Jan. 11, 1966 L. F. CLAWSON, JR 3,228,684

SKIPPING TOY

Filed April 13, 1964

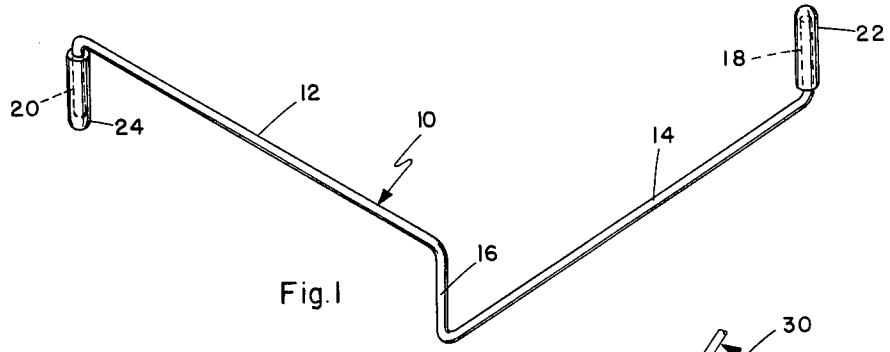


Fig. 1

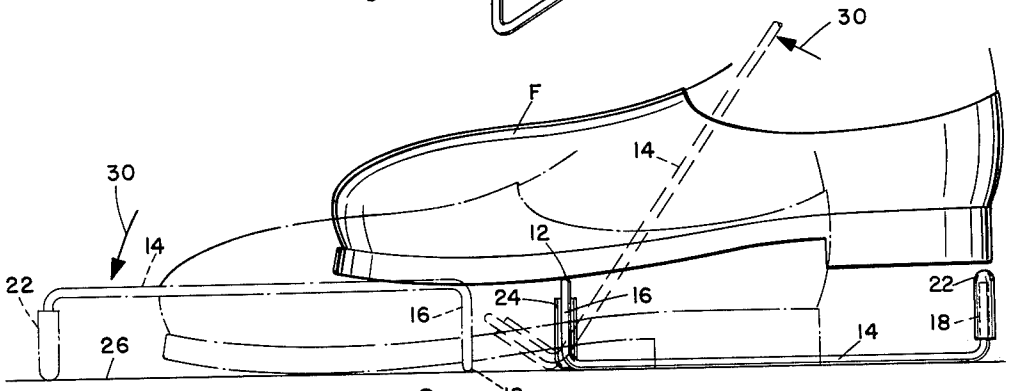


Fig. 2

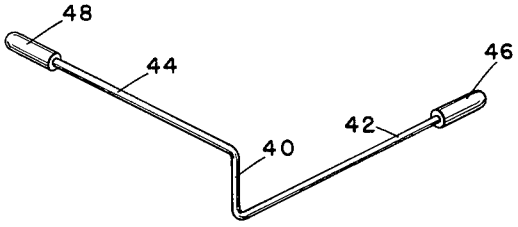


Fig. 5

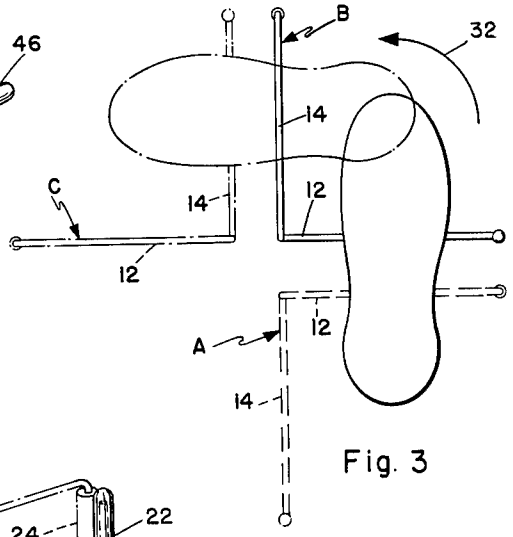


Fig. 3

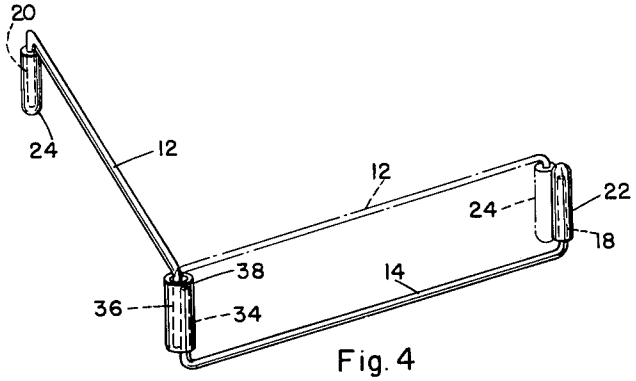


Fig. 4

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SKIPPING TOY

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The present invention relates generally to toys and more particularly to a toy which will provide exercise and entertainment for children while skipping or hopping.

The primary object of this invention is to provide an improved skipping toy which, when in use, will flip from one position to another.

It is a further object of this invention to provide an improved skipping toy that, when once adjusted and placed on a supporting surface, can be continuously used without further adjustment.

It is a still further object of this invention to provide an improved skipping toy that can be folded into a compact unit for storage or transport.

Finally it is an object to provide a skipping toy of the aforementioned character which is simple and convenient to use and which will give generally efficient and durable service.

With these and other objects definitely in view, this invention consists in the novel construction, combination and arrangement of elements and portions, as will be hereinafter fully described in the specification, particularly pointed out in the claims, and illustrated in the drawing, which forms a material part of this disclosure, and in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of one modification of the skipping toy;

FIGURE 2 is a side elevation view illustrating the use of the toy;

FIGURE 3 is a top plan view further illustrating the operation;

FIGURE 4 is a perspective view on a reduced scale of one modification; and

FIGURE 5 is a perspective view similar to FIGURE 4 of a further modification of the invention.

In its simplest form the skipping toy is indicated generally in FIGURE 1 by the reference numeral **10**. It comprises a pair of arms **12** and **14** extending generally normal to each other and connected by a center post **16**. The outer tips of arms **12** and **14** have end posts **20** and **22**, respectively, which extend in opposite directions and are generally parallel to each other and to center post **16**, and substantially equal in length to the center post. End posts **18** and **20** may, if desired, be provided with resilient caps **22** and **24** respectively. It is preferable to form the toy of steel wire of a suitable diameter and length to retain its shape after extended use. This tips **22** and **24** may be constructed of rubber or a suitable plastic.

The operation of the improved skipping toy can best be understood with reference to FIGURES 2 and 3. The shape of the toy is such that, when placed on a horizontal supporting surface, such as a floor or the ground **26**, one of the arms **12** or **14** will rest on the supporting surface and the other arm will be supported above and generally parallel to the supporting surface by the center post **16** and the corresponding end post **18** or **20**. In FIGURE 2 arm **14** is shown in solid lines resting on the supporting surface. It will now be seen that if foot F is brought to bear on arm **12** and pressure is exerted, the toy will rock through 180° as indicated by the arrows **30** to a final position as shown in the dot-dash lines in which the arm **14** is now in the position spaced above the supporting surface and the arm **12** is in the position resting on the supporting surface.

FIGURE 3 illustrates in plan view the progressive

positions of the toy when used by a child in the act of skipping. The position of the right foot only is shown, it being understood that the left foot is positioned a distance to the left thereof such as not to interfere with the action of the toy. The positions of the toy as it is advanced during play are shown as A, B, and C.

In the position A the arm **12** is initially positioned above the supporting surface and the arm **14** rests on the supporting surface. The child's first jump will bring the right foot down on the arm **12** in the position shown in A. The toy will then be flipped over to the position shown in B and the arm **12** will be resting on the supporting surface under the right foot. The next jump will be made with a twisting motion of the body through an arc of 90° to the left as shown by arrow **32**. The foot will be brought down on the elevated arm **14** and the toy will be flipped to the positions shown in C. This procedure may be continued and with each jump the child will twist his or her body through an arc of 90°. Any number of children can play and variations in play are only limited by the imagination of the children.

FIGURE 4 discloses a modification of the invention which is especially adapted for ease of storage or transportation. In place of an integral center post arm **14** is provided with a post **34** extending normal thereto and arm **12** is provided with a post **36** also extending normal thereto. These posts **34** and **36** are positioned adjacent each other and surrounded by a rubber or plastic sleeve **38**. This forms a pivot or hinged joint so that the arm **12** may be swung to the position shown in the dotted lines to form a compact unit when not in use.

FIGURE 5 discloses a somewhat simplified version of the basic concept disclosed herein. In this form the end posts **18** and **20** have been omitted leaving the center post **40** with the arms **42** and **44** extending from opposite ends thereof. The exposed ends of arms **42** and **44** may, if desired, be covered with resilient caps **46** and **48**, respectively, which are similar to those shown in the other modifications. The operation of this form of the invention is substantially the same as previously described. When positioned on a supporting surface, one of the arms, for example the arm **42**, will rest on this surface while the other arm will be inclined slightly due to the fact that the outer posts have been omitted. It is to be understood that the center post **40** of this modification may be constructed, as an alternative, as a pivoted or hinged joint similar to that shown in FIGURE 4.

It is understood that minor variation from the form of the invention disclosed herein may be made without departure from the spirit and scope of the invention, and that the specification and drawings are to be considered as merely illustrative rather than limiting.

I claim:

1. A skipping toy comprising:
a one piece integral wire unit having a center post;
and a pair of arms each one extending normal to the other from opposite ends of said center post, each of said arms being longer than said center post.

2. The structure of claims **1** further including resilient caps covering the ends of said arms.

3. A skipping toy comprising:
a center post;
a pair of arms each one extending normal to the other from opposite ends of said center post, each of said arms being longer than said center post with said arms including resilient caps covering their ends, and said center post comprising a hinge having an axis substantially perpendicular to said arms whereby said arms may be pivoted to collapse the toy so that said arms are substantially parallel to each other.

4. A skipping toy comprising:
a center post;

a pair of arms extending normal to each other from opposite ends of said center post;

the tips of said arms having end posts extending parallel to and on the same side thereof as said center post and substantially equal in length to said center post.

5. The structure of claim 4 further including resilient caps covering the end posts.

6. The structure of claim 5 in which said center post comprises a hinge whereby said arms may be pivoted to collapse the toy so that said arms are substantially parallel and the end posts are adjacent each other.

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