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C. L. O'NEILL

2,483,022

BABY PLAY PEN

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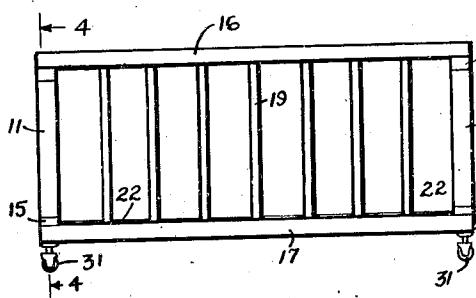


Fig. 1.

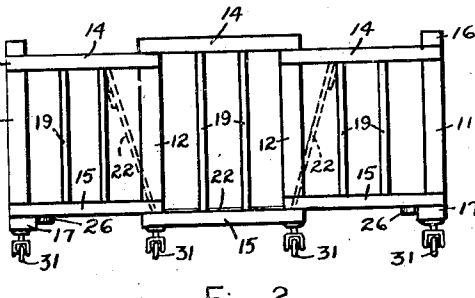


Fig. 2.

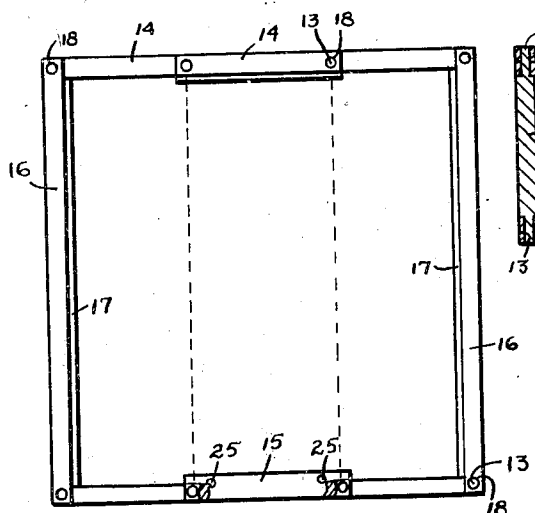


Fig. 3.

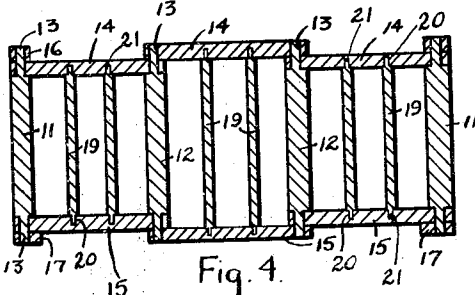


Fig. 4.

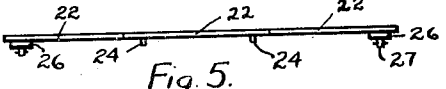


Fig. 5.

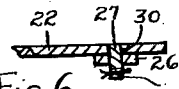


Fig. 6.

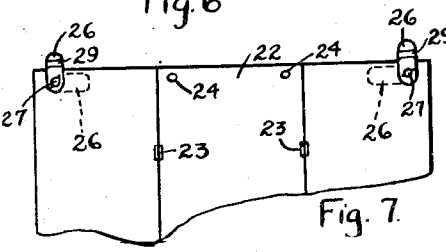


Fig. 7.

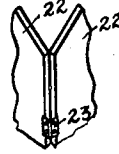


Fig. 8.

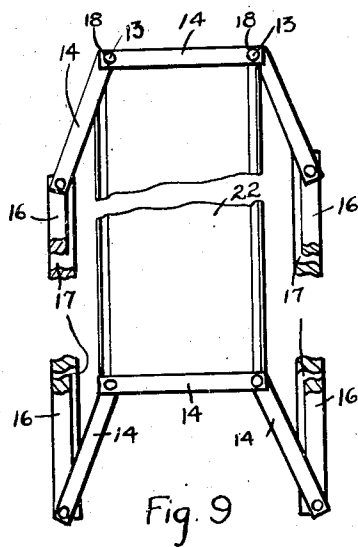


Fig. 9.

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BABY PLAY PEN

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1 Claim. (Cl. 5-99)

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The present invention relates to improvements in baby play pens and has for its main purpose and object to provide a play pen for babies which may easily be moved from room to room, or through other narrow openings, without the necessity of taking the baby from the pen, or dismantling the pen.

Another advantage is that the pen will fold compactly so that it may be stored in a minimum of space when not needed, and not used.

A still further advantage is that the construction is such that the play pen will be light in weight, yet very strong and durable.

An even further advantage is that this new baby play pen is so constructed that one person may move it from room to room with a few simple operations, pushing it as one would a baby carriage, and without removing the baby from the play pen.

A still further advantage is that it may be completely constructed from wood, or from other material if desired, and when constructed of wood no nails or screws need be used, unless desired by the manufacturer.

Another advantage is that the cost of shipping will be low due to the lightness in weight, and compactness of folding.

With these and other advantages to be pointed out as we proceed, and further described in the appended claims, we refer to the drawings in which like parts are denoted by the same reference characters throughout the several views, whereas:

Figure 1 is a side view of the baby play pen.

Figure 2 is an end view of the pen.

Figure 3 is a top plan view of the invention.

Figure 4 is a cross-sectional view of the construction of some of the members as taken at 4-4 in Figure 1.

Figure 5 is an end view of the folding floor of the play pen.

Figure 6 is a fragmentary cross-sectional view of the corner of the board showing the construction of the stop lever.

Figure 7 is a fragmentary view of the bottom of the floor board.

Figure 8 is a fragmentary view of the floor board showing more particularly the type hinge used to allow the floor board to fold.

Figure 9 is a top plan view of the play pen, with parts broken away, showing the approximate folded position obtained to roll the pen through the doorway or other narrow opening.

Referring more particularly to the drawings:

Corner posts 11 and end posts 12 compose the

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operative members of the play pen, said posts 11 and 12 being of either square or round shape having extensions 13 on both ends. These extensions 13 are smaller in diameter than the posts 11 and 12 and have a smooth finish to facilitate the operating of the play pen. Around the extensions 13 are received the ends of the top plates or boards 14, the end boards 15, side top plates or boards 16 and the side bottom boards 17, all having holes 18 to receive the extensions 13. This allows a hinged type action at the points where these end and corner posts 12 and 11 are located. No glue or other method of attachment is used to adhere the posts 11 and 12 to the boards 14, 15, 16 and 17.

Between these posts 11 and 12 are placed vertical bars 19 at small enough intervals to prohibit the baby's emergence between them, possibly at intervals of from 3 to 4 inches apart. These bars 19 have extensions 20 at each end which are received in the boards 14, 15, 16 and 17 by means of holes 21 drilled deep enough in the boards 14, 15, 16 and 17 to accommodate the extensions 20, but not drilled all the way through the boards. Glue or other adhesive is used to firmly attach the extensions 20 within the holes 21, or other methods of attaching the bars 19 to the boards 14, 15, 16 and 17 may be used such as screws or the like. These extensions 20 firmly attached within the holes 21 are the means of tying together the top boards 14 with the bottom boards 15, as well as the top boards 16 with the bottom boards 17.

It will be noted in Figure 3 and Figure 9 that the bottom center board 15 and the bottom side board 17 are wider than the other top and bottom boards. This is for the purpose of receiving and supporting the edges of the floor board 22.

This floor board 22 may be constructed of plywood or other suitable material, and is made in three sections, hinged together on the underside by means of inset hinges 23, better viewed in Figure 8, thus allowing the sides to be moved upward as may be seen in Figures 2 and 9. One or more dowels 24 are used in each end of the center section of the floor board 22, and are firmly attached thereto. When the floor board 22 is placed within the frame of the play pen the ends of the center section of the floor board 22 rests on the bottom center end board 15 and the dowels 24 are received into matching holes 25 in the bottom center end boards 15. No glue or other adhesive is used to attach these dowels 24 within the holes 25 since the floor board 22 is so designed that it may be completely removed from the frame of the

play pen and the play pen folded for storage, if such is desired.

The outside shape of the floor board 22 is matched to the inside shape formed by the placement of the vertical bars 19 and the posts 11 and 12. While it is thought that the play pen would best be constructed in a square shape as seen in Fig. 3, other shapes such as rectangular or octagon may be achieved by using the same principles incorporated within these specifications. In any case the ends of the center section of the floor board 22 must rest on the bottom center end boards 15 where one or more dowels 24, or the like, are received within matching holes 25. Until the floor board 22 is placed within the play pen, the action of the posts 11 and 12 cause the pen to be pliable to the extent that it will not keep any definite shape, but with the placement of the dowels 24 within the holes 25 the center sections of the ends of the play pen are attached together, the weight of the floor board holding the dowels in place within the holes 25. The side sections of the floor board 22 are then fitted into the sides of the play pen frame, and the play pen is thus rendered static insofar as the shape of the play pen is concerned, since it is understood that the edges of the floor board 22 rest against the inside of the vertical bars 19 and the posts 11 and 12.

Near the corners at one end of the side sections of the floor board 22 may be placed stop levers 26. These stop levers 26 are placed on the bottom of the floor board 22 and are attached to it by means of a dowel or dowels 27 glued or otherwise firmly attached to floor board 22. The stop lever is then placed on the dowel 27, the end extending out from the attached part on the floor board 22, by the application of the insertion of the dowel in a hole or holes 30 in the stop lever 26. The inside of the hole 30 as well as the circumferential length of the dowel being finished in a manner which will allow the stop lever to rotate around the dowel 27. To keep the stop lever 26 from falling off the dowel 27, a hole 28 may be placed in the dowel 27 on the end which will extend beyond the stop lever 26, and a cotter key or the like inserted therein. Other methods may be used in keeping the stop lever 26 from falling off the dowel 27, if the manufacturer so desires. When the floor board 22 is placed flat within the play pen frame the bottom edges of the side end boards 15 will be even with the bottom edge of the floor board 22; this will allow the stop lever 26 to be moved in a circular manner as shown in Figure 7, causing the stop lever to be placed under these side end boards 15 thus locking the side sections of the floor board 22.

These same stop levers 26 may be used when the side sections of the floor board 22 are placed in an upward position as may best be seen in Figure 2. On the top and bottom sides of the stop lever 26 near the unattached end may be placed grooves 29 which are provided to facilitate the holding of stop levers 26 in the desired position. The extended ends of the stop 26 are caused to rest against either the end posts 12 or the vertical bars 19, next to the end posts 12, the posts 12 or bars 19 fitting into the grooves 29 thus holding the stop lever 26 in position. When the floor board 22 is placed so that the side sections are in an upward position the side frame of the play pen may be partly folded or closed, making the play pen narrower and allowing it to be rolled through an opening such as a doorway or the

like. This adjustability in width may be noted in Figure 9.

This pulling together of the sides of the frame of the play pen has an effect on the upward angle of the side sections of the floor board 22. To start, the stop lever 26 is placed in an outward position so that the grooves 30 engage the vertical bars 19 or posts 12, thus holding the side sections of the floor board 22 in an upward position, but as the sides of the frame of the play pen are closed inward pressure is applied against these side sections of the floor board 22 and they are thus forced into a more vertical position, but are prevented from falling completely inward by these same stop levers 26 since they may be as effective against one post or bar as against the next to it. As a matter of fact, if the stop lever is placed between the post 12 and the next vertical bar on its outer edge, when the stop lever 26 is placed in an outward position it will first rest on the vertical bar 19, as may be seen in Figure 2. As the sides of the frame of the play pen are pulled inward, the pressure mentioned above will cause the extended edge of the stop lever 26 to finally rest against the post 12, where it will be held firmly in place until the sides of the frame of the play pen are again open outward, in which case the stop lever will again rest against the vertical bar 19 until the stop lever is moved into an inactive position.

Casters, rollers or the like may be attached to the posts 11 and 12 to allow the play pen to be rolled from place to place with ease.

In present practice when the mother or other person desires to move the baby's play pen from one room to another, or to the porch or the like, she must first remove the baby from the play pen, take the play pen apart and carry it to the desired location. This causes a loss of time, the expending of excessive effort and energy, and the leaving of the child alone while it is being accomplished. With the new baby play pen invention, none of these disadvantages are present. The baby need not be removed from the play pen, but may sit in it while the pen is being moved without any fear of harm to the child, and without any excessive effort on the part of the mother or other person. The baby is merely placed on the center section of the floor board 22, the side sections lifted upward with the stop 26 extended outward so that it may rest against the vertical bar 19 or the posts 12, the sides of the frame of the play pen are folded inward as may best be seen in Figure 9, and the whole play pen, with the baby therein, rolled to the place desired. This allows a great saving in time for the mother or nurse, keeps the child with her at all times, and reduces the undue effort or injury caused through the lifting of the present type play pen, and carrying them from place to place.

While I have disclosed the best form of the invention known to me at the present time I desire it to be understood that I reserve the right to alter or change my invention insofar as said alterations or changes will not conflict with the following claim.

What I claim is:

A baby play pen having intermediate end panels and sections pivotally attached to the sides of said intermediate end panels, side panels pivotally connected to the free ends of said sections to form an inclosure, a folding floor board comprising a center member and side members hinged to said center member, said center member of the floor board having dowels adapted to

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fit into holes in said intermediate end panels, means projecting inwardly from said side panels to support the free edges of said folding floor board, whereby the width of the play pen may be lessened to allow it to be transported through a narrow opening without necessitating the removal of the baby from the play pen.

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REFERENCES CITED

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

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