

Aug. 27, 1963

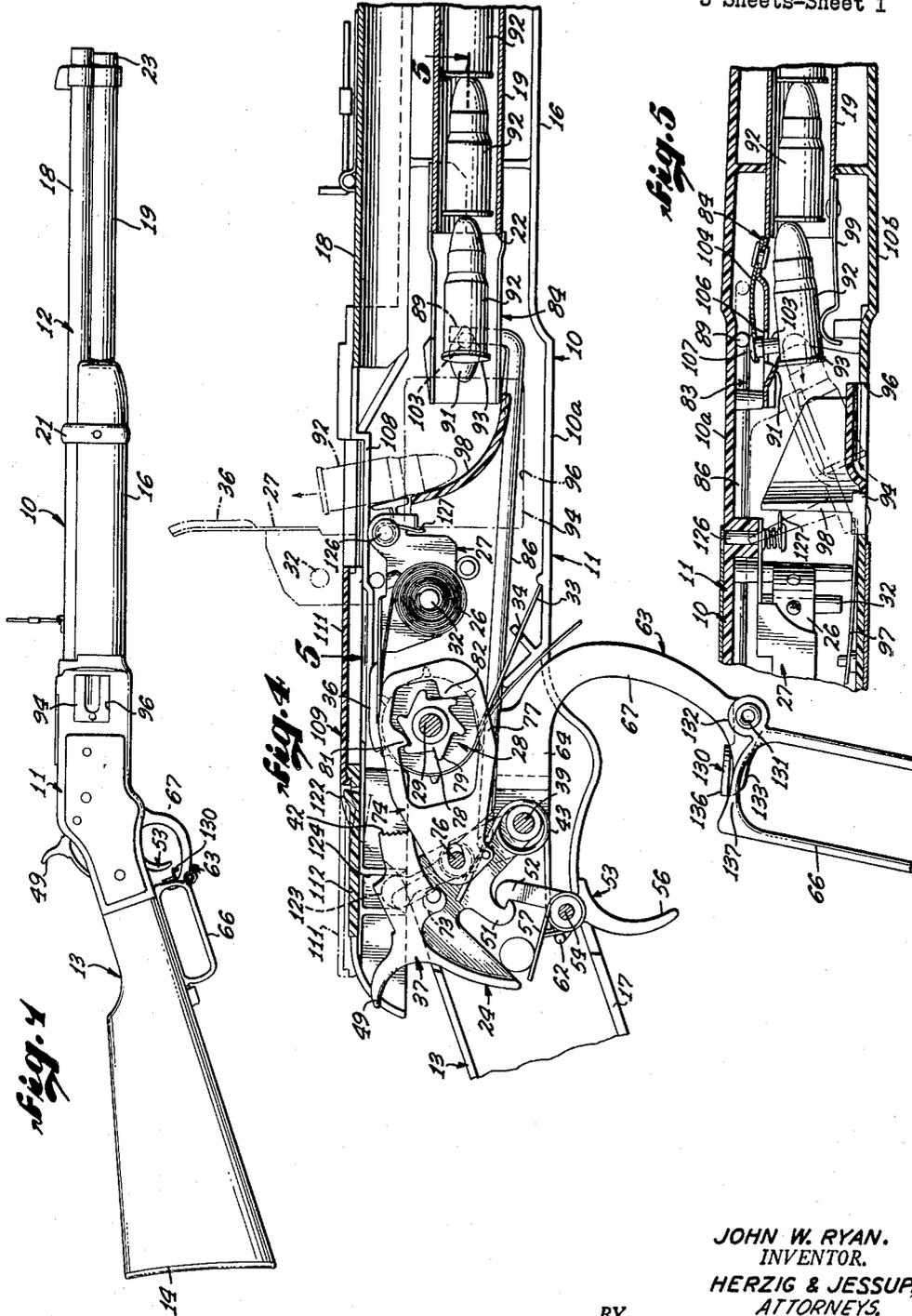
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3,101,703

LEVER ACTION TOY GUN WITH SELECTIVE TRIGGER ACTUATOR

Filed Dec. 11, 1959

3 Sheets-Sheet 1



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LEVER ACTION TOY GUN WITH SELECTIVE TRIGGER ACTUATOR

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3 Sheets-Sheet 2

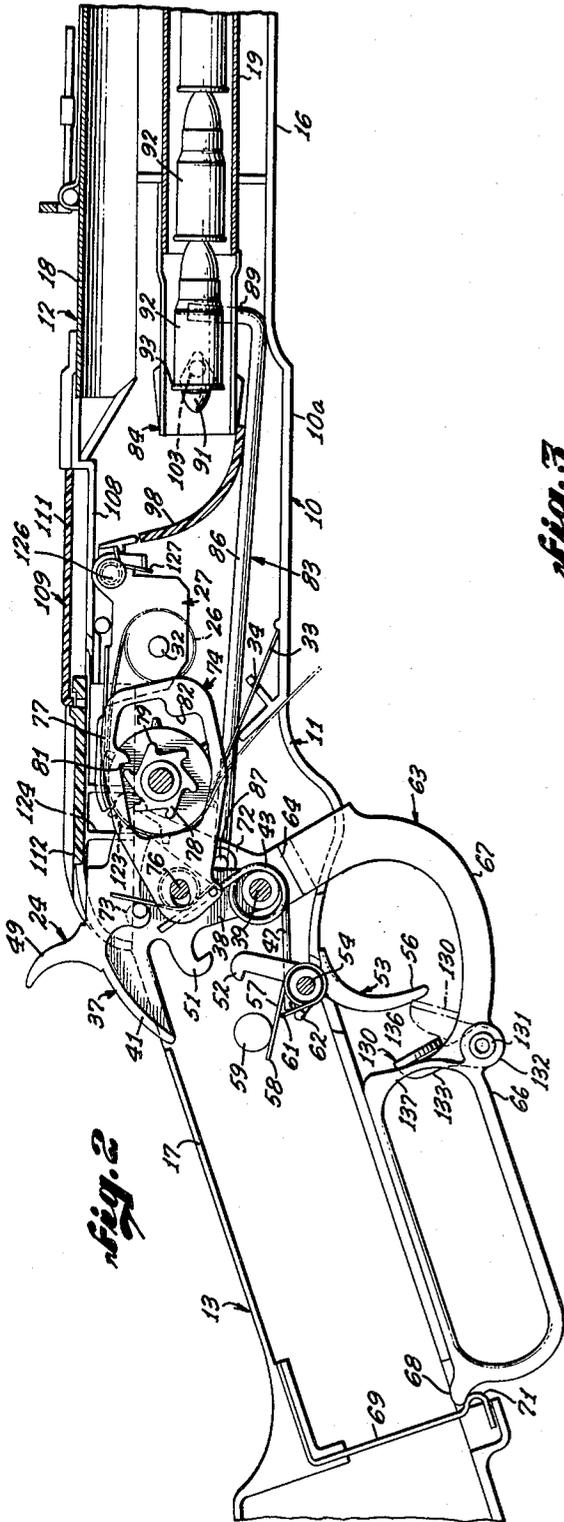


Fig. 2

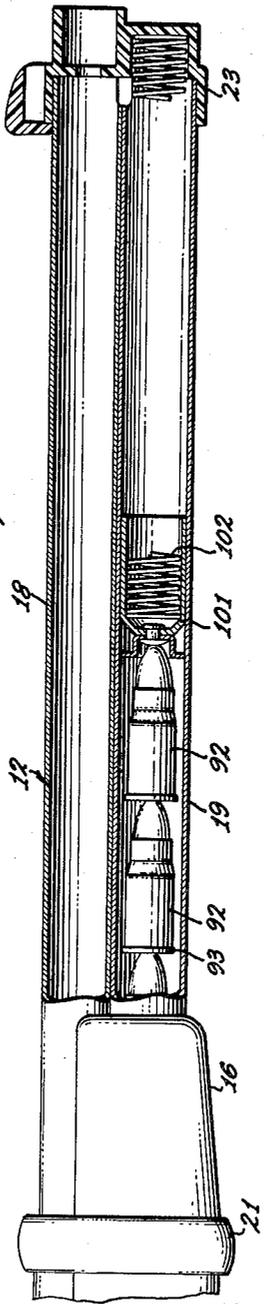


Fig. 3

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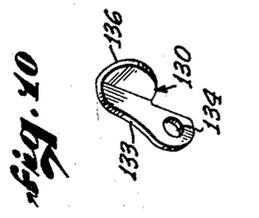
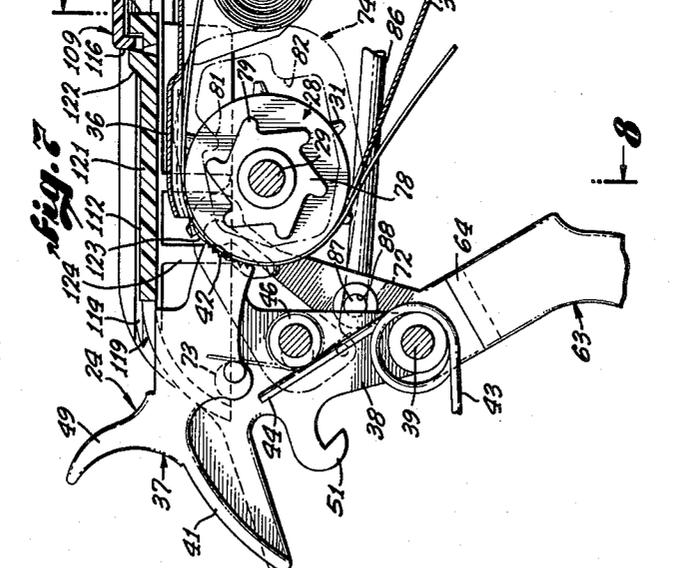
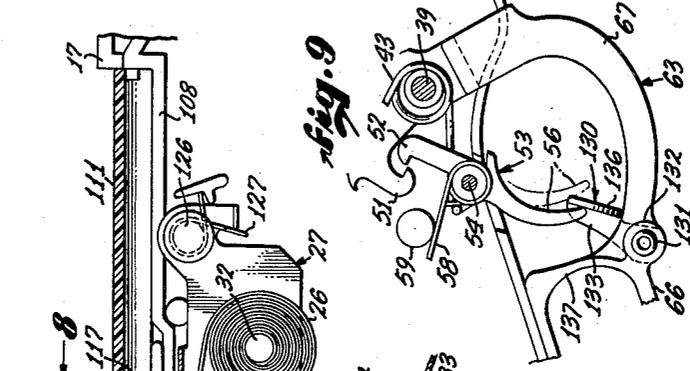
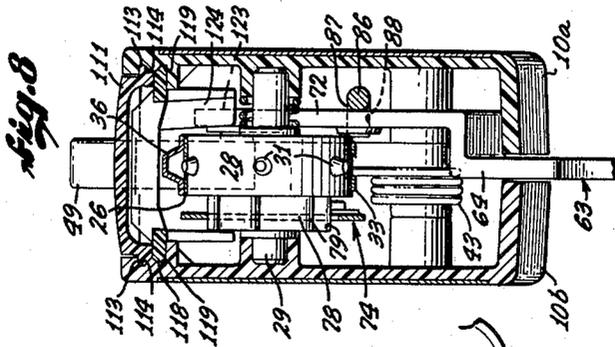
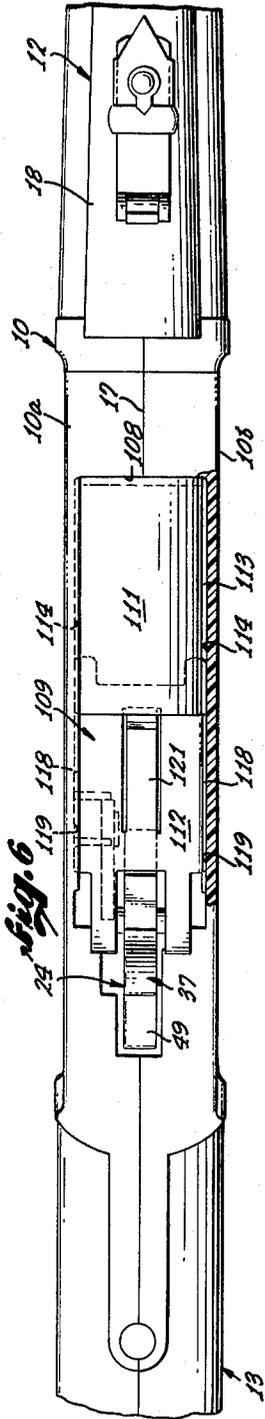
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LEVER ACTION TOY GUN WITH SELECTIVE TRIGGER ACTUATOR

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3 Sheets-Sheet 3



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3,101,703

LEVER ACTION TOY GUN WITH SELECTIVE TRIGGER ACTUATOR

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17 Claims. (Cl. 124-2)

This invention relates to a toy gun and more particularly to a toy gun simulating a rifle having a lever action for advancing cap rolls therein, cocking the hammer thereof, and ejecting simulated cartridges outwardly of the housing thereof in realistic fashion.

This application is the continuation-in-part of my pending application for a "Lever Action Toy Gun," Serial No. 762,441, filed September 22, 1958. The instant application is concerned more particularly with an improvement including means provided on the lever of the toy rifle and selectively positionable thereon for automatically actuating the trigger means of the rifle, when the lever is returned into a normal position adjacent to the housing thereof, thereby to selectively, automatically actuate the cap-firing means of the rifle to explode a cap to simulate a "fanning" action for more realistic play.

In general, the invention comprises a hollow housing simulating a rifle in its outward appearance, having a breech portion, a forwardly-extending cylindrical barrel portion and a stock or handle portion. Door means are provided on the side of the breech portion to normally cover an opening; the door means is yieldably mounted to facilitate manual insertion of one or more simulated cartridges into the barrel portion for subsequent selective ejection outwardly of the housing as through an open top of the breech portion. Means are provided adjacent the barrel portion for releasably retaining the last of the inserted cartridges until released therefrom by ejector means operatively associated with a lever means pivotally mounted in the housing. A breech cover means is slideably mounted on the housing for selective covering and uncovering of the open top of the housing and is actuated by means operatively associated with the lever means when the lever means is actuated.

The housing is further provided with a cap-firing means for successively firing caps of a cap roll stored on a cap roll support and extended over an intermittently rotatable anvil means. Hammer means are provided adjacent the anvil means and adapted to be cocked into a firing position by the lever means, whereby the hammer means is latched in the firing position by a hook integral with a manually operable trigger means mounted in the housing and having a finger piece extending outwardly thereof. Arcuate motion of the trigger means, as imparted by a digit of the user's hand, unlatches the hammer means which is spring urged to strike the anvil means. Pawl means are further provided pivotally secured to the hammer means and operatively associated with the anvil means for intermittently rotating the anvil means and thereby advancing the cap roll to position a succeeding cap for detonation by the hammer means.

The breech cover means is preferably formed of discrete members, one manually slideable over the other, to further expose the open top whereby the cap roll support means may be manually rotated outwardly of the housing for reloading purposes.

A second pawl means is pivotally mounted on the lever means and positionable into trigger-engaging and trigger-clearing positions. When in the trigger-engaging posi-

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tion, the pawl engages the trigger means of the rifle to actuate the trigger when the lever is returned adjacent to the housing for automatically causing the cap firing means to fire a cap in response to the return pivotal movement of the lever for automatic "fanning" action of the rifle. Also, when the lever is in its position adjacent to the housing the trigger is retained in a hammer-clearing position whereby the hammer itself may be manually "fanned" to independently operate the cap-firing means. Furthermore, when the pawl is in a trigger-clearing position, the rifle may be operated in its normal, above-described manner.

It is therefore an object of this invention to provide a new and improved lever action toy gun which realistically simulates a lever-action rifle for use by juveniles to afford greater realism in play.

More specifically, an object of this invention is to provide a new and improved toy gun which cocks and advances a cap-firing means within the gun by manual actuation of a lever means secured thereto to simulate the lever action of a real rifle, and which is capable of selectively automatically actuating the cap-firing means during actuation of the lever means for rapid firing of caps to simulate the "fanning" action of rifles used in early gun history of the "Wild West," for greater realism in play.

Another object of this invention is to provide a new and improved toy gun in which simulated cartridges may be manually inserted and stored to simulate loading of an actual repeater rifle.

Yet another object of this invention is to provide retaining means within the housing for retaining the inserted cartridges against the bias of a spring contained within the barrel portion and in position to be released therefrom and ejected by the ejection means when effected by the lever means simultaneous with the "fanning" action referred to above.

Another object of this invention is to provide a new and improved toy gun in which the realism in play is increased by the ejection of simulated cartridges from the breech of the rifle by actuation of the lever means, simultaneous with the cocking action of the cap-firing means.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a lever action toy gun which includes improved breech cover action whereby the breech cover is effected by the action of the lever means to slide rearwardly and expose the open top of the breech portion to permit ejection of the simulated cartridges through the open top and outwardly of the housing and in which return movement of the lever to its normal position, similar to its real counterpart, causes the breech cover member to slide forwardly and thereby enclose the open top of the housing, such action being also operative during the "fanning" action.

A still further object of this invention is to provide a new and improved toy gun which is economical to manufacture, and is capable of mass production and interchangeability of parts thereof.

A general object of this invention is to provide a new and improved toy gun which overcomes disadvantages of prior means and methods heretofore intended to accomplish generally similar purposes.

These and other objects will be more apparent by reference to the following drawings, detailed description and appended claims.

In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a side view, in elevation, of a toy gun in accordance with this invention;

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FIG. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary vertical cross-sectional view thereof as seen at the central parting line of the breech portion of the toy gun, and showing a portion of the stock and the barrel portion;

FIG. 3 is a fragmentary vertical sectional view, with parts shown in elevation, of the forward or barrel portion thereof;

FIG. 4 is a vertical cross-sectional view, similar to FIG. 2, showing parts thereof in another position;

FIG. 5 is a fragmentary horizontal cross-sectional view as taken substantially along a line 5—5 of FIG. 4;

FIG. 6 is a fragmentary top plan view, with parts broken away, thereof;

FIG. 7 is an enlarged vertical cross-sectional view, illustrating the cap-firing means in greater detail;

FIG. 8 is a vertical cross-sectional view as taken substantially along a line 8—8 of FIG. 7;

FIG. 9 is a fragmentary, cross-sectional view, similar to a portion of FIG. 2, showing a pawl means pivotally mounted on the lever means of the rifle and in a trigger-engaging position; and

FIG. 10 is a perspective view, in elevation, illustrating the pawl means of FIG. 9 in greater detail.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, there is shown by way of illustration, but not of limitation, a toy gun generally indicated by the numeral 10, including an intermediate breech portion 11 and a forwardly extending barrel portion 12. The housing further includes, for added realism, a stock portion 13 including a shoulder piece 14 and a hand support piece 16 integral with the housing. The housing 10 may be formed of any suitable material such as plastics, metal, or the like, and is preferably molded to form a pair of substantially hollow half-members 10a and 10b which are joined and cemented, or otherwise secured together as at a vertical parting line 17 to form a substantially hollow, elongated, integral housing. The barrel portion 12 includes an upper cylindrical member 18, simulating the rifle barrel portion of an actual rifle, and a lower cartridge storage tube 19. The members 18 and 19 may be secured to the barrel portion 16 as by a clamp, indicated at 21, with the storage tube 19 of the barrel housing 18 extending inwardly of the housing and having an open inner end 22 and being closed at its outer end as by a cap member 23.

A cap-firing means generally indicated by the numeral 24 is disposed within the breech portion 11 of the housing 10 for selectively and intermittently firing caps of a roll of caps 26 supported within the housing as on a support means 27. The cap-firing means 24 comprises an anvil means 28 rotatably mounted within the housing breech portion 11 as on a transverse shaft 29 supported at its ends by the housing halves 10a and 10b. The anvil 28 preferably includes a cylindrical drum portion having outwardly extending conical projections 31 for engaging apertures of the perforated strip comprising the cap roll. The cap roll 26 extends from its supporting pin 32 of the roll cap support means 27 and over and around the periphery, or an upper portion thereof, of the anvil 28. The strip is stripped from the bottom portion thereof as by a stripper member 33 tangentially disposed adjacent the anvil 28 and suitably secured as at 34 to the housing 10. The cap roll support means 27 preferably includes a rearwardly extending extension 36 which overlies the anvil 28 and tends to keep the strip of caps in close proximity to the anvil 28 to prevent inadvertent separation thereof from the anvil during rotation of the anvil.

The anvil 28 serves to support the strip portion of the cap roll 26 in the path of a reciprocating hammer means 37 for firing of the caps and is adapted to be intermittently rotated, as will be hereinafter described, on its shaft 29 to advance the strip of the cap roll whereby a subsequent charge of explosive is advanced into the path of the hammer means 37 after a previously positioned charge has been detonated.

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The hammer means 37 is pivotally disposed within the breech portion 11 and adjacent the anvil means 28 and includes a downwardly extending portion 38 pivotally supported on a transverse shaft 39 secured at its ends within the half portions 10a and 10b for arcuate axial movement relative to the housing. The hammer means 37 includes an upper arcuate portion 41 having a forwardly extending serrated, or otherwise suitably faced, hammer portion 42 adapted to strike the face of the anvil means 28. A torque spring 43 is disposed around the shaft 39 having one end 44 bearing against a transverse boss 46 on the extension 38 of the hammer means, and the other end 47 thereof bearing against a transverse projection of the housing 10 to bias the hammer means 37 towards the anvil means 28 for contact therewith. The spring 43 is preferably of sufficient torque to produce a rapid and sharp impact of the hammer means 37 against the anvil means 28 to explode a cap sandwiched therebetween.

The hammer means 37 is adapted to be engaged and arcuately pivoted by a lever means for cocking, as will hereinafter be described, and is provided with an upwardly extending finger piece 49 for manual engagement thereof for manual cocking of the hammer means whereby the hammer may be manually cocked independently of the lever means, if desired.

The hammer means 37 further includes a rearwardly and downwardly extending hook member 51 which, when the hammer means is biased rearwardly against the force of the spring 43, is engageable with an upwardly extending hook portion 52 of a trigger means 53 to retain the hammer means in a cocked position.

The trigger means 53 is pivotally mounted within the housing 10 as on a transverse pin or shaft 54 secured at its ends in the housing half-portions 10a and 10b, and includes a downwardly extending finger piece 56 for selective manual engagement thereof as by a digit of the user. A torque spring 57 is mounted within the housing and circumjacent the shaft 54 having one of its ends 58 bearing against a projection 59 of the housing 10 and its other end 61 bearing against an extension 62 of the trigger means 53 to bias the upper hook portion 52 of the trigger means rearwardly and the downwardly extending finger piece 56 forwardly. The hook portion 52 of the trigger means 53 is adapted to engage the rearwardly extending hook portion 51 of the hammer means 37 to latch the hammer means in a rearward position, when so positioned, as will hereinafter be described, until the finger piece 56 is actuated against the bias of the spring 57 whereby the hook portion 52 is disengaged from the hook portion 51 thereby permitting the spring 43 of the hammer means 37 to bias the hammer means against the anvil means 28 to fire the cap positioned in the path of the hammer 42.

In order to cock the hammer means, that is, to arcuately move the hammer means 37 rearwardly into a cocked position in which the hooks 51 and 52 are engaged, and to advance the anvil means, thereby to advance a new cap into position to be fired, a lever means generally indicated by the numeral 63 is pivotally secured within the housing 10 at an upwardly extending portion 64 and includes a manually engageable handle portion 66 extending downwardly and outwardly of the housing 10. The lever means 63 includes an arcuate portion 67 forming a guard for the trigger means 53 and an upwardly extending tab 68 at the rearward portion of the handle 66. The handle 66 is adapted to lie in close proximity to the shoulder piece 14 of the rifle 10 when in a non-actuating position, as illustrated in FIG. 2. To retain the handle 66 in this position, a leaf spring 69 or the like is secured within the stock 13 and includes a hook portion 71 to releasably engage the tab 68.

The lever means 63 includes an upwardly extending offset arm 72 which is adapted to move arcuately in a plane substantially parallel to the plane of arcuate move-

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ment of the hammer means 37. When the lever means 63 is pivoted downwardly, or counterclockwise as viewed in FIG. 2, about the shaft 39, the upwardly extending extension 72 is brought into engagement with a transversely extending pin 73 of the hammer means 37 to impart its arcuate movement to the hammer means whereby the hammer means is pivoted rearwardly to engage the hook 51 with the hook 52 of the trigger means and thereby cock the hammer means.

In order to rotate the anvil means 28 and thereby advance the strip of the cap roll into a new position, a pawl means is operatively associated with the hammer means and the anvil means. The pawl means 74 is pivotally secured as at 76 to the hammer means 37 and includes an annular portion 77 encircling a star-shaped boss or wheel 78 integral with the anvil means 28. The star wheel 78 of the anvil means 28 includes a plurality of projections 79 engageable with a downwardly extending hook portion 81 of the pawl 74. When the hammer means 37 is pivoted rearwardly as illustrated in FIG. 4, the pawl 74 is moved rearwardly to engage a projection 79 by the projection 81 to rotate the star 78 and its integral anvil means 28 until the projection 81 slips off. At this time, an upwardly extending projection 82 of the pawl 74 is brought against an opposite projection 79 to stop the star 78 from further rotation. As the trigger means 53 is actuated to unlatch the hook 52 from the hook 51, and the hammer means 37 moves arcuately to strike the anvil 28, the pawl is carried forwardly or to the right as viewed in FIGS. 2, 4 and 7, to ratchet over the last-engaged projection 79 without imparting a reverse rotation to the anvil 28.

As will be apparent from the foregoing description, when the lever means 63 is pivoted downwardly about its pivot point 39, the upwardly extending portion 72 thereof is moved rearwardly to engage the transverse pin 73 of the hammer means 37 to impart movement thereof to the hammer means whereby the hammer means is swung rearwardly to a position where its integral hook 51 is latched by an upwardly extending hook 52 of the trigger means 53. As the hammer means 37 is swung rearwardly, pawl means 74 attached thereto engages a star wheel 78 of the anvil means 28 to rotate the anvil means, thereby advancing caps of the cap roll 26 into a new position whereby an unexploded charge is placed within the path of the hammer 42. As the lever 63 is returned to its position, into proximity with the stock 13 of the rifle 10, the handle portion 66 is latched as by the spring 69-71 and the upwardly extending portion 72 is moved away from the projection 73 of the hammer means 37. To fire the cap firing means 24, the user of the toy gun manually actuates the finger piece 56 of the trigger means 53 to pivot the trigger means about its pivot point 54 whereby the hook member 52 releases the hook member 51, permitting the spring 43 to snap the hammer means 37 towards the anvil means 28 to fire the newly positioned cap. On its return travel, the pawl means 74 ratchets over the star 78 to place the projection 81 in the path of a succeeding projection 79 whereby the star 78 and its associated anvil 28 will be rotated by a subsequent movement of the lever means 63.

After firing an actual rifle, the lever means normally actuates an ejection means to eject the last fired and spent cartridge. To add realism of the use of this instant invention, provision is made herein whereby downward arcuate motion of the lever effects an ejection means for ejecting simulated cartridges stored within the barrel tube portion 19.

For this purpose, an ejector means, generally designated by the numeral 83, is operatively associated between the lever means 63 and a guide means 84 disposed within the breech portion 11 adjacent the inward open end of the tube 19. The ejector means includes a rod or shaft 86 having one end 87 thereof bent transversely and rotatably disposed in an aperture 88 of the extension

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72 of the lever means 63. The rod 86 is bent transversely at its other end 89 adjacent the guide means 84. The guide means 84 is generally U-shaped in configuration, and is provided with a projection 91 extending inwardly and forwardly towards the tube 19. The guide means 84 is provided with an open rearward end to receive manually insertable simulated cartridges 92. The cartridges 92 are generally cylindrical in configuration and include flanges at the rearward end thereof, as indicated at 93, which when inserted beyond the projection 91, is brought into abutment therewith as seen in FIG. 2.

The cartridges 92 are manually insertable through the housing 10 and into the guide means by means of a door 94 pivotally and yieldably mounted within the housing to cover an opening 96 in a side wall of the housing portion 10b. The door 94 is biased into a close position as by a resilient leaf spring 97, or the like, and includes an inwardly extending arcuate portion 98 which forms a chute to guide a cartridge during its ejection. To insert a cartridge 92, the user places the cartridge against the door, swinging the door inwardly, whereby the cartridge may be aligned with the guide means 84 and inserted therein as by the use of a finger of the user, or the like, until the flange of the cartridge is beyond the projection 91. A resilient leaf spring 99 is disposed adjacent the guide means 84 and is biased inwardly to press against a cartridge after it has been inserted to keep the flange 93 of the cartridge in engagement with the projection 91 of the guide means 84.

A subsequent cartridge may be inserted, its bullet nose being pressed against the previously inserted cartridge to force the previously inserted cartridge further into the guide means and eventually into the tube member 19 against a spring retainer member 101 slidably disposed within the tube 19. The spring retainer member 101 is urged towards the guide means by a coiled spring 102 disposed between the spring retainer and the closed end of the cap 23 as best seen in FIG. 3.

The spring 102 biases the cartridges into engagement with the projection 91, while the spring 99 laterally biases the cartridge to prevent inadvertent displacement from the projection 91. An ejector pin 103 is transversely disposed adjacent the guide means 84 and is urged outwardly of the guide means 84 as by a resilient leaf spring 104 secured to the guide means 84. The pin 103 is adapted to move inwardly through an aperture 106 of the guide means 84 when actuated by a rearward movement of the transverse portion 89 of the rod 86 when the rod 86 is moved linearly rearwardly by downward actuation of the lever means 63 causing rearward movement of the extension 72 thereof. As best seen in FIG. 5, the transverse portion 89 is brought into contact with the head 107 of the pin 103 to urge the pin inwardly through the aperture 106 of the guide means 84 and against the bias of the spring 104 to displace a last inserted cartridge from the projection 91 whereby the spring 102 within the tube 19 biases the cartridge outwardly of the guide member 84 into the chute 98.

In order to eject the cartridge outwardly of the housing, the housing is provided with an open top 108 which is covered as by breech cover member generally referred to by the numeral 109.

The breech cover member 109 is slidably disposed on the breech portion 11 of the housing 10 for longitudinal linear movement thereon to open and close the open top 108 of the housing portion 11. The breech cover member 109 comprises a pair of discrete axially displaceable forward and rearward members 111 and 112, respectively, the forward member 111 being adapted to be manually and selectively longitudinally moved into an overlying relationship with the rearward member 112, as will be hereinafter described.

The forward breech cover member 111 is provided with laterally extending ribs 113 slidably disposed in longitudinally opposing grooves 114 of the members

10a and 10b, for longitudinal back-and-forth movement therein relative to the housing 10. The member 111 further includes a downwardly extending lateral flange 116 which is adapted to abut an upwardly extending lateral flange 117 of the rearward breech cover member 112.

The rearward breech member 112 is similarly provided with laterally extending longitudinal ribs 118 which are slidably disposed in longitudinal grooves 119 spaced downwardly from and substantially parallel to the grooves 114, a groove 119 being provided on the inner surface of each vertical wall of the housing members 10a and 10b, as best seen in FIGS. 6 and 8, for sliding longitudinal movement of the member 112 relative to the housing 10. The breech cover member 112 further includes an integral resilient, centrally-located finger piece 121 which includes an upwardly extending tab portion 122 abutting the rearward face of the flange 116 of the cover member 111 to retain the flange 116 and thereby releasably securing the members 111 and 112 for simultaneous movement when uncovering or covering the open top 108.

The breech cover member 109 is actuated for longitudinal movement by arcuate movement of the lever means 63. The upwardly extending extension 72 includes an enlarged portion at its upper end 123 which is engageable with a downwardly extending yoke portion 124 integral with, or attached to, the breech cover member 112, as best seen in FIGS. 7 and 8. The yoke member 124 comprises a pair of substantially parallel spaced vertical ribs which span the upper enlarged portion 123 of the extension 72 whereby the arcuate motion of the lever means 63 is translated into a linear motion of the breech cover member 109. As the lever means 63 is pivoted downwardly, the extension 72 is pivoted rearwardly to slide the breech cover member 109 rearwardly and thereby expose the open top 108 whereby the cartridge which has been ejected into the chute continues outwardly of the housing to simulate the ejection of a cartridge in an actual rifle. The linear motion of the breech cover member 109 is timed so it is almost at the end of its rearward travel when the transverse portion 89 of the rod 86 contacts the head 107 of the pin 103 to displace the cartridge from the projection 91 whereby the spring 102 pushes the last inserted cartridge into the chute 98 outwardly of the housing 10 through the open top 108.

Provision is made for easily and quickly reloading the cap roll within the cap roll support means. When the lever means 63 is in its downward position, thereby moving the breech member 109 into its rearmost position, as seen in FIG. 4, the forward breech cover member 111 may be slid rearwardly in overlying relationship relative to the rearward breech cover member 112 by manually pressing downwardly on the finger piece 121 to remove the tab 122 thereof from the path of the downwardly extending flange 116 whereby the forward breech cover member 111 may be manually slid rearwardly over the member 112 to expose a greater portion of the open top 108, permitting the user to manually pivot the roll cap means 27 outwardly about its pivot point 126, against the bias of a torque spring 127, to a position shown in broken lines in FIG. 4. In this position, the portion of the roll cap support means 27 having the transverse pin 32 is exposed outwardly of the body 10 and a new cap roll like 26 may be inserted over the pin 32. The free end of the cap roll may then be wrapped over the anvil means 28 in such manner whereby the apertures of the cap roll coincide with the projections 31 thereof. Thereafter, the support means 27 may be released and lowered into its normal cap feeding position and cap retaining position, as illustrated in FIGS. 2, 4, 7 and 8.

It is desired to cock the hammer means 37 independently of the lever means 63, the user may engage the finger piece 49 with a finger or thumb and draw the hammer means rearwardly until the hook portion 51 latches with the hook portion 52 of the trigger means 53. Such

arcuate movement imparted by the finger causes the pawl means 74 to rotate the anvil means 28, thereby advancing the cap roll 26 to a new unexploded position and cocking the hammer into a position ready to be fired by manual actuation of the finger piece 56 of the trigger means 53 as previously described.

It is further possible, in the instant invention, to operate the cap-firing means 24 independently of the lever means 63. By manually holding the trigger means 53 in a position disengaging the hooks 51, 52, so as to free the hammer means 37 thereof, the hammer may be rapidly actuated by the engagement of the palm of a hand with the finger piece 49 of the hammer, in a "fanning" action, to draw the hammer back into cocked position and releasing it to be spring biased by the spring 43 to fire a cap on the anvil 28. As the hammer 37 is successively pivoted rearwardly in the "fanning" action, the cap strip is advanced on the anvil by the action of the pawl 74 to position a new cap on the anvil in the line of impact of the hammer 37. The breech cover member 109 will be inoperative, as will the rod 86 connected to the connector means 84, whereby, during the "fanning" action, only the cap-firing means is actuated, independently of the lever means, the slide means and the cartridge-ejecting means.

In addition, this invention includes means whereby the cap-firing means may be selectively automatically actuated by the trigger means upon return of the lever means 63 into its position adjacent to the housing, wherein the breech cover member 109 and the ejector means 83 are actuated in the normal manner described above.

For this purpose, a selective trigger release, in the form of a pawl 130, is pivotally secured as by a fastener, in the form of a rivet 131, or the like, through a boss 132 of the handle 66 for pivotal movement into a trigger-clearing position, illustrated in FIGS. 1, 2 and 4, and a trigger-engaging position, illustrated in broken lines in FIG. 2 and in solid lines in FIG. 9.

The pawl 130 includes an arm 133 having an aperture 134 extending therethrough for receiving the rivet 131 and a transverse tab portion 136 engageable with the trigger 56 when in a trigger-engaging position.

When the pawl 130 is in the trigger-clearing position, no contact is made between the tab 136 and the trigger 56 when the lever 63 is returned to its normal position adjacent to its housing 11. In this position, the tab 136 is positioned adjacent to a transverse portion 137 of the handle portion 66 in which it is clear of the trigger 56 during its pivotal movement.

In the trigger-engaging position, the tab 136 is pivoted forwardly until the tab abuts the trigger guide 67, a position slightly rearward of the trigger 56, as best seen in FIG. 2. The pawl 130 is more advantageously pivoted into this position after the lever 63 is separated from the housing in order that no interference exists between the trigger 56 and the tab 136 until the lever is in its return pivotal movement, towards the housing. As the lever is returned, the tab 136 engages the trigger 56 to pivot the trigger means 53 into a position wherein the hooks 51 and 52, of the hammer 37 and trigger means 53, respectively, are disengaged, as best seen in FIG. 9. The hammer 37 is released, without direct manual manipulation of the trigger 53, to cause the hammer 37 to be biased forwardly, by its spring 43, into impact with the cap strip to explode the last advanced cap on the anvil 28. Subsequent pivotal movement of the lever means 63 in its downward, away from the housing, pivotal movement, causes the breech cover member 109 to move linearly in a rearward direction to expose the opening 108 of the breech, the cartridge ejector means 83 to eject a cartridge 92, outwardly of the housing through the opening 108, and the pawl 74 to advance the anvil 28 and thereby to advance a cap of the cap roll 26 thereon and pivot the hammer means 37 rearwardly to its cocked position with the hooks 51-52 in engagement. Return pivotal movement of the lever 63 to its position, adjacent to the

housing 11, again causes the tab 136 to engage the trigger 56 to release the hammer 37 to fire the newly advanced cap. By this means, the rifle cam may be rapidly operated by solely pivoting the lever 63 downwardly and back in rapid succession.

While the instant invention has been shown and described herein in what is conceived to be the most practical and preferred embodiment, it is recognized that departures may be made therefrom within the scope of the invention, which is therefore not to be limited to the details disclosed herein but is to be accorded the full scope of the claims so as to embrace any and all equivalent methods and apparatus.

What is claimed is:

1. A toy lever action gun comprising: a housing simulating a rifle; cap-firing means in said housing and including a trigger means and a hammer means, said hammer means being positionable into engagement with said trigger means for cocking thereof, and releasable by said trigger means for firing of caps; lever means pivotally mounted in said housing and including a handle portion extending outwardly of said housing and adjacent to said trigger means, said lever means being manually pivotable into positions away from and adjacent to said housing and operatively associated with said capfiring means so as to cock said hammer means when positioned away from said housing; and pawl means on said lever means and selectively positionable between a trigger-clearing position and a position for engaging said trigger means during pivotal movement of said lever means into a position adjacent to said housing so as to actuate said trigger means to release said hammer means for firing the cap in response to movement of said lever means into said last-mentioned position thereof.

2. A toy gun, as defined in claim 1, wherein said pawl means is selectively positionable so as to clear said trigger means during pivotal movement of said lever means into said position adjacent said housing and said trigger means is manually operable to release said hammer means for firing of the cap when said lever means is in said last-mentioned position.

3. A toy gun, as defined in claim 1, wherein said cap-firing means is independently, manually operable when said lever means is in said position adjacent to said housing and said pawl means is in said trigger-engaging position, whereby said trigger means is held in non-engaging position with said hammer means.

4. A toy gun, as defined in claim 2, wherein said hammer means is independently, manually operable into a cocked position when said pawl means is in said trigger-clearing position.

5. A toy gun, as defined in claim 1, including means defining an open top on said housing; a cover member slidably disposed on said housing for linear longitudinal movement thereon; and means positively connecting said lever means and said cover member so as to translate pivotal movement of said lever means into linear movement of said cover member for selectively covering and uncovering said open top.

6. A toy gun, as defined in claim 1, wherein said housing includes a hollow barrel portion extending therefrom; cartridge means insertable into said barrel portion; releasable cartridge-holding means adjacent said barrel portion for retaining said cartridge means longitudinally in said barrel portion; releasing means connected to said lever means and responsive to pivotal movement of said lever means for releasing said cartridge holding means, and ejector means in said housing and responsive to actuation of said releasing means for ejecting said cartridge means from said barrel portion and outwardly of said housing.

7. A toy gun, as defined in claim 5, wherein said housing includes a hollow barrel portion extending therefrom; cartridge means slidably insertable into said barrel portion; releasable cartridge-holding means for retaining cartridges longitudinally in said barrel portion; releasing

means connected to said lever means and responsive to pivotal movement of said lever means for releasing said cartridge-holding means; and ejector means in said housing and responsive to actuation of said releasing means for ejecting said cartridge means from said barrel portion and outwardly, transversely, through said open top of said housing, said open top being uncovered by said cover member when said cartridge means is ejected.

8. A toy gun, as defined in claim 6, wherein said cap-firing means is independently, manually operable when said lever means is in said position adjacent to said housing and said pawl means is in said trigger-engaging position, whereby said trigger means is held in non-engaging position relative to said hammer means.

9. A toy gun, as defined in claim 6, wherein said hammer means is independently manually operable into a cocked position when said pawl means is in said trigger-clearing position.

10. A toy gun, as defined in claim 7, wherein said cap-firing means is independently manually operable when said lever means is in said position adjacent to said housing and said pawl means is in said trigger-engaging position, said trigger means being held in non-engaging position relative to said hammer means.

11. A toy gun, as defined in claim 7, wherein said hammer means is independently manually operable into a cocked position when said pawl means is in said trigger-clearing position.

12. A lever action toy gun, comprising: a housing simulating a rifle; cap-firing means in said housing and positionable into cocked and cap firing positions, manually operable lever means pivotally mounted on said housing for pivotal movement relative to said housing; means responsive to pivotal movement of said lever means in one direction for positioning said cap-firing means into a cocked position; and means responsive to pivotal movement of said lever means in an opposite direction for automatically actuating said cap-firing means into a cap firing position for firing a percussive cap.

13. A toy gun, as defined in claim 12, wherein said housing includes a hollow barrel portion extending therefrom; cartridge means slidably insertable into said barrel portion; releasable cartridge-holding means for retaining said cartridge means longitudinally in said barrel portions; releasing means connected to said lever means and responsive to pivotal movement of said lever means in said one direction for releasing said cartridge holding means; and ejector means in said housing and responsive to actuation of said releasing means for ejecting said cartridge means from said barrel portion and outwardly of said housing.

14. A toy gun, as defined in claim 12, wherein said last means is selectively positionable into a non-operative position and wherein a trigger means is provided, said trigger means being manually operable to release said cap-firing means for firing of the cap after pivotal movement of said lever means in said opposite direction.

15. A toy gun, as defined in claim 12, wherein said cap-firing means is independently, manually operable when said lever means has completed its pivotal movement in said opposite direction.

16. In a toy lever action gun which comprises a housing simulating a rifle, sound producing means in the housing of a type including a member capable of being cocked and including trigger means for actuating the sound producing means, lever means pivotally mounted in the housing and extending outwardly of the housing and adjacent to the trigger means, the lever means being manually pivotable into position away from and adjacent to the housing and operatively associated with the sound producing means so as to cock the sound producing means when positioned away from the housing, the improvement comprising: actuator means on the lever means and selectively positionable between an engageable position and a nonengageable position, said actuator means engaging, only when in said engageable position, with the

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trigger means during pivotal movement of the lever means into the position adjacent to the housing so as to actuate the trigger means to operate the sound producing means.

17. An improved gun as in claim 16, but wherein said actuator means on the lever is so formed and arranged that it remains selectively positioned in said engageable position during pivotal movement of the lever means away from as well as toward the housing, whereby rapid repeat fire action may be achieved by oscillating the lever means.

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