No. 788,041. PATENTED APR. 25, 1905.

J. M. FULTZ.

TOP.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 28, 1904.

Fig. 1.

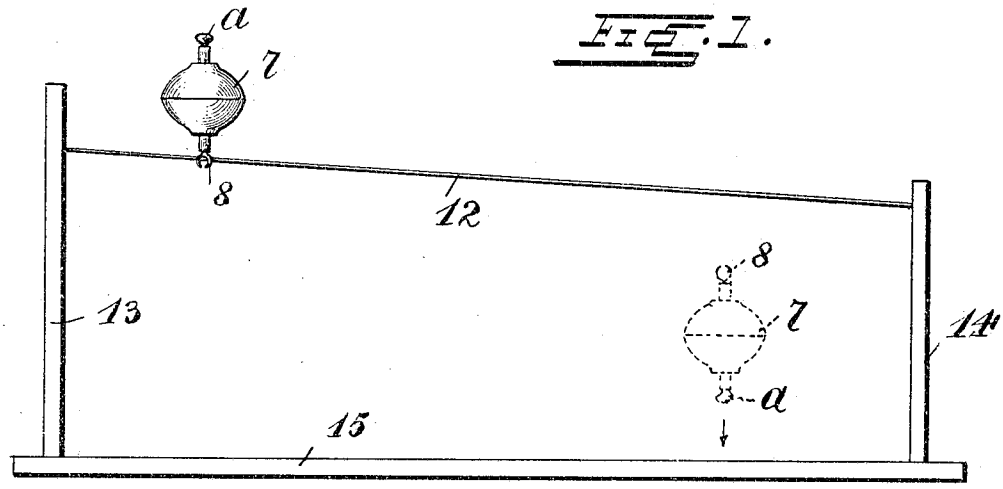


Fig. 2.

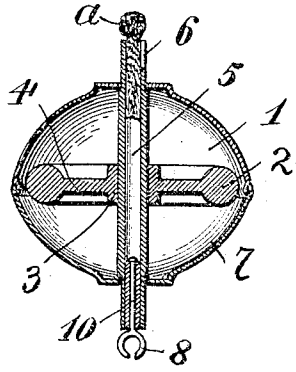


Fig. 3.

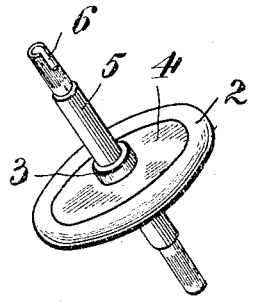
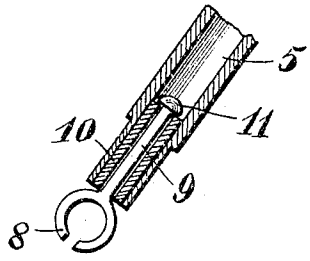


Fig. 4.



Witnesses

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No. 788,041. Patented April 25, 1905.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN MANN FULTZ, OF QUINCY, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO AUG. H. WEHMEYER, OF QUINCY, ILLINOIS.

TOP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 788,041, dated April 25, 1905.

Application filed July 28, 1904. Serial No. 218,568.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN MANN FULTZ, a citizen of the United States, residing at Quincy, in the county of Adams and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Tops; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to tops; and the objects of the same are to produce a top provided with detonating means and also provided with means for spinning the top upon a string or wire. These and other objects are attained by means of the construction illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a side view of a top in the position which it occupies when spinning upon a string or wire and shows in dotted lines the position which the top assumes after it has ceased revolving and is disconnected from the wire to fall and explode a match-head. Fig. 2 is a central vertical section through the top. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the interior wheel and its shaft. Fig. 4 is a detail perspective view showing the split ring secured at one end of the hollow central shaft.

Referring to the drawings for a more detailed description of the invention, the numeral 1 designates the body of the top, comprising a wheel having an enlarged periphery 2, a central hub 3, and a web 4, extending from the hub to the enlarged periphery. Extending centrally through the hub is a tubular shaft 5, the opposite ends of which are roughened or milled for a purpose which will presently appear. One of the ends of said tubular shaft may be split, as at 6. The outer shell 7 consists of two extending domes or caps provided with perforations through which the tubular shaft 5 passes, said shaft being journaled in the said perforations to freely revolve therein. Detachably connected in one end of the tubular shaft 5 is a split ring 8, having a shank 9, journaled to revolve in a plug 10, said plug being adapted to fit within one end of the tubular shaft 5. The shank 9 is provided with a head 11 to prevent the shank from withdrawal from the plug 10. A match may be inserted in the opposite end of the hollow shank 5, the head of said match projecting beyond the end of the shank, as shown in the drawings.

The operation of my top is as follows: The spinning cord or string may be wound about the milled end of the shaft 5, containing the split ring 8. The top is held in one hand by means of the shell 7 and the string is drawn outward to spin the top within the shell. The top may then be placed upon a support, where it will be permitted to revolve until the match-head *a* comes into contact with same roughened surface or sufficient friction has been created to explode and ignite the match. It will be understood that many of the matches in use to-day may be regarded as detonating matches—that is to say, when ignited the matches explode. It is this class of matches which the top is designed to explode.

When it is desired to spin the top upon a string or wire, an explosive match-head is placed in one end of the tubular shaft 5 and the top is spun in the usual manner. The split ring 8 is then placed upon a wire or cord 12, which may be suspended upon the uprights 13 14, as shown in Fig. 1. The shank 9 of the split ring 8 revolving freely within the plug 10 permits the top to assume an upright position upon the wire or cord and gradually moves from the upright 13 toward the upright 14. After the top has ceased spinning it will by gravity swing from the upper side of the wire or cord to the lower side thereof and owing to the construction of the split ring 8 the top will be disengaged from the wire 12 and drop to the floor or table 15, and thus explode the match-head *a*. Owing to the fact that the ends of the shaft 5 are roughened, the plug 10 may be inserted in either end of said shaft and the match may be inserted in the opposite end.

From the foregoing it will be seen that my top is comparatively simple in construction, can be manufactured at slight cost, is a toy which creates considerable amusement, and can be operated by a young or inexperienced person.

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

1. A top having a central tubular shaft, a wheel mounted thereon, a shell within which the shaft is journaled at its opposite ends, a split ring mounted to revolve in one of the ends of the shaft and means on the opposite end of the shaft to hold a match.

2. A combined spinning and detonating toy comprising a hollow shaft, a wheel mounted thereon, said shaft being split for holding a match at one end and a rotatable split ring mounted in the opposite end of said shaft for spinning the top upon a string or wire, substantially as described.

3. A detonating-top comprising a central wheel, a hollow shaft passing through the wheel, said shaft being split at one end to hold a match, and a split ring mounted to revolve in the opposite end of the shaft, said top designed to be spun upon a cord or wire and permitted to drop from said cord or wire to explode a match, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOHN MANN FULTZ.

Witnesses:
W. H. KEATH,
CHARLES WHEAT.