Feb. 23, 1960 I. A. METRULIS 2,925,686

TROJAN HORSE TOY

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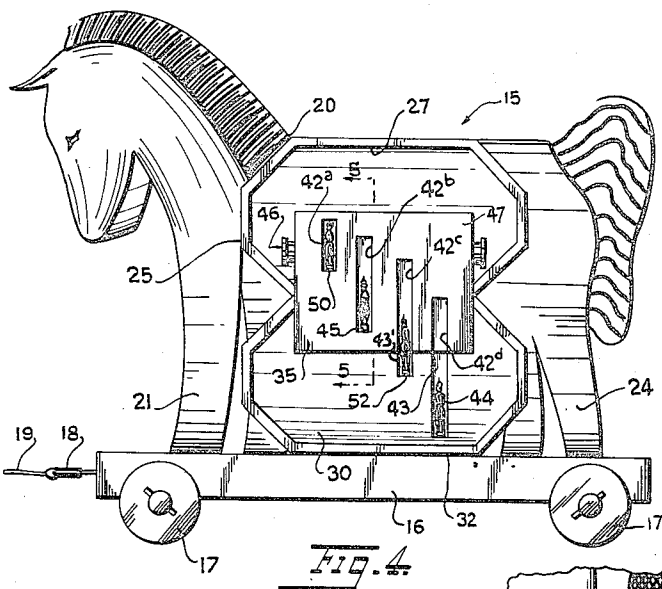


Fig. 4.



Fig. 8.

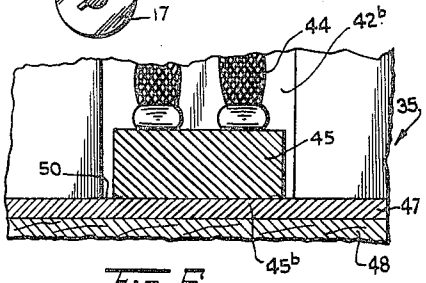


Fig. 6.

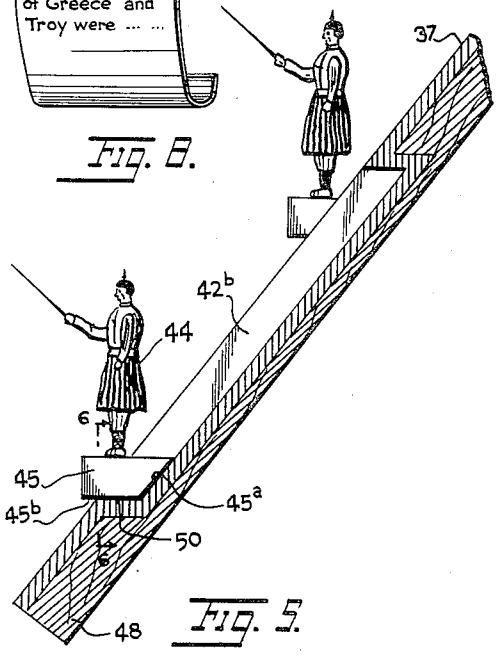


Fig. 5.

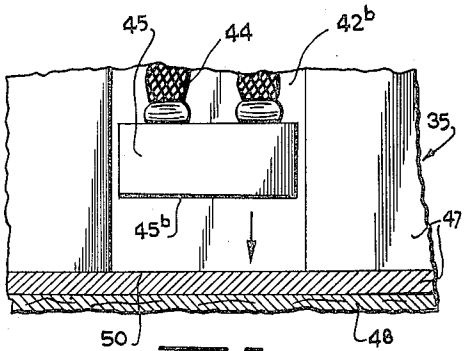


Fig. 7.

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8 Claims. (Cl. 46—241)

This invention relates to a new and useful improvement in toys.

More particularly, the present invention proposes the construction of an improved toy which simulates the wooden horse of Troy. The toy has concealed within the body of the horse a plurality of toy Greek soldiers adapted to emerge realistically in an amusing and entertaining fashion when side doors in the horse are opened, as if reenacting the fabled capture of Troy by the Greeks.

As a further object, the present invention proposes forming the body of the horse with a hollow chamber and with opposed side openings covered by folding door ramps which when lowered form a part of the exit ramps for the soldiers.

Still further, the present invention proposes constructing the door ramps with spaced tracks to guide the soldiers and providing a pair of inclined plane members foldably mounted in the chamber of the horse with spaced tracks adapted to guide the soldiers and slidably to hold them.

Another object of the invention proposes forming the soldiers with magnet or magnetized base portions and forming the inclined plane members and door ramps with tracks made of magnetic material with which the magnetized base portions will be attracted so that the soldiers will remain erect while emerging from the horse. In these portions the soldiers can be lifted from the ramps or inclined members for separate or repeated play.

For further comprehension of the invention, and of the objects and advantages thereof, reference will be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, and to the appended claims in which the various novel features of the invention are more particularly set forth.

In the accompanying drawings forming a material part of this disclosure:

Fig. 1 is a side view of a toy constructed and arranged in accordance with the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a sectional view taken on line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2 but showing the folding ramp doors open.

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 1 but showing the folding ramp doors open.

Fig. 5 is an enlarged sectional view taken on line 5—5 of Fig. 4.

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary sectional view on a still further enlarged scale taken on line 6—6 of Fig. 5, with the upper part of the soldier broken away.

Fig. 7 is a view similar to Fig. 6 but showing the soldier descending the ramp in the inclined plane member.

Fig. 8 is a perspective view of a scroll shown stored in the body of the horse in Figs. 2, 3 and 4 and usable in playing with the toy to reenact the fabled story of the siege and fall of Troy.

Referring to the drawings, the toy animal in accordance with the present invention is in the form of a horse simulating the wooden horse of Troy and designated generally by the reference numeral 15.

Horse 15 has a platform 16 mounted on wheels 17 simulating or being wooden wheels. One or more hooks 18 may be secured to one end of the platform and one or more cords 19 may be fastened to the hook or hooks.

Horse 15 has a body 20 and legs 21, 22, 23 and 24 which are fixed to platform 16. The body 20 has sides 25 and 26 and a hollow chamber 27 is located between the sides.

Sides 25 and 26 have opposed access openings 28 and 29, respectively, which connect with the chamber 27 and make the chamber accessible from either side of the horse.

Folding ramp doors 30 and 31 cover the access openings 28 and 29 respectively. The doors are identically constructed, each having an upper edge portion 32 removably secured by a strap 32^a to pin 32^b on the body 20 above an access opening, and lower edge portions 33 are pivotally secured by hinges 34 to the body 20 below an access opening 28 or 29.

Inside the chamber 27 a pair of inclined plane members 35 and 36 are slidably mounted. The members 35 and 36 are identically constructed, each having a magnetic metal top plate 47 and a wooden base 48. The top or upper edge portions 37 and 38, respectively, of the members 35, 36 are pivotably secured together by a hinge 39, and lower edge portions 40, 41 are slidably mounted inside the chamber on the bottom ends of the doors 30 and 31.

Members 35 and 36 have a plurality of spaced staggered tracks 42^a, 42^b, 42^c and 42^d formed in the plate 47, which is made of magnetic material. Tracks 42^c and 42^d extend to edges 40 and 41 and are aligned with tracks 43 and 43′ respectively formed in doors 30 and 31. These doors are formed of magnetic material so that tracks 43 and 43′ will attract the magnetized bases of the soldiers. Tracks 43 and 43′ terminate short of the edges 32 of the doors and are disposed in vertical planes below tracks 42^c and 42^d, respectively, and in coplanar alignment therewith when the doors are open and the members 35 and 36 are inclined as shown in Figs. 3 and 4.

Toy Greek soldiers 44 are provided with magnet or magnetized base portions 45 slidably but removably to fit on the tracks 42^a–42^d and 43, 43′.

A scroll 46 containing the story of the Trojan horse is removably mounted in the chamber 27 beneath the inclined plane members 35 and 36.

When the doors 30 and 31 are closed, the inclined plane members 35 and 36 are concealed inside the chamber 27 and the toy soldiers 44 are held in the staggered fashion shown in Fig. 2. The force of magnetic attraction between the magnetized base portion 45 and the magnetic material of the track in which it is disposed is just enough to equal the weight of the soldier. The soldiers are manually placed in the positions shown in Fig. 2 before the doors are closed.

When the doors are opened and lowered, gravity moves the members 35 and 36 to the position shown in Figs. 3 and 4 while the soldiers remain suspended at the upper ends of the tracks. The player may now tap or rap the body 20 of the horse or may jog the horse by repeatedly pulling upwardly on cord 19 to lift the platform and then letting the platform and horse drop smartly down on a supporting surface. The soldiers will be thus jarred from their positions at the upper ends of the tracks on plane members 35 and 36. The downward impulses thus imparted to the soldiers will

be sufficient to cause them to slide downwardly. The soldiers in tracks 42[a] and 42[b] which terminate in the inclined members 35, 36 will be stopped at the lower ends 50 of the tracks. The soldiers in tracks 42[c] and 42[d] will slide to the ends of the tracks and then drop downwardly into the coplanar tracks 43 and 43', respectively, where the soldiers will continue their downward movement to be stopped at the ends 52 of the latter tracks in doors 30 and 31. During the descent of the soldiers, the inclined rear sides 45[a] of the bases 45 will be juxtaposed to the bottoms of the channeled tracks. The bottom sides 45[b] of the bases 45 come to rest on the ends 50, 52 of the tracks when the soldiers conclude their descent in the tracks, as shown in Figs. 4, 5 and 6. The magnetic attraction between the base portions 45 and the tracks will cause the soldiers to remain upright in all positions shown in Figs. 2–7. In Fig. 2 the soldiers may lean forwardly slightly but they assume a full upright position when the doors 30 and 31 are opened and the inclined members 35 and 36 open to assume the position of Fig. 3.

If desired, doors 30 and 31 can be flung open so that their lower ends strike the platform 16. This movement will create a sufficient jar to start the soldiers sliding down their tracks. Also, when the doors are opened suddenly, the members 35 and 36 slide apart and settle with a jar in openings 28 and 29 on the doors 30 and 31 so that additional impulses are provided to start the soldiers moving downward.

The sudden simultaneous or successive movements of the several soldiers which accompany the jogging or shaking actions of the horse and player are entertaining and amusing to the player and spectators. This play can be accompanied by a reading of the scroll 46 to heighten the realistic effect of reenacting the fabled story of the Trojan horse.

If any soldier slides only partly down a track and there remains suspended, a further jogging of the horse will dislodge the soldier and it will continue to slide to the bottom of its track.

After the soldiers slide down their respective tracks they can be removed and restored to their initial positions at the top ends of the tracks and the doors 30, 31 can be closed for repeating the play described above.

While I have illustrated and described the preferred embodiment of my invention, it is to be understood that I do not limit myself to the precise construction herein disclosed and that various changes and modifications may be made within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

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

1. A toy animal comprising a platform, a body mounted on the platform, said body having a hollow chamber between the two sides, said sides having opposed access openings to the chamber, a pair of folding ramp doors adapted to fit over the access openings in the sides and having lower edge portions pivotally secured to the body beneath the access openings and upper edge portions removably secured to the body above the access openings, a pair of inclined plane members having upper edge portions pivotally secured together and lower edge portions slidably mounted in the chamber for movement out the access openings when the ramp doors are lowered into an open position, and a plurality of figure members slidably mounted on the inclined plane members for enclosure with said inclined plane members inside the chamber.

2. A toy animal comprising a platform, a body mounted on the platform, said body having a hollow chamber between the two sides, said sides having opposed access openings to the chamber, a pair of folding ramp doors adapted to fit over the access openings in the sides and having lower edge portions pivotally secured to the body beneath the access openings and upper edge portions removably secured to the body above the access openings, a pair of inclined plane members having upper edge portions pivotally secured together and lower edge portions slidably mounted in the chamber for movement out the access openings when the ramp doors are lowered into an open position, and a plurality of figure members slidably mounted on the inclined plane members for enclosure with said inclined plane members inside the chamber, said body being that of a horse and said figure members being toy soldiers.

3. A toy animal comprising a platform, a body mounted on the platform, said body having a hollow chamber between the two sides, said sides having opposed access openings to the chamber, a pair of folding ramp doors adapted to fit over the access openings in the sides and having lower edge portions pivotally secured to the body beneath the access openings and upper edge portions removably secured to the body above the access openings, a pair of inclined plane members having upper edge portions pivotally secured together and lower edge portions slidably mounted in the chamber for movement out the access openings when the ramp doors are lowered into an open position, and a plurality of figure members slidably mounted on the inclined plane members for enclosure with said inclined plane members inside the chamber, said body being of wood and simulating the wooden horse of Troy and said figure members being toy Greek soldiers.

4. A toy animal comprising a platform, a body mounted on the platform, said body having a hollow chamber between the two sides, said sides having opposed access openings to the chamber, a pair of folding ramp doors adapted to fit over the access openings in the sides and having lower edge portions pivotally secured to the body beneath the access openings and upper edge portions removably secured to the body above the access openings, a pair of inclined plane members having upper edge portions pivotally secured together and lower edge portions slidably mounted in the chamber for movement out the access openings when the ramp doors are lowered into an open position, and a plurality of figure members slidably mounted on the inclined plane members for enclosure with said inclined plane members inside the chamber, said body being of wood and simulating the wooden horse of Troy and said figure members being toy Greek soldiers, said soldiers having magnetized base portions and said inclined plane members having tracks formed of magnetic material slidably to hold the magnetized base portions of the soldiers.

5. A toy animal comprising a platform, a body mounted on the platform, said body having a hollow chamber between the two sides, said sides having opposed access openings to the chamber, a pair of folding ramp doors adapted to fit over the access openings in the sides and having lower edge portions pivotally secured to the body beneath the access openings and upper edge portions removably secured to the body above the access openings, a pair of inclined plane members having upper edge portions pivotally secured together and lower edge portions slidably mounted in the chamber for movement out the access openings when the ramp doors are lowered into an open position, and a plurality of figure members slidably mounted on the inclined plane members for enclosure with said inclined plane members inside the chamber, said body being of wood and simulating the wooden horse of Troy and said figure members being toy Greek soldiers, said soldiers having magnetized base portions and said inclined plane members having tracks formed of magnetic material slidably to hold the magnetized base portions of the soldiers, the tracks in the inclined plane members being staggered and spaced

to dispose the soldiers at different levels on the inclined plane members.

6. A toy animal comprising a platform, a body mounted on the platform, said body having a hollow chamber between the two sides, said sides having opposed access openings to the chamber, a pair of folding ramp doors adapted to fit over the access openings in the sides and having lower edge portions pivotally secured to the body beneath the access openings and upper edge portions removably secured to the body above the access openings, a pair of inclined plane members having upper edge portions pivotally secured together and lower edge portions slidably mounted in the chamber for movement out the access openings when the ramp dooms are lowered into an open position, and a plurality of figure members slidably mounted on the inclined plane members for enclosure with said inclined plane members inside the chamber, said body being of wood and simulating the wooden horse of Troy and said figure members being toy Greek soldiers, said soldiers having magnetized base portions and said inclined plane members having tracks formed of magnetic material slidably to hold the magnetized base portions of the soldiers, said folding ramp doors having tracks formed of magnetic material adapted to align with the tracks of the inclined plane and slidably to hold the magnetized base portions of the soldiers.

7. A toy animal comprising a platform, a body mounted on the platform, said body having a hollow chamber between the two sides, said sides having opposed access openings to the chamber, a pair of folding ramp doors adapted to fit over the access openings in the sides and having lower edge portions pivotally secured to the body beneath the access openings and upper edge portions removably secured to the body above the access openings, a pair of inclined plane members having upper edge portions pivotally secured together and lower edge portions slidably mounted in the chamber for movement out the access openings when the ramp doors are lowered into an open position, and a plurality of figure members slidably mounted on the inclined plane members for enclosure with said inclined plane members inside the chamber, said body being of wood and simulating the

wooden horse of Troy and said figure members being toy Greek soldiers, said soldiers having magnetized base portions and said inclined plane members having tracks formed of magnetic material slidably to hold the magnetized base portions of the soldiers, said tracks of the inclined plane members being staggered and spaced to dispose the soldiers at different levels on the inclined plane members, said folding ramp doors having tracks formed of magnetic material adapted to align with the tracks of the inclined plane and slidably to hold the magnetized base portions of the soldiers.

8. A toy animal comprising a platform, a body mounted on the platform, said body having a hollow chamber between the two sides, said sides having opposed access openings to the chamber, a pair of folding ramp doors adapted to fit over the access openings in the sides and having lower edge portions pivotally secured to the body beneath the access openings and upper edge portions removably secured to the body above the access openings, a pair of inclined plane members having upper edge portions pivotally secured together and lower edge portions slidably mounted in the chamber for movement out the access openings when the ramp doors are lowered into an open position, and a plurality of figure members slidably mounted on the inclined plane members for enclosure with said inclined plane members inside the chamber, said body being of wood and simulating the wooden horse of Troy and said figure members being toy Greek soldiers, said soldiers having magnetized base portions and said inclined plane members having tracks formed of magnetic material slidably to hold the magnetized base portions of the soldiers, said tracks of the inclined plane members being staggered and spaced to dispose the soldiers initially at different levels on the inclined plane members, said folding ramp doors having tracks formed of magnetic material adapted to align in vertical planes with the tracks of the inclined plane members and slidably to hold the magnetized base portions of the soldiers, the tracks of the folding ramp doors having lower ends staggered and spaced to dispose the soldiers at different levels on the doors.

No references cited.