

1,315,077.

Patented Sept. 2, 1919.

Fig. 1.

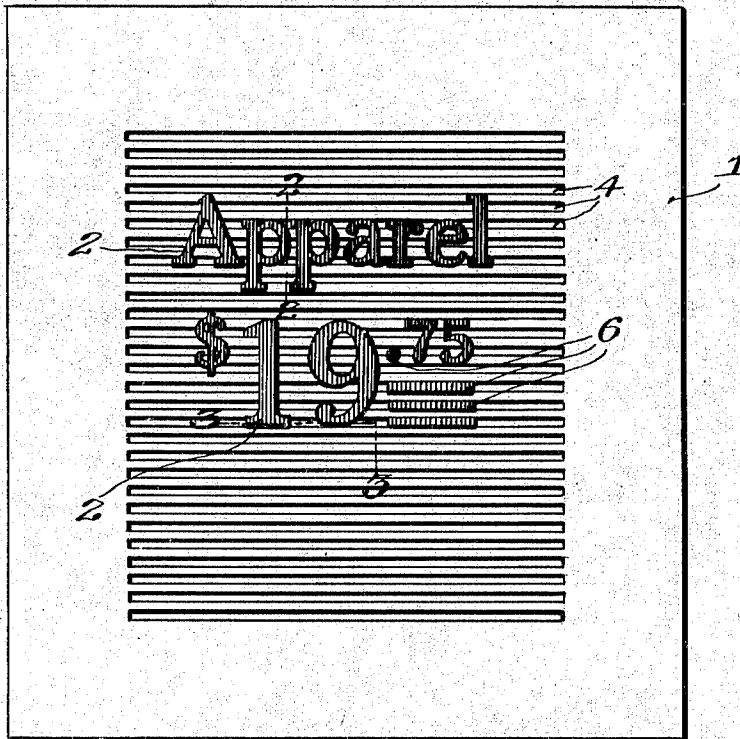


Fig. 2.

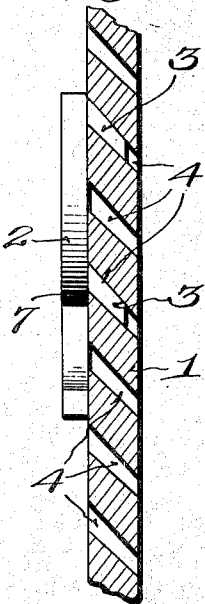


Fig. 3.

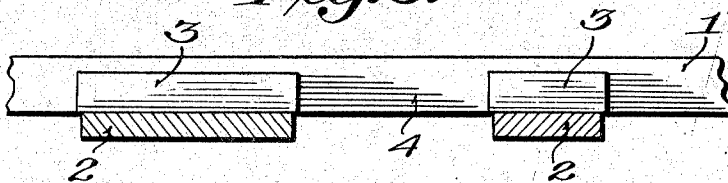


Fig. 4.

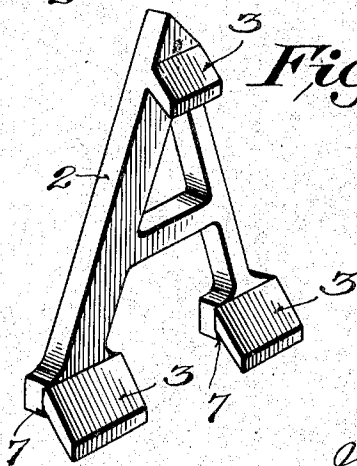


Fig. 5.



WITNESS:—

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CHANGEABLE SIGN.

1,315,077.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Sept. 2, 1919.

Application filed October 25, 1918. Serial No. 259,605.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK R. BARCLAY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Riverdale, in the county of Prince Georges and State of Maryland, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Changeable Signs, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to a changeable sign. The object of the present invention is to improve the construction of changeable sign-cards, signs, bulletin and display boards or other advertising devices equipped with interchangeable, detachable and adjustable characters, and to provide simple and efficient means for supporting and properly spacing the characters and for rendering the supporting means practically imperceptible a short distance from the display device.

A further object of the invention is to provide a changeable sign designed for advertising purposes adapted to be suspended or supported in show windows, or in any suitable manner supported upon counters, stands and the like, and serviceable for advertising purposes or as directory boards for office buildings, railway stations, churches or lodges, base ball score boards, or wherever changeable signs or display devices are necessary or desirable, and to enable the displayed matter to be easily and quickly altered.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists in the construction and novel combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and pointed out in the claims hereto appended, it being understood that various changes in the form, proportion, size and minor details of construction within the scope of the appended claims may be resorted to, without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

In the drawings:—

Figure 1 is an elevation of a changeable sign constructed in accordance with this invention.

Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view of a portion of the same on an enlarged scale.

Fig. 3 is a horizontal sectional view of the changeable sign on an enlarged scale.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged detail perspective view of one of the type characters illustrat-

ing the construction of the spacing and supporting lugs.

Fig. 5 is a detail view of one of the spacing lugs or elements.

In the accompanying drawing is illustrated one embodiment of the invention, and in this illustrated instance, the sign comprises in its construction a body or supporting member 1, and a plurality of characters 2 consisting of letters, numerals and various other analogous characters such as is employed for advertising and display purposes. These characters are preferably open characters, and preferably of a color contrasting with that of the supporting member or body, but the letters, numerals or other characters may be of any other preferred form and each character is equipped with one or more combined supporting and spacing lugs 3, extending downwardly and rearwardly and adapted to snugly fit in horizontal, narrow, transversely disposed, downwardly and rearwardly formed slots 4 in the body or supporting member.

The slots 4 are preferably closed at their ends and extend entirely through the body or supporting member which may be constructed of any suitable material, such as wood, metal, papier-mâché or the like. The supporting member 1 may be of any desired size and shape to adapt it for the various uses before explained and for analogous purposes.

The lugs 3 are slightly tapered or wedge-shaped, and the slots 4 are correspondingly tapered to assist in supporting the characters and also to prevent spacing lugs or elements 5 and similar elements 6 carrying punctuations from falling through the slots. The said spacing and supporting lugs project laterally from opposite sides of the letters or other characters and are of various lengths according to the type characters, so that each character will be properly spaced by the lugs 5 from the adjacent characters and, as in proper printing, present an accurate spaced arrangement of letters, numerals or other characters displayed.

The slots are designed in practice to be exceedingly narrow so as to be practically imperceptible a short distance from the display device and characters of any size may be employed and the characters of an advertisement, announcement, or other display may vary in size and one or more lugs may

be employed for supporting such characters. These narrow slots 4 are preferably arranged in equi-distant relation and are designed to be closely arranged so as to enable
 5 a large variety of characters to be employed, if desired, and be accurately placed on the supporting member, and while for convenience of illustration, the slots are shown horizontal, they may extend in any
 10 direction to afford the desired range in display advertising matter and announcements and the like, and the slots may be straight or otherwise, and the lugs will be correspondingly shaped. By reason of the in-
 15 clination of the slots and the inclined disposition of the supporting lugs above the lower edges of the characters, there is formed on each character one or more shoulders 7
 20 which effects a firm support of each character on the supporting member.

An important feature of the invention resides in the concealment of the character supporting lugs. For instance, whether one
 25 or more lugs project from a character, the downward and rearward inclination of the slots shield the lugs from view, the lugs being in the rear of the downwardly inclined lower wall of the corresponding slot or slots.
 The result is that the characters whether
 30 open or solid are clearly visible on the background. Where two lugs are employed the upper lug in order that it be not seen through an open character is arranged through the widest or thickest part of the
 35 character, say for instance, at the top or through the center of the character. The further result is the provision of a display very closely if not positively resembling a permanent sign. Portions of the slots not
 40 filled with character supporting lugs may be filled or closed by the employment of spacing lugs or elements 8, this being according to the desires of the user of the device.

The characters are easily and quickly
 45 placed in and removed from the slots and changes may be instantly made in matter displayed and various colors may be utilized for increasing the distinctiveness or attractiveness of the matter displayed for attract-
 50 ing attention.

What is claimed is:—

1. A changeable sign of the class described, including a body or supporting member provided within its marginal edges
 55 with relatively narrow slots extending entirely through the body or supporting member and arranged at intervals and set at an

inclination, whereby the rear mouths of the slots will be below the front mouths or entrances, and the said slots rendered practically imperceptible, and characters provided
 60 with projecting lugs set at an angle or inclination and connected at their upper ends directly to the characters and having their upper ends located within the contour of the
 65 said characters, said lugs fitting said slots and concealed therein.

2. A changeable sign of the class described including a body or supporting member provided with slots tapered inwardly and characters provided with inwardly or rearwardly tapered supporting
 70 lugs fitting in the said slots.

3. A changeable sign of the class described including a body or supporting member provided with slots tapered inwardly and characters provided with inwardly or rearwardly tapered supporting lugs fitting in the said
 75 slots, said slots and lugs being set at an angle or inclination.

4. A changeable sign of the class described including a body or supporting member provided with slots tapered inwardly and characters provided with inwardly or rearwardly tapered supporting lugs fitting in the said
 80 slots, said slots and lugs being set at an angle or inclination, and the said lugs being extended laterally beyond the characters for properly spacing the same from one another.

5. A changeable sign of the class described including a body or supporting member provided with slots tapered inwardly and extending downwardly and rearwardly, characters provided with tapered supporting and
 85 spacing lugs extending downwardly and rearwardly and fitting the slots and extending laterally from the marginal edges of the characters and separate spacing elements tapered to fit the slots.

6. A changeable sign of the class described including a body or supporting member provided with slots tapered inwardly and extending downwardly and rearwardly, characters provided with tapered supporting and
 90 spacing lugs extending downwardly and rearwardly and fitting the slots and extending laterally from the marginal edges of the characters and separate spacing elements tapered to fit the slots, said slots, lugs and
 95 spacing elements being sufficiently narrow to render them practically imperceptible a
 100 short distance from the sign.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.
 FRANK R. BARCLAY.