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(54) **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PERFORMING TRY-ME AND NORMAL PLAY ROUTINES**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **446/175**; 446/484; 206/775

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 446/175, 446/484, 267; 206/775, 779–780, 457; 340/12.3, 340/12.31
See application file for complete search history.

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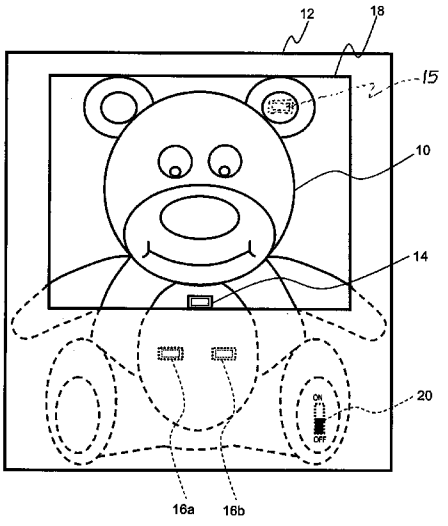
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A toy includes electronics which generates a plurality of routines and is configured to operate in a first mode and in a second mode, a first sensor and a second sensor, each sensor operably connected to the electronics. Actuation of the first sensor causes the electronics to generate a first routine with the electronics in the first mode and to generate a second routine, different from the first routine, with the electronics in the second mode. Activation of the second sensor causes the electronics to generate of a third routine, different from the first routine, and causes the electronics to be set to the second mode. The electronics is set to the first mode upon a first application of electrical power to the electronics.

17 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets



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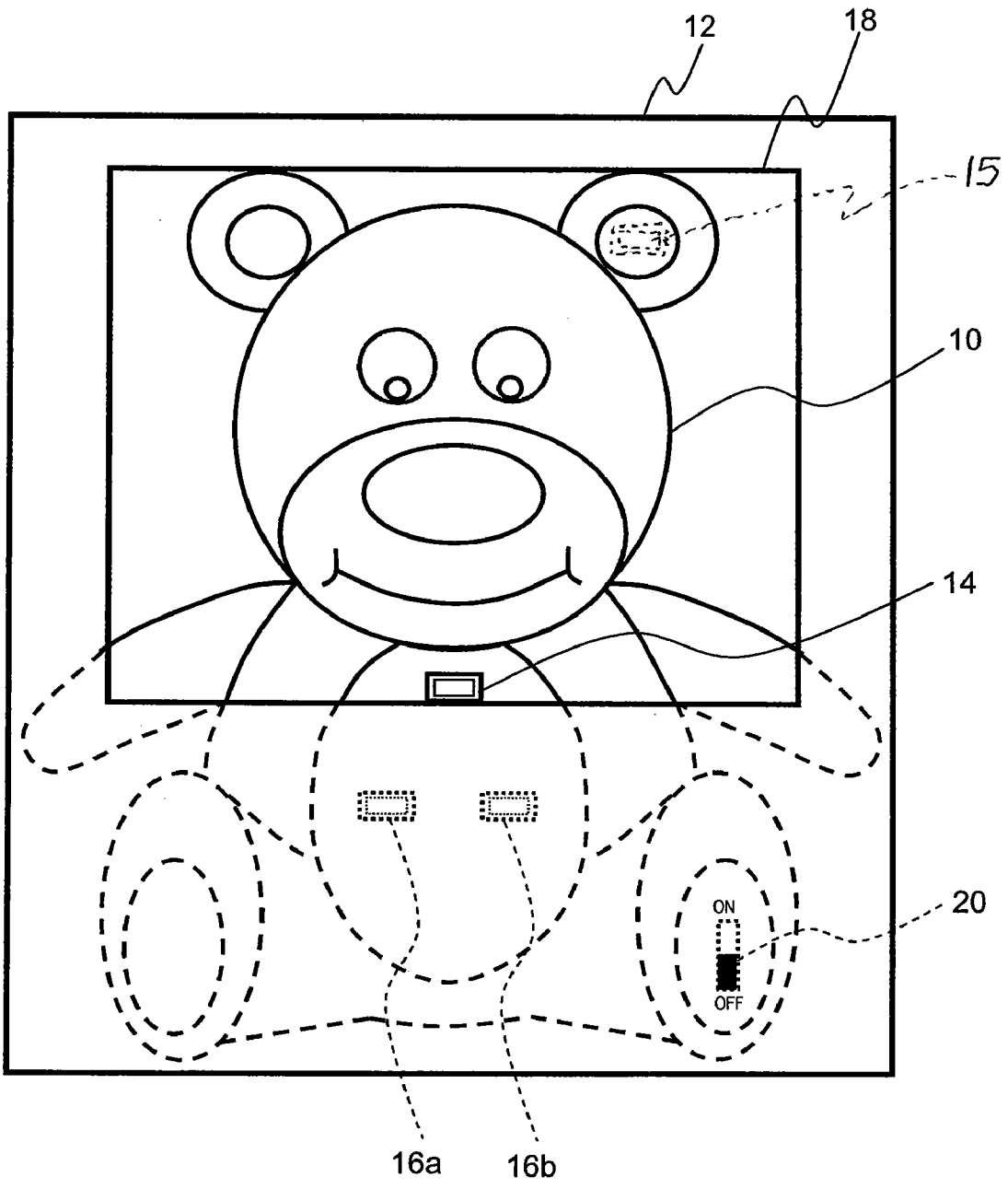

Fig. 1

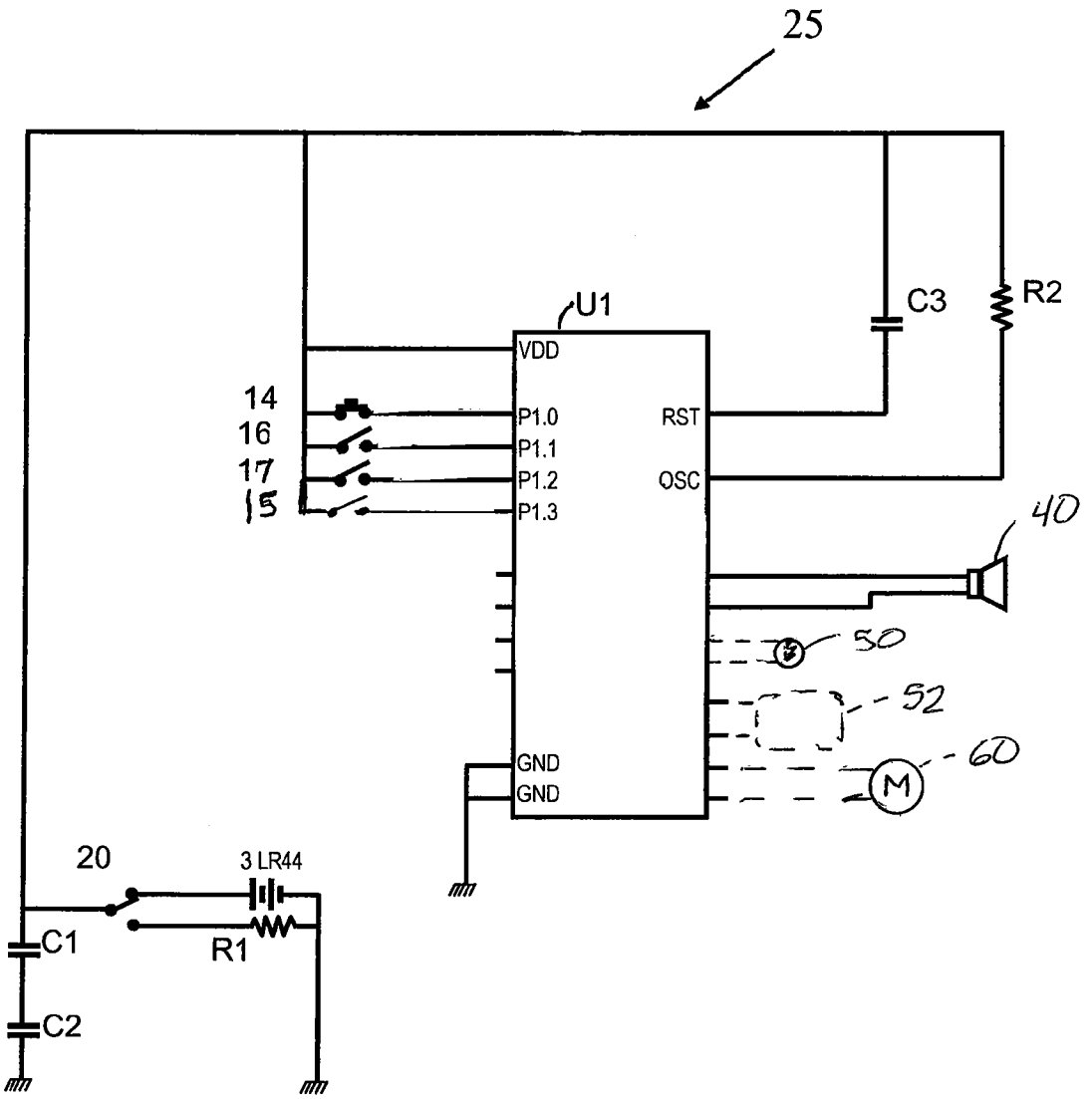
25
U1
VDD
P1.0
P1.1
P1.2
P1.3
RST
OSC
GND
GND
C3
R2
14
16
17
15
40
50
52
60
M
20
3 LR44
C1
C2
R1

Fig. 2

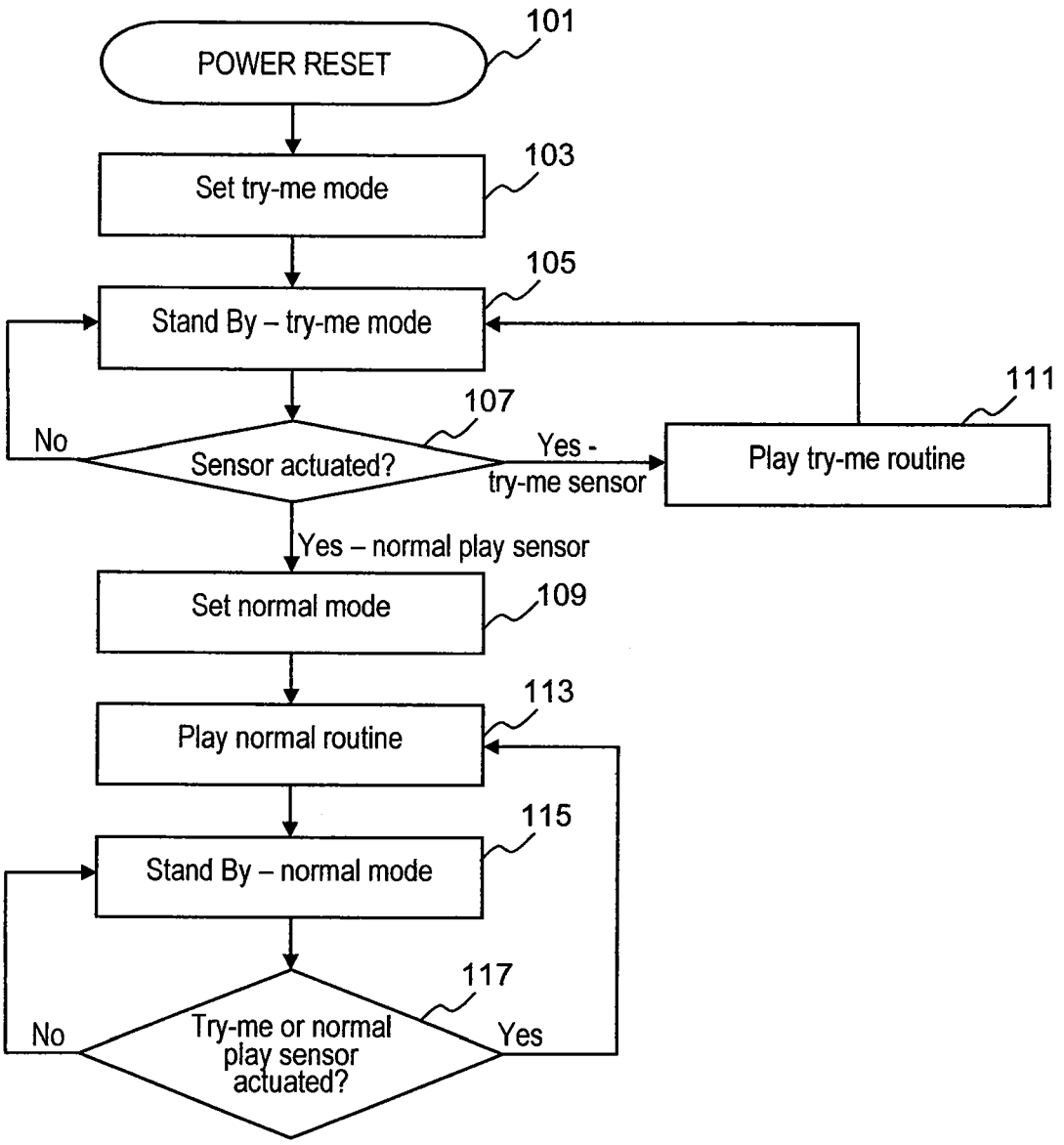
101
POWER RESET
103
Set try-me mode
105
Stand By – try-me mode
107
No
Sensor actuated?
Yes -
try-me sensor
111
Play try-me routine
Yes – normal play sensor
Set normal mode
109
113
Play normal routine
115
Stand By – normal mode
117
No
Try-me or normal play sensor actuated?
Yes

Fig. 3

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PERFORMING TRY-ME AND NORMAL PLAY ROUTINES

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of provisional application No. 61/020,914, filed Jan. 14, 2008, the contents of which are incorporated by reference in the entirety.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Try-me is generally known as an operating mode of a toy which in it's normal mode provides one or more normal play routines and which provides in the try-me mode one or more abbreviated play routines compared to the toy's normal play routines. Typically, a toy having a try-me mode is set by the manufacturer to operate in the try-me mode while the toy is in a package on a store shelf. By providing a toy with a try-me mode, the user is able gain some idea of the toy's capabilities while the toy is still in the package on the store shelf. Try-me is especially useful for battery operated toys having a normal play routines of complicated scripts, long performance patterns, motor operation, displays, sounds and/or lights which consume a relatively large amount of battery energy.

Generally, switching between the try-me mode and a mode in which normal play routines are performed (i.e. normal mode) is done by detecting the state of a try-me switch by a computer chip controlling the modes and routines of the toy. Such a try-me switch is generally distinct from the switches which are used by the user for selecting a particular play routine.

In the prior art, the user is required to take some positive action distinct from selecting a play routine to switch the toy from the try-me mode to the normal mode. One known method of switching between try-me mode and the normal mode uses a removable tab which, while in place in the toy, actuates the try-me switch to put the toy into a try-me state. The tab, often a thin piece of plastic, sometimes with an appropriate message (for example, "Discard by adult, pull out for normal play mode") is removed either automatically when the toy is removed from the package or manually by the user after the toy is removed from the package to enable the normal play mode.

It would be desirable to have a method of switching between try-me mode and normal mode of operation that does not require an additional component such as a separate switch for affecting the switching between try-me mode and normal mode, or does not require the user to take a specific action distinct from selecting a play routine, such as removing the tab.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A first aspect of the invention in its broadest form is a toy comprising: electronics configured to generate a plurality of routines and to operate in a first mode and in a second mode; a first sensor operably connected to the electronics, user actuation of which causes the electronics to generate a first routine with the electronics is in the first mode and to generate a second routine, different from the first routine with the electronics in the second mode; and a second sensor operably connected to the electronics, user actuation of which causes the electronics to generate of a third routine, different from the first routine and the second routine, and causes the electronics to be set to the second mode.

A second aspect of the invention in its broadest form is a method of operating a toy having electronics configured to operate in a first mode and a second mode, a first sensor operably connected to the electronics and a second sensor operably connected to the electronics, the method comprising the steps of: setting the electronics to be in the first mode upon a first application of electrical power to the electronics; user actuating the first sensor to cause the electronics to generate a first routine with the electronics in the first mode and to generate a second routine different from the first routine with the electronics in the second mode; and user actuating the second sensor to cause the electronics to generate a third routine different from the first routine and the second routine and to cause the electronics to be set to the second mode.

A third aspect of the invention is a packaged toy comprising: a toy including a plurality of user actuated switches, a computer chip controller in the toy operatively connected with each of the plurality of user actuated switches, and a plurality of preprogrammed routines stored in the toy, each routine directing controller activation and operation of the toy in a different way, the plurality of preprogrammed routines including at least a first set of one or more try-me routines; and a second set of two or more normal routines, and each of the plurality of switches being associated with one or more particular routines of the plurality. It further comprises a package containing the toy and configured to expose one or more of the plurality of switches to permit user actuation of the at least the one or more exposed switches with the toy in the package and to cover one or more remaining switches of the plurality of switches to prevent user actuation of the one or more remaining switches with the toy in the package before the package is opened. The controller is configured to (1) initially execute only preprogrammed try-me routines of the first set in response to activations of the one or more switches of the plurality exposed to user actuation with the toy in the package, (2) execute one of the preprogrammed normal routines of the second set in direct response to user activation of any of the remaining switches, and (3) thereafter execute preprogrammed normal routines from the second set in response to actuation of any of the one or more switches exposed to the user with the toy in the package, at least one of the preprogrammed normal routines executable by the controller after (2) in response to activation of any of the one or more switches exposed with the toy in the package being different from each of the preprogrammed try-me routines of the first set, whereby the toy automatically reconfigures itself from a try-me mode of operation to a normal play mode of operation.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

The foregoing summary, as well as the following detailed description of the invention, will be better understood when read in conjunction with the appended drawings. For the purpose of illustrating the invention, there are shown in the drawings embodiments which are presently preferred. It should be understood, however, that the invention is not limited to the precise arrangements and instrumentalities shown.

In the drawings:

FIG. **1** is a plan view of a preferred embodiment of package in combination with a toy having a try-me mode;

FIG. **2** is a schematic circuit diagram of electronics for implementing the preferred embodiment, and

FIG. **3** is a flowchart of a preferred method for switching between try-me and normal modes.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring now to FIG. **1** there is shown the combination of a toy **10** contained in a package **12**. The toy **10** is initially inserted into the package **12** with a source of power such as one or more batteries (LR**44** in FIG. **2**). The toy **10** includes a plurality of sensors at various locations on or in the toy **12** that are user activated to cause the toy to operate in predetermined ways. In the depicted embodiment, the package **12** has a cutout **18** through which a portion of the enclosed toy **10** is visible and accessible to a user. The toy **10** and package **12** are configured to expose at least a first sensor **14** for user access and activation with the toy **10** in the package **12** and to cover or otherwise to prevent user access and actuation of at least a second sensor **16** with the toy **10** in the package **12**.

There is no limit to the number of user activated sensors that may be included with the toy **10**. Yet a third sensor **17** may be provided with the second sensor **16** to be covered by the package **12** while a fourth sensor **15** can be provided exposed with the toy **10** in the package **12** for user manual activation of the toy **10** in the package **12**. Sensors used in the present invention are devices that respond to a user initiated physical stimulus such as heat, light, sound, pressure, magnetism or a particular motion and transmit a resulting impulse or other electrical signal. In the preferred embodiment of the present invention, each of the sensors **14-17** is preferably a switch on or in the toy **10**, which is manually actuated to make or break the flow of electrical current. Sensors **14-17** may also be subsequently referred to as switches.

Referring to FIG. **2**, the toy **10** also includes electronics indicated generally at **25**. Each of the sensors **14-17** is operably connected to the electronics **25**. The toy **10** also includes at least one and preferably a plurality of electrically operated or electronically responsive devices such as one or more sound generators like speaker **40**, one or more light generators like LED **50** or even like a display screen **52**, and/or one or more electrically controlled prime movers like motor **60** or solenoids, pumps, etc. to make the toy responsive to the user. Each device **40**, **50**, **52**, **60** is operably connected with the electronics **25** to be controlled (activated and operated) by the electronics **25**. The electrically controlled devices are not limited to those enumerated above.

The toy **10** is made to respond in a variety of different ways through the various provided devices **540**, **50**, **52**, **60**, etc., to user activation of the sensors **14-17**. Each different way is referred to as a routine. Reference to "routine" hereinafter in describing the present invention denotes a finite duration activity of the toy **10**, which may include generation of sound, light, heat, magnetic, electrostatic or electro-magnetic mechanical activity or any combination of the above, under the control of the electronics **25**. The electronics **25** are configured to "generate" the routines in that the electronics include sets of predetermined instructions that direct the electronics **25** (and computer chip **20** in particular) to activate and operate the toy **10** by control of the operation of the various devices **40**, **50**, **52**, **60**, etc. in accordance with those instructions. Each routine typically requires a separate set of predetermined instructions to be stored in the electronics **25** and "routine" should also be understood to refer to a set of instructions as well as the physical activities.

According to the invention, the toy **10** and the electronics **25** are provided with at least a first routine (hereafter also referred to as a "try-me" routine), and at least second and third routines (hereafter also referred to as "normal" or "normal play" routines). Try-me routines are generally abbreviated in some manner compared the normal routines in order to conserve battery life. A try-me routine lets the user exercise one or more of the devices that can be exercised with the toy **10** in the package **12** to give the user a glimpse of the operating capabilities of the toy **10** without draining the batteries before the toy **10** is removed from the package **12**.

While only a single try-me routine and two normal routines are required by the invention, the only limit to the number of try-me routines and normal routines that the toy **10** has is the capacity of the toy **10** and electronics **25** to store instructions. Typically, a first set of a limited number of try-me routines and a second set of normal routines much greater in number than the number of try-me routines, are stored preprogrammed in the toy **10** and electronics **25** for enhanced and more varied operation of the toy in normal use.

There may even be a correspondence between routines with a try-me routine being a normal routine truncated to be shorter in duration or having fewer attributes (fewer activations of sound, light, movement and/or other activity of the toy) or both shorter duration and fewer activations than a particular normal routine. Conversely, normal routines are more extensive, i.e. longer in duration and/or have a greater number of attributes or activations such as greater variety of sounds, mechanical operation and/or light operation(s), with a resulting greater power drain than all or at least nearly all of the provided try-me routines exercising the same devices.

The toy **10** is configured through configuration of the electronics **25** to operate in two different modes, a first or "try-me" mode and a second or "normal" or "normal play" mode. Only the try-me routines are performed while the toy **10** and the electronics **25** are in the first or try-me mode. Normal routines are performed only while the toy **10** and electronics **25** are in the second or normal mode. This distinction is important. Normal routines cannot be performed by the toy in the try-me mode of operation but the toy and electronics can be configured to continue to perform one or more try-me routines in the normal mode of operation.

According to the invention, the toy **10** and electronics **25** are configured to change from the try-me to the normal mode of operation by user actuation of one of the normal routine activating sensors. Toy **10** and package **12** are configured to expose sensors **14** and **15** to user access with the toy **10** contained in the package **12**. Sensors **14**, **15** constitute a first or "try-me" subset of the sensors. Toy **10** and package **12** are further configured to cover or otherwise prevent user access to sensors **16**, **17** with the toy **10** contained in the package **12**. Sensors **16**, **17** constitute a second or "normal" or "normal play" subset of the sensors. With the toy **10** removed from the package **12**, either by normal opening or by destruction of the package **12** around the toy, at least the second sensor **16** and/or the third sensor **17** of the second subset of sensors, become user accessible.

Further according to the invention, user activation of a first sensor (like sensor **14**) operably connected to the electronics **25** configured in the first or try-me mode causes the electronics **25** to generate at least a first routine, a try-me routine, and with the electronics **25** in the second mode, to generate at least a second routine, a normal routine, which is different from the first routine. Further according to the invention, user activation of a second sensor (like sensor **16**) operably connected to the electronics **25** and different from the first sensor causes the electronics **25** to generate a third routine different from the first routine, and also causes the electronics **25** to set itself to the second or normal mode. These are minimum requirements of the invention.

More preferably, the electronics **25** are configured to generate any of a first subset of the stored try-me routines in response to user activation of the first sensor **14** with the electronics **25** in the first or try-me mode. The electronics **25** are further configured to generate any of a second subset of the stored normal routines, where the normal routines are different from each try-me routine that is provided, but can be generated only with the electronics **25** in the second or normal mode. The same is true of user activation of the fourth sensor **15** although the electronics **25** will typically store separate subsets of try-me and normal routines different from the routines and subsets stored for response to the first sensor **14**. The electronics **25** are similarly configured to respond to the first user actuation of either the second **16** or the third sensor **17** to generate a normal routine from a separate subset of stored normal routines and to set itself to the second or normal mode of operation. In this way, each of the sensors **14-17** is typically associated with one or more particular routines of all those routines stored in the toy **10**.

Referring to FIG. **2**, preferably, the electronics **25** includes a controller indicated diagrammatically as a computer chip U**1** to receive signals from the switches **14-17** and to store and execute the commands constituting the routines, which produce the activities associated with routines. Computer chip U**1** is conventional and includes all necessary memory and processing capability as well as any other capability needed to activate, operate, control the various provided devices **40**, **50**, **52**, **60**, etc. However, it is not necessary that a computer chip be used in the electronic portion **25**. The electronics **25** may be a comprised of discrete components such as resistors, capacitors and transistors mounted on one or more substrates. Alternatively, a combination of individual computer chips and/or discrete computer components may be used.

Preferably, the electronics **25** are set or configured to be in or to enter the first or (try-me) mode of operation upon a first application of electrical power to the electronics **25**. This means the electronics **25** may be configured to be set to the first mode each time the electrical power to the electronics **25** is interrupted and reapplied to the electronics **25**, or the electronics **25** may be configured to be set to the first mode only the first time electrical power is applied to the electronics **25** and never again thereafter regardless of whether power is subsequently interrupted and reapplied.

The toy **10** may include a mechanical on-off switch **20** for controlling the application of the battery power to the toy **10**. If provided, the on-off switch **20** is set to the "on" position when the toy **10** is inserted into the package **12** by the manufacturer and is preferably concealed from a user while the toy **10** is enclosed in the package **12**. Preferably, the first application of electrical power occurs by operation of the on-off switch **20** from the "off" position to the "on" position after installation of the batteries or installation of the batteries by the manufacturer while the switch **20** is in the "on" position.

FIG. **3** depicts operation of a preferred embodiment toy **10**. With a source of power such as batteries installed in the toy **10**, the try-me mode is entered the first time the power to the toy **10** is turned from off to on by actuation of the on-off switch **20** with the batteries installed, or by batteries LR**44** being added or replaced while the switch **20** is in the "on" position (step **101**). Upon sensing the change in power, the computer chip U**1** enters the try-me mode (step **103**). Generally, the toy **10** is pre-programmed to be in the try-me mode by the manufacturer and is in the try-me mode when placed in the package **12** by the manufacturer.

While in the try-me mode, the computer chip controller U**1** periodically queries the state of each play routine switch **14-17** (step **107**) to determine if any one of the switches **14-17** has been actuated. If a try-me switch **14**, **15** is actuated, a try-me routine is performed (step **111**) and thereafter, the toy **10** returns to the try-me mode (step **105**). If no switch **14-17** is actuated, the toy **10** stays in the try-me mode (step **105**).

In the preferred embodiment, if a normal routine switch **16** or **17** is actuated while the toy **10** is in the try-me mode, the toy **10** automatically switches to the normal mode (step **109**) and performs a normal routine corresponding to the switch **16**, **17** that was actuated (step **113**). Following the performance of the selected normal routine (step **113**), the toy **10** remains in the normal mode (step **115**) until reset (step **101**). In the normal mode, the computer chip U**1** periodically queries the state of each play routine switch **14-17** to determine if any one of the switches **14-17** has been activated (step **117**). If any switch **14-17** is actuated, a normal routine associated with the activated switch is performed (step **113**). If no switch **14-17** is actuated, the toy **10** stays in the normal mode (step **115**).

If the toy **10** is configured for a one time try-me configuration, the electronics **25** will be configured to automatically advance to step **115** each time power is interrupted and reapplied.

It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that changes could be made to the embodiments described above without departing from the broad inventive concept thereof. It is understood, therefore, that this invention is not limited to the particular embodiments disclosed, but it is intended to cover modifications within the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined by the appended claims.

We claim:

1. A packaged toy comprising:

a toy including:

electronics configured to generate a plurality of routines and to operate in a first mode and in a second mode;

a first sensor operably connected to the electronics, user actuation of which causes the electronics to generate a first routine with the electronics in the first mode and to generate a second routine, different from the first routine, with the electronics in the second mode; and

a second sensor operably connected to the electronics, user actuation of which causes the electronics to generate a third routine, different from the first routine, and causes the electronics to be set to the second mode; and

a package containing the toy, the toy and the package being configured to expose the first sensor for actuation by a user with the toy contained in the package and to prevent user actuation of the second sensor with the toy contained in the package, the electronics being in the first mode in the package;

wherein the electronics is reset to the first mode each time electrical power to the electronics is interrupted and reapplied to the electronics.

2. The packaged toy of claim **1**, wherein the second routine is more extensive than the first routine.

3. The packaged toy of claim **1**, wherein the second sensor is covered by the package with the toy contained in the package.

4. The toy of claim **1** wherein:

the first mode is a try-me mode and the first routine is a try-me routine; and

the second mode is a normal mode and the second and third routines are normal routines, the normal routines only being generated by the electronics with the electronics in the second, normal mode.

5. A packaged toy comprising:

a toy including:

electronics configured to generate a plurality of routines and to operate in a first mode and in a second mode;

a first sensor operably connected to the electronics, user actuation of which causes the electronics to generate a first routine with the electronics in the first mode and to generate a second routine, different from the first routine, with the electronics in the second mode; and

a second sensor operably connected to the electronics, user actuation of which causes the electronics to generate a third routine, different from the first routine, and causes the electronics to be set to the second mode; and

a package containing the toy, the toy and the package being configured to expose the first sensor for actuation by a user with the toy contained in the package and to prevent user actuation of the second sensor with the toy contained in the package, the electronics being in the first mode in the package;

wherein the electronics is set to the first mode only a first time electrical power is applied to the electronics.

6. The packaged toy of claim **5**, wherein the second sensor is covered by the package with the toy contained in the package.

7. The toy of claim **5** wherein:

the first mode is a try-me mode and the first routine is a try-me routine; and

the second mode is a normal mode and the second and third routines are normal routines, the normal routines only being generated by the electronics with the electronics in the second, normal mode.

8. A method of operating a toy initially in a package, the toy having electronics configured to operate in a first mode and a second mode, a first sensor operably connected to the electronics and a second sensor operably connected to the electronics, the toy in the package being internally powered with the electronics configured in the first mode, the method comprising the steps of:

user actuating the first sensor to cause the electronics to generate a first routine with the electronics in the first mode and to generate a second routine different from the first routine with the electronics in the second mode, at least the first sensor being exposed on the toy in the package for user actuation of the toy to generate the first routine in the package and at least the second sensor being covered in the package to prevent user actuation of the second sensor with the toy in the package;

removing the toy from the package sufficiently to expose at least the second sensor for user actuation;

user actuating the second sensor to cause the electronics to generate a third routine different from the first routine and to cause the electronics to be set to the second mode; and

after the second actuating step, the step of resetting the electronics to the first mode upon a reapplication of electrical power to the electronics.

9. The method of claim **8**, wherein the second routine is more extensive than the first routine.

10. A method of operating a toy initially in a package, the toy having electronics configured to operate in a first mode and a second mode, a first sensor operably connected to the electronics and a second sensor operably connected to the electronics, the toy in the package being internally powered with the electronics configured in the first mode, the method comprising the steps of:

user actuating the first sensor to cause the electronics to generate a first routine with the electronics in the first mode and to generate a second routine different from the first routine with the electronics in the second mode, at least the first sensor being exposed on the toy in the package for user actuation of the toy to generate the first routine in the package and at least the second sensor being covered in the package to prevent user actuation of the second sensor with the toy in the package;

removing the toy from the package sufficiently to expose at least the second sensor for user actuation;

user actuating the second sensor to cause the electronics to generate a third routine different from the first routine and to cause the electronics to be set to the second mode; and

further including the step of resetting the electronics to the first mode each time electrical power to the electronics is interrupted and reapplied to the electronics.

11. A method of operating a toy initially in a package, the toy having electronics configured to operate in a first mode and a second mode, a first sensor operably connected to the electronics and a second sensor operably connected to the electronics, the toy in the package being internally powered with the electronics configured in the first mode, the method comprising the steps of:

user actuating the first sensor to cause the electronics to generate a first routine with the electronics in the first mode and to generate a second routine different from the first routine with the electronics in the second mode, at least the first sensor being exposed on the toy in the package for user actuation of the toy to generate the first routine in the package and at least the second sensor being covered in the package to prevent user actuation of the second sensor with the toy in the package;

removing the toy from the package sufficiently to expose at least the second sensor for user actuation;

user actuating the second sensor to cause the electronics to generate a third routine different from the first routine and to cause the electronics to be set to the second mode; and

further including the step of retaining the electronics in the second mode each time electrical power to the electronics is interrupted and reapplied to the electronics after the user actuating the second sensor step.

12. A packaged toy comprising:

a toy including a plurality of user actuated switches, a computer chip controller in the toy operatively connected with each of the plurality of user actuated switches, and a plurality of preprogrammed routines stored in the toy, each routine directing controller activation and operation of the toy in a different way, the plurality of preprogrammed routines including at least a first set of one or more try-me routines and a second set of two or more normal routines, and each of the plurality of switches being associated with one or more particular routines of the plurality;

a package containing the toy and configured to expose one or more of the plurality of switches to permit user actuation of the at least the one or more exposed switches with the toy in the package and to cover at least one or more remaining switches of the plurality of switches to prevent user actuation of the one or more remaining switches with the toy in the package before the package is opened;

wherein the computer chip controller is configured to (1) initially execute only preprogrammed try-me routines of the first set in response to activations of the one or more switches of the plurality exposed to user actuation with the toy in the package, (2) self-set automatically into the second mode of operation in direct response to a first activation of any of the remaining switches of the plurality originally covered by the package and execute one of the preprogrammed normal routines of the second set

in direct response to user activation of any of the remaining switches, both without further user input into the toy, and (3) thereafter execute preprogrammed normal routines from the second set in response to actuation of any of the one or more switches exposed to user actuation with the toy in the package, at least one of the preprogrammed normal routines executable by the controller after (2) in response to activation of any of the one or more switches initially exposed with the toy in the package being different from each of the preprogrammed try-me routines of the first set, whereby the toy automatically reconfigures itself from a try-me mode of operation to a normal play mode of operation.

13. The toy of claim **12** wherein the computer chip controller is electrically connected with each of the plurality of user actuated switches, wherein the toy further includes one or more electrically operated or electronically responsive devices other than the plurality of manually actuated switches also electrically connected to the computer chip controller for control of the device by the computer chip controller to perform all of the try-me routines of the first set and all of the normal routines of the second set.

14. A method of operating a toy originally provided in a package wherein the toy includes electronics configured to generate a plurality of routines and to operate in a first mode and in a second mode, a first sensor operably connected to the electronics, user actuation of which causes the electronics to generate a first routine with the electronics in the first mode and to generate a second routine different from the first routine with the electronics in the second mode, and a second sensor operably connected to the electronics, user actuation of which causes the electronics to generate a third routine different from the first routine and causes the electronics to be set to the second mode; wherein the package containing the toy is configured to expose the first sensor for actuation by a user with the toy contained in the package and to prevent user actuation of the second sensor with the toy contained in the package; and wherein the toy is provided in the package with the electronic in the first mode and power supplied to the electronics, the method comprising the steps of:

removing the toy from the package sufficiently to expose the second sensor for actuation;

manually actuating the second sensor with the electronics in the first mode and the first application of power still on the electronics to set the electronics into the second mode of operation and to generate a third routine operating the toy differently from the first routine, both without any further required user input; and

manually actuating the first sensor with the electronics in the second mode and the first application of power still on the electronics to generate a second routine operating the toy differently from any first routine and from the third routine, the electronics being configured to generate the second routine only with the electronics in a mode of operation other than the first mode.

15. A method of configuring a toy for operation by a user, the toy comprising electronics configured to generate a plurality of routines and to operate in a first mode and in a second mode; a first sensor operably connected to the electronics, user actuation of which causes the electronics to generate a first routine with the electronics in the first mode and to generate a second routine, different from the first routine, with the electronics in the second mode; and a second sensor operably connected to the electronics, user actuation of which causes the electronics to generate a third routine, different from the first routine, and causes the electronics to be set to the second mode; the method comprising the steps of;

configuring the electronics to be in the first mode of operation upon a first application of power to the electronics;

configuring the electronics to thereafter respond to a manual actuation of the first sensor with the electronics in the first mode and the first application of power still on the electronics by generating a first routine operating the toy;

configuring the electronics to thereafter respond to a first manual actuation of the second sensor with the electronics in the first mode and the first application of power still on the electronics by automatically self-setting into the second mode of operation and generating a third routine operating the toy differently from the first routine without further user input; and

configuring the electronics to thereafter respond to a manual actuation of the first sensor with the electronics in the second mode and the first application of power still on the electronics by generating a second routine operating the toy differently from the first routine and the third routine, the electronics being configured to generate the second routine only with the electronics in a mode of operation other than the first mode.

16. The toy configured by the method of claim **15**.

17. A toy in a package, the toy comprising:

electronics configured to generate a plurality of routines and to operate in any of at least a first, try-me mode and a second, normal mode; and

at least a first sensor and a second sensor, each sensor being operably connected to the electronics; and

the package receiving the toy and being configured to expose at least the first sensor for actuation by a user with the toy in the package and to prevent user actuation of at least the second sensor with the toy in the package, the toy and the electronics being in the first, try-me mode in the package;

wherein the toy and the electronics are configured such that user activation of the first sensor with the toy in the first, try-me mode in the package causes the electronics to generate at least a first, try-me routine and with the toy and the electronics in the second, normal mode, to generate at least a second, normal routine different from the first, try-me routine; and

wherein the toy and the electronics are further configured such that a first user activation of the second sensor causes the electronics to generate a third, normal routine different from the first, try-me routine, and also causes the electronics to automatically self-set to the second, normal mode without additional user input.

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