

Aug. 20, 1940.

K. C. PORTER

2,212,454

SIGN BOX

Filed June 3, 1939

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

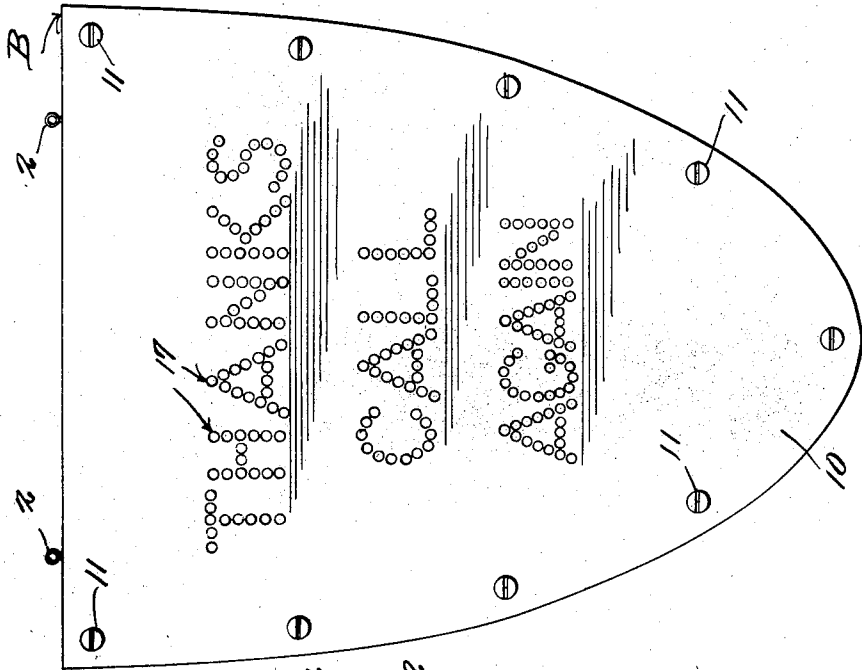


Fig. 2.

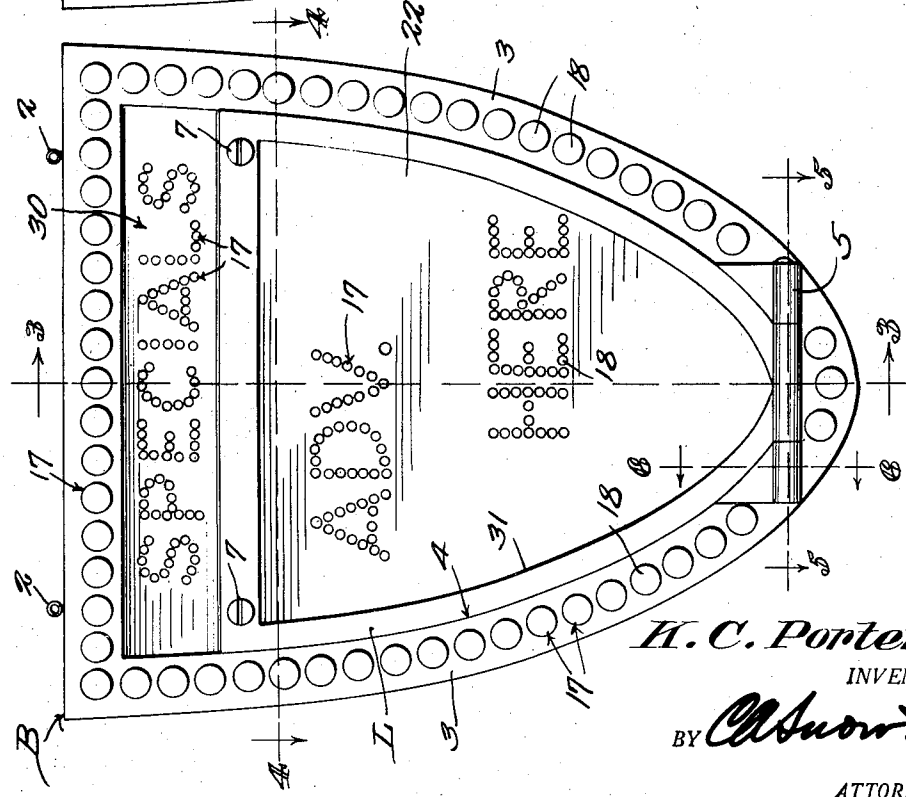


Fig. 1.

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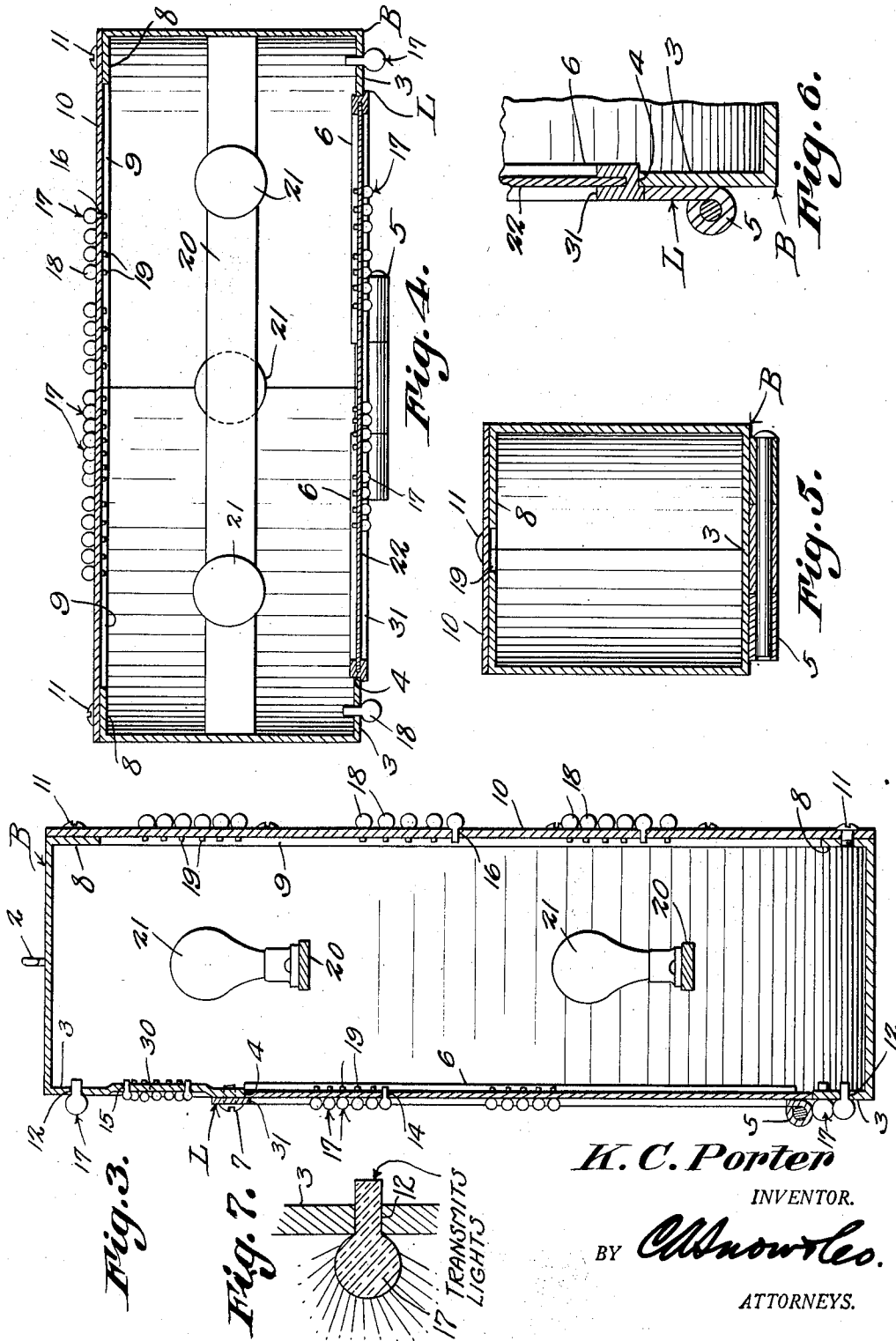
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SIGN BOX

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2 Sheets-Sheet 2



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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SIGN BOX

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Application June 3, 1939, Serial No. 277,268

1 Claim. (Cl. 40—133)

The device forming the subject matter of this application is a light box, used primarily but not necessarily for advertising purposes. The invention aims to supply an article of the class described, so constructed that a portion of an advertising text may remain in place, as a fixed part of a sign, the balance of the sign being capable of being changed readily, to afford information respecting the particular merchandise offered for sale, from day to day, or for any other purpose. The invention aims, further, to improve structurally, a device having the characteristics above noted.

In the accompanying drawings:

Fig. 1 shows, in front elevation, a device constructed in accordance with the invention;

Fig. 2 is a rear elevation;

Fig. 3 is a vertical section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a transverse section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 5 is a transverse section on the line 5—5 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 6 is a vertical section on the line 6—6 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 7 is a sectional view illustrating the button and associated parts.

In carrying out the invention, there is provided a box-like body B, which may be made of any desired material, such as metal. The body may be of any preferred shape, but, ordinarily, in elevation, it has a downwardly tapered, conventional, shield outline. The body B may be supplied at its upper end or elsewhere with suspension elements 2.

The body B is provided with a front flange 3, defining an opening 4. The inset upper portion 30 of the front flange 3 is somewhat wider than the remaining portions of the flange, as Figs. 1 and 3 will show. The opening 4 is closed by a lid L, the lower end of which is connected to the flange 3 of the body B by a hinge 5, the construction being such that the lid can be opened downwardly and forwardly upon occasion. The lid L has an opening 31, and there are trough-shaped guides 6 on the lid, at each side of the opening. A panel 22 is removably mounted in the guides 6 and extends across the opening 31.

Any suitable means may be provided for holding the lid L closed. If preferred, the lid L may be held closed by screws 7, engaging the upper part of the lid and the lower part of the upper portion 30 of the front flange 3; although a fastening of some other sort may be used if desired. The body B is supplied with an inwardly project-

ing rear flange 8, defining an opening 9. Over the opening 9, a closure plate 10 is held, by screws 11, or otherwise.

In the front flange 3 there are openings 12, so located as to form an attractive border, approximating if desired, the general outline of the body B. In the panel 22 there are openings 14, so placed as to spell out a sign, and the panels may be changed from day to day. In the upper part 30 of the front flange 3, there are openings 15, so placed to spell out any preferred word, such as the word "Specials." The openings 14 in the panel 22 may spell out, for example, information regarding merchandise which is to be offered at special price on any particular occasion. In the closure plate 10 on the back of the body B are openings 16 which may be so placed to spell out a phrase of congratulation, appreciation, or a parting word: for instance, "Thanks. Call Again." including a head 18 and reduced neck 19, the necks of the buttons being inserted into the openings 12, 14 and 16. The buttons 17 may be made of any material which will transmit light. If preferred, recourse may be had to "Lucite," a commercial Dupont product.

The particular means whereby the body B is illuminated internally, may be altered without departing from the spirit of the invention. For example, a cross strip 20 may be secured in the body B, the cross strip supporting electric lamps 21 of such construction as is desired.

When the lamps 21 are lighted, the various inscriptions are made clearly visible by way of the buttons 17. Ordinarily, the inscription on the back closure plate 10 remains unchanged for some time, as does the inscription on the upper part 30 of the front flange 3 on the body. The advertising material on the lid L can be changed, and this is done by lifting one panel 22 of the guides 6 and substituting a differently worded panel. The operator can supply himself with a reasonably small supply of the buttons 17, and the buttons may be transferred from one panel 22 to another.

Noting Fig. 1, the article serves a good purpose as a prospective purchaser approaches a place of trade, and renders a satisfactory service when he departs, as Fig. 2 will make manifest.

The device affords an inexpensive but satisfactory substitute for a neon sign.

What is claimed is:

A sign comprising a box-like body having a back, and provided with a marginal front flange defining an opening, the upper portion of the flange being wider than the remaining portions of

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the flange, a lid hinged at its lower end to the flange, a panel detachably assembled with the lid, the flange having spaced holes forming a border extended entirely around the body and about said upper portion of the flange; the back, the panel and the upper portion of the flange having holes

defining sign forming elements, light-transmitting buttons shaped for removable mounting in all of the holes, and means for illuminating the body from within.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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Patented Feb. 20, 1945

KENNETH C. PORTER, Inventor

By \_\_\_\_\_, Attorney

10 This invention relates to a sign forming element, and more particularly to a sign forming element which is adapted to be illuminated from within.

15 In the past, sign forming elements have been made in various shapes and sizes, and have been made of various materials. Some of these sign forming elements have been made of metal, and some have been made of plastic or other synthetic materials.

20 One of the objects of this invention is to provide a sign forming element which is adapted to be illuminated from within, and which is adapted to be made of a material which is easily formed into various shapes and sizes.

25 Another object of this invention is to provide a sign forming element which is adapted to be illuminated from within, and which is adapted to be made of a material which is easily formed into various shapes and sizes, and which is adapted to be made of a material which is easily formed into various shapes and sizes.

30 Still another object of this invention is to provide a sign forming element which is adapted to be illuminated from within, and which is adapted to be made of a material which is easily formed into various shapes and sizes, and which is adapted to be made of a material which is easily formed into various shapes and sizes.

35 The invention consists of a body having a flange extending around its upper portion, and a lid hinged at its lower end to the flange. A panel is detachably assembled with the lid, and the flange has spaced holes forming a border extended entirely around the body and about said upper portion of the flange.

40 The back, the panel and the upper portion of the flange have holes defining sign forming elements, and light-transmitting buttons are shaped for removable mounting in all of the holes. Means are provided for illuminating the body from within.

45 The invention is shown in the accompanying drawings, in which:

50 FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the sign forming element in its closed position, showing the body, the flange, the lid, and the panel.

55 FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the sign forming element in its open position, showing the body, the flange, the lid, and the panel.

60 FIG. 3 is a perspective view of the sign forming element in its open position, showing the body, the flange, the lid, and the panel.

65 FIG. 4 is a perspective view of the sign forming element in its open position, showing the body, the flange, the lid, and the panel.

70 FIG. 5 is a perspective view of the sign forming element in its open position, showing the body, the flange, the lid, and the panel.

75 FIG. 6 is a perspective view of the sign forming element in its open position, showing the body, the flange, the lid, and the panel.

80 FIG. 7 is a perspective view of the sign forming element in its open position, showing the body, the flange, the lid, and the panel.

85 FIG. 8 is a perspective view of the sign forming element in its open position, showing the body, the flange, the lid, and the panel.

90 FIG. 9 is a perspective view of the sign forming element in its open position, showing the body, the flange, the lid, and the panel.

95 FIG. 10 is a perspective view of the sign forming element in its open position, showing the body, the flange, the lid, and the panel.