

CLAIMS

1. A chair-type massage apparatus comprising:
 - a seat;
 - a backrest mounted at a rear of the seat;
 - side massage sections disposed on right and left sides, respectively, of said backrest in a face-to-face arrangement, for massaging the side of the body of a user; and
 - a position switching mechanism for switching said side massage section back and forth between an operating-state position where the side massage section protrudes forward of the backrest and a storage-state position where the side massage section stays behind the operating-state position,
 - said side massage section including:
 - a long rocking member disposed at each side of said backrest, said rocking member having a massaging portion at its front end, and being, at its base end, rockably pivoted on a lateral side of said backrest; and
 - a pressing mechanism for pressing said rocking member forward,
 - said position switching mechanism being located between said rocking member and a back frame member incorporated in said backrest.
2. The chair-type massage apparatus according to claim 1,
 - wherein said rocking member is disposed in hanging fashion at each lateral side of said back frame member,
 - wherein a base end of one of the rocking members and a base end of the other one of the rocking members are coupled to each other by a long coupling member pointing in a direction of a width of said backrest, said coupling member being pivoted on said back frame member for rotation about a widthwise axis,
 - and wherein said pressing mechanism is designed to push said rocking member forward via said coupling member.
3. The chair-type massage apparatus according to claim 2,
 - wherein said coupling member is rotatably pivoted on an upper edge of said back frame member.
4. The chair-type massage apparatus according to claim 3,
 - wherein said position switching mechanism is disposed between said coupling member and said back frame member,
 - wherein said position switching mechanism comprises:

a projection piece formed so as to extend in a direction perpendicular to an axis of rotation of said coupling member from a side surface of the coupling member;

a long upper link member which is disposed along a vertical direction with its one end pivoted on said projection piece for rotation about a widthwise axis, and has a guide groove formed therein so as to extend vertically and an engagement piece placed inside an upper part of the guide groove; and

a long lower link member which has, at its one end, an engagement pin slidably fitted in the guide groove of said upper link member, and has its other end coupled to the back frame member for rotation about a widthwise axis,

and wherein, when said upper link member and said lower link member separate from each other in a longitudinal direction with the consequence that the engagement pin of said lower link member is positioned below the engagement piece of said upper link member, then the side massage section is set in an operating position, whereas, when said upper link member and said lower link member move close to each other in the longitudinal direction with the consequence that said engagement pin engages with said engagement piece, then the side massage section is set in a storage position.

5. The chair-type massage apparatus according to claim 4,

wherein a protuberance is formed on an upper side surface at one edge of said engagement piece,

wherein, when the engagement pin situated in a position below said engagement piece is moved upward along the other edge of said engagement piece and engages with said protuberance, then the side massage section is set in the storage position,

and wherein, when said engagement pin goes over said protuberance for disengagement, moves downward along one edge of said engagement piece, and reaches the position below said engagement piece, then the side massage section is set in the operating position.

6. The chair-type massage apparatus according to claim 4 or 5,

wherein a switching piece is formed at a bottom part of said engagement piece,

and wherein said switching piece restrains the engagement pin positioned below said engagement piece from moving toward one edge of said engagement piece during its upward motion, and also guides the engagement pin moving down along one edge of said engagement piece toward the position below the engagement piece.

7. The chair-type massage apparatus according to claim 3,

wherein said position switching mechanism is a projection piece formed so as to protrude in a direction perpendicular to the axis of rotation of said coupling member from a side surface of the coupling member,

wherein said pressing mechanism is a linear actuator which has its one end pivoted on said projection piece for rotation about a widthwise axis, and has its base end rotatably coupled to the back frame member,

and wherein, with said projection piece and said linear actuator arranged in a substantially straight line, when said linear actuator is telescopically extended with the consequence that said projection piece and said linear actuator are moved in a manner such that an intermediate position of the line, namely a boundary between them forms a bend pointing in one direction, then the side massage section is set in the operating-state position, whereas, when said linear actuator is extended with the consequence that said projection piece and said linear actuator are moved in a manner such that the boundary forms a bend pointing in the other direction, then the side massage section is set in the storage-state position.

8. The chair-type massage apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 7,

wherein said massaging portion is constructed of an air bag which is inflated inwardly along the direction of the width of the backrest.

9. The chair-type massage apparatus according to claim 8,

wherein in a case where, in said air bag in an inflated state, when an amount of inflation at one side of the air bag is smaller than an amount of inflation at the other side, the air bag is attached to a front end of said rocking member in a manner such that said one side of the air bag is located closer to the backrest along a front-rear direction.