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C. J. CRANE ET AL

2,313,734

TEMPERATURE COMPENSATED BUBBLE FOR PANORAMIC SEXTANT

Original Filed March 14, 1940

FIG. 1.

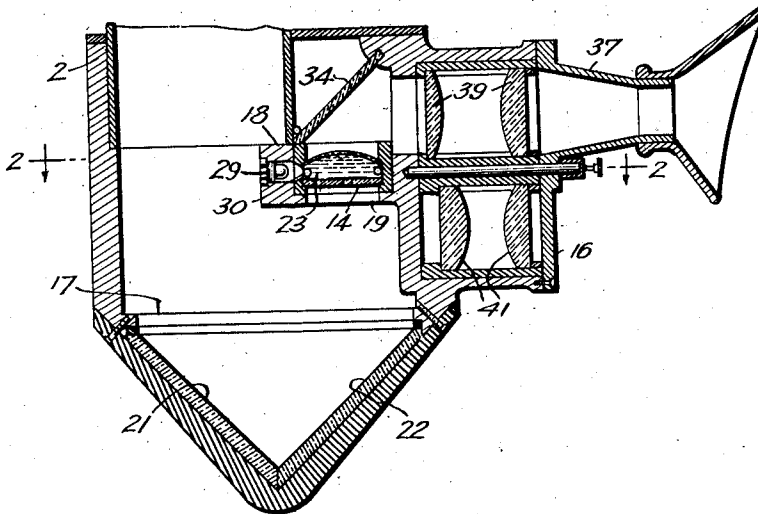


FIG. 2.

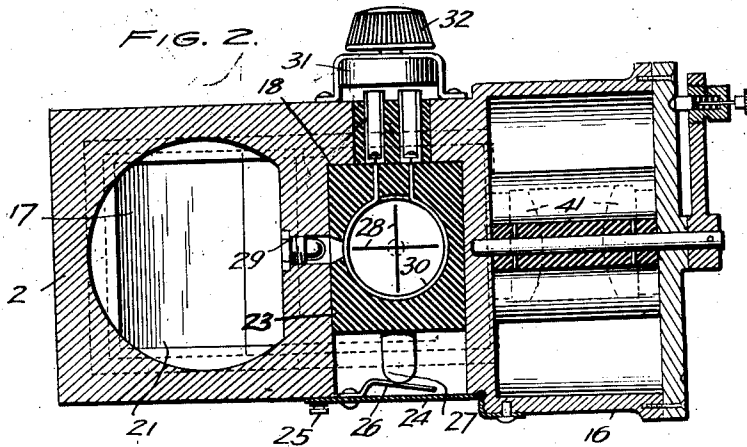
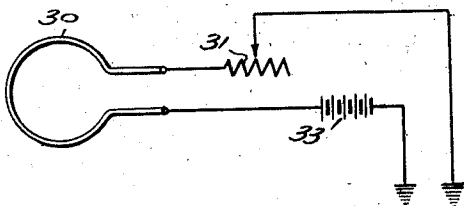


FIG. 3.



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TEMPERATURE COMPENSATED BUBBLE
FOR PANORAMIC SEXTANTSCarl J. Crane, Shreveport, La., and Samuel M.
Burka, Dayton, OhioOriginal application March 14, 1940, Serial No.
323,964. Divided and this application June 19,
1941, Serial No. 398,844

2 Claims. (Cl. 33—211)

(Granted under the act of March 3, 1883, as
amended April 30, 1928; 370 O. G. 757)

The invention described herein may be manufactured and used by or for the Government for governmental purposes, without the payment to us of any royalty thereon.

This application is a division of application 5
Serial No. 323,964, filed March 14, 1940 now
Patent No. 2,280,798 granted April 28, 1942.

This invention relates to fluid levels and particularly to bubble levels used in connection with instruments such as sextants and the like.

It is an object of this invention to provide 10
means for controlling the size of the bubble in a fluid level.

It is another object of this invention to provide 15
means for varying the size of a fluid level bubble at will.

It is a further object of this invention to provide temperature control means for controlling the size of the bubble and for varying its size at will.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following detailed descriptions of the invention, reference being had to the accompanying drawing wherein:

Fig. 1 is a cross sectional view of the lower 25
portion of a sextant incorporating the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a cross sectional view taken along the
lines 2—2 of Fig. 1; and

Fig. 3 is a diagrammatic view of the bubble-cell 30
heating circuit.

Referring to the drawing, the bubble-cell 23
received in chamber 18 is operatively positioned
in the lower end of the sextant housing 2 in
such a manner as to receive image-carrying light 35
rays reflected by mirrors 21 and 22 in reflector
chamber 17. These rays pass through orifice 19
and bubble 23 and are reflected by the inclined
reflector 34 through lenses 39 so as to be observable
in eye piece 37. The eye lens unites in 40
the drum 16 incorporating the low power lens
39 and the high power lens 41 for observing the
images of the observed objects and the bubble-cell
is as described in the aforementioned application
of which this is a division.

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Coming now to the subject matter of the instant invention, bubble-cell 23 is of a conventional and well known construction in which the bubble moves on the under side of the spherical surface of the top cover glass. The fluid in the level is of any suitable substance. In view of the fact that substances suitable for bubble levels are subjected to expansion and contraction under varying temperature conditions, the bubble level is provided with a heating element 30, the temperature of which is controllable by a rheostat 31 adjustable by means of knob 32. Electrical energy for heating purposes may be supplied by a suitable source 33.

As described in the aforementioned application, the bubble-cell is provided with a cross mark 28 to be used for taking bearings; a light 29 for illumination of the bubble; a door 24 for the opening 18; a nut 25 for holding the door closed; a spring 26 carried by the door and adapted to engage a projection 17 in the bubble-cell 23 for positioning the same in the chamber 18.

It is obvious that various modifications can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention as pointed out in the appended claims.

We claim:

1. A bubble-cell having means by which the size of the bubble may be changed at will, said means comprising an electrical heating circuit including a heating element within the cell and a rheostat for controlling the temperature of the heating element.

2. A bubble-cell having in combination, top and bottom plates of glass between which the bubble is confined, a source of potential, a heating element between the said plates of glass and a rheostat for controlling the temperature of the heating element, said heating element and rheostat being connected in electrical circuit with said source of potential.

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