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KNOCKDOWN PLAY PEN FOR CHILDREN

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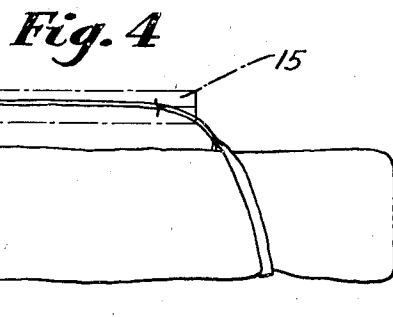
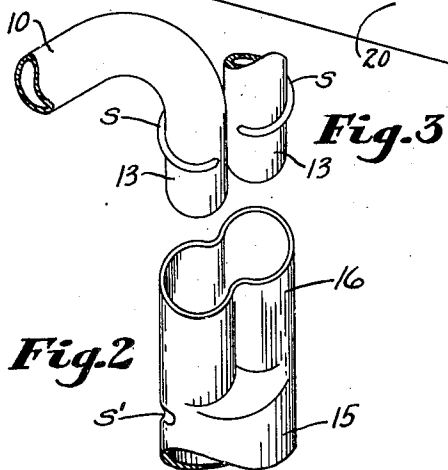
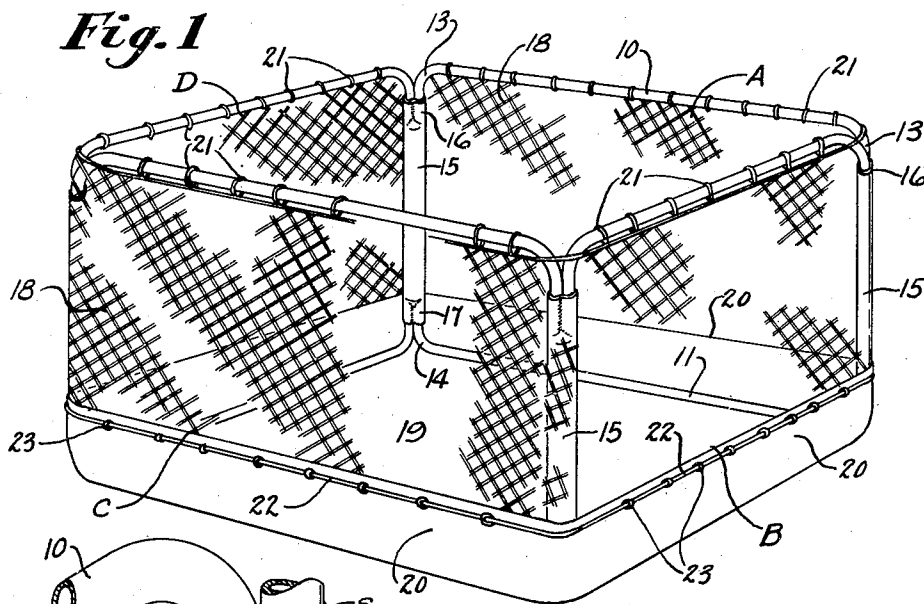


Fig. 4

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KNOCKDOWN PLAY PEN FOR CHILDREN

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5 Claims. (Cl. 5-99)

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This invention relates to play houses for children and is concerned particularly with play houses of the type which may be readily disassembled after use and packed or rolled conveniently for ease in transporting from place to place.

One object of the invention is to provide such a play house which may be assembled in a variety of angular shapes. Another object is to construct a framework of few parts which are generally interchangeable. Still another object is to provide a play house which is designed to protect the health of a child during its use. Other more specific objects of the invention will be apparent from an understanding of a more detailed description of the invention.

The invention is an improvement over my co-pending application for Play pen, Serial No. 676,940, filed June 15, 1946, now abandoned, in that fewer different parts are required and the construction lends itself to greater flexibility.

To provide for flexibility in the design of the play house it is constructed of similar side-wall sections. Connections are provided for adjacent sections which are designed in a manner to permit a play house to be made up of three or more such side-wall sections. To further provide for flexibility in construction each section is made up of similar upper and lower frame-members providing for interchangeability and also the connections for receiving the upper and lower frame-members are constructed similarly and in the preferred form are constructed so that each may receive a pair of adjacent upper and a pair of adjacent lower frame-members. When the frame-members are assembled in the required number to provide a play house of the desired shape, preferably a reticulated covering is provided to maintain the upper and lower frame-members of each section rigid. In order to adapt the play house for use particularly around damp areas such as the sea shore or mountain lakes or for use as a wading pool a water resistant base or floor is provided. This can be of any water resistant material which should be secured to the side-wall sections in tight fitting engagement therewith to maintain the house in desired shape. It is preferred that the water resistant floor be provided with upstanding portions of substantial height so that at least a portion of the side-wall sections are also made water resistant.

For a more detailed understanding of the invention reference may be had to the accompanying drawings in which Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a play house showing one embodiment of the invention.

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Figs. 2 and 3 are portions of Fig. 1 enlarged to show details.

Fig. 3 is a diagrammatic view of the parts of Fig. 1 disassembled and rolled into a convenient package for transporting.

Fig. 4 is a view showing the play pen compactly arranged and packaged for carrying.

In Fig. 1 the play house is shown as rectangular in shape having side sections A-B-C-D.

This shape is only exemplary since as mentioned generally heretofore the play house may take any desired shape. Since each of the side-sections is constructed similarly a description of only one section is believed necessary. Referring to section A, 10 indicates the upper frame-member and 11 the lower frame-member. Each of these frame-members is preferably made of tubular metal which is bent at both ends to be generally U-shaped. The bent ends 13 of the upper member and the bent ends 14 of the lower member are similar and are at a right angle to the horizontal or interconnecting portion of the frame-members. Upright connecting tubes 15 are provided for receiving the bent ends of the frame-members 10 and 11 and the tubes 15 terminate at their upper and lower ends in socket portions 16 and 17 respectively, which are adapted each to receive one bent end of an upper and one bent end of a lower frame-member.

As shown in detail in Fig. 2 the upright connecting tubes 15 are preferably designed to terminate in double socket portions. Although only the upper double socket portion is shown in Fig. 2 it is understood that the lower end of tube 15 has a similar double socket in order that the upper and lower bent ends of adjacent frame-members can be received and held in position by one connecting tube 15, thus providing a more rigid construction for connecting adjacent upper and lower frame-members.

In the detail shown in Fig. 3 the bent ends 13 of adjacent upper frame-members 10 are shown somewhat spaced from the double socket 16 but when the frame-members 10 are assembled the socket 16 will receive the bent ends 13 of adjacent members 10. Stops S in the form of rings may be provided on the ends 13 and 14 of the upper and lower frame-members 10 and 11 respectively or stops S, S' in the form of inwardly extending lips may be provided in the socket portions 16 and 17 of the upright member 15 in order to limit the extent to which the ends 13 and 14 can be inserted in the sockets 16 and 17 and thus provide side sections A, B, etc. of true and similar shapes.

55 similar shapes.

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In constructing a play pen, any number of side-walls A, B, etc., can be formed by interconnecting the upper and lower frame-members 10 and 11 of each by means of the connecting tubes 15 and an assembly of any desired shape can be developed. After a play pen of desired shape is formed a flexible netting 18 of suitable material and a floor or base 19 of water resistant material is fitted about the assembly in a manner to provide a rigid and unitary structure.

Refer again to Fig. 1 for an explanation of the manner of assembling a play house of the present construction. The base 19 of water resistant material with its upstanding walls 20 is, by preference, secured to the netting 18 by means of a cord 22 which is passed through loops 23 of the netting. This provides a unitary covering for the base and side-walls of the play pen or play house and will, of course, be of a form adapted to fit over the assembled frame-members or side-walls.

In assembling the play pen two adjacent lower frame members 11 are placed upon a surface with their bent ends 14 extending upwardly and an upright connecting tube 15 with a double socket portion at either end secures adjacent bent ends 14 together by means of lower socket 17. Other lower frame-members 11 are then juxtapositioned adjacent the first two lower frame-members (depending on the shape of play pen it is desired to assemble) and the other adjacent lower ends 14 are secured together. When the general shape of play pen is thus developed an equal number of upper frame-members are assembled with their adjacent bent ends 13 secured or held in the upper double socket portion 16 of the uprights 15. The unitary covering consisting of the side-wall netting 18 and base 19 is then pulled over the upper frame-members of the side-walls until the base 19 is positioned snugly therearound and then the free edge of the netting 18 is secured to the other frame-members, for example by clips or split rings 21. This completes the assembly of the play pen which is then turned upside down so that the base 19 rests on a surface ready for use.

In Fig. 4 the various parts of the play pen are compactly arranged and packaged by wrapping the unitary covering including the netting 18 and base 19 therearound which may then be tied to provide a carrying handle 25. The handle or cord 25 may be passed through one of the members 15 which is shown in dotted lines in Fig. 4 to provide a more convenient handle for carrying the packaged parts.

While in the detailed description of the drawings the elongate members 10 and 11 are indicated as having bent ends and the upright members 15 as having straight socket portions it is to be understood that these parts can be reversed in construction. Also while it is preferred to make the elongate members and uprights hollow they may be made solid and interconnected by socket portions.

I claim:

1. A play pen having side-walls formed of spaced upper and lower tubular members interconnected by spaced upright tubular members, said upper and lower tubular members being similar in construction and each having both ends bent generally at right angles and extending in the same direction, said spaced upright members each having a double socket portion at each end, one of said double socket portions being adapted to receive one bent end of each of two upper members when they are positioned adjacent each

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other and the other double socket portion being adapted to receive one bent end each of two lower members when they are positioned adjacent each other, two of said upright tubular members interconnecting complementary upper and lower tubular members to form a side-wall and at least three of said side-walls being required to define an enclosure.

2. A play pen having side-walls formed of spaced upper and lower tubular members interconnected by spaced upright tubular members, said upper and lower tubular members being similar in construction and each having both ends bent generally at right angles and extending in the same direction, said spaced upright members each having a double socket portion at each end, one of said double socket portions being adapted to receive one bent end of each of two upper members when they are positioned adjacent each other and the other double socket portion being adapted to receive one bent end of each of two lower members when they are positioned adjacent each other, two of said upright tubular members interconnecting complementary upper and lower tubular members to form a side-wall and at least three of said side-walls being required to define an enclosure in combination with a base having the general shape of and adapted to maintain the form of said enclosure and side-wall covering adapted to maintain the upper and lower members of each side-wall in position.

3. A play pen having side-walls formed of spaced upper and lower tubular members interconnected by spaced upright tubular members, said upper and lower tubular members being similar in construction and each having both ends bent generally at right angles and extending in the same direction, said spaced upright members each having a double socket portion at each end, one of said double socket portions being adapted to receive one bent end of each of two upper members when they are positioned adjacent each other and the other double socket portion being adapted to receive one bent end of each of two lower members when they are positioned adjacent each other, two of said upright tubular members interconnecting complementary upper and lower tubular members to form a side-wall and at least three of said side-walls being required to define an enclosure in combination with a base of pliable water resistant material having the general shape of said enclosure with portions extending upwardly of the side-walls, a reticulated side-wall covering having its lower edge interconnected with the upwardly extending portion of the base and its upper edge removably secured to the upper of the side-wall members when the play pen is assembled and ready for use.

4. A play pen having a plurality of side-walls defining an enclosure, each of said side-walls being formed of horizontally spaced upper and lower elongate members and spaced upright members, said spaced upper and lower elongate members being similar in construction and each having both ends bent generally at right angles, said spaced upright members each having top and bottom double socket portions, said top socket portions being adapted to receive the upper ends of adjacent upper elongate members and said bottom socket portions being adapted to receive the lower ends of adjacent lower elongate members in order to form said side-walls into an enclosure, means cooperating with the lower of said elongate members to maintain said enclosure in a

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predetermined shape, and means between the upper and lower elongate members to maintain the side-walls rigid.

5. A play pen having a plurality of side-walls defining an enclosure, each of said side-walls being formed of horizontally spaced upper and lower tubular members and spaced upright tubular members, said spaced upper and lower tubular members being of similar construction and each having both ends bent generally at right angles, said spaced upright members each having top and bottom double socket portions, said top socket portions being adapted to removably receive the upper ends of adjacent upper elongate members and said bottom socket portions being adapted to removably receive the lower ends of adjacent lower elongate members in order to

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form said side-walls into an enclosure, means for removably securing the upper and lower tubular side wall members together, and other means removably positioned about said lower members of the side-walls to maintain the enclosure in a predetermined shape.

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REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

FOREIGN PATENTS

Number	Country	Date
22,010	Great Britain	1892