Nov. 7, 1950 J. S. HARRISON 2,528,827

METHOD OF FORMING SIGNS

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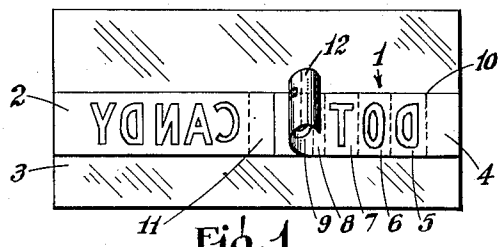


Fig. 1

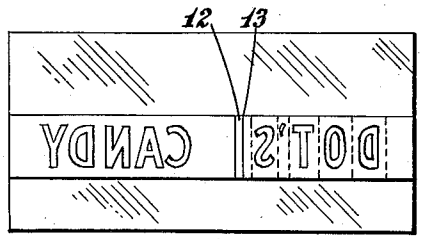


Fig. 2

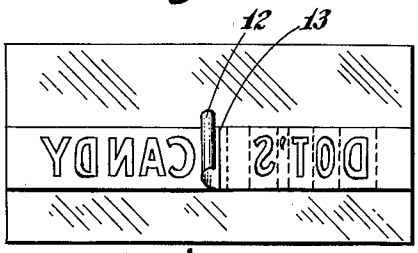


Fig. 3

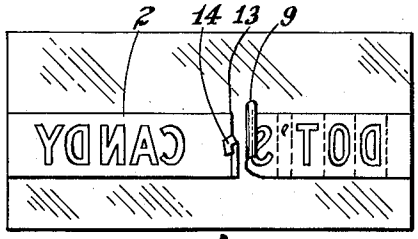


Fig. 4

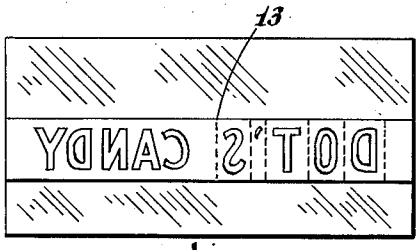


Fig. 5

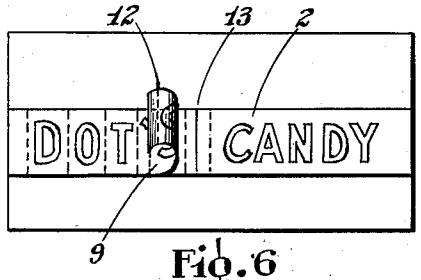


Fig. 6

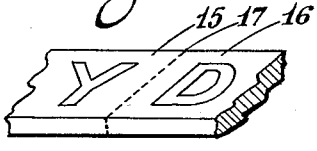


Fig. 7

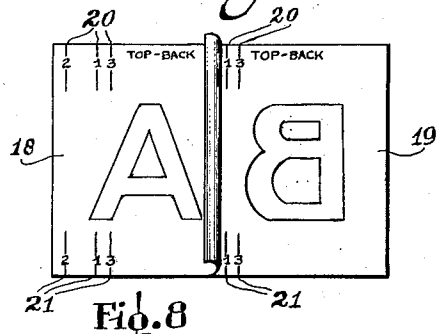


Fig. 8

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METHOD OF FORMING SIGNS

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4 Claims. (Cl. 40—125)

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This invention, as indicated, relates to a composite sign and method of making the same. More particularly, it comprises a sign formed of individual letter panels progressively set up on a supporting surface of glass or suitable sheet material wherein such letter panels are in closely abutting relation in a single plane, and it also includes the method of forming such sign. The panels are preferably of rectangular flexible material or thin translucent sheets which may be of a gelatinous character or of similar composition, and are successively set up panel by panel and abutted with the adjacent letter panels in a line contact of such close adherence and in the same plane that the meeting line cannot be detected even by reflected light. The invention includes the completed sign formed of such units alone or in combination with other types of units, as well as the method of forming such sign.

In particular, the invention includes the method of setting up adjacent letter panels of thin gelatinous adhesive material or the like in spaced relation with their margins overlapping preliminary to their final adhesion to the surface and the severing of the two overlapped layers by a thin cutting instrument such as a razor blade, followed by the lifting of the panel margins and the removal of the severed strips preliminary to firmly pressing the meeting line of the letter panels against their supporting surface in permanent adherence thereto. The steps recited are repeated as to each additional letter panel successively positioned to complete the sign.

It is to be noted that when letter panels are referred to that any conventional indicia or ornament suitable for forming letter panel type signs may be used. These are substantially rectangular units preferably adhesive coated providing a letter or other matter with area of the adjacent background.

The principal object of the present invention is to provide a sign made up of individual letter panels joined at their side edges with direct abutment in the same plane and merging in a surface of full uniformity and free of angularly set areas causing irregular reflections.

Another object of the invention is to provide a method of making a sign from a series of letter panels of thin, flexible material, preferably of gelatinous character or the like, which will cause the adjacent panels to meet along an identical marginal line in closely adherent abutment of uniform reflecting characteristics with the body of the sign as a whole.

Another object of the invention is to provide

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a method of making a sign by adhering letter panels of thin, adhesive material, preferably of flexible gelatinous translucent units, progressively to a surface, before final setting of such adhesive material, in predetermined letter spacing position with overlapping margins and forming successively an identical meeting line for the adjacent panels showing a uniformly level reflecting surface over the entire sign.

Other and further objects of the invention will appear in the course of the following description.

To the accomplishment of the foregoing and related ends, said invention, then, consists of the means and method hereinafter fully described and particularly pointed out in the claims.

The annexed drawing and the following description set forth in detail certain structure embodying the invention and method of making the same, such disclosed means constituting, however, but several of various structural forms and methods of making the same, in which the principle of the invention may be used.

In said annexed drawing:

Figure 1 is a rear elevation showing the glass of a show window or door with a sign embodying the principles of the invention in the course of application thereto, with a preliminary overlapping of the adjacent letter and word panels.

Figure 2 is a view similar to Figure 1 illustrating the overlapped panels and the method of forming an identical abutment line by simultaneously cutting the overlapped portions.

Figure 3 is a view similar to Figures 1 and 2 illustrating a method of removing the severed strip from the uppermost panel.

Figure 4 is a view similar to Figures 1 to 3 inclusive showing a method of removing the severed strip from the innermost panel.

Figure 5 is a view similar to Figures 1 to 4 inclusive showing the completed sign with all the panels abutted along identical meeting lines and presenting a level upper surface free of angular reflections.

Figure 6 is a view similar to Figures 1 to 5 inclusive showing the application of a sign in upwardly faced position to a non-transparent surface.

Figure 7 is a fragmentary perspective view greatly enlarged to illustrate the merging of the adjacent panels of a uniformly level surface along an identical marginal line of abutment; and

Figure 8 is a diagrammatic view illustrating the method of positioning adjacent letter panels in accordance with the accepted standards for spacing the respective letters.

The invention, as stated, comprises both a sign and the method of making the same. As is clearly shown in Figures 1 to 6, a composite sign is illustrated as applied to the inner surface of a window in Figures 1 to 5, and to a solid surface as shown in Figure 6. The signs illustrated in Figures 1 to 5 comprise a series of letter panels 7 and word panels 2 positioned on the inner surface of a window 3 in horizontal alignment so as to show from the outside the sign "Dot's Candy."

The sign units are preferably formed of a thin translucent flexible element of adhesive characteristics and preferably having a gelatinous coating whereby on moistening adherence to the window surface will be increasingly established as the moisture evaporates. The units preferably are somewhat slow-setting in order to permit the forming of an identical line of abutment of the series of letter panels as will be presently described.

In forming the sign illustrated, the word panel "Candy" is secured in horizontal alignment on the window to take up proportionate space as balanced against the name of the owner, in this instance "Dot's." The letter panels may be placed on the window in either direction.

The proportionate space to be occupied by the owner's name and the merchandise is measured in advance and then one or more blank panels 4 are positioned adjacent the margin of the window followed in succession by the letter panels 5, 6, 7, and the character panel 8, and the final letter panel 9. Each of these panels is abutted along an identical meeting line 10 in the manner presently to be described in relation to the final panel 9 and the word panel 2. The word panel 2 is shown as a single elongated panel and is suitably positioned on the window with its margin 11 adjacent the letter panel line projecting in a position to be overlapped by the final letter panel 9. All of the panels, previous to being placed upon a window, are moistened and are extended over the margin of the adjacent panel as shown in Figure 2. The letter panel "S" overlaps the word panel over a marginal area 12 in order to establish an identical cutting line. A cut is made by a sharp instrument such as a razor blade along line 13 and the overlap 12 is thus severed along the line 13 and may be readily removed. The margin of the letter panel 9 is then lifted so as to expose the severed strip 14 of the word panel 2 which is readily removed. Since there is an identical cutting line for the letter panel "S" and the word panel "Candy" they will meet along the cutting line 13 and may be firmly pressed into final adherence to the inner surface of the window.

Where the sign is to be applied to a mirror or metal or plastic supporting surface or the like, substantially the same procedure is followed, the letters, however, being applied in regular order to be read from the near side of the surface to which the sign is to be applied. In such case, the letter panel 9 has overlapped the word panel 2 as shown in Figure 6 and the cutting line 13 has been established at an intermediate position and the severed strip 14 is ready for removal from the supporting surface and the severed strip 12 of the letter panel is likewise ready for separation from the margin of the letter panel preliminary to the parts being abutted on the identical meeting line 13.

The manner in which the surfaces of the letter panels merge with each other is illustrated in Figure 7 wherein the letter panels 15 and 16 lie in a single plane together with their line of abutment 17 which, by reason of the character of the thin adhesive material, merges into a substantially integral surface and provides no multiple planes of reflection to emanate from the body of the sign.

Thus it will be noted that a sign is provided formed of a series of substantially rectangular letter panels of thin adhesive flexible material and wherein each of the letter panels merges in a uniformly level surface with its adjacent letter panel along an identical marginal line of abutment.

It is desirable to conform to the established practice as to the spacing of the differently shaped letters from each other as accurately as may be done under the circumstances and to assist in this spacing letter panels 18 and 19 may be used having markings 20 and 21 adjacent their upper and lower margins showing a series of graduated marginal abutment lines.

In Figure 8, each panel is marked on its reverse side adjacent to the top with the words—Top-Back, and has short lines numbered 2, 1 and 3 at the top and bottom left hand margin designed to be overlapped in accordance with the top of adjacent letters in alignment with one of the three lines so indicated. Since the overlapping panels are moistened in advance of their application to the surface and are covered with slowly setting adhesive, the panel may be laid down firmly in position and the cutting line established at a point approximately midway of the overlap sections. The cutting line is preferably at least ¼'' inwardly from the end of the under-section so that adequate body may be provided to permit ready removal of the severed strip of the under-section. The method thus provides for establishing a predetermined letter spaced relation between each of the letter panels and at the same time permits the abutment of such letter panels along an identical marginal line of contact.

As has been indicated, it is not desired to limit the application of the invention to letter or word panels as such, but use may be made of various ornamental designs or parts of larger designs adapted for indefinite extension over various areas of the supporting member and in each instance an identical cutting line may be used to provide exact registry of the marginal lines of the design which are to be carried from one panel to an adjacent panel. In this manner a sign may be constructed which, when viewed by reflected light, will not disclose the meeting lines of the several parts of the sign and thus the sign will be, in effect, free from multiple reflections and will have the appearance of an integrally formed sign, notwithstanding that it is of composite structure.

Other forms may be employed embodying the features of my invention instead of the one here explained, change being made in the form or construction, provided the elements stated by any of the following claims or the equivalent of such stated elements be employed, whether produced by my preferred method or by others embodying steps equivalent to those stated in the following claims.

I therefore particularly point out and distinctly claim as my invention:

1. A method of forming a sign from selected letter panels of thin adhesive material which comprises the steps of adhering a letter panel

comprising a letter area and a marginal background area to a surface along a predetermined line, mounting a second letter panel with its marginal background area adjacent said initial panel with the adjacent marginal areas in overlapping relation before the setting of the adhesive, severing the overlapped margins simultaneously along an identical line of severance, removing the severed portions, and pressing the panels against the supporting surface with the abutting edges merging in uniform contact and continuity of the sign surface.

2. A method of forming a sign from selected letter panels of thin adhesive gelatinous material which comprises the steps of adhering a letter panel to a surface along a predetermined line, mounting a second letter panel adjacent said initial panel in overlapping relation to the adjacent margin thereof before the setting of the adhesive, severing the overlapped margins simultaneously along an identical line of severance, removing the severed portions, and pressing the panels against the supporting surface with their abutting edges merging in uniform contact and continuity of the sign surface.

3. A method of forming a sign from selected letter panels of thin adhesive gelatinous material which comprises the steps of adhering a letter panel to a surface along a predetermined line, mounting a second letter panel in predetermined letter spaced relation adjacent said initial panel in overlapping relation to the adjacent margin thereof before the setting of the adhesive, severing the overlapped margins simultaneously along an identical line of severance, removing the severed portions, and pressing the panels against

the supporting surface with their abutting edges merging in uniform contact and continuity of the sign surface.

4. A method of forming a sign from selected letter panels of thin adhesive gelatinous material which comprises the steps of moistening and adhering an initial letter panel to a surface along a predetermined line, moistening and adhering a second letter panel adjacent said initial panel in overlapping relation to the adjacent margin thereof before the setting of the adhesive, severing the overlapped margins simultaneously along an identical line of severance, removing the severed portions, and pressing the panels against the supporting surface with their abutting edges merging in uniform contact and continuity of the sign surface.

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