Feb. 10, 1925. 1,526,079

E. B. ODENKIRK

FIGURE TOY

Filed Oct. 6, 1921 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

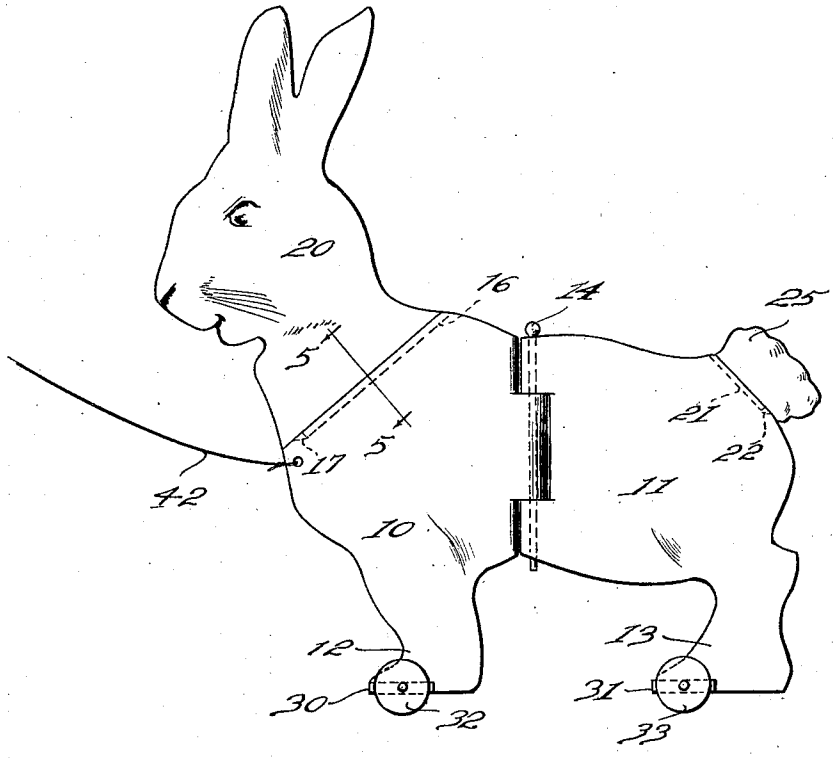


FIG.-1

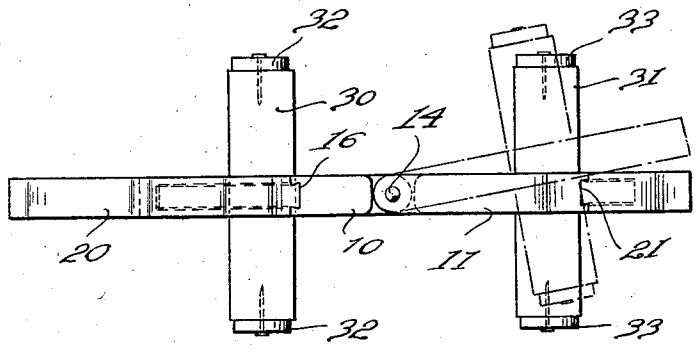


FIG.-4

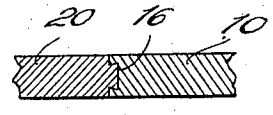


FIG.-5

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FIGURE TOY

Filed Oct. 6, 1921 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

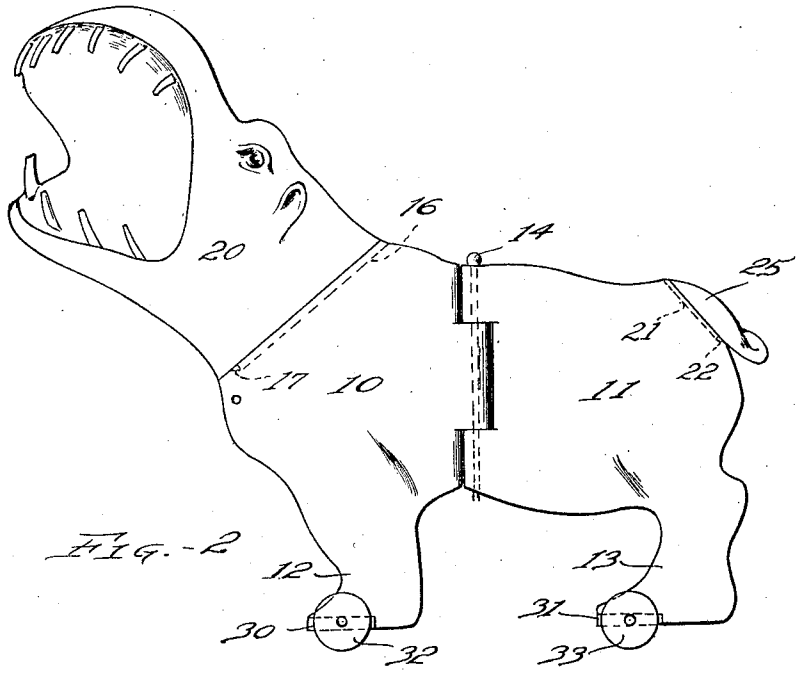


FIG.-2

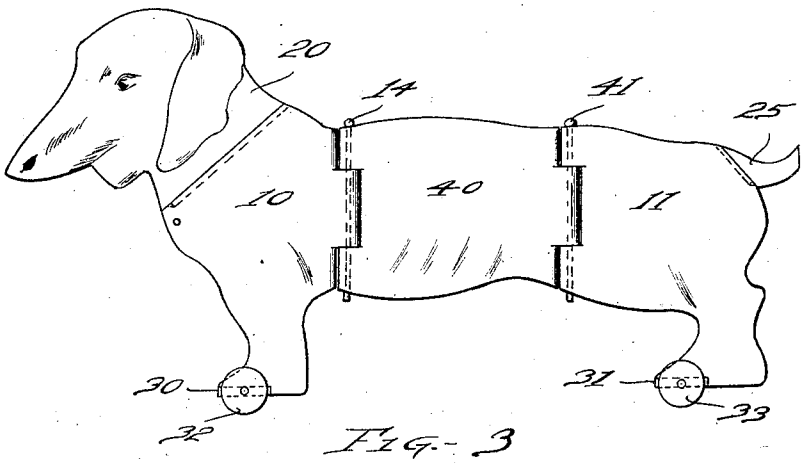


FIG.-3

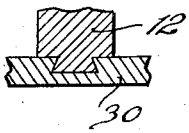


FIG.-6

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Patented Feb. 10, 1925.

1,526,079

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ELLSWORTH B. ODENKIRK, OF CLEVELAND, OHIO.

FIGURE TOY.

Application filed October 6, 1921. Serial No. 505,749.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ELLSWORTH B. ODENKIRK, a citizen of the United States, residing at Cleveland, in the county of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in a Figure Toy, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

This invention is more particularly concerned with the construction of a wheeled toy of attractive form which is adapted to be modified to represent various figures. An object of my invention is the provision of a novel, entertaining and educational toy as embodied in one or more main units representing a partly formed object, together with a group of other units which are adapted to be interchangeably mounted on the main unit to form a completed object. The main unit is preferably of articulated form, which increases the attractiveness, particularly when the toy represents an animal.

Another object is the provision of such a toy in a form which may be cheaply manufactured and thereafter packed for shipment in knocked-down form. The purpose of such construction is that in addition to materially decreasing the cost of production, I construct a toy which provides an attractive pastime, for a child, in assembling the various parts, and in thereafter moving the completed toy over a floor or other supporting surface.

In carrying out the above objects, I provide preferably two members which are arranged to be hinged together so as to form when so hinged, the truncated body of an object, I provide a set of interchangeable sections which are arranged to be detachably connected to the hinged portions, to complete the object partially represented by the hinged members. For example, the hinged members may represent in outline, the truncated body of a quadruped, and other sections representing the heads and the tail may be shaped and colored to indicate various animals. These various heads and tails then, when attached to the common body, represent the completed outline of an animal such as a rabbit, dog, hippopotamus and the like.

The means for accomplishing the above objects will be more fully described in the following description which pertains to the drawings, and the essential characteristics of my invention will be summarized in the claims.

In the drawings, Figs. 1, 2 and 3 are elevations of a toy embodying my invention; Fig. 4 is a plan of such toy; Fig. 5 is a section taken on the line 5—5 of Fig. 1; Fig. 6 is a detail illustrating the means of connecting the body and wheeled supports.

In the various figures, I have shown by invention as embodied in articulated sections which are arranged when coupled to represent the truncated body of an animal. This body unit comprises a basis for forming completed units representing various animals by employing other sections shaped to represent the heads and tails of such animals. However, my invention is also adapted for use in representing practically any figure as will be hereinafter apparent from the following description.

When the object designated is an animal, the body portions may be represented at 10 and 11, and may be hinged vertically as at 14. The fore and hind sections are each provided with a mortise as at 16 and 21 for receiving a corresponding tenon in the head and tail sections 20 and 25 respectively. In cutting the mortise, the cutting tool may be stopped so as to form abutments 17 and 22 respectively, for positioning the head and tail sections, with relation to the sections 10 and 11. The toy as illustrated embodies a hinged connection in addition to a set of interchangeable heads; however, my invention is capable of producing satisfactory results by making the body in one piece, and thereby eliminating the hinged connection without dispensing with the interchangeable sections.

In the various figures, I have shown the section 20 as representing the heads of different animals. In each case, that portion of the head, which engages the fore section 10, is provided with a tenon which is exactly complementary to the mortise 16, so that the heads are replaceable, and are capable of being accurately positioned by means of the abutment 17. Similarly, sections 25 which represent the tail of an animal are constructed so as to be interchangeable, and so as to be accurately positioned by means of a tenon which engages the stop 22.

These various joints are in effect elongated dovetail joints, and since the sections 20 and 25 are constructed of substantially the same thickness as the sections 10 and 11, the joint between such sections is hardly perceptible.

To enable the toy to be held in upright position, I provide axles 30 and 31 which are shown as flat pieces of material extending transversely of the sections 10 and 11, and secured thereto as at 12 and 13, respectively. These axles are preferably attached to the respective sections by means of a dovetailed joint illustrated in Fig. 6, and are secured at the forward end of the portions 12 and 13. This tends to hold the axles more securely in position when the toy is being drawn forwardly, as by means of a cord 42 attached to the section 10. While the toy is being drawn across the floor, it may be swerved to the right or left whereupon the section 11 moves laterally with relation to section 10 as shown in the broken line in Fig. 4.

While I have explained my invention in connection with a figure having the fore and hind portions hinged together, I have also provided an extension piece 40 as shown in Fig. 3 so as to vary the length of the figure represented as desired. This extension piece is arranged to be hinged to the fore section by the hinge connection 14 and to the hind section by the hinge connection 41, as will be apparent from the illustration. A feature of the extension piece 40 is that it may be reversed, top for bottom, and still be capable of satisfactorily joining the sections 10 and 11 without affecting the continuity thereof. This adds to the attractiveness of the toy by producing animals having various shapes.

In marketing a toy of this character, the various sections may be placed in one box to form a group, there being one unit representing a body, and individual sets of units representing heads and tails, which are replaceable on the body. The joints between the various sections provide for ease in shipment, in that the parts may be packed flat within a single container, and in addition provide a toy which may be readily assembled in accordance with the wishes of the user.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:—

1. A toy comprising in combination, two sections hinged together and forming when so hinged a unit comprising the outline of a truncated body of an animal, a set of sections representing the heads of various animals, means for detachably connecting any one of said heads to said unit comprising a dovetailed joint extending parallel to the represented figure detachable axles secured to said units by dovetail joints and wheels supporting the axles whereby the completed figure may stand in an upright position and the constituent elements remain in assembled relation when moved about on said wheels.

2. A figure toy, comprising in combination a unit having an outline representing the truncated body of an animal, a plurality of sections representing heads and tails of various animals and provided with slide portions extending parallel with the plane of the represented figure, said unit having slideways formed along the ends thereof also extending parallel with the represented figure, there being an obstruction formed in the slideway to prevent a downward displacement of the attached member, whereby anyone of the respective sections may be assembled upon the unit, transverse supporting members jointed by a dovetailed connection to the unit and wheels mounted upon the transverse members whereby the assembled members may be placed in an upright position and moved about without relative displacement of the respective members comprising the represented figure.

3. A figure toy, comprising in combination two units, representing the fore and hind quarters of an animal, a set of interchangeable sections representing heads of various animals and a second set of interchangeable sections representing tails of various animals, each section being provided with a dovetail slide extending parallel with the portion of the figure represented by said sections, there being corresponding slideways formed in the ends of the units, there being obstructions formed in the slideways to prevent relative displacement of the assembled member, transverse supporting members similarly provided with slideways affording a joint with the fore and hind quarters of the represented animal, the resulting joints, by thus assembling a selected head or tail member, extending at an acute angle to the transverse supporting members, and wheels on said supporting members whereby the figures produced by the assembling of the various members may be positioned upright and moved about on the wheels without any resulting displacement of the respective members relative to each other.

4. A toy comprising in combination a unit having an outline representing the truncated body of a quadruped with the front feet consolidated into one foot and the hind feet consolidated into another foot, two transverse axles removably connected to the respective consolidated portions by slideway connections formed to extend parallel with the represented figure and wheels supporting the axles, there being slideways formed in the fore and hind portions of the unit whereby any one of a group of sections representing the heads of various animals may be detachably and interchangeably con-

nected to the unit to form figures representing various animals.

5. A toy comprising in combination a unit formed of a pair of articulated members, one of the members representing the forequarter, feet and legs and the other member representing the hind quarter and hind legs and feet, each of said members having a transverse axle removably connected to the leg portion, there being slideways formed in the feet of the leg portions for connecting the axles, said slideways extending from the fore part of the foot portions rearwardly and the axles being provided with wheels whereby the toys may be transportable thereon, said slideways terminating intermediate the fore and rear ends of the foot portions whereby displacement of the axles is prevented when the toy is moved forwardly on said wheels.

6. A toy comprising in combination two units representing the fore and hind sections of an animal having a hinged connection joining said sections together, said sections when so hinged representing the truncated outline of an animal, with the axis of the hinge extending vertically in the plane of the represented figure, the heads and tail being detachably connected to said fore and hind sections respectively, the connection comprising a dovetailed joint extending in the plane of the figure for detachably connecting any one of a set of sections representing the heads of various animals, or any one of another set of sections representing the tails thereof to the fore and hind quarters of said sections respectively, axles joined to the fore and hind sections and wheels on the axles whereby the represented figures may be portable.

In testimony whereof, I hereunto affix my signature.

ELLSWORTH B. ODENKIRK.