

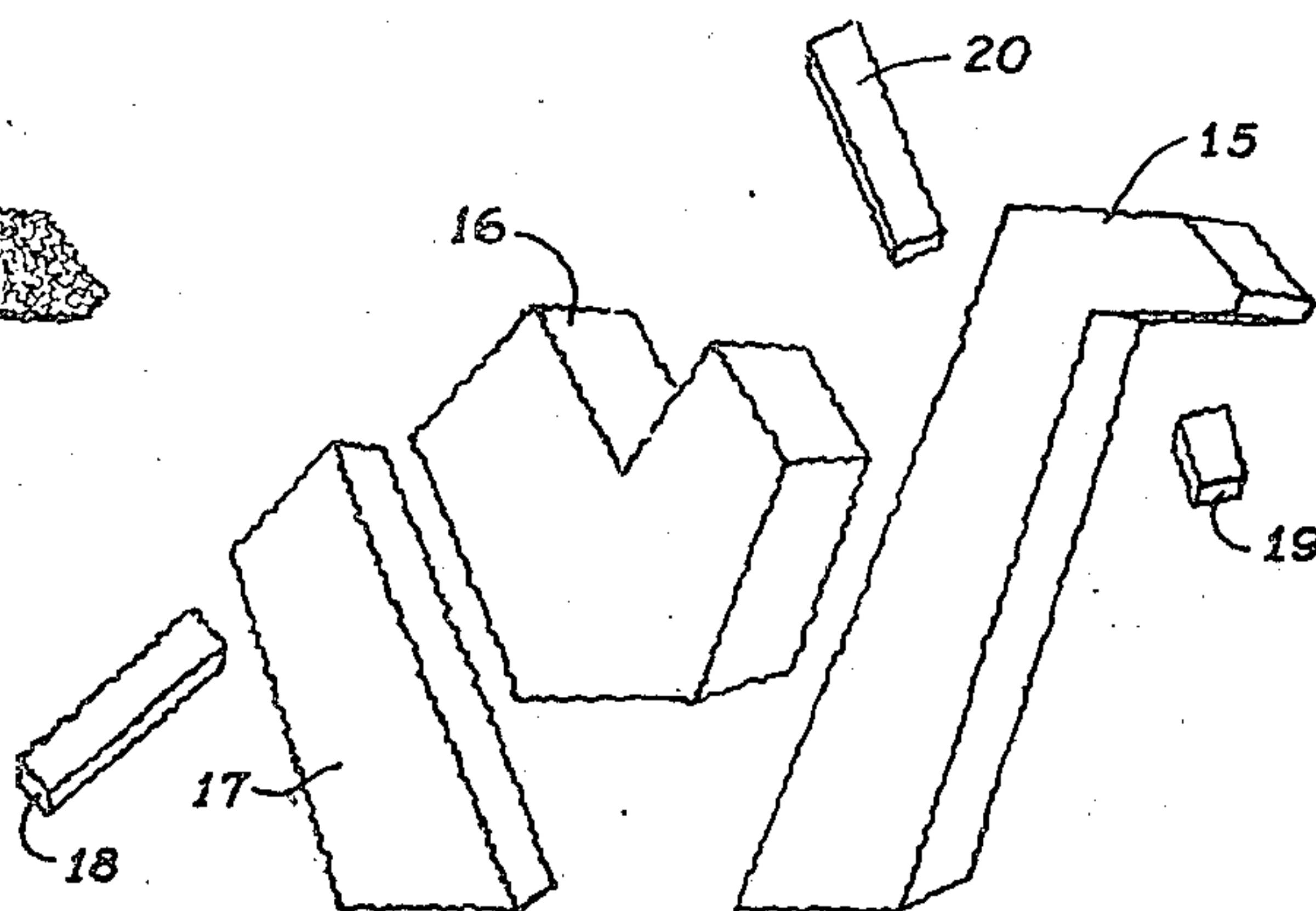
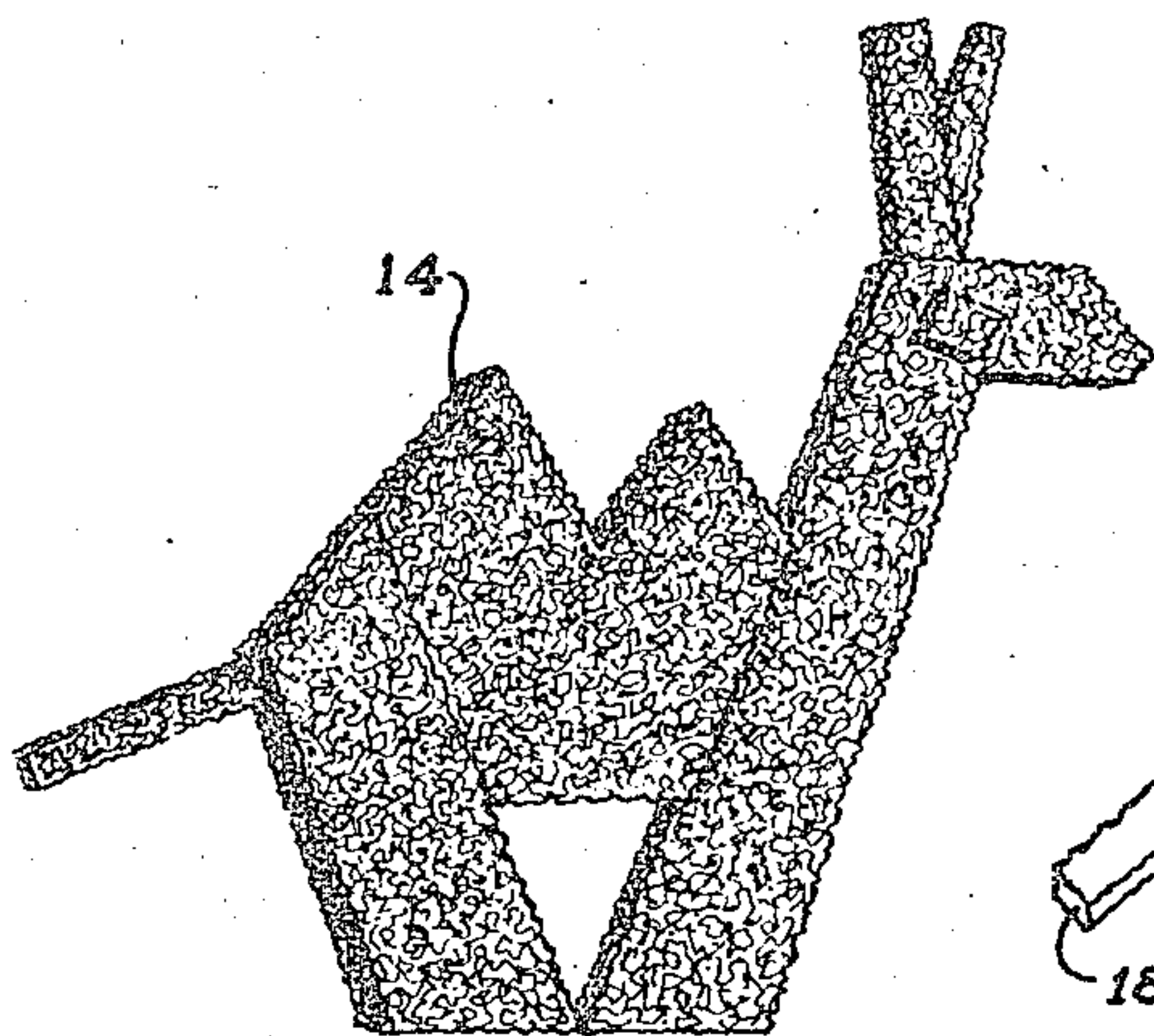
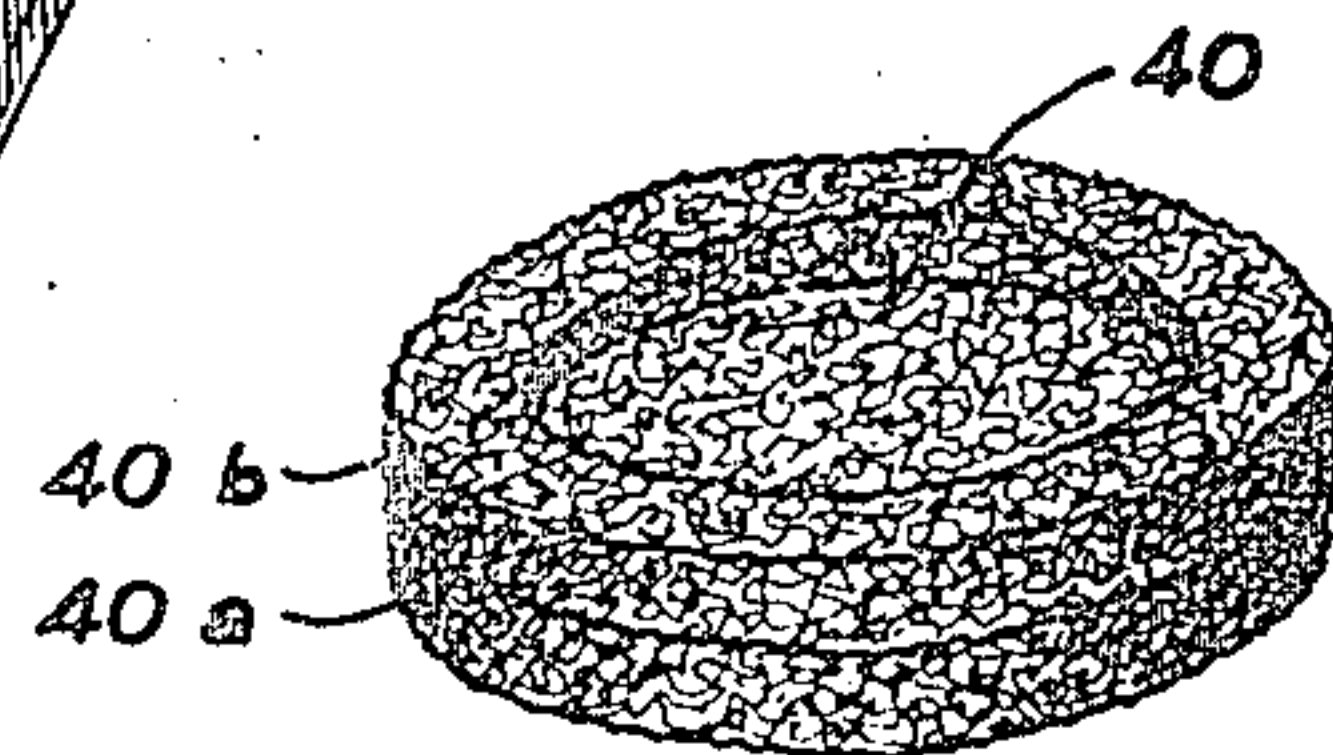
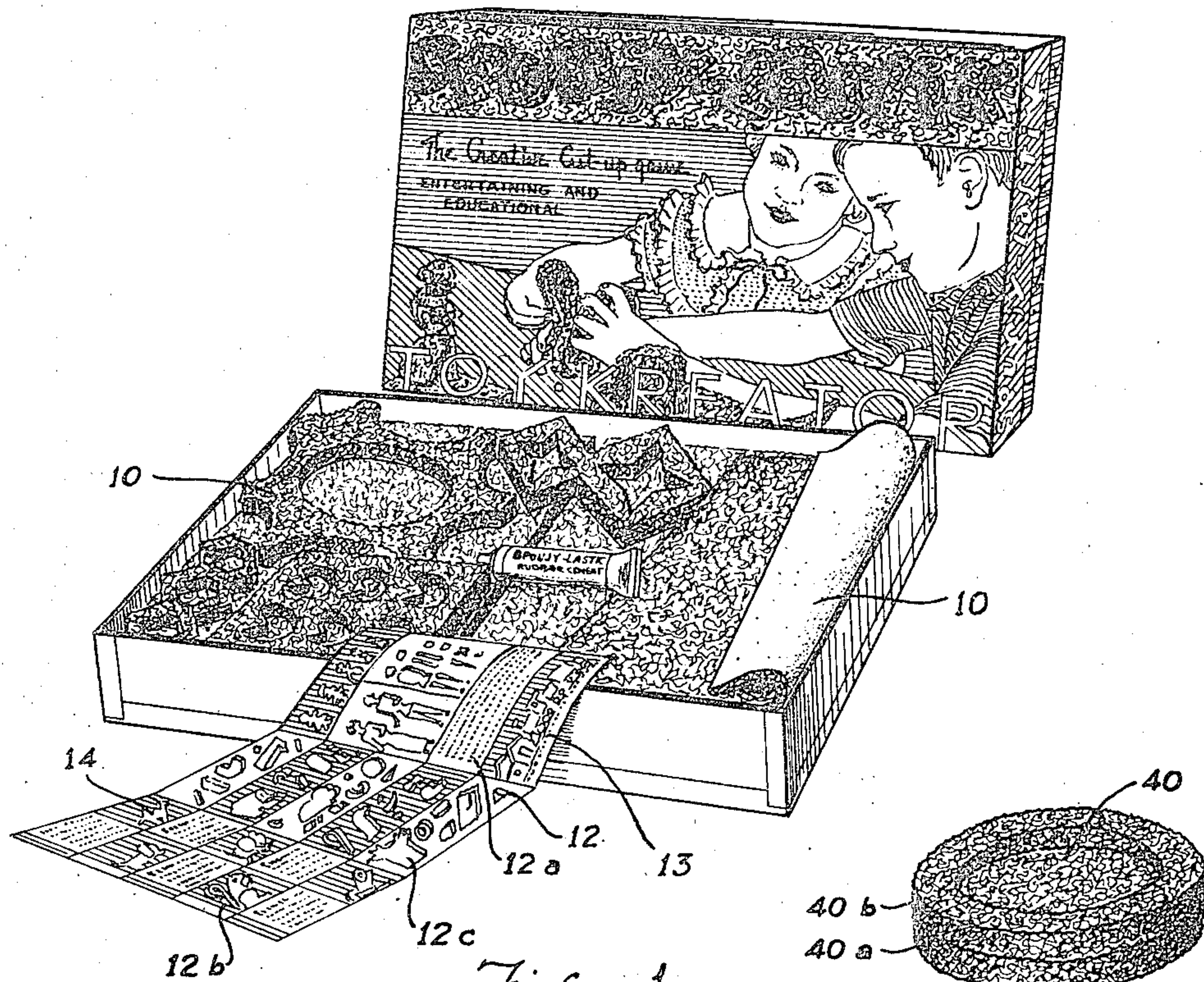
Aug. 20, 1935.

L. G. FRIEDMAN

2,011,714

CREATOR KIT

Filed April 5, 1933



INVENTOR.
Leo G. Friedman.

BY
Hammond Kittle
ATTORNEY.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,011,714

CREATOR KIT

Leo G. Friedman, Greenwich, Conn., assignor to
Nelson Littell, New Canaan, Conn.

Application April 5, 1933, Serial No. 664,467

2 Claims. (Cl. 46—35)

This invention relates to an improvement in educational and constructional kits for toys, games and other pastimes for adults as well as children.

Psychological studies of the educational development of children has shown the desirability of requiring the child to use his hands in moulding, shaping, forming or otherwise assembling suitable materials to develop the imagination, improve the correlation of the mental and physical activities and to provide an interesting as well educational pastime. A similar interest in the art of construction is shown by adults who often-times desire to make some ornamental or useful objects from suitable easily worked materials when such construction is within the realm of their powers and results in attractive objects.

Numerous elements have been suggested such as clay modeling material, metallic structural sections, building blocks, etc., but such materials have proved unsatisfactory in many respects because of their limited application, difficulty in moulding and lack of usefulness as well as lack of ornamentation of the final object.

It is my discovery that sponge rubber has many advantages over heretofore used materials and is highly advantageous for the construction of useful as well as ornamental articles. Among other features it has a three dimensional character in that a structure representing some animate or inanimate object may be built from it. Secondly, sponge rubber is clean, sanitary and not destructive of clothing or furniture and may be washed in soap and water if desired. Thirdly, it is inexpensive, readily formed, and may have an inherent coloring so that the resultant object has a decorative value when completed, rather than a mere colorless product.

I have also found that sponge rubber of the available commercial form offers unexcelled qualities for modeling purposes and is particularly effective in view of its double character of smooth and roughened surfaces, the smooth surface being the normal vulcanized surface. It fulfills all the requirements of an ideal material and also has the characteristic of lightness and natural appearance for many constructed objects.

In order to make an instructive kit which will have the utmost value for instructional purposes, I contemplate the combination of several sizes, thicknesses and colors of sponge rubber material which together with a suggestive instruction sheet and suitable cement can be marketed as a complete instruction kit as it includes all the material necessary to proceed. The cement is easily applied and necessary in that sponge rubber being

extraordinarily resilient is not readily pasted to other pieces of sponge rubber without the use of some form of special rubber cement not normally available. On the other hand the forming tool, namely, the scissors is omitted for every purchaser usually has one or more pairs of scissors at hand. Furthermore, the shape of the pieces is often suggestive of a desired shape without cutting.

As suggested forms of kit the attached drawing schematically illustrates part of the contents of preferred kits and certain suggested animals and other objects which may be made are indicated.

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing the contents of a small creator kit primarily for children.

Figure 2 is a diagrammatic illustration of an animal in completed form made in accordance with the instruction sheet.

Figure 3 is an exploded view of the units from which the animal is assembled.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of a coaster to go under a water tumbler.

The junior creator kit shown in Figure 1 preferably comprises a supply of sponge rubber in different forms represented by the pieces 10. These may include regular sized sheets of different colors, die cut forms as well as the residue from die cutting and they will be of different thicknesses for variety. Very often the shape is more suggestive than illustrative of a completed product thus calling upon the child to use his imagination in completing objects from the various miscellaneous shapes. The normal skin is left on some of the surfaces of some of the sponge rubber pieces as indicated in the folded piece 10 at the right of Fig. 1. The sponge rubber may be of any desired thickness, usually varying from one-quarter to one inch in thickness and often the pieces will be formed of cemented layers of greater thickness. The colors include the primary and secondary as well as mixed colors which colors are vulcanized into the rubber. The sponge rubber itself is a well known article of commerce and is normally porous, light, and is readily cut by an ordinary pair of scissors. Porosity as well as texture are also variable.

The kit further includes besides the sponge rubber a special rubber cement sufficient to form the articles made from the sponge rubber, it being merely necessary to apply the cement in a thin coating to the sponge rubber on both pieces to be joined allowing the cement to become tacky and then holding the cemented portions together for a moment. It will be found that they stick together readily and permanently. The sponge rubber may be cemented on either surface, either

the porous portions being secured to another porous portion or to the normal skin retained surface or both skin surfaces may be cemented together.

5 As an encouragement to the development of the child as well as an informative explanation of the material, an illustrated pamphlet and instruction sheet 12 is supplied with each kit. The instruction sheet includes three particular portions as follows:

(a) The general directions 12a heretofore mentioned for operating with sponge rubber.

15 (b) Illustrations 12b of some completed objects which may be made and which may be animate or inanimate objects such as animals, soldiers, cowboys, mannequins, trains, houses, alphabets, numerals, trees, or other desired products an example being shown in Figure 2.

20 (c) The exploded view portion 12c of the instruction sheet showing the units of construction which is further illustrated in Figure 3.

The exploded view of the cut-out sections is particularly advantageous to assist the beginner in making a particular animal or other object. 25 For example, the camel 14 which is illustrated in completed form in Figure 2 consists preferably of a head 15 and body 16, rhomboid shaped legs 17, tail 18, cubical eyes 19 and ears 20. As previously described each of the respective sections is cut to the proper shape or may be found suggestively shaped in the sponge rubber supplied, and then the cement is applied to the adjoining surfaces. Preferably, different colors of sponge rubber are used for the respective sections in- 35 creasing the attractiveness of the completed element.

Usually the animals prove most satisfactory not only because of their simplicity in construction, but because of their unusually realistic appearance when completed and because their 40 natural appeal as coming within the child's experience.

The instruction sheet is only suggestive of possibilities and is not intended to indicate all of the products which may be made from the kit. Given 45 such a kit, however, the child will imagine some particular element which he prefers to build or make and with a scissors can cut out the desired sections from the sponge rubber elements and subsequently cement them together for creative 50 development work. Kindergarten teachers find the sponge rubber kits especially useful as a medium of artistic instruction and development of creative ability and by creating new designs or taking instructional designs from the more 55 imaginative or creative children can provide an almost endless variety of things to be made.

This kit is not limited to toys but may be used by others for constructing household articles of 60 sponge rubber. There is no limit to the number and variety of objects which may be made.

65 The adult size creator kit is usually of larger size and has a greater variety of material. It is preferably enclosed in a suitable box and has an instruction sheet similar to the sheet of Figure 1, except the instructions are related to more mature products such as coasters, bath mats, games, ornamental objects, etc.

70 Illustrative of one product is the coaster shown in Figure 4, which is formed from a bottom portion 40a and a rim portion 40b which are suitably cemented together.

It will thus be seen that I have produced in the creator kit as exemplified in Figure 1, the necessary material for making any desired product which may vary in size from the toy article animal, doll and similar things for the child to 5 raw material for adult use for making of coasters, cushions and other ornamental objects. In the kit the imagination plays a strong part in that the primary product does not necessarily resemble the finished product and it must be first 10 cut to the proper shape and then suitably cemented together. Caricatures may also be made, the kit being of the same general form for either the child's toys or for the adult's games.

In both cases the sponge rubber is of many 15 different colors and a variety of shapes, some of which are suggestive of part or all of the finished product and may or may not have the inherent vulcanized rubber skin surface on parts thereof. It is easily cemented and innumerable 20 objects can be made within the realm of the imagination of the user. Its rough porous surface is particularly attractive and suggestive of many articles such as lawns, hedges, animals, etc. Completed houses with lawns, hedges, trees, 25 flowers, pools, etc., may be created out of sponge rubber parts by the exercise of a little imagination and creative workmanship.

It is also within the scope of this invention to provide a kit of preformed pieces, which when 30 properly assembled, will make a single one of the preferred animals, structures, or pieces which kit would be smaller size but otherwise include the sponge rubber material, the single instruction sheet and the cement. The instruction sheet 35 will of course, not only show the preferred final construction but the detail instructions of assembly but would differ from the sheet shown in Figure 1 in that it would relate to but one article. 40

Such a kit might well be used as a game by withdrawing the instruction sheet and permitting different players to operate on the same pieces to determine who is the quickest in inventing an animal or other object and creating the 45 most satisfactory article would entitle the winner to a prize. It would only be necessary to supply the minimum number of pieces for a simple article under such circumstances.

While I have shown a preferred form of embodiment of my invention, I am aware that other modifications may be made therein and I therefore desire a broad interpretation of the same within the scope and spirit of the disclosure herein and of the claims appended hereinafter. 55

I claim:

1. An educational toy in three dimensions composed of a plurality of pieces of flexible sponge rubber preliminarily cut in shapes which suggest various portions of figures and adapted with 60 some alteration to make a complete figure, some of said pieces having both normal skin surfaces and porous surfaces and an adhesive to bind the assembled pieces in final position.

2. In a toy figure construction set, a number 65 of pieces of sponge rubber cut to various shapes to form, when assembled in various ways, figures to represent animate and inanimate objects, and cement for securing the sponge rubber pieces in assembled relation. 70

LEO G. FRIEDMAN.