April 22, 1958 G. STEWART 2,831,685

SPACE BALL TOY

Filed Sept. 13, 1956

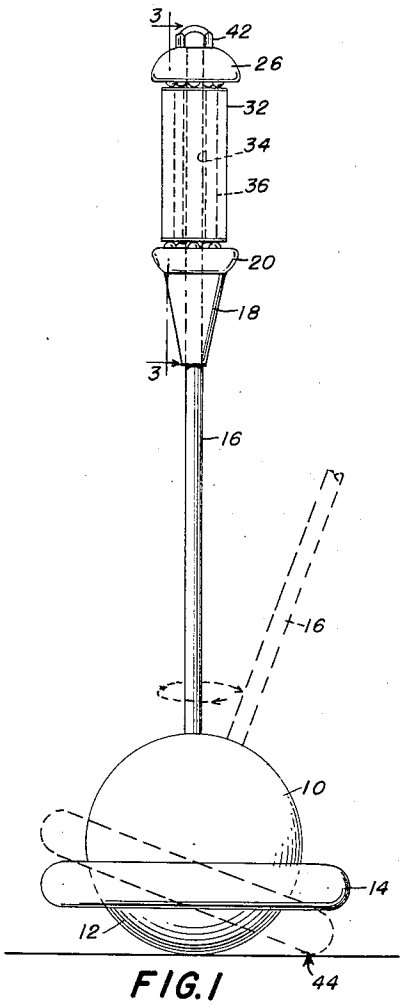


FIG. 1

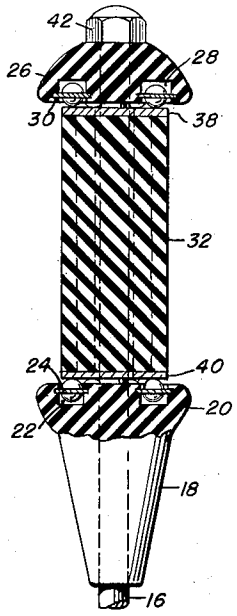


FIG. 3

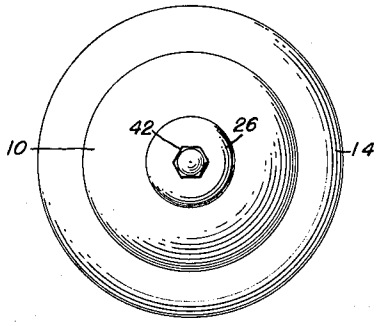


FIG. 2

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SPACE BALL TOY

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1 Claim. (Cl. 272—1)

The present invention relates broadly to toys and more specifically to a rotary type of toy adapted for rotary motion when manipulated by a child.

An object of the invention is to provide such a rotary toy having a freely rotatable cylinder mounted on a substantially vertical pole or shaft adapted for grasping by a child, who thereafter can swing around on the cylinder while grasping it.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a rotary toy of the character described having a rounded base of ball-like configuration with a peripheral tire-like extension thereon, so that when in use, the extension will serve as a rotary surface for the toy when manipulated by a child or the like.

Another object of the present invention is to provide such a toy of a simple design, which is relatively inexpensive to manufacture and susceptible of long life.

An additional object of the present invention is to provide such a rotary toy having safety of design to prevent injury to children using or manipulating the same.

Other objects and advantages of the present invention will be readily apparent from the following detailed description of an embodiment thereof when taken together with the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a side elevational view of the toy of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the toy; and

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1 and of enlarged dimensions.

The toy consists of a base **10**, preferably constructed completely of rubber, and having a rounded bottom surface **12**. This base **10** is in the nature of a ball and has a tire-like extension **14** extending peripherally around the base in close proximity to the rounded bottom surface **12** for purposes hereinafter to be set forth. This tire like extension can have, for example only, a diameter of 21 inches outside.

A shaft or pole **16** having a diameter slightly less than that of a standard broom handle, is mounted in the base **10** in any desired manner and, when the toy is not in use, due to the configuration of the base and rounded bottom surface **12**, the shaft will be in substantially vertical position. A bracing member **18** which can consist of a plurality of individual braces or a single piece of material, preferably metal, is attached to the shaft **16** in spaced relation with the base **10**. A lower cap **20** is fastened to the bracing member **18** and rigidly maintained

in position with respect to the shaft **16**. A circular groove **22** is provided in the upper side or surface of the cap **20** in which is inserted and maintained a ball bearing race **24**.

An upper cap member **26** of the same construction as cap member **20** is also fixed to the shaft **16** but is in inverted position with respect to lower cap **20**. Cap **26** likewise is provided with a circular groove **28** in which is mounted and maintained ball bearing race **30**.

A cylinder **32**, preferably of rubber, and having a diameter just large enough to encase the shaft **16** and turn easily, has a central opening **34** extending therethrough, in which are positioned in peripherally mounted fashion a plurality of roller bearings **36** by means of which the rubber cylinder **32** is rotatably mounted on the shaft **16**. At its upper and lower ends, plates **38** and **40** respectively are fixed to the rubber cylinder and constitute bearing surfaces for the bearings of ball bearing races **24** and **30**. A nut or the like **42** is screw threadedly engaged with the upper extremity of shaft **16** and serves to maintain the caps **20** and **26** and the cylinder **32** in assembled relationship. Manifestly the bearings can be omitted in the interests of simplicity.

In operation a user, such as a child, will grasp the cylinder **32** in both hands and upon swinging in a circular fashion the cylinder will rotate on the shaft **16**. The dimensions of cylinder **32** are such that a nine or ten year old child can get his hands around it. At the same time, due to centrifugal action, the toy will rotate on the base **10** and into the position shown by dotted lines in Fig. 1. When this occurs, the toy will rotate on its base **12** and simultaneously rotate on the underside of extension **14**, the rounded bottom surface **12** being quite shallow.

Manifestly the different portions of the toy can be constructed of materials other than those mentioned as being preferable, and minor details of construction can be changed without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in, and limited solely by, the appended claim.

I claim:

A rotary toy comprising a ball-like base having a rounded ground contact surface and a peripheral extension adjacently disposed at right angles to said rounded ground contact surface, an upstanding shaft secured in said base and a freely rotatable hand grip member mounted on said shaft in spaced relation to said base, said rounded ground contact surface and said peripheral extension rotatably supporting said toy upon a substantially vertical axis upon rotation of said upstanding shaft by a user swinging thereon.

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