Feb. 11, 1941. G. D. SNYDER 2,231,601

ARTICLE OF MANUFACTURE

Filed Aug. 14, 1940

Fig. 3.

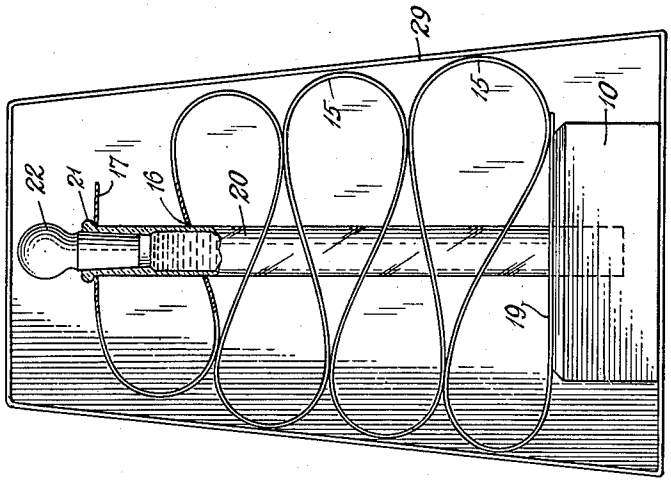



Fig. 2.

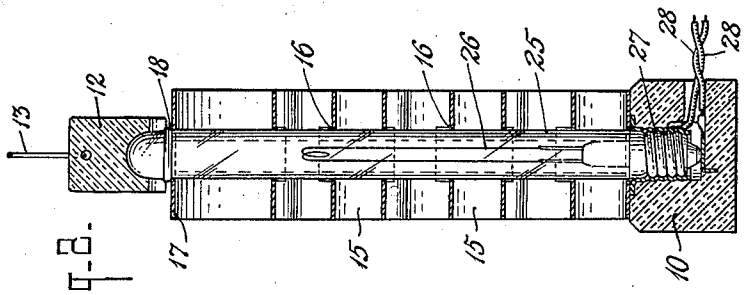
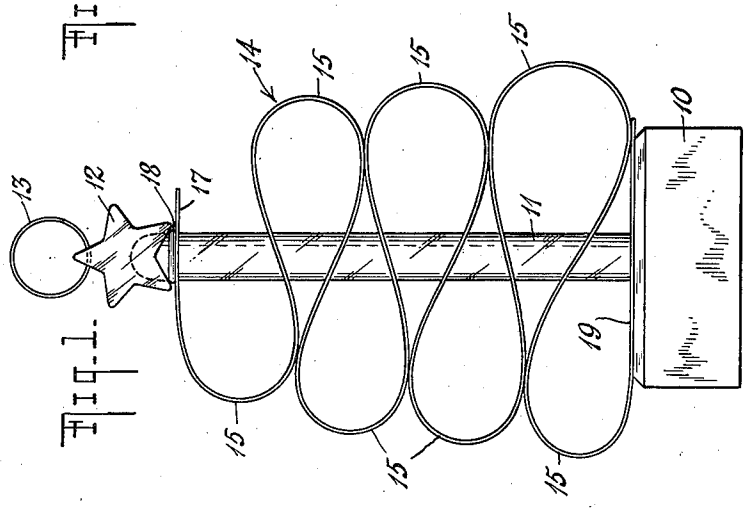



Fig. 1.




WITNESS

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## ARTICLE OF MANUFACTURE

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7 Claims. (Cl. 41—10)

This invention relates to an article of manufacture which has special advantages in many fields of use. For example, it may be utilized as a container, particularly a container for the packaging of perfumes, cosmetics, etc. It also may be used as a Christmas tree ornament and in this connection may be provided with means for diffusing rays of either colored or white light to obtain certain pleasing and effective decorative effects. There are various other applications to which the invention may be extended as will become more apparent to those skilled in the art after an understanding of the same.

In general, the article of this invention comprises a base portion which may be utilized as a support for the article when the latter is used as a container, or the like, or it may be used as a weight to maintain the article in proper position when the article is to be suspended as in the case of a Christmas tree ornament. Rising from the base is an elongated tube-like member which may serve as a container for fluids, powders, or the like, or may be utilized as a bulb for a lamp and in this latter connection it may either be filled with a suitable gaseous mixture or provided with an electric filament. The top of the tube is either provided with a closure such as a stopper or may have attached thereto an ornamental knob. Intermediate the knob and the base is provided a ribbon of flexible material which is arranged to provide a number of reverse or inverted folds or curves and through the folds of which extends the tube-like member. The ribbon is preferably made of a material which will give a pleasing and decorative effect and which will enhance the effects produced by reflected light or light emanating from the tube-like member as will hereinafter become more fully understood.

The object of the invention is to provide a simple and inexpensive article of manufacture having the general construction above described and which is capable of producing certain pleasing and ornamental effects in the particular use to which it is put. A further object of the invention is to provide such an ornamental structure which is capable of being used in connection with a miniature lamp to produce certain decorative lighting effects. Other objects and advantages of the invention, as well as the novel features of construction thereof will be hereinafter more fully described.

Particular embodiments of the invention are illustrated in the accompanying drawing in which Fig. 1 is an elevational view of a form of the invention which may be utilized as a Christmas tree ornament; Fig. 2 is a vertical section of the structure showing the centrally disposed member in the nature of an electric light bulb and Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 1, partly in section, illustrating the construction of the article when it is to be used as a container for perfumes, or the like.

Referring more particularly to the drawing, in which similar reference characters identify similar parts in the several views, the numeral 10 designates the base of the article which may be made of any suitable material such as cardboard, wood, metal, thermoplastic material, etc. The base 10 may be of hollow construction or may be made of solid material. Anchored in the base 10 and rising vertically therefrom is a centrally disposed member 11 which may be made of any suitable material. Preferably, however, the member 11 is made of glass, Celluloid or translucent or transparent thermoplastic materials having light characteristics and which may be colored to enhance the decorative effects of the article. The tube 11 is also preferably of a hollow cylindrical form although it is within the contemplation of this inventor to make it solid and/or rectangular in cross-section. Secured to the upper end of the member 11 is an ornamental knob or cap member 12 which, in the event the article is to be used as a Christmas tree ornament, is provided with a fastener, such as the ring 13, by which the article can be secured to the tree.

Intermediate the ornamental member 12 and the base 10 is positioned a ribbon which is generally designated 14 and which is arranged in a sepentine manner to provide the reverse or inverted folds or curves 15. The ribbon 14 is provided at variably spaced intervals with a series of apertures 16 arranged to be placed in alignment along a line intermediate the folds 15 of the ribbon and through which the vertical tube-like member 11 is threaded, the upper end portion 17 of the strip 14 resting against the ornament 12 or a bead 18 provided on the tube 11 and the lower end portion 19 of the strip 14 resting against the upper surface of the base 10. The strip 14 is preferably made of material having an inherent resiliency so that in its folded form it is in the nature of a spring, with the ends 17 and 19 thereof pressing against the bead 18 and the base 10, respectively. In this connection, the length of the strip 14 is such and the apertures 16 so arranged that the folds 15 on each side of the tube-like member 11 bear upon one another, the fold 15 immediately overlying the end portion 19 of the strip bearing directly against the latter. Thus the strip 14 although it may be made of a thin, very flexible material is given a sturdiness and rigidity which will maintain its form and its arrangement with respect to the other parts of the device without the aid of additional fastening means even under relatively rough usage. The flat surfaces of the strip 14 should have special light reflective properties

so as to attain the maximum illuminating effects desired and may be made of a particular color or combination of colors. Materials which are best suited for the purposes of the invention are Celluloid and other thermoplastic materials as these materials have highly polished reflective surfaces and can be obtained in a variety of rich colors. Particularly suitable are cellulose acetate fluorescent materials which are now being manufactured by the Du Pont de Nemours Company as an addition to the highly reflective flat surfaces of the strip, the side edges thereof glow with a rich warm color similar in nature to the color of the strip thus enhancing the gracefulness of the coiled strip 14 and making its appearance more striking.

When the article is to be used as a container for perfumes and the like, the member 11 may be made in the form of an elongated container 20, as is illustrated in Fig. 3 of the drawing. In this construction, the base of the container is inserted in a recess provided in the base 10 and the strip 14 is maintained in position by the base 10 and a bead 21 provided as the upper end of the container, the latter assuring the maintenance of the form of the strip while the contents of the container is being used. In this embodiment of the invention, also, a stopper or plug 22 such as is usual in perfume bottles takes the place of the ornamental knob 12 provided on the construction illustrated in Fig. 1 of the drawing. In either case, whether the article is formed to be used as a container or a Christmas tree ornament, it will be evident that light rays striking the several parts thereof will be diffused by the member 11 or container 20 and the strip 14 to produce a novel and pleasing effect throughout the entire article and giving it the appearance of a solid vari-colored body due to the arrangement and light reflective properties of the strip and member 11 and the colors of these parts. This color effect will be enhanced by the color of the contents of the bottle and the latter in turn will be effected by the colored light reflected thereon by the strip 14. In the case of Christmas tree ornaments these lighting effects will be further enhanced by utilizing as the member 11 a sealed bulb provided with an electrical lighting filament or with a gaseous material such as is commonly utilized in the so-called "Neon" lights. In Fig. 2 of the drawing is illustrated a construction suitable for use as an electrically lighted Christmas tree ornament.

In the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 2, the tube 11 is an elongated bulb 25 provided with a suitable filament 26. The lower end of the bulb engages a light socket 27 of usual construction provided in the base 10 which may be made of a thermoplastic material having insulating properties. A suitable passageway is provided in the base for the lead ends of the wires 28, 28 by which the article is connected to a source of electric current. A somewhat similar construction may also be employed in case a "Neon" bulb is used as is well-known in the art. It will be evident that when the bulb 25 is illuminated the rays of light emanating therefrom will be broken up and diffused throughout the article by the highly polished interior reflecting surfaces of the strip 14, the lighting effect being greatly enhanced by the repeated reflection thereof due to the curved reflecting surfaces of the strip, such surfaces functioning in the nature of mirrors to diffuse and intermingle the different colored rays of light in all directions within the confines of the loops and emitting a glow of colored light by the direct rays passing through the material of which the strip is constituted. If the material of which the strip 14 is constituted is a cellulose acetate fluorescent material, the decorative effect will be further enhanced by the outline in a distinguishing, rich, warm color of the loops of the strip 14.

Aside from the ornamental value of the above described embodiments of the invention, it will be evident that the strip 14 promises certain advantages in the packaging and sale of commodities such as perfumes and cosmetics as the coils thereof will function as buffers and cushioning members to prevent any damage occurring to the container during transportation or handling. The manner in which this is accomplished will be readily evident from Fig. 3 of the drawing where the container for the article is indicated generally by the reference character 29. In the case of a Christmas tree ornament, the parts may be sold in a disassembled condition in a relatively small neat package, the parts being readily assembled by the purchaser by threading the member 11 through the apertures of the strip 14 and inserting the base of such member into the recess of the base 10. The ornamental knob 12 can be made integral with the member 11 or connected thereto by seven threads or any other suitable means.

While I have described particular embodiments of my invention, it is to be understood that various modifications therein, particularly in the arrangement and configuration of the strip 14 thereof, may be made without departing from my invention.

I claim:

1. An article of manufacture comprising a base, an elongated member anchored in said base and extending outwardly therefrom, a stop member provided in the outer end of said elongated member and a strip of material positioned intermediate said base and stop member and having a plurality of apertures arranged in alignment and through which said elongated member extends, said strip being configured to form a plurality of coils on said elongated member and being constituted of a material having an inherent resiliency sufficient to enable portions to yieldably press against said base and said stop member.

2. An article of manufacture such as is defined in claim 1, in which said strip is configured to form a plurality of reverse folds along the length of said elongated member.

3. An article of manufacture such as is defined in claim 1, in which said strip is made of a thermoplastic material.

4. An article of manufacture such as is defined in claim 1, in which said strip is made of cellulose acetate fluorescent material.

5. An article of manufacture such as is defined in claim 1, in which said stop is an ornamental member provided on the outer end of said elongated member.

6. An article of manufacture such as is claimed in claim 1, in which said elongated member is a light emitting bulb.

7. An article of manufacture such as is defined in claim 1, in which said elongated member is a glass container and includes a stopper to close the outer open end of said container.

GILBERT D. SNYDER.