Oct. 22, 1935. O. B. ANDREWS 2,018,393

AMUSEMENT DEVICE

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Fig. 1

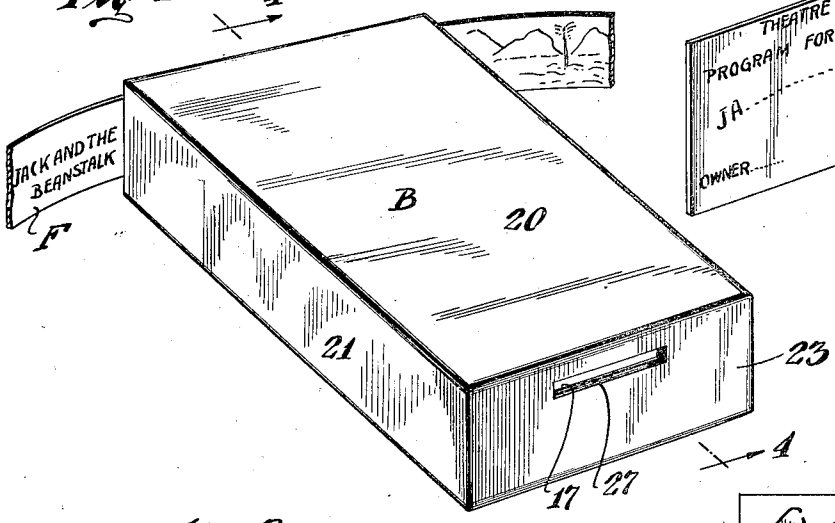


Fig. 1a

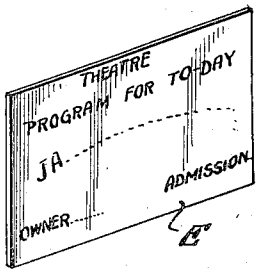


Fig. 7

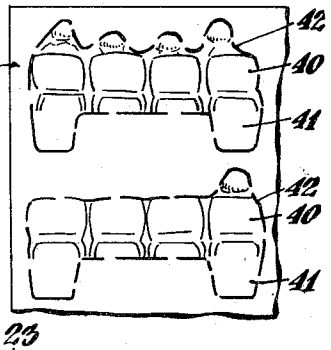


Fig. 2

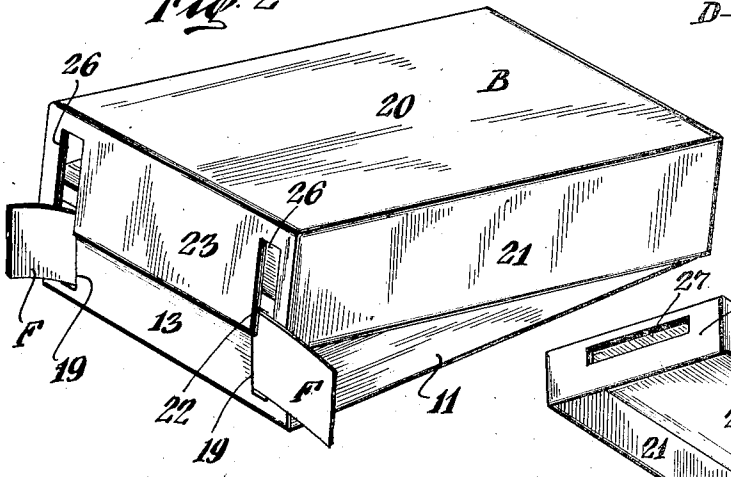


Fig. 6

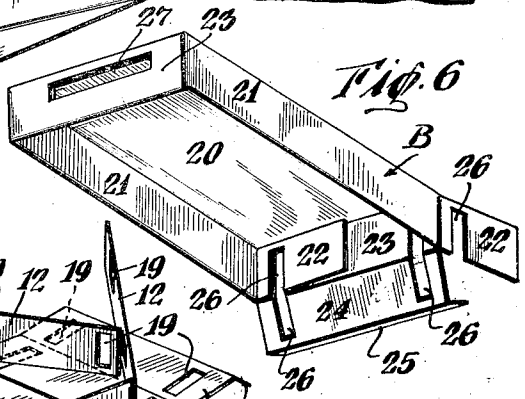
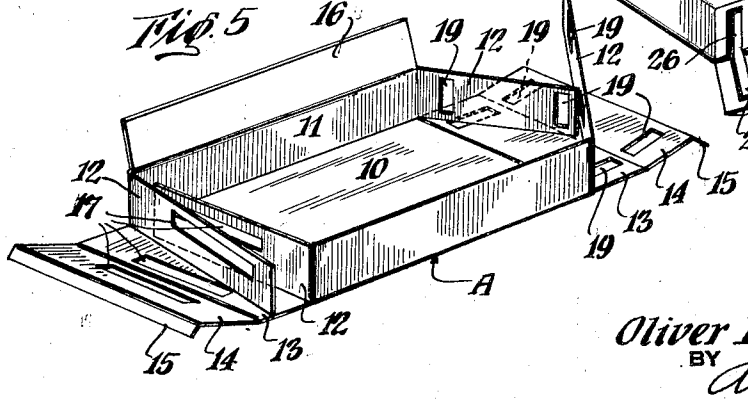


Fig. 5



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Fig. 3

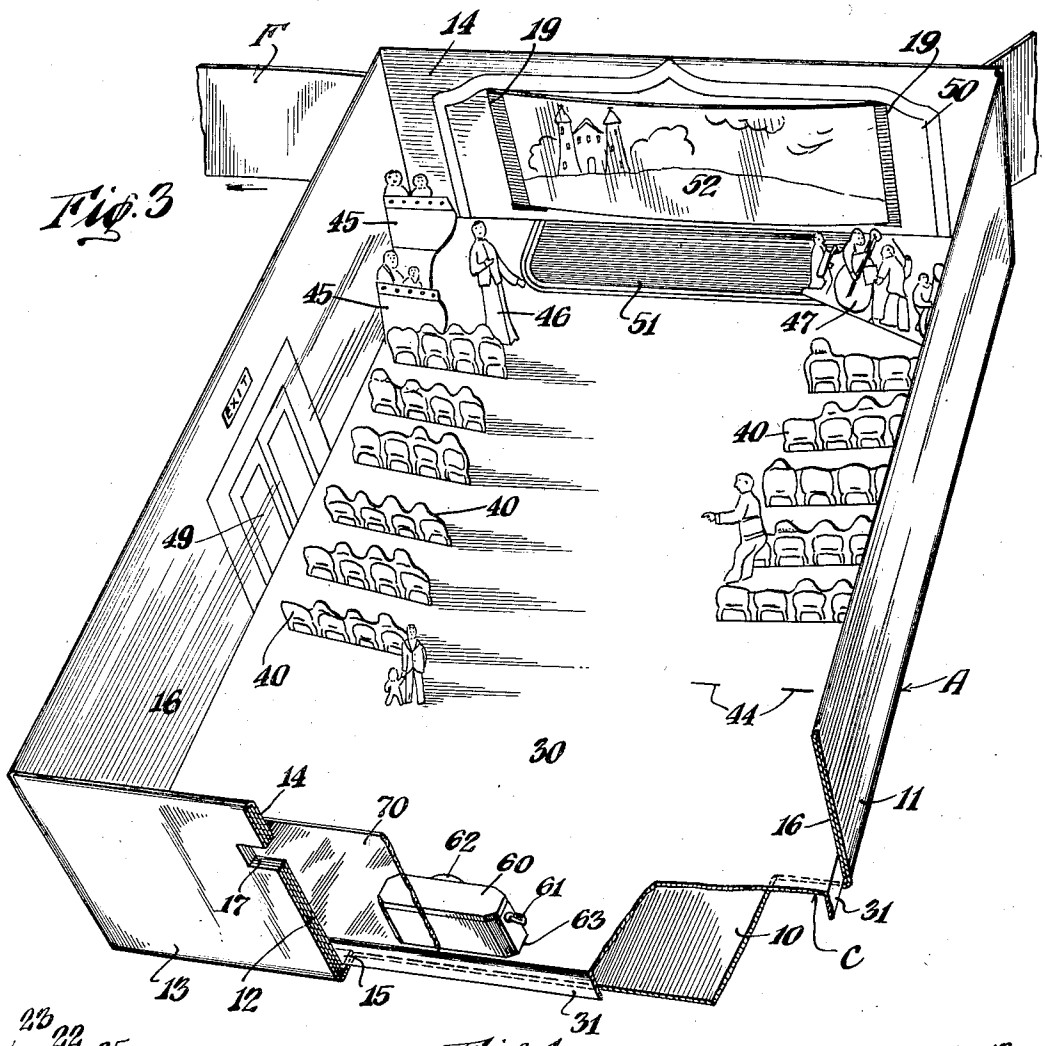
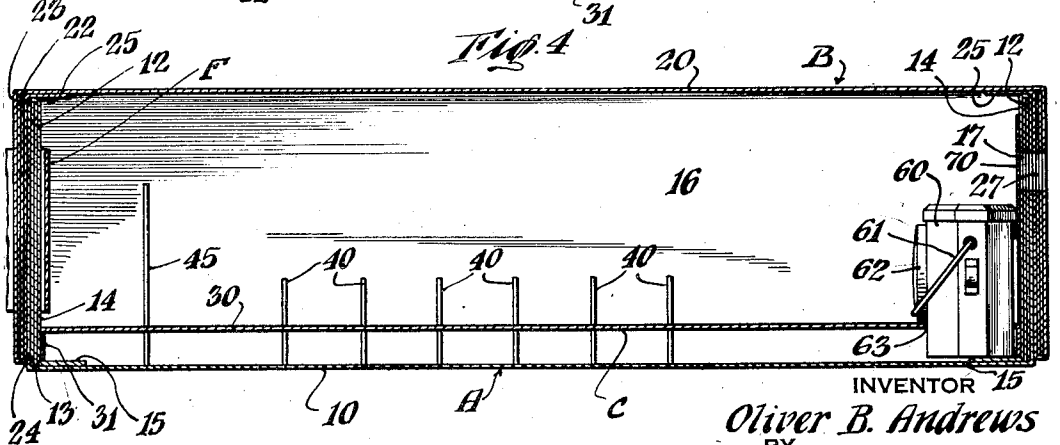


Fig. 4



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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AMUSEMENT DEVICE

Oliver B. Andrews, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Application April 16, 1935, Serial No. 16,632

9 Claims. (Cl. 46—37)

This invention relates to an amusement device and more particularly to a toy moving picture theatre which is instructive and amusing to both children and adults.

The toy theatre forming the subject matter of this invention comprises generally a box structure having a bottom wall and surrounding side walls. A secondary or false bottom wall is preferably provided which seats upon the bottom wall of the box structure and is spaced therefrom. The secondary box wall and the surrounding side walls of the box structure are preferably decorated in an artistic manner to represent the floor, the stage and the side walls of the theatre. A pair of spaced slots are cut in one of the side walls of the box structure and through these slots a film having story picturizations thereon is threaded. The inside face of the side wall having the slots therein is preferably decorated so as to represent a theatre stage and the surrounding proscenium, so that the film appears on the theatre stage as a picture screen. Each story picturization on the film is of such size as to occupy the space between the slots. The film may be advanced by a slight pull on the same exercised either manually or by some simple operative means, such as a reel or similar winding apparatus.

A removable cover member comprising a top wall and surrounding side walls telescopes over the box structure and provides the roof or ceiling for the theatre. A peep hole extends through the side wall of the box structure and the adjacent side wall of the cover member through which the story picturization on the film may be viewed from the outside of the box. Suitable means, such as a lamp or a lantern, is handily located within the box structure to illuminate the film. Colored glass or "Cellophane" sheets may be positioned within the box adjacent the peep hole opening to give different color effects to the picturizations being viewed. Theatre seat representations formed from paper-board may be provided which may be removably positioned and arranged as desired within the theatre. Orchestra, attendants, patrons and theatre box representations may also be provided, all of which may be removably and interchangeably arranged within the theatre as one's artistic sense may dictate. The film may be made of paperboard material and have thereon selected story representations comprising both pictures and reading matter. Innumerable subjects can be pictured thereon depending upon the object to be served and the person to be instructed or amused. Children are often fascinated by story picturizations of Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Beanstalk, Snowdrop and the Seven Dwarfs, and innumerable other subjects which would be of assistance to those having to do with child education.

An object of this invention is to provide an amusement device comprising a miniature moving picture theatre which is instructive to adults and children alike.

Another object of this invention is to provide a toy moving picture theatre having a movable film, carrying story picturizations associated therewith, which may be used as an instrument of instruction to children.

Still another object of my invention is to provide a toy theatre having various parts constituting theatre accoutrements which may be removably and interchangeably positioned within the theatre, and which are so made, decorated and arranged as to stimulate the artistic and mechanical imagination of both child and adult.

Another object of this invention is to provide a toy theatre which may be formed of paperboard or other inexpensive material, which is strong and durable in construction, which can be economically produced and sold at low cost, which is attractive in appearance, which is pleasing in design, and accurately represents in miniature the appearance of the actual theatre.

Other objects of this invention will become apparent as the disclosure proceeds.

Although the novel features which are believed to be characteristic of this invention will be particularly pointed out in the claims appended hereto, the invention itself, as to its objects and advantages, and the manner in which it may be carried out, may be better understood by referring to the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings forming a part thereof, in which

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the toy theatre and film combination completely set up and as it appears from the outside;

Fig. 1*a* represents a card associated with the theatre and advertising the program for the day;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of my toy theatre with the cover member slightly raised from the box structure to illustrate the film arrangement;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged perspective view of the box structure showing the interior appearance of the theatre, certain parts being broken away to illustrate certain features of the construction;

Fig. 4 is a vertical longitudinal cross sectional view through the theatre taken on lines 4—4 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the box structure as it appears when partially assembled;

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the cover member as it appears in the process of assembly; and

Fig. 7 represents a card having theatre seat picturizations therein which are removable for placement upon the bottom wall or floor of the theatre.

Similar reference characters refer to similar parts throughout the several views of the drawings and specification.

The toy movie theatre comprises generally a box structure A having a cover member B. The box structure is preferably rectangular and is shown in Fig. 5. One pair of the side walls may comprise upstanding side walls and outer side wall portion 11 having an inturned flap 16. The other pair of side walls comprise side flaps 12 hinged to the side walls 11. An outer side wall portion 13 hinged to the bottom wall 10 extends over the outside face of the overlapped flaps 12. A flap 14 extends over the inside face of the side flaps 17 and a foot portion 15 frictionally grips the side flaps 16 holding the box structure in set up position without requiring glue. The box structure as above described may be economically constructed. It is understood, however, that I do not limit myself to the particular formation of the box above described, but a box having a bottom wall and surrounding side walls made in any manner, may be used.

A peep hole or opening 17 is cut through the side flaps 12, the outer wall portion 13 and the inturned flap 14 of the box side walls so as to provide an opening through which the moving picture film about to be described may be viewed. The other end of the box is provided with paired openings or slots 19 provided in the side flaps 12, the outer wall portion 13 and the inturned flap portion 14. The slots 19 are suitably formed so as to permit the moving picture film F to be threaded therethrough so that the picturizations 52 on the film may be viewed from the interior of the box structure.

The cover member which telescopes over the box structure is shown more particularly in Fig. 6. The cover member may be made from a blank similar to that from which the box structure is formed and comprises a top wall 20, one pair of side walls 21 and another pair of side walls comprising the side flaps 22 hinged to the side walls 21. An outer wall 23 covers the outside face of the side flaps 22 and an inturned flap 24 covers the inside face of the flaps 22. A foot piece 25 may also be provided which frictionally engages the side walls 21 to hold the cover member in assembled position without the use of glue or other securing means. A pair of open ended slots 26 are provided in one of the end walls which correspond and register with the slots 19 provided in the box structure. The slots 26 telescope over the protruding ends of the film, as shown in Fig. 2, to permit the cover member to be moved into closed seating position. An opening 27 is cut in the opposite side wall of the cover member, which opening registers with the peep opening 17 provided in one of the side walls of the box structure.

The film F is provided with a plurality of story picturizations 52 thereon which may comprise both pictures and reading matter. It is most convenient to thread the film F through the slots 19 before the cover member is applied. The film can be drawn through the slots 19 by stages so that one picturization at a time is made visible across the stage 50 and the proscenium 51 pictured on the inside face of the box wall, as shown more particularly in Fig. 3. The film F may be manually advanced or a suitable reel or winding device may be provided for advancing the same as found convenient and desirable.

A secondary bottom wall C having a floor portion 30 is preferably provided which covers the entire bottom wall 10 of the box structure. The theatre floor 30 is preferably held spaced from the bottom wall 10 by means of the flanges 31 extending downwardly therefrom. To illuminate the theatre when the cover member B is positioned over the box structure, a suitable lantern 60 is provided. The lantern 60 may comprise an electric flashlight of the storage battery type having a lamp 62 and a handle 61 for moving the lantern about. The illuminating device 60 is preferably positioned near the peep hole opening 17 and is so adjusted as to cause a beam of light on the exposed surface of the film at the other end of the theatre. To hold the illuminating device 60 in the proper position, an opening 63 is preferably cut in the secondary bottom wall or theatre floor 30. The illuminating device is inserted into the opening 63 and rests upon the bottom wall 10 of the box structure. In place of the lantern 60, an incandescent light may be dropped from the box to serve as the illuminating device, if desired.

The slots 26 in the cover member are preferably spaced slightly further apart than the slots 19 in the box structure so that when the film slides through the slots the film will not be pulled away from the screen or stage, but will closely hug the same.

The side walls and the theatre floor 30 are preferably decorated as to resemble an actual theatre as far as possible. Thus exit openings 49 may be represented on one of the side walls and a proscenium 51 may be represented at one end of the theatre floor 30 which harmonizes as a whole with the stage 50 pictured on the adjacent box side wall.

As a means of further amusing the child and further developing his artistic and mechanical sense, theatre seat representations 40 may be provided. As shown more particularly in Figure 7, a card D of relatively stiff paperboard material is provided with cut out means or lines of weakness 42 which surround the theatre seat representations 40 thereon. The theatre seat representations 40 may be easily lifted or torn out by the child. Tabs or extensions 41 thereon are provided which may be inserted into spaced slits 44 provided in the theatre floor 30. The tabs 41 are of sufficient length to seat against the bottom wall 10 of the box structure and are thus supported in rigid upright position. In the same manner, theatre boxes 45, theatre attendants 46 and theatre orchestra 47 may be provided, all held in place by cooperating tab and slit devices as above described. The seat representations 40, as well as the boxes 45 and theatre attendants 46, are removable and interchangeable as desired. The child's mechanical sense as well as artistic sense is thus stimulated and cultivated.

To obtain different color effects, a colored screen 70 which may comprise colored glass or "Cellophane" may be provided. The colored screen is preferably positioned directly adjacent the peep opening 17 and preferably on the inside face thereof, as shown more particularly in Figure 3.

The toy movie theatre, as above constructed,

may be very economically made, substantially entirely of paper-board material except for the illuminating device 60. A number of films F having various story picturizations thereon may be provided so that the film can be changed from time to time, as is done in the actual theatre. Card E, shown in Figure 1*a*, may be provided which announces the program or film to be shown. The toy theatre as thus made provides a source of amusement for adults as well as children, and the advancing film, as well as the theatre seat and other representations within the theatre, provide a stimulus to both the artistic and mechanical nature of the child.

While certain novel features of the invention have been disclosed and are pointed out in the annexed claims, it will be understood that various omissions, substitutions and changes may be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. An amusement device including in combination, a box structure comprising a bottom wall and surrounding side walls decorated to resemble a theatre interior, a film at one end of the box carrying successive story picturizations thereon, electric illuminating means within said box operative to cast a beam of light on to said film, a peep hole at the other end of the box through which the story picturizations on said film may be viewed, and an adjustable color screen movable over said peep hole operative to give color effects to said film.

2. An amusement device including, in combination, a paperboard box structure comprising surrounding side walls and a bottom wall, a raised platform resting upon said bottom wall, said platform and side walls being decorated to resemble a theatre interior, theatre seat representations therein, said platform and theatre seat representations having cooperating tabs and slits to removably secure the theatre seat representations in set up position, a film at one end of the box carrying successive story picturizations thereon, and a peep hole at the other end of the box through which the story picturizations on said film may be viewed.

3. An amusement device including, in combination, a box structure comprising a bottom wall and surrounding side walls, a secondary bottom wall spaced from said first bottom wall, a plurality of representations of theatre accoutrements extending upwardly from said secondary bottom wall, means for removably supporting said representations in set up position comprising cooperating tabs and slits carried by said secondary bottom wall and said representations, the side walls of the box structure and the secondary bottom wall being decorated to resemble a theatre interior.

4. An amusement device including, in combination, a box structure comprising a bottom wall and surrounding side walls, a secondary bottom wall spaced from said first bottom wall, a plurality of theatre seat and figure representations, means for removably supporting said representations in set up position comprising cooperating tabs and slits carried by said secondary bottom wall and said representations, a film at one end of the box carrying successive story picturizations thereon, and a peep hole at the other end of the box through which the story picturizations on said film may be viewed.

5. An amusement device including, in combination, a box structure comprising a bottom wall and surrounding side walls, a secondary bottom wall spaced from said first bottom wall, a plurality of theatre accoutrements removably supported on said secondary bottom wall, means for removably securing said accoutrements in arranged position comprising cooperating tabs and slits carried by said secondary bottom wall and said representations, a film at one end of the box carrying successive story picturizations thereon, an opening on said secondary bottom wall adapted to receive and support a film illuminating device, and a peep hole at the other end of the box through which the story picturizations on said film may be viewed.

6. A toy structure including, in combination, a base comprising an inverted paperboard box section including connected bottom wall and side flange portions, the latter serving to support the bottom at an elevation from the surface upon which the structure is set up, structural parts supported on said bottom, and means for removably supporting said structural parts in set up position comprising cooperating tabs and slits associated with said bottom wall and structural parts.

7. A toy building structure formed of paperboard material including in combination, a base comprising an inverted paperboard box section including connected bottom and side flange portions, the latter serving to support the bottom at an elevation from the surface upon which the structure is set up, structural parts supported on said bottom wall, and means for removably securing said structural parts in set up position including spaced slits in said bottom wall and corresponding spaced tabs associated with said structural parts insertable into said slits.

8. A toy building structure formed of paperboard material including in combination, a base comprising an inverted paperboard box section including connected bottom and side flange portions, the latter serving to support the bottom at an elevation from the surface upon which the structure is set up, structural parts supported on said bottom wall, and means for removably securing said structural parts in set up position, comprising spaced cooperating tabs and slits associated respectively with said structural parts and said bottom wall, the slits being so shaped that the tabs are frictionally gripped by the bottom wall.

9. A toy structure comprising, in combination, a base comprising an inverted paperboard box section having integral bottom wall and side flange portions, which latter serve to support the bottom at an elevation above a supporting surface, spaced openings in said bottom wall, a plurality of paperboard members and tabs constituting integral extensions of an edge of each of said members and positioned to fit snugly into said openings in said bottom to constitute, with said bottom, means for supporting said paperboard members in upright position on said base.

OLIVER B. ANDREWS.