Feb. 7, 1928. 1,658,667

J. BUTTIGIEG

NOVELTY TAPE MEASURE

Filed June 6, 1927

Fig. 1.

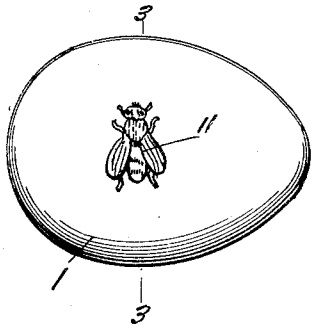


Fig. 2.

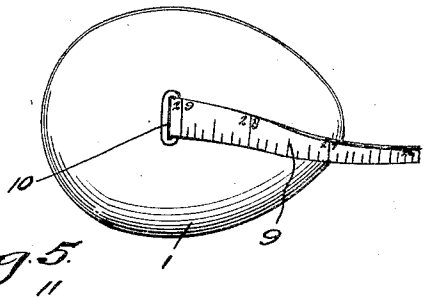


Fig. 5.

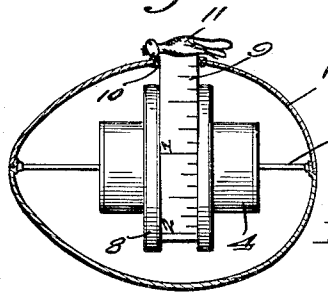


Fig. 3.

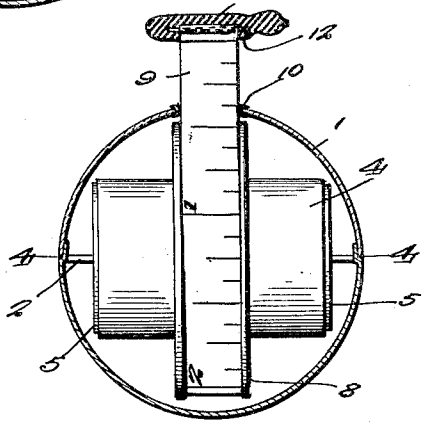
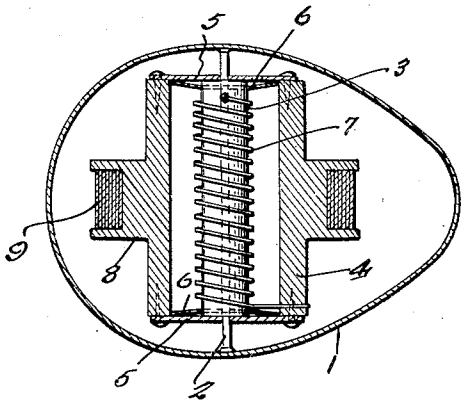


Fig. 4.



R. A. Thomas

WITNESS:

John Buttigieg INVENTOR

BY Victor J. Evans

ATTORNEY

Patented Feb. 7, 1928. 1,658,667

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN BUTTIGIEG, OF ELGIN, ILLINOIS.

NOVELTY TAPE MEASURE.

Application filed June 6, 1927. Serial No. 196,895.

My present invention has reference to what I will term a novelty measuring tape, the object being to arrange a measuring tape upon a spring influenced drum or roller that is journaled in a hollow body or casing, to secure on the outer end of the tape in a novel manner, a pull element that is shaped to represent an insect or other ornamental object so that the device, when not in use will present the appearance of a fly or like insect resting on an egg and which, after the tape has been used for measuring purposes and the egg-shaped body is permitted to rest upon a surface and the tape is held to permit of the same being slowly wound around the drum, the turning of the drum will impart a gyratory, jumping and rolling motion to the oval or spherical body so that the improvement may also be considered in the nature of a toy or amusement device.

The drawings illustrate a satisfactory embodiment of my improvement, and wherein:

Figure 1 is a top plan view thereof.

Figure 2 is a side elevation thereof, with the tape partly withdrawn from the oval body.

Figure 3 is an approximately central longitudinal sectional view on the line 3—3 of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a sectional view approximately on the line 4—4 of Figure 3.

Figure 5 is a sectional view to illustrate the drum or roller shaft disposed longitudinally in the hollow body.

The body 1 of the improvement is in the nature of a hollow oval member representing an ordinary hen's egg and approximately of the same size as such egg. The body is colored white and is constructed of two sections which have their confronting edges lapping and soldered together. The drum supporting shaft may be fixed either longitudinally or transversely in the center of the body 1, as disclosed by the several figures of the drawings. The shaft 2 has its ends soldered or otherwise fixed to the sides or ends at the center of the body. Preferably on the fixed shaft 2 I secure a sleeve 3. The sleeve and shaft is freely received through the bore of a drum 4. The drum is in the nature of a hollow member and has fixed on its ends discs 5 through which the shaft 2 passes and against which the ends of the sleeve 3 contact. Passing through the sleeve 3, at the ends thereof, and also if desired through the shaft 1, there are inwardly arched members 6, the said members being provided for holding the coil spring properly positioned on the sleeve. The spring is indicated by the numeral 7 and has one of its ends passing through the sleeve 3 and secured to the shaft 2. The opposite end of the spring 7 is connected to the drum 4, as clearly shown by Figure 4 of the drawings. The drum 4 is centrally formed with an annular enlargement or flange 8 having a peripheral groove, and in this groove there is wound a measuring tape 9. Of course, one end of the tape is secured to the inner wall provided by the groove in the central flange or enlargement 8 of the drum. The second end of the tape 9 is trained through a reinforced opening 10 in the oval body 1. This end of the tape passes through an opening in the pull element 11 for the tape. The pull element is preferably of vulcanized rubber or like material and is shaped to represent a bug, such as an ordinary fly. Of course, the pull element may be shaped to represent other insects. The pull element is, of course, colored to agree with the natural color of the insect it represents. The end of the tape 9 passes around a bar 12 which is embedded in the pull element 11 and the rolled portion of the tape thus provided is stitched or otherwise secured to the tape proper.

The improvement affords a novel appearance and is in fact ornamental. The annular enlargement or flange 8 of the drum forms the same with what may be termed a fly wheel, which, of course, adds to the momentum of the drum when the same is revolved by the spring 7. The tape is designed to be drawn out of the body in the usual manner and employed for measuring purposes. If the body is permitted to rest on a surface and the pull element 11 held by one hand of the user so that the spring 7 will wind the tape in a comparatively slow manner on the drum, the revolving drum will impart a gyratory as well as a jumping and rolling movement to the body which adds to the novelty and affords amusement to the operator of the device and to spectators. The rubber or like substantially elastic pull element will absorb shocks which would be delivered to the body were an ordinary pull element employed, when such element contacts with the body.

While I have herein set forth a satisfactory embodiment of the improvement as it

now appears to me, obviously I do not wish to be restricted to the precise details of the construction as disclosed and, therefore, it is to be understood that I hold myself entitled to make such changes therefrom as fairly fall within the scope of what I claim.

Having described the invention, I claim:

1. A novelty tape measure including a hollow oval body shaped to represent an egg, a shaft arranged centrally in the body and having its ends fixed thereto, a sleeve fixed on the shaft, a hollow drum surrounding the sleeve, discs fixed on the ends of the drum and contacting with the ends of the sleeve, a coil spring wound around the sleeve and having one end secured to the sleeve and to the shaft and its second end secured to the drum, arched elements passing through the sleeve and disposed opposite the ends of the spring, a measuring tape wound around the drum and having one end secured thereto and its second end guided through the body, a compressible pull element having a rod embedded therein, and the last mentioned end of the tape being received in said element and arranged around and fixed on the rod in said element.

2. A novelty tape measure including a hollow oval body shaped to represent an egg, a shaft arranged centrally in the body and having its ends fixed therto, a sleeve fixed on the shaft, a hollow drum surrounding the sleeve, discs fixed on the ends of the drum and contacting with the ends of the sleeve, a coil spring wound around the sleeve and having one end secured to the sleeve and to the shaft and its second end secured to the drum, arched elements passing through the sleeve and disposed opposite the ends of the spring, a measuring tape wound around the drum and having one end secured thereto and its second end guided through the body, a compressible pull element having a rod embedded therein, and the last mentioned end of the tape being received in said element and arranged around and fixed on the rod in said element, and said pull element representing an insect or the like.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

JOHN BUTTIGIEG.