

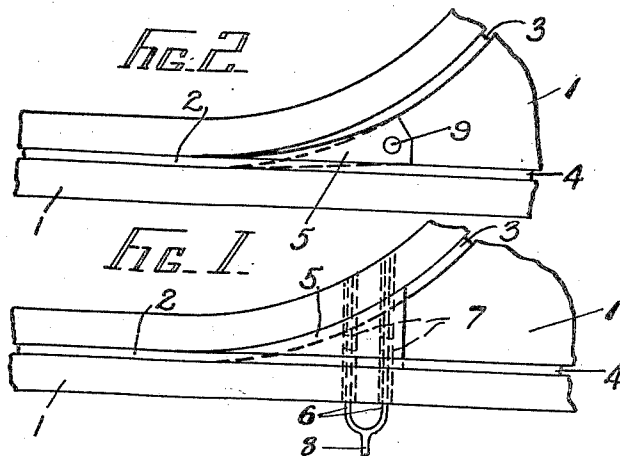
Jan. 14, 1941.

T. PINDER

2,228,972

TRACK FOR TOY FIGURES OR VEHICLES

Filed Jan. 4, 1940



Inventor:

Thomas Pinder,

By *Cushman, Hardy & Cushman*
Attys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,228,972

TRACK FOR TOY FIGURES OR VEHICLES

Thomas Pinder, Perambur, Madras, India

Application January 4, 1940, Serial No. 312,439
In Great Britain December 7, 1938

1 Claim. (Cl. 246—415)

This invention relates to tracks for toy figures or vehicles, representing railways or pathways on which miniature vehicles or toy figures are propelled, and one of the main objects of this invention is the provision of a new or improved track or roadway of the kind in which the track sections are rigid under load but are capable of being altered by hand in a horizontal plane from straight to curved and vice-versa.

According to the invention, the track for toy figures or vehicles comprises a flexible base formed with a groove adapted to constitute a guide for the figures or vehicles, and is characterised in that at points where the track branches, the tongue between the branches is removed and substituted by a larger tongue adapted to be moved across the track to completely close the entrance to either branch, as desired, leaving the other branch open.

The new tongue may be pivotally mounted to swing across the track or it may be adapted to be slid across the track.

In order that the invention may be clearly understood and readily carried into effect, the same will now be more fully described with reference to and by the aid of the embodiments illustrated in the accompanying drawing; wherein:

Figure 1 is a plan view showing branched tracks having different point constructions.

Figure 2 is a plan view of a modified form of the invention shown in Figure 1.

Referring to the drawing, the track comprises a rubber or other flexible base 1 having a central guiding groove 2 leading to branch grooves 3, 4 controlled by a point tongue 5.

In the embodiment illustrated in Figure 1, the tongue 5, substituted for the smaller tongue piece removed from between the branches 3, 4, is wider than said removed tongue piece by the width of the guiding groove, and this tongue 5 is capable of horizontal movement across the track so that when against the edge of one branch groove 3 or 4, the other one is open.

Thus when the tongue 5 is in the full-line position shown in Figure 1, the vehicle will take the straight road, and when said tongue is in the dotted line position, the vehicle will take the branch road 3. The wheels or rollers of the vehicle on either side of the guiding groove will travel over the tongue 5 when taking either branch 3 or 4 and remain at track level. The tongue 5 is held in position and moved or adjusted across the track by wires 6, fixed to said tongue 5, which work easily in two holes 7 and are connected together at 8 and moved manually, electrically or pneumatically.

In the embodiment illustrated in Figure 2, the

tongue 5 substituted for the smaller removed tongue piece, is pivoted at 9 so as to be adapted to be swung across the track to close either branch groove 3 or 4 as desired. This arrangement provides an adequate point control but the vehicle wheels running on the track or base at the side of the guiding groove are not always on track level since they are required to bump over whichever branch groove is closed, and therefore the construction shown in Figure 1 is to be preferred.

The vehicle or figure would be provided with a flanged wheel or other member which extends or depends into engagement with the guiding slot or groove in the track in known manner, and the flexible base constituting the track may be suitably coloured and camouflaged so that the groove is not easily discernible.

This groove besides acting as a guide, may be of such a depth as to allow for projections from models with small bases such as figures to have an extended guide attached which, besides being a guide, also lowers the centre of gravity of the model as necessary.

In order to make the railway road or pathways more realistic, the sides or base of the track can have attached thereto suitable material which is or can be coloured or otherwise made to represent environment for these ways. This material may have trees and buildings or the like built upon it, and/or may represent cuttings, ravines, mountains, and the like, and can be made of some pliable material thus rendering conversion of environment capable of being made. This material will preferably be detachable so that environments may be entirely changed as desired.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of my said invention, and in what manner the same is to be performed, I declare that what I claim is:

A track for toy vehicles including a main track portion and a curved branch portion, said track comprising a base formed with a medially disposed groove adapted to constitute a guide for the vehicles movable on the track, said track at the juncture of said main and branch portions having a relatively large pointed tongue adapted to be moved across the track to close the groove to either the main or branch portions, said tongue being of such a width as to completely close either the main groove or the branch groove, said tongue also having a smooth upper supporting surface over which the wheels of the vehicle travel always at track level, and means for actuating said tongue.

THOMAS PINDER.