

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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COMBINATION BALL, RATTLE, AND MIRROR FOR INFANTS

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2 Claims. (Cl. 46—193)

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This invention relates to toys for infants.

An object of the invention is to provide a toy for use by infants which is a combination of a ball, rattle and mirror.

Another object of the invention is to provide a combination ball and rattle for use by infants which also incorporates a mirror securely arranged inside the ball in such manner that the infant may play therewith in safety and without the dangers which are usually attendant upon access to a mirror.

A further object of the invention is to provide a combination ball, rattle and mirror which is simple in design, inexpensive to manufacture, and which is effective as an amusing and educational toy for infants.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following description of a preferred embodiment thereof, as illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is an elevational view of the toy, the outer surface of the ball being broken out and showing the interior mirror, the view being taken in a plane parallel to the plane of the mirror.

Figure 2 is a partly broken-out view similar to that of Figure 1, except that the view is taken in a plane perpendicular to the plane of the mirror inside the ball.

Figure 3 is an exploded view of the components of the toy, the orientation of the parts being the same as that of Figure 2, namely, with the plane of the mirror perpendicular to the plane of the drawing paper.

In the manufacture of toys for use by small children, particularly infants' toys, many attempts have been made to incorporate a mirror in the toys, but this has not been done with any degree of success, due to the ever-present danger of injury to the child from possible breakage of the mirror. However, the reflective characteristics of a mirror do provide interesting possibilities in children's toys, and the present invention discloses a solution of the problem which incorporates a mirror, deriving its full reflective characteristics, yet renders it inaccessible to the child as a source of danger, and in addition, the mirror itself is unbreakable, thus removing the danger in any case. At the same time, the toy is novel in appearance, and is attractive and useful for infants.

In order to understand clearly the nature of the invention, and the best means for carrying it out, reference may now be had to the drawings, in which like numerals denote similar parts throughout the several views. As shown, I form a

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spherical ball 10 out of two hemispheres 12 and 14. The hollow hemispheres are formed of clear plastic material molded or otherwise formed into the desired hemispherical shape.

The hemispheres 12 and 14 are intended to be joined together along their abutting rim surfaces 16 and 18 to form a joint 20, the halves being shown before joining in Figure 3, and after joining in Figure 2. I provide annular recesses 22 and 24 in each rim surface, such as 16 and 18, the recesses each having a depth equal to one-half the thickness of a circular mirror 26 which is to be supported with its margin extending into each recess when the two hemispheres 12 and 14 are joined together.

The diameter of the mirror 26 is greater than the inside diameters of the two hemispheres, but is less than their outside diameters, so as to fit snugly into the recesses 22 and 24 when the hemispheres are joined together, as in Figure 2. The mirror 26 is made of metal, such as stainless steel or other suitable material, which is highly polished on both faces so as to form a two-sided mirror.

Before joining the two hemispheres and the included mirror together, I prefer to place several colored plastic balls 28 inside each hemisphere so that some of the balls will be on each side of the mirror 26 of the joined toy. The hemispheres may be cemented together, as shown in Figures 1 and 2, thus forming the finished toy.

The mirror and the balls 28 are then visible through the transparent shell of the ball and when the ball 10 is shaken by the infant, the small balls 28 cause the effect of a rattle as they bounce against each other and against the inner walls of the shell and the mirror faces. The outer surface of the transparent ball 10 may be further ornamented by suitable translucent or opaque stripes and animal-like figures, if desired.

Although I have described a preferred embodiment of my invention in specific terms, it is to be understood that various changes may be made in size, shape, materials and arrangement without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as claimed.

I claim:

1. A rolling, audible and visual toy, comprising a hollow thin sphere formed of transparent plastic material, a flat thin metal double-faced mirror arranged within the sphere and extending diametrically of the same and having its marginal edge attached to the sphere, and colored balls arranged within the sphere upon opposite sides of the mirror.

2. A rolling, audible and visual toy, comprising

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a hollow resilient sphere formed of transparent plastic material and made in hemispherical sections having meeting edges secured together, a double-faced circular mirror arranged within the sphere and extending diametrically of the same and having a greater diameter than the internal diameter of the sphere and anchored to the sphere at the meeting edges of the hemispherical sections, and colored balls arranged within the sphere upon opposite sides of the mirror and freely rotatable therein.

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