April 5, 1932. H. C. ROSS 1,852,091

IDENTIFICATION DEVICE

Filed Feb. 14, 1930

Fig. 1

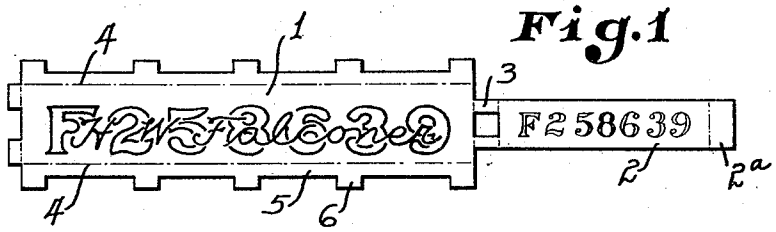


Fig. 2

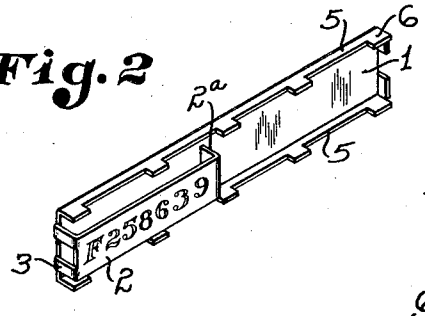


Fig. 3

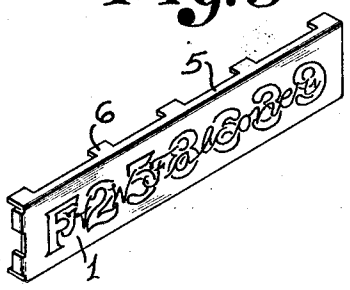


Fig. 4

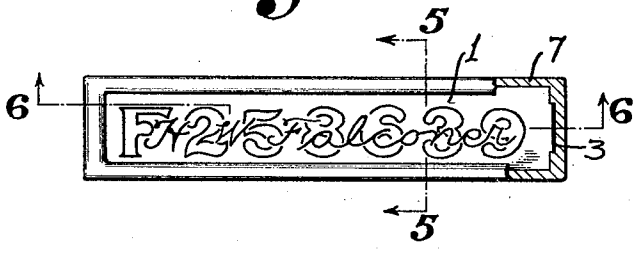


Fig. 5

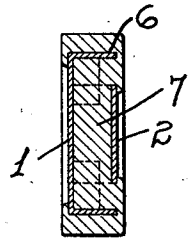
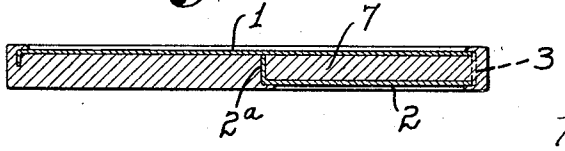


Fig. 6



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Patented Apr. 5, 1932 1,852,091

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

HUGH C. ROSS, OF TOLEDO, OHIO, ASSIGNOR TO HARRY W. FALCONER, OF TOLEDO, OHIO

IDENTIFICATION DEVICE

Application filed February 14, 1930. Serial No. 428,303.

This invention relates to identification devices such as for displaying the factory number of an automobile, and an object is to provide a simple and efficient device for attachment to a vehicle, or elsewhere, which readily displays a number, legend or identifying symbol, but has further and normally invisible means for identification so that should the visible portion be defaced, damaged or removed, the normally invisible and difficulty accessible identifying means remains, affording means for identification, thereby insuring access to some means for identifying the structure should the main visible portion be partially or entirely removed.

A further object is to provide a device of this character which can be commercially produced at a reasonable cost, and a simple and improved method for accomplishing this.

For purposes of illustration, and not of limitation, the invention is shown on the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of the plate members before being bent or folded into the proper position;

Fig. 2 is a rear view in perspective of the plates after being folded into position;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the front of the plate members after being bent into position for use;

Fig. 4 is a face view of the completed structure;

Fig. 5 is a transverse sectional view on the line 5—5 of Fig. 4; and

Fig. 6 is a longitudinal sectional view on the line 6—6 of Fig. 4.

The illustrated embodiment of the invention comprises plate members 1 and 2, which, as shown in Fig. 4, may be stamped in one operation from relatively light gage sheet metal.

Before these plates are formed suitable identifying indicia is formed thereon. The method of carrying this out forms no part of the present invention, and may be accomplished in a number of ways. In case the device is to be used on an automobile to display the factory number of the individual car, the number may be embossed, or otherwise formed on each plate. On the plate 1 the letters and numbers are larger than on the smaller plate 2, but the same legend, number or symbol for identification purposes appears on both plates. In addition, the name of the automobile may also appear on the main plate 1. As indicated, the name "H. W. Falconer" may appear over the factory symbol, this being illustrative of one method of displaying the name of the car in connection with the factory number.

As shown, the plate 1 is considerably larger than the plate 2, the latter being connected to the main plate by two relatively narrow strips 3. The dotted lines 4 in Fig. 1 indicate the line on which the plate is bent to provide side flaps 5. Integral with the flaps 5 are a number of tabs 6 which hold the device in the proper position within the die, as will hereinafter appear. In addition to folding the flaps 5 at substantially right angles to the plate 1, as indicated in Fig. 2, the strips 3 are folded at substantially right angles to the plate 1, and the plate 2 is bent or folded at substantially right angles to the strips 3 in parallel relationship to the main plate 1. When in this position it is apparent that the identifying indicia appears on the front and on the rear of the structure, so that from either side that the device is viewed the factory number, as in the case of an automobile, may be observed.

After the plates have been folded to the position indicated in Fig. 2 they are placed within a suitable die in such a manner that the face of the plate 1 engages one wall of the die, and the face of the plate 2 engages the opposite wall of the mold. A tab 2^a connected to the plate 2 may be bent to engage the main plate 1 for holding the plates in predetermined spaced relation within the mold. Thereafter, by a well known casting operation, a substance is forced into the mold completely to fill the space between the plates 1 and 2, and to provide a structure of substantially uniform thickness throughout its length, as indicated in Fig. 6. The substance 7 not only covers the space between the plates, but also the ends, and overlies both the side edges of the plates. The substance 7 thus

forms the body of the device, and is adhesively connected to each plate member, covering the connecting strips 3 in the manner shown. It will be understood that the tabs 6 serve to hold the main plate 1 in the desired position within the die. It will further be understood that although metal is desirable as the castable substance to be used in this operation, other materials, such as bakelite, may be used in substitution. Metal is preferable, however, in that it provides a tougher and more resistant barrier to unwarranted defacement, or damage to the device.

As completed, a unitary structure is provided consisting essentially of three layers, the main plate, the body of castable material, and the rear tab or supplementary plate. If the front or face plate is damaged, as by a thief, the rear plate 2 remains intact containing the number of the automobile. It is intended that the device be rigidly secured to some part of the automobile structure, rendering it impossible, as a practical matter, to remove without damaging the device to such an extent that tampering will readily be noticed. One means for attaching the device to an automobile is shown and described in United States Letters Patent to Hugh C. Ross, 1,612,152, granted December 28th, 1926.

Numerous changes in details of construction, arrangement and choice of materials may be effected without departing from the spirit of the invention, especially as defined in the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. An identification device comprising two substantially parallel plates provided with identifying indicia on the outer sides thereof and a casting of opaque material filling the space between the plates, the edges of said plates being embedded in the casting.

2. An identification device comprising two substantially parallel plates provided with identifying indicia on the outer sides thereof and a casting of opaque material filling the space between the plates, the edges of said plates being provided with integral anchoring tabs which are embedded in the casting.

3. An identification device comprising a single stamping in the form of two substantially parallel plates with a web integrally connecting them, identifying indicia on the outer side of each plate and a casting of opaque material filling the space between the plates, the edges of said plates being embedded in the casting.

4. An identification device comprising a single stamping in the form of two substantially parallel plates integrally connected to each other and provided with identifying indicia on the outer sides thereof, and a casting of opaque material filling the space between the plates, the edges of said plates being provided with integral anchoring tabs which are embedded in the casting.

5. An identification device comprising two substantially parallel plates bearing like indicia on the outer sides thereof facing in opposite directions, and a casting of opaque material filling the space between the plates, the edges of said plates being embedded in the casting.

6. An identification device comprising two substantially parallel plates provided with identifying indicia on the outer sides thereof, and a casting of opaque material filling the space between the plates, the edges of said plates being provided with integral anchoring tabs, said casting covering the tabs and the adjacent edges of the plates but not the faces thereof.

7. An identification device comprising a single stamping in the form of two substantially parallel plates with a web integrally connecting them, said plates on the outer sides thereof bearing like indicia facing in opposite directions, and a casting of opaque material filling the space between the plates, said casting covering the edges of the plates but not the faces thereof.

8. An identification device comprising a single stamping in the form of two substantially parallel plates with a web integrally connecting them, said plates on the outer sides thereof bearing like indicia facing in opposite directions, and a casting of opaque material filling the space between the plates, the edges of said plates being provided with integral anchoring tabs, said casting covering the tabs and adjacent edges of the plates but not the faces thereof.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto signed my name to this specification.

HUGH C. ROSS.