Nov. 25, 1924. 1,517,050

J. J. DILKS

TOY

Original Filed April 26 . 1921 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

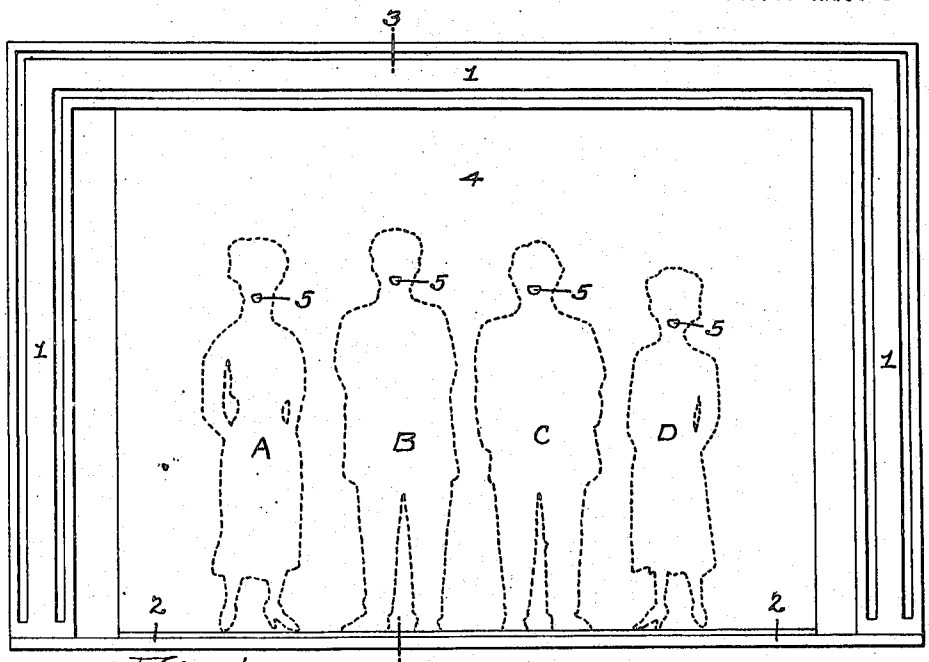


Fig. 1.

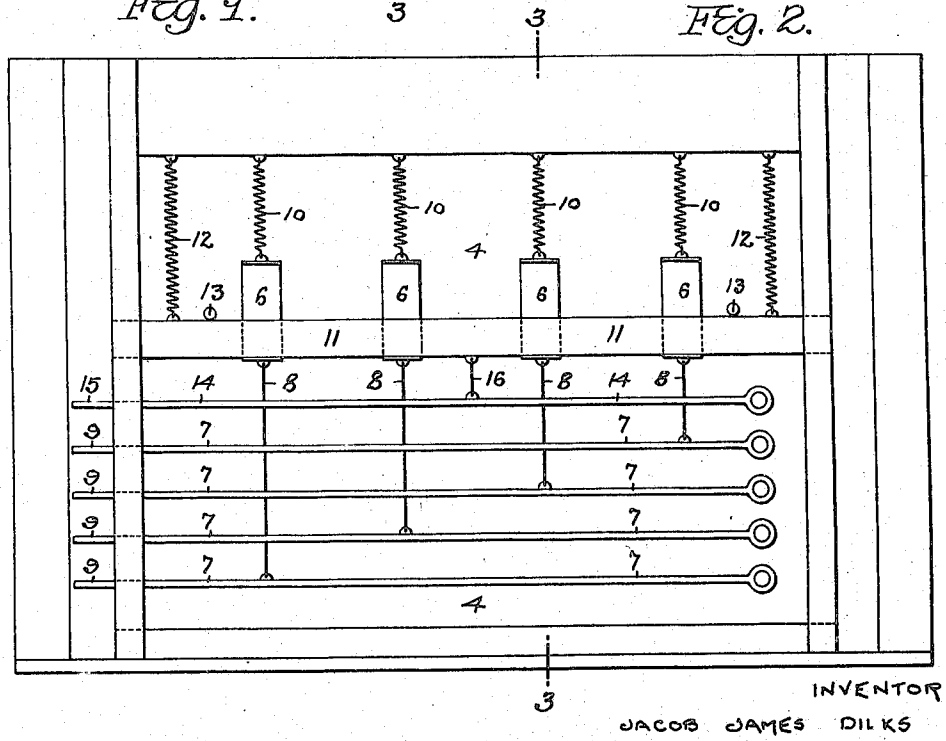


Fig. 2.

INVENTOR

JACOB JAMES DILKS

BY HIS ATTORNEY Harry Smith

Nov. 25, 1924. 1,517,050

J. J. DILKS

TOY

Original Filed April 26, 1921 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

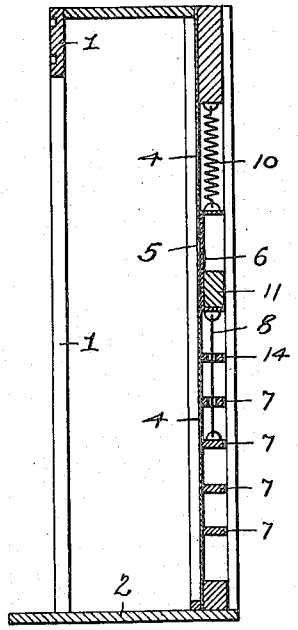
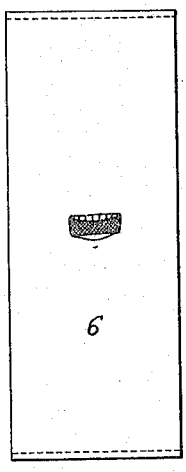


Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.



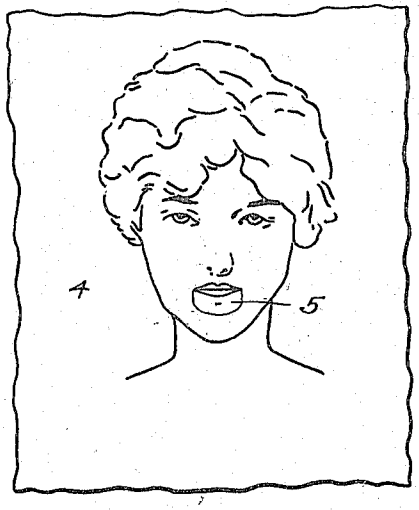


Fig. 5.

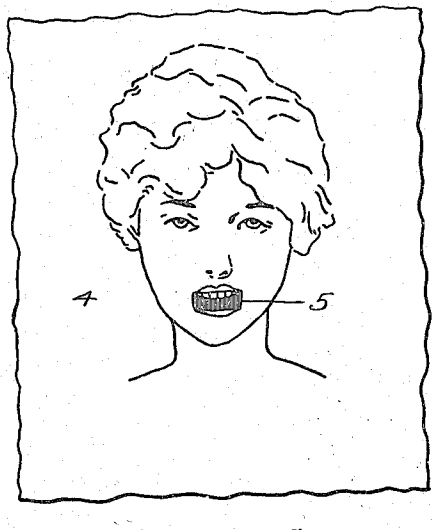


Fig. 6.

INVENTOR
JACOB JAMES DILKS
BY HIS ATTORNEY
Harry Smith

Patented Nov. 25, 1924. 1,517,050

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JACOB JAMES DILKS, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

TOY.

Application filed April 26, 1921, Serial No. 464,680. Renewed November 24, 1923.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JACOB JAMES DILKS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, have invented certain Improvements in Toys, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to toys of that class which are representations of a human figure so constructed that the mouth appears to open and close as though the figure were speaking or singing. The object of my invention is to construct a toy of the character specified in such a way that it will be simple in nature, easy to operate and the appearance of speaking or singing will be most lifelike. This object I accomplish in the manner hereinafter set forth, reference being had to the accompanying drawings in which I illustrate my invention as adapted to a toy theatre, for which use it is especially applicable and which is its preferred, though not its only, use. In the drawings,

Fig. 1 is a face view of a toy threatre so constructed that it embodies my invention;

Fig. 2 is a rear view of the same;

Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view on the line 3—3, Figs. 1 and 2;

Fig. 4 is a face view, on a larger scale, of a certain element of the construction;

Fig. 5 is an enlarged view showing the face of one of the figures and illustrating the mouth as closed, and

Fig. 6 is a view similar to Fig. 5 but illustrating the mouth as open as though the figure were speaking or singing.

Briefly stated my invention consists broadly in constructing a figure with an aperture at the mouth and in mounting behind such aperture a slide on which appears a representation of the lower lip and upper teeth. This slide is to be so manipulated in respect to the aperture that the mouth will appear to open and close. Specifically my invention consists in the manner in which the slide is mounted and operated.

Referring to Fig. 1 of the drawings, there is illustrated a toy theatre having proscenium arch 1, stage 2 and back drop 4. Upon this back drop 4, which, in the present instance, consists of a thin plate, appear the representations of four human figures as shown in dotted outline A, B, C and D. These figures may be printed directly upon the plate 4 or may be separately constructed and pasted or otherwise secured thereto.

At the mouth of each figure there is an aperture 5 in the plate 4 and behind each aperture is a slide 6 so mounted that it may be moved up and down, see Fig. 2. Upon each slide appears a representation of a lower lip and upper teeth as best shown in Fig. 4, this representation being so positioned upon the slide and in respect to the corresponding aperture that the normal appearance of the face of the figure is as shown in Fig. 5, with the mouth closed. Downward movement of the slide 6, however, alters the relation of the representation of the lip and teeth in respect to the aperture so that the mouth of the figure appears to be open as shown in Fig. 6. Vertical reciprocation of the slide will, therefore, give the effect of opening and closing of the mouth as though the figure were speaking or singing.

As an example of use for a toy theatre as illustrated I will say that it may be placed upon a table or other suitable support and in front of a phonograph. As the record is played by the phonograph the various slides may be manipulated to the mouths of the different figures to open and close as though they were singing. Effects may be given of solos, duets, trios and quartettes. On the other hand the theatre may be used alone, the person or persons operating it speaking the lines which the figures appear to utter.

The manner in which the various slides 6 may be readily and easily manipulated is shown in Figs. 2 and 3. Pivotally mounted upon the rear face of the plate 4 are a series of levers 7, each of which is attached to a corresponding slide 6 by means of a cord or wire 8 and each of which terminates in a handle 9 extending outwardly beyond the edge of the plate 4 where it may be conveniently grasped. Each slide 6 is normally maintained in its extreme raised position by the action of a suitable spring 10 to which it is secured and while the slide is in this position the mouth of the corresponding figure appears to be closed. To give the appearance of opening of the mouth the proper handle 9 is grasped and depressed whereupon the lever 7 swings downwardly drawing the slide 6 with it. As soon as the handle is released the spring 10 restores the slide to normal position and the mouth ap-

pears to close. Upward movement of the slides 6 may be properly restricted in any desired manner. In the construction illustrated this restriction is effected by the contact of a flange on the slide with a bar 11 which is under the influence of suitable springs 12 and which is maintained in proper horizontal position by contact with appropriate stop pins 13 which project from the rear face of the plate 4.

Depression of the bar 11 will cause a simultaneous downward movement of all of the slides 6 and when it is desired to present the effect of all of the figures speaking or singing in unison, it will be much simpler to manipulate the bar 11 rather than to try to operate all of the handles 9 at the same time. To facilitate manipulation of the bar 11, I provide a supplementary lever 14 which terminates in a handle 15 and which is connected to the bar 11 by means of a cord or wire 16.

When it is desired to cause the mouth of any figure to appear to open and close, manipulation of the proper handle 9 will accomplish the result and when it is desired to have the mouths of all of the figures appear to open and close in unison it may best be accomplished by manipulation of the handle 15.

Although I show, in the drawings, representations of four figures it is to be understood that this is in no sense a limitation as my invention applies equally well to one or any number of figures which it may be desired to employ, and it must also be understood that the illustration of the toy theatre is merely one use to which my invention may be put. Figures constructed and operated as herein described may occur in any desired and convenient environment.

I claim:

1. In a device of the character stated a toy theatre including an arch, stage and an apertured back drop, a life-like figure delineated upon said back drop the mouth of which figure is in register with the back drop aperture, a vertically movable spring controlled slide having delineated thereon mouth portions of a human figure normally in register with and to the rear of the back drop aperture and a manually operable lever connected to said slide for causing the delineated mouth portions of the latter to recede from before the back drop aperture.

2. In a device of the character stated a toy theatre including an arch, stage and an apertured back drop, a life-like figure delineated upon said back drop the mouth of which figure is in register with the back drop aperture, a vertically movable spring controlled slide having delineated thereon mouth portions of a human figure normally in register with and to the rear of the back drop aperture and a manually operable lever connected to said slide for causing the delineated mouth portions of the latter to recede from before the back drop aperture, and manually operable spring controller means operatively connected with said slide for moving the latter independently of said lever.

3. In a device of the character stated a toy theatre including an arch, stage and back drop having a plurality of apertures therethrough, a plurality of life-like figures delineated upon said back drop the mouth of each figure being in register with the back drop aperture, a plurality of vertically movable spring controlled slides each having delineated thereon mouth portions of life-like figures normally in register with and to the rear of the back drop apertures, a plurality of manually operable levers connected to said slides for causing independent movement thereof and manually operable, spring controlled means operatively connected with all of said slides for causing simultaneous movement thereof.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification, in the presence of a subscribing witness.

JACOB JAMES DILKS.

Witness:
WILLIAM M. HENRY.