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CHILD'S ADJUSTABLE EXERCISER

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Fig 1

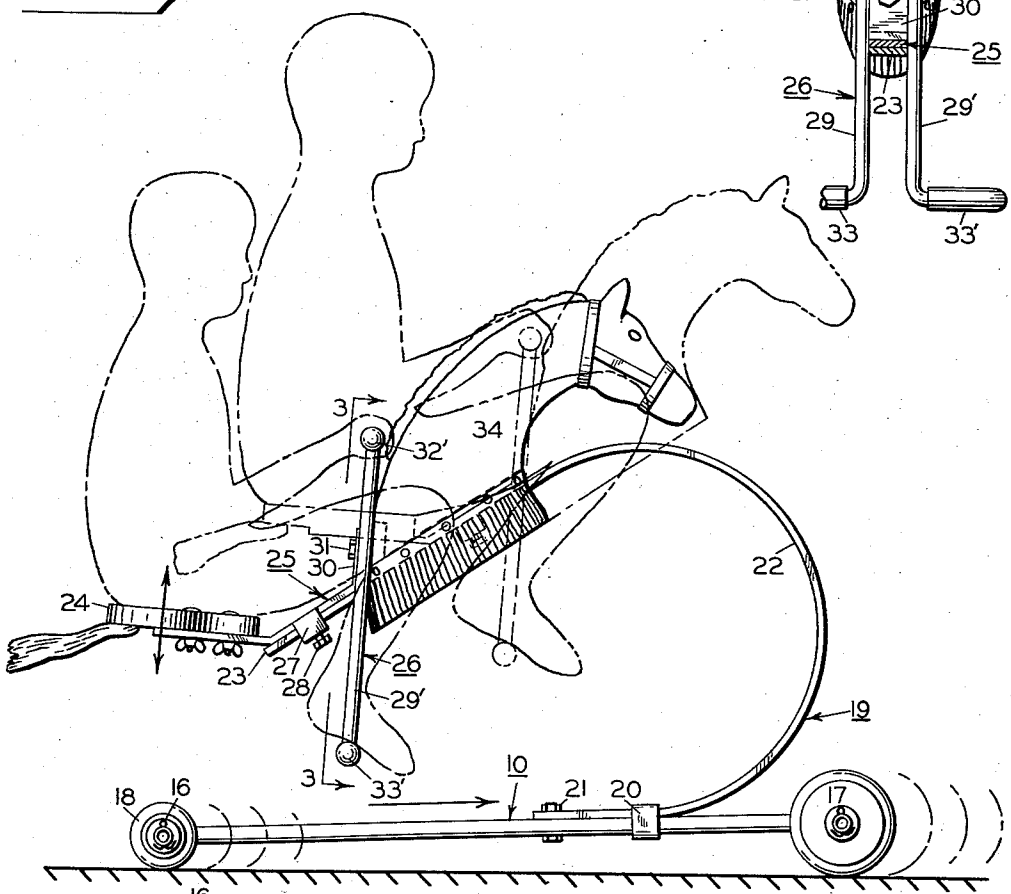
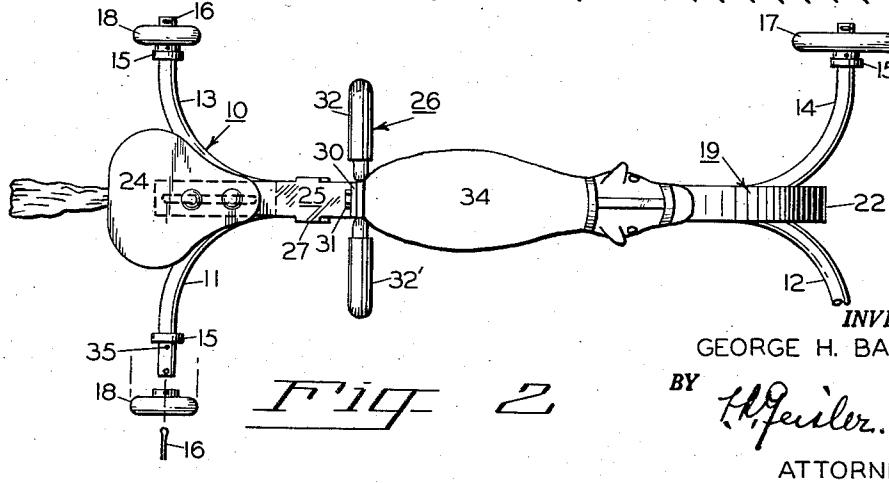


Fig 3

Fig 2



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CHILD'S ADJUSTABLE EXERCISER

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This invention relates in general to an exerciser for a child on which the child, by controlled movement of his body, can spring up and down, and, more specifically, the invention relates to an exerciser in the form of a spring-mounted hobby-horse.

An object of this invention is to provide an improved exerciser of this type on which even a small child can seat himself, without having to be lifted onto the device, and on which the child's feet will remain close to the floor, so that the likelihood of falling off of the device or the possibility of being bruised in the event of such fall will be practically eliminated.

Another object of this invention is to provide an improved spring-operating hobby-horse which can be easily adjusted to correspond to the size and weight of the child, so that the growing child will be able to use and enjoy the exerciser over a longer period of time.

A further object of the invention is to provide an improved spring-mounted adjustable exerciser which will be simple, attractive, practical, and durable in construction, and which can be manufactured and sold at a moderate attractive price.

The manner in which these objects and other incidental advantages are achieved with the improved adjustable exerciser of the present invention will be readily understood from the following brief description in which reference is made to the accompanying drawings.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of the device illustrating in full lines the device as set up for use for a very small child and illustrating in broken lines the adjusted position of certain parts when the device is adjusted for use by an older and larger child;

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the device when set up in the full line position of Fig. 1; and

Fig. 3 is a section on line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

The device includes a base **10** having four laterally extending arms **11**, **12**, **13** and **14**, two on each side, adapted to have wheels removably mounted on their extremities. Preferably, but not necessarily, the base is composed of two identical tubular members, having curved ends and straight intermediate main portions as shown in Fig. 2, and welded together along these straight portions, with both tubular members lying entirely in the same plane. In order to provide a simple form of mounting for the wheels on the base a collar **15** is welded on each arm of the base near the outer end of the arm, and, after the wheel is slipped on the end of each tubular arm, the wheel is held in place by a removable cotter pin **16** inserted through two diametrically opposite holes in the outer end of the arm. The inner end of the hub of each wheel is provided a pair of diametrically opposite holes and a second pair of holes (indicated at **35** in Fig. 2) is provided on each tubular arm near the collar **15** so that each wheel may be prevented from rotating when it is desired to have the device remain in one place while being used. Other means for mounting the wheels on the base may of course be

substituted, but the means as illustrated is preferred because of its simplicity.

Wheels of any desired size may be used on the device but preferably the front wheels **17** are of larger diameter than the rear wheels **18**, for a reason later explained.

A resilient, metal, spring riding bar **19**, shaped as shown in Fig. 1, has its lower end firmly secured to the base by suitable means, such as the metal clamp strap **20** and the bolt **21**. This riding bar is positioned in a vertical plane and thus is perpendicular to the plane of the base. The riding bar **19** is formed with a curved main spring portion **22**, preferably comprising more than 180° of a circle, which is succeeded by a straight, seat-supporting, terminal portion **23**, extending obliquely downwardly and rearwardly and inclined at a substantial angle, for example, between 30° and 60°, with the horizontal. This downwardly inclined end portion **23** of the riding bar **19** is an important feature of the invention. The inclined free end portion **23** of the riding bar **19** terminates a short distance above the base **10**, the intervening space being sufficient to permit substantial down movement of the end of the riding bar in the flexing of the bar without coming into actual contact with the base.

A saddle or seat **24** is rigidly but adjustably secured on one end of a flat mounting bar **25**. A handle and foot rest assembly **26** is secured on the other end of the mounting bar **25**. The two ends of the mounting bar **25** extend at angularity with respect to the central position, the angles which the ends form with the central portion being such that the handle and foot rest assembly preferably will be substantially perpendicular to a line determined by the seat portion, and the seat portion preferably sloping slightly downwardly forwardly.

The mounting bar **25** has an integral sleeve **27** which extends around underenath the riding bar and holds the mounting bar slidably on the inclined end portion **23** of the spring riding bar **19**. A suitable clamping screw **28** enables the mounting bar **25**, and therewith the seat **24** and handle and foot rest assembly to be secured in any desired adjusted position on the end portion **23** of the riding bar.

The handle and foot assembly **26** (see Fig. 3) includes a pair of identical bars **29** and **29'**, the main portions of which are parallel to each other and which are welded to opposite sides of a plate **30**. A bolt **31** extends through the plate **30** and through the upper front end portion of the mounting bar **25** and thus secures the handle and foot assembly firmly to the mounting bar and in desired position with respect to the saddle or seat **24**. The upper ends of the bars **29** and **29'** are turned outwardly at right angles in opposite directions to form handle bars **32** and **32'** respectively, and the bottom end of the bars **29** and **29'** similarly are turned outwardly in opposite directions to form foot rests **33** and **33'**. These handle bars and foot rests are covered with rubber or other suitable material to facilitate the holding of the hands and feet in place on the same when the child is seated on the device.

Assuming that the device is to be used by a very small child, the mounting bar **25**, and with it the seat and handle and foot rest assembly, is secured near the lower end of the inclined straight portion **23** of the spring riding bar **19** as shown in full lines in Fig. 1. This brings the seat **24** low enough so that a small child can climb onto the seat without assistance and without difficulty, and it brings the foot rests **33** and **33'** so close to the floor that the child can have the option of leaving his feet on the floor or placing them on the foot rests. Generally the child will keep his feet on the floor at first and then place them on the foot rests as he becomes accustomed to the exerciser and gains more confidence. Any likelihood that the child will fall off the device is reduced

to a minimum since the placing of the feet on the floor, should the child be unsteady, would ordinarily prevent this. The slight downward and forward slope of the seat and the fact that the child will lean slightly forward when holding onto the handle bars prevents the likelihood of the child falling backwards off the seat. Furthermore, since the seat is relatively close to the floor, the child is not likely to bruise himself even if he does fall off the device.

The child will learn quickly, first with his feet on the floor and then with this feet on the foot rests, how to move his body so as to make the riding bar spring up and down. By having the mounting bar **25**, and therewith the seat, secured near the lower end of the inclined straight portion **23** of the spring riding bar **19** very little weight on the seat will be sufficient to flex the spring riding bar, and thus the device operates as desired with a very small, light weight child.

When the device is to be used by a larger, heavier child the mounting bar **25** is adjusted upwardly on the inclined straight portion **23** of the riding bar **19** into a satisfactory position, such as that indicated in broken lines in Fig. 1, depending upon the size of the child. In this properly adjusted position the distance of the seat and foot rests from the floor will be in proportion to the size of the child and will be similar proportionately to the relative location in the case of the smaller child. Furthermore, since a greater amount of weight is required to produce approximately the same amount of flexing of the spring riding bar **19** when the seat and the handle bar and foot assembly are positioned further up on the inclined rear portion of the riding bar and further away from the free end of the riding bar, the device thus is accommodated to the weight of the heavier and larger child, while the device would be unsuitable for the larger and heavier child with the seat in the lower full line position previously mentioned. In this way the device can be used and enjoyed by the growing child for a longer period of time than in the case of the usual type of hobby horses in which little or no provision is made for any comparable adjustment.

The head **34** of the device is made of suitable plastic, leather, or other material, shaped and stuffed to resemble a horse as indicated and is secured by suitable means (not shown) to the bars **29** and **29'** so as to extend forwardly and upwardly from the device.

The down and up swing of the spring riding bar **19** exerts a slight forward thrust on the device. When the wheels of the device are free to turn this slight forward thrust will act to propel the entire device forwardly,

particularly when the front wheels **17** are of larger diameter than the rear wheels **18** and thereby maintain the base **10** in an upwardly-forwardly sloping position. With such an arrangement the child, after a moderate amount of practice with the device, can propel himself along the floor without touching his feet to the floor, and this provides an added interest in the use of the exerciser. On the other hand, when it is preferred that the device should not be propelled along the floor by the child, this is easily prevented by locking the wheels against rotation by inserting a pin through the pair of holes in each wheel hub and through the pair of holes **35** provided in each of the wheel arms of the base.

It would be possible to make several minor modifications in the structure of the device without changing its main features or departing from the principle of the invention while maintaining the adjustable mounting on the downwardly sloping free end of the main spring member.

I claim:

1. An adjustable exerciser including a base, wheels supporting said base, a curved spring riding member located in a substantially vertical plane, said member having a bottom end secured on said base, a main curved spring portion extending forwardly and upwardly from said base and then rearwardly, and a substantially straight free end extending rearwardly and downwardly from said main curved portion and terminating a short distance above said base, a seat carried on said free end, support means adjustably positioning said seat on said free end, said support means including a seat-carrying bar having a main part slidably mounted on said free end, a rearwardly extending arm on said bar forming an obtuse angle with said main part and thus with said free end, means for clamping said bar in place on said free end, and means for securing said seat on said arm, whereby said seat will be held in proper seating position, and whereby said seat can be arranged at a desired distance above the floor and at a location on said free end of said spring member suitable for the weight imposed on said seat.

2. Claim 1 with the addition of a handle and foot rest secured to the forward end of said seat-carrying bar and with said seat adjustably secured on said arm of said bar.

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