Feb. 16, 1937. G. S. KNICKERBOCKER 2,071,129

DANCING TOY

Filed Feb. 16, 1935 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

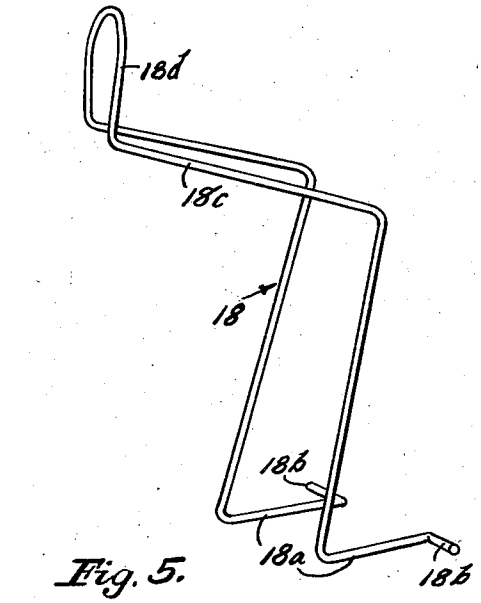

Fig. 5.

Fig. 1.

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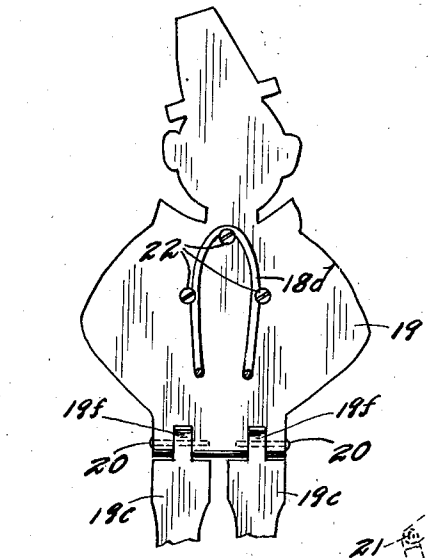

Fig. 4.

Fig. 2.

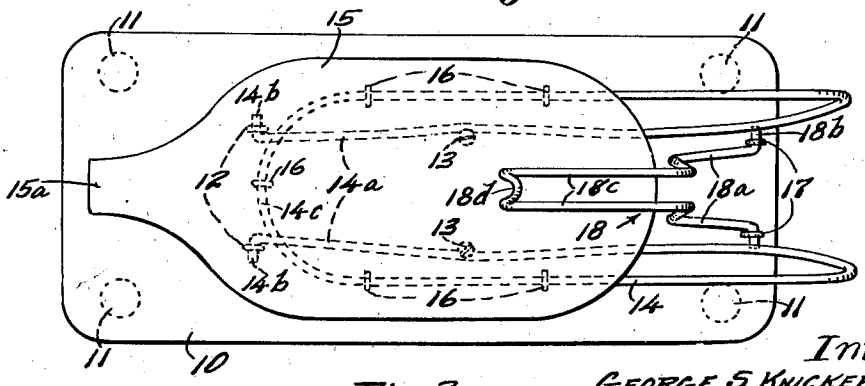

Fig. 3.

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DANCING TOY

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5 Claims. (Cl. 46—138)

This invention relates to a toy device and particularly to a toy device comprising a figure adapted to dance.

It is an object of this invention to provide such a toy device which can be very easily, quickly and inexpensively made.

It is a further object of the invention to provide such a toy device comprising a platform and a figure having pivoted leg portions with feet substantially engaging said platform, the platform being adapted to vibrate to cause said figure to dance and said figure being so mounted that it may jump on said platform.

It is still another object of the invention to provide a toy device comprising a base, a platform, a figure and means resiliently supporting said platform and figure which are quickly detachable from said base and figure so that all parts may be compactly packed for transportation.

These and other objects and advantages of the invention will be fully set forth in the following description made in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which like reference characters refer to similar parts throughout the several views and in which:—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the toy device;

Fig. 2 is a view in side elevation thereof;

Fig. 3 is a top plan view of the device with the figure removed;

Fig. 4 is a partial view of the figure and supporting means in rear elevation; and

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the figure-supporting member.

Referring to the drawings, a toy device is shown comprising a base 10. While this base may be variously formed and made of various materials, in the embodiment of the invention illustrated it is shown as a board or plate substantially rectangular in form with slightly rounded corners and of considerable thickness so that it will have some weight. Said base has secured to its under side four buttons 11 which will preferably be made of rubber or some other suitable yielding material. The base 10 is shown as having a substantially flat top and a pair of apertured members 12 are secured in said top adjacent the forward portion of said base, said members being alined transversely of said base. While different members may be used, members 12 are illustrated as staples driven into said base. A pair of headed members 13 are secured in the top of said base in the rear respectively of members 12, said members projecting some distance above the top of said base. A member 14 is provided made of a resilient wire or rod, said member having substantially parallel portions 14a having terminal parts 14b of comparatively short length, said parts being bent substantially at a right angle to extend away from each other. The parts 14b are detachably or removably received in the members 12 and portions 14a are then sprung to extend along the outside of members 13, being held under the heads thereof. Member 14 is thus firmly secured to base 10 but may be very quickly detached therefrom. Members 14a extend rearwardly from members 13 above base 10 for a considerable distance and are then reversely bent to extend forwardly over said base, said portions being united by a bight or curved portion 14c. A platform 15 is provided and is secured to the upper parts of members 14a by the staples 16. Another pair of apertured members 17 are secured in the rear of base 10, the same being alined transversely of said base and while these members may take various forms, in the embodiment of the invention illustrated they are also shown as staples driven into base 10. A member 18 is provided made of a resilient wire or rod, the same having spaced portions 18a resting on base 10, said portions having terminal parts 18b of short length bent substantially at right angles to extend away from each other. Portions 18b are received in members 17. Portions 18a are moved toward each other against the resiliency of member 18 and are then allowed to separate so that portions 18b are kept in place. Portions 18a extend upwardly and somewhat rearwardly from base 10 and then have forwardly extending portions 18c. Portions 18c are then bent upwardly substantially at a right angle and are joined by a bight 18d. A figure 19 is provided formed of rather thick sheet or plate-like material. While figure 19 may take various forms of animals and other creatures, in the embodiment of the invention illustrated it is shown as the figure of a man having arm portions 19a with his hands 19b resting on his hips. Said figure has thigh portions 19c, each having a tongue portion 19d received in a slot in the body portion of the figure. Said body and tongues 19d are pivotally connected by pivot members 20. Said thigh portions 19c at their lower ends are pivotally connected to the leg portions 19e, the latter having tongues 19f received in slots in the lower ends of portions 19c and connected thereto by the pivots 21. The leg portions 19e are each provided with a comparatively large foot portion 19g, the lower surface of which is normally substantially in contact with the top surface of platform 15. The

figure 19 has secured in its rear upper portion three headed members or screws 22 and the bight portion 18d extends over the top member 22 and is sprung to have its side portions resiliently engaging the other two members 22. Said bight portion 18d is held beneath the heads of members 22. The platform 15 has a substantially flat top and has a projecting narrow front 15a.

In operation, with the toy assembled as shown in Fig. 1, the operator will press down on the front portion 15a of the platform 15 and then release the same quickly. The platform is depressed against the tension of member 14 where it is bent at the rear. Platform 15 springs upwardly when released and vibrates rapidly due to the resiliency of member 14, said vibrations being substantially vertical. An efficient vibration is secured by having the member 14 extend quite a long distance to the rear so that long resilient arms are obtained for supporting platform 15. In its upward movement the platform strikes the feet 19g and the figure 19 is given an impulse, causing it to vibrate due to the resiliency of member 18. The figure bends about the pivots 20 and 21 and dances on the platform 15. The portion 15a can be engaged and released by the operator in rhythm with a certain tune and the taps of the feet on platform 15 will also keep time or be in rhythm with the tune. The figure thus dances or clogs to music. When a direct impulse is given to the figure when it is in the straight position as shown in full lines in Fig. 2 the figure is moved upwardly, moving member 18 which swings about the axis of portions 18b as indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 2. The figure thus simulates a jump on the platform which greatly heightens the effect of its dancing. This function is, as stated, made possible by having member 18 pivoted to swing rearwardly. The figure is balanced so that it immediately returns to the position with members 18a in contact with base member 10. Such jumping occurs at intervals during the dance. The member 14 is quickly removable from the base member 10 by springing portions 14a and removing them from engagement with members 13 and then removing portions 14b from members 12. When secured in position as shown member 14 is firmly held due to its resiliency and there is no movement to cause any noise while the figure is dancing. The member 18 may also be quickly removed by pressing portions 18a together and removing portions 18b from members 17. Member 18 can also be quickly removed from figure 19 by pressing together the sides of the bight portion 18d and releasing it from members 22. With members 14 and 18 thus removed the toy can be packed in comparatively small space so as to be conveniently placed in a box. The position of the figure in having its hands on its hips is desirable and important as it apparently adds to the difficulty of the dance.

From the above description it is seen that applicant has provided a very simple and easily operated toy. The parts are of simple construction and can be readily assembled and disassembled. The operation of the figure in dancing is very entertaining and amusing and the platform 15 can be vibrated in different frequencies to give different steps to the figure. The figure is decorated and painted to simulate an attractive costume which gives a great appeal to the toy. The device has been amply demonstrated in actual practice and found to be very successful and efficient.

It will, of course, be understood that various changes may be made in the form, details, arrangement and proportions of the parts, without departing from the scope of applicant's invention, which generally stated, consists in a device capable of carrying out the objects above set forth in the parts and combinations of parts disclosed and defined in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:—

1. A toy device having in combination, a base, a resilient means secured to said base, a platform secured to said resilient means and supported in substantially horizontal position above said base, a resilient member supported by said base and upstanding from the rear portion thereof normally resting thereon but pivotally mounted to swing rearwardly and having a forwardly extending portion and a figure supported by said last mentioned portion and depending therefrom having portions pivotally connected about substantially horizontal pivots, said figure having foot-portions substantially engaging said platform whereby upon vibration of said platform and resilient means said figure will dance and may jump by said member swinging rearwardly.

2. A toy device having in combination, a base having a substantially flat top, a pair of members having openings secured to said base alined transversely thereof adjacent its front portion, a pair of members having overhanging portions secured to said base in the rear of said members, a platform supporting member made of a resilient wire or rod having substantially parallel portions with terminal parts removably received in said openings, said portions being sprung to engage said second mentioned members and retained in such engagement by their resiliency, said portions extending rearwardly and being reversely bent to extend forwardly over said base member, a platform carried by said portions spaced above said base, means supported on the rear of said base and extending upwardly and then forwardly at a slight angle to the horizontal, a figure suspended from said means having leg portions pivoted about substantially horizontal pivots whereby said platform and first mentioned member may be vibrated with substantially vertical vibrations and said last mentioned means will vibrate said figure substantially vertically so that said figure will tap said platform with great frequency and said first mentioned member and platform may be quickly detached from said base.

3. A toy device having in combination, a base having a substantially flat top, a pair of members having openings secured to said base alined transversely thereof adjacent its front portion, a pair of members having overhanging parts secured to said base in the rear of said members, a platform supporting member made of a resilient wire or rod having spaced portions extending longitudinally of said base with terminal parts removably received in said openings from the adjacent sides of said first mentioned members and held in said openings by the resiliency of said portions, said portions being sprung to engage the remote sides of said second mentioned members and disposed under said overhanging parts, said portions extending rearwardly and being reversely bent to extend forwardly over said base member, a platform carried by said portions spaced above said base, a pair of spaced members having openings secured to said base and transversely alined at the rear thereof, a member made of resilient wire or rod having

substantially horizontally disposed portions resting on said base, said latter portions having terminal parts removably and pivotally received in said last mentioned openings from the adjacent sides of said last mentioned spaced members and held therein by the resiliency of said last mentioned member, said portions extending upwardly and then forwardly, a figure suspended from said latter portions over said platform, said figure having sections pivoted about substantially horizontal pivots and having foot portions substantially engaging said platform whereby said first mentioned member and platform can be quickly detached from said base and said second member may be quickly detached from said base.

4. The structure set forth in claim 3, said figure having a plurality of headed members secured in the rear thereof, said second member having said portions thereof extending forwardly thereof connected by a bight which extends over one of said last mentioned members and has its sides sprung to engage other of said last mentioned members whereby said figure is detachably connected to said second member and may be quickly detached therefrom.

5. A toy device having in combination, a base, a resilient means secured to said base, a platform secured to said resilient means and supported in substantially horizontal position above said base, a resilient member pivoted about a horizontal axis at the rear portion of said base, said resilient member normally resting on said base and having an upwardly extending portion and a forwardly extending portion projecting therefrom, a figure supported on said forwardly extending portion and depending therefrom, said figure having substantially horizontal foot portions substantially engaging the top of said platform whereby upon vibration of said platform said first mentioned member will flex and vibrate owing to its resiliency and said figure will dance, said first mentioned member occasionally swinging bodily about said axis with said figure giving the effect of a jump by said figure.

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