Sept. 2, 1930. H. S. BARNES 1,774,785

FIGURE TOY

Filed Jan. 26, 1929

Fig. 1.

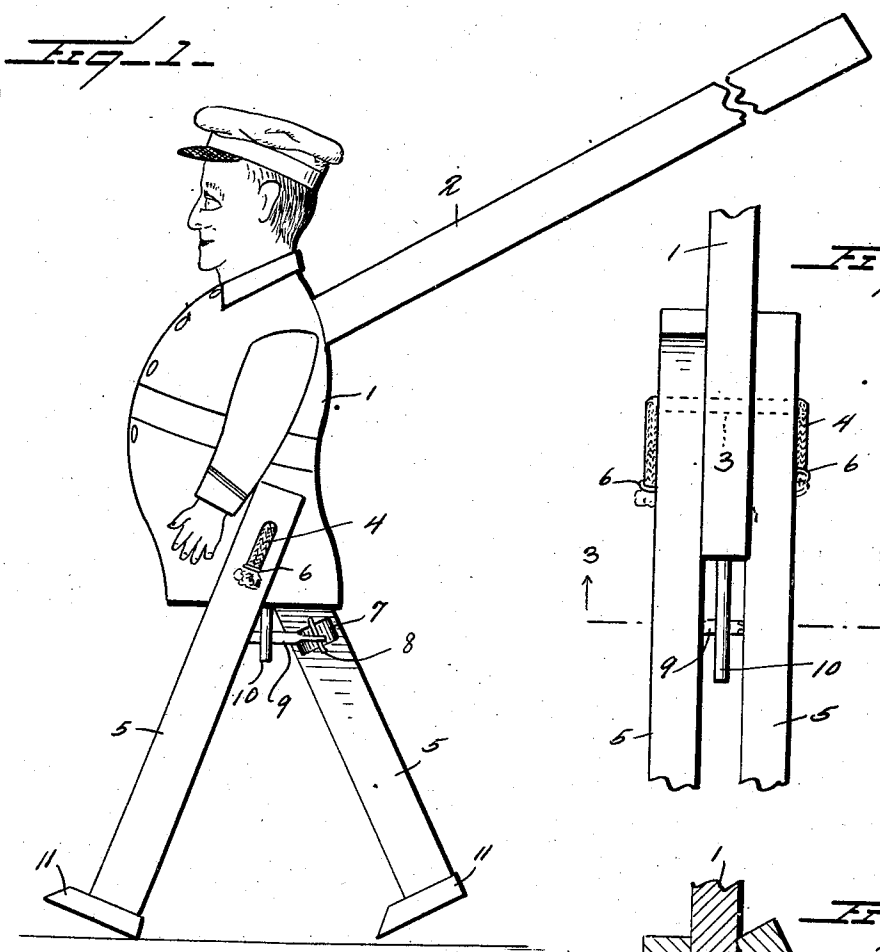


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

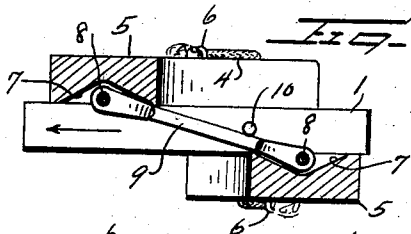


Fig. 4.

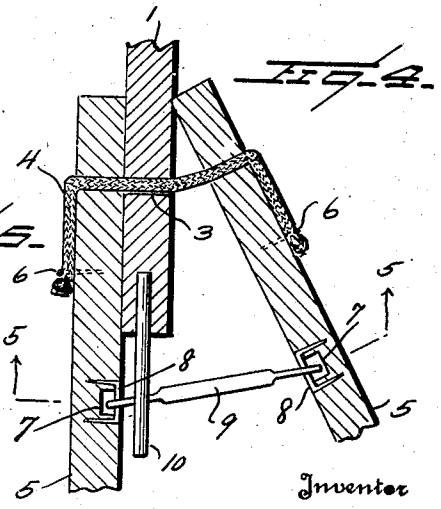


Fig. 5.

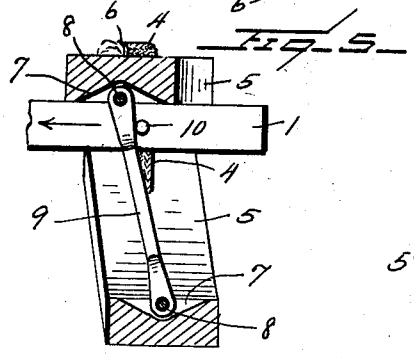
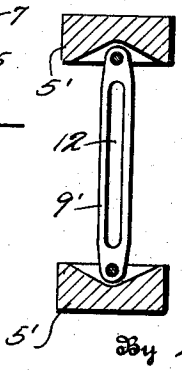


Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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FIGURE TOY

Application filed January 26, 1929. Serial No. 335,244.

This invention relates to figure toys and more particularly to a toy of this kind of a walking type, and it is an object of the invention to construct such a toy in a manner whereby it may be easily handled by a child.

Furthermore, it is an object of the invention to provide a device of this kind comprising a body portion having legs associated therewith, the mounting of said legs being such that when the toy is caused to traverse over a suitable surface the legs will alternately advance one beyond the other in simulation of walking.

Another object of the invention is to provide a device of this kind comprising a body member having associated therewith a pair of legs together with a yielding and contractile means for holding said legs in desired relation with respect to the body member and in a manner whereby, when the toy is traversing over a desired surface, said legs will alternately advance in simulation of a stepping action with the advancing leg moving clear of the second leg.

The invention consists in the details of construction and in the combination and arrangement of the several parts of my improved figure toy whereby certain important advantages are attained and the device rendered simpler, less expensive and otherwise more convenient and advantageous for use, as will be hereinafter more fully set forth.

The novel features of my invention will hereinafter be definitely claimed.

In order that my invention may be the better understood, I will now proceed to describe the same with reference to the accompanying drawing, wherein:—

Figure 1 is a view in side elevation of a toy constructed in accordance with an embodiment of my invention;

Figure 2 is a fragmentary view in rear elevation and on an enlarged scale of the central portion of the toy as illustrated in Figure 1 and particularly illustrating the mounting of the legs with respect to the body member together with the means for effecting an alternate advance movement of the legs;

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken substantially on the line 3—3 of Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary vertical sectional view with portions in elevation and particularly illustrating one of the positions assumed by a leg when advancing;

Figure 5 is a sectional view taken substantially on the line 5—5 of Figure 4;

Figure 6 is a fragmentary view partly in section and partly in top plan illustrating a slightly modified form of invention.

As disclosed in the accompanying drawing, 1 denotes a body member of desired configuration and design and which has rigidly secured to the upper portion thereof a rearwardly disposed handle member 2. The lower portion of the body member 1 at a point rearwardly of its horizontal center, when the toy is in use, is provided with an opening 3 through which is freely disposed an elongated contractile member 4 herein disclosed as an elastic cord.

Overlying the opposite faces of the body member 1 at the lower portion thereof are the upper portions of the elongated rigid legs 5. The opposite end portions of the member 4 are disposed through said overlying portions of the legs 5 and suitably secured thereto, as at 6. This member 4 serves to normally maintain the overlying portions of the legs 5 in close contact with the opposite faces of the body member 1 yet permitting each of said legs to readily swing outwardly with respect to said body member 1 as clearly illustrated in Figure 4 of the drawing.

In the present embodiment of my invention the opposed faces of the legs 5 in relatively close proximity to the lower end of the body member 1 are provided with the recesses or pockets 7 each of which being bridged by a bar 8 disposed lengthwise in a direction longitudinally of the leg. The bars 8 provide pivotal mountings for the opposite end portions of a rigid bar 9 interposed between the legs 5, and which bar is positioned a desired distance above the lower end portion of a shank 10 depending from the body member 1 at a point substantially in alignment lengthwise of the body member 1 with the opening 3 hereinbefore referred to. In practice, the handle member 2 is grasped and

manipulated in a manner to bring the outer or free end portion of one of the legs 5 in contact with the surface to be traversed, and as slight push is imposed upon the body member 1 through the medium of the handle member 2, said leg will rock forwardly upon said lower end and at the same time the shank 10 will be brought into contact from the rear with the bar 9, forcing the second leg forwardly, and the swinging movement of said bar 9 with respect to the first named leg will also cause the second leg to swing outwardly thereby assuring the requisite advance of the second leg without coming into contact with the first leg. As this second leg 5 is moved under the influence of the shank 10, the member 4 will be put under increased tension and just as soon as the bar 9 swings past its critical center the contraction of the member 4 will result in the second leg being thrown forward to its full extent for contact with the surface at a point in advance of the first leg. During this action of the second leg the tension of the member 4 also operates to maintain the lapping upper portion of the first leg constantly in close contact with the adjacent face of the body member 1, thus avoiding the possibility of the free end portions of both of the legs coming into contact with the surface except when said legs are substantially side by side and under which conditions the efficacy of the toy will be minimized.

To facilitate the requisite contact of the outer end portion of each of the legs 5 with the surface over which it is traveling, I find it of advantage to provide said outer extremity with a foot or pad 11 of rubber or other desired material.

In the embodiment of the invention as illustrated in Figure 6, the legs 5′ are connected by a bar 9′, said bar having disposed lengthwise thereof a slot 12 of desired length and through which the shank 10′ is adapted to be directed. By the use of this type of bar the legs may be caused to simulate walking upon movement of the toy either forwardly or rearwardly.

From the foregoing description it is thought to be obvious that a figure toy constructed in accordance with my invention is particularly well adapted for use by reason of the convenience and facility with which it may be assembled and operated, and it will also be obvious that my invention is susceptible of some change and modification without departing from the principles and spirit thereof and for this reason I do not wish to be understood as limiting myself to the precise arrangement and formation of the several parts herein shown in carrying out my invention in practice except as hereinafter claimed.

I claim:—

1. A device of the character described comprising a body member, a pair of legs having end portions lapping a marginal portion of the body member, a contractile member connecting said lapping portions of the legs and disposed through the body member, a bar interposed between and freely connected to the legs, and a shank carried by the body member for contact with the bar, said shank slidably engaging said bar whereby to swing the legs outwardly and forwardly.

2. A device of the character described comprising a body member, a pair of legs having end portions lapping a marginal portion of the body member, a contractile member connecting said lapping portions of the legs and disposed through the body member, a bar interposed between and freely connected to the legs, a shank carried by the body member for contact with the bar, and an operating handle member connected to the body member, said shank slidably engaging said bar whereby to swing the legs outwardly and forwardly.

3. A device of the character described comprising a body member, a pair of legs having end portions lapping a marginal portion of the body, a contractile member connecting said lapping portions of the legs and disposed through the body member, a bar interposed between and freely connected to the legs, and a shank carried by the body member for contact with the bar, the contractile member providing the only means for holding the legs to the body member, said shank slidably engaging said bar whereby to swing the legs outwardly and forwardly.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

HAROLD S. BARNES.