Dec. 11, 1956 G. MARKETT 2,773,974

FLASHLIGHT SCREW DRIVER

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Fig. 1

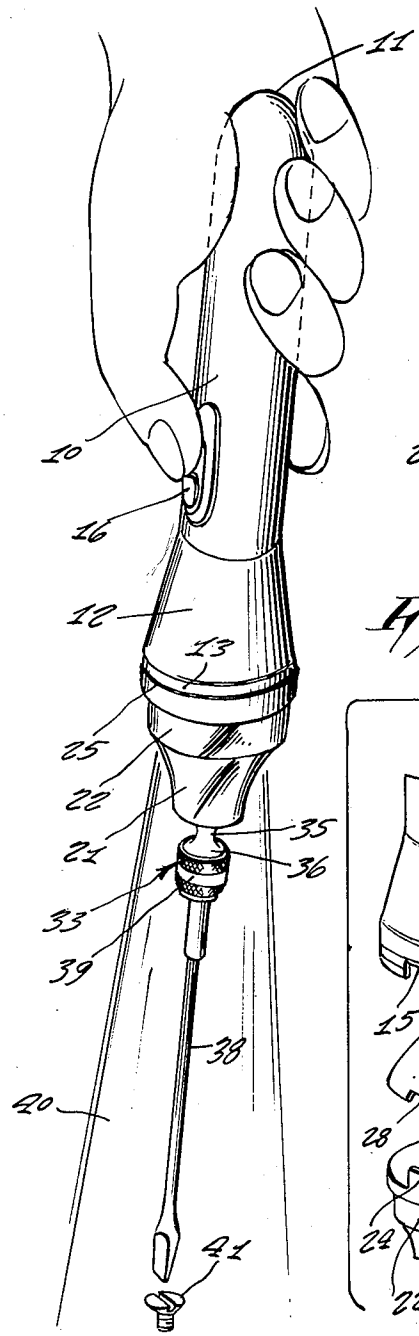


Fig. 2

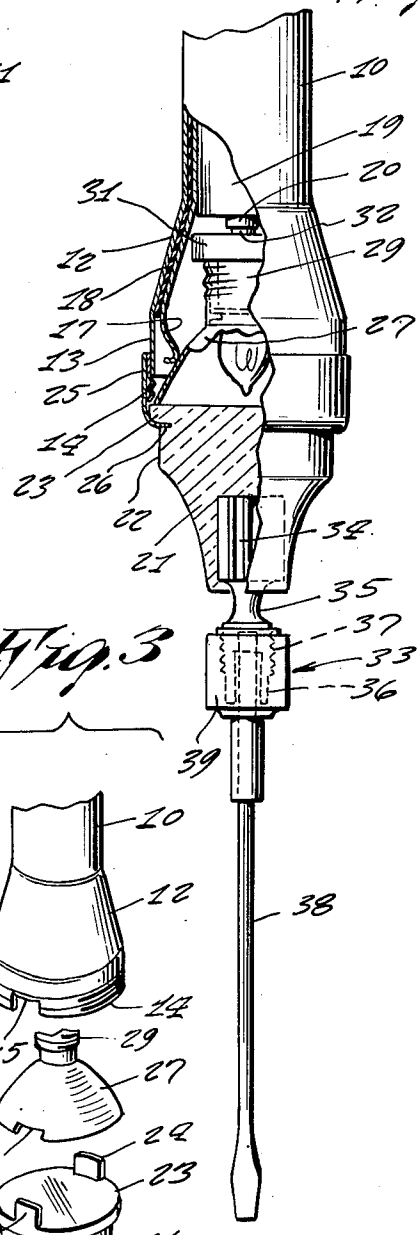


Fig. 3

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FLASHLIGHT SCREW DRIVER

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3 Claims. (Cl. 240—6.46)

This invention relates to screw drivers.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a screw driver having a flashlight mounted in the handle portion thereof and adapted to direct a beam of light downwardly onto the screw driver bit to facilitate the tightening and loosening of screws in dark places or poorly illuminated areas.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a combination screw driver and flashlight of the above type wherein the screw driver bit is removable and interchangeable with other bits of different types.

Other objects of the invention are to provide a flashlight screw driver bearing the above objects in mind which is of simple construction, has a minimum number of parts, is inexpensive to manufacture and efficient in operation.

For other objects and a better understanding of the invention, reference may be had to the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a preferred embodiment of the present invention shown in operative use;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged side elevational view thereof shown partly in section; and

Fig. 3 is an exploded perspective view of certain parts of the invention.

Referring now more in detail to the drawing, **10** represents a hollow flashlight handle having a rounded closure **11** at the upper end thereof and integrally formed at its lower open end with the usual frusto-conical enlarged portion **12** which is in turn integrally formed with the hollow cylindrical skirt **13** substantially as illustrated. As shown in Fig. 2, an externally threaded portion **14** depends from the skirt **13** and is provided with the oppositely disposed cutouts **15** for a purpose which will hereinafter become clear.

A flashlight switch **16** is mounted in the handle **10** and includes the depending contact **17** (Fig. 2) normally separated from the handle **10** by the insulation **18** but adapted to be electrically connected thereto when the switch **16** is closed, in a manner well known to those skilled in the art. Any suitable type of flashlight switch may, of course, be employed. The usual dry cells **19** are positioned within the hollow handle **10** being in electrical contact therewith and having the lowermost terminal **20**, as will be obvious.

In the practice of my invention, a transparent plastic head member is provided and includes the frusto-conical lower portion **21**, the cylindrical intermediate portion **22** and the enlarged circular upper portion **23** forming a shoulder with cylindrical portion **22**. The upper surface of the enlarged circular portion **23** is integrally formed with the upstanding lugs **24** adapted to be received within the slots **15** of the skirt or externally threaded portion **14** whereby to prevent angular displacement therebetween.

An internally threaded collar **25** adapted to be screwed onto the externally threaded portion **14** is formed at its

lower edge with the inwardly extending peripheral flange **26** which engages the shoulder intermediate the portions **22** and **23** whereby to secure the transparent head member to the flashlight section upon screwing the collar **25** thereon.

A hollow, frusto-conical reflector **27** is adapted to be positioned against the circular portion **23** and is provided with the oppositely disposed slots **28** receiving upwardly therethrough the lugs **24**, the reflector **27** mounting the internally threaded bulb socket **29** within which the lamp is screwed within the reflector. A plastic socket **31** screws downwardly onto the externally threaded portion **29** and receives therewithin the lamp in electrical contact with the contact **32** which in turn contacts the terminal **20**, the socket **31** having an internal spring of conductive material which abuts the terminal of the lamp, while the lamp fixedly carries a flange which abuts the central opening of the reflector **27** whereby to limit the downward displacement therethrough. Thus, upon unscrewing the insulator socket **31** from the externally threaded portion **29** of the reflector **27**, the lamp may be removed and replaced upwardly through the reflector.

A chuck indicated generally at **33** is fixedly mounted within the frusto-conical portion **21** and includes the body portion **34** embedded in the plastic head member, the neck **35** and the hollow cylindrical portion **36** which is split on opposite sides and is integrally formed with the externally threaded portion **37**. A screw driver bit **38** has the shank portion thereof extending upwardly within the hollow cylindrical portion **36** which is integrally formed with the laterally extending enlargements which are positioned within the slots of the hollow cylindrical portion **36**. The shank is retained in fixed engagement therewithin by means of the externally knurled internally threaded collar **39**. By means of this construction, the removal of collar **39** permits the replacement of the screw driver bit **38** with other bits of varying dimensions and character.

In operation, the switch **16** is closed while grasping the handle **10** in one hand to direct the beam of light **40** downwardly onto the screw **41** which will be tightened or loosened by the screw driver bit **38**. Upon closing the switch **16**, the screw **41** will be illuminated. While using the unit during the day, the switch may be opened while employing the screw driver bit **38**.

While various changes may be made in the detail construction, it shall be understood that such changes shall be within the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined by the appended claims.

Having thus set forth and disclosed the nature of my invention, what is claimed is:

1. A combination flashlight and screw driver comprising a hollow handle, dry cells positioned within said handle, said handle being closed at one end, the open end of said handle being formed with a hollow enlarged portion terminating in an externally threaded portion, switch means within said handle, reflector means positioned within said enlarged portion, and a transparent head member adapted to abut said reflector means, an internally threaded collar secured to said head member adapted to be removably screwed onto said externally threaded portion of said handle, chuck means carried by said head member, and a screw driver bit removably mounted within said chuck means, said reflector means comprising a reflector having a central upwardly extending externally threaded hollow portion, an internally threaded insulator member screwed onto said externally threaded portion, a lamp positioned within said internally threaded member, said reflector having oppositely disposed slots, and lugs carried by said transparent head member extending upwardly through said slots, said externally threaded portions of said handle having oppo-

sitely disposed slots receiving said lugs upwardly therewithin, and said head portion comprising a frusto-conical portion having a concave exterior surface, an intermediate cylindrical portion and an enlarged upper portion having a shoulder engaging said collar, said frusto-conical portion directing the light downwardly onto the screw.

2. A combination flashlight and screw driver according to claim 1, said chuck means comprising a body portion embedded within said frusto-conical portion, a depending neck and a hollow cylindrical portion below said neck, said hollow cylindrical portion being split on opposite sides and having an externally threaded upper portion, and an externally knurled, internally threaded sleeve screwed onto said externally threaded portion.

3. A combination flashlight and screw driver according to claim 2, said screw driver bit having a cylindrical shank extending upwardly within said hollow cylindrical portion and interchangeably secured within said sleeve when tightened.

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