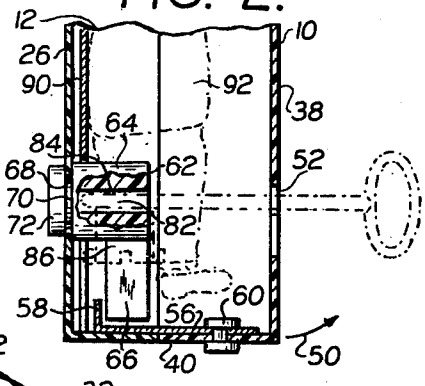
March 3, 1970 D. W. BALTER 3,497,992

SIMULATED PADLOCK TOY CARRY CASE.

Filed Jan. 15, 1968

FIG. 2.



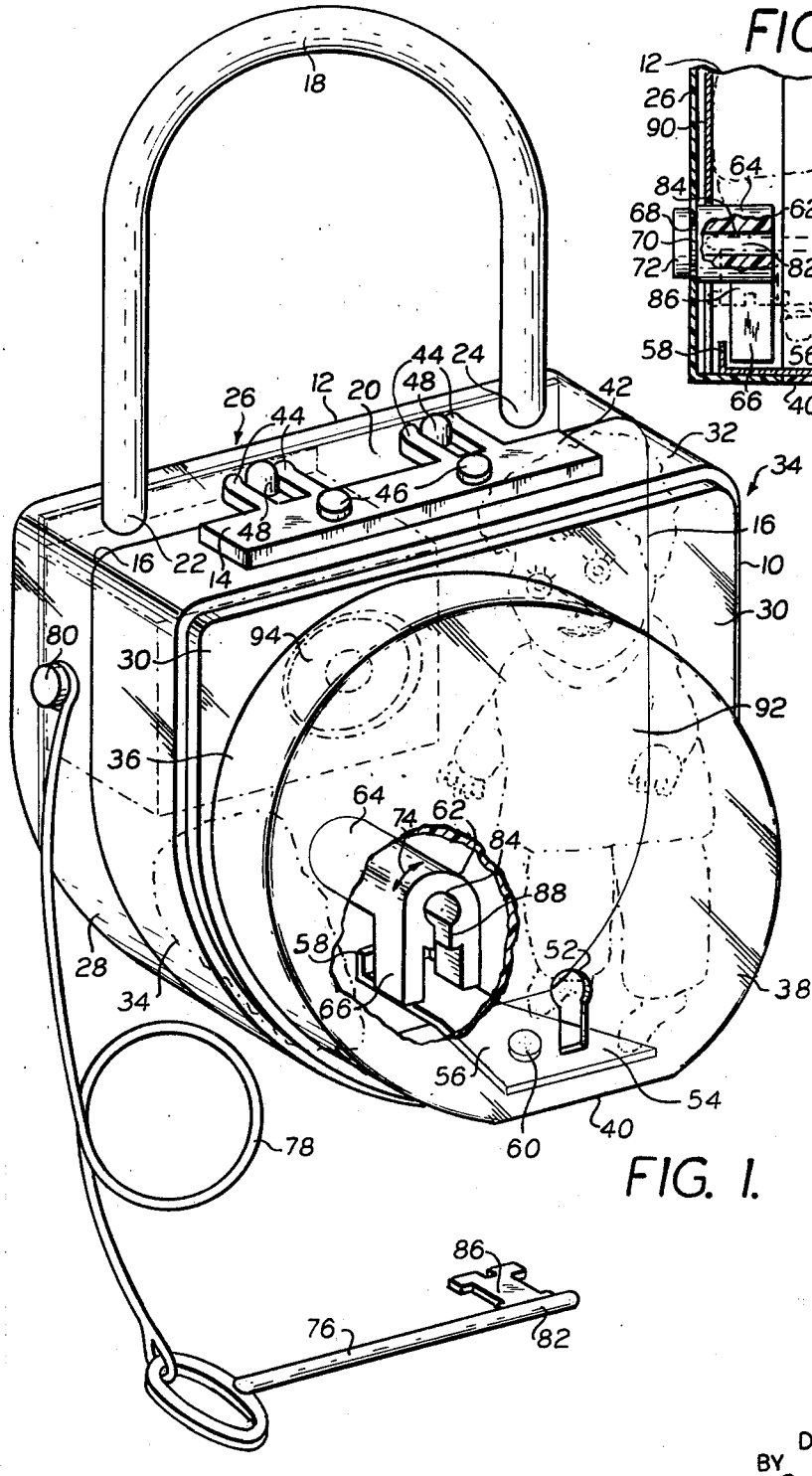


FIG. 1.

INVENTOR
DAVID W. BALTER
BY
ATTORNEY.

United States Patent Office 3,497,992
Patented Mar. 3, 1970

3,497,992

SIMULATED PADLOCK TOY CARRY CASE

David W. Balter, New York, N.Y., assignor, by mesne assignments, to Uneeda Doll Co., Inc., Brooklyn, N.Y., a corporation of New York

Filed Jan. 15, 1968, Ser. No. 697,807
Int. Cl. A63h 33/00
U.S. Cl. 46—11 6 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A toy carry case made of transparent plastic material and formed as a padlock comprising a locking mechanism featuring simplicity of design and operation. The padlock may be utilized for storage therein of small, fanciful toy objects and it may be locked and unlocked by a key.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention pertains to toys, and more particularly to the imaginative concept and structural configuration of a relatively small, hand-held child's plaything.

The creation of a new toy involves several necessary but somewhat diverse accomplishments. A primary factor determining the value and contribution of an inventive new toy relates to whether there has been created an item which will meet with commercial acceptance and success. One important aspect of such success depends upon the aesthetic quality of the toy. This quality must be such that the toy is found desirable and attractive to a prospective purchaser and user thereof, primarily and almost exclusively a child. This attractiveness is created when the apparance and general effect produced by the toy is cleverly and imaginatively conceived and originated, entailing a certain indefinable quality that stimulates the attention and interest of a child. This quality is necessarly of a fanciful and intangible nature, but requires both a commercial as well as an aesthetic achievement.

A further aspect of this area of endeavor, which increases the degree of skill and inventiveness which must be imparted in the creation of a new toy, is the fact that the mechanical or functional means by which the toy is fabricated and used must not only enhance and effectuate the aesthetic objectives of the toy, but they must also provide a structure which is simple, economical and inexpensive to manufacture. Again, the commercial success of the toy will be dependent upon the sale price thereof, and it will be found that certain toy items must of commercial necessity be maintained within rather rigid price levels. Accordingly, the embodiment of the toy must be of such a structural nature that it not only provides an effective physical expression of the aesthetic qualities of the toy, but it must also do so in a manner which features simplicity and ease of construction and assembly and economy of manufacturing cost.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a toy which is aesthetically and fancifully attractive and which involves a structure simple and inexpensive to manufacture and assemble enhancing the aesthetic and fanciful essence of the toy.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Briefly stated, the invention comprises a toy carry case formed as a transparant simulated padlock with a body portion having two sections. Hinge means pivotally connect said two sections and an internal locking mechanism featuring simplicity of design and operation permits opening and closing of the carry case by pivoting of said two sections apart and together, with a key which engages said locking mechanism being provided to lock and unlock said carry case.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

An understanding of the invention may be had by reference to the following detailed description of a specific embodiment thereof, taken in connection with the accompanying drawing wherein;

FIG. 1 is a view in perspective partially broken away showing the simulated padlock of the present invention in the closed position; and

FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view of the lower portion of the device showing a locking mechanism with a key, shown in dotted form, inserted therein.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

In FIG. 1 there is shown a toy padlock having a body portion comprising two sections, a front section **10** and a rear section **12**, both made of transparent plastic material. Sections **10** and **12** are joined together at the upper portions thereof by a hinge **14**, and have congruent edge portions which overlie each other, as indicated by line **16**, when the padlock is closed.

A U-shaped simulated latch member **18** is affixed to the upper surface **20** of rear section **12**. The latch member **18** has no functional purpose, except to be used as a handle for the carry case, and has both ends **22** and **24** firmly affixed in rear section **12** thereby to simulate in appearance a real padlock.

The rear section **12** comprises a flat rear surface **26** with upper surface **20** integral therewith, and with an integral U-shaped surface **28** extending from the side and bottom portions thereof.

The front section **10** is somewhat simularly formed and comprises a front surface **30** having an upper surface **32** and a U-shaped side and bottom surface **34** extending perpendicularly therefrom. Additionally, the front surface **30** extends to the edge of an upstanding cylindrical surface **36** having a flat circular surface **38** integral therewith. The padlock is formed with a flat bottom portion **40** which extends across the bottom of both the front section **10** and the rear section **12**.

The hinge **14** comprises a rectangular section **42** with extension members **44** formed integrally therewith. The rectangular section **42** is affixed to top surface **32** of front section **10** by a pair of rivets **46**. Extension members **44** straddle a pair of upstanding posts **48**, which are fixedly mounted upon upper surface **20** of rear section **12**, and are pivotally connected thereto by any appropriate means.

The padlock may be opened and access gained to the interior thereof by swinging front section **10** forwardly and upwardly as indicated by arrow **50**, thereby pivoting extension members **44** about their point of connection with posts **48**.

The padlock may be locked in the closed position by a locking mechanism which will be described hereinafter.

The circular surface **38** has a keyhole **52** extending therethrough. A clip **54** having a flat portion **56** and a perpendicularly upstanding lip **58** is fixedly attached to the flat bottom portion **40** of front section **10** by a rivet **60** which extends through bottom portion **40** and flat portion **56**.

A rotatable latching member **62** comprising a cylindrical body **64** and a depending U-shaped member **66** is rotatably attached to rear surface **26** of rear section **12**. A circular opening **68** formed in rear surface **26** has a cylindrical member **70**, which interconnects an enlarged head member **72** with cylindrical body **64**, extending therethrough. Cylindrical member **70** is smaller in diameter than circular opening **68**, thereby allowing cylindrical member **70** to be freely rotatably held therein. Accordingly, latching member **62** may be freely rotated

about the central axis of cylindrical body **64** as indicated by arrows **74**.

A key **76** is mounted upon the padlock by a flexible string **78** which is attached to rear section **12** at side surface **28** by a rivet **80**. The key **76** may be made of a plastic material or any ordinary metal key of the same general configuration may be utilized.

The drawing shows the padlock in the locked position. The depending U-shaped member **66** in the position shown blocks movement of front section **10** by engaging upstanding lip **58**. When it is desired to open the padlock, the key **76** is inserted through keyhole **52** into latching member **62** which is formed internally in a manner appropriate to receive key **76**. The key **76** has a round body portion **82** which fits into cylindrical opening **84** of latching member **62**, and a flat portion **86** which fits between the inner walls **88** of depending U-shaped member **66**. The key **76**, in dotted form, is shown in the inserted position in FIG. 2.

Rotation of key **76** when in the inserted position will cause flat portion **86** to engage inner walls **88** thereby rotating latching member **62** to swing the depending U-shaped member **66** out of the path of lip **58**. With lip **58** free to move forwardly, front section **10** may be swung open about hinge member **14** thereby permitting access to the interior of the padlock.

The interior of the padlock may have a variety of fanciful, simulated objects mounted therein upon a flat insert **90**, made a cardboard or other suitable material, frictionally held within rear section **12**. A small doll **92** and a simulated phonograph **94** shown in dotted form, as well as several other fanciful toy objects or accessories may be removably fastened to flat insert **90**, thereby permitting utilization of the padlock as a carry case for toys with the simulated latch member **18** serving as a handle. Of course, any appropriate means may be utilized for mounting toys within the padlock, and the cardboard insert **90** is intended primarily for display purposes to allow the toys mounted thereon to be most advantageously visible. However, insert **90** may be removed and the toys merely loosely stored within the padlock.

It will be apparent that the padlock carry case of the present invention provides a fanciful, imaginative toy item which may be simply and inexpensively produced. The padlock comprises a locking mechanism featuring great simplicity of design and significant ease of operation well suited to utilization in a child's toy. All of these features, as well as others made apparent from the foregoing description, combine to provide a toy item which will be attractive, appealing and interesting to a child while permitting manufacture thereof at a cost which enables the item to be most advantageously sale priced.

What I claim is:

1. A toy carry case simulating a padlock utilizing transparent plastic material comprising a transparent padlock body portion formed of a front section and a rear section, hinge means pivotally joining said front and rear sections, a locking mechanism mounted interiorly of said padlock, said locking mechanism comprising a first member fixedly attached to one of said body sections and a second member rotatably attached to the other of said body sections, said second member being rotatable to a position to engage said first member thereby to prevent pivoting apart of said body sections about said hinge, and a key insertable interiorly of said padlock adapted to engage said second member to rotate it out of engagement with said first member thereby enabling opening of said padlock carry case.

2. A toy carry case according to claim **1** comprising a U-shaped member fixedly attached to one section of said body portion simulating the latching member of a padlock utilizable as a handle for said carry case.

3. A toy carry case according to claim **1** wherein said first member of said locking mechanism comprises a clip riveted to said front section and including a perpendicularly upstanding lip formed upon a portion thereof, the portion of said clip containing said lip extending into said rear section, said second rotatable member of said locking mechanism being mounted upon said rear section with said lip positioned behind the engaging portion of said second member.

4. A toy cary case according to claim **3** wherein said second member of said locking mechanism comprises a cylindrical portion rotatably attached to a wall of said rear section of said body portion, with a U-shaped portion extending perpendicularly to the axis of rotation of said cylindrical portion, said lip extending to between said U-shaped portion and said wall when said carry case is in the locked condition.

5. A toy carry case according to claim **4** comprising a key movably attached to said body portion, a keyhole defined by said front section of said body portion, said key being insertable through said keyhole to engage said rotatable second member of said locking mechanism to rotate said cylindrical portion thereof, thereby to move said U-shaped portion out of engagement with said lip.

6. A toy carry case according to claim **1** comprising small fanciful toy objects mounted therein.

References Cited

UNITED STATES PATENTS

2,078,767	4/1937	Marx	46—2
2,570,341	10/1951	Hake.	
3,235,263	2/1966	Smith	46—11
3,298,601	1/1967	Brown	46—2

RUSSELL R. KINSEY, Primary Examiner

J. W. MITCHELL, Assistant Examiner