May 1, 1951 M. C. WIRTH 2,551,195

HAND DOLL

Filed Nov. 30, 1948

FIG. 1.

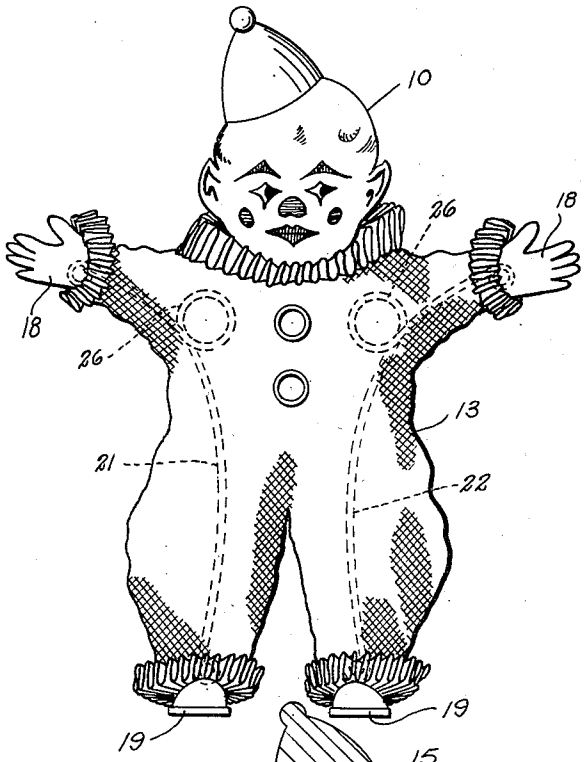


FIG. 2.

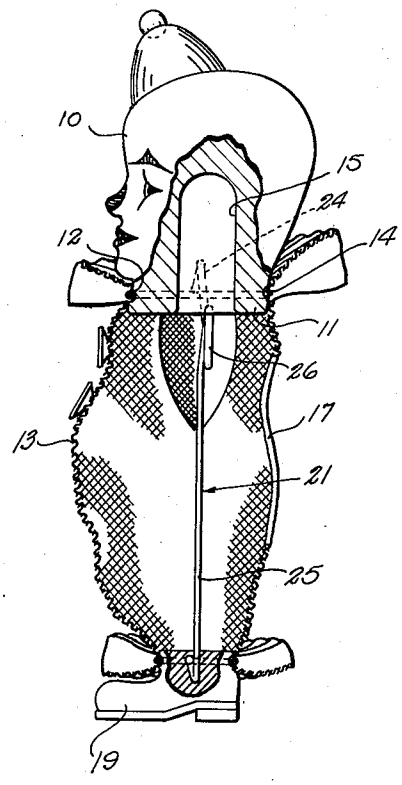
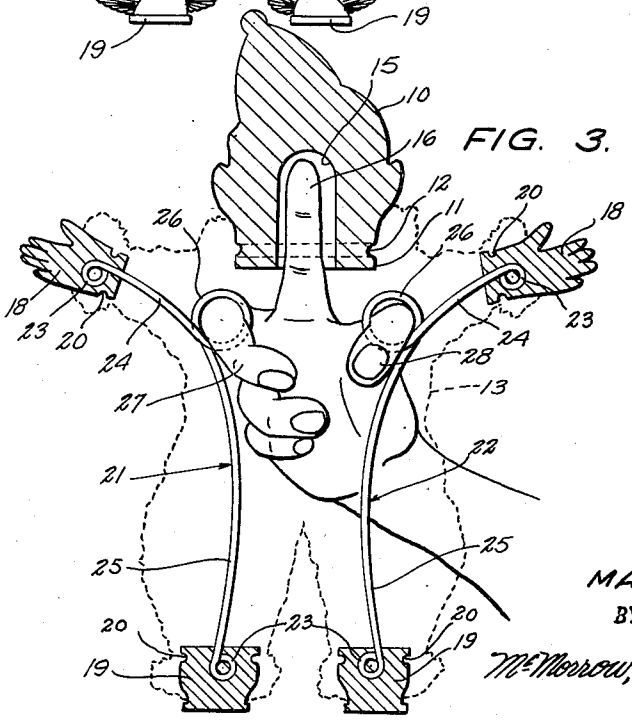


FIG. 3.



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HAND DOLL

Marie C. Wirth, Ecorse, Mich.

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3 Claims. (Cl. 46—154)

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My invention relates to puppets, and more particularly to that type of puppet wherein the hollow head is secured to a costume and wherein a puppeteer's fingers are adapted to be inserted in the hollow head to manipulate the same relative to the costume.

With the foregoing in view, it is an object of my invention to provide an improved puppet of the class described.

A further object is to provide an improved puppet of the class described wherein two pairs of limbs are connected to appropriate portions of the costume, and wherein a pair of semi-rigid connectors are utilized, each connector connecting two limbs together for manipulation simultaneously by the puppeteer.

A further object is to provide an improved puppet such as that last described, and which includes means providing a finger grip carried by each of the semi-rigid connectors.

Other objects and advantages reside in the particular structure of the invention, combination and arrangement of the several parts thereof, and will be readily understood by those skilled in the art upon reference to the attached drawing in connection with the following specification, wherein the invention is shown, described and claimed.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a front view of a puppet including the device according to the invention;

Figure 2 is a transverse vertical sectional view thereof;

Figure 3 is a transverse vertical sectional view taken at right angles to the section of Figure 2 and showing the manner of manipulating the device, the costume being shown in broken lines.

Referring specifically to the drawing, wherein like reference characters have been used throughout the several views to designate like parts, 10 designates a puppet head which includes a neck portion 11 formed with a peripheral groove 12 adapted to receive the neck portion of a costume 13 therein. The neck portion of the costume is secured to the head by any suitable flexible tie member 14, Figure 2. The head 10 may be made of any suitable material, and the costume 13 may be of any suitable form. Thus, the head 10, as illustrated, represents the head of a clown and the costume 13 is a clown's costume. Obviously, any suitable head and/or costume may be utilized as desired. Interiorly, the head is formed with a hollow 15 adapted to receive a finger 16 of the manipulator therein, as clearly shown in Figure 3. Also, the back portion of the costume

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13 is formed with an opening 17, Figure 2, for the insertion therethrough of the hand of the manipulator. Obviously, by moving the finger 16, the manipulator, or puppeteer, is able to manipulate the head in all directions.

The device of the invention contemplates the utilization of two pairs of limbs which are adapted to be secured to appropriate portions of the costume 13 in any suitable manner. In the embodiment illustrated, the limbs have been restricted to a pair of hands 18 and a pair of feet 19. The hands and feet 18 and 19 may be made of any suitable material and secured to appropriate portions of the costume 13 in any suitable manner. In the embodiment illustrated, the hands and feet 18 and 19 are formed of solid material and wrist and ankle portions thereof are formed with peripheral grooves 20, Figure 3, which are adapted to have appropriate portions of the costume 13 seated therein and secured by flexible ties, not shown, similar to the ties 14 for the neck portion of the costume previously described. Obviously, if the hands and feet are made of textile material, they may be readily sewed to the costume 13.

A pair of semi-rigid connectors 21 and 22 are enclosed in the costume 13. Each of the connectors connects two limbs of the puppet together for simultaneous actuation respectively by fingers 27 and 28 of the puppeteer. In the embodiment illustrated, an adjacent limb of each pair is connected together by the connectors 21 and 22. Also, in the embodiment illustrated, the connectors 21 and 22 comprise semi-rigid wires, the ends of which are enlarged or otherwise formed, as at 23, and secured to the hands and feet 18 and 19 in any suitable manner, as by being embedded therein. Also, it should be noted that each semi-rigid connector includes a laterally-directed arm portion 24 and a depending leg portion 25. The connectors 21 and 22 include means such as the loops 26 providing finger grips for the fingers 27 and 28 of the puppeteer. It is preferred that the loops 26 be adjustable as to size whereby to permit them to have a comfortable fit with the fingers of the puppeteer. This is readily accomplished by pushing or pulling on the adjacent arm and leg portions 24 and 25, whereby to enlarge or reduce the size of the loop. In the embodiment illustrated, each of the connectors 21 and 22 is laterally inwardly bowed to provide the arm and leg portions 24 and 25. However, it is obvious that they could be angularly directed or otherwise formed to provide such portions. By pro-

viding them in the arcuate form illustrated, it is seen that a rocking motion may be imparted to each connector as the same is manipulated by the puppeteer.

In operation, the puppeteer may engage the puppet in a manner illustrated in Figure 3, with the finger 16 inserted in the cavity 15 for the head 10, and the fingers 27 and 28 engaging the finger grips 26 of the semi-rigid connectors 21 and 22. Thereafter, by manipulating the fingers in a well known manner, the puppet may be animated to perform a large number of life-like movements. Obviously, a skilled puppeteer may manipulate a puppet in a wide variety of ways.

While I have shown a human figure, it is obvious that the device might well be equally applicable to an animal puppet. Also, while I have shown a connector connecting specific limbs together, it is obvious that they can be utilized to connect other limbs together. While I have shown and described what is now thought to be a preferred embodiment of the invention, it is to be understood that the same is susceptible of other forms and expressions. Consequently, I do not limit myself to the precise structure shown and described hereinabove except as hereinafter claimed.

I claim:

1. A puppet of the type including a flexible costume and a hollow head secured thereto for manipulation by a finger inserted therein, comprising a pair of hands and a pair of feet secured to appropriate portions of said costume, a pair of semi-rigid wires, each wire being rigidly connected at each end thereof to one of said hands or feet, thereby operatively connecting an adjacent hand and foot together for manipulation simultaneously and serving as arm and leg members respectively therefor, said wires being laterally inwardly bowed toward each other to form said arm and leg members, and each of said wires being formed with a loop intermediate the ends thereof for providing a finger grip.

2. A puppet of the type including a flexible costume and a hollow head secured thereto for manipulation by a finger inserted therein, comprising a pair of hands and a pair of feet secured to appropriate portions of said costume, a pair of semi-rigid wires, each wire being rigidly connected at each end thereof to one of said hands or feet, thereby operatively connecting an adjacent hand and foot together for maniplation simultaneously, said wires each including a laterally-directed arm portion and a depending leg portion, and each wire being formed with a finger grip-providing loop intermediate said arm and leg portions.

3. A puppet of the type including a flexible costume and a hollow head secured thereto for manipulation by a finger inserted therein, comprising a pair of hands and a pair of feet secured to appropriate portions of said costume, a pair of semi-rigid wires, each wire being rigidly connected at each end thereof to one of said hands or feet, thereby operatively connecting an adjacent hand and foot together for manipulation simultaneously, said wires each including a laterally-directed arm portion and a depending leg portion, each wire being formed with a finger grip-providing loop intermediate said arm and leg portions, and said loops being adjustable to provide finger grips of varying sizes.

MARIE C. WIRTH.

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