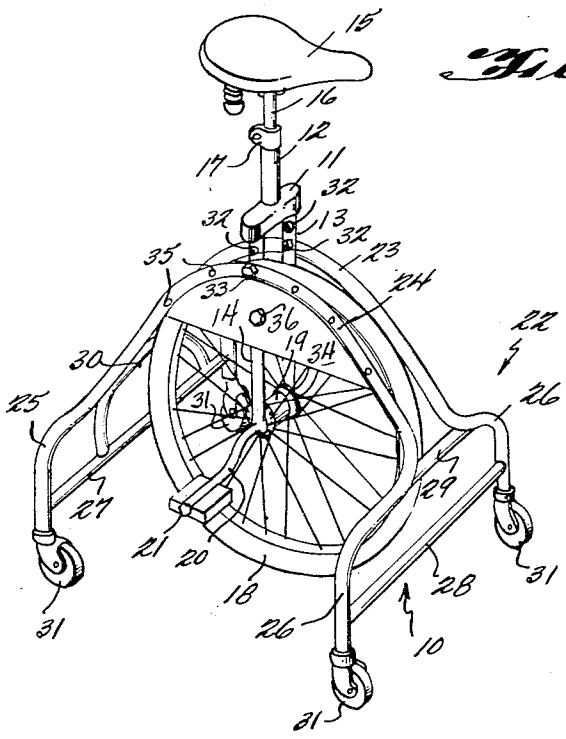
Aug. 23, 1960 M. E. PHILLIPS 2,950,127

TRAINING UNICYCLE WITH ADJUSTABLE BALANCING SUPPORTS

Filed May 20, 1959

Fig. 1



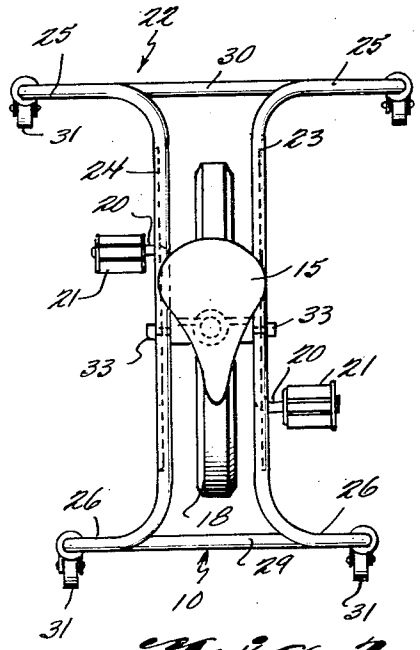


Fig. 2

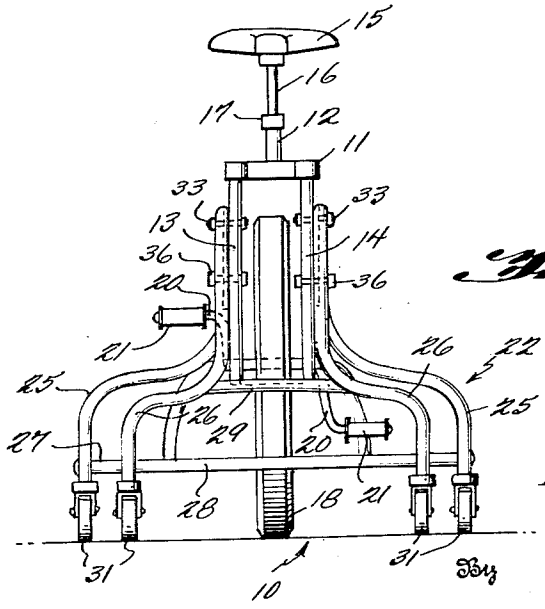


Fig. 3

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TRAINING UNICYCLE WITH ADJUSTABLE BALANCING SUPPORTS

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2 Claims. (Cl. 280—304)

The present invention relates to a unicycle particularly adapted for training users thereof.

The primary object of the invention is to provide a unicycle having adjustable balancing supports to maintain the equilibrium of the rider.

Another object of the invention is to provide a unicycle of the class described above in which the adjustable supports are removable to permit the unicycle to be used in the conventional manner.

A further object of the invention is to provide a training unicycle in which the balancing wheels may be raised out of normal contact with the ground to a position where they will contact the ground should the user become unbalanced.

Other objects and advantages will become apparent in the following specification when considered in light of the attached drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the invention;

Figure 2 is a top plan view of the invention; and

Figure 3 is a front elevation of the invention.

Referring now to the drawings in detail wherein like reference characters indicate like parts throughout the several figures, the reference numeral **10** indicates generally a training unicycle constructed in accordance with the invention.

The unicycle **10** includes a frame **11** having an upstanding tubular post **12** integrally formed thereon. A pair of spaced parallel depending legs **13, 14** are rigidly mounted to the frame **11** in depending relation thereto. A seat **15** has a post **16** telescopically mounted in the frame post **12** and releasably secured in vertically adjusted position therein by a clamp **17** mounted on the upper end of the post **12**.

A rubber tired wheel **18** is positioned between the legs **13, 14** and has its hub **19** journalled in the lower ends of the legs **13, 14**. Oppositely disposed cranks **20** are mounted on the hub **19** and carry foot pedals **21** on their outer ends. The above described construction comprises a unicycle capable of use in the conventional manner.

A balancing attachment, generally indicated at **22**, is releasably secured to the legs **13, 14** and comprises a pair of spaced parallel arcuate frame members **23, 24** arranged in contacting relation with the legs **13, 14** intermediate the opposite ends thereof. The arcuate frame members **23, 24** are each provided with an outwardly and downwardly diverging rear standard **25** and an outwardly and downwardly diverging forward standard **26**. A transverse horizontal bar **27** rigidly connects the lower ends of the standard **25** and a transverse horizontal bar **28** rigidly connects the lower ends of the standards **26**. A horizontal transverse bar **29** connects the lower ends of the frame members **23, 24** and is arranged in parallel relation to the bar **28** at the forward ends of the frame members **23, 24**. An inverted U-shaped connector **30** has its opposite ends connected to the bar **27** and has the bight portion thereof integrally connecting the rear ends of the frame members **23, 24**. A castor **31** is journalled on the lower end of each of the standards **25, 26** to support the attachment **22** from the ground.

The legs **13, 14** have a plurality of vertically spaced bores **32** formed therein to receive bolts **33** extending through the mid-point of the frame members **23, 24**.

The frame members **23, 24** are each provided with a semi-circular shield **34** secured thereto by a plurality of fastening elements **35**. A second bolt **36** extends through the center of the shield and assists in securing the attachment **22** to the legs **13, 14**.

In the use and operation of the invention, a beginning rider positions the attachment **22** so that the castors **31** have the bottoms thereof in the same plane with the bottom of the wheel **18** so that the seat **15** is supported in a position where it cannot tilt. With the attachment **22** in this position, the device is used until the trainee has acquired a certain amount of skill in manipulating the device. As skill is attained the attachment **22** is raised on the legs **13, 14** and secured with the castors **31** in a plane above the bottom of the wheel **18**. With the attachment **22** in a raised position, the seat **15** is unsupported when in a balanced position but is limited in its tilting movement by the castors engaging the ground. With the attachment **22** in this position, the trainee acquires additional skill in the operation of the device until he is able to dispense entirely with the attachment **22** and ride the unicycle in the conventional manner.

It will be understood that the tire on the rubber tired wheel **18** is preferably an inflatable tire and that the castor **31** is a swivel castor since the ease with which the castor swivels enables the rider to continue his direction, when the weight is suddenly changed from the center wheel alone to any two of the castors in addition to the center wheel. It will also be understood that with this invention use can be made not merely to train the rider to ride a unicycle but also for purposes of fun, exercise, balance, rhythm, reducing, exercises, and others. Skill in manipulating the device, as used in this application, includes riding forwardly, backwards and making turns by turning the rider's body and arms.

Having thus described the preferred embodiment of the invention, it should be understood that numerous structural modifications and adaptations may be resorted to without departing from the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A training unicycle comprising a frame, a tubular post secured centrally of said frame and extending upwardly therefrom, a seat mounted for vertical adjustment in said tubular post, a pair of spaced apart parallel depending legs having their upper ends secured to said frame, a wheel journalled in the lower end of said legs and having oppositely disposed cranks mounted thereon, a framework secured to said legs, said framework comprising a pair of spaced apart parallel arcuate frame members, a pair of semi-circular shields secured to said frame members, a standard fixedly secured to the lower end of each of said frame members, and a castor wheel journalled on the lower end of each of said standards and spaced outwardly from said wheel journalled on said legs.

2. A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the means securing said framework to said legs for vertical adjustment comprises bolts extending through said frame members and said shields engaging in a selected one of a plurality of bores in said legs.

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