

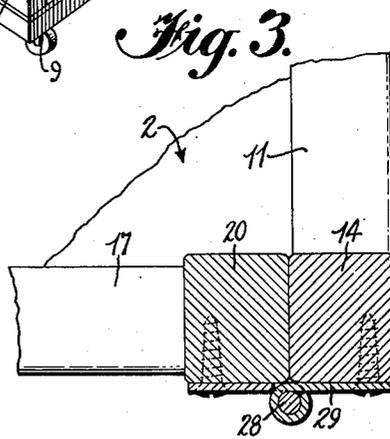
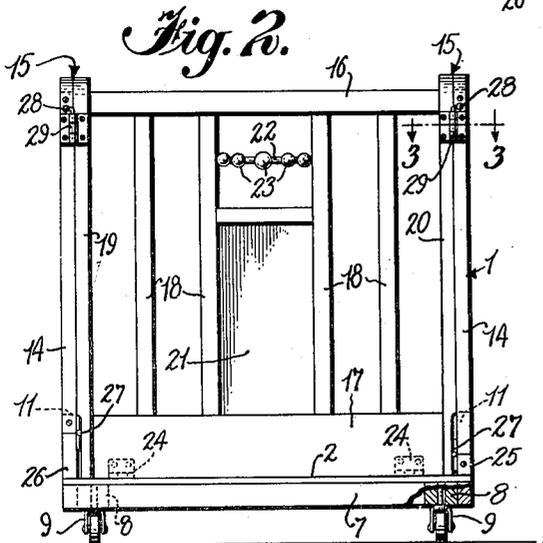
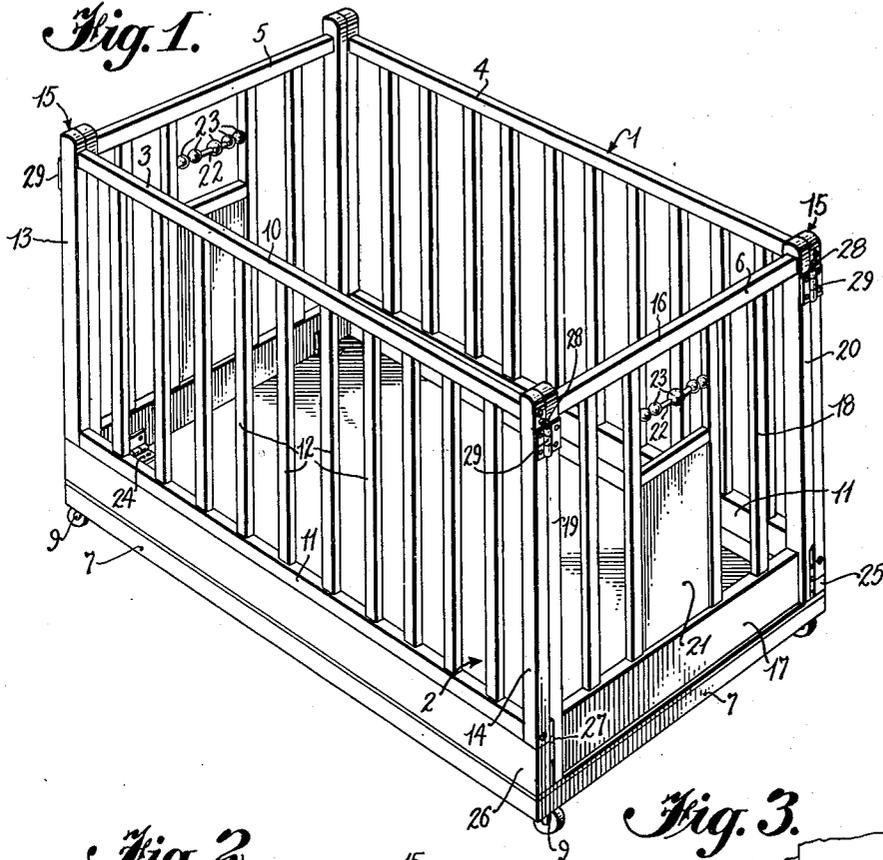
Feb. 17, 1953

H. L. HOKE  
JUVENILE PLAY YARD

2,628,370

Filed May 16, 1949

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1



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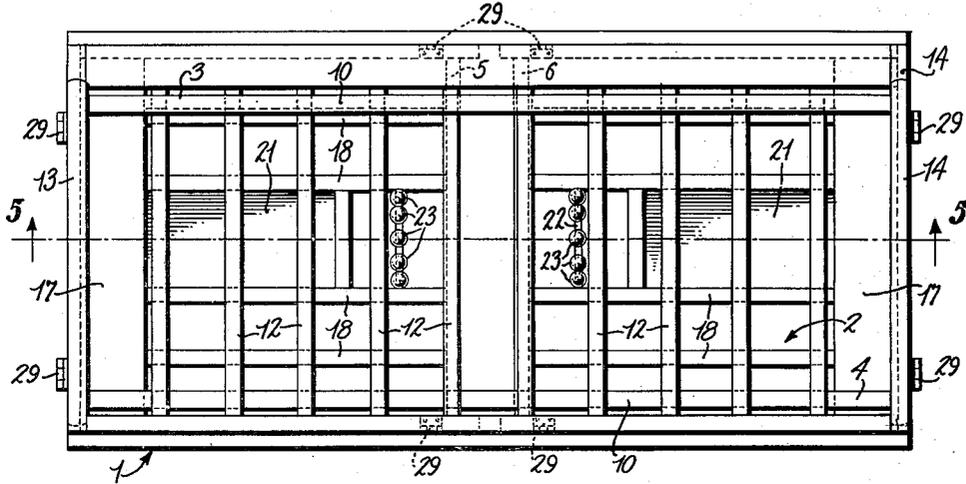
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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2

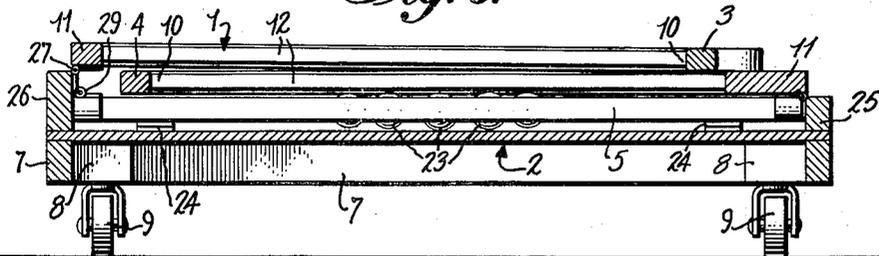
*Fig. 4.*



*Fig. 5.*



*Fig. 6.*



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,628,370

## JUVENILE PLAY YARD

Henry Lloyd Hoke, Thurmont, Md.

Application May 16, 1949, Serial No. 93,568

1 Claim. (Cl. 5—99)

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This invention relates to a juvenile play yard and it has for its general object to provide a folding play yard characterized by unusual rigidity when in expanded position, and which folds into a flat package or unit for storage or transportation, in which the several superposed panels lie substantially parallel without interference one with another, and therefore without consequent destructive strains.

A more specific object of the invention is to provide a play yard of the type described, having folding sides and ends in which the corner posts are each composed of two members, belonging respectively to a side and an adjacent end, in side by side contact, foldable vertically at the base about horizontal axes which are perpendicular to one another, and bolted along a vertical axis near the top, whereby weaving of the post components is prevented, and rigid maintenance of the vertical post assured.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a juvenile play yard in which the height of the ends is not greater than half the length of the yard, so that the end can fold down at the same level against the floor, the sides being hinged to the tops of rails, one of which is higher than the other by an amount equal to the thickness of a side, whereby the sides fold down at different levels upon the ends, one in flat relation to the other.

Other objects of the invention will appear as the following description of a preferred and practical embodiment thereof proceeds.

In the drawing which accompanies the following specification, and throughout the several figures of which the same reference characters have been used to denote identical parts:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a juvenile play yard embodying the principles of the invention, shown in open or expanded position;

Figure 2 is an end elevation, one lower corner being broken away showing adjacent parts in cross-section;

Figure 3 is a detail of a corner post in section, taken along the line 3—3 of Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a plan view of the play yard, folded;

Figure 5 is a cross-section taken along the line 5—5 of Figure 4;

Figure 6 is a cross-section taken along the line 6—6 of Figure 5.

Referring now in detail to the several figures, the numeral 1 represents the play yard as a whole, having a floor 2, similar sides 3 and 4, and similar ends 5 and 6.

The floor 2 is a sheet of suitable material such

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as plywood, secured to the top of a perimetric rectangular frame 7. Said frame in the corners has the fixed blocks 8 with vertical bores for the casters 9. The shape of the floor is preferably oblong, the sides being longer than the width of the ends.

The sides and ends are of slat construction, each side comprising a top bar 10 and bottom bar 11, with intervening vertical spaced slats 12, secured thereto. The ends of the top and bottom bars 10 and 11 are secured to the vertical side components 13 and 14 of the corner posts, the latter being designated as a whole by the reference character 15. The ends are similarly constructed, each end consisting of a top bar 16, bottom bar 17, with the intervening spaced vertical slats 18, the ends terminating in the end components 19 and 20 of the corner posts. As shown, the ends have an imperforate panel 21 and a transverse rod 22 carrying wooden beads 23, but these features are conventional in furniture of this class, and do not enter into the inventive concept.

The ends are hinged directly to the floor by the hinges 24. The length of the play yard is not less than double the height of the ends 5 and 6, so that the latter can be folded down against the floor, as shown in Figure 5, at a common level, without the free end of one lapping the free end of the other. The sides 3 and 4 are hinged at the tops of rails 25 and 26, by means of the hinges 27, which are secured along the longitudinal margins of the floor 2, as shown particularly in Figure 2.

It is to be noted that the rail 25 is substantially as high as the maximum thickness of either of the ends. In the illustrated embodiment the beads 23 are the thickest part of the ends, as indicated in Figure 6. Thus, when the ends are infolded against the floor, as shown in Figure 5, they are substantially level. The rail 26 is higher than the rail 25 by an amount equal to the thickness of one of the sides, for example the side 4, so that when the side 4 is folded into the position shown in Figure 5, it will lie level against the ends and be just below the hinge level of the opposite side 3. This permits the side 3, when folded down, to lie level against the side 4, making a symmetrical body or package of rectangular prismatic shape, excluding the casters.

It will be noted that when the sides and ends are folded up in vertical position, the components of the corner posts, for instance the components 14 and 19, come together in side by side con-

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tact. The component 14 folds up to vertical position along a horizontal axis at its base represented by the pintle of the hinge 27. The component 19 folds up from floor level on the axis represented by the pintle of the hinge 24, which is at right angles to the axis of the hinge 27. The two components 14 and 19 are secured adjacent the top by an axially vertical bolt 28 passing through the aligned holes of a keeper 29, part of which is secured to the component 14 and part to the component 19. This keeper, in the form shown, comprises the interdigitating parts of hinge leaves 30 and 31, Figure 3, one of which leaves has a part interposed between similar aligned parts on the other leaf. These parts constitute the barrel of the hinge and the interlocking relation of the parts prevents longitudinal slippage between the contacting faces of the post components. The bolt 28 running through these interdigitating barrel parts holds them against lateral displacement. By this construction the two components of the corner post are held rigidly upright with respect to the floor, and prevented from any swaying or weaving movement regardless of the efforts of the child to shake the sides or ends of the play yard.

In order that the slats 12 shall be of the same length in the sides and ends, it is to be noted that the bottom bars 17 of the ends are as high as the combined height of the rails 25 and 26 and the corresponding bottom bars 11. It will also be noted that since the rail 25 is of less height than the rail 26, the bottom bar 11 which rests upon the rail 25 is correspondingly wider than the bottom bar 11, which rests upon the rail 26, so that the combined heights of rail and bottom bar at each side are the same.

While I have in the above description disclosed what I believe to be a preferred and practical embodiment of the invention, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that the specific details of construction and arrangement of parts, as shown and described, are by way of example and not to be construed as limiting the scope of the invention.

I claim:

Collapsible juvenile play yard comprising a

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rectangular floor, end panels hinged at floor level foldable inwardly against the floor, rails extending longitudinally of the floor at opposite sides in fixed relation thereto, side panels hinged to the tops of said rails so as to fold inwardly, said rails being of a height differing by an amount equal to the thickness of a side panel to permit flat folding of said side panels, said side and end panels each including a rectangular frame having top, bottom and end members, the adjacent end members of the side and end panels terminating at the same level at the top, each being an integral member throughout its length, said end members having flat adjacent faces that contact in a common interface at each corner when said panels are in erect position, said adjacent contacting end members being the components of a corner post hinged at different levels at the base of said post, cooperating means at each corner adjacent the tops of said post components to prevent relative longitudinal slippage of said components along their contacting interface, said means providing a projection transversely intersecting the plane of the interface between said post components, said means also providing a complementary recess with which said projection interdigitates, said projection being confined against longitudinal movement, and removable means cooperating with said interdigitating projection and recess for holding said post components in interfacial contact.

HENRY LLOYD HOKE.

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