

A Dining Chair with Reclining Mechanism**Field of invention**

The present invention relates generally to a dining chair having a reclining mechanism, that allows movements to the backrests and all its supporting components, the dining chair can be fitted with other features like armrest and or footrests, when force is apply to the backrest the reclining mechanism enables the said dining chair to recline at a range of angles and automatically retract to its original upright position or at any predetermined angle when the force is removed.

Background of invention

This invention relates to dining chair, which has a reclining mechanism that provides extra comfort for user. The mechanism enables user to recline at certain range of angle if user press his / her back against the backrest of the dining chair. In order to provide the optimum comfort and ergonomics, extra supports like armrest and footrest that could be fitted with the dining chair, such supports can also incorporated with mechanism to enable it to be automatically adjusted to a certain predetermined angle or to a certain position when the said dining chair is reclined.

Conventional sitting dining chair is designed to have an upright position or with a small angled rigid backrest. This is the best-known sitting dining chair design that position the user to be at the best sitting posture or best natural position for eating. Support at the back and neck muscles of such at an upright sitting position is essential for the

stomach muscle to be at the most relaxing condition during food intake if the dining chair is used for dining purpose.

However, eating is just one of the activities that can happen at dining table. In fact, most of the time we spend at dining table are involve in non-eating activities like drinking, discussion, meeting, playing card games, family bonding session and so on. Therefore, the limitation of the upright rigid design of backrest on a dining chair with the original intention to support optimum upright posture will not provide comfort for activities other than eating. Therefore, it is the intention of this invention to address the above-mentioned limitation of a dining chair.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a reclining mechanism to a dining chair that enables users to adjust themselves to their desirable reclining position.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a mechanism to enable the dining chair to recline and automatically retracts to its originally position once the reclining force is removed.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide the necessary mechanism for other attaching components like armrest, footrest of the said dining chair to adjust itself to the position, which is determined by the designer to be at its best supporting position.

These and other objects and advantages of the present invention will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art upon inspection of the detailed description, drawings and appended claims.

Summary of Invention

According to one aspect of the invention, a dining chair includes a sitting portion or base, which is supported by plurality of legs, a back supporting portion or backrest, and other seating supporting surfaces, such as armrest, footrest and headrest (collectively referred to as "supporting surfaces"). The legs could be at any length or angle attached rigidly by conventional means to the bottom side of the base. Legs could be extended from the backrest for certain embodiments. The base could be of any bare material, padded or upholstered. The back portion or backrest is substantially flat and could be of any bare material, padded or upholstered. The said dining chair could be of plain or incorporated with any external cosmetic enhancing design to improve its appearances to attract buyer. The moveable joints of the said dining chair supporting portion and other seating supporting surfaces that moves when the dining chair is reclined are attached together by attachment means which could be nuts and bolts assemblies, fasteners, screws, snaps, clamps, clips or other such equivalents that could be used to secure one surface to another. Only rotational movements with respect to the movements of the backrest are allowed.

In one embodiment, the backrest is made of single piece of material. In another embodiment, one piece of same material may be cut into two to form the backrest and hind legs accommodate the reclining mechanism. The reclining mechanism could be attached at one end to the backrest and another end to a rigid member. The said mechanism could be exposed, hidden or hide at some undercuts or internal side of the base or the backrest or both. Means of reclining mechanism could be made of rubber, spring, spring plate, steel plate, cantilever plate or any engineering materials that inhibits high elastics

properties that is capable of returning to its original size and shape once the reclining force is removed. Advantageously, the reclining mechanism enables the users to relax their back in a range of angles while remain sitting at the dining table.

In some embodiments, the attachment of the said reclining mechanism could be hidden or embedded inside the back rest. For example a spring plate or one of the above mentioned means of reclining mechanism could be used to hold the backrest which is cut into two and enable the top part to have the freedom of rotation when a reclining force is applied. In another words, the bottom portion of the backrest is pivoted against the base and top portion is allowed to rotate with respect to the bottom portion. For other said external reclining means, example a spring with one end attached to the base and another end is attached to the back rest, this will also enable the recline mechanical movements, but in terms of appearance the latter design is considered less attractive. However, means of reclining mechanism do not limited to the example stated but could extend to the used of any materials that contain property that will restrain reclining pressure and capable of retracting to its original form immediately after the release of reclining pressure, for example synthetic elastic material.

Brief description of the drawings

Fig 1 shows a part side view of a reclining dining chair in upright position when zero pressure is applied to its backrest.

Fig 2 shows a side view of a reclining dining chair in reclined position when pressure is applied to its back rest.

Fig 3 shows a side view of the backrest in two parts to incorporate the installation of reclining mechanism of any means. It could be in any form of flexible joints as illustrated in the diagrams. The form of the cut or separation slit can be at angle, straight or round as illustrated in the diagram.

Fig 4 shows a part of the backrest, which is in one complete piece but could also offer reclining feature that incorporate reclining mechanism by any means.

Fig 5 shows various designs of reclining dining chair using different reclining mechanisms.

Fig 6 shows an exemplary construction of a backrest that is made of two portions; that is further supported and joined strongly together by a metal rod that is inserted inside the backrest and hinged in between the two portions of the said backrest.

Detail Description of embodiments

Fig 1 illustrates one embodiments of the reclining dining chair, having a base (3), for supporting a user with normal body weight. In this embodiment, plurality of legs (4) is attached to the said base to raise the base to a certain height from the floor. The legs and the sitting base are attached together by connection means to form a rigid members of the chair. The connection means could comprise of nuts and bolts assemblies, fasteners, screws, snaps, clamps, clips or other such equivalents that is normally use to secure two furniture parts together rigidly. The chair method of construction and its assembly method in this invention can be similar to general assembly procedures and method of a normal

dinning chair, which usually consist of sitting base, backrest and legs. Or in same cases, the chair can have extra members like armrest and footrest. In another exemplary embodiment, legs are attached at certain angle to adjust for height as well as enhance the design of the dining chair. Backrest (1) could also be extended to reach the ground and serve as legs. The novel part of this invention is the installation method as well as location of a reclining mechanism unto the chair structure to enable the user to enjoy reclining movements. The uniqueness and innovative installation or incorporation of this reclining mechanism has made this chair to be special and different from all prior arts. This mechanism will allow user to recline the backrest of the chair to a range of angle which force is applied to the back rest and upon the removal of the force to the back rest, the said back rest will immediately revert to its original position again. The connection and the installation method of the reclining mechanism will be described in later paragraph. Backrest to support the back of user is shown here as one piece, other design which enable various reclining mechanism (2) is described later.

In the embodiment shown in fig 2, the backrest of the dining chair is reclined when the user applies pressure (5) to the backrest. There is a maximum distance that is allowable by the design and usually is determined by the reclining angle and has direct dependency on the means of the reclining mechanism. There is a stopper incorporated to prevent any further reclining once the maximum allowed reclining distance is reached. The installation method and location of the stopper is depending on the type of reclining mechanism used.

For example; for the design (9) shown in Fig 5, an elastics material such as rubber is installed in a housing at the rear of the backrest to enable the reclining mechanism, a block

that is made of solid material which is dimensioned to be same as the maximum distance of the reclining position, can be attached on the top of the said elastic material. For this exemplary design, once the elastic material is squeezed and reach the allowable maximum distance, the stopper will prevent the said elastic material to be squeezed any further and acts like a stopper. For each individual design, the installation method, the installation of the location of the stopper as well as the means of stopper can be different from each other. However, for every design, the backrest will immediately retract to its original position once such force is removed. The rate of reversion is depending on the means of the reclining mechanism installed.

Fig 3 shows a part of the backrest that is cut into two parts to incorporate the installation of reclining mechanism means. It could be in any form of flexible joints, the form of the cut or separation slit can be at angle, straight or round. The reclining mechanism could be made of spring or rubber which including synthetic material with elastic property. The said mechanism could also made of spring plate, spring bar, coil spring or any material that inhibits high elasticity property that could be incorporate in this invention under various designs.

In one embodiment, the reclining mechanism could be embedded inside a undercut or hollow section within the backrest. For example, for the design with backrest that it cut into two portions as illustrated in Fig 3, the abutted part has a hollow section or cut out inside the backrest where both portions of the backrest are joined, the hole or cutout is just large enough to house the reclining mechanism. For example, in order to fit a spring plate into the middle of the abutted part on a backrest that is made of two part, a hole

that has the dimension of the spring plate has to be cut from both parts, each end of the spring plate is inserted into the respective hollow section of the backrest and joined those parts together. Sometimes, extra adhesive has to be used to ensure a proper fixing of that mechanism. In this embodiment, the most obvious advantages is the appearance of the dinning chair, as both joints and reclining mechanism is invisible, line of cut will look seamless, for this aspect, the size of the intersection line of two part depends on the quality of workmanship. Once those parts are joined, it is ready to be assembled with the rest of the chair members to form a reclinable dinning chair.

Dinning chair that made of single piece of backrest can also be incorporated with reclining mechanism as shown Figure 4, this installation method and location is different from the design that was described in the previous paragraphs. Figure 4 shows the exemplary of a backrest consisting of one single piece can be made reclined by means of attaching a spring (8) or other means that will enable it to revert to its original position once the force is removed. For example, spring and lever with controlled distance of extension are some of the most common mechanism used for this. In the example where the spring is used to enable the reclining mechanism, one end of the said mechanism is connected by connection means to the backrest and other end is connected by connection means to the rigid member of the dining chair, usually the base of the chair is preferred. In this embodiment, the backrest will recline once the user applies a force on the backrest. For this example, the said stopper that is used to control the distance of the reclining, for example could be made of a plate with a slot that has a certain dimension equivalent to the maximum allowable reclining distance; the plate can be fitted together with the spring with one end being connected

to the backrest and the other end being connected to the rigid member of the dinning chair. The connection means could be made of nuts and bolts assemblies, fasteners, screws, snaps, clamps, clips or other such equivalents that is normally use to secure two parts together rigidly. However, for higher end and more sophisticated product that requires reliability and appearance, it is preferred to use high-grade engineering material for this purpose

In another embodiment, means of reclining mechanism that enable the backrest to recline at a certain angle when force is applied to the back rest can be embedded or build inside the backrest for backrest design that is consisting of two pieces or parts. This design is usually more popular as the incorporated hidden type of reclining mechanism will also contribute to the appearance of the said dining chair. However, there are many ways to incorporate the reclining mechanism unto a dinner chair, but emphasis has to be focus on the control of the range of reclining angle as well as reliability of the mechanism in terms of wear and tear.

An alternate embodiment of the present invention comprises of the use of spring plate, rubber, steel plate and cantilever to enable reclining mechanism together with different method of installation and connection means. For different design it is also important to ensure a controlled reclining angle by using some stopping means to prevent over stretching of the reclining mechanism. For each method of installation and types of the reclining means, different method of installation of the stopper is required. Fig 5 illustrates some of the examples that a reclining mechanism could be installed to a dining chair, example includes both embedded type of design as well as those exposed type of design. In the example shown in (9), where the reclining means is housed at the back of the

backrest, the said reclining means could be made of spring or rubber which including synthetic material with elastic property. The reclining means can be secured onto its location by adhesive material or a screw. The stopper could be, for example a block that is made of solid material, which is dimensioned to be same as the maximum allowable distance of the reclining position, can be attached on the top of the said elastic material. For this exemplary design, once the elastic material is squeezed and reached the allowable maximum distance, the stopper will prevent the said elastic material to be squeezed any further and will act effectively as a stopper. Therefore, for each individual design, the installation method and location of the stopper can be different from each other. The backrest will immediately revert to its original position once such force is removed. The rate of reversion is depending on the means of the reclining mechanism installed.

The design shown in example (10) wherein the installation of the reclining mechanism is in the backrest which is hidden inside the backrest, this could be achieve by using reclining means such as metal plate or engineering plastics that has equivalent performance as metal plate. One end of the plate is inserted unto the top portion of the backrest and the other is inserted unto either the base or the bottom portion of the backrest. The reclining means can be further secured by some sort of screw or pin to lock it unto its intended location as well as holding both parts of the backrest together. In the example shown in (11), the reclining means (11) such as spring or cylinder, is connected to the end of the backrest and the inner part of the legs; such design has a visible reclining mechanism. The backrest is pivoted at a distance for one end on the side of the rigid base with the spring connected at the end of the backrest. The other end of the spring is connected

unto the rigid members of the chair. Once the reclining movement or force is applied unto the backrest, the spring will be extended and enable the reclining motion. The spring will revert and pull the backrest back to its original position once the reclining force is removed.

In the example shown in (12), the reclining mechanism (12) is embedded inside the backrest, the backrest will recline once the user applied certain force onto the backrest. This exemplary design will give the effect as the backrest is rotating at a pivoted point on the backrest. For this exemplary design, a coil spring can be used to enable the reclining mechanism whereby the backrest has to have a hollow cut out to house the coil spring. The coil spring will allow the top portion of the said backrest to rotate at certain point of rotation with respect to the said bottom portion due to the reclining movement and the coupling force from the said coil will force the top portion of the backrest to return to its original position once the reclining force is removed. In the exemplary design shown in (13), a reclining means is installed at the back of a cut out portion of the backrest, it enables the back rest to recline by absorbing the compression force that is applied unto the reclining means from the reclining movement. A rubber, engineering plastic, compression spring, spring plate or any means that has elastic property can be installed at the location shown at (13). Once the reclining pressure or force is removed, the releasing force from the reclining means will force the backrest back to its original position. Example shown in (14) uses the same theory but this design has the mechanism located externally at the bottom of the base of the chair.

In another embodiment shown in Fig 6, the said backrest that is made of two portion is further supported and joined

strongly together by a supporting means (15) for example a steel hinge, that is strong enough to withstand repeated cycles of reclining movements wherein the supporting means is inserted inside the backrest and hinged in between the two portions of the said backrest with a point of rotation (17), the backrest is incorporated with a rubber means or any plastics elastics means that is installed inside the backrest. The supporting means can be further locked onto its intended position on the backrest by a pin (18).

Alternatively, the present invention comprises the use of other engineering material that inhibits high yield properties that can be embedded inside the backrest to enable reclining mechanism.

Preferred and alternate embodiments of the present invention have now been described in detail. It is to be noted, however, that this description of these specific embodiments is merely illustrative of the principles underlying the inventive concept. It is therefore contemplated that various modifications of the disclosed embodiments will, without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention, be apparent to persons skilled in the art. For instance, it is obvious the one skilled in the art of the present invention that alternate embodiments of the present dining chair can include different shape and means of reclining mechanism.

Claims

1. A dining chair with reclining mechanism comprising of a sitting base (3) supported by a plurality of legs (4) collectively forming rigid members of the chair; a backrest (1) with one end pivotally connected to at least one rigid member; and at least one reclining mean (2) connecting said backrest to said rigid member; or the reclining means can also be embedded within the back rest; wherein said reclining means (2) allows backrest to adaptably recline according to pressure exerted by a user, and to revert to original position upon removal of said pressure.

2. The dining chair according to claim 1, wherein said reclining means comprises both engineering material that inhibits elastic property that is capable of returning to its original size, position or shape immediately after reclining force which applied to the backrest is removed; and engineering components or parts that can be extended or compressed when a reclining force is applied to it and is capable of returning to its original size and shape once the said force is removed.

3. The dining chair according to claim 2, wherein the reclining means can be any type of rubber, engineering plastics, spring, spring plate, metal plate that is shaped to perform a like spring plate, engineering mechanical components for example piston and cushion, pneumatics cylinder, all that could provide movements of extension and reversion, or compression and relaxation, due to force or pressure.

4. The chair according to any of claim 1 to 3, wherein said reclining means could be exposed or completely hidden or

embedded at the backrest, or hide at some hollow cutouts or internal side of the said backrest.

5. The chair according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said backrest enables user an allowable range of reclining angles which has direct dependency to the reclining means used.

6. The chair according to claim 5, wherein the said backrest could be extended to as leg for the said chair, and said backrest can be cut into two portions whereby the top portion having a freedom of rotation with respect to the said rigid members and bottom portion which is connected to said rigid members of chair; as well as connected with the said top portion by any joint means to serve as legs; with a reclining mean incorporated in between said portions of the said backrest.

7. The chair according to claim 6, wherein the said reclining means that is incorporated in between the said backrest that is cut into two wherein said reclining means can either be a elastic means such as engineering plastic or spring plate, that has elastic property to enable the said reclining means to absorb the compression force by the said reclining movement and the reclining means will return to its original shape once the said compression force is released.

8. The chair according to claim 6, wherein said reclining means that is incorporated in between the said backrest that is cut into two; the said reclining means can also be a metal plates that bent due to the said reclining pressure and reverts back to its original straight position once the said reclining pressure or reclining force is released.

9. The chair according to claim 6, wherein the said reclining means that is incorporated in between the said backrest that is cut into two; the said reclining means can also be a coil spring that allows the top portion of the said backrest to rotate at certain point of rotation with respect to the said bottom portion due to the reclining movement and the coupling force from the said coil will force the top portion of the backrest to return to its original position once the reclining force is removed.

10. The chair according to claim 7, wherein the said reclining means that enable the back rest to recline by absorbing the compression force that is applied unto the said reclining means due to said reclining force using a elastics means such as engineering plastic or spring plate, that has elastic property can be hidden inside the backrest (13) or can be housed externally (9).

11. The chair according to claim 8, wherein the said reclining means that enable to said back rest to bend due to the said reclining movement using a metal plate can be hidden inside the said backrest.

12. The chair according to claim 9, wherein the said reclining means that enable the said backrest to rotate via means of coil spring due to the said reclining movement can be hidden inside the said backrest.

13. The chair according to any of claim 6 to 12, wherein the said backrest that is made of two portions is further supported and joined strongly together by a supporting means that will withstand repeated cycles of reclining movements; the supporting means can be a metal rod that is inserted

inside the backrest and hinged in between the two portions of the said backrest.

14. The chair according to any of claim 1 to 13, wherein said sitting base and backrest could be any bare material, padded or upholstered.

15. The chair according to any preceding claims, wherein said legs could be any length and angle from the normal of the said sitting base.

16. The chair according to any of claim 1 to 13, wherein said connection means to hold all members that put together to form the said chair could comprise of either nuts and bolts assemblies, fasteners, screws, snaps, clamps, clips or other such equivalents that could be used to secure one part to another.

17. The chair according to any preceding claims, could be plain or incorporated with any supporting surfaces and any external cosmetic design to enhance its appearance to attract buyer.