

W. J. Clowes.

Sofa Bedstead,

N^o 3,140.

Patented June 24, 1843.

Fig. 1.

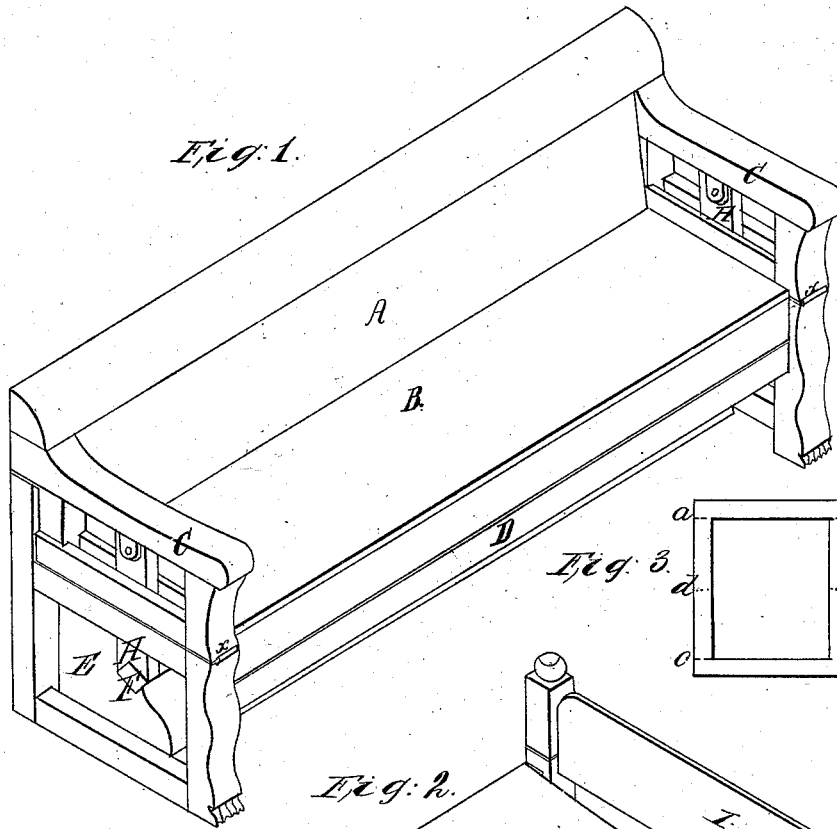


Fig. 3.

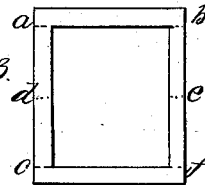
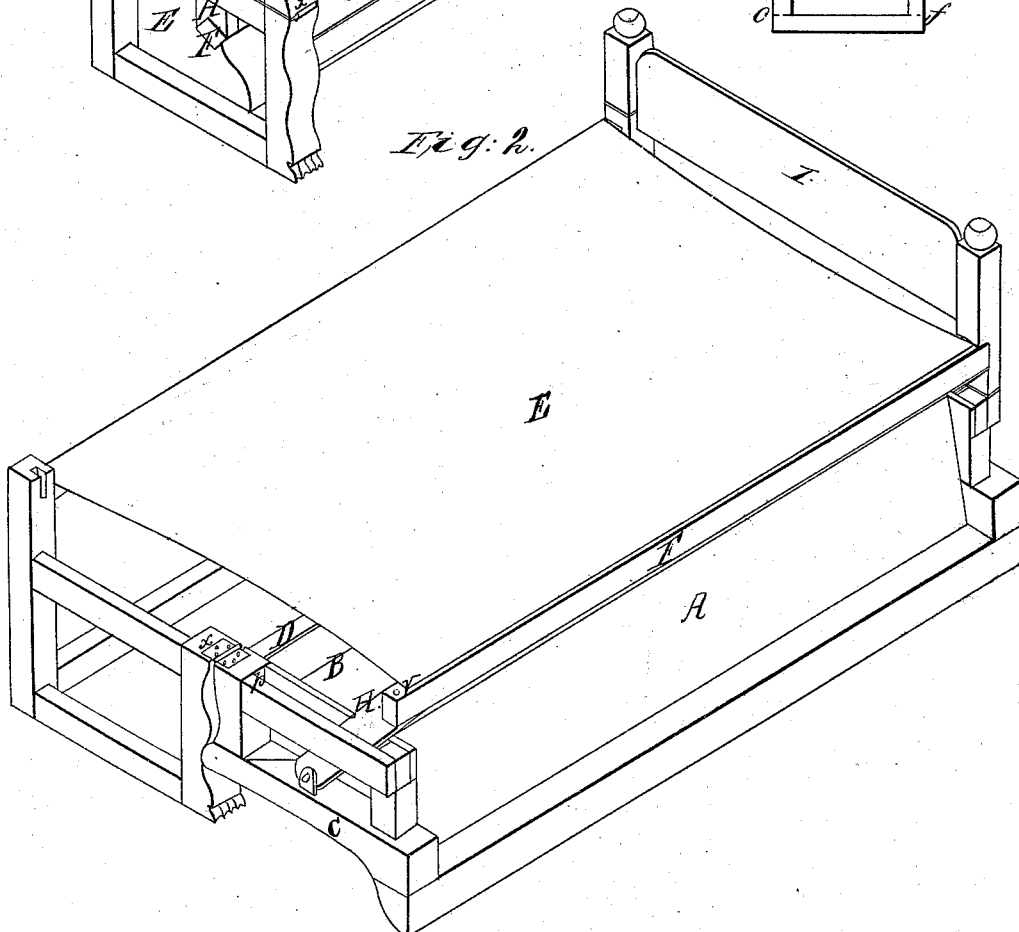


Fig. 2.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

W. J. CLOWES, OF HARTWOOD, NEW YORK.

SOFA-BEDSTEAD.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 3,140, dated June 24, 1843.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM J. CLOWES, of Hartwood, in the county of Sullivan and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Article of Furniture Combining the Uses of a Bedstead and Sofa, the essential features of my invention being applicable also to settees, divans, and all other like articles that may be also used as a bed or for supporting one.

To prevent repetition in the annexed description of the nature of my invention, I would observe, that the word sofa applies to every article the shape and size of which will allow it also to be used as a bedstead, the word sacking, to any flexible material that holds or supports the bed and the word machine to the frame or parts which are common to both sofa and bedstead.

In my invention the whole sofa is, or, may be, made into two divisions, and the divisions being connected together by joints or hinges, the sofa is changed into all the material parts of the bedstead by simply turning the movable part of the machine upon such hinges downward or toward the floor; the whole machine being so constructed, that the back and seat of the sofa fall, or sink, out of the way of the bed and bedding, leaving nothing, when the machine is wanted as a bedstead above the level of the sacking, except such parts of the machine as may answer for the head or foot boards, or, to which the same may be attached; the sacking, in my invention, is to be attached on each side thereof to a cross rail forming part of the permanent frame of each division of the machine, or in place of both sides of the sacking being permanently attached to cross rails of the frame as mentioned, one of the sides of the sacking may be attached to a loose, or movable, rail, or strip of board which is so constructed that, when the machine is used as a bedstead, it occupies the place of such permanent cross rail, but when used as a sofa, it so falls under the seat of such sofa as to allow the sacking to hold up from the floor the bed and bedding of such bed; the advantage of the movable rail over the permanent rail, is, that by the use of the former, the machine may be changed from the bedstead to the sofa, or from the sofa to the bedstead, without the necessity of removing or even touching any part of the bed, or bed-clothes—the turning over of the machine upon its hinges or joints, and

bringing and staying the movable rail to its place being all that is required to effect such changes. The movable rail together with the weight upon it can be easily drawn to the place where it is to be secured by the oraces, by the hands, by the assistance of a short lever, or by means of a cord and pulley.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe the manner in which a sofa bedstead may be constructed, reference being had to drawings annexed, in which—

Figure 1 is a view of the machine in the form of a sofa, and Fig. 2 is a view of it in the form of a bedstead.

All the upper part of the sofa including the back A, seat B, and arms C, and ends above the seat is connected together and forms one division; the other division is composed of the part D and ends and back of the sofa below the seat; these two divisions are connected by hinges (*x*) or joints on the front side which permit the first division to be turned down on to the floor. The sacking E is fastened on one side to the top of the back side of the second division; on the other side it is nailed to a narrow strip of plank or board F which constitutes the movable rail before spoken of; each end of this rail is fastened at right angles to one end of a strip or bar of wood H; the other end of such strip or bar is connected by a pivot joint or hinge at (*o*) to the under side of the arm of the sofa *c* in such manner that such strip or bar may move within the frame beneath the arm of the sofa; one end being secured at (*o*) and the other end moving as occasion may require from (*p*) to (*r*) or from (*r*) to (*p*).

When the machine is in the form of a sofa these bars hang in the position shown in Fig. 1: when in the form of a bedstead they are in the position shown in Fig. 2: the movable rail having been brought forward and braced by putting in head and foot boards, the head board I is shown as in place: at one end it fits into a mortise like that (*z*) intended for a foot board and at the other it has an iron pin fitting into a socket in the movable rail, the corresponding socket for the pin of the foot board is seen at V; the head and foot boards when not in use are placed behind the sofa, and if small may be placed inside upon the bed. The plan of distending the sacking

by means of cords and pulleys referred to in the former part of this specification is as follows: Attached to each end of the movable rail is a strong cord which passing over a pulley fixed to the back part of the arm is carried back and fastened to some part of the second division of the machine, say to the rail to which the other side of the sacking is fastened; from this it follows that when the first division is lifted up and brought over to form a bedstead, the cords and pulleys will cause the sacking to be stretched tightly across the whole upper side of the two divisions as it is seen in Fig. 2 although there made by other means.

The various modifications of my invention can be easily perceived by reference to Fig. 3, of the drawings which represents a hollow square made by four pieces of wood; and may be conceived to be one end of the frame of a sofa of the plainest kind: by dividing this frame into two parts and joining them again together by hinges we have one of the essential features of my invention. Such modifications may be shown by reference to various places where the said frame may be divided into two parts. In the sofa bedstead described in Figs. 1 and 2, the divisions correspond to the divisions made in Fig. 3 at (e) and (a); the hinges being put at (e) all the upper part of the frame together with the seat back and sides of the sofa which are attached to it turn over. The divisions may be made at (f) and (a) or at (e) and (b) and by means of the hinge at (f) or (e), the top rail between (a) and (b) will form one of the posts of the bedstead when the machine is used as such: this modification is well adapted for benches, ottomans, divans, or other forms of the sofa that have no arms or back as the seat will be placed in a line near (a) and (b) instead of being placed in a line between (c) and (d) as in the larger sofa. The division may in like manner be

made at (e) and (d) and the hinge may be put either at (e) or (d); the hinge may be put at (f) and the other division be at (b) and a bedstead may thus be formed by having the feet of the posts or bars which hold up the movable rail secured at or near (b) the frame of the machine from (f) to (b) being turned down upon the floor, and the movable rail brought to its place: the sacking in that case would be stretched out in a line corresponding with (e) and (d). In my invention also the seat back and all other parts of the sofa which do not form parts of the bedstead may be removed at pleasure from the machine, and the machine may yet be used as a bedstead, and in this state may be cleaned with as much facility as any common bedstead: all such portions of the back seat, sides, &c., of the sofa as are usually covered with cloth are or can be made into separate panels that may be screwed or otherwise attached to the frame of the machine.

What I claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent is—

1. Constructing the frame of the sofa, settee, ottoman, divan, or other article of furniture referred to in the foregoing specification in two divisions, hinged or jointed together in the manner herein described so that it may at pleasure be converted into a bedstead.

2. I also claim the method herein described of affixing the sacking to a movable rail F for the more easy conversion of the sofa into a bedstead and the bedstead back again into a sofa whenever it may be desirable to put the bed and bed clothes under the seat of the sofa; the said rail being kept in place by braces or by the head and foot boards I.

WILLIAM J. CLOWES.

Witnesses:

EDWARD K. BARNUM,
GERARDUS CLOWES.