J. HOTCHNER.

ILLUMINATED SIGN.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 19, 1919.

1,429,077.

Patented Sept. 12, 1922.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 2.

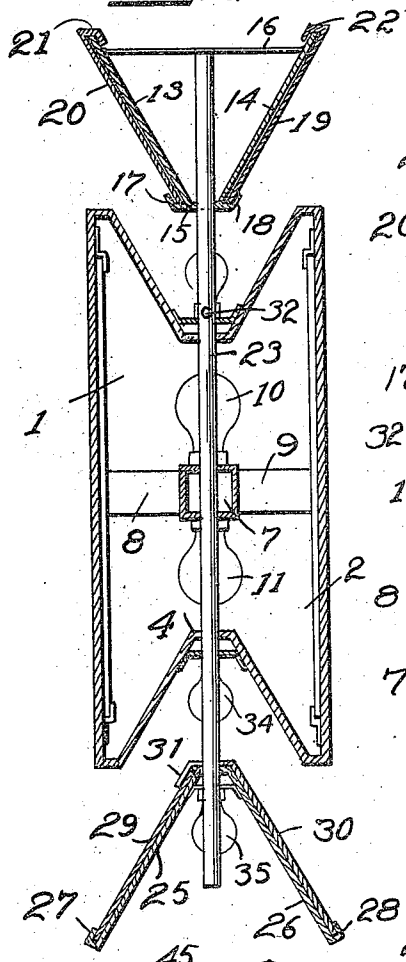
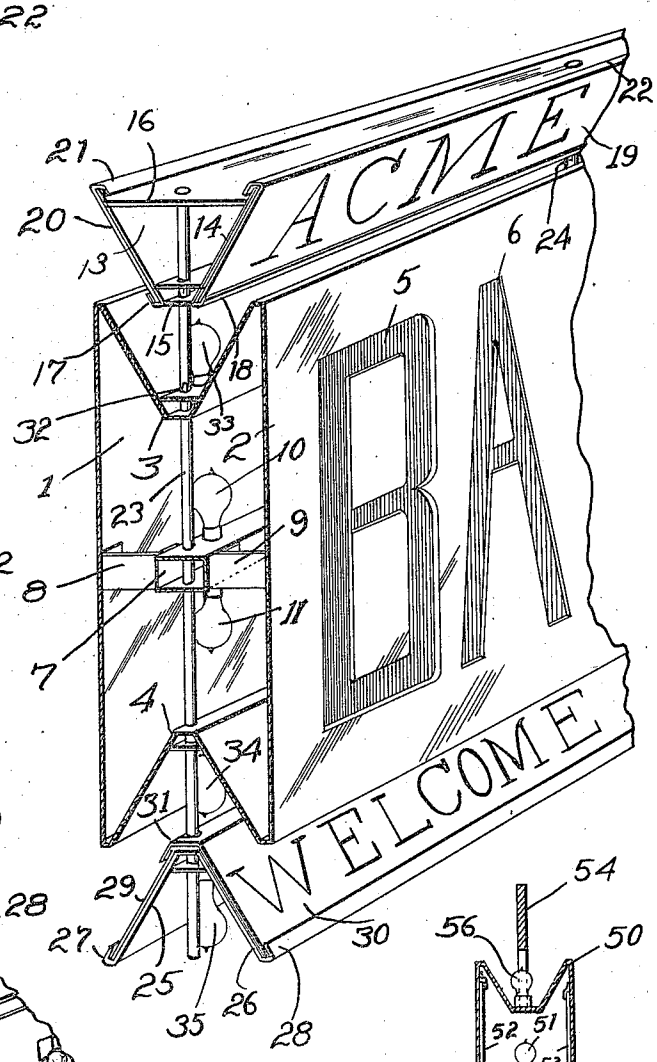


Fig. 1.



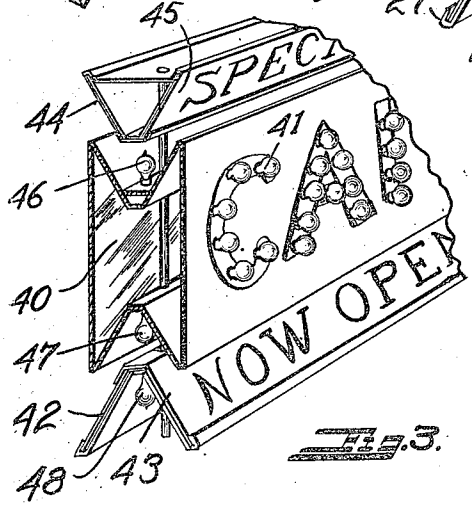


Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 5.

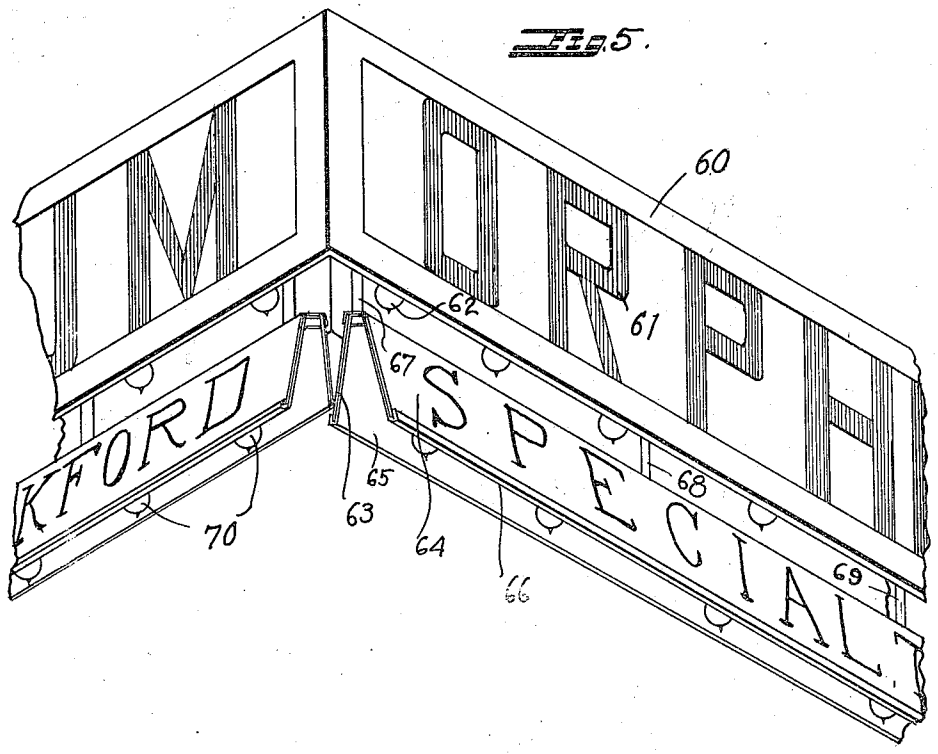
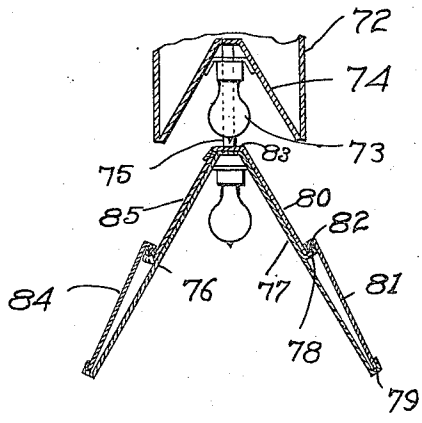


Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH HOTCHNER, OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

ILLUMINATED SIGN.

Application filed December 19, 1919. Serial No. 346,162.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH HOTCHNER, citizen of the United States, residing at San Francisco, in the county of San Francisco, State of California, have invented a new and useful Illuminated Sign, of which the following is a specification in such full and clear terms as will enable those skilled in the art to construct and use the same.

This invention relates to an illuminated sign and its object is to provide means whereby one or more panels of a sign may be illuminated from lamps carried by the sign which are concealed from view in order to reflect the light from the sign panel and which panel may be detached from their position on the sign body and others substituted therefor in order to provide varied reading matter.

A further object of the invention is to provide means whereby the sidewalk may be illuminated and whereby the sign body may have the detachable panels connected therewith above or below the main sign as may be required. It will be understood by those skilled in the art that the name of the establishment or the kind of an establishment, as, for example, bakery, is usually formed in the sign body with permanent letters which cannot be varied, but that most establishments have special sales or special events to advertise, and that it is frequently necessary to use advertising panels of different types in conjunction with the store name, and in the present instance these panels are applied either above or below the sign or both above and below the sign as may be desired.

Other objects of the invention will appear as the description proceeds.

An embodiment of the invention is shown in the accompanying drawing in which the same reference numeral is applied to the same portion throughout, but I am aware that there may be modifications thereof.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a portion of a sign showing the interior construction thereof, and showing the detachable sign panels used therewith,

Figure 2 is a transverse sectional view of the sign shown in Figure 1,

Figure 3 is a perspective view of a sign having exposed lamps with detachable panels above and below the main sign body,

Figure 4 is a transverse sectional view of a modified form of the invention in which a single rigid panel is used above and below the main sign body,

Figure 5 is a perspective view of a portion of an awning having this side walk and panel lighting system applied thereto, and

Figure 6 is a sectional view of a lower portion of a sign showing the use of two panels in connection therewith.

The sign body consists of two side members 1 and 2 which are connected by the two V shaped members 3 and 4 at top and bottom respectively, and said side members have letters 5 and 6 of any desired character formed in one side or both sides as may be desired.

Installed within the sign body is a support 7 connected to the sign sides by means of brackets 8 and 9 which support carries a suitable number of lamps of which the lamps 10 and 11 are illustrated, said lamps being for the purpose of illuminating the letters carried by the sign body from the inside.

At the top of the sign body there is a box shaped member having sides 13, 14 connected by the narrow bottom plate 15 and wider top plate 16. The sides 13, 14 have their lower edges bent up to form a ledge as indicated at 17 and 18 to receive the lower edge of the changeable sign panels 19 and 20, and the upper edges of said sign panels are bent over to form an elongated hook as illustrated at 21, 22, to hold the upper ends of said sign panels snugly against the sides 13, 14. The upper sign panel is held in place by a suitable number of pipes 23, 24, which pass through the main sign body and extend through a lower double sign support in inverted V shape, having sides as indicated at 25, 26, and the lower edges of said sides have the ledges 27, 28 to receive sign panels 29, 30.

The first sign panel 29 is flat and the sign panel 30 has its upper edge hooked over as shown at 31, to hold the flat panel and itself in place on the panel 26. The pipes 23, 24

terminate at the top 16 in order to drain any water that may collect thereon away and in order to drain any water that may pass into the V shaped member 3 the pipes have holes at 32.

In order to illuminate the upper panels lights are installed in the member 3 as indicated at 33 and in order to illuminate the lower panels lights are installed within the member 4 as indicated at 34, while to illuminate the sidewalk lights are installed between the members 25 and 26 in such number as may be necessary as indicated at 35.

It is to be noted that such signs as these are ordinarily hung up at a distance of 12 to 14 feet from the sidewalk and that when viewed from a distance of from 30 to 40 feet to one side thereof that the lights 33 to 35 inclusive are concealed from view, and that while the signs they illuminate are brought clearly into view, the lights are not seen directly until the observer comes close under the sign.

In the form of the invention shown in Figure 3 the sign body 40 is substantially the same as the sign body shown in the first form of the invention save that the lights 41 in such number as may be desired outline the characters on the sign body, while the panels 42 to 45 inclusive are illuminated by the lamps 46, 47, precisely as in the previous form of the invention, and under the cover of the support for the sign panels 42—43 the lamps 48 are installed to illuminate the sidewalk.

In the form of the invention shown in Figure 4 the sign body is indicated at 50, and it has lamps 51 installed within the same for the illumination of the latter plates 52—53, while above the sign there is a single sign panel 54, another single sign panel 55 being supported below the main sign body. These two sign panels are illuminated from the lamps 56, 57, the same as in the other forms of the invention, and it is to be observed that the inside of the sign as well as the outside of the sign in the top and bottom troughs is painted white in order to reflect the light from the lamps to the several sign panels.

The numeral 60 indicates an awning commonly used over the entrances to hotels and theaters, which awning carries any suitable reading matter as the letters 61; and concealed thereunder on the edges thereof are the lamps 62. Said lamps are positioned as to be concealed from persons at a distance of fifteen or twenty feet from the sign; while they illuminate the panels 63, 64 carried by the supports 65, 66. Said supports are substantially the same as those shown in the previous form of the invention.

These supports are carried by depending rods 67, 68, 69, connected to the awning 60. Such awnings as are herein disclosed, commonly have reading matter on more than one side, as indicated, and along each side the panels containing special reading matter may be used if that is desired.

In order to illuminate the side walk, the lamps 70 are installed between the panel members 65, 66.

In the form of the invention shown in Fig. 6, the sign body is indicated at 72, and the concealed troughing within which the panel illuminating lights 73 are concealed, as indicated at 74. Suitable rods 75 support the panel members 76, 77, below the sign body 72, and these members carry two ledges 78, 79.

Each ledge supports a panel as indicated at 80, 81, the upper edges of said panels being hooked over as indicated at 82, 83, to hold them in place; while on the support 76, the panel 84 is the same as the panel 81.

The panel 85 consists simply of a flat plate the upper edge of which extends under the flange 83 on the upper edge of the, therefor panel 80.

What I claim is as follows, but various modifications may be made in the construction shown in the drawings and above particularly described form, within the purview of my invention.

1. An illuminated sign comprising a sign body, illuminated characters carried thereby, a trough in the upper and lower portion of the sign body, supports above and below the sign, a sign panel carried by each support, means to detachably hold other sign panels in place against the support and at an angle to the face of the sign body, and lamps in each trough for illuminating the detachable sign panels.

2. An illuminated sign comprising a sign body, illuminated characters carried thereby, the sign body having an open trough on one edge, supports carried by the sign body adjacent the open trough, sign panels carried by the support, means on one of the panels to secure another panel detachably thereto, and lamps in the trough to illuminate the detachable sign panels.

3. An illuminated sign comprising a sign body carrying illuminated characters, a tubular support extending above and below the sign, sign panels carried by the support, and means to light said panels, the tubular support having openings therethrough for draining any water collected on the upper portions of the sign therethrough.

4. A sign body, a series of partially concealed lights at the lower edge of the sign body, a support, and a detachable sign carried by the support having a flanged ledge and adapted to be illuminated by the lamps.

5. A sign body carrying characters, par-

tially concealed lamps in the lower edge of the sign body, a support carrying a sign panel positioned below the lamps to be illuminated thereby, two detachable signs carried by the panel one sign having a flange extending over the other sign for holding the latter in place, and other lamps below the sign panel for illuminating the sidewalk.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 1st day of December, A. D. 1919.

JOSEPH HOTCHNER.