

pattern in which the note C is broadcast, (2) producing and broadcasting the notes in a pattern in which the note C is played three successive times as C-C-C, and (3) producing and broadcasting a note pattern in which the note C is played simultaneously with the same note C to produce a C sound with a greater volume than if only a single note C is played. Module 372 plays the selected note for five seconds and then stops broadcasting the note.

[0187] In FIG. 36, module 372 has again been activated after it was activated, played notes, and after five seconds stopped playing the note pattern(s) as described with respect to FIG. 35. In FIG. 36, the random selection system has chosen several note sequences 379, 380, 381. Sequence 379 is randomly chosen first. The sequence 380 is randomly chosen; then sequence 381. A note sequence comprises two or more notes. Each note in a note sequence can be different from the other notes in the sequence, or, some or all of the notes in a note sequence can be the same as another note in the sequence. The spacing (i.e., the period of time that elapses before a one note in a note sequence is played after another note in the note sequence) can vary as desired. The spacing can be zero if the notes are played simultaneously at exactly the same time, or can be greater than zero. Two notes in a sequence can be identical and played at the same time. If the spacing between two notes is greater than zero, but is still small, a second note can be played while sound from the first note is still being produced and overlaps sound produced when the second note is played. When the time that elapses between the playing of first and second notes in a note sequence is greater than zero, the notes are called successive. The note sequences 379, 380 and 381 are each combinations of two successive notes. Sequence 379 includes two successive different musical notes corresponding in sound to the middle C on a piano and to the D immediately above middle C. The period of time, i.e. the spacing, that elapses between the two successive notes or the notes in any note sequence can vary as desired but usually is fairly short, one-half second or less. Sequence 380 includes two successive different musical notes corresponding to the E and F immediately above the middle C on a piano. Sequence 381 includes two successive musical notes each corresponding to the first G note above the middle C on a piano. Sequence 379 to 381 can be played in succession, one after the other, can be played simultaneously, etc. The software program can randomly alter the spacing between notes in a randomly selected sequence prior to broadcasting the note in the sequence.

[0188] The animal toy illustrated in FIGS. 37 and 38 includes a hollow body 382 with opening 384 formed therein. Lid 385 is fixedly or detachably secured to the upper end of body 382 in the manner illustrated in FIG. 37 to seal sound module 383 in opening 384. Module 383 is shorter than opening 384 so that when body 382 is moved back and forth in the directions of arrow E, module 383 slides back and forth (up and down) in opening 384. Module 383 includes a motion sensor that, when module 383 slides in opening 384, detects the movement of module 383 and activates module 383 to produce sound. Module 372 or any other sound module or other kind of module (i.e., a module may, instead of or in addition to producing sound, produce light, produce a scent, produce something that can be tasted, or produce something that can be felt by an animal), can be utilized in place of or in combination with module 383.

[0189] The animal toy 386 illustrated in FIG. 39 includes equivalent hollow halves 387 and 388 that are glued or otherwise fastened together along opposing, flat, oval-shaped edge surfaces 387A and 388A to form an egg-shaped core. The shape and dimension of the core and of halves 387, 388 can vary as desired. Half 387 includes flap 389. Half 388 includes flap 390. Each half 387, 388 can include more than one flap. The shape and dimension of each flap can vary as desired. A flap 389 on one half 387 usually, but not necessarily, corresponds in shape and dimension to an opposing flap 390 on another half 388. A flap 389 on one half or portion 387 may not have an opposing flap 390 on another half or portion 388. Or, toy 386 can be molded or otherwise produced with a unitary core having one or more flaps 398 extending outwardly therefrom.

[0190] Flap 389 is equivalent in shape and dimension to flap 390. When halves 387 and 388 are glued or otherwise fastened together, flaps 389 and 390 can be glued together along surfaces 389A and 390A, can be otherwise fastened together, or need not be secured together. Flaps 389 and 390 are preferably, but not necessarily, pliable and bendable. A layer of felt 391 or other fabric is secured to the outer surface of half 387 in the manner earlier described or in any other desired manner. A layer of felt 392 or other fabric is secured to the outer layer of half 388 in the manner earlier described or in any other desired manner. The felt or fabric is presently preferably not secured to any exposed surface of flaps 389 and 390, but can be if desired. The core and flap(s) or other members extending outwardly from the core are preferably, but not necessarily, shaped and dimensioned such that the assembled toy of FIG. 40 looks like or suggests an animal or other object. The appearance of toy of FIG. 40 suggests a fish.

[0191] FIGS. 41 and 42 illustrate construction of an animal toy in which a gas-filled semi-spherical opening 394 is formed in spherical core 393, along with an aperture 396 extending through the core wall to opening 394. Opening 394 can have any desired shape and dimension, as can core 393. Aperture 396 includes countersunk portion 397. If desired, solid thin membrane 395 can extend across the bottom of aperture 396 to help maintain pressure in opening 394 when a layer 399 is compressed onto the outer spherical surface of core 393. Opening 403 is formed in layer 399.

[0192] In FIG. 42, squeaker 398 is inserted in aperture 396. Fabric layer 399 is applied before or after squeaker 398 is inserted in aperture 396. If fabric layer 399 is applied to core 393 after squeaker 398 is inserted in aperture 396, squeaker 398 can, if desired, include a plug 419 made of wax or some other material that will melt at 300 degrees F. or some other selected elevated temperature that is greater than ambient temperature, preferably greater than 100 degrees F. Plug 419 prevents air from escaping from opening 394 if compressive pressure is applied to core 393. When layer 399 is applied, adhesive is often applied to core 393 (as earlier described herein) and heat and compressive pressure are applied to layer 399 to bond layer 399 to the outer spherical surface of core 393. When plug 419 is utilized, it is fabricated such that during most of the heating and compression process, the wax prevents air from escaping from opening 394 and prevents the core from collapsing inwardly into opening 394. As the heating and compression process is completed, and the compressive forces are reduced or discontinued, the heat causes the wax plug 419 to melt such that