H. O. WESSEL.

ELECTRICALLY OPERATED SEMAPHORE TOY.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 14, 1921.

1,427,881. Patented Sept. 5, 1922.

Fig. 1

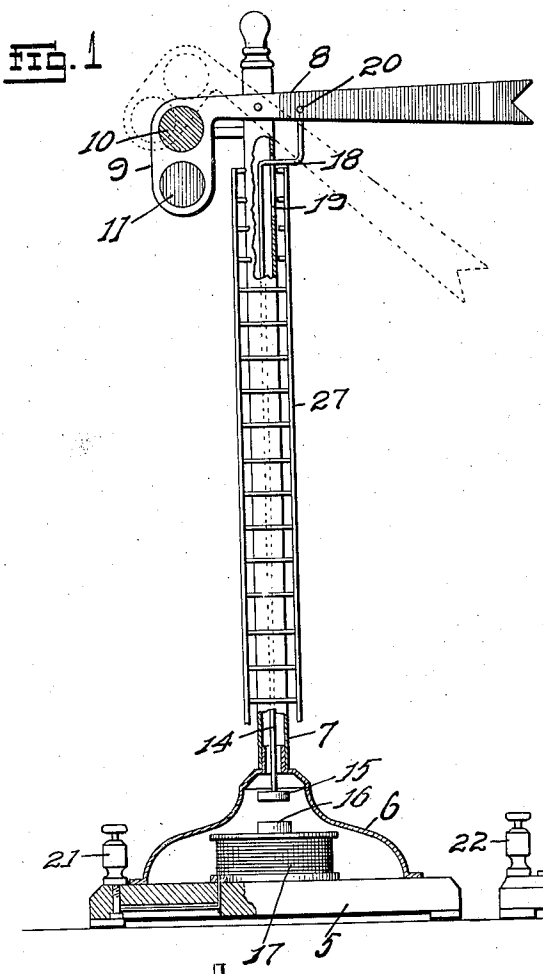


Fig. 2.

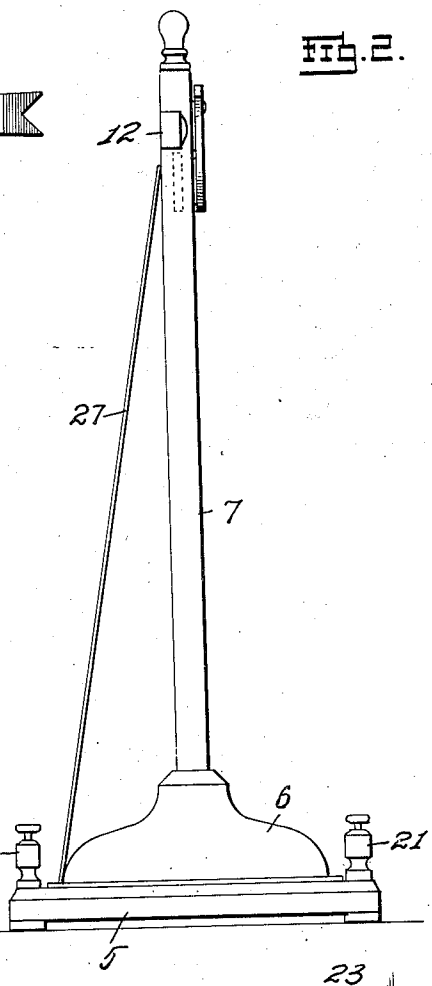
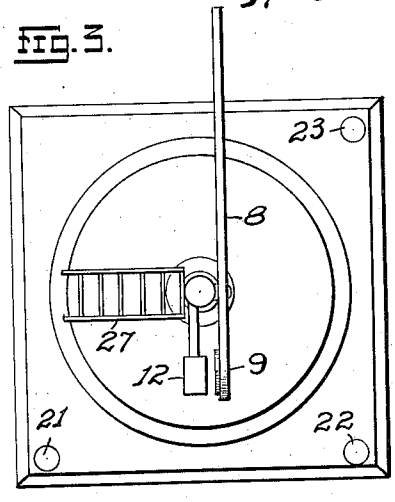


Fig. 3.



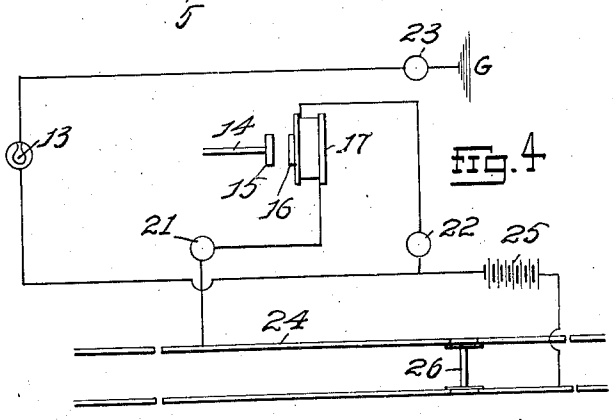


Fig. 4.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HARRY O. WESSEL, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

ELECTRICALLY-OPERATED SEMAPHORE TOY.

Application filed September 14, 1921. Serial No. 500,532.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HARRY O. WESSEL, a citizen of the United States, and resident of St. Louis, Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in an Electrically-Operated Semaphore Toy, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in an electrically operated semaphore toy, and has for its object a standard to which is pivotally mounted a semaphore or signal arm, a base, and a magnet located in the base which automatically operates the semaphore when electric circuit is closed by the moving toy train.

A further object of my invention is to construct a toy in the form of a semaphore to be used in connection with toy trains, the same is provided with a magnet which when energized by closing a circuit will operate the semaphore at the same time displaying a colored light showing a clear right of way or a danger signal. The device is constructed in a simple manner and of cheap durable material and has the general appearance of a semaphore post now used in connection with the regular railway system.

Figure 1, is a side view of my improved toy with a part broken away and in section.

Fig. 2, is an edge view of the same.

Fig. 3, is a top plan view.

Fig. 4, is a diagrammatic view showing the electric circuit used for operating the toy.

In the general construction of my invention I provide a suitable base plate 5 on which is mounted a hood or housing 6 and on the top of the hood is supported a post 7, the post may be of any ornamental design as found desirable and on said post near the top is pivotally mounted a semaphore or signal blade 8, forward end of the semaphore is provided with an extension 9 in which is mounted transparent discs 10 and 11. The disc 10 being preferably of green and the one 11 red.

Attached to the post and to the rear of the extension 9 is a lantern box 12 in which is located a small electric bulb 13.

Inside of the post 7 is located a rod 14 the bottom end provided with a disc or plate 15 which is to be drawn down against the core 16 of the magnet 17 when said magnet is energized by the closing of the electric circuit.

The opposite end of the rod 14 is suitably bent as that indicated by the numeral 18 the same passing through the slot 19 formed in the post. The upper free end of the rod being pivotally connected at the point indicated by the numeral 20 to the semaphore or signal blade.

When the magnet is energized and the rod 14 pulled down by means of the magnetized disc 15 it places the semaphore in the position as shown by dotted lines in Fig. 1, at the same time bringing the red transparent disc 11 approximately in front of the lantern 12, this then indicates the danger signal.

On the base plate 5 is located binding posts 21, 22 and 23. To the binding post 21 and 22 is connected the ends of the wire which leads from the coil or magnet 17. From the post 21 a wire leads to one of the rails 24 and from the post 22 a wire to the battery 25, the rails are insulated from one another and suitably separated so that when the truck of the toy car strikes the insulated rail section it will close or complete the circuit, the truck being shown and indicated by the numeral 26 in Fig. 4.

The light is kept continuously burning as one wire which leads from the light to the batter to one section of the rail and the other wire leads to the binding post 23 which is grounded.

On the base and leaning against and attached to the post 7 is a ladder 27. When the circuit is broken the coil or magnet then becomes inoperative then by means of the weight of the extension 9 the semaphore is brought back to its normal position by gravity simultaneously raising the rod 14 to its normal position.

Having fully described my invention what I claim is:

1. A toy of the class described comprising a hollow post, a semaphore blade carried thereon, a cap supporting the post, a magnet located in the cap, a rod located in the post and attached to the semaphore blade, a disc attached to the lower end of the rod separated from and in alignment with the core of the magnet, said magnet being energized by closing a circuit by the movement of toy trains on the rails thereby automatically operating the semaphore a ladder fastened to the post and base, and a lantern positioned on the post back of the semaphore blade for displaying different colored light signals, substantially as specified.

2. A toy comprising a hollow standard, a

base cap supporting the same, a base board supporting the cap, a magnet mounted on the base board and its core in alignment with the standard, a semaphore blade pivoted to the top of the standard, a rod located in the standard its upper end attached to the semaphore blade at a point away from the pivot, a disc carried by the bottom end of the rod and normally away from the core of the magnet, a light carried by the standard and positioned back of the blade, and a ladder leading from the base to the top of the standard.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification, in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

HARRY O. WESSEL.

Witnesses:
ALFRED A. EICKS,
B. M. MANNE.