

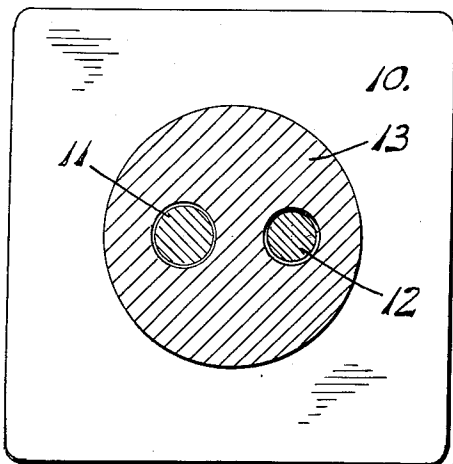
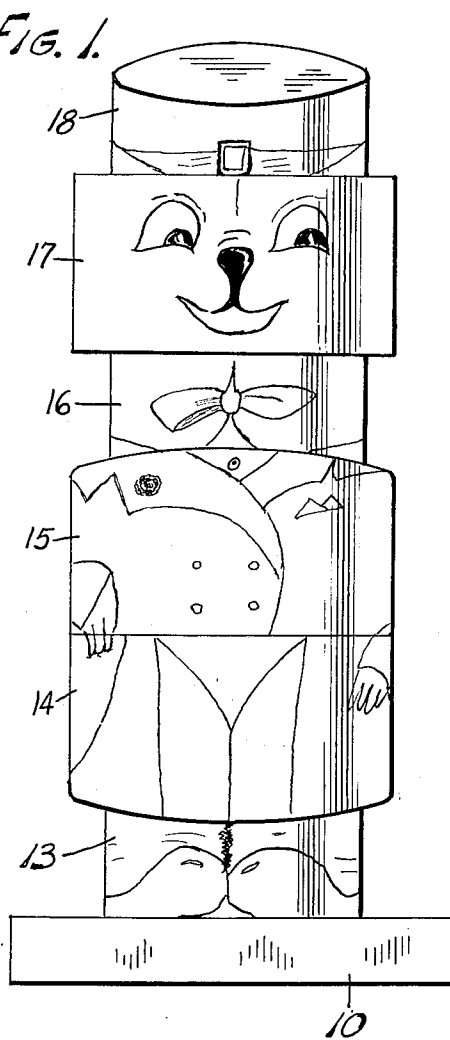
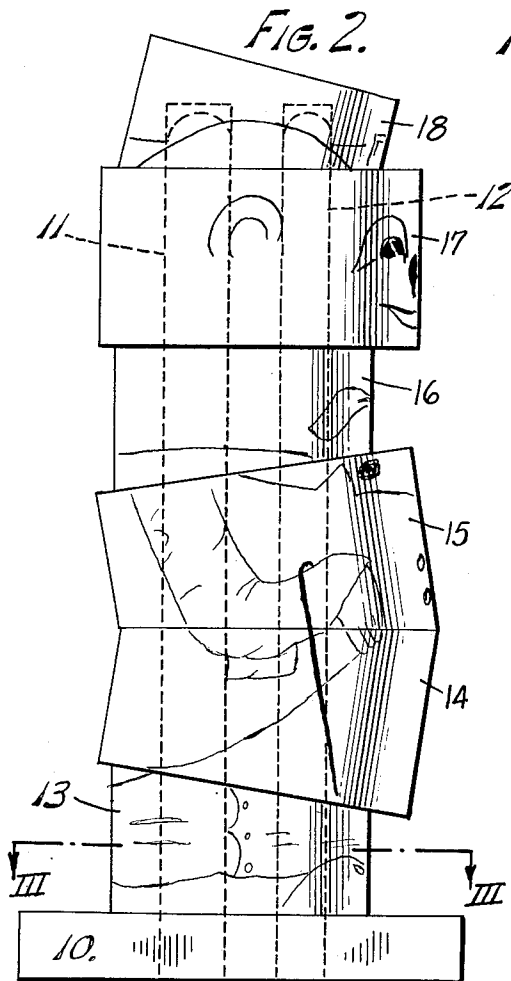
Dec. 19, 1961

S. H. ZEVE

3,013,800

SECTIONAL BLOCK TOY

Filed Sept. 19, 1958



INVENTOR.

SOLLY H. ZEVE

BY

Bean Brooks Buckley & Bean
ATTORNEYS

1

3,013,800

SECTIONAL BLOCK TOY

Solly H. Zeve, 246 Crestwood Ave., Buffalo, N.Y., assignor of one-half to Irwin A. Ginsberg, Buffalo, N.Y.

Filed Sept. 19, 1958, Ser. No. 762,140

11 Claims. (Cl. 273-156)

This invention relates to toys and particularly to a toy by means of which a child can construct a figure by properly assembling a set of blocks or similar elements.

According to the present invention a series of block-like elements are assembled in a vertically extending series on a central support means. Such support means may be in the form of a pair of spaced parallel dowels or cylindrical members of different diameters, whereby the support means is unsymmetrical and the block-like members can be assembled thereon in only one position, considered circumferentially. Furthermore, the block-like elements, or at least some of them, are formed with oblique upper or lower surfaces or both, so that, if a block is assembled upside down on the support means, that fact will be readily apparent due to the fact that such block will not fit down against the block below or the base of the toy, as the case may be.

The toy of the present invention is helpful and instructive to young children to the extent that it teaches them to use a certain degree of thought and ingenuity in choosing the several blocks for assembly on the support means in the proper order and in assembling the blocks in such manner that each block seats flat against an underlying block. The blocks are arranged and proportioned to produce a solid figure of one kind or another when all of the blocks of the set or series are properly assembled.

A single embodiment of the toy of the present invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing and described in detail in the following specification but it is to be understood that such embodiment is set forth by way of example only and that certain mechanical modifications may be made without departing from the principles of the invention. Furthermore, various figures may be represented by sets of assembled blocks and the figures themselves and the detailed arrangement of the blocks may take many forms, both for the sake of variety and to produce toys of varying complexity to suit children of various age groups and mental abilities.

In the drawing:

FIG. 1 is a front elevational view of one form of the toy of the present invention in fully assembled condition;

FIG. 2 is a side elevational view of the toy of FIG. 1; and

FIG. 3 is a cross sectional view of the toy taken on approximately the line III-III of FIG. 2.

Like characters of reference denote like parts in the several figures of the drawings and the numeral 10 designates a base member having a pair of vertical posts 11 and 12 extending upwardly therefrom, the posts 10 and 11 being fixed securely to the base 10 as by insertion in tight fitting holes in the base 10. The posts 10 and 11 are preferably glued into the holes in the base 10 to insure them against separation therefrom.

In the present instance the posts 11 and 12 may simply comprise dowel members of different diameters as clearly indicated in FIG. 3. Of course the base and the post or support means may be made in other ways and of other materials but the present form thereof is dictated in part with a view to simple and economical manufacture thereof from wood.

In addition to the base and support means the toy illustrated in the accompanying drawing includes a series of blocks in the form of truncated cylinders, the blocks being designated, reading from bottom to top of FIGS. 1 and

2

2, by the numerals 13 through 18. In the particular instance illustrated herein the assembled blocks cooperate to make up a standing figure wherein the block 13 represents legs and feet, the blocks 14 and 15 make up a torso, the block 16 forms the neck of the figure, the block 17 forms the head, and the block 18 forms a hat.

In each instance the blocks of the illustrated embodiment consist of ordinary cylindrical pieces of wood or other material so that manufacture of the toy of the present invention can be carried on entirely without special machinery and at low cost. In some instances the end faces of the blocks are square with their respective axes and in some instances such end faces are oblique, as will presently appear. In any event each block rests flat down against the underlying block, when properly assembled, or flat down on the base 10 in the case of the bottom block 13.

Pairs of holes are drilled through each of the blocks 13 through 17 and similar blind holes are drilled into the bottom surface of the top block 18. These holes are parallel, spaced the same as the posts or dowels 11 and 12, and of such diameter as to permit them to slip freely over the posts 11 and 12, the clearance therebetween being indicated in FIG. 3. Furthermore, the directions of the holes in the several blocks 13 through 18 is such that, when properly assembled over the posts, the blocks abut each other flatwise as mentioned above and as clearly shown in FIG. 2.

In the present instance the block end face arrangement is as follows, although many variations in this phase of the construction may be indulged in within the scope of the teachings of the present invention. The bottom block 13 has a square lower face and an oblique upper face. The next block 14 has a square lower face and an oblique upper face and the next block 15 has an oblique lower face at the same angle as the upper face of block 14 but opposite thereto. The upper face of block 15 is square but of course this block is disposed with its axis at an angle because of its oblique lower face. The next block 16 has its lower face obliquely cut at the same angle as the lower face of the block 16, whereby the axis of block 16 extends vertically.

The next block 17 has two square ends in the present arrangement and the top block 18 has an oblique lower face whereby its axis inclines forwardly, the top of the uppermost block 18 being square in the present instance.

It will be noted that only two different diameters of wood stock are required to form all of the blocks of the figure of the present embodiment of the invention and that only simple saw-off operations are required to complete the blocks. Similar economies of manufacture may be attained by pursuing the general principles of the present invention in connection with a wide variety of other figures and other block arrangements.

The simulation of the figure of a person, an animal, or an object of one kind or another, may be enhanced by surface decoration, as in the illustrated instance. Because of the simple geometrical shapes involved such decoration may be applied by pasting suitably printed sheets to the exposed surfaces, although the decoration may be applied directly to the block surfaces or in any other manner.

I claim:

1. In a sectional figure toy, a base member having non-symmetrical post means extending upwardly therefrom, a series of cylindrical blocks each having vertical openings therein for fitting over said post means whereby the blocks rest upon each other with the lowermost block resting on said base, at least some of said blocks having flat non-parallel upper and lower faces whereby such blocks if inadvertently assembled on the post means upside down will not seat flat against subjacent blocks, said

3

blocks being of at least two different diameters whereby they cooperate to simulate a figure.

2. In a sectional figure toy, a base member having non-symmetrical post means extending upwardly therefrom, a series of blocks each having vertical openings therein for fitting over said post means whereby the blocks rest upon each other with the lowermost block resting on said base, at least some of said blocks having flat non-parallel upper and lower faces whereby such blocks if inadvertently assembled on the post means upside down will not seat flat against subjacent blocks, the side walls of said blocks being of various sizes measured laterally whereby they cooperate to simulate a figure.

3. In a sectional figure toy, a base member having non-symmetrical post means extending upwardly therefrom, a series of blocks each having vertical openings therein for fitting over said post means whereby the blocks rest upon each other with the lowermost block resting on said base, at least some of said blocks having flat non-parallel upper and lower faces whereby such blocks if inadvertently assembled on the post means upside down will not seat flat against subjacent blocks.

4. In a sectional figure toy, a base member having a pair of cylindrical posts of different diameters extending upwardly therefrom, a series of blocks each having a pair of spaced vertical openings therein for fitting over said post means whereby the blocks rest upon each other with the lowermost block resting on said base, at least some of said blocks having flat non-parallel upper and lower faces whereby such blocks if inadvertently assembled on the post means upside down will not seat flat against subjacent blocks, the side walls of said blocks being of various sizes measured laterally whereby they cooperate to simulate a figure.

5. In a sectional figure toy, a base member having a pair of cylindrical posts of different diameters extending upwardly therefrom, a series of cylindrical blocks each having a pair of spaced vertical openings therein for fitting over said post means whereby the blocks rest endwise upon each other with the lowermost block resting on said base, at least some of said blocks having flat non-parallel end faces whereby such blocks if inadvertently assembled on the post means upside down will not seat flat against subjacent blocks, the blocks of said series being of at least two different diameters whereby they cooperate to simulate a figure.

6. In a sectional figure toy, a base member having non-symmetrical post means extending upwardly therefrom, a series of blocks each having vertical openings therein for fitting over said post means whereby the blocks rest upon each other with the lowermost block resting on said base, at least some of said blocks having flat non-parallel upper and lower faces whereby such blocks fit flatwise against each other only when assembled on the post means in predetermined order and position, the side walls of said blocks being of various sizes measured laterally whereby they cooperate to simulate a figure.

7. In a sectional figure toy, a base member having non-symmetrical post means extending upwardly therefrom, a series of blocks each having vertical openings therein for fitting over said post means whereby the blocks rest upon each other with the lowermost block resting on said base at least some of said blocks having flat non-parallel upper and lower faces whereby such blocks fit flatwise against each other only when assembled on the post means in predetermined order and position.

8. In a sectional figure toy, a base member and relatively fixed non-symmetrical post means extending up-

4

wardly therefrom, a series of blocks having flat upper and lower surfaces and vertical openings extending through said surfaces for fitting over said post means whereby the blocks rest upon each other with the lowermost block resting on said base, each block lying flatwise against the subjacent block when the blocks are assembled in predetermined vertical order on said post, certain of the abutting planes of said blocks extending obliquely with respect to the vertical extent of said openings whereby the blocks can be assembled in flatwise abutting relationship only in the proper order and right side up on said post means.

9. In a sectional figure toy, a base member and relatively fixed non-symmetrical post means extending upwardly therefrom, a series of cylindrical blocks having flat upper and lower surfaces and vertical openings extending through said surfaces for fitting over said post means whereby the blocks rest upon each other with the lowermost block resting on said base, said blocks being of at least two different diameters and each block lying flatwise against the subjacent block when the blocks are assembled in predetermined vertical order on said post, certain of the abutting planes of said blocks extending obliquely with respect to the vertical extent of said openings whereby the blocks can be assembled in flatwise abutting relationship only in the proper order and right side up on said post means.

10. In a sectional figure toy, a base member and relatively fixed non-symmetrical post means extending upwardly therefrom, said post means comprising a pair of spaced cylindrical members of different diameters, a series of blocks having flat upper and lower surfaces and pairs of vertical cylindrical openings extending through said surfaces for fitting over said post means whereby the blocks rest upon each other with the lowermost block resting on said base, each block lying flatwise against the subjacent block when the blocks are assembled in predetermined vertical order on said post, certain of the abutting planes of said blocks extending obliquely with respect to the vertical extent of said openings whereby the blocks can be assembled in flatwise abutting relationship only in the proper order and right side up on said post means.

11. In a sectional figure toy, a base member and relatively fixed non-symmetrical post means extending upwardly therefrom, said post means comprising a pair of spaced cylindrical members of different diameters, a series of cylindrical blocks having flat upper and lower surfaces and pairs of vertical cylindrical openings extending through said surfaces for fitting over said post means whereby the blocks rest upon each other with the lowermost block resting on said base, said blocks being of at least two different diameters and each block lying flatwise against the subjacent block when the blocks are assembled in predetermined vertical order on said post, certain of the abutting planes of said blocks extending obliquely with respect to the vertical extent of said openings whereby the blocks can be assembled in flatwise abutting relationship only in the proper order and right side up on said post means.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

604,708	Burton	May 24, 1898
1,321,109	Lasares	Nov. 11, 1919
1,345,052	Williams	June 29, 1920
2,327,718	Kassler	Aug. 24, 1943
2,542,252	Ickler	Feb. 20, 1951
2,806,322	Ford	Sept. 17, 1957