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O. REISS

3,065,568

TOY FACIAL FEATURE-FORMING ATTACHMENT

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FIG. 1

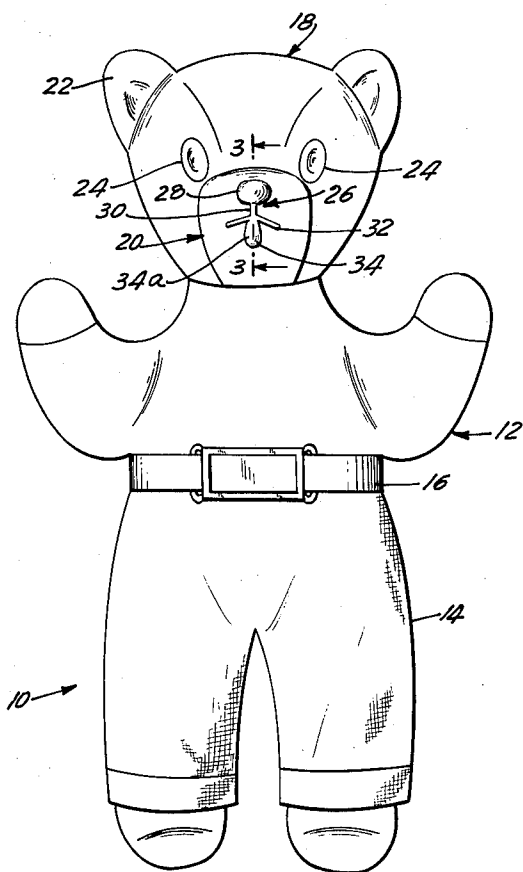


FIG. 2

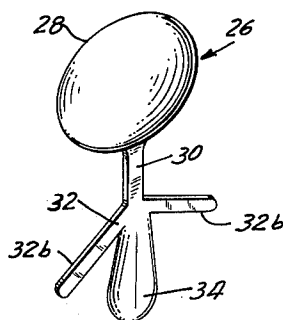
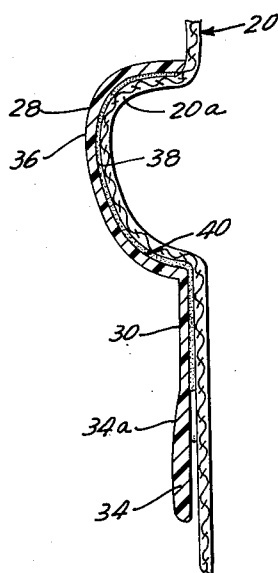


FIG. 3



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The present invention relates generally to the manufacture of stuffed toys, and relates specifically to an attachment for providing the facial features of a stuffed toy.

In the manufacture of stuffed toy animals of the type exemplified by the well known "teddy bear," it is necessary to provide means to reproduce the facial characters of the animals. In the past, the general practice was to form the lips of the animal by hand embroidery on the preformed face and then to similarly form a bridging member extending upwardly from the lips to the location of the nose. At the top of the bridging member a felt, or other material, nose was secured to the face of the toy by use of an adhesive. If a tongue was to be provided it would be either sewn or glued to the embroidered lips. This process produced reasonably satisfactory one dimensional facial characteristics, however, it left much to be desired as far as actually simulating the features of the reproduced animal. Furthermore, the employment of hand embroidery operations and the individual securements of various facial elements onto the stuffed toy is a time consuming and relatively expensive manufacturing operation. Obviously, such hand operations involve high labor costs which are not consistent with modern mass production techniques. Furthermore, the resulting flat appearance of the produced facial characters, while being adequate for their purpose, were less desirable than a three dimensional representation of those facial features.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a facial feature-forming attachment which will obviate one or more of the above disadvantages. Specifically, it is the object of the present invention to provide a facial feature-forming attachment which will impart three-dimensional facial characteristics to stuffed toys.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a facial attachment for toy animals which will produce three-dimensional facial features thereon without the requirements for hand labor and therefore at a relatively low cost.

It is a further feature of the present invention to provide a one piece facial feature-forming attachment adapted to be applied to the face of stuffed toy animals such that the nose, lips and tongue of the animals will be applied in one operation.

In accordance with an illustrative embodiment demonstrating features of the present invention there is provided a feature-forming attachment adapted for use on the face of a stuffed toy. The attachment comprises a three dimensional body having a plurality of facial characters integrally formed therein. These facial characteristics include a protruding nose, and a lip-forming member below the nose which extends in opposite direction therefrom on the face of the toy. An upright bridging member is provided between the nose and the central portion of the lip-forming member and is integrally connected thereto. Advantageously, a tongue may be integrally formed of the same material depending from the lip-forming member. The feature-forming attachment is adapted to be secured to the face of the toy at the rear portion of the nose, the bridging member and the lip-forming member such that the attachment is securely positioned in place with the depending tongue being free from attachment to the toy face with the exception of the point where it is attached to the lip-forming member.

The above brief description, as well as further objects,

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features and advantages of the present invention will be best understood by reference to the following detailed description when taken in conjunction with the following drawings wherein:

FIG. 1 is an elevational view of a stuffed toy bear incorporating a feature-forming attachment according to the present invention,

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the facial feature-forming attachment shown illustrated on the toy bear of FIG. 1; and,

FIG. 3 is a sectional view taken along the line 3-3 of FIG. 1 and looking in the direction of the arrows illustrating the adhesive attachment of the feature-forming attachment to the face of the stuffed toy animal.

Referring now specifically to the drawings, there is shown in FIG. 1 a stuffed toy bear generally designated by the numeral 10. The toy bear 10 is provided with the conventional fabric skin 12 which is stuffed in the appropriate manner with suitable stuffing materials. The particular illustrative stuffed toy illustrated is provided with trousers 14 and a belt 16, it being understood that the present invention may be practiced on virtually any form of stuffed toy, the stuffed bear 10 being merely illustrative. The head 18 of the toy bear 10 is provided with a snout portion 20 of a different color from the remainder of the head 18 from which it protrudes outwardly. Appropriate ears 22 are provided at the top portion of the head and the eyes 24 are secured to the head 18 by means of Tinnerman clips or other means well known to those skilled in the art.

At the forward end of the snout 20 there is secured the facial feature-forming attachment generally designated by the numeral 26. The facial feature-forming attachment 26 is comprised of a protruding nose 28, an upright bridging member 30, an extending lip-forming member 32, and a depending tongue 34. The nose 28 includes a protruding front surface 36 and a recessed rear surface 38 as may be best seen in FIG. 3. It should be noted that the rear surface of the nose 28 may be formed in any shape which affords ease of securement to the snout 20, the recess 38 being effective for securing the attachment 26 by means of an adhesive as will be described below. Depending from the lower point of the protruding nose 28 is the bridging member 30 which is integrally formed with the nose 28 and extends vertically downward therefrom. The bridging member 30 serves to reproduce the philtrum of the animal. At its lower end, the upright bridging member 30 joins with the lip-forming member 32. The lip-forming member 32 includes two individual arms 32a and 32b which extends in opposite directions outwardly from the bridging member 30. In the facial feature-forming attachment 26 illustrated in the drawings, the lip-forming member 32 is formed such that its individual arm 32a, 32b extend outwardly and slightly downwardly from the center line of the attachment 26.

Depending downwardly from the central portion of the lip-forming member 32 there is positioned the tongue 34 which may be rounded in shape and formed with a central line. A spot of red paint or other coloring, such as shown at 34a, may be applied to the front surface of the tongue 34 to impart a pleasing color thereto. The tongue 34 is an integral part of the facial feature-forming attachment 26 and depends downwardly along the central axis of the attachment 26. Of course, it should be appreciated that the present invention may be practiced by placing the depending tongue 34 at any position along the lip-forming member 32.

The one piece feature-forming attachment 26 may be secured to the snout 20 of the stuffed toy 10 by a variety of differing securement methods. In the illustrative embodiment 10 shown herein the attachment 26 is secured to the snout 20 of the toy bear 10 by means of

an adhesive 40. As best seen in FIG. 3, a frontal portion 20a of the snout 20 protrudes outwardly from the facial surface of the toy bear 10. This outward protrusion 20a is intimately received within the recessed rear surface 38 of the protruding nose 28 of the attachment 26. It has been found that a highly successful adhesive for this application is Boxer Liquid Plastic, Type No. 500, manufactured by the Union Laboratories, Inc. of Morganville, N. J. The adhesive 40 is applied at the contact areas of the feature-forming attachment 26, i.e., the recessed rear surface 38 of the nose 28, the upright bridge member 30 and the lip-forming member 32 where they contact the surface of the snout 20 of the face of the toy bear 10. As seen in FIG. 3, depending tongue 34 is not secured to the snout 20 and depends freely from the lip-forming member 32 thereby giving the appearance of a tongue naturally protruding from the mouth of the stuffed toy.

The facial feature-forming attachment 26 may be also secured to the face of the stuffed toy bear 10 by other attachment means such as by Tinnerman clips or the like or by any one of the securement means well known to those skilled in the art. In this regard, it should be appreciated that the protruding nose 28 may be formed of a solid piece of plastic or the like material such that a recessed rear surface, such as shown at 38, is not provided. In such an instance the protruding nose 28 would be directly attached by an adhesive, a clip or other device to the snout 20 of the sub-toy bear 10 without the requirement for the snout protrusion 20a.

From the foregoing it will be appreciated there is provided in accordance with the present invention a one-piece feature-forming attachment which is effective to contribute three dimensional facial characteristics to a stuffed toy animal. The relatively low expense involved in the manufacturing and use of a unitary facial feature attachment of a molded plastic material or the like will be best appreciated by a consideration of the manufacturing operations which are eliminated by the use of a one-piece attachment secured to the face of a toy stuffed animal as compared with the heretofore employed hand operations wherein a lip, a bridging member, and a nose were individually formed by embroidery and gluing operations. Furthermore, by use of the present invention a depending tongue is provided which would, if incorporated into the heretofore facial forming means require a still further step for the manufacture of a stuffed toy. The present invention provides an attractive and efficient

means to impart facial characteristics to stuffed toy animals at relatively low expense.

A latitude of modification, substitution and change is intended in the foregoing disclosure and in some instances some features of the invention will be used without a use of other corresponding features. Accordingly, the claims herein should be construed broadly and in a manner consistent with the spirit and scope of the invention.

What I claim is:

1. The combination with a stuffed toy of the type including a fabric skin having a face panel of a three-dimensional feature-forming body fabricated of plastic and overlying said face panel, said feature-forming body having a plurality of integral facial characteristics including a protruding nose, oppositely extending lip portions cooperating to define a lip and disposed below said nose, and a bridge simulating the philtrum and joining said lip to said nose, said nose having a recess in the back surface thereof receiving a protruding portion of said face panel, and adhesive means securing at least said protruding portion of said face panel within said recess and said lip to said face panel to attach said feature-forming body to said face panel.

2. The combination with a stuffed toy of the type including a fabric skin having a face panel of a three-dimensional feature-forming body fabricated of plastic and overlying said face panel, said feature-forming body having a plurality of integral facial characteristics including a protruding nose, oppositely extending lip portions cooperating to define a lip and disposed below said nose, a bridge simulating the philtrum and joining said lip to said nose, and a tongue connected to said lip and projecting therefrom, said nose having a recess in the back surface thereof receiving a protruding portion of said face panel, and adhesive means securing at least said protruding portion of said face panel within said recess and said lip to said face panel to attach said feature-forming body to said face panel except for said tongue.

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