Oct. 10, 1967 G. SAM 3,345,772

BODILY ATTACHED HOOP TOY

Filed Jan. 4, 1965

FIG. 1

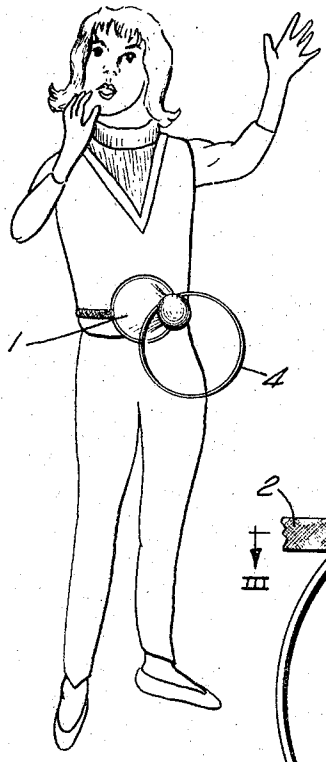


FIG. 2

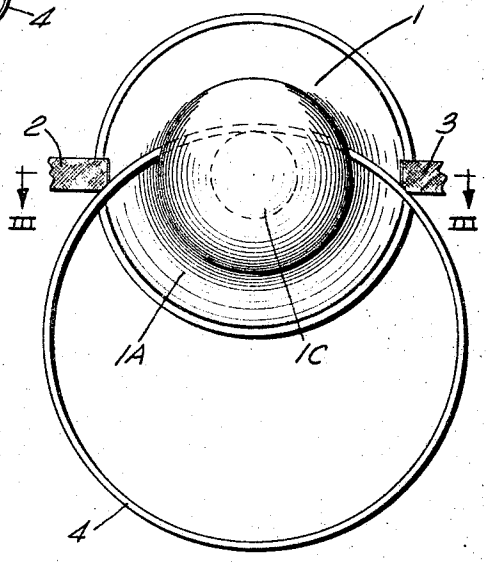
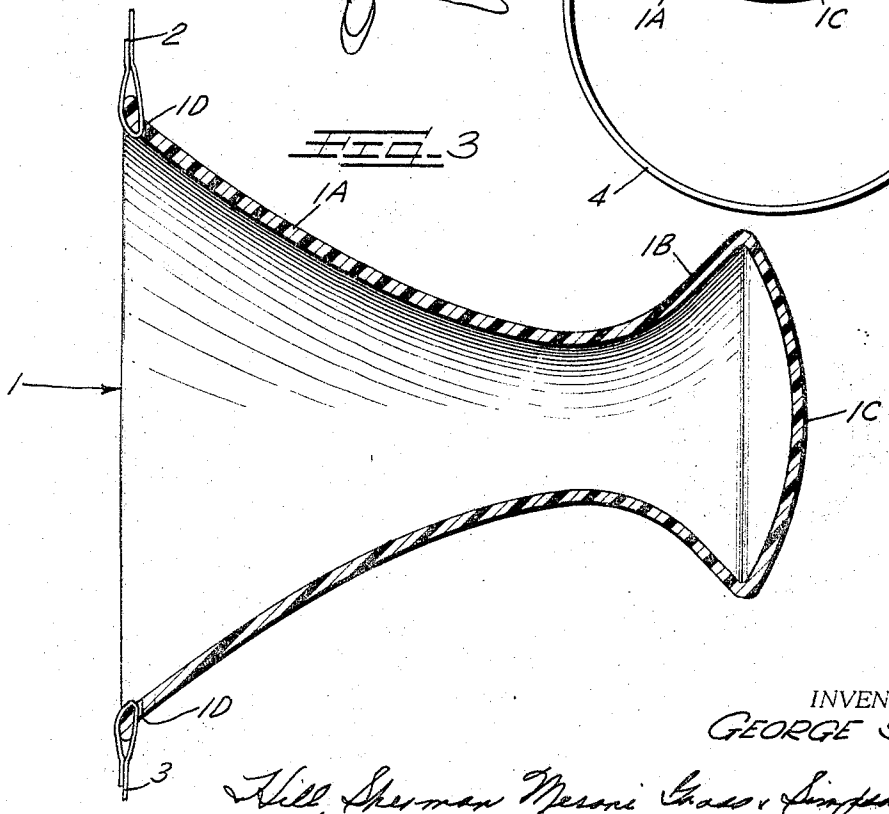


FIG. 3



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BODILY ATTACHED HOOP TOY

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

This invention relates to a hoop actuator to be worn projecting from the midsection of a user and is characterized by the provision of an enlarged outer end preventing accidental disengagement of the hoop, said large outer end gradually merging with a section of substantially less diameter which is turn gradually enlarges to the body contacting portion thus preventing the hoop from contacting the body of the user.

This invention relates to a toy which is designed to provide the user with both diverting amusement and healthful exercise.

It has been known heretofore to provide hoop rolling devices and the use of a large hoop loosely encircling the body is exemplified by the well-known "Hula Hoop" which achieved popularity in recent wears. However, these devices of the prior art generally involved rolling of the hoop in a plane normal to the plane of the body or the axis of the limb of the user.

The present invention involves apparatus whereby the hoop is rotated in a plane generally parallel to the plane of the user's body when the latter is moved in a gyratory fashion. This is accomplished by removably affixing a hoop supporting and actuating member to the midsection of the wearer's body and projecting therefrom, and then moving the body to effect rotation of a hoop hung on said member.

The hoop is caused to rotate by gyrations of the body which effect movement of the projecting member, which movement is transmitted to the inner side of the hoop. This operation provides interesting effects which may be varied by manipulation of the user's body and such manipulation affords healthful exercise of many muscles and particularly those of the abdominal section and adjacent back muscles.

The projecting member is preferably of a conical shape with a diverging frusto-conical extremity providing an intermediate portion of smaller diameter whereby the hoop is retained on said member when at rest.

The invention (in a preferred form) is shown on the drawings and hereinafter more fully described.

On the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a front view in perspective showing the toy of this invention in position for use on the body of a user.

FIG. 2 is a front elevation view of the device of this invention with the hoop attaching means fragmentarily shown.

FIG. 3 is an enlarged section taken on the line III—III of FIG. 2.

As shown on the drawings:

The toy of this invention is adapted to be attached to the body of a user as generally shown in FIG. 1 of the drawings.

This toy consists of a hoop supporting actuator generally designated by the reference numeral 1 and attachable to the body of the user by strips 2 and 3 which may be joined at their outer ends for adjustable attachment by a usual buckle or other fastening means (not shown) or which may be integral and of elastic material to form a single loop adjustably and snugly encircling the body of the wearer.

The hoop 4 is supported by the projecting hoop supporting meamber 1 as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2 and upon movement of the body to effect gyratory movement of the projecting member, the hoop may be rotated in a plane parallel generally to the plane of the body of the user and while rotating may be completely free of the hoop supporting member except at intermittent points of contact where impetus is given thereto by movements of said member.

The hoop supporting member 1 preferably may be made of molded plastic as shown in FIG. 3 and consists of an inner or body contacting portion 1A of conical shape with its base abutting the body of the user. As shown in FIG. 3, this member 1A converges to an area intermediate the length of the supporting member and then diverges to provide a second frusto-conical member 1B which terminates in a rounded portion 1C. The slots 1D in the base of the member 1 afford means for attaching the straps or fastening means 2 and 3.

The hoop may be made of molded plastic or other relatively light material.

It is further obvious that although the supporting member 1 has been shown and described as being made of a suitable molded plastic, other materials may be used in the construction of this supporting member and materials other than molded plastics may be used in the construction of the hoop 4.

In use, the device is attached to the body of the user as shown in FIG. 1. The body is then moved by a gyratory motion of the midsection to give impetus to the hoop which soon may be rotated about the supporting member. Variations may be accomplished due to the conical surfaces afforded by the portions 1A and 1B of the supporting member and manipulation and actuation of the device affords not only interesting results but healthful exercise.

Due to the enlarged inner and outer ends of the hoop supporting member or actuator the hoop is restrained from accidental disengagement during use and is prevented from contacting the body of the user. At the same time, the gradually increasing diameter at each end and the curving surfaces of those gradually increasing portions permits of a degree of desired inward and outward movement of the hoop.

I am aware that details of construction may be varied without departing from the principles of this invention and I therefore do not purpose limiting the patent granted hereon otherwise than indicated by the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A hoop support and actuator comprising a unitary member consisting of a first frusto-conical portion having a large open end having edge means adapted to engage the front midsection of the body of a user and a second frusto-conical portion having a small end joining the outer end of said first portion and a second large end at the outer extremity of said member, said portions providing a continuously curving surface having a substantially

smaller diameter intermediate the ends of said member and attaching means including a pair of oppositely disposed strap slots and a strap secured adjacent the edge means of said first frusto-conical portion and a hoop, said hoop and surface comprising means adapted to produce parallel movement of said hoop with respect to the body of the user.

2. A hoop support and actuator as claimed in claim 3, said unitary member being of molded plastic, said large end preventing engagement of the hoop with the body of the user and said second large end prevent accidental displacement of the hoop from the actuator.

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