

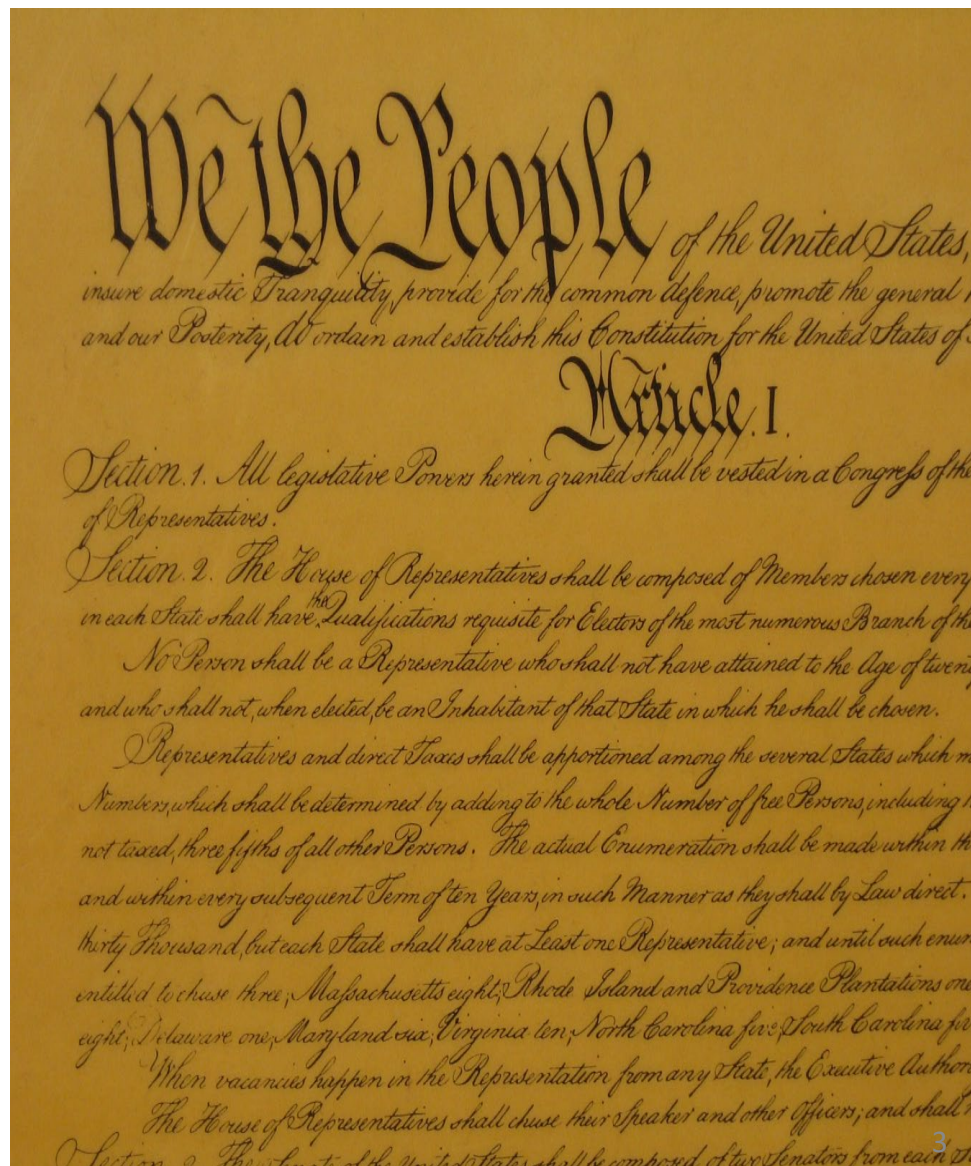


Patents



- What patents are
- Why we have them
- How people get patents
- Why disputes arise that require resolution by a jury

**“... to promote
the progress of
science and
useful arts.”**



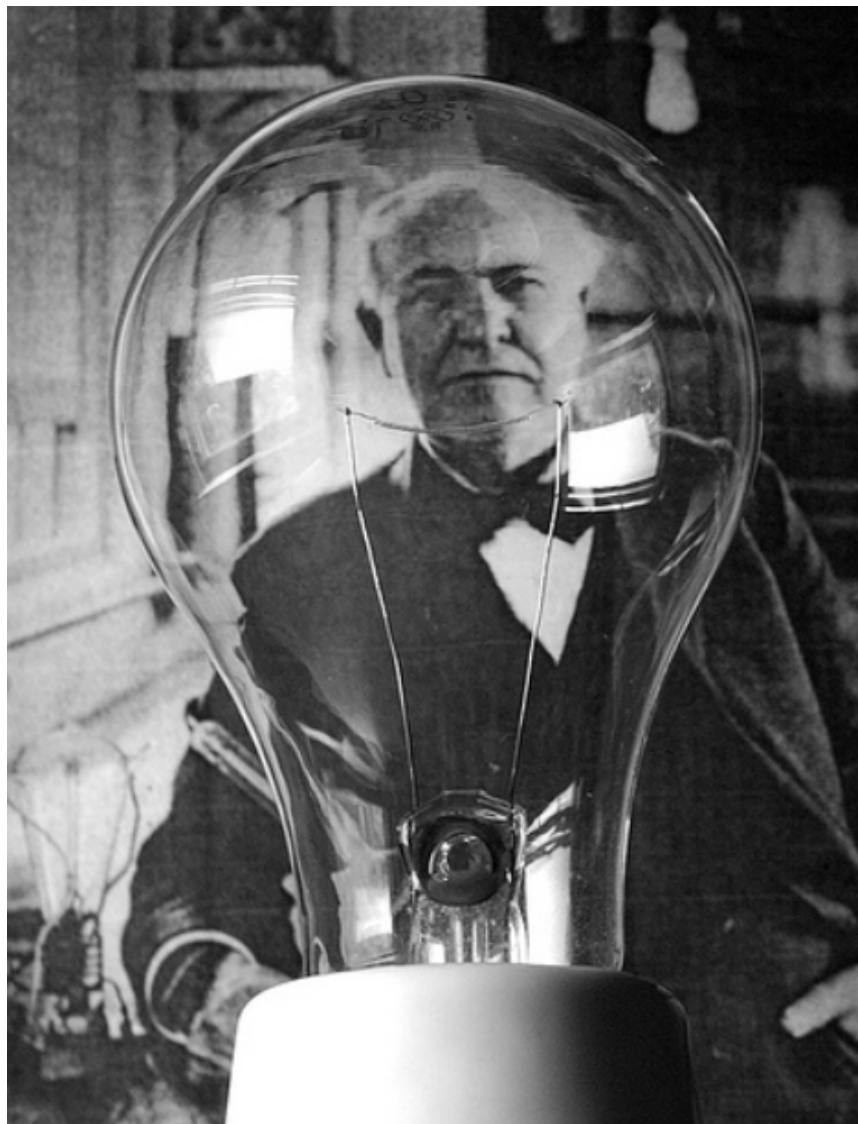
“Grants to the person(s) having title to this patent the right to exclude others from making, using, offering for sale, or selling the invention.”

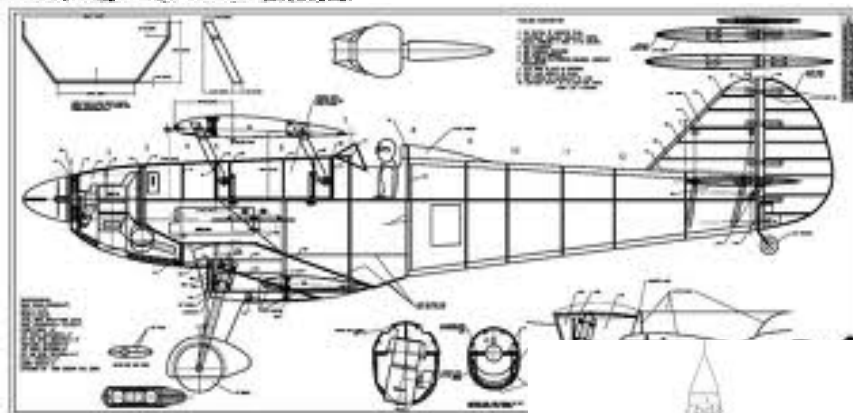
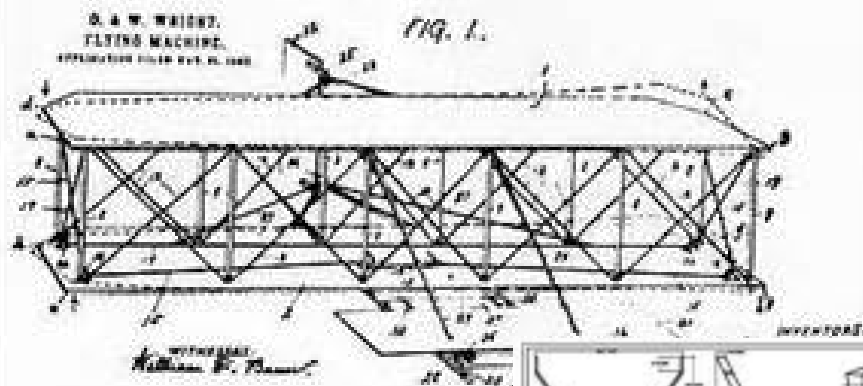


20-year period









WARRANTY DEED

that

the undersigned, the grantor, do hereby warrant to the grantee that the premises hereinafter described are his own, free and clear of all liens, claims and encumbrances, and that he has the right to convey the same.





(12) **United States Patent**
Plinge et al.

(54) **VERSATILE WRISTWATCH SYSTEM**

(75) **Inventors: Walter Plinge, Georgina Spelvin, both New York, NY**

(73) **Assignee: Acme Products, Monument Valley, AZ**

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by days.

(21) **Appl. No.: 12/876,543**

(22) **Filed: May 28, 2010**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2010/0027123 A1 Dec. 2, 2010

Related U.S. Application Data

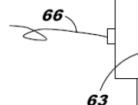
(60) Provisional application No. 61/999,111, filed on Mar. 28, 2009.

(51) **Int. Cl.**
G06F 07/02 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC 714/776; 297/45

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 714/776

61



US 8

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human interface device accordingly. In one embodiment the electromagnetic signal is a television signal and the human interface device is the display 63. In another embodiment the electromagnetic signal is a mobile telephone signal and the human interface device is a speaker 69.

The alert reader will have no difficulty devising myriad obvious variations and improvements of the disclosed embodiments, all of which are intended to be encompassed within the claims which follow.

We claim:

1. A versatile wristwatch system comprising;

a microcontroller powered by a power source;

a display controlled by the microcontroller;

a touchpad overlaying the display and communicating with the microcontroller;

a time base communicatively coupled with the microcontroller;

a digital signal processor communicatively coupled with the microcontroller; and

a software-defined radio communicatively coupled with the digital signal processor;

a power source powering the microcontroller, the digital signal processor, and the software-defined radio;

the microcontroller, the digital signal processor, the software-defined radio, and the power source all contained within a case;

the system further comprising a watchband connected with the case and adjustably sized for encirclement of a human wrist.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein the power source is a lithium cell.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein the display has a resolution of at least 60 by 100 pixels, each pixel controllable to 24 bits of color.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein the time base comprises a piezoelectric crystal.

We claim:

1. A versatile wristwatch system comprising;

a microcontroller powered by a power source;

a display controlled by the microcontroller;

a touchpad overlaying the display and communicating to the microcontroller;

a time base communicatively coupled with the microcontroller;

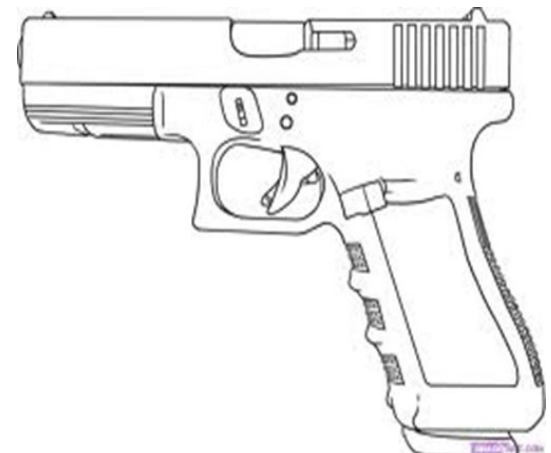
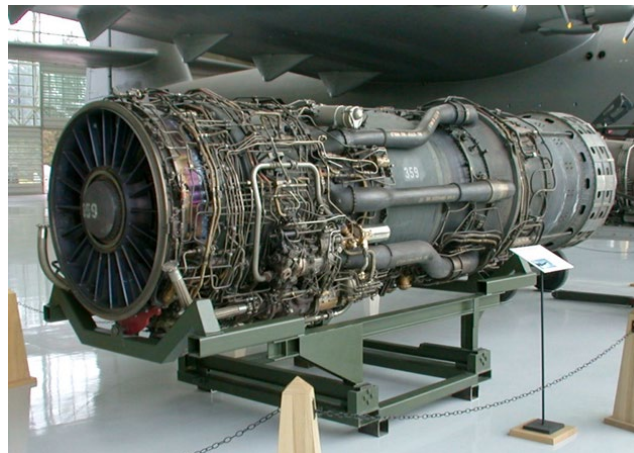
a digital signal processor communicatively coupled with the microcontroller; and

a software-defined radio communicatively coupled with the digital signal processor;





Invention









**FOR DESIGN APPLICATIONS ONLY:
CONTINUED PROSECUTION APPLICATION (CPA) REQUEST TRANSMITTAL**

(Only for Continuation or Divisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(f))

CHECK BOX, if applicable:
☐ DUPLICATE

Address to: Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450	Attorney Docket No. or Prior Application	
	First Named Inventor	
	Examiner Name	
	Art Unit	
	Express Mail Label No.	

This is a request for a ☐ continuation or ☐ Divisional application under 37 CFR 1.53(f),
continued prosecution application (CPA) of prior application number _____,
filed on _____, entitled _____.

NOTES

A CPA may only be filed in a design application. A CPA cannot be filed in a utility or plant application. See "Examination of Continued Prosecution Application Practice as to Utility and Plant Applications; Final Rule," 68 FR 52370 (May 30, 2003). Applicants may consider filing a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 in utility or plant applications. See MPEP 706.07(h) and form PTO/SB/30.

Filing Qualifications: The prior application identified above must be a design application that is complete as defined by 37 CFR 1.51 (g).

C-I-P NOT PERMITTED: A continuation-in-part application cannot be filed as a CPA under 37 CFR 1.53(f), but must be filed under 37 CFR 1.53 (g).

EXPRESS ABANDONMENT OF PRIOR APPLICATION: The filing of this CPA is a request to expressly abandon the prior application as of the filing date of the request for a CPA. 37 CFR 1.53(f) must be used to file a continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part of an application that is not to be abandoned.

ACCESS TO PRIOR APPLICATION: The filing of this CPA will be construed to include a waiver of confidentiality by the applicant under 35 U.S.C. 122 to the extent that any member of the public who is entitled under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.14 to access to, copies of, or information concerning, the prior application may be given similar access to, copies of, or similar information concerning, the other application or applications in the file.

35 U.S.C. 120 STATEMENT: In a CPA, no reference to the prior application is needed in the first sentence of the specification and no note should be submitted. If a sentence referencing the prior application is submitted, it will not be entered. A request for a CPA is the specific reference required by 35 U.S.C. 120 and to every application assigned the application number identified in such request 37 CFR 1.78(e).

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1. ☐ Enter the requested amendments precisely in the docket under 37 CFR 1.116 in the prior design application.
2. ☐ A preliminary amendment is enclosed.
3. This application is filed by fewer than all the inventor(s) named in the prior application, 37 CFR 1.53(f)(4).
 - a. ☐ DELETE the following inventor(s) named in the prior design application:

 - b. ☐ The inventor(s) to be deleted are set forth on a separate sheet attached hereto.
4. ☐ A new power of attorney (PTO/SB/6) is enclosed.
5. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is enclosed:
 - a. ☐ PTO/SB/08, PTO-1449 or equivalent
 - b. ☐ Copies of IDS Citations

Page 1 of 2

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If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-0100 (1-800-726-0100) and select option 2.





(12) **United States Patent**
PUBLIC et al.

(10) **Patent Number:** 6,543,210 B1
(45) **Date of Patent:** Nov. 9, 2001

(54) **PORTABLE APPARATUS FOR SITTING**

5,064,247 11/1991 Clark et al.
3,336,078 8/1961 Haley
2,575,221 11/1951 Horner et al.

(75) **Inventors:** John Q. Public, Jane B. Doe,
both of New York, NY

(73) **Assignee:** Acme Seating,
San Jose, CA

Primary Examiner Benita Millman

(21) **Appl. No.:** 09/876,543

(57) **ABSTRACT**

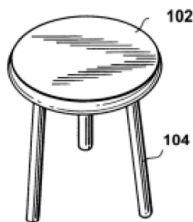
(22) **Filed:** May 28, 1999
Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 60/999,111 May 28, 1998.
(51) **Int. Cl.**⁶ ..A47C 007/02
(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..297/452.1
(58) **Field of Search** ..297/452.1,440.2

A portable apparatus for use while sitting. The apparatus includes a planar surface or seat with at least three elongate members or legs attached to one side of the planar surface or seat. The elongate members or legs are generally parallel to each other and below the planar surface or seat in use. The apparatus may include a support member or back that is attached to the opposite side of the planar surface or seat and extends upward in use.

(56) **References Cited**
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS
6,250,718 6/2001 Newhouse et al.

7 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets



Sample Patent, page 1

(10) **Patent Number:** 6,543,210 B1

(54) **PORTABLE APPARATUS FOR SITTING**

(75) **Inventors:** John Q. Public, Jane B. Doe,
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(73) **Assignee:** Acme Seating,
San Jose, CA

(22) **Filed:** May 28, 1999

(45) **Date of Patent:** Nov. 9, 2001

FIELD OF SEARCH AND REFERENCES



(12) **United States Patent**
Plinge et al.

(54) **VERSATILE WRISTWATCH SYSTEM**

(75) Inventors: **Walter Plinge, Georgina Spelvin**, both of
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(73) Assignee: **Acme Products**, Monument Valley, AZ

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
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days.

(21) Appl. No.: **12/876,543**

(22) **Filed: May 28, 2010**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2010/0027123 A1 Dec. 2, 2010

Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 61/999,111, filed on May
28, 2009.

(51) Int. Cl.
G06F 07/02 (2006.01)

(52) U.S. Cl.
USPC **714/776; 297/452**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **714/776**



(58) **Field of Classification Search** **714/776**

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3,427,520 A 2/1969 Charles et al. 714/234
5,228,133 A * 7/1993 Moimeme et al. 714/345
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5,228,133 A	*	7/1993	Moimeme et al.	714/345
7,069,247 B2		6/2006	Mich et al.	714/456

FIG

61

66

63



PRIOR ART



STATE OF THE ART



SKILLED IN THE ART

SPECIFICATION OR WRITTEN DESCRIPTION



US 6,543,210 BI	US 6,543,210 BI	US 6,543,210 BI	US 6,543,210 BI
<p>1 PORTABLE APPARATUS FOR SITTING</p> <p>move the apparatus allowing the user to sit in a comfortable position.</p> <p>BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION</p> <p>1. Field of the Invention</p> <p>The present invention relates to an apparatus for supporting a human in a sitting position, and more particularly to an apparatus that is portable and stable.</p> <p>2. Background of Related Art</p> <p>As known in the prior art a person walking around their environment and from place to place can become tired and want to rest. One way to rest is to lie on the ground. However, in many areas the ground is dirty and people usually want to rest without becoming dirty. In some areas, rocks, logs and stumps are abundant and people have found that placing their buttock on these rocks, logs and stumps allows them to rest without lying on the ground and becoming dirty. People using this resting technique often say that they "sit" on the rocks, logs or stumps, or are "sitting," and the position when their buttock is on the rock, log or stump is known as a sitting position. In some areas there are very few rocks, logs and stumps and so humans find it difficult to sit. This can be a particular problem in areas with homes, where the rocks, logs and stumps are used to construct the home, and are no longer available for sitting.</p> <p>Even in areas where rocks, logs and stumps are plentiful, they may not be concentrated in the locations where people want to sit such as when they gather together as a group around a fire and tell stories.</p> <p>What is needed is an apparatus that people can use for sitting in all areas, such as areas with few rocks, logs and stumps. What is also needed is an apparatus that is portable so people can easily carry or</p>	<p>3 FIG. 3 illustrates one embodiment of the invention with a support member or back attached to a planar surface or seat.</p> <p>It is understood that the drawings are for illustration only and are not limiting.</p> <p>DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS</p> <p>Referring first to FIG. 1, one embodiment of apparatus 100 of the invention includes a planar surface or "seat" 102. Planar surface or seat 102 is preferably formed of wood, and in some embodiments planar surface or seat 102 is round, rectangular or square.</p> <p>Elongate members or "legs" 104 of apparatus 100 have two ends, with one end connected to planar surface 102. In the embodiment that is illustrated in FIG. 1, apparatus 100 has three elongate members 104. In the embodiment that is illustrated in FIG. 2, apparatus 100 has four elongate members 104.</p> <p>Although not illustrated in the figures, in one embodiment elongate members 104 are first formed as separate pieces and then they are joined to planar surface 102. In another embodiment elongate members 104 and planar surface 102 are all formed together. In one embodiment when elongate members 104 and planar surface 102 are formed as separate pieces and then joined, the connection between elongate members 104 and planar surface 102 is generally rigid and semi-permanent such as with glue. In another embodiment elongate members 104 are generally rigid and easily connected and removed from planar surface 102, such as by folding.</p> <p>The physical relationship between elongate members 104 and planar surface 102 is such that elongate members 104 are generally parallel to each other and also perpendicular to planar surface 102. This configuration is illustrated in FIG. 1 and 2. It is possible that elongate members</p>	<p>104 are at an angle and may be made of any material.</p> <p>apparatus 100 may be used for sitting on a stable surface such as a table or a chair. With the elongate members 104, the length of elongate members 104 is generally about the same as the distance from the base to the ends of the legs of an adult. This is one of the reasons for using the term "leg" to apply to elongate members 104. Of course, if apparatus 100 is constructed for use by children, the length of leg 104 may be somewhat shorter. The same considerations apply for the area of planar surface 102.</p> <p>Although illustrative embodiments have been described herein in detail, it should be noted and will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that numerous variations may be made within the scope of the invention without departing from the principle of the invention and without sacrificing its chief advantages.</p> <p>Unless otherwise specifically stated, the terms and expressions have been used herein in terms of description and not terms of limitation. There is no intention to use the terms or expressions to exclude any equivalent or structure shown and described or portions thereof and this invention should be defined in accordance with the claims that follow.</p> <p>We claim:</p> <p>1. An apparatus comprising:</p>	<p>6 a substantially planar surface with a first and a second surface; and at least three elongate members, the members each having a first end and a second end, the first ends connected to the first surface of the planar surface and oriented with respect to the planar surface such that the elongate members are substantially perpendicular to the planar surface and the elongate members are substantially parallel to each other.</p> <p>2. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a support member connected to the second surface of the planar surface and oriented in a direction generally parallel to the elongate members.</p> <p>3. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising exactly three elongate members.</p> <p>4. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising exactly four elongate members.</p> <p>5. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the planar surface and elongate members are wood.</p> <p>6. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the length of each of the elongate members is approximately equal to the distance between the base and the ends of an adult human leg.</p> <p>7. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the area of the planar surface is approximately equal to the area of the back surface of an adult human buttock.</p> <p>*****</p>
Sample Patent page 4	Sample Patent page 5	Sample Patent page 6	Sample Patent page 6



(12) **United States Patent**
PUBLIC et al.

(10) **Patent Number:** 6,543,210 B1
(45) **Date of Patent:** Nov. 9, 2001

(54) **PORTABLE APPARATUS FOR SITTING**

5,064,247 11/1991 Clark et al.
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2,575,221 11/1951 Horner et al.

(75) **Inventors:** John Q. Public, Jane B. Doe,
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(73) **Assignee:** Acme Seating,
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Primary Examiner Benita Millman

(21) **Appl. No.:** 09/876,543

(57) **ABSTRACT**

(22) **Filed:** May 28, 1999

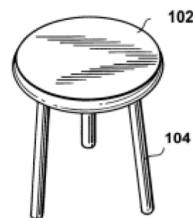
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(60) Provisional application No. 60/999,111 May 28, 1998.
(51) **Int. Cl.**⁶ ..A47C 007/02
(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..297/452.1
(58) **Field of Search** ..297/452.1,440.2

A portable apparatus for use while sitting. The apparatus includes a planar surface or seat with at least three elongate members or legs attached to one side of the planar surface or seat. The elongate members or legs are generally parallel to each other and below the planar surface or seat in use. The apparatus may include a support member or back that is attached to the opposite side of the planar surface or seat and extends upward in use.

(56) **References Cited**
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS
6,250,718 6/2001 Newhouse et al.

7 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets



(57)

ABSTRACT

A portable apparatus for use while sitting. The apparatus includes a planar surface or seat with at least three elongate members or legs attached to one side of the planar surface or seat. The elongate members or legs are generally parallel to each other and below the planar surface or seat in use. The apparatus may include a support member or back that is attached to the opposite side of the planar surface or seat and extends upward in use.

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION



US 6,543,210 B1

1 PORTABLE APPARATUS FOR SITTING

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an apparatus for supporting a human in a sitting position, and more particularly to an apparatus that is portable and stable.

2. Background of Related Art

As known in the prior art, a person walking around their environment and from place to place can become tired and want to rest. One way to rest is to lie on the ground. However, in many areas the ground is dirty and people usually want to rest without becoming dirty. In some areas, rocks, logs and stumps are abundant and people have found that placing their buttock on these rocks, logs and stumps allows them to rest without lying on the ground and becoming dirty. People using this resting technique often say that they "sit" on the rocks, logs or stumps, or are "sitting," and the position when their buttock is on the rock, log or stump is known as a sitting position. In some areas there are very few rocks, logs and stumps and so humans find it difficult to sit. This can be a particular problem in areas with homes, where the rocks, logs and stumps are used to construct the home, and are no longer available for sitting.

Even in areas where rocks, logs and stumps are plentiful, they may not be concentrated in the locations where people want to sit, such as when they gather together as a group around a fire and tell stories.

What is needed is an apparatus that people can use for sitting in all areas, such as areas with few rocks, logs and stumps. What is also needed is an apparatus that is portable so people can easily carry or

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move the apparatus from place to place, allowing them to sit with others in groups.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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In one embodiment, the invention provides an apparatus that includes a substantially planar surface or seat with a first and a second surface, and at least three elongate members or legs. The members or legs each have a first end and a second end. The first ends are connected to the first surface of the planar surface and are oriented with respect to the planar surface such that the legs are substantially perpendicular to the planar surface and are substantially parallel to each other. The length of the legs is approximately equal to the distance between the knee and the ankle of an adult leg. The planar surface is approximately equal in area to the area of the back surface of an adult buttock.

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In one embodiment, the apparatus includes three elongate members or legs.

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In one embodiment, the apparatus includes four elongate members or legs.

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In one embodiment, the apparatus includes a support member or back that is attached to the second surface of the planar surface or seat.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

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The foregoing features and other aspects of the invention are explained in the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying figures wherein:

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FIG. 1 illustrates one embodiment of the invention with three elongate members, or legs attached to a planar surface or seat;

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FIG. 2 illustrates one embodiment of the invention with four elongate members or legs attached to a planar surface or seat; and

1 PORTABLE APPARATUS FOR SITTING

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an apparatus for supporting a human in a sitting position, and more particularly to an apparatus that is portable and stable.

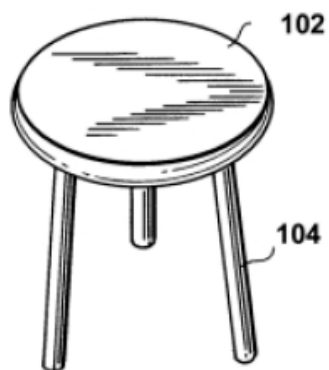


FIG. 1

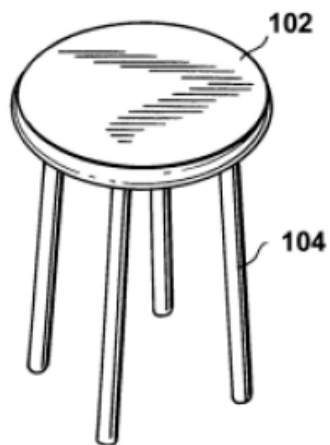


FIG. 2

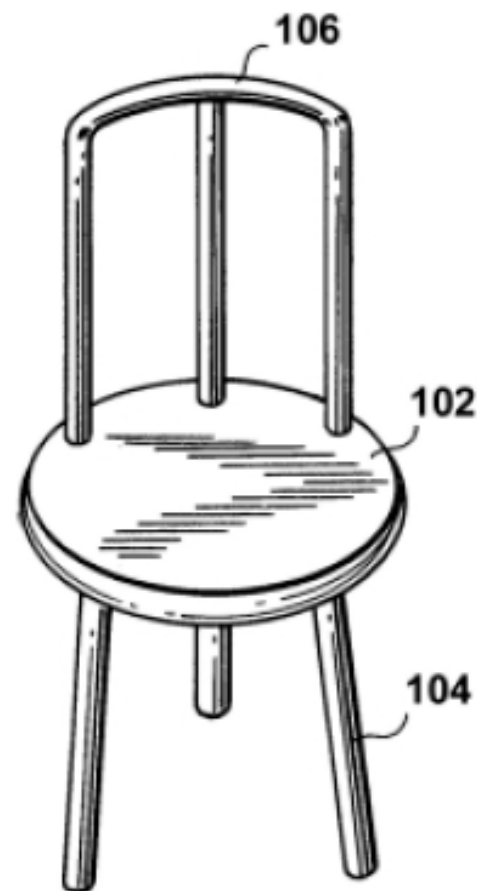


FIG. 3

Detailed Description



DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Referring first to FIG. 1, one embodiment of apparatus 100 of the invention includes a planar surface or "seat" 102. Planar surface or seat 102 is preferably formed of wood, and in some embodiments planar surface or seat 102 is round, rectangular or square.

Elongate members or "legs" 104 of apparatus 100 have two ends, with one end connected to planar surface 102. In the embodiment that is illustrated in FIG. 1, apparatus 100 has three elongate members 104. In the embodiment that is illustrated in FIG. 2, apparatus 100 has four elongate members 104.

Although not illustrated in the figures, in one embodiment, elongate members 104 are first formed as separate pieces and then they are joined to planar surface 102. In another embodiment, elongate members 104 and planar surface 102 are all formed together. In one embodiment, when elongate members 104 and planar surface 102 are formed as separate pieces and then joined, the connection between elongate members 104 and planar surface 102 is generally rigid and semi-permanent, such as with glue. In another embodiment elongate members 104 are generally rigid and easily connected and removed from planar surface 102, such as by threading.

FIG. 1 Elongate members 104.

Although not illustrated in the figures, in one embodiment, elongate members 104 are first formed as separate pieces and then they are joined to planar surface 102. In another embodiment,



(12) **United States Patent**
Plinge et al.

(54) **VERSATILE WRISTWATCH SYSTEM**

(75) **Inventors:** Walter Plinge, Georgina Spelvin, both of New York, NY

(73) **Assignee:** Acme Products, Monument Valley, AZ

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(21) **Appl. No.:** 12/876,543

(22) **Filed:** May 28, 2010

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2010/0027123 A1 Dec. 2, 2010

Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 61/999,111, filed on May 28, 2009.

(51) **Int. Cl.**
G06F 07/02 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC 714/776; 297/452

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 714/776;



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3,131,393 A
3,427,520 A
5,228,133 A
7,069,247 B2

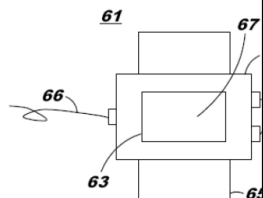
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Primary Exa

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A wristwatch
crystal and a
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speaker. T
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wrist radio tr
telephone fun

FIG. 1



US 8,412,345 B2

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human interface device accordingly. In on the electromagnetic signal is a television human interface device is the display 63 embodiment the electromagnetic signal telephone signal and the human interface speaker 69.

The alert reader will have no diff myriad obvious variations and improve disclosed embodiments, all of which are encompassed within the claims which follo

We claim:

1. A versatile wristwatch system comprisi

a microcontroller powered by a power sour

a display controlled by the microcontroller;

a touchpad overlaying the display and com the microcontroller;

a time base communicatively couple microcontroller;

a digital signal processor communicatively the microcontroller; and

a software-defined radio communicatively the digital signal processor;

a power source powering the microcontro signal processor, and the software-defined

the microcontroller, the digital signal software-defined radio, and the powe contained within a case,

the system further comprising a watchbe with the case and adjustably sized for enc human wrist.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein the pow lithium cell.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein the resolution of at least 60 by 100 pixel controllably to 24 bits of color.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein t comprises a piezoelectric crystal.

We claim:

1. A versatile wristwatch system comprising;

a microcontroller powered by a power source;

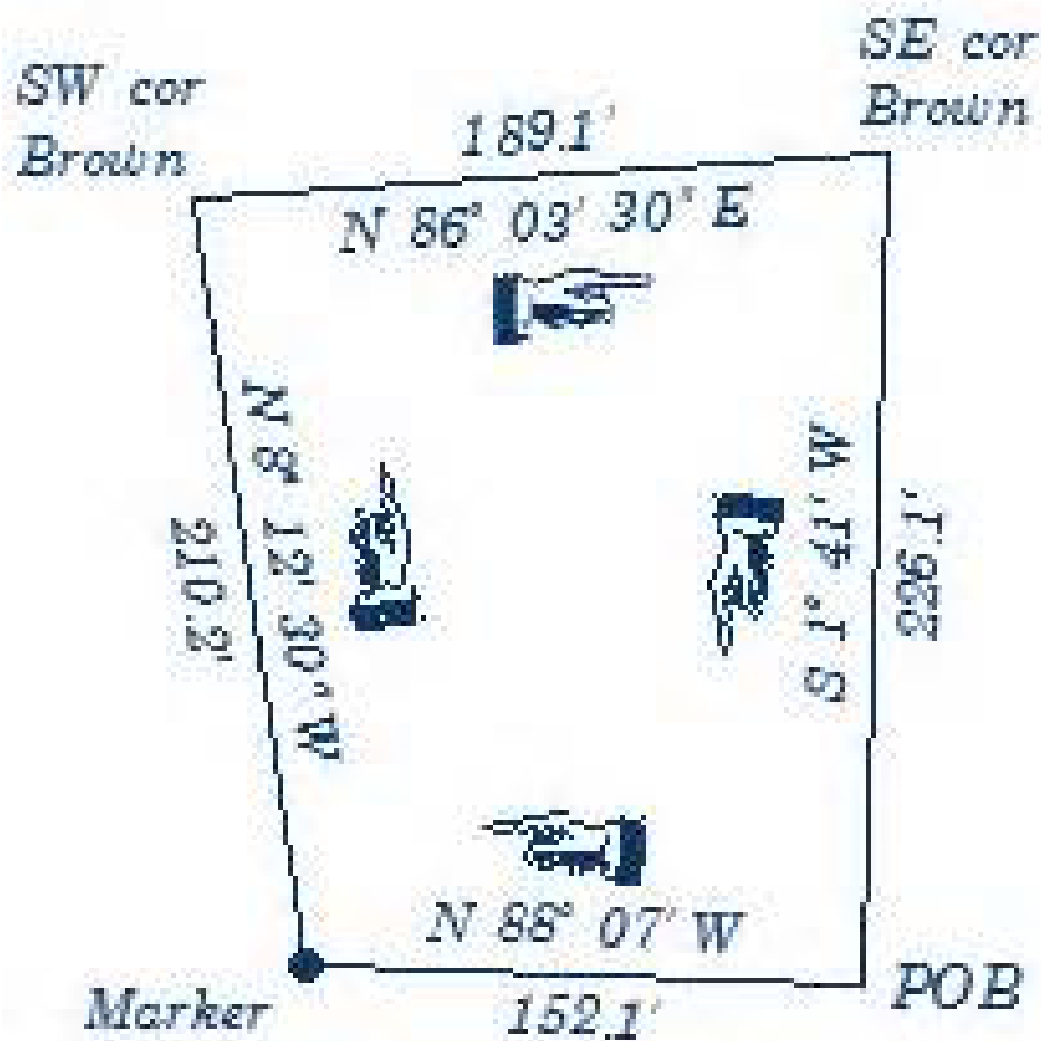
a display controlled by the microcontroller;

a touchpad overlaying the display and communicating to the microcontroller;

a time base communicatively coupled with the microcontroller;

a digital signal processor communicatively coupled with the microcontroller; and

a software-defined radio communicatively coupled with the digital signal processor;

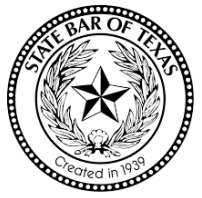






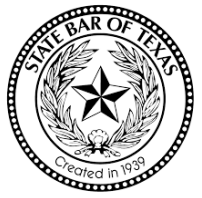












DUTY OF CANDOR



The United States of America



The Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Has received an application for a patent for a new and useful invention. The title and description of the invention are enclosed. The requirements of law have been complied with, and it has been determined that a patent on the invention shall be granted under the law.

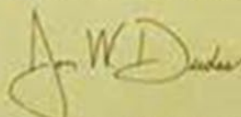
Therefore, this

United States Patent

Grants to the person(s) having title to this patent the right to exclude others from making, using, offering for sale, or selling the invention throughout the United States of America or importing the invention into the United States of America for the term set forth below, subject to the payment of maintenance fees as provided by law.

If this application was filed prior to June 8, 1995, the term of this patent is the longer of seventeen years from the date of grant of this patent or twenty years from the earliest effective U.S. filing date of the application, subject to any statutory extension.

If this application was filed on or after June 8, 1995, the term of this patent is twenty years from the U.S. filing date, subject to any statutory extension. If the application contains a specific reference to an earlier filed application or applications under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121 or 365(c), the term of the patent is twenty years from the date on which the earliest application was filed, subject to any statutory extensions.



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Types of Patent Applications

- Utility Patent Application
- Design Patent Application
- Plant Patent Application

Utility Patent Application



- Provisional
- Non-Provisional (a/k/a regular utility)

Utility Filing Requirements



- Application Data Sheet
- Inventor Oath or Declaration
- Filing Fee
- Written Description and at least one claim
(Specification)
- Drawings, if needed



Application Data Sheet

- Form available on www.uspto.gov
- Must include:
 - *Inventor information*
 - *Correspondence address*
 - *Application information*
 - *Representative information* (if applicable)
 - *Domestic benefit information* (“*claim to priority*”)
 - *Foreign priority information* (if applicable)
 - *Applicant information* (if not the inventor)

Inventor Oath or Declaration



- Form available on www.uspto.gov
- Must be in writing and signed
- Must contain statements that:
 - (1) application was made or was authorized to be made by the affiant or declarant; and
 - (2) such individual believes himself or herself to be the original inventor or an original joint inventor of a claimed invention in the application



Fees

- Fees are charged for filing, searching, examining, issuing, appealing, and maintaining patent applications and patents
- Subject to change – check PTO fee schedule
- Cheaper to file electronically
- Fees reduced by 50% for SMALL entity
- Fees reduced by 75% for any MICRO entity:
 - Gross income basis
 - Institution of higher education basis



Fees

- Basic filing fee (currently \$320 for large entity)
- Search fee (currently \$700 – large entity)
- Examination fee (currently \$800 – large entity)
- Issue Fee (currently \$1200 – large entity)

These fees reduce by 50% for small entity and 75% for micro entity.

Written Description (Specification)



- Requirements for margins, spacing and numbering of pages, paragraphs
- Must end with one or more claims
- Claims must be supported by written description
- Can include cross-reference to related applications



Background

- No specific requirements
- Brief description of the related prior art
- Could describe what others have done and failed to do (but keep it brief)
- Helps examiner search for relevant prior art

Summary



- Overview of nature and substance of invention
- May consider writing Summary to track Claims but in sentence-form



Brief Description of the Drawings

- Only needed if application includes drawings
- May include several views of invention
 - Schematic view
 - Top view, bottom, side, etc.
 - Cross-sectional view

Detailed Description



- Describe embodiment(s) of invention and method(s) of operation when applicable
- Should be specific and describe invention fully
- If drawings are part of application, must include reference to drawing numerals
- Can include examples (i.e., lab trial results)

Claims



- Define boundaries of invention
- Must particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter that applicant regards as invention
- Terms and phrases used in claims must find clear support in written description so that meaning of the terms/phrases can be understood by examiner and public

Abstract



- Separate page after the claims
- One paragraph
- 150 words or less

Drawings



- Highly recommended
- Actual size/scale NOT required or recommended
- Must show every feature of invention in claims
- Check PTO rules for size and type of paper, margins, font size, etc.
- Generally should be in black and white

Design Patent Application



- Cannot file a design application as provisional
- Must include title, one claim, one or more drawings, and a brief description of the drawings
- No reference characters are included in drawings and should clearly depict the appearance, since the drawing defines the scope of patent protection

Application Notes



- Receive immediate acknowledgment of filing if filed electronically – filing date and application number
- Must convert provisional to non-provisional application within 12 months; otherwise cannot claim priority to provisional filing date
- Consider whether foreign filing desired – must file within 12 months of original filing date

Office Action



- Communication from patent examiner evaluating patentability of invention
- May include one or more rejections with references (patents/publications) believed to pre-date invention
- Respond within 3 months to avoid extension of time fees (have up to 6 months to respond)

Response to Office Action



- Should be brief and specifically respond to objections/rejections
- Claim amendments must be supported by original specification
 - Must include claim identifiers (i.e., currently amended, original, withdrawn, canceled)
 - Use underlining to show additions/strikethroughs to show deletions

Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee



- Identifies what claims have been allowed, amount of issue fee, when issue fee must be paid, and any reasons for allowance
- Must pay issue fee by deadline or else patent application will go abandoned



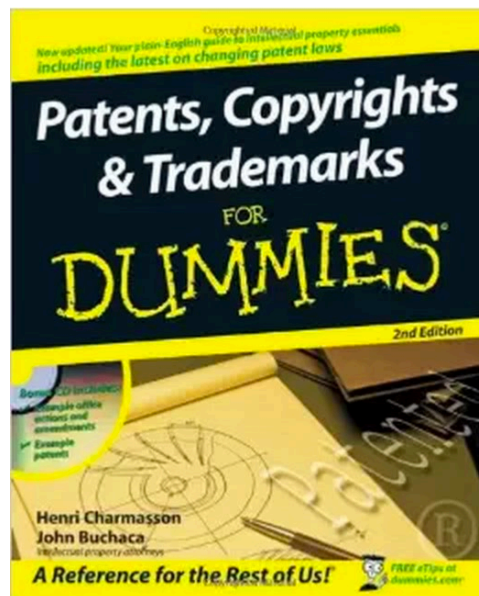
Maintenance Fees

- Due 3.5, 7.5 and 11.5 years after grant of patent
- Fees increase at each deadline
- Small entity and micro-entity discounts available
- Payable online
- Must pay or else patent will go abandoned



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Patent Process Pointers



1. Filing a Provisional Patent Application Does Not Mean You Have a Patent

Patent Process Pointers



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2. Requirement to File Non-Provisional Application Within 1 Year to Retain Benefit of Provisional Application

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3. Ensuring Sufficiency of Description



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3. Ensuring Sufficiency of Description
4. Importance of Patent Claims



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3. Ensuring Sufficiency of Description
4. Importance of Patent Claims
5. Relevance/Emphasis of Prior Art



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5. Relevance/Emphasis of Prior Art
6. On-Sale Bar

Patent Pro Bono Assistance



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