J. J. JONES.

SIGN.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 23, 1910.

1,118,866. Patented Nov. 24, 1914.

Fig. 1.

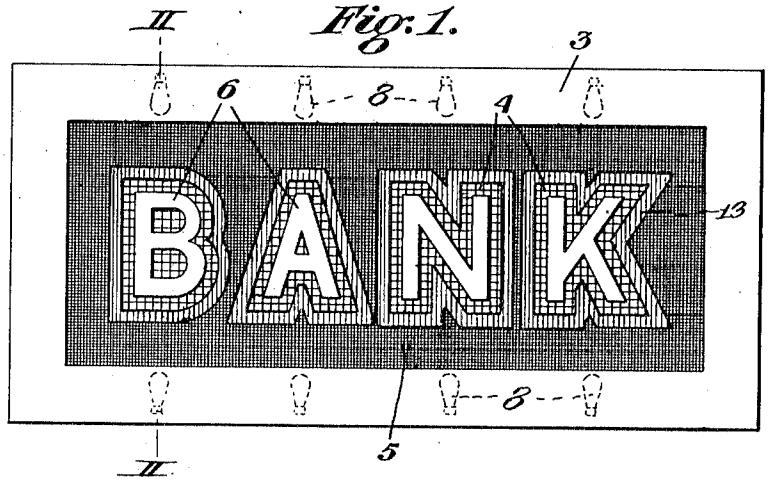


Fig. 2.

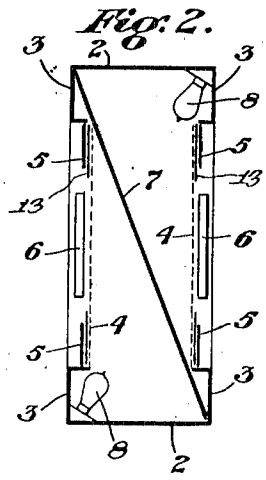


Fig. 4.

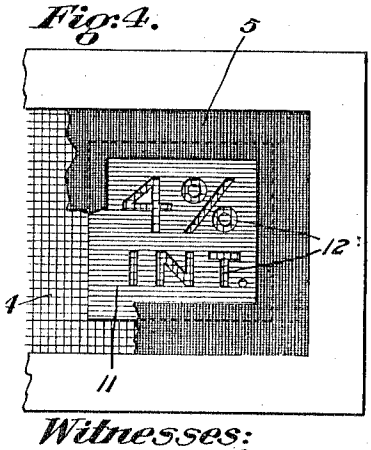
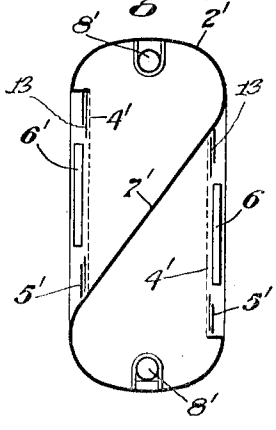


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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SIGN.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSHUA J. JONES, a citizen of the United States, residing at Pittsburgh, in the county of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Signs, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawing.

My invention refers to improvements in signs, and has for its object to provide a sign for day and night use.

The device consists of a suitable frame, preferably in box form, having a supporting front or panel at one or both sides constructed of a light strong material, as wire screen, and an impervious shield laid thereover having the sign characters cut out in said shield, with additional centering outlining characters if desired, and with means for illuminating the interior and projecting or reflecting the light outwardly through the open defining spaces. The invention also includes with the obscuring shield, supplemental outlining borders surrounding the letters or characters of contrasting color to the shield; inserted translucent material having perforated sign characters, combined with the supporting back and impervious shield, and other features of construction and advantages as shall be more fully hereinafter described.

In the drawings:—Figure 1 represents in front elevation a sign constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view on the line II. II. of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view similar to Fig. 2, showing a modified construction. Fig. 4 is a view in front elevation of a portion of a sign, partly broken away, showing the combination with the impervious obscuring shield, of a supplemental attached translucent sign.

The framework of the sign may be of any suitable construction as of sheet metal, in box form as indicated at 2, Figs. 1 and 2. In such construction any suitable formation of the front face of the casing may be adopted whereby to provide the surrounding border or projecting frame 3, if desired, and a corresponding recessed sign-inclosing space at the central front portion of the casing. Supported in said recess or otherwise across the middle portion of the frame is a light, strong backing of any suitable material as wire netting 4, adapted to support the sign forming elements. Upon this backing 4 is laid an opaque or light-impervious shield 5 of black paper or other suitable cheap material, the design being to use a material which may be changed or substituted from time to time for different signs or as it is damaged by the weather or use. Said shield 5 is cut out to provide the outline of the characters as shown, and may be used with inserted characters 6 leaving intervening light-defining slots or openings, said inserted characters, like the shield 5 being laid upon and secured to the screen base 4 by any suitable means as tying wires, clips, paste or cement.

The inserted characters 6 may be of any suitable material, but for securing novel and effective results, these characters are preferably made of mica or other similar translucent or semi-transparent material, and of various or contrasting colors. By this means a striking and attractive effect is produced.

In the construction shown in Fig. 2 the sign is double, having a face at each side, and for the purpose of illuminating the interior and deflecting light rays through the openings, I provide a central diagonally arranged shield 7 and a series of electric lamps 8, located along each inner end of the frame as shown, so as to illuminate each side thereof. The lights may be arranged in any other manner desired, but for economy and good results the construction shown is simple and economical.

In Fig. 3 I illustrate a modified construction in which the casing 2′ is of S-form in cross section providing a middle reflecting base 7′ arranged diagonally across the interior, a Moore vacuum tube 8′ being located within the casing extending along the top and bottom of the casing at each side of the base 7′, and operable to furnish light to the interior of the casing and for reflection by the base 7′ outwardly toward each side. Such a tube, which is well known and is a continuous vacuum illuminant, may be thus arranged around the inside of the outer portion of the frame, having its terminals suitably connected with a source of current. When thus arranged, it may be suitably secured in position behind screen 4′ by any efficient means, as staples, clips, etc. The supporting backing 4′ is incorporated with

the frame on corresponding sides of the reflecting central partition 7′ having laid upon it the impervious shield 5′ with the character defining openings, and if desired the inserted characters 6′.

In Fig. 4 I show a construction in which, in combination with the illuminating means impervious or opaque shield 5 and the supporting wire netting base 4, I use a separately prepared and attached sign member 11. Said sign member consists of a sheet of translucent material as paper, mica, or fabric, preferably colored to contrast with the shield 5 having perforated characters 12 of any suitable arrangement or design. Said supplemental member 11 is attached to the shield 5 from the back by pasting or otherwise, the shield 5 being cut out to receive it as indicated, and as thus constructed it provides a readily observed and prominent sign due to the illumination by night or the contrasting colors and perforated characters by day.

It is intended that in addition to the direct emission of the light rays, as a night sign, the interior illuminant shall suffuse the translucent member 11 so as to make it a prominent feature of the sign by making it of any contrasting color as red, blue or yellow, whereby the effect is strongly noticeable.

The object of the especial construction of such supplemental translucent and differently colored sign member is that, when incorporated with the main sign consisting of the perforated opaque shield 5, the contrasting lettering or other indicating characters will serve to especially distinguish and accentuate each. It will be observed that the material of which the several sign character-defining portions are made is extremely cheap and may be renewed at short intervals of time so that the sign may be changed as to its reading matter or renewed frequently at very low cost.

In addition to the perforations through the shield 5 the characters may be further additionally outlined by the use of a surrounding margin 13, Figs. 1 and 2, of a color contrasting to that of the shield whereby to further accentuate and make the characters prominent. Ordinarily, the shield 5 should be black as indicated, for the best results and the contrasting colors as used for the borders 11 may be white, red, etc.

The advantages of the invention will be readily appreciated by all those familiar with this class of devices. The construction enables the manufacture and maintenance of effective signs at very low cost and permits of great variety and novelty of the characters and their construction by any one able to cut them out of the base 5. The means for illumination avoid the trouble and expense of ordinary signs, and the device as a whole will be found to be extremely serviceable and well adapted to the objects in view.

Having described my invention, what I claim is:—

The combination of a casing or frame having a front of wire netting constituting a supporting base, an opaque apertured shield laid on the wire netting base, a backing of translucent material laid on the base across the aperture of the shield and provided with sign-character-defining perforations, and illuminating means within the casing, substantially as set forth.

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

JOSHUA J. JONES.

Witnesses:
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