Sept. 19, 1967 E. A. PAOLONE 3,342,482

WAIST MOUNTED GYRATORY ROD RECREATIONAL DEVICE

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Fig. 1.

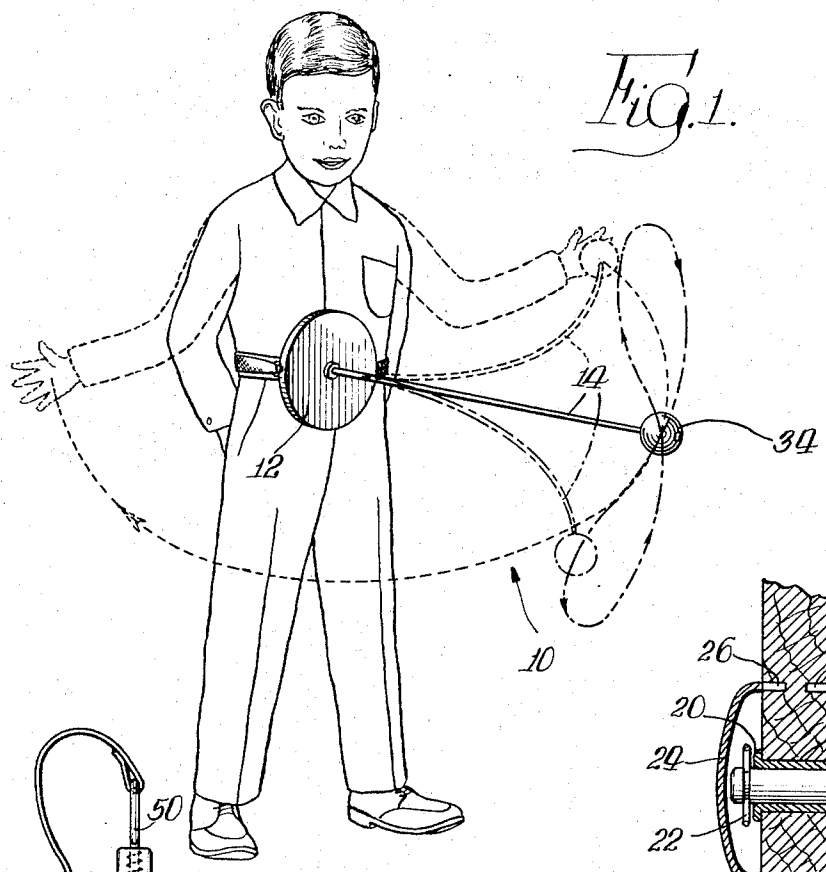


Fig. 3.

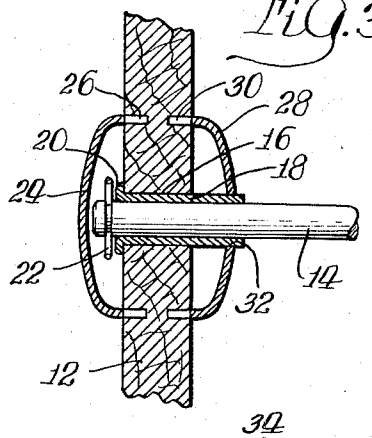


Fig. 2.

INVENTOR.
Ernest A. Paolone,
BY Brown, Jackson,
Boettcher & Dienner
Attys.

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WAIST-MOUNTED GYRATORY ROD RECREATIONAL DEVICE

Ernest A. Paolone, 10410 Ave. O, Chicago, Ill. 60617

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My present invention relates to a recreational device for affording the user thereof relaxation and enjoyment.

It is an object of my present invention to provide a recreational device which is adapted to be secured to the body of a person and manipulated by means of oscillatory motion of the body.

It is another object of my present invention to provide a recreational device, as described, wherein one end of a generally forwardly extending elongated member is secured to the waist of a person, and wherein the other end thereof is movable through spatial paths when the body of the person is oscillated.

It is a further object of my present invention to provide a recreational device, as described, wherein the elongated member is flexible, and wherein an enlargement, in the form of a spherical resilient member, is secured to the forward end of the elongated member and serves to describe spatial paths as a result of flexure of the flexible member when the body of the person is oscillated.

As a feature of my present invention, the described recreational device not only affords pleasure but also promotes bodily exercise.

Now in order to acquaint those skilled in the art with the manner of constructing and using recreational devices in accordance with the principles of my present invention, I shall describe in connection with the accompanying drawing a preferred embodiment of my invention.

In the drawing:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a preferred embodiment of the recreational device of my present invention secured to a person, and illustrates various flexural positions of the device and spatial paths that may be described by the outer end thereof.

FIGURE 2 is a plan view of the recreational device of FIGURE 1, with the resilient member, and the mounting means therefor, at the outer end of the elongated member being shown in section; and

FIGURE 3 is a fragmentary sectional view illustrating the means by which the one end of the elongated member is mounted in the associated base member of my recreational device.

Referring now to the drawing, there is indicated generally by the reference numeral **10** the recreational device of my present invention. The recreational device **10** comprises a base member **12** which, as shown, may be in the form of a flat circular plate or disk, and may be fabricated of wood or any other suitable material. The recreational device **10** further comprises an elongated member **14** which is fabricated in rod form of a flexible material such as Fiberglas.

The means by which one end of the elongated flexible member **14** is mounted in the base member **12** is best shown in FIGURE 3. A central transverse opening **16** is formed in the base member **12** and disposed therethrough in a metal bushing member **18**. The bushing member **18** is preferably press fitted in the opening **16**

and is flared radially outwardly at one end as at **20**. One end of the elongated member or rod **14** extends through and is supported in the bushing member **18**, and a hairpin fastener **22** is snapped into an annular groove at the end of the rod **14** for preventing the latter from being withdrawn to the right as viewed in FIGURE 3. As will be appreciated, the hairpin fastener **22** engages and bears against the flared end **20** of the bushing member **18** when the rod **14** is urged to the right. The end of the rod **14** on which the hairpin fastener **22** is mounted is enclosed by a dished closure member **24** having a plurality of circumferentially spaced prongs **26** that are pressed into the adjacent side of the base member **12**. The closure member **24** serves to restrict movement of the rod **14** to the left as viewed in FIGURE 3. A corresponding dished closure member **28** is affixed in the opposed side of the base member **12** by means of a plurality of circumferentially spaced prongs **30**. The closure member **28** is provided with a central aperture **32** to accommodate the bushing member **18**.

Mounted at the end of the elongated member **14**, opposite the base member **12**, is an enlargement **34**, preferably in the form of a sphere fabricated of a resilient material such as rubber. A central opening **36** is formed through the resilient member **34** to receive the outer end of the rod **14**. A connector **38**, having an annular flanged head portion **40**, is press fitted or embedded in the resilient member **34** at one end of the opening **36** therein and is adapted to be threaded onto the adjacent end of the rod **14**. The head portion **40** of the connector **38** serves to prevent the resilient member **34** from being thrust from the rod **14** during manipulation of the recreational device **10**.

My above-described recreational device **10** is adapted to be secured to the body of a person, as shown in FIGURE 1, and manipulated by means of oscillatory motion of the body. More specifically, the base member **12** of the recreational device **10** is adapted to be secured in a substantially vertical position to the waist of a person with the elongated member **14** being thereby positioned to extend generally forwardly therefrom. The means for mounting the base member **12** to the waist of a person comprises, as shown in FIGURE 2, a pair of strap or belt members **42** and **44**, which may be fabricated of canvas, leather or the like, and which have cooperating interlocking end clip and buckle members **46** and **48** respectively. The other ends of the belt members **42** and **44** are secured to the base member **12** by means of eye-screws **50** threaded into the edges of the base member **12** at diametrically opposite sides thereof.

In using the recreational device **10** of my present invention, the base member **12** is placed at the waist of a person and the end clip and buckle members **46** and **48** are suitably interconnected at the back of the person. It will be appreciated that the closure member **24** serves to shield the clothes of the person from contact with the inner end of the rod **14** and hairpin fastener **22**. After the recreational device **10** has been secured in position, as shown in solid lines in FIGURE 1, the resilient member **34** may be moved through various spatial paths as a result of flexure of the flexible member **14** when the body of the person is oscillated.

By reason of oscillatory motion of the body of the person, the resilient member **34** is movable to describe an

infinite number of spatial paths or patterns. For example, if the hips of the person are twisted back and forth from side to side, the resultant flexure of the rod **14** will cause the resilient member **34** to describe cyclically an arcuate path in a generally horizontal plane. If the arms of the person are then extended outwardly, the resilient member **34**, at each end of its arcuate travel following the path shown in dotted lines in FIGURE 1, may be bounced against the palms of the hands of the person. As another example, if the hips of a person are appropriately twisted or gyrated, the resultant flexure of the elongated rod **14** will cause the resilient member **34**, depending upon the precise type of hip movement, to describe either a circle, or a figure **8** as shown in dot-dash lines in FIGURE 1. During such whirling of the resilient member **34**, the latter may be bounced on the ground, or not, as desired by the user. As a further example, if the hips of the person are swung generally forwardly and backwardly, flexure of the rod **14** will cause the resilient member **34** to describe an arcuate path lying in a substantially vertical plane. Here, too, the resilient member **34** may be bounced off the ground and/or the head of the person, as desired. As a still further example, if the hips of the person are arched from side to side, flexure of the rod **14** will cause the resilient member **34** to describe the path of a half-circle either facing upwardly, or facing downwardly with the resilient member **34** bouncing on the ground at the ends of each stroke.

For purposes of describing a specific embodiment of the recreational device **10**, the base member **12** may be 8 inches in diameter and ½ inch thick, the rod **14** may be 4 feet in length and ⅛ inch in diameter, and the resilient member **34** may be 3 inches in diameter. However, it is to be understood that the length of the rod **14** may be altered to accommodate use of the recreational device by persons of different sizes. Also, the size of the base member **12** and of the resilient member **34** may be varied. Finally, the term "oscillate," or derivative thereof, is herein used to refer generically to all forms of body movement including the described motions of arching, swinging, girating, and twisting.

While I have shown and described what I believe to be a preferred embodiment of my present invention, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various rearrangements and modifications may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of my invention.

I claim:

1. A recreational device comprising a normally substantially straight elongated rod readily flexible in all directions transversely of the longitudinal axis thereof, means for securing one end of said elongated flexible rod to the waist of a person with said elongated flexible rod being positioned to extend generally forwardly therefrom, an enlargement fixed at the other end of said elongated flexible rod, and said enlargement being of sufficient weight and said rod being of sufficient flexibility to cause said enlargement to describe spatial paths when said waist securing means is oscillated.

2. A recreational device comprising a normally substantially straight rod readily flexible in all directions transversely of the longitudinal axis thereof, means for securing one end of said flexible rod to the waist of a person with said flexible rod being positioned to extend generally forwardly therefrom, a spherical member fixed at the other end of said flexible rod, and said spherical member being of sufficient weight and said rod being of sufficient flexibility to cause said spherical member to describe arcuate paths when said waist securing means is oscillated.

3. A recreational device comprising a normally substantially straight rod readily flexible in all directions transversely of the longitudinal axis thereof, means for securing one end of said flexible rod to the waist of a person with said flexible rod being positioned to extend generally forwardly therefrom, a resilient member fixed at the other end of said flexible rod, and said resilient member being of sufficient weight and said rod being of sufficient flexibility to cause said resilient member to describe arcuate paths when said waist securing means is oscillated.

4. A recreational device comprising a base member, means for securing said base member to the waist of a person, a normally substantially straight rod readily flexible in all directions transversely of the longitudinal axis thereof, said flexible rod being secured at one end to said base member and being positioned to extend generally forwardly from the person, a resilient member, means fixedly mounting said resilient member at the other end of said flexible rod, and said resilient member being of sufficient weight and said rod being of sufficient flexibility to cause said resilient member to describe arcuate paths when said base member is oscillated.

5. A recreational device comprising a base member, strap means for securing said base member to the waist of a person in a generally vertical position, a normally substantially straight rod readily flexible in all directions transversely of the longitudinal axis thereof, said flexible rod extending generally forwardly from said base member with one end thereof extending through said base member transversely thereof, means for restraining axial movement of said flexible rod relative to said base member, a resilient member, means fixedly mounting said resilient member at the other end of said flexible rod, and said resilient member being of sufficient weight and said rod being of sufficient flexibility to cause said resilient member to describe cyclically arcuate paths when said base member is oscillated.

6. A recreational device comprising a base member, strap means for securing said base member to the waist of a person in a generally vertical position, an elongated flexible rod extending generally forwardly from said base member with one end thereof extending through said base member transversely thereof, means secured to said one end of said flexible rod for restraining movement of said flexible rod in one axial direction relative to said base member, means secured to said base member at said one end of said flexible rod for restraining movement of said flexible rod in the other axial direction relative to said base member, a resilient member, means fixedly mounting said resilient member at the other end of said flexible rod, and said resilient member being of sufficient weight and said rod being of sufficient flexibility to cause said resilient member to describe cyclically arcuate paths when said base member is oscillated.

7. A recreational device comprising a disk-like base member, strap means for securing said base member to the waist of a person in a generally vertical position, said base member having a central transverse opening therethrough, a bushing member disposed in said central opening, an elongated flexible rod extending generally forwardly from said base member with one end thereof extending through said bushing member, means secured to said one end of said flexible rod for restraining movement of said flexible rod in one axial direction relative to said base member, closure means secured to said base member at said one end of said flexible rod for restraining movement of said flexible rod in the other axial direction relative to said base member, a resilient member, means fixedly mounting said resilient member at the other end of said flexible rod, and said resilient member being of sufficient weight and said rod being of sufficient flexibility to cause said resilient member to describe cyclically arcuate paths when said base member is oscillated.

8. The recreational device of claim **7** wherein said resilient member is formed with a central opening to receive said other end of said flexible rod, and said mounting means is comprised of a connector embedded in said

resilient member and secured to said other end of said flexible rod.

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ANTON O. OECHSLE, *Primary Examiner.*

DELBERT LOWE, *Examiner.*

M. R. PAGE, *Assistant Examiner.*