J. S. FRITZ.

EXHIBITOR.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 19, 1913.

1,165,239.

Patented Dec. 21, 1915.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

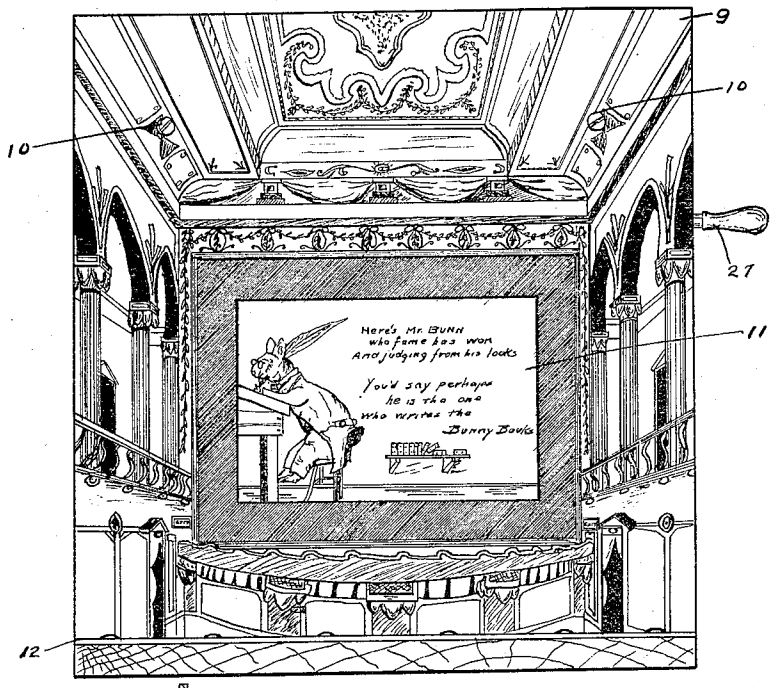


Fig. 1.

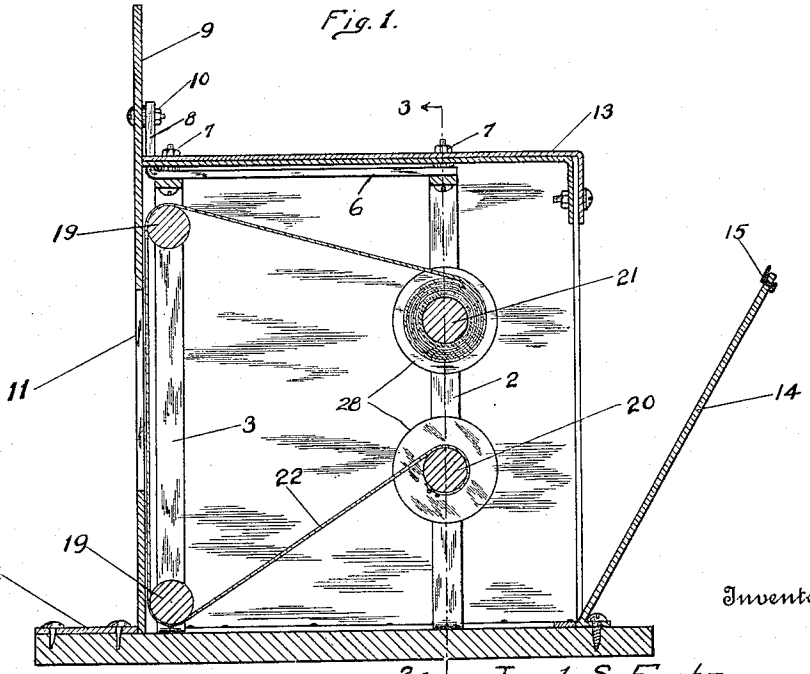


Fig. 2.

Witnesses

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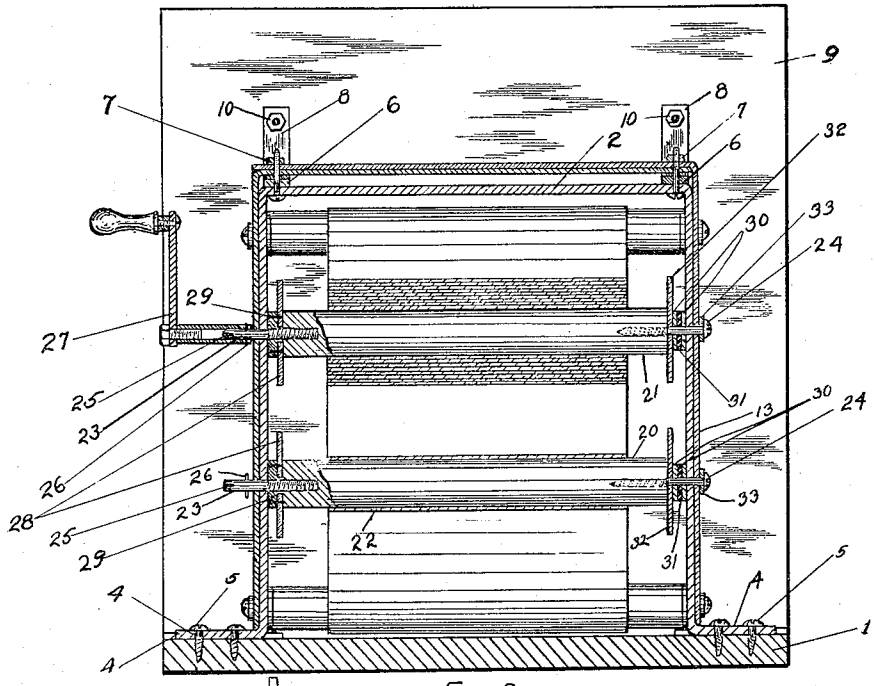


Fig. 3.

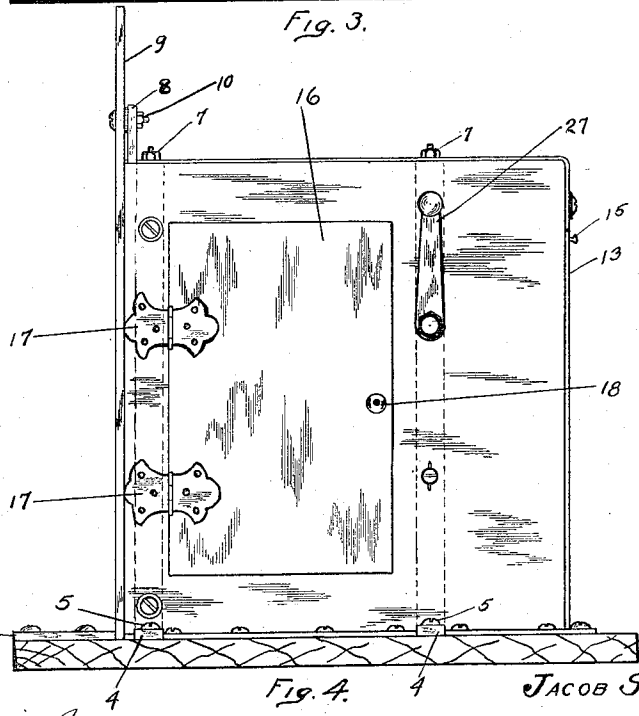


Fig. 4.

Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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EXHIBITOR.

1,165,239. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 21, 1915.

Application filed November 19, 1913. Serial No. 801,803.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JACOB S. FRITZ, a citizen of the United States, residing at Zanesville, in the county of Muskingum and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Exhibitors, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to exhibitors and aims particularly to provide a toy which will, in a measure, simulate the ordinary moving picture theater. In carrying forth this idea, I have provided means for displaying numerous pictures through an opening in a casing, these pictures being so mounted that they may be changed at will and continuously, if desired, by the operation of a handle element. More specifically, I employ a film strip which carries a plurality of pictures and which film strip is attached to roller elements designed to be rotated. In order that the film strip may always be in the same relative position before the opening in the casing, I have provided two idle rollers spaced upon opposite sides of such opening and two main rollers upon which the film strip may be wound and unwound.

To guard against sagging of the film strip and to prevent its too rapid presenting of the pictures, I have provided the main feed rolls with a retarding means, preferably of a frictional nature, which retarding means are made adjustable to alter the tautness of the film strip.

I also aim to make my structure of a nature that it may be very readily dismantled and adapted for repair.

The preferred embodiment of my invention is shown in the accompanying drawings, in which similar characters of reference designate corresponding parts, and in which:

Figure 1 represents a front elevation of my toy, Fig. 2 is a transverse vertical section of the structure shown in Fig. 1, Fig. 3 is a section taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 2 and looking in the direction of the arrows, and, Fig. 4 is a side elevation of the structure shown in Fig. 1.

In carrying forth my invention, I have provided a base board 1, upon which is mounted the main frame structure shown as comprising the two U-shaped members 2 and 3, each provided with outwardly bent ends 4 and attached to the base board itself by means of the screws 5. Spanning the distance between the upper portions of the U-shaped members 2 and 3 are bracing members 6, held in their applied positions by bolt and nut structures 7 and having upwardly turned extremities, as shown at 8. These upturned portions 8 serve as a means for holding the front wall 9 of the main casing, as is clearly shown at 10, surrounding the supporting structure. The front wall 9 may be of a decorative nature, as shown in Fig. 1, and is centrally provided with an opening 11 through which the pictures may be displayed, the base of this front wall being held in position by a supplemental strip shown at 12. The remaining portions of the inclosure may be formed of pasteboard or any desired material, the casing proper being designated by the numeral 13 and reference to Fig. 2, will show that a door 14 is provided in its rear wall having a fastening turn-button 15 to hold the same in its locked position. This rear door may be used for purposes of either renewing the film strip to be presently described, or for purposes of inspection. Further, one side wall of the casing 13 is provided with a door shown in Fig. 4 at 16, this door being hingedly mounted by means of hinges 17 and having a locking means shown diagrammatically at 18.

Reference to Fig. 2 will show that the front U-shaped member 3 is disposed in close proximity to the front wall 9 of the casing and that this U-shaped member carries between its vertical legs, idler rollers 19. Likewise, the rear U-shaped member 2, also carries main rolls 20 and 21, these rolls being mounted in a manner to be close to each other and each rigidly carrying the ends of a film strip 22. Upon this film strip are mounted a plurality of pictures of any type, which pictures will be successively presented through the opening 11 upon rotation of the correct main roll. Both ends of this film strip may further be provided with a blank space to serve the purpose of a curtain, it being understood that the strip may be either of cloth upon which are pasted the pictures or that the pictures themselves may be made in one continuous strip of any desired material.

In order that the film strip 22 may at all times be sufficiently taut to prevent sagging, I have shown in Fig. 3 a peculiar manner of mounting the same. Into opposite ends of

the main rolls, I preferably screw spindles 23 and 24, the spindles 23 being provided with slotted ends, as shown at 25 and a transverse pin 26 to coöperate with the slotted ends of a handle element 27. Further, there is interposed between the disks 28 and the member 2, washers 29 which bear against the corresponding leg of the U-shaped member 2. The opposite ends of the main rolls are equipped in a similar manner, although these ends preferably carry the retarding or binding means already referred to. These binding means take the form of washers 30, between which is mounted a washer of felt or other compressible material 31. Placing a screw driver in the slotted ends of the spindles 24 and rotating the same will cause an inward movement of these screws, whereby their heads will bear against the washers 33 on the outside of the casing and serve to compress the felt strip 31 between the two washers 30 and the disks 32. When the desired degree of tautness has been attained, the handle 27 may be applied to the correct main roll and rotated, whereby the film strip 22 will be unrolled from one and on to the other, successively presenting the pictures to be displayed before the opening 11 in the front wall. The peculiar location of the idler rolls 19, serves to maintain the same relative position for all of the pictures.

From the foregoing, it will be apparent that I have provided a toy of comparatively simple structure, which is complete in its action. The same may be dismantled if desired or a new film strip may be applied through the rear door 14.

What I claim, is:

An exhibitor comprising a casing having an opening in its front wall, a pair of rollers within said casing, spindles passing through the side wall of the casing and screwed into said rollers to form their means of support, a pair of washers carried by the spindles at one end of each of said rollers, a felt member disposed between the washers of each pair to form a friction member when said washers are drawn together by said spindles, a film strip having its ends attached to both of said rollers, and means for rotating said rollers.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JACOB S. FRITZ.

Witnesses:
WALTER E. L. BOCK,
A. L. PHELPS.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents Washington, D. C."