R. LANGSTAFF.

TOP.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 27, 1913.

1,109,426. Patented Sept. 1, 1914.

Fig. 1.

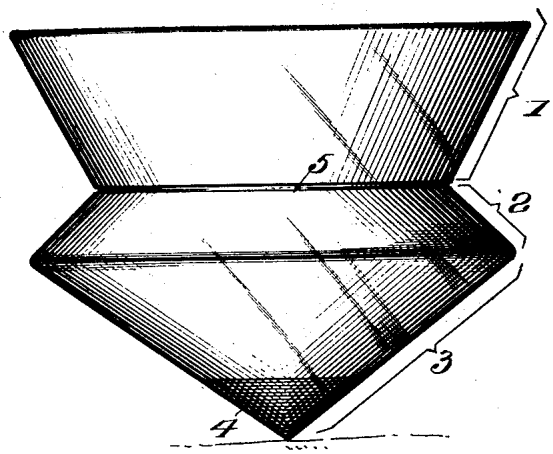
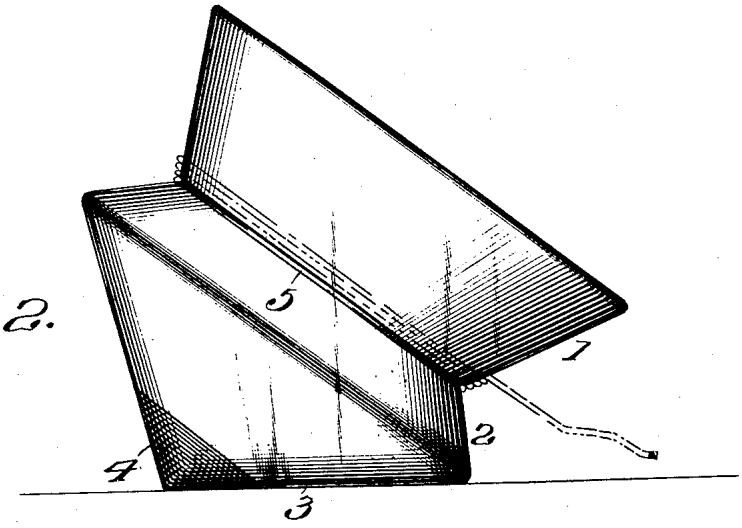


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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TOP.

1,109,426. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Sept. 1, 1914.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT LANGSTAFF, citizen of the United States, residing at Donora, in the county of Washington and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Tops, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to spinning tops and particularly to that type which are spun by the use of a whip or lash. Tops of this general type have not been extensively used chiefly for the reason that considerable skill is required in spinning them. The bodies of such tops are, moreover, usually so nearly cylindrical that when the top is struck repeatedly with the whip used, there is no certainty as to the point at which the whip will engage the body of the top. If the top is engaged too low, it will very likely be thrown up and overturned, and if engaged too high, it is likely that it will be overturned or thrown to one side.

It is therefore the primary aim of the present invention to provide a top of the type mentioned, the body of which is of such formation as to insure of the whip striking the top and winding itself about the same on a predetermined circumscribing line, which is so located that there will be no likelihood of the top being overturned or thrown into the air. With this object in view, the invention contemplates forming the surface of the body of the top of such contour that the lash of the whip will be guided to position at the line mentioned above regardless of the point at which the lash initially engages the body.

In the accompanying drawing: Figure 1 is a view in elevation of the top embodying the present invention. Fig. 2 is a similar view illustrating the top at rest and illustrating in dotted lines the manner in which the lash of the whip employed in spinning the top is initially wound about the same.

Corresponding and like parts are referred to in the following description and indicated in all the views of the accompanying drawings by the same reference characters.

In the drawings, the body of the top is illustrated as consisting of three well-defined conical portions which are indicated in Fig. 1 of the drawings, one by the numeral 1, another by the numeral 2 and the third by the numeral 3. The extent of each portion being indicated by brackets, opposite which the stated numerals appear. The portions 1 and 2 are frusto-conical and are connected at their minor ends, and it will be observed that the portion 1 tapers to a less degree than the portion 2 and that it is of greater height or length than the said portion 2. Conversely the portion 2 is tapered to a greater degree than the portion 1 and, therefore, presents a surface more nearly flat than vertical. The purpose of so relatively proportioning the said portions 1 and 2 is that the lash of a whip striking the surface of the portion 1 will, by reason of the fact that this surface is more nearly vertical than horizontal, be quickly guided down the surface to the line of juncture of the minor ends of the said frusto-conical portions and, further, the surface of the portion 2 being inclined at a greater angle to the perpendicular than the portion 1, will serve to support the lash of the whip should the lash initially strike the surface and also serve to direct the lash to the line of juncture of the two portions and further to prevent the lash descending along the body after it has been guided downwardly by the surface of the portion 1. The upper surface of the top body is preferably flat.

By reference to the drawings, it will be observed that the portion 3 is conical, its apex consisting of a metal plug 4 which is sharply pointed and which constitutes the spinning point of the top. The portion 3 is united at its base or major end to the base or major end of the portion 2. It is preferable that the body of the top at the line of juncture of the minor ends of the frusto-conical portions 1 and 2 be formed with a relatively shallow and narrow circumscribing groove 5 in which the lash of the whip used will engage and thereby have a better frictional engagement with the surface of the body.

From the foregoing description of the invention, it will be understood that it is contemplated that the body of the top consists of three conical portions, such as have above been described, and that it consists of these portions alone. In other words, it is not contemplated that the top body be provided with a number of circumscribing grooves or a number of relatively narrow oppositely tapered frusto-conical portions located one above the other, but that the working surface of the top body shall be comprised solely of the surfaces of the portions 1 and

2, so that the lash of the whip employed will be with certainty directed into the groove 5, and it will consequently at all times and under all circumstances engage the body at the same line.

Having thus described the invention what is claimed as new is:

1. In a top, a body comprising upper and lower frusto-conical portions, the lower portion having its surface inclined from the horizontal to a less degree than the surface of the upper frusto-conical portion, and a conical portion projecting from the base of the lower frusto-conical portion.

2. In a top, a body comprising upper and lower frusto conical portions united at their minor ends, and a conical portion projecting from the base of the lower frusto-conical portion, the said body being provided with a circumscribing groove at the juncture of the minor ends of the frusto-conical portions.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

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Witnesses:

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