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Cover adaptable to moveable vehicle seats

Abstract

A seat cover for a vehicle may include a lower or bench portion sized and configured to extend over a horizontally-oriented top of a bench of a vehicle seat. The lower portion may include a first section and a second section separated by a slit. The seat cover for the vehicle may also include an upper or backrest portion coupled to the lower portion. The upper portion may be sized and configured to extend upwardly over a backrest of the vehicle seat. The seat cover may be divided into vertical sections that correspond to the seats of a bench seat in a vehicle. One or more of the vertical sections may be removable to accommodate movement of the vehicle seats.

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Background/Summary

(1) This Application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 18/213,720 filed Jun. 23, 2023, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/537,241 filed Nov. 29, 2021, each of which are incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

(1) This invention relates to covers for upholstery and carpeted areas.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

(2) Vehicles seats and cargo spaces are increasingly more modular. Especially second and third row seats in larger vehicles. The seats can be rearranged to accommodate different numbers of passengers and types of cargo. Second and third row seats are often arranged in rows and the various seats within the rows can be removed, folded downward, or folded upward to accommodate different purposes. Rearranging the seats also effects the shape of the cargo area and the size and shapes of items than can be accommodated.

(3) A vehicle seat may include a backrest, which may include one or more upper sections, and a bench, which may include one or more lower sections. The vehicle seat may be designed to move between various configurations in order to, for example, allow items of various sizes to be transported in the vehicle. In some instances, one or more of the lower sections may be folded up and one or more other upper sections may be folded down. In some instances, one or more lower sections may be folded up while one or more other lower sections are folded down. Additionally, a seat that is part of a bench seat consisting of multiple seats, typically three, may detach from the other seats and slid forward or backwards or folded in on itself.

(4) A cover for a vehicle seat and/or a cargo bed may be limited to a particular type of car, with particular dimensions and features, or a particular seat configuration. In some cases, the cover may

not permit movement of the vehicle seat between the various configurations or may cover various features, such as seatbelts. In order to perform a particular function in the vehicle, the cover may need to be removed. Further, vehicle seats may be exposed to various events that may damage the vehicle seats due to, for example, pets, children, spills, objects, etc.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

(5) The present invention relates to a cover for an interior of a vehicle. In particular, the present invention relates to a cover adaptable to multiple vehicle seat configurations. In some embodiments, the cover for the vehicle may include a seat cover. In some embodiments, the cover may be configured to cover a cargo area in the rear of a vehicle. In some embodiments, the cover is comprised of a single monolithic piece. In some embodiments, the cover may include a lower portion, which may be sized and configured to extend over a horizontally-oriented top of a bench of a vehicle seat.

(6) In some embodiments, the cover may include a first lateral edge, a second lateral edge opposite the first lateral edge, an upper edge extending from the first lateral edge to the second lateral edge, a lower edge opposite the upper edge extending from the first lateral edge to the second lateral edge. In some embodiments, the cover may include a first slit extending a first length from the upper edge toward the lower edge, the first slit a first distance from the first lateral edge, a first section between the first lateral edge and the first slit. In some embodiments, the cover may include a second slit extending a second length from the upper edge toward the lower edge, a second section between the first slit and the second slit, a third section between the second slit and the second lateral edge.

(7) In some embodiments, the length of the first slit may be equal to a distance between the upper edge and the lower edge. In some embodiments, the first slit may be connected by a first fastener, the first fastener extending a full length or a partial length of the first slit. In some embodiments, the first section may be detachable from the second section. In some embodiments, the first fastener may be one or more zippers, the zipper operable in multiple directions (e.g., up or down), the zipper fully or partially disconnecting the first section from the second section when the zipper is in an open position.

(8) In some embodiments, the length of the second slit may be less than a distance between the upper edge and the lower edge. In some embodiments, the second slit may be connected by a second fastener, the second fastener extending a full length or a partial length of the second slit. In some embodiments, the second fastener may be one or more zippers, the zipper operable in multiple directions (e.g., up or down), the zipper partially disconnecting the second section from the third section when the zipper is in an open position.

(9) In some embodiments, the cover may include one or more apertures through the upholstery cover. In some embodiments, the aperture may further comprise a removable cover for the aperture. In some embodiments, the aperture may be adjacent to the first slit. In some embodiments, the aperture may be adjacent to the second slit or to a terminus of the second slit.

(10) In some embodiments, the cover may include a first slit and a second slit that may transition from a first orientation to a second orientation. The transition between the first orientation and the second orientation may be curved or angled. The degree of curvature may be between 0 and 360 degrees (e.g., 45 degrees, 90 degrees, or 180 degree). The first or second slit may curve sufficiently that a lower or upper portion of the slit may be adjacent to an upper edge of the aperture.

(11) In some embodiments, the first slit may curve away from the lower edge towards the first lateral edge or towards the second lateral edge, the first slit may transition from a first orientation to a second orientation. The degree of curvature may be between 0 and 360 degrees (e.g., 45 degrees, 90 degrees, or 180 degree). In some embodiments, the first slit may transition from a first orientation to a second orientation at a midpoint between the upper edge and the lower edge. In some embodiments, the first slit may transition from a first orientation to a second orientation above a midpoint between the upper edge and the lower edge. In some embodiments, the first slit

may transition from a first orientation to a second orientation below a midpoint between the upper edge and the lower edge. In some embodiments, the first slit may be connected by a first fastener, the first fastener extending a full length or a partial length of the first slit. In some embodiments, the fastener may be a single or bi-directional zipper.

(12) In some embodiments, the second slit may curve away from the lower edge towards the first lateral edge or towards the second lateral edge, the second slit may transition from a first orientation to a second orientation. The degree of curvature may be between 0 and 360 degrees (e.g., 45 degrees, 90 degrees, or 180 degree). In some embodiments, the second slit may transition from a first orientation to a second orientation at a midpoint between the upper edge and the lower edge. In some embodiments, the second slit may transition from a first orientation to a second orientation above a midpoint between the upper edge and the lower edge. In some embodiments, the second slit may transition from a first orientation to a second orientation below a midpoint between the upper edge and the lower edge. In some embodiments, the second slit may be connected by a second fastener, the second fastener extending a full length or a partial length of the second slit. In some embodiments, the second fastener may be a single or bi-directional zipper.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

(1) In order that the manner in which the above-recited and other features and advantages of the invention are obtained will be readily understood, a more particular description of the invention briefly described above will be rendered by reference to specific embodiments thereof which are illustrated in the appended drawings. These drawings depict only typical embodiments of the invention and are not therefore to be considered to limit the scope of the invention.

(2) FIG. 1 is a top view of an example cover, according to some embodiments;

(3) FIG. 2 is a top view of the example cover of FIG. 1, illustrating a first section of an upper portion of the cover uncoupled from a second section and a third section of the upper portion via the first coupling mechanisms, according to some embodiments;

(4) FIG. 3 is an upper perspective view of the cover of FIG. 1, illustrating the cover extending over a bench and backrest of a vehicle seat in one configuration, according to some embodiments;

(5) FIG. 4 is an upper perspective view of the cover of FIG. 1, illustrating the cover extending over the bench and the backrest of the vehicle seat in another configuration, according to some embodiments;

(6) FIG. 5 is an upper perspective view of the cover of FIG. 1, illustrating the cover extending over the bench and the backrest of the vehicle seat in another configuration, according to some embodiments;

(7) FIG. 6 is an upper perspective view of the cover of FIG. 1, illustrating the cover extending over the bench and the backrest of the vehicle seat in another configuration, according to some embodiments;

(8) FIG. 7A is a top view of another example cover, according to some embodiments;

(9) FIG. 7B is a top view of the example cover of FIG. 7A, in another configuration, according to some embodiments;

(10) FIG. 8 is a top view of another example cover, according to some embodiments;

(11) FIG. 9 is an upper perspective view of the cover of FIGS. 7A and 7B, illustrating the cover extending over the bench and the backrest of the vehicle seat in one configuration, according to some embodiments;

(12) FIG. 10 is an upper perspective view of the cover of FIGS. 7A and 7B, illustrating the cover extending over the bench and the backrest of the vehicle seat in another configuration, according to some embodiments;

- (13) FIG. 11 is a top view of the cover of FIGS. 7A and 7B, illustrating the cover folded over on itself from the opening at the slits and the seatbelt aperture, according to some embodiments;
- (14) FIG. 12A is a top view of another example cover, according to some embodiments;
- (15) FIG. 12B is a top view of the cover of FIG. 12A, illustrating the seatbelt buckles passing through the slits in the cover, according to some embodiments;
- (16) FIG. 12C is a top view of another example cover, according to some embodiments;
- (17) FIG. 13 is an upper perspective view of the cover of FIG. 12A, illustrating the cover extending over the bench and the backrest of the vehicle seat in one configuration, according to some embodiments; and
- (18) FIG. 14 is an upper perspective view of the cover of FIG. 12A, illustrating the cover extending over the bench and the backrest of the vehicle seat in another configuration, according to some embodiments.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

(19) The presently preferred embodiments of the present invention will be best understood by reference to the drawings, wherein like reference numbers indicate identical or functionally similar elements. It will be readily understood that the components of the present invention, as generally described and illustrated in the figures herein, could be arranged and designed in a wide variety of different configurations. Thus, the following more detailed description, as represented in the figures, is not intended to limit the scope of the invention as claimed, but is merely representative of presently preferred embodiments of the invention.

(20) Referring now to FIG. 1, in some embodiments, the upholstery cover **100** for the vehicle may include a seat cover. In some embodiments, the upholstery cover **100** may include a lower portion **125**, which also may be described as a bench portion or horizontal portion. In some embodiments, the upholstery cover **100** may also include an upper portion **120** coupled to the lower portion **125**, wherein the upper portion **120** may also be described as a backrest portion or vertical portion. In some embodiments, the upholstery cover **100** may have a folded front portion **130** coupled to the lower portion **125** at the lower edge **185**, wherein the folded front portion **130** may also be described as a guard portion or a front edge portion. In some embodiments, folded front portion **130** may comprise a pocket configured to engage or receive a front edge of a bench of a vehicle seat. In some embodiments, the upper portion **120**, the lower portion **125**, and the folded front portion may comprise three separate piece or two separate pieces that are joined together at a seam. In some embodiments, they may comprise one single, seamless piece.

(21) In some embodiments, the upper portion **120** may include one or more sections. For example, the upper portion **120** may include one or more of the following: a first section **115**, a second section **110**, and a third section **105**. In some embodiments, one or more of the following may extend from an upper edge **160** of the upper portion **120** to the transition between the upper portion and lower portion **175** or to the lower edge **185** of the lower portion **125** or to the bottom edge of the folded front **165** of the folded front portion **130** or to a position proximate to the transition between the upper portion and the lower portion **175** or to a position proximate to the lower edge **130** of the lower portion **125** or to a position proximate to the bottom edge of the folded front **165** of the folded front portion **130**: the first section **115**, the second section **110**, and the third section **105**. In some embodiments, the sections of the upper portion **120**, the lower portion **125**, and the folded front portion **130** may be separated by one or more slits. For example, the first and second sections **115**, **110** may be separated by a first slit **135** and/or the second and third sections **110**, **105** may be separated by a second slit **140**.

(22) In some embodiments, the slits **135**, **140** of the upper portion **120**, the lower portion **125** and/or the folded front portion **130** may be at least partially closed via one or more coupling mechanisms **170**. In some embodiments, the upholstery cover **100** may include a first coupling mechanism **170**, which may be configured to directly couple the first section **115** and the second section **110**. In some embodiments, the first coupling mechanism **170** may be configured to at least

partially close the first slit **135**, which may extend from the upper edge **160** of the lower portion **125** and/or the folded front portion **130**. In some embodiments, the upholstery cover **100** may include a second coupling mechanism **170**, which may be configured to directly couple the second section **110** and the third section **105**. In some embodiments, the second coupling mechanism **170** may be configured to at least partially close the second slit **140**, which may extend from the upper edge **22** to the lower portion **12**, or to a position proximate to the lower portion **12**.

(23) In some embodiments, the upper portion **120** may include one or more fasteners **145** configured to secure the upholstery cover **100** to the vehicle seat. In some embodiments, one or more of the following may include at least one fastener **145**: an upper portion of the first section **115**, an upper portion of the second section **110**, and an upper portion of the third section **105**. In some embodiments, the fasteners **145** may be configured to secure the upholstery cover **100** to one or more headrests of the vehicle. In some embodiments, the upper portion of the first section **115** and the upper portion of the third section **105** may include a fastener **145**. Each of the fasteners **145** may include any suitable means of securing the upholstery cover **100** to the seat. For example, as illustrated in FIG. 1, each of the fasteners **145** may include a belt, which may be configured to form a loop around the headrest. In some embodiments, the loop may include a clasp.

(24) According to some embodiments, the first section **115** may be fully detachable from the second section **110**. The coupling mechanism **170** may extend the full length or a partial length of the first slit **135**. The first slit **135** may be partially opened or fully opened. The coupling mechanism **170** may be a zipper and the zipper may function in one direction or may be bidirectional. According to one embodiment, the first slit **135** may be opened to a location proximate to the transition between the upper portion and the lower portion **175** to access a seatbelt buckle located on a bench portion of a vehicle seat. The first section **115** may be fully detached from the second section **110** permitting bench vehicle seats to be independently configured. For example, the first section **115** of the upholstery cover **100**, when fully detached from the second section **110** and third section **105**, may remain in place on the vehicle seat when the side vehicle seat slides behind or in front of the middle seat and the side seat of the bench seats. Alternatively, the first section **115** of the upholstery cover **100**, when partially or fully separated from the second section **110** and the third section **105**, may remain in place on the vehicle seat when the backrest of the passenger side or driver side seat folds downward onto the bench portion. Alternatively, the first section **115** of the upholstery cover **100**, when partially or fully separated from the second section **110** and the third section **105**, may remain in place on the vehicle seat when the bench portion of the passenger side or driver side seat folds upwards towards the backrest portion of the seat.

(25) In some embodiments, the upper portion **120** of the second section **110** may be detached from the first section **115** and the third section **105**. Additionally, the upper portion **120** of the second section **110** may be detached from the upper portion **120** of the third section **105** at the second slit **140**. The upholstery cover **100** may remain attached to a backrest portion of a center seat in the bench seats when the backrest portion of the seat is folded downward and the upper portion **120** of the second section **110** is detached from the first section **115** and the third section **105**. In response to the first section **115** being uncoupled from the second section **110** via the first coupling mechanism **170** and the third section **105** being uncoupled from the second section **110** via the second coupling mechanism **170**, the upper portion **120** of the second section **110** may be folded downward over the lower portion **125**. The first and second coupling mechanisms **170** may include any suitable coupling mechanism, such as for example, buttons, snaps, magnets, clasps, cyclets, hooks, one-directional or bi-directional zippers, hook and loop fastener, such as VELCRO™, etc.

(26) In some embodiments, the upper portion **120** of the third section **105** is detachable from the upper portion **120** of the second section **110** at the second slit **140**. The coupling mechanism **170** for the second slit **140** may extend a partial or a full length of the slit and may be partially opened or fully opened. The third section **105** may be detached from the second section **110** at the second slit **140**, the upholstery cover **100** may remain attached to the seat when the backrest portion of the

side bench seat is folded downward onto the bench portion. In some embodiments, the seatbelt and seatbelt buckle of the bench seat may be accessed through the upholstery cover **100** when the second slit **140** is fully or partially opened.

(27) In some embodiments, the upholstery cover **100** may be constructed of a fabric material, such as, for example, one or more of the following: spandex knit, lycra knit, jersey knit, interlock knit, ribbed knit, terry knit, sweater knit, modal knit, hemp knit, bamboo knit, silk knit, cotton knit, ponte de roma, thermal knit, stretch lace, synthetic knit, organic knit, polyvinyl chloride, cotton, nylon, polyester, etc. In some embodiments, the fabric material may be stretchable. In some embodiments, the fabric material may be weather-proof and/or machine-washable.

(28) In some embodiments, the upholstery cover **100** may include a folded front portion **130**, which may be coupled to a lower edge **185** of the lower portion **125**. In some embodiments, the folded front portion **130** may be selectively coupled to the lower edge **185**. In some embodiments, when the upholstery cover **100** is used as a seat cover, the folded front portion **130** may be configured to extend vertically and/or generally perpendicularly from the lower portion **125**. In some embodiments, the folded front portion **130** may include one or more fasteners, which may be configured to secure the upholstery cover **100** to the seat of the vehicle. Each of the fasteners may include any suitable means of securing the upholstery cover **100** to the seat.

(29) In some embodiments, the upholstery cover **100** may be configured to hang from one or more headrests disposed on the bench seats of the vehicle. The upholstery cover may drape from fasteners **145** attached to the backrest portion of the seats, down to the bench portion of the seat. The lower portion **125** of the upholstery cover **100** may lie flat on the bench portion of the seat. Optionally, the upholstery cover **100** may include a folded front portion **130** that extends over the front edge of the bench seat and in some embodiments wraps under the bench portion of the vehicle seat.

(30) In some embodiments, the first slit **135** and the second slit **140** may have a coupling mechanism **170** that extends along at least a portion of the slits **135**, **140**. In some embodiments, the coupling mechanisms may each include any suitable coupling mechanism, such as for example, one-directional or bi-directional zippers, buttons, snaps, magnets, clasps, eyelets, hooks, a hook and loop fastener, such as VELCRO™, etc.

(31) In some embodiments, the vehicle seat may include a backrest, which may include one or more upper sections, and a bench, which may include one or more lower sections. The vehicle seat may be designed to move between various configurations in order to, for example, allow items of various sizes to be transported in the vehicle. In some embodiments, one or more upper sections of the backrest may be folded up and/or one or more other upper sections of the backrest may be folded down. In these and other embodiments, one or more lower sections of the bench may be folded up and/or one or more other lower sections of the bench may be folded down. In some embodiments, the first slit **135** and the second slit **140** may facilitate folding down one or more of the backrest sections of the vehicle seat or folding up of one or more bench sections of the vehicle seat.

(32) In some embodiments, one or more of the vehicle seats of the bench seat may be maneuverable independently of the other seats. The seat may be maneuvered forward or backward independently of the other seats. The seat may be foldable independently of the other seats.

(33) In some embodiments, the upholstery cover **100** may include a first layer of a fabric material and a second layer of a fabric material, which may be sewn together. In some embodiments, padding may be disposed between at least a portion of the first and second layers of the fabric material. In some embodiments, the folded front portion **130** may or may not include the padding. In some embodiments, the folded front portion **130** may include a single layer of the fabric material.

(34) In some embodiments, the upholstery cover **100** may include another layer or backing layer, which may be disposed on at least a portion of an underside of the upholstery cover **100**. For

example, the backing layer may be disposed on an underside of the lower portion **125** and/or the upper portion **120**. In some embodiments, the upholstery cover **100** may be used as a cargo bed cover, an example of which is described in U.S. Pat. No. 9,610,877, filed Jul. 20, 2016, entitled "Cover Adaptable to Multiple Vehicle Seat Configurations," which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety. In some embodiments, when the upholstery cover **100** is used as a cargo bed cover, for example, the backing layer may be disposed on an underside of the lower and upper portions.

(35) In some embodiments, when the upholstery cover **100** is used as a seat cover, the backing layer may be disposed on the underside of the lower portion **125**. In some embodiments, the backing layer may be configured to prevent slippage and/or increase friction between the upholster cover **100** and the seat and/or the cargo bed. In some embodiments, the backing layer may include a netting. In some embodiments, the backing layer may be constructed of rubber, plastic, or another suitable material that allows the upholstery cover **100** to be flexible and/or foldable. In some embodiments, the upholstery cover **100** may include a water-proof coating. In some embodiments, one or more anchors may be coupled to the underside of the upholster cover **100**. In some embodiments, the anchors may be configured to be tucked into a crease in the seat between the backrest and the bench of the seat. In some embodiments, the anchors may be loop-shaped.

(36) In some embodiments, the upholstery cover **100** may have additional slits for accommodating additional seat configurations. In some embodiments, the upholstery cover **100** may be used for vehicle seats that fold upward in different configurations, an example of which is described in U.S. Pat. No. 9,963,086, issued May 8, 2018, entitled "Cover Adaptable to Multiple Vehicle Seat Configurations," which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety.

(37) Referring to FIG. 2, the first section **115** may be fully detached at the first slit **135** from the second section **110**. The upholster cover **100** may function as one whole piece or as two independent pieces. The first independent piece being the first section **115** and the second independent piece being the second and third sections **110**, **105**. A bench seat of a vehicle typically accommodates three passengers, a seat on the driver's side, a seat in the middle and a seat on the passenger's side. The seats on the driver's side and the passenger's side of the bench seat may be configured to be moved completely independently from the other two seats. The independent seat may be slid forward or backward or folded on itself independent of the other two seats. The two independent pieces of the upholstery cover **100** shown in FIG. 2 may accommodate the independent movement of one or more seats while covering all three seats of the bench seat. Thus, accommodating the truly modular nature of current car seat configurations.

(38) FIG. 3 shows one embodiment of the upholstery cover **100**. The upholstery cover **100** may be disposed on a vehicle bench seat. Typically, the bench seat is in the second or third row of seats in a vehicle. The upper portion **120** may be arranged on the vertically oriented or backrest portion of the seat. The lower portion **125** may be arranged on the horizontally oriented or bench portion of the seat. The folded front portion **130** may cover the front edge of the bench portion of the seat. The fasteners **145** may loop around the headrests **305** of the seats.

(39) According to one embodiment, the first slit **135** may extend the full length of the upholstery cover **100**. The second slit **140** may extend the full length of the backrest portion of the seat and partially into the bench portion of the seat. The bench corner **155** of the upholstery cover **100** may correspond with the upper corner edge of the vehicle seat. The bottom corner **150** of the upholstery cover **100** may correspond with the lower corner edge of the vehicle seat.

(40) According to one embodiment, the first section **115** may cover the seat on the passenger's side, the second section **110** may cover the middle seat, and the third section **105** may cover the seat on the driver's side. The seatbelts may be brought over the top of the upholstery cover **100**, in one embodiment, so that passengers can be buckled in place while the upholstery cover **100** is on the seat.

(41) Referring now to FIG. 4, in some embodiments, the passenger side seat may be positioned on

a plane behind the middle and driver's side seat. The first section **115** of the upholstery cover **100** may be detached at the first slit **135** from the second and third sections **110**, **115**. The detached first section **115** remains attached to the passenger side seat while the passenger side seat is moved away from the other two bench seats. The first section **115** may be uncoupled from the second section **110** and third section **105** via a coupling mechanism **170**, which may include any suitable coupling mechanism, such as for example, buttons, snaps, magnets, clasps, cyclets, hooks, one-directional or bi-directional zippers, etc. In some embodiments, the coupling mechanism **170** may include a hook and loop fastener, such as VELCRO™.

(42) Referring now to FIG. 5, in some embodiments, the backrest portion **505** of the middle seat may be folded down onto the bench portion of the seat. According to this embodiment, the upholstery cover **100** is uncoupled at the first slit **135** and the second slit **140**. The first slit **135** is partially uncoupled, the upper portion **120** of the first section **115** and the second section **110** are uncoupled but the lower portion **125** of the first section **115** and the second section **110** remain coupled together. The upper portion **120** of the first section **115** and the third section **105** may be disposed vertically on the backrest portion of the seat when the upper portion **120** of the second section **110** is horizontal.

(43) Referring now to FIG. 6, in some embodiments, the backrest portion **605** of the driver's side seat is folded down onto the bench portion of the seat. According to this embodiment, the upholstery cover **100** is uncoupled at the second slit **140**. For example, the upholstery cover **100** is positioned on the seat, then, a user uncouples the third section **105** from the second section **110** at slit **140** and then folds the backrest portion of the seat down onto the bench portion of the seat. The upper portion **120** of the first section **115** and the second section **110** may be disposed vertically on the backrest portion of the seat when the upper portion **120** of the third section **105** is horizontal. The upholstery cover **100** does not have to be removed to adjust the position of the seats.

(44) FIG. 7A depicts another embodiment of the upholstery cover **700**. The first slit **735** and second slit **740** may terminate near the transition **765** between the upper portion and the lower portion. Proximate to the terminus of the first slit **755** and the terminus of the second slit **760** are apertures **750**. The apertures may provide access through the upholstery cover **700**. In the embodiment shown, the apertures **750** are located in the lower portion **710** of the upholstery cover **700**. The first slit **735** and second slit **740** are in the upper portion **705** and terminate just before the lower section **710**. According to another embodiment, the first slit **735** and second slit **740** may extend into the lower portion **710**.

(45) Referring now to FIG. 7B, in some embodiments, the upholstery cover **700** may include flaps **795** covering the opening **790** of the apertures **750**. The flaps **795** may cover the aperture **750** when the seatbelts are not in use. When a user uses the seatbelt with the upholstery cover **700** on the seat, the user may open the flap **795** and pull the seatbelt buckle through the opening **790** in the aperture **750**. The flap **795** may prevent dirt from passing through the upholstery cover **700** when the seatbelts are not in use. The flaps **795** may be secured to the upholstery cover **700** or left loose over the opening **790**.

(46) FIG. 8 shows another embodiment of the upholstery cover **800**. A first slit **805** may extend from the upper edge **785** to a bottom edge of the folded front **780**. The first slit **805** may have a first coupling mechanism. The second slit **740** may have a second coupling mechanism. The coupling mechanisms may extend the full length or a partial length of the first slit **805** and/or second slit **740**. The coupling mechanisms may include any suitable coupling mechanism, such as for example, buttons, snaps, magnets, clasps, eyelets, hooks, one-directional or bi-directional zippers, etc. In some embodiments, the coupling mechanisms **88** may include a hook and loop fastener, such as VELCRO™.

(47) The first slit may divide the first section **720** from the second section **725**. The second slit **740**, according to one embodiment, may terminate **760** at the transition **765** between the upper portion **705** and the lower portion **710**. An aperture **750** may be proximate to the terminus **760** of the

second slit **740**. In this embodiment, the upholstery cover **800** may stay on the seat when the passenger side seat moves forward or backward or folds up or down. The upholstery cover **800** may stay on the seat when the backrest portion of the middle seat or the driver's side seat is folded down onto the bench portion of the seat. The seatbelt buckle may pass through the aperture **750** to allow a passenger to use the seatbelts. In another embodiment, the driver's side seat may separate from the middle seat and the passenger side seat, the cover **800** may be configured so that the driver's side seat may slide forward or backward or may fold up or down with the cover **800** still attached.

(48) Referring now to FIG. **9**, in some embodiments, the seatbelt buckles **905** may pass through the openings **790** of the apertures **750** of the upholstery cover **700**. The flaps **795** may be folded out to accommodate the seatbelt buckles **905** passing through the openings **790**. The first slit **735** and the second slit **740** terminate near the transition **765** between the upper portion **705** and the lower portion **710**.

(49) FIG. **10** depicts an embodiment of the upholstery cover **700** with the backrest portion of the middle seat folded downward onto the bench portion of the seat. The first slit **735** and the second slit **740** may be opened allowing the upper portion **705** of the second section **725** to fold down onto the lower portion **710**. The seatbelt buckles **905** may protrude through the openings **790** in the apertures **750**.

(50) FIG. **11** depicts another embodiment of the upholstery cover **700**. In this embodiment, the first slit **735** and the second slit **740** are open. A folded panel **1110** of the first section **720** may be folded back over the first section **720**. A folded panel **1105** of the third section **730** is folded back over the third section **730**. The folded panels **1105**, **1110** may be open on the upper edge **785** and at the apertures **750**. The apertures **750** may provide an opening for the folded panels **1105**, **1110** to fold backward to form a square opening instead of a v-shaped opening. The folded panels **1105**, **1110** may open to accommodate seatbelts in the vehicle seats. The first slit **735** and the second slit **740** may have coupling mechanisms that extend along at least a portion of the slits **735**, **740**.

(51) Referring now to FIG. **12A**, in some embodiments, the first slit **1240** and the second slit **1255** may transition from a first orientation to a second orientation (e.g., vertical, horizontal, angled, slanted). In this embodiment, the curved transition **1245** in the first slit **1240** and the curved transition **1260** in the second slit **1255** may be near the transition **1270** between the upper portion **1205** and the lower portion **1210** of the upholstery cover **1200**. The first orientation may be vertical, near vertical, curved, horizontal, near horizontal or any other orientation. The top of the first slit **1240** and/or the second slit **1255** may intersect the upper edge **1285** of the cover **1200** at a 90-degree angle or any other suitable angle (e.g., 15 degrees, 30 degrees, 45 degrees, 60 degrees, 75 degrees).

(52) The second orientation may be vertical, near vertical, curved, horizontal, near horizontal or any other orientation. The first slit **1240** or the second slit **1255** may curve outward toward the sides of the cover **1200** or the first slit **1240** and the second slit **1255** may curve inward toward the center of the cover **1200**. The first slit **1240** and the second slit **1255** may curve in the same direction or opposite directions.

(53) Coupling mechanisms in the first slit **1240** and the second slit **1255** may extend the full length or a partial length of the first slit **1240** or second slit **1255**. The terminus **1250** of the first slit **1240** and the terminus **1265** of the second slit **1265** may be located in the upper portion **1205**, the lower portion **1210** or the folded front portion **1215** of the upholstery cover **1200**. The degree of curvature of the curved transitions **1245**, **1260** may range from 0 degrees to 360 degrees (e.g., 45 degrees, 90 degrees, 180 degrees) or may be angled. The first slit **1240** may have the same or a different degree of curvature than the second slit.

(54) FIG. **12B** shows another embodiment of the upholstery cover **1200** of FIG. **12A**. The first slit **1240** may have an opening near the terminus **1250** of the first slit **1240**. The second slit **1255** may have an opening near the terminus **1265** of the second slit **1255**. The opening in the first slit **1240**

and the opening in the second slit **1255** may permit the seatbelt buckles **905** to pass through the upholstery cover **1200**. In many vehicles the seatbelt buckles **905** are in the bench portion of the vehicle seat. The curved section of the slits **1245**, **1260** may be near or within the lower portion **1210** of the upholstery cover **1200** to accommodate the seatbelt buckles **905** in the bench portion of the vehicle seat. The first slit **1240** and the second slit **1255** may each have a coupling mechanism. The coupling mechanism may extend a full length of a partial length of the first slit **1240** or the second slit **1255**. The coupling mechanism may be configured to be opened to allow the seat belt buckle **905** to pass through the cover **1200**. The coupling mechanisms may include any suitable coupling mechanism, such as for example, buttons, snaps, magnets, clasps, cyclets, hooks, one-directional or bi-directional zippers, etc. In some embodiments, the coupling mechanisms **88** may include a hook and loop fastener, such as VELCRO™.

(55) Referring now to FIG. **12C**, in some embodiments, the curved portion **1245**, **1260** of the slits **1240**, **1255** may be positioned closer to the upper edge **1285**, the transition **1270** between the upper portion **1205** and the lower portion **1210**, or the lower edge **1270** of the cover **1200**. The curved portion **1245** of the first slit **1240** and the curved portion **1260** of the second slit **1260** may be positioned completely in the lower portion **1210** of the upholstery cover **1200**. In other embodiments, the curved transitions **1245**, **1260** may be higher or lower in the slits **1240**, **1255**. The curved slits **1240**, **1255** may extend deep into the lower portion **1210** or terminate near the transition **1270** between the upper portion **1205** and the lower portion **1210** of the cover **1200**. The degree of curvature in the slits **1240**, **1255** may be adapted to accommodate different seat and seatbelt configurations. The slits **1240**, **1255** may extend all the way to the lower edge **1270** or the bottom edge **1280** of the folded front portion **1215**.

(56) FIG. **13** shows the upholstery cover of FIG. **12A** on a vehicle seat. According to this embodiment, the terminus **1250** of the first slit **1240** and the terminus **1265** of the second slit **1255** may be below the transition **1270** between the upper portion **1205** and the lower portion **1210**. In the embodiment shown the slits **1240**, **1255** may be closed to prevent dirt and other items from passing through the upholstery cover **1200** onto the vehicle seat. A first coupling mechanism and a second coupling mechanism may partially or fully close the first slit **1240** and the second slit **1255**.

(57) FIG. **14** depicts one embodiment of the upholstery cover **1200** of FIG. **12A** on a vehicle seat with the backrest of the middle seat folded down onto the bench. In this embodiment, the upholstery cover **1200** is on a bench seat in a vehicle and the first slit **1240** and the second slit **1255** are open. The backrest portion of the middle seat is folded down onto the bench portion. The curved slits **1240**, **1255** are open a sufficient distance to permit the seatbelt buckles **905** to pass through the slits **1240**, **1255**.

(58) In some embodiments, a kit may include multiple sections that may be coupled together to form the upholstery cover **100**, the upholstery cover **700**, the upholstery cover **800**, or the upholstery cover **1200**. In some embodiments, the multiple sections that may be coupled together to form the upper portion **120** and/or the lower portion **125**. The upper portion **120** and/or the lower portion **125** may have different sizes or widths, and a user may couple any of the multiple sections together based on the particular seat configuration and dimensions of the vehicle of the user. In some embodiments, both outer edges of one each of the multiple sections may include the coupling mechanism **170** to facilitate coupling of any of the multiple sections in any order to correspond to a particular seat configuration and dimensions of the vehicle.

(59) In some embodiments, the upholstery cover **100** only comprises lower portion **125** and upper portion **120**, wherein the upholstery cover **100** is provided without the folded front portion **130**. Further, in some embodiments the upholstery cover **100** only comprises lower portion **125**, wherein the upholstery cover **100** is provided without upper portion **120** or folded front portion **130**. Further still, in some embodiments the upholstery cover **100** comprises only lower portion **125** and folded front portion **130**, wherein the upholstery cover **100** is provided without upper portion **120**. Thus, the upholstery cover **100** may be provided in a variety of configurations and setups within the

scope and teaching of the present invention.

(60) In some embodiments, each section of the upholstery cover **100** may have a different width. In some embodiments, each section of the upholstery cover **100** may have the same width. In some embodiments, the first section **115** and the third section **105** may have a first width and the second section **110** may have a second width. In some embodiments, the second section **110** of the upholstery cover **100** may have a smaller width than the first section **115** and the third section **105**.

(61) One of skill in the art will appreciate that the various features and elements of the various embodiments of the present invention may be modified and/or combined within the spirit of the present invention to provide a seat cover. For example, the size, dimensions, shapes, proportions and materials of the present invention may be modified as desired or necessary based on, for example, a vehicle configuration, shape, or dimensions. For example, quantity and/or placement of one or more slits in the upper portion **120** and/or the lower portion **125** may be varied. In some embodiments, a particular cover, such as, for example, the upholstery cover **100**, the upholstery cover **700**, the upholstery cover **800**, or the upholstery cover **1200**, may be configured to fit various vehicle interiors and seat configurations, as described in the present disclosure.

(62) The present invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from its structures, methods, or other essential characteristics as broadly described herein and claimed hereinafter. Therefore, the described embodiments are to be considered in all respects only as illustrative, and not restrictive. The scope of the invention is, therefore, indicated by the appended claims, rather than by the foregoing description. All changes that come within the meaning and range of equivalency of the claims are to be embraced within their scope.

Claims

1. An upholstery cover for a vehicle, comprising: a first lateral edge; a second lateral edge opposite the first lateral edge; an upper edge extending from the first lateral edge to the second lateral edge; a lower edge opposite the upper edge extending from the first lateral edge to the second lateral edge; and a first slit comprising a first length extending from the upper edge toward the lower edge, the first slit a first distance from the first lateral edge, a first section between the first lateral edge and the first slit, wherein the first slit further comprises a second length that diverges towards the first lateral edge or the second lateral edge, and wherein the first slit comprises a closed terminus.
2. The upholstery cover of claim 1, further comprising a second slit a second distance from the first lateral edge.
3. The upholstery cover of claim 1, wherein the first slit comprises a first fastener, the first fastener extending a full length or a partial length of the first slit.
4. The upholstery cover of claim 2, further comprising a second section between the first slit and the second slit and a third section between the second slit and the second lateral edge.
5. The upholstery cover of claim 4, further comprising a first fastener comprising a zipper, the zipper partially disconnecting the first section from the second section when the zipper is in an open position.
6. The upholstery cover of claim 1, wherein a portion of the first slit in proximity to the closed terminus is configured to be selectively open or closed.
7. The upholstery cover of claim 4, wherein the second slit is connected by a second fastener, the second fastener extending a full length or a partial length of the second slit.
8. The upholstery cover of claim 7, wherein the second fastener comprises a zipper, the zipper partially disconnecting the second section from the third section when the zipper is in an open position.
9. The upholstery cover of claim 1, further comprising an aperture through the upholstery cover.
10. The upholstery cover of claim 9, further comprising a removable cover for the aperture.
11. The upholstery cover of claim 9, wherein the aperture is adjacent to the first slit.

12. The upholstery cover of claim 9, wherein the aperture is adjacent to a terminus of the first slit.
 13. The upholstery cover of claim 1, wherein the first slit comprises a bi-directional zipper, thereby allowing a bottom portion of the bi-directional zipper in proximity to the closed terminus to be selectively opened and closed independently of a top portion of the bi-directional zipper.
 14. The upholstery cover of claim 2, wherein the second slit comprises a third length extending from the upper edge toward the lower edge and a fourth length that diverges towards the first lateral edge or the second lateral edge, and wherein the fourth length comprises a closed terminus.
 15. An upholstery cover for a vehicle, comprising: a first lateral edge; a second lateral edge opposite the first lateral edge; an upper edge extending from the first lateral edge to the second lateral edge; a lower edge opposite the upper edge extending from the first lateral edge to the second lateral edge; and a first slit comprising a first length extending from the upper edge toward the lower edge, the first slit a first distance from the first lateral edge, a first section between the first lateral edge and the first slit, the first slit further comprising a second length having a portion that diverges towards the first lateral edge or the second lateral edge, wherein the first slit comprises a closed terminus.
 16. The upholstery cover of claim 15, further comprising a second slit a second distance from the first lateral edge.
 17. The upholstery cover of claim 15, wherein the first slit comprises a first fastener, the first fastener extending a full length or a partial length of the first slit.
 18. The upholstery cover of claim 16, further comprising a second section between the first slit and the second slit and a third section between the second slit and the second lateral edge.
 19. The upholstery cover of claim 18, further comprising a first fastener comprising a zipper, the zipper partially disconnecting the first section from the second section when the zipper is in an open position.
 20. The upholstery cover of claim 15, wherein a portion of the first slit in proximity to the closed terminus is configured to be selectively open or closed.
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