

April 28, 1931.

M. HOENIG
ORNAMENTAL CHARACTER
Filed Oct. 25, 1928

1,803,114

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

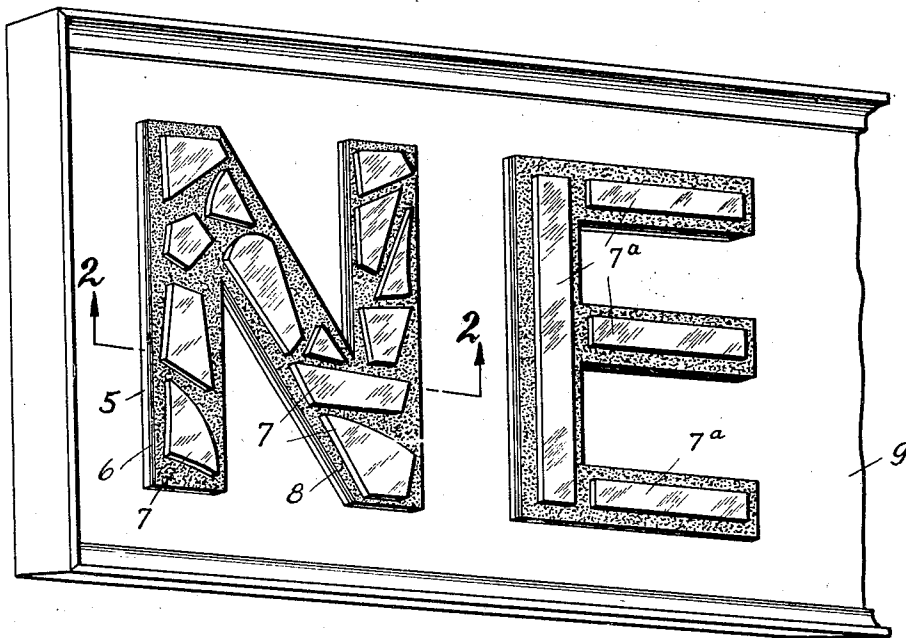
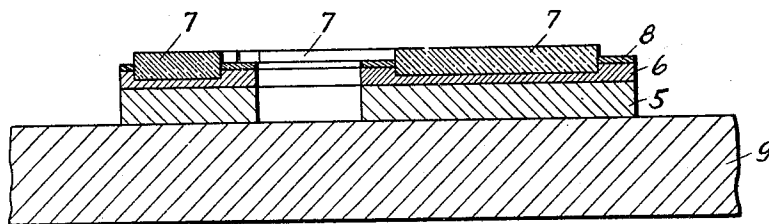


Fig. 2.



WITNESSES:

Gerhard B. Mule
W. P. Merrill

INVENTOR:

Milton Hoenig,

BY

Joshua R. H. Totts
ATTORNEY.

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Fig. 3.

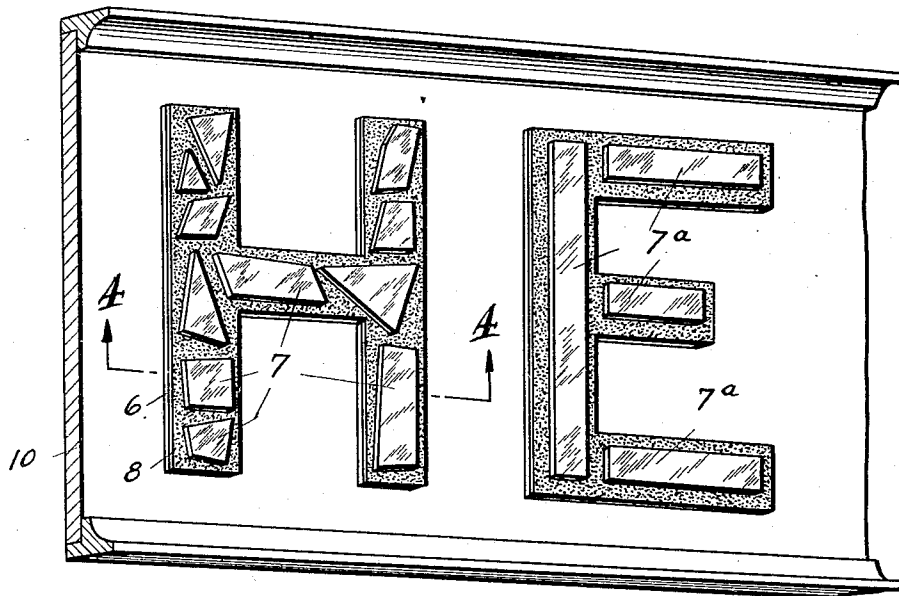
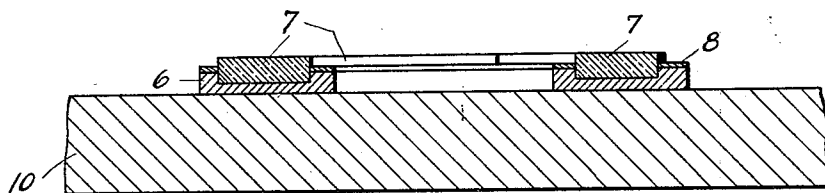


Fig. 4.



WITNESSES:

Gerhard Baule
W. W. Merrill

INVENTOR:

Milton Hoenig,

BY

Joshua P. H. Tots
ATTORNEY.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

MILTON HOENIG, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

ORNAMENTAL CHARACTER

Application filed October 25, 1928. Serial No. 314,938.

My invention relates to ornamental devices and more particularly to letters, characters and designs which may be incorporated in or form ornamental signs, panels and the like.

The object of this invention is to provide letters, characters, designs and the like which are distinctive in appearance, partially self-illuminating and capable of producing unique color effects.

In carrying my invention into effect, a layer of cementitious material is placed upon a suitable foundation, reflective elements partially embedded in the cementitious material and the unoccupied surface of this material coated or partially coated with suitable coloring material, such as metallic powder, as illustrated by the embodiments shown in the accompanying drawings, in which

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a fragment of a sign, showing one method of carrying my invention into effect,

Figure 2 an enlarged fragmentary section on line 2—2 on Figure 1,

Figure 3 a perspective view of a fragment of a sign constructed in a slightly different manner, and

Figure 4 an enlarged fragmentary section on line 4—4 on Figure 3.

In the form shown in Figures 1 and 2, a foundation piece 5, having the outline of the letter, character, symbol or design to be produced, is cut from suitable material, such as wood, fibre, composite material or the like, and coated with a layer 6 of cementitious material. Glue, shellac, varnish and the like may be used, but I find that a composition of gilder's whitening and glue gives better results.

Reflective elements 7, such as pieces of mirrors, are embedded in the cementitious layer and the unoccupied surface of this layer given a coat or a partial coat of coloring matter 8, such as metallic powder. If the cementitious material is given a dark or neutral color, plain glass may be used instead of the mirrors as the cementitious material on the backs of the pieces of glass will cause them to reflect light.

A character or ornament made in this manner is distinctive in appearance and partial-

ly self-illuminating even in fading light. The characters or ornaments may be mounted upon a suitable panel or backing 9 which should be painted or decorated to harmonize with the color scheme of the characters or ornaments employed.

I also find it advantageous to secure the pieces of glass or mirrors in the cementitious layer in such a manner that they extend above the surface of the coloring matter or metallic powder 8 so that light may be reflected from innumerable facets of the powder into their edges and be refracted, thus causing the colors of the powder to be diffused in the glass and by the refraction unique color effects produced, particularly if the metallic powder is of two or more distinctive colors, such as silver, gold, red, green, etc. The reflective elements 7 may be of irregular and assorted shapes, such as those shown embedded in the surface of the letter N in Figure 1, or cut into regular shapes, such as the elements 7^a shown embedded in the surface of the letter E in that figure.

The form shown in Figures 3 and 4 differs from that shown in Figures 1 and 2 only in that the foundation is not cut the shape of the character or design. Instead, the foundation 10 may also serve as the backing of the panel or sign and the characters or designs formed by the layer of cementitious material 6 in which ornaments 7 or 7^a are embedded and surrounded by coloring matter 8, as previously described.

When a sign or panel, made according to my invention, is flood lighted or illuminated by border lamps, less than one-half as much light or one-half as many lamps are required to properly illuminate it. When the sign or panel is illuminated by border lamps, the light reflected from the metallic powder into the edges of the reflected elements is refracted much more than when the sign or panel is illuminated by natural light and considerable areas of the reflective elements appear to assume the colors of the adjacent metallic powder.

While I have illustrated and described my invention as applied to signs, it will be understood that it applies equally to panels,

decorations and ornamentations and that modifications may be made without departing from the spirit thereof and, hence, I do not wish to limit myself to the precise construction or application set forth but consider
5 that I am at liberty to make such changes and alterations as fairly come within the scope of the appended claim.

I claim:—

10 An ornamental character including a foundation, a layer of cementitious material on the foundation, reflective and refractive elements secured in the cementitious material and extending above the plane thereof, and
15 coloring material having innumerable reflecting facets adjacent said elements said elements reflecting incident light and refracting the colors of the adjacent coloring material.

20 In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification.

MILTON HOENIG.