Oct. 17, 1950 J. A. RUDOLF 2,526,612

ACTUATED ELEPHANT BANK

Filed May 27, 1947

Fig. 1.

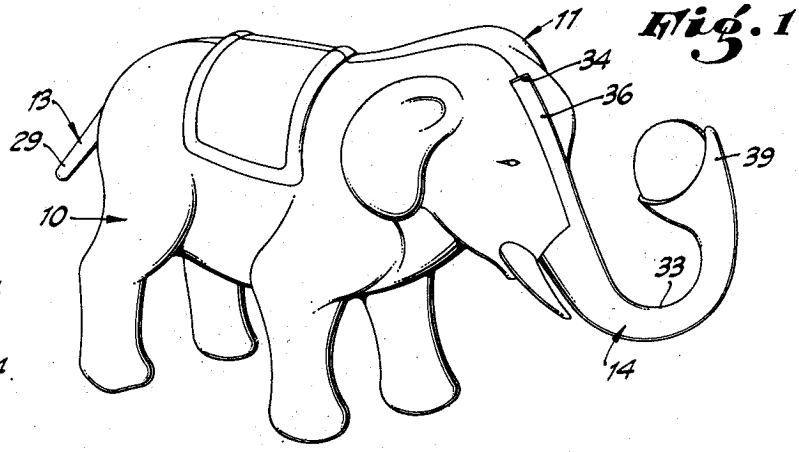
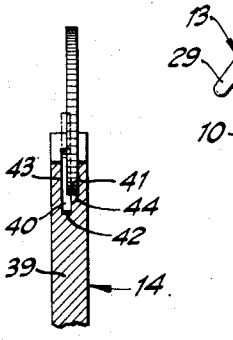


Fig. 5.



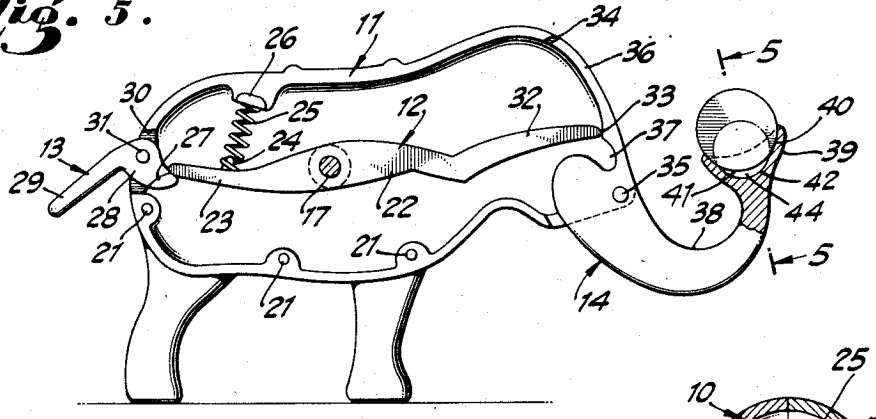


Fig. 2.

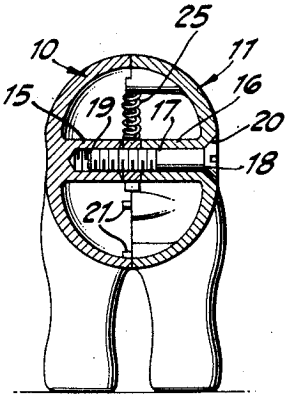
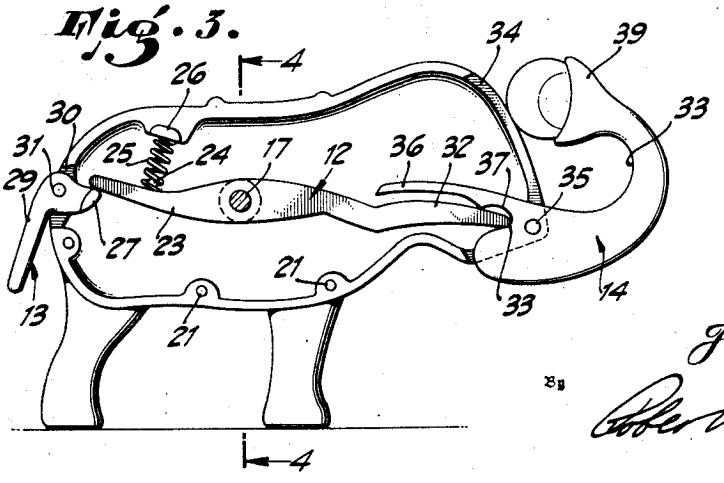


Fig. 4.

Fig. 3.



Inventor
James A. Rudolf,
By
Attorney

Patented Oct. 17, 1950 2,526,612

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,526,612

ACTUATED ELEPHANT BANK

James A. Rudolf, Long Beach, Calif., assignor, by mesne assignments, of one-half to Russell C. Hodges, San Marino, and one-half to Mathew Miller, Santa Monica, Calif.

Application May 27, 1947, Serial No. 750,661

1 Claim. (Cl. 46—4)

1

My invention relates to the field of toy banks, and more particularly to an improved actuated elephant shaped bank.

Although hollow banks in the form of elephants having movable coin receiving trunks provided thereon have appeared on the market in the past, a number of these banks have suffered from disadvantages which render them unsatisfactory for use as toys by small children. The previously available elephant banks while having coin receiving slots on the outer extremity of their trunk portions have not had slot arrangements that would receive and firmly hold coins of various denominations. In addition, a certain amount of skill was required to raise the trunks of these elephant banks in such a manner that coins of a certain denomination would not fall from the coin holding slot prior to being deposited within the confines of the animal.

As numerous children interested in elephant banks will not have the skill to elevate the animal's trunk to the coin depositing position without spilling the coin therefrom, the previous elephant banks have upon occasion proved to be disappointing toys.

In addition, should a child place the conventional elephant bank in a position with the head of the animal extending downwardly, coins will often fall from the coin receiving opening provided therein. Another feature detracting from the amusement value of the previous elephant banks has been that the trunks of the animals could be operated by children without recourse to the tail actuating mechanisms.

It is to eliminate the disadvantages of the previously available elephant banks that I have invented my improved actuated bank.

A major object of my invention is to provide a toy elephane bank that will be furnished with an actuatable trunk having a double bottomed coin receiving slot provided therein which will receive and hold coins of various denominations; that will have a totally enclosed head when the trunk of the animal is occupying the normal downward coin receiving position; and will have a coin depositing trunk that will remain in a locked position, except when actuated by pressure applied to the tail portion of the animal.

Another object of my invention is to furnish a toy elephant bank that will be of an extremely simple mechanical structure, that can either be die cast or molded from a suitable plastic material, and which can be manufactured sufficiently cheaply as to be retailed in the low and medium priced merchandising fields.

2

A further object of my invention is to provide a bank that while primarily a toy, will be so attractive in appearance as to appeal to adults not only for use as a savings bank, but as an article of ornamentation.

These and other objects of my invention will become apparent from the following description of a preferred form thereof, and from the drawing illustrating that form in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved elephant shaped bank;

Figure 2 is a vertical longitudinal cross-sectional view of the device with the coin receiving trunk in the downward position;

Figure 3 is another vertical cross-sectional view of the device with the trunk raised to the coin depositing position;

Figure 4 is a vertical cross-sectional view of the device taken on the line 4—4 in Figure 3; and

Figure 5 is a vertical cross-sectional view of the trunk member showing in detail the construction of my improved double bottomed coin receiving slot taken on the line 5—5 in Figure 2.

Referring now to Figures 1 and 2 for the general arrangement of my invention it will be seen that the bank is formed from a pair of conventional engaging elephant shaped sections 10 and 11 which when fitted together form a complete hollow animal. Extending longitudinally through the animal, as best seen in Figure 2, is a rotatably mounted lever 12 that is actuated from its rearward end by a pivotally supported L-shaped tail piece 13. The lever 12 serves a dual purpose; that of rotating a forwardly disposed coin receiving trunk 14 upwardly to deposit a coin within the confines of the animal, and to prevent the trunk 14 from being moved except by the use of the tail piece 13.

Centrally positioned on the interior faces of sections 10 and 11 are inwardly extending cylindrical bosses 15 and 16 respectively, each of which terminates a short distance below the engaging face of the section from which it is supported. The lever 12, as may best be seen in Figure 4, is rotatably supported upon a machine screw 17 that extends inwardly through a bore 18 formed in the boss 16 to engage an internally tapped bore 19 situated in the boss 15. It will be noted that the head of the machine screw 17 is countersunk into a tapered opening 20 provided at the entrance into the bore 18, and prevents a child from being cut or injured on any projecting portion of the screw.

To permit the sections 10 and 11 to be fitted together with a minimum amount of effort, a num-

ber of outwardly extending pins 21 are provided along the lower engaging edge of the section 11 to contact the interior surface of the section 10 as may best be seen in Figure 4. The lever 12 is an irregularly shaped member having a slightly upwardly inclined central portion 22 from which extends rearwardly and slightly upwardly an arm 23 that supports upon its upper edge a short pin 24. Encircling the pin 24 is a helical spring 25 that extends upwardly to contact the lower face of a lug 26 which is supported from the upper portion of the section 11. The spring 25 is held in compression at all times and tends to rotate the lever 12 in a counter-clockwise direction.

Engaging the rearward end of the arm 23 is a short horizontally disposed bar 27 that is supported from the outer extremity of a forwardly and downwardly extending arm 28 of the tail piece 13, and which bar prevents the lever 12 from being rotated downwardly by the spring 25 more than a predetermined distance. The tail piece 13 is actuated by finger pressure being applied to a rearwardly extending arm 29 that forms a part thereof. To support the tail piece 13 in the body of the elephant each of the sections 10 and 11 is furnished on its rearward portion with a rectangular engaging slot 30, and with the tail piece being mounted on a horizontal pin 31 that is supported from the vertical face of the slot formed in the section 11. Thus it will be seen in Figures 3 and 4 that by downward movement of the tail piece arm 29 the lever 12 is rotated clockwise.

Extending slightly upwardly from the forward end of the central lever portion 22 is a tapered elongated member 32 that maintains the trunk 14 in a locked position by engaging an inward extension 33 formed on its rearward edge. The trunk 14 is rotatably mounted on a horizontal pin 35 that is affixed to the vertical face of one of a pair of rectangular engaging slots 34 that are formed in the head portion of the elephant, and in which the upper portion of the trunk is situated. The upper portion of the trunk 14 is formed by an inwardly curved arm 36, which when the trunk is in the normal downward coin receiving position as shown in Figure 2, closes the coin receiving opening formed by the pair of engaging slots 34. However, as may be seen in Figure 3, when the trunk 14 is in the coin depositing position the arm 36 is rotated downwardly into an unobstructing position.

For rotating the trunk 14 upwardly into a coin depositing position a rearwardly inclined recess 37 is provided on the rearward side of the trunk at the base of the arm 36. Upon the forward end of the member 32 being rotated downwardly from the locking position shown in Figure 2, the recess 37 is engaged and the trunk 14 rotated in a counter-clockwise direction. The forward portion of the trunk 14 is formed from a roughly arcuate shaped portion 38 having a crescent shaped coin receiving member 39 positioned on its upper end. For receiving coins of various denomination in the member 39 it is provided with a double bottomed slot 40 having vertical side walls. It will be noted in Fig. 5 that the two bottoms of the slot 40 are provided by a step 41 extending out from one side wall of the slot, and a base or bottom 42 situated a short distance therebelow. Both the step 41 and the base 42 are curved in a concave manner with the portion of the curve near the rearward side of the coin receiving member 39 rising more sharply than the balance of the curve in order that coins

will not roll therefrom until they are ready to enter the coin receiving opening in the head of the animal. By the use of the above described coin receiving slot the thicker coins like nickels and quarters will rest on the step 41 and be held between the sidewalls of the slot, while the thinner coins will rest on the base 42 and be held between the outer side wall 43 and the side wall 44 situated below the step. Thus four types of coins can be held in my improved coin receiving slot without danger of being spilled therefrom on their journey to the coin receiving opening formed by the recesses 34 in the head of the animal.

The operation and assembly of my bank is extremely simple. The lever 12 is rotatably mounted upon the machine screw 17, and the tail piece 13 together with the trunk 14, are placed upon their pin supports 31 and 35 respectively. Helical spring 25 is now inserted over the pin 24 and the upper end of the spring placed in contact with the lower face of the lug 26. The threaded portion of the screw 17 is caused to engage the bore 19 with the result that the bank is held together as an integral unit. It will be obvious that upon the bank becoming filled with coins, that the screw 17 can be removed to permit the coins to be emptied therefrom and the bank then put together in the above described manner.

In the operation of the bank a coin which can be a penny, nickel, dime or quarter is inserted into the slot 40 and the lever 29 pressed downwardly. The lever 12 is rotated in a clockwise direction by the tail piece member 27, and in so doing the member 32 which normally locks the trunk 14 by being in contact with the extension 33 is moved therefrom to engage the recess 37. The coin receiving portion 39 of the trunk is rotated to a position adjacent to the head portion of the animal and the coin held in slot 40 rolls therefrom through the coin receiving opening formed by the pair of engaging recesses 34 into the confines of the animal. In Figure 3 it will be seen that during the time a coin is being deposited in the bank the arm 36 is in an unobstructing position. Upon pressure being released from the tail piece member 29 the spring 25 immediately expands and returns the tail 13 to its initial position. The lever arm 32 engages the trunk extension 33 with the result that pressure applied to the trunk 14 from the forward portion of the animal will not be able to rotate it to a coin depositing position which can only be accomplished by the use of the tail piece 13. It will also be apparent that with the trunk 14 in the locked position and the coin depositing opening in the head of the animal closed by the arm 36 that there is no chance for a child to lose coins from the bank by placing it in a position in which the head of the animal is situated downwardly.

While the device shown and described herein is fully capable of achieving the objects and providing the advantages hereinbefore stated it is capable of considerable modification within the spirit of the invention. Therefore I do not mean to be limited to the form shown and described herein but rather to the scope of the appended claim.

I claim:

A hollow elephant simulating toy bank having a pivotally movable trunk with a coin depositing member supported thereon, said member provided with a slot having an intermediately positioned step formed in one side thereof, whereby relative-

ly thin coins will be retained in said slot between the side wall portions below said step, and relatively thick coins will rest on said step and be held between the side wall portions existing thereabove, until said trunk is swung upwardly into a coin depositing position.

JAMES A. RUDOLF.

REFERENCES CITED

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

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
164,083	Frisbie	June 8, 1875
255,090	Shepard et al.	Mar. 14, 1882
272,189	Barnard	Feb. 13, 1883
386,757	Regester	July 24, 1888
667,332	Olm et al.	Feb. 5, 1901
2,372,388	Munroe	Mar. 27, 1945