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A. R. NOBLE

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EDUCATIONAL TOY PUZZLE

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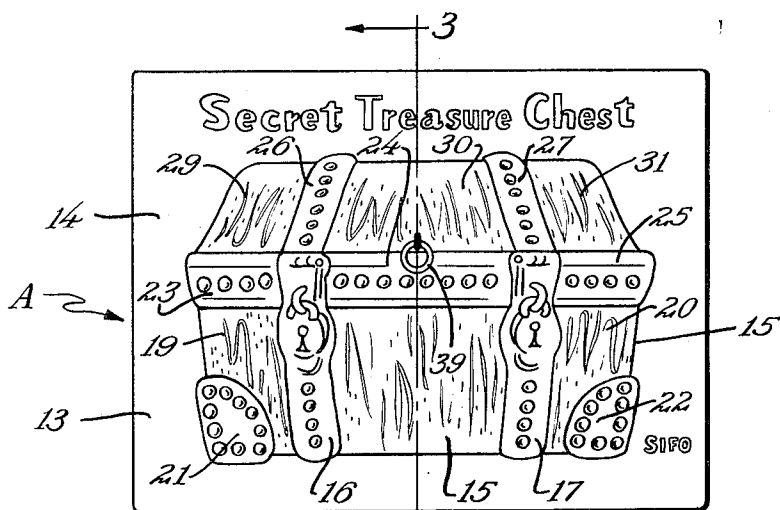


Fig. 1

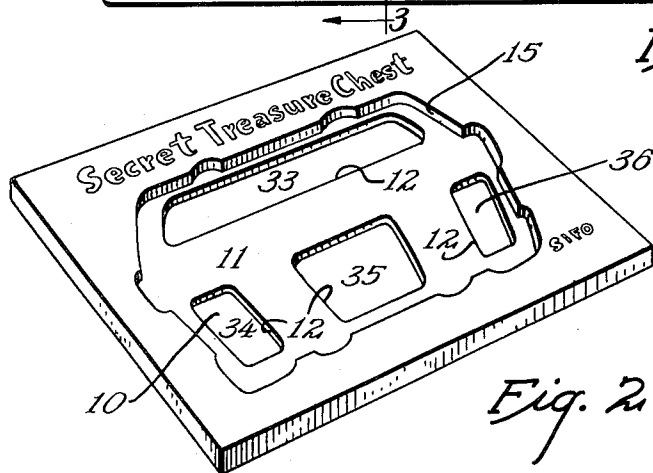


Fig. 2

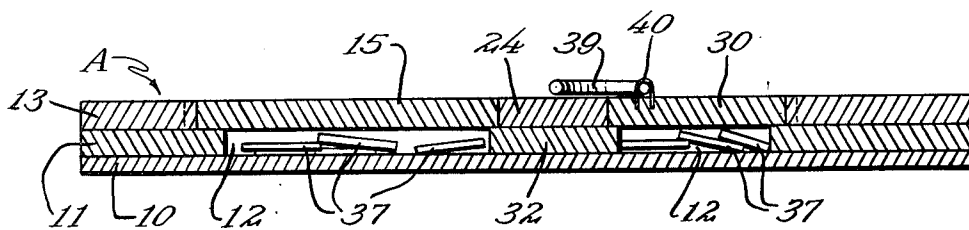


Fig. 3

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EDUCATIONAL TOY PUZZLE

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3 Claims. (Cl. 273—157)

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This invention relates to an improvement in toys and deals particularly with an educational toy puzzle particularly amusing for young children.

During recent years there has been a trend toward producing toy puzzles for use by small children which will assist in educating the children as well as in amusing them. The present invention comprises a toy puzzle of this type and deals particularly with a puzzle having hidden or secret compartments in which various articles may be stored.

The stories of pirates and of treasure chests have long been of utmost interest to young and old alike. Most small children occasionally hear stories of such treasure chests and ordinarily find the subject extremely interesting. The present invention deals with a puzzle having thereupon a representation of a treasure chest or the like, which is cut in several component parts in the manner of the well known "Jig-Saw Puzzle," and which fit together within an encircling border or frame. A bottom panel is provided attached to the frame so as to be integral therewith. This bottom panel is provided with spaced cavities which underlie portions of the treasure chest and which are exposed by removing parts of the treasure chest representation. The cavities provided are such that they may receive and contain toy coins and other such treasures.

A feature of the present invention lies in the provision of a jig-saw puzzle which is designed to fit within an encircling panel and overlie a bottom panel. The pieces of the puzzle are designed to straddle cavities in the bottom panel so that this bottom panel will firmly and securely support the various puzzle pieces. Thus the cavities do not in any way affect the assembly of the puzzle or removal of the various pieces thereof.

Another feature of the present invention lies in the provision of a puzzle overlying a base panel having a series of spaced cavities therein. Any or all of the cavities may contain one or more coins or other such objects. Thus the puzzle may be used as a game in which the treasure may be hidden in one of the cavities and can not be located until the proper pieces of the puzzle have been removed.

An added feature of the present invention lies in the provision of a ring or similar object secured to one of the puzzle pieces in proper location to provide the appearance of a lock or hasp on the chest. This ring may be used if desired for lifting the first of the puzzle pieces from the frame so that the adjoining puzzle pieces may be more easily grasped.

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These and other objects and novel features of the present invention will be more clearly and fully set forth in the following specification and claims.

In the drawings forming a part of the specification:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of the toy puzzle showing the arrangement of the parts and the appearance of the finished object.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the base portion of the puzzle together with the encircling frame of the puzzle which is secured integrally to the base.

Figure 3 is a sectional view through a portion of the puzzle, the position of the section being indicated by the line 3—3 of Figure 1.

The puzzle is indicated in general by the numeral A and includes in preferred form three panels secured in surface contacting relation.

The lowermost panel 10 forms the base panel and is shown as being rectangular in outline and being imperforate. The second layer or panel 11 overlies the base panel 10 and is glued or otherwise securely affixed to the base panel. The intermediate panel 11 is provided with spaced apertures 12 therethrough which are located strategically with respect to the various pieces of the puzzle. The apertures 12 form recesses or pockets in the puzzle structure, the bottoms of the pockets being formed by the lower panel 10. In the assembled position of the puzzle, the upper ends of the pockets are also closed by the various puzzle pieces, which will be later described in detail.

The top panel 13 forms the upper surface of the puzzle and is cut to provide a peripheral frame 14 and various puzzle pieces. The frame 14 is provided with an aperture 15 therethrough, which is preferably cut in the outline of a treasure chest or similar object in which the articles may be hidden.

In the preferred embodiment illustrated the puzzle includes a center section 15 which fits against the lower edge of the frame aperture and which is presented on opposite sides by puzzle pieces 16 and 17 which represent bands or straps encircling the chest. Outwardly of the bands 16 and 17 are continuation pieces 19 and 20 which are colored or printed to simulate a continuation of the front panel of the chest. Lower corner portions 21 and 22 are provided which simulate the corner reinforcements and the lower corners of the chest.

The chest is provided with a transverse band which simulates the points of connection between the lid and bottom of the chest. This transverse

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band is simulated by the spaced puzzle pieces 23, 24, and 25. Upwardly and inwardly inclined band portions 26 and 27 form continuations of the lower band portions 16 and 17, respectively and act to divide the upper portion of the chest into three puzzle pieces 29, 30 and 31. All of these pieces fit together to form a solid body.

In Figure 3 of the drawings it will be noted that the pieces 23, 24, and 25 forming the transverse band portion of the puzzle are narrower than the area 32 of the intermediate panel 11 which they overlie. This permits the top puzzle pieces 26, 27, 29, 30 and 31 to straddle the pocket 33 formed by one of the apertures 12. As a result the various puzzle pieces may be inserted or removed without difficulty and the pocket 33 does not interfere with the proper insertion of the various puzzle pieces.

A pocket 34 is straddled by the puzzle pieces 19 and 21. The piece 21 is generally triangular in form and overlies the intermediate panel along two sides of the pocket 34. The other piece 19 extends partially over three sides of the aperture, thereby completely bridging the same and concealing the pocket 34 when the puzzle pieces are in place.

The intermediate panel 11 also includes a pocket 35 which is completely covered by the panel 15 of the puzzle. The piece 15 overlies all four edges of the pocket 35, thus completely concealing the same.

Another pocket 36 is provided by one of the apertures 12 in opposed relation to the pocket 34. The aperture 36 is completely covered by the puzzle pieces 20 and 22 which bridge or straddle the pocket. The various pockets are designed to contain real or toy coins such as 37. One or more of such coins may be concealed in one or more of the pockets. The particular coins in question are thus not visible until the particular puzzle pieces overlying the pocket in question are removed. Furthermore, it is essential to remove several pieces in order to obtain a complete view of the elongated pocket 33 so that a coin or object in this pocket may be concealed from view even if two or three of the overlying pieces are removed.

The puzzle is normally supplied with toy coins in the pockets. Various simple games may be provided with the toy and which have been found extremely amusing to small children. For example, one child may hide a coin in a particular pocket and may note the number of puzzle pieces which are removed by a second child before the treasure is found. The toy possesses various additional features such as a determination of the proper location in which to hide a coin so that it will be least likely to be quickly found.

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This is possible in view of the different number of puzzle pieces which must be removed to expose certain of the pockets. Furthermore, the variety of locations in which the coin or coins may be placed makes it possible for a child to attain a certain skill in playing with the toy.

A ring 39 is preferably pivotally attached to one of the puzzle pieces as for example the puzzle piece 30 so that the ring is centrally located and provides a third dimensional projection which tends to enhance the appearance of the toy. The ring 39 is secured in place by a staple 40 or other suitable means. The ring 39 serves the additional purpose of providing a simple means of removing a first piece from the puzzle, making it simpler to grasp the various other puzzle pieces.

In accordance with the patent statutes, I have described the principles of construction and operation of my toy puzzle, and while I have endeavored to set forth the best embodiment thereof, I desire to have it understood that obvious changes may be made within the scope of the following claims without departing from the spirit of my invention.

I claim:

1. A toy puzzle including a series of laminations of flat material secured together in surface contact, the lowermost of said laminations comprising a base panel, the intermediate lamination comprising a pocket panel and having apertures therethrough, the third and uppermost of said panels comprising a marginal frame portion and puzzle pieces of interfitted form cut from said uppermost lamination and adapted to be detachably assembled together within said marginal frame portion to reform said third panel and to overlie the pocket panel and to conceal the apertures therein, said puzzle pieces bridging the apertures in said pocket panel to form hidden chambers, said chamber forming apertures being closed at the bottom by said base panel.

2. The structure described in claim 1 and including an upward projection on one of said puzzle pieces to facilitate its removal.

3. The structure described in claim 2 and in which the upward projection comprises a ring hingedly connected to the puzzle piece.

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