As a result of such force, the fastener often must be designed to withstand the forces it will experience when the tablet is used. Such a design often adds substantial cost to the manufacture of the chair. This is particularly true if the chair design requires a complex joint or bracket system that is configured to permit the tablet to be raised and lowered such as the fastening mechanisms disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,845,964, 6,375,257 or 7,695,061 because such mechanisms can be expensive to buy or manufacture.

A new design is needed for chairs that have a tablet arm. Such a chair is preferably designed to permit the chair to be manufactured at a lower cost than other chair designs while also permitting the tablet arm to be moveable from a raised position, which may permit a user to more easily sit in the chair, to a lowered position so that the user can make use of the tablet arm after the user is sitting in the chair. For instance, a user may move the tablet to the lowered position to support paper for writing, support a book for reading, or support a laptop or other mobile computer device.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a chair comprising: a base, a seat supported on the base; a support member having an upper portion and at least one lower portion that is lower than the upper portion, the at least one lower portion attached to at least one of the base and the seat, the upper portion attached to the at least one lower portion, the upper portion having a first section, a second section, and a third section between the first and second sections, the third section defining an offset positioned inwardly toward the seat relative to at least one of the first section and the second section; a tablet moveably attached to the upper portion of the support member such that the tablet is moveable from a first position to a second position; wherein the offset is positioned such that the offset engages the tablet when the tablet is

in the second position and transfers a substantial amount of load supported by the offset to the support member when the tablet is in the second position; and an attachment mechanism, the attachment mechanism moveably attaching the tablet to the upper portion of the support member such that the tablet is moveable from the first position to the second position, the attachment mechanism comprising a bracket assembly that defines a channel that receives a portion of the upper portion and a projection that is attached to the upper portion that extends through a slot formed in the bracket assembly, the projection of the attachment mechanism and the slot of the bracket assembly defining a path of movement of the tablet between the first and second positions; wherein the bracket assembly is comprised of a tablet attachment portion that defines the channel that receives the portion of the upper portion of the support member and wherein the slot is formed in the tablet attachment portion of the bracket assembly; and a cap attached to the tablet attachment portion adjacent the channel and above the portion of the upper portion of the support member received within the channel; and wherein the cap has crushable ribs formed on an inner surface of the cap such that the crushable ribs engage the upper portion received in the channel; and wherein the offset is positioned so that a portion of the offset is at a location that is higher than the first section of the upper portion of the support member and is also higher than the second section of the upper portion of the support member.

According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a chair comprising: a base, a seat supported on the base; a support member having an upper portion and at least one lower portion that is lower than the upper portion, the at least one lower portion attached to at least one of the base and the seat, the upper portion attached to the at least one lower portion, the upper portion having a first section, a second section, and a third section between the first and second sections, the third section defining an offset positioned inwardly

toward the seat relative to at least one of the first section and the second section; a tablet moveably attached to the upper portion of the support member such that the tablet is moveable from a first position to a second position; wherein the offset is positioned such that the offset engages the tablet when the tablet is in the second position and transfers a substantial amount of load supported by the offset to the support member when the tablet is in the second position; and an attachment mechanism, the attachment mechanism moveably attaching the tablet to the upper portion of the support member such that the tablet is moveable from the first position to the second position, the attachment mechanism comprising a bracket assembly that defines a channel that receives a portion of the upper portion and a projection that is attached to the upper portion that extends through a slot formed in the bracket assembly, the projection of the attachment mechanism and the slot of the bracket assembly defining a path of movement of the tablet between the first and second positions; wherein the offset is positioned so that a portion of the offset is at a location that is higher than the first section of the upper portion of the support member and is also higher than the second section of the upper portion of the support member.

There is disclosed a~~A~~ chair ~~is provided~~ that has a seat, a base and a tablet that is moveable from a raised position to a lowered position. The seat is supported by the base. The tablet may be attached to the base via at least one support member. The support member may include an upper portion that is comprised of a first section, a second section, and a third section between the first and second sections. The third section may define an offset that is positioned inwardly toward the seat relative to at least one of the first and second sections and may be configured to engage a middle portion of the tablet when the tablet is in a lowered position to support the tablet. By engaging the portion of the tablet, the third section of the support member permits the support member to transfer a substantial portion of the load the tablet supports to other portions of the