

J. O. KENDALL & T. O. ROBINSON.
 AUTOMOBILE LAMP.
 APPLICATION FILED MAR. 16, 1912

1,055,542.

Patented Mar. 11, 1913.

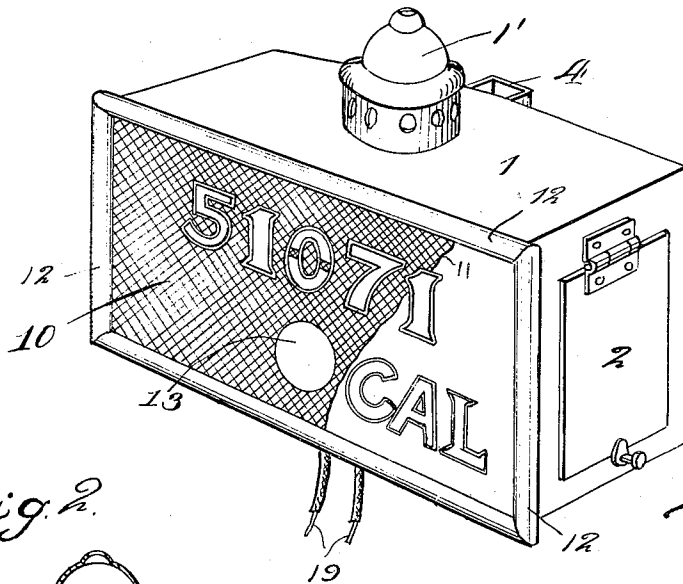


Fig. 2.

Fig. 1.

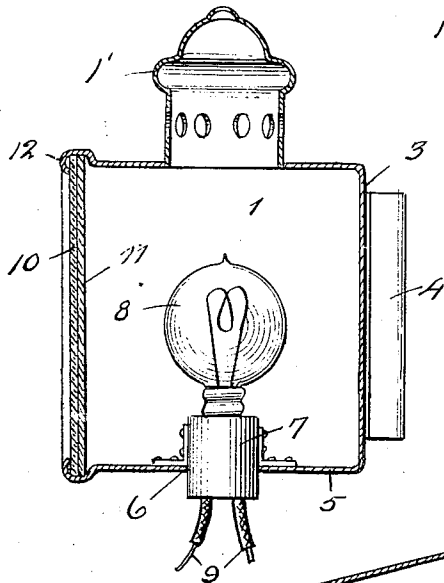


Fig. 3.

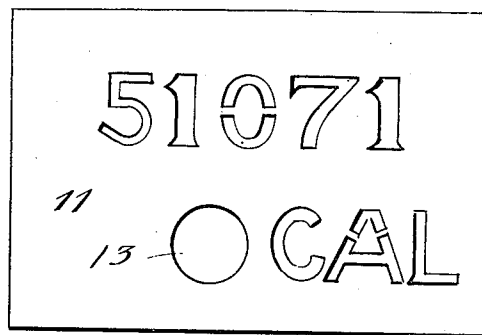
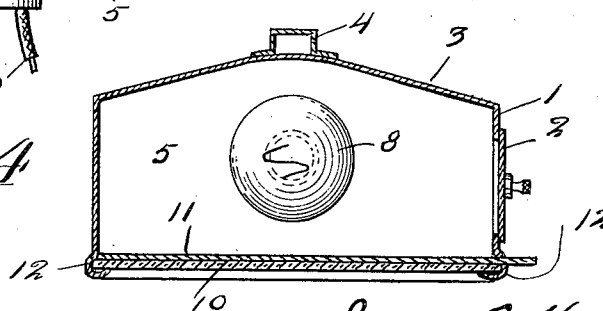


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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AUTOMOBILE-LAMP.

1,055,542.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Mar. 11, 1913.

Application filed March 16, 1912. Serial No. 684,206.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, JAMES OLANDIS KENDALL and THOMAS ORLEAN ROBINSON, citizens of the United States, residing at Hanford, in the county of Kings and State of California, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Automobile-Lamps, of which the following is a specification.

Our invention relates to improvements in automobile lamps.

The object of our invention is to provide a lamp of this character for exhibiting the number of the machine, whereby it may be readily read by night or day and at the same time providing a lamp in which the number can be readily changed.

Another object of our invention is to provide a simple cheap and effective lamp having certain details of structure hereinafter more fully set forth.

Our invention will be described in detail hereinafter and illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a lamp embodying our invention, a portion of the opaque stencil plate being broken away. Fig. 2 is a vertical transverse sectional view of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a plan view of the opaque plate which is placed back of the glass plate, and Fig. 4 is a longitudinal horizontal sectional view of a modified form of lamp in which the opaque plate may be removed for placing a different plate therein for changing the number on the lamp.

Referring now to the drawings 1 represents the body of our improved lamp which is preferably made of sheet metal and of the form shown with the central ventilator 1' although this can be varied without departing from our invention. One end of the lamp is provided with a hinged door 2 by means of which access may be had to the lamp, and the rear wall 3 on the outside is provided with a socket 4 for receiving a bracket by means of which the lamp is attached to the automobile. The bottom 5 of the lamp has an opening 6 therein in which is secured a socket 7 for an electric bulb 8 and the wires 9 secured to the socket on the outside of the lamp. While we have shown an electric lamp, it is understood that an oil receptacle could be placed in the lamp without departing from our invention.

The body of the lamp is preferably of an elongated horizontal form having its front

open and covered by a plate of glass 10 and arranged back of the glass is the opaque plate 11. The glass and the opaque plate 11 lie flat against each other and as shown in Fig. 2 of the drawings are clamped in the body of the lamp by the rolled edges 12. The opaque plate has cut out thereof the desired numbers and also name of the State, to designate the license number of the machine and State. As shown in the drawings the number is 51,071 and the State is California. The cutting away of the opaque plate to represent the numbers provides means whereby the number of the automobile is plainly visible by night as the light shines through the cutaway portion leaving the remainder of the glass black. In order that the same can be used as a license number by day, the glass plate 10 has painted thereon on the outside around the cut out numbers, the outlines of said numbers. These outlines are preferably white as the opaque plate is black and the white will stand out more prominently, thus making the number very plain by day.

In order that the numbering and State may be readily changed so that the one lamp will serve to travel from one State to another the opaque plate 11 is removably held in the lamp in rear of the glass 10 and has one end extending beyond the end of the body of the lamp so that it may be readily slid out while the glass plate is permanently held. In this way as you pass from State to State the different slides are placed in the lamp and the outlines of the numbers changed on the glass plate. These outlines may be readily erased from the glass plate by turpentine where the ordinary paint is used but it would be preferable to use some other preparation which could be more readily erased.

While we have shown our device used as an automobile lamp it will be readily understood that the same could be used as an advertising sign and yet employ the same principle.

In order that the lamp may be used as a tail light for an automobile the opaque plate is provided with a round opening 13 over which is pasted a translucent material of red whereby a red light will show.

Having thus described our invention what we claim is—

In a lamp of the character described, a

body provided with a window, an opaque plate covering said window and provided with cut out character openings, and a glass panel positioned externally of said plate and
5 provided with outline configurations in registry with the characters on the plate and in a color contrasting to the color of the plate.

In testimony whereof we hereto affix our signatures in the presence of two witnesses.

JAMES OLANDIS KENDALL.
THOMAS ORLEAN ROBINSON.

Witnesses:

W. F. KELLEY,
JAMES J. HIGHT.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents,
Washington, D. C."