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ROLLER ACCESSORY FOR A TRICYCLE

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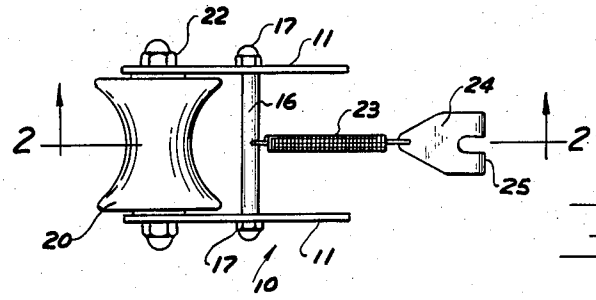


Fig. 1

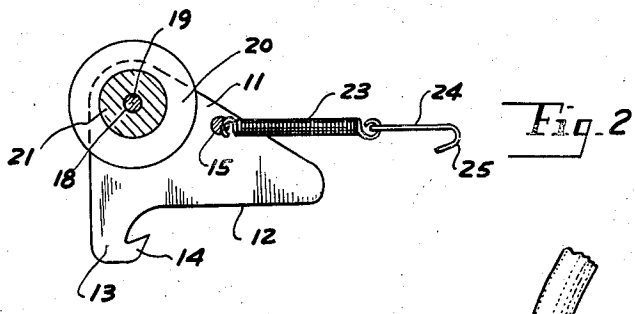
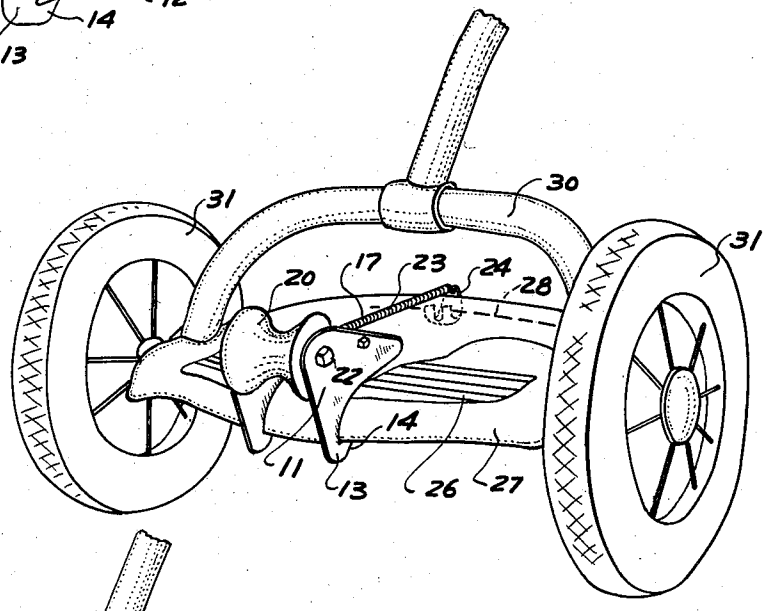


Fig. 2

Fig. 3



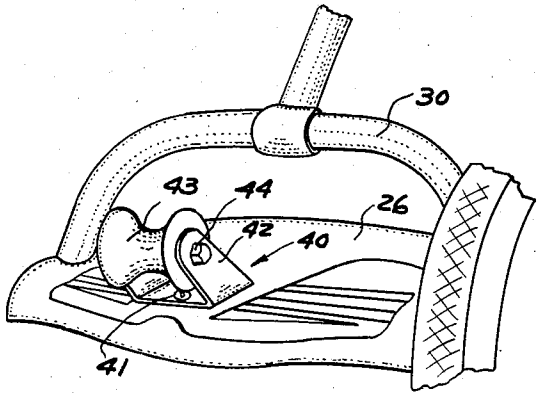


Fig. 4

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ROLLER ACCESSORY FOR A TRICYCLE

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2 Claims. (Cl. 280—289)

The invention pertains to tricycles for children, and consists of a bracket supporting a roller, the bracket being adapted to be mounted removably on a horizontal member of the tricycle, located between the two rear wheels thereof.

It has been the observation of the applicant that when two or more children are mounted on their individual tricycles, they like to form themselves into a sort of a train, wherein the front wheel of one tricycle will bear from the rear against said horizontal platform of the tricycle in front. When the tricycles are put in motion, said front wheels, that is the tires of the front wheels, will, in the course of the rotation of said wheels, rub against the horizontal platforms in front thereof. This contributes to the wear of the tires, and because of the friction against said platform makes the driving of a respective tricycle, back of the platform, so much more difficult.

In view of the above, I have devised my roller accessory, which may be easily and quickly attached to a tricycle in a position where the front tire of a following tricycle will be in contact with a roller on the leading tricycle. This will eliminate friction and will make the driving of the tricycle back of the platform on which the accessory is mounted so much easier.

Another object of my invention was to provide an accessory which may be mounted upon a tricycle without the use of any tools or equipment, but which will be fully practical and useful.

I shall now describe my invention with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a top elevational view of my roller accessory;

Fig. 2 is a side elevational view thereof;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the accessory as mounted upon a platform between the two rear ground wheels of a tricycle;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a modified roller accessory in its mounted position on a tricycle.

Similar numerals refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

The accessory includes a bracket generally identified by numeral **10**. It consists of two side plates **11**, each of which is substantially triangular, the base of each plate being defined by a straight line **12**, but including at what is the rear end of the plate, a downwardly extending hook **13**, including a claw **14** turned forwardly.

Each plate contains two holes, one, **15**, serving for reception of a bolt **16**, by means of which the two plates are held together in a spaced parallel relation to each other. The outer ends of the bolt are threaded for reception of nuts. The other hole **18** in each plate **11**, serves for reception of a shaft **19** on which, mounted axially, is a roller **20**. The roller, which may be made of wood or a plastic material, is best provided with a core **21**, which may be made of any suitable substance, such as metal. The shaft **19**, projects at each end outwardly of the respective plate **11**, and is equipped at each end with a retaining nut **22**.

In order to prevent lateral slips of the tire which is in contact with the roller, the outer surface of the roller is concave, being curved inwardly towards the axis of said roller, as best shown in Fig. 1.

Connected to the bolt **16**, midway its length, is one end of a coil spring **23**, its other end being connected to a sheet metal hook including a forked end portion looped upon itself in a hair-pin turn to form a claw **25**.

The manner in which the accessory may be installed upon a tricycle is shown in Fig. 3 in which numeral **30** shows the rear axle for support of two ground wheesl **31**, while numeral **26** indicates a horizontal platform disposed between said two ground wheels and supported by said rear axle. The platform provides sufficient space for a child to stand back of the drive of the vehicle, who occupies a saddle which is not shown, but which is located forwardly of said platform.

It will be noted that the platform includes a downwardly turned flange **27** at the rear, and a similar flange **28** at the front.

The bracket **10** supporting the roller **20** is mounted on the platform midway its length in such a manner that the claws **14** of the hooks **13** will grasp the rear flange of the platform from below, while the roller **20** will be in a position above said platform and slightly rearwardly thereof. Thereupon the hook **24** is applied to the front flange **28** in such a manner that the claw **25** will engage the flange from below. The coiled spring **23** will exert a pull on the two hooks **13** of the bracket from one end, and on the hook **24** from the opposite end, thus keeping the bracket in place.

A modified roller accessory is shown in Fig. 4. In this case, the bracket **40** has the form of a vertically disposed letter U, and is secured to the platform **26** by means of screws **41**. The arms **42** of the bracket extend upwardly from the platform and support a roller **43**, which is adapted for rotation on a horizontal shaft journalled at its ends in said arms. The outer ends of the shaft are threaded for reception of retaining nuts **44**.

After having described my invention, I wish to present the following claims.

I claim:

1. In a tricycle having a horizontal rear platform spaced from the ground, a roller accessory including a bracket having two upwardly turned arms, a roller mounted therebetween for rotation about its axis and in the plane at right angle to said platform, hook means on the bracket for engagement with the platform from the rear, a hook adapted to engage the platform from the front, and a coiled spring connecting said last named hook to the front end of the bracket to keep said hook under the tension of the spring, the roller being held rearwardly of the platform.

2. In a tricycle having two parallel rear wheels, and a horizontal rear platform spaced from the ground and disposed between said wheels, the platform being provided with a front rim portion and a rear rim portion, an accessory for use with a rear platform of a tricycle, the accessory forming a bracket including two upright members, a transverse shaft joining said members in spaced relation to each other, a roller provided with a concave outer surface, mounted axially on the shaft for rotation thereon in a plane parallel to the planes of rotation of the wheels, one end of the bracket being connected to the rear portion of the platform, the other end of the bracket being connected by intermediate resilient means to the front rim portion of the platform, the bracket serving to hold the roller rearwardly of the platform.

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