No. 680,720.

Patented Aug. 20, 1901.

L. R. LE LANDE.

SIGN.

(No Model.)

(Application filed Nov. 7, 1900.)

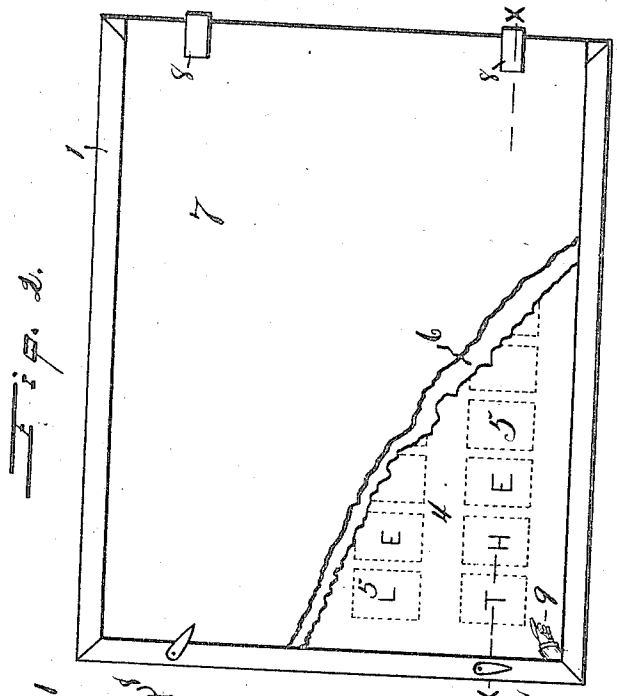


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

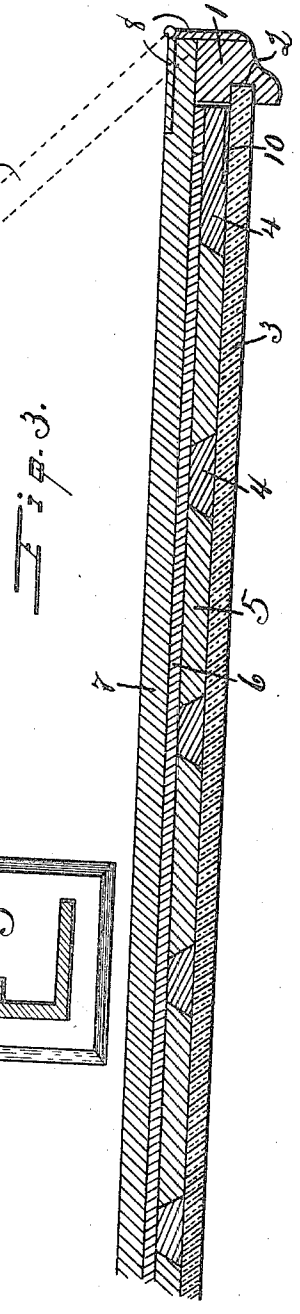


Fig. 3.

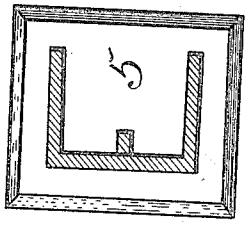


Fig. 4.

Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LESTER R. LE LANDE, OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

SIGN.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 680,720, dated August 20, 1901.

Application filed November 7, 1900. Serial No. 35,753. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LESTER R. LE LANDE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Los Angeles, in the county of Los Angeles and State of California, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Portable Changeable Signs; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to certain improvements in signs, and more particularly to that class of signs which may be moved from place to place and one which may also have its characters and letters interchanged and replaced by others.

My object is to furnish a sign which will be handy for use more particularly in show-windows, one which will be neat in appearance and which may be expeditiously changed so as to present a different and the desired purport. This I accomplish by the peculiar construction, novel combination, and adaptation of parts hereinafter described, and particularly pointed out in the claims hereunto annexed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings for a better comprehension hereof, in which—

Figure 1 is a face view of my improved sign, showing the letter-blocks in dotted lines. Fig. 2 is a rear side view of the same with a part of the hinged cover broken away. Fig. 3 is an enlarged detached sectional view through line X X, Fig. 2, showing the beveled mat and letter-blocks fitting therein. Fig. 4 is a detached face view of one of the letter-blocks, showing the beveled edges thereof.

Similar figures of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several views.

I employ a frame 1 very similar in construction to an ordinary picture-frame, which may be of any desired size or configuration. Near the front edge on the inner side I provide a groove 2, into which I fit a glass 3, as shown in Fig. 3. Next to the glass, on the rear side thereof, I place a mat 4, of suitable material, preferably from one-eighth to one-fourth of an inch thick, of a size suitable to fit within the frame 1. The said mat 4 has a suitable number of openings with beveled edges cut therein, into which said openings letter, character, or figure blocks 5, having beveled edges adapted to fit in said openings, are inserted, so as to present and maintain a flat and continuous surface on the front face. A comparatively thin sheet 6 of pasteboard or bristol-board may be placed on the back of the mat 4 and letter, character, or figure blocks 5 and fitted in the frame 1, so as to hold said blocks 5 firmly in position. A cover 7, composed of stiff material, is hinged at one end to the frame by hinges 8, and the other end of said cover is suitably secured to said frame 1; but I have shown the same secured by buttons attached to the frame.

I print or otherwise attach a character 9 on the rear side of the mat 4 near the upper left-hand corner for the purpose of indicating the direction in which to build or compose the sign desired, as hereinafter described.

In front of the mat 4 and between said mat and the glass 3 I sometimes arrange a border-mat 10, as shown in Figs. 1 and 3, which may be of various colors or variegated, or a number of border-mats, each of a different color, may be used one at a time. As will be seen, many combinations of colors may be used with a pleasing effect.

The mode of operating my improved portable changeable sign is as follows: The frame 1 is prepared with the groove 2 and fitted, together with the glass 3, in position in said groove. The cover is then placed on the back of and hinged to the frame by the hinges 8, and the mat 4 is placed in the frame against the glass. The letter, character, or figure blocks 5 are all of the same size, as are also the openings in the mat 4. When it is desired to change the letters and words and present a different sign, the frame is placed face down, as shown in Fig. 2, and the cover 7 is raised, as shown in dotted lines, Fig. 3. The operator then begins from the lower left-hand corner, as indicated by the character 9 in Fig. 2, and begins his composition and construction of the sign by inserting the letter, character, or figure blocks 5 in the openings in the mat 4, working in the construction thereof to the right, as in the word "The," herein represented, first by placing

the letter "T" in the extreme lower left-hand corner, the letter "H" in the next opening to the right, and the letter "E" in the next vacant opening to the right in precisely the same manner as in setting type for the press. For the convenience of manipulation I have the letters and characters stamped on the back of the letter-blocks. When a word is completed, the remainder of the openings in that line are filled with blank blocks, so as to present a flat continuous surface. When a space is desired, as between words, a blank block may be inserted. After the sign has been completed the sheet 6 is then placed into position and the cover pressed on the the same and fastened in position.

I do not confine myself to any particular form or color of letter or character or figure, and many fonts of type of various colors carefully blended may be used. Neither do I confine myself to the size or number of the letter, character, or figure blocks used, as signs may be constructed in many shapes and sizes.

As will be seen, the ability to change the size, character, and color of the letter, &c., is a decided advantage.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A changeable sign, comprising a frame, a glass therein, a mat arranged at the inner side of the glass and having openings, letter, character or figure blocks corresponding in thickness to the mat and in shape and size to the openings thereof and arranged in said openings and against the inner side of the glass, and a suitable backing arranged in rear of the mat and blocks therein.

2. A changeable sign comprising a frame, a glass therein, a mat arranged in the frame at the inner side of the glass and having openings the walls of which are beveled, letter, character or figure blocks corresponding in thickness to the mat and in shape and size to the openings thereof and having correspondingly-beveled edges; said blocks being removably arranged in the openings of the mat, and a suitable backing held in the frame in rear of the mat and blocks therein.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

LESTER R. LE LANDE.

Witnesses:
MALBRY HAYNES,
JOSHUA B. WEBSTER.