Feb. 21, 1956 H. A. MORTENSON 2,735,679

COMBINED TEETER-TOTTER AND MERRY-GO-ROUND

Filed Jan. 19, 1953

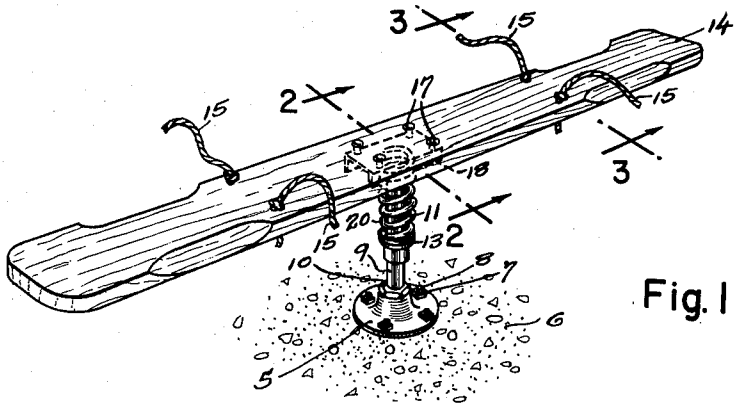


Fig. 1

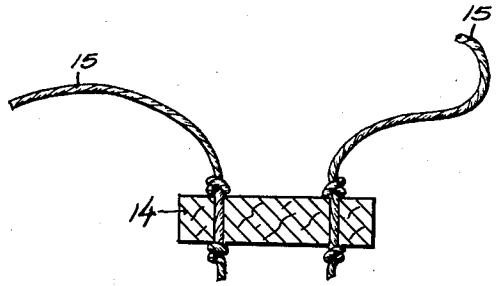


Fig. 3

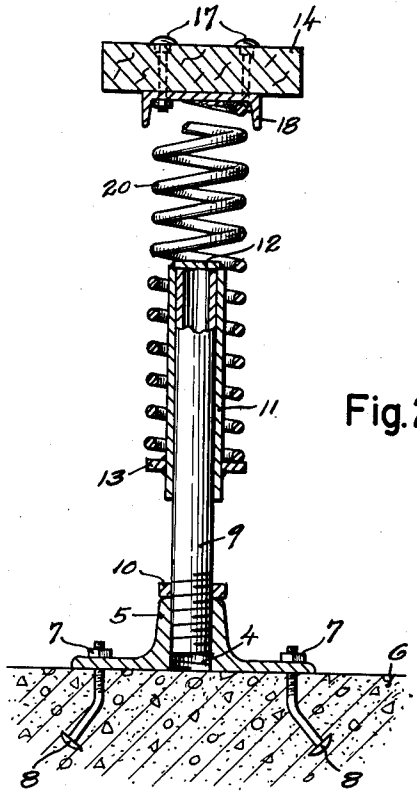


Fig. 2

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COMBINED TEETER-TOTTER AND MERRY-GO-ROUND

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4 Claims. (Cl. 272—30)

This invention relates to children's amusement apparatus, and particularly apparatus in the nature of a combined teeter-totter and merry-go-round. The general object is to provide apparatus which will perform as a teeter-totter and merry-go-round, and which also provides to the imagination of a child an unusually realistic suggestion of a bucking bronco.

The invention has the further object of devising a simple and inexpensive apparatus for the purpose described which is unusually rugged and able to withstand hard usage.

The invention further aims to provide a structure which will not present any exposed sharp corners, edges, projections or the like liable to cause injury to children using the apparatus.

A still further object is to provide a structure which admits of being readily disassembled for storage purposes.

Other more particular objects and advantages will, together with these foregoing objects, appear and be understood in the course of the following description and claims, the invention consisting in the novel construction and in the adaptation and combination of parts hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawing:

Figure 1 is a perspective view illustrating one embodiment of amusement apparatus constructed in accordance with the preferred teachings of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a transverse vertical sectional view drawn to an enlarged scale on line 2—2 of Fig. 1; and

Fig. 3 is a transverse vertical sectional view employing the same scale as Fig. 2 and drawn on line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Referring to said drawing, the numeral 5 designates a deck flange secured upon a solid base 6 which I have here indicated as comprising a concrete block, the securing means comprising nuts 7 engaging bolts 8 embedded in the concrete. The deck flange presents the usual threaded socket 4, and working in the threads of this socket is a pipe 9 which serves as the mounting standard for those parts of the invention which are subject to movement. A lock-nut 10 is or may be used as a complement to the threaded socket of the deck flange.

There is sleeved for rotation upon the standard a thimble which I have indicated as being fabricated from a pipe 11, with a cap-piece 12 welded to the upper end, and there is provided at the lower end of the pipe a circumscribing flange 13 shown as comprising a ring member also secured in position by welding.

The board for the present invention is designated by 14 and is or may be comprised of a wood plank suitably shaped at each of the two ends to provide a comfortable seat. To the front of these seats there are respective sets of ropes 15 serving as hand-holds or "reins" for the occupants of the seats. The ropes are inserted through holes bored in the plank and are held secure by knotting the ropes in a manner clearly apparent from an inspection of Fig. 3. In lieu of the simple board shown it is self-

evident that the apparatus could be made more realistic through the instrumentality of having simulated horse's heads surmounting the board.

At the substantial center of the board, longitudinally speaking, there is secured to the underside of the board, as by carriage bolts 17, a channel-iron fitting 18, and welded by its head end to the underside of this fitting is a fairly stiff coil spring 20 having an expanded length considerably greater than the length of the sleeved pipe 11. The diameter of the spring is such as permits the spring to fit quite loosely over the pipe, and the lower end of the spring bears upon the flange 13 and is welded or otherwise made secure thereto. It should be understood that the board is held in elevated relation to the standard even when the spring is compressed by the combined weight of two children occupying the seats.

It will be apparent that I have provided such an apparatus as will permit both teeter-totter and merry-go-round action. Moreover, both of such actions are affected quite considerably by the resilience and elasticity of the spring so that children using the apparatus can very easily imagine that they are riding a bucking bronco. While not shown in the drawing the invention lends itself to use in an apparatus designed for single occupancy, the structure employed in such case being simply a short length of board with a single seat thereon, and desirably having a simulated horse's head surmounting the board with reins attached to the head. The seat, in this instance, is placed comparatively close to the vertical center about which the board turns.

It is thought that the invention will have been clearly understood from the foregoing description of my now-preferred embodiments. Changes in the details of construction will largely suggest themselves and may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention, and it is, consequently, my intention that no limitations be implied and that the hereto annexed claims be read with the broadest interpretation to which the employed language fairly admits.

What I claim, is:

1. Amusement apparatus of the character indicated comprising a board providing a seat at each end thereof, a base presenting a mounting standard, a thimble sleeved for rotary movement upon said mounting standard, and a comparatively stiff coil spring secured to said thimble with the upper end projecting thereabove and so connected with the board intermediate the two seats as to sustain the board upon said spring.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 in which the thimble presents a circumscribing flange at the lower end, and wherein the coil spring bears upon said flange with approximately its upper one-half portion exposed above the thimble when the spring is in its normal expanded condition.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 in which there is provided for each seat a respective pair of hand-holds comprising ropes anchored at one end to the board and with the other end free.

4. The apparatus of claim 1 in which the connection between the spring and the board is a fixed connection.

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