Oct. 16, 1928. 1,688,282

L. L. MALLARD

ROCKER TOY

Filed March 30, 1926

Fig. 1.

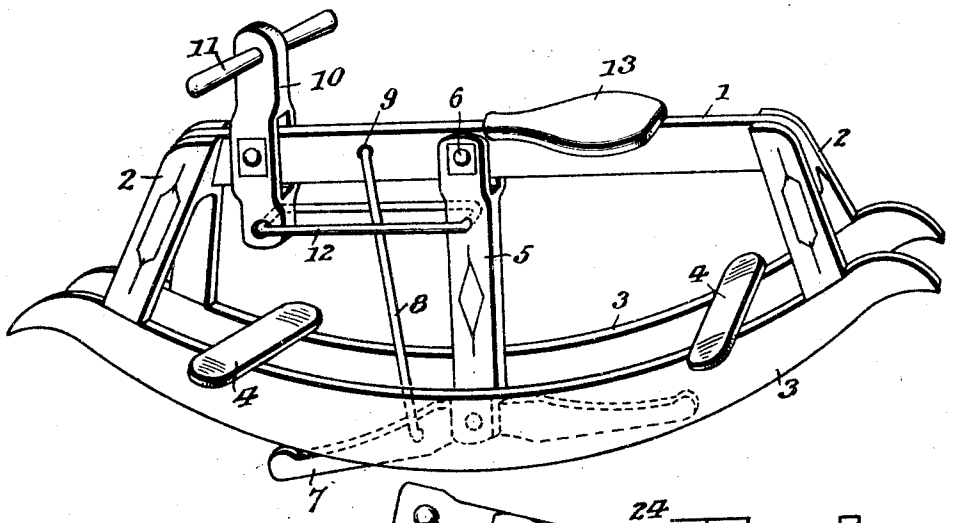


Fig. 2.

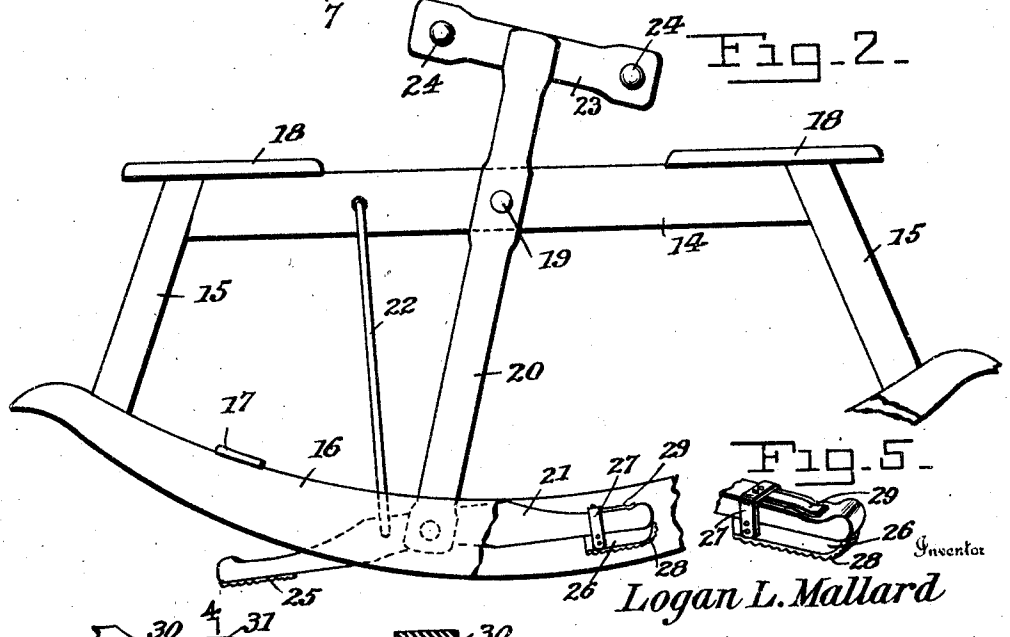


Fig. 5.

Inventor

Logan L. Mallard

By Jacobi & Jacobi

Attorneys

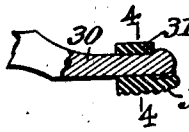


Fig. 3.

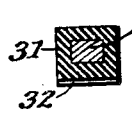


Fig. 4.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LOGAN L. MALLARD, OF NORFOLK, VIRGINIA.

ROCKER TOY.

Application filed March 30, 1926. Serial No. 98,544

My invention relates to new and useful improvements in toys and more particularly to a toy of a rocker type, the principal object being to provide an invention of this character which may give the combined effect of a hobby horse and see-saw.

A further object of the invention resides in providing a device of this character which may be used or constructed for use of one or two persons, it being a further object to provide a means for the enjoyment of children in the homes where the use of moving toys are not always convenient.

Still another object resides in so constructing the toy as to enable it to be given a forward or progressive movement, if desired.

A further object resides in providing a device which is simple and durable in construction, inexpensive to manufacture and one which will be very efficient and amusing in use.

With these and numerous other objects in view, my invention consists in the novel features of construction, combination and arrangement of parts, as will be hereinafter referred to and more particularly pointed out in the specification and claims.

In the accompanying drawing forming a part of this application,

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a device constructed in accordance with my invention.

Figure 2 is a fragmentary side elevation of a slight modification of the invention, showing its application to use whereby two persons may be seated thereon and operate same.

Figure 3 is a fragmentary section showing a slight modification of the footpiece used on the ground engaging element for giving progressive movement to the device,

Figure 4 is a section therethrough as seen on the line 4—4 of Figure 3, and

Figure 5 is a perspective view, in fragment, of one end of the ground engaging element showing another form of means to produce progressive movement to the device.

In describing the invention I shall refer to the drawing in which similar reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several views and in which 1 designates an upper bar to the ends of which are connected the downwardly and outwardly inclined arms 2, arranged in pairs, said arms forming supports for the bar 1 and being mounted on a pair of rocker members 3. These rocker members may be braced together in any preferred manner but the transverse members 4 are also provided which are mounted on the upper edges of said rockers, acting as braces therefor and also as foot rests.

Pivotally connected to the bar 1 intermediate the ends of the latter is a depending arm 5, the upper end of the latter being bifurcated to receive the bar 1 therein and the pivot being formed by the bolt 6. The lower end of the arm 5 is also bifurcated and fulcrumed between the furcations is a ground or floor engaging member 7. This member 7 is fulcrumed to the lower end of the arm 5 intermediate the ends of the former and in the normal position of the device is substantially parallel with the ground or floor a fraction of an inch thereabove. Connected with the member 7 which may be called, for convenience, a ground or floor pressure member is a link 8 which has its connection adjacent the fulcrumed point of said member 7, the opposite end of said link 8 being engaged with an opening 9 in the bar 1 to one side of the center of the latter.

An operating member 10 having a slot intermediate of its ends through which the bar 1 extends is fulcrumed intermediate of its ends to said bar so that a portion extends above and below the latter. A handle 11 is mounted on the upper portion of the member 10 and the lower end of said member is connected with the bar 5 by means of a rectangularly shaped link 12. A seat 13 is mounted on the bar 1 in a convenient position thereon so that a child may seat upon the same and actuate the device. A pull or push upon the handle 6 when the child is seated on the device with its feet on the support 4 will obviously actuate the floor pressure member 7, causing one end of the latter to be forced downwardly into engagement with the floor and rock the device. The engagement of the member 7 with the floor obviously raises the one end of the device and continuous pulling and pushing of the operating member 10 will produce a continuous rocking motion. If a forward or progressive movement is desired, means may be applied to the ends of the member 7 to accomplish this result, as will appear in detail herebelow, it being understood that this means may be applied to the form of the

device shown in Figure 1 of the drawing as well as any other form of the invention.

As stated in the objects of the invention, this device is capable of use by one or two children, the change being slight in order to accommodate more than one person. The principle of the invention remains the same whether one or two persons use or actuate the toy and herebelow I have described in detail the modification illustrated in Figure 2 whereby two children may be accommodated on the device.

In this modified form of the invention the general frame work is constructed the same as in the aforesaid form, consisting of an upper bar 14, to the ends of which are connected in any desired manner the divergent arms 15 which also connect with a pair of rockers 16 adjacent the ends of the latter. Foot rests 17, similar to the foot rests in the first mentioned form are secured to the upper edges of the rockers 16, the same forming braces for the latter as well as supports for the feet of the users of the toy. A pair of seats 18 is mounted on the bar 14 at the ends of the latter so that two persons may be accommodated and as the foot rests 17 are conveniently located with respect to the seats, the feet of the two parties using the toy may rest thereon.

Fulcrumed on the bar 14 at a point designated by the numeral 19 is a lever 20 which projects downwardly below the bar to a point adjacent the ground or floor and also projects a short distance above the bar. A ground or floor pressure member 21 is pivoted intermediate of its ends to the lowermost bifurcated end of the lever 20 in a manner similar to the construction and illustration shown in connection with the previously described form. A link 22 connects the member 21 with the bar 14 as shown in the previous form. The extreme upper end of the lever 20 is bifurcated and has secured thereto a short arm 23 to the ends of which are connected the handles 24. A pair of handles being thus provided enables the two occupants of the device to grasp the same on both sides of the lever and assist in the operation of the toy.

In order to protect the floor of the structure where this toy is used against scratching and to further prevent noise, the lower faces of the ends of the floor pressure member 21 may be covered with the contact strips 25 which may be formed of rubber, felt or cloth, as desired. Both ends of the member may be so provided, if desired, and although not shown in connection with the first mentioned form, these contact strips may also be used there when desired.

To produce a forward or progressive motion to the toy I have also provided for use on one end of the floor pressure member 21 an additional element. This element consists of a block 26 which is carried between the arms of an inverted U-shaped strap 27, the same being adapted to be placed over the one end of the floor pressure member, as clearly shown in Figures 2 and 5 of the drawing. The lower face of the block 26 is covered with a contact strip 28 which is preferably corrugated and formed of rubber, felt or cloth, preferably the former. A leaf spring 29 is secured at its one end to the crown of the strap 27 and its one end is bent to conform to an indentation formed in the upper face of the member 21, as shown, from this construction it will be seen that when the strap 27 is slipped over the end of the member 21 the same together with its block 26 will be held in the position shown under the spring tension. Obviously the projection on the lower face of one end of the member 21 will cause a gradual progressive movement in one direction as the toy is rocked continuously.

I have shown a slight modification of this idea in Figures 3 and 4 wherein the end 30 of a floor or ground pressure member is illustrated to which is applied a rubber sleeve 31, the under face of which is corrugated as shown at 32. Obviously this rubber sleeve may be readily applied to the ground pressure member and held thereon by being stretched into position as a contact face thereof will cause the progressive movement in one direction as the toy is rocked.

It will be seen from the foregoing that I have provided a toy capable of being used for one or two children and one which will give considerable entertainment and amusement. The main portions of the device are made of wood, although the same may be constructed of other material and it is so designed that it may be knocked down and shipped from place to place in compacted form. The toy may be painted in varied colors with various designs thereon to appear attractive to the eye of the children and others and being constructed of few and simple parts, the same may be manufactured and sold at a comparatively low cost.

From the foregoing it will be seen that I have provided a simple, inexpensive and efficient means for carrying out the objects of the invention and while I have particularly described the elements best adapted to perform the functions set forth, it is obvious that various changes in form, proportion and in the minor details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the principles of the invention.

Having thus described the invention what is claimed is:

1. A toy of the class described comprising a body including rockers, a double ended floor pressure member pivoted on said body and suspended between said rockers, the ends

of said floor pressure member being alternately engageable with the floor and means for manually actuating said floor pressure member.

2. A toy of the class described, comprising a body including rockers, a lever suspended from said body between said rockers, a double ended floor pressure member pivoted intermediate of its pressure ends to the lower end of said lever, said pressure ends of the member being alternately engageable with the floor as the lever is moved forwardly and rearwardly and means for manually actuating said lever.

3. A toy of the class described comprising a body including rockers, a lever pivoted to said body and suspended between said rockers to a point above the surface of the floor, a floor pressure member pivoted to the lower end of said lever, a link connection between said member and said body, and means for manually actuating said lever.

4. A toy of the class described comprising a body including rockers, a lever pivoted to said body and suspended between the aforesaid rocker, the lower end of said lever being above the surface of the floor, a positive acting double ended floor pressure member pivoted intermediate of its pressure ends to the lower end of said lever, said pressure ends of the member being alternately engageable with the floor as said lever is moved forwardly and rearwardly and means for manually actuating said lever.

5. A toy of the class described comprising a body including rockers, a lever pivoted to said body and suspended between said rockers, the lower end of said lever terminating at a point above the surface of the floor, a floor pressure member pivoted intermediate of its ends to the lower end of said lever, means linking said body with said floor pressure member on one side of the center of the latter and means for manually actuating said lever.

6. A toy of the class described comprising a body including rockers, a lever pivoted to said body and suspended therefrom between said rockers, the lower end of said lever terminating at a point above the surface of the floor, a floor pressure member pivoted intermediate of its ends to the lower end of said lever, a link member engaged with said floor pressure member on one side of the center of the latter and also having connection with the upper portion of said body and means for manually actuating said lever.

7. A toy of the class described comprising a body including rockers, a positive acting double ended floor pressure member pivotally suspended from said body between said rockers, contact strips applied to the floor engaging ends of said member to prevent noise and damage and means for manually actuating said member.

8. A toy of the class described comprising a body including rockers, a positive acting double ended floor pressure member pivotally suspended from said body between said rockers, means for manually actuating said member and means selectively applied to one end of said floor pressure member for producing progressive movement in either direction as the body is rocked.

9. A toy of the class described comprising a body including rockers, a lever suspended from said body between said rockers, a floor pressure member pivoted to the lower end of said lever, means for manually actuating said lever and means adapted for application removably to one end of said floor pressure member for producing progressive movement in one direction as said body is rocked.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

LOGAN L. MALLARD.