

## OPERATOR CHAIRS

### METAL TYPE — DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

#### 1. GENERAL

**1.01** This section covers the requirements for the proper use and application of operator chairs and associated accessories. Chairs and accessories may be ordered as described in this section.

**1.02** This section is reissued to:

- Omit information for the KS-5587 supervisor chair and the KS-15723 supply cabinet which are rated Manufacture Discontinued.
- Add list numbers for gray colored operator chairs.
- Revise the list numbers of the offset spindle chairs.
- Revise the title of Fig. 5.

#### OPERATOR CHAIRS

**1.03** Operator chairs used in the Bell System have been designed with the object of producing a chair which provides for the maximum posture comfort for the occupant while performing the duties of operating a switchboard or an auxiliary desk.

**1.04** Manual telephone switchboard operation is based on teamwork between operators of adjacent positions and on the ability to bring a multiple of 10,000 subscriber lines or seven panels of switchboard within the reach of every operator. To permit this, the switchboards are designed on minimum centers and fixed heights and the operator chairs must have the following features: Their width must fit the allocated space. They must have a rotating feature for teamwork and multiple reach and, because of physical variations in operators, the chairs must be adjustable in height.

**1.05** There are three generations of operator chairs currently in service in the telephone companies operating rooms and PBX offices. They consist of the Western Electric number 1 through 5 chairs, KS-15531 metal chairs, and the KS-15784 upholstered metal chairs. The number 1 through 5 chairs and the KS-15531 chairs have been rated "Manufacture Discontinued."

**1.06** The KS-15784 operator chairs are the present standard for Bell System operating rooms. There are two types of chairs, the center spindle chairs which are used at switchboards and the offset spindle chair used at information desks. The plastic-covered metal framework of the chairs is available in three colors: Gray, green, or mahogany, while the seats and back rests are furnished only in two colors, gray or green. The chairs are available in four sizes, which locate the seats of the chairs approximately 18, 20, 24, and 28 inches from the floor when adjusted to their lowest levels. The offset spindle chair is provided in the 18-inch size and gray or green color only. The 18-inch center spindle chair is available in three colors, gray, green, or mahogany-green combination. The 20-, 24-, and 28-inch chairs are furnished only in the mahogany-green color combination. These chairs are provided with upholstered back rests and upholstered or cane seats. The two seats are interchangeable on similar upper units. The upholstered and cane seated chairs are illustrated in Fig. 1 through 6.

**1.07** The chair consists primarily of an upper unit and a lower unit interconnected by a threaded spindle and hub. This permits changing the height of the seat from the floor and also permits rotation from left to right to facilitate the work of a telephone operator. The form and location of the various components, such as the seat, the back rest, and the foot ring are designed and arranged to give good posture and maximum comfort consistent with efficient operation of telephone switchboards and auxiliary desks.

**SECTION 065-100-102**

**1.08 Sizes:** The center spindle operator chairs are available in the four sizes. The chair size desired may be determined by deducting 12 inches from the distance between the upper surface of the keyshelf and the floor or platform as shown below:

- 40-inch keyshelf — 18-inch chair  
10-inch platform
- 30-inch keyshelf — 18-inch chair  
no platform
- 40-inch keyshelf — 20-inch chair  
8-inch platform
- 36-inch keyshelf — 24-inch chair  
no platform
- 40-inch keyshelf — 28-inch chair  
no platform

↗ **1.09 Back Rests:** Three back rests are available. One has a gray-colored backplate, ↘ one has a green-colored backplate, and one has a mahogany-colored backplate. These back rests are used with chairs having a framework finished with a color corresponding to the backplate. The back rests are upholstered and have a foam → rubber padding covered with gray or green nylon cord fabric. The fabric has been treated to resist soilage. The back rests are attached to the chairs in such a manner as to provide an up and down swivel action which permits positioning to fit the occupant of the chair.

↗ **1.10 Upper Units:** Five upper units are available: One center-spindle upper unit finished in mahogany for use with mahogany lower units, one center-spindle upper unit finished in gray for gray lower units, one center-spindle upper unit finished in green for use with green lower units, one offset-spindle upper unit finished in gray for use with gray lower units, and one offset-spindle upper unit finished in ↘ green for use with green lower units. These upper units differ from the earlier types used on operator chairs, by having the back rest upholstered and located lower. The construction of the seat also allows for a slight rearward tilt. The spindle, which is attached to the upper unit, is long enough to permit a 4-inch vertical adjustment of the seat and still have full contact with the

threads in the hub on the lower unit. The upper units of the KS-15784 chairs are interchangeable with the upper units of the No. 1 through 5 chairs and the KS-15531 chairs.

**1.11 Lower Units:** The general construction of the lower unit is the same for all of the chairs. The additional height for the various chairs is added in the legs between the floor and the foot ring. The foot ring is attached by means of a Nylok machine screw at each leg and can readily be removed when replacement is necessary. The lower units of the KS-15784 chairs are interchangeable with the lower units of the No. 1 through No. 5 chairs and the KS-15531 chairs.

↗ **1.12 Seats:** Three upholstered seats are available. Two are for use with the five upper units mentioned above and differ only in color (gray or green). The other is a replacement for the air cell or cane seat on existing KS-15531 upper units and is furnished in green color only. ↘ These seats consist of foam rubber and cotton padding covered with a treated nylon cord fabric attached to a plywood base.

↗ **1.13** Three cane seats are available. Two are for use with the five upper units mentioned above and differ only in color (gray or green). The other seat is a replacement for existing KS-15531 upper units, is furnished in green color only, and differs from the other two seats in the type of metal adapters used for mounting the seats to the framework of the chair. The seats are made of natural-colored cane in a gray or green finished wooden frame.

**1.14** The above seats are furnished with three sets of mounting holes that provide an adjustment of 1/2 inch from the delivered seat position to a forward or rearward position. This adjustment (to be made by the local maintenance force) is provided to accommodate the local variation in seating requirements of the operators. The seats are fastened to the upper unit by four Nylok machine screws and are easily replaced by ↘ the local maintenance force.

**1.15 Chair Rests:** Metal chair rests (floor glides), coded KS-5344 Item 5 are provided on each lower unit. These rests are 1-1/2 inches in diameter and equipped with a rubber grip for fastening into the chair. They easily may be re-

moved for replacement by turning in a counter-clockwise direction.

**1.16 Offset Chairs:** The 18-inch offset spindle chair is provided in gray or green color only. The spindle of this chair is offset and is located 2-7/8 inches back of the center line toward the rear of the seat. This makes the chair more adaptable where it is necessary to perform operations at the side as well as at the front such as at the 23B, C, and similar type auxiliary desks. The chair is raised or lowered in the usual manner.

#### ORDERING INFORMATION

**1.17** In making a choice between upholstered seats and cane seats for a particular office it should be understood that both types of seats have certain disadvantages as well as advantages. While the upholstered seat is softer than the cane seat, it is fundamental that it is also warmer. Also, it should be realized that a wide difference of opinion will be encountered with respect to these seats even in the same office.

**1.18** It is felt that upholstered seats will receive generally favorable reception in offices in any part of the country where the operating rooms are equipped with air-conditioning facilities. In operating rooms not equipped with air-conditioning, the choice between upholstered and cane seats will no doubt be influenced by the range of summer and winter temperatures and the percent of humidity encountered. The upholstered and cane seats are, of course, interchangeable on the KS-15784 and all KS-15531 chairs except KS-15531 offset spindle chairs having a ball-bearing spindle. It may in certain cases be found desirable to change from upholstered to cane seats for the summer months. Such a change could readily be made by the local maintenance forces if desired.

**1.19** The KS-15784 lists are as follows:

**List 1** — 18-inch operator chair, green, with upholstered seat.

**List 2** — 18-inch operator chair, green, with cane seat.

**List 3** — 18-inch operator chair, mahogany-green, with upholstered seat.

**List 4** — 18-inch operator chair, mahogany-green, with cane seat.

**List 5** — Manufacture discontinued; replaced by List 30.

**List 6** — Manufacture discontinued, replaced by List 31.

**List 7** — 20-inch operator chair, mahogany-green, with upholstered seat.

**List 8** — 20-inch operator chair, mahogany-green, with cane seat.

**List 9** — 24-inch operator chair, mahogany-green, with upholstered seat.

**List 10** — 24-inch operator chair, mahogany-green, with cane seat.

**List 11** — 28-inch operator chair, mahogany-green, with upholstered seat.

**List 12** — 28-inch operator chair, mahogany-green, with cane seat.

**List 13** — Upper unit, green, for 18-inch chair.

**List 14** — Manufacture discontinued; replaced by List 29.

**List 15** — Upper unit, mahogany-green for 18-, 20-, 24-, or 28-inch chairs.

**List 16** — Lower unit, green, for 18-inch chair.

**List 17** — Lower unit, mahogany, for 18-inch, mahogany-green chair.

**List 18** — Lower unit, mahogany, for 20-inch, mahogany-green chair.

**List 19** — Lower unit, mahogany, for 24-inch, mahogany-green chair.

**List 20** — Lower unit, mahogany, for 28-inch, mahogany-green chair.

**List 21** — Green cane seat.

**List 22** — Green upholstered seat.

**List 23** — Green upholstered back rest.

**List 24** — Green upholstered back rest for mahogany-green chairs.

**List 25** — Green foot ring.

**List 26** — Mahogany foot ring.

- List 27 — Green cane seat for KS-15531 chairs.
- List 28 — Green upholstered seat for KS-15531 chairs.
- List 29 — Upper unit, offset, green, for 18-inch offset chair.
- List 30 — 18-inch operator chair, offset, green with upholstered seat.
- List 31 — 18-inch operator chair, offset, green, with cane seat.
- List 32 — 18-inch operator chair, gray, with upholstered seat.
- List 33 — 18-inch operator chair, gray, with cane seat.
- List 34 — 18-inch operator chair, offset, gray, with upholstered seat.
- List 35 — 18-inch operator chair, offset, gray, with cane seat.
- List 36 — Lower unit, gray, for 18-inch chair.
- List 37 — Gray foot ring.
- List 38 — Upper unit, gray, for 18-inch chair.
- List 39 — Upper unit, offset, gray, for 18-inch offset chair.
- List 40 — Gray upholstered seat.
- List 41 — Gray cane seat.
- List 42 — Gray upholstered backrest.

1.20 The list numbers for chairs include a complete chair. The list numbers for lower units include chair rests and a foot ring. The list number for an upper unit do not include a seat which should be ordered per an added list.

1.21 **Example of Ordering Information:** The choice of chair size should be made in accordance with information found in 1.08. In ordering these chairs and related components, the description should be limited as indicated in the following example:

**Chairs**

(Quantity) Chair, Operator, KS-15784 List (No.)

**Upper Units**

(Quantity) Unit, Upper, KS-15784 List (No.)

**Lower Units**

(Quantity) Unit, Lower, KS-15784 List (No.)

**Seats**

(Quantity) Seat, KS-15784 List (No.)

**ACCESSORIES**

**Purse Holder**

1.22 A purse holder, coded KS-15830 is available for operator chairs. The holder is made of two pieces of formed sheet steel held together by a spring hinge at the bottom. One piece is fastened firmly to the underside of the chair seat and the other is free to move under control of the hinge. The purse is placed between the two pieces and the spring hinge tends to exert a slight pressure against it which keeps it in place. Various sized purses may be accommodated. The holder is illustrated in Fig. 7.

1.23 The holders are available in four separate lists. List 1 provides a mahogany-colored purse holder for use on Western Electric Company chairs Number 1 through 4, KS-15531 and KS-15784 center spindle mahogany-colored chairs. List 2 provides a matching colored purse holder for the KS-15784 green center spindle chairs. List 3 provides a green holder plus a green-colored adapter for use on KS-15784 L5 and L6 offset operator chairs. List 4 consists of a mahogany-colored holder plus an adapter for use on supervisor chairs. List 5 consists of a green-colored holder plus an adapter for use on a green supervisor chair. Drilling information for mounting the purse holder on the supervisor chairs is covered in maintenance Section → 065-100-802. List 6 provides a matching colored → purse holder for the KS-15784 gray chairs.

**Spindle Cover**

1.24 A spindle cover coded KS-15801 is available for use on operator chairs. It prevents operators clothing from being soiled or damaged by the lubricant used on the threaded portion of the spindle. This may occur either by direct contact or by transfer from a supervisor headset cord.

1.25 The spindle cover consists of a vinyl plastic sleeve supported by a metal ring frame, and is arranged to be fastened to the underside of the upper unit of the operator chair, using the same holes provided for mounting a purse holder. The cover extends downward over the spindle hub of the lower unit and permits the chair to be adjusted vertically without exposing the threaded portion of the spindle. See Fig. 7.

1.26 The covers are available in two separate lists. List 3 provides a clear vinyl-plastic cover (same as List 4) plus a wood spacer block,

for use on Western Electric Company chairs Number 1 through 4. List 4 provides a clear vinyl-plastic cover for use on all KS-15784 operator chairs.

1.27 **Ticket Holders:** No. 5C ticket holders may be provided where desired. The back rest of the KS-15784 operator chair has three sets of holes across the top of the backplate for mounting the ticket holder. The No. 12A ticket holder may be provided for use on the chairs equipped with a molded bakelite back rest (KS-15531 and Western Electric type chairs). A small metal box may be attached to the back rest of the operator chairs for storing completed mark sense tickets. Boxes of this type may be ordered through the Western Electric distributing house. They are coded Number 4045 Gray Acme Visible Ticket Box for operator chairs.



Fig. 1 — KS-15784, 18-Inch Operator Chair with Upholstered Seat



Fig. 2 — KS-15784 Upper Unit — 18-Inch Lower Unit



Fig. 3 — KS-15784, 20-Inch Operator Chair



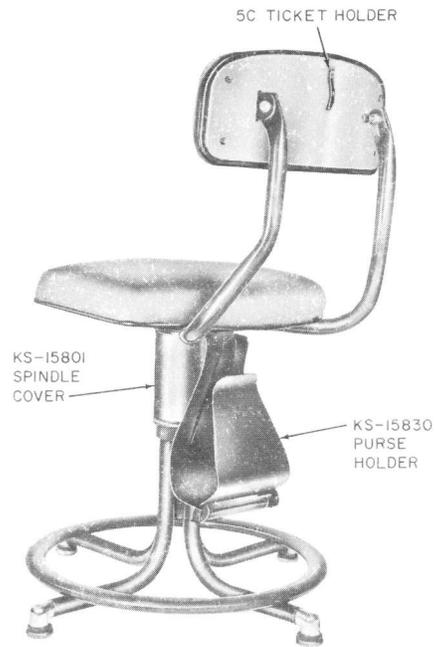
Fig. 4 — KS-15784, 24-Inch Operator Chair



→ Fig. 5 — KS-15784, 28-Inch Operator Chair



Fig. 6 — KS-15784, 18-Inch Operator Chair with Cane Seat



**Fig. 7 — Operator Chair Accessories**