Nov. 18, 1952 D. IPPOLITO 2,618,100

HORIZONTAL AXIS MOVABLE EYESET

Filed Aug. 5, 1949

Fig. 1

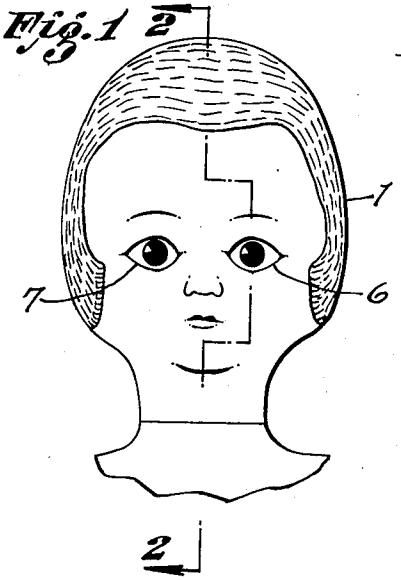


Fig. 2

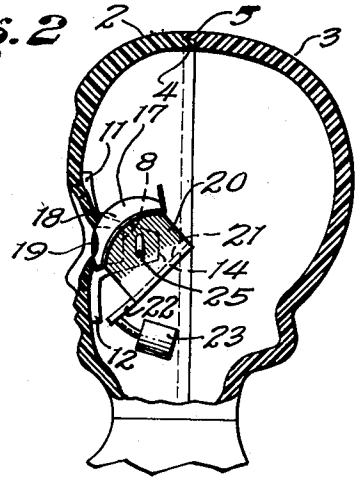


Fig. 3

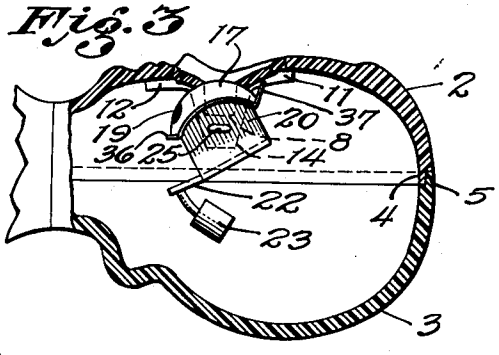


Fig. 4

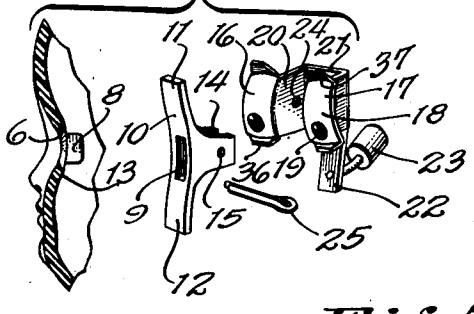
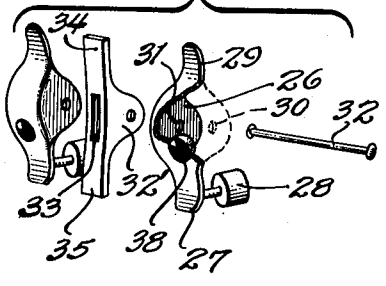


Fig. 5



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HORIZONTAL AXIS MOVABLE EYESET

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1 Claim. (Cl. 46—169)

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The present invention relates to dolls, and specifically to eye construction therefor.

The invention has for an object the provision of an eye construction for dolls of any size, and wherein the eyes are capable of being turned or revolved, to provide what is generally known as a sleeping doll. So far as the inventor is aware, most sleeping doll constructions are expensive to construct, time-consuming and require expert labor to assemble. The present invention is adapted to permit rapid assembly of a doll, and specifically the eye portions thereof without requiring any special skill on the part of the workman.

A further object is the provision of an eye construction for dolls, which is positive in operation, attractive in appearance, fool-proof, not subject to ready breakage as a result of rough handling, and generally superior to constructions now known to the inventor.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a fragmentary front elevation of a doll's head, incorporating the invention;

Figure 2 is a sectional view on the line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a view similar to Figure 2, the head being in a sleeping position for the doll;

Figure 4 is an expanded view of the eye construction, the face part of the head being shown in fragment and in section; and

Figure 5 is an expanded view of a modified form of eye construction.

Referring now with particularity to the drawing, I have shown a head 1 which is formed in two parts 2 and 3. These parts are usually joined together by providing both halves of the head with an encircling step-type flange, as shown at 4 and 5, the flanges cooperating to produce the completed head. A head of this type may be formed of various materials, ceramic or plastic, with a suitable means provided for securing the step flanges 4 and 5 in working relationship.

As shown, the head is hollow, and prior to assembling the two portions, that is, the front and the back together, the eyes are positioned within the front of the head. Accordingly, as is usual practice, the front or face portion of the head is provided with eye openings 6 and 7. Within the head and located between the eye openings is a stud 8. This stud is adapted to be received within opening 9 of a separator 10, intermediately positioned between the eye openings 6 and 7. The separator is provided with a pair of wings 11 and 12, which are curved to conform

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to the inner curvature 13 of the front of the head. When the wings are secured to the head, the stud 8 is received within the opening 9.

The separator is provided with one or more lugs 14 which extend from the convex surface of said separator, and which lug or lugs are transversely perforated at 15. A pair of eye members 16 and 17 are adapted to be mounted on opposite sides of the lugs. As both eye members are of identical construction, one will be described. The eye ball is curved, as shown at 18, and provided with a pupil at 19. The eye ball in the construction shown may be formed of plastic, metal or other material, and has a curved front surface and a side member 20, which joins with a transverse member 21, connecting with the side member 20 of the other eye ball. The member 21 is provided with an extension 22, and this extension may carry a small weight 23. In small dolls, and where the eye construction is relatively light, the extension 22 has sufficient weight to rotate the eye balls when the eye balls are secured to the separator. The side 20 of each eye member is perforated as shown at 24. The spacing between the eye members is such that the side members 20 will lie on opposite sides of the lug or lugs 14. When the perforations 15 and 24 are aligned, a pin 25 may be passed through the perforations for securing the eye members to the separator.

It will be noted that the stud 8 is elongated in form, as is likewise the opening 9. Thus, after the eye members have been pinned to the separator, an adhesive is applied to the wings 11 and 12, and the whole assembly secured to the doll's head. The stud 8, upon entering the opening 9, will correctly position the eye balls with relation to the eye openings 6 and 7.

That form of the invention shown in Figure 5 follows the same construction as shown in Figure 4, with the exception that the eye balls are separate and not interconnected. Thus, each eye ball, which in the showing of Figure 5, is in the form of a hollow semi-hemisphere, as shown at 26, is provided with a tab 27, to which there may be attached a small weight 28. Such a construction may include a tab at 29 in alignment with the tab 27. The eye ball is provided with diametric perforations 30 and 31 whereby through means of a pin such as shown at 32, the eye ball may be secured at one side of the separator, which may take the same form as shown in Figure 4. The separator in Figure 5 is provided with a single perforated lug 32' with the opening 33 entering said lug.

As before, the separators are provided with wings **34** and **35**, which permit the separator to be secured to the rear wall of the face of the head. The construction shown in Figure 5 allows independent movement of the eye balls, which is sometimes desirable, particularly if the child wishes to close one eye, as if the doll were winking.

In some adaptations of the invention, I have found it expedient to provide short extending tabs **36** and **37**, extending outwardly from each eye ball, to limit rotative movement thereof upon contacting the wall of the head. This assures that each eye ball will at all times move correctly within the head for either an awake position of the eyes, or for the so-called sleep position.

The operation, uses and advantages of the invention are as follows:

The doll's head is colored to render the same life-like in appearance, and each eye ball of the invention is likewise properly shaded as to color to simulate natural eyes. To this end the outer surface of the eye ball is colored with the iris pointed in blue, brown, or some gradation of color, at a certain position relative to the eye ball, whereby when the doll is in upright position, as illustrated in Figure 2, the pupil and iris will be visible through an eye opening, and when the doll is in a reclining position, the pupil and iris will move from said eye opening to present the colored surface of the eye ball, which surface is usually pink, corresponding to the natural color of eyelids. This is, of course, a common expediency.

Taking that form of the invention shown in Figure 4, an operator assembles the spacer between the two eye balls and secures the same together by means of the pin **25** passed through the perforations **15** and **24**. The lug **8** is within the opening **9**, there being means applied to the inner surface of the doll head and to the wings **11** and **12** for securing the parts together. The opposite sides of the lug or lugs **14** fit loosely between the sides **20** of both eye balls, and therefore guide the eye balls in their rotative movement on pin **25**. Either the auxiliary weight **23** or the weight of tab **22** is sufficient to rotate the eye balls from the position of Figure 2 to that of Figure 3. In the construction shown, the eye balls will rotate a certain amount, and then stop when tab **37** contacts the inner surface of the head, and the same is true when the head is held upright, as shown in Figure 2, the tab **36** contacting the inner surface of the head, and stopping rotative movement. This correctly positions the iris and pupils of the eyes with respect to the eye openings when the doll is in the so-called awake position.

I have found that auxiliary weights, such as shown at **28** or **23** may be dispensed with, as it is evident that the weight of the eye ball will cause it to rotate on pin **25** or pin **32** when the eye ball is eccentrically mounted thereon. This is particularly true when the iris of the eye, together with the pupil, is in the form of a small ball, as shown in Figure 5 at **38**.

I claim:

An eye construction for dolls comprising a longitudinal supporting extension having a front face conforming to the curved contour of the interior of a doll head between the eye openings and secured thereto, said front face having an opening snugly receiving a centering stud that projects inwardly from the engaged portion of the doll face, an intermediately positioned rearwardly bowed lug on the rear face of said extension, and a unitary eye ball structure including a pair of spaced eye ball members interconnected by rearwardly extending parallel side walls disposed directly adjacent and paralleling the sides of said bowed lug of the supporting extension, said side walls connected at their rear edges over the bowed lug, and means pinning the parallel side walls of the eye ball members and bowed lug of the supporting extension together to allow rotative movement of the eye ball members.

DOMENICK IPPOLITO.

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