United States Patent

Race

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[54] CHILD'S OCCUPANT PROPELLED RIDING TOY ROUNDABOUT

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** .....**272/33 R**, 272/37, 272/43

[51] **Int. Cl.**.....**A63g 1/12**

[58] **Field of Search** .....272/33 R, 33 A, 33 B, 37, 43, 272/46, 47, 48, 35, 39, 28, 44, 45, 29, 35, 50, 1 R, 1 C; 104/53, 57, 58, 59, 64, 68, 74, 75, 81; D34/5

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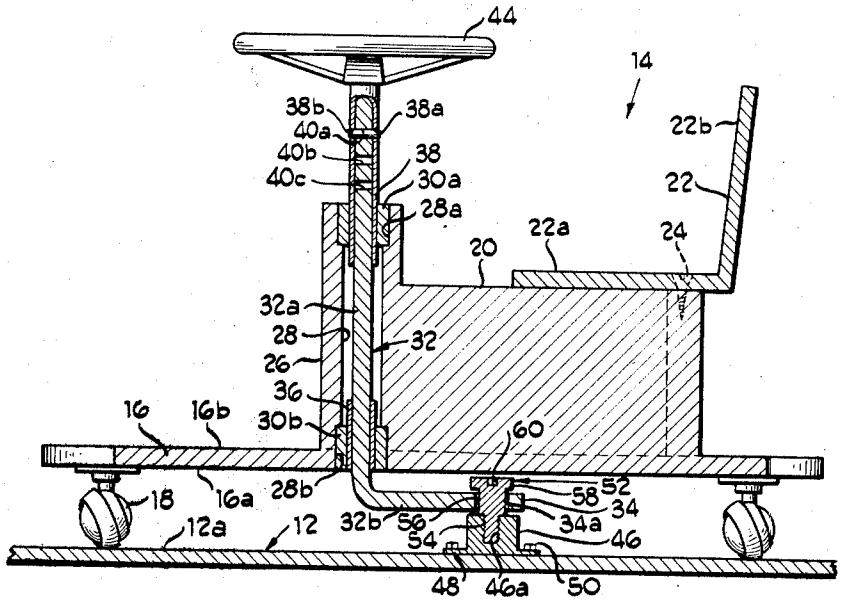
[57] **ABSTRACT**

An amusement device of the type including a movable seating apparatus rotatably mounted on a platform, characterized by the provision of a steering mechanism on the seating apparatus, with the steering mechanism eccentrically rotatably mounted to the platform.

1 Claim, 4 Drawing Figures



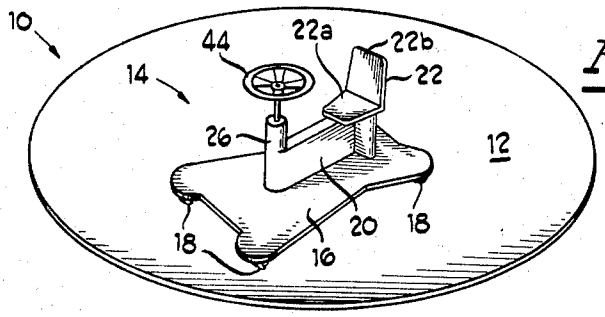
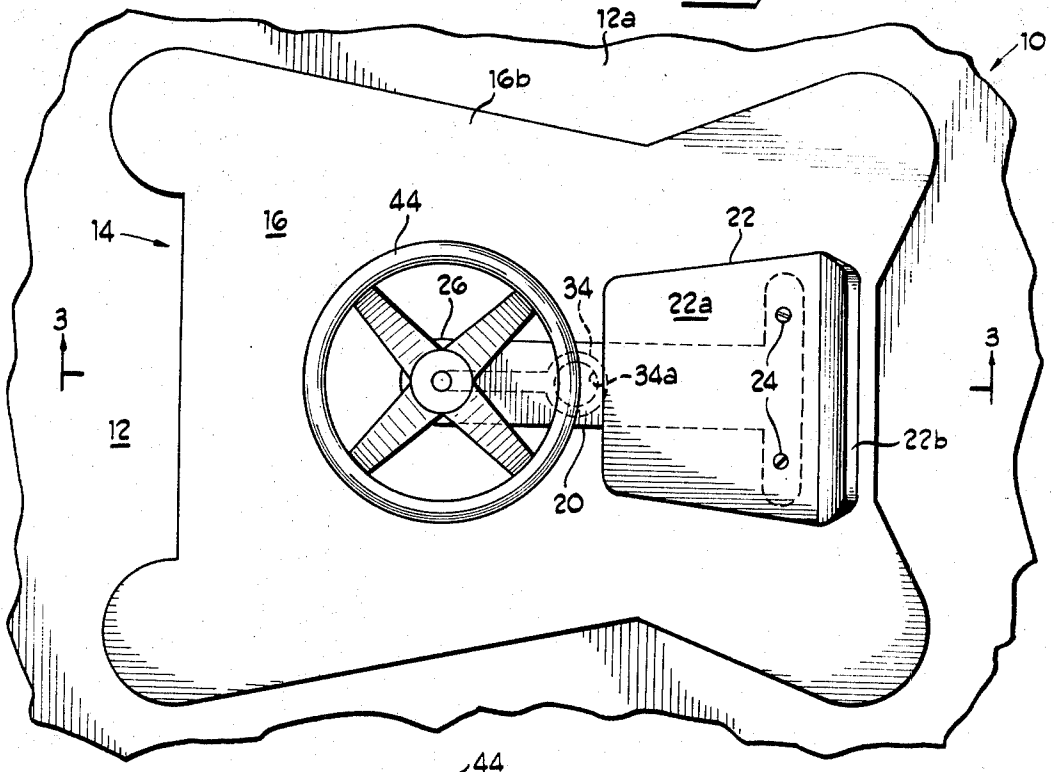


Fig 1

Fig 2



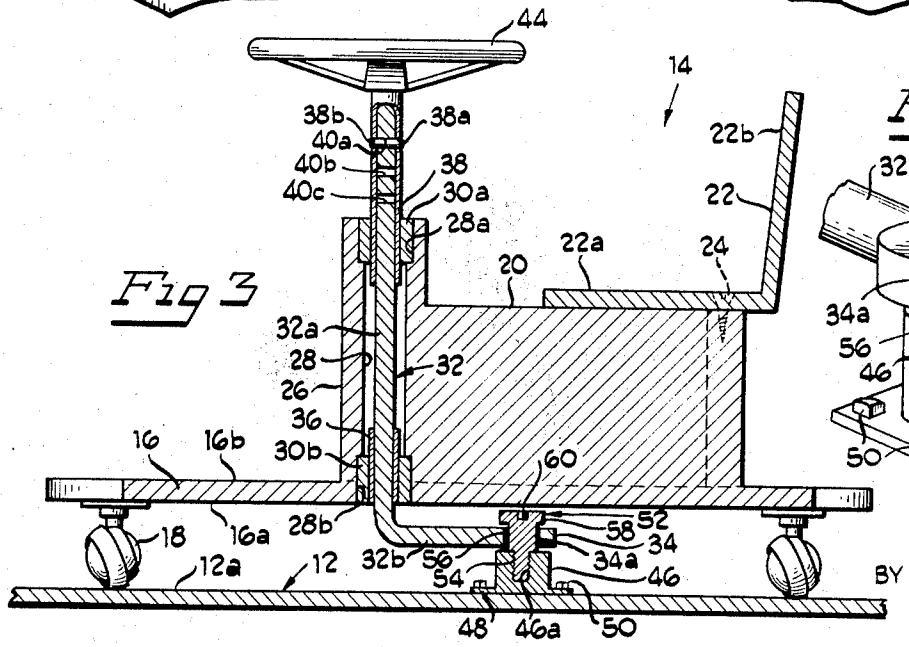


Fig 3

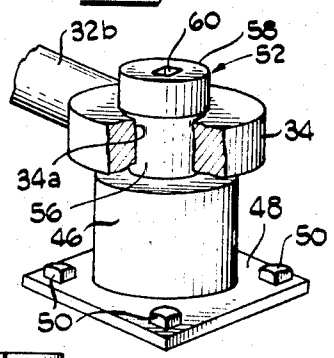


Fig 4

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CHILD'S OCCUPANT PROPELLED RIDING TOY ROUNDABOUT

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates to amusement devices and more particularly, to a self-propelled movable seating apparatus.

2. Brief Description of the Prior Art

The art is replete with many forms of self-propelled vehicles and amusement devices, such as bicycles, scooters and the like. In addition, there are many forms of mobile seating devices for extremely young children wherein the child may scoot himself about by engagement of his feet with the supporting surface, while seated in the device. It is also known in the amusement device art to provide mobile seating devices which are eccentrically movable, but heretofore, such devices have only been common in the form of a relatively mechanically sophisticated carnival-type amusement rides and the like.

This invention is intended to fulfill a want in the art for a simple, self-actuated, eccentrically movable, mobile seating amusement device.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention is directed, in brief, to the provision of a novel, self-propelled, mobile amusement device.

The best mode currently contemplated for carrying out the invention includes the provision of a chair-like seating member having a steering shaft rotatably mounted in a column portion thereof, with a steering wheel connected to the column. The seating member is affixed to a platform having casters depending therefrom. The casters are in rolling engagement with an underlying base and the steering shaft has a transverse portion below the platform which is pivoted to the underlying base.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of the amusement device of this invention;

FIG. **2** is a fragmentary enlarged top plan view of the amusement device of this invention;

FIG. **3** is a section view taken generally along the line **3—3** of FIG. **2**; and

FIG. **4** is a fragmentary enlarged perspective view of the connection of the steering shaft to the platform.

While this invention is susceptible of embodiment in many different forms, there is shown in the drawings and will herein be described in detail a specific embodiment therefor, with the understanding that the present disclosure is to be considered as an exemplification of the principles of the invention and is not intended to limit the invention to the embodiment illustrated.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The amusement device **10** of this invention includes a base **12** and an upper seating member, generally indicated **14**. Base **12** is preferably a flat disc-like member of finite dimension, made of a hard, durable material such as a rigid plastic, wood, or the like.

Upper seating member **14** includes a platform **16** preferably in the form of a generally sheet-like panel of hard, durable material, similar to that of the base **12**. A plurality of rollable casters **18** are affixed to, and depend from, the underside **16a** of platform **16** and are in rolling engagement with the upper surface **12*a*** of base **12**.

An upright generally T-shaped web, or main support means **20**, extends upwardly from the upper surface **16*b*** of platform **16** and supports thereon, a seating appliance or chair element **22**, including seat portion **22a** and upright back portion **22*b***. chair element **22** is secured to the upright web **20** by means of fasteners **24**.

At the opposite end of web **20**, there is provided a column portion **26** having a hollow interior **28** open at its opposite ends **28*a*** and **28*b***. Upper and lower bearings **30*a*** and **30*b*** are provided at the top and bottom of the interior **28**. A steering shaft **32** is received within the interior **28** and includes an upright or vertical portion **32*a*** and a lower horizontal or transverse portion **32*b***. Transverse portion **32*b*** terminates in a socket end **34** having an opening **34*a*** therethrough.

The shaft **32** is surrounded by a lower sleeve **36** positioned intermediate the shaft **32** and lower bearing **30*b***, and upper sleeve **38** positioned between shaft **32** and upper bearing **30*a***. Sleeve **38** includes aligned apertures **38*a*** and **38*b*** which may be aligned with cross-bores **40*a***, **40*b*** or **40*c*** in shaft **32** to adjust the height of the sleeve **38** with respect to the shaft **32** by means of pin **42**. Pin **42** is of a size to be capable of insertion through the openings **38*a***, **38*b*** and one of the cross-bores in shaft **32**. Pin **42** serves the purpose of affixing the sleeve to the shaft for rotation therewith and preventing axial withdrawal of the sleeve from the shaft, as well as combining with the aforementioned crossbores and openings to adjust the height of the sleeve relative to the shaft **32**. At its upper end, the sleeve has, integrally associated therewith, a steering wheel **44**. Thus, rotation of wheel **44** will correspondingly rotate shaft **32**.

A hub **46** having a threaded interior **46*a*** is affixed to plate **48**, which is fastened, by means of fasteners **50**, to the upper surface **12*a*** of base **12**. A pivot bolt **52**, having a threaded end **54** for reception in the threaded receptacle **46*a*** of hub **46**, extends through the opening **34a** in socket end **34** of the lower transverse portion of shaft **32**. Pivot bolt **52** includes a bearing surface **56** and an enlarged head **58** having a tool-receiving recess **60**.

The upper seating member **14** is thus eccentrically mounted relative to the base **12** by means of the pivoted connection of shaft **32** and its lower transverse portion **32b** to the base **12**. The seating member **14** is also freely rollable within the limits afforded by the shaft **32** by means of the engagement of casters **18** with the surface **12*a*** of platform **12**.

In operation, a user may seat himself on the chair element **22** with his feet resting on the upper surface **16*a*** of platform **16**. Initial motion of the member **14** is obtained by the user giving a slight, quick, shifting body motion while seated in the chair element **22**. Following this, the member **14** will move of its own accord responsive to turning motion imparted to the steering wheel **44** by the user. The rapidity of the movement and pattern thereof, will be governed by the user's manipulation of the wheel **44**. Generally speaking, the member **14** will travel in a repeating looped path of travel about the pivot point established by the pivot bolt **52**. However, the specific loop pattern will vary, depending upon the motion imparted to the steering wheel **44** by a user.

This invention provides a novel self-propelled mobile seating device which is eccentrically movable relative to a pivot point. The amusement device occupies only the space defined by the disc-like base **12**. Execution of the operation of the device is extremely simple, and no motor means, source of power, or gear or link mechanisms are involved except for the L-shaped steering shaft **32**. Thus, the amusement device is one of simple structure rendering it economical to produce, inexpensive to purchase, and capable to extended reliable operation. Because the device is simple to operate and offers an infinite variety of patterns of travel, depending upon the user's manipulation of the steering wheel, it is believed to be capable of providing a great deal of entertainment for extended periods of time.

The foregoing detailed description has been given for clearness of understanding only, and no unnecessary limitations should be understood therefrom, as some modifications may be obvious to those skilled in the art.

I claim:

1. An amusement device comprising, a substantially horizontal base; a platform having depending caster means, said caster means being in rolling engagement with said base; a one-piece substantially L-shaped link means having one end

pivotally connected to vertical hub means fixedly mounted on the top surface of said base and having steering means associated with the other end of said link means; and said platform being pivotally connected to the upstanding leg of said link means whereby the reaction of an operator on said platform exerting a force against said steering means causes said platform to rotate about said upstanding leg with resultant reaction forces causing rotation of said one end of said link means about said hub means.

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