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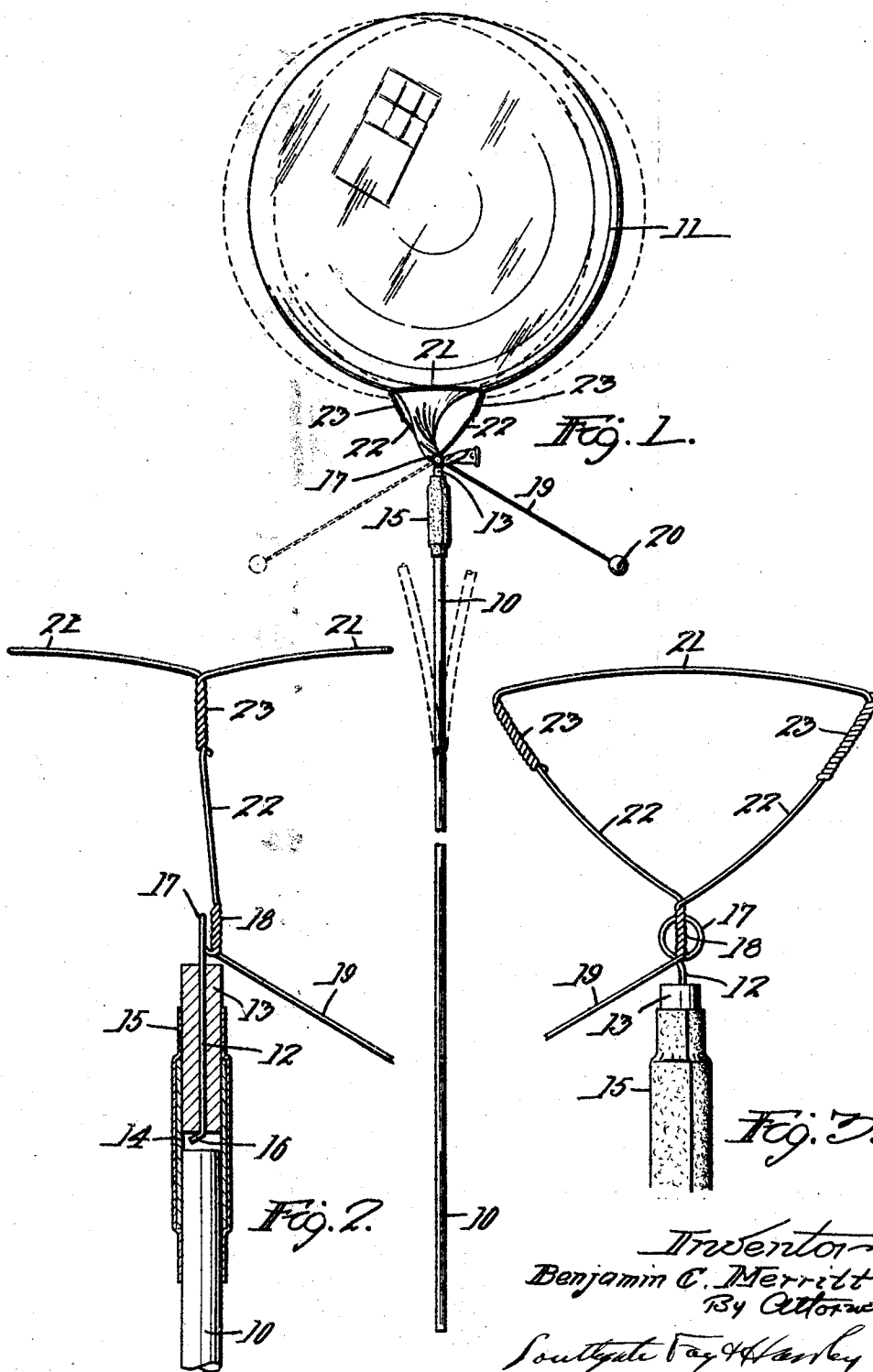
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BALLOON SPINNER

Filed April 4, 1929

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BALLOON SPINNER

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This invention relates to a device for spinning a balloon or other light object of a similar nature.

The principal objects of the invention are to provide a flexible rod or support with means for connecting a balloon or the like to it in such a way that the balloon is capable of a rotary motion on an axis coincident or parallel with the axis thereof; to provide the same with a weight extending out at one side by which the balloon can be rotated through utilization of centrifugal force produced by swinging the said weight; to provide an improved form of holder for the balloon and to provide various improvements in details of construction by which the above mentioned objects can be obtained.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings in which

Fig. 1 is a side view of a preferred embodiment of the invention showing by full and dotted lines the positions of the parts when at rest and when spinning;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged diametrical sectional view of the top of the rod and parts for connecting it with the balloon;

Fig. 3 is a side view taken at right angles to Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a plan thereof;

Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 1 showing a modified form, and

Fig. 6 is a similar view showing another modification.

The object of the invention is to provide a slim and flexible rod or support 10 with means for carrying an inflated balloon 11 or other similar object in such a way that by moving the hand holding the rod in a circle or ellipse, the balloon will be caused to rotate on the axis of the rod. The latter will bend out at the top, as indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 1, to add to the motion of the balloon. By bending out in this substantially conical form a compound motion is produced in the balloon, that is, it rotates on its own axis and its axis rotates on an axis at an inclination to the normal central position of the rod 10.

In the form shown in the first four figures the top of the rod is provided with a vertical

passage down into it for a short distance for receiving the bottom of a wire 12. In the case shown, an extension 13 of the same diameter as the rod 10 is provided for receiving this wire 12. It is secured to the end of the rod, and spaced from it, by a tube 14 of stiff material, as metal or pasteboard, which is covered with a sheet 15 of heavy paper or other material which will conceal the tube 14. By gluing the sheet 15 to both the members 10 and 13 the creeping of the tube 14 is prevented and this tube keeps the joint between the two parts of the rod rigid.

The wire 12 which extends vertically down through the extension 13 is provided with a bend 16 at the bottom so that it can rotate in this member 13 without danger of becoming detached from it. At the top this wire is bent into a scroll 17 or hook and then is twisted at 18 into another wire 19, or the end of the same wire, which extends out at an inclination and is provided with an operating weight 20 on the end. From the twist 18 two wires 22 extend upwardly at a low inclination and are provided with a substantially circular body 21 at the top formed of two wires twisted in with the slanting wires 22 at points 23 on opposite sides. This constitutes a frame or holder having a circular top and a substantially conical base, the base being formed by these two wires 22 alone.

The purpose of this frame is to provide a support for the balloon 11 which rests on the substantially circular body 21. The open end or nozzle of the balloon is brought down into the loop or scroll 17 by drawing it through the same between the wire on the side toward the weight and the wire on the opposite side. This simultaneously pinches the nozzle end of the balloon to keep it tight and prevents the escape of air and also holds this tail of the balloon firmly in place so that it will set in a position resting on the circle 21.

Now in operation the user swings his hand holding the rod 10 around in a circle or other curve which results in throwing out the upper end somewhat as indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 1. As the rod swings around this motion results in throwing the center of the

loop 17 off and rotating it in a circle or other closed figure by the swinging of the weight 20 around the end of the rod. The wire at the bottom of the loop 17 bends, by the action of centrifugal force, and allows the stick to swing around the balloon which stays in central position.

It will be seen therefore that the motion of the weight 20 is a compound motion and aside from its swinging on its own center it can be varied by the user. This results of course in swinging the whole wire frame and taking the balloon along with it.

This simple device has been found to be a source of great enjoyment to children and even those of more mature age find amusement in it.

In the form shown in Fig. 5 two modifications are shown. In the first place the weight 20 is mounted on a horizontal instead of an inclined wire 29 and this wire extends, by means of a twisted wire 28, to a point at the other side of the rod 10 and then this wire extends vertically and is provided with a wooden plug 30 which is mounted on a vertical axis. It is to this plug that the frame 31, similar to the frame that has been described in connection with Figs. 1, 2, 3 and 4, is secured. It will not be necessary to describe this frame more fully but the plug is provided with a groove 32 around it and the nozzle end of the balloon is fitted over this plug and bound into this groove by a string or the like. This plug and wire frame are rigid with respect to the portions 28 and 29. The effect is similar to the one described above in connection with the other figures but there is an additional motion around the axis of the rod.

In Fig. 6 another form is shown in which the rod 10 is provided with a wire 33 positively fixed thereto and having the weight 20 on the end and is also provided with a handle 34 rotatably mounted on the rod. The handle is held in the hand and the rod will rotate, the weight being capable of being adjusted up and down it, but always fixed to the stick so as to cause the balloon to have about the same effect as in the other cases. There is a different frame 35 for holding the balloon in this case and the nozzle end of the balloon is tied to the end of the rod by a cord or string 36.

Although I have illustrated and described only three forms of the invention I am aware of the fact that other modifications can be made therein by any person skilled in the art without departing from the scope of the invention as expressed in the claims. Therefore, I do not wish to be limited in this respect but what I claim is:—

1. As an article of manufacture, a balloon spinner comprising a flexible rod to be held in the hand, means for supporting a balloon and mounting it to rotate on an axis and a

weight extending outwardly from the supporting means rotatable therewith and arranged eccentrically with respect to the rod by which the balloon will be turned when the rod is turned rapidly.

2. As an article of manufacture, a balloon spinner comprising a flexible rod adapted to be swung around in the hand of the user, a wire arranged axially and rotatable on the axis of the rod, a frame carried by said wire for supporting an inflated balloon and a weight supported by the frame in eccentric position with respect to the rod, whereby the swinging of the rod in the hand will result in the weight rotating about the axis of the rod and taking the balloon with it.

3. In a balloon spinner, the combination with a flexible rod adapted to be held and swung around by the hand of the user, a wire rotatably mounted in the end thereof and projecting therefrom, said wire being provided with a loop near the end of the rod for supporting and holding the nozzle end of a balloon, an arm extending away from the loop and having a weight on the end thereof and a frame supported by said wire for engaging and holding the lower surface of an inflated balloon, the nozzle of which is held in said loop.

4. In a balloon spinner, the combination with a longitudinal rod adapted to be manipulated by the hand of the operator, a piece of material spaced slightly from the extreme end of said rod and perforated longitudinally, a tube surrounding the end of the rod and said piece of material to secure them firmly in position, a wire rotatably mounted in the perforation and having its end bent over to prevent removal and a wire frame carried by the wire and extending above the same for supporting an inflated balloon.

5. As an article of manufacture, a support for a balloon for the purpose described comprising a rotatable wire having a loop at the end thereof for receiving and holding the nozzle end of an inflated balloon, a wire extending at an inclination downward and having a weight on the end, two wires extending outwardly from the loop and a substantially circular structure of wire at the upper end thereof for supporting the bottom of the balloon.

6. In a balloon spinner, the combination with a rod and means at the top thereof for supporting an inflated balloon, of a handle rotatably mounted on said rod and a wire supported by the rod at a distance from the handle and projecting therefrom and provided with a weight on the end for the purpose described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto affixed my signature.

BENJAMIN C. MERRITT.