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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION

07CV2532
JUDGE FILIP
MAGISTRATE JUDGE COLE

The Ultimate Back Store, Inc. d/b/a Home Office Solutions,

Plaintiff,

v.

Belnick, Inc. d/b/a bizchair.com,

Defendant.

Jury Trial Demanded

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, The Ultimate Back Store d/b/a Home Office Solutions ("Home Office Solutions"), by its attorneys, for its complaint against Defendant Belnick, Inc. ("Belnick") hereby demands a jury trial and alleges as follows:

THE PARTIES

1. Plaintiff Home Office Solutions is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Illinois, and has its principal place of business at 1498 Waukegan Road, Glenview, Illinois, 60025.

2. Upon information and belief, Defendant Belnick is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Georgia, and has its principal place of business at 1325 Chastain Road, Suite 400, Kennesaw, Georgia, 30144.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

3. This action is for patent infringement arising under the patent laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. § 1 *et seq.*

4. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this dispute pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338.

5. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Belnick because Belnick has done and is doing business in Illinois, and in this judicial district.

6. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b), 1391(c), and 1400(b). Upon information and belief, Belnick is doing business in this district and wrongful acts committed by Belnick have occurred in, and are causing injury to Home Office Solutions in, this district.

COUNT I – INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 6,804,938

7. On October 19, 2004, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued U.S. Patent No. 6,804,938 ("the '938 patent") to Marc A. Levin and Barry L. Donahue, who assigned to The Ultimate Back Store, Inc. d/b/a Home Office Solutions the entire right, title, and interest to the '938 patent, including all rights to recover for all infringements thereof. A copy of the '938 patent is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

8. Without Home Office Solutions' authorization, Belnick has been and still is infringing the '938 patent by making, using, offering to sell, selling, and/or importing into the United States products, processes, and/or systems that are covered by one or more claims of the '938 patent.

9. Upon information and belief, Belnick has been knowingly, intentionally, and deliberately infringing the '938 patent, making this an exceptional case.

10. In March of 2007, Home Office Solutions informed Belnick of the '938 patent, and its belief that Belnick infringed that patent. During March and April, Home Office Solutions and Belnick were involved in discussions regarding reaching a mutually beneficial business

resolution of this dispute, including discussing a license. In the midst of these discussions, Belnick abruptly filed a lawsuit in the Northern District of Georgia on April 30, 2007 (Case No. 07-960).

11. Home Office Solutions has been and will continue to be irreparably harmed by Belnick's infringement of the '938 patent.

COUNT II – INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 6,952,907

12. On October 11, 2005, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued U.S. Patent No. 6,952,907 ("the '907 patent") to Marc A. Levin and Barry L. Donahue, who assigned to The Ultimate Back Store, Inc. d/b/a Home Office Solutions the entire right, title, and interest to the '907 patent, including all rights to recover for all infringements thereof. A copy of the '907 patent is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

13. Without Home Office Solutions' authorization, Belnick has been and still is infringing the '907 patent by making, using, offering to sell, selling, and/or importing into the United States products, processes, and/or systems that are covered by one or more claims of the '907 patent.

14. Upon information and belief, bizchair.com has been knowingly, intentionally, and deliberately infringing the '907 patent, making this an exceptional case.

15. In March of 2007, Home Office Solutions informed Belnick of the '907 patent, and its belief that Belnick infringed that patent. During March and April, Home Office Solutions and Belnick were involved in discussions regarding reaching a mutually beneficial business resolution of this dispute, including discussing a license. In the midst of these discussions, Belnick abruptly filed a lawsuit in the Northern District of Georgia on April 30, 2007 (Case No. 07-960).

16. Home Office Solutions has been and will continue to be irreparably harmed by Belnick's infringement of the '907 patent.

JURY DEMAND

17. Trial by Jury is hereby demanded.

RELIEF SOUGHT

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays:

A. For damages to compensate Plaintiff for the infringement of the '938 and '907 patents, together with prejudgment and postjudgment interest;

B. For treble damages pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284 because Defendant's infringement has been willful;

C. For judgment that this is an exceptional case under 35 U.S.C. § 285, and that Defendant shall pay to Plaintiff all its attorney fees;

D. An injunction against further infringement of the '938 and '907 patents by bizchair.com, its agents, servants, employees, officers, and all others controlled by them;

E. For an assessment of costs against Defendant; and

G. For all such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 4, 2007

By: _____

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EXHIBIT

A

US006804938B2

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

(10) **Patent No.: US 6,804,938 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent: Oct. 19, 2004**

(54) **PACKAGING DEVICE AND METHOD FOR SHIPPING FURNITURE**

(75) Inventors: **Marc A. Levin**, Vernon Hills, IL (US); **Barry L. Donahue**, Glenview, IL (US)

(73) Assignee: **The Ultimate Back Store, Inc.**, Glenview, IL (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **10/004,383**

(22) Filed: **Oct. 31, 2001**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2003/0079441 A1 May 1, 2003

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation-in-part of application No. 09/841,337, filed on Apr. 24, 2001, now abandoned.

(51) **Int. Cl.**[7] **B65B 11/58**; B65B 23/00

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **53/449**; 53/397; 53/467; 53/472; 53/474

(58) **Field of Search** 53/397, 399, 449, 53/467, 472, 474, 139.5, 139.7; 206/326, 320; 297/440.1, 440.13, 440.14, 440.15, 440.22, 440.23, 440.24

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method for shipping a piece of furniture having a base section removably secured to a seat section that involves removing the seat section from the base section and inserting the seat section and the base section into a shipping container. A packaging apparatus suitable for overnight delivery which includes a shipping container and at least one shipping sleeve capable of receiving an edge portion of the seat section of the furniture with the at least one shipping sleeve positionable within the shipping container to abut a side wall of the shipping container is also disclosed.

91 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets

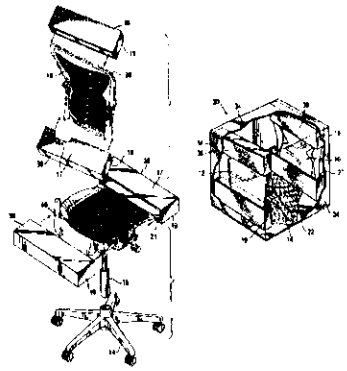


Fig. 1

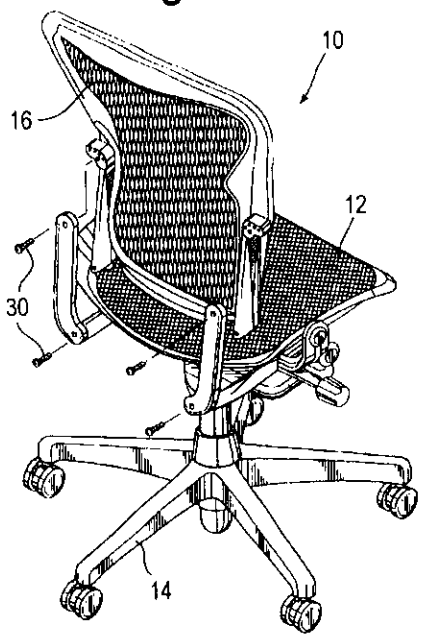


Fig. 2

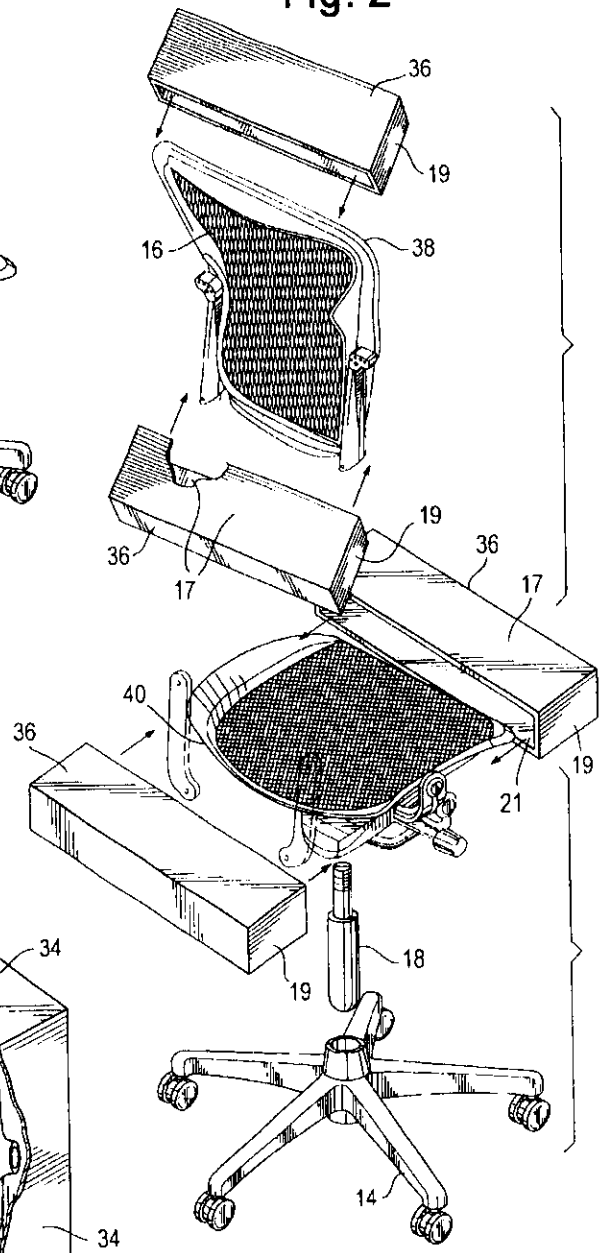


Fig. 3

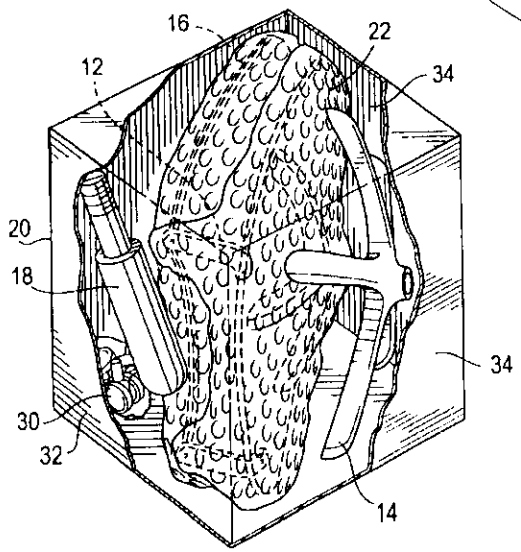


Fig. 4

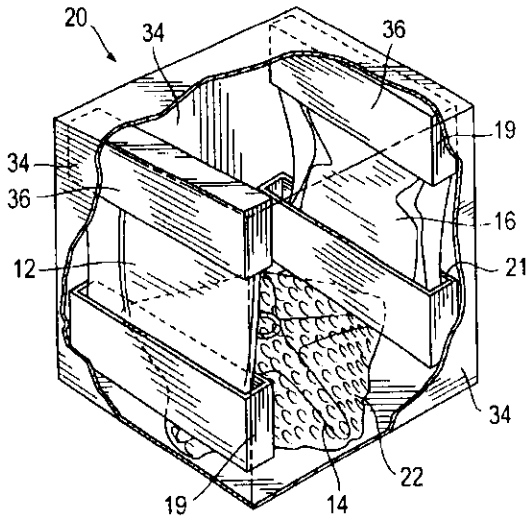


Fig. 5

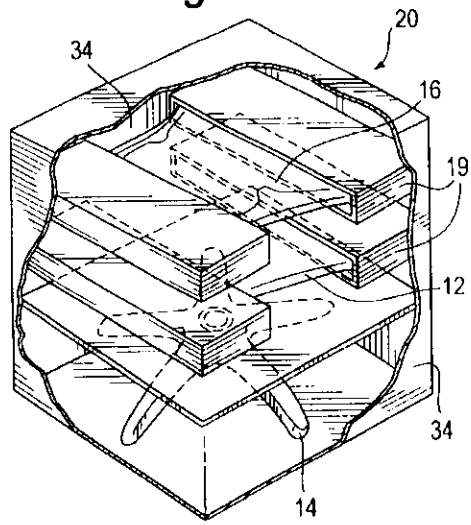


Fig. 6

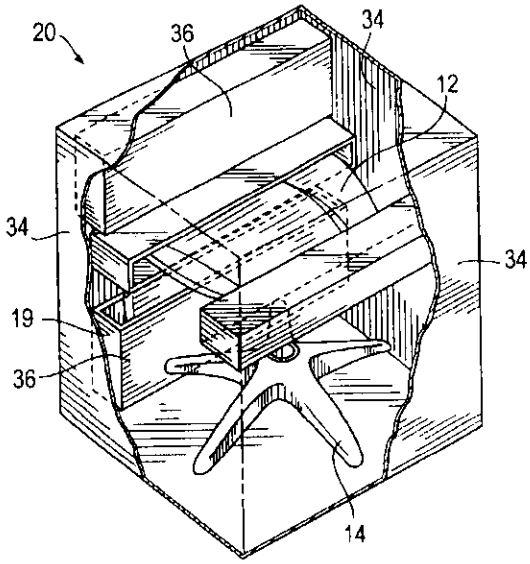
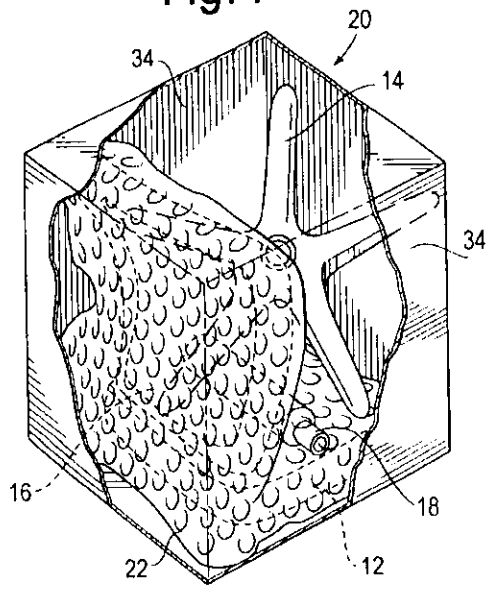


Fig. 7



PACKAGING DEVICE AND METHOD FOR SHIPPING FURNITURE

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/841,337 entitled "Packaging Device and Method of Shipping" by Marc A. Levin and Barry L. Donahue, filed Apr. 24, 2001, now abandoned.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates generally to the shipment of goods and, more particularly, to a method and apparatus for packaging furniture for overnight delivery.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

In any retail business one of the factors that effects the purchase price charged to the consumer is the shipping or distribution cost. This cost which varies depending upon, among other things, the method of transportation used and the speed of delivery can have an impact not only on the purchase price but also on the ability to make the sale and the degree of customer satisfaction.

In the era of "just-in-time" inventory and delivery, it has become imperative that goods be shipped as quickly and economically as possible. This has resulted in a highly competitive overnight delivery industry that allows retailers to deliver goods to the consumer in one or two days.

A limitation imposed by overnight delivery companies, however, involves the size of the containers in which goods can be shipped overnight. This size constraint, although necessary to allow container handling by one person, creates a problem for sellers of goods such as furniture that do not fit in a container that satisfies the requirements for overnight delivery. Given the container size limitation imposed by overnight deliver companies, a packaging method and apparatus that would allow shippers of goods such as furniture to take advantage of the cost savings and customer satisfaction generated by being able to ship overnight would be an important improvement in the art.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention involves a method for shipping a piece of furniture having a seat section removably secured to a base section. The method is comprised of the steps of removing the seat section from the base section and inserting the seat section and the base section into a shipping container.

The invention also involves a packaging apparatus for packing a piece of furniture having a base section removable from a seat section. This packaging apparatus is comprised of a shipping container and at least one shipping sleeve capable of receiving an edge of the seat section where the shipping sleeve is capable of being positioned within the shipping container so as to abut and support at least one side wall of the shipping container.

The purpose of the invention is to provide a new method and apparatus for packaging and shipping furniture that overcomes some of the problems and shortcomings of the prior art. This is accomplished by providing a new method and apparatus for packaging and shipping furniture that allows the furniture to be shipped via an overnight delivery service.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of a piece of furniture used in one embodiment of the invention.

FIG. **2** is a perspective exploded view of the furniture shown in FIG. **1** with the back section removed from the seat section and shipping sleeves aligned for positioning over opposing edge portions of the back and seat sections in which one shipping sleeve is partially cut-away.

FIG. **3** is a partial cut-away perspective view of a shipping container showing the seat and back sections wrapped in a protective wrap and packaged diagonally within the container as well as the center post and base section positioned inside of the container.

FIG. **4** is a partial cut-away perspective view of a shipping container showing the edges of the seat and back sections contained in shipping sleeves and the seat and back sections packaged against opposing side walls of the container.

FIG. **5** is a partial cut-away perspective view of a shipping container showing the edges of the seat and back sections contained in shipping sleeves and the seat and back sections stacked vertically on top of the base.

FIG. **6** is a partial cut-away perspective view of a shipping container showing the edges of the seat and back sections contained in shipping sleeves and the seat section packaged on top of the base with the back section packaged between the seat section and one of the side walls.

FIG. **7** is a partial cut-away perspective view of a shipping container showing the back section secured to the seat section wrapped in a packaging material and placed in a shipping container with the base and center post packaged on top of the seat section.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

As shown in FIGS. **1–7**, the invention involves a method and an apparatus for shipping a piece of furniture **10** having a seat section **12** removably secured to a base section **14**. The method is comprised of the steps of removing the seat section **12** from the base section **14** and inserting the seat section **12** and the base section **14** into a shipping container **20**.

In one embodiment of the invention, the furniture **10** is a chair, however, any suitable piece of furniture utilizing a base section could be used without departing from the spirit of the invention.

In another embodiment of the invention, the furniture **10** is shipped via an overnight delivery service. In such embodiment, the shipping container **20** may have outside dimensions of 26 inches in width, 26 inches in depth, and 25 inches in height, however, other dimensions suitable for overnight delivery may also be used without departing from the spirit of the invention.

For purposes of this invention, an overnight delivery container **20** is defined as a container having a DIM measurement of 130 inches or less. The use, however, of containers suitable for overnight delivery having DIM measurements no greater than 150 inches is also contemplated as being within the scope of the invention. The DIM measurement is calculated by adding the length of the four sides of a container **20** to its height. In the above example, the DIM would be 129 inches (i.e., 26+26+26+26+25). The container **20** is constructed of any suitable material, including a regular slotted, 500 lb double wall corrugated container.

As shown in FIGS. **3**, **4** and **7**, any or all portions of the furniture **10** may be wrapped in protective material **22** prior

to being inserted into the shipping carton **20**. This material may, for example, be placed around all the base section **14** to prevent it from scraping against the seat section **12** when it is positioned in the container **20** along with the base **14**, as shown in FIG. **4**. The seat section **12** may also be covered, however, such covering is not a requirement of the invention. The protective covering **22** may be constructed of bubble wrap, fiber-filled wrap, an air-filled wrap or other suitable material.

Furniture **10** may also include accessory parts **30**, as seen in FIGS. **1** and **3**, which are necessary for reassembly. These parts, which may include attachment screws for a seat and back sections **12** and **16** as well as assembly tools, are attached to the furniture **10**. In a specific version of such embodiment the accessory parts **30** are secured in an accessory bag **32** which is attached to the furniture **10** in any suitable manner including, for example, by securing the accessory bag **32** to the furniture **10**. Such accessory parts **30** may be attached to any of the packaging material, including shipping sleeves **36** without departing from the spirit of the invention.

In practicing the invention, the seat section **12** of the furniture **10** is removed from the base **14** using appropriate tools such as an Allen wrench or the like. In one embodiment of the invention, a center post **18** is used to connect the seat section **12** to the base section **14**. This center post **18** which may be an elevation piston is also removed from both the seat section **12** and the base section **14** prior to those parts being placed in a shipping container **20**.

In yet another embodiment of the invention, as shown in FIG. **1**, the furniture **10** includes a back section **16** secured to the seat section **12**. In a specific version of such embodiment, the back section **16** is removably secured to the seat section **12**, however, the furniture **10** may be packaged in a shipping container **20** with the back section **16** attached to the seat section **12** as shown in FIG. **7**. When the back section **16** is removed from the seat section **12**, the inventive method for shipping the furniture **10** is further comprised of the steps of removing the back section **16** from the seat section **12** and inserting both the back section **16** and the seat section **12** into the shipping container **20**. The back section **16** may be positioned: (1) generally parallel to the seat section **12** generally along the diagonal of the container **20**, as shown in FIG. **3**; (2) between the seat section **12** and a side wall **34** of the shipping container **20** and generally transverse to the seat section **12** which is vertically stacked on the base **14**, as shown in FIG. **6**; (3) along a side wall **34** opposite of the seat section **12** as shown in FIG. **4**; (4) to overlie the seat section **12** in a vertical stack, as shown in FIG. **5**; or (5) so as to be nested between arms (not shown) that may be connected to the seat section **12**.

In practicing this specific version of the invention, the seat section **12** of the furniture **10** is removed from the base **14** using appropriate tools such as an Allen wrench or the like. In the same manner, the back section **16** is removed from the seat section **12**. Once removed, a protective wrapping **22** is placed around the seat and back sections **12** and **16** and such sections are placed generally parallel with one another and generally along a diagonal of the container **20** as shown in FIG. **3**. Any remaining furniture parts including, for example, the center piston **18** are placed in container **20** on either side of the seat and back section **12**, **16**.

In another embodiment of the invention, at least one protective shipping sleeve **36** is placed over or in contact with the edge **38** of the back section **16**. The shipping sleeve **36** may measures 25.5 inches wide by 7 inches deep by 2 inches high, however, the invention does not preclude the use of sleeves **36** of other dimensions. Shipping sleeves **36** are preferably made out of perforated single wall 275 psi corrugated cardboard, however, other suitable materials such as Styrofoam® may also be used. Additionally, other types of packaging material such as pillows filled with air or fiber may also be used as shipping sleeves **36** when such materials are placed in contact with the edge **38** of the back section **16**. If necessary for shipment, a shipping sleeve **36** may also be placed in contact with or over an edge portion **40** of the seat section **12**, as shown in FIG. **2**.

In one version of the embodiment, at least one of the shipping sleeves **36** supports at least one side wall **34** of the shipping container **20**. In a more specific version of this embodiment, as shown in FIGS. **4–6**, more than one shipping sleeve **36** is used, and each shipping sleeve **36** supports at least one side wall **34** of the shipping container **20**. As stated above, such shipping sleeve **36** can be made of any suitable packaging material including, for example, corrugated cardboard or Styrofoam®.

Shipping sleeve **36** is a structure which encases or contacts at least a portion of the edge **38**, **40** of the back section **16** or the seat section **12**. The sleeve **36**, as seen in more detail in FIG. **2**, may be constructed to take on a generally rectangular shape having top and bottom wall members **17**, side wall members **19**, and at least one opening **21** for receiving an edge portion **38**, **40** of back section **16** or seat section **12**. The sleeve **36** is positionable between a side wall **34** of the container **20** and the edge **38** and provides a surface for abutting the side wall **34** of the container **20**. It should be well understood that sleeve **36** can take on many shapes that will satisfy the requirements of the present invention including a U-shaped construction having multiple side openings or a pillow abutting an edge portion **38**,**40** of the back or seat section **16**, **12**. A U-shaped sleeve **16** would be wrapped around such edge portion **38**, **40**.

In another version of the embodiment, arms (not shown) are connected to the seat section **12**, and the back section **16** when removed may be positioned to overlie the arms when the base **14**, seat **12** and back section **16** are packaged in a vertical stack. In such an embodiment, a piece of cardboard or the like may be placed between the base **14** and the seat section **12**. Moreover, the back section **16**, when removed from the seat section **12**, may be nested between the arms and overlie seat section **12**.

The insertion of the furniture **10** into the shipping container **20** includes positioning at least one shipping sleeve **36** to abut opposing side walls **34** of the container **20**. As shown in FIGS. **4–6**, shipping sleeve **36**, when positioned within the shipping container **20**, has side wall members **19** positioned to abut at least one side wall **34** of container **20** so as to support the side walls **34**.

The insertion of the furniture **10** into the shipping container **20** may, as shown in FIGS. **4–6** also involve positioning two shipping sleeves **36** such that a first sleeve **36** is placed over the edge portion **38**, **40** of the back or seat section **16**, **12** and a second sleeve **36** is placed over an opposing edge portion **38**, **40** of the back or seat section **16**, **12**. Insertion of the furniture **10** into the container **20** may, as shown in FIGS. **5** and **6**, also include abutting the first shipping sleeve **36** against a first side wall **34** of the container **20** adjacent an edge **40**, **38** of the seat **12** or back section **16**, and abutting the second shipping sleeve **36** against an opposing second side wall **34** of the container **20**, where the second side wall **34** of the container **20** is adjacent an opposing edge **40**, **38** of the seat **12** or back section **16** thereby providing support to side walls **34**.

FIG. **2** shows the inventive method in which a first protective shipping sleeve **36** and a second protective shipping sleeve **36** are placed on a first and second edge portion **40, 38** of the seat **12** or back section **16**, respectively and the back section **16** is positioned so as to overlie seat section **12**, as seen in FIG. **5**. Once this is accomplished and prior to insertion into the container **20**, all of the furniture **10** is enclosed in protective bag (not shown), and the protective bag is placed in a shipping container **20**, in such a manner that each of the protective shipping sleeves **36** abut at least one side wall **34** of the shipping container **20**.

In still another embodiment of the invention, the back section **16** of the furniture **10** is positioned between the seat section **12** and a side wall **34** of the packaging container **20**, as shown in FIG. **6**. In this embodiment, side wall members **19** of shipping sleeves **36** abut opposing side walls **34** of container **20** thereby providing additional support to container **20**.

The invention also involves a packaging apparatus for packing a piece of furniture **10** having a base section **14** removable from a seat section **12**. The above description of the packaging used with the inventive method is herein incorporated in the description of the packaging apparatus. The packaging apparatus is comprised of shipping container **20** and at least one shipping sleeve **36** capable of receiving an edge portion **40** of the seat section **12** of the furniture **10**, whereby the shipping sleeve **36** abuts a side wall **34** of the shipping container **20**.

At least two shipping sleeves **36** may be placed on the edge portion **40** of the seat section **12** and each of these shipping sleeves **36** abuts at least one side wall **34** of the shipping container **20**. Such shipping sleeves **36** may be made of any suitable packaging material including, for example, corrugated cardboard or Styrofoam®.

Furthermore, at least a portion of one shipping sleeve **36** abuts at least one side wall **34** of the shipping container **20** when the sleeve **36** is positioned within the shipping container **20**. Additionally, the shipping sleeve **36** may abut opposing side walls **34** of the shipping container **20**.

As shown in FIGS. **2**, and **4–6**, the packaging apparatus may also have a first and second shipping sleeve **36** in which the first shipping sleeve **36** is positionable over the edge portion **38** of the back section **16** and the second shipping sleeve **36** is positionable over an opposing edge **38** of the back section **16**. In the configuration shown in FIG. **5**, the first sleeve **36** abuts a side wall **34** of the container **20** adjacent an edge **38** of the back section **16** and the second sleeve **36** abuts a second side wall **34** of the container **20** where the second side wall **34** is adjacent the opposing edge **38** of the back section **16**, thereby supporting side walls of container **20**.

The shipping container **20** which is part of the packaging apparatus, is suitable for use by an overnight delivery service. The discussions with regard to the dimensions and dimension restrictions associated with container **20** have been set forth above.

While a detailed description of various embodiments of the invention have been given, it should be appreciated that many variations can be made thereto without departing from the scope of the invention as set forth in the appended claims.

What is claimed:

1. A method comprising the steps of:

providing an office chair including a seat section, a back section, and a base section, the base section including a central axis, and a plurality of leg members extending in a radial direction relative to the central axis and wherein each of the plurality of leg members is adapted to accept wheels;

providing a single shipping container including a DIM of no greater than 150 inches;

arranging the base section, the seat section and the back section inside the single shipping container so that the single shipping container is capable of closing;

closing the single shipping container; and

sending the single shipping container via an overnight delivery service.

2. The method of claim **1** further providing the shipping container including outside dimensions of approximately 26 inches in width, 26 inches in depth, and 25 inches in height.

3. The method of claim **1** wherein the shipping container has a DIM of no greater than 130 inches.

4. The method of claim **1** wherein the shipping container is suitable for use by an overnight delivery service.

5. The method of claim **1** wherein the shipping container has a DIM no greater than 135 inches.

6. The method of claim **1** wherein the shipping container has a DIM no greater than 140 inches.

7. The method of claim **1** wherein the seat section and the base section are in a separated condition.

8. The method of claim **1** further comprising the step of covering at least a portion of the office chair with a protective material.

9. The method of claim **8** wherein the protective material is constructed of a bubble wrap.

10. The method of claim **8** wherein the protective material is constructed of a fiber-filled wrap.

11. The method of claim **8** wherein the protective material is constructed of an air-filled wrap.

12. The method of claim **8** wherein the step of covering includes placing protective material around the seat section.

13. The method of claim **1** further comprising the step of enclosing the seat section or the base section in a bag.

14. The method of claim **1** further comprising the steps of providing accessory parts and securing the accessory parts to the office chair before the closing step.

15. The method of claim **14** further comprising placing the accessory parts in to an accessory bag.

16. The method of claim **15** further comprising the step of taping the accessory bag to the office chair.

17. The method of claim **1** wherein the back section is removably secured to the seat section and the method further comprises the steps of:

removing the back section from the seat section; and

inserting the back section into the shipping container.

18. The method of claim **17** further comprising the step of placing at least one protective shipping sleeve in contact with an edge portion of the back section prior to inserting the back section into the shipping container.

19. The method of claim **18** wherein the step of inserting further includes the step of positioning a portion of the at least one sleeve to abut at least one side wall of the shipping container.

20. The method of claim **18** wherein the step of inserting includes positioning the at least one shipping sleeve to abut opposing side walls of the shipping container.

21. The method of claim **18** comprising the further step of providing the at least one shipping sleeve constructed of corrugated cardboard.

22. The method of claim **18** wherein the step of placing includes positioning two shipping sleeves such that a first sleeve is placed in contact with the edge portion of the back

section and a second sleeve is placed in contact with an opposing edge portion of the back section.

23. The method of claim **22** wherein the step of arranging further comprises:

abutting the first shipping sleeve against a first side wall of the container adjacent an edge of the back section; and

abutting the second shipping sleeve against an opposing second side wall of the container, where the second side wall of the container is adjacent an opposing edge of the back section.

24. The method of claim **22** further comprising the steps of:

placing a first protective shipping sleeve and a second protective shipping sleeve in contact with the edge portion of the back section and an opposing edge portion of the back section, respectively;

wrapping the seat section in a protective material;

positioning the back section to overlie the seat section;

placing the back and seat section within a protective bag; and

positioning the protective bag into a shipping container with the first and second protective shipping sleeves each abutting at least one side wall of the shipping container.

25. The method of claim **1** in which the step of inserting includes positioning the back section and the seat section in the container generally aligned in a direction of two opposing corners of the shipping container.

26. The method of claim **1** wherein the back section and the seat section are individually wrapped in a protective cover.

27. The method of claim **1** in which the step of inserting includes positioning the back section between the base section and a side wall of the shipping container in a non-parallel relationship to the base section.

28. The method of claim **1** further comprising the step of positioning the back section to overlie the seat section.

29. The method of claim **1** wherein a pair of arms are connected to the seat section and the method further comprises the step of positioning the back section to overlie the arms.

30. The method of claim **1** wherein a pair of arms are connected to the seat section and the method further comprises the step of nesting the back section between the arms.

31. The method of claim **1** further comprising the step of placing at least one protective shipping sleeve over an edge portion of the back section prior to arranging the back section in the shipping container.

32. The method of claim **31** wherein the step of arranging further includes the step of positioning a portion of the at least one sleeve to contact at least one side wall of the shipping container.

33. The method of claim **31** wherein the step of arranging includes positioning the at least one shipping sleeve to abut opposing side walls of the shipping container.

34. The method of claim **31** comprising the further the step of providing the at least one shipping sleeve constructed of corrugated cardboard.

35. The method of claim **31** wherein the step of placing includes positioning two shipping sleeves such that a first sleeve is placed over the edge portion of the back section and a second sleeve is placed over an opposing edge portion of the back section.

36. The method of claim **35** wherein the step of arranging further comprises:

abutting the first shipping sleeve against a first side wall of the container adjacent an edge of the back section; and

abutting the second shipping sleeve against an opposing second side wall of the container, where the second side wall of the container is adjacent an opposing edge of the back section.

37. The method of claim **36** further comprising the steps of:

wrapping the seat section in a protective material;

positioning the back section to overlie the seat section;

placing the back and seat section within a protective bag; and

positioning the protective bag into a shipping container with the first and second protective shipping sleeves each abutting at least one side wall of the shipping container.

38. A method comprising the steps of:

providing an office chair including a seat section, a back section, and a base section including a central axis, wherein the base section comprises a plurality of leg members extending in a radial direction relative to the central axis;

providing a single shipping container including a DIM of no greater than 130 inches;

arranging the seat section, the back section and the base section inside the single shipping container so that the single shipping container is capable of closing;

closing the single shipping container; and

sending the single shipping container via overnight delivery.

39. The method of claim **38** further comprising providing the shipping container including outside dimensions of approximately 26 inches in width, 26 inches in depth, and 25 inches in height.

40. The method of claim **38** wherein the shipping container is suitable for use by an overnight delivery service.

41. The method of claim **38** wherein the seat section and the back section are in a separated condition.

42. The method of claim **38** further comprising the step of covering at least a portion of the office chair with a protective material.

43. The method of claim **42** wherein the protective material is constructed of a bubble wrap.

44. The method of claim **43** further providing the shipping container including outside dimensions of approximately 26 inches in width, 26 inches in depth, and 25 inches in height.

45. The method of claim **42** wherein the protective material is constructed of a fiber-filled wrap.

46. The method of claim **42** wherein the protective material is constructed of an air-filled wrap.

47. The method of claim **42** wherein the step of covering includes placing protective material around the seat section.

48. The method of claim **42** further comprising the step of enclosing the covered office chair in a bag.

49. The method of claim **38** further comprising providing accessory parts and securing the accessory parts to the office chair before the closing step

50. The method of claim **49** further comprising placing the accessory parts in an accessory bag.

51. The method of claim **49** further comprising the step of taping the accessory bag to the office chair.

52. The method of claim **38** wherein the base section is individually wrapped in a protective cover.

53. The method of claim **38** further comprising the step of positioning the base section under the seat section.

54. The method of claim 38 wherein arms are connected to the seat section and the method further comprises the step of positioning the back section to overlie the arms.

55. The method of claim 54 wherein arms are connected to the seat section and the method further comprises the step of nesting the back section between the arms.

56. The method of claim 38 further comprising the step of placing at least one protective shipping sleeve over an edge portion of the back section prior to the arranging step.

57. The method of claim 56 wherein the step of arranging further includes the step of positioning a portion of the at least one sleeve to abut at least one side wall of the shipping container.

58. The method of claim 56 wherein the step of arranging includes positioning the at least one shipping sleeve to contact opposing side walls of the shipping container.

59. The method of claim 56 further comprising the step of providing the at least one shipping sleeve constructed of corrugated cardboard.

60. The method of claim 56 wherein the step of placing includes positioning two shipping sleeves such that a first sleeve is placed over the edge portion of the back section and a second sleeve is placed over an opposing edge portion of the back section.

61. The method of claim 56 wherein the step of inserting further comprises:

abutting the first shipping sleeve against a first side wall of the container;

abutting the second shipping sleeve against an opposing second side wall of the container.

62. A method comprising the steps of:

providing an office chair including a seat section, a back section, and a base section including a central axis, wherein the base section comprises a plurality of leg members extending in a radial direction relative to the central axis and wherein each of the plurality of leg members is adapted to accept wheels;

providing a single shipping container including a DIM of no greater than 130 inches;

positioning the back section between the base section and a sidewall of the shipping container in a non-parallel relationship to the base section;

arranging the seat section inside the single shipping container relative to the back section and the base section so that the single shipping container is capable of closing;

closing the single shipping container; and

sending the single shipping container via overnight delivery.

63. The method of claim 62 further comprising the step of covering at least a portion of the office chair with a protective material.

64. The method of claim 63 wherein the step of covering includes providing the protective material constructed of a bubble wrap.

65. The method of claim 63 wherein the step of covering includes placing protective material around the seat section.

66. The method of claim 63 further comprising the step of enclosing the covered office chair in a bag prior to the step of inserting.

67. The method of claim 62 further comprising the steps of providing accessory parts and securing accessory parts to the office chair prior to the closing step.

68. The method of claim 67 further comprising placing the accessory parts in to a bag.

69. The method of claim 68 further comprising the step of taping the bag to the office chair.

70. The method of claim 68 further comprising the step of providing a shipping sleeve and securing accessory parts to the shipping sleeve.

71. The method of claim 62 further comprising the step of positioning the back section to overlie the seat section.

72. The method of claim 62 further comprising the step of placing the back section to overlie arms which are connected to the seat section.

73. The method of claim 72 further comprising the step of nesting the back section between the arms.

74. A method comprising the steps of:

providing an office chair including a seat section, a back section, and a base section including a central axis, wherein the base section comprises a plurality of leg members extending in a radial direction relative to the central axis and wherein each of the plurality of leg members is adapted to accept wheels;

providing a single shipping container including a DIM of no greater than 150 inches;

positioning the back section and the seat section in the single shipping container in such a manner so as to position the back section between the seat section and a portion of the shipping container;

arranging the base section inside the single shipping container relative to the back section and the seat section so that the single shipping container is capable of closing;

closing the single shipping container; and

sending the single shipping container via overnight delivery.

75. The method of claim 74 further comprising the step of covering at least a portion of the office chair with a protective material.

76. The method of claim 75 wherein the step of covering includes providing the protective material constructed of a bubble wrap.

77. The method of claim 75 wherein the step of covering includes placing protective material around the seat section.

78. The method of claim 75 further comprising the step of enclosing the covered office chair in a bag prior to the step of inserting.

79. The method of claim 74 further comprising the step of providing accessory parts and securing the accessory parts to the office chair before the closing step.

80. The method of claim 79 further comprising placing the accessory parts in to a bag before the step of securing the accessory parts to the office chair.

81. The method of claim 79 further comprising the step of providing a shipping sleeve and securing accessory parts to the shipping sleeve.

82. The method of claim 74 further comprising the step of taping a bag to the office chair.

83. The method of claim 74 further comprising the step of positioning the back section to overlie the seat section.

84. The method of claim 74 further comprising the step of nesting the back section between the arms.

85. The method of claim 74 further providing the shipping container including outside dimensions of approximately 26 inches in width, 26 inches in depth, and 25 inches in height.

86. The method of claim 74 further providing the shipping container including a DIM of no greater than 130 inches.

87. The method of claim 74 further providing the shipping container including a DIM of no greater than 135 inches.

88. The method of claim 74 further providing the shipping container including a DIM of no greater than 140 inches.

89. The method of claim 74 further providing the shipping container including a DIM of no greater than 145 inches.

90. A method comprising the steps of:

providing an office chair including a seat section, a back section, and a base section including a central axis and a plurality of leg members that extend in a radial direction relative to the central axis, wherein the plurality of leg members is adapted to accept wheels;

placing at least one protective shipping sleeve over an edge portion of the back section, wherein the shipping sleeve is sized and shaped so as to cover the edge portion of the back section;

providing a single shipping container including a DIM of no greater than 130 inches;

arranging the seat section, the back section and the base section of the office chair inside the single shipping container so that the single shipping container is capable of closing;

closing the single shipping container; and

sending the single shipping container via overnight delivery.

91. A method comprising the steps of:

providing an office chair including a seat section, a back section and a base section, the base section including a central axis and a plurality of leg members that extend in a radial direction relative to the central axis, wherein the plurality of leg members is adapted to accept wheels;

placing at least one protective shipping sleeve in contact with an edge portion of the back section and partially over a portion of the back section;

providing a single shipping container including a DIM of no greater than 150 inches;

arranging the seat section, the back section and the base section inside the single shipping container so that the single shipping container is capable of closing;

closing the single shipping container; and

sending the single shipping container via overnight delivery.

* * * * *

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 6,804,938 B2
DATED : October 19, 2004
INVENTOR(S) : Marc A. Levin and Barry L. Donahue

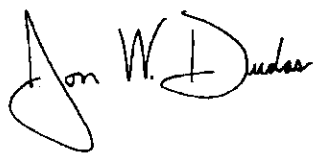
It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 7,
Line 57, delete "the" (second occurrence).

Column 8,
Lines 38 and 39, delete claim 41.

Signed and Sealed this

Twenty-first Day of June, 2005



JON W. DUDAS
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

EXHIBIT B

US006952907B2

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

(10) **Patent No.: US 6,952,907 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent: *Oct. 11, 2005**

(54) **PACKAGING DEVICE AND METHOD FOR SHIPPING FURNITURE**

(75) Inventors: **Marc A. Levin**, Vernon Hills, IL (US); **Barry L. Donahue**, Glenview, IL (US)

(73) Assignee: **The Ultimate Back Store, Inc.**, Glenview, IL (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

(21) Appl. No.: **10/932,901**

(22) Filed: **Sep. 2, 2004**

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Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 10/004,383, filed on Oct. 31, 2001, now Pat. No. 6,804,938, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/841,337, filed on Apr. 24, 2001, now abandoned.

(51) **Int. Cl.**[7] **B65B 11/58**; B65B 23/00

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **53/449**; 53/397; 53/467; 53/472; 53/474

(58) **Field of Search** 297/440.1, 440.13, 297/440.14, 440.15, 440.22, 440.23, 440.24; 53/397, 399, 449, 467, 472, 474, 139; 206/320, 326

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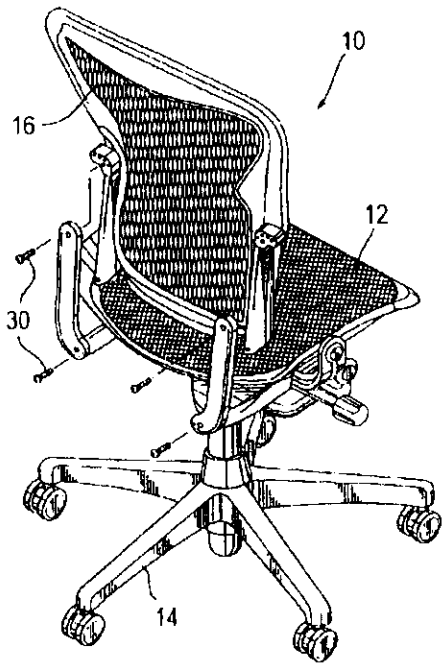
Primary Examiner—Louis Huynh
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Wildman, Harrold, Allen & Dixon LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method for shipping a piece of furniture having a base section removably secured to a seat section that involves removing the seat section from the base section and inserting the seat section and the base section into a shipping container. A packaging apparatus suitable for overnight delivery which includes a shipping container and at least one shipping sleeve capable of receiving an edge portion of the seat section of the furniture with the at least one shipping sleeve positionable within the shipping container to abut a side wall of the shipping container is also disclosed.

14 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets



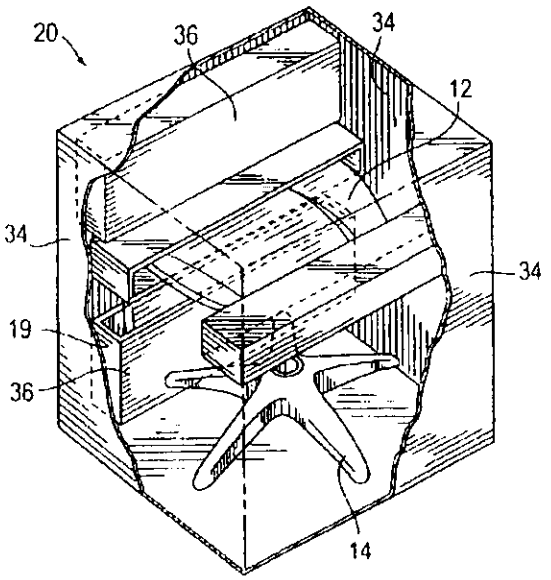


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Fig. 1

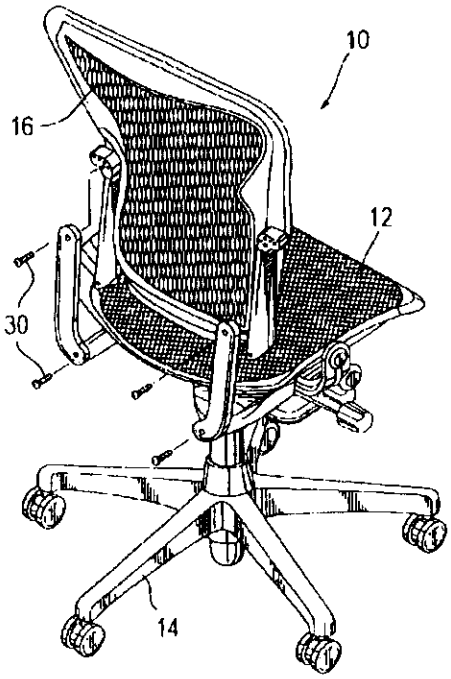


Fig. 2

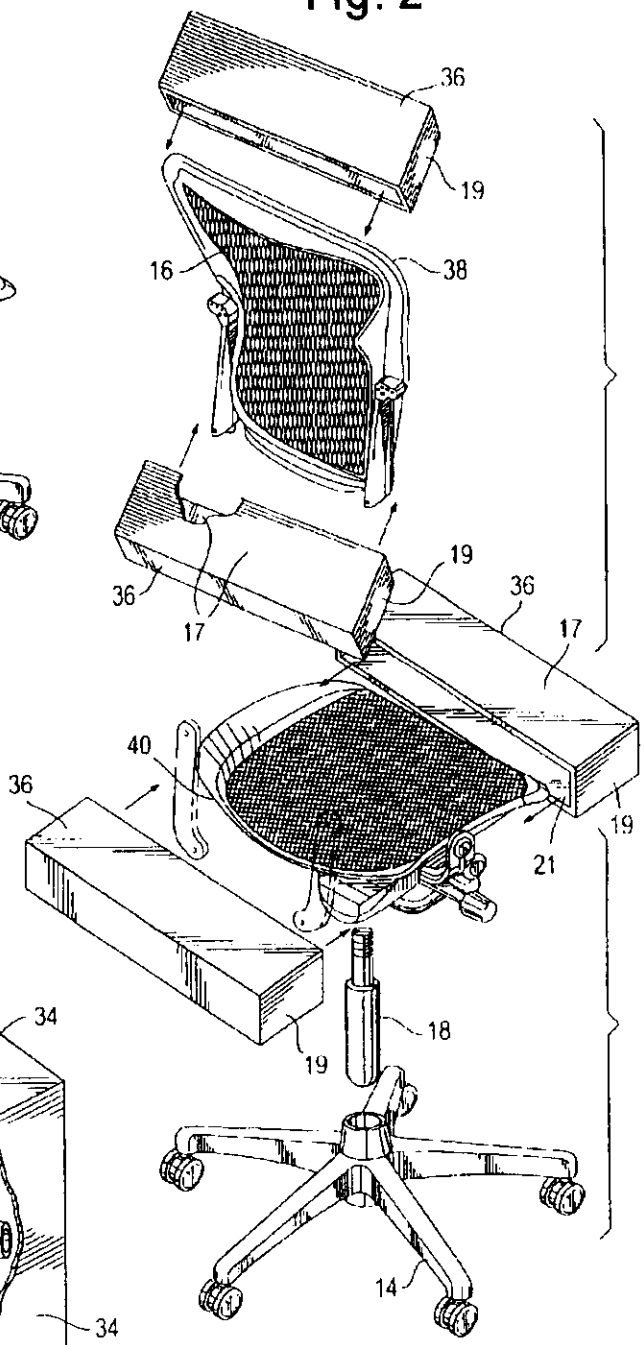


Fig. 3

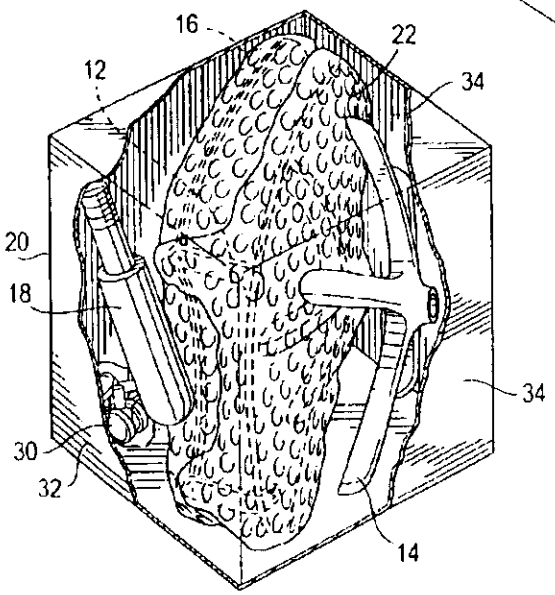


Fig. 4

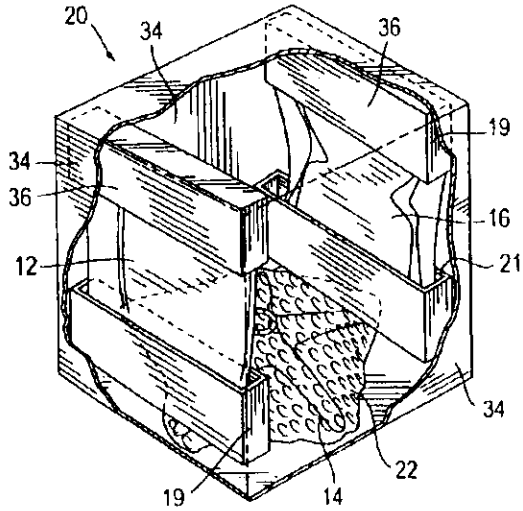


Fig. 5

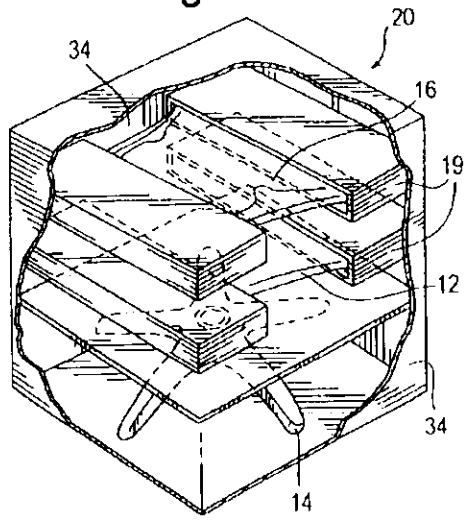


Fig. 6

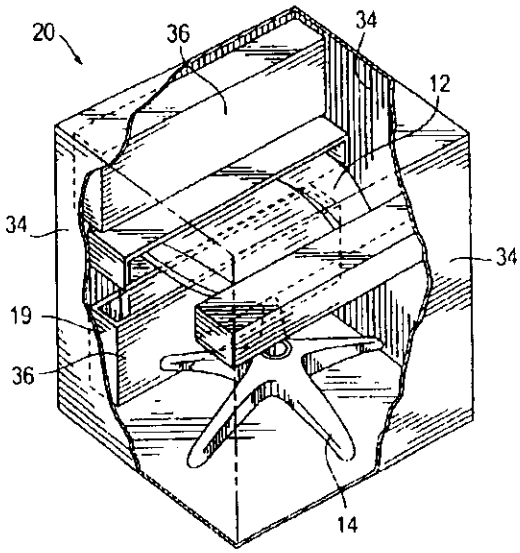
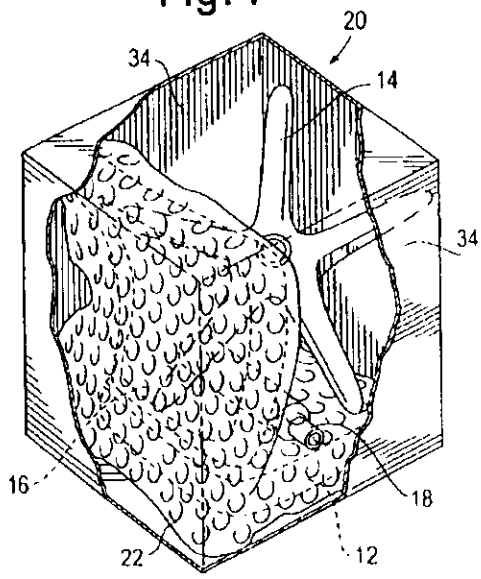


Fig. 7



PACKAGING DEVICE AND METHOD FOR SHIPPING FURNITURE

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/004,383 filed on Oct. 31, 2001, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,804,938, which is continuation-in-part of U.S. App. No. 09/841,337, filed on Apr. 24, 2001, now abandoned.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates generally to the shipment of goods and, more particularly, to a method and apparatus for packaging furniture for overnight delivery.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

In any retail business one of the factors that effects the purchase price charged to the consumer is the shipping or distribution cost. This cost which varies depending upon, among other things, the method of transportation used and the speed of delivery can have an impact not only on the purchase price but also on the ability to make the sale and the degree of customer satisfaction.

In the era of "just-in-time" inventory and delivery, it has become imperative that goods be shipped as quickly and economically as possible. This has resulted in a highly competitive overnight delivery industry that allows retailers to deliver goods to the consumer in one or two days.

A limitation imposed by overnight delivery companies, however, involves the size of the containers in which goods can be shipped overnight. This size constraint, although necessary to allow container handling by one person, creates a problem for sellers of goods such as furniture that do not fit in a container that satisfies the requirements for overnight delivery. Given the container size limitation imposed by overnight deliver companies, a packaging method and apparatus that would allow shippers of goods such as furniture to take advantage of the cost savings and customer satisfaction generated by being able to ship overnight would be an important improvement in the art.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention involves a method for shipping a piece of furniture having a seat 'section removably secured to a base section. The method is comprised of the steps of removing the seat section from the base section and inserting the seat section and the base section into a shipping container.

The invention also involves a packaging apparatus for packing a piece of furniture having a base section removable from a seat section. This packaging apparatus is comprised of a shipping container and at least one shipping sleeve capable of receiving an edge of the seat section where the shipping sleeve is capable of being positioned within the shipping container so as to abut and support at least one side wall of the shipping container.

The purpose of the invention is to provide a new method and apparatus for packaging and shipping furniture that overcomes some of the problems and shortcomings of the prior art. This is accomplished by providing a new method and apparatus for packaging and shipping furniture that allows the furniture to be shipped via an overnight delivery service.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of a piece of furniture used in one embodiment of the invention.

FIG. **2** is a perspective exploded view of the furniture shown in FIG. **1** with the back section removed from the seat section and shipping sleeves aligned for positioning over opposing edge portions of the back and seat sections in which one shipping sleeve is partially cut-away.

FIG. **3** is a partial cut-away perspective view of a shipping container showing the seat and back sections wrapped in a protective wrap and packaged diagonally within the container as well as the center post and base section positioned inside of the container.

FIG. **4** is a partial cut-away perspective view of a shipping container showing the edges of the seat and back sections contained in shipping sleeves and the seat and back sections packaged against opposing side walls of the container.

FIG. **5** is a partial cut-away perspective view of a shipping container showing the edges of the seat and back sections contained in shipping sleeves and the seat and back sections stacked vertically on top of the base.

FIG. **6** is a partial cut-away perspective view of a shipping container showing the edges of the seat and back sections contained in shipping sleeves and the seat section packaged on top of the base with the back section packaged between the seat section and one of the side walls.

FIG. **7** is a partial cut-away perspective view of a shipping container showing the back section secured to the seat section wrapped in a packaging material and placed in a shipping container with the base and center post packaged on top of the seat section.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

As shown in FIGS. **1–7**, the invention involves a method and an apparatus for shipping a piece of furniture **10** having a seat section **12** removably secured to a base section **14**. The method is comprised of the steps of removing the seat section **12** from the base section **14** and inserting the seat section **12** and the base section **14** into a shipping container **20**.

In one embodiment of the invention, the furniture **10** is a chair, however, any suitable piece of furniture utilizing a base section could be used without departing from the spirit of the invention.

In another embodiment of the invention, the furniture **10** is shipped via an overnight delivery service. In such embodiment, the shipping container **20** may have outside dimensions of 26 inches in width, 26 inches in depth, and 25 inches in height, however, other dimensions suitable for overnight delivery may also be used without departing from the spirit of the invention.

For purposes of this invention, an overnight delivery container **20** is defined as a container having a DIM measurement of 130 inches or less. The use, however, of containers suitable for overnight delivery having DIM measurements no greater than 150 inches is also contemplated as being within the scope of the invention. The DIM measurement is calculated by adding the length of the four sides of a container **20** to its height. In the above example, the DIM would be 129 inches (i.e., 26+26+26+26+25). The container **20** is constructed of any suitable material, including a regular slotted, 500 lb double wall corrugated container.

As shown in FIGS. **3**, **4** and **7**, any or all portions of the furniture **10** may be wrapped in protective material **22** prior

to being inserted into the shipping carton **20**. This material may, for example, be placed around all the base section **14** to prevent it from scraping against the seat section **12** when it is positioned in the container **20** along with the base **14**, as shown in FIG. **4**. The seat section **12** may also be covered, however, such covering is not a requirement of the invention. The protective covering **22** may be constructed of bubble wrap, fiber-filled wrap, an air-filled wrap or other suitable material.

Furniture **10** may also include accessory parts **30**, as seen in FIGS. **1** and **3**, which are necessary for reassembly. These parts, which may include attachment screws for a seat and back sections **12** and **16** as well as assembly tools, are attached to the furniture **10**. In a specific version of such embodiment the accessory parts **30** are secured in an accessory bag **32** which is attached to the furniture **10** in any suitable manner including, for example, by securing the accessory bag **32** to the furniture **10**. Such accessory parts **30** may be attached to any of the packaging material, including shipping sleeves **36** without departing from the spirit of the invention.

In practicing the invention, the seat section **12** of the furniture **10** is removed from the base **14** using appropriate tools such as an Allen wrench or the like. In one embodiment of the invention, a center post **18** is used to connect the seat section **12** to the base section **14**. This center post **18** which may be an elevation piston is also removed from both the seat section **12** and the base section **14** prior to those parts being placed in a shipping container **20**.

In yet another embodiment of the invention, as shown in FIG. **1**, the furniture **10** includes a back section **16** secured to the seat section **12**. In a specific version of such embodiment, the back section **16** is removably secured to the seat section **12**, however, the furniture **10** may be packaged in a shipping container **20** with the back section **16** attached to the seat section **12** as shown in FIG. **7**. When the back section **16** is removed from the seat section **12**, the inventive method for shipping the furniture **10** is further comprised of the steps of removing the back section **16** from the seat section **12** and inserting both the back section **16** and the seat section **12** into the shipping container **20**. The back section **16** may be positioned: (1) generally parallel to the seat section **12** generally along the diagonal of the container **20**, as shown in FIG. **3**; (2) between the seat section **12** and a side wall **34** of the shipping container **20** and generally transverse to the seat section **12** which is vertically stacked on the base **14**, as shown in FIG. **6**; (3) along a side wall **34** opposite of the seat section **12** as shown in FIG. **4**; (4) to overlie the seat section **12** in a vertical stack, as shown in FIG. **5**; or (5) so as to be nested between arms (not shown) that may be connected to the seat section **12**.

In practicing this specific version of the invention, the seat section **12** of the furniture **10** is removed from the base **14** using appropriate tools such as an Allen wrench or the like. In the same manner, the back section **16** is removed from the seat section **12**. Once removed, a protective wrapping **22** is placed around the seat and back sections **12** and **16** and such sections are placed generally parallel with one another and generally along a diagonal of the container **20** as shown in FIG. **3**. Any remaining furniture parts including, for example, the center piston **18** are placed in container **20** on either side of the seat and back section **12, 16**.

In another embodiment of the invention, at least one protective shipping sleeve **36** is placed over or in contact with the edge **38** of the back section **16**. The shipping sleeve **36** may measures 25.5 inches wide by 7 inches deep by 2 inches high, however, the invention does not preclude the use of sleeves **36** of other dimensions. Shipping sleeves **36** are preferably made out of perforated single wall 275 psi corrugated cardboard, however, other suitable materials such as Styrofoam® (may also be used. Additionally, other types of packaging material such as pillows filled with air or fiber may also be used as shipping sleeves **36** when such materials are placed in contact with the edge **38** of the back section **16**. If necessary for shipment, a shipping sleeve **36** may also be placed in contact with or over an edge portion **40** of the seat section **12**, as shown in FIG. **2**.

In one version of the embodiment, at least one of the shipping sleeves **36** supports at least one side wall **34** of the shipping container **20**. In a more specific version of this embodiment, as shown in FIGS. **4–6**, more than one shipping sleeve **36** is used, and each shipping sleeve **36** supports at least one side wall **34** of the shipping container **20**. As stated above, such shipping sleeve **36** can be made of any suitable packaging material including, for example, corrugated cardboard or Styrofoam®.

Shipping sleeve **36** is a structure which encases or contacts at least a portion of the edge **38, 40** of the back section **16** or the seat section **12**. The sleeve **36**, as seen in more detail in FIG. **2**, may be constructed to take on a generally rectangular shape having top and bottom wall members **17**, side wall members **19**, and at least one opening **21** for receiving an edge portion **38, 40** of back section **16** or seat section **12**. The sleeve **36** is positionable between a side wall **34** of the container **20** and the edge **38** and provides a surface for abutting the side wall **34** of the container **20**. It should be well understood that sleeve **36** can take on many shapes that will satisfy the requirements of the present invention including a U-shaped construction having multiple side openings or a pillow abutting an edge portion **38,40** of the back or seat section **16, 12**. A U-shaped sleeve **16** would be wrapped around such edge portion **38, 40**.

In another version of the embodiment, arms (not shown) are connected to the seat section **12**, and the back section **16** when removed may be positioned to overlie the arms when the base **14**, seat **12** and back section **16** are packaged in a vertical stack. In such an embodiment, a piece of cardboard or the like may be placed between the base **14** and the seat section **12**. Moreover, the back section **16**, when removed from the seat section **12**, may be nested between the arms and overlie seat section **12**.

The insertion of the furniture **10** into the shipping container **20** includes positioning at least one shipping sleeve **36** to abut opposing side walls **34** of the container **20**. As shown in FIGS. **4–6**, shipping sleeve **36**, when positioned within the shipping container **20**, has side wall members **19** positioned to abut at least one side wall **34** of container **20** so as to support the side walls **34**.

The insertion of the furniture **10** into the shipping container **20** may, as shown in FIGS. **4–6** also involve positioning two shipping sleeves **36** such that a first sleeve **36** is placed over the edge portion **38, 40** of the back or seat section **16, 12** and a second sleeve **36** is placed over an opposing edge portion **38, 40** of the back or seat section **16, 12**. Insertion of the furniture **10** into the container **20** may, as shown in FIGS. **5** and **6**, also include abutting the first shipping sleeve **36** against a first side wall **34** of the container **20** adjacent an edge **40, 38** of the seat **12** or back section **16**, and abutting the second shipping sleeve **36** against an opposing second side wall **34** of the container **20**, where the second side wall **34** of the container **20** is adjacent an opposing edge **40, 38** of the seat **12** or back section **16** thereby providing support to side walls **34**.

FIG. 2 shows the inventive method in which a first protective shipping sleeve **36** and a second protective shipping sleeve **36** are placed on a first and second edge portion **40, 38** of the seat **12** or back section **16**, respectively and the back section **16** is positioned so as to overlie seat section **12**, as seen in FIG. **5**. Once this is accomplished and prior to insertion into the container **20**, all of the furniture **10** is enclosed in protective bag (not shown), and the protective bag is placed in a shipping container **20**, in such a manner that each of the protective shipping sleeves **36** abut at least one side wall **34** of the shipping container **20**.

In still another embodiment of the invention, the back section **16** of the furniture **10** is positioned between the seat section **12** and a side wall **34** of the packaging container **20**, as shown in FIG. **6**. In this embodiment, side wall members **19** of shipping sleeves **36** abut opposing side walls **34** of container **20** thereby providing additional support to container **20**.

The invention also involves a packaging apparatus for packing a piece of furniture **10** having a base section **14** removable from a seat section **12**. The above description of the packaging used with the inventive method is herein incorporated in the description of the packaging apparatus. The packaging apparatus is comprised of shipping container **20** and at least one shipping sleeve **36** capable of receiving an edge portion **40** of the seat section **12** of the furniture **10**, whereby the shipping sleeve **36** abuts a side wall **34** of the shipping container **20**.

At least two shipping sleeves **36** may be placed on the edge portion **40** of the seat section **12** and each of these shipping sleeves **36** abuts at least one side wall **34** of the shipping container **20**. Such shipping sleeves **36** may be made of any suitable packaging material including, for example, corrugated cardboard or Styrofoam®.

Furthermore, at least a portion of one shipping sleeve **36** abuts at least one side wall **34** of the shipping container **20** when the sleeve **36** is positioned within the shipping container **20**. Additionally, the shipping sleeve **36** may abut opposing side walls **34** of the shipping container **20**.

As shown in FIGS. **2**, and **4–6**, the packaging apparatus may also have a first and second shipping sleeve **36** in which the first shipping sleeve **36** is positionable over the edge portion **38** of the back section **16** and the second shipping sleeve **36** is positionable over an opposing edge **38** of the back section **16**. In the configuration shown in FIG. **5**, the first sleeve **36** abuts a side wall **34** of the container **20** adjacent an edge **38** of the back section **16** and the second sleeve **36** abuts a second side wall **34** of the container **20** where the second side wall **34** is adjacent the opposing edge **38** of the back section **16**, thereby supporting side walls of container **20**.

The shipping container **20** which is part of the packaging apparatus, is suitable for use by an overnight delivery service. The discussions with regard to the dimensions and dimension restrictions associated with container **20** have been set forth above.

While a detailed description of various embodiments of the invention have been given, it should be appreciated that many variations can be made thereto without departing from the scope of the invention as set forth in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising the steps of:

providing an office chair including a seat section, a back section, and a base section, the base section including a central axis, and a plurality of leg members extending in a radial direction relative to the central axis and wherein each of the plurality of leg members is adapted to accept wheels;

providing a single shipping container including a DIM of no greater than 130 inches;

arranging the base section, the seat section and the back section inside the single shipping container so that the single shipping container is capable of closing;

closing the single shipping container; and

sending the single shipping container via a delivery service.

2. The method of claim **1**, wherein the arranging step includes positioning the back section between the base section and a sidewall of the shipping container in a non-parallel relationship to the base section.

3. The method of claim **1**, further comprising the step of positioning a shipping sleeve over an edge of the back section.

4. The method of claim **1**, further comprising the step of covering at least a portion of the office chair with a protective material.

5. The method of claim **4**, wherein the protective material is bubble wrap.

6. The method of claim **1**, wherein the seat section, the back section and the base section are in a separated condition.

7. A method comprising the steps of:

providing an office chair including a seat section, a back section, and a base section including a central axis, wherein the base section comprises a plurality of leg members extending in a radial direction relative to the central axis;

providing a single shipping container including a DIM of no greater than 130 inches;

arranging the seat section, the back section and the base section inside the single shipping container so that the single shipping container is capable of closing;

closing the single shipping container; and

sending the single shipping container via a delivery service.

8. The method of claim **7**, wherein the arranging step includes positioning the back section between the base section and a sidewall of the shipping container in a non-parallel relationship to the base section.

9. The method of claim **7**, further comprising the step of positioning a shipping sleeve over an edge of the back section.

10. The method of claim **7** wherein the seat section, the back section and the base section are in a separated condition.

11. A method comprising the steps of:

providing an office chair including a seat section, a back section, and a base section including a central axis, wherein the base section comprises a plurality of leg members extending in a radial direction relative to the central axis;

providing a single shipping container including a DIM of no greater than 150 inches;

arranging the seat section, the back section and the base section inside the single shipping container so that the single shipping container is capable of closing;

closing the single shipping container; and

sending the single shipping container from a first location to a second location.

12. The method of claim **11**, further comprising the step of covering at least a portion of the office chair with a protective material.

13. The method of claim **11**, wherein the protective material is bubble wrap.

14. The method of claim **11**, wherein the seat section, the back section and the base section are in a separated condition.

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