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S. N. HOLMAN

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HOBBYHORSE

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Fig. 1.

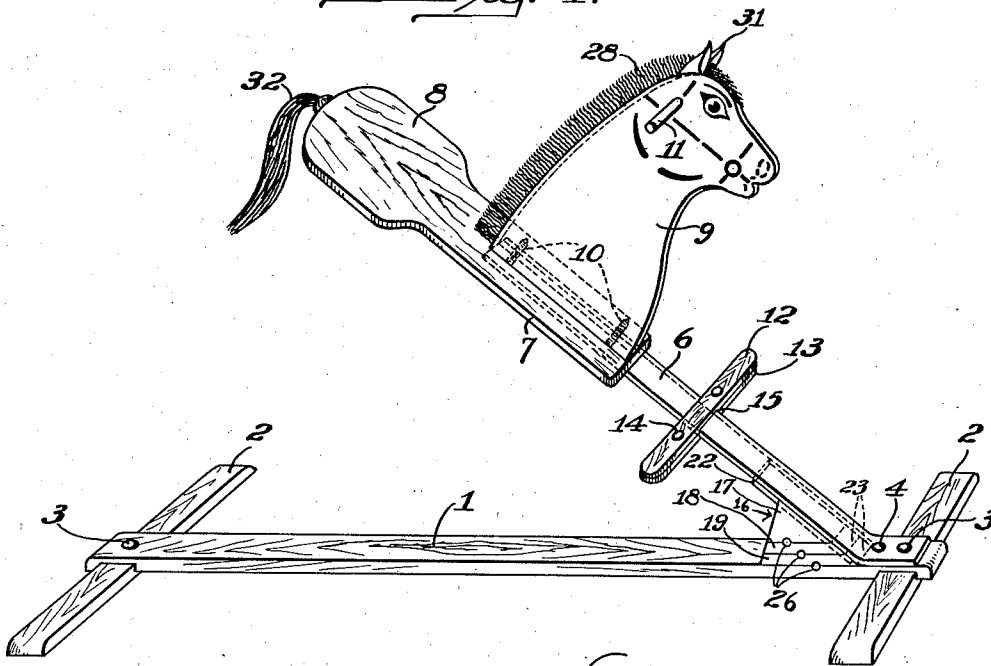


Fig. 3.

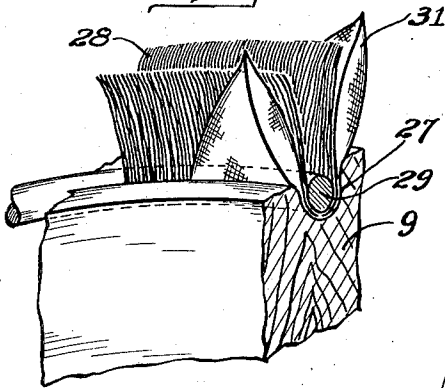
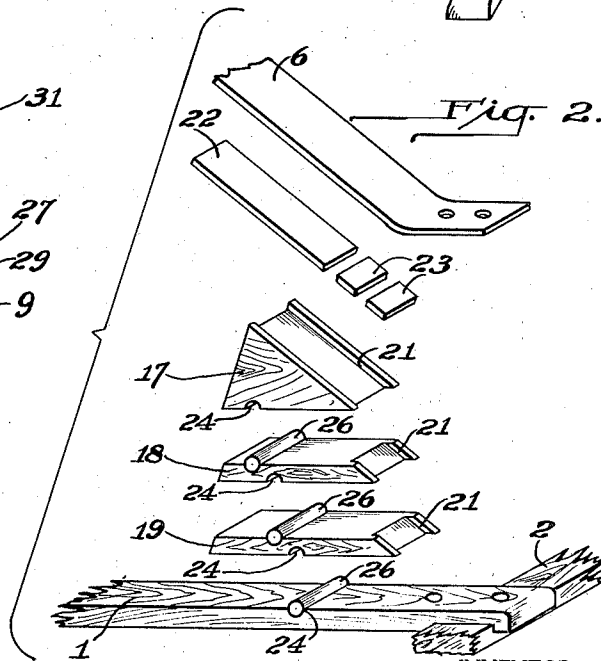


Fig. 2.



WITNESSES

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HOBBYHORSE

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4 Claims. (Cl. 272-52)

This invention relates to hobby-horses and the like, and more particularly to those in which a seat is mounted on the upper end of an inclined resilient bar whereby to permit a child seated thereon to spring up and down.

Heretofore it has been the customary practice to construct hobby-horses of this character in a few graduated sizes for children of various sizes. However, even then difficulty is sometimes experienced in obtaining a hobby-horse in a size which a given child can ride in safety and comfort. Even when the correct size horse is purchased for a child it is not long before the child's increase in weight becomes such that the resilient bar can not support it, whereupon the toy becomes useless and must be discarded. Consequently, if the child is to have such a hobby-horse in the future, a new one must be purchased every time he becomes too heavy for the preceding one. This also requires stores handling hobby-horses to carry several sizes in stock.

It has also been the practice to form upstanding ears and a ruffed mane on hobby-horses of this character by sawing the board that forms the head and neck in such a manner as to produce a contour representing them, and also to paint the mane on the back of the horse's neck. A painted mane is not very realistic, while the jagged projections formed by the ears and mane are liable to injure a child who falls forward against them as sometimes happens when the child springs too high.

It is among the objects of this invention to provide a hobby-horse of the character referred to which is adjustable in order to accommodate children of different sizes, which is durable yet simple in construction, and which is safe to ride.

The preferred embodiment of this invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which Fig. 1 is a perspective view thereof; Fig. 2 is a disassembled view of the adjusting members and adjoining parts; and Fig. 3 is an enlarged fragmentary perspective view showing the manner of forming a mane and ears.

Referring to Fig. 1 of the drawing, a supporting base is formed by connecting the opposite ends of an elongate base member 1 to the centers of parallel cross pieces 2. By mortising the ends of the base member so that the cross pieces can not turn therein, only one bolt 3 or the like is necessary for connecting each cross piece to member 1. Preferably, the base member is resilient and spaced from the floor by the cross pieces in order to add resiliency to the entire toy.

Attached to the front of the base by bolt 3 and

an additional bolt 4 is the front end of an elongate resilient member 5, such as a flat strip or bar of spring metal that is inclined upwardly directly above base member 1. The upper or free end of this spring supports a front extension 7 of a seat 8 that is adapted to support a child. Projecting upwardly from seat extension 7 is a member 9, such as a board, formed and painted to represent the head and neck of a horse or the like. This member and the seat extension are both conveniently connected to spring 5 by long heavy screws 10 extending up through the latter and embedded in the former.

Extending transversely through the head of the horse is a rod 11 which forms hand-grips for a child seated on seat 8. Mounted on the spring in front of the seat extension is a foot-rest formed by clamping two cross pieces 12 and 13 together against the opposite sides of the spring by means of bolts 14, the lower face of upper piece 12 being provided with a transverse recess 15 snugly receiving spring 5 to prevent the foot-rest from turning thereon. By loosening bolts 14 the foot-rest can be adjusted longitudinally of the spring to any desired position.

To rigidly support the lower portion of the spring above the base in order to provide an elevated support for one end of the spring relative to which the seat at the opposite end can spring up and down when a child is seated thereon, a support 16 is removably mounted on the base between base member 1 and the lower portion of the spring adjoining its base-engaging lower end. It is a feature of this invention that this support, preferably triangular in shape, is made up of several superimposed blocks detachably connected together, three blocks being shown.

As best shown in Fig. 2, the upper block 17 is preferably triangular, while center block 18 and lower block 19 are each prismoidal in shape, by which is meant that their horizontal faces and their vertical side faces are parallel and their end faces converge upwardly. Each of the two lower filler blocks is longer than the blank above in order to preserve the triangular contour of the entire support 16. With this construction any one or more of the prismoidal blocks below upper triangular block 17 may be removed or replaced in order to lower or raise support 16 for the purpose of varying the effective resilient length for children of different sizes. For example, when upper block 17 is raised by placing one or more filler blocks beneath it, it is likewise moved along the spring to a point closer to the seat, whereby the effective resilient position of the spring is de-

creased in length so that the spring is rendered more rigid for supporting heavier children.

Another way of shortening the effective length of the spring, either with or without the use of
5 filler blocks below block 17, is to provide the spring-engaging surface of the blocks with a groove 21 extending longitudinally of the spring for receiving and retaining a bar 22. This bar is longer than upper block 17 so that when the
10 latter is used without filler blocks the bar extends beyond the vertex of the block for supporting the spring. When the filler blocks are used, additional rectangular filler pieces 23 are disposed in groove 21 below the bar to maintain its upper end
15 projecting beyond the upper block.

The supporting blocks may be detachably connected together and to base member 1 in any suitable manner, a convenient way being to provide the engaging horizontal faces of the blocks
20 and base member with registering transverse grooves 24 in which pins 25 are disposed to prevent the blocks from slipping rearwardly or turning between the base and spring. If desired, each pin may be permanently secured in
25 one of the registering grooves so that there will be fewer loose parts.

It is another feature of this invention that the horse is provided with realistic ears and mane which offer no element of danger to children
30 riding this toy. Accordingly, as shown in Figs. 1 and 3, the portion of member 9 forming the back of the neck and the top of the head of the horse is provided with a groove 27. A mane 28 is formed by laying a strip of burlap or other
35 suitable fabric along this groove and then forcing the central portion of the strip into the groove by a retaining strip 29 of sufficient width to wedge the fabric strip in the groove with its opposite sides projecting rearwardly therefrom.
40 At the same time the central portion of a second small strip of fabric is wedged by retaining strip 29 in the groove at the top of the head beneath the mane beyond which it extends to form ears 31. If the ear-forming piece of fabric is
45 rectangular and the rear corners are folded forwardly and over to the center of the piece where they are held by the retaining strip as shown, the resulting ears are more realistic in appearance. The longitudinal strands of the fabric mane
50 are removed from the projecting transverse strands, whereby the latter represent the hair of the mane. The removed strands may then be attached to the rear of the seat to represent the horse's tail 32, while the portion of the mane
55 in front of the ears forms a forelock.

A hobby-horse or the like constructed in accordance with this invention has a much longer useful life than those known heretofore because it is adjustable to accommodate a child as he
60 increases in weight, and because the resiliency of the base member absorbs some of the strain that would otherwise be taken up by the spring bar and thereby lessens the danger of the spring bar breaking. By providing fabric ears and mane
65 the appearance of the horse is more realistic than when they are cut out and painted, and no jagged projections are formed thereby that

might injure a child who fell or was thrown forward against the horse.

According to the provisions of the patent statutes, I have explained the principle and construction of my invention, and have illustrated
5 and described what I now consider to be its best embodiment. However, I desire to have it understood that, within the scope of the appended claims, the invention may be practiced
10 otherwise than as specifically illustrated and described.

I claim:

1. A toy comprising an upright member shaped to represent the head and neck of an animal, the back of said head and neck being provided with
15 a groove extending longitudinally thereof, a strip of flexible material folded lengthwise with its fold disposed in said groove, an elongate retaining member disposed in said fold for holding it in
20 said groove, whereby the remainder of said material projects rearwardly from said neck and head and represents a mane, and a relatively short piece of flexible material having its central
25 portion held in said groove in said head by said retaining member, the end portions of said piece of material projecting from the groove to represent ears.

2. A toy comprising an upright member shaped to represent the head of an animal, said head
30 being provided with a groove extending longitudinally thereof, a substantially rectangular piece of flexible material provided with a central fold disposed in said groove, and a retaining member disposed in said fold for holding it in
35 said groove, the rear corners of said material being folded forwardly and retained in said groove by said retaining member to thereby form triangular portions projecting from the groove and representing ears.

3. A toy comprising an upright member shaped
40 to represent the head and neck of an animal and provided in its rear surface with a longitudinal groove, a strip of flexible material folded lengthwise with its fold disposed in said groove, a rod disposed in said fold for holding it in the groove,
45 whereby the remainder of said material projects from the groove, said projecting material being in the general form of fringe to represent a mane, and a relatively short piece of flexible material having its central portion retained in the upper
50 portion of said groove by said rod, the end portions of said piece of material projecting from the groove to represent ears.

4. A hobby-horse or the like, comprising a seat, a member projecting upwardly from the front of
55 the seat and shaped to represent the head and neck of a horse or the like and provided in its rear surface with a longitudinal groove, a strip of flexible material folded lengthwise with its fold disposed in said groove, a retaining member
60 disposed in said fold for holding it in the groove, and a relatively short piece of flexible material having its central portion held in the upper portion of said groove by said retaining member, the end portions of said piece of material projecting from the groove to represent ears.

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