Dec. 2, 1952 A. F. DIKSZAS 2,619,772

FIGURE TOY EYE STRUCTURE

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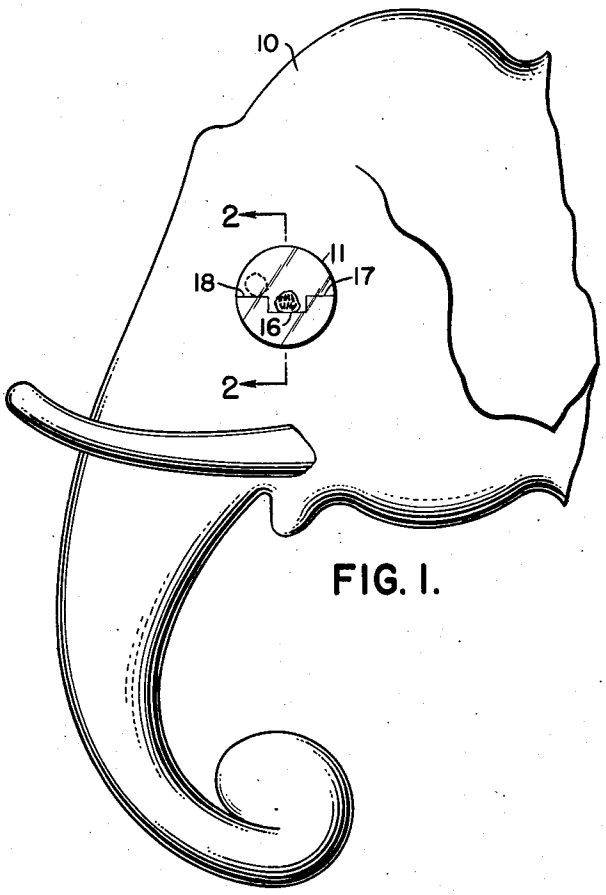


FIG. 1.

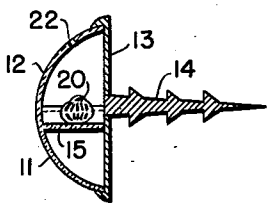


FIG. 2.

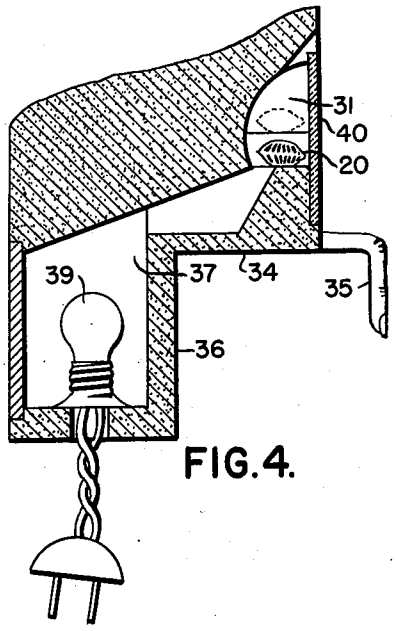


FIG. 4.

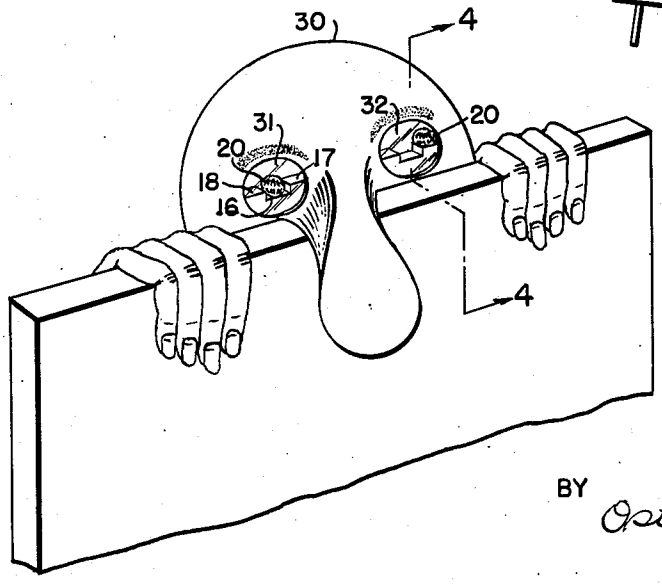


FIG. 3.

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FIGURE TOY EYE STRUCTURE

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2 Claims. (Cl. 46—167)

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My present invention relates to toys and more particularly to the use of the so-called Mexican jumping bean as an animated part of the toy.

More specifically, my invention relates to the utilization of a Mexican jumping bean to simulate the pupil in the type of toy which is usually stuffed to simulate an animal, such as a Teddy bear, an elephant, or a doll.

Heretofore in the construction of toys such as Teddy bears, the eyes have usually consisted of transparent capsules on the end of a barbed pin which was stuck into the toy.

Where some movement of the eye was desired, then the capsule was made hollow and the pupil was simulated by a flat dark disc having a degree of limited movement within the capsule in response to the movement of the toy itself.

My invention by substituting a Mexican jumping bean appropriately colored where necessary for the pupil in a hollow capsule-type eye for a stuffed toy will produce a toy having an inherent and variable expression of its own not dependent on movement of the toy itself.

The salient feature of most stuffed toys, that is, the feature which lends expression to the face of such toys, is the character of the eyes. Variations in the shape and positioning of the eyes alone are known to result in entire change of expression, changing the figure from a comic to a tragic one or varying the apparent attitude of the figure.

Since the Mexican jumping bean used in each eye capsule has independent movement apart from any movement of the toy, the various movements of the bean when used in this method result in variations in the expression of the toy.

The toy may at different times look downcast, happy, appear to be looking to the right or to the left, or may appear to be cross-eyed or wall-eyed.

In order to accomplish this result, the capsule itself must be so arranged that the bean will tend to remain in the position to which it has jumped while its movement to another position will not be impeded.

Thus, the ordinary part-spherical capsule should not be used without alteration since the bean will always fall back to the bottom center position. Even, however, with a capsule of this type the eyes will at least have movement although the expression will not materially change.

By putting a substantially horizontal platform in the capsule, the bean may shift from one side to the other; but since the bean has the ability to jump vertically slightly I prefer that a platform be provided in the capsule having a slight central depression which is relatively flat or horizontal and two slightly elevated lateral platforms which are also horizontal. The bean may then jump to either of the two platforms on either

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side of the eye or may fall back to the center, thus making it possible for the eye to appear to be looking up and sideways or to be looking down.

By this means, therefore, various comic or lugubrious expressions may be imparted to the face of the stuffed toy without the necessity for any movement on the part of the toy itself.

While my invention is adapted primarily for use in connection with a stuffed toy, it is obviously not limited thereto but may be utilized in any connection wherein a pair of moving eyes will be useful or attract attention.

Thus, my invention may be adapted to utilization in connection with dolls and in connection with advertising devices and novelties.

The primary object of my invention is the utilization of a jumping bean as the pupil in the eye of a simulated animal, doll, or toy.

Another object of my invention is the arrangement of the eye in which the jumping bean is used as a pupil so that the bean may assume various positions in the eye to impart various expressions to the face.

Another object of my invention is the utilization of a Mexican jumping bean or other element having auto-locomotion to simulate the movement of an apparently animated portion of a structure.

The foregoing and many other objects of my invention will become apparent in the following description and drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a side view of the face of a stuffed toy utilizing the eye of my invention.

Figure 2 is a cross-sectional view taken on line 2—2 of Figure 1 looking in the direction of the arrows through the eye of the toy of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a view in perspective illustrating the adaptation of my invention to another type of object.

Figure 4 is a cross-sectional view taken on line 4—4 of Figure 3 looking in the direction of the arrows.

As shown in Figure 2, the eye 11 comprises the transparent capsule 12 secured in any suitable manner to a base 13. The base 13 is provided with the barbed pin 14 which may be pushed into the stuffed toy, thereby holding the eye in place. Any other suitable means may be utilized for holding the eye capsule in place.

The transparent part-spherical cover 12 is provided with an inner ledge 15 which may be stepped as shown particularly in Figure 1 to have the lower platform 16 and the side platforms 17 and 18.

A Mexican jumping bean 20 or other element which is useful by itself is placed on the platform 15. Where a movable element of the type of the Mexican jumping bean is utilized which comprises the larva within the bean itself, then some means for supplying air thereto should be provided, and for this purpose one or more open-

ings 22 may be placed in the capsule 11. The said openings may be placed in the front transparent part-spherical member 12, on the base 13 or at the joint between the front and the base.

Preferably also the platform 15 is of transparent material, being either of the same material as the front member or of a material having approximately the same index of refraction so that it will be substantially invisible and only the bean which simulates the pupil of the eye will be for practical purposes visible in the eye.

The beam may be colored in any suitable manner to simulate the pupil of the eye, care being taken that in covering the bean the surface of the bean will not be rendered air-tight since the larva inside requires a supply of air.

With now a stuffed toy of the type shown in Figure 1 having two eyes of the type shown in Figures 1 and 2, the position of the pupil in the eye simulated by the jumping bean 20 will continuously change, and the expression of the face will continuously change irrespective of the movement of the toy.

In fact, even when the toy is permitted to be perfectly still as when, for instance, a child places the Teddy bear in a small chair, the continuous movement of the eyes and the continual variation in expression resulting therefrom will create a great deal of interest in the toy.

As previously pointed out, the ledges 16, 17, and 18 are so spaced with respect to each other that the bean may readily jump from the ledge 16 up to the ledge 17 or back again and then up to the ledge 18.

The stuffed toy may then appear to be looking sideways on either side or downwardly or may appear to be cross-eyed or wall-eyed creating a further interest in the toy.

The eye structure of Figure 2 may, of course, be variable all within the principles of my invention utilizing the self-moving element 20.

Thus, standard toys may be made with eye capsules of the type of my invention secured therein any any suitable manner.

In Figures 3 and 4 I have shown the adaptation of my invention to another closely related use.

In this case, an ornament for a shelf or wall or vertical ledge as, for instance, an ornament for the top of a cash register in a store may be provided by the formation of the grotesque figure 30 having the eyes 31, 32 in which the pupils are the jumping beans 20 or other appropriate independently movable elements.

Here again the pupils are provided with the ledges 16, 17, and 18 on which the beans 20 may move. The entire structure may be so arranged that it is essentially a channel-shaped member having the horizontal base 34 which may rest on a suitable surface and the elements 35 and 36 which may engage opposite sides of the surface in order to support the entire structure.

If desired, the eyes may be illuminated by making the figure hollow as at 37 in Figure 4 and placing a light bulb 39 therein providing a source of light and heat. The light from the light bulb passing through the passage 37 to the eyes 31 and 32 will illuminate the eyes while the heat from the light bulb will cause the jumping bean to jump more violently and frequently.

The eyes 31 and 32 are as shown formed by recesses in the figure, which recesses may be closed in any suitable manner as by the glass discs 40.

I am well aware that jumping beans have previously been used in various types of games, but in no case has a jumping bean been used to simulate the motion of an animate portion of a replica of an animal or object, nor as far as I am aware have jumping beans ever been used in connection with specific three-dimensional structures for the purpose of creating a game.

My invention is primarily directed to the concept that the movement of the bean itself will not cause movement of another part of a structure, but the movement of the bean in and of itself is the desired animated movement to be viewed.

In the foregoing I have described my invention solely in connection with specific illustrative embodiments thereof. Since many variations and modifications of my invention should now be clear to those skilled in the art, I prefer to be bound not by the specific disclosures herein contained but only by the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A toy comprising a main body; an eye member including a receptacle carried by said main body; said receptacle having a substantially horizontal bottom wall and a transparent outer wall; a Mexican jumping bean housed within said receptacle and visible through said transparent outer wall; said Mexican jumping bean having the apparent inherent power of auto-locomotion and forming the apparent movable pupil of said eye member; an air admitting opening in a wall of said receptacle; the mass of the main body being greater than that which may be moved by any auto-locomotive movement of the mass of the Mexican jumping bean, said bottom wall comprising a plurality of horizontal platforms, said platforms being made of transparent material to render them substantially invisible and so spaced with respect to each other that the bean may readily jump from one platform to another.

2. A toy comprising a main body; an eye member including a receptacle carried by said main body; said receptacle having a substantially horizontal bottom wall and a transparent outer wall; a Mexican jumping bean housed within said receptacle and visible through said transparent outer wall; said Mexican jumping bean having the apparent inherent power of auto-locomotion and forming the apparent movable pupil of said eye member; an air admitting opening in a wall of said receptacle; the mass of the main body being greater than that which may be moved by any auto-locomotive movement of the mass of the Mexican jumping bean, said bottom wall comprising a plurality of horizontal platforms and a source of light and heat in said main body; a communicating passage for the light and heat emanating from said source to said receptacle, said platforms being made of transparent material to render them substantially invisible and so spaced with respect to each other that the bean may readily jump from one platform to another.

ALBERT F. DIKSZAS.

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