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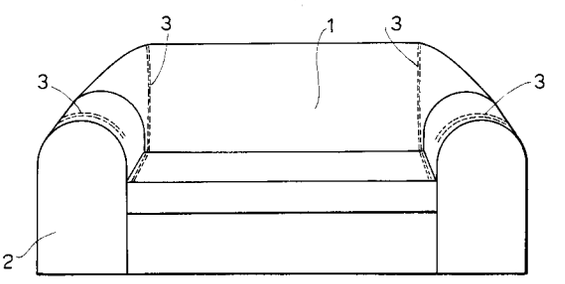
(54) Loose covers for settees or armchairs adaptable to settees and armchairs of different sizes to be covered.

(57) The loose cover (1) is provided, at least in correspondence with the parts of it which are intended to cover the front edges of the arms, and near the side edges of the back, and possibly of the seat, with drawstring devices (3,4) which allow it to be gathered. Such devices can comprise ribbons (3) fastened to the cover, to each one of which ribbons two parallel drawstring (4) are tacked, which by sliding along the tape (3) determine the reduction of its length and the consequent reduction of the depth of the cover or of its width. Or they can comprise pipelike folds in which a cord slides.

FIG. 1



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The present application concerns the field of loose covers for settees and armchairs. In the furnishing sector, settees and armchairs can be produced in the greatest variety of shapes and sizes. Everyone is well aware of the need for covering settees and armchairs with a loose cover, in order to avoid damage or similar to the woven material, leather or suchlike, which makes up the part which is on show of the said settee or armchair. Any industrial production of loose covers for settees and the like must necessarily face the problem of making the loose cover adaptable to at least some of the different types and sizes of settees and armchairs.

Up to now such problem has been solved in various ways, which in general are considered as unsatisfactory. According to previous solutions, loose covers made at least partly from elasticized material are used (US-2 667 211), however they have the disadvantage of being unsatisfactory from the aesthetic point of view.

According to another previous solution, loose covers are made from non-elasticized material, gathered in an elastically extendible way by means of elastic seams. However, this solution also is considered unsatisfactory both from the aesthetic point of view and for practical reasons, since it gathers crumbs and dust which may be present.

From US 2 459 328 a loose cover is also known for armchairs in which a drawstring passes through a tubolar seam extending along the greater part of the perimeter of the back part of the back cover, and is used to tie the cover to the legs of the armchair frame. However, the said publication does not solve the problem of adjustment for armchairs of different shapes and sizes, but rather deals with a problem of fastening an armchair loose cover realized in separate parts to the frame.

The aim of the present application is a loose cover for settees and armchairs, which can be produced industrially, having a high degree of adaptability to settees and armchairs of different sizes and shapes, and which nevertheless maintains the appearance of a traditional loose cover which has been specially made by an upholsterer.

Such aim has been achieved with a loose cover as claimed in claim 1. Further characteristics are described in the subsequent claims.

The new loose cover, at least near the parts of it which are intended to cover the upper outer edges of the arms and the upper outer edges of the back and possibly the sides of the seat, comprises drawstring devices which, by means of traction, allow the loose cover to be gathered for adjustment to the elements it covers. In one embodiment, tapes are foreseen on the reverse side of the loose cover, in each of which strong parallel threads are engaged, for example by means of long-stitched seams, to act as opposed drawstrings.

According to another foreseen embodiment, lengths of piping are joined to the stuff, consisting of a flexible pipelike fold, made of stuff or the like, sewn to the stuff of the loose cover, with a core or cord sliding with friction inside the pipelike fold and also constituting the stuffing of the pipelike fold. The cord is fixed at one end while the other end projects from the fold. It should be noted that the word "cord" in this context indicates any element suitable for the purpose, as for example a ribbon, a wire or similar.

The appearance of the new loose cover is similar to that of the loose covers made by craftsmen, and can easily be adapted; the adapting operation can be carried out from outside the loose cover.

The invention is described below, with reference to the appended figures, in which it is illustrated merely for the sake of example and not restrictively, and in which:

- Figure 1 is a front view of a settee covered with the cover
- Figure 2 is a tape provided with the related drawstrings
- Figure 3 is a perspective view of a settee onto which the loose cover according to a modified embodiment has been applied;
- Figure 4 is a perspective view of a detail of the loose cover of figure 3;
- Figure 5 is a broken off, perspective view which shows a piped edge used for the loose cover in figure 3;
- Figure 6 is a section at right angles to the extension of the piped edge.

With reference to figures 1 and 2, in the loose cover 1 of the armchair 2 are applied in a fixed way, by means of a seam, and arranged in the underneath part (reverse side) of the loose cover, the tapes 3 being provided with double drawstrings 4 parallel to each other, in the area near the ends of the arms, and on the sides of the back and of the seat. Pulling the drawstrings in the opposite direction enables the depth of the cover or its width to be reduced, in correspondence to the settee arms, in fact, the drawstrings are free to slide in the direction parallel to the axis of the said tapes. As is shown in figure 2, the above-mentioned drawstrings 4 are "tacked" into the tape 3, which allows them to slide along the tape 3 and allows the cover to be gathered.

With reference to the figures 3-6, number 10 indicates the loose cover as a whole, applied to a settee D. It should be noted that, although the illustrated example refers to a loose cover for a settee, the invention can be realized also as a

loose cover for an armchair. The loose cover 10 comprises, in correspondence with the extreme edge of the arms and the extreme edges of the back of the settee, lengths of piped edges incorporated in it, shown respectively with 12 (the piped edges on the arms) and with 14 (the piped edges on the back).

Each piped edge comprises a pipelike fold 16, made of stuff or flexible material, sewn or fixed in another way to the stuff 18 of the loose cover, by means, for example, of the seam shown in diagrammatic form with number 20 in figure 4. The pipelike fold 16 contains a core or cord 22, of any type whatsoever, which makes up the stuffing of the piped edge and at the same time is able to slide inside it with a certain degree of friction.

One end of the cord is fastened to the stuff of the loose cover, while the other end is free and projects from the pipelike fold. The free end is usually provided with a knot, an enlarged end or knob 23, to make it easier to grip and to prevent it going back into the pipelike fold.

In this way, the loose cover can be realized with parts of the arm and of the back having dimensions suitable for receiving the wider arms and backs of the settees on the market, and the parts of the loose cover relative to the arms and the back can be reduced in width by drawing the respective cords 22, so that the said parts pucker.

The puckering, therefore, is maintained by the friction of the cord within the pipelike fold.

Whenever it is desired to widen the loose cover, it is enough to slide the pipelike fold by hand along the cord.

It should be noted that the tapes 3 or piped edges according to the present invention can also be positioned in different positions on the loose cover, wherever it is considered convenient.

Claims

1. A loose cover for items of furniture particularly for settees and armchairs, characterized in that the size of some parts of it can be varied by being gathered by means of the traction of one or more drawstrings (4; 22).

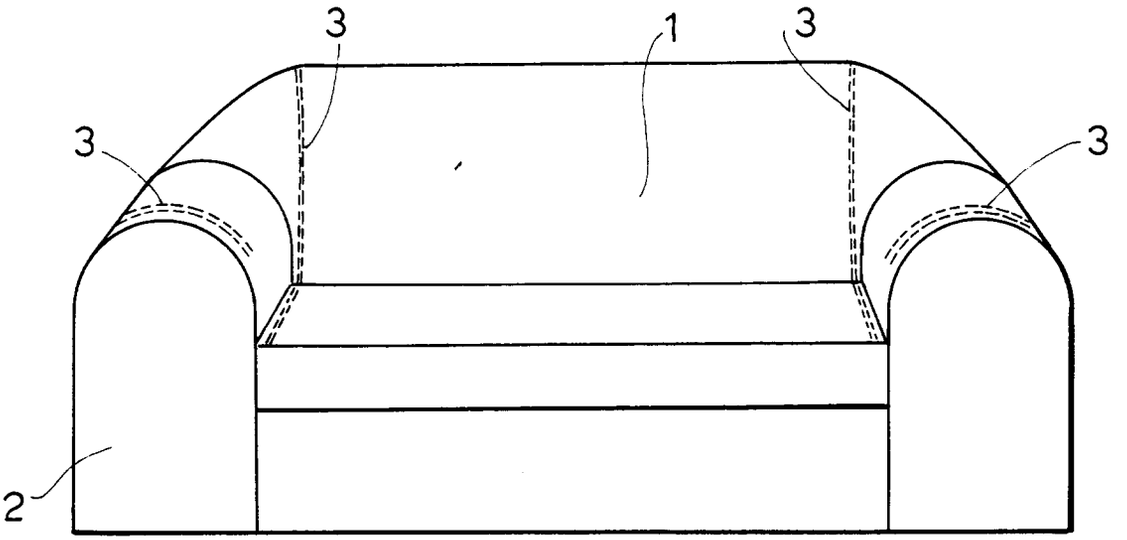
2. A loose cover according to claim 1, characterized in that it comprises, at least near to the parts relating to the arms, the back parts and possibly the seat, tapes (3) fastened to the loose cover, each one of these tapes having tacked to it two parallel drawstrings (4) which, by sliding along the tape, determine the reduction of its length and the consequent gathering of the cover.

3. A loose cover according to claim 2, in which the tapes are fastened to the cover, on the reverse side of it.

4. A loose cover according to claim 1, characterized in that it has at least one piped edge (12, 14) comprising a pipelike fold (16) sewn to the stuff (18) of the cover and a cord (22) sliding with friction in the said pipelike fold, one end of the cord being held fast by the loose cover, and the other end being free and projecting from the fold, in such a way that traction, applied to the cord when the fold is still, gathers the pipelike fold and the loose cover.

5. A loose cover according to claim 4, characterized in that it comprises piped edges (12) in its parts in correspondence with or near to the edges of the arms and piped edges (14) in its parts in correspondence with or near to the side edges of the back.

FIG. 1



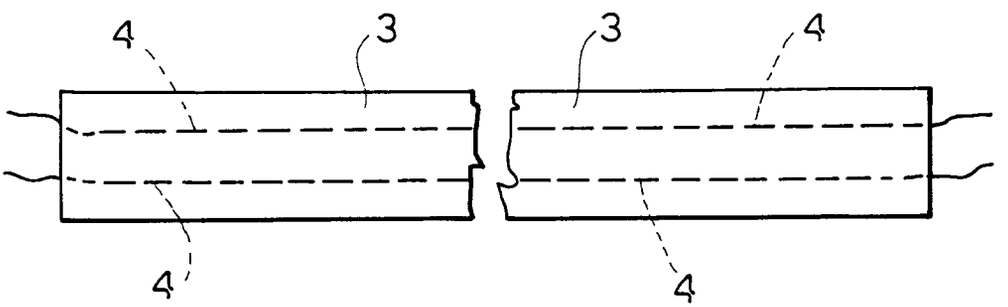


FIG. 2

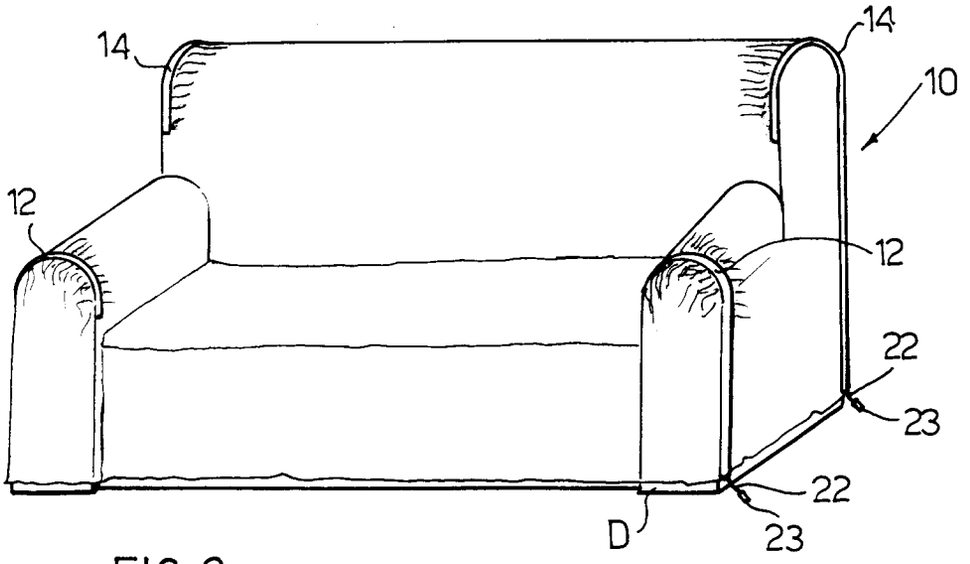


FIG. 3

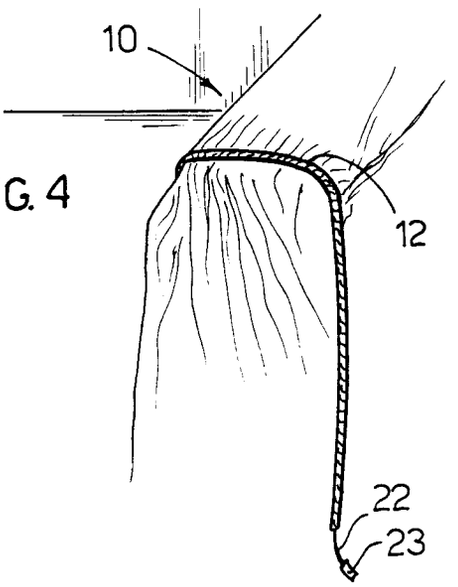
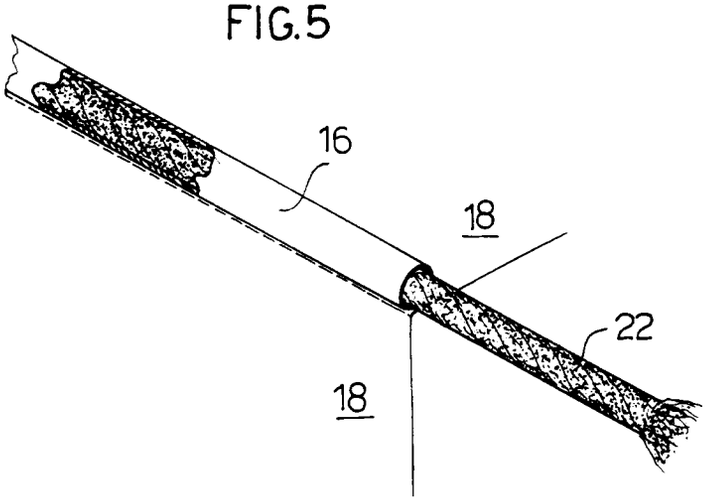


FIG. 4

FIG. 5



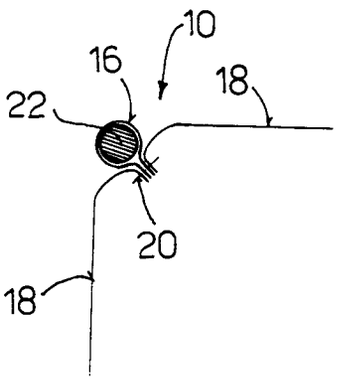


FIG. 6

European Patent Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 92 11 8808

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
X	FR-A-2 608 403 (COLLET) * the whole document * ---	1-3	A47C31/10
A	US-A-2 757 718 (LENZ) * column 3, line 38 - line 65; figures * ---	4,5	
A	US-A-2 367 450 (TRUBITZ) * page 2, column 1, line 12 - page 4, column 2, line 45; figures * -----	5	

TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)

A47C

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE	15 FEBRUARY 1993	VANDEVONDELE J.

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

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