

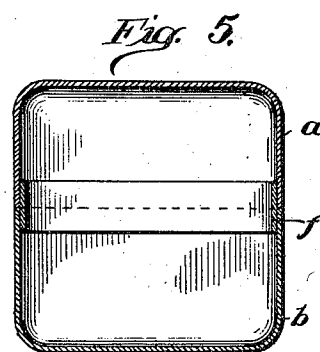
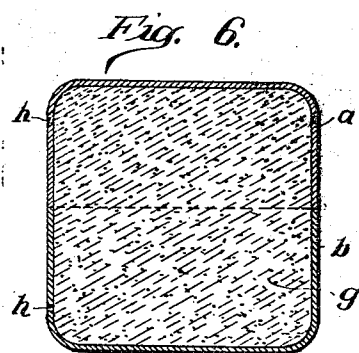
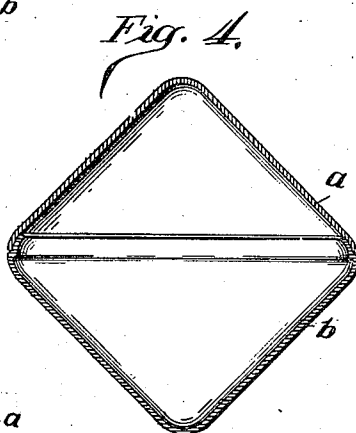
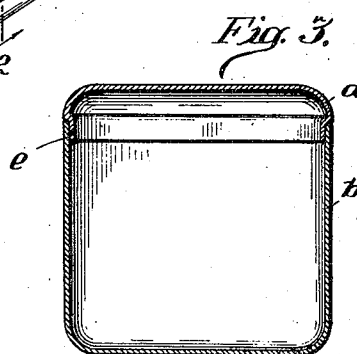
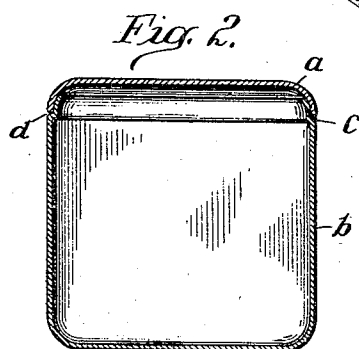
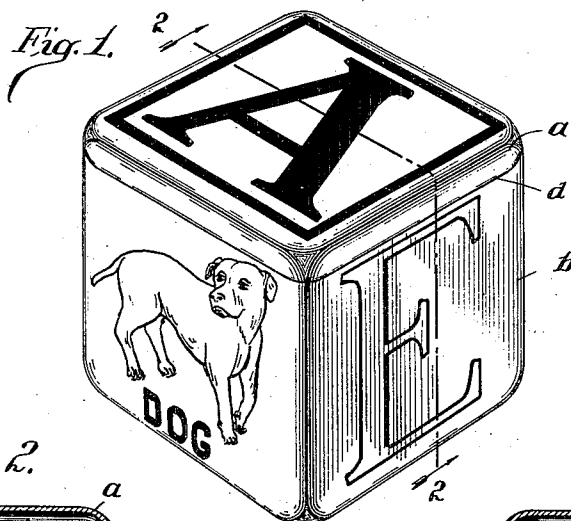
Aug. 21, 1923.

1,465,637

S. G. GOSS

PLAYBLOCK

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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PLAYBLOCK.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SAMUEL G. Goss, a citizen of the United States, residing at Glencoe, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Playblocks, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a play block, and the primary object of the invention is to provide a block very light in weight and having smooth, flat and even surfaces with which a child may build and play, or which it may toss around with considerable freedom, without incurring the risk of breaking or damaging objects with which it might come in contact. The invention in its preferred form contemplates a hollow block, or a block filled with some light weight material, such as cork or sawdust, of prismatic shape, made of any suitable material, for example, sheet metal or fiber, in two complementary parts which may be pressed or otherwise shaped to the desired configuration by any suitable shaping or forming apparatus, the edges of the open sides being joined to complete the block in a manner so as to leave the outer side surfaces even and smooth.

A further object of the invention is to provide a play block having the characteristics above noted, with which a child may play and which it may handle safely without the likelihood of being injured, and to this end the invention aims to provide a block shaped or formed so that the corners and edges are rounded instead of being square and sharp, as in the ordinary wood play block.

The invention consists in the novel block and the constructions thereof, to be hereinafter described and claimed, for carrying out the above stated objects and such other incidental objects as will appear from the following description of certain preferred embodiments illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a play block embodying the principles of my invention;

Fig. 2 is a section taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Figs. 3, 4 and 5 are sectional views of modifications illustrating various methods of forming the joints between the parts; and

Fig. 6 is a sectional view of another modification, the block being filled with some light weight filling material.

Like characters of reference designate like parts in the several views.

The body of the block shown in the drawings comprises the parts *a* and *b*, each part being complementary to the other. These parts may be formed of any suitable material and may be pressed or otherwise shaped to the desired configuration by any suitable shaping or forming apparatus. Pictorial representations of various objects, letters, and numerals may be embossed, printed or otherwise illustrated on the sides of the block. The block may be of any desired shape, preferably prismatic, for example, the cubical block illustrated in the drawings.

The open sides or ends of the complementary parts of the block are brought together and may be joined in a number of ways, the essential requirement being to join the parts so that the outer surfaces will be even and smooth. The blocks are also preferably formed so that the corners and edges will be round, as shown in the drawings.

In Figs. 1, 2 and 3, the parts are formed so that the joint is near one side of the block. In Figs. 1 and 2 the sides of the part *b* are formed so as to provide an offset portion *c* and a shoulder *d*. The sides of the part *a* are adapted to overlap the outside surfaces of the off-set portions *c*, the proximate edges of the parts *a* abutting against the shoulders *d*. The parts may be held together by any suitable means, for example, if the parts are formed of metal they may be held together by solder; and if the parts are formed of fiber or similar material, they may be held together by any suitable adhesive material.

In the form shown in Fig. 3, the construction of the joint is reversed from that

shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the off-set portions *e* being formed on the part *a*, the proximate edges of the part *b* overlapping the outside surface of the off-set portions and the edges thereof abutting against the shoulders so formed.

In Fig. 4 the parts are formed so that the joint extends diagonally across the block.

In Fig. 5 the parts are of substantially equal size and are formed so that the proximate edges of the respective parts abut one against the other. A band *f* of any suitable material is placed on the inside of the block and the sides of the parts secured thereto.

In Fig. 6 the parts *a* and *b* are formed substantially the same as in Fig. 5. The band *f*, however, is not used. The body of the block shown in Fig. 6 is filled with filling material *g*, which is preferably very light in weight. This material is preferably cementitious and may consist of a quantity of any light weight material, for example, ground cork or sawdust, mixed with a suitable adhesive. Small air holes *h* may be provided to permit moisture to escape while the adhesive substance is drying. The filling material serves two purposes. It serves to prevent the block from being crushed in and also serves as a binder to hold the parts *a* and *b* in position. The filling material obviously may be used in the other forms of the block, if desired.

A block constructed in accordance with the principles of my invention is extremely light in weight, and may be handled by a child with considerable freedom without damaging or breaking objects with which it comes in contact. The complementary parts of the block being joined together in the manner hereinbefore described, provide flat, smooth and even side surfaces, so that the blocks may be stacked and used for build-

ing purposes. The rounded corners and edges make it possible for a child to handle the block with safety, without the likelihood of being injured, as often happens with ordinary blocks having square corners and edges.

I claim:

1. A prismatic play block comprising hollow sheet metal sections with rounded corners, said sections being firmly secured together in block form.

2. A prismatic play block comprising two sections pressed from sheet metal into complementary form and joined evenly and smoothly along their proximate edges.

3. As an article of manufacture, a hollow prismatic play block, the body of which comprises two complementary parts, the open ends of the respective parts being brought together and the proximate edges joined, the sides of one part being offset and adapted to overlap the sides of the other part.

4. As an article of manufacture, a hollow prismatic play block, the body of which comprises two complementary parts, the open ends of the respective parts being brought together, the sides of one part being provided with offset portions to form shoulders, the edges of the sides of the other part abutting against said shoulders, said offset portions being joined to said sides.

5. As an article of manufacture, a hollow prismatic play block, the body of which comprises two complementary parts, the open ends of the respective parts being brought together and the proximate edges joined, the sides of one part being offset and adapted to overlap the sides of the other part, the corners and edges of the body so formed being rounded.

SAMUEL G. GOSS.