CLAIMS

1. A chair-type massage apparatus comprising:

a seat;

a base frame for supporting the seat on a floor; and

a leg kneading device mounted on a front side of said seat,

said base frame having a seat moving mechanism for moving the seat at least in a front-rear direction,

said seat having a position changing mechanism for allowing changes in position of the leg kneading device relative to the seat while maintaining a relative distance between the seat and the leg kneading device.

2. A chair-type massage apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein said seat moving mechanism allows a forepart-ascent action that raises a forward end of the seat during forward movement of the seat and a forepart-descent action that lowers the forward end during backward movement of the seat,

and wherein said position changing mechanism allows changes in position of the leg kneading device relative to the seat while maintaining the relative distance between the seat and the leg kneading device during the forepart-ascent action of the seat.

3. A chair-type massage apparatus according to claim 2,

wherein said seat moving mechanism includes a guide section disposed in said base frame, for guiding the seat in free movement in the front-rear direction, and an advance-retraction driving section for moving the seat in the front-rear direction,

and wherein said position changing mechanism includes a rocking arm for providing coupling between a base pivot disposed in said seat for supporting the seat for rocking motion about

a horizontally pointing axis and a front pivot disposed in the leg kneading device for supporting the leg kneading device for rocking motion about a horizontally pointing axis.

4. A chair-type massage apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said position changing mechanism has a lower arm member including a forwardly extending part which is so shaped as to extend downward from the base pivot of said seat and whereafter bent to define a forwardly pointing front end, and a telescoping rod disposed for free forward sliding movement relative to the forwardly extending part,

and wherein a front end of the telescoping rod of said lower arm member and the leg kneading device are coupled to each other for free rocking motion about a horizontally pointing axis.

5. A chair-type massage apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the rocking arm of said position changing mechanism includes a forwardly extending part which is so shaped as to extend downward from the base pivot of said seat and whereafter bent to define a forwardly pointing front end, and a telescoping portion disposed for free forward sliding movement relative to the forwardly extending part,

and wherein the telescoping portion of said rocking arm and the leg kneading device are coupled to each other for free rocking motion about a horizontally pointing axis.

6. A chair-type massage apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said position changing mechanism has an intermediate link coupled to a reverse pivot disposed on each of the right and left sides of the leg kneading device for supporting the leg kneading device for rocking motion about a horizontally pointing axis, thereby allowing reverse rotation for switching between a state where the leg kneading device stays with its massage surface facing upward and a state where the leg kneading device stays with its massage surface facing

the floor,

wherein the front end of said rocking arm and one end of the intermediate link are coupled to each other for free rocking motion about a horizontally pointing axis,

and wherein the telescoping rod of said lower arm member and the other end of the intermediate link are coupled to each other for free rocking motion about a horizontally pointing axis.

7. A chair-type massage apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said position changing mechanism is designed to allow the leg kneading device to be housed in a housing area formed under the seat.

8. A chair-type massage apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said seat has a backrest reclinably mounted at a rear part thereof, and, during reclining operation of the backrest, an upper end of the backrest moves up and down along one vertical line,

and wherein said backrest is so designed that its upper end moves downward concurrently with forward movement of its lower end during backward reclining operation, whereas the upper end moves upward concurrently with backward movement of the lower end during forward reclining operation.

1. A chair-type massage apparatus comprising:
a seat;
a base frame for supporting the seat on a floor; and
a leg kneading device mounted on a front side of the seat,
wherein the frame includes a seat moving mechanism for moving the seat at least in a front-rear direction,
wherein the seat moving mechanism includes:
a guide section disposed in the base frame for guiding the seat in free movement in the front-rear direction, and
an advance-retraction driving section for moving the seat in the front-rear direction, and
wherein the seat includes:
a position changing mechanism for allowing changes in position of the leg kneading device relative to the seat while maintaining a relative distance between the seat and the leg kneading device, the position changing mechanism including:
a rocking arm for providing coupling between a base pivot disposed in the seat for supporting the seat for rocking motion in a direction perpendicular to a horizontal direction of the apparatus, and
a front pivot disposed in the leg kneading device for supporting the leg kneading device for rocking motion in the direction perpendicular to the horizontal direction of the apparatus.

2. The chair-type massage apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the seat moving mechanism allows a forepart-ascent action that raises a forward end of the seat during forward movement of the seat and a forepart-descent action that lowers the forward end during backward movement of the seat, and
wherein the position changing mechanism allows changes in position of the leg kneading device relative to the seat while maintaining a relative distance between the seat and the leg kneading device during the forepart-ascent action of the seat.

3. The chair-type massage apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the position changing mechanism has a lower arm member including a forwardly extending part,
the forwardly extending part including:
a first portion extending downward from the base pivot of the seat,

a second portion defining a forwardly pointing front end, a lower end of the first portion and a rear end of the second portion being joined at an bend of the forwardly extending part, and

a telescoping rod disposed on the second portion defining the forwardly pointing front end for free forward sliding movement relative to the forwardly extending part,

wherein a front end of the telescoping rod and the leg kneading device are coupled to each other for free rocking motion in the direction perpendicular to the horizontal direction of the apparatus.

4. The chair-type massage apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the rocking arm of the position changing mechanism includes:

a forwardly extending part including:

a first portion extending downward from the base pivot of the seat,

a second portion defining a forwardly pointing front end, a lower end of the first portion and a rear end of the second portion being joined at a bend of the forwardly extending part, and

a telescoping portion disposed on the second portion defining the forwardly pointing front end for free forward sliding movement relative to the forwardly extending part,

wherein the telescoping portion of the rocking arm and the leg kneading device are coupled to each other for free rocking motion in the direction perpendicular to the horizontal direction of the apparatus.

5. The chair-type massage apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the position changing mechanism has an intermediate link coupled to a reverse pivot disposed on each of a right side and a left side of the leg kneading device for supporting the leg kneading device for rocking motion in the direction perpendicular to the horizontal direction of the apparatus, thereby allowing a reverse rotation for switching between a state where the leg kneading device stays with a massage surface thereof facing upward, and a state where the leg kneading device stays with the massage surface thereof facing the floor,

wherein a front end of the rocking arm and one end of the intermediate link are coupled to each other for free rocking motion in the direction perpendicular to the horizontal direction of the apparatus.

6. The chair-type massage apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the position changing mechanism is designed to allow the leg kneading device to be housed in a housing area formed under the seat.

7. The chair-type massage apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the seat has a backrest reclinably mounted at a rear part thereof, and, during forward and backward reclining operations of the backrest, an upper end of the backrest moves up and down along one vertical line, and

wherein the backrest has an upper end which moves downward concurrently with a forward movement of a lower end of the backrest during the backward reclining operation,

whereas the upper end of the backrest moves upward concurrently with a backward movement of the lower end during the forward reclining operation.