

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): WARNCKE ET AL.
For: CHAIR WITH COUPLING COMPANION STOOL BASE
Application No.: 13/277,778 Examiner: Erika Garrett
Filed: October 20, 2011 Group Art Unit: 3636
Our Ref.: Sauder Manufacturing P1US3-CON

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 prior Office Action, 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 25 of this Response.

CLAIMS AS AMENDED
(01/25/2013)

I claim:

1. (Original) A combination of a chair and a stool base portion, said chair comprising:

an upper portion providing a backrest for support for a first user;

a lower portion connected to said upper portion and having a sitting portion for supporting said first user in a seated position, and at least one base leg located below said sitting portion;

said stool base portion adapted to support said chair, and comprising a saddle adapted to releasably engage said chair;

said combination is configurable in a first configuration with said chair being coupled to said saddle, and said sitting portion being positioned above said saddle;

said combination is manually convertible between said first configuration and a second configuration, where said second configuration comprises said chair having said at least one base leg, while still functioning as a chair for said first user, and said stool functioning so that said saddle is accessible to said first user as a work surface or, alternatively, so that said saddle is accessible to a second user as a sitting surface; and

said combination is manually convertible between said first configuration and said second configuration without requiring any manual manipulation of bolts, screws or nuts, or the use of any tools by said first user.

2. (Currently Amended) The combination of a chair and a stool base portion in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that:

said lower portion comprises a first portion near said upper portion, a second portion spaced away from said first portion, and a claw extending generally downward from said second portion, ~~a latch extending generally downward from said first portion, the latch being connected with said first portion and moving between closed and open positions;~~

said chair further comprises at least two of said base legs extending generally downward;

said base portion extends generally upward to said saddle, said saddle having opposite back and front edges, with said front edge cooperating with said lower portion claw, so that said front edge is releasably captured in said claw, ~~and said back edge cooperates with said lower portion latch so that said back edge is releasably captured by said latch.~~

3. (Original) The combination of a chair and a stool base portion in accordance with claim 2, characterized in that said claw comprises a plurality of teeth, said teeth comprising at least a first tooth and a second tooth, both of said teeth releasably engaging said saddle and providing alignment of said chair and said base portion when engaged.

4. (Original) The combination of a chair and a stool base portion in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that when said chair is decoupled from said base, the base portion is adapted for use as casual floor rocker seating.

5. (Original) The combination of a chair and a stool base portion in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the saddle further comprises a top surface that faces upward, and that defines at least one of a working surface, a writing surface and a sitting surface.

6. (Original) The combination of a chair and a stool base portion in accordance with claim 2, characterized in that:

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

the saddle 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 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.

7. (Original) The combination of a chair and a stool base portion in accordance with claim 2 further including a bias member that biases the latch to the closed position.

8. (Original) The combination of a chair and a stool base portion in accordance with claim 2 wherein the frame has opposite left and right sides, a first of the two base legs extends generally arcuately downward from the lower portion left side and second portion, and from the lower portion left side and first portion, and a second of the two base legs extends generally arcuately downward from the frame lower portion right side and second portion, and from the frame lower portion right side and first portion, whereby the base legs define rockers.

9. (Original) The combination of a chair and a stool base portion in accordance with claim 6 wherein the rockers define protective rails about the latch.

10. (Original) The combination of a chair and a stool base portion in accordance with claim 2 wherein the latch is located between the two base legs, so that the legs define protective rails about the latch.

11. (Original) The combination of a chair and a stool base portion in accordance with claim 2 wherein the chair has opposite left and right sides and wherein the claw includes each of a claw notch, a first tooth that extends toward the left side from the notch, and a second tooth that extends toward the right side from the notch.

12. (Original) The combination of a chair and a stool base portion in accordance with claim 11, characterized in that:

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

the saddle further includes a top surface that 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 portion 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.

13. (Original) The combination of a chair and a stool base portion in accordance with claim 2, characterized in that:

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