June 10, 1969 A. G. HARTPENCE 3,448,539

EMBRACING DOLL

Filed March 14, 1966 Sheet 1 of 2

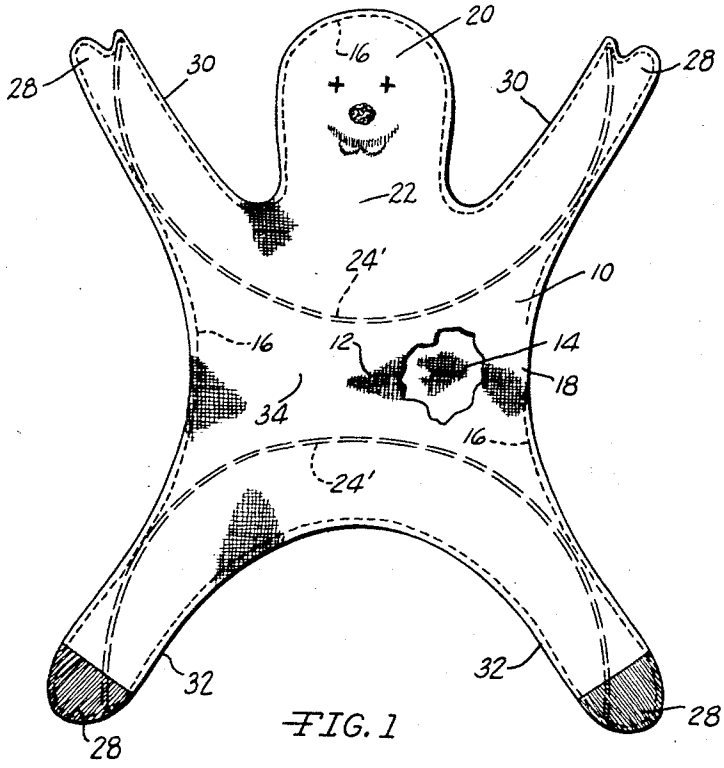


FIG. 1

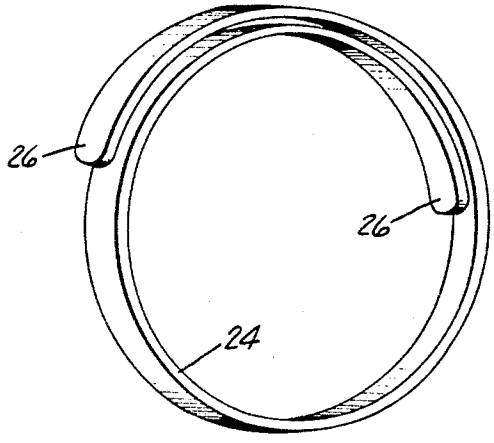


FIG. 2

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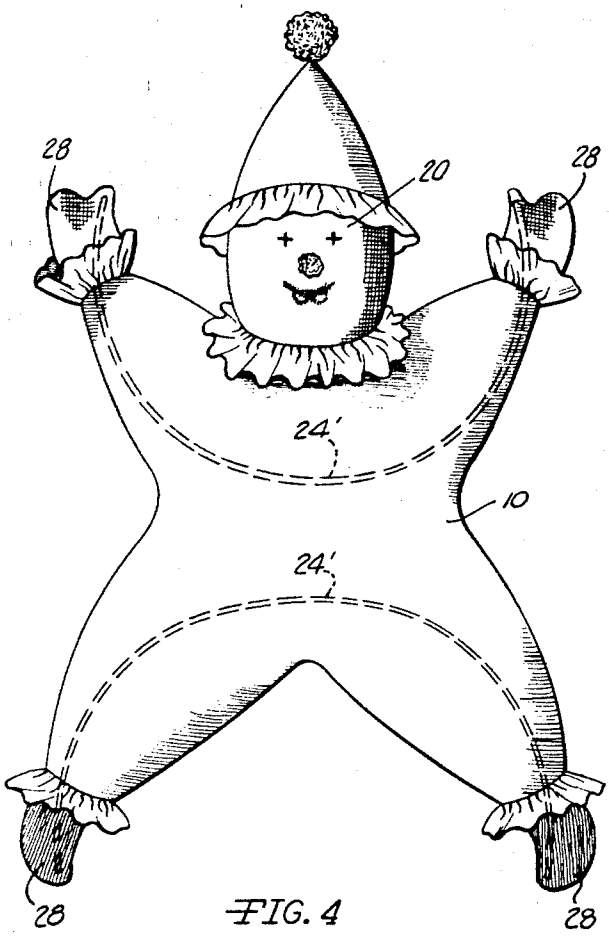


FIG. 4

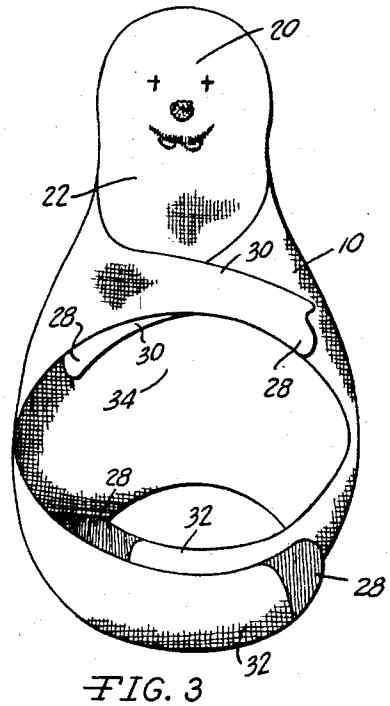


FIG. 3

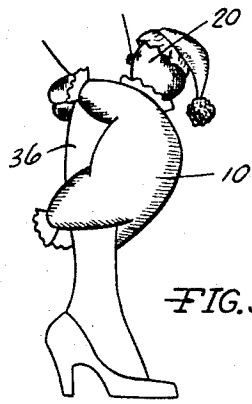


FIG. 5

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EMBRACING DOLL

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U.S. Cl. 46—156 4 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention pertains to an embracing doll or similar toy having simulated limbs so disposed that the doll will readily embrace or cling to objects such as the arm or leg of a person, door frames, furniture or the like. The clinging nature of the doll is due to the presence of resilient ring members having free ends disposed in the doll limb portions.

More specifically, the toy in its preferred form comprises a flat, tubular, flexible fabric structure defining limb, head and trunk portions to simulate a person or animal. To provide form to the fabric structure, the head portion is stuffed or inflated, and a pair of split resilent rings have their free ends inserted into the extremities of the limb portions with the intermediate part of the rings disposed in the otherwise flat, tubular trunk portion.

An object of the invention is to provide a novel embracing toy, doll or similar inanimate article.

Another object is to provide an embracing toy, or the like, of flexible, flat, tubular structure having a pair of split resilient rings with their free ends inserted in the extremes of the limb members.

A further object is to provide an embracing or clinging toy, or the like, having a thin, flexible, main body portion which will generally conform to the object embraced, there being relatively thin, split, resilient rings having their free ends inserted in the limb defining portions.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a clinging, embracing toy, or the like, comprising a flat, tubular, flexible, fabric structure which, when viewed in elevation, simulates a human being or animal with all limbs extended and spread, the head portion being inflated or stuffed and the shaping structure for the remaining portion of the structure substantially consisting of a pair of split, resilient rings having their free ends dsposed in the extremities of the limbs whereby the intermediate portions of the rings, or at least a portion thereof, are disposed along the "spine" area of the toy.

These and other objects and advantages of the invention will more fully appear from the following specification and claims:

In the drawings,

FIG. 1 is a plan view of the flat, tubular, fabric structure as it would appear supported upon a flat surface, with the rings removed but their stressed location indicated in dotted outline, a portion of the top layer of fabric being shown broken,

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of one of the split, resilient rings shown in an unstressed state,

FIG. 3 is a perspective view of the toy with the resilient rings located in the position shown in FIG. 1, but with the limb portions displaced from that shown in FIG. 1 by the rings assuming an unstressed position and being shown angularly disposed to the "spine,"

FIG. 4 is a view similar to FIG. 1 showing a clown costume applied to the fabric structure of FIG. 1 and the head portion stuffed and contracted at the neck, and

FIG. 5 shows the dressed toy of FIG. 4 clinging to a person's leg.

Referring to FIG. 1, the toy or doll **10**, preferably, is fabricated from identical pieces of flexible cloth **12** and **14** cut to the same desired pattern, stitched together along their peripheral edges as at **16** and then turned inside out, all in a well-known manner through an unsewed peripheral slit as at **18**.

The toy in FIG. 1 is shown before the head portion **20** is stuffed and the neck area **22** has been contracted by an elastic band or other means to retain the stuffing. Also, in FIG. 1, the rings **24**, one of which is shown in FIG. 2, have not yet been inserted through the slit **18** and disposed with their free ends **26** in the extremities **28** of the pair of limbs **30** and **32**. However, for purposes of illustration, the location the rings **24** would assume, in a stressed condition with the limbs **30** and **32** extended and spread, is indicated by dotted arcuate paths **24'**.

Each ring **24** is, preferably, of flat, resilient metal or plastic material of sufficient width and thickness to provide a resilient, split ring which resists movement of the free ends **26** out of the plane of the ring **24**. Also, each ring **24** is capable of assuming a position in which the ends **26** overlap each other when the ring **24** is in an unstressed state, the tension of the rings being sufficient to grip an object and support the weight of the toy **10**.

When the rings **24** are inserted through the slit **18** and the free ends **26** are inserted into the tubular limbs **30** and **32**, if this were done with the fabric structure **12** and **14** stretched upon a flat surface so as to retain the shape shown in FIG. 1, the rings **24** would be stressed into the arcuate form represented by the paths **24'**. However, with structure of FIG. 1 will take some such form as shown in FIG. 2 after being disposed in the tubular portions **30** and **32**, the intermediate portions of the rings will be located in the upper and lower regions of the trunk portion **34**, with the limbs **30** and **32** disposed in an embracing overlapping state. When the rings **24** are angularly disposed to the "spine" of the toy **10**, the flat fabric structure of FIG. 1 will take some such form as shown in FIG. 3.

If the embracing overlapping state of the limbs **30** and **32** is altered by separating the extremities **28**, this will stress the rings **24** and enable the toy to embrace or cling to any object disposed between the bite of the free ends **26** of the rings **24**, as indicated in FIG. 5, wherein the toy **10** is shown embracing and clinging to a person's leg **36**.

One of the novel features of the invention resides in the fact that the rings **24** give the toy **10** an appearance of substantial form and function, notwithstanding the lack of stuffing within the limb and trunk portions of the tubular fabric structure. Also, this structural feature enables the toy to be compactly arranged for packaging or storage, especially if the head portion is provided with an inflatable bladder in lieu of being stuffed.

While the "rag doll" effect of the toy **10** is preferred, it is within the scope of the present invention to have the trunk and limb portions flexibly stuffed, or of flexible, molded, foam material, or the like, with the split rings **24**, associated with the trunk and limb portions, of such a modified structure having a similar functional relationship, as in the case of the illustrated embodiment. However, a stuffed or molded limb and trunk structure will not

permit the same degree of flexibility of form and degree of mobility afforded the rings **24** as by the flat tubular fabric structure of FIG. 1.

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

1. An embracing doll in the form of a flexible main body structure defining the trunk, limb portions attached to said trunk, a pair of slit, resilient rings spaced at opposite ends of said trunk, said rings each having a pair of free ends and a normal annular configuration, the free ends of a ring being associated with and located adjacent the extremities of a pair of said limb portions whereby pairs of limb portions associated with a common ring are biased toward an annular embracing configuration by the associated ring.

2. A toy as defined in claim **1** wherein said body structure is in the form of flat, tubular fabric.

3. A toy as defined in claim **1** wherein said rings are of flat ring stock providing substantial rigidity normal to the plane of deflection of the rings.

4. A toy as defined in claim **2** wherein the limb defining portions, as viewed in elevation and prior to application of the rings, are extended and spread.

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