

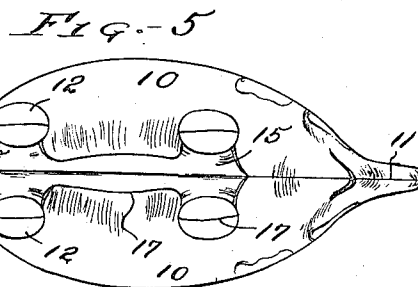
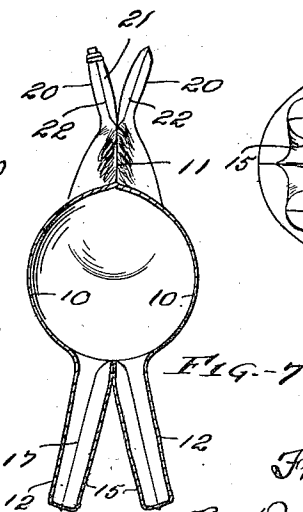
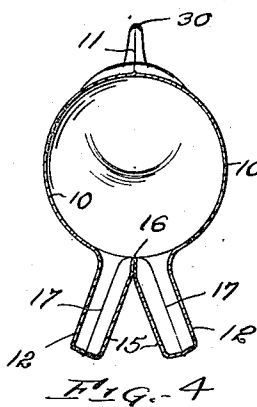
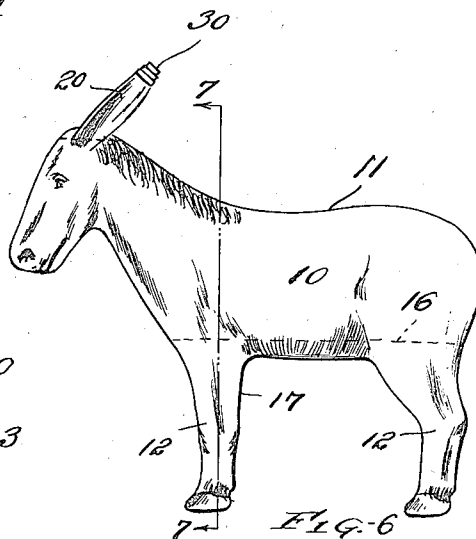
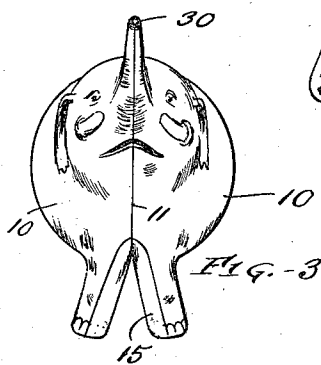
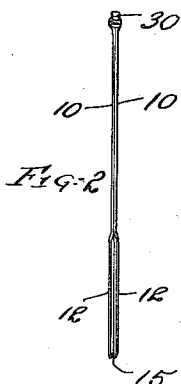
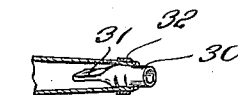
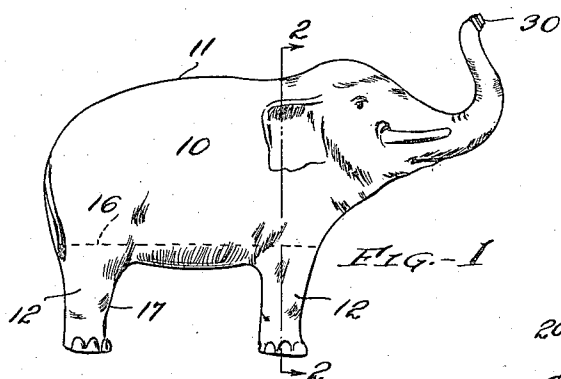
Aug. 5, 1924.

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F. T. ROBERTS

INFLATABLE SHEET RUBBER TOY

Filed May 17, 1924



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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INFLATABLE SHEET-RUBBER TOY.

Application filed May 17, 1924. Serial No. 713,892.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRED THOMAS ROBERTS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Yonkers, in the county of Westchester and State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in an Inflatable Sheet-Rubber Toy, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to an amusing and entertaining toy suitable as a plaything for children, or for advertising purposes, convention souvenirs, etc. Inflatable toys made of two sheets of rubber joined together to represent various animals are on the market, but the inability of such toys to stand upright limits their attractiveness and salability. My invention provides a toy having inflatable legs side by side adapted to support the article in an upright position. Thus I may make various four-legged animals which when inflated will stand on their own feet. In the same way I may provide a plurality of ears side by side.

I accomplish the result by utilizing not only two sheets of thin rubber for the opposite sides of the animal body and the outer sides of the legs, but also an inserted doubled sheet providing the inner portions of the legs of the animal. The fold of the doubled sheet comes slightly above the belly of the animal and thus provides a suitable width in this region.

I have illustrated the toy in the form of an elephant and a donkey, though it is to be understood that other animals or objects may be made in the same manner.

In the drawings, Fig. 1 is a side elevation of a sheet rubber elephant embodying my invention; Fig. 2 is a cross section thereof deflated, the section being indicated by the line 2-2 in Fig. 1; Fig. 3 is a front elevation of this embodiment inflated; Fig. 4 is a cross section inflated; Fig. 5 is a bottom view inflated; Fig. 6 is a side elevation of the toy embodied as a donkey; Fig. 7 is a vertical cross section of the same inflated, as indicated by the line 7-7 in Fig. 6; Fig. 8 is a detail illustrating the inflating nipple, shown in other figures as located at the end of the elephant's trunk and at the end of one of the ears of the donkey.

In each embodiment the body of the ani-

mal is made of two thin sheets of rubber 10, 10 joined by a peripheral seam 11. These two outer sheets 10 extend downwardly providing the outer portions of the four legs as indicated at 12. The inner portions of the four legs and a narrow portion of the belly are made by a folded inner sheet 15 which doubles on itself along the straight line 16 slightly above the belly line of the side sheets, and is joined to these side sheets at the belly and legs by the two seams 17.

The result of the above described formation of the animal from three sheets of rubber is the production of an amusing toy. When inflated the body becomes rounded as illustrated in Figs. 3, 4, 5 and 7, while the legs flare or batter outwardly from the lower portion of the body in an amusing manner as illustrated. These spreading legs form an effective base for supporting the article when it is inflated, but occupying no material space when it is deflated, as shown in Fig. 2.

In the case of the donkey, shown in Figs. 6 and 7, I have by similar means provided the pair of ears 20 side by side. Thus each ear is composed of an extension of the side sheets 10, and an intermediate doubled sheet 21 joined to these side extensions by the seams 22 as shown in Fig. 7.

Suitable marking or printing is preferably made on the sides of the animal representative of the eyes, ears, etc. The seams are preferably made while the sheets of rubber are raw, after which the rubber is cured and then the printing is preferably done.

Suitable nipples are provided to enable the toys to be readily inflated. To this end I prefer to mount in the end of the trunk of the elephant, or in the end of one of the ears of the donkey, a bushing or nipple 30. This may be provided with a removable plug, or it may constitute its own valve, for instance, by having its inner portion flattened as shown at 31, Fig. 8. A suitable band 32 around the exterior of the article holds this nipple in place. With such a nipple as shown in Fig. 6 one may readily inflate the toy by blowing through the nipple, the flattened portion allowing the air to enter. When inflated, however, the compressed air presses the flattened sides of the nipple together, preventing escape. This therefore, makes a very simple check valve.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. An inflatable rubber toy comprising sheets of rubber joined to each other in one region, and a doubled sheet of rubber between the other sheets having each leaf of materially less area than the adjacent sheet and having its folds joined respectively to them in another region of the toy.

2. A sheet rubber toy representative of an object having legs side by side comprising two layers of rubber joined together to make the body and the outer sides of the legs, and intermediate layers of materially less area joined to the outer layers and providing the inner surface of the legs, all of the seams lying substantially in one plane when the article is uninflated.

3. A hollow rubber article with legs side by side comprising a downwardly opening doubled sheet of rubber between two other sheets of rubber each of which extends materially higher than the fold of the doubled sheet, the outline of the article having the legs in the region of the doubled sheet and the body principally beyond such region, and each outer sheet being joined by a seam to the adjacent leaf of the doubled sheet to make the legs and by a seam to the other outer sheet to make the body.

4. A sheet rubber toy representative of a quadruped and comprising three sheets of rubber, one being doubled and providing the

inner portion of four legs, each of the other two being materially larger than the adjacent leaf of the doubled sheet and providing half of the body and the outer portion of two legs, one behind the other.

5. As a new article of manufacture, an animal of sheet rubber, comprising a pair of sheets with an inserted doubled sheet of less extent between them, the outline of a quadruped being so placed thereon that the legs and belly are in the region of the doubled insert and the main portion of the body beyond such insert, the outer sheets being joined to the doubled sheet where the outline crosses both sheets and the two outer sheets being together in the other regions, and an inflating nipple mounted on such article.

6. An inflatable toy representative of a quadruped comprising a body and four legs, the main portion of the body and the outer portion of the legs being made up of two sheets of rubber joined together for a portion of their extent, and the inner portion of the legs and a narrow portion of the belly being composed of a folded sheet of rubber joined by seams to the two outer sheets, all of the seams lying substantially in one plane when the article is uninflated.

In testimony whereof, I hereunto affix my signature.

FRED THOMAS ROBERTS.