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(54) **HIGH PERFORMANCE YO-YO WITH ON/OFF SWITCHABLE AUTO-RETURN**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

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A high performance yo-yo for performing tricks has a manual-return capability, an auto-return capability, and an on/off switch built into the yo-yo for turning auto-return capability on or off. The yo-yo further includes yo-yo halves, an axle, a spool surrounding the axle between the yo-yo halves for attachment of a string, and a spring-loaded centrifugal clutch. The clutch grips and releases the spool such that when the yo-yo is thrown and its rotational rate exceeds a pre-determined rate, the clutch releases to allow the yo-yo to spin about the spool at the end of the string, and when the yo-yo rotational rate slows to less than the pre-determined rate, the clutch grips to initiate auto-return. The clutch includes four radially arrayed clutch arms, each having a weighted free end. The clutch further includes two tension springs, each spring providing spring-load to two adjacent clutch arms. The four clutch arms are linked in pairs by expansion joints at the free ends of the arms. The switch is a rotary switch linked to operate the clutch via a cam and cam follower. The yo-yo halves each include a starburst.

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