O. W. OLMSTED.

AUTOMOBILE INDICATOR.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 18, 1916.

1,294,527. Patented Feb. 18, 1919.

Fig. 1.

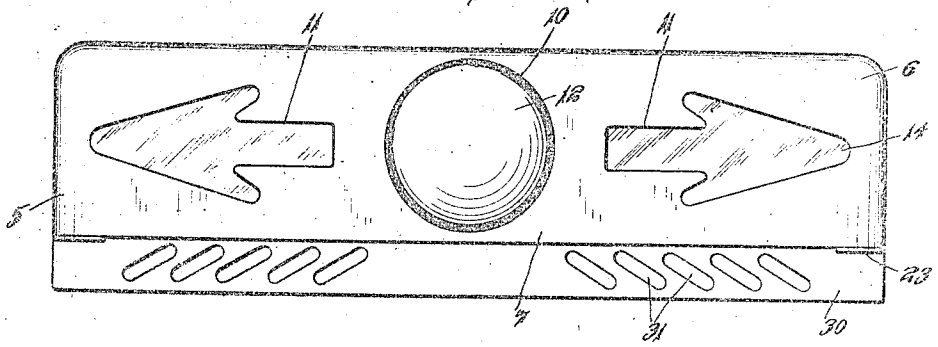


Fig. 2.

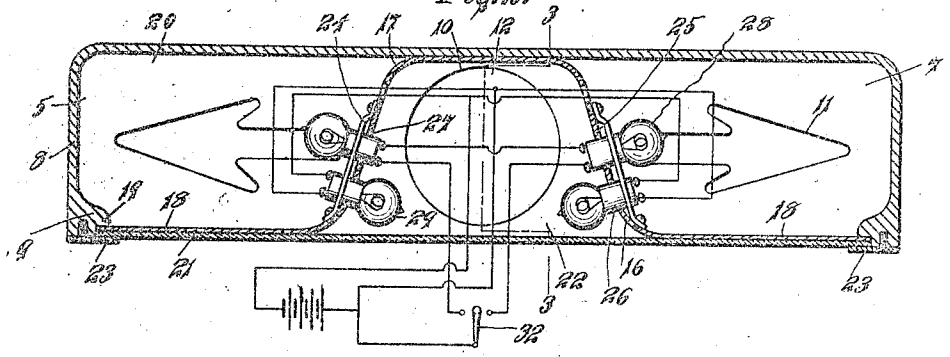
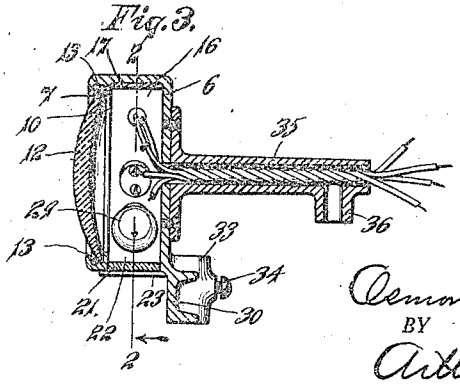


Fig. 3.



WITNESS:

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AUTOMOBILE-INDICATOR.

1,294,527. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Feb. 18, 1919.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, OSMOND W. OLMSTED, a citizen of the United States, residing at Windsor, in the county of Hartford and State of Connecticut, have invented a new and Improved Automobile-Indicator, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to the class of devices used upon vehicles for indicating various things, as movements of the vehicle, its number, and other designations, and an object of my invention, among others, is to provide an extremely simple and compact structure that will occupy comparatively little space, that is simple in its construction and that will meet the various requirements incident to the use of vehicles in different localities and under varying conditions.

One form of device embodying the invention, and in the construction and use of which the objects herein set out, as well as others, may be attained, is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a face view of an indicating device embodying the invention.

Fig. 2 is a view in lengthwise vertical section through the same on plane denoted by dotted line 2—2 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 3 is a view in cross section through the device on plane denoted by dotted line 3—3 of Fig. 2, a portion of the wiring shown in Fig. 2 being omitted.

In the accompanying drawings the numeral 5 indicates a casing constructed of any suitable material and in any desired form as to general appearance. This casing is closed on all sides except as to the bottom, which, preferably, is substantially entirely open, the front and back walls 6—7 extending to the lower edge of the casing, as do the end walls 8, the latter being thickened as at 9 at their lower edges for a purpose to be hereinafter described. The front wall 6 is provided with a central opening 10 and indicating openings 11, the latter being located upon opposite sides of the former. The central opening has a danger lens 12 covering the opening and held in place as by a split clamping ring 13. The indicating openings 11 are of a shape to indicate direction, in the form herein shown arrow heads having been employed, the purpose of which is to indicate the direction in which the vehicle may move, the points of the arrow heads, therefore, being toward the ends of the casing and away from the central opening 10. Indicating lenses 14 held in place as by means of clamping rings are employed to cover these openings.

A chamber forming plate 16 is shaped to provide, in connection with other parts of the casing, certain chambers within which illuminating members are located. In the form herein shown this plate, comprising a long narrow piece, is bent into U-shape at its central portion 17, the depth of this bend being substantially that of the casing 5 and at such distance from the ends as to provide flanges 18 at each end of the plate. The ends of these flanges rest upon shoulders formed by lips 19 on the thickened lower edges 9 of the casing, and the bow of the U-shaped bend rests in contact with or close to the top wall of the casing 5. This construction provides direction indicating chambers 20 at each end of the casing, and a bottom plate 21 extending across the bottom of the casing and resting upon the flanges 18 completes a danger indicating chamber 22 at the center of the casing, the other walls of said danger indicating chamber being formed by the U-shaped bend hereinbefore mentioned. Clips 23 secured to the thickened edges 9 of the casing in any suitable manner and overlapping the ends of the bottom plate 21 firmly secure the chamber forming and bottom plates in place, as clearly shown in Fig. 2 of the drawings, said plate being transparent.

Lamp supporting plates 24 are secured in any suitable manner to the branches 25 of the bent central portion 17 of the chamber forming plate. Lamp sockets 26 extend through these lamp supporting plates and through openings 27 in the branches 25. In the form of construction herein shown said lamp sockets open in opposite directions in each plate, so that a direction indicating lamp 28 is located in each of the direction

indicating chambers 20 and two danger indicating lamps 29 are located in the danger indicating chamber 22. The bottom plate 21, as to that part at least underlying the chamber 22, is of transparent material so that the light from the lamps 29 may shine upon a number plate secured to a number plate support 30 depending from the back wall of the casing. In the construction herein shown this number plate support is preferably an integral part of the casing, being an extension from the lower edge of the rear wall of the casing. A series of diagonally arranged slots 31 is formed, one at each side of the lengthwise center of the support 30, the slots in each series being preferably arranged in parallel relation. By this means number plates of varying sizes and with holes for securing the plates in place arranged in various positions may be firmly secured to the casing in such position that light from the lamps 29 will properly illuminate said plate. The diagonal arrangement of the slots is such that the number plates will always be securely held against vertical displacement, as when the bolts are passed through openings in the number plates and through such slots in the support 30 as will receive them, any tendency of the number plate to move downwardly will cause a separating force to be applied to the bolts and the latter will therefore rest upon the inclined lower edges of the slots. Another feature of this diagonal arrangement is that the bolts or like fastenings arranged in various positions upon different number plates may be caused to register with some portion of a part of slots, one located in each of said series, so that no matter what the position of the fastening may be in a number plate they may be passed through some of the slots.

The casing having integral top, front, back and end walls constitutes a trough shaped structure which, when in use, is inverted, the mouth of the trough being closed by the chamber forming and bottom plates.

Any suitable means may be employed for illuminating the openings 10 and 11, as herein shown electric lamps being employed with wires for supplying said lamps with electricity. Any suitable means may be employed for separately illuminating the indicating openings 11, a switch 32 being herein indicated for this purpose. It will be understood that this switch or similar device may be located in convenient position accessible to the driver of the vehicle. The other details regarding the lighting system will be readily understood from the drawings and a further description is, therefore, omitted herein.

The casing may be secured to the vehicle in any suitable manner, as herein shown socket pieces 33 being provided at opposite ends of the number plate support 30, said socket pieces to receive projecting parts from the vehicle to which projecting parts the casing may be secured as by means of set screws 34. Another means for securing the casing consists of a tubular projection 35 from the back of the casing through which the lighting wires may extend, said projection having a socket formed in a hub 36 from the bottom of the tubular projection to receive a projecting part from the vehicle and to which it may be secured in any suitable manner. Either or both of these attaching means may be employed.

While there is shown and described herein a construction that satisfactorily embodies the invention, this may be departed from to a greater or lesser degree and yet be within the spirit and intent of the invention, as defined by the appended claims.

I claim:

1. An indicator for vehicles comprising a casing having shoulders at its mouth opening to the edge thereof, a U-shaped chamber forming plate covering said mouth and extending inwardly across the case to form a plurality of chambers therein, said plate including flat portions extending transversely to the branches of said U-shaped plate and resting against said shoulders, a bottom plate extending across the mouth of the opening and overlying said shoulders and resting against the flat portions of the chamber forming plate, and means for clamping the edges of both of said plates against said shoulders to removably retain the plates in position.

2. An indicator for vehicles comprising a casing having top, back, front and end walls with indicating openings in the front wall thereof, a chamber forming plate comprising a U-shaped bent portion extending substantially across said casing from the top to the bottom and with openings in the branches of said U-shaped bend, lamp supporting plates secured to the branches of said U-shaped bend, lamps projecting in opposite directions from said plate into chambers on opposite sides of said branches, and means for closing the bottom of the casing.

3. An indicator for vehicles including a case having means for producing a light, a number plate support having a plural number of series of slots, the slots in one series extending diagonally in an opposite direction from those in the other series whereby the position of the plate may be maintained with respect to said light.

4. An indicator for vehicles comprising a casing having top, back, front and end walls formed with a continuous unbroken surface and with indicating openings in the front

wall thereof, said end walls having shoulders opening to the edge of the casing to provide unobstructed access thereto, a U-shaped chamber forming plate extending substantially across said casing from top to bottom and from end to end, the ends of the chamber forming plate including flat portions resting against said shoulders, a bottom plate extending across the mouth of the opening and overlying said shoulders and resting against the flat portions of the chamber forming plate, and means for clamping the edges of both of said plates against said shoulders.

OSMOND W. OLMSTED.