

W. S. CLOW.  
Toys.

No. 207,346.

Patented Aug. 27, 1878.

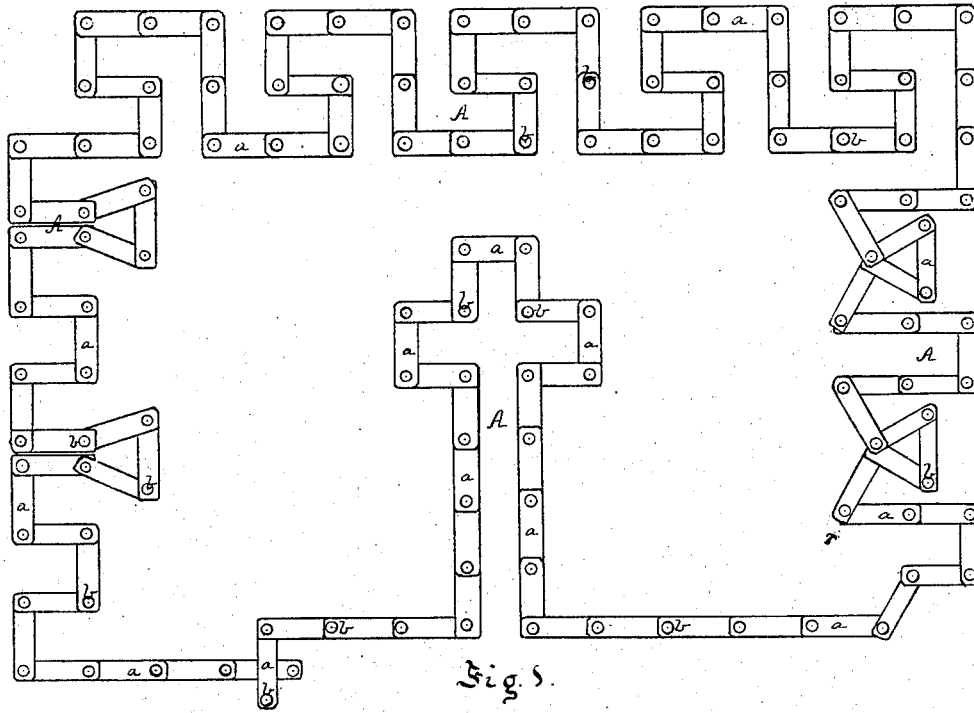


Fig. 1.

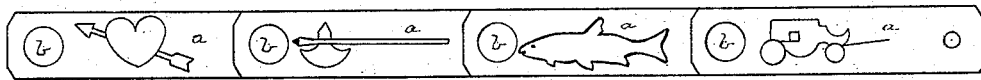


Fig. 2.

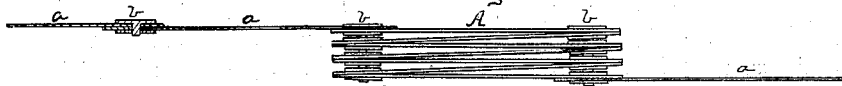


Fig. 3.

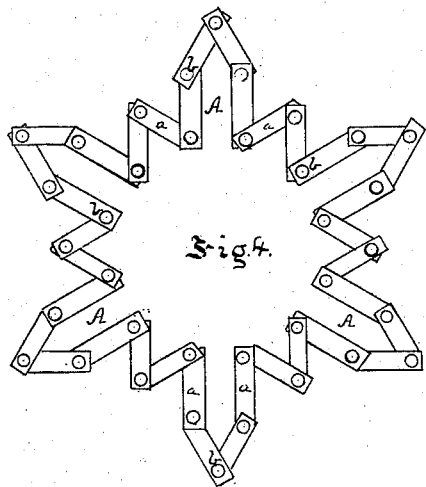


Fig. 4.

WITNESSES

*R. J. McClure*  
*R. Wainshall*

INVENTOR

*Winfield S. Clow*  
*by his Attorney*  
*James L. Gray*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WINFIELD S. CLOW, OF ALLEGHENY, PENNSYLVANIA.

## IMPROVEMENT IN TOYS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 207,346, dated August 27, 1878; application filed February 7, 1878.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WINFIELD S. CLOW, of Allegheny city, in the county of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Toys; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figures 1 and 4 are face views of my improved chain, showing some of the figures which can be formed thereby. Fig. 2 is a face view showing views upon the chain, illustrating different designs which may be formed upon it; and Fig. 3 is a side view, partly in section.

Like letters of reference indicate like parts in each.

My invention has for its object the providing of an amusing and instructive toy for children.

It consists in certain features of construction and arrangement hereinafter set forth.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will describe it more fully.

In the drawing referred to, A represents my improved chain, which is formed of the strips or cards *a*, made of pasteboard, wood, leather, or other suitable material.

The strips *a* are pivoted or hinged together by means of eyelets, rivets, or other suitable fastening, *b*, so that the different strips composing the chain may move freely upon each other.

The cards are so pivoted together that one end is above and the other end below the adjoining cards, thus allowing the chain to be folded, as shown in Fig. 3, and put in a box or suitable receptacle.

The cards may be made of any size desired; but I find that cards about two inches in length and one-half inch in width are preferable. The ends of the cards are rounded, or the corners cut off, to give a neat joint when angles are formed by the different cards.

The chain may be made of any number of strips or cards; but I find that a chain composed of fifty cards is the most desirable.

By this chain many different shapes and figures may be formed, such as the letters of the alphabet, numerals, figures of birds, animals, and fishes, and an endless variety of ornamental designs, it being possible to form as many changes as the kaleidoscope and almost any shapes that can be imagined.

In a chain composed of fifty cards an innumerable number of different shapes may be made, it being calculated that a life-time could be spent before all the different combinations could be made.

Upon both sides of each strip are views of animals, birds, letters, numerals, crystals, and other figures which may be formed by the chain, so that the views will suggest the shapes to the children and enable them to copy them with the chain.

If desired the names of the different forms and designs shown may be printed or marked on the cards, for the purpose of teaching the names of the figures to the children while they are forming the shapes with the chain. It is thus the source of very great amusement to children, as well as to older persons, affording employment for hours at a time, and instructing them in the shapes and outlines of the different designs into which it may be formed. It also gives to them a more accurate idea of the angles and shapes of figures, improving their minds, and teaching them in an easy and pleasant manner the names and shapes of many different designs or things.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The toy chain A, composed of strips *a*, of pasteboard or other suitable material, pivoted together, when provided with views or designs marked thereon, illustrating the different shapes into which the chain may be formed, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony whereof I, the said WINFIELD S. CLOW, have hereunto set my hand.

WINFIELD S. CLOW.

Witnesses:

JAMES I. KAY,  
R. J. McCLURE.