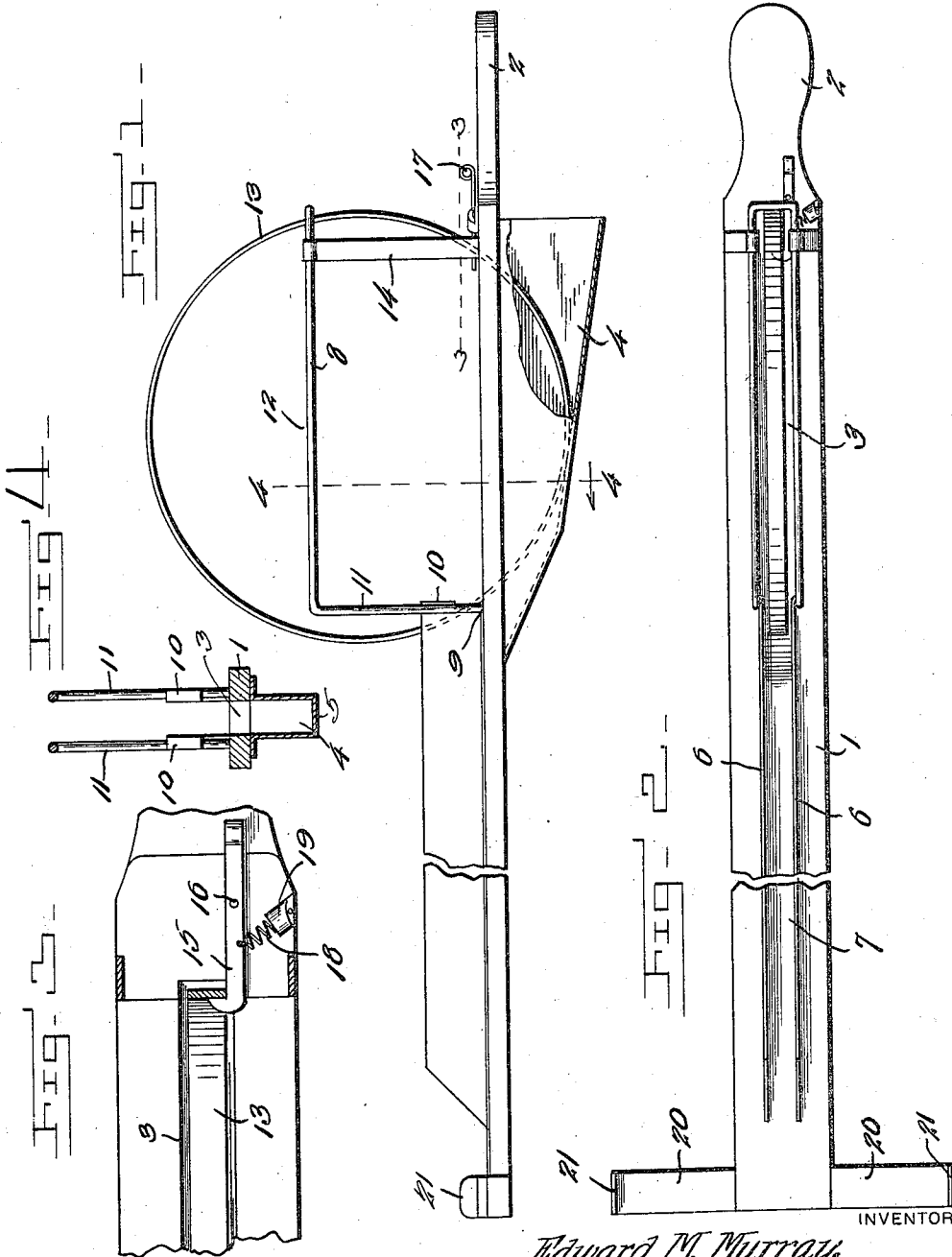


E. M. MURRAY.
HOOP PROPELLING IMPLEMENT.
APPLICATION FILED DEC. 2, 1916.

1,243,334.

Patented Oct. 16, 1917.



WITNESSES

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EDWARD M. MURRAY, OF MINGO JUNCTION, OHIO.

HOOP-PROPELLING IMPLEMENT.

1,243,334.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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Application filed December 2, 1916. Serial No. 134,689.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD M. MURRAY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Mingo Junction, in the county of Jefferson and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Hoop-Propelling Implements, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in toys and more particularly to an improved device for imparting the necessary rotary improvement to toy hoops ordinarily denominated as bowling-hoops whereby the hoop may receive an initial impetus by the inclined position of the device.

Another object of the invention is to provide a hoop-bowling implement which may be held in contact with the periphery of the hoop after the same has received its initial impetus so that a continued propelling motion may be imparted to the hoop thus affording amusement and exercise to juveniles who fancy the employment of bowling-hoops when at play.

Another object of the invention is to provide a hoop-bowling implement having a trackway along which the hoop may be permitted to roll when receiving its initial impetus, the device being provided with means for retaining the hoop in fixed position at one end of the trackway until the player is ready to release the hoop which may be accomplished by a slight movement of the thumb or forefinger.

A further object of this invention is the provision of a top which consists of comparatively few parts and is simple in construction, but durable and well adapted to withstand the rough usage to which devices of this character are ordinarily subjected.

For a full description of the invention and the advantages and merits thereof, reference is to be had to the following description and the accompanying drawings, wherein is illustrated the preferred form of my invention, in which;

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the device showing the hoop in locked position,

Fig. 2 is a plan view.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged detail section taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1 looking in the direction indicated by the arrow.

Referring to the drawing, wherein is

illustrated the preferred form of my invention, and in which like numerals of reference indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views, the implement comprises the relatively long shank 1 which may be constructed of wood or other suitable light weight material and is provided at one end with a handle 2 which the player grips when using the device. One end of the shank is provided with a longitudinal slot 3 which extends completely through the shank and is in communication with a channel 4 formed by a sheet of tin or other suitable light metal which is bent to provide side walls for the channel the edges of which are fastened in any suitable manner to the bottom surface of the shank 1. The bottom wall 5 of the channel is disposed at an angle and joins the shank at the forward terminal of the slot 3, at which point the wall 5 merges with the top surface of the shank. Forwardly of the slot 3 the shank is provided with upstanding flanges 6 spaced apart at a distance equal to the width of the slot 3 thereby providing a second channel or trackway 7 along which the hoop will roll when receiving its initial impetus.

A guard member 8 is constructed from a length of wire having its terminals fastened as at 9 to the shank and at opposite sides of the trackway from which point the end portions of the wire extend at right angles to the shank and are held in rigid position by the ears 10 formed on the rear ends of the flanges 6 and wrapped around the wire as clearly shown by the drawing. At the ends of the right angularly extending portions or standards 11 formed by the wire, the same is bent to lie in a horizontal plan for providing a yoke 12 which embraces the hoop 13 when the same is mounted in latched position. Retaining standards 14 have their ends fastened to the shank and their opposite ends secured to the rear portions of the yoke 12 thus retaining the yoke in proper position.

As clearly shown by Fig. 3 of the drawing the shank carries a latch 15 pivotally mounted upon a pin 16. One end of the latch is adapted to engage the hoop 13 while the opposite end is rolled to provide a knob 17 which may be engaged by the thumb or forefinger when releasing the hoop from the latch. A coil expansion spring 18 has one end fastened to a lug 19 carried by the shank

and its opposite end fastened to the latch 15. This spring tends to hold the latch in operative position and causes the latch to retain its locked position on the hoop while the same is desired to be held in the trackway by the player.

At the forward end of the shank is provided the oppositely extending guides 20 which have their ends turned to provide retaining flanges 21 whereby the guides will be prevented from slipping off the periphery of the hoop while the propeller is propelling the same.

Assuming the hoop to be in latched position as shown by the drawing, it is merely necessary for the player to grip the handle 2 with one end and rest the opposite end of the shank upon the ground. The player will then press the latch 15 and the hoop will thereby be released and will travel downward along the trackway by virtue of the inclined position of the shank thereby receiving its initial impetus. The player will then run forwardly with one of the guides 20 in engagement with the periphery of the hoop and a continued pressure on the periphery will cause the hoop to continue its rolling motion until the player relaxes in his efforts.

It is apparent that only one hand of the player is necessary to impart both the starting and the continued motion to the hoop, whereas it has been heretofore necessary to employ both hands before starting the hoop on its initial movement.

From the foregoing it will be observed that a very simple and durable toy has been provided, the details of which embody the preferred form. I desire it to be understood however, that slight changes in the minor details of construction may be made without

departing from the spirit of the invention or the scope of the claims hereunto appended.

I claim:

1. A hoop propelling implement comprising a shank having a trackway formed thereon, one end of the trackway being disposed below the level of the shank, a hoop mounted in the said lowered portion of the trackway, means for releasably retaining the hoop, and guide members carried by the forward end of the shank.

2. A hoop propelling implement comprising in combination with a hoop, a trackway including flanges mounted in spaced relation, a shank having the edges of the said flanges secured thereto, a depressed trackway disposed below the plane of the said shank, the depressed trackway and the first mentioned trackway merging together, guard members carried by the shank above the said depressed trackway at either side thereof, and a latch member pivotally mounted on the said shank.

3. A hoop propelling implement comprising, the combination with a hoop, an inclined trackway, one end of the trackway being disposed at an angle to the opposite end and depressed below the plane of the said end, guide members arranged at the forward terminal of the said trackway, a retaining latch, means for holding the retaining latch in releasable engagement with the hoop, and guard members disposed at either side of the said trackway.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

EDWARD M. MURRAY.

Witnesses:

HENRY FRIELING,
SAMUEL G. PAULS.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."