G. E. FORD.

TOY GRASSHOPPER.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 7, 1920.

1,362,248. Patented Dec. 14, 1920.

Fig. 1.

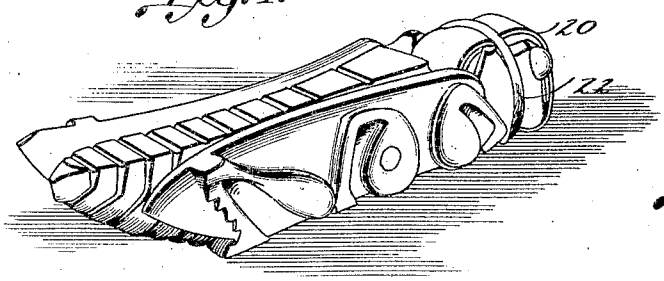


Fig. 4.

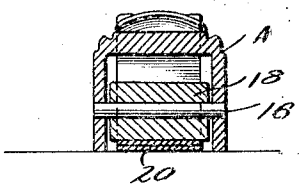
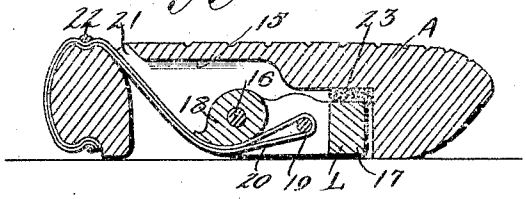


Fig. 2.



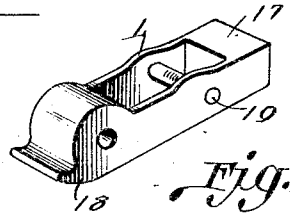


Fig. 5.

Fig. 3.

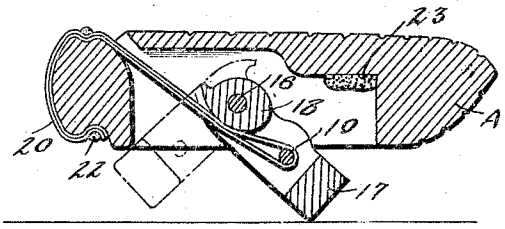
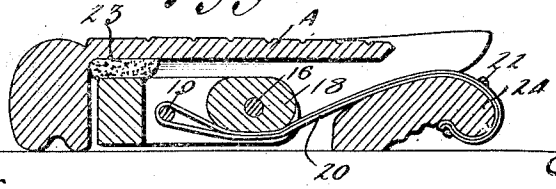


Fig. 6.



WITNESSES

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TOY GRASSHOPPER.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE E. FORD, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Olden, in the county of Eastland and State of Texas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Toy Grasshoppers, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to toys, and the purpose of my invention is the provision of a toy adapted to simulate the hopping or jumping of an insect or animal.

It is also a purpose of my invention to provide a toy of this character in which the mechanism for effecting the hopping or jumping of the toy is adapted to be released automatically after the mechanism has been set so that the toy can be placed upon a table or other suitable support before it is actuated.

I will describe two forms of toys embodying my invention and will then point out the novel features thereof in a claim.

In the accompanying drawings:—

Figure 1 is a view, showing in perspective one form of toy embodying my invention;

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view of Fig. 1, with the operating lever in the set position;

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2 with the operating lever in the active position;

Fig. 4 is a transverse sectional view of Fig. 1;

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the actuating lever;

Fig. 6 is a longitudinal sectional view of another form of toy embodying my invention.

Similar reference characters refer to similar parts in each of the several views.

Referring specifically to the drawings, and particularly to Fig. 1, A designates a body preferably formed of wood which is carved to simulate a grasshopper, its under side being recessed to provide a pocket 15 for housing an actuating lever designated generally at L. As shown in Fig. 2, the lever L is pivotally mounted upon the body A by a pin 16 secured within the body and extending into the pocket 15. As shown in Fig. 5, the lever L is of substantially rectangular outline with one end thereof provided with a head 17 and its opposite end formed with a cam 18. Between the head 17 and the cam 18, a pin 19 extends through the lever and about which is adapted to be trained a rubber band 20, as clearly shown in Figs. 2 and 3. The rubber band 20 extends through an opening 21 formed in the upper side of the body A and embraces the end of the body representing the head of the grasshopper. The rubber band is secured to this head by a cord 22 which is wrapped around and disposed within a suitable groove formed in the head. As shown in Fig. 2, the rubber band 20 contacts with the cam 18 and is adapted to bias the lever L to a released position, as shown in phantom in Fig. 3. The lever L is adapted to be moved manually to a set position, as shown in Fig. 3, wherein the cam 18 is rotated about the pin 16 as a center to cause a stretching of the rubber band and to thus increase its tension. The lever L is temporarily held in a set position by an adhesive material 23 such as wax, pitch or the like, such material being seated within the pocket 15 in the manner shown in Figs. 2 and 3 so as to contact with the head 17 and to thus retain the lever in the set position.

In the operation of the toy, the lever L is moved from its normal position, as shown in phantom in Fig. 3 to the set position, as shown in Fig. 2, whereupon the head 17 is forced inwardly with sufficient pressure to cause the same to adhere to the adhesive material 23. In this set position of the lever 17, the rubber band 20 exerts a tension upon the lever sufficient to overcome the adhesion between the head 23 and the head 17 after a short interval, thus returning the lever L to its normal position. As the lever L returns to its normal position, as shown in Fig. 3, the body A is projected upwardly in a manner to simulate the hopping of a grasshopper. The effect is most surprising as the interval between the setting of the lever and the releasing of the same is sufficient to allow the placing of the toy upon the table before the toy is thrown upwardly.

In Fig. 6 I have shown another form of actuating mechanism which is identical to the first form with the exception that the position of the lever L with respect to the body A is reversed and the rubber band 20 extends through a suitable opening formed at the rear of the body with its ends secured to an extension 24. The operation of this lever is the same as in the first form and the projection of the toy is identical.

Although I have herein shown and described only two forms of toy embodying

my invention, it is to be understood that the body A may be shaped and carved to simulate other insects or animals and the mechanism for effecting the jumping of the toy varied and modified without departing from the spirit of the invention or the spirit and scope of the appended claim.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

A toy of the character described comprising an elongated body formed to represent an insect and formed with a recess opening out at its bottom, the head portion of the body being formed with a peripheral groove and with an inclined slot rearwardly of the groove leading into the recess, a pin extending through the body transversely of the recess at substantially the center thereof, a lever formed as an open frame entirely containable within said recess and having one end formed as a cam, a body of adhesive material secured within said recess and adapted to be engaged by the other end of said frame whereby to hold the latter normally within the recess, a pin extending across the opening of said frame, an elastic band secured to said second named pin, extending against said cam and through said slot, said band extending across the head portion of the main body, and a retaining band located within said groove and forcing said elastic band thereinto.

GEORGE EDGAR FORD.