

ramp open. Thus, a latch ramping surface may preferably be provided at the saddle back edge. Alternatively, a user may manually manipulate the latch, with its first leg 162, to the open position. With the chair at rest in a position of being coupled with the base, the latch bias 170 holds the latch in the closed position.

For enhanced coupling of the saddle 310 in the receptacle 190, cooperating claw notches 322 may be formed in the saddle front edge 312 and a cooperating latch notch 324 may be formed in the saddle back edge 314. The claw notches 322 facilitate secure engagement of the claw 142 with the saddle front edge 314 and may be significant relative to resisting forces that may develop when a user leans or rocks backward. The latch notch 146 may help the latch 160 resist forces that may tend to open the latch. Further, triangular shaped ribs, or the like, also preferably extend downward, behind the saddle back edge, to further prevent horizontal forces from unintentionally opening the latch. It is also noted that the saddle 310 may support the cross-ties 110 in abutting engagement, when the chair portion 100 and base portion 300 are coupled, to enhance stability of the task chair configuration (FIGS. 13, 14). To further explain the foregoing concepts, and as generally described herein, the claw 142 can include a pair of spaced apart teeth extending along the left and right sides of the frame 102. A pair of cooperating claw notches 322 are formed in the saddle front edge 314, and the front edge 314 is releasably captured in the claw 142 through engagement of the teeth with the cooperating claw notches 322. This relative cooperation between the spaced apart teeth and the cooperating claw notches 322, and the sizing and configuration thereof, causes forces to be generated along the engagement point of the spaced apart teeth 148 and the cooperating claw notches 322 which tend to resist disengagement of the teeth 148 from the claw notches 322 when a user of the chair makes backwardly directed or other leaning forces on the chair frame 102. Still further, the positioning and the configuration of the triangular shaped ribs beyond the saddle back edge 316 will tend to generate forces resistant to accidental disengagement of the chair portion 100 from the frame 102 which may otherwise result from a latch not fully engaging with the cooperating latch notch, or from horizontal forces being exerted on the frame 102 relative to the base portion 300, which could tend to accidentally disengage the latch 160.

In addition to the foregoing, other concepts associated with a chair with coupling companion stool base in accordance with the invention may be generally stated. As earlier described, and as one of the advantages in accordance with certain aspects of the invention, the frame 102 forming the chair portion 100 is adapted for use as casual floor rocker seating. In combination with this rocker seating, the base portion 300 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 100.

As also previously described, the base portion 300 includes a pedestal or post 334 which extends generally upward from the supporting surface to the saddle 310. This pedestal or post 334 includes a connector which operatively connects the saddle 310 with the pedestal or post 334. The connector, as previously described herein, can include a tilt mechanism so that the saddle 310 may be tilted relative to the post 334. Also, the connector can include a swivel mechanism, so that the saddle 310 swivels relative to the pedestal or post 334.

Still further, the concept of utilizing the clip clamp latch 160 for purposes of engaging the frame 102 to the back edge 316 of the saddle 310 has been described in substantial detail. However, another concept in accordance with the invention relates to a safety feature of providing audible "notice" to the

user that correct engagement of the latch 160 with the back edge 316 has been achieved. More specifically, with the components of the latch 160 and the saddle 310 as described herein, the proper engagement will result in a "click" which will be of a sufficient volume and frequency so as to be audible to a user. This audible click can be achieved with the components as described herein, with the use of appropriate materials and with proper sizing and configuration thereof.

One having ordinary skill in the art and those who practice the invention will understand from this disclosure that various modifications and improvements may be made without departing from the spirit of the disclosed inventive concept. One will also understand that various relational terms, including left, right, front, back, top, and bottom, for example, are used in the detailed description of the invention and in the claims only to convey relative positioning of various elements of the claimed invention. The scope of protection afforded is to be determined by the claims and by the breadth of interpretation allowed by law.