Oct. 7, 1952 L. AMSEL 2,612,708

EDUCATIONAL TOY

Filed Jan. 27, 1951

Fig. 1.

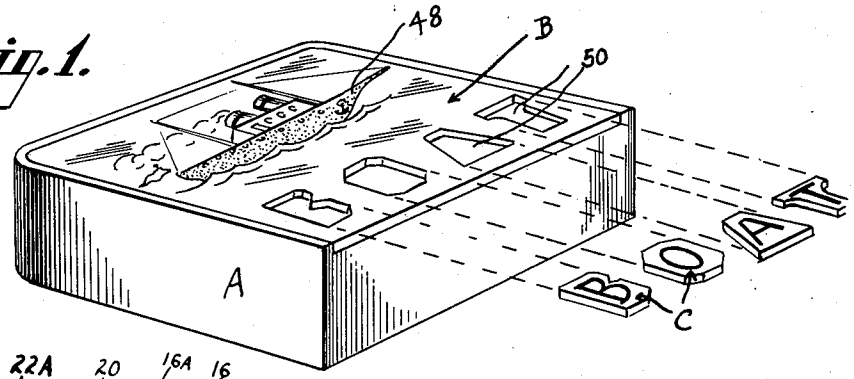
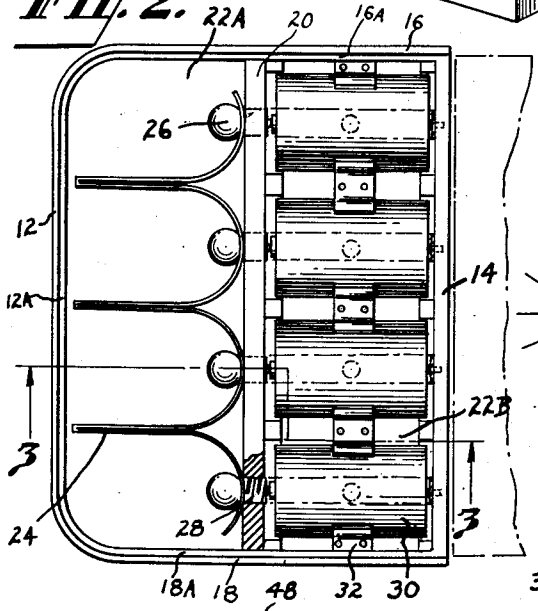


Fig. 2.



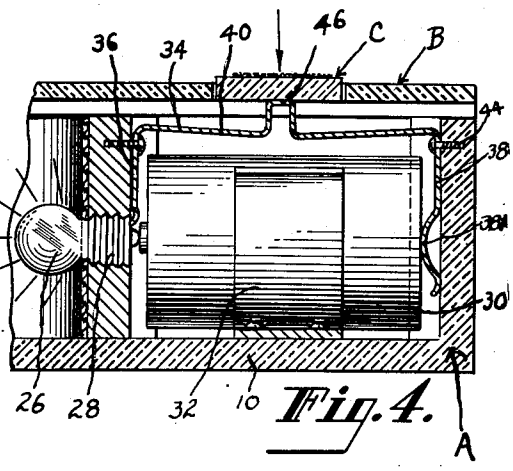


Fig. 4.

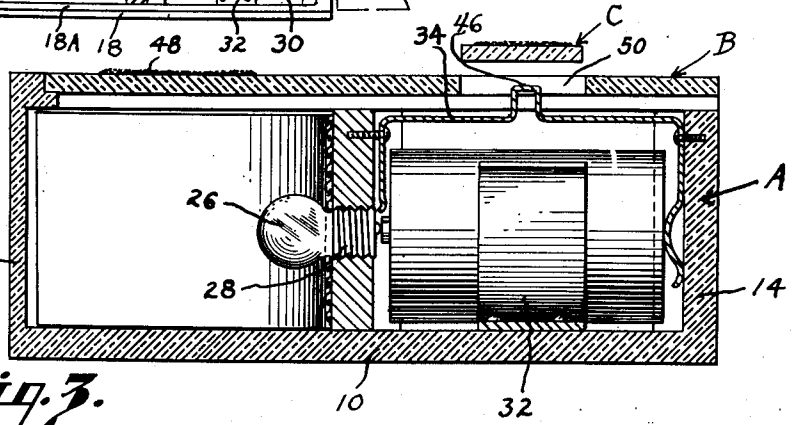


Fig. 3.

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EDUCATIONAL TOY

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3 Claims. (Cl. 35—35)

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My invention relates to a toy and relates particularly to a toy utilizing cut-outs and inserts in conjunction with a picture.

In the past, many toys have been manufactured and used to keep children entertained but that was their sole and only purpose. My invention provides a toy that not only is interesting and fascinating to a child but also aids the child educationally by associating a picture with the name of an object, person, or animal, etc.

It, therefore, is an object of my invention to provide a toy which is educational in nature.

Another object of my invention is to provide a toy which will afford hours of amusement to a child.

Another object of my invention is to provide a toy wherein a picture is associated with its name in such a manner that when the proper inserts representing the letters of the name are inserted, the picture is illuminated indicating the correct association.

Other objects of my invention are to provide a new and novel toy, which is easily and economically produced, which is sturdy in construction, and which is highly effective in use.

With the above and related objects in view, my invention consists in the details of construction and combination of parts, as will be more fully understood when the following description is read in conjunction with the following drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of my invention.

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the indicating mechanism of my invention.

Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional view taken along the line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a partial view of Fig. 3 illustrating the circuit for actuating the indicating mechanism of my invention.

Referring now in greater detail to the drawing wherein similar reference characters refer to similar parts, I show a case, generally designated as A, a cover for said case, generally designated as B, and inserts to fit cut-out portions in said cover, generally designated as C.

The case A may be made of wood, plastic, or other suitable material. The case A is of a generally rectangular configuration and box-like construction having a bottom 10 defined by a pair of perpendicular upright walls 12, 14 attached to opposite sides of said bottom, and another pair of perpendicular upright walls 16, 18 attached to opposite ends of said bottom 10. A thin partition 20 separates the hollow interior defined by the said walls into two recesses 22A and 22B. The

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walls 12, 16 and 18 are each provided with a shelf 12A, 16A and 18A, respectively, at their top edge to support the cover B. The wall 14 is slightly lower than the wall 12 to permit the cover B to be slid onto the top of case A.

The recess 22A is provided with a plural reflector 24, formed of a suitable material, which is fastened to the partition 20 by means of a plurality of flashlight bulbs 26 engaging individual sockets 28 imbedded in the partition 20. The reflector 24 is formed in such a manner that only a section of the recess 22A is illuminated when one bulb 26 is lit up, and as each succeeding bulb 26 is lit another section of the recess 22A is illuminated so that all the bulbs 26 must be lit to illuminate the entire recess 22A.

It should be understood that if plastic is used for the case A, the reflector 24 and the partition 20 may be formed contiguous with the said walls and bottom of the case A. It should also be kept in mind that the reflector 24 may be fastened to the bottom 10 with a full length of the section of recess 22A illuminated. In other words, the reflector 24 having its curvilinear portion longitudinally disposed to said bottom and fastened by any suitable means to said bottom.

The recess 22B is utilized to hold and secure a plurality of batteries 30 by means of a plurality of clamps 32 fastened to the bottom 10 of the case A. A plurality of springs 34 are provided to complete the circuits from the positive to the negative electrode of each battery 30 through a separate bulb 26, that is, each spring 34 completes a circuit between one battery 30 and one bulb 26. The springs 34 are all constructed in the same manner and are of generally U-shaped configuration having legs 36 and 38 and a base 40. The leg 36 has a bore therethrough through which a screw passes to secure the leg 36 loosely to the partition 20. The leg 38 has a bore therethrough through which a screw 44 passes to hold the leg 38 securely to the wall 14. The leg 38 has a convex portion 38A near its free end to contact the bottom of the battery 30 and hold the central electrode of the battery 30 against the central contact of the bulb 26. The base 40 of the springs 34 is provided with a slightly raised portion 46 substantially at the center of said base 40. When the raised portion 46 is depressed in any manner the spring 34 bends downwardly tending to separate the legs 36 and 38 but as the leg 38 is securely attached only the leg 36 moves and contacts the outer terminal of the bulb 26 to complete the circuit through the said battery and bulb, whereby said bulb 26 is lit.

The cover B for the case A comprises a flat piece of translucent material of a configuration to interfit and be supported by the shelves 12A, 16A and 18A with the back of the cover extending to the wall 14. The portion of the cover B over the recess 22A is provided with a picture of an object, person, animal, etc. 48, while the portion of the cover B over the recess 22B is provided with a plurality of cut-out portions 50, coinciding substantially with the raised portion 46 of each spring 34. The plurality of cut-outs 50 below the picture 48 is of such a configuration that it is suggestive of the letter to be inserted.

The inserts C are formed to fit loosely into the cut-outs 50 and also have a configuration suggestive of the letter each insert bears. When the proper insert C is placed in any particular cut-out 50, the weight of the insert C depresses the spring 34 to complete a circuit through a flashlight bulb 26 and a battery 30 to illuminate one section of the recess 22A.

A plurality of covers B are provided, each with the picture of a different object, person, animal etc. thereupon and having a plurality of cut-out portions 50 to spell out the name of the particular object thereon. It is readily apparent that my invention requires a child to use his imagination to associate the name of the object with the object shown, to determine how the name is spelled, and to associate the configuration of each letter in the name with the cut-out 50 suggestive of that letter. As each letter is determined and the proper insert C found and placed in the proper cut-out, a section of the picture is illuminated, and when the child has successfully associated the object with the name and spelling therefor, the complete picture is lit up.

It is pointed out, that my invention resides in a plate which is provided with a plurality of cut-outs which are suggestive of letters to spell out the name of an object pictured on the plate, and a plurality of inserts each also suggestive of a letter so that when the proper insert is chosen, it can readily be fitted into a cut-out. When all the cut-outs are filled, the name of the object pictured is spelled out.

Although my invention has been described in considerable detail, such description is merely meant to be illustrative rather than limiting, as my invention may be variously embodied, and the scope of the invention is to be determined as claimed.

I claim as my invention:

1. An educational toy comprising an open-topped receptacle, a wall in the interior of said receptacle for dividing said receptacle into two chambers, illuminating means in one of said chambers and electrical power means in the other of said chambers, switch means provided adjacent said power means and adapted to connect said power means to said illuminating means, a cover plate adapted to close the open top of said receptacle, said cover plate having a non-opaque representation adapted to overlie said illuminating means and also having at least one cut-out portion adapted to overlie said switch means, at least one filler means adapted to fit into its correspondingly shaped cut-out portion, said filler means being adapted to actuate said switch so as to connect said power means to said illuminating means for the purpose of illuminating said representation.

2. The device of claim 1 wherein said illuminating means comprises a plurality of reflectors, each of said reflectors having a bulb connected thereto, and wherein said electrical power means comprises a plurality of batteries, and a plurality of switch means, each of said switch means being adapted to connect one of said batteries to a corresponding bulb.

3. The device of claim 2 wherein each of said switch means comprises a bent spring overlying a battery, said spring having one end connected to a wall of said receptacle and having its other end normally adjacent to but spaced from an opening in the wall in the interior of said receptacle, said opening being adapted to receive the socket of a bulb, said spring being further provided with an upstanding central portion extending into a cut-out portion of said cover plate, whereby when a filler means is inserted into said cut-out portion it will act to depress said upstanding central portion of the spring, thereby moving said other end of said spring into contact with said socket.

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