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INFLATED PLAY HORSE

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This invention relates to a novel inflated play horse. The primary object of the invention is the provision of an efficient, attractive, practical, realistic and injury-proof play horse of the kind indicated, which is designed to simulate the motions of a bronco horse when ridden and manipulated by a child, so as to afford the child beneficial exercise and the development of coordination, while at the same time affording absorbing entertainment.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a play horse of the character indicated above which comprises an inflatable hollow body of flexible and resilient rubber or rubber-like material, which can be deflated for compact storage and shipment, and which, in its inflated condition, provides a non-skid relatively stationary base, flexible legs secured to the base capable of lateral and longitudinal flexing relative to the base, a body supported on the legs capable of being compressed and gripped between the legs of the rider, a saddle which is provided with a front portion and a rear handle, and a front handle which is located forwardly of the saddle and adapted to be, at times, gripped by the rider, for manipulating the horse.

Other important objects and advantageous features of the invention will be apparent from the following description and the appended drawings, wherein, for purposes of illustration only, a specific form of the invention is set forth in detail.

In the drawings:

FIGURE 1 is a front perspective view of a play horse of the present invention.

FIGURE 2 is a bottom perspective view thereof.

FIGURE 3 is an enlarged vertical longitudinal sectional view taken on the line 3--3 of FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 4 is a sectional view taken on the line 4--4 of FIGURE 3.

Referring in detail to the drawings, wherein like numerals designate like parts throughout the several views, the illustrated play horse comprises an elongated rectangular hollow base 10 having a bottom wall 12, front and rear walls 14 and 16, respectively, side walls 18, and a top wall 20 which is parallel to the bottom wall. The walls of the base 10 are preferably made of flexible and resilient rubber-like material, such as extra heavy truck inner tube material, and a top layer or saddle leather 82, of such as extra heavy truck inner tube material. Fixed or formed on the front end of the saddle leather 82 is an upwardly and forwardly angled pommel 84 of relatively heavy and less flexible rubber material. A rear transversely elongated tail handle 88 is affixed to and extends rearwardly from the elevated rear edge of a rear saddle ridge 86, to be grasped by one hand of a rider mounting the horse, while the other hand grasps the front handle 72.

Either or both of the handles and pommel is adapted to be grasped by the rider in manipulating the play horse. An upstanding inflating and deflating valve stem 90 travels and is fixed to the top wall 20 of the base 10, at a central location between the front and rear legs of the horse.

In operation, a rider being astride of the body 46 and seated on the saddle 76, can produce rocking and bucking motions of the body 46 relative to the base, comparable to those of a bucking bronco horse, forwardly and rearwardly, or to either side, or in a combination of these directions, as well as rocking of the base, in any direction, relative to a supporting surface, by shifting his weight while gripping the sides of the body 46 with his legs or by grasping the handles or the pommel and pulling and pushing in the desired directions. In such manipulations of the body 46, the front and rear legs flex relative to the body 46 and relative to the base, and distort either or both in so doing, so that the "side" is cushioned, rather than undeniably abrupt or rough so that danger of injurious spills or jars to the rider are eliminated.

Although there has been shown and described a preferred form of the invention, it is to be understood that the invention is not necessarily confined thereto, and that
any change or changes in the structure of and in the relative arrangements of components thereof are contemplated as being within the scope of the invention as defined by the claims appended hereto.

What is claimed is:

1. An inflatable play riding horse comprising a flat hollow base having a top wall, a pair of tubular front legs and a pair of tubular rear legs rising from said top wall, a hollow body having a bottom wall secured upon the upper ends of the legs, said base, said legs, and said body being resilient and in communication with each other, the front legs being perpendicular to the base, said rear legs having perpendicular upper portions and forwardly and downwardly angled lower portions reaching to the top wall of the base, and means for inflating the horse.

2. An inflatable play riding horse comprising a flat hollow base having a top wall, a pair of tubular front legs and a pair of tubular rear legs rising from said top wall, a hollow body having a bottom wall secured upon the upper ends of the legs, said base, said legs, and said body being resilient and in communication with each other, the front legs being perpendicular to the base, said rear legs having perpendicular upper portions and forwardly and downwardly angled lower portions reaching to the top wall of the base, and means for inflating the horse.

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