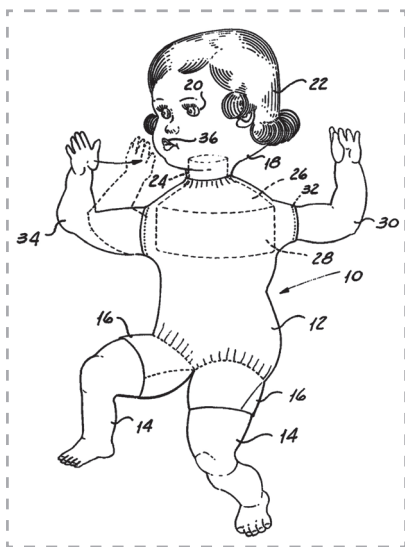


## AN IMPROBABLE INNOVATION

### 'KISS-THROWING DOLL'

by William B. Nutting (US Patent no. 3,603,029, granted 1971)



The patented Kiss-Throwing Doll

Anyone who tries to patent a kiss (the romance book publisher Harlequin, for one, which in February 2011 filed an application for 'The Essential Romantic Kiss') must contend with Nutting. His invention features (says Mr Nutting) 'a central shaft upon which I mount a rotatable driving spool for oscillatory movement under the influence of a drawstring in one direction and under the bias of a coils spring in the other direction'. Metaphorically, has anyone every devised a more perfect description of the romantic kiss?

## BEETLE BOTTLE SHAG

Certain Australian males are physically attracted to one particular type of beer bottle. An experiment in Western Australia demonstrated that beer bottles known there as 'stubbies' get recycled in an unanticipated way. Stubbies are squat little bottles, 370 millilitres in capacity. A study published in 1983 begins with the statement: 'Male