

P. A. RONTEY AND R. TAYLOR.
 PICTURE CONSTRUCTOR.
 APPLICATION FILED OCT. 20, 1920.

1,415,712.

Patented May 9, 1922.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

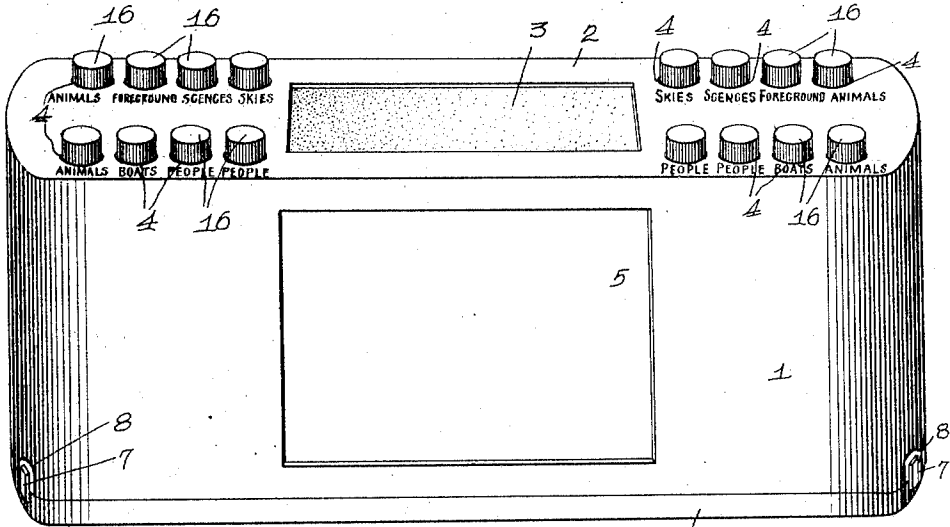


Fig. 2.

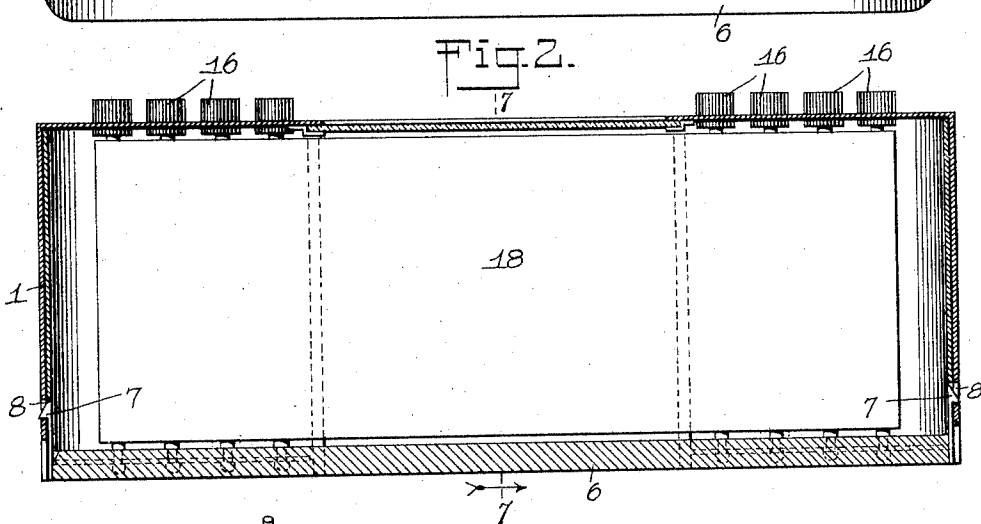


Fig. 3.

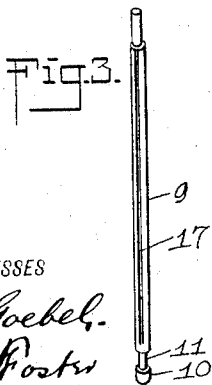
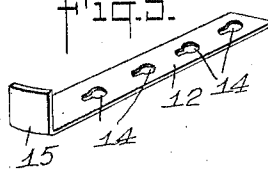


Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.



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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

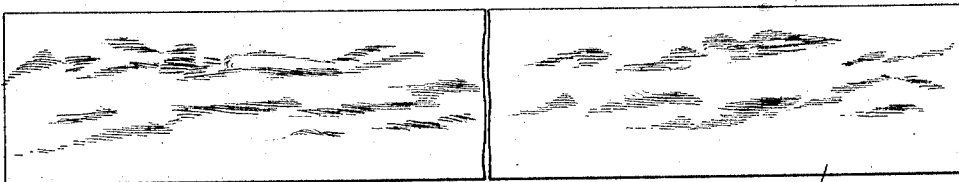
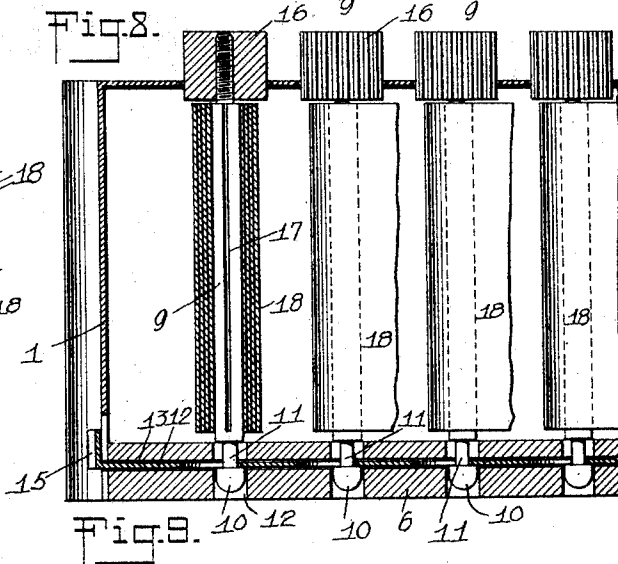
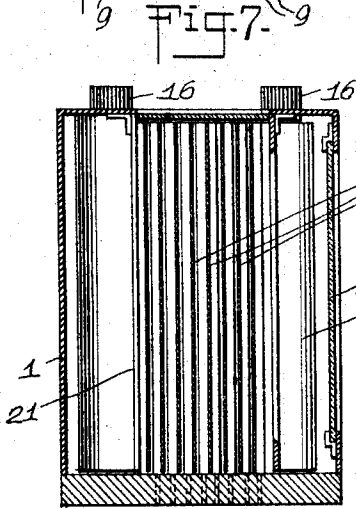
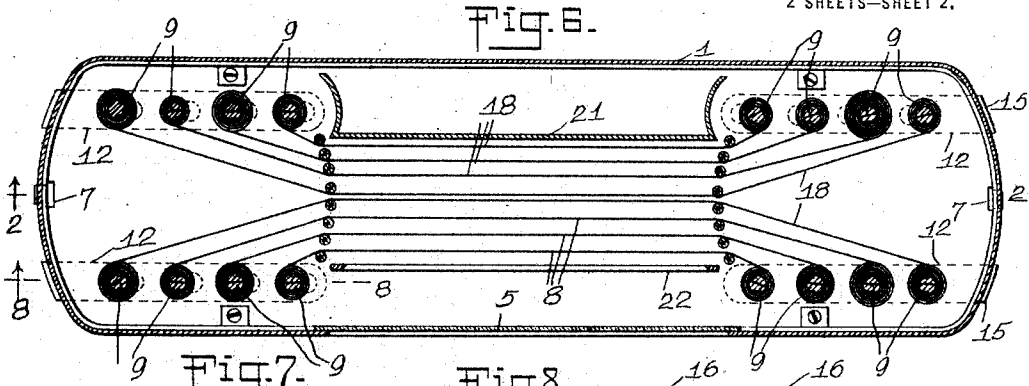
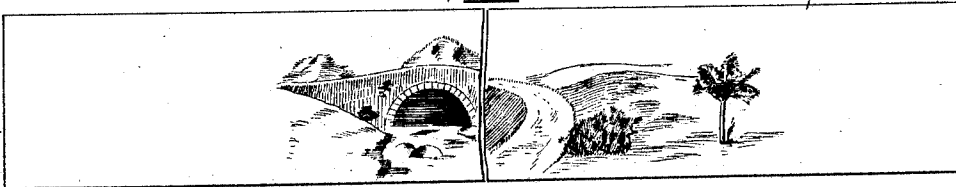


Fig. 10.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

PIERRE A. RONTEY AND ROBERT TAYLOR, OF COSCOB, CONNECTICUT.

PICTURE CONSTRUCTOR.

1,415,712.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented May 9, 1922.

Application filed October 20, 1920. Serial No. 418,257.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, PIERRE A. RONTEY and ROBERT TAYLOR, citizens of the United States, and residents of Coscob, in the county of Fairfield and State of Connecticut, have invented a new and Improved Picture Constructor, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to improvements in picture constructors, and more particularly to a device comprising a plurality of elements which are independently movable and which cooperate to form different pictures, an object of the invention being to provide a device of the character stated which is capable of a wide latitude in operation to form various pictures.

A further object is to provide a device of the character stated which is not only amusing and entertaining, but which is educational and a developer of artistic qualities.

A further object is to provide a device of the character stated which might be employed as a mental test and which is capable of a wide range of usefulness.

A further object is to provide a device of the character stated which can be manufactured and sold at a reasonably low price, which can be easily operated by a child or adult and which will afford pleasure, entertainment and profit to the user.

With these and other objects in view the invention consists in certain novel features of construction, and combinations and arrangements of parts as will be more fully hereinafter described and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings—

Figure 1 is a perspective view illustrating our improved picture constructor.

Figure 2 is a view in longitudinal section through the center of the casing on the line 2—2 of Figure 6, showing the parts in the interior in elevation.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of one of the reels 9.

Figure 4 is a perspective view, partly in section, of one of the guide rolls 19.

Figure 5 is a perspective view of one of the reel locking strips 12.

Figure 6 is a view in horizontal section through the center of the device.

Figure 7 is a view in transverse section on the line 7—7 of Figure 2.

Figure 8 is an enlarged view partly in elevation, and partly in section on the line 8—8 of Figure 6.

Figures 9 and 10 are broken views illustrating certain of the picture forming strips 18.

1 represents the casing of our improved picture constructor which is preferably of general elongated oblong shape having rounded ends and having a top 2 with a transparent light-admitting window 3 secured in the central intermediate portion thereof in any approved manner. The top 2 of casing 1 is made with a series of openings 4 at its respective ends, these openings being in alignment and adjacent the respective sides of the casing for a purpose which will more fully hereinafter appear.

One side of the casing, which constitutes the front, is provided with a window or opening 5 through which the operator views the picture.

6 represents the base of the casing which is independent of the casing and is provided at its ends with spring catches 7 adapted to engage in openings 8 in the ends of the casing and removably secure the base and casing together. The base 6 supports at its respective ends and in parallelism and adjacent the side edges thereof a plurality of series of reels 9, one of which is shown in perspective in Figure 3.

The reels 9 have trunnions 10 at their lower ends mounted in openings or bearings 12' in the base 6, and said trunnions have reduced portions 11 which are engaged by and normally locked in operative position in their bearings by means of longitudinally movable strips 12. These strips 12 are movable in longitudinal slots 13 in the base 6 and have therein slots or openings 14. These slots or openings 14 are of general keyhole shape, hence, they are of a width at one end sufficient to permit the movement therethrough and the removal of the trunnions 10. The other ends of the slots or openings 14 are relatively narrow so that when the strips are moved to their extreme inner position, these narrower portions of the slots will engage the narrower or restricted portions 11 of the trunnions 10 and will lock the reels against vertical movement in the base.

The strips 12 are preferably provided with operating tongues 15 at their outer ends

which extend outside of the casing 1, so that they can be conveniently operated. The reels 9 at their upper ends are provided with turnbuttons or fingerholds 16 which project through the openings 4 above referred to, and are in convenient reach of the operator to conveniently turn the reels.

The reels 9 are preferably made with longitudinal slots 17 for the accommodation of the ends of flexible strips 18, as this is a convenient means of connecting the strips to the reels, but it is, of course, obvious that various other means might be employed for connecting the ends of the strips to the reels.

It is to be understood that we employ a strip 18 for each pair of reels, the reels of the respective pairs being located at the respective ends of the casing, so that by turning one or the other of these reels, the strip can be moved in either direction.

The intermediate portions of the strips are maintained in alignment by means of a plurality of spacing rolls 19, one of which is shown in Figure 4. These rolls are preferably of very small tubes supported on shafts 20 secured in the base 6.

The intermediate portions of the strips are located between a backing plate 21 and an open frame 22 and are in alignment with the opening or window 5 in the front of the casing so that they can be readily observed through said opening or window.

The strips 18 are, as above stated, of flexible material and are preferably transparent and hence, celluloid may be conveniently employed as a material to construct the strips, but it is obvious that the invention is not limited to the particular material employed.

The strips 18 contain scenes, landscapes, figures, or any other designs, which may cooperate to form a complete picture, and we would have it understood that hereinafter we shall refer to these designs, figures, scenes, or any other picture forming elements as characters, employing this term in its broadest sense to indicate any representation.

The characters on the strips 18 are preferably opaque, so that when the strips are moved, these opaque characters can be arranged as desired to form a complete picture. The characters on one of the strips 18 represent skies, and this sky containing strip is opaque so as to hide the metal plate back of the same. On another strip are scenes or landscapes, on another strip foregrounds, on another strip animals, and on other strips boats, people, etc., and for convenience of the operator we preferably locate captions on the top 2 of casing 1 adjacent the fingerholds or turnbuttons 16, so that these captions will indicate the reels which are moved by the turnbuttons.

While, of course, the particular arrangement of such scenes can be varied without departing from our invention, we preferably locate the strip showing the sky character at the extreme rear with the scenes, foregrounds, animals, etc., in respective order in front of the same, so that an operator can first arrange the sky to suit himself, then the scenes, then the foreground, and then locate the animals, people, etc., in front of the same.

It is obvious with a device of this character that a wide latitude is given to the ingenuity of the operator to form pictures. These pictures may be humorous or otherwise and as it is probable that all of the strips will not be needed to form certain pictures, it is deemed wise to provide transparent portions at one or the other end of each strip so that these transparent portions may be located at the intermediate portion of the casing and permit the use of only the desired strips to be registered. By moving one or more films while others are stationary, the impression of motion can be imparted to the characters of the picture.

It is, therefore, to be understood that we do not limit ourselves to the precise details set forth, but consider ourselves at liberty to make such changes and alterations as fairly fall within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

We claim:

1. A picture constructor, comprising a series of movable aligned strips, each strip independently movable in both directions and having transparent portions and opaque illustrations thereon adapted to register with the illustrations of the other strips to form a picture.

2. A picture constructor, comprising a series of movable aligned strips, each strip independently movable in both directions and having transparent portions and opaque illustrations thereon adapted to register with the illustrations of the other strips to form a picture, said strips composed of flexible material, and means for moving the strips independently.

3. A picture constructor, comprising a support, reels mounted in the support, flexible transparent strips connecting the reels and adapted to be wound in either direction from one reel onto another, and means holding said strips in alignment, said strips composed mainly of transparent material having opaque characters thereon.

4. A picture constructor, comprising a casing, a plurality of pairs of reels mounted in the casing and located adjacent the respective ends thereof, flexible transparent strips connecting the reels and adapted to be wound in either direction from one reel onto another, and guides between which the intermediate portions of said strips are sup-

ported and held in alignment, said strips composed mainly of transparent material and having opaque figures thereon.

5 5. A picture constructor, comprising a casing, a plurality of pairs of reels mounted in the casing and located adjacent the respective ends thereof, flexible transparent strips connecting the reels and adapted to be wound in either direction from one reel onto
10 another, guides between which the intermediate portions of said strips are supported and held in alignment, said strips composed mainly of transparent material and having opaque figures thereon, a light-
15 admitting window in the top of the casing, and a strip exposing opening in the front of the casing.

6. A picture constructor, comprising a casing, a base removably located in the casing, a plurality of pairs of manually and independently operated reels supported at the respective ends of the casing, finger receiving knobs on the upper ends of the reels projecting through the top of the casing,
25 transparent strips connecting the reels at the respective ends of the casing, and guide rolls supporting the intermediate portions of said strips and maintaining them in alignment, said strips having opaque characters thereon.

30 7. A picture constructor, comprising a casing, a base in the casing having bearings therein, reels mounted in the respective ends of the casing, trunnions having restricted

portions at the lower ends of the reels mounted in said bearings, locking strips 35 mounted in the base and having slots receiving the restricted portions of said trunnions, said slots having openings which are at one end large enough to permit the removal of the trunnions and at their other ends are 40 of such reduced width as to engage the trunnions and hold the reels against removal from the base, and picture forming strips connecting the reels at the respective ends of the casing. 45

8. A picture constructor, comprising a support, and picture forming flexible strips independently movable in both directions and supported at their intermediate portions in alignment, each strip having transparent 50 and opaque portions and illustrations thereon adapted to register with other strips, whereby said strips cooperate to form a picture.

9. A picture constructor, comprising a 55 support, a plurality of aligned picture forming devices, said devices independently movable in both directions, and certain of the said devices having transparent and opaque portions and illustrations thereon adapted to 60 register with other of said devices, whereby said devices may be operated to form various assemblages or pictures.

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