July 8, 1952 E. NICHOLS 2,602,262

CITY TRAFFIC TOY

Filed April 6, 1948 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

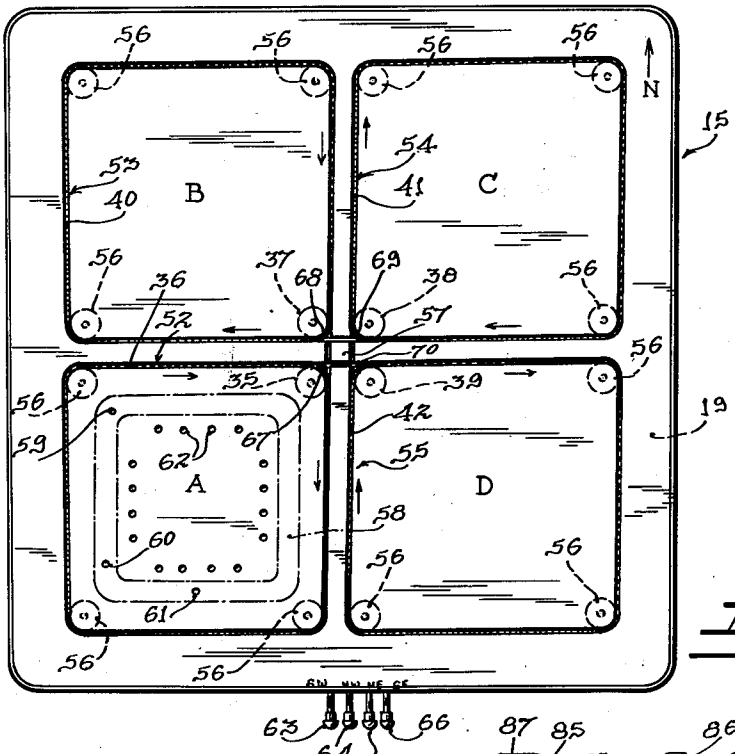


FIG. 1.

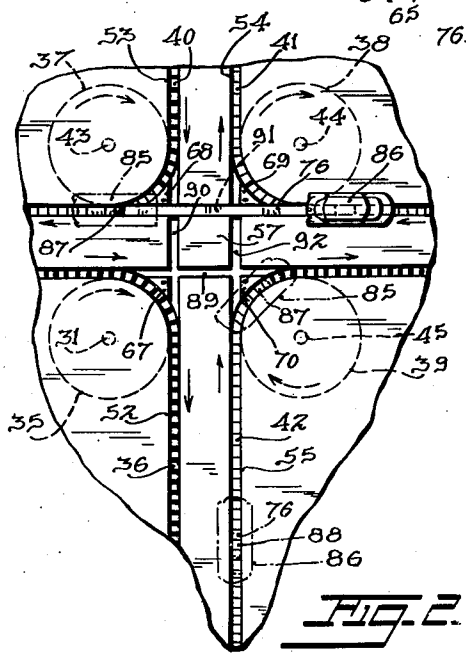


FIG. 2.

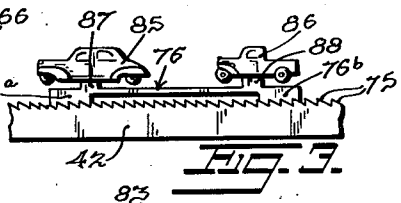


FIG. 3.

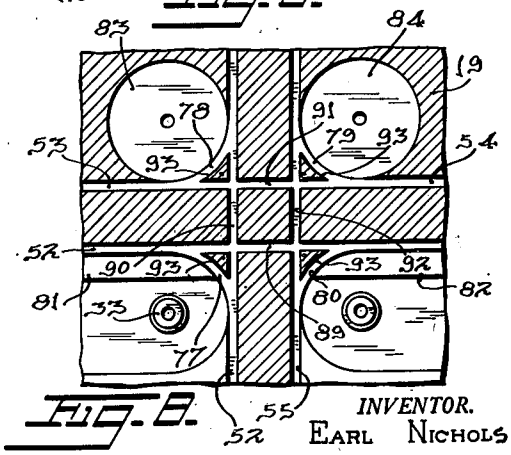


FIG. 8.

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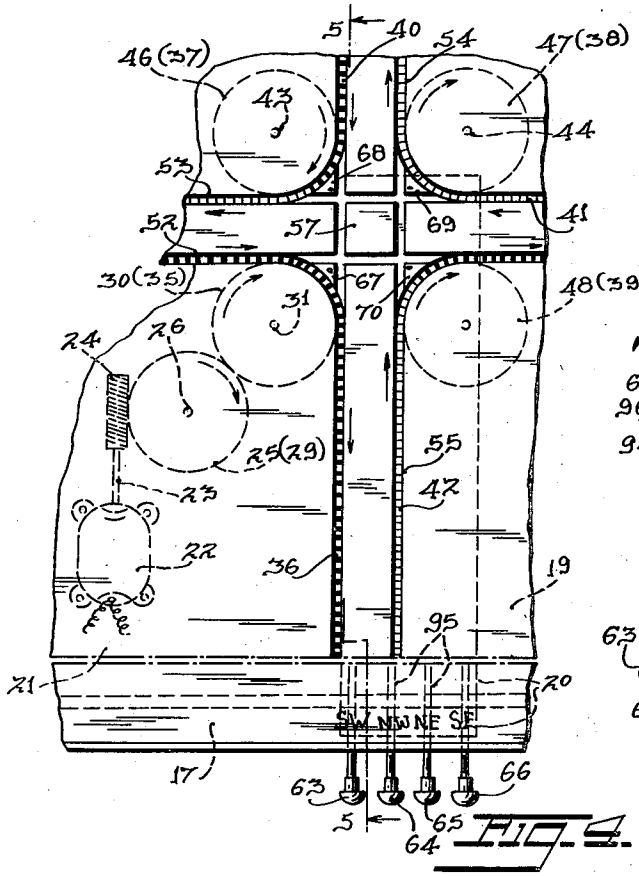


FIG. 4.

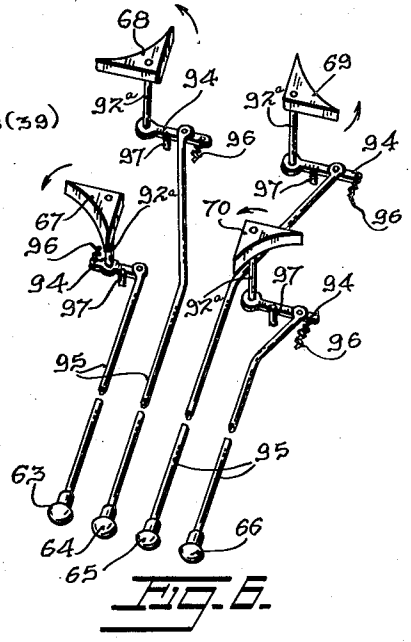


FIG. 6.

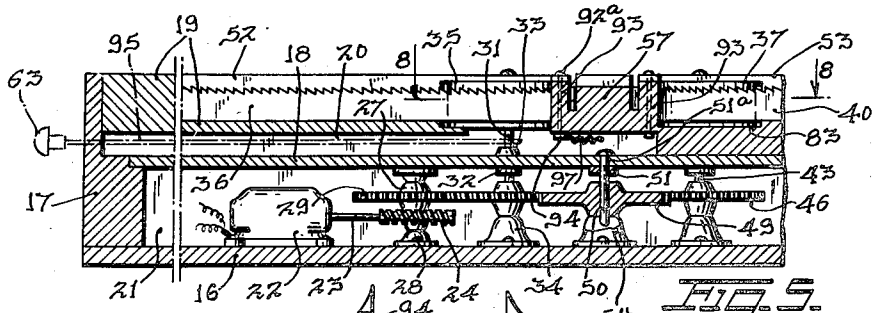


FIG. 5.

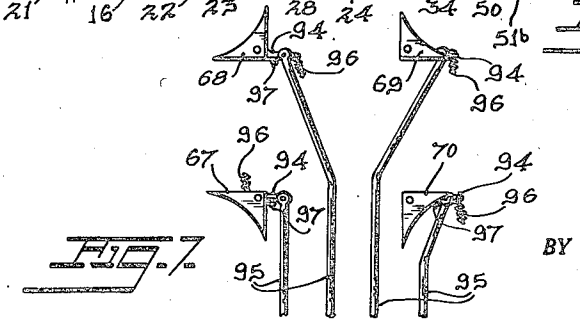


FIG. 7.

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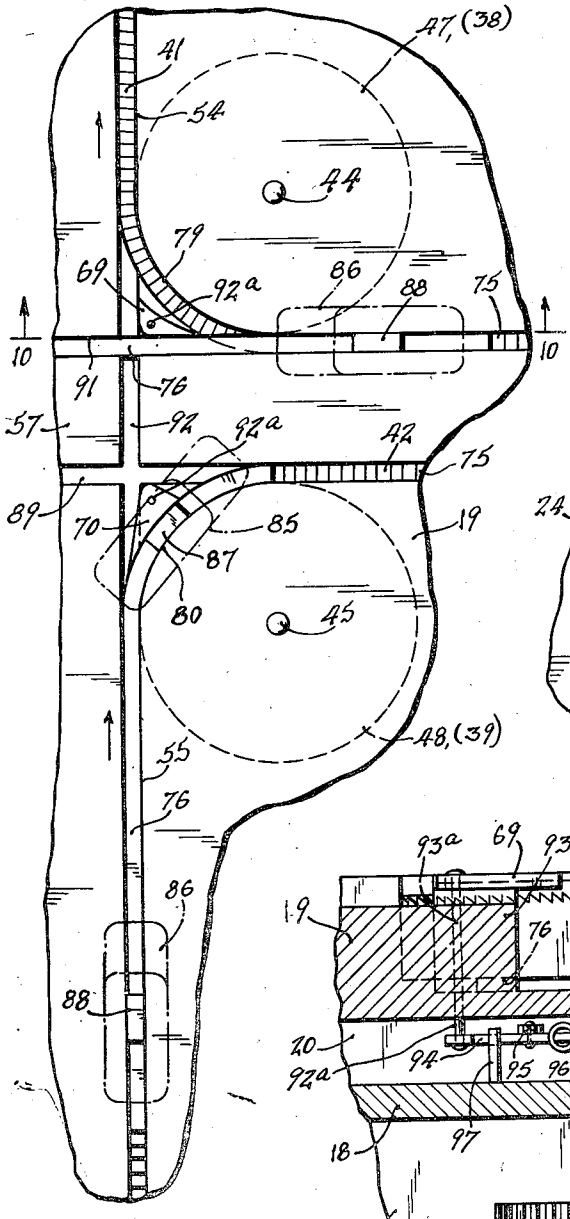


FIG. 9.

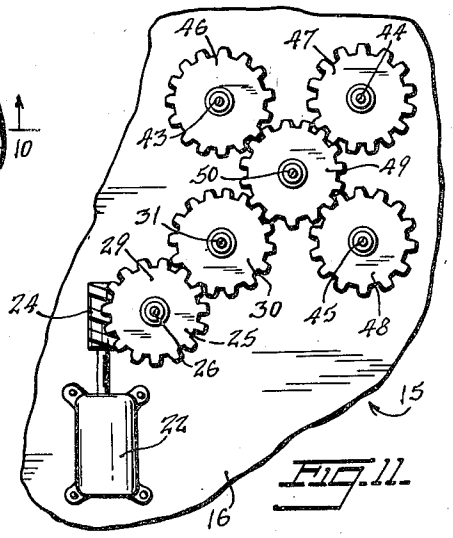


FIG. 11.

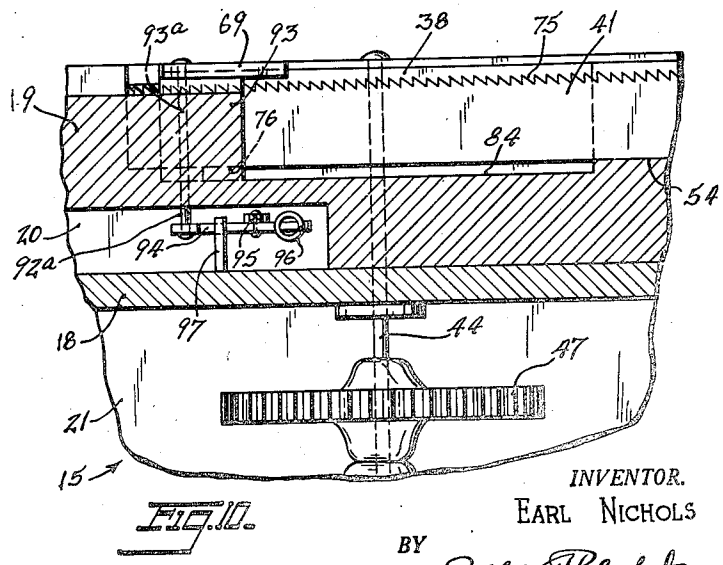


FIG. 10.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,602,262

CITY TRAFFIC TOY

Earl Nichols, Richmond Hill, N. Y.

Application April 6, 1948, Serial No. 19,349

9 Claims. (Cl. 46—1)

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This invention relates to new and useful improvements in amusement devices, and, more particularly, aims to provide a novel and intriguingly interesting toy having to do with the control of vehicular traffic.

According to the invention, a replica or representation of a land area may be provided, as a portion of a city with a plurality of highways simulative of streets dividing the area into a plurality of blocks, with two or more of such streets intersecting each other.

A number of miniature toy vehicles are provided on carriers transported by endless belts running along appointed slots, with all the belts preferably travelling at the same rate of speed, desirably a low one. Also, preferably, a single power means is provided for driving all the belts. Each belt runs around a block, so that normally there may be a multitude of the toy vehicles simultaneously travelling around the various blocks, at the sides of the streets appropriate to the directions of travel of said vehicles.

At the one or more street intersections present, there is further provided a switch means, in the present case shown as manually selectively operable, whereby a toy vehicle approaching a street intersection, and which vehicle would otherwise as above normally travel around its block, may be made to cross the street intersection, and so be transferred to another belt, to travel with the latter around its block.

For further comprehension of the invention, and of the objects and advantages thereof, reference will be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, and to the appended claims in which the various novel features of the invention are more particularly set forth.

In the accompanying drawings forming a material part of this disclosure:

Fig. 1 is a top plan view, showing an embodiment of the invention as now favored, the same illustratively incorporating four city blocks, so that at least one street intersection is provided.

Fig. 2 is a very much enlarged fragmentary top plan view, for showing more clearly said street intersection and the switch means located thereat, and, in the latter connection, for illustrating a plurality of vehicles, with one thereof having just passed said street intersection, another approaching for similar travel, another rounding a corner at said intersection, and another approaching for similar travel.

Fig. 3 is a side elevational view, fragmentarily showing one of the belts, and also showing a vehicle carrier atop and in engagement with the belt for transportation thereby; such carrier being shown as having two toy vehicles thereon.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary top plan view, drawn to a scale intermediate that of Fig. 1 and that of Fig. 2, and so on a scale large enough to allow the

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serrations or teeth on the top of a belt to be indicated; this view also showing the actuators for the individual switch members and a power drive to one of the driving pulleys for one belt.

Fig. 5 is a vertical section, taken substantially on the line 5—5 of Fig. 4.

Fig. 6 is a perspective view showing, on a somewhat enlarged scale as compared with Fig. 2, operative connections each between a different actuator and an associated switch member.

Fig. 7 shows certain of the parts of Fig. 6 in top plan.

Fig. 8 is a horizontal sectional detail view, taken substantially on the line 8—8 of Fig. 5; particularly for showing two cylindrical recesses each for receiving one of two of the pulleys, and, more particularly, for making plain the inclusion of four triangular posts on the tops of which the switch members are mounted for fractional rotation.

Fig. 9 is an enlarged detail view of a portion of Fig. 2.

Fig. 10 is a partial vertical sectional view taken substantially on the line 10—10 of Fig. 9.

Fig. 11 is a plan view of the drive means, per se.

The toy, according to the present invention, includes a base 15. The base 15, in order to accommodate the aforesaid drive means and the aforesaid operative connections, incorporates (see especially Fig. 5) a bottom board 16, a doubly stepped front wall 17, a top board 19 and an intermediate board 18, thereby providing an upper chamber 20 and a lower chamber 21. To maintain the boards 16, 18 and 19 in place in parallel relation, the sides and back of the base are closed in by suitable walls (not shown) to which said boards are suitably attached.

The chamber 20, as will be noted from Fig. 4, is of considerably less horizontal expanse than the chamber 21.

Referring to Figs. 4, 5 and 11, within the chamber 21 is an electric motor 22, suitably secured in position, with its shaft 23 carrying a worm 24 in driving engagement with a worm-gear 25 fixed on a shaft 26 suitably journalled as at 27 and 28. Fixed also on the shaft 26 is a spur gear 29, meshing with a gear 30 fixed on a shaft 31 carrying an attached collar 32 and journalled in bearings 33 and 34.

This shaft 31 fixedly carries a driving pulley 35 for a belt 36; and, for simultaneously driving three other pulleys 37, 38 and 39, each the driving pulley for one of the three other belts 40, 41 and 42, so that all said pulleys rotate, and all said belts travel in the direction indicated by the arrows in Fig. 4, each of the last-named pulleys is fixed on a shaft 43, 44 or 45 corresponding to the shaft 31. The shaft 43 has fixed thereon a spur gear 46 similar to gear 29. Each of the other two shafts 44 and 45 has fixed thereon a similar spur

gear 47 or 48, and all four of the gears 29, 46, 47 and 48 mesh with a somewhat larger spur gear 49 (Fig. 5) fixed on a shaft 50 having an attached collar 51 and journalled at 51a and 51b.

Consequently, when the motor 22 is energized through a suitable switch (not shown) carried by the base 15 or in a separate casing connected by appropriate wiring to the motor 22 and to any convenient source of current supply, each of the belts 36 and 40—42 travels around each of the four endless paths indicated at 52, 53, 54 and 55 in Fig. 1; said belts being held to travel through said paths while in drivable contact with the pulleys 35, 37, 38 and 39, by twelve suitably mounted idler pulleys 56.

As also shown in Fig. 1, each of said paths 52—55 runs around a rectangular area A, B, C or D, each such area representing say a city block, so that there will be portions of six streets along which the traffic units may travel, and at least one street intersection 57.

As indicated in dot and dash lines in Fig. 1 in the case of the block A, each of the four blocks may have a sidewalk representation 58 running around all of its sides, as by applying an appropriate imprinting to the top of the base 15; and along each such sidewalk may be well-like holes, such as indicated at 59, 60 and 61, for interchangeably receiving pegs projected from the bottoms of different toy pieces, as lamp-posts, fire plugs, trees, etc., and spaced back from the sidewalk around each of said blocks may be lines of similar holes, as indicated at 62, for interchangeably receiving pegs projected from the bottoms of other toy pieces constituting miniature reproductions of various types of buildings.

Still referring to Fig. 1, the top of base 15 may be marked with an arrow "N," indicating the north direction, so that the four corners of the street intersection 57 may be readily identified compass-wise, in which connection it will be noted that adjacent each of four push-buttons 63, 64, 65 and 66, all projected from the front wall 17 of the base 15, appear the markings "SW," "NW," "NE" and "SE," these respectively for operating, as will later be explained (see, for the moment, Figs. 6 and 7), the four switch members 67, 68, 69 and 70.

Each of the aforesaid paths 52—55 is an endless slot grooved down into the top portion of the top board 19 of the base 15, and in each of these grooves is one of the belts 36 and 40—42. Each of these endless belts is of a sufficiently flexible material, as leather, to allow passage of the belt easily around its pulleys, and each such belt along its upper marginal portion is serrated or toothed as indicated at 75.

Shown in Fig. 3 is a typical one of the aforesaid carriers, 76, to be transported, together with as many of its fellows as desired, by each of the belts as such belt travels in its appointed direction. Each carrier 76 is in the form of an elongated strip, of a material sufficiently flexible to allow the carrier to assume the necessary curvature in passing through the curved portions of the slots running around the pulleys, such, for instance, as the curved slot portions marked 77, 78, 79 and 80 in Fig. 8.

The curved slot portions 77 and 80, see Fig. 8, at their bottoms are somewhat higher than the stepped down portions 81 and 82 of the board 19 on which the bottoms of the driving pulleys 35 and 39 rest, and the curved slot portions 78 and 79, see Fig. 8, are also somewhat higher at their bottoms than the bottoms of cylindrical recesses 83 and 84 on which the bottoms of the driving pulleys 37 and 38 rest.

A carrier 76 (Fig. 3) is shown as adapted to carry a plurality of toy objects 85 and 86, each representative of a passenger automobile or a truck or the like such as ordinarily constitutes a real object moving in actual traffic. Objects 85 and 86 are suitably secured to projections 87 and 88 upstanding from the carrier. Two such miniature vehicles are preferred for each carrier, one near the forward end thereof, and one near the rear end thereof, for a reason which will be made clear in a moment. A carrier 76 is provided at its bottom with ratchet-tooth-like serrations for matching the teeth 75 of a belt, these serrations of the carrier being on the bottoms of downward extensions 76a and 76b therefrom at the forward and rear ends thereof.

Referring now particularly to Fig. 2, a carrier 76 is shown partially on the belt 41 and partially on the belt 40 with the vehicular object 86 advancing toward the intersection 57 and with its vehicular object 85 having already crossed the intersection; further, another carrier 76 is shown entirely on the belt 42, with its vehicular object 85 rounding the south-east corner at said intersection and with its vehicle 86 approaching said corner.

To insure that a carrier 76 will properly transfer itself from one belt to another as in the case of the carrier shown at the upper part of Fig. 2, is the reason why a carrier is desirably made as long as illustrated; moreover, the reason why a vehicular object is desirably mounted near the front end and also near the rear end of a carrier, is to allow the weight of such objects which may be cast of lead, to bear down on the carrier, particularly during the transfer of a carrier from one belt to another.

Comparing Figs. 2 and 8, it will be noted that to allow a carrier to transfer from the slot 52 to the slot 55, or from the slot 53 to the slot 52, or from the slot 54 to the slot 53, or from the slot 55 to the slot 54, that is, to allow a toy car or the like to cross the intersection 57 in an easterly direction, a southerly direction, a westerly direction, or in a northerly direction, at said intersection 57 the aligned straight stretches of the slots 52 and 55 are joined by a straight slot portion 89, the aligned straight stretches of the slots 53 and 52 are joined by a straight slot portion 90, the aligned straight stretches of the slots 54 and 53 are joined by a straight slot portion 91, and the aligned straight stretches of the slots 55 and 54 are joined by a straight slot portion 92.

The switch means provided, here shown as for selective manual operation by actuators constituting the push-buttons 63—66 (Figs. 4, 6 and 7) comprises as aforesaid, the switch members 67—70. Comparing the views last-mentioned with Figs. 5 and 8, each of said members 67—70 is fixed on the upper end of one of four shafts 92a. With the underside of each such member resting on the top of one of four triangular posts 93 integral with or suitably secured to the board 19 and defining the lateral bounds of the adjacent slot portions, the shaft 92a carrying that member extends down through a suitable bore 93a, see particularly Fig. 10, in the associated post 93; and fixedly carried at the bottom of each such shaft is an arm 94, connected by a rod 95 to one of the push-buttons 63—66.

Springs 96, connected at one end to the free ends of the arms 93 and at their other ends to the

top board 19, turn the arms against fixed pins 97 mounted on the intermediate board 18, see Figs. 6, 7 and 10. In that position of the arms 93 the switch members 67—70 will be in their normal positions shown in Fig. 2 and as shown in the case of the switch member 70 in Fig. 9. In those positions the switch members 67—70 project into the respective straight slot portions 89—92 and cause the carriers 76 to make a right-hand turn around the corners, at the intersection 57, as clearly shown in the case of the lowermost carrier 76 in Fig. 9.

However, as the respective push buttons 63—66 of the switch members 67—70 are pushed in, the associated switch member is moved to block the entrance to the respective curved slot portions 77, 78, 79 or 80, as shown in the case of the switch member 69 in Fig. 11. In those positions of the switch members 67, 68, 69 or 70, the leading downward extension 76a, as the carriers 76 approach the switch members 67, 68, 69 or 70, will be cammed off the respective belt 36, 40, 41 or 42 by the respective switch member 67, 68, 69 or 70 and caused to enter the respective straight slot 89, 90, 91 or 92 to move across the intersections 57. It is appreciated that the push buttons 63—66 must be held in until the rearmost downward extension 76b has moved off the respective belt 36, 40, 41 or 42, when the pressure on the push button can be released. The springs 96 will then function to restore the switch members 67—70 to their starting positions.

As the carriers 76 complete their movement across the intersection, they will be picked up and moved on by the respective belt 36, 40, 41 or 42 located on the other side of the intersection.

For example, in order to obtain the action illustrated in Fig. 2, in regard to the carrier 76 at the upper part of this view, the switch member 69 was swung to the position shown in Fig. 9 just before the leading end of said carrier reached the same, and then, as soon as the rear end of said carrier entered the slot portion 91, the said switch member 69 was allowed to snap back to its starting position, by action of its spring 96.

While I have illustrated and described the preferred embodiment of my invention, it is to be understood that I do not limit myself to the precise construction herein disclosed and the right is reserved to all changes and modifications coming within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by United States Letters Patent is:

1. A vehicular traffic control toy comprising a base, a plurality of endless belts, means for continuously advancing said belts, means partially fixed on said base for guiding said belts to paths of movement having aligned straight stretches which if prolonged to meet would traverse a location analogous to the intersection of one highway with another on an actual land area, the parts of said guiding means fixed on said base being slots therein within the lower portions of which slots said belts are accommodated, further guiding means carried by said base constituting slot portions providing such prolongations, a plurality of toy vehicles, a plurality of elongate carriers each supporting above the same at least one of said vehicles, said carriers fittable into the upper subdivisions of said slots and slot portions, interhooking means partially carried at the upper sides of said belts and partially carried at the undersides of said carriers for latching a carrier to a belt to cause travel of that carrier with its underlying belt along the slot through which said belt advances, switch means at said location for normally holding a carrier to travel past said location with the same belt by which said carrier was advanced toward said location, and means actuable to operate said switch means to engage the leading end of a carrier, when said end of said carrier approaches said location, thereby to direct said end of said carrier into one of said slot portions for advancing said end of said carrier to another belt for latching thereto, the means for guiding said belts also including a plurality of idler pulleys for each belt, and the means for continuously advancing said belts including a driving pulley for each belt, and a power means for rotating all said driving pulleys simultaneously, there being at least four of said belts, and the driving pulleys for said belts being at said location.

2. A vehicular traffic control toy comprising a base, a plurality of endless belts, means for continuously advancing said belts, means partially fixed on said base for guiding said belts to paths of movement having aligned straight stretches which if prolonged to meet would traverse a location analogous to the intersection of one highway with another on an actual land area, the parts of said guiding means fixed on said base being slots therein within the lower portions of which slots said belts are accommodated, further guiding means carried by said base constituting slot portions providing such prolongations, a plurality of toy vehicles, a plurality of elongate carriers each supporting above the same at least one of said vehicles, said carriers fittable into the upper subdivisions of said slots and slot portions, interhooking means partially carried at the upper sides of said belts and partially carried at the undersides of said carriers for latching a carrier to a belt to cause travel of that carrier with its underlying belt along the slot through which said belt advances, switch means at said location for normally holding a carrier to travel past said location with the same belt by which said carrier was advanced toward said location, and means actuable to operate said switch means to engage the leading end of a carrier, when said end of said carrier approaches said location, thereby to direct said end of said carrier into one of said slot portions for advancing said end of said carrier to another belt for latching thereto, the means for guiding said belts also including a plurality of idler pulleys for each belt, and the means for continuously advancing said belts including a driving pulley for each belt, and a power means for rotating all said driving pulleys simultaneously, there being at least four of said belts, and the driving pulleys for said belts being at said location, there being a spur gear underlying and fixed to each of said four driving pulleys, and a fifth spur gear between and meshing with all the first-named four spur gears.

3. A vehicular traffic control toy comprising a base, a plurality of endless belts, means for continuously advancing said belts, means partially fixed on said base for guiding said belts to paths of movement having aligned straight stretches which if prolonged to meet would traverse a location analogous to the intersection of one highway with another on an actual land area, the parts of said guiding means fixed on said base being slots therein within the lower portions of which slots said belts are accommodated, further

guiding means carried by said base constituting slot portions providing such prolongations, a plurality of toy vehicles, a plurality of elongate carriers each supporting above the same at least one of said vehicles, said carriers fittable into the upper subdivisions of said slots and slot portions, interhooking means partially carried at the upper sides of said belts and partially carried at the undersides of said carriers for latching a carrier to a belt to cause travel of that carrier with its underlying belt along the slot through which said belt advances, switch means at said location for normally holding a carrier to travel past said location with the same belt by which said carrier was advanced toward said location, and means actuable to operate said switch means to engage the leading end of a carrier, when said end of said carrier approaches said location thereby to direct said end of said carrier into one of said slot portions for advancing said end of said carrier to another belt for latching thereto, there being at least four of said belts, the guiding means for said belts being shaped and disposed to cause each belt to approach and then turn away from said location whereby there are two possible directions of travel for a toy vehicle across said location.

4. A vehicular traffic control toy comprising a base, a plurality of endless belts, means for continuously advancing said belts, means partially fixed on said base for guiding said belts to paths of movement having aligned straight stretches which if prolonged to meet would traverse a location analogous to the intersection of one highway with another on an actual land area, the parts of said guiding means fixed on said base being slots therein within the lower portions of which slots said belts are accommodated, further guiding means carried by said base constituting slot portions providing such prolongations, a plurality of toy vehicles, a plurality of elongate carriers each supporting above the same at least one of said vehicles, said carriers fittable into the upper subdivisions of said slots and slot portions, interhooking means partially carried at the upper sides of said belts and partially carried at the undersides of said carriers for latching a carrier to a belt to cause travel of that carrier with its underlying belt along the slot through which said belt advances, switch means at said location for normally holding a carrier to travel past said location with the same belt by which said carrier was advanced toward said location, and means actuable to operate said switch means to engage the leading end of a carrier, when said end of said carrier approaches said location thereby to direct said end of said carrier into one of said slot portions for advancing said end of said carrier to another belt for latching thereto, there being at least four of said belts, the guiding means for said belts being shaped and disposed to cause each belt to approach and then turn away from said location whereby there are two possible directions of travel for a toy vehicle across said location, and said switch means including four switch members at said location.

5. A vehicular traffic control toy comprising a base, a plurality of endless belts, means for continuously advancing said belts, means partially fixed on said base for guiding said belts to paths of movement having aligned straight stretches which if prolonged to meet would traverse a location analogous to the intersection of one highway with another on an actual land area, the parts of said guiding means fixed on said base being slots therein within the lower portions of which slots said belts are accommodated, further guiding means carried by said base constituting slot portions providing such prolongations, a plurality of toy vehicles, a plurality of elongate carriers each supporting above the same at least one of said vehicles, said carriers fittable into the upper subdivisions of said slots and slot portions, interhooking means partially carried at the upper sides of said belts and partially carried at the undersides of said carriers for latching a carrier to a belt to cause travel of that carrier with its underlying belt along the slot through which said belt advances, switch means at said location for normally holding a carrier to travel past said location with the same belt by which said carrier was advanced toward said location, and means actuable to operate said switch means to engage the leading end of a carrier, when said end of said carrier approaches said location thereby to direct said end of said carrier into one of said slot portions for advancing said end of said carrier to another belt for latching thereto, there being at least four of said belts, the guiding means for said belts being shaped and disposed to cause each belt to approach and then turn away from said location whereby there are two possible directions of travel for a toy vehicle across said location, and said switch means including four switch members at said location, each operable for transfer of a carrier from a different one of said four belts to another belt, there being four actuators each separately operable thus to operate a selected switch member.

6. A vehicular traffic control toy comprising a base, a plurality of endless belts, means for continuously advancing said belts, means partially fixed on said base for guiding said belts to paths of movement having aligned straight stretches which if prolonged to meet would traverse a location analogous to the intersection of one highway with another on an actual land area, the parts of said guiding means fixed on said base being slots therein within the lower portions of which slots said belts are accommodated, further guiding means carried by said base constituting slot portions providing such prolongations, a plurality of toy vehicles, a plurality of elongate carriers each supporting above the same at least one of said vehicles, said carriers fittable into the upper subdivisions of said slots and slot portions, interhooking means partially carried at the upper sides of said belts and partially carried at the undersides of said carriers for latching a carrier to a belt to cause travel of that carrier with its underlying belt along the slot through which said belt advances, switch means at said location for normally holding a carrier to travel past said location with the same belt by which said carrier was advanced toward said location, and means actuable to operate said switch means to engage the leading end of a carrier, when said end of said carrier approaches said location thereby to direct said end of said carrier into one of said slot portions for advancing said end of said carrier to another belt for latching thereto, there being at least four of said belts, the guiding means for said belts being shaped and disposed to cause each belt to approach and then turn away from said location whereby there are two possible directions of travel for a toy vehicle across said location, said base carrying over its top a representation of a land area including said highways.

7. A vehicular traffic control toy comprising a base, a plurality of endless belts, means for continuously advancing said belts, means partially fixed on said base for guiding said belts to paths of movement having aligned straight stretches which if prolonged to meet would traverse a location analogous to the intersection of one highway with another on an actual land area, the parts of said guiding means fixed on said base being slots therein within the lower portions of which slots said belts are accommodated, further guiding means carried by said base constituting slot portions providing such prolongations, a plurality of toy vehicles, a plurality of elongate carriers each supporting above the same at least one of said vehicles, said carriers fittable into the upper subdivisions of said slots and slot portions, interhooking means partially carried at the upper side of said belts and partially carried at the undersides of said carriers for latching a carrier to a belt to cause travel of that carrier with its underlying belt along the slot through which said belt advances, switch means at said location for normally holding a carrier to travel past said location with the same belt by which said carrier was advanced toward said location, and means actuable to operate said switch means to engage the leading end of a carrier, when said end of said carrier approaches said location thereby to direct said end of said carrier into one of said slot portions for advancing said end of said carrier to another belt for latching thereto, there being at least four of said belts, the guiding means for said belts being shaped and disposed to cause each belt to approach and then turn away from said location whereby there are two possible directions of travel for a toy vehicle across said location, said base carrying over its top a representation of a portion of a city area including at least four blocks, each belt travelling around a different one of said blocks.

8. A vehicular traffic control toy comprising a base, a plurality of endless belts, means for continuously advancing said belts, means partially fixed on said base for guiding said belts to paths of movement having aligned straight stretches which if prolonged to meet would traverse a location analogous to the intersection of one highway with another on an actual land area, the parts of said guiding means fixed on said base being slots therein within the lower portions of which slots said belts are accommodated, further guiding means carried by said base constituting slot portions providing such prolongations, a plurality of toy vehicles, a plurality of elongate carriers each supporting above the same at least one of said vehicles, said carriers fittable into the upper subdivisions of said slots and slot portions, interhooking means partially carried at the upper sides of said belts and partially carried at the undersides of said carriers for latching a carrier to a belt to cause travel of that carrier with its underlying belt along the slot through which said belt advances, switch means at said location for normally holding a carrier to travel past said location with the same belt by which said carrier was advanced toward said location, and means actuable to operate said switch means to engage the leading end of a carrier, when said end of said carrier approaches said location thereby to direct said end of said carrier into one of said slot portions for advancing said end of said carrier to another belt for latching thereto, there being at least four of said belts, the guiding means for said belts being shaped and disposed to cause each belt to approach and then turn away from said location whereby there are two possible directions of travel for a toy vehicle across said location, said base carrying over its top a representation of a portion of a city area including at least four blocks, each belt travelling around a different one of said blocks, said representation including middle-of-the-street and sidewalk indicia.

9. A vehicular traffic control toy comprising a base, a plurality of endless belts, means for continuously advancing said belts, means partially fixed on said base for guiding said belts to paths of movement having aligned straight stretches which if prolonged to meet would traverse a location analogous to the intersection of one highway with another on an actual land area, the parts of said guiding means fixed on said base being slots therein within the lower portions of which slots said belts are accommodated, further guiding means carried by said base constituting slot portions providing such prolongations, a plurality of toy vehicles, a plurality of elongate carriers each supporting above the same at least one of said vehicles, said carriers fittable into the upper subdivisions of said slots and slot portions, interhooking means partially carried at the upper sides of said belts and partially carried at the undersides of said carriers for latching a carrier to a belt to cause travel of that carrier with its underlying belt along the slot through which said belt advances, switch means at said location for normally holding a carrier to travel past said location with the same belt by which said carrier was advanced toward said location, and means actuable to operate said switch means to engage the leading end of a carrier, when said end of said carrier approaches said location thereby to direct said end of said carrier into one of said slot portions for advancing said end of said carrier to another belt for latching thereto, there being at least four of said belts, the guiding means for said belts being shaped and disposed to cause each belt to approach and then turn away from said location whereby there are two possible directions of travel for a toy vehicle across said location, said base carrying over its top a representation of a portion of a city area including at least four blocks, each belt travelling around a different one of said blocks, said representation including middle-of-the-street and sidewalk indicia, and said base also carrying at its top means for the interchangeable mounting of miniature objects such as lampposts, fire plugs, trees, buildings and the like.

EARL NICHOLS.

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