A. D. CONVERSE.

TOY BUILDING BLOCK.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 29, 1916.

1,250,971. Patented Dec. 25, 1917.

Fig. 1.

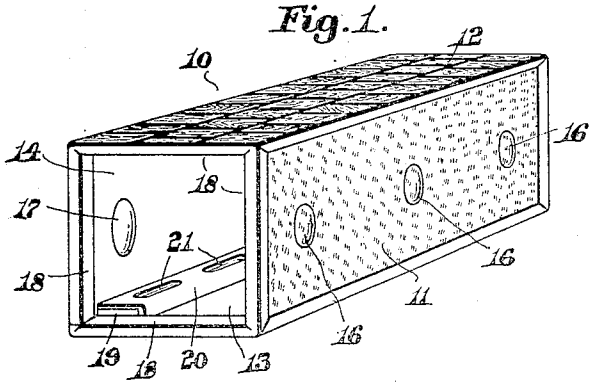


Fig. 2.

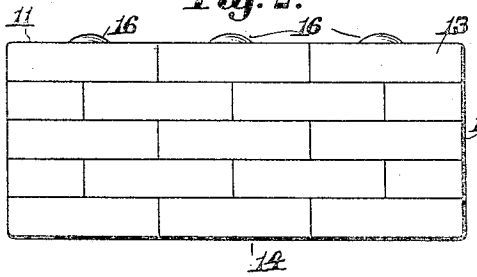


Fig. 3.

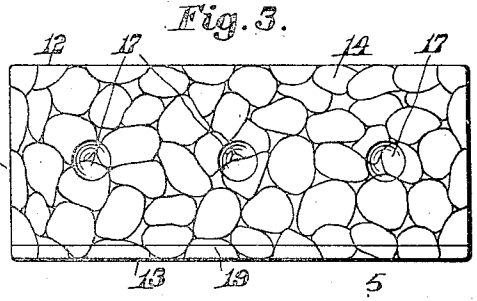


Fig. 6.

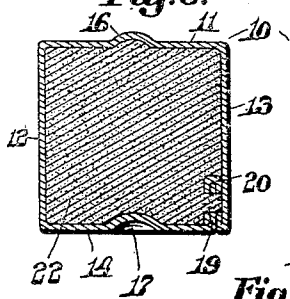


Fig. 5.

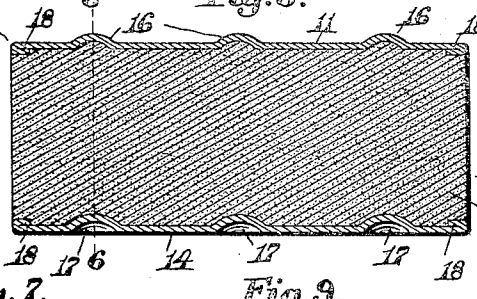


Fig. 4.

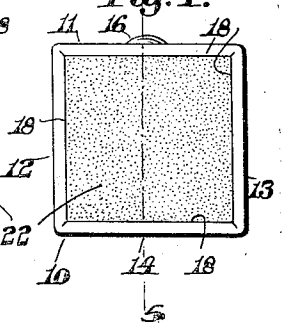


Fig. 7.

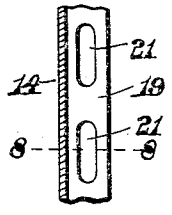


Fig. 9.

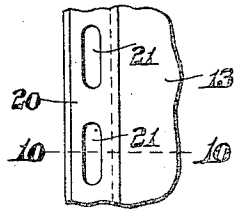


Fig. 8.

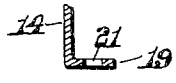
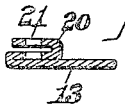


Fig. 10.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ATHERTON D. CONVERSE, OF WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS.

TOY BUILDING-BLOCK.

1,250,971. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 25, 1917.

Application filed March 29, 1916. Serial No. 88,163.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ATHERTON D. CONVERSE, a citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of Winchendon, in the county of Worcester and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Toy Building-Blocks, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to toy building blocks and has for its object the production of a device of this character which will be inexpensive to make, and which cannot be easily chipped.

Another object of the present invention is to produce a device of the character described, the surface of which will be smooth to the touch.

A further object of the invention is to provide the various faces of the block with different pictorial representations.

The invention consists of an open-ended tubular member filled with cementitious material, and having its outer faces provided with designs representing various kinds of building material.

The invention further consists in certain novel features of construction and arrangement of parts which will be fully understood by reference to the description of the drawings and to the claims hereinafter given.

Of the drawings:

Figure 1 represents a perspective view of a tubular member used in the construction of a block embodying the principles of the present invention.

Fig. 2 represents a side elevation of one face thereof.

Fig. 3 represents a side elevation of another face thereof.

Fig. 4 represents an end view of the same when filled with cementitious material.

Fig. 5 represents a longitudinal section of the same on line 5—5 on Fig. 4.

Fig. 6 represents a transverse section of the same on line 6—6 on Fig. 5.

Fig. 7 represents a longitudinal section of a portion of one of the sides of said tubular member.

Fig. 8 represents a transverse section of the same.

Fig. 9 represents a plan of a portion of another side of said tubular member, and

Fig. 10 represents a transverse section of the same.

Similar characters designate like parts throughout the several figures of the drawings.

In the drawings, 10 represents a tubular member perfectly square in cross section. The various sides thereof are provided with pictorial representations printed or lithographed thereon, for instance, the side 11 has a representation thereon of a stone, the side 12 has a representation thereon of a plurality of shingles, the side 13 has a representation thereon of a plurality of bricks, and the side 14 has a representation thereon of a plurality of cobble stones.

One or more of the walls of said tubular member 10 is provided with one or more outwardly extending projections 16, while the wall opposite thereto is provided with one or more depressions 17 formed in said tubular member. The projections 16 are of a size that will fit into the depressions 17 in the adjacent block.

The tubular member 10 is formed of a sheet of metal or some similar material adapted to receive pictorial representations on the outer faces thereof. The ends 18 of said tubular member 10 are turned forwardly to form smooth edges. One end of the plate forming the tubular member 10 is provided with an inwardly turned flange 19 adapted to enter a U-shaped flange 20 turned inwardly from the other edge of said plate, as indicated in the lower right end of Fig. 6 of the drawings. This U-shaped flange 20 and the coacting flange 19 are each provided with a plurality of openings 21 therethrough. When the tubular member 10 has been formed as indicated in Fig. 1 of the drawings, the interior thereof is filled with a cementitious material 22 extending to the opposite end of said tubular member, as indicated in Fig. 5 of the drawings.

The outer faces of the cementitious material 22 are smoothed off in any well-known manner. The inturned ends 18 formed upon the tubular member 10 prevent the cementitious material contained within said tubular member from moving endwise thereof. This endwise movement of the cementitious filling 22 is further prevented by means of the projections 16 and depressions 17, as indicated in said Fig. 5.

When the tubular member 10 has been filled with cementitious material, a portion

thereof will enter the openings 21 in the flanges 19 and 20 and lock these flanges together so that the side wall 14 cannot move relatively to the side wall 13.

Heretofore, toy building blocks of this character have been made of artificial stone and have been liable to chip and become easily broken. Moreover, in the construction of these toy building blocks from an artificial stone, the very finest material must be used in order to provide as smooth a surface as possible, which makes the blocks very expensive.

By constructing the blocks in the manner shown herein, with a tubular envelop of thin metal or other material, the cementitious filling 22 may be of any cheap material. As a consequence there is a great saving in the expense of the construction of the block, and a still greater saving in the time consumed in their manufacture, and a greatly improved block results the surface of which is smooth to the touch and cannot be easily broken or chipped. Moreover, the edges are all smooth so that there in no danger of cutting the fingers of the child using the same.

Another great advantage of the present building block is the ability to print or lithograph on the various side surfaces thereof representations of different forms of building material so that in using the blocks a granite building may be constructed, a building the walls of which are of brick, or formed of cobble stones, or one which has the appearance of being shingled.

While in the drawings a block is shown having three projections 16, it is obvious that longer or shorter blocks may be constructed in a similar manner, as desired. While for convenience the metal envelop or covering 10 is shown of considerable thickness, in practice this plate will be of very thin metal.

It is believed that the many advantages of this invention will be fully understood from the foregoing description.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. A toy building block comprising a tube of thin material filled with a cementitious material and having its ends turned inwardly to form smooth corners at opposite ends of said block whereby said block is rendered safe for handling by children.

2. A toy building block comprising a tube of thin material filled with a cementitious material and having its opposite edges inturned and connected at one corner to form a smooth joint whereby said block is rendered safe for handling by children.

3. A toy building block consisting of a sheet of thin material formed into a tube with its edges overlapping and filled with cementitious material, said overlapping edges being provided with a plurality of registering openings through which said cementitious material is adapted to enter and prevent the separation of said edges.

4. A toy building block comprising a tube of thin material filled with cementitious material and having at one corner an inturned U-shaped portion forming a groove parallel to one side and with one wall shorter than the other and provided with a perforation therethrough, said tube being provided at its opposite edge with a flange perpendicular to the side portion to which it is attached, which flange is positioned in said groove and has a perforation therein registering with the perforation in said shorter wall, with the inner face of said side portion bearing against the edge of said shorter wall.

Signed by me at Winchendon, Mass., this 23rd day of March, 1916.

ATHERTON D. CONVERSE.

Witnesses:

ARTHUR F. EVANS,

J. F. WILKINSON.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."