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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.

In accordance with a further aspect of the invention, 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. This occurs when a user of the chair may exert backwardly directed or other leaning forces on the chair frame. Further, the base can include a set of triangular shaped ribs extending downwardly behind the back edge of the saddle. The positioning and configuration of the ribs behind the saddle back edge tend to generate forces resistive to accidental engagement of the chair to the frame, which may otherwise result in the latch not fully engaging with the cooperating latch notch, or from horizontal forces being exerted on the frame relative to the base which could tend to accidentally disengage the notch. Still further, a latch ramping surface can be positioned at the saddle back edge.

In addition to the foregoing, the chair includes means for insuring that a sound audible to a chair user is generated when the latch is moved from a disengaged position to a completely engaged position with the saddle back edge. In this manner, the user is provided with positive feedback that correct engagement of the latch with the saddle back edge has been achieved. These and other features, objects, and benefits of the invention will be recognized by one having ordinary skill in the art and by those who practice the invention, from this disclosure, including the specification, the claims, and the drawing figures.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING

FIG. 1 is an upper front right perspective view of a chair with a coupling companion stool base of the invention, showing the chair portion and the companion stool base portion coupled in a task chair configuration;

FIG. 2 is a front elevation view thereof;

FIG. 3 is a back elevation view thereof;

FIG. 4 is a left side elevation view thereof;

FIG. 5 is a right side elevation view thereof;

FIG. 6 is a bottom plan view thereof;

FIG. 7 is a lower left front perspective view thereof;

FIG. 8 is a lower back left perspective view thereof;

FIG. 9 is a fragmentary right side elevation view thereof, showing coupling/uncoupling of the chair portion and the coupling companion stool base portion, with the chair portion partially in cross section; and;

FIG. 10 is the view of FIG. 9, showing the chair portion and the coupling companion stool base portion uncoupled;

FIG. 11 is an enlarged view of detail XI of FIG. 9;

FIG. 12 is the view of FIG. 11, with the chair and the base portions coupled;

FIG. 13 is an enlarged view of detail XIII of FIG. 11;

FIG. 14 is the detail view of FIG. 13 with the base portion removed;

FIG. 15 is an enlarged detail view of the positive clip clamp latch of FIG. 8; and

FIG. 16 is an exploded view thereof, from an upper right back perspective view;

FIG. 17 is an exploded view of the chair portion, from an upper right back perspective view, showing a frame and upholstery foundations and coverings thereof;

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FIG. 18 is an upper right back perspective view of the uncoupled companion stool base portion together with an upper left front perspective view of the uncoupled chair portion, showing the two portions nested and the companion stool base portion providing a table function;

FIG. 19 is an upper left front perspective view of the uncoupled companion stool base portion together with an upper right back perspective view of the uncoupled chair portion;

FIG. 20 is an upper front right perspective view of the uncoupled companion stool base portion thereof;

FIG. 21 is an upper back right perspective view thereof;

FIG. 22 is a lower left back perspective view thereof; and

FIG. 23 is an exploded right back perspective view thereof.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

A preferred embodiment of a chair with a coupling companion stool base according to the invention is generally shown in the drawing comprising FIGS. 1-23, and discussed below. The exemplary embodiment shown comprises two main portions, namely, a chair portion 100 and a base portion 300. (See e.g., FIGS. 1, 2).

The chair portion 100 may be formed with a frame 102, which has an upper portion 104 and a lower portion 106 (FIG. 18). The frame 102 and the various components of the chair portion 100, unless otherwise noted, may be constructed of any suitable material, including structural materials that incorporate at least one of a plastic, a wood, a metal, and a ceramic, and of any method or process that may be appropriate to the material selected as may be known to one having ordinary skill in the chair fabrication art.

The upper portion 104 provides a back rest to support at least a portion of a back of a user. The upper portion may be configured as is known in what may be called "hard surface" chairs or seating, to be sufficiently comfortable or otherwise accommodating on its own. Otherwise, a padded or otherwise plush covering may preferably be provided as is shown. The upper portion 104 with the back rest is particularly shown in the exploded view of FIG. 17. With reference thereto, an upholstered back rest may include a foundation 112 and an upholstered covering 114 that may slip fit over the foundation, as shown and without limitation on the concept of the invention. The covered foundation 112 may then be secured to the upper portion 104 through various methods, including decorative hardware 116 (also shown in FIG. 17), such as screws as shown.

The frame lower portion 106 extends away and primarily forward from the frame upper portion 104. As further shown, for example, in FIG. 12 and the exploded view of FIG. 17, the frame lower portion 106 has a frame lower portion first portion 122 near the frame upper portion 104, and a frame lower portion second portion 124 that is spaced away from the first portion. In the example of this disclosure, the lower portion 106 is fabricated with opposite left and right side rails 108 and 118, respectively. One or both of the side rails 108 and 118 may be seen in a number of the drawings, including FIGS. 4, 5, and 17. A number of cross ties 110 of various cross section, including some with a generally V-channel, extend between the side rails 108, 110. The cross ties 110 are illustrated in FIGS. 9, 11-13 and 17. Other features of the frame lower portion 106 include a sitting portion which will be described in greater detail in subsequent paragraphs herein. In addition, the frame lower portion 106 includes a claw 142 extending generally downwardly. The claw 142 is illustrated in FIGS. 9, 10, 13 and 14. Still further, the frame lower portion 106 includes a clip clamp latch 160 which is shown in FIG. 15 and,

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