Sept. 7, 1954 V. H. HURT 2,688,207

RIDABLE WATER TOY

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Fig. 1

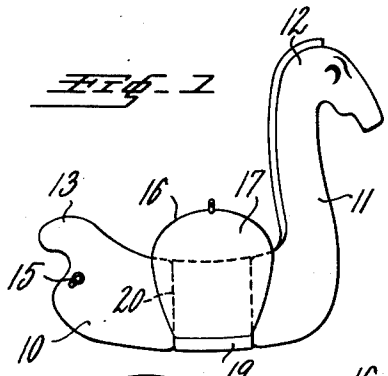



Fig. 2

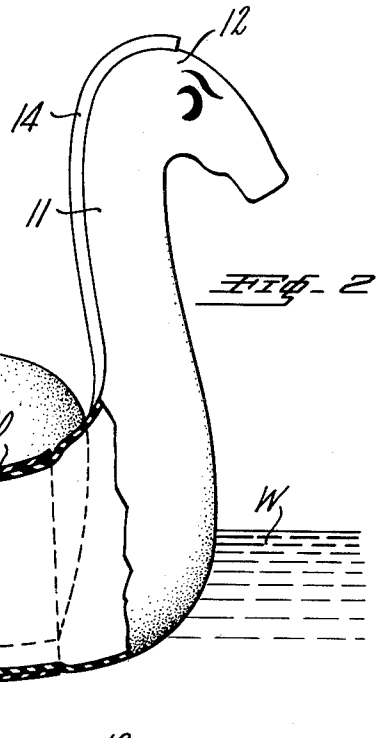



Fig. 3

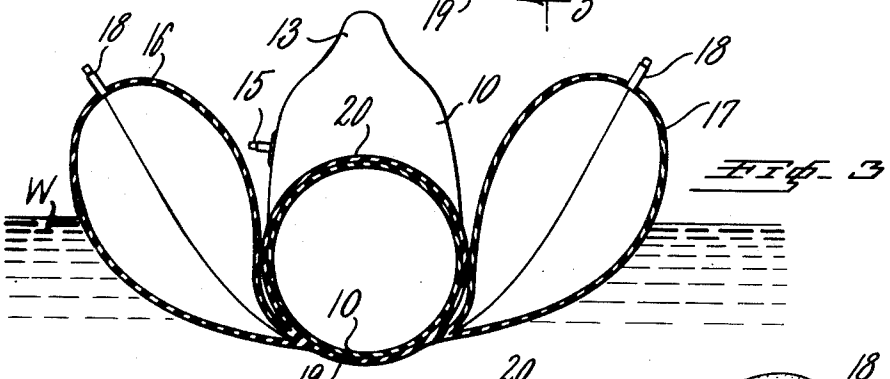
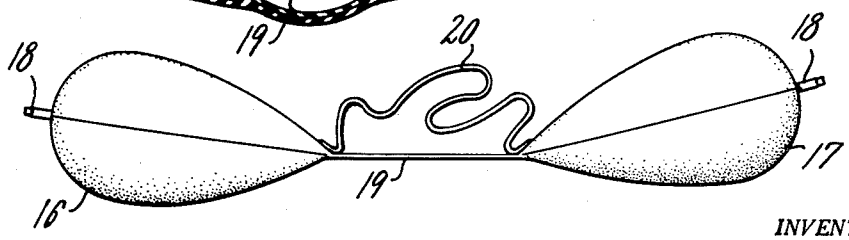



Fig. 4




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## RIDABLE WATER TOY

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3 Claims. (Cl. 46—87)

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This invention relates to water toys, and more particularly to a stable, ridable water toy such as an inflated toy having a body, neck and head, and also having a pontoon stabilizer removably and adjustably secured to said body.

Ridable water toys having stabilizing pontoons permanently secured to the sides thereof have been made heretofore. This has been done because it is extremely difficult to ride an inflated water toy having a body, neck and head, unless the toy is provided with some stabilizing means, since it tends to roll in the water and throw the rider off.

The present invention contemplates the combination of a ridable water toy having a rounded body but no stabilizing pontoons permanently secured thereto, and a pontoon stabilizer adapted to be secured to said body and removed therefrom at will. The arrangement is such that the ridable toy may be used either with or without the pontooon stabilizer being attached thereto, and when the stabilizer is not secured to the toy it may be used independently as so-called "water wings." When it is desired to stabilize the ridable toy the pontoon stabilizer is readily secured thereto by inserting the toy through a ring of the stabilizer. To this end the stabilizer has a short strap connection between the bulbous pontoons and a much longer strap also secured therebetween so that these two straps together form a ring large enough to encircle and snugly embrace the body of the ridable toy.

This ring is preferably relatively wide so that when it encircles the body of the ridably toy it will restrict to some extent the expansion of the portion of the body it surrounds, to thereby form a shallow annular depression about the body so as to form a sunken saddle in the back of the toy where the rider may sit. Furthermore since this ring is retained in place upon the body of the toy solely by its snug engagement therewith, it may be moved lengthwise of the body to bring the pontoons nearer to or further from the neck of the toy, as desired, and the neck is preferably relatively long so that the rider may wrap his arms around the same to help him remain seated on the toy.

It will be seen from the foregoing that the present invention contemplates a ridable water toy, and a pontoon stabilizer which may be used as water wings but is especially constructed so that the pontoon stabilizer may be readily secured to or removed from the ridable toy, whereby the ridable water toy will be relatively stable to ride when the pontoons are secured thereto, and will

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be very unstable and difficult to ride when the pontoon stabilizer is removed therefrom.

The above and other features of the present invention will be further understood from the following description when read in connection with the accompanying drawing, wherein

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of one embodiment of the stable, ridable, water toy contemplated by the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a view similar to Fig. 1 but on a larger scale and shows a central portion of the ridable toy broken away;

Fig. 3 is a sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2; and

Fig. 4 is a front view of the pontoon stabilizer removed from the ridable toy.

The ridable water toy and pontoon stabilizer contemplated by the present invention may be formed of various water-tight sheet materials adapted to confine air so that these devices may be inflated. One good practical material used for making such ridable water toy and the pontoon stabilizer is a fabric reinforced rubber but unreinforced rubber or plastic sheet material may also be used to form such inflatable devices.

The ridable water toy may be given various sizes and shapes and may resemble either a natural or fanciful animal. It is desirable however that it be provided with a round body and have a relatively long upstanding neck and a head, so that a person riding the toy may grab the neck to give him added stability and prevent him from falling off of the toy.

Now referring to the drawing, the ridable water toy is shown as having a body 10, neck 11 and head 12. It also has a protruding tail 13 and an ornamental strip 14 that resembles slightly a horse's mane. In order that the ridable toy may be inflated it is provided with the air inflating valve 15 of usual or any preferred construction.

The ridable water toy is shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3 as having the pontoon stabilizer secured thereto, but it is to be understood that the ridable water toy may be used when desired without this stabilizer which can be readily applied thereto and removed therefrom due to the construction which will now be described. The toy is shown in Figs. 2 and 3 as riding relatively deep in the water W.

The pontoon stabilizer which is shown in Fig. 4 independently of the ridable water toy resembles fairly closely in appearance the so-called water wings, in that it comprises the bulbous pontoons 16 and 17, which as shown are independently inflated, and therefore each of these pontoons is

provided with the inflating valve 18. These pontoons 16 and 17 are connected by a relatively short wide strap 19. They are also connected by the much longer strap 20. The arrangement is such that these two straps together form a ring that is large enough to fit around and snugly embrace the inflated body 10 of the ridable toy. The ring formed of the straps 19 and 20 is shown as relatively wide so that the portion of the body 10 which it embraces will be confined against expansion to some extent and thereby form a slight annular depression about the body of the toy. This serves firmly to secure the pontoon stabilizer in the desired position of adjustment, lengthwise of the body 10, and also to form a saddle-like depression in the back of the toy where the rider may sit. Since the frictional engagement between the ring 19, 20 and the body 10 is relied upon to hold the pontoons in the desired position relatively to the ridable toy, these pontoons may be adjusted lengthwise of the toy by sliding the band 19, 20 towards or from the forward end of the toy.

The primary purpose in providing a short strap 19 and long strap 20 between the pontoons 16 and 17 is to cause an end of each pontoon to be held by the short strap 19 against the ridable toy near the lower or under wall of the body as shown, so as to cause these pontoons to ride low in the water and press against the sides of the body to give the desired stability to the water toy, and make it comparatively easy for the rider to remain seated upon the floating toy.

As a result of the present invention, a ridable water toy that is normally unstable and therefore difficult to ride is provided, and a separate pontoon stabilizer is provided which can be readily secured to the toy and removed therefrom to make it stable or unstable as desired. In other words a combination is provided which affords far more uses and fun than would unstabilized water toys or a permanently stabilized water toy. In addition to this the pontoon stabilizers when removed from the ridable toy may be used like ordinary water wings, or a child may place the ring 19, 20 about his own body to anchor the pontoons to his body. The combination just described and the two devices forming the same are well adapted for many uses other than above mentioned. One such use is that if a long tubular inflatable body is provided it is possible to provide the same with two of the pontoon stabilizers such as shown in Fig. 4 of the drawing so as to provide a stabilizer near each end of the long tube, whereupon several persons may ride on the tube as a stable raft. Other uses will undoubtedly occur to children and adults using the floatable devices herein described.

The inflated ridable toy and the pontoon stabilizer may be formed in a well known manner by



cutting the sheet material to the desired shape and then securing two such sheets together by means of adhesive seams.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to protect by Letters Patent is:

1. A stable, ridable water toy comprising in combination, an inflated device having a round, ridable body and having a pontoon stabilizer removably secured thereto, said stabilizer including two bulbous flexible pontoons connected by a short strap and also by a much longer strap so that these straps together form a ring large enough to fit around said body and tightly embrace it, said flexible pontoons forming flexible hinge-like connections between the pontoons and the ring anchoring firmly the pontoons to the lower portion of said body in position to press against the sides of the body when a person rides the toy in water.

2. A stable, ridable water toy comprising in combination, an inflated toy having a body, neck and head and having a pontoon stabilizer removably secured to the body, said stabilizer including two bulbous pontoons connected by a short strap and a much longer strap so that these straps together form a ring large enough to fit around said body and tightly embrace it, and flexible hinge-like connections between the pontoons and the ring anchoring firmly the pontoons to the lower portion of the body in position to press against the sides of the body when a person rides the toy in water.

3. A stable, ridable water toy comprising in combination, an inflated toy having a body, neck and head and having a pontoon stabilizer removably secured to the body, said stabilizer including two bulbous pontoons connected by a short strap and a much longer strap so that these straps together form a ring large enough to fit around said body and tightly embrace it, said ring having each pontoon connected thereto by a flexible hinge-like connection to firmly anchor the pontoons to the lower portion of the body when said short strap is positioned under the body with the pontoons disposed substantially symmetrically on either side of the body in position to press against the sides of the body when a person rides the toy in water, and said ring being small enough in diameter to confine the expansion of a portion of the inflated body within the ring sufficiently to form a saddle-like depression around the body.

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