M. L. GREENSTREET.

TOY BUILDING BLOCK.

APPLICATION FILED FEB. 16, 1920.

1,371,619. Patented Mar. 15, 1921.

Fig. 1

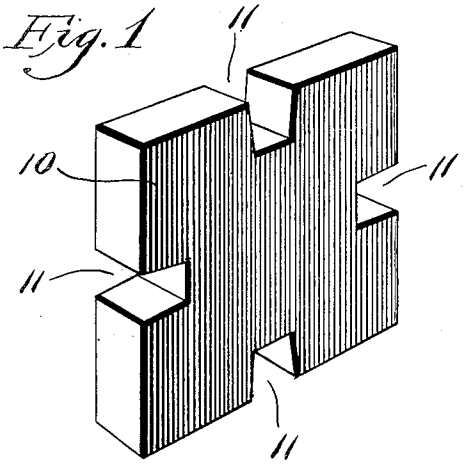


Fig. 2

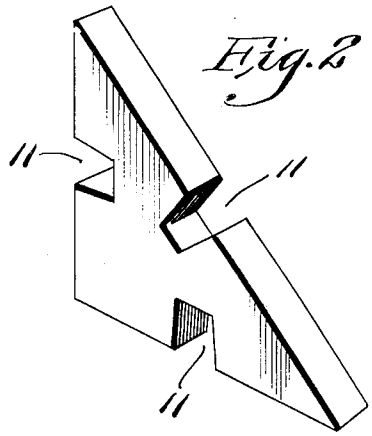


Fig. 4

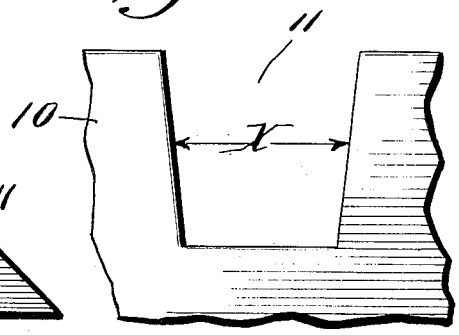


Fig. 3

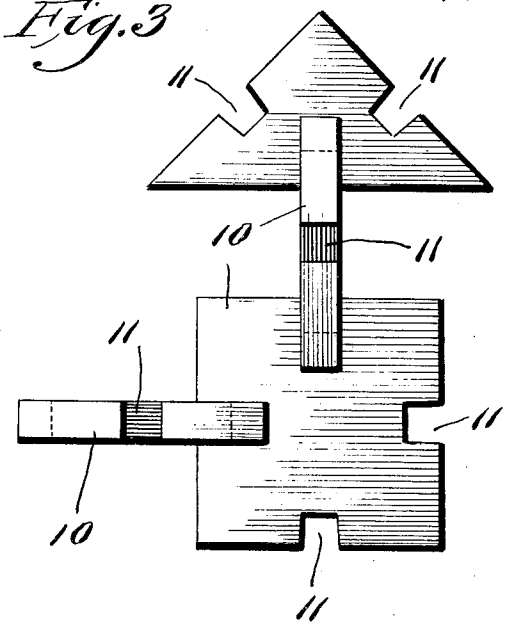
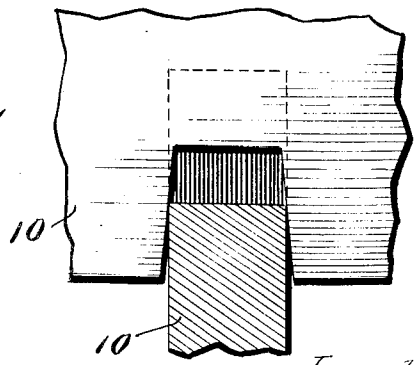


Fig. 5



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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TOY BUILDING-BLOCK.

1,371,619. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Mar. 15, 1921.

Application filed February 16, 1920. Serial No. 358,906.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MILFRED L. GREENSTREET, a citizen of the United States, residing at Maplewood, Missouri, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Toy Building-Blocks, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification.

My invention relates generally to toys or playthings for children, and more particularly to toy building blocks, the principal object of my invention being to provide blocks that are constructed so that they are capable of being connected directly to each other, thereby simplifying and greatly facilitating the assembling of a number of the blocks and eliminating the necessity for extraneous connecting means.

My present invention is an improvement upon the blocks disclosed in Patent No. 1,294,446, issued to myself and my assignees February 18, 1919, and it is one of the objects of this invention to generally improve upon and simplify the construction of the blocks disclosed in the aforesaid patent, and likewise to improve upon other similar types of toy building blocks.

Further objects of my invention are to provide toy building blocks which are capable of being easily and cheaply produced and to form the blocks so that they may be readily assembled or taken apart, and consequently providing an interesting and instructive plaything for children.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, my invention consists in certain novel features of construction and arrangement of parts, hereinafter more fully described and claimed, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figures 1 and 2 are perspective views of different forms of toy building blocks constructed in accordance with my invention.

Fig. 3 is an elevational view of a number of the toy building blocks connected to each other.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged elevational view of a portion of one of the blocks and showing the detail of one of the notches formed therein.

Fig. 5 is an enlarged detail section showing portions of a pair of connected blocks.

Referring by numerals to the accompanying drawings, 10 designates one of the square or rectangular blocks that is constructed in accordance with my invention, the same being preferably formed of wood or analogous material, and of any desired size and thickness. This block while preferably in the form of a true square, may be formed so that its length is substantially greater than its width. However, for all practical purposes, I prefer to form the blocks square with a length and breadth of an inch and a half or two inches and with a thickness of approximately a quarter of an inch. Other forms of blocks may be triangular in outline as illustrated in Fig. 2.

Formed in the edges of the blocks thus constructed are substantially rectangular notches 11, the depth of which is approximately equal to the thickness of the blocks, and these notches gradually taper in width so that they become narrower toward their inner ends.

In order that the blocks may be firmly interlocked with each other when assembled, the notches 11 are formed so that their width at a point approximately halfway between the outer edges of the blocks and the bottoms of the notches or the width on the line marked X, Fig. 4, is equal to the thickness of the blocks. By virtue of this construction, when two of the blocks are connected to each other by inserting the notched edge of one block in a notch in the edge of another, and forcing said blocks toward each other with a slight pressure, portions of said blocks immediately adjacent to the inner ends of said notches will be squeezed slightly, thereby creating friction between the interchanged parts so as to firmly hold the blocks in their assembled positions. (See Fig. 5.) This tapering or gradual narrowing of the notches toward their inner ends enables the blocks to be readily assembled and firmly secured to each other even though said blocks vary slightly in thickness due to inaccuracies of manufacture or as a result of slight shrinkage which may occur when the blocks become thoroughly dry.

Toy building blocks of my improved construction may be easily and cheaply pro-

duced, are readily assembled or taken apart, do not require extraneous connecting or attaching members, are capable of being assembled so as to simulate various objects such as buildings, furniture, machinery, animals, and the like, and consequently said blocks provide an entertaining and instructive toy for children.

It will be readily understood that minor changes in the size, form and construction of the various parts of my improved toy building blocks can be made and substituted for those herein shown and described, without departing from the spirit of my invention, the scope of which is set forth in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. Toy building blocks of substantially uniform thickness and having tapered notches in their edges approximately as deep as the thickness of the blocks, the bottoms of said notches being slightly narrower than the thickness of said blocks so that when one block is placed in the notch of another, it will be held tightly in position.

2. Toy building blocks of substantially uniform thickness and having tapered notches in their edges approximately as deep as the thickness of the blocks, the bottoms of said notches being slightly narrower than the thickness of said blocks and the mouths of said notches being slightly wider than the thickness of the blocks so that when one block is placed in the notch of another it will be held tightly in position.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature this 12th day of February, 1920.

MILFRED L. GREENSTREET.