Dec. 19, 1950 J. FRECHTMANN 2,534,550

PLAY TOY

Filed March 18, 1949

FIG. 1

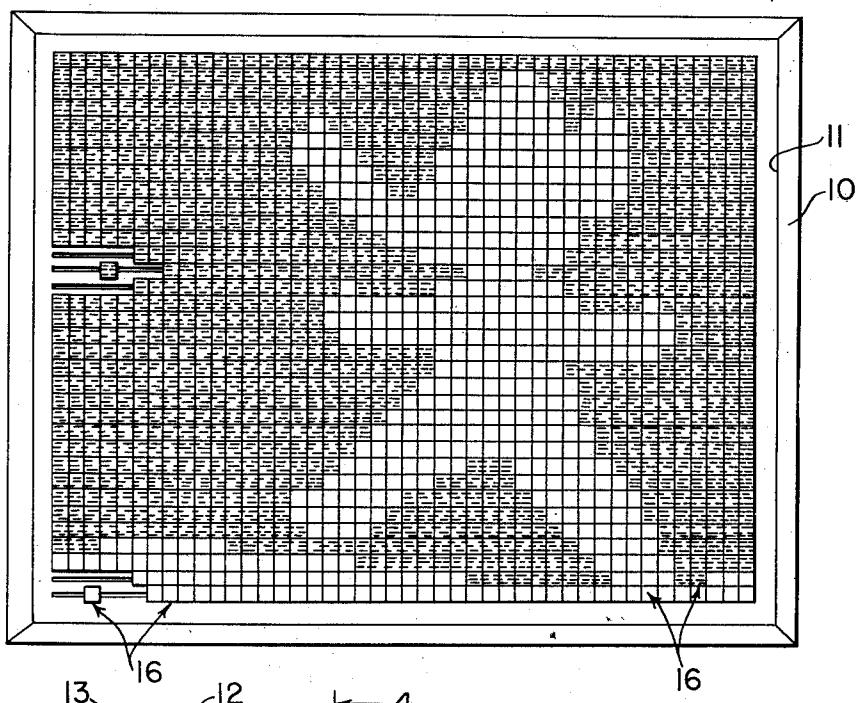


FIG. 3

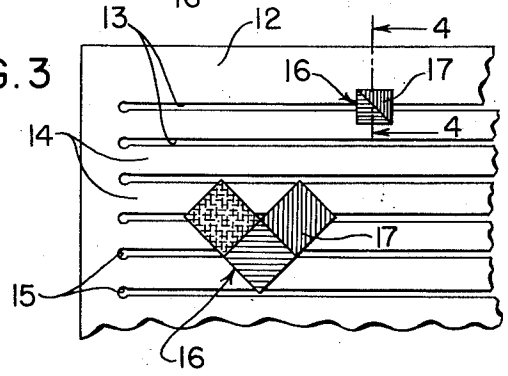
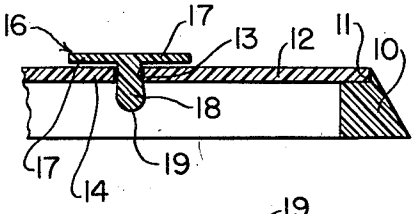


FIG. 4



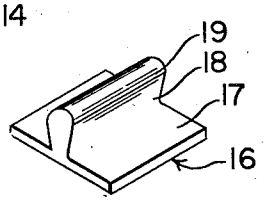
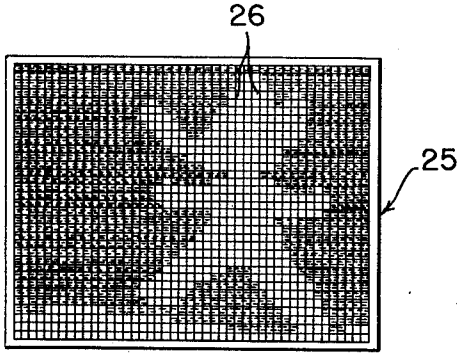


FIG. 5

FIG. 2



INVENTOR.

Jean Frechtmann

BY

ATTORNEY

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PLAY TOY

Jean Frechtmann, Paris, France

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6 Claims. (Cl. 35—27)

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The present invention relates to a toy or game for children, both older and younger. More particularly, it relates to a design toy or game wherein the user or player may create a vast number of different, colored designs.

It is the general object of the present invention to provide a toy or game of the character described which will be of great interest, amusement and entertainment for children as well as instructive and helpful in their training and education.

It is the object of the present invention to provide a game or toy of the character described which requires manual as well as mental activity on the part of the child and which will thereby be helpful in the training and in the developing of the child's manual and mental dexterity and alertness.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a game or toy of the character described which involves manipulation of color and shape and will, therefore, be helpful in teaching and in developing in a child a knowledge and understanding of colors and their differentiation and a knowledge and appreciation of shape and design.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a game or toy of the character described which is of simple construction, easy to manipulate, and strong and durable, convenient to store and handle and economical to produce and which possesses many other advantages and superiorities, some of which will hereinafter be more fully set forth and others of which will become more apparent to those skilled in the art from the embodiment thereof shown in the accompanying drawings and from the description following. It is to be understood, however, that such embodiment is shown by way of illustration only to make the principles and practice of the invention more readily comprehensible and without any intent of limiting the invention to the specific details therein shown.

Generally stated, the present invention contemplates the provision of a toy including a slotted board and vari-colored counters which may be placed and manipulated in the slots into different arrangements representing designs of many colors and many different shapes. This board and counter may be associated with charts having a preformed design thereon which is to be followed by the player or user of the toy, or the toy may be used for the formation and creation of original designs.

In the drawings:

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Fig. 1 is a plan view of a toy device of the present invention showing a design in colors partly completed thereon;

Fig. 2 is a plan view, on a reduced scale, of a preformed, printed design chart from which the design on Fig. 4 is copied.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged, fragmentary plan view of the board of the device of the present invention showing differently colored and differently shaped counters disposed thereon;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged section taken on line 4—4 of Fig. 3; and

Fig. 5 is an enlarged isometric view of one form of counter that may be used with the toy of the present invention, viewed from its bottom.

Referring more specifically to the accompanying drawings, the toy of the present invention may comprise a frame 10 which may preferably be of rectangular cross-section and of substantial thickness, on the toy of which, as in the recess or seat 11, may be secured a board 12.

Both the frame and the board may be formed of any desirable, suitable material, such as plastic, metal or wood and they may be formed of the same or different materials if desired or they may be integrally formed.

The board 12 has a plurality of parallel slots 13, evenly spaced from one another, formed therein, providing even parallel bars 14. The slots 13 which terminate short of the edges of the board 12 may be formed with enlargements 15 at each end, to provide a degree of resilience to the edges of the bars 14 for the purpose which will hereinafter become clear.

It may here be stated, however, that the board may also be formed of separate juxtaposed bars 14, each individually secured in place on the frame 10.

Provided in association with the slotted board 14 are a plurality of vari-colored counters, each generally designated as 16. Each counter or piece 16 comprises a flat top 17 having a colored surface, and an elongated, flat stem 18 adapted to fit into a slot 13 extending from the underside of the top 17 and perpendicular thereto, so that when the stem 18 is inserted into a slot 13, the top 17 will be flat on the board 12. The stem 18 may be formed with a thickened end edge 19 of slightly greater cross section than the width of a slot 13, so that it will require forcing through the slot 13, past the slightly resilient edges of the adjacent bars 14, and will be securely retained in place to be only manually removable therefrom.

The counters 16 may be formed with tops 17 of different sizes and shapes; the size depending

both on the width of such as triangular and hexagonal, may be provided and effectively used to create designs on the board 12.

The toy of the present invention may be accompanied with a plurality of charts 25, such as the chart shown in Fig. 2, on which a design in colors is printed in sections 26 simulating the same outline as the counters, is shown and from which the design of Fig. 1 is copied.

If desired, the formation or copying of the design on the bar from a chart 25 may be facilitated by consecutively numbering the squares or counter simulating sections 26 on the chart 25 and outlining similar areas, similarly numbered, on the board 12 of the toy, in a manner readily understood, so that a player may be able to tell readily the sequence in which the various colored counters forming the design are to be arranged on the board.

It may here be stated that the toy of the present invention may be used in flat position on a table or similar supporting surface or that it may be provided with easel supports to be played in substantially upright position, in a manner readily understood and not thought necessary to be specifically illustrated.

This completes the description of the toy of the present invention. It will be readily apparent that such toy is of great interest as well as of great instructive value, aiding in the acquisition of knowledge and understanding of color and shape as well as in the development of originality along these lines. It will also be apparent that the game or toy of the present invention is of simple construction and may be economically produced and that it is easy and simple to manipulate and play even for a relatively young child.

It will further be apparent that many modifications and variations, other than those pointed out above, may be made in the toy of the present invention by anyone skilled in the art in accordance with the principles hereinabove set forth without the use of any inventive ingenuity. I desire, therefore, to be protected for any and all such modifications and variations that may be made within the spirit of the present invention and the scope of the claims hereto appended.

What I claim is:

1. A toy of the character described comprising a board provided with a plurality of equidistant narrow slots parallel to each other and closed at their both ends, a frame surrounding said board and adapted to support said board, and counters each having a polygonal top adapted to bear on one face of said board and a flat stem extending beneath said top at right angles to said top from the central portion thereof and adapted to be inserted into or removed from any one of said slots and to be moved in said slot as well in the longitudinal direction of said slots as in a direction at right angles to said board, said counters being adapted to be distributed with their stems in said slots in such manner that the tops form designs of various shapes.

2. A toy of the character described comprising a board provided with a plurality of equidistant narrow slots parallel to each other and closed at their both ends, a frame surrounding said board and adapted to support said board, and counters each having a polygonal top adapted to bear on one face of said board and a flat stem extending beneath said top at right angles to said top from the central portion thereof and adapted to be inserted into or removed from any one of said slots with a tight fit by a pressure exerted on said

counters in a direction at right angles to said board and to be moved in said slot as well in the longitudinal direction of said slots as in a direction at right angles to said board, said counters being adapted to be distributed with their stems in said slots in such manner that the tops form designs of various shapes.

3. A toy of the character described comprising a board provided with a plurality of equidistant narrow slots parallel to each other and closed at their both ends, a frame surrounding said board and adapted to support said board at a distance above the lower face of said frame, and counters each having a polygonal top adapted to bear on the upper face of said board and a flat stem extending beneath said top at right angles to said top from the central portion thereof and ending at its lower portion above said lower face of said frame when said top bears on said board, said stem thickening towards its lower end to a dimension slightly greater than the width of said slots, whereby said stem may be moved in said slots as well in the longitudinal direction of said slots as in a direction at right angles to said board and may be inserted into or removed from any one of said slots with a tight fit by a pressure exerted on said counters in a direction at right angles to said board.

4. A toy of the character described comprising a board provided with a plurality of equidistant narrow slots parallel to each other and closed at their both ends, a frame surrounding said board and adapted to support said board, and vari-colored counters, each having a polygonal top adapted to bear on one face of said board and a flat stem extending beneath said top at right angles to said top from the central portion thereof and adapted to be inserted into or removed from any one of said slots and to be moved in said slot as well in the longitudinal direction of said slots as in a direction at right angles to said board, said counters being adapted to be distributed with their stems in said slots in such manner that the tops form designs of various shapes and colours.

5. A toy of the character described comprising a board provided with a plurality of equidistant narrow slots parallel to each other and closed at their both ends, a frame surrounding said board and adapted to support the edges of said board outside of said slots, whereby said slots are accessible from both sides of said board, and counters each having a polygonal top adapted to bear on one face of said board and a flat stem extending beneath said top at right angles to said top from the central portion thereof and adapted to be inserted into or removed from any one of said slots and to be moved in said slot as well in the longitudinal direction of said slots as in a direction at right angles to said board, said counters being adapted to be distributed with their stems in said slots in such manner that the tops form designs of various shapes.

6. A toy of the character described comprising a board provided with a plurality of equidistant narrow slots parallel to each other and closed at their ends, in combination with a plurality of counters, each having a polygonal top adapted to bear on one side of said board and a flat stem extending beneath said top at right angles to said top from the central portion thereof, and adapted to be inserted into and removed from any of said slots and to be moved in said slots as well as in the longitudinal direction of said slots as in a direction at right angles to said

board, said counters being adapted to be distributed with their stems in said slots in such manner that their tops form designs of various shapes.

JEAN FRECHTMANN.

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