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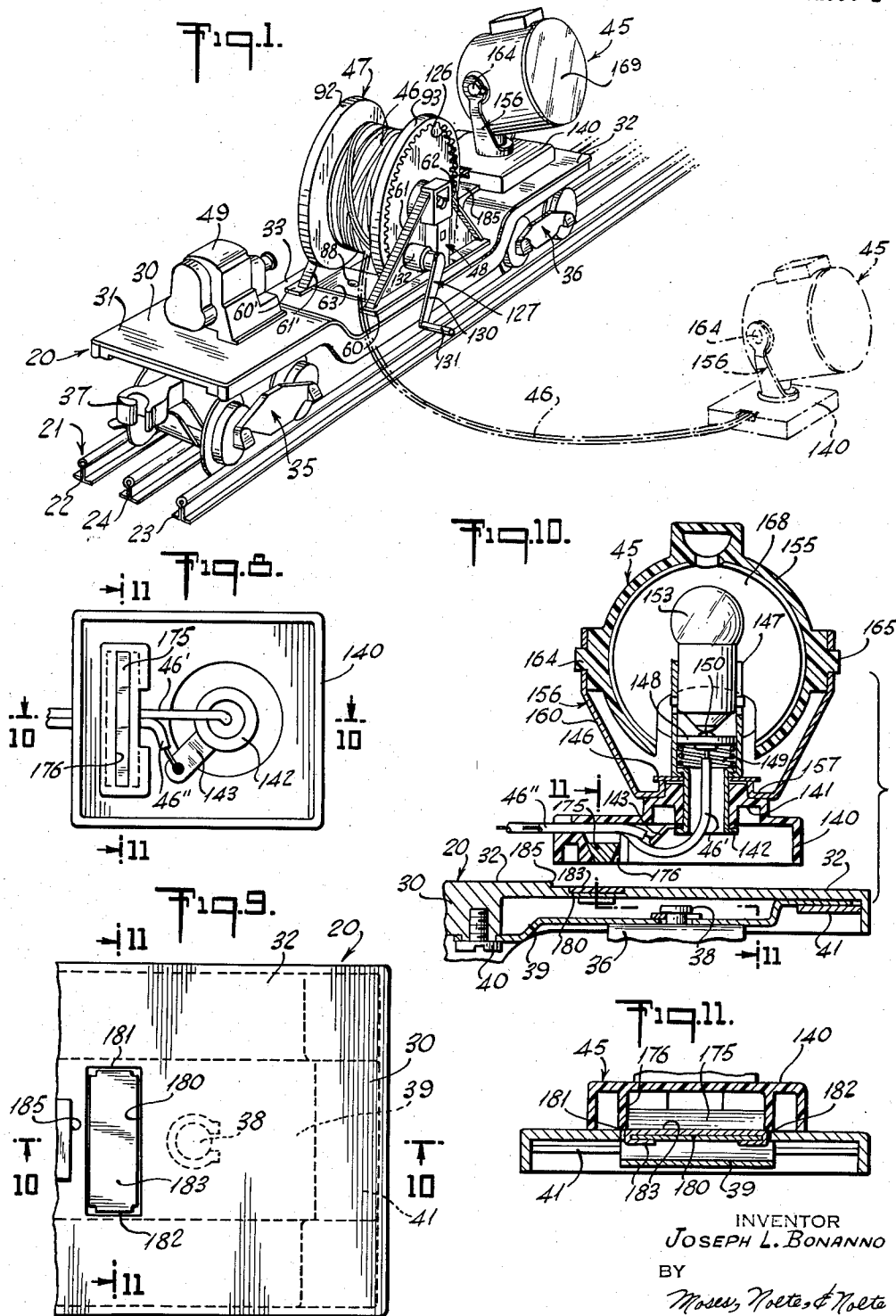
J. L. BONANNO

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SEARCHLIGHT EXTENSION REEL

Filed July 29, 1957

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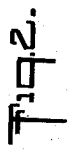
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3 Sheets-Sheet 2



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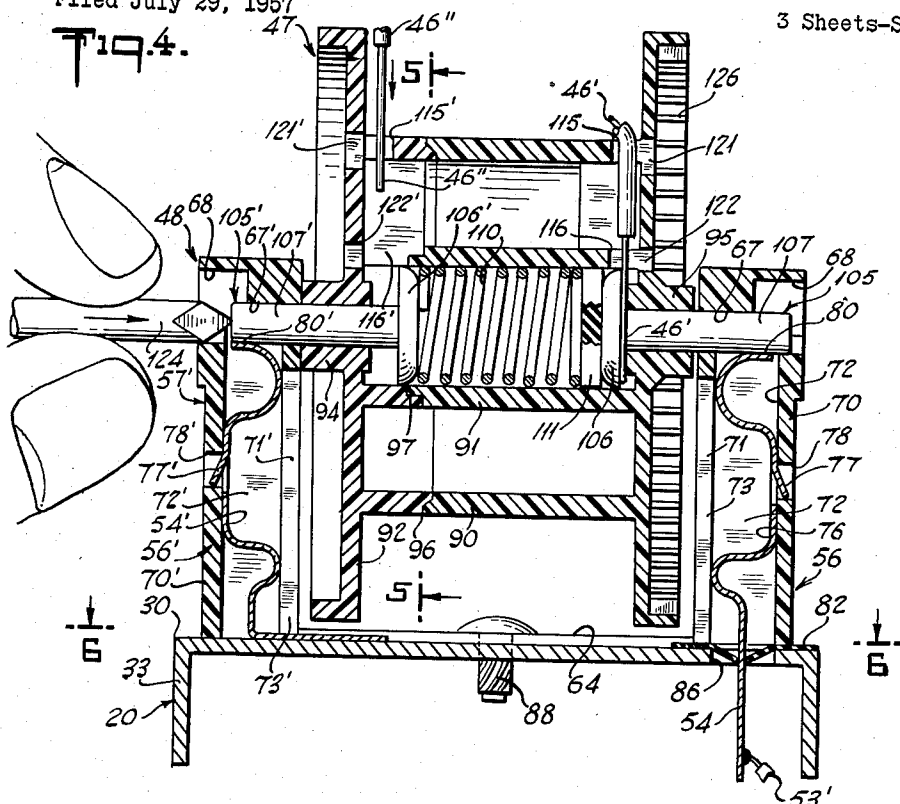
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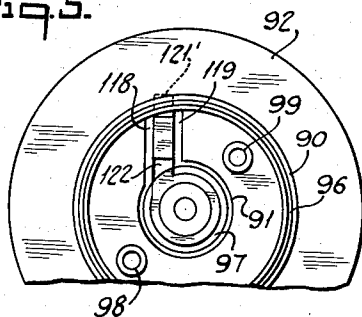
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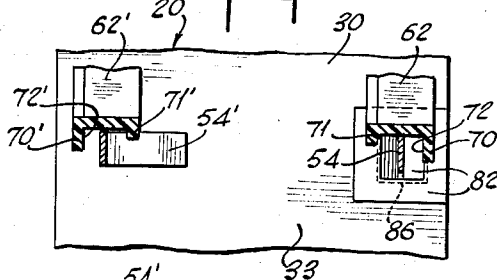
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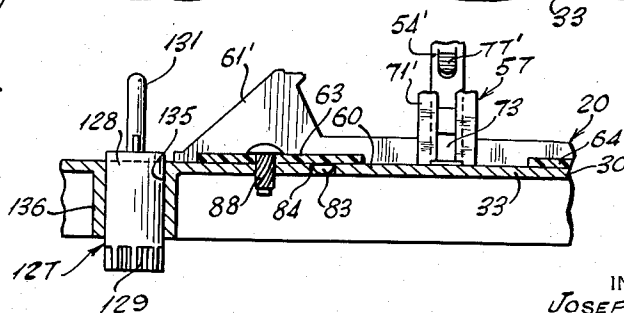
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2,964,876

## SEARCHLIGHT EXTENSION REEL

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12 Claims. (Cl. 46—226)

The present invention relates to toy electric train apparatus and, more particularly, to a searchlight extension car having a removable searchlight unit energized by power derived from the train track.

In a toy electric car of the type to which this invention is directed, a car body carries a reel supporting member on which is rotatably mounted a reel unit. The searchlight unit is removably latched to the car body and is connected to a cable adapted to be wound on a reel unit, the cable deriving its power from the center rail of a track. If desired, the cable may be wound and unwound by a crank journaled on the reel supporting member and meshing with gearing on the reel unit.

An object of this invention is to provide a new and improved toy electric train searchlight extension car having a realistic appearance and which may be conveniently assembled and inexpensively manufactured.

Another object of this invention is to provide a new and improved searchlight extension car including a searchlight unit removably latched to the car body and having a novel electrical circuit for energizing the searchlight unit.

Still another object of this invention is to provide a new and improved searchlight extension car having a novel reel unit and reel supporting member providing a portion of the electrical circuit supplying power to the removable searchlight unit.

These and other objects are attained in accordance with the present invention by an apparatus including a car body having conventional wheel assemblies pivotally mounted on its opposite ends, one of the wheel assemblies carrying brush means for engaging the power rail of a track. A reel supporting member is carried by the car body and includes a pair of spaced upstanding members having aligned axle bearings. A reel unit is provided and includes a drum portion and opposing end members secured to either side of the drum portion and having aligned axle receiving apertures. A pair of conductive plungers having opposing head portions and oppositely axially directed axle portions are provided, each of the axle portions being slidably received in one of the end member apertures and retrievably extending into one of the axle bearings. Resilient means urge the plungers in opposite axial directions.

A searchlight unit is removably latched to the car body. A pair of conductors adapted to be wound on the drum portion each has one end connected to the searchlight unit and its other end releasably coupled to one of the plungers. Other conductor means are provided to couple one of the plungers with the brush means and the other of the plungers with the car body to thereby complete the electrical circuit through the apparatus. The other conductor means may include resilient conductors each extending upwardly through one of the upstanding members into engagement with its axle portion.

These and other objects and features of the invention may be more readily perceived from the following de-

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tailed description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the searchlight extension car of the present invention mounted on a track section and showing a search light unit in its latched position, and in dotted lines, in its extended position;

Figure 2 is a side elevational view of the apparatus of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a sectional view of the apparatus of Figure 2 taken on the line 3—3 thereof looking in the direction of the arrows, and showing in particular horizontal sections of the reel unit, the reel supporting member and the searchlight unit, and also showing the operative position of the reel unit crank and, in dotted lines, its storage position;

Figure 4 is a sectional view of a portion of the apparatus of Figures 2 and 3 taken on the respective lines 4—4 thereof, and showing in particular a vertical section of the reel unit and reel supporting member and a mode of assembly thereof;

Figures 5 and 6 are fragmentary sectional views of the apparatus of Figure 4 taken on lines 5—5 and 6—6, respectively, thereof;

Figure 7 is a sectional view of a portion of the apparatus of Figure 3 taken on the line 7—7 thereof and including a side elevational view of the reel crank shown in its storage position;

Figure 8 is a bottom view of the base of the removable searchlight unit;

Figure 9 is a top plan view of a portion of the car body showing the portion of the searchlight unit latch means carried thereby;

Figure 10 is a vertical cross-sectional view of the searchlight unit and adjacent car structure, the searchlight unit being separated from the car body; and

Figure 11 is a sectional view of the apparatus of Figures 8, 9 and 10 taken on the respective lines 11—11 thereof looking in the directions of the arrows.

In Figure 1 an extension searchlight toy electric train car 20 constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention is shown mounted on a track section 21. The track section 21 is a conventional type and includes two outer rails 22 and 23 and a central power rail 24. The car 20 is likewise of a conventional form and is known as the low-slung body type.

A car body 30 having elevated end platforms 31 and 32 and a central depressed platform 33 is provided and is constructed of a suitable electrically conductive but non-magnetic material. A pair of identical but oppositely directed wheel assemblies 35 and 36 are pivotally mounted below the platforms 31 and 32. The wheel assemblies 35 and 36 are of a conventional four-wheel type and each has a coupler 37 attached to its outer end, the couplers preferably being a remote control magnetic knuckle type well known in the art.

As can be best seen in Figure 10, wherein a portion of platform 32 is shown, the pivotal mounting for wheel assembly 36 is provided by a headed stud 38 fixed to it and which is pivotally received on a mounting plate 39. The plate 39 is fixed to the underside of the platform by a threaded fastener 40 at one end and is held in engagement with the platform at the other end by a laterally extending band 41. The wheel assembly 35 is similarly pivotally mounted. The mounting plates 39, studs 38 and wheel assemblies 35 and 36 are constructed of a material having the same electrical characteristics as car body 30.

A searchlight unit 45 is removably latched to the platform 32 and derives its power from the track section 21 by an electrical circuit to be described hereafter. As is shown in dotted lines in Figure 1, when

removed from the car body it may be used for various night operations. The searchlight unit is connected to a cable 46 adapted to be wound on a reel unit 47. The reel unit is rotatably mounted on a reel supporting member 48 fixed to the central car body section 33. Secured to the end platform 31 is a simulated power plant and generator 49.

Power to energize the searchlight unit 45 is derived from the center rail 24. To this end, turning to Figure 2, the wheel assembly 35 supports a conventional collector brush assembly 52 having a roller 53 yieldingly urged into engagement with the rail 24. The brush assembly 52 has fixed to it an insulated flexible conductor 53' which couples the brush assembly with a resilient conductor 54 extending from the reel supporting member 48 in a manner to be hereafter described.

The reel supporting member 48, referring to Figures 2-4, 6 and 7, comprises essentially a pair of laterally spaced upstanding post members 56 and 56' which are appropriately braced and connected together to facilitate assembly on the central platform 33. The post 56 and its bracing are identical to the post 56' and its bracing but are laterally oppositely directed; therefore the description will proceed with regard to post 56 only, corresponding opposing elements being indicated by primed numbers. Post 56 is fixed at its lower end centrally of and perpendicular to a longitudinally extending base bar 60. A pair of oppositely sloping braces 61 and 62 extend from either end of the base bar 60 to the upper end of the post 56. The base bars 60 and 60' are rigidly connected by a pair of laterally extending spacer members 63 and 64 to support the posts 56 and 56' in parallelism and in lateral alignment.

The post 56 at its upper end is rectangular and is provided with an axle receiving bearing 67. A rectangular recess 68 extends upwardly from the horizontal diameter of the bearing 67 and inwardly to about the mid-point of the post. Below the upper rectangular end the post 56 has an approximately square tubular configuration, the tube having an outer wall 70 and an opposite inner slotted wall 71. The square-shaped bore 72 of the tube extends upwardly into the axle bearing 67 for a purpose to be explained. The upwardly extending slot 73 in the inner wall 71 terminates short of the bearing 67.

Received within the inner bore 72 is the resilient conductor 54 previously mentioned. The conductor 54 is made of a strip of resilient conductive material such as copper and is formed with two loops to provide a central portion 76 which engages the outer tube wall 70. A downwardly and outwardly struck out projection 77 in the central portion 76 engages the bottom flat edge of an aperture 78 in the outer wall 70. Above and below the central portion the conductor 54 loops inwardly to engage the inner wall 71 at its edges. The terminal portion 80 of the upper loop extends laterally outwardly and is arranged relative to the projection 77 to normally extend upwardly into the axle bearing 67. The lower end portion of the conductor 64 extends downwardly through a slot in an insulating sheet 82. The corresponding conductor 54', on the other hand, has its lower end bent inwardly for effectively grounding it on the car body. Of course, the reel supporting member 48 is constructed of a suitable insulating material such as a plastic.

To facilitate the assembly of the reel supporting member 48 on the central platform 33, the spacer bars 63 and 64 are each provided on their lower surfaces with a projection 83 adapted to extend into an aperture 84 in the platform. The platform 33 also has an opening 86 through which the lower end of the conductor 54 is adapted to pass. When assembling, the projections 83 and conductor 54 are located as indicated, the post 56 resting on the insulating sheet 82 and the post 56' resting on the inwardly turned end of conductor 54'. A pair of grooved fasteners 88 are then force fitted into aligned

apertures in the spacer bars and platform 33 to secure the reel supporting member 48 firmly in place.

The reel unit 47, see Figures 2-5, includes an outer cylindrical drum 90 and an inner concentric sleeve 91. A pair of opposing flanged end members 92 and 93 are secured to either side of the drum. The end members 92 and 93 are provided with axially extending axle receiving sleeves 94 and 95, respectively. For convenience of assembly, the drum 90 and sleeve 91 are divided along slightly axially displaced circumferential paths defining respective mating joints 96 and 97. To join the two mating reel unit parts together, two diametrically aligned rods 98 and 99 extend between the opposing end members 92 and 93 and are discontinued at an appropriate point near to the member 92 in the embodiment disclosed. Suitable screw fasteners 102 extend through the end member 92 into the rods 98 and 99.

To provide an axle for the reel unit 47, a pair of identical but oppositely directed plungers 105 and 105' are provided for retrievably extending into the reel supporting member axle bearings 67 and 67'. The plunger 105 has a head portion 106 within the sleeve 91 and an outwardly directed axle portion 107 slidably received within the end member axle sleeve 95. As will subsequently be more clear, the plungers form part of the electrical circuit for energizing the searchlight unit and is consequently made of a suitable electrically conductive material. The plungers conveniently are made of brass tubing having an end peened out to form the head portion, the rim of the head portion being preferably curved toward the axle portion.

The opposing plungers 105 and 105' are urged in opposite axial directions by a compression spring 110 which is received within the sleeve 91. The spring 110 as illustrated is in contact with head portion 106' but is insulated from head portion 106 by an insulator disc 111. Of course, if a spring made of a non-conductive material is used, the insulator 111 can be dispensed with. The movement of the spring 110 and plunger heads 106 and 106' are guided in axial paths by the sleeve 91.

The searchlight cable 46, which includes a power lead 46' and a current return lead 46'', is releasably coupled to the plungers 105 and 105'. To this end, the drum 90 and sleeve 91 each have aligned apertures 115 and 116 at one side extremity adapted to receive the power lead 46', the apertures being directed toward the inner surface of sleeve 91. Similar apertures 115' and 116' at the other side extremity of drum 90 and sleeve 91 are adapted to receive the current return lead 46''. As shown in Figure 5, a pair of parallel slender guide members 118 and 119 extend perpendicular to end member 92 between the drum and sleeve for guiding lead 46'' as it is inserted through the apertures 115' and 116'. Window openings 121 and 122 enable the assembler to observe the passage of the lead. End member is equipped with similar guide members and windows. Of course, the reel unit mating parts are made of a suitable insulating material such as a plastic.

In assembling the reel unit 47 to the reel supporting member, see Fig. 4, the reel unit is mounted on the reel supporting member by snapping the axle portions 107 and 107' into the axle bearings 67 and 67'. The upper terminal portions of the resilient conductors 54 and 54' normally extend into the respective bearings 67 and 67'. Since downward movement of these conductors is limited by the respective projections 77 and 77', good electrical contact with the axle portions when assembled is assured.

To assemble the cable 46 to the reel supporting member 47, use is made of an appropriately pointed tool such as the bevelled rod 124 illustrated. To assemble the lead 46'', for example, the plunger axle 105' is retracted inwardly using the tool 124, and the lead is inserted through the apertures 115' and 116'. When in place extending into the bore of the sleeve 91, the tool 124 is backed out until the plunger head portion 106' clamps the end of

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the lead against the end member 92. Wire 46' is similarly clamped between plunger head portion 106 and end member 93.

The cable 46 may be wound and unwound onto the drum 90 manually, but it is preferable to use the gearing and crank to be described (refer to Figs. 2, 3 and 7). Fixed to the outer surface of the end member 92 is a ring gear 126. A pinion for meshing with the gear 126 is provided on a crank 127. The crank 127 includes a shaft 128 having a pinion gear 129 fixed to its outer extremity. A crank handle 130 is fixed to the other end of the shaft at right angles thereto and carries a handle 131 to be grasped by the user for rotating the pinion gear.

In its operative position, the crank shaft 127 is received within a laterally extending sleeve bearing 132 fixed between the reel supporting member brace 61 and base bar 60. A storage position is also provided for the crank 127. For this purpose, the central platform 33 has an opening 135 and a sleeve 136 extending downwardly from its periphery for receiving the crank shaft.

The removable searchlight unit 45 (see Figs. 10 and 3), includes a base member 140 made of a non-conductive and non-magnetic material. The base member 140 is formed with a raised circular bearing portion 141 having a central bore therethrough for receiving a conductive sleeve 142. A washer 143 having a lead securing projection is received between the base member and the peened over end of the sleeve 142. The current return lead 46'' is connected to the washer projection. At the upper end of the sleeve 142, a flat bearing plate 146 rests on the upper circular face of the bearing portion 141 extending outwardly therefrom. The lower inwardly directed flange of a bayonet-type lamp socket 147 rests on the plate 146 and is held to it securely by the outwardly directed flange of the other end of sleeve 142. An insulating disc 148 rides within socket 147 and is urged upwardly by a spring 149. The disc 148 carries a contact button 150 to which the power lead 46' is connected. A miniature bayonet-base lamp 153 has projections for engaging a bayonet slot in the socket 147 in a well known manner. As is evident, the circuit between leads 46' and 46'' is completed when the lamp contact button engages the base contact button 150.

A reflector housing 155 for the lamp 153 is rotatably mounted on the base bearing portion 141 by means of a bracket 156. The bracket 156 includes a journal portion 157 rotatably mounted between the plate 146 and an opposing horizontal shoulder formed on the base portion 141. Two opposing spring arms 160 and 161 extend upwardly and outwardly from journal portion 146 and are arranged to pivotally and releasably receive aligned projections 164 and 165 on reflector housing 155. The reflector housing briefly provides a mounting for a reflector 168 frictionally received within it and also for a lens 169. The housing 155 is arranged to pivot on a horizontal axis through the projections 164 and 165, thus permitting up and down sweeping of the housing as well as rotation about base bearing portion 141.

A magnetic latch is carried by the searchlight unit 45 and the platform 32 for removably mounting the searchlight unit on the car body. As seen in Figs. 8 and 10, a permanent type bar magnet 175 is appropriately fixed to the base 140 of the searchlight unit. As illustrated, the magnet 175 has tapered sides and is received within an oppositely tapered recess provided by a magnet housing 176 carried by the lower surface of the base 140.

Since the car body is made of a non-magnetic material, the platform 32 has mounted on it a latch part of a suitable magnetic material for coacting with the permanent magnet 175. The platform 32 has a flat shallow recess 180 (see Figs. 9 and 11), and slots 181 and 182 extend through the car body at either end of the recess. A plate 183 of magnetic material is received within the recess 180 with its opposite ends extending downwardly through the

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slots 181 and 182, the ends being bent back against the car body. A stop 185 fixed to the platform 32, best seen in Fig. 9, aligns the magnet 175 and the plate 183 when the searchlight unit is in its latched position on the car body.

In operation, the searchlight unit 45 is energized whenever power flows in the track section 21 on which the car 20 rests. Normally the searchlight unit is in its latched position on platform 32 engaging the stop 185, the bar magnet 175 being magnetically coupled to the car body magnet attraction plate 183. Of course, the cable 46 is preferably wound on the drum 90.

As is apparent from the previous description, an electrical circuit is completed through the car 20 from the brush assembly 52 engaging the power rail 24 to the wheel assemblies 35 and 36 engaging the outer rails 22 and 23. From the brush assembly 52, current flows through the insulated conductor 53 to the resilient conductor 54 extending through the post 56. Thereafter the current passes through the plunger 105 to the power lead 46' of cable 46 and thence to the searchlight unit base contact button 150. The current return path is through the lamp socket sleeve 147, sleeve 142 and washer 143 to the current return cable lead 46''. At the reel unit end of lead 46'', current then flows through the plunger 105' to the resilient conductor 54' which is effectively grounded at its lower end on the platform 33. The return path is thus completed through the car body 30 to the wheel assemblies 35 and 36 which have contact with the outer rails 22 and 23.

If desired, the reflector housing 155 of the searchlight unit 45 may be rotated and pivoted as previously described while the searchlight unit is latched on the car body, thereby directing the beam from lamp 153 in various directions. To move the searchlight unit to its extended position away from the car 20, the cable 46 is preferably first unwound from the reel unit 47. To accomplish this, the crank 127 is removed from its storage position within the sleeve 136 on platform 33 and is inserted into the bearing sleeve 132 on the reel supporting member 48 with the pinion gear 129 on the crank meshing with the ring gear 126 on the reel unit. The crank handle 131 is turned manually, rotating the reel unit 47 about its axle 107 and 107' and consequently unwinding the cable. The searchlight unit is then unlatched by grasping the base 140 or reflector housing and lifting, thereby uncoupling the base permanent magnet 175 and the magnet attraction plate 183. In its extended position away from the car 20, the reflector housing 155 may be rotated and pivoted as before to direct the beam in various directions for night-time operations. The searchlight unit 45 is then returned to its latched position, the cable 46 rewound on the drum 90, and the crank 127 returned to its storage position.

It is seen that the searchlight extension car 20 is realistic in appearance and use while being capable of being manufactured inexpensively and conveniently. The plungers 105 and 105' serve the dual function of providing an axle for the reel unit and of forming a part of the electrical circuit for energizing the searchlight unit. Furthermore, by releasably clamping the cable leads 46' and 46'' between their respective plunger heads and adjacent end members, ease of assembly is achieved. This mode of assembly is especially advantageous when it is considered that the user may recouple the leads with a minimum of trouble if the cable is inadvertently pulled off the reel unit. The toy electric train car 20 according to the present invention is consequently also rugged and serviceable.

It is understood that a preferred embodiment only of the invention has been described and illustrated, and that various changes and modifications may be made therein without departing from the principles of the invention. All such changes and modifications and equivalents thereof are therefore intended to be included within the scope of the invention as defined in the following claims.

I claim:

1. In toy electric train apparatus, a flat car body, wheel assemblies mounted on the opposite ends of said car body, one of said wheel assemblies carrying brush means for engaging the power rail of a track, reel supporting means carried by said car body and including a pair of spaced upstanding members having aligned axle bearings, a reel unit including a drum portion, opposing end members secured to either side of said drum portion and having aligned axle receiving apertures, a pair of conductive plungers having opposing head portions having oppositely directed axle portions each slidably received in one of said apertures and retrievably extending into one of said axle bearings, resilient means urging said plungers in opposite axial directions, a searchlight unit, latch means removably mounting said searchlight unit on said car body, conductor means adapted to be wound on said drum portion connected to said searchlight unit and releasably coupled to each of said plungers, and other conductor means for coupling said brush means and one of said plungers and for coupling the other of said plungers and said car body to thereby complete an electrical circuit through the apparatus.

2. In toy electric train apparatus, a flat car body, wheel assemblies mounted on the opposite ends of said car body, one of said wheel assemblies carrying brush means for engaging the power rail of a track, reel supporting means carried by said car body and including an upstanding member having an axle bearing, a reel unit including a drum portion, opposing end members secured to either side of said drum portion, one of said end members having an axle receiving aperture, an electrically conductive plunger having an inwardly directed head portion and having an axle portion slidably received in said end member aperture and retrievably extending into said axle bearing, resilient means for urging said plunger axially outwardly, means for rotatably mounting the other of said end members, a searchlight unit, latch means removably mounting said searchlight unit on said car body, a conductor adapted to be wound on said drum portion connected at one end to said searchlight unit and releasably clamped at its other end between said plunger head portion and its adjacent end member, conductor means for coupling said plunger axle portion and said brush means, and other current return conductor means for coupling said searchlight unit and said car body to thereby complete an electrical circuit through the apparatus.

3. In toy electric train apparatus, a nonmagnetic flat car body, wheel assemblies mounted on the opposite ends of said car body, one of said wheel assemblies carrying brush means for engaging the power rail of a track, reel supporting means carried by said car body and including a pair of spaced upstanding members having aligned axle bearings, a reel unit including a drum portion, opposing end members secured to either side of said drum portion and having aligned axle receiving apertures, a pair of conductive plungers having opposing head portions and having oppositely directed axle portions each slidably received in one of said end member apertures and retrievably extending into one of said axle bearings, resilient means urging said plungers in opposite axial directions, a searchlight unit, magnetic latch means removably mounting said searchlight unit on said car body, a pair of conductors adapted to be wound on said drum portion each connected at one end to said searchlight unit and releasably clamped at its other end between one of said plunger head portions and its adjacent end member, conductor means for coupling one of said plunger axle portions with said brush means, and other conductor means coupling the other of said plunger axle portions with said car body to thereby complete an electrical circuit through the apparatus.

4. In toy electric train apparatus, a car body, wheel assemblies mounted on said flat car body, one of said wheel assemblies carrying brush means for engaging the power

rail of a track, reel supporting means carried by said car body and including a pair of spaced upstanding members having aligned axle bearings, a reel unit including a cylindrical drum and an inner concentric sleeve, opposing end members secured to either side of said drum and sleeve and having aligned axle receiving apertures, a pair of opposing conductive plungers having opposing head portions each received within said sleeve and having oppositely directed axle portions each slidably received in one of said end member apertures and retrievably extending into one of said axle bearings, resilient means received within said sleeve for urging said plungers in opposite axial directions, a searchlight unit, latch means removably mounting said searchlight unit on said car body, a pair of conductors adapted to be wound on said drum and each having one end connected to said searchlight unit and its other end releasably coupled to one of said plungers, and other conductor means for coupling one of said plunger axle portions and said brush means and for coupling the other of said plunger axle portions and said car body to thereby complete an electrical circuit through the apparatus.

5. In toy electric train apparatus, a flat car body, wheel assemblies mounted on said car body, one of said wheel assemblies carrying brush means for engaging the power rail of a track, reel supporting means carried by said car body and including a pair of spaced upstanding members having aligned axle bearings, a reel unit including a cylindrical drum and an inner concentric sleeve, opposing end members secured to either side of said drum and sleeve and having aligned axle receiving apertures, a pair of conductive plungers having opposing head portions each received within said sleeve and having oppositely directed axle portions each slidably received in one of said end member apertures and retrievably extending into one of said axle bearings, resilient means received within said sleeve for urging said plungers in opposite axial directions, a searchlight unit, latch means removably mounting said searchlight unit on said car body, a pair of conductors adapted to be wound on said drum and each having one end connected to said searchlight unit and its other end extending through said drum and sleeve and releasably clamped between one of said plunger head portions and its adjacent end member, conductor means for coupling one of said plunger axle portions with said brush means, and other conductor means for coupling the other of said plunger head portions and said car body to thereby complete an electrical circuit through the apparatus.

6. In toy electric train apparatus, a non-magnetic car body, wheel assemblies mounted on the opposite ends of said car body, one of the wheel assemblies carrying brush means for engaging the power rail of a track, reel supporting means carried by said car body and including an upstanding member having a laterally extending axle bearing and having a longitudinally extending opening in communication with said axle bearing, a reel unit including a drum portion, opposing end members secured to either side of said drum portion, one of said end members having an axle receiving aperture, an electrically conductive plunger having an inwardly directed head portion and having an axially extending axle portion slidably received in said end member aperture and retrievably extending into said axle bearing, resilient means for urging said plunger axially outwardly, means for rotatably mounting the other of said end members, a searchlight unit, magnetic latch means removably mounting said searchlight unit on said car body, a conductor adapted to be wound on said drum portion and having one end connected to said searchlight unit and its other end passing through said drum portion and releasably clamped between said plunger head portion and its adjacent end member, a resilient conductor supported within said upstanding member opening and having one end yieldingly engaging said plunger axle portion, conductor means coupling said

resilient conductor and said brush means, and other current return conductor means coupling said searchlight unit and said car body to complete an electrical circuit through the apparatus.

7. In toy electric train apparatus, a non-magnetic car body, wheel assemblies pivotally mounted on the opposite ends of said car body, one of said wheel assemblies carrying brush means for engaging the power rail of a track, reel supporting means carried by said car body and including a pair of spaced upstanding members having laterally extending aligned axle bearings and each having a longitudinally extending opening in communication with its axle bearing, a reel unit including a drum portion, opposing end members secured to either side of said drum portion and having aligned axle receiving apertures, a pair of electrically conductive plungers having opposing head portions and having oppositely directed axle portions each slidably received in one of said end member apertures and retrievably extending into one of said axle bearings, resilient means for urging said plungers in opposite axial directions, a searchlight unit, magnetic latch means removably mounting said searchlight unit on said car body, a pair of conductors adapted to be wound on said drum portion, each connected at one end to said searchlight unit and releasably clamped at its other end between one of said plunger head portions and its adjacent end member, a first resilient conductor supported within one of said upstanding member openings and having one end yieldingly engaging its respective plunger axle portion and having its other end portion insulated from said car body and passing through an opening therein, conductor means coupling said first resilient conductor and said brush means to complete a power carrying circuit portion, a second resilient conductor supported within the other of said upstanding member openings and having one end yieldingly engaging its respective plunger axle portion and having its other end grounded on said car body, thereby completing a current return circuit portion.

8. A toy vehicle comprising a body having a platform portion, car wheels rotatably mounted on said body to permit movement of the vehicle, socket means including spaced vertical support members secured to said platform portion having contact bearing portions, power means in said body connected to said contact bearing portions, a removable reel supported on said socket means, said reel having power transferring axles supported on said bearing portions, a power line adapted to be wound around said reel, one end of said power line being connected to said power transferring axles, and a portable power consuming unit connected to the other end of said power line.

9. In a combination with a toy railroad car having a wheeled body and a brush to pick up electrical power from the tracks, the improvement comprising socket means including spaced vertical support members secured to said body electrically connected to the brush and having contact bearing portions, a removable reel supported on said socket means said reel having electrical contact axles supported on said bearing portions, a removable electric cable adapted to be stored on said reel and having an end electrically connected to said reel, and a removable electric power consuming unit attached to the other end of said electric line to close the electric circuit and operate said unit.

10. In combination with a toy railroad car having a flat car body mounted above wheels which move over a track and an electric current supplied to said car, the improvement comprising a pair of spaced supports extending upwardly from said flat car body including axle receiving bearings, a resilient conductor for each of said supports, said conductors having lower portions connected to the electric current supply and upper portions extending into said axle receiving bearings, a removable reel, said reel having outwardly biased axles supported in said axle receiving bearings, said axles being electrically insulated from each other and contacting said conductors, a pair of wires one end of each extending into said reel and being electrically clamped by said biased axles, and a searchlight attached to the other of said ends.

11. In a combination with a toy railroad car having a flat car body mounted above wheels which move over a track and having means to collect electric current from said track, the improvement comprising a pair of spaced supports extending upwardly from said body having axle receiving bearings, conductors supported within said supports and connected to the electric current, a reel supported from said supports, said reel including an inner casing portion and outer spool portion concentric therewith, a pair of plungers supported within said inner casing, a spring within said casing outwardly biasing said plungers, said plungers extending into said axle receiving bearings and contacting said conductors, a pair of leads extending through said outer spool and clamped by said plungers, a searchlight attached to the other end of said leads.

12. In a combination with a toy railroad car having a flat car body mounted above wheels which move over a track and having means to collect electric current from said track, the improvement comprising a pair of supports extending upwardly from said body having axle receiving bearings, conductors supported within said supports and connected to the electric current, a reel supported from said supports, said reel including an inner casing portion and outer spool portion concentric therewith, a pair of plungers supported within said inner casing, a spring within said casing outwardly biasing said plungers, said plungers extending into said axle receiving bearings and contacting said conductors, a pair of leads extending through said outer spool and clamped by said plungers, a searchlight attached to the other end of said leads, said portable searchlight including a base, magnetic means on said base and the body for removably mounting the searchlight on the body, said base having a raise bearing portion, a searchlight housing rotatably supported from said bearing portion and a lamp mounted in said housing.

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