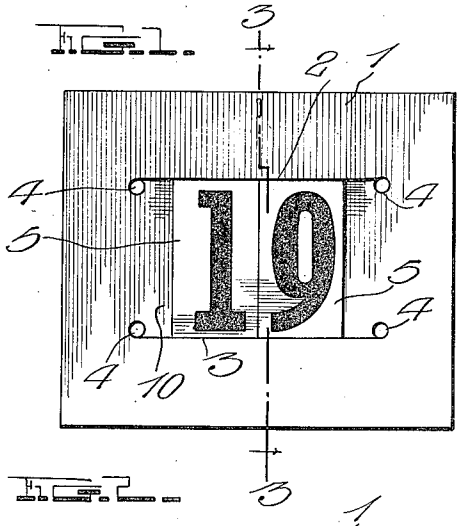
J. H. McLAUGHLIN.

CHANGEABLE SIGN.

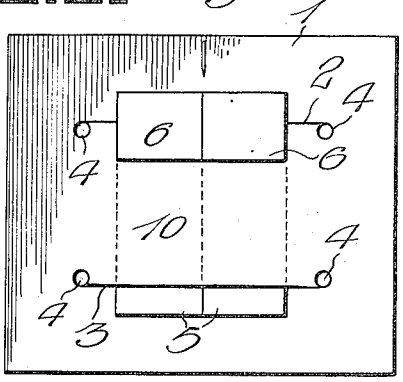
APPLICATION FILED FEB. 18, 1915.

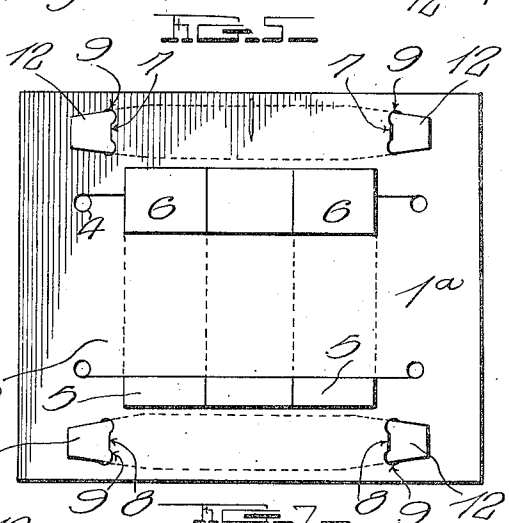
1,179,203.

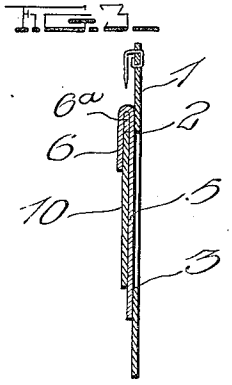
Patented Apr. 11, 1916.

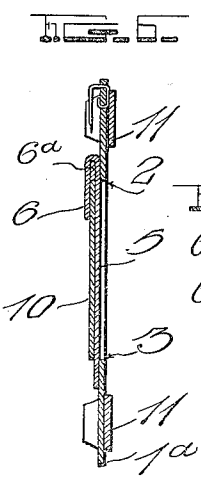




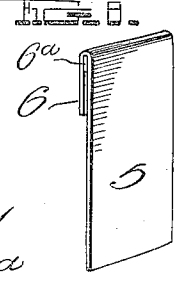


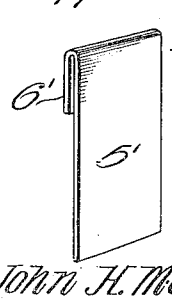












Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CHANGEABLE SIGN.

1,179,203. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Apr. 11, 1916.

Application filed February 18, 1915. Serial No. 9,074.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN H. McLAUGHLIN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Canajoharie, in the county of Montgomery and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Changeable Signs; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to improvements in changeable signs and more particularly to the means for mounting and supporting the individual interchangeable characters thereof.

The object of the invention is to provide a simply constructed, cheap, and efficient device of this class in which the individual characters may be quickly changed to enable any desired word, group of words, or figures to indicate price to be displayed.

Another object is to provide characters having simple and efficient means for detachably connecting them to the body of the sign and for reliably retaining them in adjusted position.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists of certain novel features of construction, and the combination and arrangement of parts as will be more fully described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings: Figure 1 represents a front elevation of a sign constructed in accordance with this invention; Fig. 2 represents a rear elevation thereof; Fig. 3 is a transverse section taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1; Fig. 4 is a front elevation, showing a slightly different form of the invention; Fig. 5 is a rear elevation thereof; Fig. 6 is a transverse section taken on the line 6—6 of Fig. 4; Fig. 7 is a longitudinal section taken on the line 7—7 of Fig. 4; Fig. 8 is a detailed perspective view of one of the figure-carrying plates, showing the arrangement of the hook when the plate is composed of cardboard or similar material; Fig. 9 is a similar view of the plate when constructed of sheet metal.

In the embodiment illustrated a suitable supporting plate 1 is shown composed of wood, metal, pasteboard, celluloid, or any other suitable material which is provided with a pair of parallel slits 2 and 3 spaced a suitable distance apart to receive between them the sign characters to be displayed and which may be of any desired size according to the wishes of the exhibitor. These slits 2 and 3 terminate at their opposite ends in round apertures 4 which prevent the tearing of the strip at the ends of the slits and provide laterally yieldable tongues on the inner sides of the slots to provide for the ready insertion of the sign characters to be described, the outer wall forming a rigid character retaining member to hold the inserted characters against lateral movement and wabbling, thereby preventing rattling.

The various sign characters which may be letters or figures or words are shown mounted on plates 5 which may be of any desired configuration, being here shown rectangular and of a length greater than the distance between the slits 2 and 3 which form the coöperating supporting means for said characters. These plates 5 may be composed of cardboard, sheet metal, or other suitable material and are preferably folded over at one end to form support engaging hooks 6 which are adapted to hook over the upper edge of the strip 10 which is formed between the slits 2 and 3 of the plate 1. The folded end of this plate 5 as shown in Fig. 8 has arranged between the rear face of said plate and the inner face of the folded end adjacent the line of folding by soldering, gluing or otherwise, a spacing element 6^a preferably composed of the material of which said plate 5 is constructed, which causes the free ends of the hooks 6 to lie in parallel relation to the outer face of said plate 5, and thus provide means for securely clamping the upper edge of the strip 10 between said hook 6 and the outer face of its plate 5, and also as means for causing the foldable or bent end of the plate 5 to extend beyond the outer wall of the slit in which it is inserted, as shown in Figs. 2 to 6, whereby the plate 5 is securely clamped between the walls of the slit. These plates 5 after the hook 6 has been folded, are still of a length greater than the width of the strip 10 and hence provide means for extending through the slit 3 at the lower edge of said strip to assist in retaining the plates 5 in operative engagement with the plate 1 and to reliably hold them against slipping when so applied. The character to be displayed is shown mounted on the front face of the plate 5, while the hook 6 is disposed on the rear face

thereof, and these characters may be printed, embossed, or applied in any suitable manner to said plates 5.

In assembling the sign characters to present the word or the number to be displayed, the individual plates 5 are connected with the plate 1 by inserting the end opposite the hook 6 which for convenience in description will be termed the toe of the plate through the slit 2 from the rear face of the plate and passing it down through slit 3 at the lower edge of said plate 1 and when so inserted, the hook 6 of the plate 5 will engage the upper edge of the strip 10 and firmly clamp it between the inner face of said hook and the rear face of the plate 5, and the character will thus be securely held in assembled position. The other characters are then similarly applied and after the desired word or price to be exhibited is formed on the plate 1, said plate will be ready to be placed on exhibition at any desired point.

In the form shown in Figs. 4, 5, 6 and 7, the plate 1^a in addition to having the longitudinally extending parallel slits 2 and 3 is provided in the spaces beyond said slits with pairs of transversely extending longitudinally spaced slots 7 and 8 which are provided at their opposite ends with rounded apertures 9 to prevent tearing of the plate at the ends of said slots. Adapted to be mounted in these slots are shingles 11 on which are printed or otherwise mounted suitable words to be exhibited in connection with the sign characters which are mounted on the plate 1 between the slits 2 and 3 thereof. These shingles 11 are provided at their opposite ends with longitudinally extending retaining tongues 12 which taper toward their free ends and are designed to fit in the slots 7 and 8 having a wedge like connection therewith, said shingles 11 being made wider than the lengths of the slots and consequently the tapering tongues 12 thereof when inserted in said slots will fit therein with a wedge-like engagement and thus securely hold said shingles against longitudinal movement in the slots after they have been once inserted.

In Fig. 9, the character carrying plate 5′ is shown constructed of sheet metal, and when so constructed, the hooked end 6′ thereof is bent, to lie in a plane parallel with the body of the plate, and no spacing element is found necessary.

I claim as my invention:

A changeable sign comprising a supporting plate provided with a pair of parallel laterally spaced slits, and character carrying plates of a length greater than the distance between said slits, and adapted for insertion in said slits, said character carrying plates each having one end bent inwardly to form a hook for engaging the inner wall of one of said slits, and a spacing element arranged at the bent portion of said sign carrying plate between the opposed faces of the body of said plate and said hook to provide for the extension of said bent end beyond the slit when the character carrying plate is applied, whereby it is held securely in operative position.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOHN H. McLAUGHLIN.

Witnesses:

PETER B. VAN WIE,

NEWTON J. HENNESY.