(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

H. P. MARKS.

TOY GUN.

No. 277,496. Patented May 15, 1883.

Fig. 1.

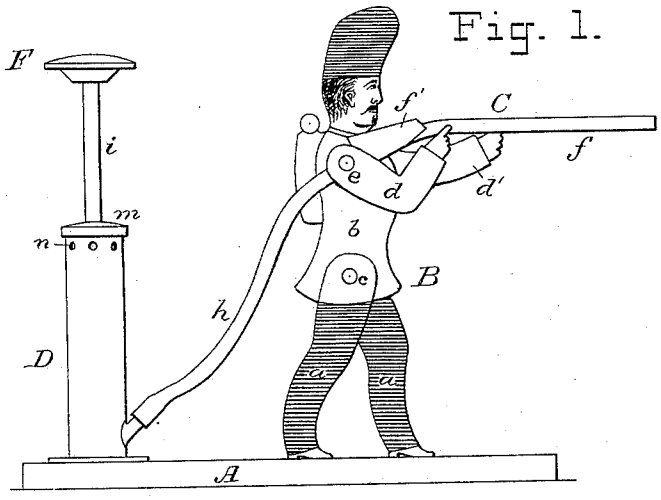


Fig. 2.

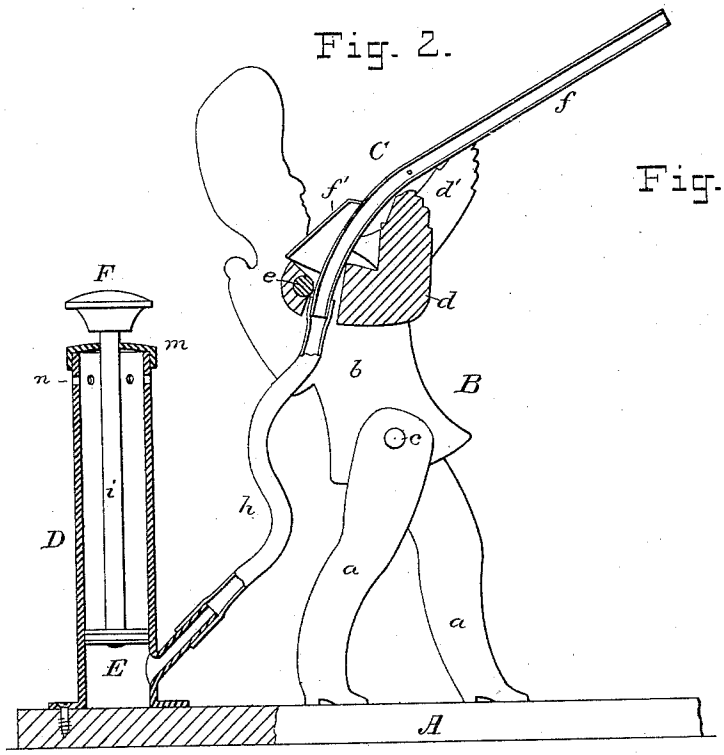
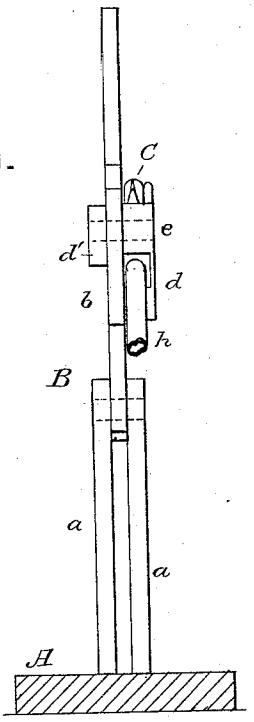


Fig. 3.



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(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

H. P. MARKS.

TOY GUN.

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Fig. 4.

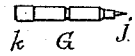
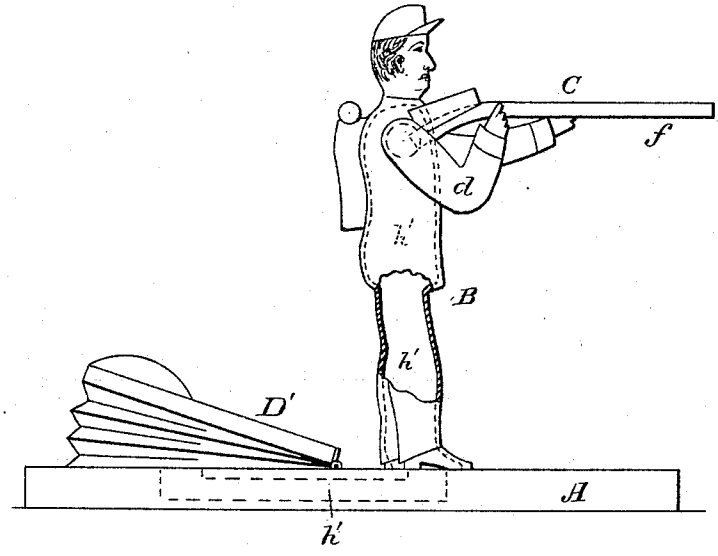


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HERMAN P. MARKS, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR TO STIRN & LYON, OF SAME PLACE.

TOY GUN.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 277,496, dated May 15, 1883.

Application filed September 11, 1882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HERMAN P. MARKS, a resident of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented certain Improvements in Toy Shooting Figures or Marksmen, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention is to provide a toy marksman bearing a gun that shall shoot darts or other projectiles, which can be aimed readily and with a considerable degree of accuracy, and which will admit of the exercise of skill on the part of the operator in aiming and firing it.

Figure 1 of the accompanying drawings is a side elevation of my toy. Fig. 2 is a like view thereof on a larger scale, except that certain of the parts are in vertical longitudinal mid-section. Fig. 3 is a rear elevation of the figure in section on line 3 3 in Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a view of one of the darts which the gun may fire, and Fig. 5 is an elevation of a modification.

Referring to the drawings, let A designate the base or foundation-board upon which the remaining parts are mounted; B, the figure as a whole, and C the gun which it bears.

The figure B is shown as the figure of a man holding the gun C as in the act of aiming; but the figure may be that of any of the lower animals, or it may be a mere support for the gun, without being formed to represent any creature, thus retaining nearly all its essential attributes in the operation of the toy.

The gun C is shown as in imitation of a shot-gun or rifle, but may represent a pistol or other fire-arm.

The figure B is shown as consisting of two uprights, *a a*, fixed to the base A, and shaped to represent the legs of the marksman, a body portion, *b*, formed to represent his trunk, inserted between the legs, and jointed to them by a pin or rivet, *c*, so as to turn upon such joint, and arms *d d'*, which may be either jointed to the trunk *b* by a pivot pin or rivet, *e*, or may be fixed rigidly thereto. If the joint *e* is used, the joint *c* may be omitted; but I prefer to use both. These several parts are all shown as being cut from thin pieces of flat board and suitably painted, in the manner common to toys. The arms *d d'* are extended in the position commonly assumed in aiming a gun, and the gun C is fixed to them.

The gun consists of a tube, *f*, of tin or other metal or material, and a flattened portion, *f'*, designed to represent the stock. The tube *f* extends through the stock and the right arm, *d*, of the figure, as shown in Fig. 2, and connects inside the arm with one end of a flexible tube, *h*, the other end of which extends down to the base, and there communicates with the lower part of a vertical cylinder, D. This cylinder may be made of metal, wood, or other material, and has a piston, E, arranged to slide within it, attached to a piston-rod, *i*, on top of which, above the cylinder, is fixed a knob or head, F. The upper end of the cylinder is closed with a cap or cover, *m*, which serves as a guide for the piston-rod, and the cylinder, just below this cap, is perforated with air-holes *n n*. A suitable target may be provided at which to shoot.

The darts G, one of which is shown in Fig. 4, consist each of a short stick with a sharp point or spur, *j*, at the front end, and preferably a bit of felt or other fabric, *k*, wrapped around the butt or rear end to form a packing. The darts are made to nearly fill the gun barrel or tube *f*, and to slide freely therein.

To operate the toy a dart, G, is inserted in the muzzle of the gun-barrel, the knob F being already pushed down. The knob is then grasped and drawn up, drawing with it the piston E, which, fitting nearly air-tight in the cylinder, causes a suction therein, drawing air thereinto through the gun C and tube *h*. This ingoing current of air draws the dart back in the gun-barrel to the breech of the gun, when the gun is ready to be fired. The gun is aimed by turning the base A in the proper direction, so that the gun shall point toward the object to be fired at, and the gun is then brought to the proper elevation by bending the figure or support B at either of its joints or articulations. In Fig. 2 it is shown as bent back to elevate the muzzle of the gun. The gun is fired by suddenly forcing down the piston E by a quick movement of or blow upon the knob F. This suddenly compresses the air in the cylinder D below the piston, and causes a strong outward current through the tube *h*

and gun C, which forces out the projectile, in the manner common to blow-guns. In aiming, one can sight along the top of the gun-barrel, and with a little practice great accuracy may be attained. The blow or pressure in depressing the knob F should be suitably proportioned to the elevation of the muzzle of the gun and the distance of the object fired at. Other projectiles than darts may be used at pleasure.

In Fig. 5, I have shown a modified construction, an air duct or passage, *h'*, through the platform A and the legs and body of the figure B, which is shown as hollow and made of metal, being substituted for the rubber tube *h*, so that the connection of the gun with the source of air-pressure is concealed, the figure B being made with its trunk and legs in one piece, and with but one joint—that at the shoulder—and a bellows, D', being substituted for the air-pump cylinder and piston shown in Figs. 1 and 2. By forcing down the upper board of this bellows the gun is fired in the same manner already described. Instead of the bellows or air-pump, a compressible hollow rubber ball may be used to hold in the hand, and be connected to the gun by a tube or otherwise. Other modifications of both air-compressor and gun-support will readily suggest themselves.

I am aware that air-guns have been made in various forms—some to be fired by blowing from the mouth into the stock, others by operating a piston in the stock, and others by winding up a spring in the stock or under the barrel, the recoil of which, when released, forces a piston through a cylinder. These are all guns to be held in the arms of a person while being fired, and are not toys in the sense in which I use the term. I make no claim to an air-gun having within itself the means of producing the air-pressure necessary to fire it; nor do I claim any such gun, except attached to a support or figure as a toy.

I claim as my invention—

1. A toy consisting of the combination of an air-gun, a figure or support to which such gun is attached, a platform or base upon which such support is mounted, a source of air-pressure for discharging the gun, and an air tube or duct connecting the butt of the gun with such source of pressure, substantially as set forth.

2. A toy consisting of the combination of a base or platform, a figure or support mounted thereon and provided with one or more joints or articulations, an air-gun borne by and fixed to said figure, a means for generating an air-pressure sufficient to discharge said gun, and a tube or air-duct connecting the butt of said gun therewith, substantially as set forth.

3. A toy consisting of the combination of a base or platform, an air-pump cylinder and piston mounted thereon, a figure or support also mounted thereon, an air-gun borne by and fixed to said figure, and a tube or air-duct connecting the butt of said gun to said cylinder, substantially as set forth.

4. The combination of platform A, cylinder D, piston E, piston-rod *i*, and knob F, with figure B, having legs *a a*, trunk *b*, and arms *d*, air-gun C, fixed to said figure, and air tube or duct *h*, substantially as set forth.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

HERMAN P. MARKS.

Witnesses:
ARTHUR C. FRASER,
GEORGE H. FRASER.