Nov. 16, 1971 R. DE LARA 3,619,942

ROLLABLE TOY

Filed April 10, 1970

FIG. 1.

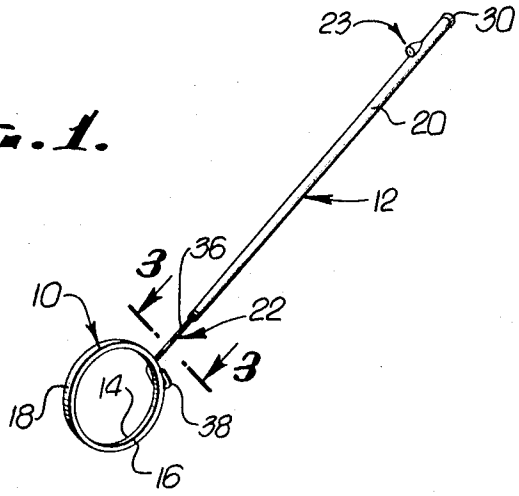


FIG. 3.

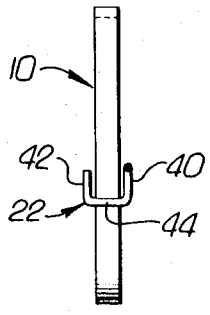


FIG. 2.

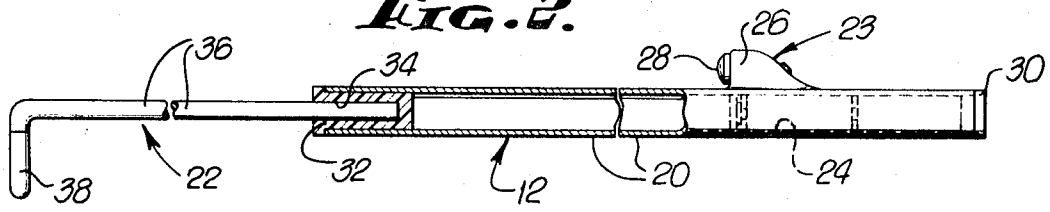


FIG. 4.

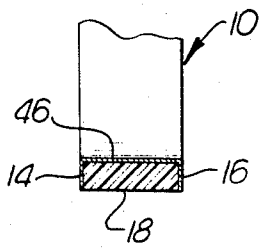


FIG. 5.

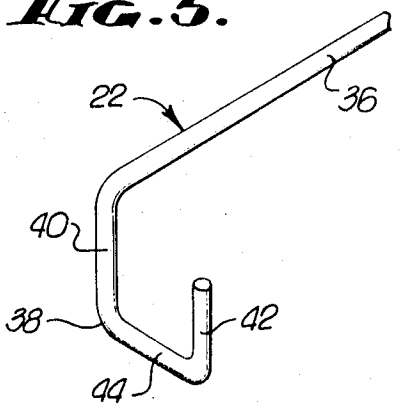


FIG. 7.

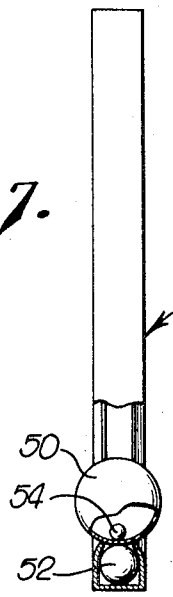
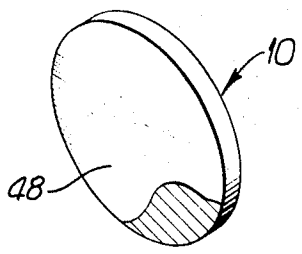


FIG. 6.



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United States Patent Office 3,619,942 Patented Nov. 16, 1971

3,619,942

ROLLABLE TOY

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Filed Apr. 10, 1970, Ser. No. 27,350
Int. Cl. A63h 33/02
U.S. Cl. 46—220 2 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A rollable toy comprising a circular member for rolling on the ground and means for rolling and guiding the circular member along the ground comprising a handle for reaching from the hand of an operator to adjacent the ground and a controller extending from the handle and adapted to push and to vertically support the circular member as when the operator is jogging alongside of or behind the rolling circular member.

The present invention relates to hand-operable toys and, more particularly, to a rollable toy specifically adapted for use while running or jogging.

An activity receiving increasing interest today by men, women, and children is jogging. Jogging provides excellent exercise. Unfortunately, it does have a tendency to become rather monotonous and boring.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a novelty toy for use by joggers and others as they are running or trotting along relatively flat areas such as streets or sidewalks.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a rollable toy including a circular member for rolling along the ground and hand-held means for pushing and guiding the circular member as the operator runs or trots along or behind the rolling circular member.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a rollable toy of the foregoing character which is useful in the dark and which includes luminous means for displaying the rolling circular member and a light source in the hand-held means for illuminating the rolling circular member.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a rollable toy of the foregoing character wherein the hand-held element includes a controller for pushing on a rear of the circular member and for engaging opposing sides thereof to vertically support and guide the circular member as it rolls along the ground.

The foregoing as well as other objects and advantages of the present invention may be more clearly understood by reference to the following detailed description when considered with the drawing, which, by way of example only, illustrates various forms of a rollable toy embodying features of the present invention.

In the drawing:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of one form of the rollable toy comprising a ring and a hand-held element having a light source housed therein for illuminating the ring;

FIG. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view of the hand-held element with segments removed;

FIG. 3 is a fragmentary view looking along the line 3—3 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a fragmentary sectional view of a portion of the circular member illustrated in FIG. 1;

FIG. 5 is a fragmentary perspective view of a controller portion of the hand-held element illustrated in FIG. 1, the controller being useful in pushing and guiding the circular member as it rolls along the ground;

FIG. 6 is a perspective view of a disc useful as the circular member in the rollable toy; and

FIG. 7 is an end view partially in section of an alternate form of circular member for the rollable toy.

As represented generally in FIG. 1, the rollable toy of the present invention comprises a circular member **10** for rolling along the ground and a hand-held element **12** for pushing and guiding the circular element along the ground. In FIGS. 1, 3, 4, and 7, the circular member **10** is illustrated as comprising a ring of metal, plastic, wood, or a combination thereof, while in FIG. 6, the circular member **10** is represented as comprising a solid disc. In each case, the circular member **10** includes opposing substantially vertical side walls **14** and **16** joined by a flat circumferential outer edge **18** as most clearly illustrated in FIG. 4.

The illustrated form of the hand-held element **12** comprises an elongated tubular handle **20** and a controller **22**. The handle is of a length adapted to reach from the hand of an operator of the toy to adjacent the ground. In FIG. 1, the handle **20** houses at its upper end a flashlight structure **23** including a tubular housing **24** for receiving a pair of batteries and an upwardly extending housing **26** for a light **28** electrically connected to the batteries in a conventional manner. A plug or cap **30** seals the upper end of the handle while the lower end of the handle receives an elongated plug **32** having a bore **34** for receiving an end of an axial portion **36** of the controller **22**. The axial portion **36** is secured tightly within the plug **32** coaxial with the elongated handle **20**. In addition to the axial portion **36**, the controller **22** includes a hook portion **38**. The hook portion **38** is of generally U-shaped configuration as most clearly illustrated in FIG. 5. In this regard, the hook portion includes substantially parallel sections **40** and **42** joined by a section **44** substantially normal to the sections **40** and **42**. The section **42** extends downwardly from a forward end of the axial portion **36** and connects to an end of the section **44** which in turn connects to a lower end of the section **42** which extends upwardly parallel to the section **40**.

Thus arranged, and most clearly depicted in FIG. 1, the controller **22** functions with the handle **20** to provide means for pushing and guiding the circular member **10** along the ground. In this regard, the section **44** is dimensioned to extend across the circumferential edge **18** of the circular member and substantially parallel thereto. Further, the section **44** is adapted to push on a rearward portion of the circumferential edge **18** as illustrated and in response to a forward pushing action of the operator on the handle **20** to roll the circular member **10** along the ground. The sections **40** and **42** are adapted to engage the opposing side walls **14** and **16** of the circular member and to thereby provide vertical support for the circular member as it is rolling along the ground. Such vertical support is also assisted by a forward end of the axial portion **36** as illustrated.

Accordingly, when a person desires to utilize the rollable toy of the present invention, he simply places a circular member **10** in a vertical position on the ground and grasps the upper end of the handle **20** with the controller **22** positioned as illustrated in FIG. 1. He then pushes forward on the handle to induce a rolling action of the circular member along the ground. The operator then begins to jog either behind or to one side of the circular member while maintaining the controller in position adjacent the rolling circular member.

As previously indicated, it is a feature of the present invention that the rollable toy is useful at night. To accomplish this, the circular member **10** may be coated with a luminous material as illustrated by the numeral **46** in FIG. 4 and **48** in FIG. 6. In FIG. 4, the luminous material covers the inner surface of the ring and the side walls **14** and **16** while in FIG. 6, the luminous material **48** coats the sides of the disc. With such a coating, the flashlight structure **23** is employed to cast a light on the circular

member **10** as it rolls along the ground thereby illuminating the circular member while rolling in the dark.

Another alternate form of the circular member **10** is illustrated in FIG. 7 as comprising a channelled ring. The inner edges of the ring define a track for receiving a ball **50** adapted to roll along the track. Within the track is stationed a magnetic element, in this case a magnetized sphere **52** captured within the channel and adapted for rolling therealong with a turning of the ring. To maintain the ball **50** within the track and adjacent the magnetized sphere **52**, the ball is hollow and captures a smaller metal ball **54**. The metal ball **54** is attracted to the magnetized sphere **52**, thereby maintaining the ball **50** in the track and adjacent the magnetized sphere as the circular member **10** rolls along the ground in response to pushing action of the controller **22**.

From the foregoing, it should be appreciated that the rollable toy of the present invention is particularly useful by joggers as well as children of all ages. The toy is simple and inexpensive to construct and very easy to use both in daylight and during evening hours.

While specific forms of the rollable toy have been described in some detail herein, changes and modifications may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention. It is therefore intended that the present invention be limited in scope only by the terms of the following claims.

I claim:

1. A rollable toy comprising:

a ring for rolling on the ground and having substantially vertical opposing side walls substantially normal to a flat circumferential edge;

means defining an annular track on an inside of said ring;

magnetic means in said track;

a ball for rolling along said track and for being attracted by said magnetic means whereby said ball rolls in said track as said ring rolls along the ground; and

means for rolling and guiding said ring along the ground comprising an elongated handle for reaching from the hand of an operator to adjacent the ground and a controller element comprising an axial portion extending from said handle and a hook means substantially normal to said axial portion for engaging and pushing forward on a rear portion of said circumferential edge of said ring and for engaging said side walls to vertically support said ring as said operator pushes forward on said handle as when jogging alongside of or behind the rolling ring.

2. The rollable toy of claim **1** wherein said track comprises a channel and said magnetic means a magnetized element captured for rolling in said channel and wherein said ball is hollow and includes a smaller metal ball for being attracted to said magnetized element.

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U.S. Cl. X.R.

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