July 24, 1951 F. L. REX 2,561,637

COMBINATION FOLDING CRIB AND PLAY PEN

Filed May 3, 1948 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

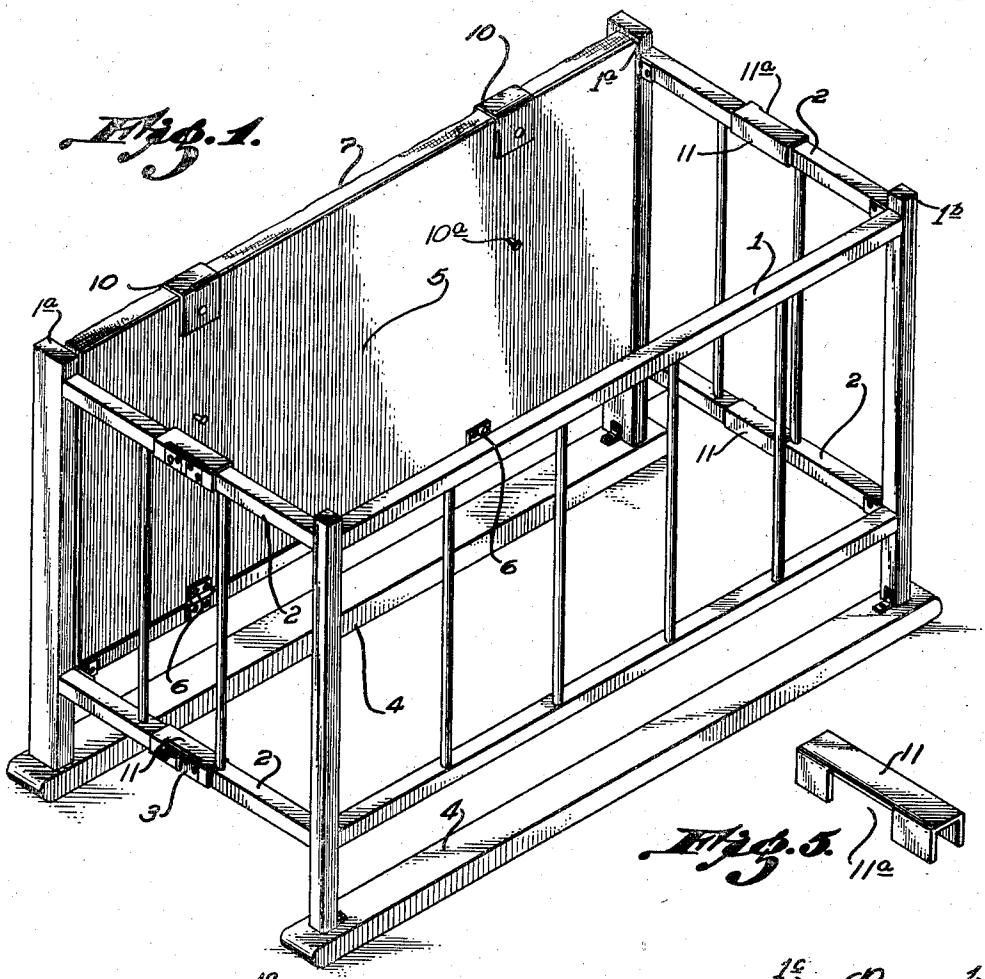
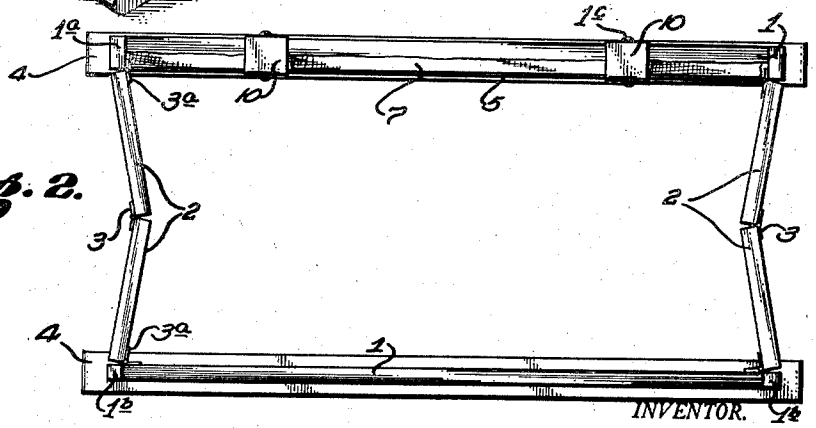


Fig. 5.

Fig. 2.



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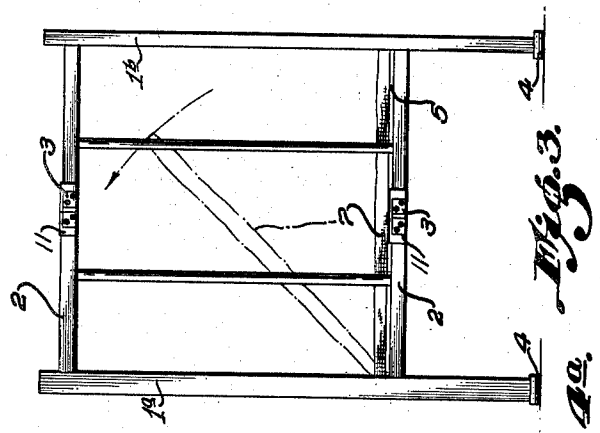


Fig. 3.

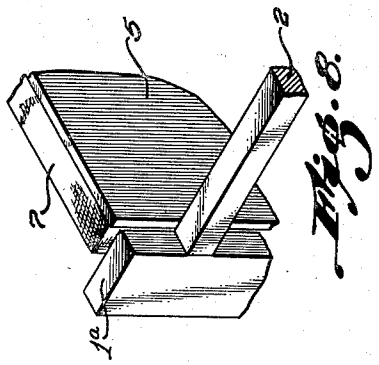


Fig. 8.

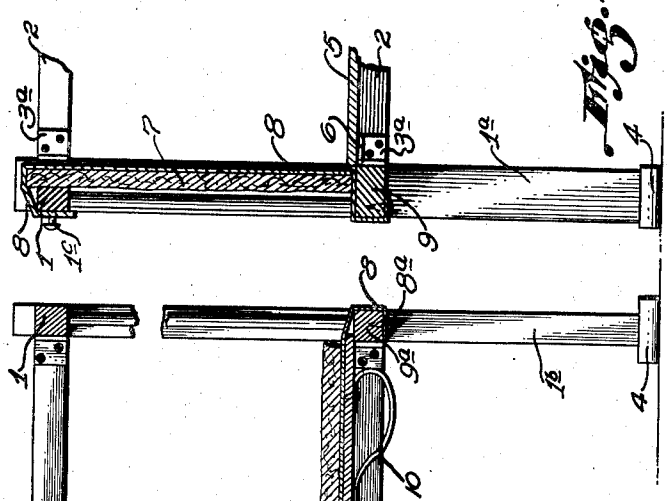


Fig. 4a.

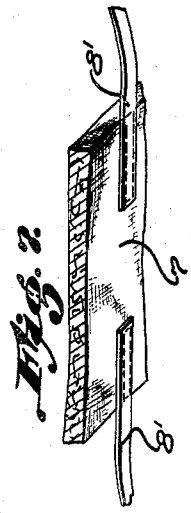


Fig. 7.

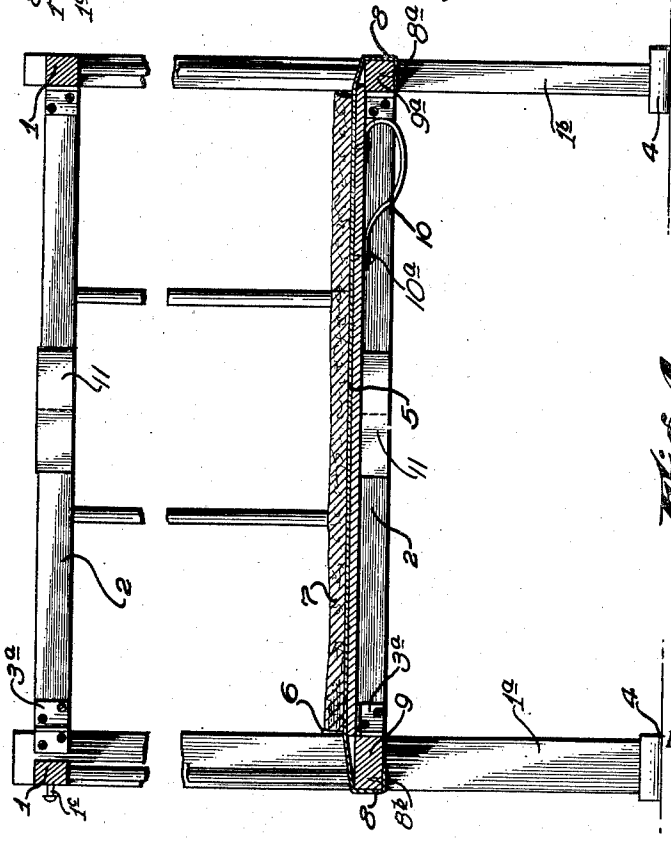


Fig. 4.

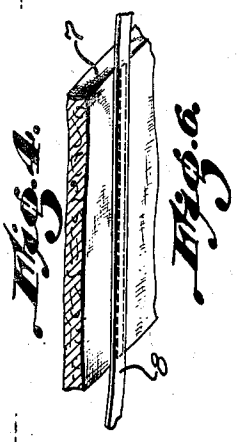


Fig. 6.

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COMBINATION FOLDING CRIB AND PLAY PEN

Frances L. Rex, Richmond, Va.

Application May 3, 1948, Serial No. 24,846

4 Claims. (Cl. 5—99)

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My invention relates to that class of combination folding cribs and play pens in which the mattress and mattress support are so connected to the crib-frame as to be capable of being folded with the latter into a compact form.

Heretofore, it has been necessary to take out the mattress and mattress support to fold the crib, or if the mattress support was left in, it had to be folded upon itself in some manner, thereby increasing the bulk of the crib when folded as well as rendering the operation of folding the crib laborious and time-consuming.

One of the objects of my invention is to provide a combination crib and play pen easily and economically manufactured, having a solid floor for the pen which serves as the support for the mattress, and requiring no springs when used for a bed. The solid floor and the mattress do not have to be folded upon themselves or removed from the crib, thereby reducing the bulk of the crib in storage, thus lessening the danger of losing or soiling the mattress, and reducing to a minimum the number of parts handled, simplifying the operation of folding and saving folding and storing time and space.

Another object of my invention is to provide a crib and play pen that will also be easy to transport across rugs, up and down stairs, etc. This I accomplish by providing sled runners or skis at the lower ends of the legs of the crib, on which the crib can be slid along, thus making lifting and carrying unnecessary.

In order that the invention may be clearly understood, reference is had to the accompanying drawings forming part of this specification, and in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of my improved baby crib and play pen as it appears when ready for folding, with the mattress and floor board in a vertical position, lying against one of the side frames;

Fig. 2 is a plan view of same, with the end partly folded;

Fig. 3 is an end elevation, showing the floor board and mattress in the horizontal position which they occupy when the device is used as a crib;

Fig. 4 is a vertical transverse section on an enlarged scale, showing the mattress in the same position as in Fig. 3, parts being broken away;

Fig. 4*a* is a fragmentary vertical section, similar to Fig. 4, but showing the mattress in the position it occupies when the device is used as a play pen;

Fig. 5 is a perspective view on an enlarged scale showing a clip used to hold the end frames in normal operative position.

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary perspective view of the mattress showing the strap attached thereto;

Fig. 7 is a similar view showing a slightly different construction of strap; and

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Fig. 8 is a fragmentary perspective view on an enlarged scale showing one of the upper corners of the device with the parts in the position illustrated in Fig. 1.

Referring to the drawings in detail, my improved crib and play pen is made up of two side frames and two end frames, as usual. The side frames comprise corner posts 1*a* and 1*b*, the corner posts of each side frame being connected by top rails 1 and bottom rails 9 and 9*a*.

Each end frame comprises top and bottom rails 2, each of these being formed of two sections hinged together at 3 and hinged to the respective corner posts at 3*a*. Thus the end frames can be folded inwardly, as indicated in Fig. 2, so that the side frames can be moved toward each other into close parallel relation when desired, all as well known in the art.

To hold the end rails rigidly in place when the crib is in use, I provide removable, channel shaped clips 11, adapted to fit over the rails adjacent the hinges 3, one side of the clip being cut away as at 11*a* in Fig. 5, to accommodate the pintle of the hinge.

By reference to Figs. 1, 4 and 8, it will be particularly observed that the posts 1*a* are wider than the posts 1*b*, and that the bottom rail 9 is much wider than the top rail 1 lying immediately above it, such top rail being joined to the posts 1*a* at points adjacent the outer edges thereof.

I provide a mattress support 5 in the nature of a rigid floor board. This is hinged at one edge to the inner edge of the bottom rail 9, as shown at 6 in Fig. 1, and the opposite edge rests upon and is supported by the other bottom rail 9*a*.

Normally resting upon this floor board when the device is used as a crib, is a mattress 7, as shown in Figs. 3 and 4. In order to hold this mattress in position, I secure to the lower side thereof a pair of flexible straps 8, each preferably extending entirely across the mattress adjacent one end thereof, as shown in Fig. 6, the ends of this strap projecting beyond the side edges of the mattress and the ends adjacent one side edge being formed with suitable openings or button holes.

The ends of the straps projecting beyond the other side edge are brought around the wide bottom rail 9 and permanently secured to the lower side thereof as by tacking, as shown at 8*b*, in Fig. 4. These strap ends constitute hinges about which the mattress may be swung upwardly, as indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 3.

When the mattress is in normal horizontal position, as shown in Fig. 4, the strap ends opposite such hinges are passed around the bottom rail 9*a*, and the button holes therein engaged over studs 8*a*, set into the lower side of said rail. These serve to hold the mattress in position, when the device is used as a crib.

When it is desired to use the device as a play

pen, the strap ends are disengaged from the studs 8a and the mattress is swung upwardly, as indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 3, into the vertical position shown in Fig. 4a, thus exposing the floor board 5. When in the vertical position shown in Fig. 4a, it will be seen that the mattress lies against the top rail 1 and fits into the recess formed between the inner portions of the wide corner posts 1a, and above the wide bottom rail 9.

The width of the mattress is preferably approximately the same as the distance between the top and bottom rails, so that, when the mattress is swung to vertical position, its upper edge terminates adjacent the top rail. To secure the mattress in this vertical position, the strap ends having the openings are passed over the top rail and engaged with studs 1c, set into the outer side of said top rail, as clearly shown in Fig. 4a.

Instead of a single strap 8, extending entirely across the mattress, as shown in Fig. 6, I may employ two shorter straps 8', as shown in Fig. 7, one being secured adjacent each edge of the mattress.

When it is desired to fold the end frames inwardly and move the side frames close together, for storage or transportation purposes, both the mattress and the floor board 5 are swung up to vertical position, with the floor board lying closely against the mattress, as shown in Figs. 1 and 8. To maintain the parts in this position, straps 10 are provided secured to the bottom side of the floor board, and formed with holes or openings adjacent their ends, and these are passed over the top rail, as shown in Fig. 1, and the openings engaged with the same studs 1c which hold the mattress straps.

When the floor board is in normal position, these straps 10 may be hooked back out of the way by engaging them with other studs 10a, set into the lower side of the floor board, as clearly shown in Fig. 4.

In order to facilitate moving the crib about, I attach runners 4 to the lower ends of the posts of each side frame, which runners are formed with curved ends, as shown in Fig. 1. By reason of these runners, the crib may readily slide over rugs, or up and down steps, thus enabling it to be moved without lifting. When the crib is folded or collapsed, these runners are brought close together, and provide a long, narrow base, thus rendering handling exceptionally easy.

What I claim is:

1. A baby crib, comprising side and end frames, said side frames each having top and bottom rails, a mattress support carried by said bottom side rails, and a mattress hingedly connected at one edge to the bottom rail of one of said side frames, so that it may be swung upwardly from said support into a vertical position in which it lies against the inside of said side frame, the width of the mattress being substantially equal to the distance between said top and bottom side rails, and means for securing the upper edge of the mattress directly to the top rail of the side frame against which it lies, to hold it in vertical position.

2. A baby crib comprising side and end frames, each of said side frames having top and bottom rails, a mattress support carried by said bottom rails, and a mattress normally resting on said support, strap means secured to the lower side of said mattress adjacent said support and extending beyond the side edges thereof, said extending strap means at one edge being attached to the bottom rail of one of said side frames and constituting a hinged connection, and said extending

strap means at the other edge having a button hole, a stud carried by the opposite bottom rail, said button hole adapted to engage over said stud to normally hold the mattress in position on said support, and a second stud carried by the top rail of the side frame to which said mattress is hinged and also adapted to be engaged by said button hole, the width of said mattress being substantially equal to the height of said side frames, whereby, when said strap means is disengaged from said first mentioned stud, the mattress may be swung upwardly about said hinged connection into a vertical position in which it lies against the inside of the side frame to which it is hinged, and whereby it may be retained in such position by engaging said strap means with the stud carried by said top rail.

3. A combined baby crib and play pen comprising a pair of side frames, each having top and bottom rails, and a pair of end frames connecting said side frames and each having two sections hinged to each other and to the respective side frames, whereby the end frames may be folded and the side frames brought together in close parallel relation, a rigid floor board supported by said side frames, a mattress normally resting on said floor board, said mattress and said floor board being separately hingedly connected at one edge to the bottom rail of the same side frame, whereby said mattress may be swung independently of said floor board from normal horizontal position into a vertical position in which it lies against the inside of said side frame, and means for retaining said mattress in such vertical position so that the device is then capable of serving as a play pen, the arrangement being such that said floor board, when desired, may also be swung upwardly into a vertical position in which it lies against said mattress, and in which the said end frames may be folded and the side frames brought close together, with said mattress and floor board between them.

4. A combined baby crib and play pen comprising a pair of side frames and a pair of end frames, each of said side frames having end posts and top and bottom rails, the end posts and bottom rail of one of said side frames being relatively wide and the top rail relatively narrow and disposed near the outside edge of said posts, whereby a recess is formed inside of said top rail between said posts, a rigid floor board supported on said bottom rails, and a mattress normally resting on said floor board, said mattress being hingedly connected at one edge to said wide bottom rail, whereby it may be swung upwardly from said floor board into a vertical position in which it lies against said narrow top rail and fills said recess, and means for attaching the mattress to said top rail to hold it in said vertical position, so that the device is then capable of serving as a play pen.

FRANCES L. REX.

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