

March 6, 1951

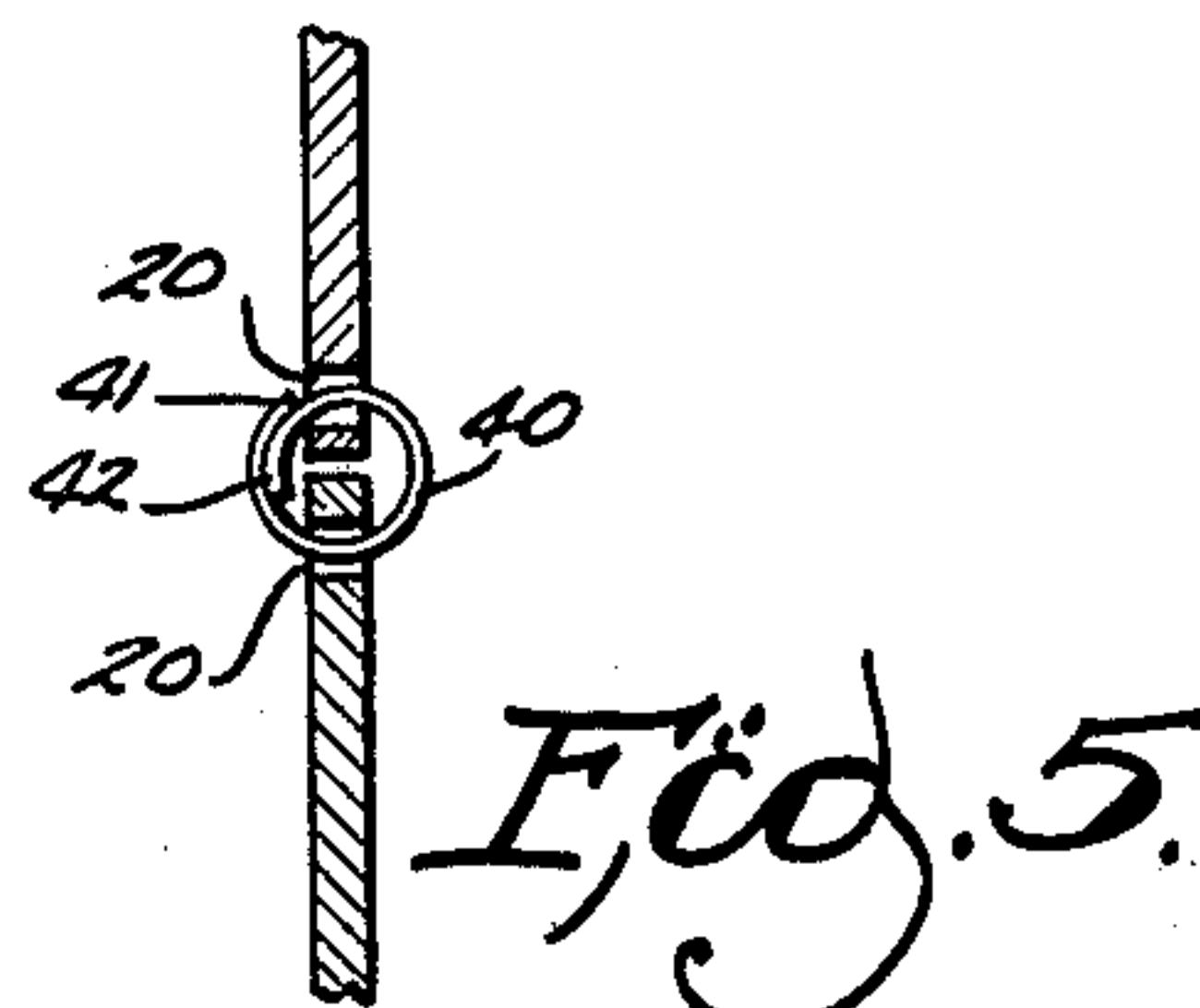
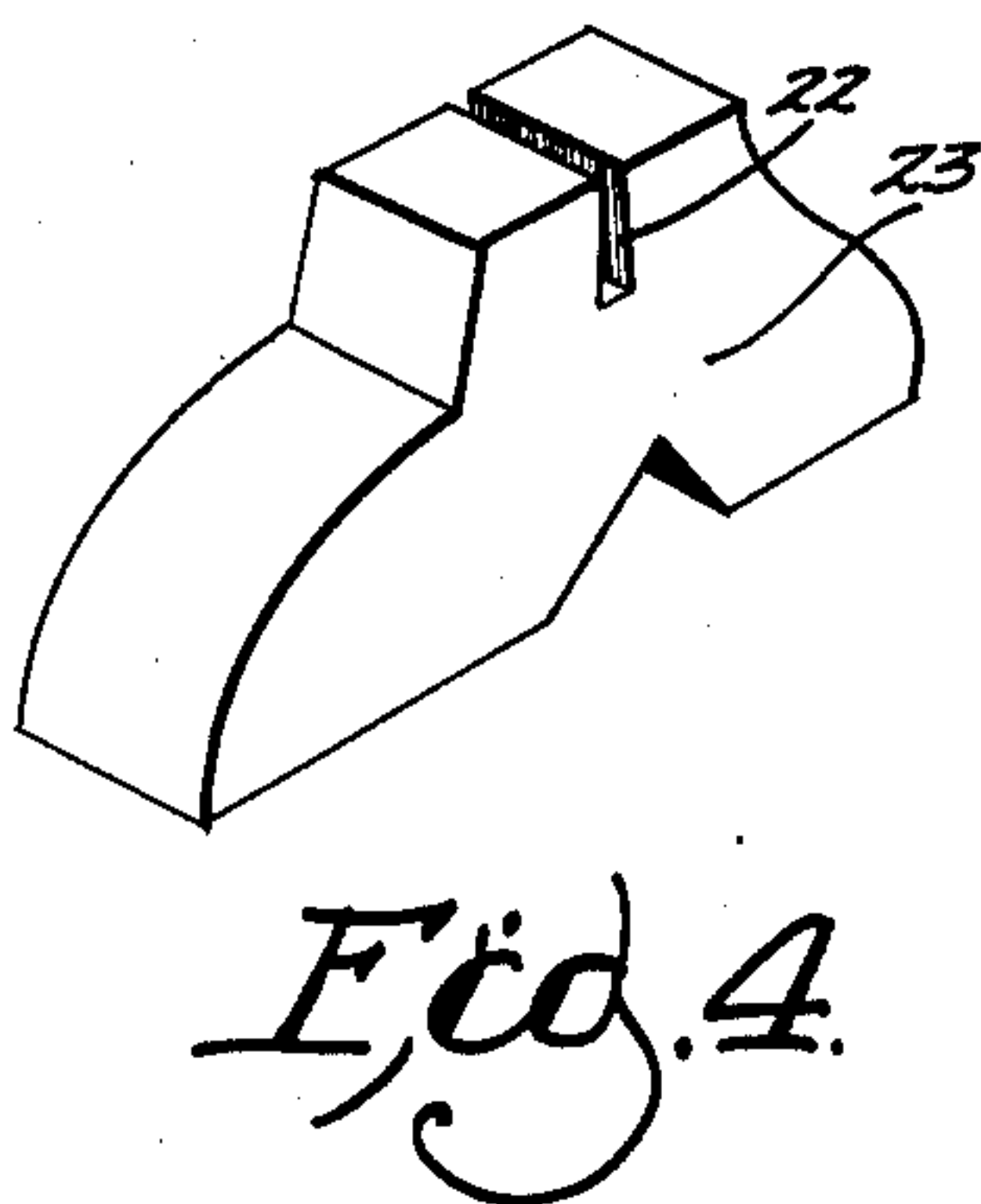
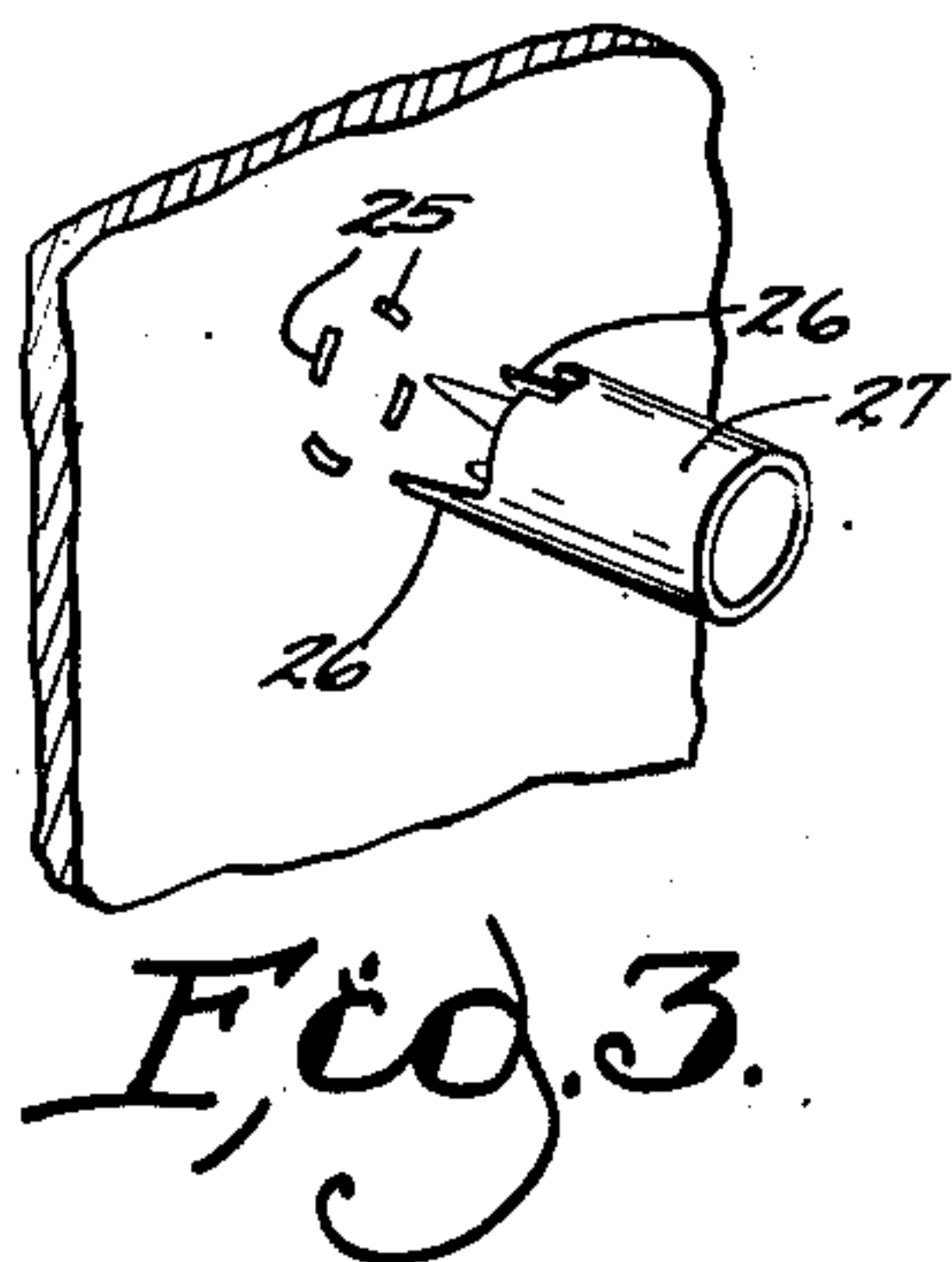
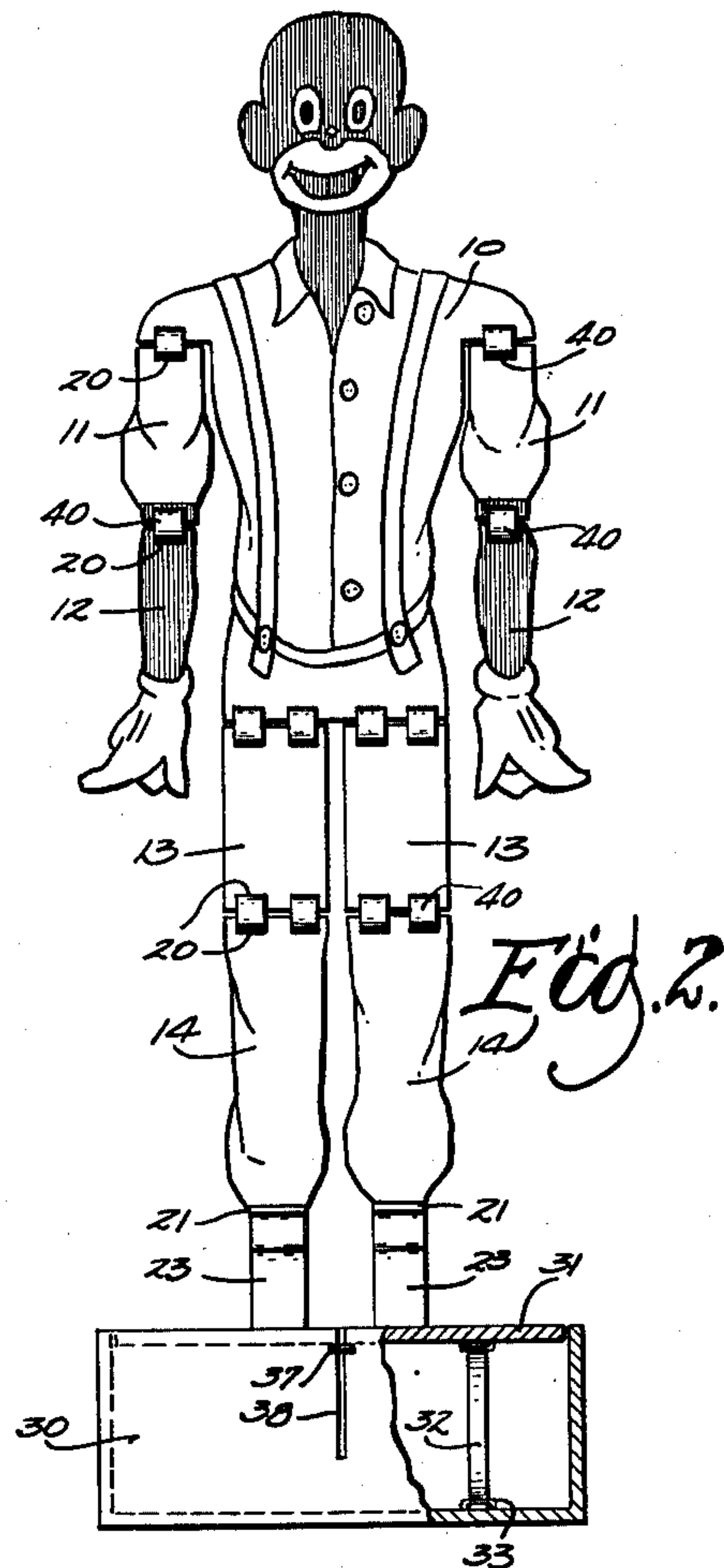
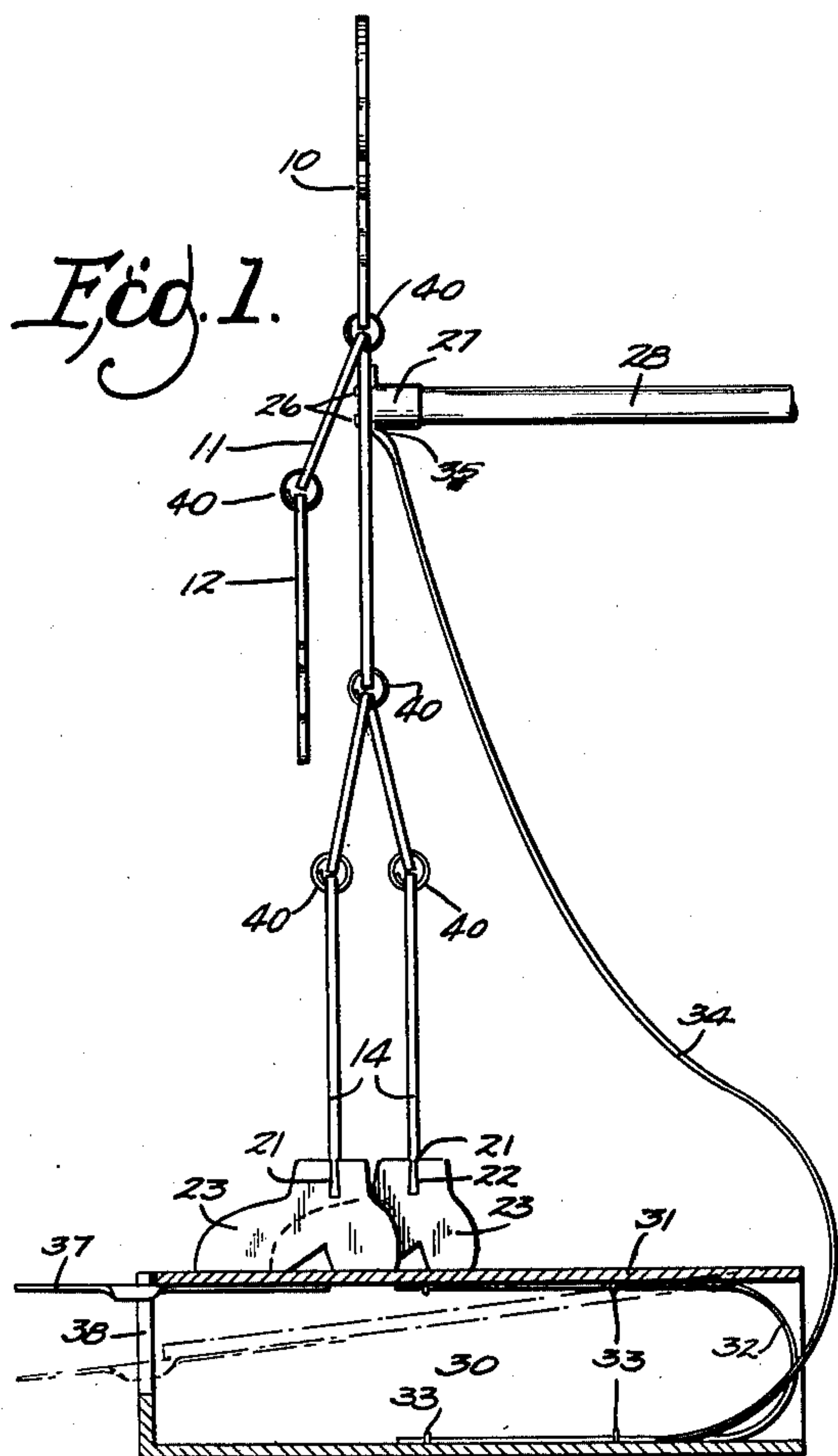
H. N. ATWELL

2,544,124

DANCING PUPPET

Filed Feb. 15, 1946

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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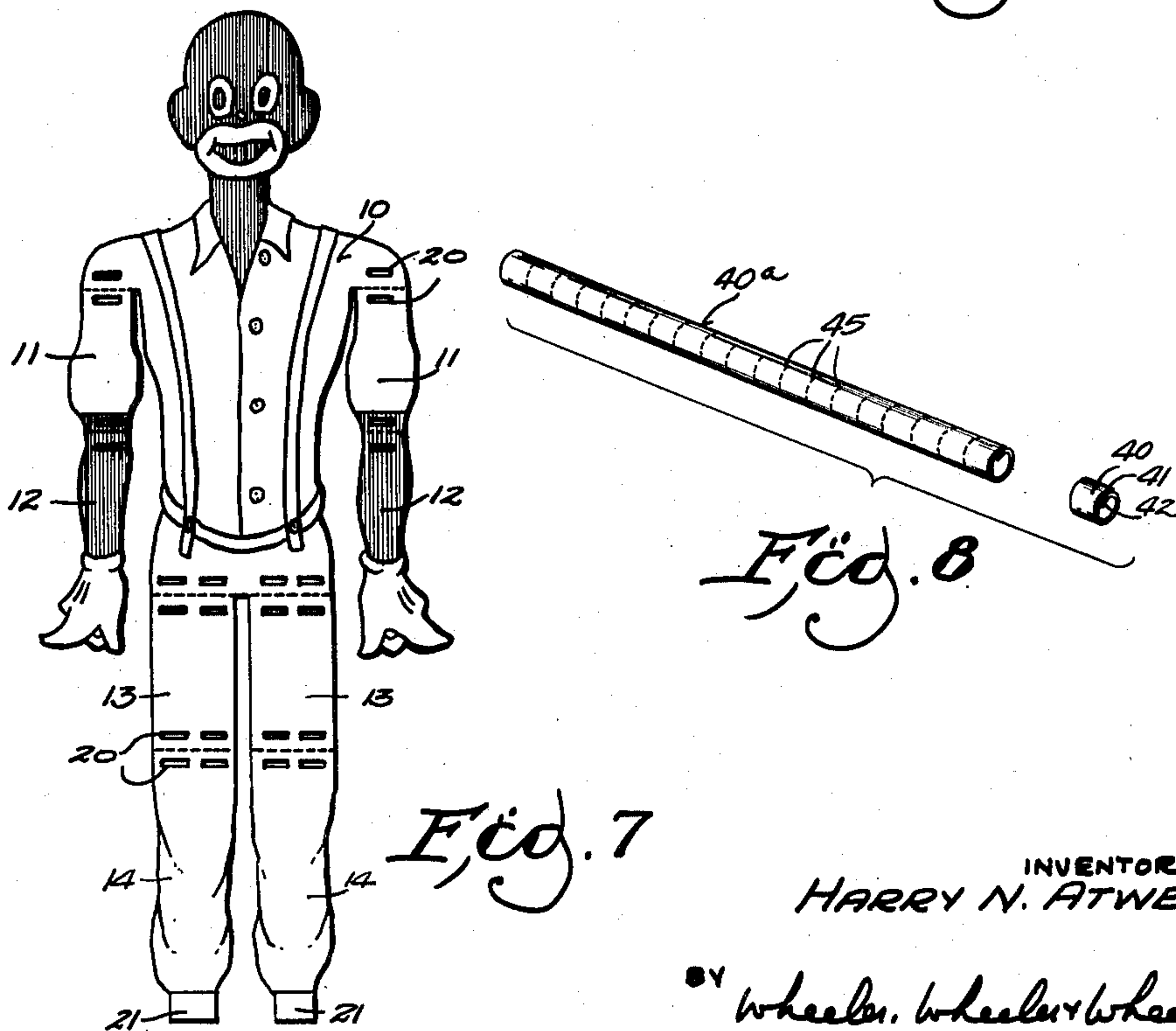
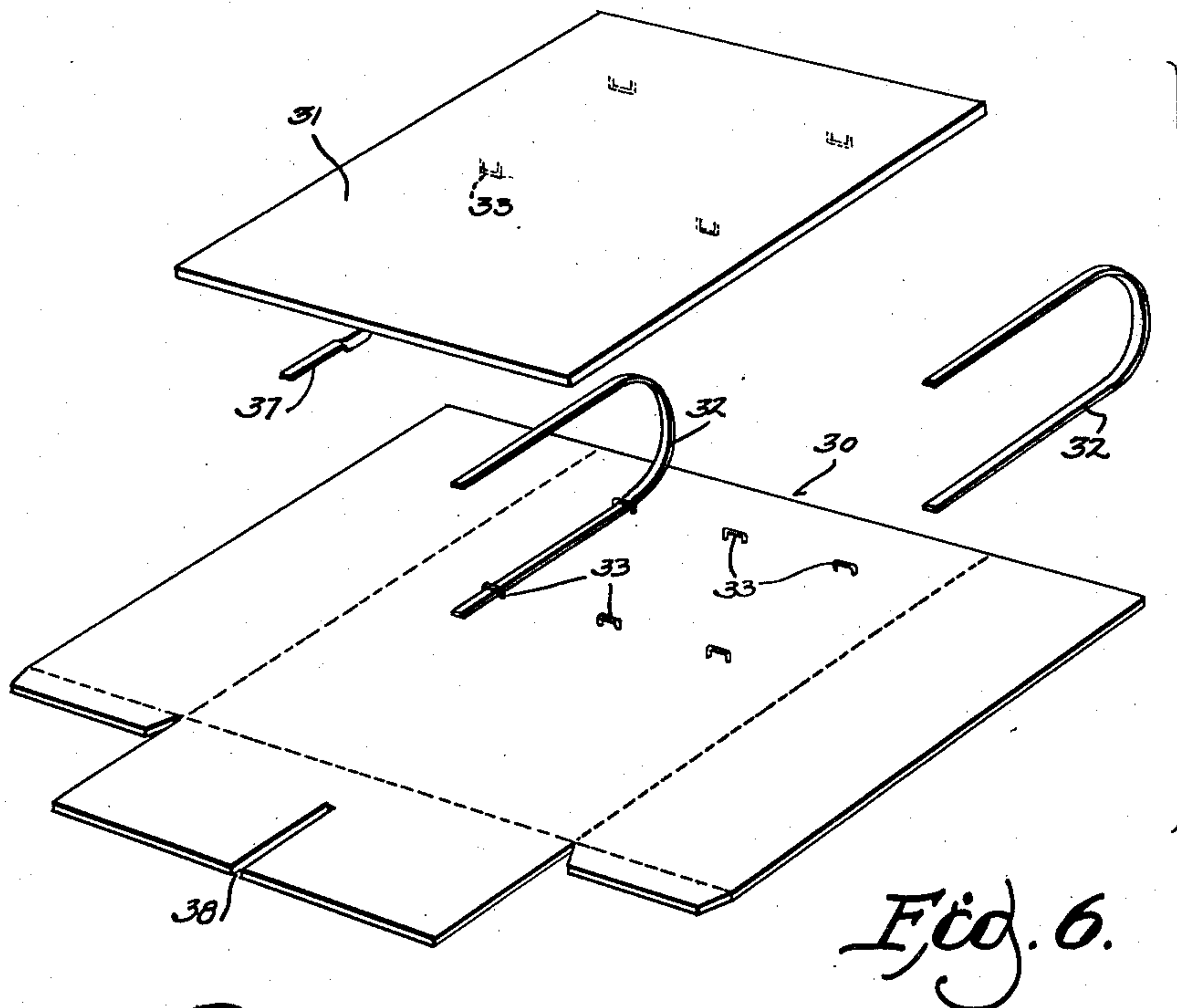
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,544,124

DANCING PUPPET

Harry N. Atwell, Milwaukee, Wis.

Application February 15, 1946, Serial No. 647,897

3 Claims. (Cl. 46—137)

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My invention relates to improvements in dancing puppets.

The object of my invention is to provide a dancing puppet which not only can be boxed at the factory in boxes constituting a portion of the assembly and having vibratory covers, but which can also, when shipped to the place of sale or use, be readily assembled and disassembled by children in a play room or kindergarten as a part of their education in mechanics.

A further object is to provide a toy including a puppet which can be made to dance on a vibratory part of the housing in which the puppet is stored when not in use.

A further object is to provide a dancing puppet which can be manufactured at minimum cost, shipped in sections to the place of use, in a partially manufactured condition, and manufacture and assembly completed by wholly inexperienced purchasers or users.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of my improved dancing puppet, with the parts in assembled relation.

Figure 2 is a front elevation of the same.

Figure 3 is a fragmentary view of a portion of the back of a puppet, showing in a retracted position a socket member for the lifting rod ready for assembly.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of one of the foot pieces.

Figure 5 is a detail view of one of the resilient connecting collars in assembled relation to two members of the puppet, fragments of which are shown in longitudinal section.

Figure 6 is a view of the box with its parts separated and the vibratory cover inverted.

Figure 7 is a view of the blank from which the body, the arms, and legs of the puppet are to be cut, with dotted lines indicating the lines of severance.

Figure 8 is a view of the split tube from which the connecting links are to be cut by the user, one severed link being also illustrated.

Like parts are identified by the same reference characters throughout the several views.

A piece of cardboard, or other flat sheet-like material, cut to the general outline of the puppet head, body, arms and legs in the form of a human being and pictorially colored to illustrate eyes, nose, mouth and articles of clothing, may be severed along the dotted lines indicated in Figure 7 to produce a head and body member 10, a pair of upper arm members 11, lower arm

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and hand members 12, upper leg members 13, and lower leg members 14. At each side of the line of severance the cardboard is provided with slots 20, one slot being preferably provided on each side of the lines of severance of the arm members, and two slots being provided on each side of the lines of severance of the leg members.

The lower end portions 21 of the members 14 are rectangular in form and are adapted to be pressed edgewise into undercut channels 22 formed in wooden foot pieces 23, contoured as best shown in Figure 4. The body portion at or near shoulder height is pierced at 25, as indicated in Figure 3, to receive the prongs 26 of a socket member 27. The prongs 26 may be inserted through the apertures 25 and clinched to securely hold the socket member to the body of the puppet.

A rod-like handle 28 is receivable in the socket member 27 for manipulation of the puppet. The body, arm and leg members may be packed for shipment in a box 30 having top member 31 supported from the bottom of the box by U-shaped springs 32, the end portions of which are secured by staples 33 to the bottom and top of the box respectively, as best shown in Figure 1. Another spring 34 is secured to the bottom of the box and extends rearwardly and upwardly in a generally goose-neck curve and has an upper end portion secured to the body at 35, the socket member 27 being preferably used as a connecting means. The front end of the top 31 of the box is preferably provided with a projecting handle 37 extending through a slot 38 in the front wall of the box, whereby the top 31 may be vibrated to cause the puppet to dance instead of using the handle 28 for that purpose.

The various members of the puppet are loosely linked together by split celluloidal ring-like bands 40 or other suitable resilient material biased to cause their end portions 41 and 42 to overlap, as clearly shown in Figure 5. These rings are each manipulated through two of the slots in the abutting end portions of the cardboard members by forcibly separating the overlapping end portions to allow them to pass through the slots. They are adapted to yield under the light stress imposed by the vibrations of the puppet, and are also so loosely engaged in the slots as to permit the various members to swing in all directions when the foot pieces are being impacted upon the vibratory box cover 31.

All of the parts of the puppet and its handle 28 may be placed in the box 30 for storage or shipment. When assembled for shipment at the

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factory, a split cylinder 40a, provided with sever-
ance indicating marks 45, is inserted in the
box to be severed by the user into the split rings
40. The box is long enough to receive all the
members of the puppet. The puppet supporting
spring 34 requires to be folded upon itself for
insertion in the box, and preferably the foot
pieces 23 are detached from the leg members 14
in order to require the purchaser or user to
assemble them. The handle 37 may also be
detached and placed in the box for shipment,
this handle being connected with the box top 31.

At the kindergarten or other place of use,
children may be required to disassemble the
puppet after each period of play and re-pack
the various members in the box for storage,
thereby making it possible to not only keep the
puppet stored when not in use, but also familiar-
izing children with the erection of mechanical
structures.

I claim:

1. A device of the character described com-
prising a box having a base, upstanding side and
front walls, a top and an open back, the front
wall being slotted, and the top being substan-
tially at the level of the upper margins of the
said walls, spring means connected with the
base and extending upwardly at the back of the
box and thence forwardly beneath the top and
connected therewith, a handle connected with
the top and projecting through the slot of the
front wall, and a dancing puppet provided with
a support extending upwardly from the base and

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through the open back, said puppet having flexi-
ble limbs and feet normally engaged by said top
and from which said top is downwardly movable
by said handle.

2. In a device of the character described the
sub-combination comprising a dancing puppet
having limbs comprising flat sections comprising
sheet stock provided with transversely elongated
slots adjacent their ends and split transversely
elongated collars passing through the slots at
the contiguous ends of said sections and provid-
ing joints therebetween.

3. The combination set forth in claim 2 in
which each of said sections has two laterally
spaced slots and is connected to a contiguous
section by two laterally spaced collars.

HARRY N. ATWELL.

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The following references are of record in the
file of this patent:

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