

July 19, 1938.

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2,124,062

CHILD'S PLAY RAFT

Filed April 19, 1937

FIG. 1

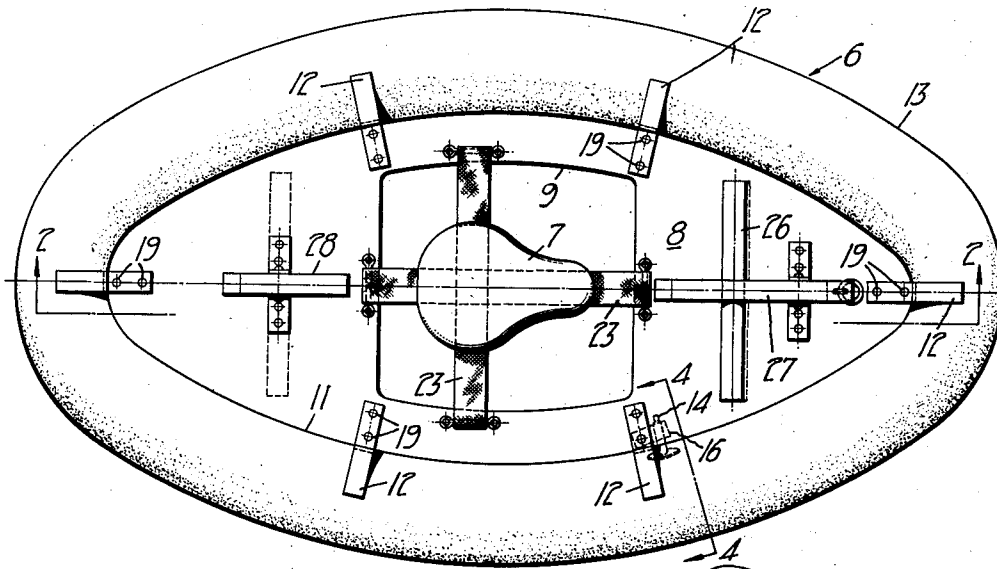
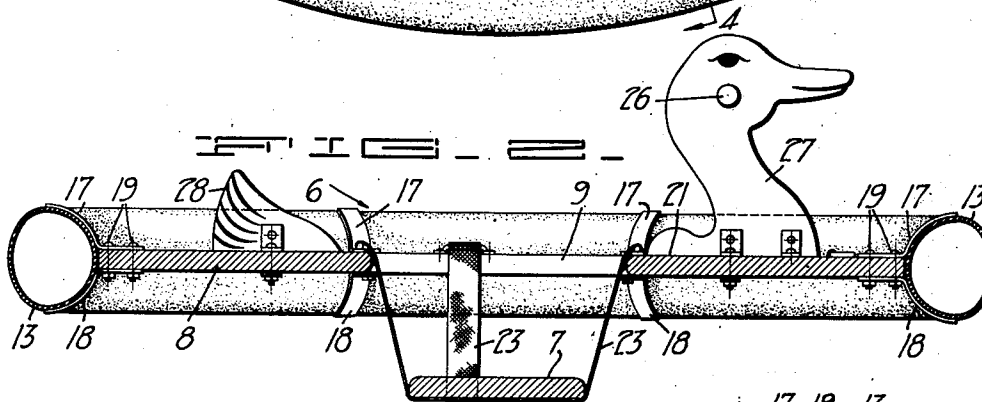
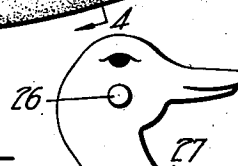
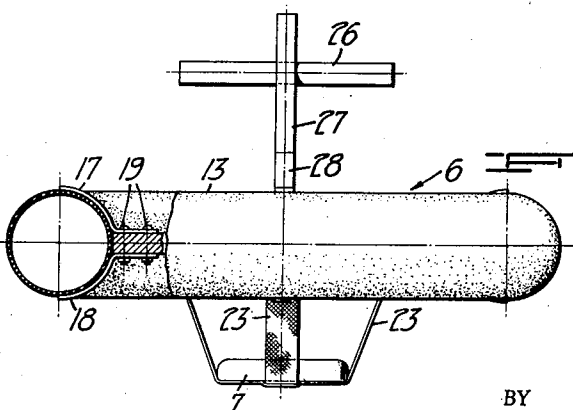
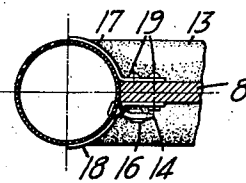


FIG. 2



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2,124,062

CHILD'S PLAY RAFT

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Application April 19, 1937, Serial No. 137,752

3 Claims. (Cl. 9—11)

The invention relates to devices such as amusement and swimming instruction float used to support and float persons, and particularly children, in water.

5 An object of the invention is to provide a device of the character described which, while affording a body float for a child, will at the same time enable and afford a partial submergence of the lower portion of the child's body and up to substantially the waist and chest portions of the child's body and leave the child's legs free in the water to propel the device.

10 Another object of the invention is to provide a device of the character described which is so arranged as to afford, when in use, for a weight distribution having the center of gravity of the child and the device positioned below the plane of support of the device in the water so that there will be no possibility of the child overturning the device when afloat in the water.

15 A further object of the invention is to provide a device of the character above wherein the utmost safety for the protection of the child is afforded by insuring a proper flotative buoyancy of the device and in safeguarding and preventing an accidental dislodgment of the child from the device.

20 The invention possesses other objects and features of advantage, some of which, with the foregoing, will be set forth in the following description of the preferred form of the invention which is illustrated in the drawing accompanying and forming part of the specification. It is to be understood, however, that variations in the showing made by the said drawing and description may be adopted within the scope of the invention as set forth in the claims.

Referring to said drawing:

25 Figure 1 is a plan view of a child's play raft constructed in accordance with the present invention.

30 Figure 2 is a vertical longitudinal sectional view of the raft and is taken substantially on the plane of line 2—2 of Figure 1.

35 Figure 3 is an end elevation of the raft.

40 Figure 4 is a fragmentary cross-sectional view taken substantially on the plane of line 4—4 of Figure 1.

45 The child's play raft illustrated in the accompanying drawing consists of a float 6 having transversely spaced water buoyant portions adapted for floating on a body of water, or the like, and a body support 7 here shown in the form of a seat which is carried by the float in spaced 50 balanced relation between the water buoyant

portions of the float for supporting a child in the water. More specifically, the float comprises a body or frame member 8 which is formed with an open central portion 9 and about the outer periphery 11 of which is secured, as by means of a plurality of brackets 12, an air tube 13 which, in accordance with the present raft, provides a majority of the buoyancy of the raft. Preferably, the construction is such as to permit the ready removal of the tube 13 when desired for repair or replacement and to this end the brackets 12 are so arranged as to provide a horizontal outwardly opening channel for the inner periphery of the tube, (see Figures 2 and 3) whereby the tube will be normally securely held in place, but may be removed by stretching, where the material of the tube will so permit, to remove the same from the brackets 12. In the present design the tube 13 is made of rubber and is of the type used for inner tubes for pneumatic tires and is provided with an air filling stem 14 which may be bent and engaged by a side arm portion 16 of one of the brackets 12'. In the present showing the brackets 12 each consist of a pair of metal strips 17 and 18 which are secured as by bolts 19 to the upper and lower sides 21 and 22 of the member 8 adjacent its periphery 11, the strips 17 and 18 being extended beyond the periphery 11 and being bent away from each other to provide a pocket or channel for the receipt of the inner periphery of the tube 13.

As will be seen from Figures 1 and 2, the seat 7 is mounted in the open portion 9 of the member 8 and is preferably supported below the plane of the member 8 and the plane of support of the raft in the water so as to cause a submersion of the lower portion of the child's body in the water. As here shown, the seat 7 is suspended from the member 8 by means of a plurality of straps 23 which position the seat centrally of the opening 9 and allows the child to straddle the seat with his legs and leaves the child's body completely open to the water. Preferably, the straps 23 are made of a flexible material, such as, fabric, so as to allow the child some relative movement with respect to the raft as a whole. Also, as will be noticed, the seat supports the child only in the crotch and leaves the child's legs entirely free and submerged in the water and unrestricted in their movements for kicking or for churning in the water and in propelling the raft. As an important safety feature of the raft, the seat 7 is disposed by a distance below the member 8 leaving the child's arms and shoulders entirely above the top side 55

21 of the member 8, whereby should one of the straps 23 fall in their support of the seat 7 the child may easily support himself with his arms and shoulders rested on the top side of the member 8. In this regard, also, the size of the opening 9 is so confined and completely surrounds the body of the child as to enable the child to support himself, as above, with very little effort.

Preferably, there is provided forwardly of the seat 7 a handle or hand engaging member 26 which is here shown in the form of a bar extended through an upright supporting member 27 fastened by brackets at its base to the top side 21 of the member 8. If desired, the upright member 26 may be fashioned to simulate an animal, such as the head of a duck, here shown, and for ornamental purposes a tail piece 28 may be mounted on the member 8 behind the opening 9.

As a further important safety feature of the present device the member 8 is preferably formed out of some water buoyant material, such as wood or cork, or the like, so that in the event of a leakage or failure of the tube 13, the raft will, regardless of all else, have sufficient buoyancy to remain afloat and safeguard a child using the same.

Another important feature of the present device is the arrangement and support of the rubber air tube substantially completely around the periphery of the member 8 and in open exposed position. By reason of this construction the tube 13 acts as an edge cushion around the device and absorbs the shock of collision of the raft with other objects.

We claim:

1. A child's play device of the character de-

scribed comprising, an elongated buoyant frame provided with an open center portion and having a buoyancy sufficient to prevent submergence of the device when occupied by a child, an inflatable rubber air tube carried by said frame and engaging therewith completely around the periphery thereof, a seat carried by said frame and suspended below said open portion, and a hand grip carried by said frame forwardly of and above said open portion.

2. A child's play device of the character described, comprising an annular flexible air tube, a wooden raft comprising a buoyant member completely filling the space defined by the tube except at the center and having thereat an opening, a child support suspended from said raft and positioned below said opening therein, said raft and tube each having a buoyancy sufficient to retain the device afloat with the child therein, upright members positioned on the raft immediately to the front and rear of said opening providing guards to prevent the child from sitting on such portion of the raft, and a gripping piece provided on the forward of said members.

3. A child's play device comprising an inflatable continuous air tube, a frame to give a predetermined shape to said air tube when the latter is inflated, means to position and hold said air tube when inflated around said frame and a seat member secured to and carried by said frame below the plane of said frame, said frame having a buoyancy independent of said air tube sufficient to prevent submergence of said device when occupied by a child.

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