Nov. 15, 1927. 1,649,623

J. STETSON

FIGURE TOY

Filed Oct. 8, 1926

Fig. 1.

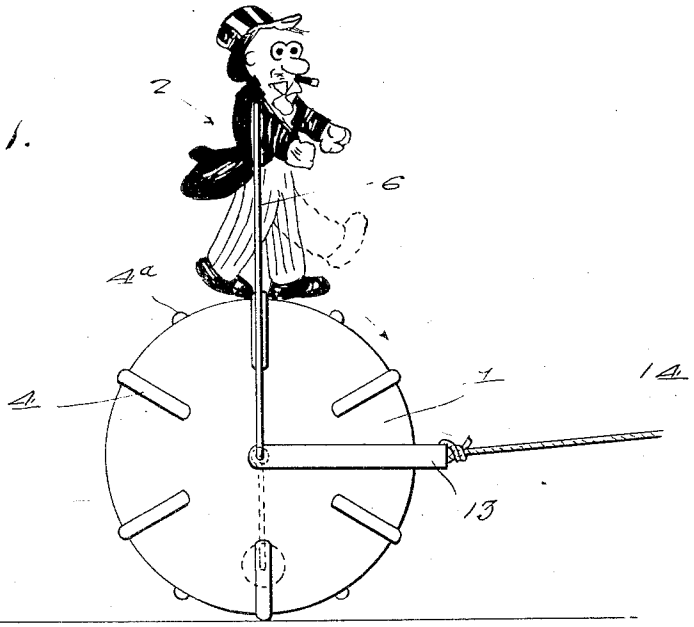
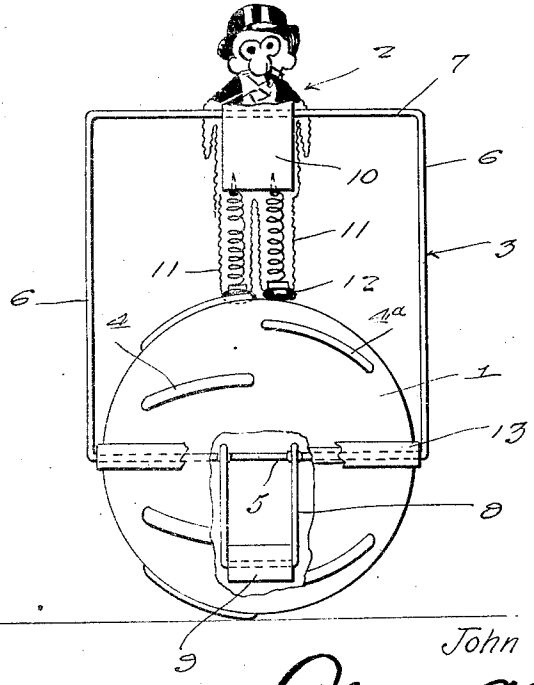


Fig. 2.



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FIGURE TOY.

Application filed October 8, 1926. Serial No. 140,284.

This invention relates to an improved figure toy and it has more particular reference to the type which includes a rotating ball, a figure supported above the center of the ball, means for supporting the figure, and means for rolling the ball.

My principal aim is to generally improve upon toys of this class by providing one which is structurally different, said differences serving to form an improved and characteristic toy.

More specifically speaking, I propose to provide a rolling ball and a suspension means for a figure which is exceptionally distinctive, the same being preferably a representation of a well-known fictitious character.

More specifically, the invention has reference to a ball which is adapted to be rolled over a surface, this ball being provided on its exterior with two individual rows of ribs, the ribs extending somewhat from the center of the ball and being arranged in staggered relation so that they alternately engage the legs of the movable figure for producing a life-like walking action.

In the accompanying drawing, forming a part of this application and in which like numerals are employed to designate like parts throughout the same:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a complete toy constructed in accordance with the invention,

Fig. 2 is a front view with portions broken away and shown in section to disclose the arrangement of details more plainly.

Referring to the drawings, the reference character 1 designates the ball, the reference character 2 designates the figure and 3 denotes the supporting frame, which parts in the approximate association shown are generically old in the art. The ball here shown is provided with a plurality of circumferentially spaced ribs 4 and as before stated there are two sets of ribs, the same being arranged in staggered relation and arranged at proper circumferentially spaced intervals to produce a desirable action. The ball may be of rubber or may be in form of a hollow metal sphere corrugated to provide ribs. Another improved element is the frame 3 which is here shown of rectangular formation. The lower horizontal portion 5 constitutes a shaft upon which the ball 1 is rotatably mounted, the ball being provided with suitable bearings for this purpose. The portions 6 constitute uprights and the upper horizontal portion 7 forms the main supporting element for the Figure 2. Attention is called to a counterbalancing device on the interior of the ball which includes a U-shaped hanger 8 fixedly mounted on the central portion of the shaft 5 and carrying a suitable weight 9. This arrangement serves to maintain the supporting frame in a vertical plane.

Considering now the particular construction of the figure, it will be seen that the same comprises a body including a block 10 of appropriate material rockably mounted upon the central portion of the part 7. The head and arms of the figure may be constructed to represent a desirable type of fictitious character. The one here shown is of well-known variety, but no claim is made thereto. As a matter of fact, the dress of the figure may be made to simulate any desirable form of character. The figure includes depending relatively movable legs 11 and feet 12. It will be noted from Fig. 2 that the legs are simply made up of a pair of depending coiled springs carried by the block 10 and disposed on the interior of the trousers legs which come down over the shoes to hide the spring.

If desired, a yoke 13 may be provided and connected with the frame and a pull cord 14 may be in turn connected with the bight portion of the yoke for permitting the device to be pulled along the ground to cause the ball to rotate in the direction of the arrow.

From the foregoing description and drawings it will be seen that I have evolved and produced a novel toy including a rotary ribbed ball, means for pulling the same along the ground, a counterbalanced suspension frame and a characteristic form of fictitious figure supported on this frame. With this arrangement of elements, it is obvious that when the ball is rolled, the movable legs of the figure will strike the ribs to cause the figure to simulate a walking person on a ball. This is a well known circus stunt. Consequently, the toy will provoke much amusement for small children.

The simplicity and construction, as well as the advantages and features of the device

are doubtless plain from the description and drawing. Therefore, a more lengthy description is thought unnecessary.

Minor changes coming within the field of invention claimed may be resorted to if desired.

I claim:

1. As a new product of manufacture, a figure wheeled toy comprising a substantially rectangular frame, the lower horizontal portion of said frame functioning as a shaft, the vertical portions of the frame serving as uprights, and the upper horizontal portion providing a supporting element, a figure suspended from the central portion of said supporting element, a ball rotatably mounted upon said shaft and located between said uprights, said ball being provided on its external surface with two sets of circumferentially spaced ribs, the ribs of the respective sets being disposed in circumferential rows and the ribs of one set being in staggered relation to those of the other set, said figure having swingably mounted legs including feet mounted for cooperation with the ribs, in order to represent walking when the ball is turned, a hanger carried by said shaft and located on the interior of the ball, and a counter-balanced weight carried by said hanger.

2. As a new article of manufacture, a figure wheeled toy, comprising a rectangular wire frame, the lower horizontal portion of which serves as a shaft, the upper horizontal portion of which serves as a mounting element, and the vertical portion of which constitutes uprights, a ball rotatably mounted on the shaft between the uprights, said ball being provided at its exterior with separate rows of circumferentially spaced ribs, U-shaped hanger carried by the central portion of the shaft and located on the interior of the ball, weights carried by the hanger, and a figure comprising a block like body mounted for oscillation upon the supporting element, curved springs depending from said block body, feet respresentations carried by the lower ends of the springs, and clothing surrounding and concealing the block body and springs, said feet being located for cooperation with said ribs.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

JOHN STETSON.