May 14, 1963 N. F. FLESCH 3,089,699

TEETER-TOTTER

Filed March 17, 1961

Fig. 1.

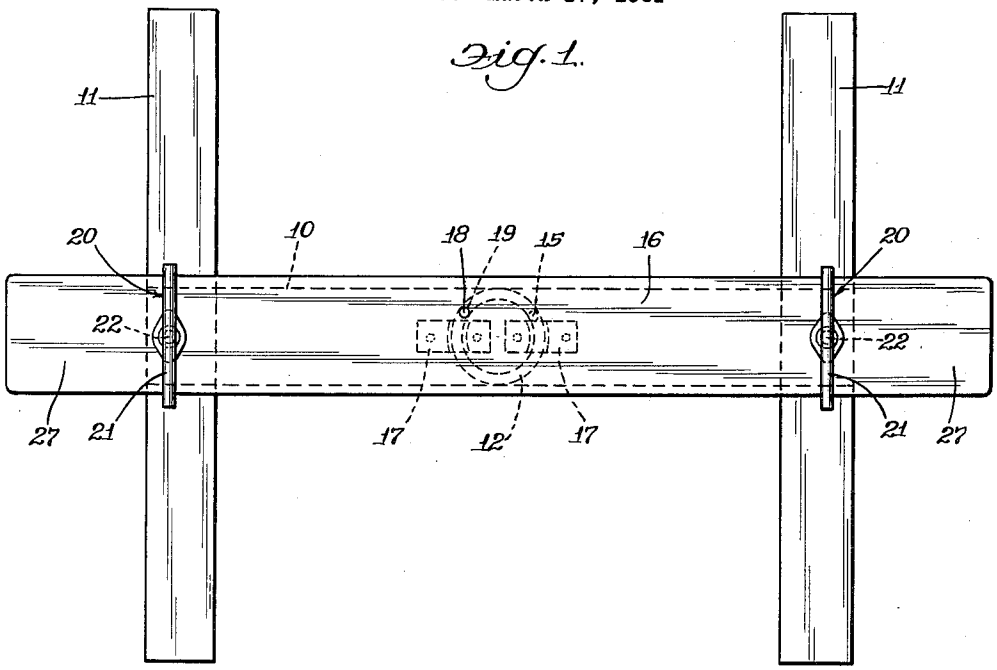
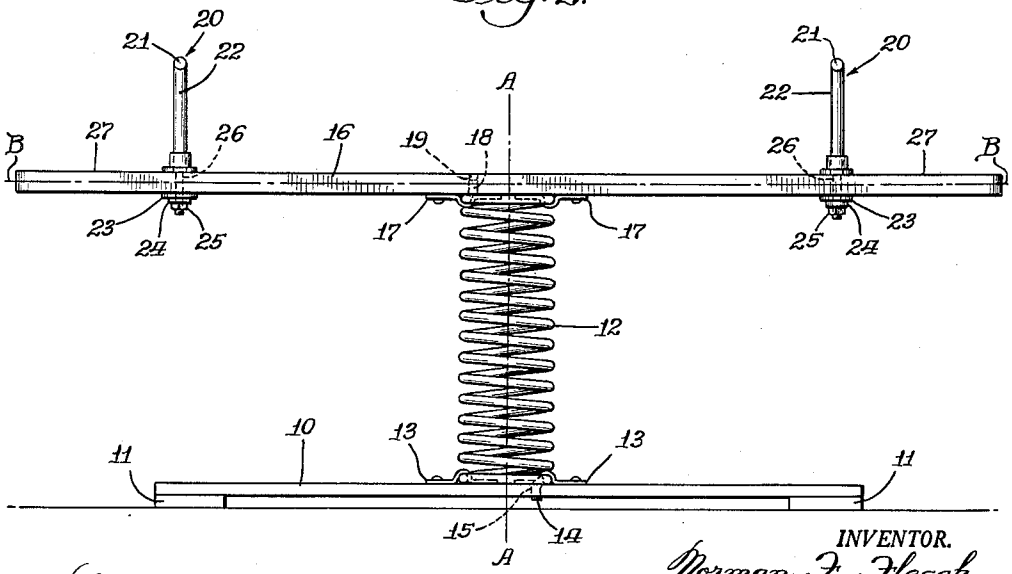


Fig. 2.



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1

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TEETER-TOTTER

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This invention relates to toys and more particularly to teeter-totters, seesaws, and the like.

It has heretofore been customary for teeter-totters, seesaws, and the like, to primarily limit the motion of the players to substantially vertical motion as the teeterboard is pivoted about its pivotal support, or shaft, at or near the center of its horizontal axis. Certain novel features of my invention will also accommodate motion of the teeterboard in other directions, if desired by the players.

One object of my invention is to provide a toy of the type described in which the teeterboard, in addition to the conventional teetering action described above, may move in an up and down motion along the vertical axis of the teeterboard support. The teeterboard may also be allowed to move in a limited oscillatory motion about the vertical axis of the teeterboard support. A rocking motion of the teeterboard may be induced causing the board to rock alternately to the left and right of the player in the seated position.

A further object of my invention is to provide a toy which will be constructed with a minimum number of very durable parts resulting in high reliability and minimum maintenance. This construction avoids the use of a pivot pin, shaft, or other friction bearing surfaces between the teeterboard and the board support. No lubrication is ever required.

Other objects and features of my invention will become apparent from an examination of the following description and the accompanying drawing wherein like numerals are employed to designate like parts.

FIGURE 1 is a plan view of the teeter-totter embodying my invention,

FIGURE 2 is a side elevational view of the same.

Referring now to the embodiment of my invention shown in FIGURE 1 and 2, the base consists of a base member **10** that rests on oppositely disposed end members **11**. Said end members **11** are rigidly secured generally centrally thereof to the base member **10** preferably at right angles thereto.

A vertically mounted coil spring **12** is rigidly secured to the upper surface of the base member **10** at the longitudinal center thereof by means of clamping brackets **13**, said brackets forming U-shaped clamps on the coil spring **12**. The lower end of the coil spring **12** is bent parallel to its longitudinal axis A—A to form a lower spring locating pin **14**. The spring locating pin **14** is set into a hole **15** in base member **10**.

The upper end of the coil spring **12** is rigidly secured to the lower surface of the teeterboard **16**, at the longitudinal center thereof, by means of clamping brackets **17**, said brackets forming U-shaped clamps on the coil spring **12**. The upper end of the coil spring **12** is bent parallel to axis A—A of the spring to form an upper spring locating pin **18**. The upper spring locating pin **18** is set into a

2

hole **19** in the teeter board **16**. The teeterboard **16** is preferably made of wood but could as well be made of other material.

Outwardly from axis A—A toward the ends **27** of the teeterboard **16** and intermediate the sides thereof, substantially T-shaped members **20** extend upwardly to form handles that may be grasped by children seated on opposite ends **27** of the teeterboard **16**. Each T-shaped member **20** comprises a cross-member **21** rigidly attached to a shank **22**. The lower end of the shank **22** is preferably threaded and extends through an aperture **26** in the teeterboard **16** and is secured by a retaining washer **23**, lock washer **24**, and retaining nut **25**.

The operation of my invention will be readily understood from the above description. During conventional teetering action, one side of the coil spring **12** will be in compression when the corresponding side of the teeterboard is in a lowered position. At the same time, the opposite side of the coil spring **12** will be in tension. As the teeter board **16** is in teetering action, a given side will alternately be under compression and tension.

If both players lift their weight simultaneously and allow the same to return to the teeterboard **16** in a jumping motion, the entire spring will alternately compress and elongate causing the entire teeterboard to move in an up and down springing motion.

Another motion of the teeterboard **16** may be induced by having one or both of the players urge the teeterboard in a direction to the right or left of the longitudinal axis B—B of the teeterboard **16**. This causes oscillatory clockwise or counterclockwise rotation of the teeterboard **16** on the vertical spring axis A—A as the coil spring **12** alternately coils and uncoils around its steady state unsprung position.

If both players push simultaneously and equally from opposite ends of the teeterboard **16** in a direction to the right or left of the seated position, the teeterboard may be made to rock or rotate to the left or right about its longiudinal axis B—B.

Any combination of the above motions can be induced by the players depending upon their skill.

It is understood that various modifications may be made in the structure of my invention, within the scope of the following claim without departing from the basic concept of my invention.

I claim:

In a seesaw, a horizontal base, a helical compression spring mounted vertically on said base, a teeterboard mounted intermediate its ends on said spring, means securing the end convolutions of said spring to said base and teeterboard, rescpectively, whereby said teeterboard is resiliently supported for vertical, angular and rotational movements relative to said base responsive to alternate engagement of the base by players seated on opposite ends of the teeterboard.

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