L. STEINBERGER.

TELEPHONE MOUTHPIECE.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 20, 1910.

982,641.

Patented Jan. 24, 1911.

Fig. 1.

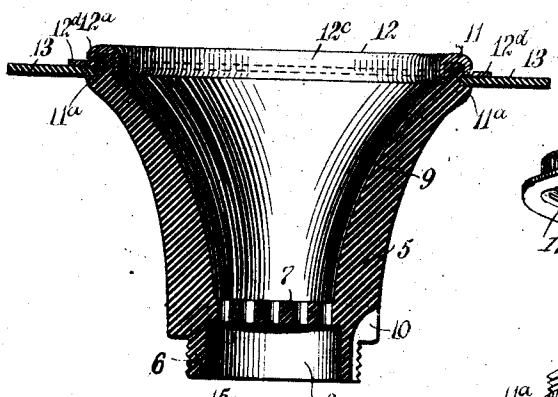


Fig. 4.

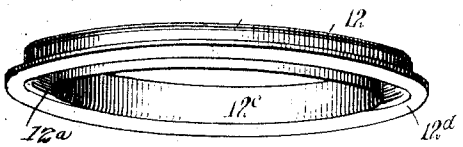


Fig. 3.

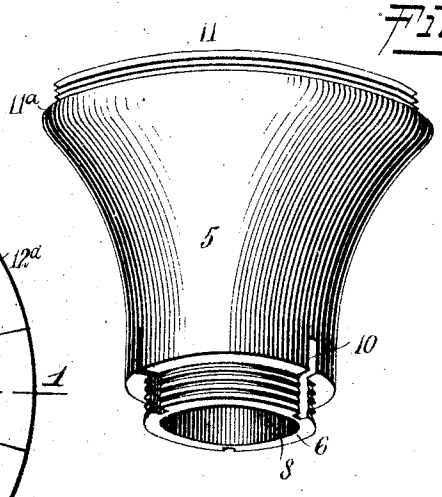
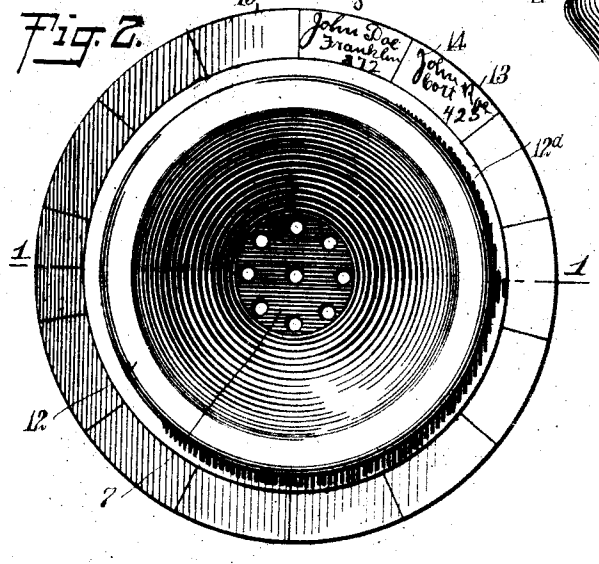


Fig. 2.



WITNESSES:

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TELEPHONE-MOUTHPIECE.

982,641. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Jan. 24, 1911.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LOUIS STEINBERGER, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city of New York, borough of Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Telephone-Mouthpiece, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to telephone mouthpieces, my more particular purpose being to provide a type of mouthpiece having upon its outer peripheral edge a strengthening member of annular form, separate from the mouthpiece and detachably connected therewith.

My invention further comprehends mounting upon the mouthpiece adjacent to the aforesaid outer peripheral edge of the same, a protecting member and legend plate having substantially the form of a flat ring, and adapted to display legends, including telephone addresses and numbers—this legend plate being normally locked in position by aid of a locking ring.

My invention further comprehends the fitting of said locking ring in position so that it may be turned to different degrees and thereby adjusted so as to bring some of the legends more prominently into view, or into more favorable positions, the legends plate being then locked or left free to turn, as desired.

As is well known in this art, the mouthpieces usually employed are made of material which is more or less brittle, and as the outer peripheral edge of the mouthpiece is usually made very thin, it is liable to be broken or chipped from various accidental causes. What I seek to do, therefore, is to accomplish the purpose of protecting this outer peripheral edge by covering the same, together with the inner and outer portions of the mouthpiece immediately adjacent thereto, with the aforesaid locking ring, and by rounding most of the exposed surfaces of this locking ring, thereby give the latter such conformity as will render it comparatively immune from most of the injuries otherwise likely to take place from accidental causes. The locking ring thus serves as a shield for protecting the adjacent outer portion of the mouthpiece. While accomplishing this result I take advantage of the fact that the locking ring may be employed for the additional purpose of holding in position a protecting member or legend plate, and by making this legend plate of comparatively tough material, such as fiber, or the substance known in this art as electrose, which is somewhat akin to fiber in its physical properties, the legend plate itself serves as a protecting and strengthening member, as well as a means for displaying telephone addresses or other appropriate legends.

By having the locking ring bind firmly against the legend plate, as hereinafter described, so as to force the latter against the shoulder carried by the mouthpiece for this purpose, a tight, strong, and compact construction is secured, the outer edge of the mouthpiece being doubly protected by the locking ring and the legend plate, the various parts thus arranged presenting incidentally a neat and attractive appearance.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the views.

Figure 1 is a section taken on the line 1—1 of Fig. 2, showing on an enlarged scale a mouthpiece provided with my improved locking ring and protecting member and legend plate; Fig. 2 is a plan view of the mechanism shown in Fig. 1: Fig. 3 is a perspective of the body member of the mouthpiece; and Fig. 4 is a perspective showing the protecting strengthening locking ring.

The body portion 5 may have the conventional or any desired form, and may be made of any appropriate material, such as electrose, fiber, hard rubber, or the like, and in this instance is provided with a reduced portion 6 threaded externally and serving as a stem whereby the mouthpiece may be mounted upon the face plate of the transmitter. The mouthpiece is further provided with a perforated partition 7 and with a compartment 8, encircled by the threaded portion 6. The mouthpiece is further provided with kerfs, one of which is shown at 10, for equalizing mechanical strains when the mouthpiece is screwed into position and to serve as air vents. The mouthpiece is further provided with a compartment 9, of flaring form, the curvature of which is slightly greater than the curvature of the outer portion of the body member. The outer portion of the

body member is provided integrally with an annular bead 11, and with an annular shoulder 11^a extending outwardly from the base of said bead. The bead 11 is threaded externally and is smooth internally, the smooth internal surface being substantially parallel with the threaded outer surface, as will be understood from Fig. 1. At 12 is a locking ring made of metal, fiber, electrose or any other suitable material, and provided with an outer wall 12^a, this outer wall being threaded internally, as shown in Figs. 1 and 4, and terminating in a smooth edge 12^d, this edge being parallel with the adjacent edge of the annular shoulder 11^a. The locking ring 12 is further provided with an inner wall 12^c, and is generally of such form that most of its exposed surface is rounded, as indicated in Fig. 1. The locking ring 12 is also provided with an annular flange 12^d, and fits neatly upon the annular bead 11, the threaded surface of the outer wall 12^a mating the outer threaded surface of the bead 11 so that the locking ring may be screwed upon the bead. The flange 12^d greatly strengthens the locking ring and protects all of the parts. At 13 is a legend plate having generally the form of a large flat ring, and provided with radially disposed marks 14 whereby its exposed surface is divided into sector-like panels, as shown in Fig. 2, each panel bearing a legend 15 which may conveniently be the name and telephone call of a subscriber.

The legend ring may be removed entirely if desired and in this event the flange 12^a of the locking ring protects not only the locking ring, but also the adjacent portions of the mouthpiece from chipping or breaking due to jars, concussions and the like. When the legend ring is in position, the flange 12^a serves as a reinforce for strengthening the legend ring and parts immediately adjacent to the same. The shape of the flange 12^a is such that a side blow accidentally directed against the outer or free end of the mouthpiece is received against the edge of the flange, this fact serving to practically increase the strength of the flange and of the locking ring. That is to say, the flange will stand a greater blow or even a greater crushing force if the force be directed against the edge of the flange. Similarly a blow or crushing force directed accidentally against the legend plate is received upon the edge of the same, the plate and parts adjacent to it being virtually stronger because of this fact.

The locking ring 12 and the legend ring 13 may both be removed from the mouthpiece as indicated in Fig. 3. In this event, the annular shoulder 11^a extends outwardly a little from the adjacent surface of the annular bead 11. The annular bead 11^a is thus disposed intermediate the ends of the mouthpiece and confers considerable strength upon the mouthpiece. A blow which might otherwise be received upon the outer edge of the mouthpiece, if received upon the annular bead 11^a, is not nearly so apt to chip the mouthpiece.

The operation of my device is as follows: The body member 5 being mounted in the conventional or any desired manner upon the face plate of a transmitter, the legend plate 13 is slipped over the annular bead 11 and lodged against the annular shoulder 11^a; the locking ring 12 is next fitted upon the bead and turned until the edge 12^b engages the adjacent surface of the legend plate and jams the legend plate firmly against the annular shoulder 11^a. To adjust the legend plate so as to change the relative positions of the various legends, the locking ring is turned slightly and thereby loosens the legend plate which is then grasped by the operator and turned so as to bring about the desired adjustment of the legends which it carries. The locking ring is then turned back so as to jam the legend plate again against the annular shoulder 11^a.

The parts being arranged and adjusted as above described, the telephone mouthpiece as a whole is greatly strengthened, and the outer peripheral edge carrying the locking ring and legend plate is particularly strengthened. If, now, any blow be accidentally directed toward the outer edge of the mouthpiece, such blow will be received upon the locking ring or upon the legend plate, or upon both, and as these parts are fitted neatly and tightly together, the tendency is to render the blow harmless.

If, after long use, the locking ring becomes battered, unsightly, or otherwise unfit for use, it may readily be removed and replaced by a new one. This is also true of the legend plate.

I do not limit myself to the precise arrangement of the parts as shown in the drawings, nor to any particular form for any part or parts, nor to the employment in every instance of a separate protecting member and legend plate; neither do I limit myself to the use of any particular material or materials, though I prefer to employ for the body portion of the mouthpiece the insulating material well known in this art as "electrose."

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

1. A mouthpiece comprising a body member provided upon its free end with an annular shoulder and with an annular bead adjacent to said annular shoulder, a legend plate having generally an annular form and mounted upon said annular bead, and a locking member engaging said annular bead and also engaging said legend plate.

2. A mouthpiece comprising a body member provided upon its free end with an annular bead and with an annular shoulder extending outwardly from said annular bead, a legend plate provided with a central opening and encircling said bead, said legend plate also engaging said annular shoulder, and a locking ring mounted upon said annular bead for holding said legend plate in position.

3. A mouthpiece comprising a body member provided with an outer peripheral edge, a legend plate mounted upon said outer peripheral edge, and a locking ring detachably connected with said outer peripheral edge for securing said legend plate.

4. A mouthpiece comprising a body member, a legend plate revolubly mounted upon its free end, and a locking ring detachably mounted upon said body member at a point adjacent to said legend plate for holding the same in position.

5. A mouthpiece comprising a body member provided upon its free end with an annular bead threaded externally and further provided with an annular shoulder disposed adjacent to said annular bead, an annular legend plate encircling said annular bead, and a locking ring provided with a portion threaded internally and mating the threaded portion of said annular bead, said locking ring being further provided with a surface for engaging said legend plate.

6. A mouthpiece comprising a body member provided upon its free end with an annular bead and further provided with an annular shoulder disposed adjacent to said annular bead, a legend plate fitted against said annular shoulder and engaging said annular bead, and a locking ring mounted upon said annular bead and provided with a portion external thereto, said portion engaging said legend plate, said locking ring being further provided with a portion disposed internally of said annular bead for protecting the latter from injury.

7. A mouthpiece comprising a body member provided upon its free end with an annular shoulder, a legend plate provided with a portion engaging said annular shoulder, and a locking ring mounted upon said body member for holding said legend plate against said shoulder, said locking ring being provided with a portion extending inwardly of said body member.

8. A mouthpiece comprising a body member provided upon its free end with an annular bead threaded externally and further provided with an annular shoulder disposed adjacent to said annular bead, a legend plate mounted upon said annular bead and disposed adjacent to said annular shoulder, and a locking ring provided with an outer wall threaded internally to fit the threaded outer surface of said annular bead, said locking ring being also provided with an inner wall rendered smooth to fit the inner surface of said annular bead.

9. A mouthpiece comprising a body member having upon its free end an annular bead and an annular shoulder, both integral therewith, a legend plate encircling said annular bead and engaging said annular shoulder, and a locking-ring provided with an outer wall partially encircling said annular bead, said locking ring being further provided with an inner wall engaging the interior of said annular bead.

10. A mouthpiece comprising a body member provided upon its free end with an annular bead threaded externally and further provided with an annular shoulder disposed adjacent to said annular bead and extending directly outward therefrom, a legend plate having a generally annular form and fitting over said annular bead, and a locking ring provided with an outer wall engaging the outer surface of said annular bead, said locking ring being further provided with an inner wall engaging the inner surface of said annular bead, said locking ring being rounded for the purpose of protecting it from injury.

11. A mouthpiece comprising a body member provided upon its free end with an annular bead provided externally with a threaded surface and provided internally with a smooth surface substantially parallel with said threaded surface, said body member being provided with an annular shoulder disposed adjacent to said annular bead, a legend plate encircling said annular bead and adapted to be pressed toward said annular shoulder, and a locking ring having an outer wall and an inner wall substantially parallel with each other, said inner wall being smooth where it engages said annular bead, and said outer wall being threaded where it engages the outer surface of said annular bead.

12. A mouthpiece comprising a body member provided upon its free end with a shoulder, a legend plate supported by said body member and adapted to be forced against said shoulder, and a locking ring supported by said body member for holding said legend plate in position, said locking ring being provided with a portion bent backward upon itself and extending inwardly of said body member.

13. A mouthpiece comprising a body member provided upon its free end with a bead and with a shoulder adjacent to said bead, a legend plate encircling said bead and disposed adjacent to said shoulder, and a metallic ring carried by said bead for holding said legend plate in position.

14. A mouthpiece comprising a body member provided upon its free end with a bead integral therewith, a legend plate mounted upon said bead, and a metallic locking mem-

ber supported by said bead for holding said legend plate in position, said metallic member being provided with a portion bent inwardly of said bead and extending substantially parallel with the portion of said locking ring engaging said legend plate.

15. A mouthpiece comprising a body member provided upon its free end with an annular bead and with a shoulder, a legend plate of fibrous material engaging said shoulder and encircling said bead, and a locking ring of metal for engaging said bead for holding said legend plate against said shoulder.

16. A mouthpiece, comprising a body member provided upon its free end with a shoulder and with a portion extending from said shoulder, a legend plate engaging said shoulder, and a locking ring of metal detachably engaging said legend plate, said locking ring being provided with two walls substantially parallel with each other, said walls extending upon opposite sides of said bead.

17. A mouthpiece comprising a body member provided with an outer peripheral edge, a legend plate mounted upon said outer peripheral edge, and a locking ring secured upon said outer peripheral edge and provided with a flange extending outwardly, said flange presenting a flat face toward said legend plate.

18. A mouthpiece comprising a body member provided with an outer peripheral edge, a legend plate having a general annular form and encircling said outer peripheral edge, and a locking ring detachably connected with said outer peripheral edge and provided with an integral flange extending outwardly and presenting a broad bearing surface of substantially annular form to said legend plate.

19. A mouthpiece comprising a body member provided with an outer peripheral edge and with a shoulder disposed adjacent to said edge, a legend plate having generally the form of a flat ring and encircling said edge, said legend plate being adapted to rest against said shoulder, and a locking ring mounted upon said peripheral edge and provided with a flange extending outwardly for the purpose of pressing said legend plate against said shoulder.

20. A mouthpiece, comprising a body member provided with an outer peripheral edge, a locking member supported upon said edge, and a ring-like member mounted upon said outer peripheral edge and provided with an integral flange extending outwardly for the purpose of protecting said locking member and said edge.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

LOUIS STEINBERGER.

Witnesses:
WALTON HARRISON,
PHILIP D. ROLLHAUS.