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GYRATORY AMUSEMENT DEVICE WITH SOUNDING MEANS

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Fig 1

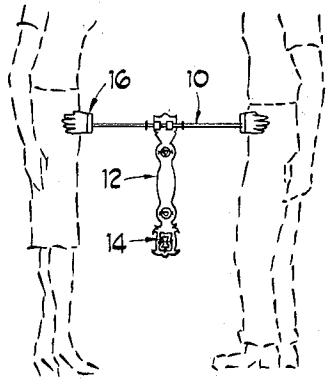


Fig 2

Fig 3

Fig 4

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GYRATORY AMUSEMENT DEVICE WITH SOUNDING MEANS

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Game apparatus which provides for cooperation of two players in effecting rotational movement of a pendulum-like portion of the apparatus. An elongated member is supported at its ends in a generally horizontal position by the application of pressure by each of two players positioned with their bodies pressed against the ends of the member. The elongated member pivotally supports a depending pendulum-like part, which is weighted adjacent its free end, and such part can be rotated about the axis of the elongated member by cooperative body motion of the players. A bell is pivotally mounted in an aperture in the pendulum-like part. The bell includes a clapper which extends beyond the bottom edge of the bell and engages an edge portion of the aperture in which the bell is mounted.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to game apparatus of the type which requires physical activity on the part of the players. The present invention is particularly distinguishable in that the apparatus is supported between a pair of players, through the use of body pressure on opposite ends of the apparatus and without the use of the players' hands, and the body motions of the players is translated into rhythmic motion of a part of the apparatus.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Game apparatus comprising an elongated member, a pair of support means at the opposite ends of said elongated member, each having an outwardly facing surface portion adapted to fit against the body of a player, whereby said member is supported in a generally horizontal position through body pressure on the ends thereof by the players, and a part secured to an intermediate portion of said member in outwardly projecting relation thereto and for movement about the axis of said member, said part being formed with its center of gravity spaced away from the axis of said elongated member, whereby translatory movement of said elongated member is effective to cause swinging movement of said part.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGURE 1 is a side elevational view of the game apparatus supported between a pair of players;

FIGURE 2 is an enlarged perspective view of the game apparatus;

FIGURE 3 is a sectional view taken along the line 3—3 in FIGURE 2; and

FIGURE 4 is a sectional view taken along the line 4—4 in FIGURE 2, with parts broken away.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

As illustrated in the drawings, the present invention provides game apparatus comprising generally an elongated member **10** adapted to be supported between a pair of opposing players by means of body pressure applied by

the players on the opposite ends of such member. A generally at and preferably flexible part **12** is pivotally supported on an intermediate portion of the elongated member **10** and includes a weighted element, such as a bell **14**, on its outer or free end portion. With such device, the two players, through cooperative and rhythmic body motions can effect swinging movement of the flexible part **12**, such movement being initially to and fro like a pendulum and gradually gaining momentum so that the entire part **12** can be eventually rotated about the axis of the elongated supporting member **10**. One form of game proposed to be played with such apparatus involves timing each pair of players in order to determine which team can keep the part **12** rotating for the longest period of time.

In particular, it will be noted from the drawings that the elongated member **10** is a relatively rigid tube or rod of cylindrical cross-section, and the supports for the opposite ends of this rod are in the form of curved elements **16** simulating a pair of human hands. The hand-shaped elements **16** are preferably of molded plastic, and each is provided with a relatively thick mid portion **18** having a cylindrical recess **20** formed therein for removably receiving an end of the elongated rod. The hand-shaped parts **16** are preferably generally hollow, with rib portions **22** formed therein to provide the required strength.

The pendulum-like part **12** is preferably formed of flexible plastic material but, of course, may also be generally rigid and of other material. The use of a flexible strap for part **12** makes it somewhat more difficult to effect the motion required by the players to initiate and sustain rotation of part **12** about its supporting rod **10**. The upper end portion of the pendulum-like part **12** is formed with alternately positioned, semi-cylindrical parts **24** which cooperate to provide a bearing surface which removably receives the rod **10**. Preferably, the fit between such bearing surface and rod **10** is relatively loose, and the pendulum part **12** is selectively fixed axially of the rod **10** by means of a pair of rubber or plastic washer elements **26** removably positioned on the rod in frictional engagement therewith adjacent opposite ends of the pendulum bearing portion.

In order to provide sound and also give the pendulum part **12** the desired weight at its free end, a bell **14** is mounted in a recess **28** formed adjacent the outer end of part **12**. Bell **14** has fixed thereto a supporting shaft portion **30** which is fitted at its opposite ends into a pair of axially aligned bosses **32** formed in the generally flat, pendulum part **12**. The metal portion **34** of the bell is provided with a generally flat and vertically extending part **36**, and a clapper **38** is disposed inside the bell for swinging movement relative thereto. It will be apparent that swinging motion of the pendulum part **12** will be accompanied by swinging motion of clapper **38** and sounding of the bell. Further, the bell **34** and clapper **38** are arranged to provide for sounding of the bell when the centrifugal force on these two elements might otherwise keep them in constant contact. For this purpose, the clapper **38** is of sufficient length to project beyond the bell **34** but still be able to strike the sides of the bell, and a projection **39** at the lower end of recess **28** is in position to be struck by the clapper **38** and delay the swinging motion of the latter. Consequently, as the pendulum **12** is swung in a circle, the clapper **38** is momentarily delayed in its movement from one side of bell **34** to the other as the clapper strikes and then moves around projection **39**, and clapper **38** is thereby provided with a motion that is out-of-phase with respect to the movement of the bell part **34**. This arrangement provides for an essentially continuous ringing of the bell.

For further visual effect and ornamentation there is also provided a pair of discs **40** which are carried by intermediate portions of part **12** and are rotatable rela-

tive thereto. Each of these discs **40** includes a supporting center shaft **42** which is journaled at its opposite ends within a pair of bosses **44** formed on the strap. The pendulum part **12** is, of course, slidable along the supporting rod **10** and may be held in place at any position intermediate the hand-like parts **16** through use of the rubber washers **26**.

Consequently it is seen that the described apparatus provides means for playing a game which requires the cooperative effort of two players and involves physical activity on the part of the players. Since the achievement of a rapidly swinging motion for the pendulum **12** requires a definite rhythm of motion on the part of both of the players, the described game apparatus is particularly adapted for use to the accompaniment of music.

Although shown and described with respect to particular apparatus, it will be apparent that various modifications might be made without departing from the principles of this invention.

What is claimed is:

1. Game apparatus comprising an elongated member, support means at each of the opposite ends of said elongated member having an outwardly facing surface portion adapted to fit against the body of a player, whereby said member can be supported in a generally horizontal position through body pressure on the ends thereof by two players, a generally flat member pivotally mounted

at one end on said elongated member in outwardly projecting relation thereto and including an opening adjacent the other end of said member, and a bell pivotally mounted on said member within said opening and comprising a metal bell housing and a clapper mounted for movement in said housing through a path extending below said bell housing, said bell receiving opening including an edge portion in position for momentary engagement by said clapper to delay the swinging movement of the latter through said path as the two players move their bodies with a rocking movement to effect swinging movement of said flat member.

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