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Moquin et al.

[11] **3,793,766**

[45] ***Feb. 26, 1974**

[54] **TELEPHONE-TALKING FIGURE TOY SIMULATOR**

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[73] Assignee: **Mattel, Inc.,** Hawthorne, Calif.

[*] Notice: The portion of the term of this patent subsequent to Nov. 14, 1989, has been disclaimed.

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[21] Appl. No.: **282,886**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **46/232,** 46/117, 46/175 AR

[51] **Int. Cl.** **A63h 5/00**

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 46/33, 117, 175 AR, 232

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Assistant Examiner—Robert F. Cutting
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Max E. Shirk; Franklin D. Jankosky

[57] **ABSTRACT**

Figure toy holds a first simulated telephone handset camouflaging a switch or other electrical connection to an electric phonograph in the figure toy or in a toy telephone having a second simulated handset through which sounds may be transmitted from the phonograph to a child-user. When the phonograph is in the figure toy, these sounds are picked up by the first simulated handset which is connected to the second simulated handset. When the phonograph is in the telephone, sounds are picked up directly by the second simulated handset through a hollow tube having one end provided with a sound-pick-up horn mounted in the telephone over the phonograph speaker and another end connected to the receiver portion of the second simulated handset.

12 Claims, 7 Drawing Figures

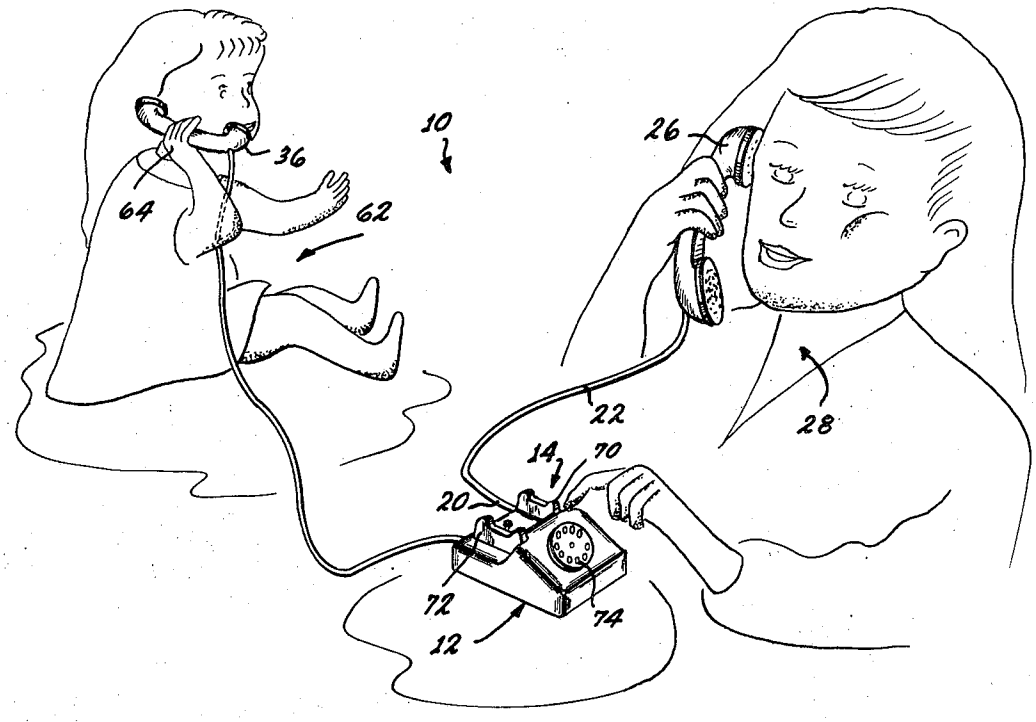


FIG. 1

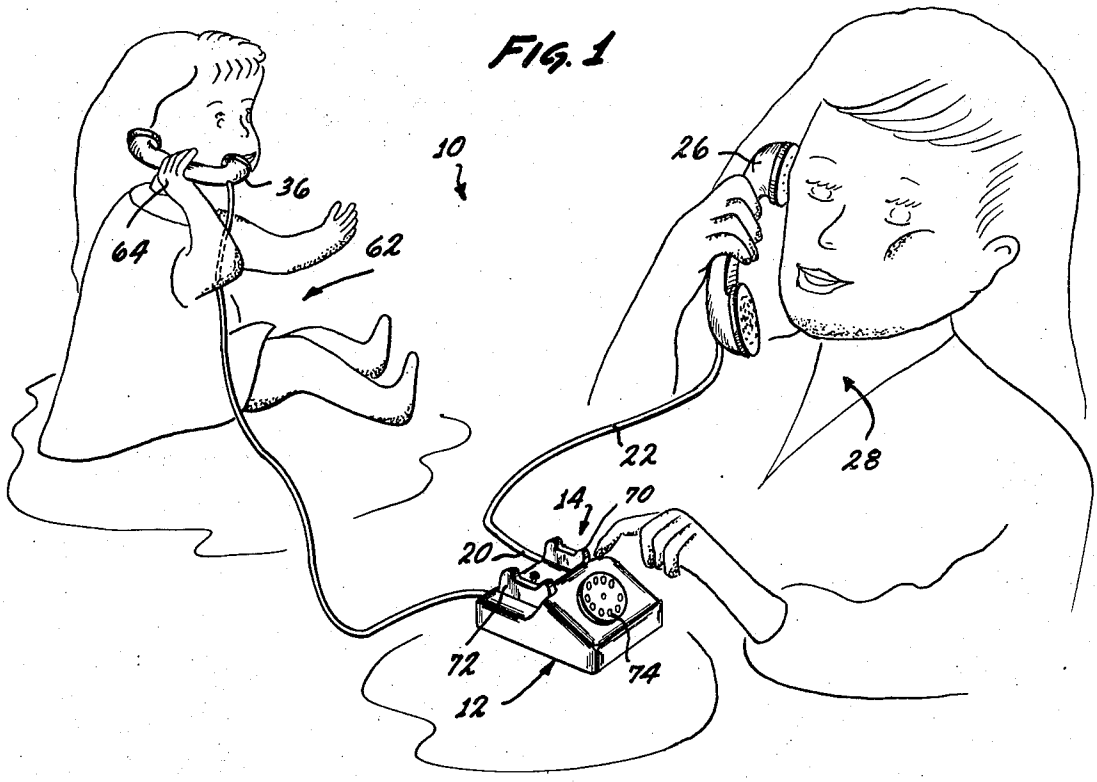
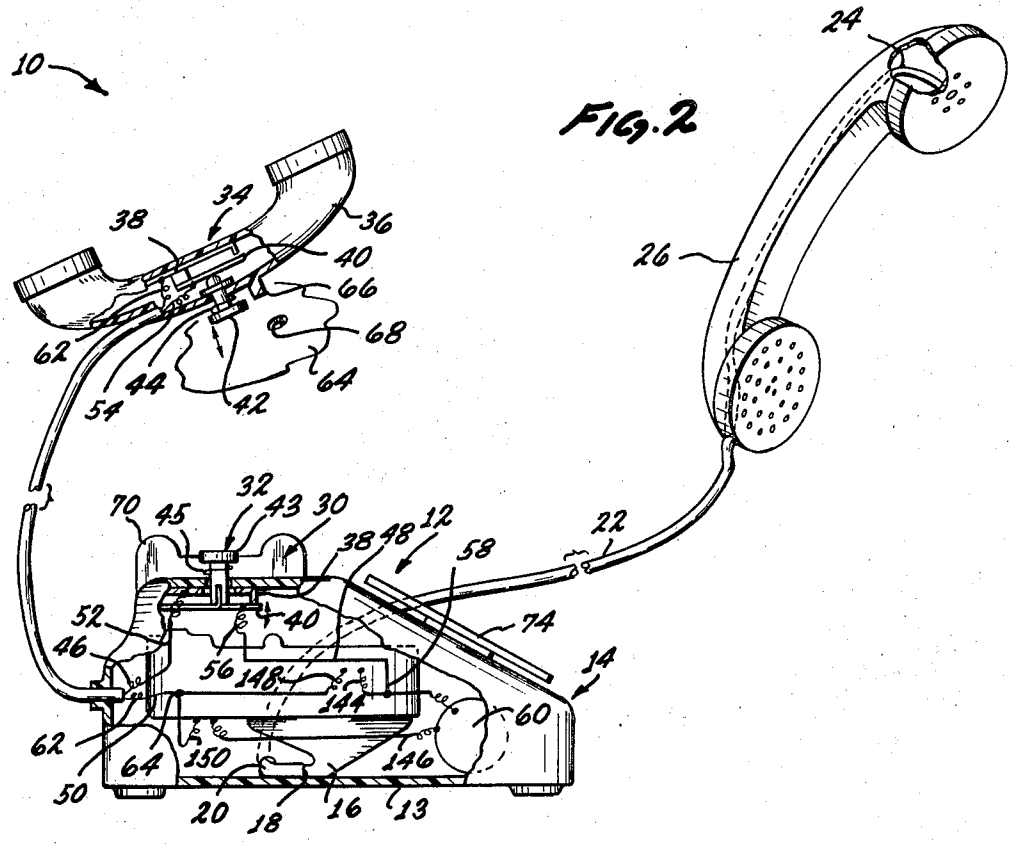

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FIG. 2


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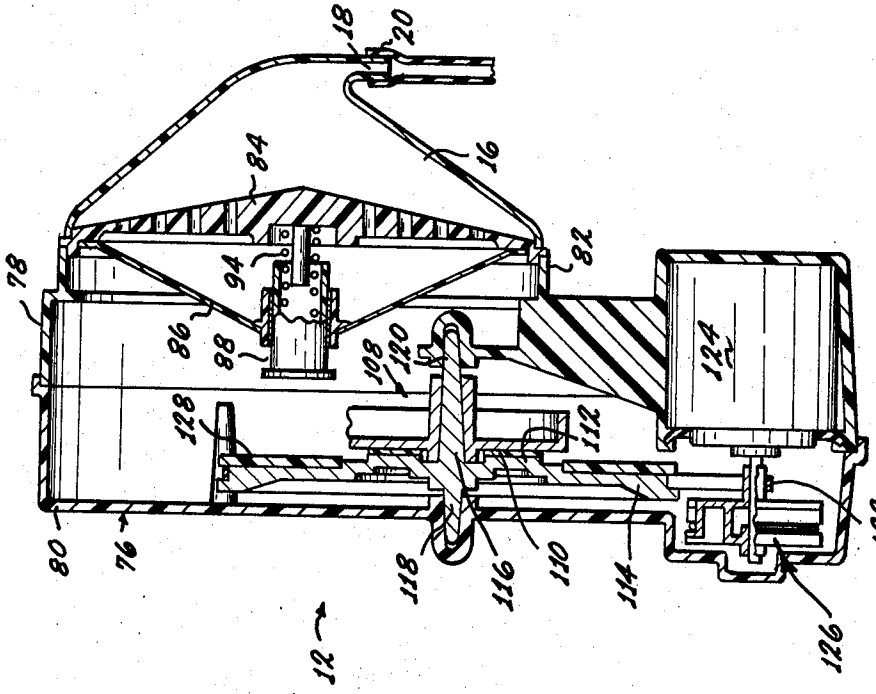

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FIG. 4

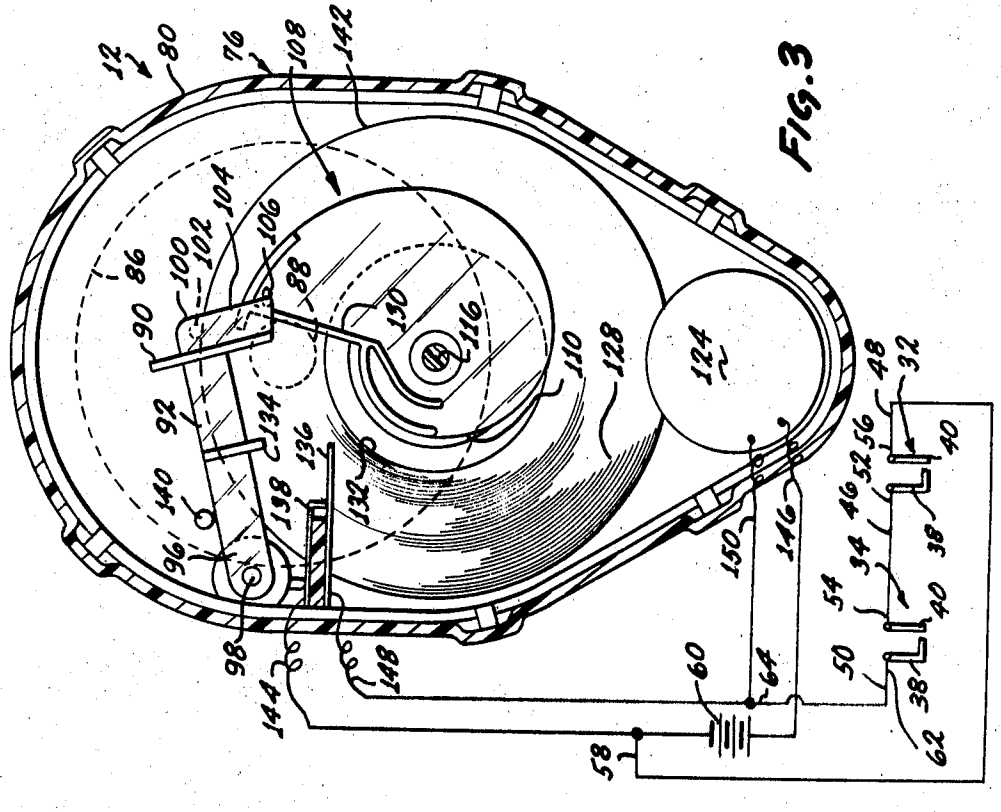

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FIG. 3

FIG. 5

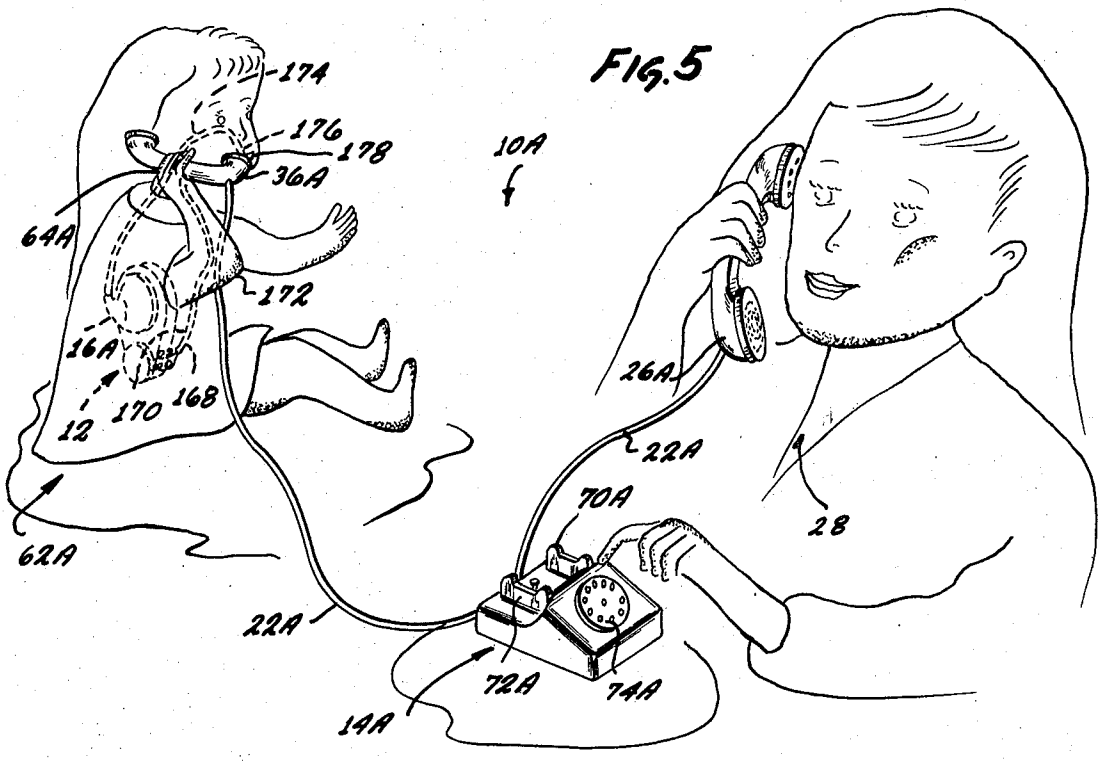
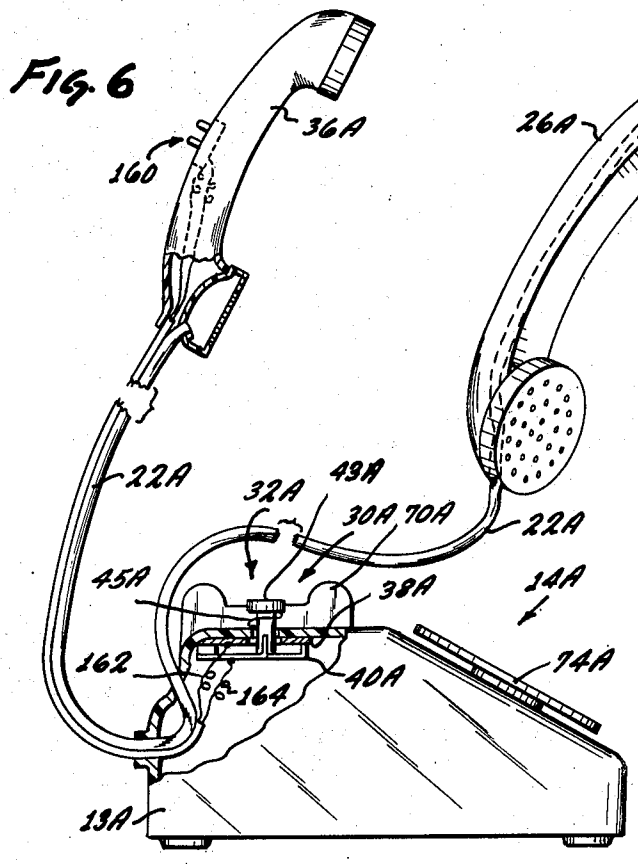


FIG. 6



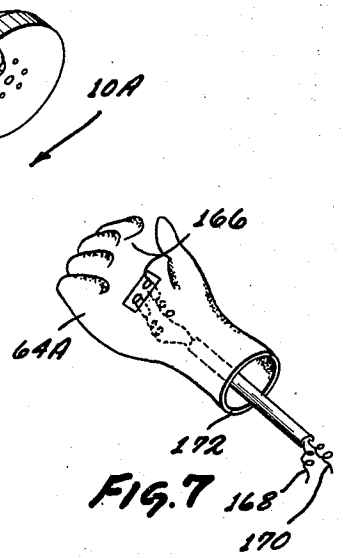


FIG. 7

TELEPHONE-TALKING FIGURE TOY SIMULATOR

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The invention pertains generally to the field of animated figure toys and more particularly to a telephone-talking figure toy simulator.

2. Description of the Prior Art

Figure toys and simulated telephones having phonograph devices incorporated therein are known to applicants.

However, applicants are not aware of any prior art telephone-talking figure toy simulators, except the one disclosed in copending application No. 214,802, filed January 3, 1972 by Noel F. Beasley and Ray Wever and held by the assignee of the instant application.

OBJECTS AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

THe primary object of the present invention is to provide a new and useful telephone-talking figure toy simulator.

According to a first embodiment of the present invention, a sound producing device or phonograph is mounted in a toy telephone base. A first simulated telephone handset is adapted to be used by a child-user of the device and is connected to the telephone base by a hollow tube having a sound-pickup horn mounted inside the base adjacent the phonograph speaker for receiving sound therefrom. A second simulated handset carries a first electric switch for energizing the phonograph and includes means for connecting it to the hand of a figure toy in such a manner that the switch is closed as long as the second handset is in the figure toy's hand. A second switch is carried by the toy telephone and is in series with the first switch so that both switches must be actuated before the phonograph is energized. The second switch may be actuated by a child-user after dialing the toy telephone to simulate the completion of a call to the figure toy.

According to a second embodiment of the present invention, the figure toy is provided with the sound producing device which may be connected to a switch in the telephone base by electrical plug-in means including a first simulated telephone handset placed on the figure toy. The second simulated telephone handset includes sound transmitting means connecting it to the first handset which has a sound-pickup horn positioned adjacent the sound producing device in the figure toy. Thus, the sound producing device in the figure toy may be actuated from a location spaced from the figure toy by a user of the second handset in simulation of a telephone call from the user of the second handset to the figure toy.

In both embodiments the sound producing device is shown herein for purposes of illustration, but not of limitation, as comprising a battery operated phonograph having an electrical switch either concealed in the hand of the figure toy, or inside the telephone base, or at both locations.

The features of the present invention which are believed to be novel are set forth with particularly in the appended claims. The present invention, both as to its organization and manner of operation, together with further objects and advantages thereof, may best be understood by reference to the following description,

taken in connection with the accompanying drawings in which like reference characters refer to like elements in the several views.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS:

FIG. 1 is an elevational view of a telephone-talking figure toy constituting a first embodiment of the present invention and depicts a child-user carrying on a simulated conversation with a doll through a simulated child's telephone;

FIG. 2 is an elevational view, with parts shown in cross-section, of the telephone used in the simulator of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is an enlarged, transverse, cross-sectional view of the sound producing device mounted in the telephone of FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a vertical cross-sectional view of the sound producing device of FIG. 3;

FIG. 5 is an elevational view of a telephone-talking figure toy simulator constituting a second embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 6 is an elevational view, with parts shown in cross-section, of the telephone used in the simulator of FIG. 5 and

FIG. 7 is a perspective view of one hand of the figure toy shown in FIG. 5.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Referring again to the drawings, and more particularly to FIGS. 1 and 2, a telephone-talking figure toy simulator constituting a first embodiment of the present invention, generally designated **10**, includes a sound producing device **12** which is mounted in the base **13** of a toy telephone device **14** (FIG. 2) in sound communication with a sound-pickup horn **16** having a sound outlet **18** connected to a first end **20** of a hollow tube **22** whose second end **24** is connected to a first simulated telephone handset **26** adapted to be used by a child-user **28** to receive sounds from sound producing device **12.**

A controlling means **30** is associated with telephone device **14** for controlling the operation of sound producing device **12** and includes a first electric switch **32,** which is mounted in base **13,** and a second electric switch **34,** which is mounted in a second simulated telephone handset **36.** Each switch **32, 34** includes a fixed contact **38** and a movable contact **40** which may be closed by a plunger **42, 43,** respectively. Plunger **42** is biased to a non-operative position by a spring **44** and plunger **43** is biased to an operative position by a spring **45.** Switches **32, 34** are placed in series with each other by leads **46, 48** and **50.** Lead **46** has a first end **52** connected to the first contact **38** which is located in the second handset **36** and a second end **54** connected to the movable contact **40** which is located in base **13.** Lead **48** has a first end **56** connected to the movable contact **40** which is located in handset **36** and a second end **58** connected to one side of the battery means **60** (FIG. 3) which powers sound producing device **12.** Lead **50** has one end **62** connected to the fixed contact **38** which is mounted in base **13** and a second end **64** connected to the other side of battery means **60,** through suitable leads and a motor to be hereinafter described.

The second simulated handset **36** connects a figure toy **62** to controlling means **30** in such a manner that

sound producing device 12 operates only when handset 36 is connected to figure toy 62. This is accomplished by mounting plunger 42 on handset 36 in such a position that plunger 42 is depressed to close switch 34 when handset 36 is secured in hand 64 by engaging a protuberance 66 on hand set 36 in a cavity 68 in hand 64 (FIG. 2).

Plunger 43 for switch 32 is mounted on base 13 between a pair of handset cradles 70, 72 in a position such that handset 26 will depress plunger 43 and open switch 32 when handset 26 is in position on cradles 70, 72. Then, assuming that handset 36 is in position in hand 64 with switch 30 closed, sound producing device 12 will be energized as soon as handset 26 is removed from cradles 70, 72. The toy telephone device 14 is equipped with a rotatable dial 74 simulating a regular telephone dial. A child-user 28 may dial a number on dial 74 and then lift handset 26 whereupon sound producing device 12 will be energized.

Referring now to FIGS. 3 and 4, sound producing device 12 is shown herein for purposes of illustration, but not of limitation, as comprising an electrically operated toy phonograph. The phonograph 12 includes a housing 76 including a front housing half 78 and a rear housing half 80. Front housing half 78 is provided with an annular shoulder 82 in which a speaker grille 84 and a speaker cone 86 are mounted. A vibration-transmitting member 88 is operatively connected to speaker cone 86 and is biased into engagement with a crossbar 90 on a tone arm 92 by a compression spring 94.

The tone arm 92 includes a first end 96 which is pivotally connected to a fixed pin 98 affixed to rear housing half 80 and a free end 100 which carries a phonograph needle 102 and the crossbar 90. Free end 100 is provided with an extension 104 which carries a depending pin 106 extending into operative engagement wit a snail-type, tone arm reset or return mechanism 108 loosely resting on a rubber pad 110 carried by a central hub 112 forming an integral part of a turntable 114.

Turntable 114 includes an integral spindle 116 having a first end 118 journaled in the front housing half 80 and second end 120 journaled in the front housing half 78. A belt 122 connects turntable 114 to an electric motor 124 through a suitable governor means 126 which controls the angular velocity of turntable 114 in such a manner that a phonograph record 128 carried thereby will uniformly transmit suitable vibrations to needle 102. Needle 102 tracks record 128 with depending pin 106 following a radial rib 130 on return mechanism 108 until needle 102 drops off the inner edge 132 of record 128. Extension 104 will then engage mechanism 108 to support tone arm 92 and a switch-engaging finger 134, carried by tone arm 92, will engage an electrical contact 136 moving it away from a fixed contact 138 for opening an electrical circuit to motor 124 so that turntable 114 stops. When motor 124 is agsin energized, by closing switches 32, 34, reset meachanism 108 will rotate with record 128 because of the weight of tone arm 92. Rotation of mechanism 108 returns tone arm 92 to its FIG. 3 position at the beginning-of-play of the information recorded on record 128. A tone arm stop 140 may be provided in rear housing half 80 for engagement by tone arm 92 to prevent it from being carried beyond the outer periphery 142 of record 128.

Fixed contact 138 is connected to motor 124 by electrical leads 144 and 146, respectively. Moveable contact 136 is connected to motor 124 by electrical leads 148 and 150.

Referring now to FIGS. 5–7, a telephone-talking figure toy simulator constituting a second embodiment of the present invention, generally designated 10A, includes a figure toy 62A having the sound producing device 12 of FIGS. 3 and 4 incorporated therein. A simulated telephone device 14A is shown in combination with figure toy 62A and includes a first simulated handset 26A which is connected to a second simulated handset 36A by a sound-transmitting tube 22A, through base 13A of telephone device 14A.

Controlling means 30A are associated with toy telephone device 14A for controlling the operation of sound producing device 12. These controlling means include a switch 32A, which is mounted in base 13A and an electrical plug 160, which is mounted on handset 36A. Switch 32A includes a fixed contact 38A and a moveable contact 40A which may be closed by a plunger 43A through section of the action spring 45A when handset 26A is removed from its cradles 70A, 72A. Fixed contact 38A is connected to one prong of plug 160 by a lead 162 and moveable contact is connected to the other prong of plug 160 by a lead 164. Plug 160 is adapted to engage a socket 166 in the hand 64A of figure toy 62A and complete a circuit to sound producing device 12 through leads 168, 170 which pass through an arm 172 on figure toy 62A into a parallel circuit (not shown) leading to motor 124 (FIG. 3) in sound producing device 12 from its switch 136, 138.

Handset 36A is in sound communication with sound producing device 12 through a sound tube 174 having a first sound-collecting funnel 176 positioned adjacent the mouth 178 of figure toy 62A and a second sound-collecting funnel 16A connected to speaker grille 84 on sound producing device 12.

In use, child-user 28 may dial a number on a dial 74A of simulated toy telephone device 14A and then lift handset 26A. This permits spring 45A to move plunger 43A to a switch-closing position overriding open switch 136, 138 in sound producing device 12. This energizes sound producing device 12 which plays one of the messages recorded on record 128 causing sound to be transmitted through speaker cone 84, funnel 16A, tube 174, funnel 176, handset 36A, tube 22A and handset 26A to the child-user 28. When the recorded message finishes playing, tone arm 92 (FIG. 3) will open switch 136, 138. The child-user may then replace handset 26A on cradles 70A, 72A to overcome spring 45A and move plunger 43A to a switch-opening position.

While the particular telephone-talking figure toy simulators herein shown and described in detail are fully capable of attaining the objects and providing the advantages hereinbefore stated, it is to be understood that they are merely illustrative of the presently preferred embodiments of the invention and that no limitations are intended to the details of construction or design herein shown other than as defined in the appended claims, which form a part of this disclosure.

What is claimed is:

1. In combination with a figure toy, a simulated telephone system, comprising:

a sound producing device;

a toy telephone device;

the means associated with said toy telephone device for controlling th operation of said sound producing device; and

simulated telephone handset means connecting said figure toy to said controlling means in such a manner that said sound producing device operates only when said handset means is connected to said figure toy.

2. The combination stated in claim **1**, wherein:

a second simulated telephone handset connected to said toy telephone device for a user of said toy telephone device.

3. The combination stated in claim **2**, including:

means connecting said second simulated telephone handset to said sound producing device for transmitting sounds therefrom to said user through said second simulated telephone handset.

4. In combination with a figure toy, a simulated telephone system, comprising:

a sound producing device;

means for controlling the operation of said sound producing device;

toy telephone means including at least one base and first and second simulated handsets, said toy telephone means housing at least one of said sound producing device and said controlling means; and

means connecting said controlling means to said figure toy through one of said simulated handsets, said other simulated handset being connected to said base for use by a user of said telephone system, whereby a simulated conversation may be carried on with said figure toy.

5. The combination stated in claim **4** wherein said sound producing device is mounted in said figure toy.

6. The combination stated in claim **4** wherein said sound producing device is mounted in said at least one base.

7. The combination stated in claim **6** wherein said controlling means includes a first switch means mounted in said base and a second switch mounted in said one simulated handset and wherein said connecting means includes a hand on said figure toy to which said one simulated handset is connected in such a manner that said second switch in actuated.

8. The combination stated in claim **5** wherein said sound producing device is an electrically-operated phonograph, wherein said connecting means includes an electric receptacle mounted on said figure toy in electrical communication with said phonograph and wherein said controlling means includes an electric switch mounted on said base in electrical communication with said electric plug.

9. A telephone-talking figure toy simulator comprising:

a figure toy having a sound producing device incorporated therein;

switch means for energizing said sound producing device, said switch means including a first simulated telephone handset and a simulated telephone base;

a second simulated telephone handset;

sound conducting means connecting said simulated handsets together for conducting sound from said first simulated handset to said second simulated handset; and

means placing said first simulated handset in sound-transmitting communication with said sound producing device.

10. A telephone-talking figure toy simulator, comprising:

a figure toy having a hand, said hand having means provided thereon for connecting a simulated telephone handset thereto;

a simulated telephone including a base, a phonograph device mounted in said base and first and second simulated telephone handsets, one of said handsets being provided with switch means for controlling the operation of said phonograph device and with connecting means coacting with said hand-connecting-means for connecting said one handset to said hand in such a manner that said switch is moved to a phonograph-energizing position;

means connecting said switch to said phonograph device; and

means placing the other handset in sound communication with said phonograph device.

11. In combination with a figure toy, a simulated telephone system, comprising:

a sound producing device mounted in said figure toy;

a toy telephone device;

controlling means associated with said toy telephone device for controlling the operation of said sound producing device;

means coupling said controlling means to said sound producing device; and

means for actuating said controlling means to operate said sound producing device.

12. In combination with a figure toy, a simulated telephone system, comprising:

a sound producing device;

a toy telephone device;

controlling means associated with said toy telephone device for controlling the operation of said sound producing device;

simulated telephone handset means coupled to said controlling means and adapted for connecting said figure toy to said controlling means;

means coupling said handset means to said figure toy; and

means for actuating said controlling means to operate said sound producing device, said actuating means being rendered operable by said coupling means.

* * * * *