Jan. 28, 1964 O. R. WHITSON 3,119,612

AMUSEMENT DEVICE

Filed June 1, 1960

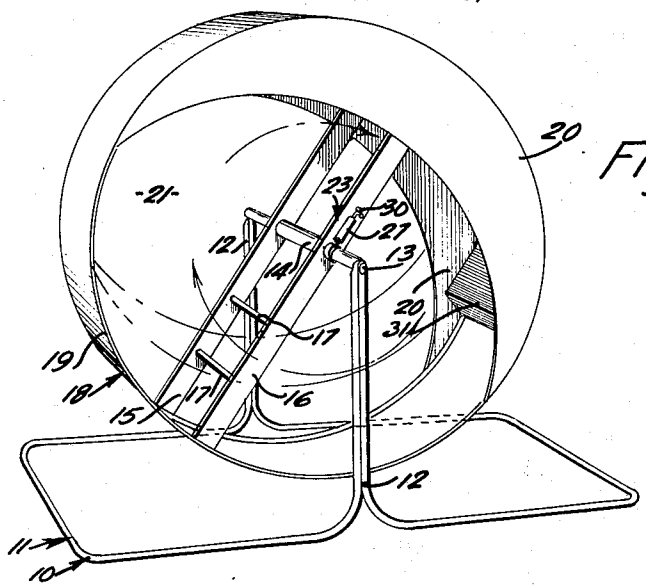


Fig. 1.

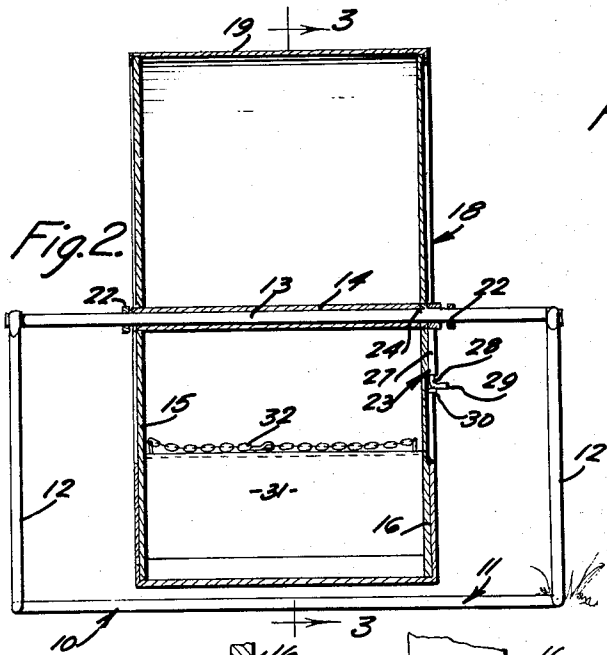


Fig. 2.

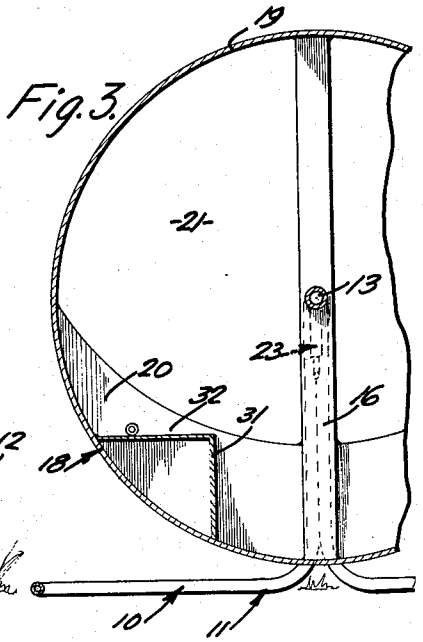


Fig. 3.

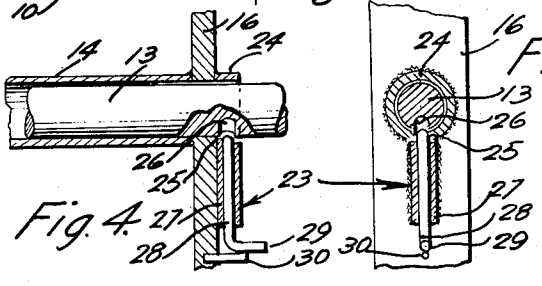


Fig. 4.

Fig. 5

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AMUSEMENT DEVICE

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This invention relates to an amusement device.

The object of the invention is to provide a device which can be used indoors or outdoors by one or more children and wherein the device includes a stationary frame, and a vertical body member which can be caused to move by action of the children's bodies.

Another object of the invention is to provide an amusement device which is safe to use and which includes a locking device for maintaining the rotary body member stationary while the children are entering or leaving the main body member of the amusement device.

A further object of the invention is to provide an amusement device which is extremely simple and inexpensive to manufacture.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent during the course of the following description.

In the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this application, and in which like numerals are used to designate like parts throughout the same.

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of the amusement device of the present invention.

FIGURE 2 is a sectional view taken through the body member of the amusement device.

FIGURE 3 is a view taken at right angles to the view shown in FIGURE 2 and taken on the line 3—3 of FIGURE 2.

FIGURE 4 is a fragmentary sectional view illustrating the locking device.

FIGURE 5 is a fragmentary sectional view of the locking device taken at right angles through the view shown in FIGURE 4.

Referring in detail to the drawings, the amusement device of the present invention comprises a stationary frame **10** which includes a horizontally disposed base **11**, and extending upwardly from the base **11** and secured thereto or formed integral therewith are spaced parallel opposed standards **12** which support a horizontally disposed stationary shaft or axle **13**.

The numeral **14** indicates a tubular bearing which is rotatably mounted on the shaft **13**, FIGURE 2, and there is further provided a pair of spaced parallel side rails **15** and **16** which are secured as for example by welding to the ends of the bearing **14**. A plurality of spaced parallel bars or rungs **17** extend between the side rails **15** and **16** and are secured thereto in any suitable manner.

The numeral **18** indicates a rotary body member which includes a circular rim or wall **19** and there is further provided a pair of opposed spaced parallel arcuate side walls **20**. The main side portions of the member **18** are open as indicated by the numeral **21** so that when the member **18** is stationary, the children can readily enter or leave the member **18** through the open spaces **21**.

Stop collars **22** are mounted on the shaft **13** for preventing or limiting shifting movement of the parts longitudinally on the shaft **13**, FIGURE 2.

There is further provided a locking device **23** which is adapted to be selectively actuated in order to maintain the member **18** stationary, as for example when the children are entering or leaving the member **18**. This locking device **23** is shown to comprise a band or collar **24** which is secured as by welding to the side rail **16**, and the band **24** is provided with an opening **25** for selectively registering with an opening or aperture **26** in the shaft **13**. The numeral **27** indicates a guide member or sleeve which is secured as by welding to the side rail **16**, and a

locking pin **28** is slidably arranged in the sleeve **27**. The locking pin **28** includes an outer transverse portion **29** which is adapted to engage a stop pin **30** to limit outward movement of the locking member **28**, and the inner end of the pin **28** is adapted to selectively move through the opening **25** and into engagement with the opening **26** when the member **18** is to remain stationary or locked in the position of FIGURE 3. When the children are entering or leaving the member **18**, the member **18** is in the position shown in FIGURE 3. After the children have entered or left the device, the locking pin **28** can be permitted to move out of the opening **26** so that the member **18** is free to rotate about an axis extending through the shaft **13**.

There is further provided in the rotary member **18** a pair of spaced apart seats **31** for supporting the children thereon, and safety chains **32** are provided for helping to retain or maintain the children in their proper position.

From the foregoing, it is apparent that there has been provided an amusement device which is especially suitable for use by children either indoors or outdoors and in use with the parts arranged as shown in the drawings, it will be seen that the member **18** is adapted to support one or more children on the seats **31** and the chains **32** can be fastened to act as safety devices to help hold the children on the seats. The open spaces **21** permit the children to readily enter or leave the device, and when the children are entering or leaving the device the locking mechanism **23** is actuated so as to prevent the action and the rotation of the member **18**. This locking mechanism **23** includes the pin **28** which, with the parts in the position of FIGURES 3, 4, and 5 can be shifted inwardly manually so that the inner end of the pin **28** will extend through the opening **25** of the band **24** and into engagement with the opening **26** in the shaft **13** and this will serve to prevent movement or rotation of the member **18** since the band **24** is secured to the rail **16**, and since the rail **16** is secured or formed integral with the member **18**. After the children are seated in the member **18**, the pin **28** can be released and the member **30** will serve to limit outward movement of the pin **28**, and with the member **28** released, it will be seen that the inner end of the member **28** will be out of engagement with the opening **26** of the shaft **13**.

The children sit on the seats **31** and grip the bars or rungs **17** and by moving their bodies the member **18** can be rocked back and forth, and the frame **10** is constructed so that it includes the wide base portions **11** which is arranged and constructed so that the device will not accidentally tip over. The bearing **14** is rotatably mounted on the shaft **13**, and the bearing **14** is secured as by welding to the side rails **15** and **16**, the side rails **15** and **16** being secured as by welding to the side walls **20** and outer wall member **19** of the body member **18**.

The parts can be made of any suitable material and in different shapes or sizes.

The side walls **20** have a partial moon shape so as to help hold the children's feet and legs in, and also provide sides on the seats. The parts can be made of any suitable material such as metal fiber glass, plastic, wood or the like or combinations of these materials.

A locking device **23** serves to hold the drum or member **18** from rotating when the children are entering or leaving, and the pin **28** slides vertically in the sleeve **27** so as to engage the opening **26** in the shaft **13** to lock the member **18** in a position of FIGURE 3 when the children are entering or leaving the toy or amusement device. The band **24** and locks revolve with the side rails **16** so that the opening **26** is never exposed. Thus, the band **24** is welded to the side rails **16** of the ladder, and as it revolves the band **24** covers the hole **26** in the shaft **13** so as to prevent a child from putting his or her finger in

the hole **26** and having the pin come around and shear it off.

The toy can be used in different locations, as for example in playgrounds or else it can be used indoors and the toy or amusement device includes the drum or cylindrical shaped body member **18** which may be made in different sizes to accommodate children of different ages, and two seats **31** may be attached inside of the member **18**. The member **18** is affixed to the side rails **15** and **16** which in turn are secured to the bearing **14**, and the ends of the shaft **13** extend out past the sides of the member **18** as for example as shown in FIGURES 1 and 2. The locking device **23** serves to hold the toy and prevent the toy from revolving while the children enter and exit and each seat is provided with a safety belt or chain **32** which secures the child in the seat.

In operation, one child holds the safety lock pin **28** up which locks the member **18** so that it will not revolve, and as the child holds it, he or she gets in the member **18** and continues to hold it until the other child is in. He then lets go of the pin **28**. When both children are in the member **18**, the member will be approximately balanced and the safety belts **32** are secured around the children's waist and the children hold onto the rungs **17** and by both children rocking their bodies at the same time in the same direction, the member **18** begins to pivot and rotate on the shaft **13**. With a little practice the children are still able to rotate all the way around the shaft **13** and can continue as long as they like, and for example, the member **18** may be rotated approximately 50 times per minute.

Some weight differential in the children using the toy may not be detrimental since the children will soon learn to sit forward or backward and create a balance.

Furthermore, one child only can use the toy by positioning a sand bag in the opposite seat equal to his or her weight. The toy is safe since the children are held in by the safety belt or chain and even if they are not secured by the belt or chain they can not fall out as they are surrounded by the body member **18**. Furthermore, unlike many other playground type toys the present invention does not take up much space and does not have much movement so that it can be used in a garage, basement, playroom or the like as for example, when the weather is bad.

Minor changes in shape, size and rearrangement of details coming within the field of invention claimed may be resorted to in actual practice, if desired.

What is claimed is:

In an amusement device, a stationary frame including a horizontally disposed generally rectangular base, spaced parallel vertically disposed opposed standards extending upwardly from intermediate portions of said base, a horizontally disposed shaft supported by said standards; a tubular bearing rotatably mounted on said shaft, a pair of spaced parallel rails secured to said bearing, a plurality of spaced parallel bars extending between said rails and secured thereto, a rotary body member affixed to said rails and said body member including a circular wall member, said body member further including spaced parallel arcuate side walls, spaced apart seats mounted in said body member, safety chains contiguous to said seats; a locking device for selectively preventing rotation of said body member, said locking device comprising a band affixed to one of said rails and said band having an opening therein, there being an opening in said shaft for at times registering with the opening in said band, a sleeve affixed to the adjacent rail, an L-shaped locking pin having a portion slidably mounted in said sleeve, and the inner end of said pin being mounted for movement into and out of engagement with the opening in the shaft, and a stop member for limiting outward movement of the locking pin.

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