

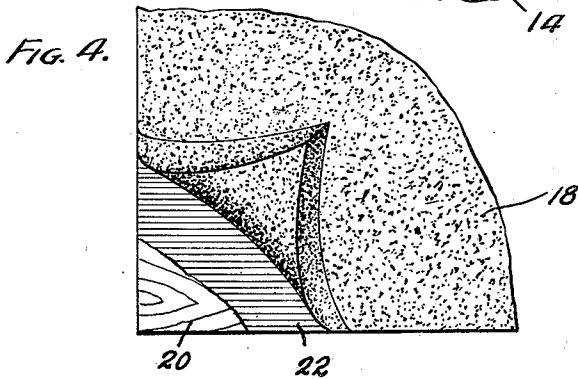
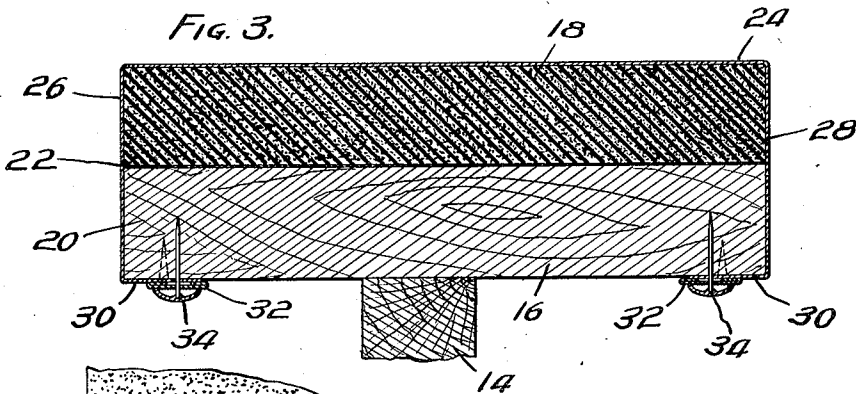
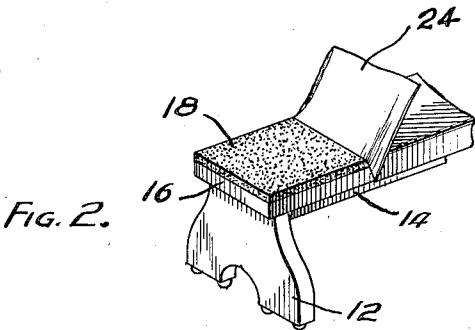
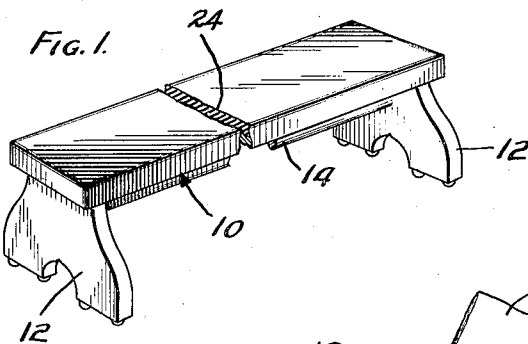
Sept. 8, 1936.

E. F. FROST

2,053,471

KNEELING BENCH

Filed Feb. 12, 1935



INVENTOR.
ELMER F. FROST
BY
Harry N. Hitzman
ATTORNEY.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,053,471

KNEELING BENCH

Elmer F. Frost, Chicago, Ill., assignor to Frost Rubber Works, Chicago, Ill., a partnership consisting of F. S. Frost and F. M. Netzel

Application February 12, 1935, Serial No. 6,207

1 Claim. (Cl. 155-166)

My invention relates to improvements in benches and similar devices.

My invention relates more particularly to kneeling benches of the type ordinarily found in Catholic, Episcopalian and other churches.

Most of the kneeling benches found in the places I have mentioned are ordinary pine or other board benches.

After long and intensive use the tops of these boards become worn and unattractive in appearance. They also accumulate dust and dirt which gradually becomes imbedded in the grain of the wood and when men in white flannels or women in light dresses kneel in worship upon these benches their clothes are invariably soiled and dirtied, even though the benches are subject to frequent cleaning and dusting.

Another result of the use of a wooden board that has a rough surface is to cause damage to women's dresses, silk stockings, and other wearing apparel, thus making it both unpleasant and unprofitable to kneel upon benches of this type.

The principal object of my invention is to provide an improved kneeling bench of the character described, that is highly improved in appearance and also much more comfortable in use than the benches of the prior art.

A further object of my invention is to provide an improved kneeling bench having a resilient upper surface.

A further object of my invention is to provide an improved kneeling bench having a resilient upper surface and a decorative covering thereon.

A further object of my invention is to provide an improved kneeling bench having a decorative and attractively appearing covering thereon and also being provided with cushioning means on the upper surface thereof.

Other objects and advantages will be more apparent from the following description wherein reference is had to the accompanying sheet of drawing upon which,

Fig. 1 is a view in perspective of my improved kneeling bench;

Fig. 2 is a similar perspective view showing the manner in which the decorative covering is placed thereon;

Fig. 3 is a cross sectional view illustrating the manner in which the sponge rubber and decorative covering are applied to the bench; and

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary view illustrating the manner in which the sponge rubber cushion is mounted upon the board.

The kneeling bench which I have chosen to illustrate my invention may be generally similar

in appearance to the benches now employed throughout the churches of the land. Accordingly, I provide a bench 10 of indeterminate length provided with supports 12 at regular intervals as desired. A brace member 14 may also be provided or omitted as desired. The ordinary kneeling bench is complete when it is provided with the top or platform 16 and the supports 12. However, in providing the form of my invention illustrated, I place a cushion or layer 18 of sponge rubber or similar material upon the platform 16. The layer 18 may be the same size as the platform 16, and be connected thereto throughout its length by the application of adhesive 20 such as rubber cement or similar material which will effectively seal the layer 18 to the upper surface 22 of the platform 16.

After the resilient layer 18 has been securely fastened to the platform 16, I provide a flexible decorative covering 24 adapted to enclose the upper wall of the platform and the side walls 26 and 28 thereof, said decorative covering terminating in a portion 30 underlying the lower side of platform 16. At this point to provide a decorative trim and to assist in securely fastening the decorative covering in place, I provide a gimp trim strip 32. Suitable round headed tacks 34 are then driven into platform 16 effectively fastening the covering 24 over the entire platform.

As thus constructed, a highly improved and much more comfortable kneeling bench has been provided. The cushion 18 which has been provided is soft enough to yield comfortably to the pressure of the knee and the weight of the person kneeling in worship. After the rubber cushion has been fitted to the length and breadth of the bench, it is held rigidly in place by any suitable adhesive which holds the sponge rubber firmly to the wood, thus eliminating the use of tacks. The decorative covering may be comparatively heavy and capable of long use and is not easily torn or removed because of the fact that it is fastened underneath the wooden top. It will, of course, be understood that these decorative covers may come in any suitable or desirable style or color to meet the requirements of different churches or to comply with individual taste.

While I have illustrated and described a specific embodiment of the invention, it will, of course, be understood that changes and modifications may be made in the particular details shown and I do not wish to limit myself in any particular. Rather, what I desire to secure and protect by Letters Patent of the United States is:

A kneeling bench of the class described comprising a rigid rectangularly shaped, elongated wooden base member, a similarly shaped piece of sponge rubber adhesively secured to the top surface thereof, and a flexible decorative covering member, said covering member extending

over the upper surface of said sponge rubber member, the side surfaces of both said sponge rubber and said base member, and a portion of the bottom of said base member, and a decorative binder strip over said covering.

ELMER F. FROST.