

May 31, 1949.

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2,471,676

HAT TRICK TOY

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Fig. 1

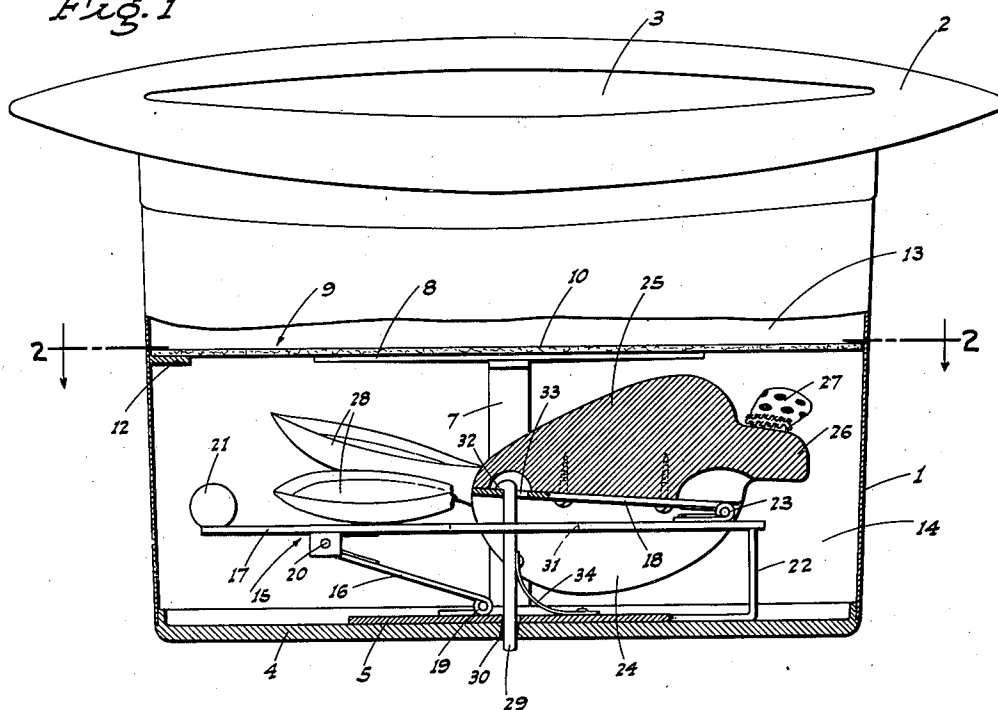
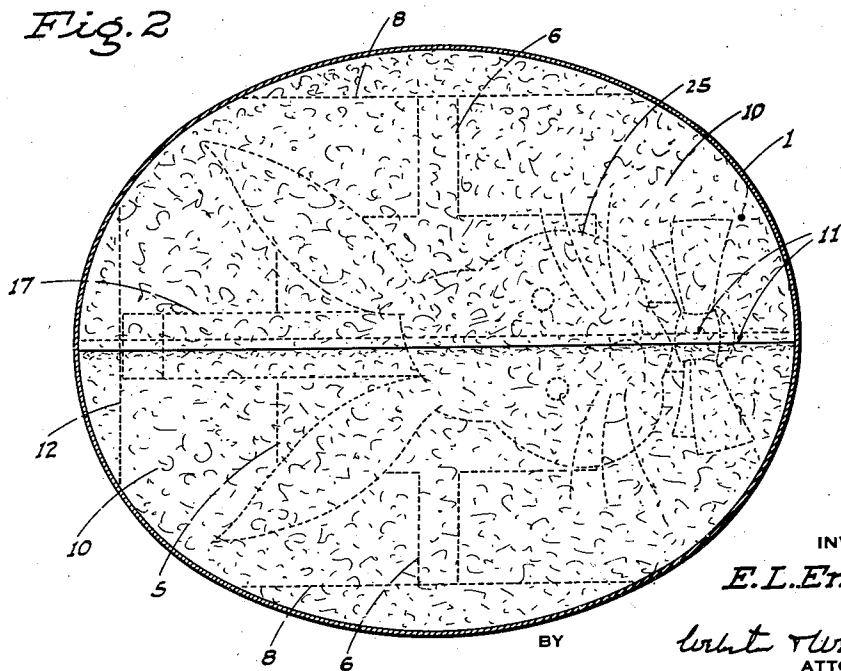


Fig. 2



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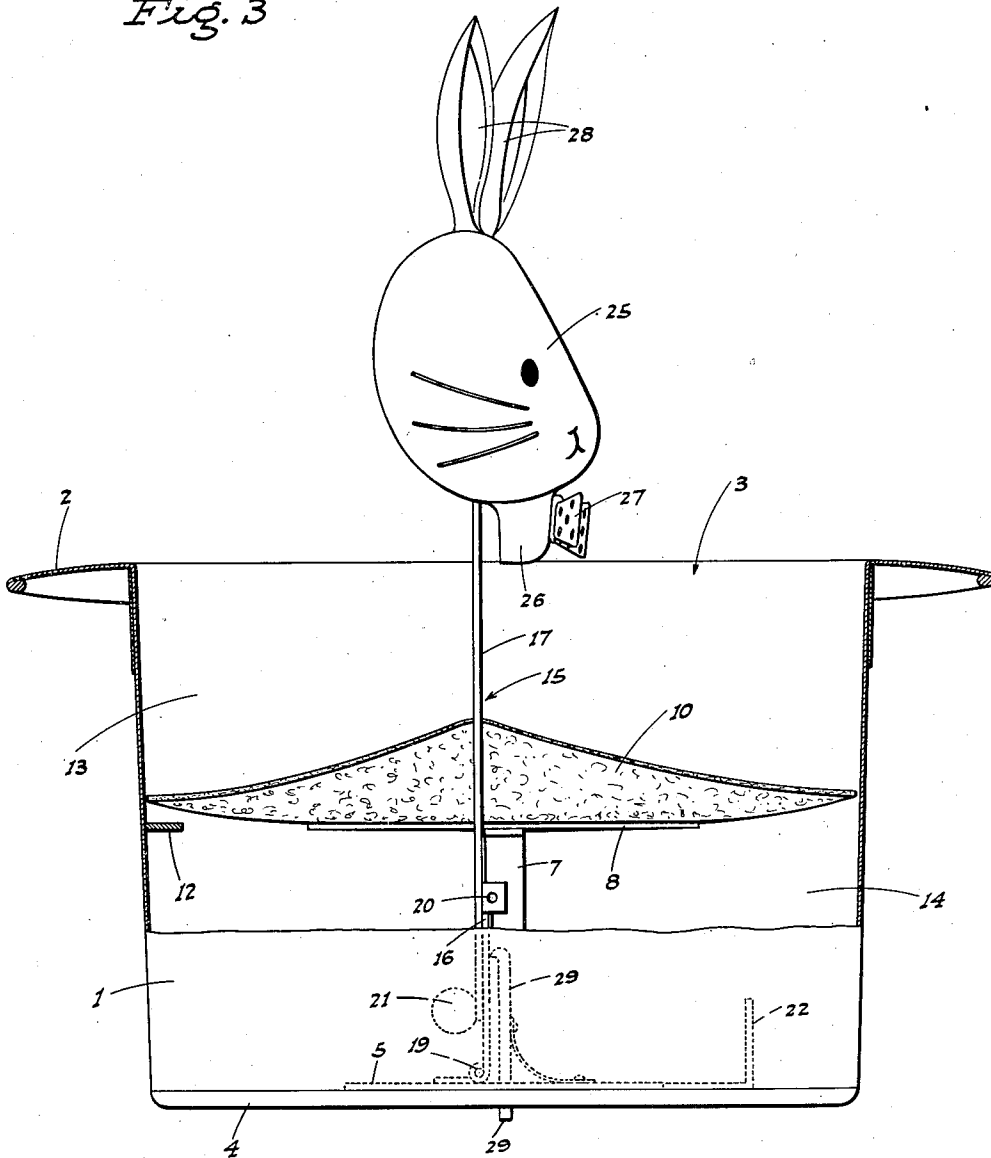
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Fig. 3



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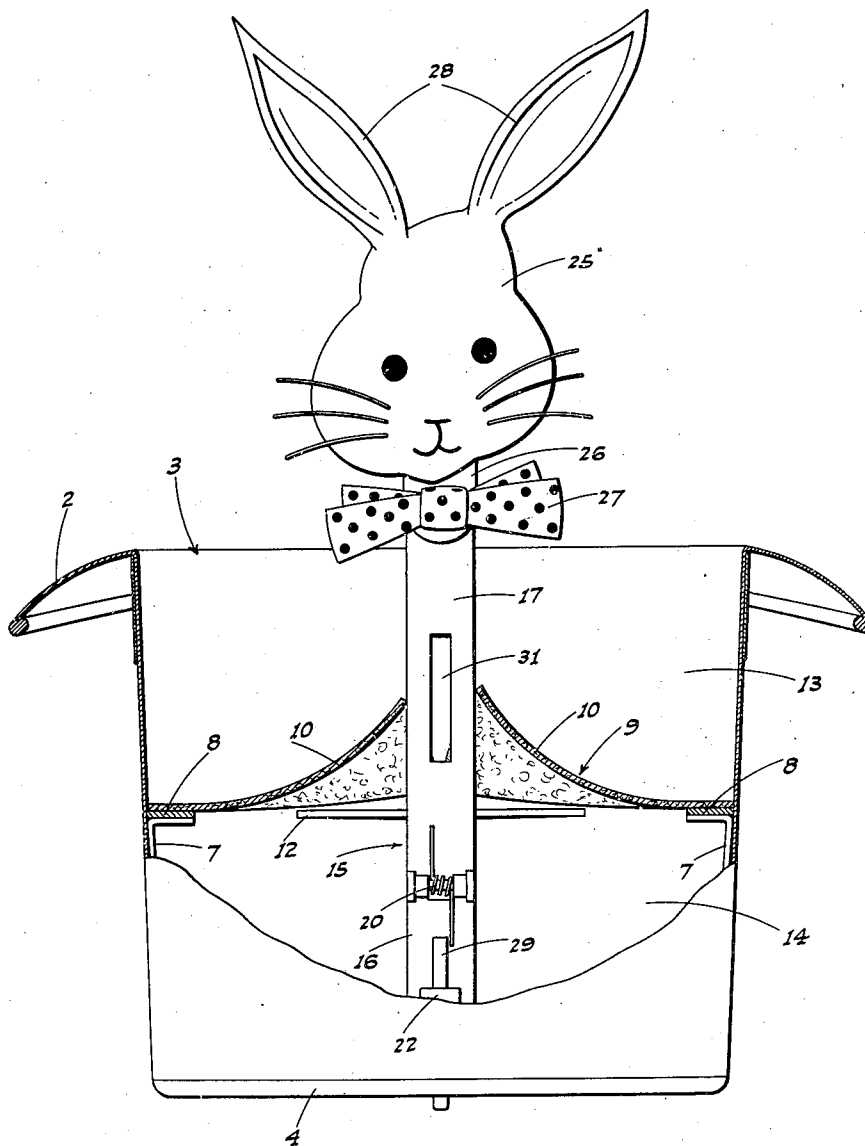
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Fig. 4



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HAT TRICK TOY

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10 Claims. (Cl. 272-8)

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This invention is directed to, and it is an object to provide, as a toy, a novel, simulated magician's hat trick; the trick contemplating the showing of an apparently empty top hat, and then the popping up of a facsimile rabbit's head from within the hat.

Another object of the invention is to provide a hat trick toy, as above, wherein the facsimile rabbit's head is normally disposed in the crown portion of the hat beneath a false bottom of flexible material such as felt or the like; such false bottom being split from end to end to permit the head to pass therethrough and rise out of the hat.

A further object of the invention is to provide a hat trick toy, as in the preceding paragraph, which includes a novel spring-actuated erection or lifting mechanism for raising the head from its normally concealed position, through the split false bottom, and to a position projecting out of the hat for exhibition; said mechanism normally being folded into the hat beneath the false bottom, and releasably latched in such position.

An additional object of the invention is to provide a hat trick toy which is simple in structure, economical to manufacture, yet producing a unique and amusing visual effect when in use.

A further object of the invention is to provide a practical and reliable hat trick toy, and one which will be exceedingly effective for the purpose for which it is designed.

These objects are accomplished by means of such structure and relative arrangement of parts as will fully appear by a perusal of the following specification and claims.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of the hat trick toy, partly in section, showing the facsimile rabbit's head and the lifting mechanism in its normal folded position.

Fig. 2 is a plan view showing mainly the false bottom of the hat; the facsimile rabbit's head, hidden below said false bottom, being indicated in broken lines.

Fig. 3 is a side elevation, partly in section, showing the facsimile rabbit's head as erected and projecting out of the hat for display.

Fig. 4 is a direct front elevation, partly in section, with the parts as in Fig. 3.

Referring now more particularly to the characters of reference on the drawings, the hat trick top comprises a container 1 in the form of, and closely resembling an inverted top hat, including a brim 2, which surrounds the open end 3 of said container.

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The bottom 4 of the container 1, which bottom 4 corresponds to the top part of a hat, is relatively heavy, and is reinforced on the inside by a rectangular metallic base plate 5 fixed thereto.

The base plate 5 includes laterally and outwardly projecting extensions 6 which carry, on opposite sides of the hat, upstanding legs 7. The legs 7 are fitted, on top thereof, with relatively narrow, horizontal platforms 8 disposed in alignment transversely of the container and in a plane about half way between its ends.

The container 1 is fitted therein, in substantially the aforesaid plane, with a false bottom, indicated generally at 9; such false bottom 9 comprising a pair of half oval flaps 10, of flexible material such as felt, fixed at their outer edge portions to corresponding platforms 8. Adjacent edges of the flaps 10 are straight and lap slightly, as at 11. At one or both ends, and under the flaps 10, they may be supported, normally, by a stabilizing flange 12.

The above described false bottom 9 separates the interior of the container 1 into an upper compartment 13 and a lower compartment 14.

The normally folded spring-actuated lifting mechanism is normally disposed in the lower compartment 14 and comprises the following structural arrangement:

An articulated arm unit, indicated generally at 15, of normally Z-shape, is disposed in said lower compartment 14 and includes a relatively short lower arm 16; a relatively long intermediate arm 17; and a relatively short upper arm 18. The intermediate arm 17 normally extends lengthwise of, and centrally below, the lapped edges 11 of the flaps 10 of the false bottom 9.

The lower arm 16 is connected, at its lower end, to the base plate 5 generally centrally thereof by a spring hinge 19, and thence extends at an upward incline to connection with the intermediate arm 17 by means of a spring hinge 20 adjacent, but short of, one end of said arm. Outwardly of the spring hinge 20 the intermediate arm 17 carries a counter-balance weight 21.

At its opposite end said intermediate arm 17 is normally supported by an upstanding flange 22. The upper arm 18 is connected at its lower end to the intermediate arm 17 on the top side and adjacent the end corresponding to the upstanding flange 22 by a spring hinge 23. The upper arm 18 is secured in a relatively deep, normally downwardly-opening slot 24 in a facsimile rabbit's head 25 likewise disposed in the lower compartment 14. By slotting the facsimile rabbit's head 25, as at 24, said head may straddle

the intermediate arm 17 and thus rest much lower in the container 1 than would otherwise be the case.

The facsimile rabbit's head 25 includes a neck portion 26 on the front of which is affixed a bow tie 27; such bow tie serving to conceal from the front, a view of the mechanism by means of which said head is lifted to its outwardly projecting position, as hereinafter described. The head 25 also includes facsimile ears 28.

The above described lifting mechanism tends to erect under the action of the spring hinges 19, 20, and 23, but such erection is normally prevented by a catch pin 29 which extends through an opening 30 centrally in the bottom 4, and thence passes through an elongated slot 31 in the intermediate arm 17. At its upper end the catch arm 29 includes a hook 32 which engages through an opening 33 in the upper arm 18 and hookingly engages with the top surface of the latter adjacent said opening. The catch pin 29 projects only slightly below the bottom 4.

A leaf spring 34 between the base plate 5 and catch pin 29 normally holds the latter in its latched or hooked position, as shown in Fig. 1.

When the above described hat trick toy is in use, the container 1, which appears as a top hat, is first manipulated so that the the audience may look into the open end 3; the false bottom 9 giving the impression that the container or hat is empty, which impression may be strengthened by applying simulated trademarks to the outside of the flaps 10. After the illusion of emptiness has been created, the container 1 is manipulated so that the audience can no longer see through the open end 3, whereupon the catch pin 29 is released with unnoticeable motion of one of the fingers of the hand which supports the container 1. Upon release of the hook 32 from the upper arm 18, the described articulated arm unit 15 flies upwardly to its extended position, as in Figs. 3 and 4, under the influence of the spring hinges 19, 20, and 23. Such spring hinges are arranged so that the arms of the unit 15 cannot pass dead-center under the spring action.

Upon the articulated arm unit erecting, as above described, the facsimile rabbit's head 25 is sprung upwardly through the false bottom 9 by parting the flaps 10 at their lapping edges 11, and said head then projects or pops out of the hat-like container 1 in the manner shown in Figs. 3 and 4; all to the very great amusement of the audience.

As previously indicated, the bow tie 27, when the device is held so that the tie faces forwardly, fully camouflages or hides from view the upper end portion of the arm unit 15. The weight 21 tends to counter-balance the motion of the parts as they spring to erected position.

To reset the trick, the articulated arm unit 15 can be easily folded by hand downward through the split false bottom 9 to its normal position in the lower compartment 14, whereupon the hook 32 of the catch pin 29 is re-engaged through the opening 33 and with the upper arm 18.

The device, being simple in structure and economical to manufacture, is an excellent toy for children, and can be readily and easily manipulated by a child.

From the foregoing description it will be readily seen that there has been produced such a device as substantially fulfills the objects of the invention, as set forth herein.

While this specification sets forth in detail the present and preferred construction of the

device, still in practice such deviations from such detail may be resorted to as do not form a departure from the spirit of the invention, as defined by the appended claims.

Having thus described the invention, the following is claimed as new and useful, and upon which Letters Patent are desired:

1. A trick comprising, as a toy, a container open at one end and closed by a bottom at the other end, a false bottom in the container above the bottom, the false bottom being of flexible material and having a split therein, a facsimile member normally disposed in the chamber between the bottom of the container and the false bottom, a device normally wholly in said chamber supporting the facsimile member and adapted to eject said member through the slit false bottom to a position exposed to view above the container, means tending to actuate the device, and releasable holding means operative to normally prevent actuation of said first named means.

2. A trick comprising, as a toy, a container open at the top and having a bottom, the container being of the form and appearance of a top hat, a flexible false bottom in the container intermediate its ends, the false bottom having a split therein, a facsimile head normally in the chamber below the false bottom, a normally folded, articulated arm unit supporting the head in said chamber but adapted to erect through the slit false bottom with the head to position the latter in view above the container, spring means tending to erect the arm unit, and manually releasable holding means operative to normally prevent actuation of the spring means; said articulated arm unit normally being generally of Z-shape, and the spring means being spring hinges connecting adjacent arms of the unit together.

3. A toy trick, as in claim 2, in which said Z-shaped, articulated arm unit includes, in normal position, an intermediate arm extending transversely of the direction of erection above the bottom of the container, a lower arm hinged to the bottom and extending at an upward incline to and hinged in connection with the intermediate arm adjacent one end, an upper arm hinged to and extending at an upward incline from adjacent the other end of the intermediate arm; the head being secured to said upper arm.

4. A toy trick, as in claim 3, including a counterbalancing weight on the intermediate arm at said one end; there being an under-side support for the opposite end of said intermediate arm.

5. A trick comprising, as a toy, a container open at the top and having a bottom, the container being of the form and appearance of a top hat, a base plate on the bottom of the container, legs upstanding from the base plate at opposite sides of the container, platforms on said legs intermediate the ends of the container; a slit, false bottom in the container, said false bottom including flexible flaps secured at opposite sides to said platforms and lapping at the adjacent edges, a facsimile head normally in the chamber below the false bottom, a normally folded, articulated arm unit supporting the head in said chamber but adapted to erect through the slit false bottom with the head to position the latter in view above the container, spring means tending to erect the arm unit, and manually releasable holding means operative to normally prevent actuation of the spring means; the articulated arm unit being attached at the end opposite the head to the base plate.

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6. A trick comprising, as a toy, a container open at the top and having a bottom, the container being of the form and appearance of a top hat, a flexible false bottom in the container intermediate its ends, the false bottom having a split therein, a facsimile head normally in the chamber below the false bottom, a normally folded, articulated arm unit supporting the head in said chamber but adapted to erect through the slit false bottom with the head to position the latter in view above the container, spring means tending to erect the arm unit, and manually releasable holding means operative to normally prevent actuation of the spring means; said holding means including a catch pin projecting slightly, as a trigger, through the bottom.

7. A trick comprising, as a toy, a container open at the top and having a bottom, the container being of the form and appearance of a top hat, a flexible false bottom in the container intermediate its ends, the false bottom having a split therein, a facsimile head normally in the chamber below the false bottom, a normally folded, articulated arm unit supporting the head in said chamber but adapted to erect through the slit false bottom with the head to position the latter in view above the container-spring means tending to erect the arm unit, and manually releasable holding means operative to normally prevent actuation of the spring means; the arm unit being generally Z-shaped and including an up-

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per arm, and said holding means including a catch releasably engaged with said upper arm and having a trigger part accessible from exteriorly of the container.

8. A trick as in claim 1 in which the device comprises an articulated, normally folded arm unit, and the actuating means comprises spring hinges between the arms of the unit.

9. A trick as in claim 8 in which the articulated arm unit includes an upper arm, a middle arm and a lower arm, the facsimile member being provided with a slot, the upper arm being secured in the bottom of the slot and the sides of the slot straddling the middle and lower arms when the member is disposed in the chamber.

10. A trick comprising, as a toy, a container formed to represent a top-hat, a facsimile rabbit's head normally disposed in the container below the upper end thereof, means in the container supporting the facsimile rabbit's head and tending to raise the same upwardly to a position projecting out of the top of the container, holding means releasable from outside the container operative to normally prevent actuation of said first named means, and a yieldable closure member arranged in connection with the container in a manner to normally close the same above said facsimile rabbit's head and said means whereby to normally conceal the same.

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No references cited.