Nov. 13, 1951 L. TANTIMONACO 2,574,897

BABY WALKER

Filed May 2, 1947

FIG. 1.

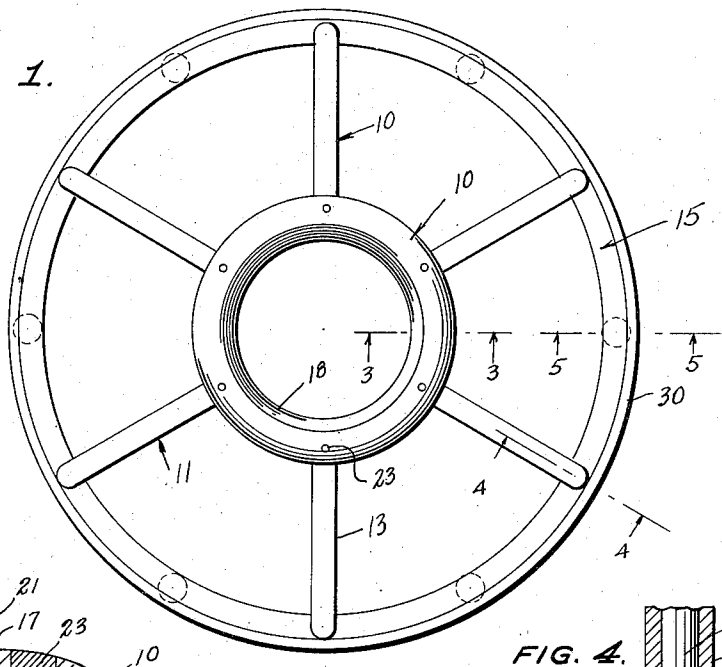


FIG. 3.

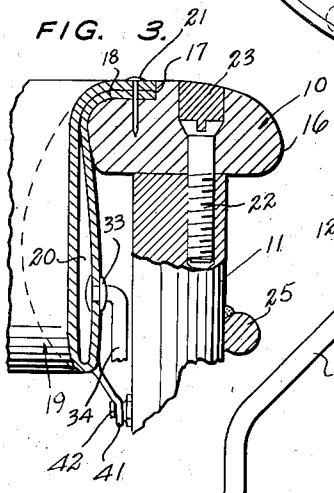
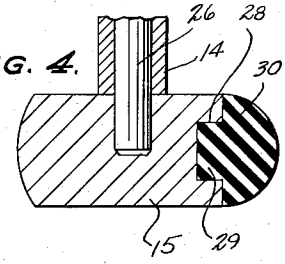


FIG. 4.



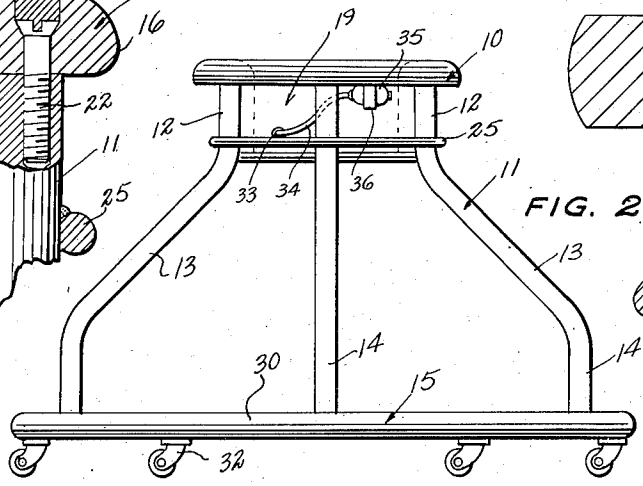
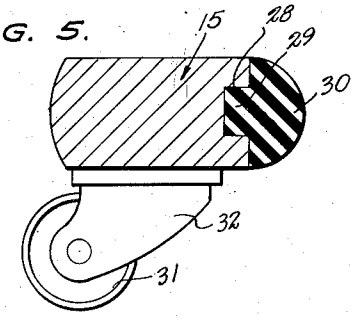


FIG. 2.

FIG. 5.



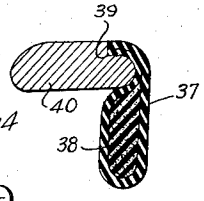


FIG. 6.

Inventor

LEONARDO TANTIMONACO,

By McMorrow, Berman and Davidson

Attorneys

Patented Nov. 13, 1951

2,574,897

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,574,897

BABY WALKER

Leonardo Tantimonaco, West Haven, Conn.

Application May 2, 1947, Serial No. 745,371

3 Claims. (Cl. 155—24)

1

This invention relates to a baby walker, and more particularly to a device adapted to support a toddling infant, or an infant just learning to walk, in upright position, in such manner as to facilitate the progress of the infant in learning to walk.

A primary object of the invention is the provision of an improved baby walker characterized by means for comfortably and expeditiously supporting the infant in upright position by means of an annular ring adapted to be engaged beneath the armpits of the infant.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a device of this character provided with a relatively wide annular band depending from the supporting annulus in such manner as to provide protection to adjacent parts of the infant's body.

Still another object of the invention is the provision of such a device characterized by a relatively wide, outwardly flared annular lower rim carrying casters, the lower rim being provided with a relatively soft bumper, as for example, of rubber, whereby the marring of furniture or the like by the impact of the device in the infant's travels is precluded.

Other objects will in part be obvious and in part be pointed out as the description of the invention proceeds, and shown in the accompanying drawings, wherein there is disclosed a preferred embodiment of this inventive concept.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of one form of device embodying features of the instant invention, certain concealed portions thereof being indicated in dotted lines.

Figure 2 is a side elevational view of the structure shown in Figure 1, certain concealed portions thereof being indicated by dotted lines.

Figure 3 is an enlarged sectional view taken substantially along the line 3—3 of Figure 1, as viewed in the direction indicated by the arrows.

Figure 4 is an enlarged sectional view, partially broken away, taken substantially along the line 4—4 of Figure 1.

Figure 5 is an enlarged sectional view taken substantially along the line 5—5 of Figure 1.

Figure 6 is a section similar to that shown in Figure 3, illustrating a modification, wherein the body-contacting resilient member is filled with sponge rubber.

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

The device of the instant invention is comprised of an upper annulus or ring, generally indicated at 10, of any suitable material, such as wood or the like, from which extends a plurality of spokes, each generally indicated at 11, and each being comprised of a vertical section 12 merging into an outwardly flared section 13, and terminating in a lower vertical section 14, the lower section being seated in a relatively wide annulus generally indicated at 15.

2

Referring first to annulus 10, it will be seen, as best shown in Figure 3, that in cross sectional view the outer portion is generally rounded, as shown at 16, while the inner portion is provided with a rabbet 17 in its upper face, the rabbet being adapted to accommodate, in flush relation, the ends 18 of a resilient and flexible hand member 19, adapted to surround the interior of the device.

The band 19, as shown in Figure 3, is formed of a tube of rubber or the like, and may be provided with an interior opening 20 that may be filled with air at any suitable pressure, providing a relatively soft cushion protecting the body of the child. The ends 18 are adapted to be secured to the annulus 10 by means of tacks or pins 21.

Each of the vertical portions 12 of spokes 11 is provided at its upper extremity with a threaded bore adapted to accommodate a screw 22 seated in a suitable recess in the annulus 10, the head of each screw 22 being countersunk, and a plug 23 being provided to form a substantially flush upper surface of the annulus 10 in order to preclude the possibility of injury to the infant due to any irregularities thereon.

As best shown in Figures 2 and 3, a lower guard ring 25 of any desired material is provided at the bend of the spokes 11 to serve as a retaining ring.

As best shown in Figure 4, the lower vertical portions 14 of the spokes 11 have inset therein a pin 26 adapted to seat and be suitably secured in a suitable recess in lower annulus 15, thus securing the parts in related assembly.

As seen in Figures 4 and 5, annulus 15 is provided about its outer periphery with a groove or channel 28 adapted to engage a rim 29 forming a component portion of an annular ring 30 comprised of hard rubber or similar resilient, non-marring material.

The lower portion of the annulus 15 is provide at suitable spaced intervals about its periphery with rotatable caster wheels 31 set in suitable brackets 32, both of the latter being of any desired conventional design.

The flexible band member 19, as shown in Figures 2 and 3, is provided with a valve 33 with an

extending tube 34 and bulb 35, and by use of the bulb the member 19 may be inflated to any desired pressure. The internal area of the member is regulated and adjusted by the air pressure, as by increasing the pressure, the member may be enlarged similar to the inner tube of a tire, wherein the size of the device is adjustable to comfortably accommodate the size of the child. The lower surface of the annulus 10 is provided with a spring clip 36 for holding the bulb out of reach of the child.

The band member may also be made as illustrated in Figure 6, wherein it is formed of fabric 37 and filled with sponge rubber, or the like, 38. In this design, the edges of the fabric are gummed in a recess 39 in the upper surface of a ring 40 similar to the annulus 10, and it will be understood that the parts may be secured together by any means.

It will also be understood that the lower edge of the band member 10 may be provided with tabs 41 by which it may be secured to the spokes 11 by snaps 42, as shown in Figure 3.

From the foregoing, it will now be seen that the baby walker of the instant invention provides an improved device of this character including an upper annulus and a guard rim therewithin precluding possible injury to the infant, the upper annulus having a substantially flush, smooth upper surface, which is readily adapted to be moved in any direction by the infant, and which is provided with a lower guard rim, the outer extremity of which provides the only contacting point for the walker, and which is of resilient material, thus precluding the damaging or marring of any article struck by the walker while the infant is utilizing the same.

It will also be seen that there is herein provided a construction of this character which accomplishes all the objects of this invention, and others, including many advantages of great practical utility and commercial importance.

Obviously, the device may be constructed of any desired material, such as plastic, wood, metal, or the like, and equally obviously may be decorated in any desired manner and in any suitable coloration.

As many embodiments may be made of this inventive concept, and as many modifications may be made in the embodiment hereinbefore shown and described, it is to be understood that all matter herein is to be interpreted merely as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

I claim:

1. In a device of the character described, in combination, an annulus having a plurality of apertures therein, screws countersunk in said apertures, depending spokes outwardly flared radially of said annulus and secured thereto by said screws, plugs over the heads of said screws to present a substantially flush upper surface on said annulus, a second annulus secured to the lower extremities of said spokes, rotatable caster wheels carried by the under side of said second annulus, a peripheral bumper surrounding said second annulus, the inner periphery of said first-mentioned annulus being rabbeted, and a guard band of flexible resilient material having its ends seated in the rabbet and depending from the inner periphery of said first-mentioned annulus.

2. In a baby walker, the combination, which comprises a tubular body-contacting air inflatable cushion, a concentric ring upon which said cushion is mounted, depending outwardly extending arms on the under surface of said ring, a lower bumper annulus concentric with said cushion and ring connecting the outer lower ends of said arms, and a manually-actuated bulb attached to said cushion for inflating the cushion.

3. In a baby walker, a mobile frame including a pair of spaced horizontally disposed annuli arranged in superimposed concentric relation with respect to each other, a tubular body contacting air inflatable cushion including an air inlet disposed within the upper one of said annuli and supported therein, and hand actuable inflating means disposed exteriorly of said cushion and in communication with the inlet thereof for inflating said cushion.

LEONARDO TANTIMONACO.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
16,150	Robbins	Dec. 2, 1856
432,378	Davidson et al.	July 15, 1890
676,634	Sloan	June 18, 1901
918,391	Taarud	Apr. 13, 1909
1,530,405	Perrine	Mar. 17, 1924
1,826,502	Brown	Oct. 6, 1931

FOREIGN PATENTS

Number	Country	Date
166,730	Switzerland	Apr. 2, 1934
418,595	Great Britain	Oct. 29, 1934