

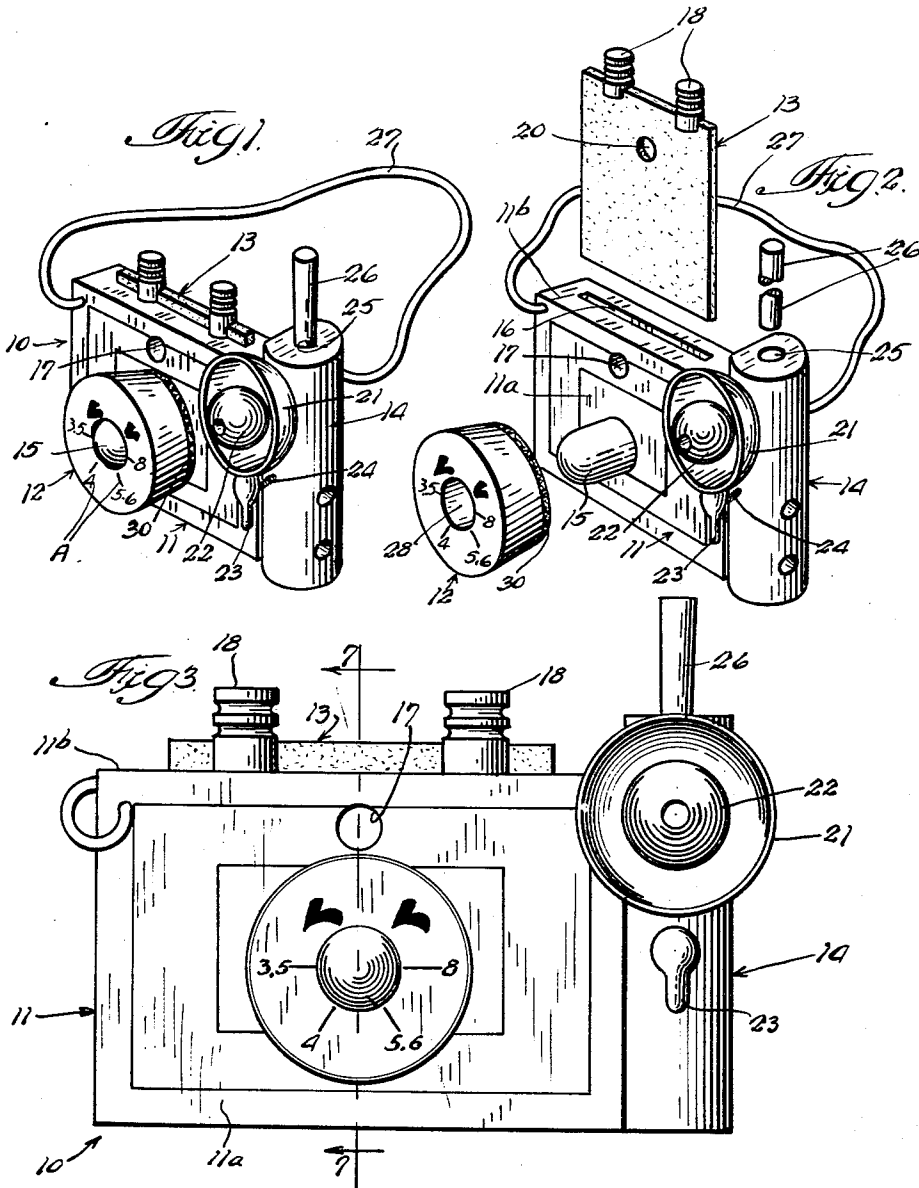
June 7, 1960

T. H. GRIMES ET AL
TOY CAMERA CONSTRUCTION

2,939,244

Filed May 5, 1958

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



INVENTORS

Thomas H. Grimes &

BY Robert J. Meythaler.

Chas. Meschenberger, von Holst,
Pondleton & Neuman. 1958

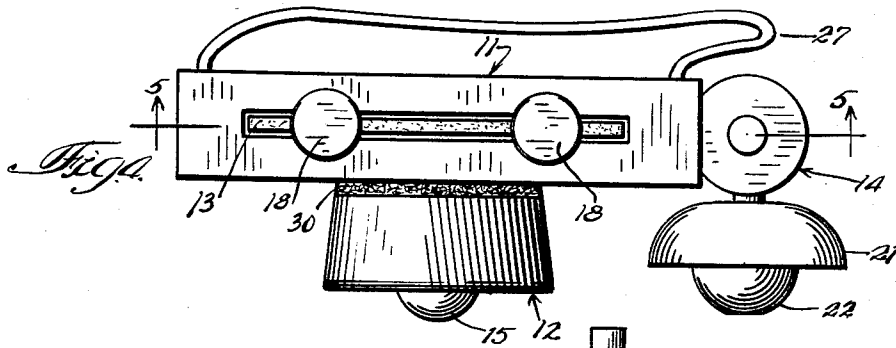
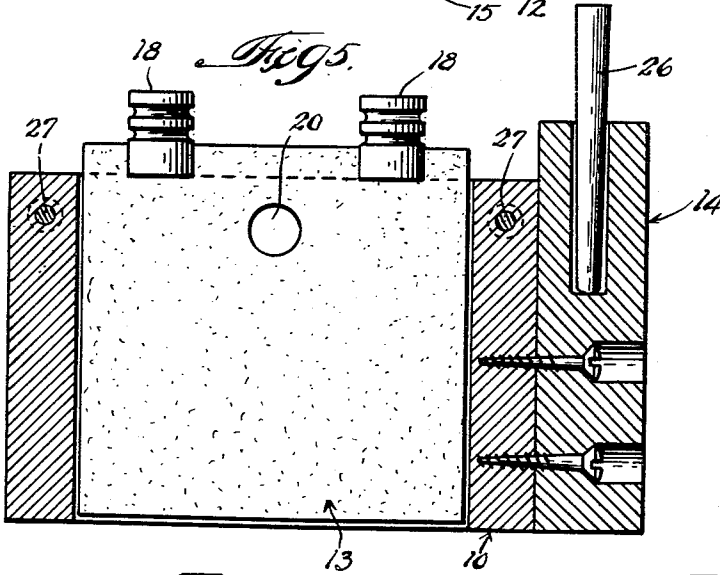
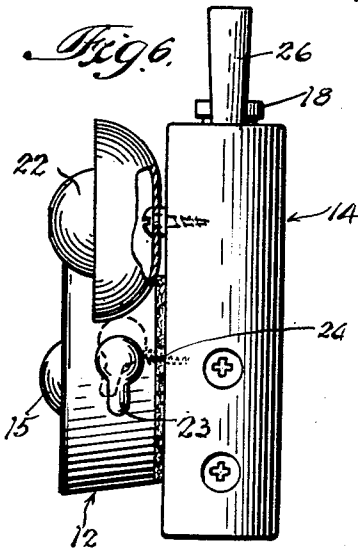
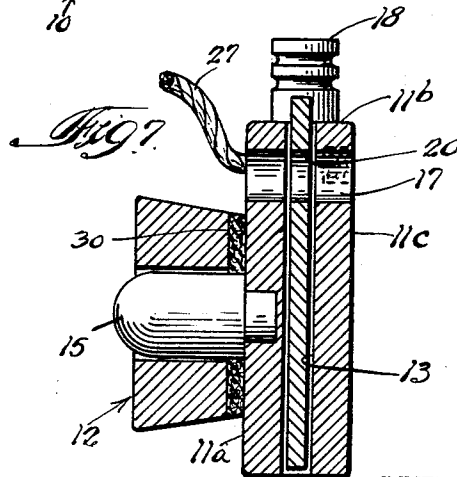
June 7, 1960

T. H. GRIMES ET AL
TOY CAMERA CONSTRUCTION

2,939,244

Filed May 5, 1958

2 Sheets-Sheet 2



INVENTORS
Thomas H. Grimes, &
BY Robert J. Meythaler
Oliver, McKelvey, van Hout,
Pendleton, & Newman.

1

2,939,244

TOY CAMERA CONSTRUCTION

Thomas H. Grimes, 1055 Cherokee Road, Wilmette, Ill.,
and Robert J. Meythaler, 425 Sheridan Road, Kenilworth, Ill.

Filed May 5, 1958, Ser. No. 732,853

1 Claim. (Cl. 46—175)

This invention relates to a toy camera construction which is particularly suitable for children of pre-school or kindergarten age. Actions, both physical and mental, of children in this age range, by way of imitating their parents or other adults, are well known by persons familiar with child development. Child psychologists, medical doctors, and educators have long recognized these activities and expressions of a child as important contributions to the normal development of the child.

Because of the frequency of photographing, by either a professional or amateur photographer, to which an infant is normally subjected, the act of taking pictures with a portable camera becomes an activity oftentimes imitated by children in this age group.

Various toy cameras have heretofore been proposed but, because of design, are beset with numerous shortcomings. For example, such cameras are oftentimes of a complicated and costly construction and thus far beyond the comprehension of the child and thereby detract, to a certain extent, from their appeal or attractiveness for the child. Secondly, such cameras are frequently of a delicate character and not capable of withstanding abusive treatment. Thirdly, such cameras are oftentimes of bulky and/or heavy construction and thus prove awkward for the child to manipulate and do not serve as a beneficial means for improving the dexterity of the child. Fourthly, such cameras are formed of numerous parts readily susceptible of becoming lost, broken, or out of adjustment. Lastly, such cameras oftentimes have numerous sharp corners or pointed projections which render such devices of a highly traumatic character.

Thus, it is one of the objects of this invention to provide a toy camera which is not beset with the aforementioned shortcomings.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a toy camera which not only provides a means for improving the dexterity of the child but, also, provides an effective stimulus for creative and artistic expression by the child.

It is a still further object of this invention to provide a toy camera which is possessed of highly educational and entertaining qualities.

It is a still further object of this invention to provide a toy camera which is of simple, yet durable, construction, compact, and inexpensive to manufacture.

Further and additional objects will appear from the description, accompanying drawings, and appended claim.

In accordance with one embodiment of this invention, a toy camera construction is provided comprising a body member having a substantially planar front surface and an elongated relatively narrow slot formed therein and opening at the top surface of such body member. A viewing port is formed in the body member and has the ends thereof opening at the front and back surfaces of such body member. The line of sight through said viewing port is disposed substantially normal to the planar front surface of the body member. Projecting trans-

2

versely from the front surface of the body member is an elongated protuberance on which is rotatably and slidably mounted a removable front piece. Slidably disposed within the elongated pocket formed in the body member is a removable planar piece which is provided with an aperture, the latter being in registered relation with the viewing port, when the planar piece is in its fully inserted position within the slot.

For a more complete understanding of this invention, reference should be made to the drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the improved toy camera.

Fig. 2 is similar to Fig. 1, but showing the various parts of the improved toy camera in exploded relation.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged front elevational view of the improved toy camera.

Fig. 4 is a top plane view of Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is a sectional view taken along line 4—4 of Fig. 4.

Fig. 6 is a right end view of Fig. 3; and

Fig. 7 is a sectional view taken along line 7—7 of Fig. 3.

Referring now to the drawings and, more particularly, to Fig. 1, an improved toy camera 10 is shown which is adapted primarily for use by children of tender age. The camera includes a body member 11 which, in this instance, is of substantially rectangular solid configuration, a front piece 12, a removable planar piece 13, and a handle member 14. All of the afore-indicated parts of the camera 10 are of simple design and fabricated from wood or some other durable, yet inexpensive, material.

The body member 11 is provided with a substantially planar front surface 11a, from which transversely extends a stud-like member 15, the distal end of which is intended to simulate the aperture of a conventional camera.

Formed in the top surface 11b of member 11 is an elongated, relatively narrow slot or pocket 16, which is adapted to slidably accommodate planar piece 13. Formed in body section 11 is a viewing port 17 which has the ends thereof opening on the front and back surfaces 11a and 11c, respectively, of body member 11. The line of sight through viewing port 17 is substantially normal to the planar front surface 11a of member 11. The removable planar piece 13 is intended to simulate a film plate and, as shown in Fig. 2, is of substantially rectangular configuration and is formed preferably of slate or some other suitable material on which indicia may be drawn by the child with either chalk, crayon, or pencil.

Secured to the upper edge of piece 13 and in relatively spaced relation with respect to one another, are a pair of lugs 18, which have a dual function, namely, to facilitate removal of the piece from the slot 16 and, secondly, serve as stops for the piece 13 when the latter is in its fully inserted position. An aperture 20 is formed in piece 13 and is adapted to be in registered relation with the viewing port 17 when piece 13 is in its fully inserted position within slot 16. Thus, viewing through port 17 is in no way obstructed by piece 13. A child may have much enjoyment with the camera 10 and, at the same time, readily exercise his or her artistic and creative talents by drawing on one surface of piece 13 a humorous caricature of the person to be photographed, place the piece 13 with the drawing thereon in slot 16 without the person's knowledge, and then withdraw the piece 13 from slot 16 after the child has simulated taking the person's picture.

Affixed to the side of body member 11, by screws or any other suitable means, is the handle 14, which is of tubular configuration. Handle 14 is intended to simulate

3

the battery holder of a photoflash attachment. Mounted on the front side of handle 14 is a cup-shaped bell member 21, which is intended to simulate the reflector of the photoflash attachment. Disposed centrally within element 21 is a knob 22, which is intended to simulate a flash bulb. The knob 22 and bell element 21 are secured by a screw or other suitable means to handle 14. Disposed beneath bell element 21 is a striker piece 23, which is secured to handle 14 by means of a spring 24. The striker 23 is in close proximity to the periphery of bell element 21 and, when actuated by the finger of the child, will contact the bell element and produce an audible ring, much to the entertainment of the child. A socket or opening 25 is formed in the top of handle 14 and is adapted to receive a piece of chalk, pencil or crayon 26.

To facilitate carrying of the camera by the child, a strap 27 is provided which has the ends thereof affixed to opposite sides of body member 11. The strap is adapted to fit around the neck or over the shoulder of the child.

Front piece 12 is intended to simulate the focusing adjustment normally found on a camera. Piece 12 is of annular configuration and is provided with a center opening 28 to accommodate stud member 15. On the exposed face of piece 12 is indicia "A," corresponding to a degree to indicia normally found on the focusing adjustment of a conventional camera. To the back side of piece 12 is affixed a fibrous piece 30 which serves as an eraser for the indicia written or drawn on one or more of the surfaces of planar piece 13. When the front piece 12 is in assembled relation with stud 15, the fibrous piece 30 engages the planar front surface 11a of body member 11. The peripheral configuration of front piece 12 is such as not to interfere with the line of sight through viewing port 17.

Thus, it will be seen that an improved toy camera has been provided which is of simple, yet sturdy, construction, is possessed of great appeal and entertainment for children of this age level, and affords adequate means for not only improving the dexterity of the child, but serves as a stimulus for artistic and creative effort on the part of the child.

While a particular embodiment of this invention is shown above, it will be understood, of course, that the invention is not to be limited thereto, since many modi-

4

fications may be made, and it is contemplated, therefore, by the appended claim, to cover any such modifications as fall within the true spirit and scope of this invention.

We claim:

- 5 A toy camera construction comprising a body member having a substantially planar front surface, said body member being provided with an elongated substantially narrow pocket opening at the upper surface of said body member and a viewing port opening at the front and
- 10 back surfaces of said body member, the line of sight through said viewing port being substantially normal to said body member front surface, a lens simulating elongated stud affixed to said front surface and extending substantially transversely therefrom, a removable annu-
- 15 larly-shaped focus-ring simulating front piece rotatably and slidably mounted on said stud, fibrous eraser means affixed to and overlying the surface of said front piece adjacent said body member front surface, the periph-
- 20 ery of said front piece and fibrous means affixed thereto being spaced from the line of sight through said viewing port, a removable planar piece slidably mounted within said pocket, said piece being provided with an aperture
- 25 disposed in registered relation with said viewing port, when said piece is in fully inserted position within said pocket, said piece having planar front and back writing surfaces, an elongated tubular-shaped handle affixed to a side surface of said body member, the top surface of said handle being provided with a pocket, a cup-shaped flashbulb reflector simulating bell element affixed to the
- 30 surface of said handle corresponding to the front surface of said body member, and a transversely extending, manually-actuated shutter release simulating striker piece resiliently mounted on said handle and disposed in close proximity to the periphery of said bell element, so constructed and arranged that sound produced by the striker
- 35 piece coming into contact with the bell element simulates an exaggerated shutter actuating noise.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

260,076	Andren	June 27, 1882
2,320,560	Braddock	June 1, 1943
2,602,265	Jackson	July 8, 1952
2,853,832	Arena	Sept. 30, 1958