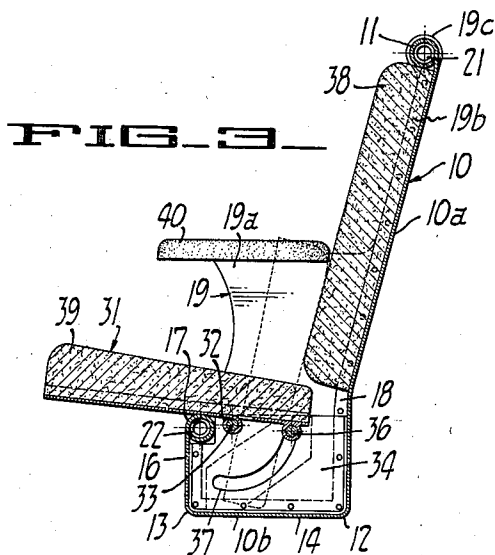
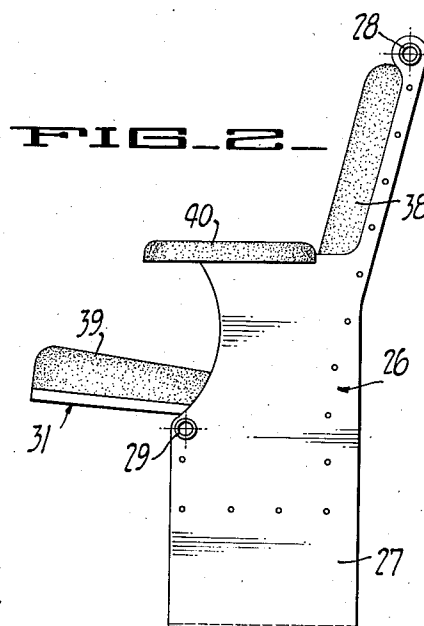
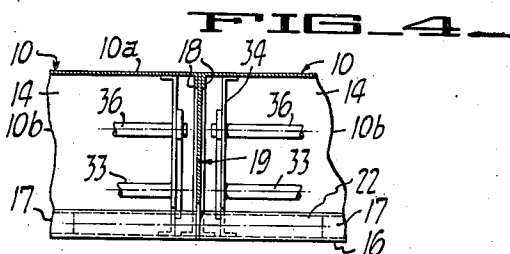


FIG. 3.



**FIG. 2.**



**FIG\_4.**

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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

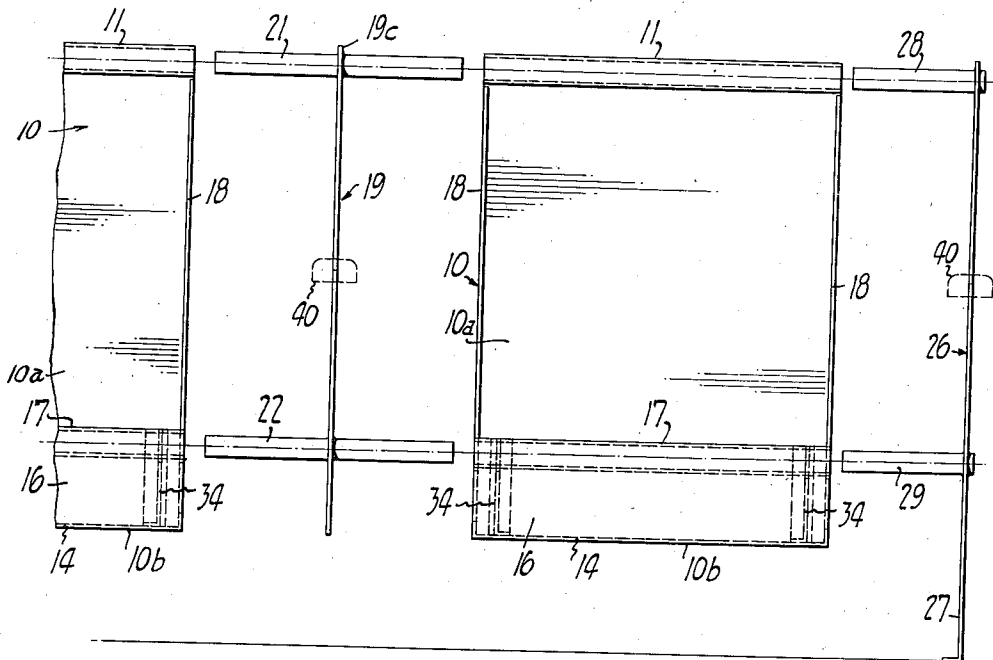


FIG. 5

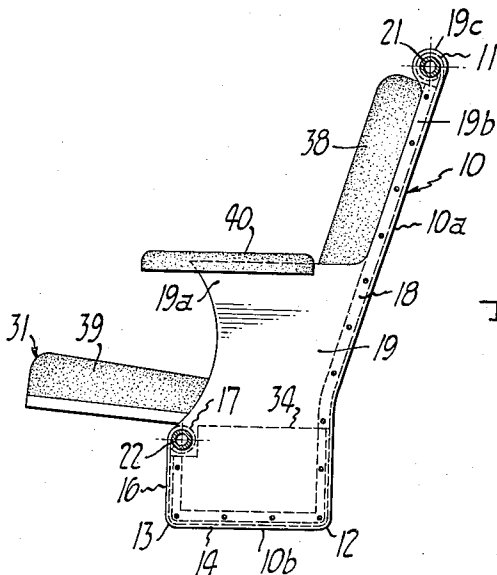


FIG. 6

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,258,864

## THEATER CHAIR

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Application August 8, 1938, Serial No. 223,569

9 Claims. (Cl. 155—86)

This invention relates generally to chair constructions of the type suitable for installation in theaters or auditoriums, where the chairs are arranged in regular rows.

It is an object of the invention to provide a chair construction of the above character which will leave the space beneath a group of chair units substantially unobstructed.

A further object of the invention is to provide a theater chair construction in which the individual chair units can be more readily assembled together to form a group of chairs, and which will afford utmost structural strength when assembled.

Another object of the invention is to provide a theater chair construction which can be manufactured substantially entirely from sheet metal, to afford a relatively fireproof and rugged construction.

Additional objects and features of the invention will appear from the following description in which the preferred embodiment of the invention has been set forth in detail in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

Referring to the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a front elevational view, illustrating one part of a group of chairs, constructed in accordance with the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a side view looking towards the group of chairs, as illustrated in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional view taken along the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a cross-sectional detail taken along the line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is an expanded or exploded view, illustrating the manner in which the parts are assembled.

Fig. 6 is a cross-sectional view taken along the line 6—6 of Fig. 1.

My invention consists generally of a plurality of chair units, having novel structural features, and which are adapted to be assembled to form a group of chairs. In place of having supporting legs or feet extending downwardly between each chair unit, as is common with theater chairs, my construction dispenses with intermediate supporting legs or feet, and the entire group of chairs is supported by feet extending downwardly from the ends of the group. Thus the space beneath the chair units is entirely unobstructed. In order to afford the desired structural strength a structural element is provided extending horizontally between the ends of the group, and this element is sectionalized in such a manner as to facilitate assembly and detachment of the parts.

Referring to the form of the invention disclosed in the drawings, each of the seat units includes a body part 10, preferably formed of sheet metal. While the precise details may vary, I prefer that one piece of sheet metal be bent to form the back portion 10a of the seat, and also what can be termed the seat supporting portion 10b. At the upper edge of the back portion 10a, the sheet metal is preferably rolled upon itself to form a tubular portion 11. To form the seat support 10b the body part can be provided with right-angle bends 12 and 13, to form the intervening bottom wall 14, and the upstanding forward wall 16. It is preferable to also roll the upper edge of wall 16, to form in effect a tube 17. The side edges of the body parts 10 are shown provided with flanges 18, which are apertured, and which facilitate making attachment between the chair units.

Interposed between the sheet metal body parts 10, are the members 19, which are also preferably formed of sheet metal. These members can be contoured somewhat as illustrated in Fig. 6, with a forward projecting portion 19a to form an arm support, and with an upwardly extending portion 19b which is adapted to be interposed between the flanges 18 of adjacent body portions. The upper end portions 19c, of members 19, can be enlarged and apertured to receive the studs 21. These studs can be short tubes or pipes, and can be permanently attached to portions 19c, as by means of welding. The diameter of studs 21 is such that these studs can snugly interfit with the tubular portions 11 of the body parts 10. The lower ends of each member 19 are also shown apertured to accommodate the studs 22, which can be similar to studs 21, and which are proportioned to snugly interfit with the tubular portions 17 of the body parts.

At the ends of a group, members 26 are provided (Fig. 2) which are contoured similarly to the intervening members 19, except that instead of stopping short at the level of the bottom wall 14 of the body part, they extend downwardly to form the feet 27. Also the studs 28 and 29, attached to the end members 26, extend from only one side for telescopic engagement with the end chair unit.

The seats 31 can vary as to structural details, but as representative of suitable construction, I have shown them each formed of a sheet metal plate, with a hinged connection 32 to the horizontal rod 33. As shown in Fig. 4 the ends of these rods may be carried by the special plates 34, which are mounted within the seat supports

10b. In order to limit downward swinging movement the rear edge of each seat is shown provided with a rod 36, the ends of which operate within arcuate slots 37 formed in the plate 34.

It will be evident that the parts of the chair units described above can be upholstered in any suitable way. Thus conventional cushions 38 and 39 are shown mounted upon the back portions 10a and upon the seat 31, and also upholstered arm rests 40 are shown carried by the intervening members 19, and the end members 26.

Assembly of the various parts described above, can be outlined as follows: One selects the number of units desired in a group, and then the parts of these units are assembled together, substantially as illustrated in Fig. 5. Thus starting with one of the end members 26, the studs 28 and 29 of this end member are telescoped with the tubular portions 11 and 17 of the first body part 10. Then an intermediate member 19 can be applied by telescoping its studs 21 and 22 with the tubular portions 11 and 17. After the selected number of chair units have thus been consecutively assembled in this fashion, bolts can be applied to clamp together the various flanges 18, thus forming the assembly into a rigid structure. When thus assembled the tubular portions 11 together with the studs 21 and 28, form in effect a sectionalized structural element extending across and attached to the upper edges of the chair units, and serving to resist downward forces which may be applied to the same. Also the tubular portions 17 together with studs 22 and 29, form a sectionalized structural element attached to the lower portion of the chair units and likewise serving to resist downward forces. With reference to either Figs. 3 or 6 it will be noted that these sectionalized structural elements are so connected by the sheet metal parts of the chair units, that in effect a composite structural beam is formed, of great strength, and capable of resisting all reasonable stresses to which the assembly may be subjected.

After having formed a given assembly of chair units, as described above, it is a relatively simple matter to increase or decrease the number of chair units in a group. Also by suitably modifying the shaping of the body parts, and the connecting studs, the units can be assembled to form a curved row as is sometimes desired in theaters or auditoriums.

I claim:

1. In a chair construction, a plurality of chair units removably attached together in side-by-side relationship to form a group of chairs, a supporting foot at each end of the group, the space between said feet being unobstructed, each chair unit including a body part formed of sheet metal to afford a chair back and a seat support, there being intervening sheet metal members between said body parts forming arm supports, the upper edges of said body parts being rolled to tubular form, and studs attached to the intervening sheet metal members and adapted to have telescopic engagement with said tubular portions of the body parts.

2. In a chair construction, a plurality of chair units removably attached together in side-by-side relationship to form a group of chairs, supporting feet for said group of chairs, each chair unit including a body part formed of sheet metal bent to afford a chair back and a seat support, the seat support being box-like in form and af-

fording a forward upstanding wall, and a seat hinged to said seat support.

3. In a chair construction, a plurality of chair units disposed in side-by-side relationship and attached together by telescopic engagement to form a group of chairs, supporting feet for said group of chairs, each chair unit including a body part formed of sheet metal bent to afford a chair back and a seat support, the seat support being box-like in form and affording a forward upstanding wall, and a seat on said seat support.

4. In a chair construction, a plurality of separable chair units removably attached together in side-by-side relationship to form a group of chairs, a supporting foot at each end of the group, the space intervening between said feet being substantially unobstructed, and a sectionalized support structure providing a structural beam extending between the ends of said group and serving to support the chair units against downward forces and serving to transmit all such downward forces to said feet, said support structure including portions of said chair units.

5. In a chair construction, a plurality of separable chair units removably attached together in side-by-side relationship to form a group of chairs, a supporting foot at each end of the group, the space intervening between said feet being substantially unobstructed, and a sectionalized support structure providing a structural beam extending between the ends of said group and serving to support the chair units against downward forces and serving to transmit all such downward forces to said feet, said support structure being composed of separable telescopically engaged sections formed in part by portions of said chair units.

6. In a chair construction, a plurality of separable chair units removably attached together in side-by-side relationship to form a group of chairs, a supporting foot at each end of the group, the space intervening between said feet being substantially unobstructed, each chair unit including an individual body part formed to afford a chair back and a seat support, said body parts being interchangeable as to position in said group, and a sectionalized support structure providing a structural beam extending between the ends of said group and serving to support the chair units against downward forces and serving to transmit all such downward forces to said feet, said support structure including portions of said chair units.

7. In a chair construction, a plurality of separable chair units removably attached together in side-by-side relationship to form a group of chairs, a supporting foot at each end of the group, the space intervening between said feet being substantially unobstructed, each chair unit including an individual body part formed to afford a chair back and a seat support, said body parts being interchangeable as to position in said group, and a pair of sectionalized support structures providing respective structural beams extending between the ends of said group and serving to support the chair units against downward forces and serving to transmit all such downward forces to said feet, each of said support structures including portions of said chair units rolled to tubular form and other tubular support members telescopically engaged with said rolled portions.

8. In a chair construction, a plurality of separable chair units removably attached together in side-by-side relationship to form a group of

chairs, a supporting foot at each end of the group, the space intervening between said feet being substantially unobstructed, each chair unit including an individual body part formed to afford a chair back and a seat support, said body parts being interchangeable as to position in said group, there being intervening members between said body parts, said intervening members being similar and interchangeable, and a sectionalized structural support extending between the ends of said group and serving to support the chair units against downward forces and to transmit all such downward forces to said feet, said support being composed of separable sections formed in part by portions of said chair units.

9. In a chair construction, a plurality of separable chair units removably attached together in side-by-side relationship to form a group of chairs, a supporting foot at each end of the

group, the space intervening between said feet being substantially unobstructed, each chair unit including an individual body part formed to afford a chair back and a seat support, said body parts being interchangeable as to position in said group, there being intervening members between said body parts, said intervening members being similar and interchangeable, and a sectionalized structural support extending between the ends of said group and serving to support the chair units against downward forces and to transmit all such downward forces to said feet, said support being composed of separable sections formed in part by tubular portions of said chair units and formed in part by tubular support members extending to both sides of said intervening members and telescopically engaged with said tubular portions.

CHARLES RIEGER.