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2,841,919

## DETACHABLE JOINT FOR TOY HOUSE

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4 Claims. (Cl. 46—30)

The present invention relates to joints for toy houses and is concerned primarily with a joint designed to detachably secure the walls of a toy house in assembled relation. This application is a continuation of application Serial No. 316,007, filed October 21, 1952, now abandoned.

In the patent to McNeill, Number 2,600,900, dated June 17, 1952, there is illustrated and described a toy house of the type with which the present invention is concerned. This toy house embodies the following characteristics:

In the first place, it is of the knock-down type; that is, the several walls and roof members are adapted to be either assembled or disassembled. In the second instance, the various elements are made from a synthetic plastic; and finally, the joints which secure the walls in assembled relation comprise frictionally interfitting lugs.

Toy houses of the type disclosed in the McNeill patent are now meeting with widespread approval by the purchasing public. Not only are these toy houses used by children for amusement and educational purposes, but they are also utilized for displays. Thus, they are put underneath Christmas trees about toy railroads and similar places.

It is believed that this widespread popularity of these toy houses is due to the nature of the joint which detachably secures the walls in assembled relation. This joint, which is established by the frictionally interfitting lugs, is easily made and broken, and when established securely, holds the walls in assembled relation.

While highly advantageous over all, the device of the above-mentioned patent is limited in certain respects. For example, the interfitting lugs are necessarily exposed to view from the exterior of an assembled toy building, as the lugs extend from the edges of the building walls, lying both in the plane of the wall and outward of the outer wall face. The thus exposed interfitting lugs have been advantageously employed to simulate building blocks, and thus enhance the realistic simulation of a masonry building. However, in the simulation of other types of buildings, such as wood, stucco, and others, the external exposure to view of the interfitting lugs has heretofore presented an insurmountable obstacle. That is, it was impossible to design toy buildings having the joint structure of the above-mentioned patent to simulate a complete variety of buildings, as the exposed corner joint is incompatible with many types of architectural design. Moreover, the device of the above-mentioned patent is even limited in the simulation of building-block-type houses, as the necessary dimensions of the interfitting lugs cannot always be properly proportioned relative to the size of the building.

It is therefore a general object of the present invention to provide a joint construction for toy buildings which overcomes the above-mentioned difficulties, and which is entirely concealed from view in the assembled toy, so as to allow complete freedom of external design and the

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resultant simulation of an extremely wide variety of architectural types.

As a more particular object, the present invention contemplates the provision of a wall joint for use in a toy building, which joint is located entirely interiorly of the building, so as to in no way present to external view any visual indication of the joint which might limit external configuration or decoration of the building walls.

The present invention has in view as another objective the provision, in a toy house of the character aforesaid, of a detachable joint of the frictionally interfitting lug type which is characterized by the fact that the lugs are hollow. When it is considered that the walls and the lugs which are molded integrally therewith, are made of synthetic plastic having properties of compressibility, resiliency and elasticity, it is evident that the hollow construction in the lugs further enhances these properties; thus, each lug may be made slightly larger than the recess in which it is to be received; and, due to the aforementioned properties of the synthetic plastic, coupled with the hollow construction, the lug will be slightly deformed so as to permit of its reception in the recess.

Due to the fact that the joint is of the frictionally interfitting lug type, it is desirable that the engaging faces of the lugs be continuous and uninterrupted. Thus, another object of the invention is to provide, in a joint of the character indicated, interfitting lugs of a hollow construction provided by recesses which open on the end faces of the lugs rather than any of the meeting faces.

Due to the particular character of a frictionally interfitting lug joint, it is an absolute requirement that the several lugs on one wall element be inserted in the recesses between the lugs of the other wall element. In order to facilitate this insertion, the invention has as still another object, the provision, in a joint of the type noted, of lugs having flat meeting faces and rounded corners which facilitate the insertion.

Various other more detailed objects and advantages of the invention, such as arise in connection with carrying out the above-noted ideas in a practical embodiment, will in part become apparent and in part be hereinafter stated as the description of the invention proceeds.

For a full and more complete understanding of the invention, reference may be had to the following description and accompanying drawing, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the two walls of a toy house which are detachably assembled by the joint of this invention.

Figure 2 is a top plan view of the corner where the joint is established.

Figure 3 is a detailed perspective taken on an enlarged scale showing the two walls in right-angular relation just before assembly; and

Figure 4 is a view in front elevation showing the two walls as separated in the same plane.

Referring now to the drawing, wherein like reference characters take corresponding numbers, and first more particularly to Figure 1, an end wall of a toy house is therein illustrated and designated 10, with a side wall being indicated at 11. It is to be clearly understood that the walls 10 and 11 and the lugs to be later described, which are molded integrally therewith, may be made from any appropriate synthetic plastic now commonly employed for this purpose.

The present invention does not reside in the particular plastic material, as such materials are now well known and available to the public as such. The important thing is that the plastic material selected should have good properties of compressibility, resiliency, elasticity, and flexibility. Just about any of the acetates will fulfill the