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HOBBYHORSE

Filed April 2, 1931

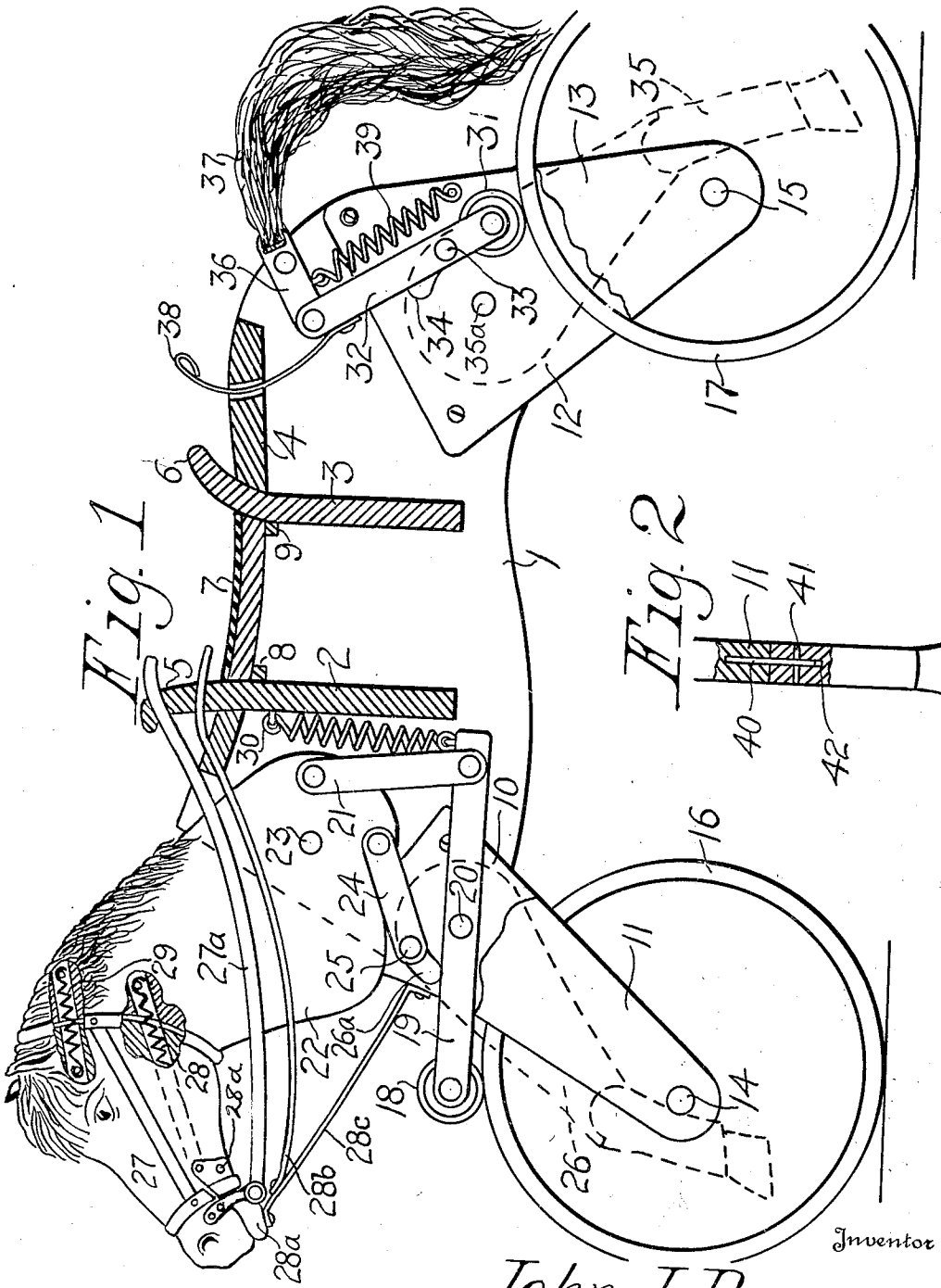


Fig. 1

Fig. 2

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HOBBYHORSE

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This invention relates to so-called hobby horses, that is to say, to a plaything fashioned roughly in the form of a horse and intended for the amusement of young children.

An object of this invention is the production of a toy of the nature stated which may be propelled by a young child seated astride thereof, and which during its progress by reason of features comprising front and rear wheels rotatively supported at one side of the center thereof suitable devices will be actuated whereby pivoted head and neck portion, leg members, and a tail appendage will be moved to stimulate the natural motions thereof.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a hobby horse having parts of special construction and arrangement believed to be of simple formation, that may be made very strong, and which cannot get out of order or be readily broken in use by the child.

The special construction and disposition of the parts of this invention are illustrated in the accompanying drawings, of which Fig. 1 represents a vertical interior view of the construction, throughout its length and showing all parts assembled, partly sectional with one side removed.

Fig. 2 is a partly sectional view showing the preferred mode of making the joint in the leg members.

Throughout the description and drawing the same number is used to refer to the same part.

Considering the drawing, the body portion of the figure is composed of two side boards or pieces such as the side 1, and these are painted upon the outside to represent the color of a horse, also showing the saddle blanket, girth etc. to make the horse attractive to a young child. The sides 1 and its fellow are spaced apart by means of vertical pieces 2 and 3 which are passed upwardly through the top 4 of the body and extended to form the pommel 5 and back 6 of the saddle 7. The saddle 7 may be removable and supported in place by the blocks 8 and 9.

Extending downwardly and forwardly at the forward end of the body are supporting arms or plates 10 and 11, and at the rear and extending rearwardly are similar supporting plates or boards 12 and 13. It will be understood that there are two side boards such as the side 1 comprising the body of the horse, and that the supporting arm 10 is attached to the side 1, and the duplicate arm 11 is secured to the duplicate of side 1 not shown. The front wheel 16 is located between the lower ends of the arms 10 and 11. In like manner at the rear, there are two supporting arms 12 and 13, the first being secured to side 1 as shown, and arm 13 being attached to the duplicate of side 1 not shown. The axle 14 of the front wheel passes as shown through the supports 10 and 11, and the axle 15 of the rear wheel passes likewise through the supports 12 and 13. The front wheel is marked 16 and the rear wheel 17. It will be noted that the axles of the wheels are located at a distance to one side of the center of each wheel. Bearing upon the top of the front wheel 16 is a roller 18 pivotally carried by the lever 19 having the fulcrum or pivot pin 20. At the opposite end from the roller 18 the lever 19 carries a link 21 which is connected pivotally with the neck 22 of the horse. The neck is pivotally carried on the pin 23. The neck has a link 24 in pivotal connection with a pin 25, and the pin 25 is secured to the upper end of the leg member 26. The pin passes through a suitable slot such as the slot 26*a* in the support 10, and it will be understood that the support 11 has a like slot through which pin passes into connection with a second leg member like the leg 26 but not shown. It will be understood that there are two front legs 26 exactly alike in shape, and there are two rear legs 35 which are duplicates. The legs are pivotally supported at the front by pivot pin 20, and at the rear by the like pivot 35*a*. As the body of the horse moves up and down in its operative progress the legs swing back and forth upon the pivots.

As illustrated, the head 27 of the horse may be connected in vertical and lateral swinging relation with the neck 22 by means of the coil springs 28 and 29. It will be noted in Fig. 1 that the bridle rein 27*a* is connected positively with the head 27 which

can be moved vertically or sidewise by manipulating the rein. It will be further observed that the jaw 28*a* is pivoted to the head, the pivot being marked 28*d*, and the jaw may be opened by drawing upon the auxiliary rein or cord 28*b*, and the lower spring 28 is attached to the pivoted jaw in such manner as to return the jaw into its closed position shown. Strap 28*c* is flexible. The two coil springs act to maintain the head normally in the position illustrated.

A spring 30 keeps the roller 18 in contact with the tire of the front wheel 16.

At the rear, the roller 31 is located in contact with the tire of the rear wheel 17, and is carried upon the lower end of the lever 32. The lever 32 bears a pin 33 that passes through a suitable slot 34 in the support or bracket 12 and is attached to the leg member 35. As explained for the front leg members, the pin 33 also passes through a similar slot in the support 13 and is attached to a second hind leg member like the member 35 but not shown.

The upper end of the lever 32 is pivotally connected to a rocker arm 36 and the tail 37 of the horse is attached to the arm 36. There will be here noted in Fig. 1 a wire or cord 38 attached to the lever 32 and extending upwardly through the top or body 4 of the horse. The lever 32 may thus be pulled upwardly by hand by drawing upon the wire 38.

A spring 39 drawing upon the arm 36 downwardly, keeps the roller 31 in contact with the tire of the rear wheel 17.

Considering Fig. 2, the preferred form of knuckle joints for the leg members is set forth. A strip of metal 40 is hidden in the upper portion of the leg member 11 and extends downwardly into the lower portion of the leg member wherein it is engaged pivotally by a transverse pin 41 and the lower end of the strip 40 moves in the slot 42 in the lower leg portion. The lower portions of the leg members are thus movable with respect to the upper portions, and in the front leg, as in the living animal, the lower part of the leg may swing backwardly, while in the rear leg the lower part swings forwardly. The hoof portions are not usually articulated.

In the operation of this invention, let it be assumed that the horse is propelled by the rider in a forward direction. Due to the fact that the axles of the wheels are at one side of the center, the body of the horse will be raised and lowered as it progresses, and at the same time the neck 22 will be moved up and down. This movement will carry the head 27 with it, but as the strap or cord 28*c* shown in Fig. 1 is connected with the pivoted jaw and with the front support or bracket 11, as the head wags up and down the jaw opens and closes. At the same time the front leg members 26 are swung back and forth giving the impression of a running horse. At the rear the lever 32 rises and falls as rear wheel 17 rotates, and the leg member 35 is swung back and forth upon its pivot 35*a*, and at the same time the tail 37 is wagged up and down by arm 36. If the wheels are in the positions illustrated, the movement lifts and lowers the body as a whole, imitative of a trotting horse. But if the wheels are arranged so that the body rocks, the movement is that of a galloping horse.

It is not intended to limit this invention to any particular size, material or color, or to the precise shape of any part. Modifications are obviously readily devised.

Having now described this invention, I claim:—

1. A hobby horse having in combination wheels rotatively supported at one side of the center thereof whereby the body portion of the horse is raised and lowered as it progresses, a pivoted head and neck portion, pivoted leg members, and means operated by the rise and fall of the body and the eccentric movement of the wheels whereby the head and neck portion and the leg members are moved.

2. A hobby horse having in combination, front and rear wheels rotatively supported at one side of the center thereof whereby the body portion of the horse is raised and lowered in its progress, a pivoted head and neck portion, means whereby said head and neck portion is moved by the eccentric rotation of the front wheel, front and rear leg members, and means whereby the said rear leg members are moved by the eccentric rotation of the said rear wheel.

3. A hobby horse having in combination a front wheel and a rear wheel operatively supported at one side of the center thereof, a pivoted head and neck portion, means whereby the said head and neck portion is moved by the eccentric rotation of the said front wheel, front leg members, means pivotally connected with the said front leg members and said head and neck portion whereby the movement of the neck is communicated to said front legs, rear leg members, and means connected with said rear leg members and operated by the said rear wheel for moving the said rear leg members.

4. A hobby horse having in combination a front wheel and a rear wheel supported at one side of the center thereof whereby the body portion of the horse is raised and lowered as it progresses, rear leg members, means pivotally connected with the said leg members and arranged to be operated by the eccentric rotation of the said rear wheel, and devices connected with the said leg operating means and extending to the external surface of the body portion of the horse in reach of

the hand whereby a kicking motion may be given to the said rear leg members.

5. A hobby horse having in combination a rear wheel rotatively supported at one side of the center whereby the body portion of the horse is raised and lowered as it progresses, rear leg members, means pivotally connected with the said leg members and arranged to be operated by the eccentric rotation of the said rear wheel, a pivoted tail, and means connected with said tail and and said legs operating means whereby the said tail is moved.

6. A hobby horse having in combination front and rear wheels rotatively supported at one side of the center whereby the body portion of the horse is given up and down movements as it progresses, said horse having a pivoted head and neck portion, means actuated by said front wheels for moving said head and neck portion, the said head having a pivoted jaw portion, and means connected with said jaw portion and with the front wheel supports whereby when the head is raised the jaw appears to be opened and to close when said head falls.

7. A hobby horse having in combination front and rear wheels, said horse having a pivoted head and neck portion, the said head and neck being spring connected, means comprising a rein extending to the saddle of the horse for moving the said head, a jaw portion pivoted to the head, and means connected with the jaw and extending to the saddle for actuating the jaw by itself.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

JOHN J. BRENNAN.