Jan. 14, 1958 C. R. DALEY 2,819,559

HAND OPERATED SNAPPING TOY

Filed March 15, 1957

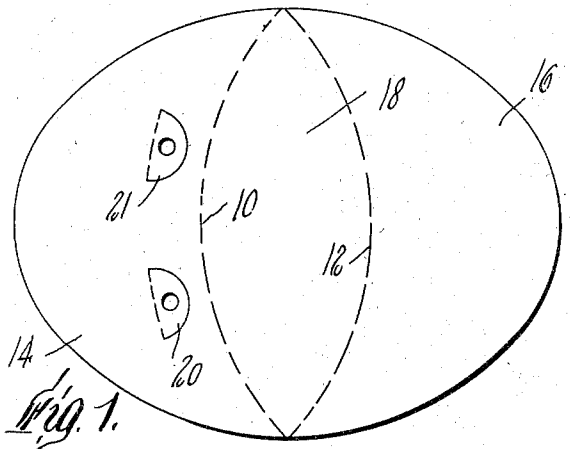


Fig. 1.

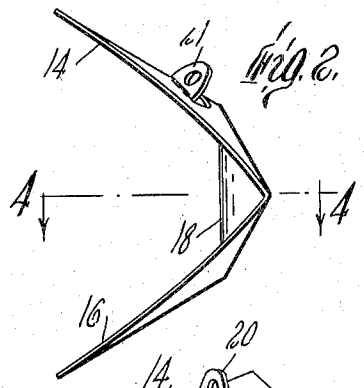


Fig. 2.

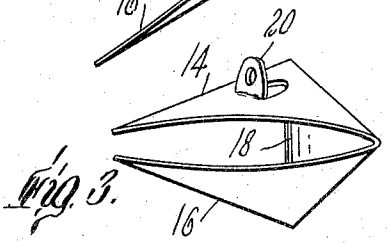


Fig. 3.

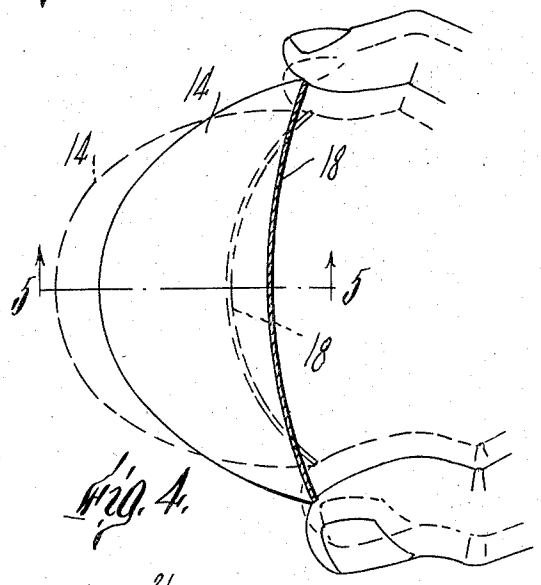


Fig. 4.

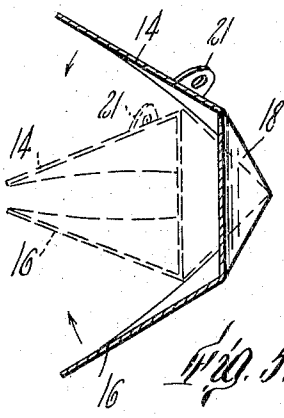


Fig. 5.

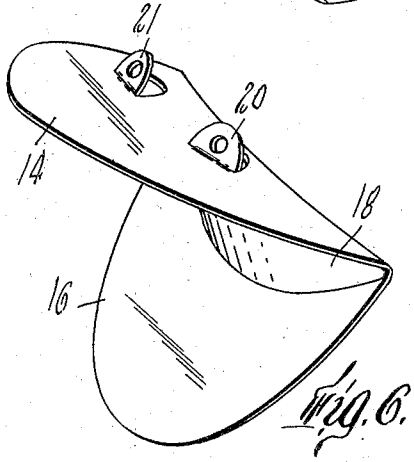


Fig. 6.



Fig. 7.

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HAND OPERATED SNAPPING TOY

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Application March 15, 1957, Serial No. 646,268

4 Claims. (Cl. 46—123)

This invention relates to a novelty item and more particularly to an inexpensive hand-manipulated structure grotesquely simulating the facial motions of an animal, human or otherwise, depending upon its general shape and manner of decoration.

Such a device has utility as a premium item in consumer packages or, in some cases, it can be formed by the consumer from the material constituting the package or from package inserts, since such materials are many times of a character to be suitable for use in fabricating the novelty items of this invention.

It is the main object of the invention to so shape and score a piece of sheet material of suitable flexibility and inherent resilience under tension in such manner that by a simple folding operation there is provided a manipulatable novelty for simulating the facial movements of an animal.

Normally, the outline of the item in its unfolded form is elongated and may be oval or generally diamond-shaped. In its flat form, the sheet material, which can be of cardboard, bears two score lines along intersecting arcs of equal radii and enclosing a central panel which is elongated transversely of the device and providing two end flaps, originally in the plane of the central panel. However, upon folding the flaps into overlapping relation and bringing their ends into juxtaposition, the central portion enclosed between the score lines flexes into a concavely arcuate configuration. The further the flaps are moved towards one another the greater the flexing of the central portion until the ends contact each other.

By placing the extremities of the central flexing portion between the thumb and finger and increasing the flexure of the central portion by pressure, the extremities of the flaps are brought together and there is sufficient resilience in the material of the central panel to oppose its flexing so that the flaps open upon release of the pressure.

Intermittently applied pressure thus causes the novelty to simulate a chewing or biting action. If the flaps are provided with decoration simulating human or animal facial appearance, then the simulation is accentuated.

Typical embodiments of such a novelty item are illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of the item prior to folding;

Fig. 2 is an end elevation of the item after folding but before tension has been exerted on the central panel;

Fig. 3 is a similar end elevation after the central panel has been flexed, as illustrated in dotted lines in the plan view of Fig. 4;

Fig. 5 is a cross-sectional view taken along the line 5—5 of Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the item shown in Fig. 1 after folding; and

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of a different embodiment.

The item shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings is made of a piece of flexible resilient material, such as cardboard, of oval shape, which bears on one side scorings **10** and **12** along arcs of equal radii so that they intersect. Two semicircular cut-outs **20**, **21** are adapted to be folded up to form eyes.

When the two flaps **14** and **16** are folded about the central portion **18** (which is enclosed within the score lines) the device takes the form shown in Fig. 2.

Fig. 3 illustrates the flaps in a relative position induced by squeezing between the forefinger and thumb, as shown in Fig. 4, to flex the panel **18** from the full line position of Figs. 4 and 5 to the dotted line positions rendering it more arcuate under tension. Upon release of pressure the central panel returns to the full line positions.

It will be understood that the score lines **10** and **12** do not need to meet at the edges—they may be moved slightly apart from one another from their positions as shown in Fig. 1; nor need they be on arcs of identical radii. In fact, the scorings may take any curved form within the limits of the flexibility of the material used.

Fig. 7 shows a different embodiment simulating a horse instead of a frog. Decorations differ and the end flaps **14***a* and **16***a* have extensions simulating teeth.

I claim:

1. A hand-manipulatable novelty item comprising a flexible sheet material having an elongated outline and bearing two opposed transverse curved scorings defining therebetween a central transversely elongated resilient panel, said panel being of a size to fit between the thumb and finger of one hand of the operator end portions of said sheet material being foldable into overlapping relation about said respective scorings to flex said central panel into concavely arcuate configuration and said end panel edges being yieldingly movable towards each other upon transverse pressure being applied by the thumb and finger of the operator's hand to the ends of said central panel to flex said central panel progressively into more arcuate configuration, and movable away from each other upon release of the pressure to said resilient central panel, such motion simulating the jaw action of an animal face.

2. A novelty item as claimed in claim 1, having facial elements struck up from one of said end portions.

3. A novelty item as claimed in claim 1 having teeth elements depending from at least one of said end portions.

4. A novelty item as claimed in claim 1, having decorations simulating facial characteristics on at least one of said end portions.

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