(No Model.)

F. A. FOUTS.

TOY PISTOL.

No. 372,136. Patented Oct. 25, 1887.

Fig. 1.

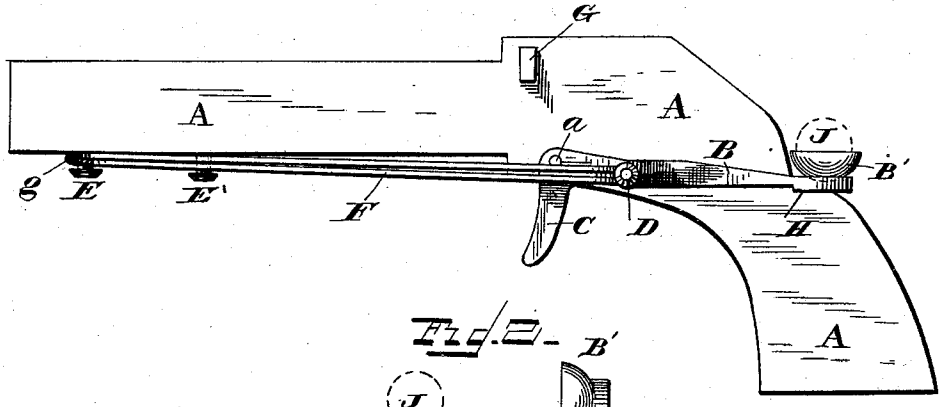


Fig. 2.

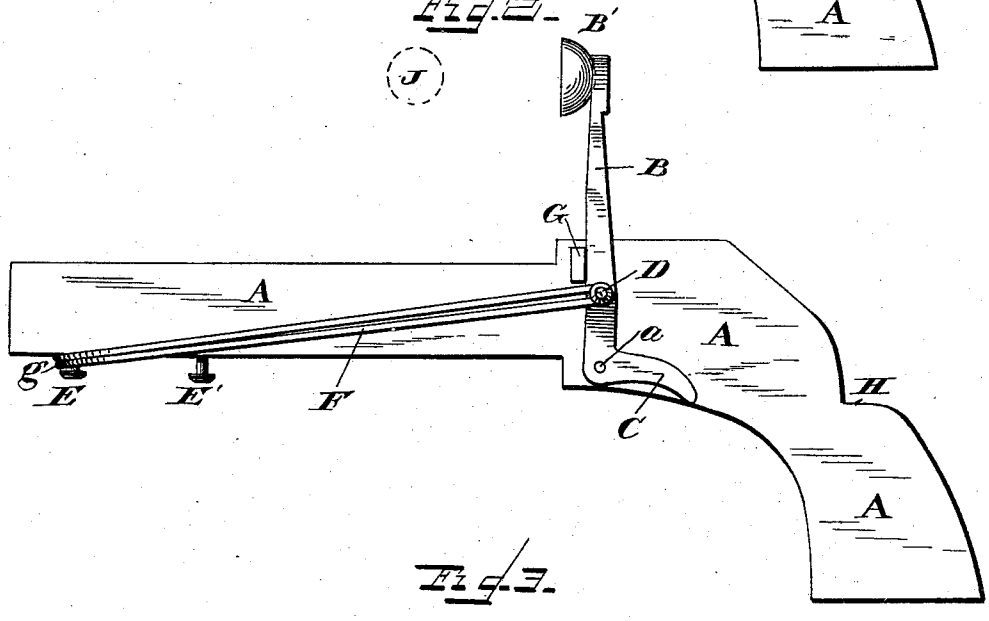
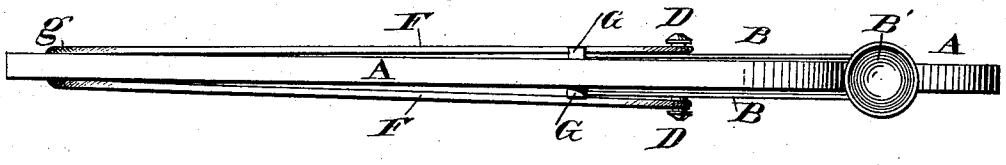


Fig. 3.



Witnesses
F. L. Ourand
J. F. Coleman

Inventor
Frank A. Fouts

N. PETERS, Photo-Lithographer, Washington, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK A. FOUTS, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

TOY PISTOL.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 372,136, dated October 25, 1887.

Application filed April 11, 1887. Serial No. 234,374. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK A. FOUTS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Washington, in the District of Columbia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Toy Pistols; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention is a toy pistol; and it consists in the parts which will be hereinafter described, and pointed out in the claims.

The object of the invention is a toy adapted to throw small missiles—such as stones, beans, paper, or wooden balls, &c.—a considerable distance and with any reasonably desired force. I employ a spring-actuated arm for throwing the missiles, the spring whereof is adjustable—that is to say, the tension of the spring may be increased or diminished at pleasure—whereby the force or throwing strength of the arm may be regulated.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a side view of the pistol with the arm and spring drawn back. In this view a ball is shown in dotted lines seated in the cup on the outer end of the arm. Fig. 2 also represents a side view. In this view the arm is raised and the ball shown in advance of said arm. Fig. 3 is a top plan view of the pistol with the arm thrown back.

Like letters indicate like parts in the several views.

The letter A represents the stock of the device. Said stock is preferably made of thin material and in the form of a pistol or revolver when viewed from the side.

The letter B represents a bifurcated arm pivotally attached at *a* to the stock. C indicates a trigger on the inner end of the arm B. Said arm and trigger are rigidly united, and they are practically at right angles to each other.

D D represent trunnions on the outer sides of the arm B. The outer end of the arm, on its upper side, is provided with a cup, B′, for the reception of the ball or missile to be thrown.

E E′ represent headed pins on the outer under side of the stock.

F indicates a spring for actuating the throwing-arm B. A rubber band-spring is preferably employed. In engaging the rubber the band is folded on itself, so as to form a double or quadruple piece, according to the strength of spring desired. The ends of the rubber are then engaged to the trunnions D D on the arm. The rubber is then drawn forward and looped over one of the pins E or E′.

G represents a stop fixed to the upper side of the stock above the pivotal point *a* of the arm. This stop is to arrest the forward movement of the arm.

H indicates a recess in the rear side of the stock, which limits the backward movement of the arm and forms a seat therefor when said arm is in the position shown in Figs. 1 and 3.

The arrangement is such that when the several parts are connected and the arm drawn back and seated the longitudinal plane of the spring F is below the pivotal point *a* of the arm, whereby the tendency of the spring is to hold the arm seated.

The operation of the device is as follows: The arm is drawn back and seated, and occupies the position shown in Fig. 1. When so seated, the arm is firmly held in that position by the action of the spring, as indicated in the foregoing paragraph. The missile, J, to be thrown is then placed in the cup B′ on the outer upper end of the arm. The butt-end of the stock is then held in the hand like a pistol. By pressing the trigger C backward the arm B is moved upward. A slight upward movement of the arm elevates the spring F above the pivotal point *a*, whereby the full strength of the spring is exerted to force the arm forward. The forward movement of the arm is arrested and suddenly stopped by the stop G, and the ball or other missile in the cup B′ is forcibly thrown forward. The arm and trigger move in unison. When the arm is back and seated, the trigger is down ready to be pressed backward and the shot repeated. After each shot the arm may be moved backward by hand and seated. When the arm is turned backward, the trigger is turned downward into position, as in Fig. 1. The tension of the spring may be so increased by adjustment that an exceedingly strong action of the arm may be had

and a rapid and forcible movement of the missile insured. There are several ways of adjusting the tension of the spring. By securing the outer end, *g*, of the spring to the outer pin, E, on the stock, said spring is drawn out to its fullest extent, and by engaging the outer end of said spring to the inner pin, E′, the tension of the spring is decreased. The outer end of the spring may be wound around the pins E E′ and the tension on the spring thereby increased; or the spring (rubber band) may be folded on itself so as to form four strands, the ends secured to the trunnions on the arm, and then the middle portion drawn out and engaged to one of the pins E E′. Of course the folding of the rubber band and its adjustment will depend on the length and strength of the band employed and force desired. Other forms of spring may be employed for actuating the arm; but a rubber band is preferred.

The device herein shown may be used for snapping caps, if desired. This result may be effected by engaging a cap to the rear side of the stop G. When the cap is so engaged, the forward movement of the arm B will cause the cap to explode.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States—

1. In a toy pistol, the combination of a stock provided with a spring-actuated arm pivotally secured thereto, a spring for actuating said arm, and pins for engaging the said spring and varying the tension thereof, substantially as specified.

2. In a toy pistol, the combination of a stock provided with a spring-actuated arm pivotally secured thereto, a trigger united to said arm and movable therewith, a spring for actuating said arm and trigger, and means located on the stock for engaging the said spring and varying the tension thereof, substantially as specified.

3. In a toy pistol, the combination of a stock provided with an arm pivotally secured thereto, and a trigger fixed to said arm, said stock being also provided with a seat and stop to limit the stroke of the arm, a spring having one end secured to said arm, the other end of said spring being secured to the stock, the longitudinal plane of the spring being below the pivotal point of the arm when said arm is drawn back and seated, substantially as set forth.

4. In a toy pistol, the combination of a stock, an arm provided on one end with a cup and provided on its other end with a trigger, the respective planes of the arm and trigger being nearly at right angles to each other, the trigger end of the arm being pivotally secured to the stock, a spring for actuating the arm, said stock being provided with a front and a rear stop to limit the movement of the arm, substantially as described.

5. In a toy pistol, the combination of the stock A, provided with the stops G H, the arm B, provided on its outer end with the cup B′, and provided on its inner end with the trigger C, said arm and trigger being pivotally engaged to the stock, the outer end of the stock being provided with the pins E E′, and a spring engaging one of said pins and the arm, substantially as described, and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

FRANK A. FOUTS.

Witnesses:
F. L. OURAND,
M. P. CALLAN.