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H. R. SANDERS

COMBINED SIGNAL AND TROUBLE LAMP FOR AUTOMOBILES

Filed June 2, 1922

Fig. 1. x

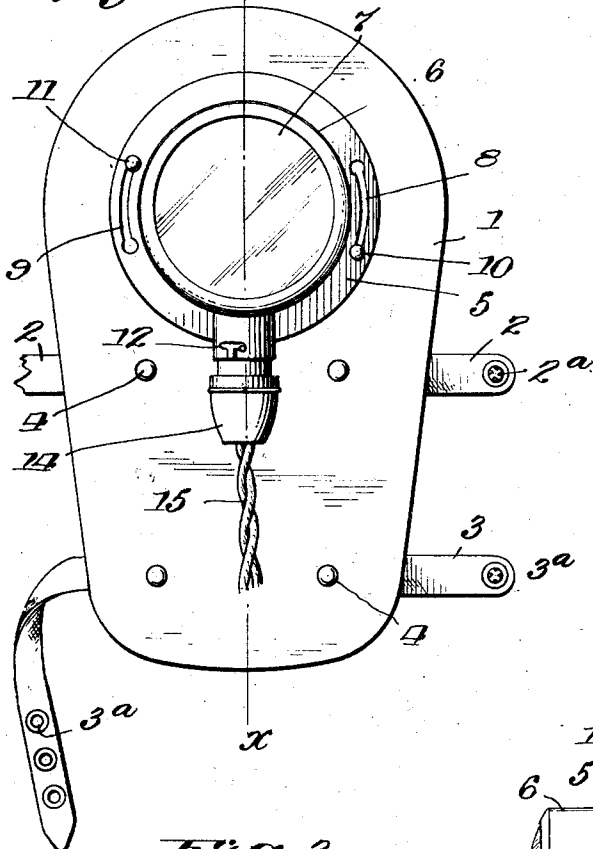


Fig. 2.

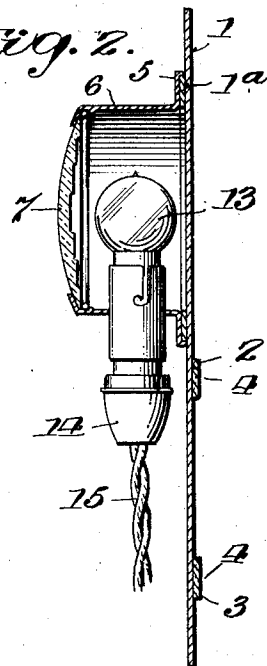


Fig. 3.

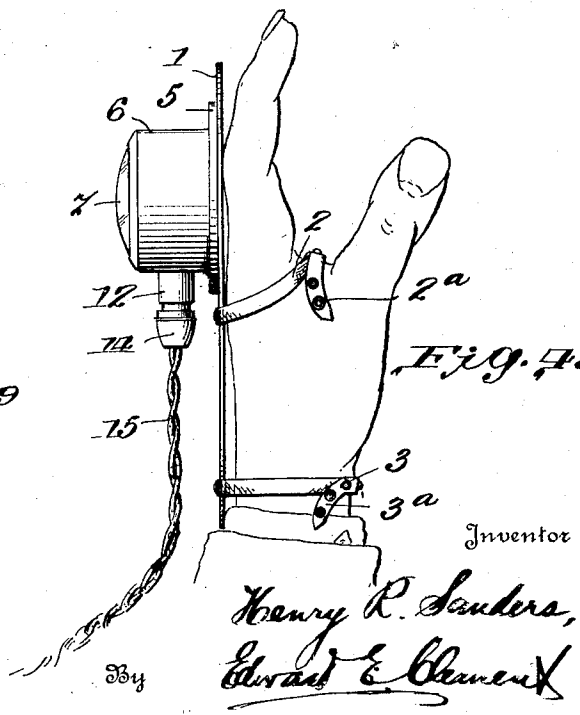
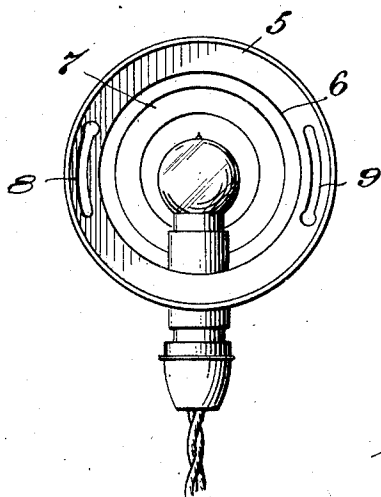


Fig. 4.

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COMBINED SIGNAL AND TROUBLE LAMP FOR AUTOMOBILES.

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My invention relates to automobile lighting systems and has special reference to that class of devices by which a driver may signal his movements to those behind him. The object of the invention is to provide a signal of this character which shall be simple and certain in its action even when manipulated by an excited person, easy to install and to maintain, and which may serve as a trouble lamp or for other purposes when required, having the double advantage of economy and constant testing to ensure operative condition.

I attain my object by providing a base plate or support adapted to be secured upon the back of the operator's hand in such fashion that the fingers may be left free for ordinary use, as for example for grasping and manipulating the steering wheel; and upon this support I mount a lamp casing fitted with a bull's eye in its top or outer side but open on its bottom next to the base plate to which it is secured by readily detachable fasteners such as studs working in slots. A flexible cord leads from the lamp in the casing to suitable terminals on the vehicle, through which current is derived from the ordinary lighting circuit thereof. In use, this device enables a driver to signal at all times both day and night, in a uniform manner, using the hand only, without the necessity of setting levers or other pieces of apparatus. In emergencies the simplicity of this method of signaling is a very important factor, as it reduces the liability to error to a minimum.

The constant use of this device in signaling insures the good condition of the lamp, which cannot burn out or become otherwise inoperative without the operator's knowledge. This is an important feature, as by detaching the lamp casing from the support, said casing having its bottom open, the lamp immediately becomes available as a trouble lamp or for general illuminating purposes. Trouble lamps are ordinarily stowed away in the kit until needed, and are liable to be found mechanically or electrically defective in an emergency.

My invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which, Fig. 1 is a plan view of the base plate with combined signal and trouble lamp mounted thereon. Fig. 2 is a section thereof on the line $x-x$ of Fig. 1

with the lamp and its connections in full lines. Fig. 3 is a rear view of the lamp casing and lamp detached. Fig. 4 is a perspective view showing the manner of mounting the device as a whole on the back of the operator's hand.

Referring to the drawings, 1 is a plate made of light and stiff material such as aluminum, having secured upon it, as by rivets 4, a pair of cross straps 2 and 3 each fitted with a series of snap fasteners 2^a or 3^a, which may be replaced by buckles or any other convenient means for adjustably fastening the straps. The strap 2 passes around the palm of the operator's hand, and the strap 3 passes around the wrist as shown in Fig. 4. It will be observed that by this mode of fastening the hand is left entirely free for ordinary use, such as grasping the steering wheel.

Upon the upper part of the plate 1, so that it will come directly above the fingers of the hand, I mount a lamp casing 6 having a bull's eye 7 of red glass, and containing a lamp 13 mounted in a socket 12 extending through the side wall of the casing and adapted to receive in its outer end the terminal plug 14 of a lamp cord 15 connected in any desired manner to the storage battery or other source of current carried by the vehicle. As indicated in Fig. 4, this cord hangs loosely from the operator's arm without impeding the free use of the hand.

The casing 6 has a flange 5, in which are formed two arc shaped slots 8 and 9 to receive studs 10 and 11 oppositely secured on a metal ring 1^a riveted to the base plate 1. One end of each slot 8 or 9 is enlarged to pass the head of the corresponding stud 10 or 11 so that the casing may be detached by simply rotating it through the arc of the slots until the studs reach the enlarged ends thereof.

Referring to Figs. 2 and 3, it will be observed that the bottom of the casing 6 is open when detached from the base plate, Fig. 3 being in effect a front view of the device used as a trouble lamp. The interior of the bull's eye serves in this case as a partial reflector, and a supplemental reflector, of white or polished material, may be provided to slip in behind the lamp in the casing for greater efficiency in illumination.

As a corollary to the above, the lamp may

be removed and the plate 1 used alone for signalling in the day time. I paint it red when to be so used.

Having thus described my invention, I wish it to be understood that various changes can be made in matters of detail without departing from the scope and purview thereof, and that I contemplate all such changes and modifications as fall fairly within the scope of the appended claim.

I claim:

In a device of the class described, the combination of a flat signal plate of stiff light material of such proportions as to cover the back of the hand from the wrist to the finger tips, of proper shape and color to constitute a proper daylight danger signal, a plurality of straps attached thereto at points intermediate the ends, arranged to embrace

the hand just back of the knuckles and at the wrist, leaving the fingers and thumb free for use, a separate lamp casing open on one side and closed on the other by a lens of colored glass to constitute a night danger signal, an integral flange formed around the edge of the open side of same, and shaped to fit closely and directly against the face of the signal plate, cooperating quick detachable fastening means on said casing and on said plate respectively, whereby the lamp unit as a whole, including the lamp and its casing, may be mounted on the plate for use at night, and may be detached therefrom in the daytime, or for special use at any time as a trouble lamp.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

HENRY R. SANDERS.