Aug. 23, 1932. J. W. HARRIS 1,873,584

ILLUMINATED SIGN CONSTRUCTION

Filed March 28, 1931

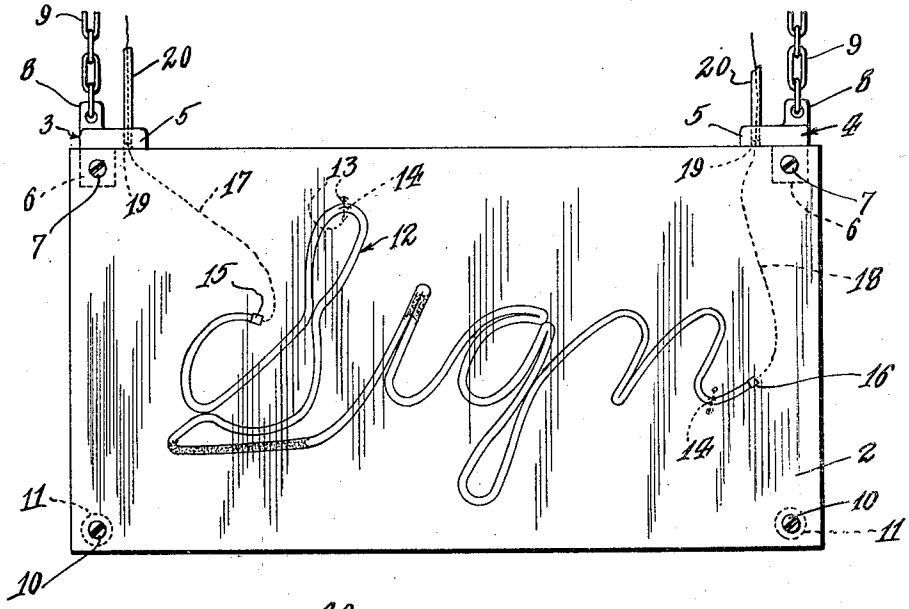


Fig. 1.

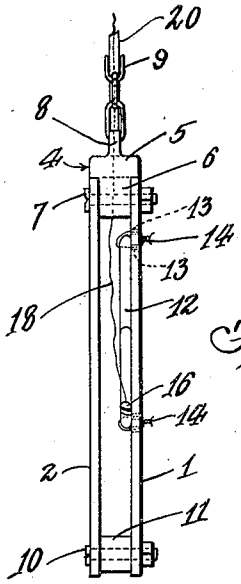


Fig. 2.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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ILLUMINATED SIGN CONSTRUCTION

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My invention relates to sign constructions and has particular reference to a transparent sign in which the sign indicia appears as a luminous outline in a transparent background. I have discovered that in the practice of constructing signs employing tubular lamps bent into the configuration of the desired sign indicia, a pleasing and effective sign may be formed by suspending the tubular lamp or lamps upon a transparent background.

It is, therefore, an object of my invention to provide a sign construction in which a tubular lamp outlining the sign indicia is secured to and supported upon a transparent background device.

Another object of my invention is to provide a sign construction as defined in the preceding paragraph in which a pair of glass plates are arranged upon opposite sides of a tubular lamp and in which the lamp is supported upon one of the plates in spaced relation to the edges of the plate.

Another object of the invention is to provide mounting means for a sign construction embodying a pair of transparent plates between which is secured a tubular lamp and in which the supporting device constitutes a spacer for the plates and a terminal support through which electrical conductors may be connected to the tubular lamp.

Other objects of my invention will be apparent from a study of the following specifications, read in connection with the accompanying drawing wherein

Figure 1 is a front elevational view of a sign constructed in accordance with my invention; and

Figure 2 is an end view of the sign construction illustrated in Fig. 1.

Referring to the drawing, I have illustrated a sign construction comprising a pair of plates 1 and 2, these plates being formed of transparent or translucent material, such as clear glass, or glass which has been tinted or otherwise colored.

The plates 1 and 2 are illustrated as being the same size and shape, the shape illustrated being that of a rectangle. The two plates 1 and 2 are illustrated as being joined together at their two upper corners as by means of supporting blocks 3 and 4. The supporting blocks 3 and 4 may be constructed of any suitable material, and each comprises a bar 5 of substantially rectangular cross section having a downwardly depending lug 6 of such thickness as is desired for the spacing between the plates 1 and 2.

The lug 6 is illustrated as being somewhat thinner than the bar 5 so as to permit the plates 1 and 2 to be flush with the outer edges of the bar 5 when engaged firmly against the lug 6. A suitable bolt 7 passing through both plates 1 and 2 and the lug 6 holds the several members in assembled position. An upstanding lug 8 formed upon the bar 5 may be employed to engage a suitable supporting chain 9 by which the entire sign construction may be suspended.

The lower corners of the plates 1 and 2 are illustrated as being secured together as by means of bolts 10 passing through the two plates and having a spacer sleeve 11 thereon to insure the substantially same spacing of the lower edges of the plates as that provided by the lug 6 for the upper edges of the plates.

A tubular lamp 12 is illustrated as being bent into the form outlining the desired sign indicia. In the illustration in Fig. 1, this indicia is represented by the word "Sign". The rear plate 1 may be drilled, as is indicated at 13, to permit the passage therethrough of a tie-wire 14 surrounding the tubular lamp 12 to secure the lamp to the rear plate of the sign. As many of the tie-wires 14 as is necessary to support one or more lamps on which the indicia may be formed, may be employed.

The supply of electrical current to the tubular lamp may be suitably connected to the lamps, as by connecting the terminals 15 and 16 of the lamp to a suitable electric power supply by means of conductors 17 and 18. The conductors 17 may be of relatively fine wire so as to be substantially invisible when the sign is viewed and is preferably extended through an opening 19 in the supporting bar 5 from which an enclosing insulating tube 20 may extend upwardly to surround the wire 17 and properly insulate the same against possible contact with the chain 9 or

other supporting device when the conductor 17 must be carried to some remote point for connection to the necessary transformer and their electric controlling devices which may be employed in connection with my sign.

It will be understood that where desired, the rear plate may be omitted and the lamp 12 may be attached to the rear side of the front plate thereby forming a lighter construction than that which will be formed by the use of both front and rear plates.

With the construction herein illustrated and described the appearance of the sign when in use is that the indicia is suspended by some invisible means, the transparent plates permitting vision directly therethrough so that the tubular lamp is apparently unsupported in space. The entire feature may be given a pleasing appearance by properly selecting the colors of the illumination produced by the tubular lamp and by selecting the color of the transparent plates if color is desired for the same.

While I have illustrated and described the preferred embodiment of my invention, I do not desire to be limited to any of the details shown or described herein, except as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In a sign construction employing tubular lamps, a pair of transparent plates, means securing said plates in spaced parallel relation to each other comprising a block of insulating material resting upon the edges of said plates and having a depending tongue extending between said plates to constitute a spacer therefor, means on said block for securing a support thereto, a tubular lamp forming sign indicia imposed in the space between said plates, and electrical conductors secured to said insulating block for supplying current to said lamp.

2. In a sign construction employing a tubular lamp, a pair of transparent plates, means securing said plates in spaced parallel relation to each other comprising a block of insulating material resting upon the edges of said plates and having a depending tongue extending between said plates to constitute a spacer therefor, a tubular lamp forming sign indicia secured in the space between said plates, means on said block for securing a support thereto, and an opening through the block alineable with the space between said glass for passing an electrical conductor therethrough to connect with said tubular lamp.

3. In a sign construction employing a tubular lamp, a pair of transparent plates, means securing said plates in spaced parallel relation to each other comprising a block of insulating material resting upon the edges of said plates and having a depending tongue extending between said plates to constitute a spacer therefor, a tubular lamp forming sign indicia secured in the space between said plates, means in said block for securing a support thereto, an opening through said block alineable with the space between said glass plates for passing an electrical conductor therethrough to connect with said tubular lamp, and an insulated housing for said conductor insertable in said opening and extending alongside said support.

Signed at Los Angeles, California, this 16 day of March, 1931.

JOHN W. HARRIS.