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Torres

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[54] **BODY CARRIED SIMULATED AUTO TOY**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** .....**46/1 B,** 46/228

[51] **Int. Cl.** **A63h 33/26**

[58] **Field of Search** .....46/1 B, 228; 273/DIG. 19

[56] **References Cited**

UNITED STATES PATENTS

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A child's toy simulating an automobile and comprising a horizontally oriented platform and front and side wall members is shown. The platform has a steering column and steering wheel projecting from it and dashboard instrumentation represented upon it. Likewise, the front and sidewalls have detail simulating the front and side walls of an automobile. In the preferred embodiment an enclosure is formed with a bottom wall and electrical circuitry is provided to operate directional signals and headlamps controlled by switches mounted on the platform.

5 Claims, 4 Drawing Figures

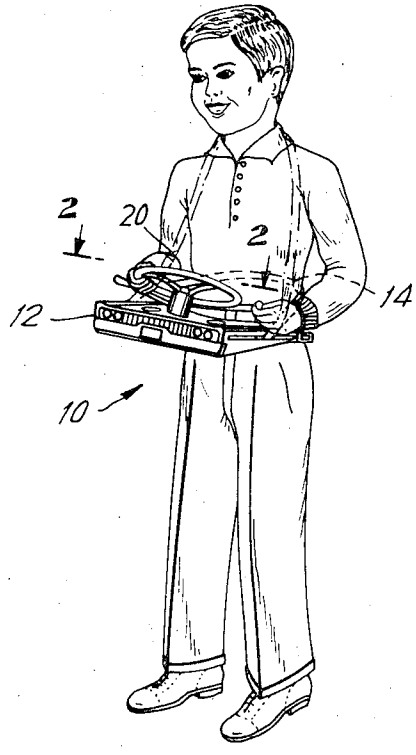


FIG. 4

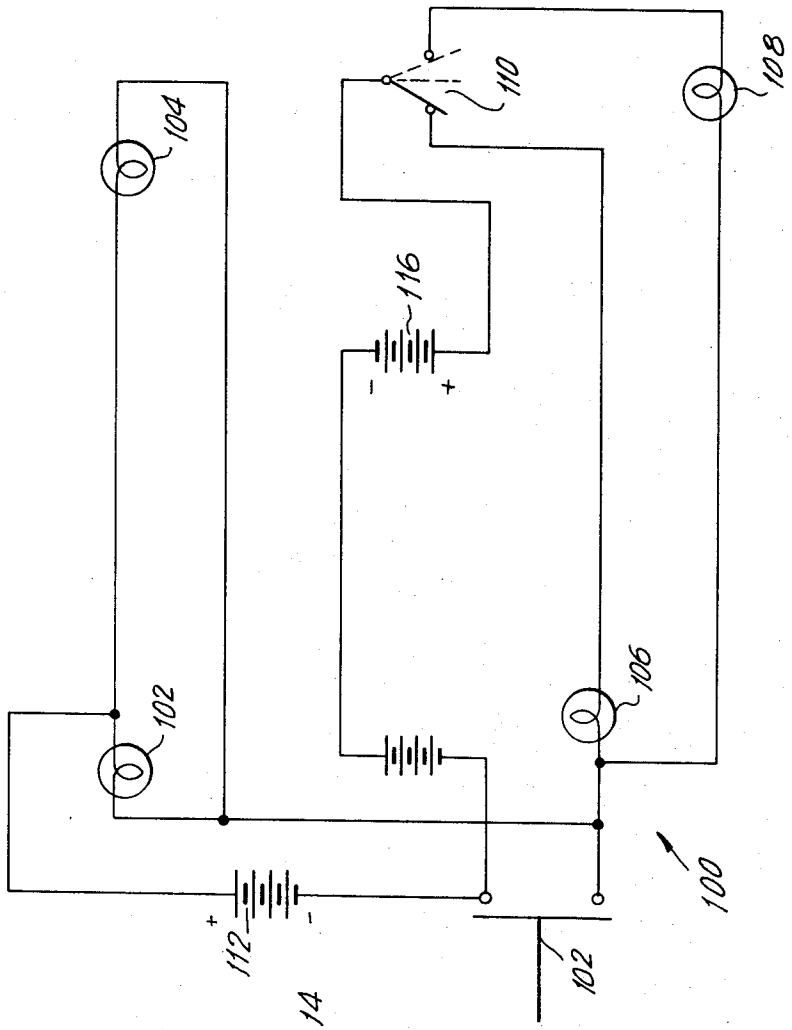
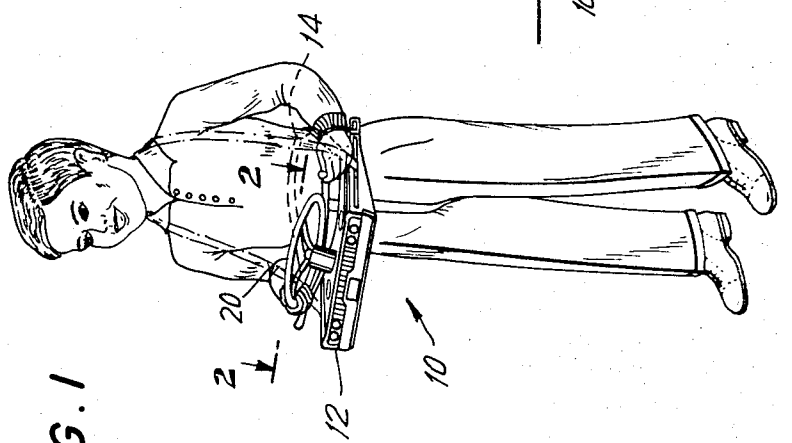


FIG. 1



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FIG. 2

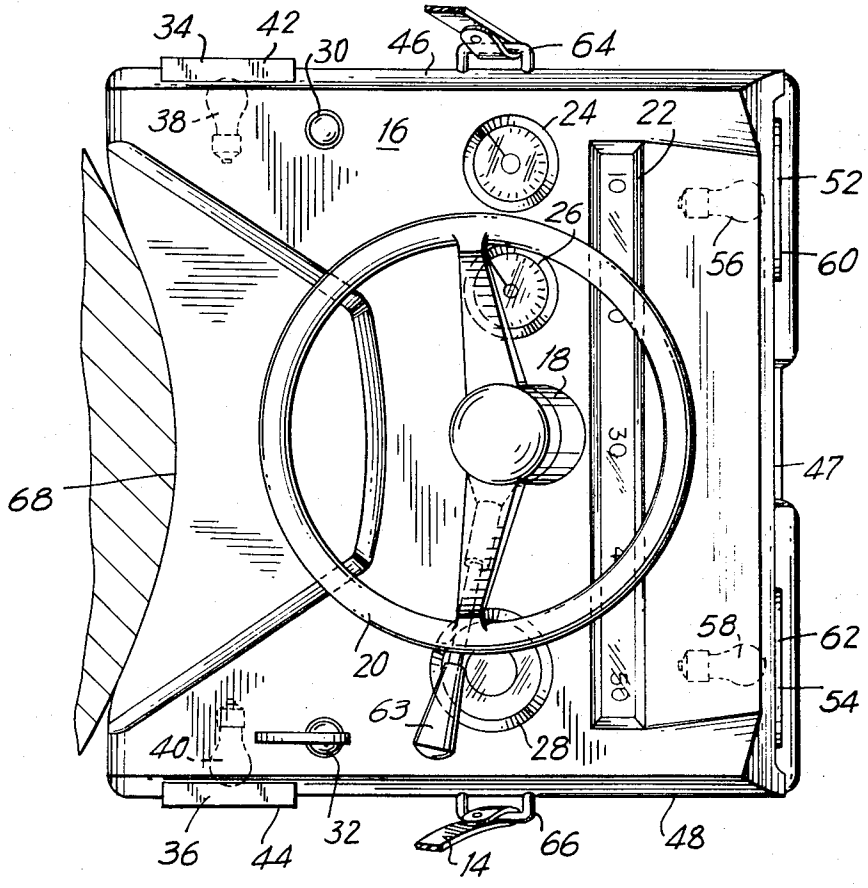
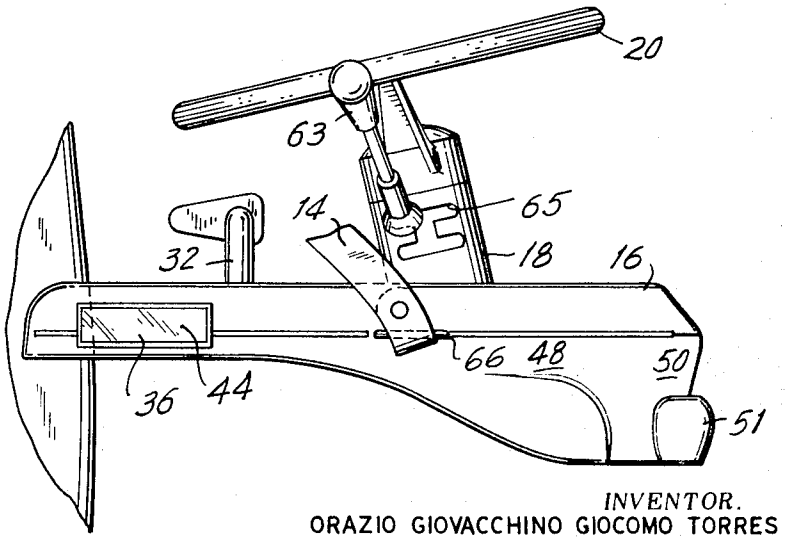


FIG. 3



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BODY CARRIED SIMULATED AUTO TOY

This invention relates to a child's toy. More specifically, this invention relates to a child's toy which simulates an automobile and, more particularly, the steering wheel and instrumentation thereof.

As is well understood by parents, small children take great delight in emulating their parent's actions in driving an automobile. Occasionally, these actions by the child interferes with the parent's operation of an automobile and are a nuisance if not a danger to them.

It is thus a primary purpose of this invention to provide a child's toy which permits him to copy the actions of his parents in operating an automobile.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a lightweight toy which can be used either in an automobile or in the home or play area which simulates an automobile and permits the child to play as if he were driving.

It is still a further object of this invention to provide a portable toy which the child can carry with him from one place to another.

It is still a further and related object of this invention to teach young children the manipulative skills used in the operation of an automobile.

These and other objects of this invention are achieved in a toy which simulates an automobile and, more specifically, the driving compartment thereof. In its broadest embodiment, the toy comprises the elements of a platform having a steering column and a rotatable steering wheel projecting outwardly from it. The platform has simulated dashboard instruments represented on its surface. A front wall depends from the forward edge of the platform and has detail on it simulating the front of an automobile. Desirably, the platform has sidewalls depending from the side edges thereof having detail on it simulating the side of an automobile. Support brackets may be positioned on the side of the platform for engagement with supporting straps so that the toy can be hung about a child's neck or around his back.

In the preferred embodiment, the toy comprises a horizontally oriented platform with a steering column and rotatable steering wheel and with dashboard instrumentation represented on its surface. The instrumentation includes headlight and directional light switches, as well as speedometer, gas gauge and other typical dashboard dials. The front wall depending from the forward edge of the platform has detail such as a grill, license plate, and headlights. The sidewalls may include details such as fenders and directional light signals. A bottom wall joins the lower edges of the front and sidewalls and the rear edge of the platform and thereby defines an enclosure in which electrical circuitry is emplaced. The circuitry includes batteries and wiring to connect up the headlights and directional lights with the switches on the top surface of the platform.

The invention is further described below in connection with the drawings:

In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a view of a child carrying the toy of this invention;

FIG. 2 is a top view of the toy taken along lines 2—2 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a side view of the toy; and

FIG. 4 is a line diagram of typical circuitry enclosed within the toy.

In FIG. 1, reference numeral **10** refers generally to a child carrying the toy of this invention. The toy itself is designated by reference numeral **12** and it can be seen that the top surface thereof has the steering wheel column and steering wheel projecting from it and the front wall includes details simulating the front part of an automobile. The toy is supported by the strap designated by reference numeral **14** which passes around the back of the child passes over the shoulders and around the inside of the child.

As shown in FIGS. **2** and **3**, reference numeral **16** refers to a platform having steering column **18** and steering wheel **20** projecting outwardly from it. Dashboard instruments are represented on platform **16** and include speedometer **22** and gauges **24**, **26** and **28**. Towards the rear part of platform **16** are switches **30** and **32** which control the directional lights and the headlights respectively, as is described further below. Switch **30** is a conventional three position toggle switch and switch **32** is a conventional on-off switch. Any mechanical switch may be used.

Reference numerals **46** and **48** refer to the sidewalls and reference numeral **47** to the front wall of toy **12**. These walls depend from the side and front edges of platform **16** and may be attached in any suitable way. Reference numerals **34** and **36** refer to the directional signals which include light bulbs **38** and **40** and red, semi-transparent lenses **42** and **44**. Sidewalls **46** and **48** may contain further detail of the sides of an automobile such as, for example, the fender and bumper shown at reference numerals **50** and **51**. On front wall **42** headlights are represented by reference numerals **52** and **54** and include lights **56** and **58** as well as simulated beams **60** and **62**. These are connected to switch **32** by means of circuitry described below.

It should be understood that any detail simulating the driving compartment of an automobile can be represented or built into platform **16**. As shown in FIGS. **2** and **3** this may include a gear shift lever **64** and H-shaped socket **66**. The side edges of platform **16** or the sidewalls **46** and **48** are desirably provided with support means such as brackets **64** and **66** for engaging a strap **14**. It is also desirable to provide a smooth, cutaway surface **68** at the rear of platform **16** in order to provide a more comfortable abutment with the body of the child playing with the toy.

Platform **16**, front wall **47** and sidewalls **46** and **48** may be joined by a bottom wall, thus defining an enclosed volume. Within this enclosure can be located simple electrical circuitry such as that shown in FIG. **4**. The bottom wall may be attached to the lower edges of walls **46**, **47** and **48** and the rear of platform **16** by any suitable fasteners, desirably removable fasteners such as screws, so that access may be had to the enclosed volume.

With reference now to FIG. **4**, reference numeral **100** refers generally to an electrical circuit for operating the directional lights **38** and **40** and the headlights **56** and **58**. Reference numeral **102** corresponds to switch **32** on platform **16**. Switch **102** is shown in the off position. In the on position it makes the circuit in the upper portion of FIG. **4** lighting lamps **102** and **104** which correspond to headlights **56** and **58** and enables the circuit shown in the lower portion of FIG. **4** to be selectively actuated by closure of three-position toggle switch **110**. Switch **110** corresponds to toggle switch **30**

on platform **16** and lamps **106** and **108** correspond to directional lights **34** and **36**. When toggle switch **110** is in the left position, lamp **106** is lit; when toggle switch **110** is in the right position, lamp **108** is lit; and when switch **110** is in the center or neutral position, neither lamp is lit. Lamps **106** and **108** may be flashers or steady lights. The upper circuit in FIG. **4** includes battery **112** and the lower circuit in FIG. **4** includes batteries **114** and **116**.

The circuitry of FIG. **4** is shown by way of example only. Obviously various conventional circuits can be created to light lamps and dials, blow horns or actuate other automobile instrumentation. The electrical circuitry can be fastened to the bottom surface of platform **16** within the enclosure or can be supported directly on the bottom wall which forms that compartment. In a less desirable embodiment the bottom member can be omitted and the electrical circuitry attached directly to the bottom surface of platform **16**.

What is claimed is:

1. A portable child's toy simulating an automotive conveyance comprising the elements of: a substantially horizontal platform having simulated dashboard instruments represented on its surface; means to support said toy from said child's body without manual assistance; a steering wheel rotatably mounted on a column projecting upwardly and outwardly from said platform and substantially centrally thereof, said steering wheel being essentially horizontally oriented; and a front wall connected to the front edge of said platform having detail thereupon simulating the front of said automotive conveyance.

2. A portable toy as recited in claim **1** having side walls connected to the side edges of said platform having details thereupon simulating the sides of said automotive conveyance.

3. A portable toy as recited in claim **1** wherein said support means comprises a strap adapted to pass behind the neck of said child and attached to the side edges of said platform.

4. A portable toy as recited in claim **1** wherein the column upon which said steering wheel is mounted is positioned essentially equidistant between the side edges of said platform.

5. A portable child's toy simulating an automobile, comprising the elements of: a substantially horizontal platform having simulated dashboard instruments including headlight and directional light switches set into its surface; a support strap adapted to pass behind the neck of said child, attached to the side edges of said platform; a steering wheel rotatably mounted on a column projecting upwardly and outwardly from said platform, said column being located essentially equidistant between the side edges of said platform and said steering wheel being essentially horizontally oriented; a front wall depending from the front edge of said platform having detail thereon simulating the front of an automobile and including headlights; side walls depending from the side edges of said platform having detail thereon simulating the sides of an automobile and including turn indicator lights; a bottom wall joining the lower edges of said front and side walls and the rear edge of said platform, thereby defining an enclosure; and a battery and electrical circuitry within said enclosure connecting said headlight and turn lights with their respective switches.

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