Sept. 20, 1971 G. C. FOX ET AL 3,605,771

TENT STRUCTURE

Filed April 1, 1969

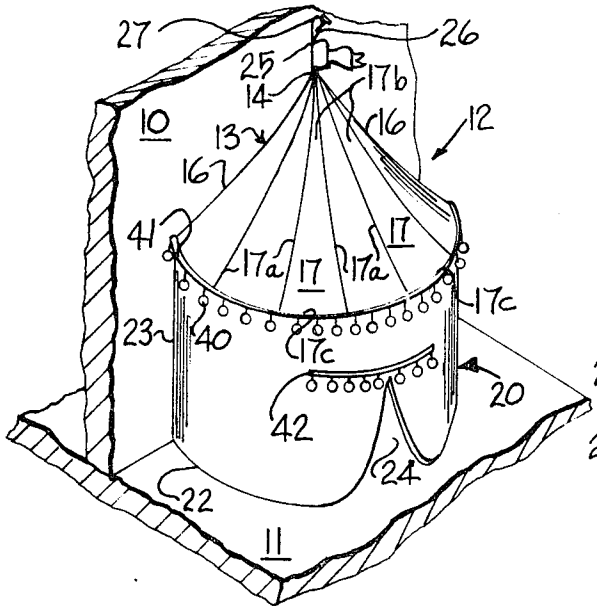


Fig. 1

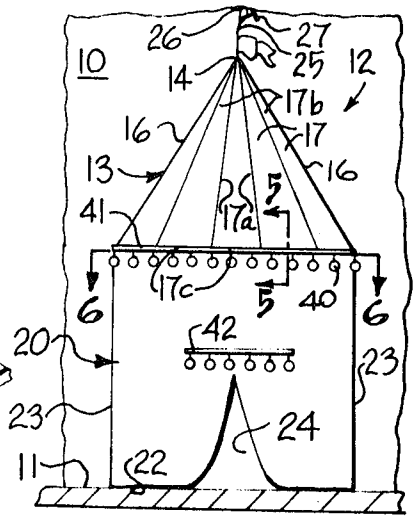


Fig. 2

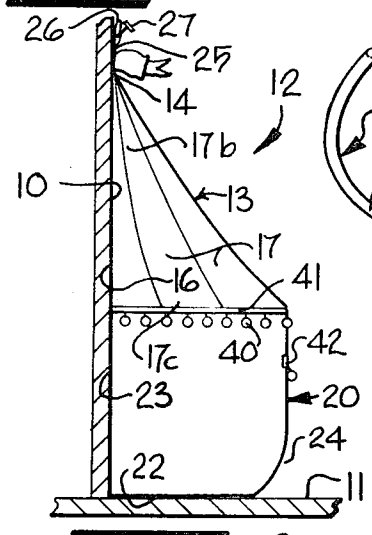


Fig. 3

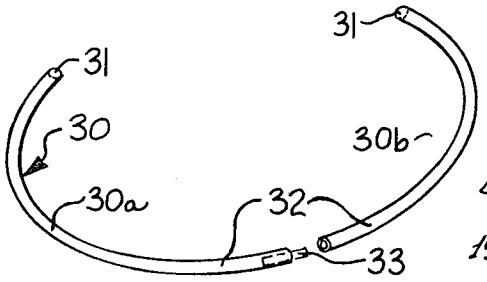


Fig. 4

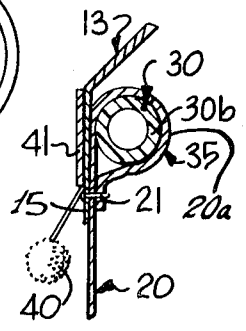


Fig. 5

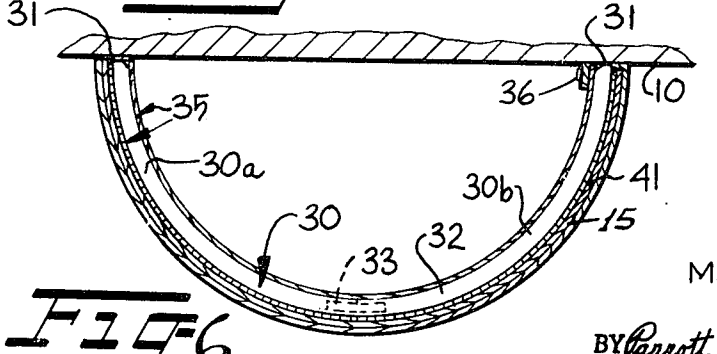


Fig. 6

INVENTORS:
GAY C. FOX and
MARY E. DROPPERS

BY Parrott, Bell, Seltzer, Park & Gibson

ATTORNEYS

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TENT STRUCTURE

Gay C. Fox, 307 Tomahawk Ave., and Mary E. Droppers, Box 1196, both of Black Mountain, N.C. 28711

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A tent structure adapted to be suspended adjacent and supported by a substantially vertical surface such as a wall, door or the like, including a top portion formed from a flexible sheet material and having an apex, base, and side edges extending from said apex to said base adjacent the vertical surface, a wall portion formed from a flexible sheet material and connected to the base of said top portion and having side edges adjacent the vertical surface, means connected to the apex suspending the tent structure adjacent the vertical surface, and support means mounted along the connection between said top and wall portions and having terminal ends bearing against the vertical surface and a body portion extending outwardly therefrom supporting the top and wall portions in an extended position, whereby the top and the wall portions with the vertical surface form an enclosure.

This invention relates in general to a tent structure and more particularly to a partial tent structure adapted to be suspended adjacent and supported by a substantially vertical surface such as a wall, door or the like and to form with the vertical surface a tent-like enclosure.

Ten structures have taken on many forms and shapes, most of which have been supported from the ground through a complication of support members and thus, require skilled personnel and a considerable amount of time to erect and/or strike. Furthermore, these tent structures have not been capable of storage in a compact manner.

As is well known, children of all ages are continuously fascinated by tents and accordingly, have a desire to have a tent as a toy. Heretofore, tent structures have not been readily acceptable for such use for numerous reasons, such as, the inability of a child to erect and/or strike the tent structure, the considerable time consumed in erecting and/or striking the tent structure being discouraging to the child, the inability to store the tent in a compact manner, the large amount of space consumed by the tent structure when erected and more particularly, the prohibitive cost of available tent structures.

With the aforementioned in mind, an object of this invention is the provision of a tent structure which is simply and inexpensively constructed and particularly adapted for use as a child's toy or plaything which the child can erect and/or strike quickly and easily.

Another object of this invention is the provision of a tent structure having a minimum of support members and which can readily be stored in a compact manner.

Another and still further object of this invention is the provision of a partial tent structure which may be suspended adjacent and supported by a substantially vertical surface with the vertical surface forming part of the enclosure, and thus, minimizing the space consumed by the tent structure and which can be used indoors as well as outdoors.

Some of the objects of the invention having been stated, other objects will appear as the description proceeds, when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective of a tent structure of this invention suspended adjacent and supported by a substantially vertical surface;

FIG. 2 is a front elevation of the tent structure of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a side elevation of the tent structure of FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of the tubular support member of the tent structure of FIG. 1, being enlarged and somewhat exaggerated to more clearly illustrate the manner in which the component parts of the tubular support member may be separated;

FIG. 5 is an enlarged vertical sectional view taken substantially along the line 5—5 of FIG. 2; and

FIG. 6 is a sectional view taken substantially along the line 6—6 of FIG. 2 and again exaggerating the size of the tubular support member, for clarity.

Referring more particularly to the drawings wherein like numerals are used to indicate like parts where possible, there is generally shown in FIG. 1 a substantially vertical surface **10** such as a wall, and a substantially horizontal surface **11** such as a floor, extending outwardly therefrom wherein a tent structure **12** of this invention is shown suspended adjacent and supported by the vertical surface **10**.

The top portion **13** of the tent structure **12** is formed from a flexible sheet material such as plastic, textile fabric or the like and has a substantially semi-conical configuration with an apex **14**, a substantially semi-circular base **15** and side edges **16** extending from the apex **14** to the base **15** adjacent the vertical surface **10**. The semi-conical configuration may as shown be formed by stitching together a plurality of sectors **17** of a circle along mating edges **17***a* with apexes **17***b* cumulating to form apex **14** of the top portion **13** and arcuate bases **17***c* cumulating to form the substantially semi-circular base **15** of the top portion **13**.

The wall portion **20** is also formed from a flexible sheet material such as plastic, textile fabric or the like, and has a substantially semi-cylindrical configuration with a folded back top edge portion **20***a* secured by stitching **21** to the base **15** of the top portion **13** to form a hem **35**, a bottom edge **22** and side edges **23** extending adjacent the vertical surface **10**. An aperture **24** is provided in the central portion of wall portion **20** and extends from the bottom edge **22** upwardly to form an opening for ingress and egress. Additional apertures may be formed in the tent structure **12** as desired to serve as windows, vents, and the like.

Connected to the apex **14** of the top portion **13** is means suspending the tent structure **12** adjacent the vertical surface **10** with the bottom edge **22** of the wall portion **20** in close proximity to the substantially horizontal surface **11**. While various means for suspending the tent structure **12** may be employed, FIGS. 1–3 show a cord **25** joined to the apex **14** and having a loop **26** formed therein which is hung over a nail **27**. Instead of suspending the tent structure **12** from a nail **27**, a picture or mirror support hook or other similar means may be used. Furthermore, the location of the loop **26** in relation to the apex **14** may be readily adjusted to vary the height from which the tent structure **12** may be suspended and still have the bottom edge **22** of the wall portion **20** suspended in close proximity to the substantially horizontal surface **11** as shown in FIG. 1. Thus, picture and mirror hooks and the like already placed on walls throughout a house may be readily used to suspend the tent structure **12** of this invention without further damage to the walls.

The top portion **13** and wall portion **20** are supported in an extended position by a rigid, substantially semi-circular, support member **30** removably mounted along the connection between the top portion **13** and wall portion **20** which has terminal ends **31** bearing against the

vertical surface and a body portion **32** extending outwardly therefrom. The support member **30** is formed from two, arcuate shaped, plastic tubing members or segments **30***a*, **30***b* which are detachably secured end to end by a dowel pin **33** carried by the end of one of the arcuate shaped members **30***a* which fits within the end of the other arcuate shaped member **30***b*, FIG. 4. The stitched hem **35** provided along the top edge portion **20***a* of the wall portion **20**, FIGS. 5 and 6, serves for receiving the support member **30**. One end of the hem **35** is stitched closed and the other end is provided with a snap fastening device **36**. Thus, the support member **30** may be inserted within the hem **35** and the snap fastening device **36** fastened to removably mount the support member **30** within the hem **35**.

The top portion **13** and wall portion **20** may also have a top fringe **40** forming an extension from the top portion or suitably attached thereto by a separate strip of material **41** and a wall fringe **42** suitably attached on the wall portion **20** above the aperture **24** therein for decorative purposes.

In order to erect the tent structure **12**, the arcuate shaped tubing members **30***a*, **30***b* are joined end to end to define the support member **30** which is inserted through the hem **35** whereupon the snap fastening device **36** is fastened to mount the support member along the connection between the top portion **13** and wall portion **20**. The tent structure is then suspended adjacent a vertical surface by hanging the loop **26** of cord **25** over a nail **27** or the like and the loop **26** adjusted until the bottom edge **22** of the wall portion **20** is in close proximity to the horizontal surface **11**. With the tent structure **12** suspended, the support member **30** is positioned to have terminal ends **31** bear against the vertical surface **10** and support the top portion **13** and wall portion **20** in an extended position whereby the top portion **13** and wall portion **20** with the vertical surface **10** form a tent-like enclosure. While the tent structure **12** has been described here as suspended adjacent a vertical surface **10** such as a wall, it can likewise be suspended adjacent and in front of a window with the window providing light or adjacent and in front of an open closet door wherein the closet serves as additional space within in which for the child to play.

In striking the tent, the reverse procedure is followed, that is, remove the loop **26** from the nail **27**, unsnap the fastening device **36** and withdraw the support member **30** from the hem **35**. The support member **30** may then

be separated into its component parts **30***a*, **30***b* and made ready for storage. The top portion **13** and wall portion **20** may be folded into a compact unit and stored with the component parts **30***a*, **30***b* of the support member **30**.

In the drawings and specification there has been set forth a preferred embodiment of the invention and, although specific terms are employed, they are used in a generic and descriptive sense only and not for purposes of limitation.

We claim:

1. A tent adapted to be suspended adjacent and supported by a substantially vertical surface, wall, door or the like, comprising

a continuous top portion formed from a flexible sheet material and having a substantially semi-conical configuration with an apex, a substantially semi-circular base and side edges adapted to extend adjacent the vertical surface,

a wall portion formed from a flexible sheet material and having a substantially semi-cylindrical configuration with an aperture for ingress and egress and including a folded back top edge portion fixedly connected to said semi-circular base of said top portion and defining a hem extending therealong,

means connected to the apex of said top portion for supportingly suspending the tent adjacent the vertical surface and,

a substantially semi-circular support member positioned in said hem and having terminal ends and an intermediate body portion, said terminal ends adapted to bear against the substantially vertical surface with said body portion extending horizontally outwardly therefrom and supporting the tent in an arcuately extended position such that said top and wall portions and vertical surface form an enclosure, said support member comprising a plurality of segments detachably secured together in end to end relationship.

2. A tent as defined in claim **1**, wherein the top portion comprises a plurality of joined sectors of a circle.

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PETER M. CAUN, Primary Examiner