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(54) Chair adjustment structure

(57) A chair adjustment structure (20) includes a base member (30), a top cover (40) pivotally connected to the base member (30), a spring member (50) connected between the base member (30) and the top cover (40), and a back bracket (60) pivotally connected to the base member (30) and the top cover (40). Therefore, when the user sits on the seat pad of the chair, the back bracket (60) is forced to pivot the top cover to (40) provide the user with sitting comfort.

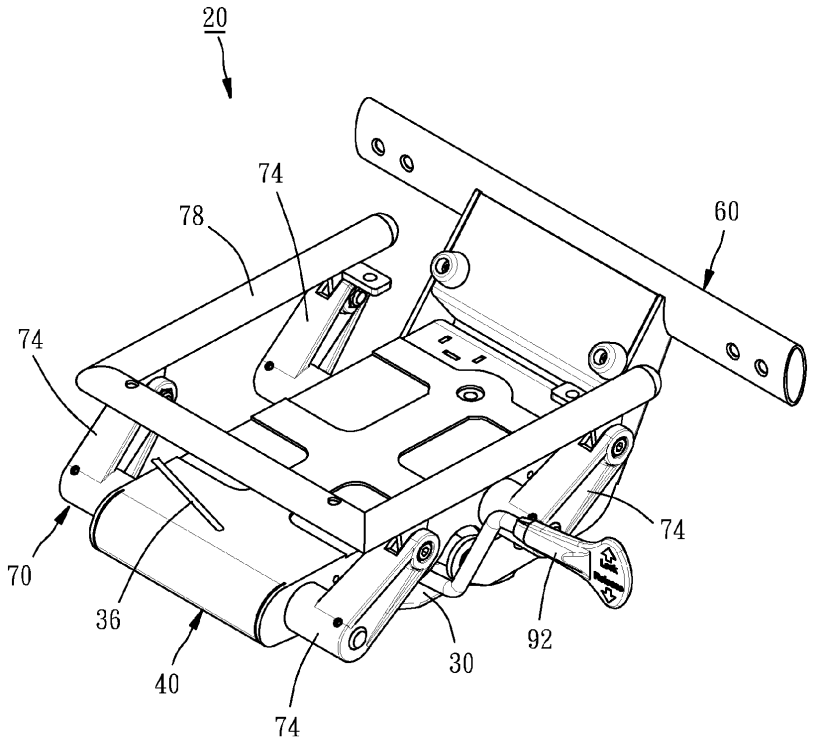

FIG. 1

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Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to chairs and more particularly, to a chair adjustment structure.

2. Description of the Related Art

[0002] For regular high-back chairs, the angle between the seat back and the seat pad cannot be automatically changed when the user rests his (her) back one the seat back. Thus, the user tends to feel uncomfortable after sitting on it for a long time. To eliminate this drawback, ergonomic chairs were created, allowing adjustment of the angle of inclination of the seat back to meet the user's need for sitting comfort.

[0003] However, when the user sits on the seat pad of a high-back chair, the user must move the hip backwards so that the user's back can be rested on the seat back of the chair. When the angle of inclination of the seat back is changed subject to the pressure from the user's back, the user's legs may become suspended in the air above the floor. The user will feel uncomfortable after sitting for a long time with this sitting posture. Further, when the user is going to leave from the chair, the chair does not provide any auxiliary push force for the user to help the user leave from the chair. Therefore, the user must apply a great force to the floor with the feet to leave from the seat of the chair.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0004] The present invention has been accomplished under the circumstances in view. It is the main object of the present invention to provide a chair adjustment structure, which enables the chair to provide sitting comfort for the user.

[0005] It is another object of the present invention to provide a chair adjustment structure, which allows the user to leave from the chair with less effort.

[0006] To achieve the foregoing objects of the present invention, a chair adjustment structure comprises a base member, a top cover, a spring member and a back bracket. The top cover is located at the top side relative to the base member, having a middle part thereof pivotally connected to the base member. The spring member is mounted in the base member, having the top end thereof stopped against the top cover. The back bracket comprises two sidewalls. Each sidewall has a first extension portion disposed at one lateral side of the base member, a second extension portion obliquely upwardly extending from the first extension portion, a first pivot portion located on one end of the first extension portion and pivotally connected to the base member and a second pivot portion located on the first extension portion adjacent to the second extension portion and pivotally connected to the top cover.

[0007] The chair adjustment structure further comprises a seat frame assembly pivotally connected to the top cover for mounting a seat pad, to provide a return force to the mounted seat pad.

[0008] The chair adjustment structure further comprises an angle adjustment device set. The angle adjustment device set comprises a locating plate movably forwards and backwards mounted to the base member and selectively engageable into one of a plurality of locating grooves at the top cover to adjust the angle of inclination of the seat frame assembly.

[0009] The chair adjustment structure further comprises a spring adjustment device set. The spring force adjustment device set comprises a knob rotatably mounted in the base member and having a screw rod extending from one side thereof and inserted through the spring member, and a screw nut threaded onto the screw rod of the knob and stopped against the bottom end of the spring member and rotatable to adjust the spring force of the spring member to the top cover.

[0010] When the back bracket is biased by an external force, the back bracket forces the top cover to incline upwardly through a small angle subject to the linking arrangement between the top cover and the back bracket. Therefore, the user will not suspend the feet in the air above the ground after having sat in position, and the chair installed with the chair adjustment structure can provide sitting comfort for the user.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0011]

FIG. 1 is an elevational view of a chair adjustment structure in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 2 is an exploded view of the chair adjustment structure in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 3 is a sectional view, in an enlarged scale, of the chair adjustment structure in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 4 is an oblique bottom view of the top cover of the chair adjustment structure in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 5 is a side view of the present invention, showing the chair adjustment structure applied to a chair.

FIG. 6 is similar to FIG. 5, showing the seat frame assembly biased upon a downward force at the seat pad.

FIG. 7 is similar to FIG. 6, showing the angle of inclination of the back bracket and the top cover changed upon a force applied to the seat back.

FIG. 8 is a top view of the present invention without the top cover and the seat frame assembly, showing that the locating plate is inserted into one locating groove of the positioning member.

FIG. 9 is similar to FIG. 8, showing that the locating

plate disengages from the positioning member.

FIG. 10 is similar to FIG. 3, showing that the position of the screw nut of the spring force adjustment device set is adjusted and the spring member is compressed.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0012] Referring to FIGS. 1-3 and FIG. 8, a chair adjustment structure **20** in accordance with the present invention is composed of a base member **30,** a top cover **40,** a spring member **50,** a back bracket **60,** a seat frame assembly **70,** a spring force adjustment device set **80,** and an angle adjustment device set **90.**

[0013] The base member **30** has a pneumatic lifter mounting hole **32** for a pneumatic cylinder **16** of a chair **10** to pass through, as shown in FIG. 3 and FIG. 5. An actuating member **34** is pivotally connected to the base member **30,** having one end thereof projecting into a top end of the pneumatic lifter mounting hole **32** and the other end thereof connected to a cord member **36,** as shown in FIG. 3. Thus, the actuating member **34** can be biased by the cord member **36** to pivot and press the pneumatic lifter **16,** thereby adjusting the elevation of the chair **10.**

[0014] The top cover **40** has its middle part pivotally connected to the base member **30** and is located on the top side of the base member **30,** having two bottom barrels **42** and a bottom positioning member **44,** as shown in FIG. 4. Each barrel **42** has a notch **422** located at each of the two distal ends thereof. The positioning member **44** has two locating grooves **442.**

[0015] The spring member **50** is mounted in the base member **30** and stopped with its top end against the top cover **40** to provide a return force for the top cover **40** while the top cover **40** is pressed, as shown in FIG. 3.

[0016] The back bracket **60** is adapted to hold the seat back **12** of the chair **10,** as shown in FIG. 5, having two sidewalls **62.** Each sidewall **62** has a first extension portion **64** disposed at one lateral side of the base member **30,** a second extension portion **66** obliquely upwardly extending from the first extension portion **64,** a first pivot portion **642** located on one end of the first extension portion **64** and pivotally connected to the base member **30,** and a second pivot portion **644** located on the first extension portion **64** adjacent to the second extension portion **66** and pivotally connected to the top cover **40.**

[0017] The seat frame assembly **70** comprises two axles **72,** four links **74,** four torsion springs **76,** and a seat frame **78.** The axles **72** are respectively pivotally inserted through the barrels **42** of the top cover **40,** each having a pin **722** radially extending from one of the two distal ends thereof and respectively inserted through the notch **422** to the outside for stopping against the wall of the associating notch **422** to limit the angle of rotation of the axles **72** relative to the barrels **42.** A bottom end of each of the links **74** is pivotally connected with one end of one of the axle **72.** The torsion springs **76** are respectively mounted to the two distal ends of each of the two axles **72** with the opposite ends thereof respectively stopped against the top cover **40** and the links **74** to provide a torsional force for the links **74** for returning the links **74** to their former position while the links **74** are biased. The seat frame **78** is pivotally connected to top ends of the links **74** for holding a seat pad **14** of the chair **10.**

[0018] The spring force adjustment device set **80** comprises a knob **82** and a screw nut **84.** As shown in FIG. 3, the knob **82** is rotatably mounted to the base member **30,** having a screw rod **822** inserted through the spring member **50.** The screw nut **84** is threaded onto the screw rod **822** of the knob **82** and stopped against a bottom end of the spring member **50.** When the knob **82** is rotated, the screw nut **84** can be driven by the screw rod **822** to compress the spring member **50,** thus changing the spring force applied to the top cover **40** from the spring member **50.**

[0019] The angle adjustment device set **90** comprises a control bar **92,** a locating plate **94,** and a linking member **96,** as shown in FIG. 2 and FIG. 8. The control bar **92** comprises a linking segment **922** and a control segment **924.** The linking segment **922** is pivotally connected to the base member **30,** having an elongated slot **926.** The control segment **924** extends outward from the linking segment **922** through the base member **30** for the user's operation. The locating plate **94** has an elongated slot **942** for a pin **38** of the base member **30** to pass through for enabling the locating plate **94** to move back and forth relative to the base member **30** and then to be selectively inserted into one of the locating grooves **442** of the positioning member **44** of the top cover **40,** as shown in FIGS. 2, 4, and 8. In this embodiment, the linking member **96** is a torsion spring, having its one end inserted into the elongated slot **926** of the linking segment **922** of the control bar **92** and its other end connected to the locating plate **94** in such a way that the control bar **92** is operable to move the locating plate **94** forwards or backwards.

[0020] After the detailed recitation of the chair adjustment structure **20,** the operation and features of the present invention are described hereinafter.

[0021] Referring to FIG. 6, when the user sits on the seat pad **14,** the seat frame assembly **70** is forced to pivot. During pivoting movement of the seat frame assembly **70,** the top cover **40** is moved with the seat frame assembly **70** relative to the base member **30,** and meanwhile, the user is biased with the seat pad **14** to rest his (her) back on the seat back **12** of the chair **10.** Thus, when sitting on the seat pad **14,** the user can touch the seat back **12** without moving the body. When the seat back **12** bears the user's weight, as shown in FIG. 7, the back bracket **60** will pivot on the first pivot portion **642** relative to the base member **30** to change its angle of inclination. At this time, due to the effect that the second pivot portion **644** is pivotally connected to the top cover **40,** the top cover **40** is inclined slightly upwards without movement along with the back bracket **60** to the same angle of inclination. Therefore, the user will not suspend the feet in the air above the ground after having sat in

position, i.e. the chair **10** can provide sitting comfort to the user. When the user is going to leave from the chair **10** and then applies a force to the ground through the feet, the seat frame **78** gives an upward force to the user's hips subject to the return force of the spring member **76** to help the user leave from the chair **10** with less effort.

[0022] In addition, when it is intended to adjust the angle of the top cover **40,** as shown in FIGS. 2 and 4, the user can push the control bar **92** forwards to pivot the linking segment **922** of the control bar **92** toward the locating plate **94.** At this time, the linking member **96** will be forced to move the locating plate **94** forwardly away from the locating grooves **442** of the positioning member **44** of the top cover **40,** allowing the user to adjust the angle of inclination of the top cover **40** subject to his or her requirement and the spring force applied by the spring member **50** to the top cover **40.** After adjustment of the angle of inclination of the top cover **40,** the user can pull the control bar **92** backward, as shown in FIGS. 2, 4 and 8. At this time, the linking segment **922** of the control bar **92** will force the linking member **96** to move the locating plate **94** backwards to be inserted into one of the locating grooves **442** of the positioning member **44** of the top cover **40,** thus locking the top cover **40** in the adjusted position.

[0023] Further, when it is intended to change the spring force of the spring member **50** to the top cover **40,** as shown in FIG. 10, the user can rotate the knob **82** to move the screw nut **84** upwardly along the screw rod **822** against the spring member **50,** thus changing the return force of the spring member **50** to the top cover **40.**

[0024] Furthermore, when it is intended to adjust the elevation of the chair **10,** as shown in FIGS. 3 and 5, the user can pull the cord member **36** to pivot the actuating member **34** against the pneumatic lifter **16,** thereby adjusting the elevation of the chair **10.**

[0025] Although a particular embodiment of the invention has been described in detail for purposes of illustration, various modifications and enhancements may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Accordingly, the invention is not to be limited except as by the appended claims.

Claims

1. A chair adjustment structure (20) comprising:

a base member (30);
a top cover (40) disposed at a top side relative to said base member (30) and having a middle part thereof pivotally connected to said base member (30);
a spring member (50) mounted to said base member (30) and having a top end stopped against said top cover (40); and
a back bracket (60) having two sidewalls (62), each of which has a first extension portion (64) disposed at one lateral side of said base member (30), a second extension portion (66) obliquely upwardly extending from said first extension portion (64), a first pivot portion (642) located on one end of said first extension portion (64) and pivotally connected to said base member (30), and a second pivot portion (644) located on said first extension portion (64) adjacent to said second extension portion (66) and pivotally connected to said top cover (40).

2. The chair adjustment structure (20) as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a seat frame assembly (70), wherein said seat frame assembly (70) comprises:

two axles (72) respectively pivotally connected to said top cover (40);
four links (74) each having a bottom end pivotally connected to one of two ends of one of said axles (72);
four torsion springs (76) respectively mounted to one of two ends of each of two axles (72), each said torsion spring (76) having two ends respectively stopped against said top cover (40) and said links (74); and
a seat frame (78) pivotally connected to top ends of said links (74).

3. The chair adjustment structure (20) as claimed in claim 2, wherein said top cover (40) comprises two barrels (42) for the axles (72) to pass through respectively, each of said barrels having a notch (422) located at at least one of two ends thereof, each of said axles (72) having a pin (722) for contact with a sidewall of one of the notches (422) while the axle (72) pivots.

4. The chair adjustment structure (20) as claimed in claim 1 further comprising an actuating member (34) and a cord member (36), wherein said actuating member (34) is pivotally connected to said base member (30) and has an end projecting into a top end of a pneumatic lifter mounting hole (32) formed at said base member (30), and the cord member (36) has an end connected with said actuating member (34) for pivoting said actuating member (34).

5. The chair adjustment structure (20) as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a spring force adjustment device set (80), wherein said spring force adjustment device set has a knob (82) and a screw nut (84), said knob (82) being rotatably mounted in said base member (30) and having a screw rod (822) inserted through said spring member (50), said screw nut (84) being threaded onto said screw rod (822) of said knob (82) and stopped against a bottom end of said spring member (50).

6. The chair adjustment structure (20) as claimed in claim 1 further comprising an angle adjustment device set (90), wherein said angle adjustment device set comprises a control bar (92) pivotally connected to said base member (30), a locating plate (94) movably forwards and backwards mounted to said base member (30), and a linking member (96) having two ends connected with said control bar (92) and said locating plate (94) respectively, said top cover (40) having a plurality of locating grooves (442) for inserting said locating plates (94) selectively.

7. The chair adjustment structure (20) as claimed in claim 6, wherein said linking member (96) is a torsion spring having an end inserted into an elongated slot (926) formed at said control bar (92) and an opposite end thereof connected with said locating plate (94).

8. The chair adjustment structure (20) as claimed in claim 6, wherein said locating plate (94) comprises an elongated slot (942), and said base member (30) comprises a pin (38) inserted into the elongated slot of said locating plate (94).

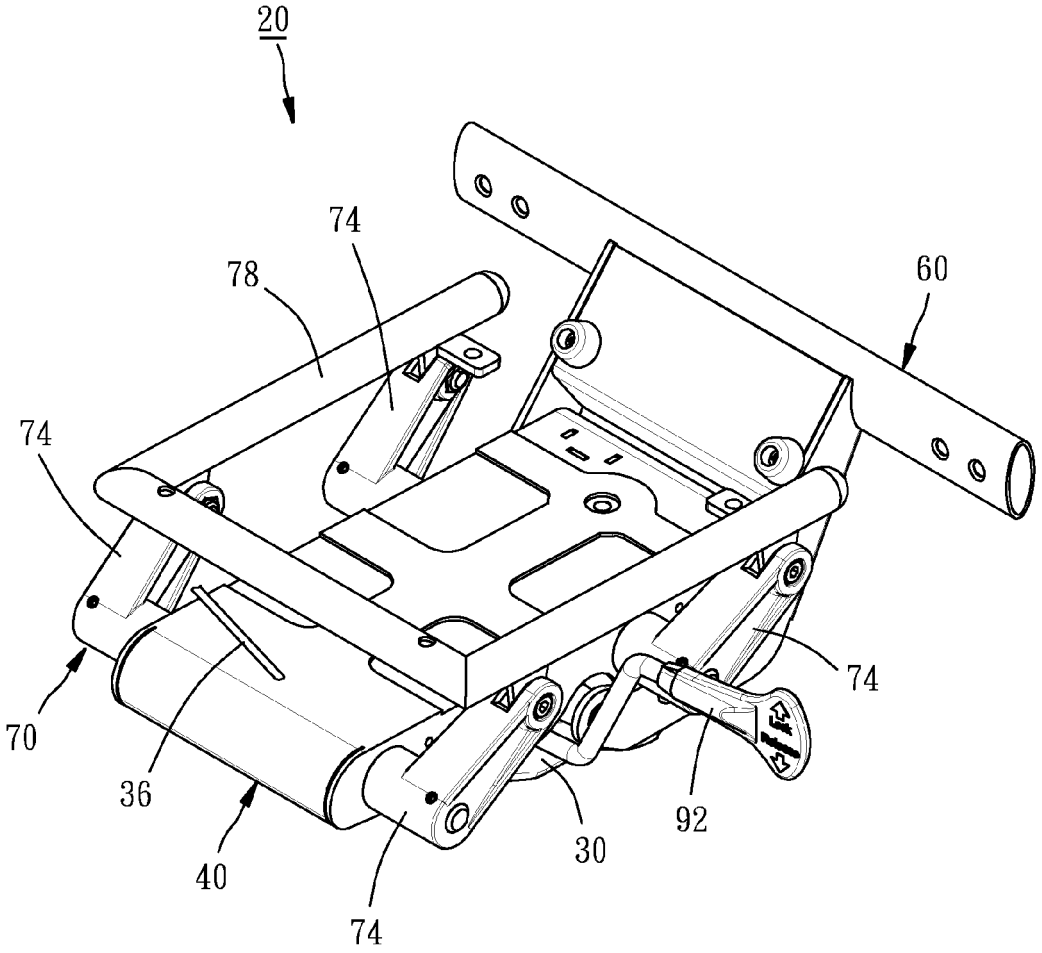
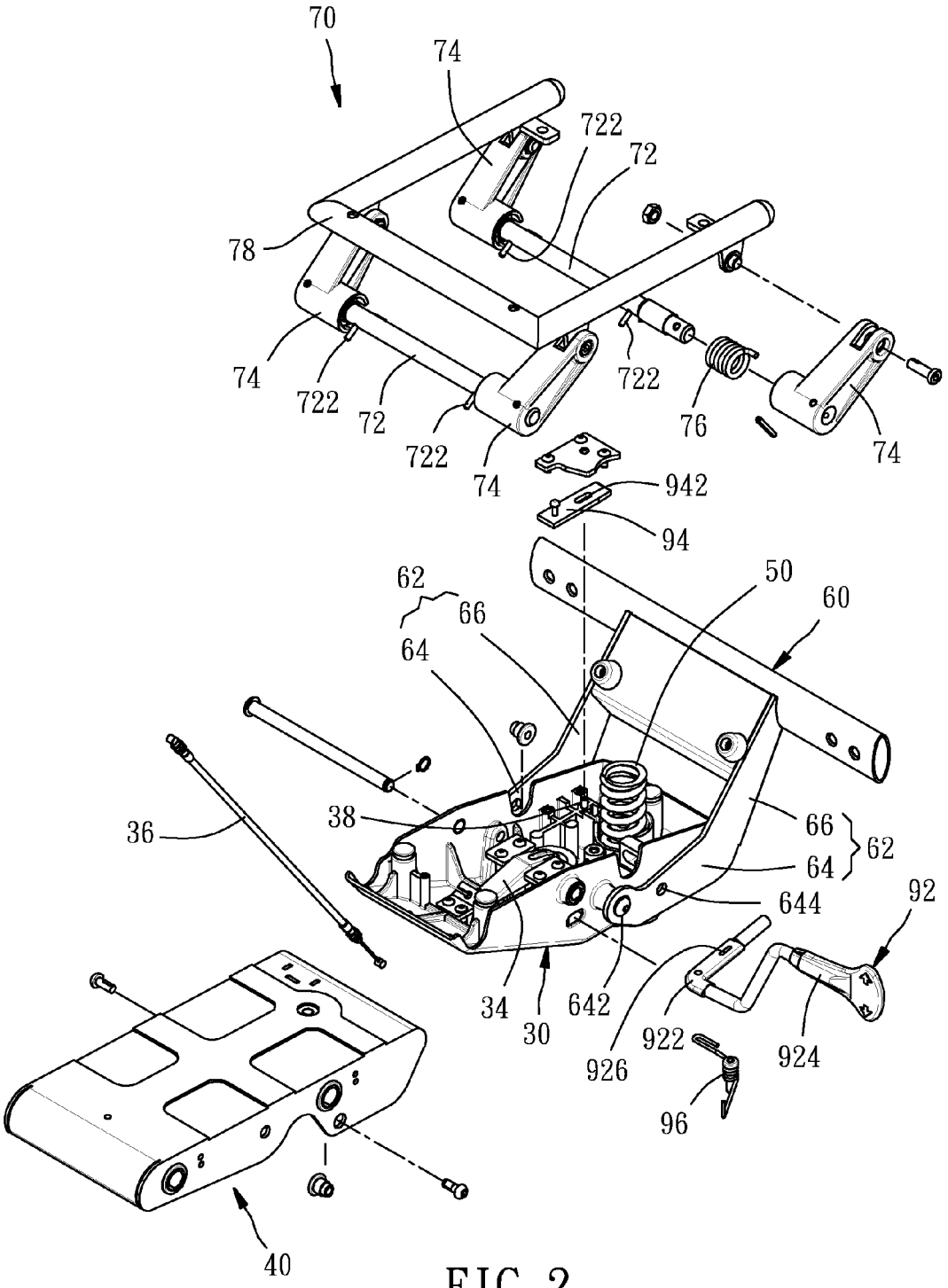


FIG. 1


70
74
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72
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722
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76
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942
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64
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38
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644
92
34
30
642
922
924
926
96
40

FIG. 2

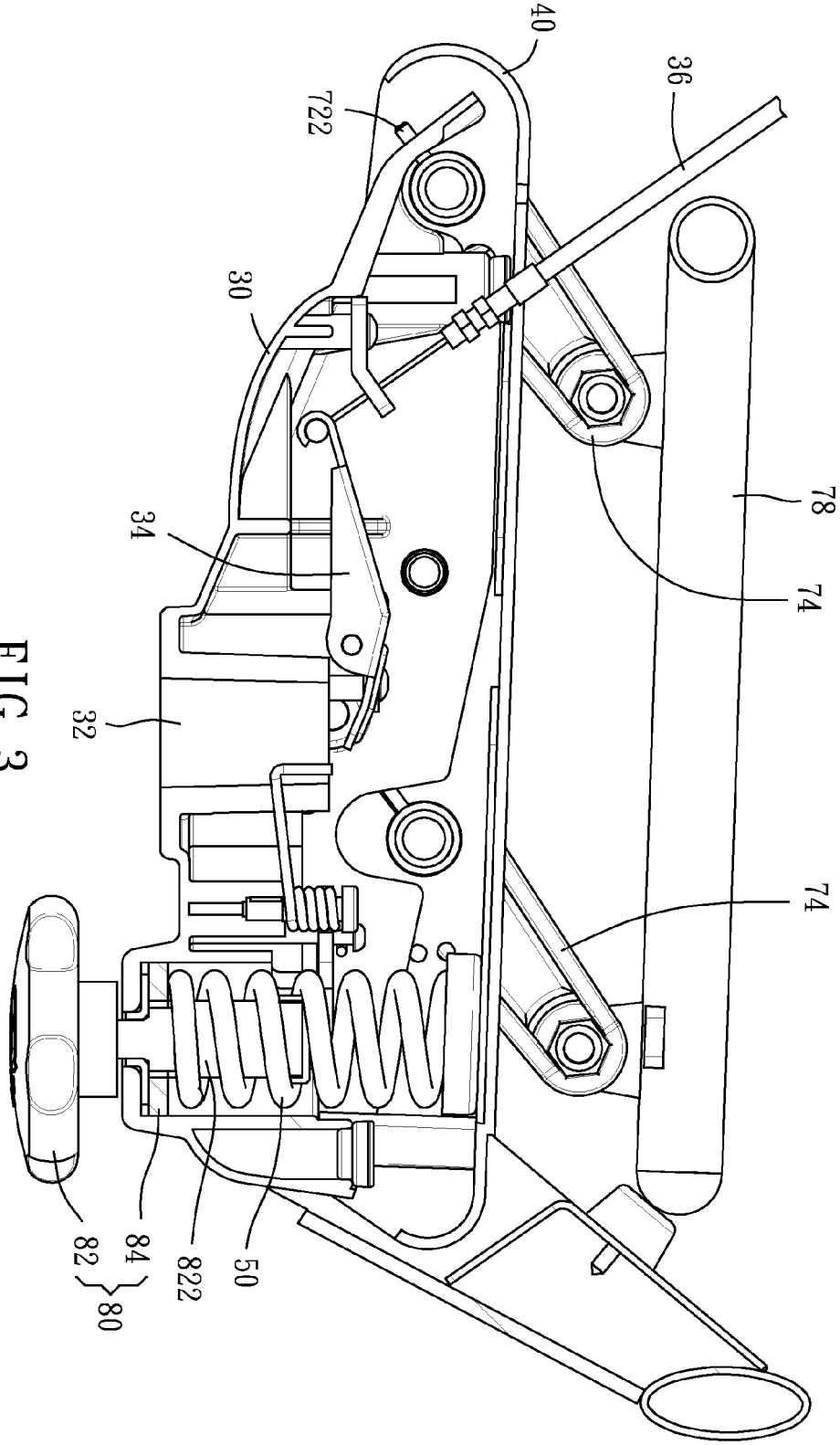


FIG. 3

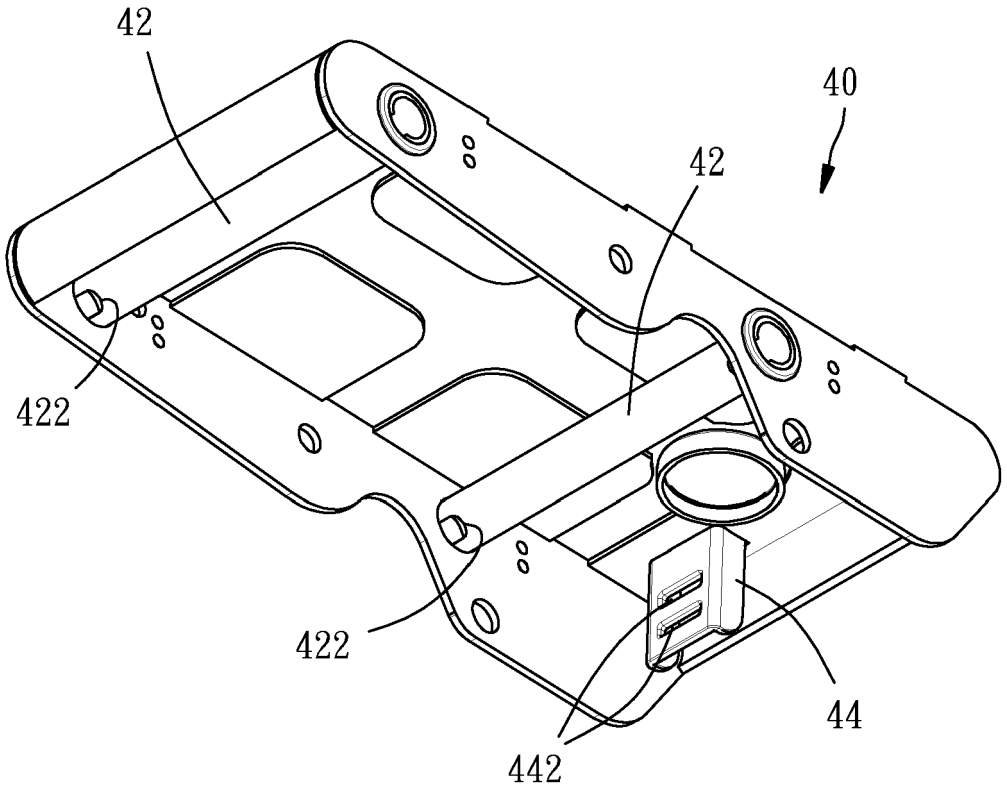


FIG. 4

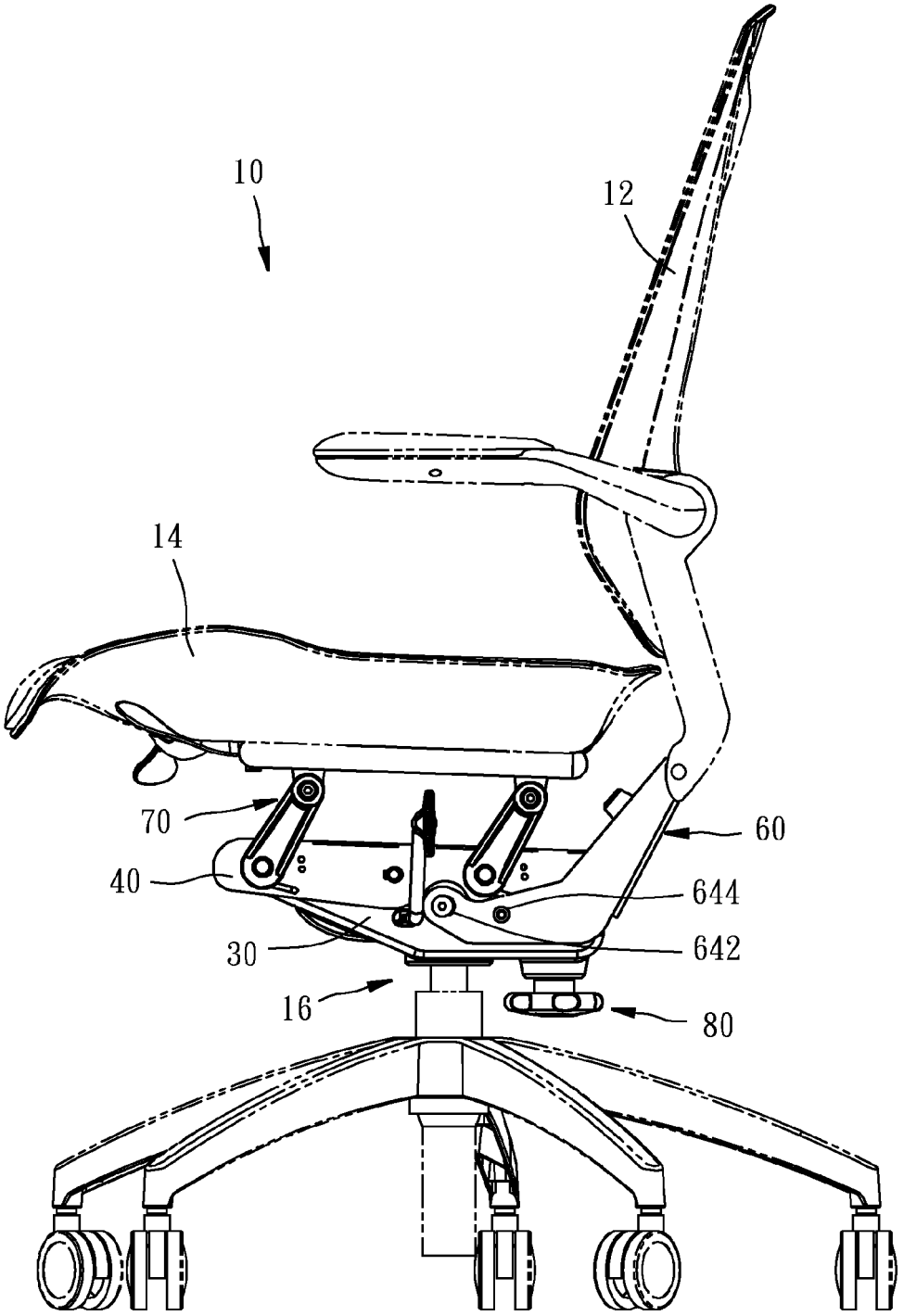


FIG. 5

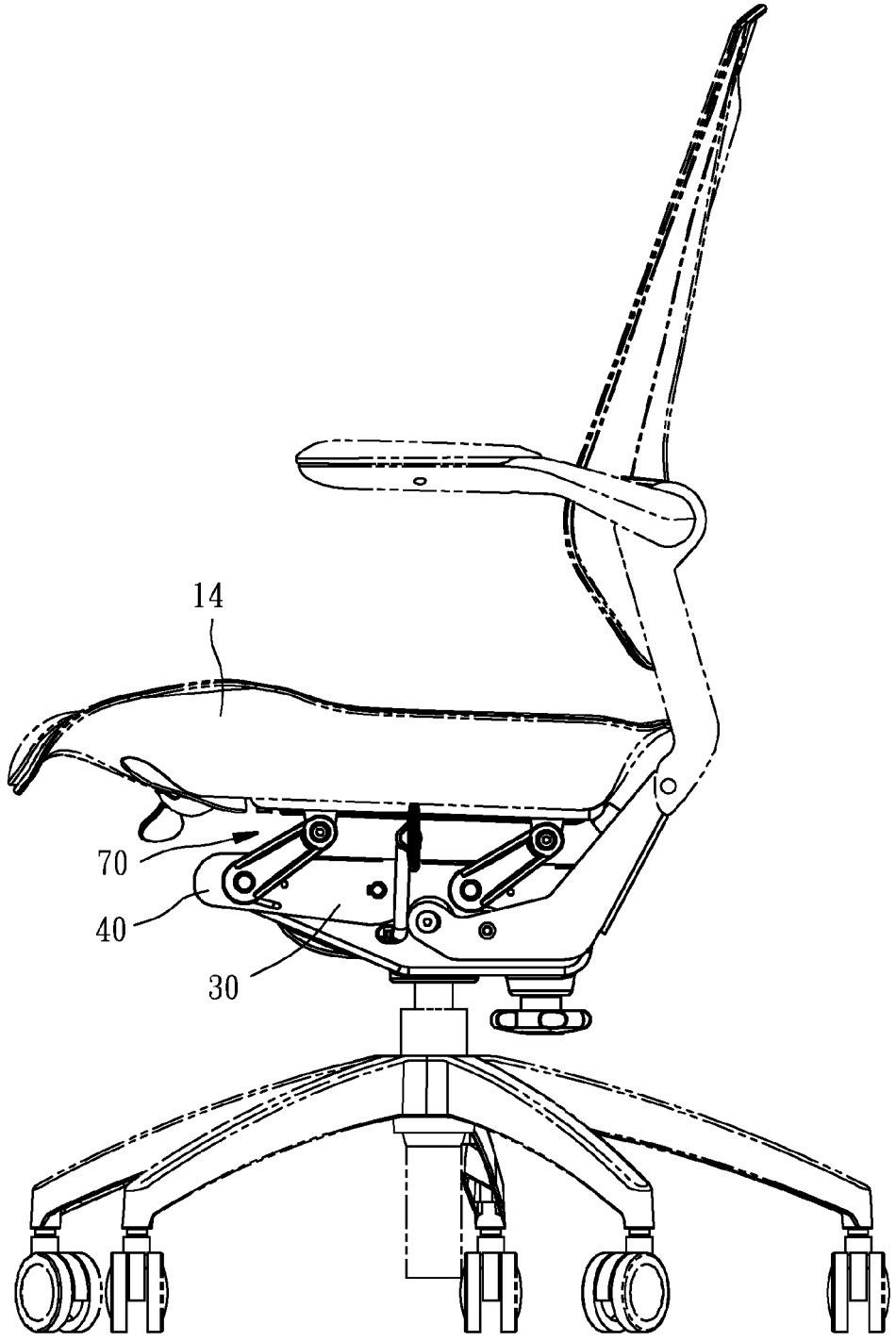


FIG. 6

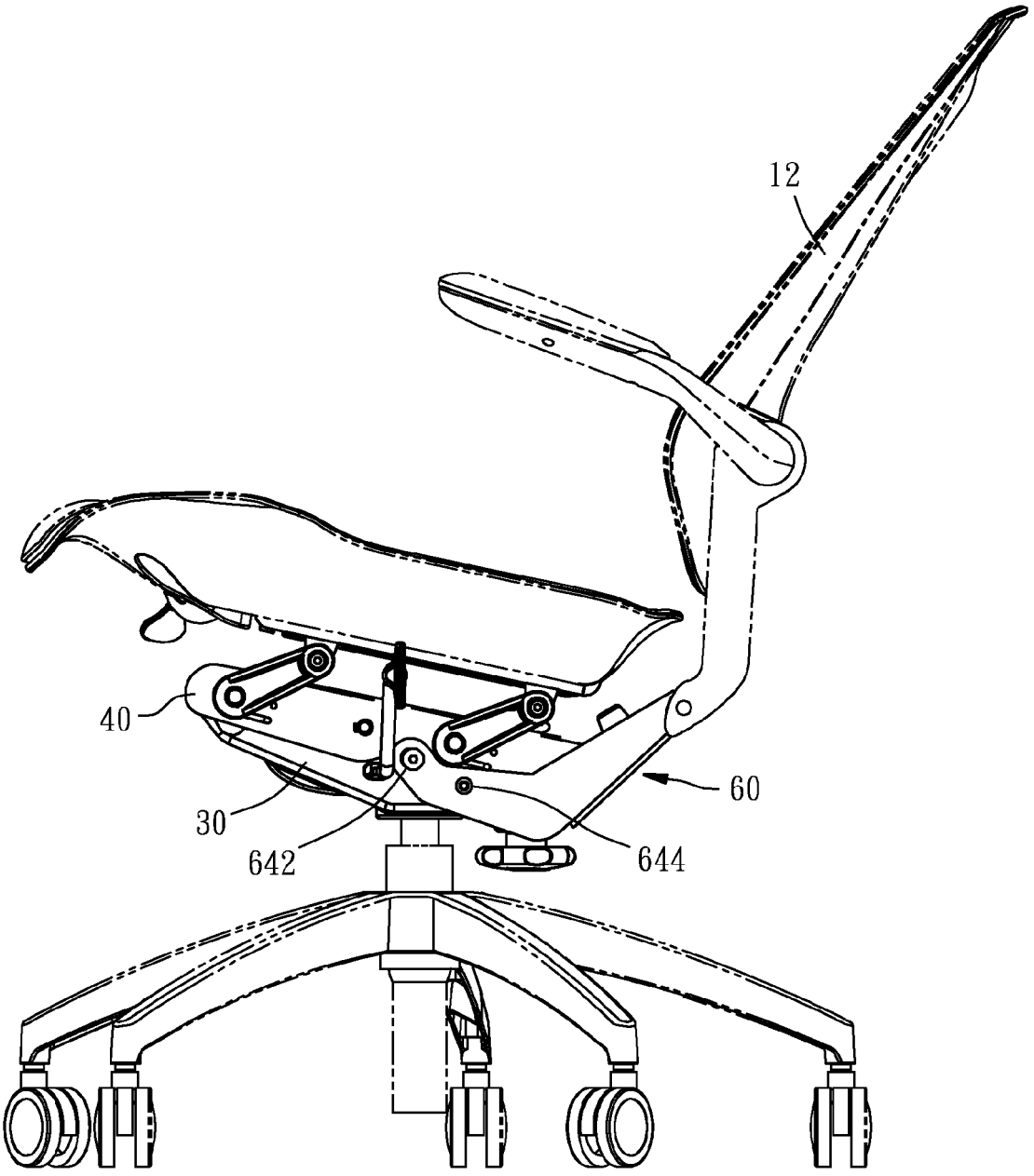


FIG. 7

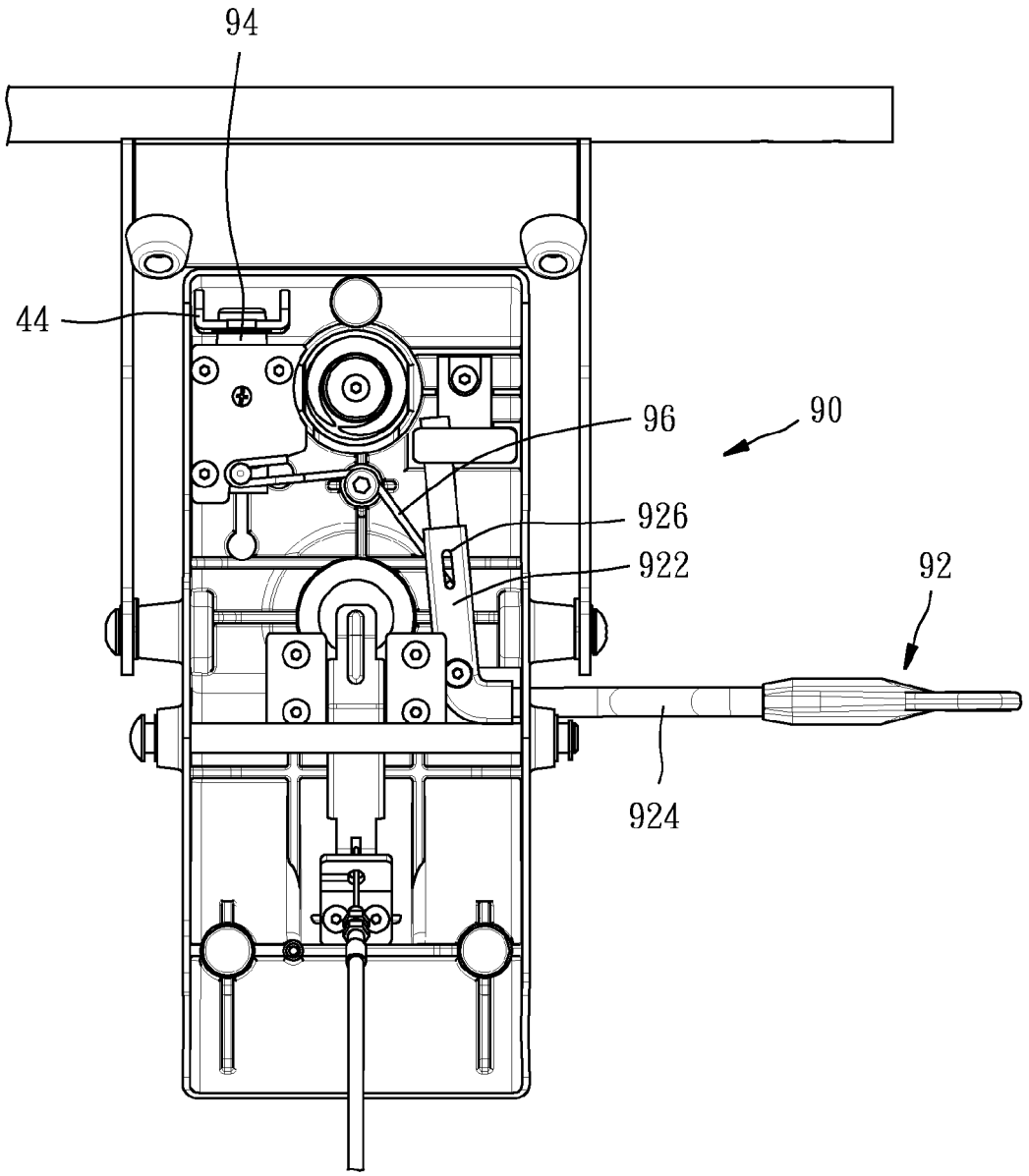


FIG. 8

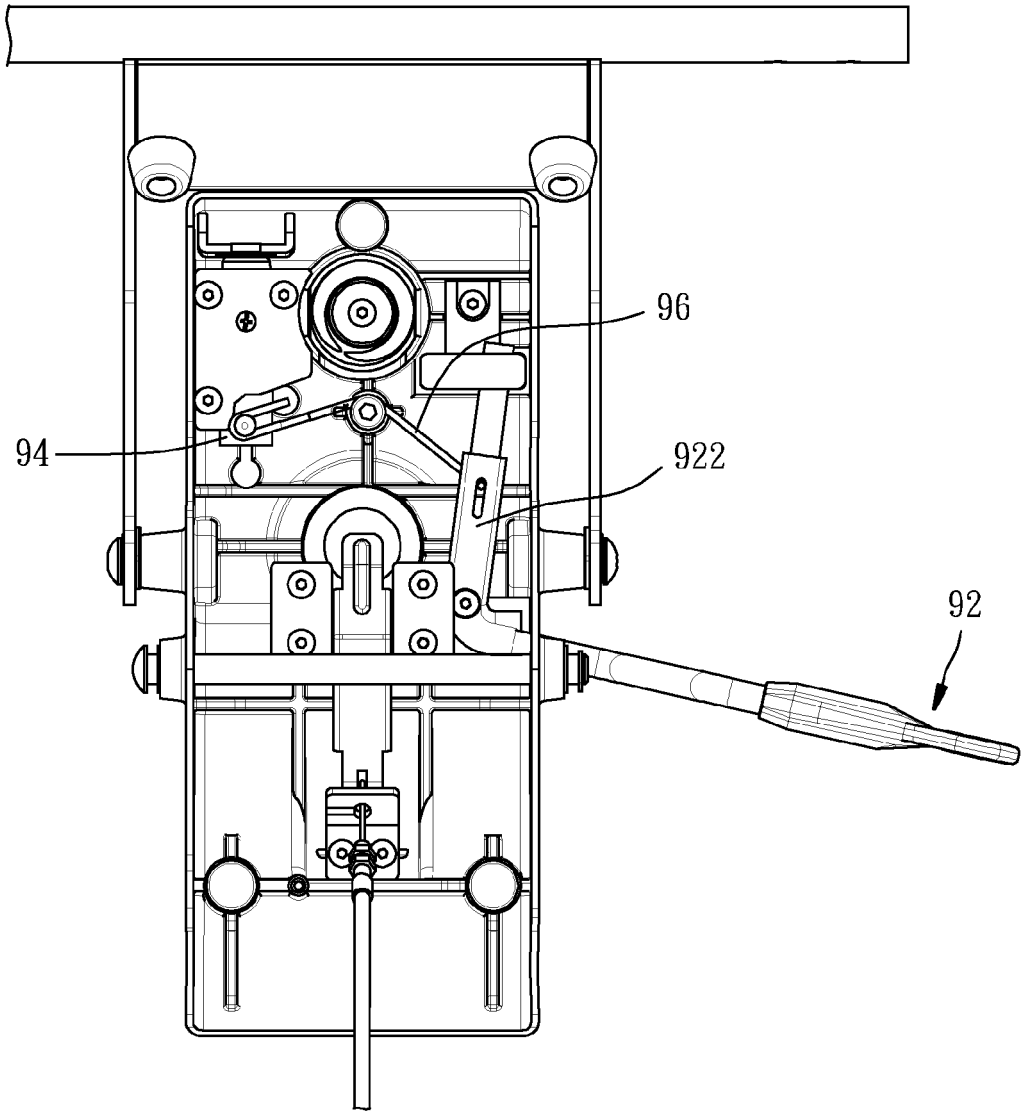
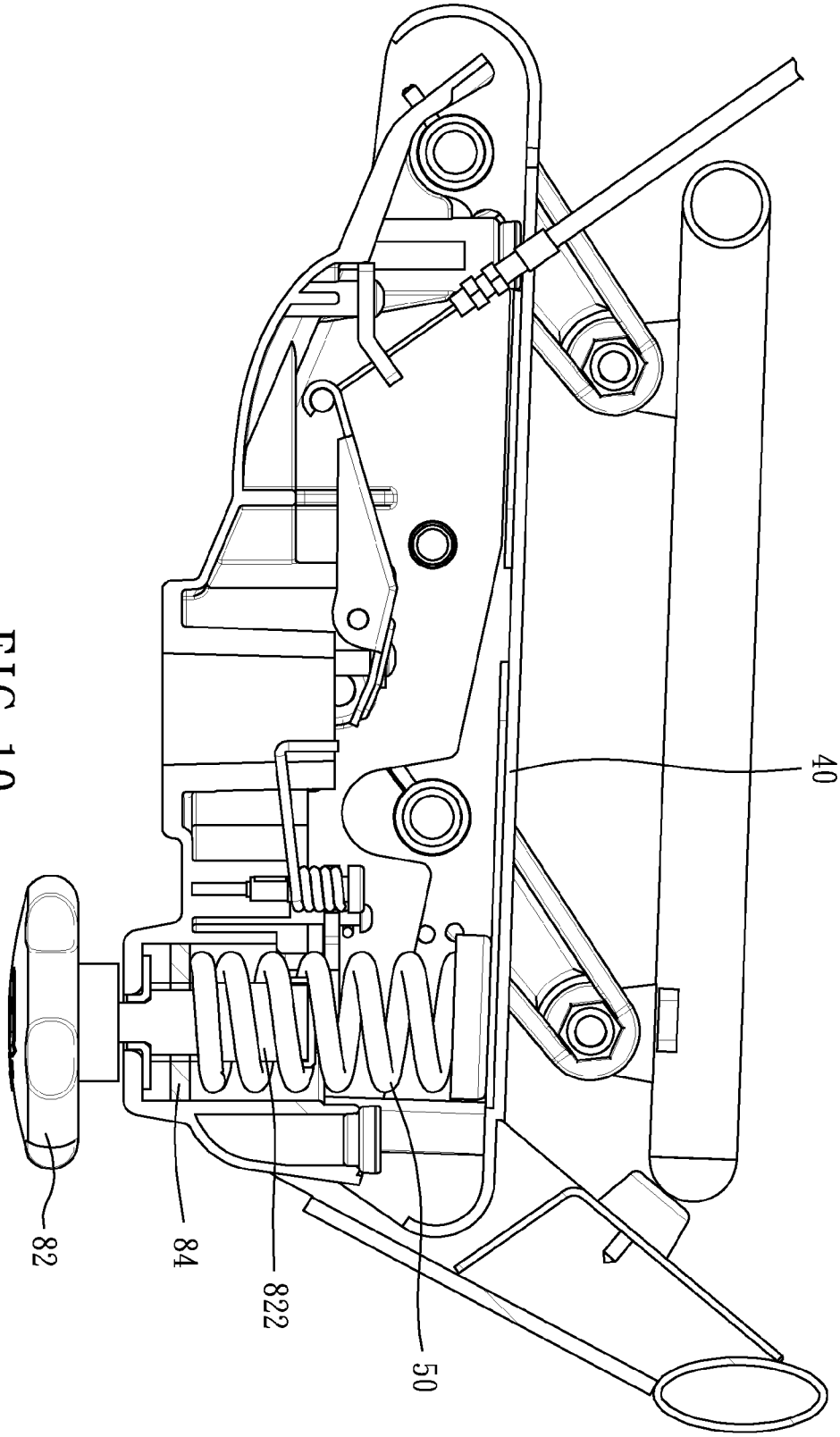


FIG. 9

FIG. 10



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 11 16 4564

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	WO 2007/124609 A2 (VITRA PATENTE AG [CH]; BRAEUNING EGON [DE]) 8 November 2007 (2007-11-08) * abstract; figures *	1	INV. A47C1/032
X	EP 1 911 371 A1 (INTERSTUHL BUEROMOEBEL GMBH & [DE]) 16 April 2008 (2008-04-16) * abstract; figures *	1	
X	WO 2005/120291 A1 (VITRA PATENTE AG [CH]; BRAEUNING EGON [DE]) 22 December 2005 (2005-12-22) * abstract; figures *	1	
X	WO 2008/124071 A1 (L & P PROPERTY MANAGEMENT CO [US]) 16 October 2008 (2008-10-16) * abstract; figures 1-9 *	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) A47C

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
Munich	8 July 2011	MacCormick, Duncan

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

X : particularly relevant if taken alone
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ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO. EP 11 16 4564

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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08-07-2011

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