IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):	WARNCKE ET AL.		
For:	CHAIR WITH COUPLING COMPANION STOOL BASE		
Application No.:	11/877,478	Examiner:	Erika Garrett
Filed:	October 23, 2007	Group Art Unit:	3636
Our Ref.:	Sauder Manufacturing P1US2-UTL		

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

With respect to the above-identified patent application, and in response to the Examiner's Office Action mailed December 1, 2009, the Applicants respectfully request amendment of the patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this Response; and

General Remarks begin on page 10 of this Response.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A chair, comprising:

a frame forming a chair portion, the frame having a lower portion and an upper portion, the lower portion including a first portion near the upper portion, a second portion spaced away from the first portion, a claw extending generally downward from the second portion, a latch extending generally downward from the first portion, and at least two frame legs extending generally downward, the latch being connected with the first portion and moving between closed and opened positions, the frame legs being adapted to support the frame upon a generally horizontal supporting surface; ~~and~~

a base that releasably couples with the frame and that is adapted to support the frame above a generally horizontal supporting surface, the base having a saddle and extending generally upward from the supporting surface to the saddle, the saddle having opposite back and front edges, the front edge cooperating with the frame lower portion claw whereby the front edge is releasably captured in the claw, and the back edge cooperating with the frame lower portion latch whereby the back edge is releasably captured by the latch~~.~~; and

the claw comprises a plurality of teeth, the teeth comprising at least a first tooth and a second tooth, both of the teeth releasably engaging the saddle and providing alignment of the frame and the base when engaged.

2. (Original) The chair defined in claim 1, characterized in that when the frame is decoupled from the base, the frame forming the chair portion is adapted for use as casual floor rocker seating.

3. (Original) The chair defined in claim 1, characterized in that when the frame is

decoupled from the base, the base is adapted to provide a companion stool upon which a user may sit or, alternatively, a side table which may be positioned adjacent to the chair portion.

4. (Original) The chair defined in claim 1, characterized in that the saddle further comprises a top surface that faces away from the supporting surface, and that defines at least one of a working surface, a writing surface and a sitting surface.

5. (Original) The chair defined in claim 1, characterized in that:

the frame further comprises a receptacle defined between the claw and the latch;

the saddle of the base further comprises a top surface and a perimeter edge incorporating the back and front edges, circumscribing the top surface and defining the top surface with a rotationally asymmetric geometry; and

the frame lower portion receptacle and the saddle perimeter edge correspond with one another so that the base couples with the frame only in one specific rotational orientation.

6. (Original) The chair defined in claim 1 further including a bias member that biases the latch to the closed position.

7. (Original) The chair defined in claim 1 wherein the frame has opposite left and right sides, a first of the two frame legs extends generally arcuately downward from the frame lower portion left side and second portion and to the frame lower portion left side and first portion, and a second of the two frame legs extends generally arcuately downward from the frame lower portion right side and second portion and to the frame lower portion right side and first portion, whereby the frame legs define rockers.

8. (Original) The chair defined in claim 7 wherein the rockers define protective rails about the latch.

9. (Original) The chair defined in claim 1 wherein the latch is located between the two frame legs, so that the legs define protective rails about the latch.

10. (Currently Amended) The chair defined in claim 1 wherein the frame has opposite left and right sides and wherein the claw includes each of a claw notch, ~~a~~ the first tooth ~~that~~ extends toward the left side from the notch, and a the second tooth ~~that~~ extends toward the right side from the notch.

11. (Original) The chair defined in claim 10, characterized in that:

the frame further comprises a receptacle defined between the claw and the latch;

the saddle further includes a top surface that faces away from the supporting surface, and is sized and shaped with a rotationally asymmetric geometry;

the receptacle and a perimeter edge of the saddle correspond with one another so that the base couples with the frame in a rotationally asymmetric configuration;

the saddle front edge includes a pair of cooperating claw notches; and

with the asymmetric configuration, the first tooth and second tooth can be engaged with the saddle only through the engagement of the first tooth with a first one of the cooperating claw notches and the second tooth with a second one of the cooperating claw notches.

12. (Original) The chair defined in claim 1, characterized in that:

the saddle further includes a top surface that faces away from the supporting surface;

the base includes a plurality of lower base legs for supporting the base on a supporting surface;

the claw includes a claw notch generally centered along the claw; and

with the frame decoupled from the base, the saddle top surface is adapted to be oriented in front of the frame, and a first base leg of the plurality of base legs is initially

positionable under the claw, so that with the claw straddling the first base leg, the first base leg is adapted to nest into the claw notch.

13. (Original) The chair defined in claim 1 wherein the base further includes a pedestal that extends generally upward from the supporting surface to the saddle and includes a connector that operatively connects the saddle with the pedestal, the connector including at least one of a tilt mechanism whereby the saddle tilts relative to the pedestal and a swivel mechanism whereby the saddle swivels relative to the pedestal.

14. (Original) The chair defined in claim 1, characterized in that:

the claw includes a pair of spaced apart teeth comprising a first tooth extending toward the left side of the frame and a second tooth extending toward the right side of the frame;

a pair of cooperating claw notches are formed in the saddle front edge whereby the front edge is releasably captured in the claw through engagement of the first tooth with a first one of the cooperating claw notches and the second tooth with a second one of the cooperating claw notches; and

the relative cooperation between the spaced apart teeth and the cooperating claw notches, and the sizing and configuration thereof, causes forces to be generated along the engagement points of the spaced apart teeth and the cooperating claw notches which tend to resist disengagement of the spaced apart teeth from the cooperating claw notches when a user of the chair may exert backwardly directed or other leaning forces on the chair frame.

15. (Original) The chair defined in claim 1, characterized in that:

the base further includes a set of triangular shaped ribs extending downwardly behind the back edge of the saddle; and

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