

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 include the KS-20751 operator chair and to designate with an asterisk (*) the List numbers of the KS-15784 operator chair which are A&M only.

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 four generations of operator chairs currently in service in the telephone companies operating rooms and PBX offices. They consist of the Western Electric No. 1 through No. 5, KS-15531 metal chairs, the KS-15784 upholstered metal chairs, and the KS-20751 upholstered metal

chairs. The No. 1 through No. 5 chairs and the KS-15531 chairs have been rated "Manufacture Discontinued".

2. OPERATOR CHAIRS—KS-15784

2.01 Two types of KS-15784 operator chairs are in use, the center spindle chairs 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.

2.02 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.

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



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



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



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

2.03 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 10-inch platform	—18-inch chair
30-inch keyshelf no platform	—18-inch chair
40-inch keyshelf 8-inch platform	—20-inch chair
36-inch keyshelf no platform	—24-inch chair
40-inch keyshelf no platform	—28-inch chair

2.04 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.

2.05 Upper Unit: 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. The 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

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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 No. 5 chairs and the KS-15531 chairs.

2.06 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.

2.07 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.

2.08 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.

2.09 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.

2.10 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 may be removed easily for

replacement by turning in a counter-clockwise direction.

2.11 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

2.12 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.

2.13 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.

2.14 The KS-15784 lists are as follows. ♦List numbers designated with an asterisk (*) are for A&M only.◆

- *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 chairs.
- *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.

2.15 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 does not include a seat which should be ordered per an added list.

2.16 Example of Ordering Information: The choice of chair size should be made in accordance with information found in 2.03. 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

2.17 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.

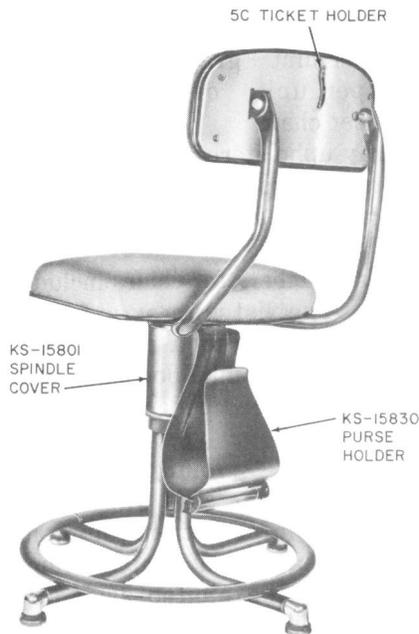


Fig. 7—KS-15784 Operator Chair Accessories

2.18 The holders are available in four separate lists. L1 provides a mahogany-colored purse holder for use on Western Electric Company chairs No. 1 through No. 4, KS-15531 and KS-15784 center spindle mahogany-colored chairs. L2 provides a matching colored purse holder for the KS-15784 green center spindle chairs. L3 provides a green holder plus a green-colored adapter for use on KS-15784 L5 and L6 offset operator chairs. L4 consists of a mahogany-colored holder plus an adapter for use on supervisor chairs. L5 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. L6 provides a matching colored purse holder for the KS-15784 gray chairs.

Spindle Cover

2.19 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. 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.

2.20 The covers are available in two separate lists. L3 provides a clear vinyl-plastic cover (same as L4) plus a wood spacer block, for use on Western Electric Company chairs No. 1 through No. 4. L1 provides a clear vinyl-plastic cover for use on all KS-15784 operator chairs.

2.21 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.

3. OPERATOR CHAIRS—KS-20751 (Fig. 8)

3.01 These chairs are intended for use at traffic service positions, auxiliary service positions, and low-type switchboards.

3.02 The frame work of the chair is of tubular steel, rectangular for the legs, and round for the foot ring and vertical column. Flat bar stock is used for the backpost and provides spring action to the back rest which also has a tilt adjustment. All metal parts are finished in brushed chrome.

3.03 The low seat height of 16-1/2 inches is adjustable through a range of 6 inches to a height of 22-1/2 inches. Turning the upper unit clockwise will lower the seat and turning it counterclockwise will raise the seat. Stops in both the extreme upper and lower positions are provided.

3.04 The upholstered seat and backrest, which are essentially latex foam covered with nylon material, are available in one of three colors, royal



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Fig. 8—KS-20751 Operator Chair

blue, bright green, and oxford gray. These colors result from the use of three different colored threads in the weave. The bright green has

medium blue, light blue, and yellow threads; the royal blue has dark blue, light blue, and green threads, and the oxford gray has brown, white, and green threads. The bright green is recommended for use with the green consoles, the royal blue for sky blue consoles, and the oxford gray for covert gray consoles.◆

3.05 ◆Cane seats, which are available, are made of natural colored cane in a wooden frame lacquered in colors to harmonize with the three upholstery colors of the backrests.◆

3.06 ◆The design of the chair is such that its parts are not interchangeable with any existing operator chair. It is not intended that the upper and lower units of this chair be disassociated from each other.◆

3.07 ◆Metal chair supports (floor glides) are provided on each chair. These supports are 1-1/2 inches in diameter and equipped with rubber inserts to provide a slight cushion to compensate for uneven floors. Use of casters will raise the chair seat 1-5/8 inches higher than with glides. They will also change the stability slightly.◆

3.08 ◆The KS-20751 lists are as follows:◆

List 1—Operator chair, upholstered, bright green

List 2—Operator chair, upholstered, royal blue

List 3—Operator chair, upholstered, oxford gray

List 7—Back rest, bright green

List 8—Back rest, royal blue

List 9—Back rest, oxford gray

List 10—Seat cushion, bright green

List 11—Seat cushion, royal blue

List 12—Seat cushion, oxford gray

List 13—Operator chair, cane seat, bright green

List 14—Operator chair, cane seat, royal blue

List 15—Operator chair, cane seat, oxford gray

List 19—Cane seat, bright green

List 20—Cane seat, royal blue

List 21—Cane seat, oxford gray◆