identified, the receptacle **190** may be seen to have a generally trapezoidal geometry. The corresponding geometry of the receptacle **190** and the saddle **310** may be selected for unitary keying alignment of the chair portion **100** with the base portion **300**, among other considerations. Cooperating engagement of the receptacle **190** with the saddle **310**, and thus releasable coupling of the chair and the base portions **100**, **300**, respectively, is discussed further below.

More specific details of the base portion **300** will now be described, particularly with respect to FIGS. **18-23**. The base portion **300** releasably couples with the frame **102** and is adapted to support the frame **102**, and thus the chair portion **100**, above a generally horizontal supporting surface. One having ordinary skill in the art understands that a broad variety of adaptations of chair bases, including categories of legged, sled, and pedestal, are available to support a chair frame above the supporting surface. What may be commonly known as a five legged pedestal base is generally shown in the drawing figures of the exemplary preferred embodiment.

The base **300** extends generally upward from the supporting surface to the saddle **310**. The base stands upon the surface with a star foundation that has five legs **330** as shown generally throughout the drawing, although other numbers of legs is known. Each of the legs **330** extends radially out from a center vertical axis to a pad **332**, although a caster, for example, may be used in the alternative. A post **334** extends along the vertical axis from the foundation to a chair control or position mechanism **340** (FIGS. **22**, **23**). The post **334** may be an extensible member, including a screw mechanism, a pneumatic mechanism, and the like. The chair control **340** may be adapted to provide tilt or swivel movements as is known. A height adjustment control with an actuator **342** may also be incorporated in the chair control **340**. As shown generally in the drawing, the saddle **310** and the chair control **340** are adapted to mount the saddle **310** on top of the chair control **340** with screw fasteners **350** and the like, although this is not a limitation of the invention. Thus, the chair control **340** may be a connector that operatively connects the saddle **310** with the pedestal **334** and may provide at least one of a tilting movement of the saddle **310** relative to the pedestal **334** and a swivel movement of the saddle **310** relative to the pedestal. Further, coupling of the chair portion **100** with the saddle **310** may also provide tilt or swivel movements of the chair portion **100**.

The saddle **310** is shown configured as a generally planar member and may invoke a very general concept of a thick board. The saddle **310** is not just any board, however. More specifically, the saddle **310** has a top surface **312** that faces away from the supporting surface (FIGS. **18-21**). A perimeter edge circumscribes the top surface **312** and includes opposite front and back edges **314** and **316**, respectively, of the saddle **310** (FIGS. **18-23**). The front edge **314** cooperates with the frame lower portion claw **142** whereby the front edge is releasably captured in the claw. The back edge **316** cooperates with the frame lower portion latch **160** whereby the back edge is releasably captured by the latch. The front and the back edges **314**, **316** are also instrumental in defining the top surface **312** with a rotationally asymmetric geometry in the exemplary embodiment shown. A rotationally asymmetric geometry is significant to provide a keyed coupling of the chair portion **100** with the base portion **300**, and most preferably a unitary keyed coupling with one alignment.

The saddle **310** has a generally trapezoidal geometry that cooperates with the receptacle **190** (the receptacle **190** being shown in FIG. **6**). As contrasted with a square peg that may couple in one of four orientations with a corresponding square hole, a triangular peg having an equilateral cross section that may couple in one of three orientations with a corresponding triangular hole, or a rectangular peg coupling in one of two orientations with its corresponding rectangular hole, a trapezoidal peg couples in one orientation with a corresponding trapezoidal hole. Thus the saddle **310** is shown with a generally trapezoidal plan view for a rotationally asymmetric geometry to key the chair portion **100** and the base portion **300** in one relative orientation. Of course, geometries other than trapezoidal may be chosen by one who uses the invention. The inventor has found the trapezoidal geometry to be most convenient in use, however.

In use, the chair portion **100** and the base portion **300** may be separate, with the chair portion **100** providing casual floor rocker seating (FIGS. **18** and **19**). The base portion **300** may be engaged by the user or another user in several functions, including a companion stool upon which a user may sit and a side table. Therefore, the saddle top surface **312** may define at least one of a work surface, a writing surface, and a sitting surface. The base portion **300** may commonly be oriented in front of the chair when employed as a writing surface or other work surface (FIGS. **19** and **20**). For closest proximity of the top surface **312**, a user who is seated in the chair may orient the star foundation with one of its legs **330** extending toward the chair **100**. So oriented, the selected one of the legs may extend under the claw **142**. By providing the notch **146**, the chair may rock forward over the leg with the claw straddling the leg, which leg nests into the notch **140** between the teeth **148**. More specifically, with the claw **142** including the claw notch **146** generally centered along the claw **142** and with the frame **102** decoupled from the base portion **300**, the saddle top surface **312** is adapted to be oriented in front of the frame **102**. With this orientation, a first one of the base legs **330** is initially positionable under the claw **142**, so that with the claw **142** straddling the first one of the base legs **330**, the first one of the base legs **330** is adapted to nest into the claw notch **142**.

Alternatively, the chair portion **100** may releasably couple with the base portion **300** and provide a task chair or desk chair for a user (FIGS. **1-8**). Coupling of the chair with the base is easily accomplished by manipulating the chair so the saddle front edge **314** slides toward and into the claw **142**, which is of course from a perspective of the chair portion. In actual practice, the base **300** will typically be stationary while the chair moves under manipulation.

The rotationally asymmetric geometry of the base saddle **310** and the frame lower portion receptacle **190** may be best appreciated at this point at least insofar as such a geometry requires one functional alignment and engagement of the chair and the base portions. The receptacle **190** and the saddle **310** correspond with one another so that the saddle couples with the receptacle **190** in one rotational orientation, namely, with the saddle front edge **314** releasably captured in the claw **142** and the saddle back edge **316** releasably captured by the latch **160**. As stated in another manner, and as previously described herein, the frame **102** includes the receptacle **190** defined between the claw **142** and the notch **146**. The saddle **310** of the base portion **300** includes the perimeter edge incorporating the front and back edges **314**, **316**, respectively. The perimeter edge circumscribes the top surface **312** and defines the top surface **312** with a rotationally asymmetric geometry. With this geometry, the frame lower portion receptacle **190** and the saddle perimeter edge correspond with one another, so that the base portion **300** couples with the frame **102** only in one specific rotational orientation.

The chair portion **100** may then be rocked or pivoted generally backward to engage the latch **160** with the saddle back edge **314**. As the chair rotates backward, the latch second leg **164** may strike or otherwise engage the saddle back edge and