

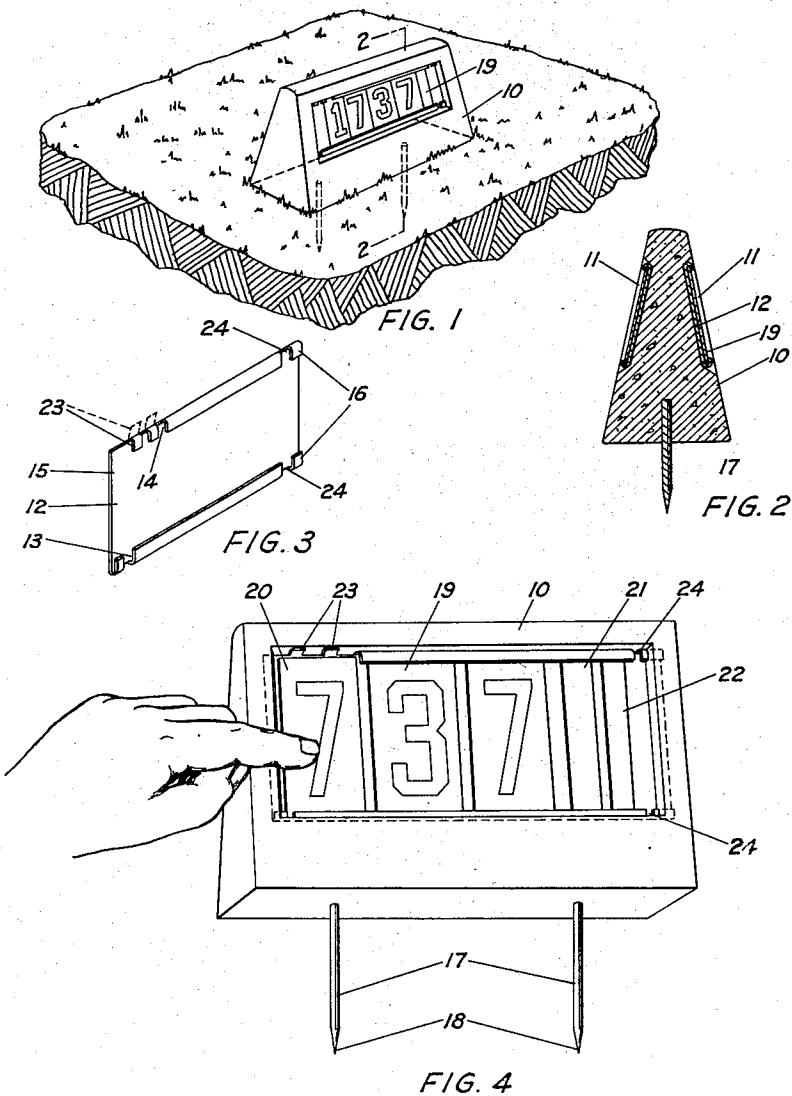
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HOUSE MARKER

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HOUSE MARKER

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My invention relates to house markers generally, but more particularly to a type of marker adapted to be placed upon the lawn or at some point near the street to indicate the number of the house.

In various types of house markers used in the prior art, some have consisted in numerals mounted on mail boxes, fence posts, lawn gates and in many unique and attractive positions and arrangements. Some of the markers have been recessed in the side of the house itself, and illuminated at night to permit the number to be easily found and read. The usual marker consists of a set of numerals or letters attached to some convenient portion of the front of the house. This position may be on a front porch, on the steps, above the porch or at any place found convenient by the tenant or owner. The numerals themselves are usually made out of metal or plastic material and are nailed or otherwise fixed in position.

All of the prior art types of house markers mentioned above have had the same disadvantages in that they can be read only from the front of the house or structure. The non-illuminated types are extremely hard to find at night since they may be placed in any one of a number of positions on the front of the house. In a darkened area of the block or where the entrance to the house is shaded by trees or shrubbery, a taxi driver or delivery man must dismount from his vehicle and often employ the use of a flashlight to find the house number. It is both annoying and dangerous to a stranger in a neighborhood to have to search the front of various buildings to find a certain house number.

It is an object, therefore, of this invention to provide a house marker having the letters of numerals constructed of a light-reflecting material to permit the marker to be easily found and read by a light at night.

Another object of the invention is to provide a house marker which displays the house number on opposite sides and wherein the letters or numerals are set in the marker at slightly inclined, opposing angles to prevent distortion when viewed by a person walking or riding down the street in either direction.

Another object of this invention is to provide a house marker having the letters of numerals affixed to separate plates to permit the installing or removal of any one or all of them without resorting to special tools or fixtures.

Another object of the invention is to provide a house marker which may be temporarily affixed

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to the ground surface of a lawn, but which may be easily removed to permit mowing or otherwise working the lawn.

Another object of the invention is to provide a house marker which, due to its novel construction, has great resistance to the action of the elements, and which enhances the beauty and arrangement of any house or lawn.

Further objects and advantages will be found in the course of the following detailed description when viewed together with the accompanying drawing in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a device embodying my invention in a house marker.

Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional view taken along lines 2-2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged perspective view of the numeral holding element as shown removed from the marker proper.

Fig. 4 is another perspective view of the marker showing a set of numerals being installed in the same.

In the drawings numeral 10 designates the receptacle proper which is made somewhat triangular in cross section and of a length sufficient for carrying a group of letters or numerals. The receptacle 10, in this instance, is made of a neat cement fixture and is molded into the shape shown. Molded into each side of the receptacle 10 is a recess 11 in which is positioned a numeral receiving plate 12. This receiving plate 12 is preferably made of sheet metal having its side edges folded to form a pair of slots 13 and 14. It will be noted that the folded side edges of the receiving plate 12 terminate slightly short of each end of the plate, leaving plain, extending end 15 and the folded ears 16 at the opposite end. These ends are made longer than the length of the recess 11 and are embedded into the cement receptacle 10 when the same is being molded. The receiving plate 12 is preferably made of a rust resisting, metallic material or suitably painted or treated to render it rust-proof.

In the base of the receptacle 10 is a pair of spaced prongs 17, the upper ends of which are embedded into the receptacle 10 when it is being molded and the lower ends of which are provided with sharp points 18. These prongs 17 which project from the base of the receptacle 10 are adapted to be pressed into the earth's surface to help anchor it in position, when the device is being used.

The house number 19 is made up of single digits, each of which is affixed to a separate digit plate 20. These digit plates 20 are preferably

made out of sheet metal which have been rendered rust-proof either by plating or painting, the latter being preferred inasmuch as the reflecting qualities of the digits themselves are brought out by a dark, painted background.

The recess 11 of the receptacle 10 and the receiving plate 12 are made long enough to receive either five or six of the digit plates 20; and could be made to receive any number desired. Where fewer digits are required to complete the house number, there will be an unfilled space left in the recess 11 and in the slotted receiving plate 12. In order to take care of this unfilled space, I have provided spacers 21 and 22 which are used to center the house numeral 19 in the receiving plate 12.

On one side of each receiving plate I have broken the rolled side edges to form top tab 23 which may be bent outwardly as shown by the dotted lines in Figure 3. After these tabs 23 have been bent as described, the digits and spacers are assembled as shown in Figure 4 and the tabs 23 bent back again to hold them in place.

The digits themselves are cut from a reflectorized paper or cloth having small glass beads embedded in its outer surface. I have preferred to use a reflectorized material known by the trade name of "Scotcholite" with the base material being constructed to reflect white or silver colored character when a light is cast upon it. The digits are attached to the digit plates 20 by applying a permanent glue to the back sides of the same.

Since the receptacle is made of a cement mixture, it is strong and durable and is not subject to breaking or cracking even if struck by a heavy object or run over by the wheels of an automobile. The digits, however, will lose their reflecting surface if they are subjected to rough treatment by blows or scratches. In such event, the tabs 23 on the receiving plate 12 may be bent outwardly and the injured digit or digits removed and replaced by new ones and the assembly replaced again in the receiving slots 13 and 14. Occasionally a tenant will change his residence and will desire to take his marker to his new home. The marker is simply removed from its position by pulling upwardly on the prongs 17, the digits changed as formerly described and the marker positioned to indicate the house number of the new residence.

Although I have found such unnecessary, the receptacle 10 may be painted any color suitable in matching a house or it may be rendered entirely waterproof by a coating of commercially known waterproofing mixtures.

The ears 16 on plate 12 are embedded in the receptacle 10 in a manner to extend the grooves 13 and 14 into the receptacle 10 in order that a digit plate 22 or spacer 21 may be brought snugly up to the end of the recess 11. Since cement is apt to fill the ends of the grooves or slots 13 and 14, aligned with the ears 16, I provided notches 24 through which cleaning tools may be inserted and manipulated for cleaning out such cement as might be set up in the groove extensions 13 and 14 aligned with the ears 16.

While I have described my invention in detail it will be understood that various changes in size, shape and appearance of the above described device may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the following claims.

1. A display sign comprising a solid body having a recess in one face thereof, a receiving plate having a pair of marginal folds on opposite longitudinally extending edges thereof forming marker plate guides, the guide on one marginal edge terminating short of the guide on the opposite marginal edge for a distance slightly greater than the width of an insertable marker plate whereby a multiplicity of marker plates may be successively inserted into one of said guides and into alignment with the other of said guides and moved to coplanar selected linear position within said guides, the opposite ends of said marginal folds being embedded in the material of said solid body and means adjacent the embedded ends of said marginal folds constituting laterally disposed clean-out slots for the passage of a tool through said guides for freeing said guides of obstructive matter and allowing selected positioning of marker plates in said receiving guides.

2. A display sign as set forth in claim 1 in which the receiving plate is provided with a pliable tab on the marginal edge thereof coextensive with the shorter marginal fold and bendable over the edge of an inserted marker plate for securing the marker plate in positioning with respect to said receiving plate.

3. A display sign as set forth in claim 1 in which there are two aligned clean-out slots in the marginal folds at one end of said receiving plate and where the clean-out slots at the other end of said receiving plate are laterally offset and wherein each of said slots has a width sufficient to permit prying accumulated material from the marginal folds for insuring the free sliding of the marker plates into and out of position.

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