April 29, 1958 G. D. KIGHT ET AL 2,832,594

HOBBY HORSE

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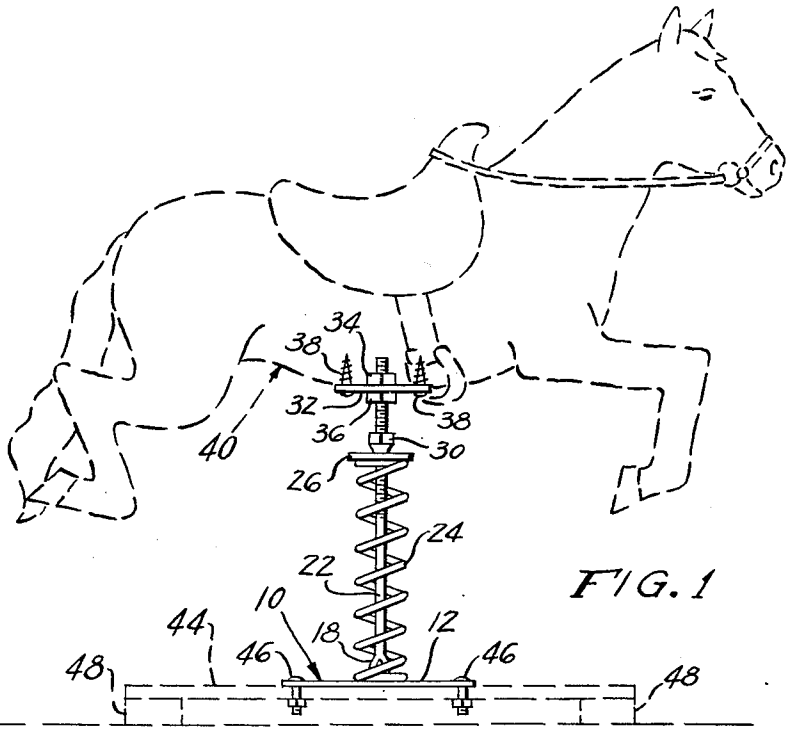


FIG. 1

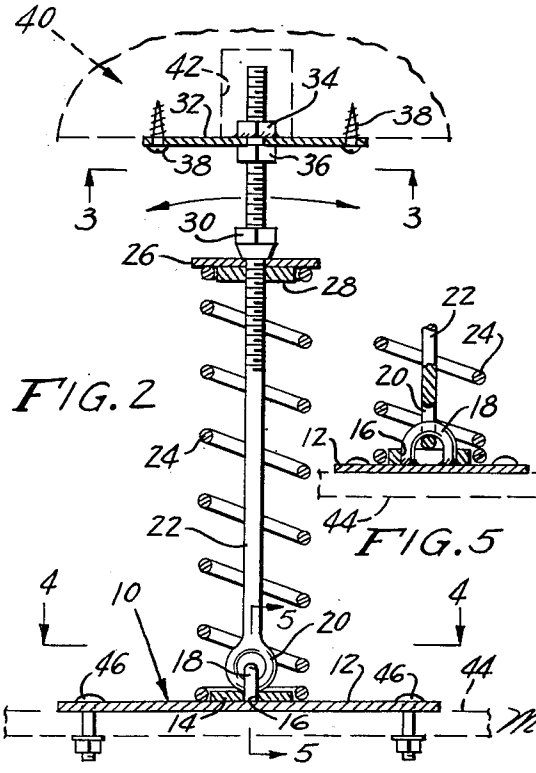


FIG. 2

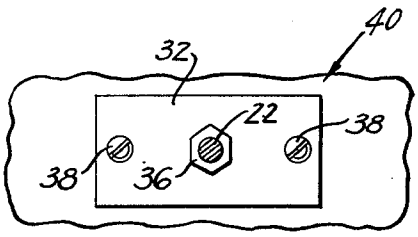


FIG. 3

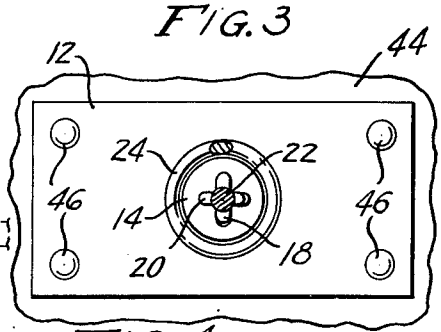


FIG. 4

FIG. 5

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1 Claim. (Cl. 272—52)

This invention relates to children's amusement devices, and more particularly has reference to a hobby horse designed to have a particularly interesting motion, calculated to provide a maximum amount of amusement so far as the child is concerned.

One object of importance is to provide a hobby horse which can be mounted on a centrally disposed, heavy spring, free of side supports, in a manner to impart to the horse a life-like action, from forward to backward and from side to side.

Another object is to provide a hobby horse as stated that will accommodate children of various sizes.

Another object is to provide a hobby horse which will be rugged, simply designed so as to permit its manufacture at low cost, and will be designed to afford maximum safety for the rider.

Other objects will appear from the following description, the claim appended thereto, and from the annexed drawing in which like reference characters designate like parts throughout the several views and in which:

Figure 1 is a side elevational view of the device in which the base and the horse have been shown in dotted lines;

Figure 2 is an enlarged vertical sectional view through the hobby horse, the body of the horse and the base being shown in dotted lines and being partly broken away;

Figure 3 is a sectional view on the same scale as Figure 2, taken on line 3—3 of Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a sectional view on the same scale as Figure 2, taken on line 4—4 of Figure 2; and

Figure 5 is a detail sectional view, on the same scale as Figure 2, taken on line 5—5 of Figure 2.

Referring to the drawings in detail, the reference numeral **10** generally designates a base plate, including a flat, plate-like body **12** to the center portion of which is welded or otherwise fixedly connected a centering disc **14**. The centering disc **14** is formed with a slot **16** (Figures 2 and 5) in which is welded an eye **18** projecting above the top surface of the centering disc and receiving a closed loop **20** formed upon the lower end of a connecting rod **22** surrounded by a heavy, compression coil spring **24** the lowermost convolution of which receives the centering disc **14**, thus to hold the spring centered upon the base plate.

An abutment plate **26** is welded at its underside to an upper centering plate **28** receiving the uppermost convolution of the spring, said uppermost convolution of the spring abutting against the marginal portion of the abutment plate **26**. Plates **26**, **28** have registering, threaded openings receiving a complementarily threaded upper end portion of the rod **22**.

Threaded upon the rod **22**, and bearing against the top surface of plate **26**, is a cone nut **30**. It will be understood that threadable adjustment of the nut **30** longitudinally of the rod **22** will place the spring under more or less tension, whichever is desired. If desired, a lock nut could be threaded onto the rod **22** immediately above the cone nut, to insure that the selected spring tension

will be maintained without possibility of the cone nut moving along the rod **22** during use of the device.

Adjacent the upper end of the rod **22**, the rod passes through a smooth walled opening centrally formed in a rectangular support plate **32**, to the top surface of which is welded a nut **34** registered with the smooth walled opening and threadedly engaged with the upper end portion of the rod **22**. The lock nut **36** is threaded on the rod **22**, bearing against the underside of the support plate **32**.

Adjacent opposite ends of the plate **32** (see Figure 3) lag screws **38** are extended therethrough, and are threadedly engaged in the underside of the body **40** of a hobby horse. The underside of the body **40** has a downwardly opening recess **42** receiving the upper extremity of rod **22**.

It will be understood that by backing off the lock nut **36**, and rotating the hobby horse, the body **40** can be adjusted upwardly or downwardly, so as to accommodate the device for use by children of different sizes. This adjustment can be made independently of or in conjunction with the spring tension adjustments previously described herein.

In any event, the device is mounted upon a flat base plate **44**, supported at its ends upon cross members **48**. The base plate may be of any size found sufficient to insure stability of the device at the lower end thereof when the hobby horse is in use.

In use of the device, the child when seated upon the body **40** may rock forwardly and rearwardly, or from side to side, as desired, since the connection between the closed loop **20** and the eye **18** is in effect the universal connection permitting swinging of the rod in any direction. In each instance, the spring **24** flexes laterally, and tending to return to its normal vertical position shown in Figure 1 imparts life-like movements to the hobby horse, designed to provide a high degree of amusement for the rider. The horse, in use, has been found to have a vigorous action, and is particularly designed for safe use, being free of outwardly projecting supports against which a child may fall accidentally. Still further, the construction is such as to permit a wide range of adjustment, both as regards the elevation of body **40** above the supporting surface, or as regards the tension of the spring.

The base plate will, of course, be fixedly secured to the base **44** by means of bolts **46** or equivalent means.

It is believed apparent that the invention is not necessarily confined to the specific use or uses thereof described above since it may be utilized for any purpose to which it may be suited. Nor is the invention to be necessarily limited to the specific construction illustrated and described, since such construction is only intended to be illustrative only of the principles it being considered that the invention comprehends any minor change in construction that may be permitted within the scope of the appended claim.

What is claimed is:

A hobby horse comprising a base plate; a lower centering plate fixedly secured to the base plate; an elongated rod having a universal connection to the base plate and projecting upwardly from the centering plate, said rod having a threaded upper end portion; a compression, coil spring surrounding the rod and having a bottom convolution snugly receiving the centering plate and bearing against the base plate; an abutment plate surrounding the threaded upper end portion of said rod; an upper centering plate bearing against the underside of the abutment plate and snugly received in the uppermost convolution of the spring, said uppermost convolution bearing against the upper centering plate, the upper centering plate and the abutment plate having threaded openings receiving said threaded portion of the rod; a nut threaded upon the rod above the abutment plate and bearing against the

abutment plate, thus to lock the abutment plate and upper centering plate in selected positions to which they are shifted longitudinally of the rod in adjusting the tension of the spring; a support plate spaced longitudinally of the rod from said nut, said support plate having a threaded connection to the threaded portion of the rod for adjustment of the support plate longitudinally of the rod independently of the adjustment of the abutment plate and upper centering plate; a lock nut threadedly engaged with said upper end portion of the rod between the support plate and the first named nut, said lock nut being engageable against the underside of the support plate in selected positions to which the support plate is threadedly adjusted longitudinally of the rod; and an animal-simulating body overlying and fixedly secured to the support plate, and adapted to support a human rider.

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