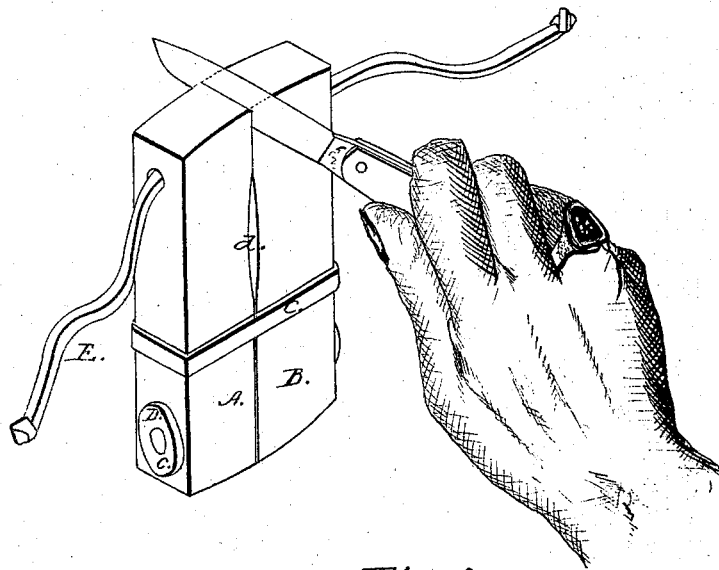
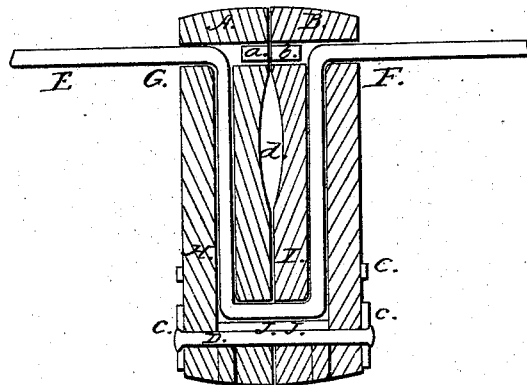


*H.C. Ketcham,*  
*Toy,*  
*No. 47,552, Patented May 2, 1865.*  
*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*



*Witnesses:*

*M. M. Livingston*  
*Gustave Lister*

*Inventor:*

*H.C. Ketcham.*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

H. C. KETCHAM, OF BLOOMFIELD, NEW JERSEY.

## TOY.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 47,552, dated May 2, 1865.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, H. C. KETCHAM, of Bloomfield, in the county of Essex, and State of New Jersey, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Toys; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable those skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is an elevation in perspective of my invention. Fig. 2 is an elevation of a vertical section thereof.

Similar letters of reference indicate like parts.

This invention consists in the construction of a toy called by me "the mystic cord," the cord being concealed in the sides of two or more blocks, connected at their lower ends so as to allow their upper ends to pass each other.

A B are two blocks with straight, smooth sides connected together by an axis, D, at whose ends are placed washers *c* to prevent the wear of the adjacent parts. At the opposite ends of the blocks I make perforations F G, in line with each other and parallel with the axis D.

H I are perforations made lengthwise in the blocks from below, and which are continued till they intersect the perforations F G. Those parts of the perforations H I which lie below the axis D are then plugged up neatly, and such a finish is given to the lower surfaces of the blocks as to disguise the place of the perforations on the said surfaces. Cavities or recesses J J are then made from the inner face of each block immediately above the axis D, and are continued till they intersect the perforations H I. A cord, E, of leather, rubber, or any other suitable material, is then passed through the perforation G of block A, down through the perforations H and J, and then through the perforations J, H, and F of block B. Each end of the cord is knotted, so that it cannot be drawn through the perforations. The axis D is next fitted to the blocks, and

they are thereby secured to each other so as to be able to move past each other around the rod D as their center of motion.

The inner ends of the perforations F G are provided with pieces *a b* of leather, if the cord E is of leather, which are secured therein by some adhesive substance in the position seen in Fig. 2, so as to make it appear to the observer as if the cord had been cut apart on the line of separation of the blocks.

The pieces *a b* are always to be of the same material as the cord E, and are to be flush with the inner faces of the blocks.

The operation is as follows: The blocks are held in the hand, and any one present is permitted to draw the cord back and forth through the blocks to prove that the string is undivided. He is then permitted to draw a knife through the passage *d*, so as to let its blade project beyond the blocks, and to draw it up until the blade emerges betwixt them, as seen in Fig. 1. The blocks are then rotated in opposite directions, so as to expose the pieces *a b*, which are seen to have the appearance of being divided as if cut by a sharp instrument. Upon relieving the blocks of the force which rotated them they are brought together again by the force of an elastic band, C, put about the blocks above the line of the axis. He is then requested to pull on the cord and draw it to and fro as before.

The illusion is not exposed by anything apparent to the eye, and it is only necessary to take precautions that the spectators do not pull upon the cord while the blocks are drawn apart to prevent them from suspecting the course of the cord.

I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

"The apparatus called the mystic cord," constructed and operated as above described, as an improved article of manufacture.

H. C. KETCHAM.

Witnesses:

M. M. LIVINGSTON,  
C. L. TOPLIFF.