April 23, 1940. F. R. HARTY 2,198,082

PEDESTRIAN'S WALKING STICK

Filed Nov. 6, 1937

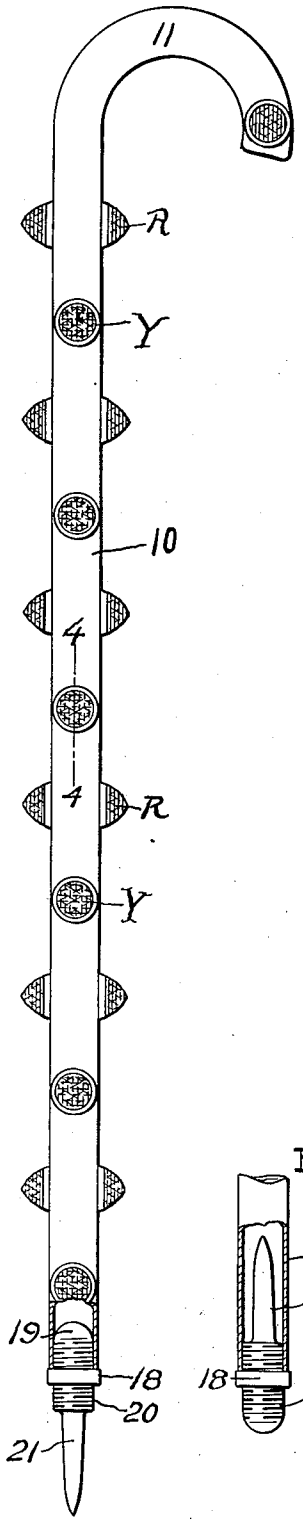


Fig. 1.

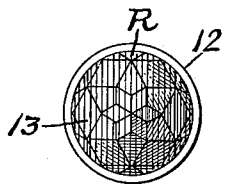


Fig. 3.

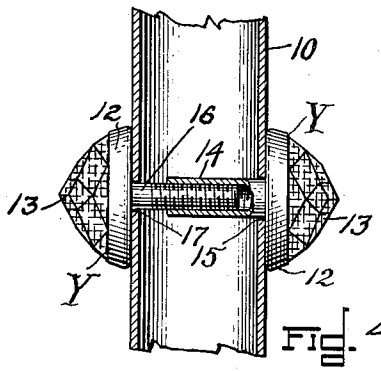


Fig. 4.

Fig. 2.

Inventor=

Florence R. Harty

By Arthur F. Randall Atty

Patented Apr. 23, 1940 2,198,082

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,198,082

PEDESTRIAN'S WALKING STICK

Florence R. Harty, Brookline, Mass.

Application November 6, 1937, Serial No. 173,224

2 Claims. (Cl. 88—78)

My invention relates to a protective signal walking stick and the like and it has for its object to provide an efficient portable device of this class which is especially adapted to be employed as an automobile accessory but which will also be useful to pedestrians crossing or traveling on roadways during the night time.

To these ends I have provided a device of the character indicated constructed and operated as set forth in the following description, the several novel features of the invention being separately pointed out and defined in the claims at the close thereof.

In the accompanying drawing—

Figure 1 is an elevation of a walking stick or cane constructed in accordance with my invention.

Figure 2 is an explanatory detail showing the lower portion of the stick or cane illustrated in Fig. 1.

Figure 3 is a face view of one of the prismatic reflectors hereinafter referred to.

Figure 4 is a section on line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

The illustrated embodiment of my invention is a stick or cane comprising a straight shaft 10 formed at its upper end with a laterally extending curved handle 11. This stick or cane so shaped may be conveniently formed from a single piece of metal tubing and a distinguishing feature of the invention is that the shaft 10 is studded with a plurality or multiplicity of prismatic reflectors R and Y. As shown in Fig. 3 each reflector comprises a metal base in the form of a cup 12 within which a glass prism 13 is securely fastened in the usual manner as by bending inwardly the rim of the cup base 12.

The prisms 13 may be of any suitable color, but for protective purposes the prisms R are made of red glass so as to reflect red light rays. I may, and preferably do, employ reflectors Y having yellow prisms which are alternated throughout the length of the shaft 10 with the reflectors R.

As herein illustrated the reflectors are arranged in pairs with the two reflectors of each pair disposed upon opposite sides of the shaft 10 and as shown in Fig. 4 of the drawings one of the reflectors is made with an interiorly threaded tubular stem 14 occupying a hole 15 formed in the wall of the shaft 10 and occupied by an exteriorly threaded stem 16 provided upon the opposite reflector of the pair, said last mentioned stem 16 occupying a hole 17 formed in the wall of shaft 10 opposite the hole 15. In assembling the parts the two reflectors of each pair are screwed up tight so that they are clamped securely against the opposite sides of the shaft 10.

At its lower end the shaft 10 is provided with a terminal member 18 having an exteriorly threaded end portion 19 adapted to be screwed into the interiorly threaded lower end portion of the shaft 10. The intermediate portion of the terminal member 18 forms a finger-grip and outside of this finger-grip is a threaded portion 20 which is also adapted to be screwed into the lower interiorly threaded extremity of the shaft 10 as shown in Fig. 2. The threaded portion 20 is provided with an extension 21 in the form of a spike that is adapted to be driven into the ground so that the cane will of itself stand in an upright position.

When the cane is being used by a pedestrian traveling across or along a roadway at night the terminal member 18 will be mounted within the end of the shaft 10 as shown in Fig. 2 so that its spike 21 is sheathed within said shaft while its end portion 19 provides a rounded tip for engagement with the ground.

In operating an automobile during the night time it often happens that it is necessary for the occupant of the car to stop the same alongside of the road and change a tire or perform some other operation requiring him to occupy the roadway within or closely adjacent to the line of traffic. Under such circumstances the operator of a car equipped with my new walking stick or cane sets the terminal member 18 in the position shown in Fig. 1 and stands the staff or cane in such position close to where he is working that other approaching motorists will observe the reflected colored light projected from the reflectors R and Y and drive past the stopped vehicle with caution. Oftentimes it happens that the driver must work opposite the rear end of his car and in such position as to hide the tail light of the latter so that heretofore in the absence of a device such as that above described a motorist approaching from the rear would not be informed of the presence of the car in his path and this fact has resulted in many accidents and fatalities which are obviated by the use of my new device.

As shown in Fig. 1 of the drawing the reflectors R are mounted in the shaft 10 with the axes of their stems 14 and 16 at right angles to the axes of the stems of the reflectors Y so that the reflectors of the cane are distributed at four sides of its shaft 10 so that approaching

motorists cannot fail to observe the light reflected from their headlights.

What I claim is:

1. A pedestrian's portable walking stick of the character described comprising a hollow tubular metal shaft formed with apertures and a plurality of colored light-reflecting prism units mounted on said shaft and relatively arranged in spaced apart relationship lengthwise of said shaft upon opposite sides of the latter, each unit upon one side of said shaft having an extension projecting through an aperture of said shaft and engaging with one of the units on the opposite side thereof whereby to fasten said two units to said shaft.

2. A pedestrian's portable walking stick of the character described comprising a tubular metallic shaft formed at one end with a laterally extending handle; a terminal member removably mounted within the opposite end of said tubular shaft and formed with a spike adapted to be driven into the ground so as to support the shaft in an upstanding position; a plurality of colored light-reflecting prism units mounted upon the outside of said shaft and relatively arranged in spaced apart relationship lengthwise of said shaft upon opposite sides of the latter, and means connecting each unit upon one side of said shaft with one of the units on the opposite side thereof thereby to fasten said units to said shaft, said means extending through apertures formed in the latter.

FLORENCE R. HARTY.