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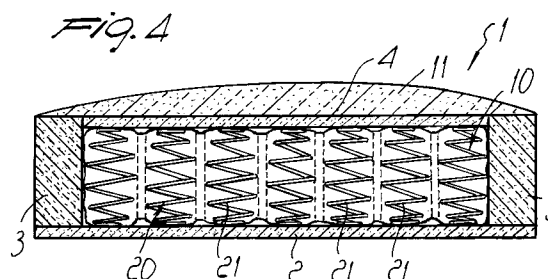
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I-20123 Milano (IT)(54) **Flexible cushion particularly for armchairs, couches and pieces of furniture in general.**

(57) The flexible cushion particularly for armchairs, couches and pieces of furniture in general comprises a substantially flat-shaped body (2,3,4) made of flexible foamed plastic material. The body (2,3,4) forms an internal cavity (10) which accommodates an elastic block (20) constituted by a plurality of metal wire springs arranged side by side.

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The present invention relates to a flexible cushion particularly for armchairs, couches and pieces of furniture in general.

As is known, cushions for armchairs, couches and pieces of furniture in general are often manufactured by using blocks of foamed material which are shaped so as to give the cushion the intended shape.

This embodiment gives the advantage of obtaining relatively stable shapes for the cushion, following the intended profiles, but on the other hand an elastic response is obtained which does not allow to achieve a springiness, for the cushion, comparable with old-style cushions obtained by means of a padding with mutually tied springs.

In an attempt to improve springiness characteristics, other known solutions use an internal body constituted by flexible blocks formed by arranging side by side several metal wire springs individually placed inside bags, which allow to obtain a region of springiness with conventional springs; the springy block is then covered with a layer of cotton wool, feather, wool or the like to produce the desired continuity on the outer surface.

Although this kind of solution has better springiness characteristics than cushions entirely made of foamed plastic material, it has the drawback that it does not allow to precisely obtain the intended profiles, since unavoidably the outer covering layer of cotton wool, feather and the like produces rounded areas at the corners and in any case does not allow to produce profiles of particular shapes.

An aim of the present invention is to solve the above described problem by providing a flexible cushion which allows to have the easy shaping possibilities of cushions made of foamed plastic material although it has the springiness characteristics typical of cushions provided with internal springs.

Another object of the invention is to provide a flexible cushion which can be shaped as desired according to the preferred profile without thereby encountering production problems.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a flexible cushion which, by virtue of its particular constructive characteristics, gives the greatest assurances of reliability and safety in use.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a flexible cushion that can be easily obtained starting from commonly commercially available elements and materials and is furthermore competitive from a merely economical point of view.

With this and other objects in view, there is provided, according to the present invention, a flexible cushion particularly for armchairs, couches and pieces of furniture in general, characterized in

that it comprises a substantially flat-shaped body made of flexible foamed plastic material, said body defining an internal cavity which accommodates an elastic block constituted by a plurality of metal wire springs arranged side by side.

Further characteristics and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following detailed description thereof, illustrated only by way of non-limitative example in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

figure 1 is a schematic exploded view of the cushion according to the invention;

figure 2 is a perspective view of a possible embodiment of the cushion;

figure 3 is a partially cutout view of the cushion, showing the layers that form it;

figure 4 is a sectional view, taken along the plane IV-IV of figure 2.

With reference to the above figures, the flexible cushion particularly for armchairs, couches and pieces of furniture in general, according to the invention, comprises a substantially flat body 1 which is made of flexible foamed plastic material.

Advantageously, said body 1 has elements that are mutually joined by glueing or the like and are constituted for example by a bottom layer 2 on which perimetrically arranged lateral blocks 3 are applied; said blocks form an internal cavity 10 which is closed by an upper layer 4.

Optionally, there is also an upper shaping layer designated by the reference numeral 11.

An important feature of the invention is an elastic block, generally designated by the reference numeral 20, which is provided inside the cavity 10; said block comprises multiple metal wire springs 21 which are advantageously barrel-shaped and individually inserted in bags, so as to form rows of springs arranged mutually adjacent and forming a compact set of side-by-side springs.

The metal wire springs accordingly form, inside a body made of foamed material, an excellent springing element, allowing to obtain any appropriate external profile by virtue of the possibility to shape the foamed-material body as desired.

Advantageously, there is also an external covering 30 which is optionally provided with a layer of cotton wool or the like 31 that produces a softness and surface continuity that make the cushion particularly appreciable.

Of course it is also possible to provide a cover meeting the aesthetic characteristics deemed appropriate.

From the above description it is thus evident that the invention achieves the intended aim and objects, and in particular the fact is stressed that the provision of a cushion made of foamed plastic material and internally provided with an elastic block constituted by multiple metal wire springs

arranged side by side allows to combine the typical easy shaping advantages of foamed-material cushions with the springiness characteristics obtainable only with metal wire springs.

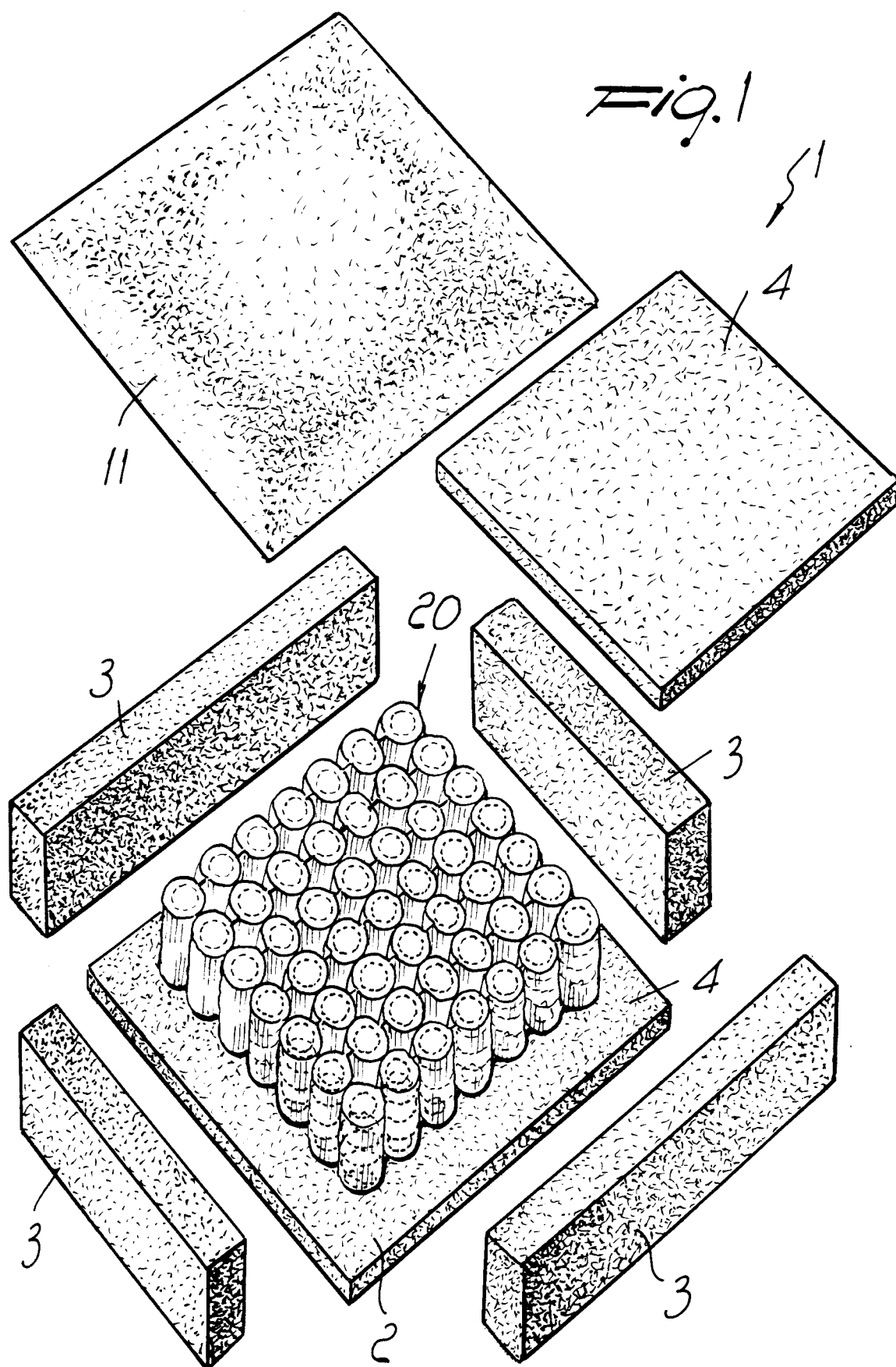
In practice, although the best results have been obtained with the above mentioned materials, the materials employed and the contingent shapes and dimensions may be any according to the requirements.

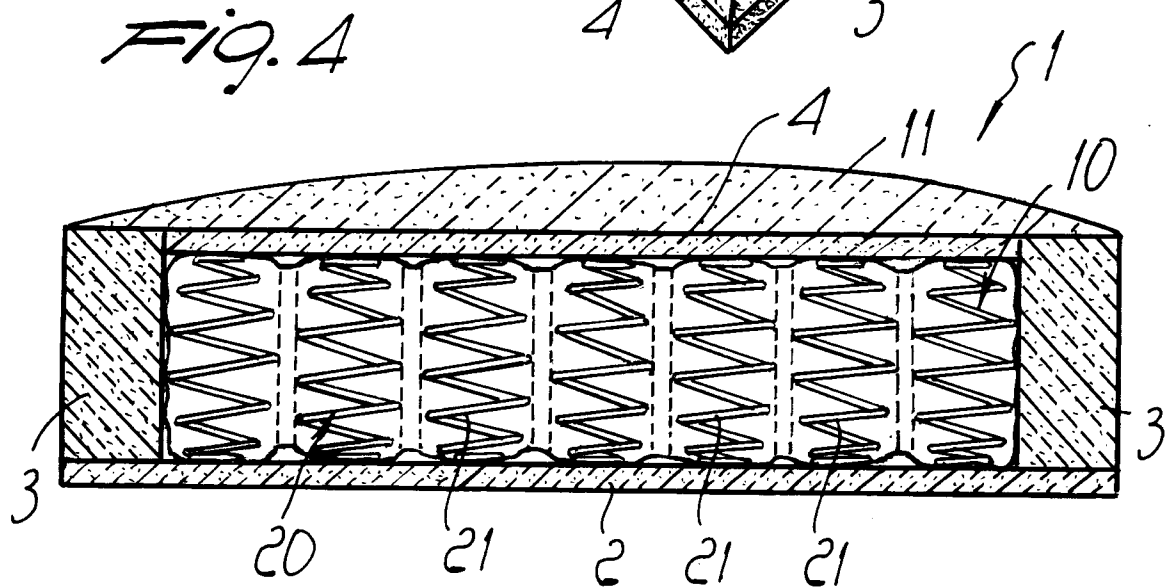
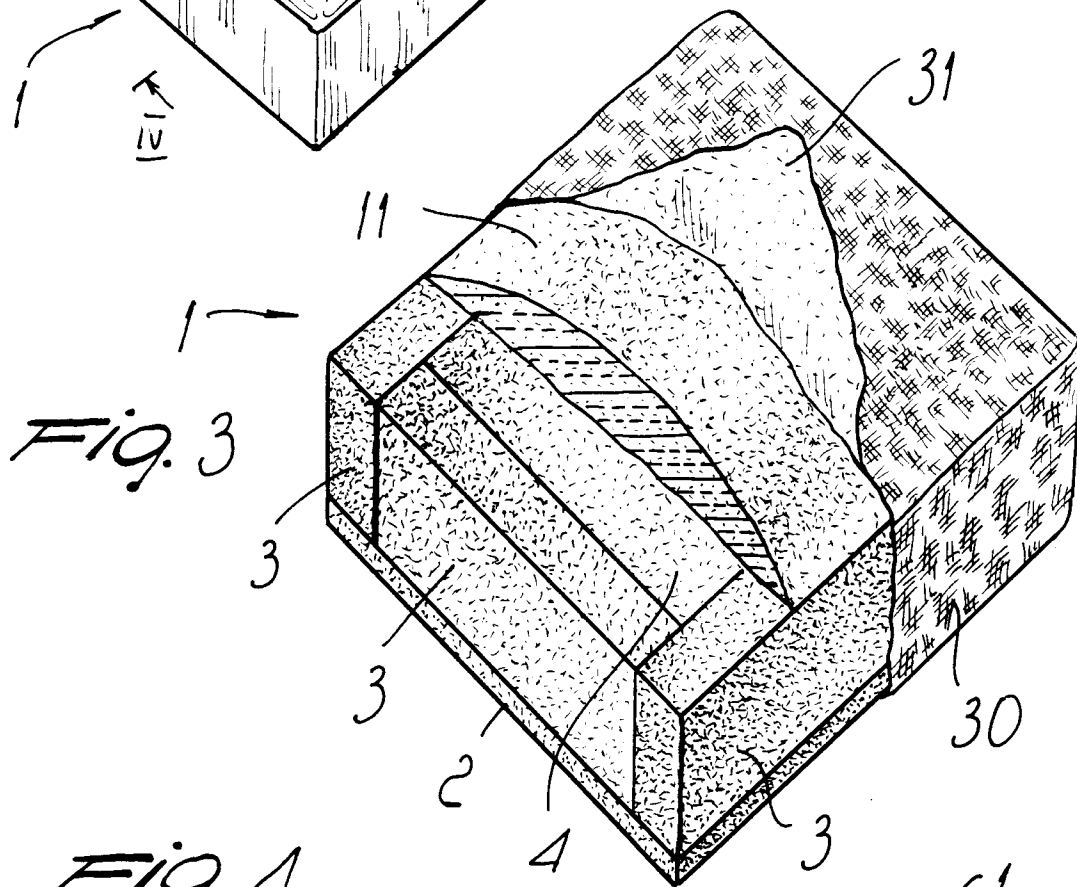
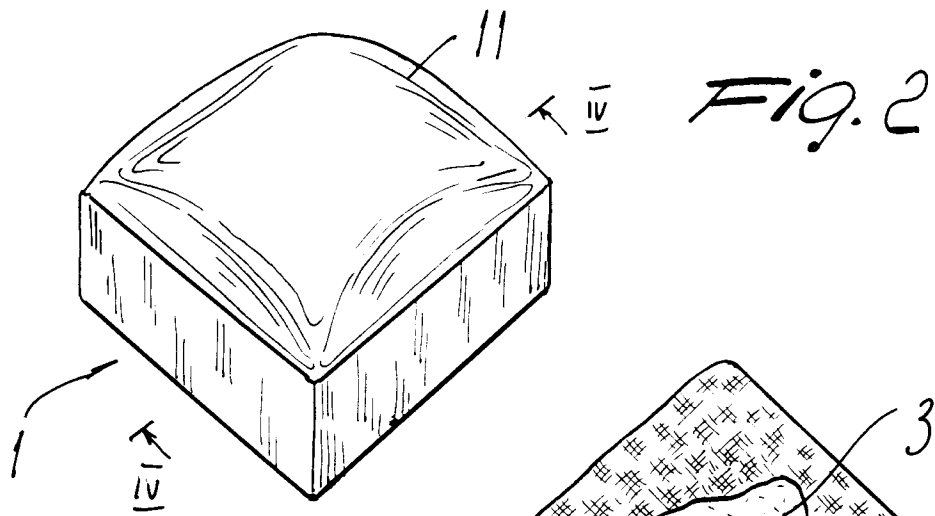
Where technical features mentioned in any claim are followed by reference signs, those reference signs have been included for the sole purpose of increasing the intelligibility of the claims and accordingly such reference signs do not have any limiting effect on the scope of each element identified by way of example by such reference signs.

Claims

1. Flexible cushion particularly for armchairs, couches and pieces of furniture in general, characterized in that it comprises a substantially flat-shaped body made of flexible foamed plastic material, said body defining an internal cavity which accommodates an elastic block constituted by a plurality of metal wire springs arranged side by side.
2. Cushion according to claim 1, characterized in that said springs are barrel-shaped.
3. Cushion according to the preceding claims, characterized in that said springs are individually placed in bags.
4. Cushion according to one or more of the preceding claims, characterized in that said springs are arranged in rows and columns.
5. Cushion according to one or more of the preceding claims, characterized in that said substantially flat body is constituted by a lower layer above which lateral blocks are arranged, said blocks delimiting said cavity in cooperation with an upper layer.
6. Cushion according to one or more of the preceding claims, characterized in that it comprises a shaping layer on a main face of said body.
7. Cushion according to one or more of the preceding claims, characterized in that it comprises a covering layer superimposed on said flat body.

8. Cushion according to one or more of the preceding claims, characterized in that it comprises a layer of cotton wool or the like interposed between said covering and said flat body.







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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 94 10 9168

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	US-A-3 869 739 (KLEIN) * the whole document *	1, 4, 5, 7	A47C27/20 A47C27/06 A47C27/04
Y	---	2, 3	
Y	CA-A-1 211 234 (ELLIOTT) * page 3, paragraph 1 - paragraph 2; figures *	2, 3	
A	---		
A	AU-A-450 041 (PRICE BROTHERS) * page 3, last paragraph - page 5; figures *	2, 4, 6-8	
A	---		
A	WO-A-89 06103 (ROSSMANN) * abstract *	8	

			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.5)
			A47C
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 20 September 1994	Examiner VandeVondele, J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	