United States Patent

[11] 3,586,349

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[21] Appl. No **810,651**
[22] Filed **Mar. 26, 1969**
[45] Patented **June 22, 1971**
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[54] **DOLL PACKAGE**
7 Claims, 5 Drawing Figs.

[52] U.S. Cl. **281/31,** 63/1, 206/78
[51] **Int. Cl.** **B42d 3/00**
[50] **Field of Search** ..... 281/31; 46/35, 36, 115; 35/355; 206/45, 74, 45.33, 45.34, 75 B

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ABSTRACT: A doll package comprising a heart-shaped doll case for holding a boy and girl doll in related clothes and a book member with an aperture in the front cover for displaying the case, the book member having inner pages that contain a romance story about the boy and girl dolls.

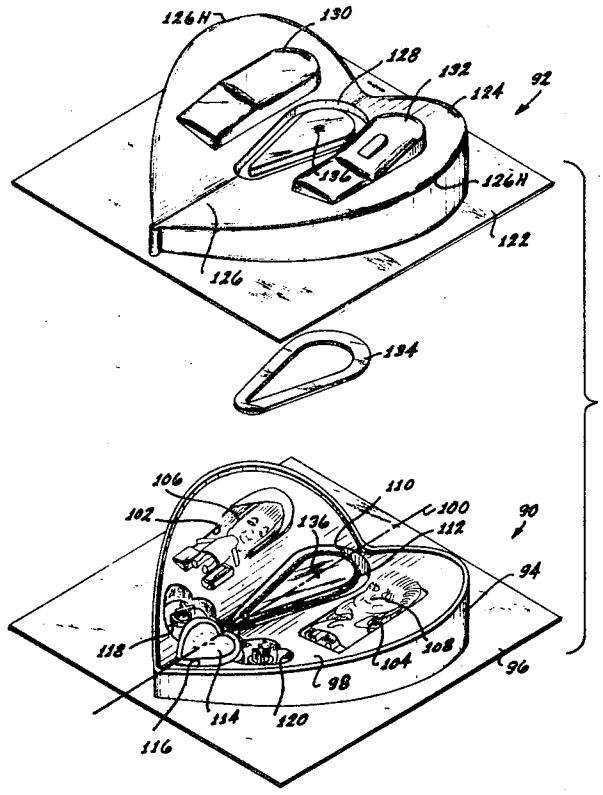


FIG. 1

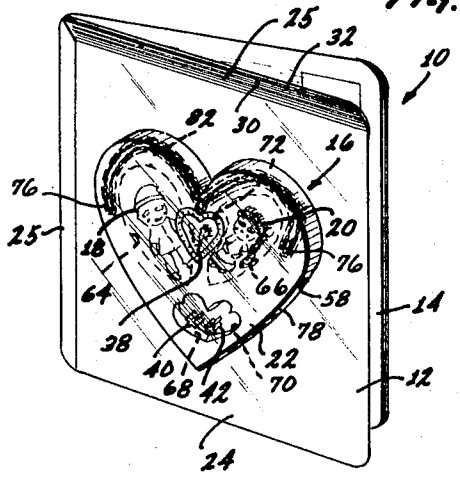
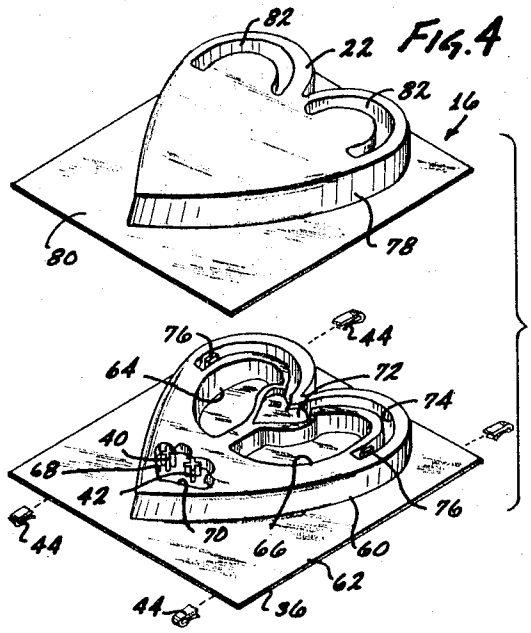


FIG. 4



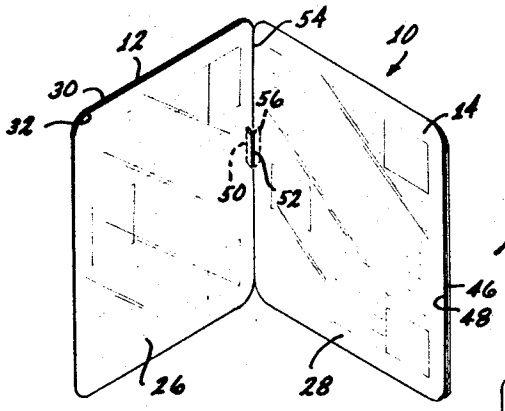
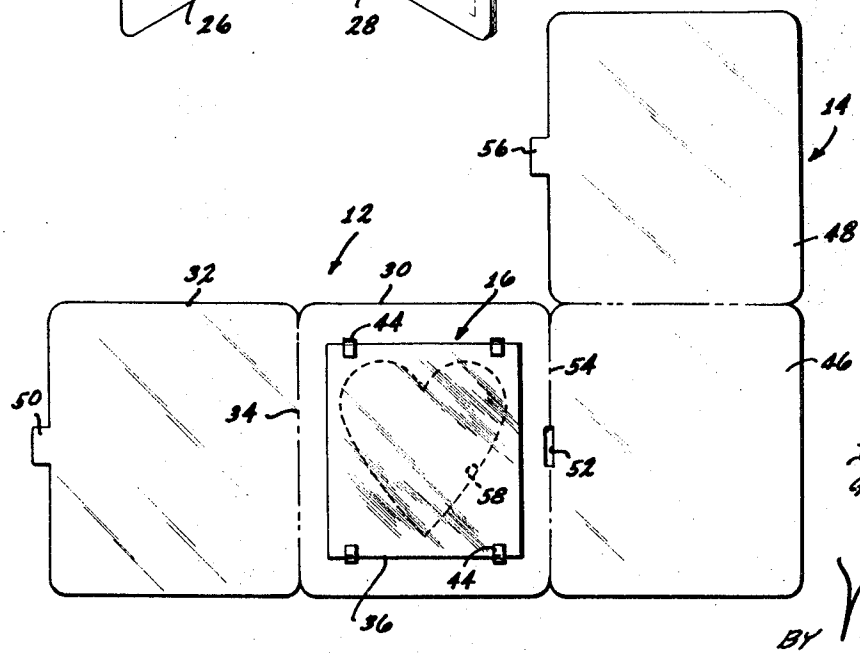


FIG. 2

FIG. 3



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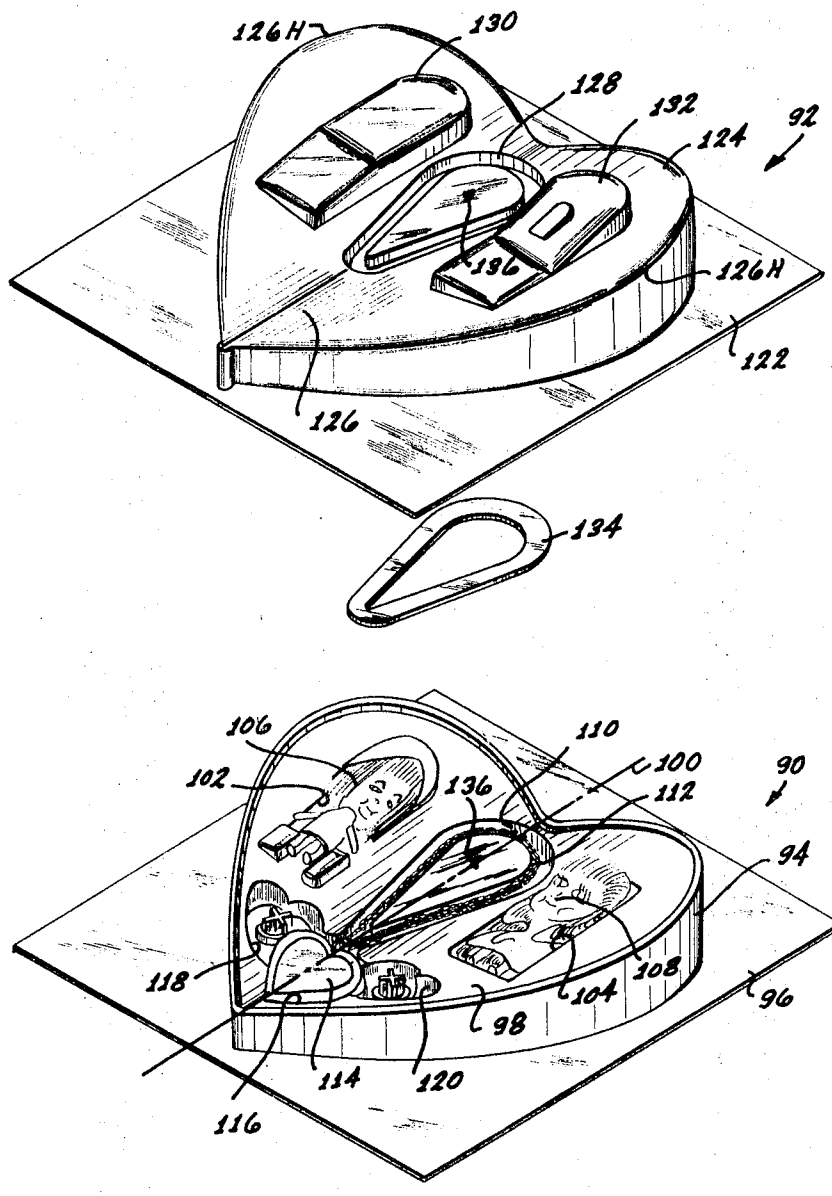


FIG. 5

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DOLL PACKAGE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates to toy packaging and more particularly to a novel doll package.

2. Description of the Prior Art

Interesting dolls are provided by those dressed as historical or legendary figures. This is particularly true of dolls representing romantic characters, inasmuch as the collecting of dolls is often performed at a preteen age when girls are often also interested in legendary romance stories. However, such children are often only vaguely aware of the events or legends connected with romantic figures. A doll package which presented dolls representing romantic figures in a setting which related a legend about the dolls would prove especially entertaining by virtue by combining the preexisting interest in the legend with the natural interest in the doll figures.

OBJECTS AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An object of the present invention is to provide a novel and entertaining doll package.

Another object is to provide a pair of romantic doll figures and a package for displaying them which tells a story of their romance.

In accordance with the present invention, a doll package is provided for holding a pair of dolls which relates a story about the dolls. The package is in the form of a booklet with front and back surfaces and inner surfaces. A doll container holding a pair of dolls protrudes from the front surface, the container having a transparent cover to display the dolls. The inner surfaces of the booklet are printed with a story about the pair of dolls in the container. The booklet can be manipulated to remove the doll container to permit handling of the dolls. Thus, a child first views the front of the package to examine the dolls, then opens the booklet to read a story about the dolls, and then removes the doll container to handle and play with the dolls.

The novel features of the invention are set forth with particularity in the appended claims. The invention will be best understood from the following description when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a doll package constructed in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the doll package of FIG. 1, showing the inner surfaces thereof;

FIG. 3 is a plan view of the doll package of FIG. 1 with the booklet portion thereof in a disassembled configuration;

FIG. 4 is an exploded perspective view of the doll container of the doll package of FIG. 1; and

FIG. 5 is an exploded perspective view of a doll container constructed in accordance with another embodiment of the invention

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

FIG. 1 illustrates a doll package comprising a booklet **10** with two leaves **12** and **14**, the booklet holding a doll container **16**. The doll container has two dolls **18** and **20** that are dressed in Renaissance costumes to represent the famous romantic characters Romeo and Juliet, respectively. The doll container has a transparent cover **22** that allows the dolls to be seen when viewing the front surface **24** of the front leaf **12**. Markings **25** at the top and left side of the front surface, which represent the binding and pages of a thick book, tend to simulate a book appearance such as one containing a set of fairy tales. The booklet can be pivoted open, as to the position of FIG. 2. The inner leaf surfaces **26, 28** contain printing and illustrations that relate the story of Romeo and Juliet (though in a modified form with a happier ending). Thus, a child first observes the dolls **18** and **20**, and then can open the booklet and read a love story about the characters represented by the dolls.

The booklet can be further opened to permit removal of the doll container, so that a child can play with the dolls therein. The front leaf means **12** is composed of a front sheet **30** and rear sheet **32**, and the rear sheet can be pivoted open about a crease **34**. As shown in FIG. **3**, this exposes the doll container **16** to permit its removal from the booklet, so it can be opened and the dolls removed. As shown in FIG. **4**, the doll container includes a receptacle **36** which holds the dolls. A necklace or locket **38** and a pair of doll stands **40, 42** are also included in the package. The transparent cover **22** fits over the receptacle **36** to hold the dolls, locket, and stands therein. The cover **22** is held to the receptacle by four clips **44**. Removal of the clips and lifting up on the cover **22** exposes the items in the receptacle for removal.

The booklet is formed by an L-shaped piece of cardboard, whose back surface is shown in FIG. **3**, the back surface generally being unmarked. The booklet includes the front and rear sheets **30** and **32** which are to form the front leaf **12** of the booklet, and another pair of sheets **46** and **48** that form a two-ply rear leaf **14**. The booklet is assembled by folding over the sheet **32** onto the sheet **30**, so they are in facewise adjacency, and slipping a front tab **50** of the sheet **32** into a slot **52** at the crease intersection **54** of the sheets **30, 46**. Also, the sheet **48** is folded over onto the sheet **46**, and a tab **56** on sheet **48** is inserted into the slot **52**. Prior to assembling the booklet in the above described manner, the doll container **16** is inserted into the front sheet **30** of the front leaf. The front sheet **30** has a heart-shaped aperture **58** which is designed to receive a heart-shaped portion of the doll container. When the sheet **32** is folded onto the front sheet **30**, the doll container **16** is held securely in place in the booklet.

As shown in FIG. **4**, the receptacle **36** of the doll container comprises a heart-shaped portion **60** that protrudes from a flat perimeter portion **62**. The heart-shaped portion has a pair of depressions **64, 66** for holding the dolls, a pair of depressions **68, 70** for holding the doll stands, a central depression **72** for holding the necklace, and a peripheral depression **74** for holding the necklace chain. A pair of protuberances **76** are provided in the peripheral depression to keep the chain in place. The cover **22** similarly comprises a heart-shaped portion **78** that protrudes from a flat peripheral portion **80**. The heart portion **78** can fit over the heart portion **60** of the receptacle to retain the dolls, stand and necklace. A peripheral depression **82** in the cover helps to retain the necklace chain in place. When the cover **22** is placed on the receptacle **36**, the clips **44** are used to fasten the flat portions **62** and **80** of the receptacle and cover. Both the receptacle **36** and cover **22** can be constructed by vacuum forming thin sheets of plastic over suitable forms.

The doll package can be disassembled and the dolls played with, and the necklace can be placed on the child's neck, so it is worn. After such play, the doll and stand, and perhaps also the necklace, can be replaced in the receptacle and the cover **22** can be placed over it and clipped thereto. The heart-shaped portion of the doll container **16** can then be reinserted through the aperture **58** in the front sheet, and the sheet **32** can be folded over to complete the reassembly of the package. The booklike package is then compact for easy storage, while it continues to display the dolls and story about them.

FIG. **5** illustrates a receptacle **90** and cover **92** constructed in accordance with another embodiment of the invention, which can be received in the booklet **10** described above. The receptacle **90** has a heart-shaped projection **94** which projects from a flat perimeter portion **96**. The upper surface **98** of the projecting portion is concave, with a lower portion along the centerline **100** of the receptacle. A pair of depressions **102, 104** on either side of the centerline hold dolls **106, 108**. A trough **110** extending along a central area holds the chain **112** of a pendant accessory **114**, the pendant lying in another depression **116**. A pair of stand depressions **118** hold stands **120** that can support the dolls in an upright position.

The cover **92**, which is transparent, includes a flat peripheral portion **122** and a projecting portion **124** that can fit over the projecting portion of the receptacle. The projecting portion **124** has a concave top surface **126** matching the concavity of the receptacle upper surface, and has a trough-shaped depression **128** for reception in the receptacle trough **110**. A pair of mounds **130, 132** formed in the top surface of the cover on either side of the centerline receive part of the dolls **106, 108**. The tops of the mounds are at a level even with the highest portions of the concave top surface at **126H**, so these later portions **126H** protect against crushing of the dolls when booklets are laid in stacks for storage.

A separate transparent retainer member **134** which has the same shape as part of the chain trough **110**, lies in the trough over the chain **112**. It is held therein by the trough depression **128** in the cover. The retainer member holds the chain within the retainer trough **110** during extensive handling of the package.

The cover **92** is held on the receptacle **90** by a sonic weld **136** that joins a central area of these members. The weld holds the cover close to the receptacle during handling, so the dolls, pendant, and stands cannot fall out of place. However, the weld can be easily broken by a child by lifting up the cover after the booklet has been opened to remove the doll holding assembly. Such a lifting force is unlikely to be encountered during handling when the booklet is closed. The weld, which could also be formed by heat and/or pressure, can be easily and economically applied.

The invention provides a unique doll package which is simple and economical. Yet, the package provides increased pleasure to a child by displaying the dolls even when they are stored, and by displaying them in a book setting that emphasizes the fact that the dolls represent characters in a book or story. The setting of the dolls, and their seeming emergence from the front of the simulated book tends to give the impression that the dolls lie in the book which tells their story, to thereby add to the romantic aura of the package.

Although particular embodiments of the invention have been described and illustrated herein, it is recognized that modifications and variations may readily occur to those skilled in the art, and consequently, it is intended that the claims be interpreted to cover such modifications and equivalents.

What we claim: is:

1. A doll package for holding at least one doll comprising:

front and back leaf means having inner surfaces in facewise adjacency for forming the front and back leaves of a booklet, said inner surfaces having a story printed thereon, said front leaf means having an aperture therein, said front leaf means comprising forward and rearward sheets in facewise adjacency, said aperture being formed in only said forward sheet; and

a doll container including a flat portion for placement behind the walls of said aperture and a protruding portion of approximately the same shape as said aperture for protruding forwardly through said aperture, said protruding portion including receptacle means for holding said doll and a transparent cover over it for protecting and displaying said doll, said flat portion of said doll container being positioned between said sheets to hold said container in place.

2. The doll package described in claim **1** wherein:

said aperture in said front leaf means and said protruding portion of said doll container are each in a heart shape; and including

a pair of dolls disposed in said container, said dolls constructed to represent a pair of legendary romantic figures; and wherein

said story relates to said legendary figures.

3. The doll package described in claim **1** wherein:

said receptacle means has opposite side portions with depressions for holding a pair of dolls; and

said cover has a portion welded to said receptacle means at a region between said depressions.

4. The doll package described in claim **1** wherein:

said receptacle means and cover have generally concave upper surfaces forming raised side portions; and

said cover has mound portions over said dolls in said receptacle to receive part of said dolls, said mound portions extending to a height no greater than said raised side portions of said cover.

5. The doll package described in claim **1** wherein:

said receptacle means includes a depression for holding an accessory; and

said cover has a depression for reception in said receptacle depression; and including

a transparent retainer member disposed in said receptacle depression under said cover depression for holding said accessory in place.

6. The doll package described in claim **1** wherein:

said receptacle means includes a trough for holding a necklace chain; and

said cover has a trough portion for reception in said receptacle trough; and including

a retainer member disposed in said receptacle trough under said cover trough portion to hold a chain therein.

7. The doll package described in claim **1** wherein:

said booklet comprises an L-shaped piece of material with creases forming four substantially rectangular portions, two of said rectangular portions forming said forward and rearward sheets, respectively, of said front leaf means, and the other two rectangular portions forming said back leaf means in two flies when folded together along one of said creases.