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Paczkowski

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[54] **CHILDREN'S ROCKING AND CLIMBING TOY**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **272/60,** 272/56

[51] **Int. Cl.** **A63g 31/00**

[58] **Field of Search** .....272/1 R, 56, 60; 46/1 R, 16, 24, 25, 29; 35/72; D29/1–1.2; D34/5–6.4 H, 15–18

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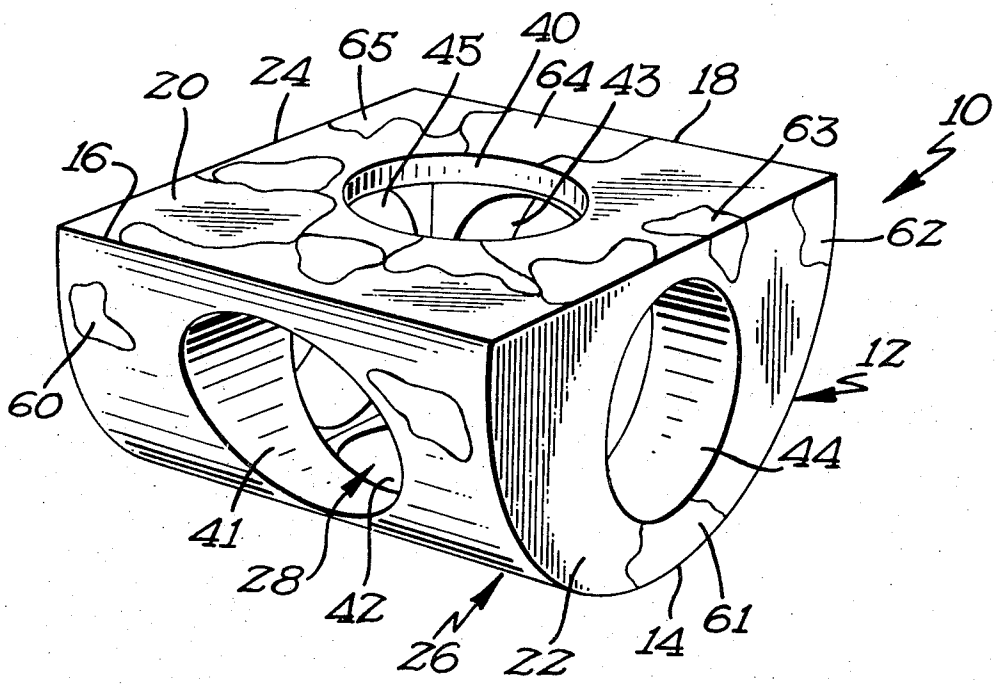
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Assistant Examiner—R. T. Stouffer
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A children's amusement toy of a curved outer surface intersecting two parallel sides and a flat surface to form a solid body is disclosed. The body has a hollow center formed therein of a different configuration than the outer surface with a tunnel extending from the center to each side in a mutually perpendicular arrangement to allow children to rock within and upon the toy, climb through and upon the toy, and climb through and over the toy. The solid body is made to present a pleasing appearance through use of transparent surface material and a filling of multicolored foam material.

10 Claims, 5 Drawing Figures



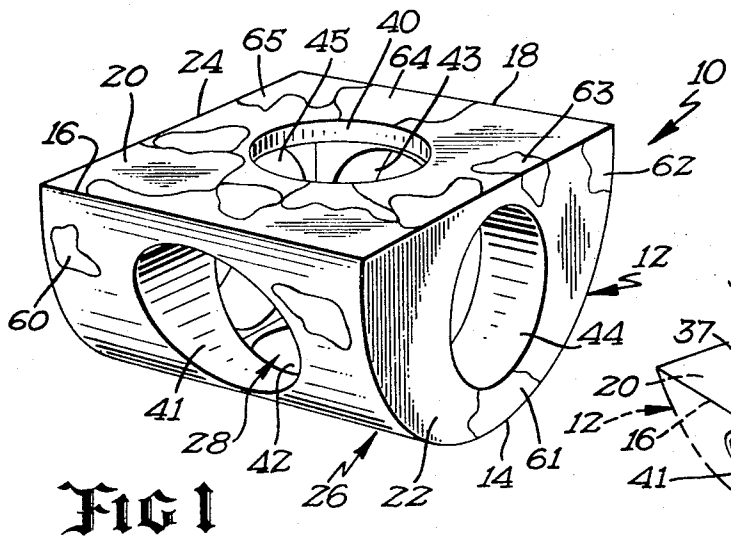


Fig 1

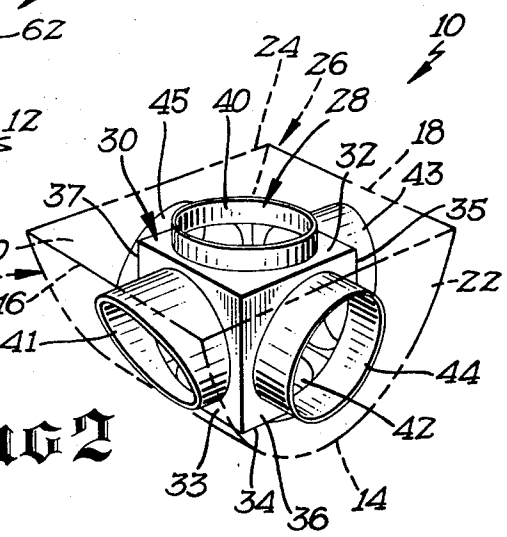


Fig 2

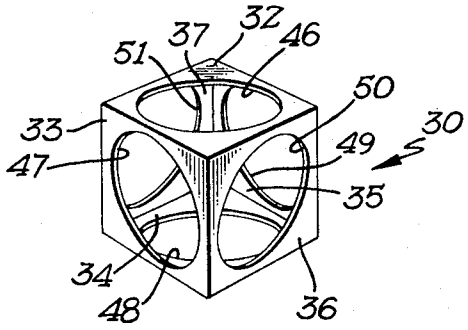


Fig 3

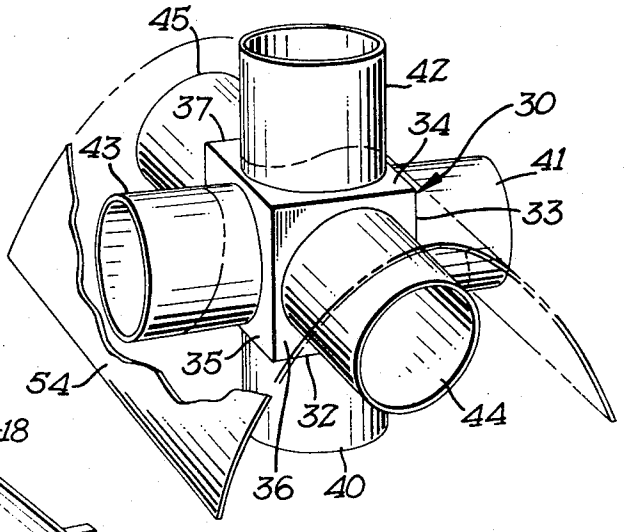


Fig 4

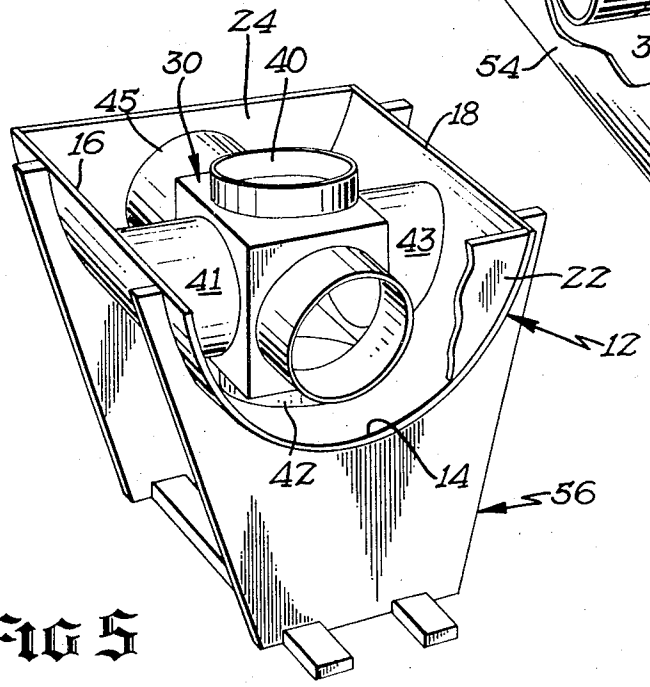


Fig 5

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CHILDREN'S ROCKING AND CLIMBING TOY

BACKGROUND

This invention relates to toys, more particularly to children's toys, and still more particularly to a type of children's toy which may be played with, within, and upon.

An advantageous children's toy is one which is versatile enough to allow a child's full use of his imagination, which is easy to fabricate, and which presents a pleasing appearance to the child. The present invention provides such a toy.

SUMMARY

In summary, a preferred embodiment of the children's toy of the present invention includes a rocker-like curved surface meeting a substantially flat surface and laterally limited by two parallel sides. A hollow center has access to each of the sides, the flat surface, and the curved surface through six tunnels extending to each from the six faces of a cube defining the hollow center. A child may then crawl into the toy or sit upon the flat surface of the toy and rock upon the rocker-like curved surface. A child may crawl within the toy and further rock upon the curved surface. A child may further rest the flat surface upon the ground and crawl through and over the children's toy of the present invention and the curved surface thus turned upward.

The outside surfaces of the preferred embodiment of the children's toy of the present invention are of transparent material, and the body of the toy is filled with separately colored plastic foam areas to present a colorful and pleasing external appearance to the child.

It is thus an object of the present invention to provide a novel children's toy.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a novel children's toy which is versatile and allows the child to use his imagination.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a novel children's toy which presents a pleasing external appearance to the child.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 shows a perspective view of the children's toy of the present invention illustrating the novel coloration and filling of the toy.

FIG. 2 shows a perspective view of the child's toy of the present invention showing the internal parts thereof in solid and the outline in phantom.

FIGS. 3 to 5 show various stages of construction of the children's toy of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION

In the figures, a preferred embodiment of the children's toy according to the present invention, generally designated **10**, is shown as including a curved rocker-like surface **12**, having a peak **14** and first and second ends **16** and **18**. A substantially flat surface **20** extends between ends **16** and **18** of curved surface **14**, and parallel sides **22** and **24** arranged perpendicularly to the plane of surface **20** extend between the edges of surface **20** and curved surface **12** to close these surfaces and to define a solid body **26**.

A hollow, designated **28**, is defined within body **26** by a cube **30** having faces **32**, **33**, **34**, **35**, **36**, and **37**.

Face **32** lies adjacent surface **20** and is arranged to be parallel to it. Face **34** is opposite face **32** and is arranged to be nearer peak **14**. Face **36** is between faces **32** and **34** adjacent side **22** and parallel to it, and face **37** is arranged opposite face **36**, adjacent side **24**, and parallel to side **24**. Faces **33** and **35** are arranged between faces **32** and **34** on opposite sides of peak **14** of curved surface **12** and adjacent the portion of curved surface **12** between peak **14** and the ends **16** and **18**. A first cylindrical tunnel **40** extends between face **32** of cube **30** and surface **20** to intersect surface **20** and provide access between the exterior of body **26** and the hollow **28** within body **26**. Similarly, a second tunnel **41** extends between face **33** and the portion of curved surface **12** between peak **14** and end **16**; a third tunnel **42** extends between face **34** and the portion of curved surface **12** near peak **14** of curved surface **12**; a fourth tunnel **43** extends between face **35** and the portion of curved surface **12** between peak **14** and end **18**; a fifth tunnel **44** extends between face **36** and side **22**; and a sixth tunnel **45** extends between face **37** and side **24**. As indicated, all tunnels intersect their respective surfaces to provide access between the exterior of body **26** and hollow **28** within cube **30**.

The manner in which the children's toy of the present invention may be fabricated may now be explained. FIG. 3 shows a cube **30**, which in the preferred embodiment includes 20 inch sides and 17 inch apertures **46**, **47**, **48**, **49**, **50**, and **51** formed one to each of sides **32** – **37**, respectively. Cube **30** may be formed of any light weight thin, durable material.

Next, as best seen in FIG. 4, tunnels **40** – **45** are securely attached to cube **30** within their respective apertures **46** – **51**, and the entire assembly is stood upon tunnel **40** attached to face **32**. As will be appreciated by those skilled in the art, cylindrical tunnels **40** – **45** may also be of various materials which are thin and yet strong.

Next, a sheet **54**, best seen in FIG. 4, is placed over the partially completed cube **30** and attached tunnels **40** – **45** and a determination is made as to the proper angle at which the tunnels **41**, **42**, and **43** need be cut to conform and mount flush to curved surface **12**.

Sheet **54** is then set aside and, in the preferred embodiment, a sheet of flexible, relatively thin, transparent, strong plastic sheeting is placed upon the curve defined in a pre-prepared plywood mold stand **56** with the pre-cut tunnels **41**, **42**, and **43** arranged to properly contact what will become curved surface **12**. At this time, the pre-cut ends of tunnels **41**, **42**, and **43** are adhered to the surface ultimately to become surface **12**. Next, tunnels **44** and **45** are cut to be flush with sides **22** and **24**, and transparent plastic sides **22** and **24** rigidly attached to surface **12**.

At this point the child's toy of the present invention is filled with a plastic foam as follows: The foam used is of a conventional type requiring the mixing of two components where, upon the mixing of these components, the foam displaces itself by approximately 30 times. Separate amounts of foam are prepared, colored, and poured into the open vessel comprising the sides **22** and **24** and curved surface **12**. The poured foam thus partially filling body **26** of the children's toy **10** of the present invention. By successively mixing differently colored amounts of foam and adding each amount to

the inside of body **26** a pleasing external appearance can be had while completely filling the interior of body **26** around and about the cube **30** and tunnels **40 – 45**.

As can be seen in FIG. **1**, separately colored areas, some of which are designated **60, 61, 62, 63, 64,** and **65** are thus formed. These colored areas of the filling of body **26** can be readily seen and appreciated by children playing with and upon the children's toy **10** of the present invention due to the transparent nature of curved surface **12**, surface **20**, and sides **22** and **24**. Also, if an amount of foam is poured onto body **26** while the last foam added has not yet hardened, an edgewise fusion of colors takes place in which a different color may be created at the edges and in which a different texture may be created at the edges.

When foam added to fill body **26** is cured and dry, transparent surface **20** is secured to complete the solid body **26**, and all surfaces are cut to provide access to their respective tunnels.

OPERATION

Thus, children may orient toy **10** such that curved surface **12** is resting upon the ground, and may crawl within hollow **28** of toy **10** and thus rock within it. Children may also climb upon surface **20** of toy **10** and rock upon it. Children may further climb through the various tunnels **40 – 45**. Still further children may select substantially flat surface **20** to rest upon the ground and also climb through the various tunnels **40 – 45** and over curved surface **12** of toy **10**. Additionally, children may rest toy **10** on either side **22** or **24** and yet climb through, over, about, and around toy **10**.

Thus, since the invention disclosed herein may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the spirit or general characteristics thereof, the embodiment described herein is to be considered in all respects illustrative and not restrictive. The scope of the invention is indicated by the appended claims, rather than by the foregoing description, and all changes which come within the meaning and range of equivalency of the claims are intended to be embraced therein.

What is claimed is:

1. A children's toy, comprising: a generally solid body comprising: a convexly curved outer surface of transparent material having first and second ends and a peak between the first and second ends; a substantially flat surface of transparent material extending between the ends of the curved surface; a first side of transparent material extending between one edge of the flat surface and one edge of the curved surface; a second side of transparent material extending between the other edge of the flat surface and the other edge of the curved surface; a hollow three-dimensional walled structure of different configuration than and positioned within the outer surface of the body, wherein said structure has an outside surface spaced and separated from each of the curved surface, flat surface, first side, and second side such that the inner surface of said structure defines a hollow which is within the body and bounded by substantial material of the body; a plurality of passageways, each formed from a hollow three-dimensional structure, the inner surface of which defines a tunnel, and each tunnel having a greater length than the thickness of the walls of the walled structure, each tunnel extending between the outside surface of the hollow three-dimensional walled structure within the body and the surfaces of the body to allow children to rock within and upon the toy, climb through and upon the toy, and climb through and over the toy and to allow the material of the generally solid body filling the space within the body and around the three-dimensional walled structure and tunnels to be of a decorative pattern and coloration.

2. The children's toy of claim **1**, wherein: A first tunnel extends between the hollow within the body and the flat surface; a second tunnel extends between the hollow within the body and the curved surface; a third tunnel extends between the hollow within the body and the curved surface; a fourth tunnel extends between the hollow within the body and the curved surface; a fifth tunnel extends between a hollow within the body and the first side; a sixth tunnel extends between the hollow within the body and the second side; and all tunnels intersect the respective surfaces to which they extend to provide access between the exterior of the body and the hollow within the body.

3. The children's toy of claim **2** wherein the first and second sides are parallel to each other and perpendicular to the flat surface.

4. The children's toy of claim **3** wherein the peak of the curved surface is equally spaced between the first and second ends of the curved surface; wherein the third tunnel extends between the hollow within the body and the curved surface near the peak; wherein the first tunnel extends between the hollow within the body and the flat surface in line with the third tunnel; wherein the second tunnel and fourth tunnel lie in a line and are arranged substantially perpendicularly to the first tunnel and third tunnel; and wherein the fifth tunnel and sixth tunnel lie in a line and are arranged substantially perpendicular to both the first and third tunnels and a second and fourth tunnel.

5. A children's toy of claim **4**, wherein the ends of the tunnels are flush with the surfaces to which they extend.

6. The children's toy of claim **5** wherein the hollow within the body is in the form of a cube and one tunnel extends from each of the six sides of the cube.

7. The children's toy of claim **6**, wherein each of the tunnels is tubular in shape.

8. The children's toy of claim **4**, wherein the body is filled with separately colored amounts of plastic foam to allow a colorful appearance to children playing with and upon the toy.

9. The children's toy of claim **2**, wherein the body is filled with separately colored amounts of plastic foam to allow a colorful appearance to children playing with and upon the toy.

10. The children's toy of claim **1**, wherein the body is filled with separately colored amounts of plastic foam to allow a colorful appearance to children playing with and upon the toy.

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