J. E. COONEY.

TOY BALLOON.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 16, 1917.

1,241,822. Patented Oct. 2, 1917.

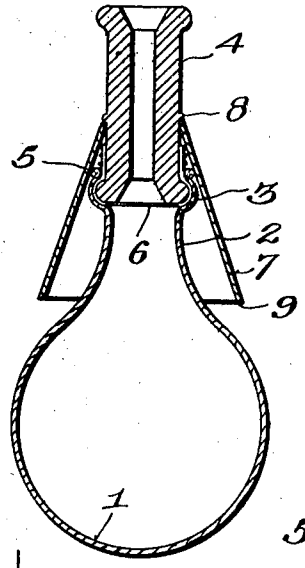


FIG. 1.

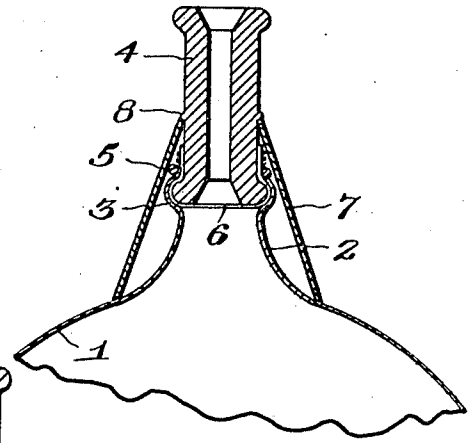


FIG. 2.

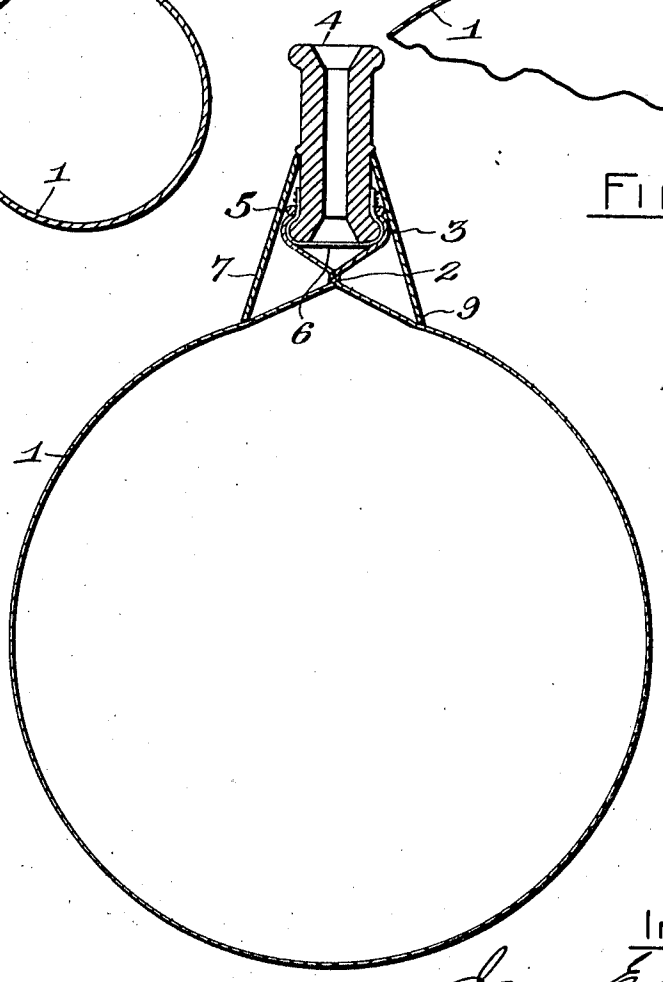


FIG. 3.

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TOY BALLOON.

1,241,822. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Oct. 2, 1917.

Application filed June 16, 1917. Serial No. 175,064.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES E. COONEY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Pawtucket, in the county of Providence and State of Rhode Island, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Toy Balloons, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in a toy balloon, and it has for its primary object to provide a novel device for holding the air within the inflated envelop or body and controlling its escape therefrom.

The invention is especially adapted for toy balloons of that type which embodies a vibratory musical or sound-producing element so that a variety of sounds may be produced according to the volume of the confined air that is permitted to escape, and it consists in a member that is connected to the mouth of the inflatable body, as by means of an inserted mouth-piece, which member extends over the body to frictionally engage therewith, when inflated, said body being twisted relative to said member for closing the neck opening and being retained in such twisted relation with the member through the frictional contact of the latter with the body.

The invention further resides in the specific features of construction hereinafter described in detail and succinctly defined in the appended claims, reference being had to the accompanying drawing wherein—

Figure 1 is a vertical section through a toy balloon constructed in accordance with the present invention with the body or envelop deflated.

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary section thereof showing the manner in which the body is forced outwardly into contact or engagement with the lower edge of the holder, and

Fig. 3 shows the balloon with the neck of the body twisted by revolving either the latter or the mouth-piece.

Referring more in particular to the drawings, the balloon comprises an inflatable body 1 having a neck portion 2 and a mouth 3 which is slipped over the beaded inner end of the mouth-piece 4 and suitably secured, as by the usual rubber reinforcement 5. The mouth-piece carries the usual thin rubber band or cord 6 on its inner end, said cord constituting the sound-producing or musical member that is vibrated by the escaping fluid from within the envelop 1.

The invention consists in placing or mounting a conical stop or holder 7 on the mouth-piece 4, said holder being preferably formed of paper and, in mounting the same, having its smaller end forced over a peripheral bead 8 that is formed intermediate the ends of the mouth-piece. The larger or flared end of the holder is extended over the neck 2 of the inflatable body so that when the latter is inflated the rubber or flexible walls thereof will expand into contact with the bottom and concentrically related edge 9.

In practice, the balloon is inflated, in the usual manner and either the mouth-piece or balloon body is rotated relative to each other to cause a twisting of the neck, as depicted in Fig. 3. If the twist is sufficiently great, the neck opening will be completely closed against the egression of the confined air, and since the rubber of the expanded envelop affords an efficient grip on the edge 9 of the holder 7, it is obvious that the balloon will be retained inflated for an indefinite period. Now, should the body be untwisted gradually, the volume of the confined air that is permitted to escape will correspondingly increase and accordingly act upon the sound-producing cord by increasing its vibration. Consequently, the sound that emanates through the mouth-piece may be varied by twisting or untwisting the body relative to the mouth-piece or holder for increasing the neck opening.

The improvement may well be used as a means for holding an inflated body against untwisting in order to confine the air, whether it be in connection with a toy sounding balloon, a non-sounding balloon or other inflatable bodies.

The holder or stop may be of any shape although the conical design illustrated is simple of construction and of a much more durable character since the pressure exerted thereon by the expandible body is in a direct line to the abutment afforded by the shoulder or bead 8.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is—

1. In a toy balloon, an inflatable body having a neck adapted to be closed by twisting, a mouth piece inserted in the neck and provided with a peripheral bead intermediate its ends, a vibratory musical cord secured across the inner end of the mouth

piece, and a conical holder having its smaller end seating against the bead of the mouth piece and its larger end extended beyond the inner end of the latter for frictionally engaging the inflated body to hold the same against turning when twisted relative to the mouth piece for closing the neck.

2. In a toy balloon, an inflatable body having a neck adapted to be closed by twisting, a mouth piece inserted in the neck and provided with a peripheral bead intermediate its ends, and a conical holder carried by the mouth piece with the edge of its flared end arranged to seat on the body when inflated and hold the same against untwisting when said body is twisted to close its neck.

3. In a toy balloon, a mouth piece of tubular form having a peripheral bead intermediate its ends and a second bead on its inner end, an inflatable body having a neck engaged over the second bead for securement to the inner end of the mouth piece, a vibratory sound producing cord secured over the inner end of the mouth piece, and a conical holder forced over the first bead of the mouth piece whereby said bead will serve as an abutment for the smaller end of said conical member, the flared end of the latter extending beyond the inner end of the mouth piece for engaging with the body when inflated to frictionally hold the same against rotation relative to the mouth piece.

4. A toy balloon comprising an inflatable body, a mouth piece therefor, and a conical holder connected at its smaller end to the mouth of the body and having its larger end extending over a portion thereof to seat on the inflated body and hold the same against relative rotation.

5. A toy balloon comprising an inflatable body, a mouth piece therefor, and means carried by the mouth piece for holding the inflated body frictionally against rotation.

6. A toy balloon comprising an inflatable body, a mouth piece therefor, and means free of the body when deflated and frictionally engaging said body when inflated for holding the same against rotation relative to the mouth piece.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JAMES E. COONEY.

Witnesses:
ADA E. HAGERTY,
J. A. MILLER.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."