July 12, 1955 J. L. BELL 2,712,937

HOBBY HORSE

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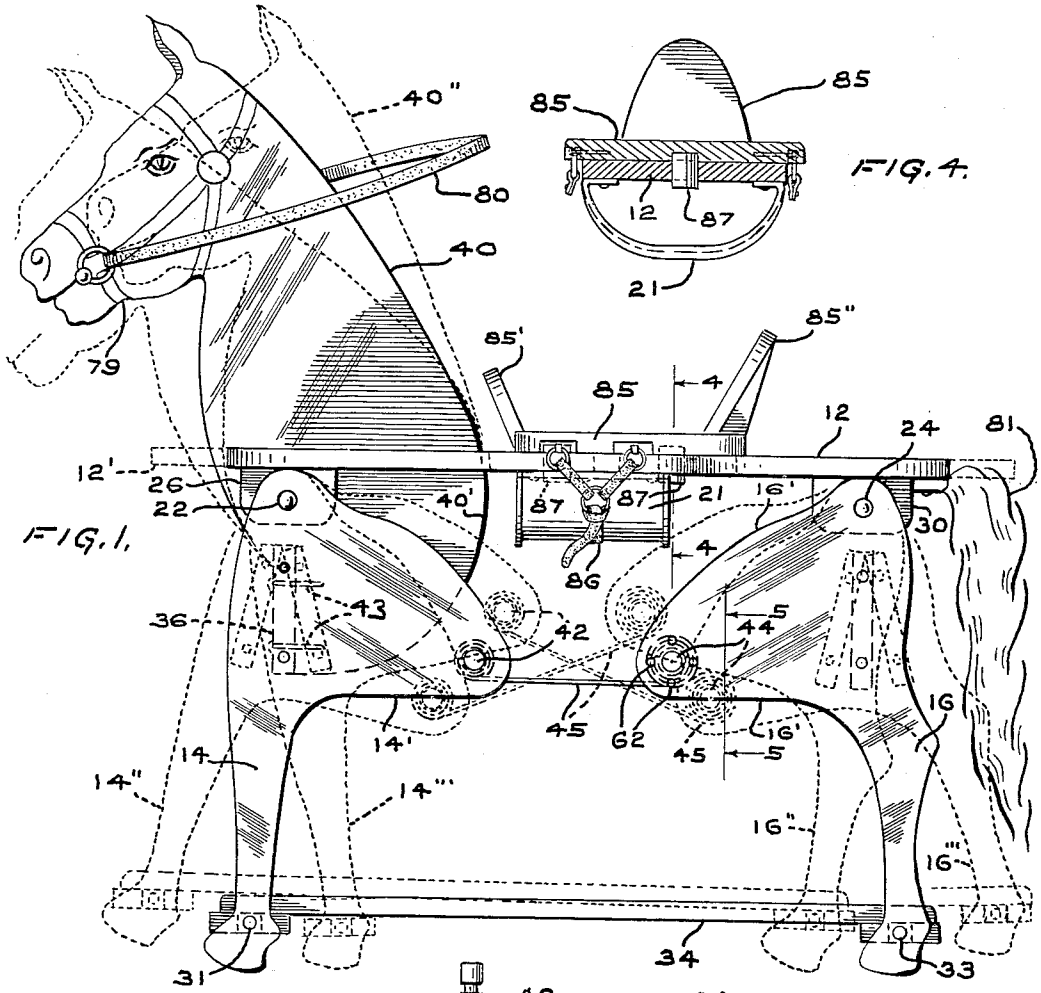


FIG. 1.

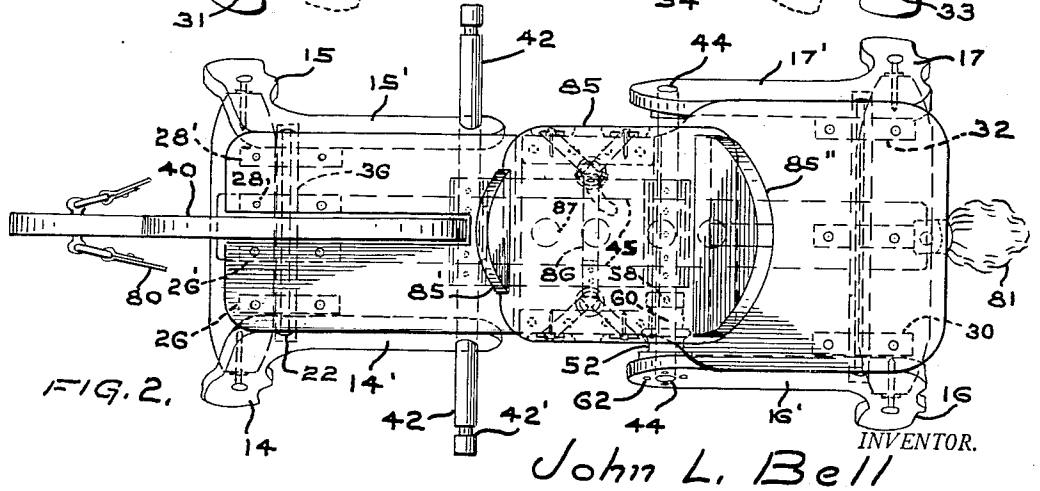


FIG. 2.

FIG. 4.

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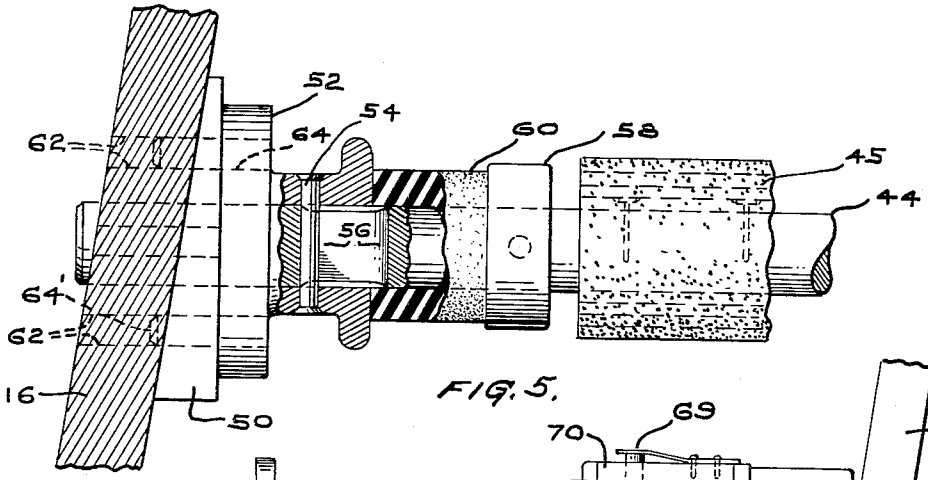


FIG. 5.

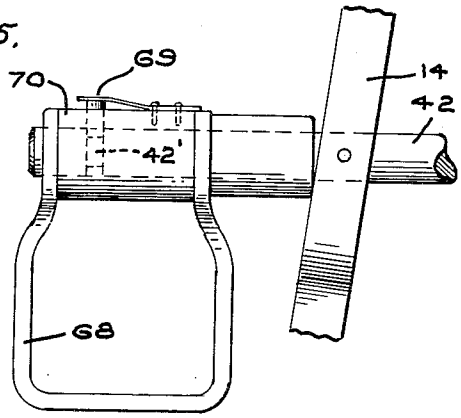


FIG. 8.

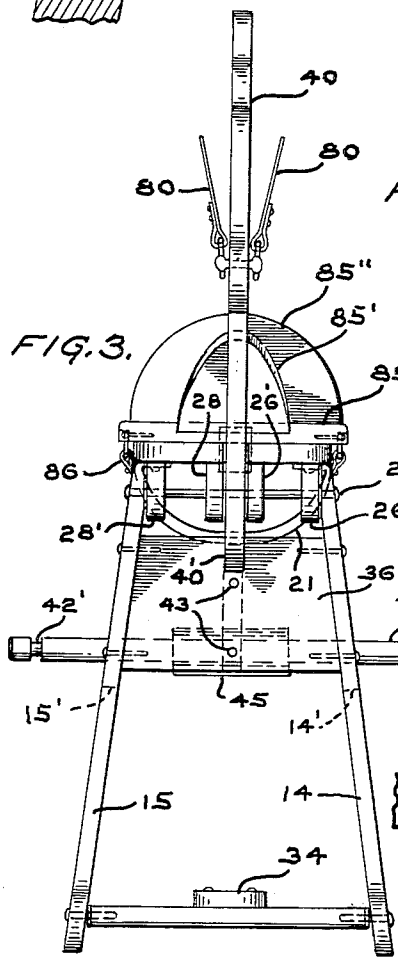


FIG. 3.

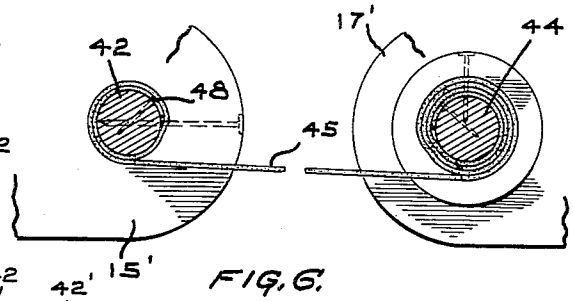


FIG. 6.

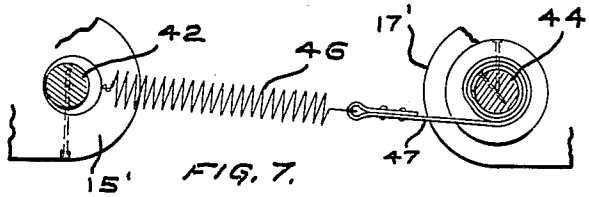


FIG. 7.

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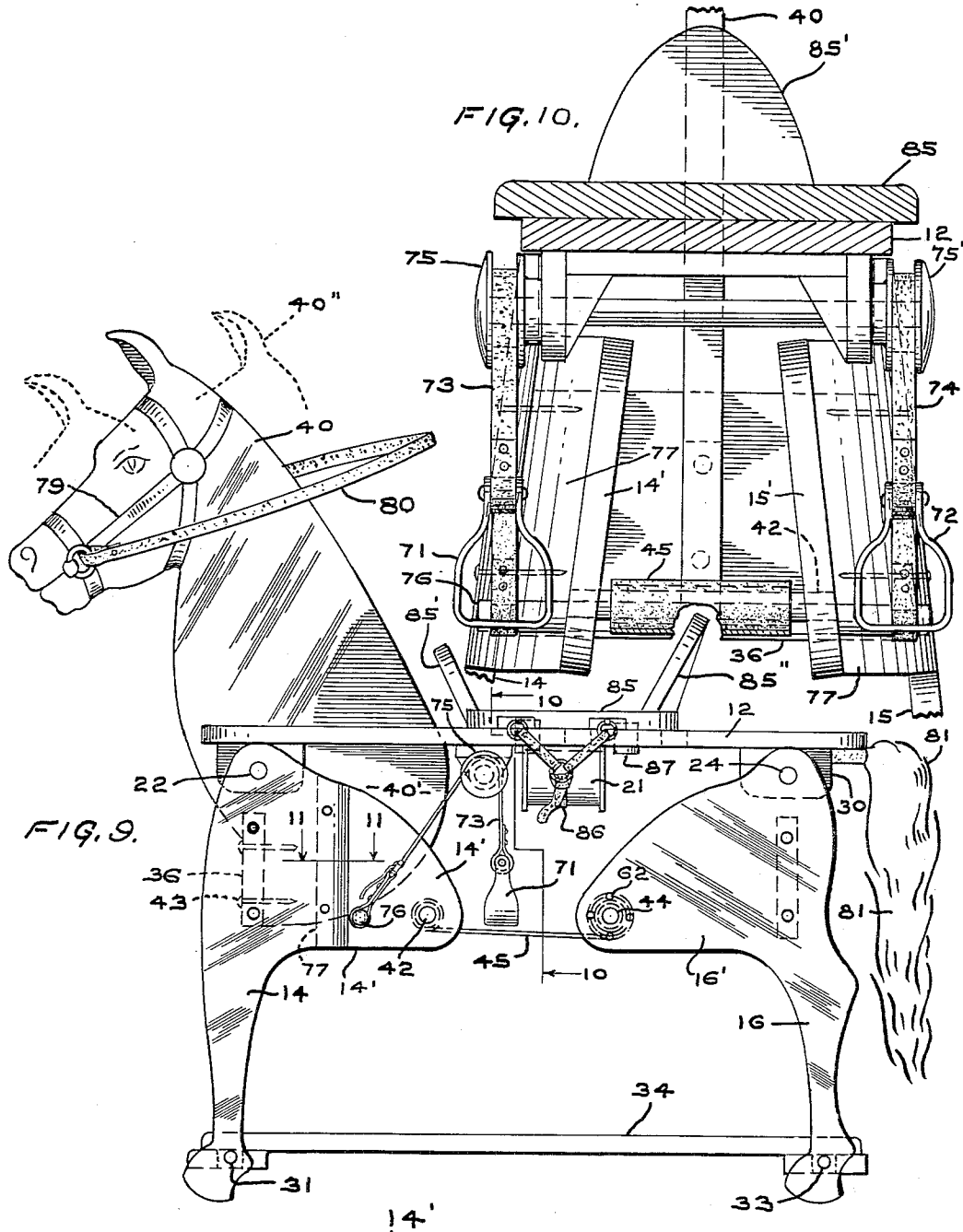
ATTORNEY

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HOBBY HORSE

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FIG. 10.



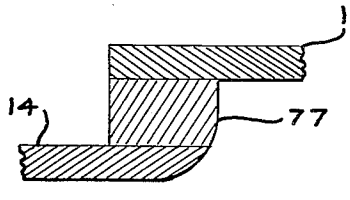


FIG. 11.

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Application December 8, 1951, Serial No. 260,639

3 Claims. (Cl. 272—53.1)

The present invention relates to an improvement in hobby horses, and in particular to a type that may be constructed principally of sheet material such as plywood and the like.

One object of the invention is to provide a toy of this character in which the several moving parts resemble and simulate more nearly the movements of a live horse.

Another object of the invention is to provide a hobby horse that may be substantially constructed of flat ply board or similar material and standard wood turnings such as dowel turnings.

Still another object of the invention is to provide an improved adjusting means for adjusting the tension of the element providing the recovery motion of the toy in proportion to the weight of the rider.

While several objects of the invention have been particularly pointed out, other objects will become more apparent as the nature of the invention is more fully disclosed which consists in its novel construction, combination and arrangement of parts, the principles of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings and described in the following specification in which:

Figure I is a view in side elevation of the improved hobby horse showing diagrammatically its operation.

Figure II is a top plan view of the same.

Figure III is a front view of the front end only of the hobby horse.

Figure IV is an enlarged sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of Figure I.

Figure V is an enlarged sectional view taken along the line 5—5 of Figure I.

Figure VI is an enlarged view of the resilient band member showing the method of attaching the same to its supports.

Figure VII is a view similar to that shown in Figure VI in which a coiled tension spring is used in place of the elastic band member.

Figure VIII is an enlarged view showing a form of stirrup to be used with the hobby horse.

Figure IX is a view showing a modified form of the hobby horse.

Figure X is a sectional view taken along the line 10—10 of Figure IX.

Figure XI is an enlarged view taken along the line 11—11 of Figure IX.

Referring to the drawings, the hobby horse comprises a body member 12, which is supported by a pair of front legs 14 and 15 and a pair of rear legs 16 and 17. Both pairs of legs are pivotally connected to the body member 12 by pins 22 and 24. The pin 22 is mounted in members 26, 26', 28 and 28' which are fixedly secured to the underside of the body member. The pin 24, about which the upper ends of the rear legs are pivoted, is held by the blocks, or members, 30 and 32 in substantially the same manner as is the pin 22 for supporting the front legs.

The lower ends of the front and rear legs are connected by a support 34. The front and rear pairs of legs are pivotally connected to this support at 31 and 33 respectively which maintains the lower, or foot, ends of the legs at a fixed distance and allows the lower ends of the legs to rock on the floor or other supporting surface.

Extending between the two front legs is a fixed crossbar member 36. To this member 36 is fastened a head and neck member 40. The lower portion 40' of the head and neck portion is fixedly secured to the member 36 by the nails 43, or other suitable means. The head and neck member is pivoted about the pin 22 and extends through a slot formed centrally at the forward end of the body portion. Located substantially centrally of the body and extending downwardly from the under surface thereof is a rounded member 21 for receiving a saddle girth which will be referred to hereinafter in more detail.

The front and rear legs have extending inwardly offset portions 14', 15', 16' and 17'. Extending between the off-set portions of each of the front and rear pairs of legs are pins 42 and 44. These pins are diametrically opposite when the legs are in a normal upright position. Secured to these pins and extending therebetween is a flat resilient strip, or band, 45, preferably of rubber. However, any other suitable means may be used such as a coiled tension spring 46 as shown in Figure 7. One end of the resilient strip is normally fixed to one of the pins, as shown in Figure 6, at 48. The strip is first tacked to the pin 42 and wrapped several times around the pin and extended over to the pin 44 where it is also tacked in a similar manner. The pin 44 is not fixedly secured to the rear leg members, but may be rotated to wind the strip to increase its tension. The pin is held against rotation by the arrangement shown in Figure 5. Surrounding the aperture in the leg member is a fixed tapered block 50, which is also provided with an aperture to receive the pin. Carried on the pin is a collar 52 which is slidably fixed to the pin 44 by a pin 54 which operates within and along a slot 56 in the pin 44. Also secured to the pin 44 is a fixed collar 58. Located between the two collars 52 and 58 is a compressible member 60, such as sponge rubber. Surrounding the aperture in the leg for admitting the pin 44 are a plurality of smaller apertures 62 for receiving pins 64 and 64'. By this arrangement the collar 52 may be moved inwardly from the leg against the member 60 and rotated to tighten or loosen the band 45 for adjusting the tension of the member to correspond to the weight of the rider.

In Figure 8 is shown a type of stirrup 68 that may be used on the ends of the front pin 42 for rocking the toy. The pin 42 is provided with grooves 42' for receiving a pin 69 carried by the stirrup for rotatably retaining the stirrup on the pin. The stirrup is carried on a hub member 70 having an aperture therethrough for accommodating the pin 42. The stirrup is so constructed that it may be easily attached or removed. The toy may be operated by alternately applying pressure either to the pin itself or to the stirrup when attached to the pin.

If a coiled spring, as shown in Figure 7, is used in place of the resilient strip, a flat belt-like member 47 is secured to the spring adjacent the rotatable pin 44 similar to the strip itself and is windable about the pin 44, as previously described for the band member 45.

In Figure 9 is shown a modified form of toy, the principal difference in this form being that the pin 42 does not extend through the front leg member as shown in Figures 1 and 2 to provide a foot rest and means for rocking the hobby horse back and forth. The toy is rocked by a pair of stirrups 71 and 72. These stirrups are suspended from a pair of straps 73 and 74 which are supported over a pair of pulleys 75 and 75', the opposite end of the strap being secured to a pin, or member, 76 attached to and extending between the front leg member in front of the pin 42. In this modification, the off-set

portions 14' and 15' of the front legs are spaced inwardly toward the center of the body by a block 77 as shown in Figure 10. This is to afford operation of the stirrups without interfering with the front leg members.

In both forms the head is provided with a rein 80 by which the head may be moved rearwardly as indicated by 40''.

In order to make the hobby horse look more lifelike, the horse is provided with a bridle 79 and a tail 81. Also, there is provided a removable saddle 85 which is provided with a flat bottom in order that it may rest securely on the upper surface of the body member. The saddle has a realistic girth 86 which is fastened about the member 21. The saddle also is provided with pins 87 which are receivable within a recess within the body member for locating the saddle in the proper place, while the girth is utilized to hold the saddle downward upon the body member.

In operation of the form shown primarily in Figures 1, 2 and 3, the rider is normally seated in the saddle 85 with the feet on each end of the pin or member 42, and preferably holding on to the reins. By pressing downwardly, as in normally riding, the portions 14' and 15' of the front legs are moved downwardly, while the portions 16' and 17' move upwardly rocking the body backwardly and the head and neck member upwardly as shown in dotted lines at 40''. This motion can also be produce and aided by pulling backwardly on the reins 80. By moving the off-set portions of the leg members in opposite directions, the band 45 will be stretched, and when the pressure on the member 42 is released, the resilient band 45 urges the legs back to substantially an upright position. By repeating the pressure to the member 42 and pulling on the reins 80, a rocking motion is produced.

If desired, the stirrup shown in Figure 8 may be inserted over the ends of the member 42 and the pressure is applied to the stirrup instead of directly upon the pin itself.

The form shown in Figures 9 to 11 operates in substantially the same manner, except when pressure is applied to the stirrups the off-set members of the front legs are raised moving the body member forward, and in pulling rearwardly on the reins, the head, neck and body members are moved backward. This gives a positive movement to the rocking of the horse in either direction.

As mentioned before, the toy is constructed almost entirely of flat material such as plywood and is designed for rapid production. The bridle, mane and markings may be painted directly on the wood.

While the hobby horse is shown in its preferred forms, other forms or modifications may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention which is defined by the scope of the appending claims.

I claim:

1. In a hobby horse comprising a horizontal body member, front and rear pairs of supporting legs therefor having their upper ends pivotally connected to the body member, a rigid spacing support extending between the upper ends of the front legs and a leg positioning support adjacent the lower ends of the legs and pivotally connected therewith for fixedly positioning the distance between the lower ends of the front and rear pairs of legs, a single head and a neck member attached centrally of the support extending between the upper ends of the front legs, the neck member extending upwardly through a slot in the front center portion of the body member, the front and rear legs having an offset portion adjacent their upper ends extending rearwardly and forwardly respectively between the upper and lower pivot points, a connecting pin extending between the offset portions of both the front and rear legs for receiving a resilient tension member, a resilient tension member having its ends attached to the pins in the offset portions acting to normally urge the leg members to their upright position when the upper ends of the leg members and the body member are moved back and forth and stirrups connected with the offset portions of each of the front leg members for normally imparting a rearward motion to the upper ends of the leg members and the body member when the stirrups are depressed.

2. In a hobby horse constructed of sheets of relatively narrow material of uniform thickness comprising a relatively thin horizontal body member, front and rear pairs of supporting legs having their upper ends pivotally connected adjacent the lower surfaces of the body member, a support adjacent the lower ends of the legs and pivotally connected thereto for fixedly positioning the distance between each pair of legs and between the lower ends of the front and rear legs, a cross-bar having its outer ends rigidly connected to the two front legs adjacent their upper ends, a vertical single movable head and a neck member carried centrally of the said cross-bar, the neck member extending upwardly through a slot in the central front section of the horizontal body, the front and rear leg members having adjacent their upper ends opposite offset portions extending inwardly from a line between their upper and lower pivot points, a pin extending between the offset portions of each pair of legs, a resilient member extending between the pins of the front and rear legs for normally urging the leg members to their upright position when the horse is rocked back and forth and stirrups connected with the offset portions of the front legs for rocking the said horse back and forth as the stirrups are depressed and released.

3. In a hobby horse comprising a body member, front and rear pairs of supporting legs therefor having their upper ends pivotally connected to the body member, a leg spacing support adjacent the lower ends of the legs and pivotally connected thereto for fixedly positioning the distance between the lower ends of front and rear legs, a single movable head and a neck member supported centrally of the body by the front legs and movable within a slot relatively to the body member, the front and rear leg members having oppositely disposed offset portions extending inwardly from a point between their upper and lower pivots, means extending between the offset portions of both the front and rear legs for holding a flat sheet of elastic material, said elastic material having its ends fixedly secured under tension to said holding means, at least one of the said holding means being rotatable and adapted to roll up one end of the elastic strip to adjust the tension of the said strip to different weight riders and stirrups connected with the offset portions of the front legs for rocking the horse back and forth.

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