

Description

This invention relates to chair construction, particularly to a convenient arrangement for providing a chair with collapsible arms, and relates to a method of retracting chair arms.

Armrests on chairs are convenient and useful items that add to an occupant's comfort. However, armrests can interfere with desks, work stations or other structures, and hence, are undesirable in certain situations. Consequently, some chairs are made with removable armrests. This solution accommodates both situations, but is inconvenient and impractical from the standpoint that the removed armrests must be safely stored when not in use. Also, the removable connections must be sufficiently sturdy but yet be sufficiently simple construction for ease of assembly and disassembly by users not skilled in such activity.

It is also known to have armrests which remain attached to the chair but are movable into different positions. For example, passenger seats in aircraft typically have armrests that are attached to the back of the seat and pivot upwardly in the vertical position when the armrest is not desired. This construction is quite simple and useful, but it requires a very strong back support in that there is no support under the forward end.

U.S. Patent No. 2,955, 648 discloses an armrest supported by a collapsible structure which enables the armrest in one position to be flush with the seat, and in a second position to be elevated. This construction is quite convenient, but it is relatively complicated, expensive and space consuming.

U.S. Patent No. 4,244,623 discloses a multi-position armrest that employs a linkage that supports an armrest in essentially cantilever fashion that is quite versatile. The armrests can be positioned in a conventional raised configuration, a lowered position flush with the seat, a vertical position where the armrests are parallel to the chair back, and an intermediate position where the forward portions of the armrests are tilted downwardly while the rear portions are raised. Although the arrangement appears to be convenient and comfortable, however, it appears relatively expensive and bulky.

U.S. Patent No. 4,244,623 also makes reference to U.S. Patent No. 4,097,088 which is said to have an armrest pivotally attached at two points to two links carried by the seat frame so as to permit movement of the armrest to several generally parallel positions.

British Patent No. 394,383 discloses a chair which is collapsible for storage and includes an armrest that is pivotally attached to a chair back, and is hinged at its forward end to a supporting member which in turn is hinged to the chair seat. The chair is designed to have the armrest only in a raised conventional position when in use.

British Patent No. 667,013 discloses a chair, comprising a chair seat having an associated support structure;

a chair back positioned at the rear of said seat; a rigid chair armrest at the side of the seat having a rear end movably connected to, and supported by, said back; and

a rigid armrest support strut having an upper end movably connected to the forward end of said armrest and having a lower end movably connected to said seat or its support structure, said armrest having a stable, generally horizontal support position spaced above the seat wherein the strut supports the forward end of the armrest and the back supports the rear end of the armrest.

A chair with flexible blades as arms is disclosed in GB 2,110,925A, which also discloses a method of moving a chair arm from a raised generally horizontal position adapted to support the chair occupant's arm, to a collapsed position not adapted to support the occupant's arm, comprising:

moving the arm to a position wherein a rear portion thereof extends vertically adjacent a chair back, and a forward portion thereof extends horizontally adjacent the edge of the chair seat.

In spite of the above-mentioned chair constructions, a need exists for an improved chair armrest that can be easily moved into and out of an operative position, and is also sturdy and attractive.

The invention provides a chair as defined in Claim 1; a method of moving the armrest of such a chair, as defined in Claim 9; and a method of moving a chair arm, as defined in Claim 10.

In a preferred arrangement, the upper end of said strut is pivotally connected to said armrest as defined in Claim 2, and the rear of said armrest is pivotally connected to said back as defined in Claim 3. Conveniently also, said back includes a back support connected to the seat, and a backrest vertically slidable on said back support so as to enable said armrest to move from said support position to said collapsed position as defined in Claim 4. With this arrangement, and in accordance with the method of the invention of Claim 10, the chair back can be easily slidably raised on its support, moving the armrest and the strut to a temporary straight position and then pivoting the forward end of the armrest and the upper end of the strut rearwardly and downwardly as the chair back slides downwardly to its normal position.

Advantageously, the chair back and arm may be easily moved to or from its two positions while the occupant is seated in the chair. Also one arm can be moved to its retracted position while the other remains in its raised position for situations in which such an arrangement is desired. Also, a series of chairs in side-by-side relation can be easily adjusted to so-called bench seating.

Further preferred embodiments of the invention

are defined in dependent claims 5 to 9.

A chair embodying the invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the chair with the chair arms in a raised position;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the chair of Figure 1 with the arms in a position midway between the raised position and a retracted position;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the chair of Figure 1 with the arms in a retracted position;

Figure 4 is a perspective rear view of the chair;

Figure 5 is an exploded perspective view of the chair back and chair seat support structures;

Figure 6 is a perspective view of the support structure of Figure 5 in assembled condition;

Figure 7 is a cross-sectional view of the chair back on line 7-7 of Figure 6.

Figure 8 is an exploded perspective view of the chair arm and support strut internal construction. Figure 9 is an exploded perspective view of the chair arm and support strut.

Figure 10 is a partially exploded, partially sectionalized view illustrating the pivotal connections between the chair components.

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiment

The operation of the chair of the invention may be readily understood by reference to Figures 1-4. The chair includes a chair seat 10, a chair back 12, including a back support 14 and a backrest 16, a pair of arms 18 and a pair of arm support struts 20. The chair seat 10 is mounted on a suitable support such as a pedestal 22 with an adjustable control unit 24 schematically illustrating a connection between the pedestal 22 and the chair seat 10.

In Figure 1, the chair arms 18 are raised into a normal support position wherein they extend generally horizontally spaced above the seat 10 as supported by the struts 20 and the backrest 16. The backrest 16 is slidably mounted on its support so that it can be raised to the position shown in Figure 2, allowing the pivotal connection between the arms and the struts to be moved rearwardly into the temporary straight position illustrated in Figure 2. As the chair back is lowered to its normal position as shown in Figure 3, the chair arms pivot to a retracted position wherein the chair arms are vertically oriented to the sides of the chair backrest, and the struts are horizontally oriented to the sides of the chair seat. Thus, the arms are conveniently out of the way for situations in which that condition is desired, such as moving the chair beneath a table which would interfere with the arms. When it is desired that the armrests be returned to the condition of Figure 1, the procedure is simply reversed. In some situations, it is desirable to have a single armrest in a raised position and the other in its retracted or collapsed position.

This is easily accomplished when the chair is in the position of Figure 2 by moving one connection between one arm and its strut rearwardly while moving the connection between the other arm and its strut forwardly.

The form of the chair illustrated is primarily intended for industrial, commercial or office use and formed with material providing a plastic-like exterior, with such material being integrally molded to interior support frames made of steel or other suitable material. As seen in Figures 5 and 6, the chair seat includes a pair of spaced support plates 30 that extend horizontally toward the side edges of the seat. These plates are rigidly connected to a pair of horizontally spaced support elements 32 that extend toward the front and back edges of the seat, thus creating a generally rectangular frame. Holes are formed in the ends of the plates for receiving fasteners for connecting that frame to the control unit on the upper end of the pedestal or other support base for the chair.

A further support member 34 for the chair seat is attached to the elements 32 with such member extending from one side edge of the seat to the other. Sturdy tubular sockets 36 are welded to the outer ends of this member with the sockets opening outwardly to receive pivot pins.

Rigidly attached to the rear support plate 30 is by suitable fasteners one end of a J-shaped support strap 42 having a horizontal portion 42a which curves smoothly into a vertical portion 42b. As seen from Figure 6, the horizontal portion 42a together with the other seat components referred to above are embedded in the plastic shell 11 which is integrally molded around these components.

The support strap 42 is the back support for the backrest. The backrest includes the outer plastic shell 12a which is molded integrally around a horizontally extending back support 46. The shell is also molded around a pair of vertically extending angle pieces 48 that are rigidly attached to the horizontal member 46 and are rigidly attached at their upper end to a connecting rod 50 in a manner such that the central portion 46a of the horizontal member, the two angled elements 48 and the rod 50 form a rigid channel adapted to slidably receive the vertical portion 42b of the back support strap. To accomplish this, the back shell is, of course, also formed with a flat vertically extending pocket 51 through which the back strap extends, as shown in Figures 6 and 7. Tubular pin receiving sockets 52 are formed in the outer ends of the back horizontal support, the sockets opening to the side edges of the backrest.

Referring to Figures 8 and 9, each chair arm 18 includes a support rod 54 having a pin receiving tube 56 on the rear end of the rod, and a shorter pin receiving tube 58 attached to the forward end of the arm. The arm support strut 20 includes a rod 60 having a pin receiving tube 62 on its lower end and a smaller

pin 64 receiving tube on its upper end. In a preferred form of the invention, the arm rod 54 and the strut rod are identical except that the tube 64 is threaded and the tube 58 need not be. This means that the length of the strut and the arm 18 are the same so as to accommodate the movement of the arms between the support and the retracted positions. A plastic exterior shell 18a for the arm and a similar shell 20a for the strut are molded about the arm and strut rods creating the shapes illustrated in Figure 9. Note that the forward portion of the arm shell is only half as wide as the balance of the arm, and that the upper end of the arm strut is only half as wide as the rest of the strut, so that these ends can fit together as shown in Figures 9 and 10. A pivot pin 70 extends through the tube 58 on the forward end of the arm 18 and threads into the tube 64 on the upper end of the strut 20, thereby forming a pivoted connection to these components at that location. Similarly, a pivot pin 72 extends through the tube 56 in the rear end of the arm and threads into the tube 56 on the edge of the backrest. Likewise, a pivot pin 74 extends through the tube 62 and on the lower end of the strut, and threads into the threaded tube 62 on the edge of the seat. While other movable connections between the components may be employed, the arrangements illustrated are particularly simple, sturdy and practical, as well as providing an attractive appearance.

Claims

1. A chair, comprising:

a chair seat (10) having an associated support structure (24);

a chair back (16) positioned at the rear of said seat;

a rigid chair armrest (18) at the side of the seat having a rear end movably connected to, and supported by, said back; and

a rigid armrest support strut (20) having an upper end movably connected to the forward end of said armrest (18) and having a lower end movably connected to said seat or its support structure, said armrest having a stable, generally horizontal support position (Fig. 1) spaced above the seat wherein the strut supports the forward end of the armrest and the back supports the rear end of the armrest;

characterised in that the armrest (18) and arm support strut (20) are permanently movably connected respectively to the chair back (16) and to the chair seat (10) or its support structure, and in that the armrest (18) and arm support strut (20) are adjustable to a different stable position in which said armrest is at a generally vertical, collapsed position (Fig. 3) aligned with the edge of the rear of the back (16) and said support strut (20) is at a generally horizontal position adjacent to the edge of said seat.

2. The chair of Claim 1, wherein the upper end of said strut is pivotally connected to said armrest (18).

3. The chair of Claim 1, wherein the upper end of said strut is pivotally connected to said armrest (18), and the rear of said armrest is pivotally connected to said back (16).

4. The chair of Claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein said back (16) includes a back support (14) connected to the seat, and a backrest (16) vertically slidable on said back support so as to enable said armrest (18) to move from said support position to said collapsed position.

5. The chair of Claim 4, wherein the upper end of said support strut is pivotally connected to said armrest (18), and the rear of said arm is pivotally connected to said backrest.

6. The chair of Claim 5, wherein said backrest (16) includes an interior, generally flat, vertically oriented socket (51) open to the lower end of the backrest to slidably receive said back support.

7. The chair of any preceding claim, wherein said armrest (18) is about equal in length to said support strut (20).

8. The chair of Claim 5, comprising:

a support pedestal (22) to which the chair seat (10) having the support structure is fixed; in which the chair back support (14) is secured to the pedestal (22) and extends upwardly at the rear of said seat, in which the armrest is pivotally connected to the chair backrest at a point spaced above the seat a distance about equal to the length of the armrest; and in which the armrest support strut (20) has its lower end pivotally connected to the edge of said chair seat or its support structure, the length of said strut being about equal to the length of said armrest.

9. A method of moving the armrest (18) of a chair according to any preceding claim from its raised generally horizontal position adapted to support the chair occupant's arm, to its collapsed position not adapted to support the occupant's arm, comprising:

moving the armrest (18) to a position wherein it extends vertically adjacent the chair back (16); and

moving the support strut (20) for the forward end of said chair armrest to a position wherein it extends horizontally adjacent the edge of the chair seat (10) while the armrest extends vertically.

10. A method of moving a chair arm from a raised generally horizontal position adapted to support the chair occupant's arm, to a collapsed position not adapted to support the occupant's arm, comprising:

moving the arm to a position wherein a rear portion thereof extends vertically adjacent a chair back, and a forward portion thereof extends horizontally adjacent the edge of the chair seat,

characterised in that the chair back includes a backrest (16) and a backrest support (14), the rear portion of the arm is an armrest (18) and the forward portion of the arm is an armrest support strut (20), and



pin 64 receiving tube on its upper end. In a preferred form of the invention, the arm rod 54 and the strut rod are identical except that the tube 64 is threaded and the tube 58 need not be. This means that the length of the strut and the arm 18 are the same so as to accommodate the movement of the arms between the support and the retracted positions. A plastic exterior shell 18a for the arm and a similar shell 20a for the strut are molded about the arm and strut rods creating the shapes illustrated in Figure 9. Note that the forward portion of the arm shell is only half as wide as the balance of the arm, and that the upper end of the arm strut is only half as wide as the rest of the strut, so that these ends can fit together as shown in Figures 9 and 10. A pivot pin 70 extends through the tube 58 on the forward end of the arm 18 and threads into the tube 64 on the upper end of the strut 20, thereby forming a pivoted connection to these components at that location. Similarly, a pivot pin 72 extends through the tube 56 in the rear end of the arm and threads into the tube 56 on the edge of the backrest. Likewise, a pivot pin 74 extends through the tube 62 and on the lower end of the strut, and threads into the threaded tube 62 on the edge of the seat. While other movable connections between the components may be employed, the arrangements illustrated are particularly simple, sturdy and practical, as well as providing an attractive appearance.

Claims

1. A chair, comprising:

a chair seat (10) having an associated support structure (24);

a chair back (16) positioned at the rear of said seat;

a rigid chair armrest (18) at the side of the seat having a rear end movably connected to, and supported by, said back; and

a rigid armrest support strut (20) having an upper end movably connected to the forward end of said armrest (18) and having a lower end movably connected to said seat or its support structure, said armrest having a stable, generally horizontal support position (Fig. 1) spaced above the seat wherein the strut supports the forward end of the armrest and the back supports the rear end of the armrest;

characterised in that the armrest (18) and arm support strut (20) are permanently movably connected respectively to the chair back (16) and to the chair seat (10) or its support structure, and in that the armrest (18) and arm support strut (20) are adjustable to a different stable position in which said armrest is at a generally vertical, collapsed position (Fig. 3) aligned with the edge of the rear of the back (16) and said support strut (20) is at a generally horizontal position adjacent to the edge of said seat.

2. The chair of Claim 1, wherein the upper end of said strut is pivotally connected to said armrest (18).

3. The chair of Claim 1, wherein the upper end of said strut is pivotally connected to said armrest (18), and the rear of said armrest is pivotally connected to said back (16).

4. The chair of Claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein said back (16) includes a back support (14) connected to the seat, and a backrest (16) vertically slidable on said back support so as to enable said armrest (18) to move from said support position to said collapsed position.

5. The chair of Claim 4, wherein the upper end of said support strut is pivotally connected to said armrest (18), and the rear of said arm is pivotally connected to said backrest.

6. The chair of Claim 5, wherein said backrest (16) includes an interior, generally flat, vertically oriented socket (51) open to the lower end of the backrest to slidably receive said back support.

7. The chair of any preceding claim, wherein said armrest (18) is about equal in length to said support strut (20).

8. The chair of Claim 5, comprising:

a support pedestal (22) to which the chair seat (10) having the support structure is fixed; in which the chair back support (14) is secured to the pedestal (22) and extends upwardly at the rear of said seat, in which the armrest is pivotally connected to the chair backrest at a point spaced above the seat a distance about equal to the length of the armrest; and in which the armrest support strut (20) has its lower end pivotally connected to the edge of said chair seat or its support structure, the length of said strut being about equal to the length of said armrest.

9. A method of moving the armrest (18) of a chair according to any preceding claim from its raised generally horizontal position adapted to support the chair occupant's arm, to its collapsed position not adapted to support the occupant's arm, comprising:

moving the armrest (18) to a position wherein it extends vertically adjacent the chair back (16); and

moving the support strut (20) for the forward end of said chair armrest to a position wherein it extends horizontally adjacent the edge of the chair seat (10) while the armrest extends vertically.

10. A method of moving a chair arm from a raised generally horizontal position adapted to support the chair occupant's arm, to a collapsed position not adapted to support the occupant's arm, comprising:

moving the arm to a position wherein a rear portion thereof extends vertically adjacent a chair back, and a forward portion thereof extends horizontally adjacent the edge of the chair seat,

characterised in that the chair back includes a backrest (16) and a backrest support (14), the rear portion of the arm is an armrest (18) and the forward portion of the arm is an armrest support strut (20), and



in that the method includes:

sliding the chair back upwardly on the chair back support, thereby raising a connection between the chair backrest and the rear of the armrest;

moving a connection between the forward end of the armrest and the upper end of the strut downwardly and rearwardly until the arm and the strut are essentially in linear alignment; and

continuing the movement of the connection between the forward end of the armrest and its support strut in a rearwardly and downwardly direction, thereby lowering the chair back on the back support and moving the arm to its collapsed position.

Patentansprüche

1. Stuhl mit folgenden Merkmalen

ein Stuhlsitz (10), der eine damit verbundene Halterungsanordnung (24) aufweist;

ein Stuhl-Rückenteil (16), das am hinteren Ende des Sitzes angeordnet ist;

eine starre Stuhl-Armlehne (18) an der Seite des Sitzes, die ein hinteres Ende hat, das beweglich mit dem Rückenteil verbunden und durch dieses abgestützt ist; und

eine starre Armlehnen-Halterungsstrebe (20), die ein oberes Ende hat, das beweglich mit dem vorderen Ende der Armlehne (18) verbunden ist, und die ein unteres Ende hat, das beweglich mit dem Sitz oder seiner Halterungsanordnung verbunden ist, wobei die Armlehne eine stabile, im allgemeinen horizontale Abstützstellung hat (Fig. 1), die mit Abstand über dem Sitz angeordnet ist, wobei die Strebe das vordere Ende der Armlehne und das Rückenteil das hintere Ende der Armlehne abstützt;

dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Armlehne (18) und die Arm-Abstützstrebe (20) ständig beweglich mit dem Stuhl-Rückenteil (16) und dem Stuhl-Sitz (10) oder seiner Halterungsanordnung verbunden sind, und daß die Armlehne (18) und die Arm-Abstützstrebe (20) in eine andere stabile Stellung einstellbar sind, in der die Armlehne in einer im allgemeinen lotrechten, eingeklappten Stellung ist (Fig. 3), wobei sie in einer Linie mit der Kante des hinteren Teils des Rückenteils (16) ausgerichtet ist und in der die Abstützstrebe (20) in einer im allgemeinen waagerechten Stellung benachbart zu der Kante des Sitzes ist.

2. Stuhl nach Anspruch 1, bei dem das obere Ende der Strebe schwenkbar mit der Armlehne (18) verbunden ist.

3. Stuhl nach Anspruch 1, bei dem das obere Ende der Strebe schwenkbar mit der Armlehne (18) und das hintere Ende der Armlehne schwenkbar mit dem Rückenteil (16) verbunden ist.

4. Stuhl nach Anspruch 1, 2 oder 3, bei dem das Rückenteil (16) eine Rückenteilhalterung (14) auf-

weist, die mit dem Sitz verbunden ist, sowie eine Rückenlehne (16), die lotrecht auf der Rückenteilhalterung verschiebbar ist, damit sich die Armlehne (18) von der Abstützstellung in die zusammengeklappte Stellung bewegen kann.

5. Stuhl nach Anspruch 4, bei dem das obere Ende der Abstützstrebe schwenkbar mit der Armlehne (18) und das hintere Ende der Armlehne schwenkbar mit der Rückenlehne verbunden ist.

6. Stuhl nach Anspruch 5, bei dem die Rückenlehne (16) eine innere, im allgemeinen flache, lotrecht angeordnete Buchse (51) aufweist, die zu dem unteren Ende der Rückenlehne hin offen ist, um die Rückenteilhalterung verschiebbar aufzunehmen.

7. Stuhl nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, bei dem die Armlehne (18) etwa die gleiche Länge wie die Abstützstrebe (20) hat.

8. Stuhl nach Anspruch 5 mit folgenden Merkmalen:

ein Halterungs-Untersatz (22), an dem der Stuhlsitz (10) mit der Halterungsanordnung befestigt ist;

die Stuhl-Rückenhalterung (14) ist an dem Untersatz (22) befestigt und erstreckt sich an dem hinteren Ende des Sitzes nach oben, wobei die Armlehne schwenkbar mit der Stuhl-Rückenlehne an einem Punkt verbunden ist, der mit einem Abstand über dem Sitz angeordnet ist, der ungefähr gleich der Länge der Armlehne ist;

die Armlehnen-Abstützstrebe (20) ist mit ihrem unteren Ende schwenkbar mit der Kante des Stuhlsitzes oder dessen Halterungsanordnung verbunden, wobei die Länge der Strebe ungefähr gleich der Länge der Armlehne ist.

9. Verfahren zum Bewegen der Armlehne (18) eines Stuhls nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche von ihrer oberen, im allgemeinen waagerechten Stellung, die geeignet ist, den Arm des Stuhlbenutzers abzustützen, in ihre zusammengeklappte Stellung, die nicht geeignet ist, den Arm des Stuhlbenutzers abzustützen, das folgende Schritte aufweist:

Bewegen der Armlehne (18) in eine Stellung, in der sie sich lotrecht, benachbart zu dem Stuhlrückenteil (16) erstreckt; und

Bewegen der Abstützstrebe (20) für das vordere Ende der Stuhl-Armlehne in eine Stellung, in der sie sich waagerecht, benachbart zu der Kante des Stuhlsitzes (10) erstreckt, während sich die Armlehne lotrecht erstreckt.

10. Verfahren zum Bewegen eines Stuhlarms von einer oberen, im allgemeinen waagerechten Stellung, die geeignet ist, den Arm des Stuhlbenutzers abzustützen, in eine zusammengeklappte Stellung, die nicht geeignet ist, den Arm des Benutzers abzustützen, das folgenden Schritt aufweist:

Bewegen des Stuhlarms in eine Stellung, in der sich ein hinteres Teil des Stuhlarms lotrecht, benachbart zu einem Stuhl-Rückenteil erstreckt, und

in der sich ein vorderes Teil des Stuhlarms waagrecht, benachbart zu der Kante des Stuhlsitzes erstreckt,

dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Stuhl-Rückenteil eine Rückenlehne (16) und eine Rückenlehnen-Halterung (14) aufweist, wobei das hintere Teil des Stuhlarms eine Armlehne (18) und das vordere Teil des Stuhlarms eine Armlehnen-Abstützstrebe (20) ist, und daß das Verfahren folgende Schritte aufweist:

Verschieben des Stuhlrückenteils nach oben auf der Stuhl-Rückenteilhalterung, wodurch eine Verbindung zwischen dem Stuhlrückenteil und dem hinteren Teil der Armlehne angehoben wird;

Beugen einer Verbindung zwischen dem vorderen Ende der Armlehne und dem oberen Ende der Strebe nach unten und nach hinten, bis die Armlehne und die Strebe im wesentlichen in einer linearen Anordnung sind; und

Fortsetzen der Bewegung der Verbindung zwischen dem vorderen Ende der Armlehne und deren Abstützstrebe in einer nach hinten und nach unten gerichteten Richtung, wodurch das Stuhl-Rückenteil auf der Rückenteilhalterung abgesenkt und der Stuhlarm in seine zusammengeklappte Stellung bewegt werden.

Revendications

1. Chaise comportant :

un siège (10) associé à une structure de support (24);

un dossier (16) disposé à l'arrière dudit siège;

un accoudoir rigide (18) à côté du siège, ayant une extrémité arrière connectée de manière mobile au dossier et supportée par celui-ci; et

un montant rigide (20) de support d'accoudoir, ayant une extrémité supérieure connectée de manière mobile à l'extrémité avant de l'accoudoir (18) et ayant une extrémité inférieure connectée de manière mobile au siège ou à la structure de support de celui-ci, ledit accoudoir ayant une position de soutien (Fig. 1) stable et sensiblement horizontale à distance au-dessus du siège, dans laquelle le montant supporte l'extrémité avant de l'accoudoir et le dossier supporte l'extrémité arrière de l'accoudoir;

caractérisée en ce que l'accoudoir (18) et le montant de support (20) sont en permanence connectés de manière mobile, respectivement au dossier (16) et au siège (10) ou à la structure de support de celui-ci, et en ce que l'accoudoir (18) et le montant de support (20) sont susceptibles d'être mis dans une autre position stable dans laquelle l'accoudoir se trouve dans une position rabattue (Fig. 3) sensiblement horizontale, en alignement avec le bord de l'arrière du dossier (16), et le montant de support (20) se trouve dans une position sensiblement horizontale

à proximité du bord du siège.

2. Chaise selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle l'extrémité supérieure du montant est connectée de manière pivotante à l'accoudoir (18).

3. Chaise selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle l'extrémité supérieure du montant est connectée de manière pivotante à l'accoudoir (18), et l'arrière de l'accoudoir est connecté de manière pivotante au dossier (16).

4. Chaise selon la revendication 1, 2 ou 3, dans laquelle le dossier (16) comporte un support de dossier (14), connecté au siège, et un élément de dossier (16) qui peut coulisser verticalement sur le support de dossier de façon à permettre à l'accoudoir (18) de passer de sa position de soutien à sa position rabattue.

5. Chaise selon la revendication 4, dans laquelle l'extrémité supérieure du montant est connectée de manière pivotante à l'accoudoir (18), et l'arrière de l'accoudoir est connecté de manière pivotante à l'élément de dossier.

6. Chaise selon la revendication 5, dans laquelle l'élément de dossier (16) contient un manchon interne aplati (51), orienté verticalement et ouvert du côté du bord inférieur de l'élément de dossier, pour recevoir de manière coulissante le support de dossier.

7. Chaise selon l'une des revendications précédentes, dans laquelle l'accoudoir (18) a une longueur approximativement égale à celle du montant de support (20).

8. Chaise selon la revendication 5, comportant :

un pied de support (22) auquel est fixé le siège (10) pourvu de la structure de support; dans laquelle le support de dossier (14) est fixé au pied (22) et s'étend vers le haut en arrière du siège; dans laquelle l'accoudoir est connecté de manière pivotante à l'élément de dossier en un point se trouvant, au-dessus du siège, à une distance approximativement égale à la longueur de l'accoudoir; et dans laquelle l'extrémité inférieure du montant de support d'accoudoir (20) est connectée de manière pivotante au bord du siège ou de la structure de support de celui-ci, la longueur du montant étant approximativement égale à la longueur de l'accoudoir.

9. Procédé pour déplacer l'accoudoir (18) d'une chaise selon l'une des revendications précédentes, pour passer de sa position levée, sensiblement horizontale et agencée pour supporter le bras d'un occupant de la chaise, à sa position rabattue ne permettant pas de supporter le bras de l'occupant, dans lequel :

on déplace l'accoudoir (18) jusqu'à une position dans laquelle il s'étend verticalement à proximité du dossier (16); et

on déplace le montant (20) supportant l'extrémité avant de l'accoudoir jusqu'à une position dans laquelle il s'étend horizontalement à proximité du bord du siège (10) tandis que l'accoudoir s'étend verticalement.



10. Procédé pour déplacer un bras d'une chaise à partir d'une position levée, sensiblement horizontale et agencée pour supporter le bras d'un occupant de la chaise, à sa position rabattue ne permettant pas de supporter le bras de l'occupant, dans lequel :

on déplace le bras jusqu'à une position dans laquelle une partie arrière de ce bras s'étend verticalement à proximité d'un dossier de la chaise et une partie avant du bras s'étend horizontalement à proximité du bord du siège de la chaise,

caractérisé en ce que le dossier comprend un élément de dossier (16) et un support de dossier (14), en ce que la partie arrière du bras est un accoudoir (18) et la partie avant du bras est un montant de support (20) de l'accoudoir, et en ce que le procédé comprend les opérations suivantes :

on fait coulisser le dossier vers le haut sur le support de dossier, de façon à faire monter une connexion entre l'élément de dossier et l'arrière de l'accoudoir;

on déplace vers le bas et vers l'arrière une connexion entre l'extrémité avant de l'accoudoir et l'extrémité supérieure du montant jusqu'à ce que l'accoudoir et le montant soient essentiellement alignés; et

on poursuit le mouvement de la connexion entre l'extrémité avant de l'accoudoir et son montant de support en direction de l'arrière et du bas, de façon à faire descendre le dossier sur le support de dossier et déplacer le bras jusqu'à sa position rabattue.



5

10

15

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

7