

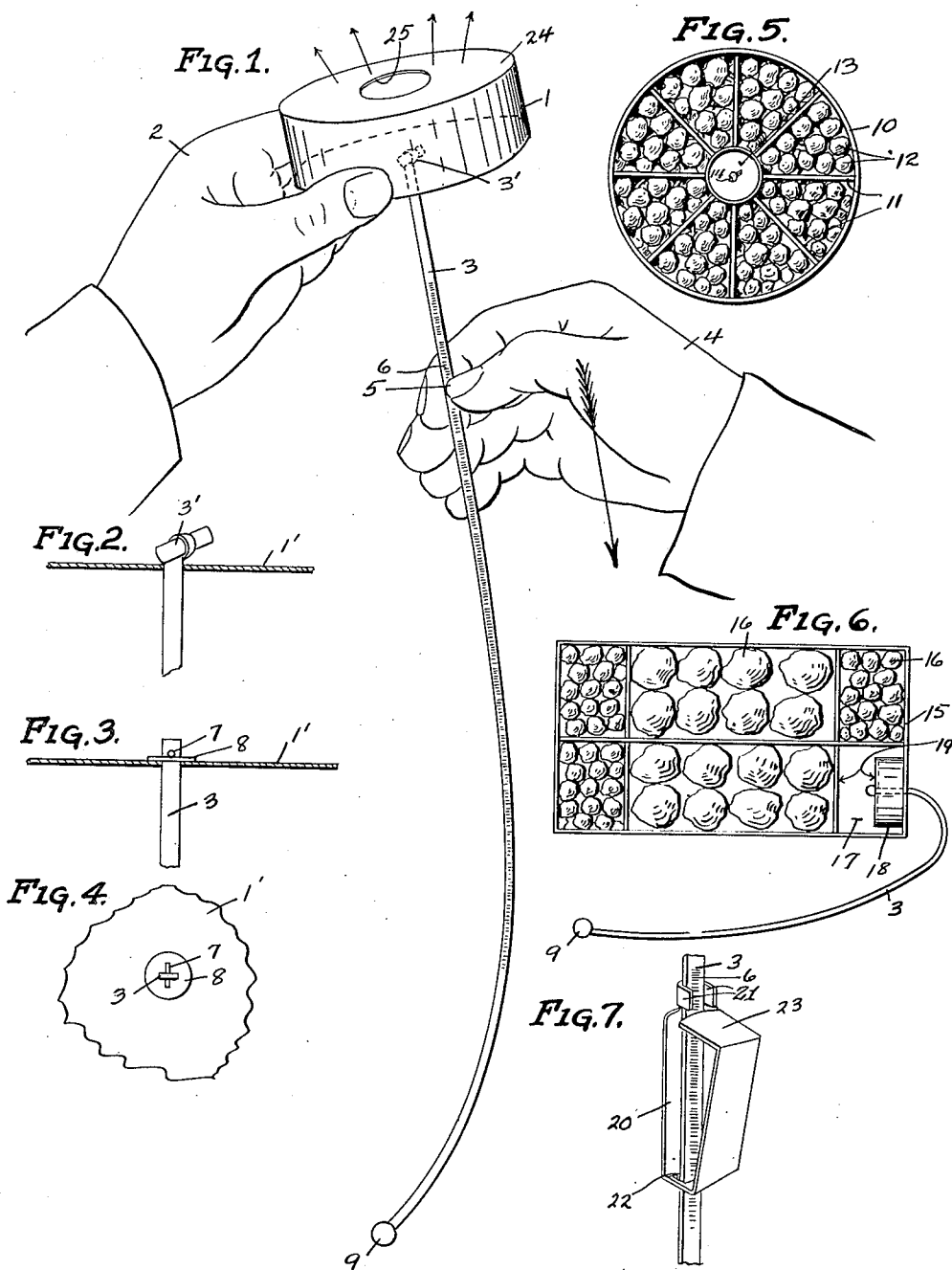
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TALKING DEVICE

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TALKING DEVICE

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3 Claims. (Cl. 274—1)

This invention relates to phonographs and has for its object a cheap, greatly simplified, manually-operated device adapted particularly to merchandising and toy uses.

In the drawing accompanying this application Fig. 1 is a perspective view of one form of my phonograph being held in one hand and operated with the other.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged cross section of the sound box diaphragm showing one means of holding the sound record tape thereon.

Fig. 3 shows a modified means of holding the tape to the diaphragm.

Fig. 4 is a plan view of Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 shows in plan a round candy box fitted centrally with one of my phonographs.

Fig. 6 shows in plan a rectangular box fitted with my improved phonograph in one corner.

Fig. 7 is a perspective sketch of a record scraper adapted to replace the fingernail of an operator of the device.

Briefly described, my simplified phonograph comprises a sound box such as a small pasteboard box or pill box, or tin can, with a sound record tape extending from one of its walls so that upon holding the box and drawing the tape through the fingers of one hand with the edge of the thumb nail pressed against it so as to ride over the sound recordings, articulate speech or song will emanate from the sound box. The little sound box may be incorporated in a box of commodities, such as a box of candy, so that upon pinching the tape and pulling it between the fingers the box will sing or speak some suitable phrase or song which has been impressed on the tape record; or just the tape may be passed through an aperture in the head of an empty tin can and the can made to speak by simply passing the tape through the pinched fingers.

In the drawing the sound box is shown at 1 held by the fingers of the left hand 2 and with the sound record tape 3 hanging by one end from the center of the lower circular wall of the box in a manner adapting the tape to be pinched between the index finger and thumb of the right hand 4 with the forward edge 5 of the thumb nail directed against the tape so as to ride over the small undulations or depressions 6 extending transversely across the upper surface of the tape constituting the sound record when the right hand is pulled downward in the direction of the indicating arrow, and which sound record characteristics may be impressed, etched, stamped, or otherwise formed in the surface of the top as is desired, all so that when operated as described

the box will utter music or speech as the case may be, depending on what has been recorded on the tape—such as sweet sentiments or song if used in connection with a candy box, or directions for taking if with a box of pills.

The sound box may be closed on both sides or, rather, ends, or it may be partially or entirely open on either end and the tape secured to or depending from the other end. In Fig. 1 the tape 3 is indicated as extending through the lower wall only of the box and kept from pulling out as by a knot 3' in the tape when tension is applied to the tape in drawing the fingernail over it in the manner indicated.

Fig. 2 shows a section of the lower wall 1' of the box with the tape in place and knotted at 3' as mentioned. Figs. 3 and 4 are views similar to Fig. 2 but show the tape held by means of a pin 7 passing through the tape and resting on a small metal washer 8 slotted to pass the tape. If desired, the tape may be firmly anchored at its end to the thin diaphragm wall of the box with suitable cement or shellac, but I prefer to have it free through the hole in the box so that it may be pushed or pulled inside the box when not in use or for shipping, a suitable stop 9 at the extreme outer end of the tape preventing it from going too far in.

The cardboard box may be glued up so as not to come apart, or the upper wall may be a tight-fitting lid, or may be omitted altogether as suggested. If used in connection with a round candy box as indicated in plan in Fig. 5 wherein the box is shown at 10 with partitions 11 for the different kinds of candy contents 12, the extreme central portion 13 may be left empty and apertured as at 14 for the talking tape which will simply be curled up in the central chamber when the box is presented to one of the fair sex or otherwise. If a rectangular box of products is to be fitted with the device it may be done as shown in Fig. 6 wherein the rectangular box 15 of commodities 16 is provided with an empty corner 17 in which is positioned or glued a small sound box 18 with the tape 3 passing out through a free hole in the end wall of the commodity box and there is a little space left in the large box at 19 for coiling the tape.

It should be noted that while I have shown the sound box itself as being empty, this is not necessarily so as the device will give articulate sound even if it extends from the wall of a thin box containing loose articles, especially so if from the lid of the box, using these walls as the diaphragm or sound-generating medium. Also, the box may

be of any shape, though a round one is preferable. It is also immaterial whether the tape stop bears against the lower or upper wall of the box while in use, as either will constitute a diaphragm if thin and resilient. If desired, the outer wall 24 of the sound box may have an opening in it as at 25 in Fig. 1.

Instead of using the edge of the fingernail as described, a small metal, "Celluloid", or "Bakelite" clip as shown in Fig. 7 may be provided. This clip 20 is bent up at one end to form guide walls 21 at both edges of and for the tape 3 and is slotted at the opposite end at 22 for a similar purpose, and is provided with a spring finger 15 or fin 23 with a smooth thin end bearing against the tape 3 so as to successively traverse the sound record indentations or undulations 6, or instead of the fin 23 bearing resiliently upon the tape it may be slightly separated therefrom so as not to make a noise when sliding it back again, and then when sliding it in the proper or talking direction along the tape record it is pinched slightly with the fingers of the operating hand.

It is of course apparent that whether the clip 20 or the fingernail is used to slide over the tape, the speed of sliding should be uniform or else the pitch of the words or music produced will rise and fall.

The appended claims are drawn to the combination and its details apart from the specific sound tape per se which is a known device.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

1. In combination, a vibratile diaphragm

member, a thin flexible tape extending from one end from said diaphragm member provided with phonograph sound record characteristics formed thereon consisting of small undulating ridges on the surface of the tape arranged along the tape in a manner to be engaged by a person's thumb nail placed transversely upon the tape as the same is pinched and drawn through the fingers.

2. In combination, a vibratile diaphragm member provided with a rim for holding it in the hand, a thin flexible tape extending from one end from said diaphragm member provided with phonograph sound record characteristics formed thereon consisting of small undulating ridges on the surface of the tape extending crosswise of the tape arranged along the tape in a manner to be engaged by a person's thumb nail placed transversely upon the tape as the same is pinched and drawn through the fingers.

3. In combination, a box with thin vibratile heads and with one of the heads provided with a relatively large aperture, a thin flexible tape extending from one end through a close-fitting aperture in the other head and provided with a stop against pulling out and further provided with phonograph sound record characteristics formed thereon consisting of small transversely extending projecting ridges on the surface of the tape arranged along the tape in a manner to be engaged by a person's thumb nail placed transversely upon the tape as the same is pinched and drawn through the fingers of one hand while holding the box with the other hand.

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