Dec. 21, 1926. 1,611,181

J. H. FOX

EDUCATIONAL TOY

Filed July 29, 1925

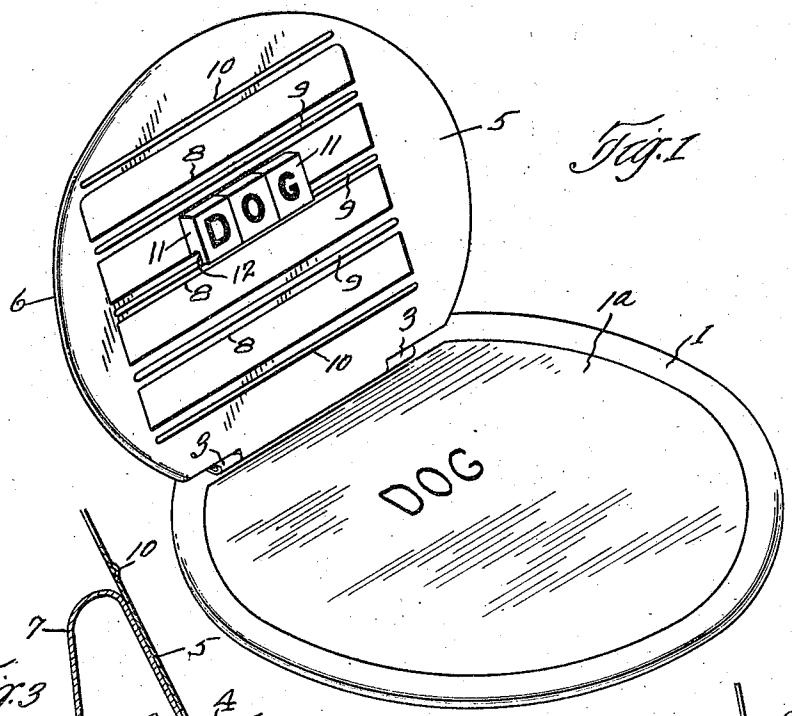


Fig. 1

Fig. 3

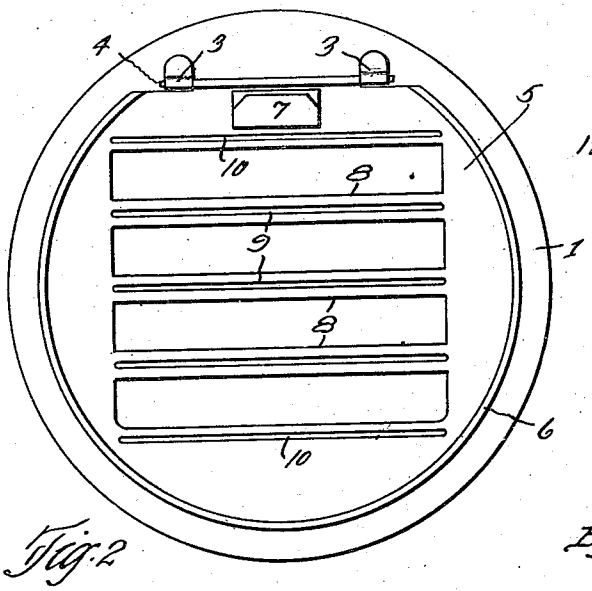


Fig. 2

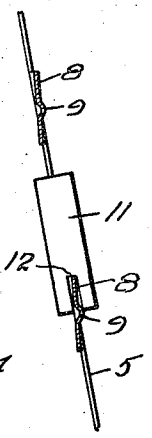


Fig. 4

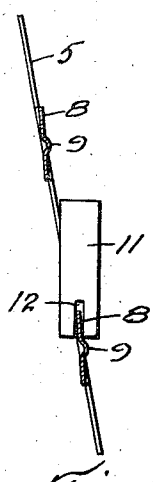


Fig. 5

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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EDUCATIONAL TOY.

Application filed July 29, 1925. Serial No. 46,751.

This invention relates to an educational toy consisting of a suitable writing surface having associated with or connected to it, preferably by being hinged to it, a support for a number of objects bearing designs, characters, figures or letters and whereon the said objects may be arranged in any desired order, so as to form words for example, to the end that a child may copy on the writing surface that which is displayed on the objects and thus be instructed in drawing or in spelling and writing while being entertained.

The objects of the invention are to provide a device of the foregoing nature that is neat and attractive of appearance; that is comparatively light; that is very strong and durable; that is capable of being folded into compact form when not in use; that may be readily and quickly placed in condition for use, and that is so constructed as to facilitate the application of the objects bearing the figures, letters, or the like to the support, and the re-arrangement of said objects thereon.

The foregoing objects, with others hereinafter appearing, are attained in the embodiment of the invention illustrated in the accompanying drawing wherein Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the invention; Fig. 2 is a plan view with the support or frame folded against the base or writing surface; Fig. 3 is a sectional detail through the device in the region of the hinge connection between the frame and base; while Figs. 4 and 5 are fragmentary sections of the frame showing the manner in which the objects or blocks are applied thereto.

In the present embodiment, the base 1 is circular in outline and it is preferably constructed of sheet metal, having its edge curled about a wire 2 for strengthening and stiffening purposes. The upper face of the base, excepting its marginal portion, is suitably coated to produce a writing surface 1a. Applied to the base adjacent one side thereof are eyes 3. These are preferably formed from sheet metal and welded to the base.

The ends of a pintle 4 are held within the eyes 3 and curled about the portion of the pintle which is intermediate said eyes is an edge portion of a support or frame 5. This support or frame is constructed in much the same manner as the base 1, the same having its free edge curled about a wire, as indicated at 6 in Fig. 2.

A stop 7 is applied to the outer or rear side of the support or frame 5 adjacent its hinge connection with the base 1 and the same is designed to engage the base and locate the support or frame in a definite relation to the base.

Throughout the central area of the support or frame 5, the sheet metal whereof it is formed is slotted transversely to form a plurality of substantially parallel rails 8, which are stiffened by longitudinal ribs 9, the portions of the support or frame above and below the top and bottom slots being likewise stiffened by ribs 10. As best shown in Figs. 4 and 5, the portions of the rails 8 above the ribs 9 are deflected slightly forward, while the portions below said ribs are deflected slightly rearwardly, for a reason which will presently be explained.

Associated with the device are a number of blocks 11, preferably of wood, which bear on one or both, preferably both, of their opposite faces, designs or indicia of some sort. Preferably each block has, on one face, a letter, and on the other, a figure or picture. The lower edges of the blocks are kerfed transversely, as shown at 12 in Figs. 4 and 5, so that the blocks may be engaged over the upper edges of the rails 8; and when the blocks are in normal position upon the rails, the ribs 9 occupy the open sides of the kerfs. In this manner, a series of blocks placed upon a rail will be properly aligned and held in a plane parallel with that of the support or frame 5. When a block is lifted slightly, it may be tilted forwardly, as shown in Fig. 5, so as to be withdrawn from the rail without interference by the rail above.

It will be seen from the foregoing description that my invention provides an educational toy which is particularly appealing to children, and in the use of the device, the frame is swung to the position shown in Figs. 1 and 3, in which position it is held by the stop 7. Blocks may then be selected from the assortment accompanying the device and placed upon one or more of the rails 8, and the child, with a suitable crayon or pencil, may copy what is displayed by the blocks on the writing surface 1a.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

1. In combination, a sheet metal base, a sheet metal support hinged to said base and adapted to be swung to a given position with respect thereto, said support being slotted to provide a series of substantially parallel rails, and blocks bearing suitable indicia and kerfed along their edges for application to said rails.

2. In combination, a base, a sheet metal support hinged to said base, said support being slotted transversely to provide a series of substantially parallel rails, each rail having a longitudinal rib for stiffening the same, the portion of each rail above the rib being deflected forwardly, and a plurality of blocks bearing suitable indicia and having kerfs adapted to be engaged over said rails, the kerfs being of sufficient depth to allow the blocks to descend and embrace the ribs of the rails, as and for the purpose specified.

3. In combination, a base constructed of sheet metal and having its edge turned under to impart rigidity to the base, laterally spaced eyes applied to the top surface of the base adjacent one side thereof, a pintle having its ends supported within said eyes, a sheet metal frame having an edge portion wrapped about said pintle intermediate the aforesaid eyes, a stop for positioning the frame in a given relation to the base, and a plurality of objects bearing suitable indicia for application to the frame.

4. In combination, a one piece sheet metal support, said support being slotted to provide a series of substantially parallel rails, and blocks bearing suitable indicia and kerfed along their edges for application to said rails.

5. In combination, a one piece sheet metal support, said support being slotted to provide a series of rails, each rail having a longitudinal rib for stiffening the same and a plurality of blocks bearing suitable indicia and having kerfs adapted to be engaged over said rails, the kerfs being of sufficient depth to allow the blocks to descend and embrace the ribs of the rails, as and for the purpose specified.

In testimony whereof, I hereunto affix my signature.

JOHN H. FOX.