March 9, 1926. 1,575,682

R. T. GRIFFITHS

INFLATABLE FIGURE TOY

Filed July 8, 1925

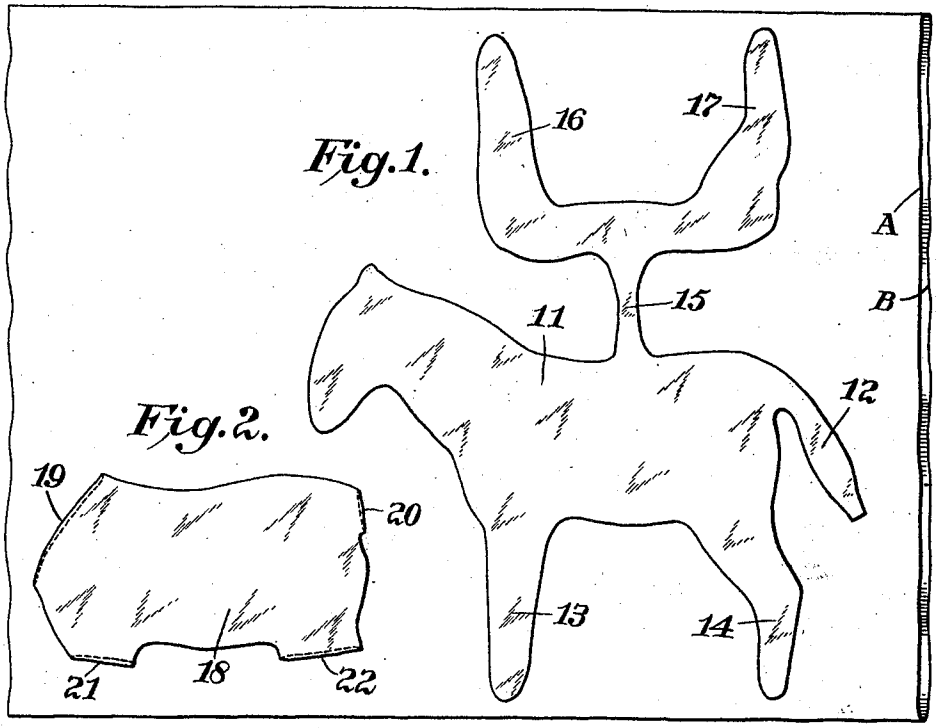


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

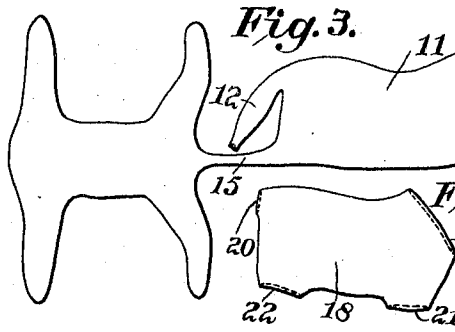


Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

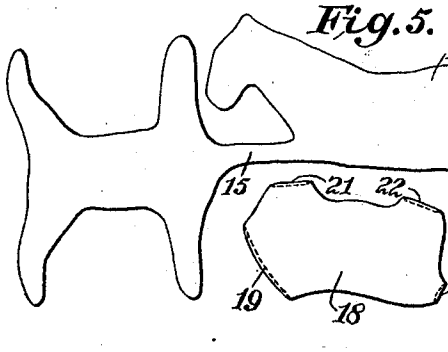


Fig. 5.

Fig. 6.

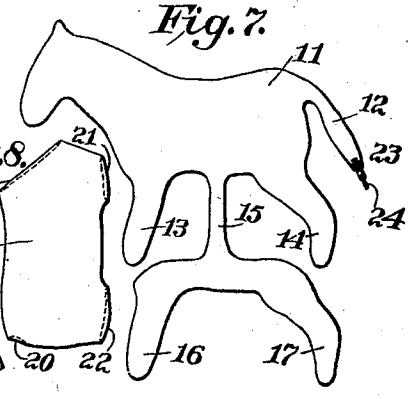


Fig. 7.

Fig. 8.

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Patented Mar. 9, 1926. 1,575,682

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RICHARD T. GRIFFITHS, OF AKRON, OHIO, ASSIGNOR TO THE MILLER RUBBER COMPANY, OF AKRON, OHIO, A CORPORATION OF OHIO.

INFLATABLE FIGURE TOY.

Application filed July 8, 1925. Serial No. 42,251.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RICHARD T. GRIFFITHS, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Akron, in the county of Summit and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Inflatable Figure Toys, of which the following is a specification.

My present invention relates to an inflatable toy and a method of making the same.

Heretofore it has been difficult, if not impossible, to cut from sheet rubber an inflatable toy having a plurality of overlying limbs and show the limbs in the proper relation.

The principal object, therefore, is the provision of a toy as above described which will simulate a quadruped, which will show the limbs in proper position, and which may be inflated through a single opening.

To this end the invention includes the cutting from two superimposed rubber sheets, with a blunt edge, as is well known in this art, the outline of a body portion and extending therefrom limb portions. The limb portions may extend from various parts of the body portion, as will be more fully described hereinafter. An envelope also cut from a double sheet is provided having openings therein to accommodate the head, tail and limb portions of the animal. The tail or other part of the animal is then provided with a valve through which fluid such as air may be introduced, the air passing to every part of the inflatable toy, which expands into the envelope. Such a structure allows the legs to overlie each other and thus naturally simulate a quadruped.

The invention further consists in the novel construction, arrangement and combination of parts hereinafter shown and described.

I have illustrated in the accompanying drawings several forms of carrying out the invention, although I do not wish to be limited thereto, as these are merely illustrative and not limiting.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 shows the cut out body with attached limbs;

Figure 2 is the envelope therefor;

Figure 3 is a modified form;

Figure 4 its envelope;

Figure 5 still another form;

Figure 6 its envelope;

Figure 7 a further modification; and

Figure 8 its envelope.

Referring now with particularity to the drawings, I have shown two superimposed sheets indicated generally at A and B of unvulcanized rubber, from which is cut by means of a blunt edge, as is well known in this art and to which no claim is made, the general outline of the animal to be simulated, thus forming a body compartment 11, which also includes a tail portion 12 and legs 13 and 14.

Extending from the body portion 11 and in the preferred form from the top of the back of the body 11 a connecting tube 15 joins the body 11 with additional limb compartments 16 and 17. It will be readily understood that in the cutting operation the two sheets of rubber A and B are joined over the entire periphery of this cut.

An envelope 18 is likewise cut from the rubber sheets A and B, the cutting operation being so arranged as to leave openings therein; opening 19 to accommodate the head, 20 the tail and 21 and 22 the fore and hind legs respectively.

The device thus cut out is then vulcanized in any desired manner and as is well known.

In assembling the device in the preferred form the limb compartments 16 and 17 will merely be folded over so as to overlie the limb or supplemental compartments 13 and 14, the thus folded toy inserted into the envolope, so that the head, tail and limbs are accommodated by their respective openings in the envelope. The tail 12 is then provided with a rubber pipe 23 closed by a plug 24 through which air or other fluid may be introduced and serves as a valve. Obviously any other form of valve may be used.

It will be observed that fluid introduced through the valve 23 will enter the entire main or body compartment and flow from this portion into the supplemental or limb compartments, the portions being held in proper relation by means of the envelope 18.

Substantially the same operation of cutting and inflating takes place in the other three forms, the only difference being in the arrangement of the compartments. In all forms, however, the body and the limbs are cut from double sheets and form a unitary structure joined by a connecting tube.

I claim:

1. An inflatable toy comprising a main compartment comprising the body of the toy, a supplemental compartment comprising

the toy limbs connected thereto and partially overlying the same, and an envelope enclosing a portion of each compartment and holding the two compartments in juxtaposed position, one of said compartments having an opening therein through which fluid may be introduced to commonly inflate both compartments the extremities of each compartment projecting without the envelope.

2. An inflatable toy comprising a main compartment having a plurality of limbs extending therefrom, a supplemental compartment connected thereto and also provided with limbs juxtaposed on the main compartment so that the legs of each are adjacent the corresponding legs of the other, and an envelope having openings therein through which the limbs of both compartments project, said envelope holding the two compartments in juxtaposed position, and means to commonly inflate both compartments.

3. An inflatable toy comprising a main compartment having a plurality of limbs, a supplemental compartments connected thereto and juxtaposed thereon and also having a plurality of limbs, said limbs lying adjacent the limbs on the main compartment, an envelope partially enclosing said compartments and holding them in juxtaposed relation, the limbs of each compartment projecting without the envelope, and means to commonly inflate both compartments.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature.

RICHARD T. GRIFFITHS.