

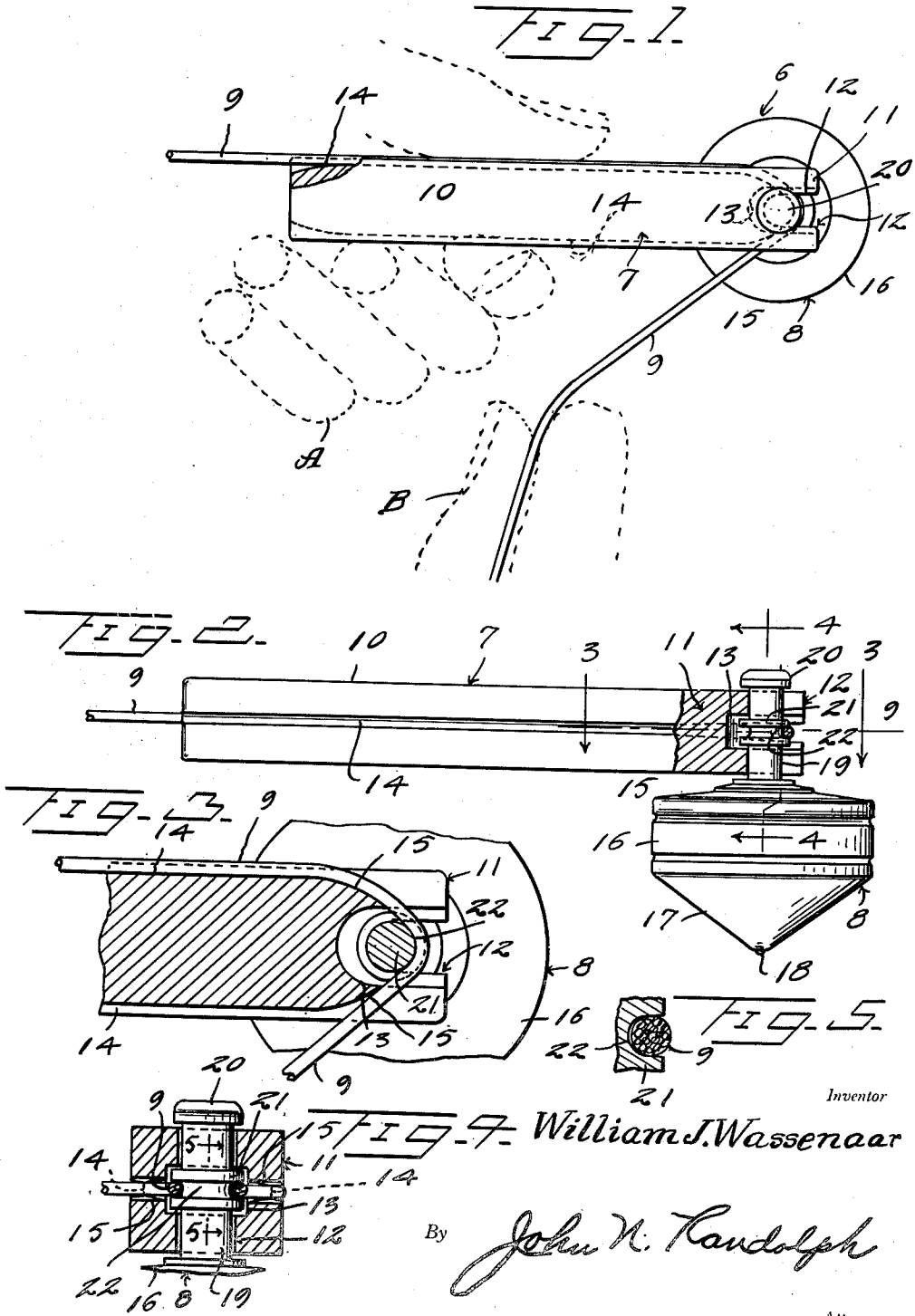
May 6, 1952

W. J. WASSENAAR

2,595,823

SPINNING TOP

Filed April 26, 1950



Inventor

William J. Wassenaar

By

John N. Randolph

Attorney

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,595,823

## SPINNING TOP

William J. Wassenaar, Coopersville, Mich.

Application April 26, 1950, Serial No. 158,221

3 Claims. (Cl. 46—70)

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This invention relates to a novel construction of spinning top which is capable of being very easily operated to revolve the top at a high speed and which includes a journal and support in which the top is supported while a torque is imparted thereto and from which the revolving top is thereafter discharged to spin on any suitable supporting surface.

Another and particularly important object of the present invention is to provide a novel construction of top and top spinning means which may be very quickly and easily assembled in a position for imparting torque to the top by a manually actuated flexible member or cord and wherein the flexible member or cord additionally functions to retain the top in its supporting bearing or journal until the required torque has been transmitted thereto by the flexible member.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a spinning top and top holder of extremely simple construction which may be very economically manufactured and sold yet which will be extremely efficient and durable for its intended purpose.

Various other objects and advantages of the invention will hereinafter become more fully apparent from the following description of the drawing, illustrating a presently preferred embodiment thereof, and wherein:

Figure 1 is a top plan view, partly broken away, showing the parts as they will be disposed and supported to impart rotation to the top;

Figure 2 is an enlarged side elevational view, partly in section of the same;

Figure 3 is an enlarged fragmentary horizontal sectional view taken substantially along a plane as indicated by the line 3—3 of Figure 2;

Figure 4 is an enlarged cross sectional view taken substantially along a plane as indicated by the line 4—4 of Figure 2; and

Figure 5 is an enlarged vertical sectional view taken substantially along a plane as indicated by the line 5—5 of Figure 4.

Referring more specifically to the drawing, the novel spinning top, designated generally 6 and comprising the invention, includes a top holder, designated generally 7, a top, designated generally 8, and a flexible actuating member or cord, designated 9.

The top holder or support 7 is formed from an elongated bar of any suitable material such as wood preferably of a thickness substantially equal to its width, as indicated in Figure 4, one end of which forms a handle 10 and the other end of which constitutes the top supporting head and

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journal 11. The top supporting head and journal 11 is provided with a longitudinally extending recess or notch 12 which opens outwardly of the outer end of the head 11 and which extends through the head from top to bottom thereof, as illustrated in Figures 2 and 4. The recess or notch 12 is provided intermediate of the top and bottom surfaces of the head 11 with an enlarged portion 13 which is longer and wider than the top and bottom portions of said recess 12, as seen in Figures 2, 3 and 4. The corresponding sides of the top holder 7 are provided intermediate of the top and bottom surfaces thereof with corresponding longitudinally extending grooves or channels 14 which extend from the terminal of the handle 10 to the enlarged recessed portion 13; said grooves 14 having corresponding end portions formed in the head 11 which are wider and deeper than the remainder of the grooves 14 and which open into the enlarged recessed portion 13 preferably inwardly of the restricted recessed top and bottom portions 12. Said enlarged grooved portions are best illustrated at 15 in Figures 3 and 4.

The top 8 includes a body portion 16 which may vary in shape and size. At least the bottom portion 17 thereof is tapered to terminate in a depending spinning point 18. A stem 19, which is preferably formed integral with the top body 16 projects from the top thereof and terminates at its outer upper end in an enlargement or knob 20. The stem 19 is disposed axially of the top 8 and is sized to fit for rotation in the recess or notch 12 and is provided intermediate of its ends with an integral enlargement forming a pulley 21 having an annular groove 22 which tapers in width toward its bed. The knob 20 and the pulley 21 are each of a diameter greater than the width of the recess or notch 12 and the pulley 21 is sized to fit loosely in the enlarged recessed portion 13.

To impart rotation to the top 8 for spinning it, the handle 10 is grasped by the operator, if a right-handed person, ordinarily with the left hand as illustrated at A in dotted lines in Figure 1 and held so that the top holder 7 is in substantially a horizontal plane as illustrated in Figure 2. The stem 19 is then inserted into the notch 12 so that its pulley 21 will be disposed in the enlarged recess portion 13, the knob 20 above the upper surface of the top holder 7 and the top body 16 beneath the bottom surface of the top holder 7, as best illustrated in Figures 2 and 4. A longer end of the flexible member or cord 9 is then positioned in the groove 14 at the side of the top

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holder 7 which faces away from the operator's other or right hand, partially seen at B in Figure 1. The other end of the cord is then grasped with the right hand and is passed transversely through the notch 12 so that the cord or flexible member 9 extends from the groove 14 in which it is engaged through the enlarged groove portion 15 which forms a continuation of said groove 14 into the enlarged recessed portion 13, around the outer portion of the pulley groove 22 and thence outwardly of the head 11 through the other groove portion 15. The last mentioned, shorter end of the flexible actuating member or cord 9 is gripped with the right hand B and held so that the cord extends preferably diagonally away from the head 11 and toward the handle end 10. While the first mentioned end of the cord 9 is held lightly gripped in the groove 14 by the thumb or palm of the hand A which grips the handle 10 for supporting the parts, a quick sharp pull is exerted on the other end of the cord 9 by the other, right hand B in a direction diagonally away from the head 11 to draw the first mentioned end of the cord longitudinally through the groove 14 toward the head 11 so that the cord will be drawn in this direction relatively to the groove 14 and transversely across the notch 12. The tapered bed portion of the pulley groove 22 is sized to frictionally grip the actuating cord 9 so that as said cord is thus moved transversely through the head 11 it will impart torque or rotation to the top 8. The quicker and more forceful the pull which is exerted on the cord 9 with the right hand B, the greater will be the speed of rotation imparted to the top 8. Likewise, the cord 9 will function to retain the stem 19 in engagement with the notch 12 while torque is being imparted thereto and as previously stated, said stem is sized to rotate freely in the notch 12 while the pulley 21 is sized for free rotation in the enlarged recessed portion 13. After the cord 9 has been entirely withdrawn from the head 11 and the pulley 21 by the pull exerted thereon by the right hand B, the top 8 will be revolving at a high rate of speed, supported by engagement of the stem 19 in the head 11. By then tilting the head 11 downwardly slightly, the stem 19 will slide out of engagement with the notch 12 allowing the top 8 to drop on any surface disposed therebelow, not shown, on which the top 8 will revolve on its spinning point 18 in a conventional manner until its speed of rotation diminishes to an extent that it will be no longer maintained in an upright position.

It will likewise be readily apparent that the handle 10 may be grasped with the right hand and the first mentioned, longer end of the cord 9 then positioned in the other groove 14 and the other end of the cord 9 may then extend outwardly from the opposite side of the head 11 and be grasped with the left hand and while the first mentioned end of the cord and the handle is held with the right hand, so that the spinning top 6 may be operated either by right or left-handed persons with equal ease.

Obviously, if desired, the end of the cord 9 on which the pull is exerted may extend at a right-angle to the longitudinal axis of the top holder 7 but by having it extend diagonally therefrom, as illustrated in Figures 1 and 3, a greater portion of the groove 22 is engaged by said cord to minimize any tendency of slippage. It will be readily apparent that the parts may be very

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quickly assembled in a position for imparting rotation to the top 8, as illustrated in Figure 1 and which can be much more quickly and easily accomplished than if it were necessary to wind the cord about the stem 19.

Various modifications and changes are contemplated and may obviously be resorted to, without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention as hereinafter defined by the appended claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. In combination with a top and an elongated flexible member for imparting rotation thereto, a stem fixed to and rising from the upper end of the top, said stem being disposed substantially axially of the top and having an enlarged intermediate portion provided with an annular groove forming a pulley, a top holder comprising an elongated relatively thick bar having one end forming a handle and having an opposite end providing a head, said head having a longitudinally extending notch opening outwardly of its terminal and outwardly of the top and bottom surfaces of the head in which the stem is detachably disposed and journalled, said notch having an enlarged portion intermediate of its upper and lower ends in which said pulley is loosely disposed, and said head being provided with aligned corresponding grooves in opposite sides thereof having portions opening into the enlarged recessed intermediate portion of the notch to receive said flexible member, a portion of said flexible member extending transversely across the head through the grooves and enlarged portion of the notch and being trained around the outer part of and engaging in the pulley groove for imparting torque to the stem and top when the flexible member is drawn transversely through the head, said pulley groove being of a width to provide a close fitting engagement with the portion of the flexible member engaging therein.

2. A structure as in claim 1, said holder having a side wall provided with a longitudinally extending groove having one end opening into one of the grooves of said head and through which said flexible member slides and is guided in its movement into the head and through the recess thereof.

3. A structure as in claim 1, said holder having a side wall provided with a longitudinally extending groove having one end opening into one of the grooves of said head and through which said flexible member slides and is guided in its movement into the head and through the recess thereof, said last mentioned groove being of a depth slightly less than the diameter of the flexible member whereby a portion of the hand gripping the handle to support the top holder will engage and frictionally resist movement of the flexible member through said last mentioned groove toward the head.

WILLIAM J. WASSENAAR.

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