July 29, 1924. 1,502,758

J. VILLANI

FIGURE WHEEL TOY

Filed Oct. 3, 1922

FIG. 1

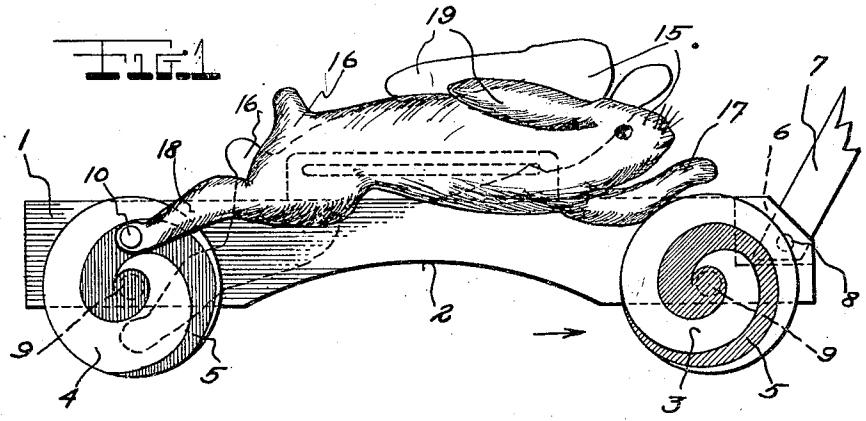
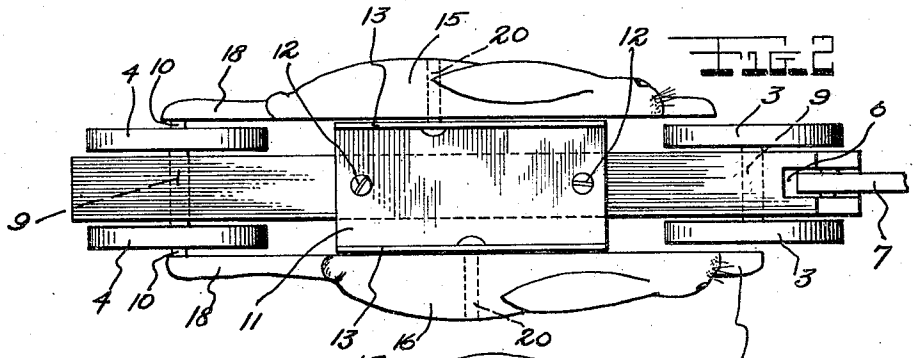


FIG. 2



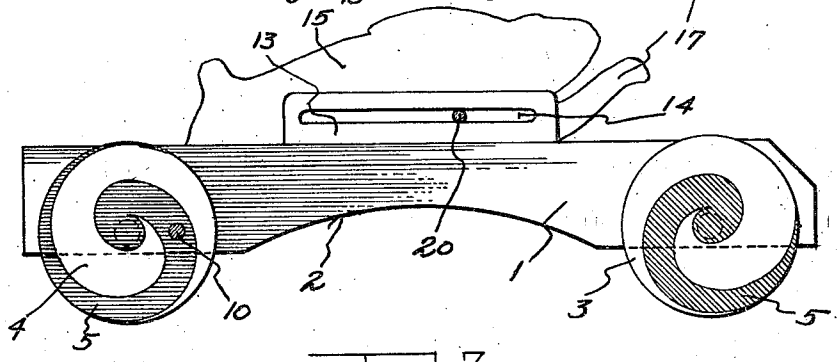


FIG. 3

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Patented July 29, 1924. 1,502,758

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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FIGURE WHEEL TOY.

Application filed October 3, 1922. Serial No. 592,001.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH VILLANI, citizen of the United States and resident of Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Figure Wheel Toys, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to toys, and the main object is to provide a figure wheel toy which can easily be propelled by a child while walking and is designed to afford an entertaining and instructive toy for the child.

Another object is to provide animal figures upon the toy which are attached to the rear wheels which cause the said figures to move forward and rearward as if leaping or jumping forward. The toy as mentioned is of greatest amusement to a child and also concentrates attention of the child as the action of the figures which imitate realistic movements of an animal.

These and other objects will become apparent in the description below, in which characters of reference refer to like-named parts in the drawing.

Referring briefly to the drawing, Figure 1 is a side elevational view of the toy showing the position of the animal figures preparatory for a leap.

Figure 2 is a top plan view of the same showing the means for supporting said figures.

Figure 3 is a side elevational view of the toy with the near figure removed to show the guide.

Describing the drawing in detail, the numeral 1 indicates a relatively long rectangular body which is solidly formed, and is cut into a curve 2 between the front wheels 3 and the rear wheels 4. The face of the wheels have spirals 5 painted thereon, which are designed to enhance the attractiveness of the toy. The forward end of the body has a vertical recess 6 in which the lower end of a handle or bar 7 is pivoted on a pin 8. Said handle is of a suitable length to permit the toy to be easily manoeuvered by a child while walking.

The shafts 9 upon which the front and rear wheels are mounted, are preferably fixed to the wheels and rotatable within the body. The crank pins 10 on the rear wheels are fixed diametrically opposite each other so that when the crank pin on one wheel is at the highest point, the crank pin on the opposite rear wheel will be at the lowest point. This variation in the position of the crank pin with respect to each other remains fixed.

A plate member 11 is secured centrally to the upper surface of the body, preferably by screws 12, and has upwardly bent sides which form side walls 13 which extend the entire length of the plate. Horizontal slots 14 are formed in said side walls and provide guides for the movable figures which will be more fully hereinafter described. The figures indicated by the numerals 15 and 16 are preferably made of wood and are fully formed on their exterior sides so as to appear realistic. The front and rear legs 17 and 18 respectively are fully extended, and the ears 19 are shown lying close to the body, it being intended to portray a hare in full galloping position.

The figures have studs 20 extending thru their bodies and project from their adjacent sides. Said studs ride in the slots 14 and provide movable pivots. The hind leg 18 of each figure is secured to the crank pin 10 on the corresponding rear wheel 4.

As the toy is propelled forward in the direction indicated by the arrow, by pulling on the handle bar 7, the front and rear wheels will rotate, and the rear wheels in so doing will cause the figures to alternately spring forward in the semblance of a leap. This leaping action is accomplished by having the hind legs attached to the crank pins 10. When the crank pin is at top center, and the wheel rotated forwardly, the figure will turn its nose upwardly as if beginning a leap, and the body of the figure will slide forward, as the pin is guided thus in the slot 14. When the crank pin is at the lower dead center the figure is tilted to the maximum and the action is then reversed. The crank pins are mounted on the rear wheels diametrically opposite each other. The figures will therefore alternately spring forward in a rythmic manner, the number of leaps made depending entirely upon the distance travelled.

I claim:—

A figure wheel toy comprising a longitudinal body, front and rear wheels supporting said body, a plate rigidly secured to said body intermediate its length, side walls on said body formed by bending said plate parallel to its longitudinal edges, horizontal slots in said side walls, a crank pin in each

rear wheel positioned diametrically opposite each other, animal figures, pins projecting from the rear face of said figure, said pins being located intermediate the length of said figures, the pins being slidably secured in the slots of the side walls, the hind legs of said figures being secured to the crank pins of the rear wheels, said rear wheels when rotated being adapted to tilt both ends of the figures alternately.

Signed at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York.

JOSEPH VILLANI.