

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
2 September 2004 (02.09.2004)

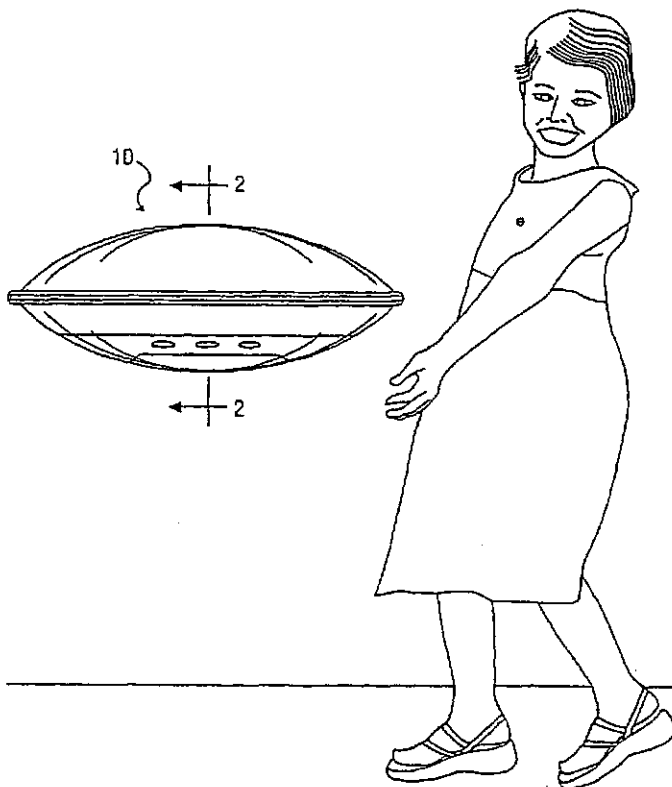
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/073801 A2

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **A63B**
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2003/041310
- (22) International Filing Date:
24 December 2003 (24.12.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
10/366,387 14 February 2003 (14.02.2003) US
10/643,780 19 August 2003 (19.08.2003) US
- (71) Applicant and
(72) Inventor: **ANDERSON, Lloyd, R.** [US/US]; 106 Diddle
Drive, Hendersonville, TN 37075 (US).
- (74) Agents: **COESTER, Thomas, M.** et al.; Blakely,
Sokoloff, Taylor & Zafman, 12400 Wilshire Blvd., 7th
Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026 (US).
- (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,
CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH,
GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC,
LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,
MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC,
SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA,
UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,
ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE,
SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA,
GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: RIGID BALLOON



(57) Abstract: The rigid balloon has a chamber to hold lighter-than-air gas portions to retain a structural member or members and a separate light gas is filled into the chamber through a valve in the balloon. Structural members are inserted into the portion to help retain the desired shape of the balloon. The structural members also provide a counterbalancing weight which prevents the balloon from floating upward. Thus, the balloon, once released into the air, will retain its shape and remain floating at the height from which it was released unless repositioned.

**Published:**

— without international search report and to be republished
upon receipt of that report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.