CHAIR WITH ADJUSTABLE TABLET

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

[0001] The present application is based on and claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 61/478,121 filed April 22, 2011.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present disclosure relates to a chair with a writing tablet. More specifically, the present disclosure relates to a chair with a writing tablet that can be moved to either side of a seating element and can be moved longitudinally toward and away from the seat occupant and rotated toward and away from the seat occupant.

[0003] Tablet arm chairs are often used in different seating applications in which the seat occupant needs a writing tablet to support documents or a computer. Since left handed and right handed occupants require the tablet to be positioned on opposite sides of the chair, many seating arrangements have been developed in which the writing tablet is fixed on either the right or left side of the seat occupant. This type of arrangement requires a facility to have an adequate number of chairs for both right-handed and left-handed occupants, which is often difficult to estimate and results in an excess of left-handed seats being stored and unused.

[0004] Additionally, it is desirable for the writing tablet to be movable relative to the seat occupant once the tablet is on the correct side of the occupant. Typically, this movement is either a pivotable motion of the tablet to allow the occupant easier ingress and egress or longitudinal movement toward the occupant to adjust for various sized occupants.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0004a] A first aspect of the present disclosure relates to a chair with a writing tablet that can be configured for use by either a right-handed or left-handed occupant, the chair comprising: a seating element supported by a chair support structure; a tablet arm extending laterally from the chair support structure; and a tablet mounting arrangement coupling the writing tablet to an upper end of the tablet arm; wherein the tablet arm is pivotally coupled to the chair support structure such that the tablet arm can pivot about a first pivot axis from a right side of the chair to a left side of the chair; wherein the tablet mounting arrangement is pivotally coupled to the tablet arm such that the writing tablet can pivot about a second pivot axis toward and away from the

occupant when the occupant is seated in the chair; and wherein the tablet mounting arrangement allows the writing tablet to slide laterally with respect to the tablet arm.

[0004b] A second aspect of the present disclosure relates to a chair with a writing tablet that can be configured for use by either a right-handed or left-handed occupant, the chair comprising: a seating element supported by a chair support structure; and a tablet arm extending laterally from the chair support structure and supporting the writing tablet; a mounting arrangement coupled to the chair support structure, the mounting arrangement comprising: a pivotable upper bearing and a pivotable lower bearing; a bearing plate interposed between and coupled to the upper and lower bearings; an outer shroud coupled to the bearing plate and encircling the upper and lower bearings and the bearing plate; and a mounting post secured at a lower end to the chair support structure and extending upwardly in the axial direction through apertures in the upper and lower bearings and the bearing plate; wherein the lower end of the tablet arm is coupled to the shroud such that the tablet arm pivots with the bearing plate and the upper and lower bearings around the mounting post thereby enabling the tablet arm to pivot from a right side of the chair to a left side of the chair.

[0004c] A third aspect of the present disclosure relates to a chair, comprising: a seating element supported by a chair support structure; a tablet arm extending laterally from the chair support structure and rotatable about a first pivot axis extending vertically through the chair support structure, the tablet arm including a tablet support portion extending parallel to the first pivot axis; a tablet mounting arrangement positioned on the tablet support portion of the tablet arm, the tablet mounting arrangement being rotatable about a second pivot axis extending through the tablet support portion of the tablet arm; and a writing tablet mounted to the tablet mounting arrangement, wherein the writing tablet is rotatable with the tablet mounting arrangement, wherein the tablet mounting arrangement allows the writing tablet to move laterally with respect to the tablet arm, wherein the seating element is rotatable about the first pivot axis relative to the chair support structure.

[0005] The present disclosure relates to a chair with a writing tablet that can be configured for use by either a right-handed or a left-handed seat occupant. The tablet chair of the present disclosure includes a writing tablet that is supported by a tablet arm. The tablet arm extends beneath the seat of a seating element. The tablet arm is pivotally mounted to a chair support structure such that the entire tablet arm can move at least 180° from a right side of the chair to a left side of the chair. More preferably, the tablet arm is movable over greater than 180° relative to the chair support structure.