

Aug. 9, 1932.

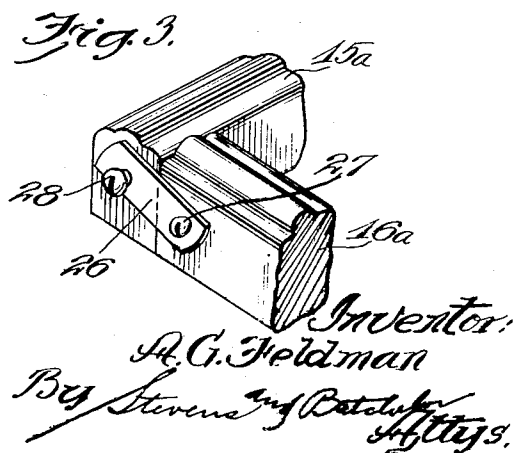
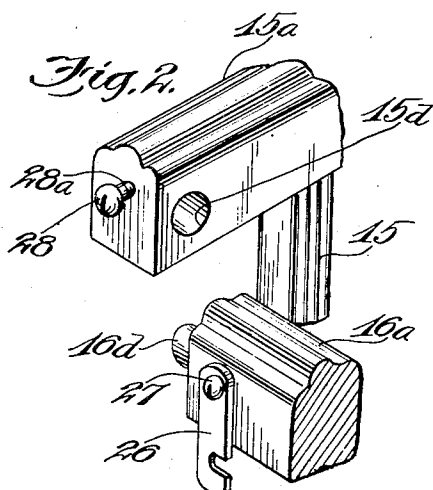
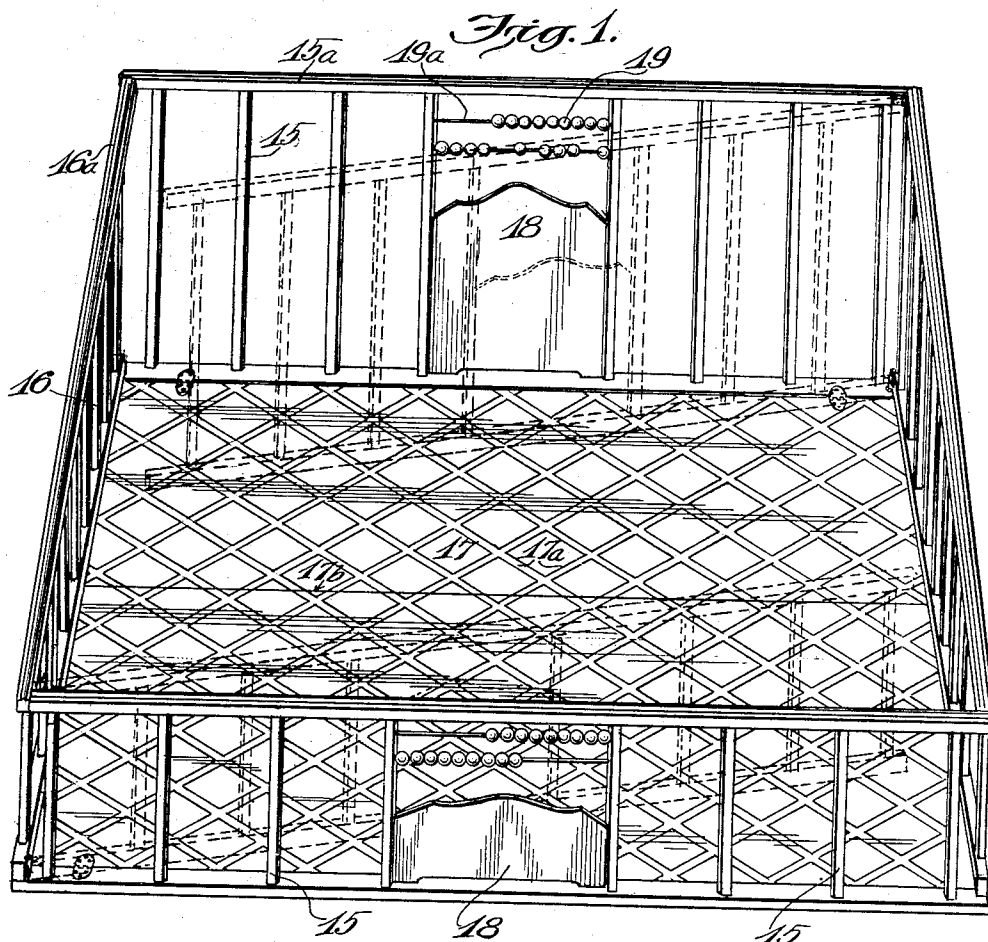
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1,870,285

PLAYPEN

Filed April 22, 1931

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 4.

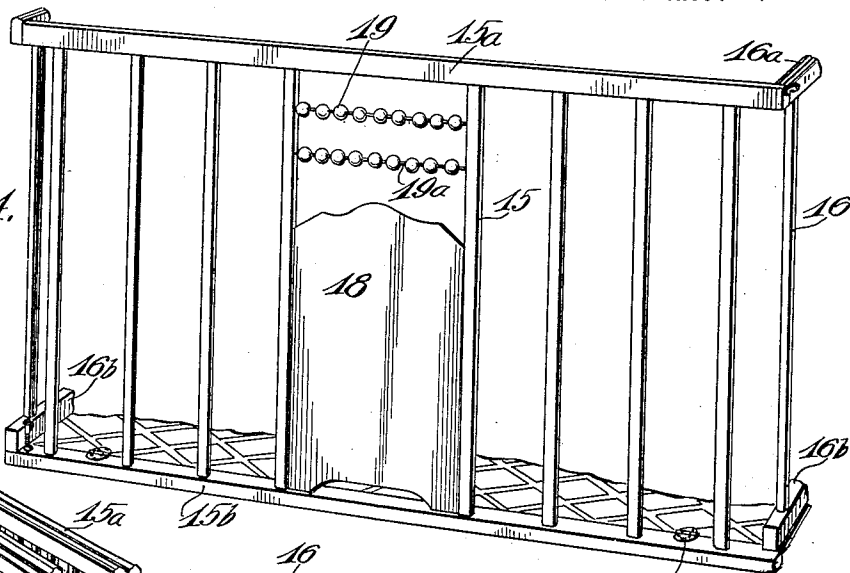


Fig. 10.

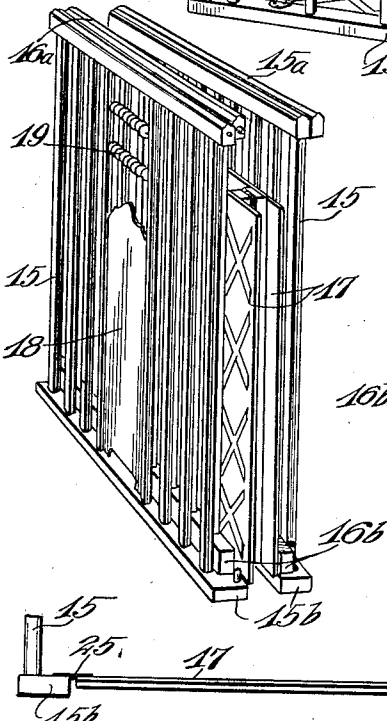


Fig. 6.

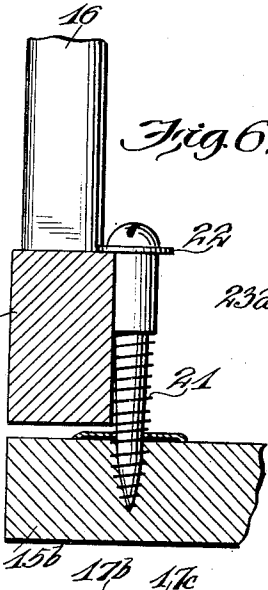


Fig. 5.

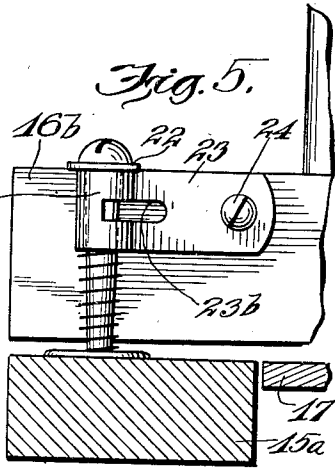


Fig. 9.

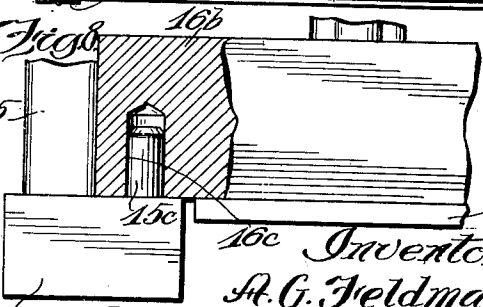
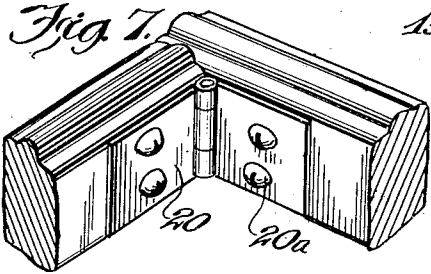


Fig. 7.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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PLAYPEN

Application filed April 22, 1931. Serial No. 532,098.

My invention relates to nursery furniture articles of the type designated as play-yards, and more particularly to foldable articles of this type, and my main object is to provide a play-yard which is foldable, yet in such a manner as to be very rigid when set up.

A further object of the invention is to design the novel play-yard with one pair of stationary walls on opposite sides, and an alternating pair of foldable walls between the stationary walls, such foldable walls being single and rigid units in themselves.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a simple and strong fitting relation between the foldable walls and the stationary ones.

Another object of the invention is to provide a securing connection between the foldable walls and the stationary walls, which is on the external side of the play-yard and therefore not readily accessible to the occupant thereof.

A significant object of the invention is to construct the novel play-yard with a peculiar hinge member for its foldable walls, which requires no stationary wall section for support.

A final but nevertheless important object of the invention is to construct the novel play-yard on lines of utmost simplicity and ready adaptability to any mode of ornamentation.

With the above objects in view and any others that may suggest themselves from the specification and claims to follow, a better understanding of the invention may be had by reference to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Fig. 1 is a top perspective view of the novel play-yard as set up;

Fig. 2 is a perspective detail of the zone of connection between the foldable and stationary walls of the play-yard;

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2, and showing the parts in said zone connection;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of one side of the play-yard showing one of its stationary walls, and portions of its floor and foldable walls adjacent thereto;

Fig. 5 is a face view of a bottom hinge;

Fig. 6 is an end view of such hinge;

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of a top hinge;

Fig. 8 is a fragmental elevation of a bottom joint, partly in section.

Fig. 9 is an edge view of the bottom of the play-yard as viewed toward a foldable wall; and

Fig. 10 is a perspective view of the play-yard as folded.

In the field of foldable play-yards, one difficulty is the instability of the article when it is set up. Owing to the tendency to design the play-yard so foldable that it may be collapsed into a compact form for minimum space in shipping and storing, insufficient provision has been made for rendering the play-yard rigid and stable when set up. Thus, the stationary walls are rigid, but the foldable ones are shaky and loose, presenting an awkward appearance and being easily tampered with by the occupant. Further, other elements in some play-yards, such as hinges, are improperly made or adjusted, making the handling of the play-yard difficult when setting up or folding the same, or inviting looseness and disorder after a short period of use. It has therefore been my intention to avoid the above difficulties by designing a play-yard which fulfills the above objects to a highly satisfactory extent.

Referring specifically to the drawings, the stationary walls of the play-yard are denoted by the numeral 15, and the foldable walls by the numeral 16. The walls unite with a floor 17 to form a box-like enclosure of approximately square form, the walls being made in the form of open railings with panels 18 or other suitable ornamentation and toy units in the form of beads 19 strung on rods 19^a. The panels and toy units are preferably mounted on the stationary walls 15; and it will be understood that the structure is susceptible of any type of ornamentation or embellishment, one such instance being a diamond figuring 17^a on the floor 17 in simulation of linoleum.

The novel play-yard is designed with its foldable walls hinged to one of the ends of the stationary walls, so that each of the foldable walls may be swung inwardly as indicated by

dotted lines in Figure 1 to close along the inside of the corresponding stationary walls. The floor is split along the center as indicated at 17b and provided with hinges 17c (Fig. 9) on the under side of the division, whereby to permit the floor to break in an upward direction along the center and folded between the foldable walls 16, this arrangement being clearly shown in Fig. 10.

The stationary walls 15 are formed with top rails 15a and base rails 15b, the latter being of greater width in an inward direction whereby to permit the position of the foldable walls thereover when the play-yard is collapsed, thus making room for the closing of the floor section in turn. The foldable walls 16 have top rails 16a and similar bottom rails 16b.

To establish a top pivotal connection between either foldable wall and an adjacent stationary wall, I apply an ordinary hinge 20 by means of screws 20a inside the corner of the top rails 15a and 16a. At the bottom, however, the absence of a side rail in the wall 15 opposite the bottom rail 16b of the wall 16, requires the use of a special pivot means. This I provide in the form of a tall pivot screw 21 firmly driven into the base rail 15b and having a loose washer 22 immediately under its head. Adjacent to the screw 21, I attach a plate 23 by means of a screw 24 to the inner face of the bottom rail 16b of the foldable wall 16, extending the plate over the shank of the screw with a semi-circular bearing 23a closing over the screw shank and terminating with top and bottom spurs 23b which sink into the surface of the rail 16b as the screw 21 is made fast to secure the plate against pivotal movement about the screw 24, dispensing with a separate connection for this purpose. The bearing is preferably lined with grease, a suitable opening 23c being made in the plate 23 for the application of the grease. The two pivotal units just described are duplicated at the union of walls in the diagonally opposite corner of the play-yard.

In designing the foldable walls relative to the stationary ones, my intention is to have the top rails at an even level, yet to drop the foldable walls no further than would space them somewhat above the base rails 15b and the floor 17. The spacing is ordinarily about a quarter-inch so as to assure sufficient clearance of the foldable walls when swung in or out, thus eliminating any stiffness in the folding or unfolding action and the scraping or marring of the figured floor. Owing to the support of a given foldable wall by the top hinge 20, the lower pivot does not act as a support and the bearing plate 23 receives no strain from the weight of the wall, enabling it to operate about the pivot screw 21 and next to the loose washer 22 with ease. The outer sides of the floor sections 17 are

hinged to the base rails 15b as indicated at 25.

With the hinge corners of the play-yard described, the connections of the outer ends of the foldable walls with the corresponding ends of the stationary walls will be taken up. Taking one zone of connection, it will be noted in Figs. 8 that a vertical bottom cavity 16c, is made near the end of the bottom rail 16b. When the latter closes over the corresponding end of the base rail 15b, the cavity is adapted to receive a post 15c erected upon such base rail, the foldable wall being slightly lifted to make this connection. At the top of the wall, the rail 16a is made with a projecting stud 16d (Fig. 2) and the rail 15a opposite is drilled from the inside with a horizontal cavity 15d. By slightly drawing the rail 15a over toward the rail 16a, the cavity 15d is caused to receive the stud 16d. Now a locking device is employed to join the walls against separation. This comprises a hook 26 pivotally hung from a screw 27 driven into the outside of the rails 16a, this screw being adapted to swing over the shank 28a of a screw 28 driven into the adjacent end of the rail 15a as the union of these rails is effected in the manner previously explained. The completed connection is clearly shown in Fig. 3.

The simple connections between the free ends of the foldable walls and the corresponding ends of the stationary walls contribute materially to the stability of the play-yard. Thus, the connection of the post 15c and the stud 16d locks the foldable wall both at the top and at the bottom from lateral movement; the connection of the stud 16d also prevents the foldable wall from vertical deviation; and the connection of the hook 26 prevents the separation of the walls. These factors are of great importance when it is considered that a play-yard is pulled or dragged on the floor from one place to another, and often together with the occupant and other contents, such as toys. Invariably, the top rails receive the strain of handling, and without firm connections the play-yard would soon loosen in its joints or become shaky or wobbly. It is significant that the connecting features just described are not special parts, tending to complicate the construction of the article, but rather the simplest parts imaginable and in keeping with the structure itself. The hook connection 26 is on the outside of the foldable wall and in a position to remote for tampering by the occupant.

It is thus seen that I have provided a play-yard of simple parts and strong connections. The folding walls are single and entire units, so that when the play-yard has been set up the folding walls are just as rigid as the stationary ones and the enclosure stands firmly and immune to the

abuses to which it is ordinarily subjected.

I claim:

1. A play-yard having stationary walls, walls adjoining and swingable toward the stationary walls, meeting base rails of the related walls and superimposed at the origin of the swing, and pivot means between the rails, said pivot means attaching to a horizontal face of one rail and the adjacent vertical face of the companion rail.
2. The structure of claim 1, said rails being horizontal, a vertical pivot carried by said horizontal face, and a bearing engaging said post carried by said vertical face.
3. A play-yard comprising substantially-parallel stationary walls, an end wall in connection with the latter and swingable from one of them, and a connection between the free end of the swingable wall and the corresponding end of the other stationary wall comprising a dowel stud projecting from said free end, and said other wall being made with a cavity in its inner side to receive said dowel stud.
4. A play-yard comprising substantially-parallel stationary walls, base rails forming part of the latter, an end wall in connection with said stationary walls and swingable from one of them, and a connection between the free end of the swingable wall and the corresponding end of the other stationary wall comprising a dowel stud erected on the base rail of said other wall, and said free end being made with a cavity in its bottom edge to receive said dowel stud.
5. A play-yard enclosure comprising stationary walls, inwardly extended base rails carried by the latter, and movable walls adjacent the stationary ones and foldable thereon to lie within the extended portions of the base rails.
6. A play-yard comprising a quadrilateral enclosure, one pair of oppositely-arranged walls being stationary, and each of the other walls being foldable from diagonally opposite corners of the enclosure and in single form upon the adjacent stationary wall, and a floor comprised of sections hinged to the stationary walls and to each other and foldable between the stationary walls.
7. A play-yard enclosure comprising stationary walls movable walls adjacent the latter, base rails for the walls, hinges between the upper portions of the stationary and movable walls to render the latter foldable upon the stationary walls, such hinges suspending the movable walls with their base rails freely above the base rails of the stationary walls, posts on the last-mentioned base rails directly below said hinges, and means anchoring the movable walls to said posts to constitute the latter as pivots supplementing said hinges.
8. A play-yard enclosure comprising stationary walls, a bottom connecting the latter, movable walls adjacent the stationary ones,

base rails for the walls, hinges between the upper portions of the stationary and movable walls to render the latter foldable upon the stationary walls, such hinges suspending the movable walls with their base rails freely above said bottom, posts on the last-mentioned base rails directly below said hinges, and means anchoring the movable walls to said posts to constitute the latter as pivots supplementing said hinges.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

ABRAHAM G. FELDMAN.