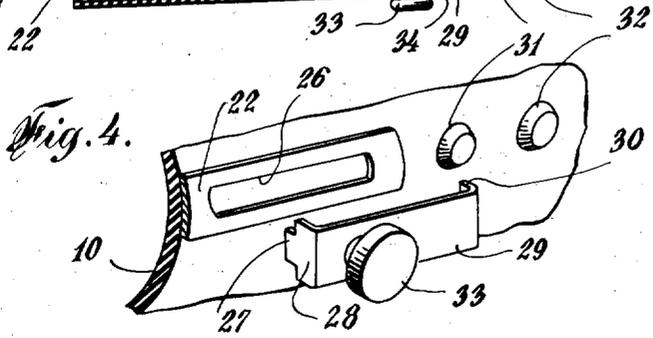
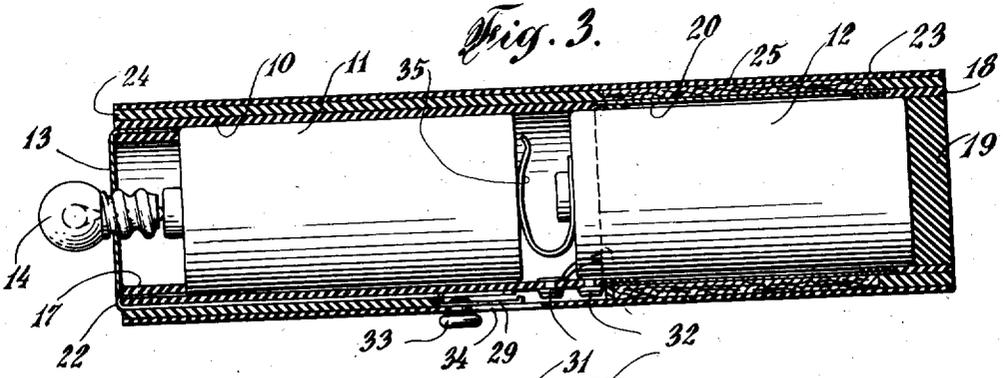
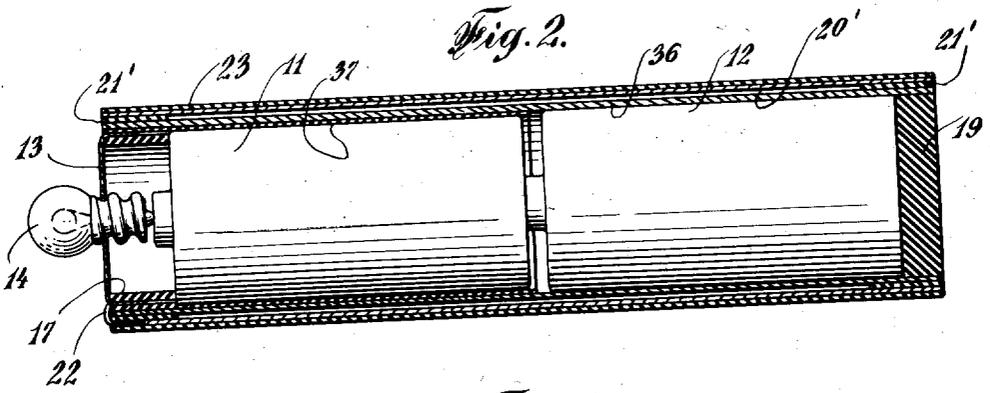
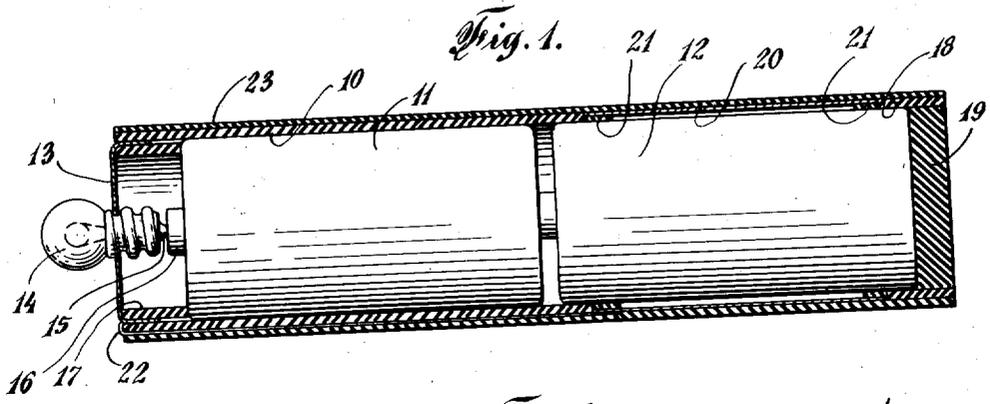


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FLASH LIGHT
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FLASH LIGHT

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3 Claims. (Cl. 240—10.68)

The present invention relates to flashlights, particularly of the portable type.

The principal object of this invention is to provide a flashlight of novel and improved construction, which is actuated upon grasping same.

Another object is to provide a novel flashlight of the character described, wherein the circuit actuating the lamp is controlled by an improved switching means.

A further object of this invention is to provide an improved flashlight of the type mentioned, which is simple in construction, cheap to manufacture, efficient in operation and easy to use.

I have shown several embodiments of my present invention, with the above objects in view and others which will be suggested and become manifest as the purposes and nature of the invention are fully disclosed and revealed in the following specification and drawing.

In the accompanying drawing, forming part of this application, similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the views.

Fig. 1 shows a longitudinal central section through a flashlight embodying my present invention, wherein the lamp becomes actuated upon grasping the device at its lower half.

Fig. 2 shows a similar section of a modified form, wherein the lamp becomes actuated upon grasping the device practically anywhere.

Fig. 3 is a view similar in construction as the embodiment shown in Fig. 1, including however, an auxiliary switch.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary view showing said switch in plan.

In the drawing, the numeral 10 designates a sleeve or tubular casing made of insulative material, of a length longer than that of an electric cell 11, which fits within said casing intermediate the ends thereof; said cell being in series with another cell 12, which fits into an end of the casing 10, and projects therefrom, the major portion of its length. These cells are of the ordinary type having zinc container electrodes. At the other end of the casing 10, through a metallic U member 13, is mounted the base of a lamp 14, so that the central terminal 15 of said lamp, is in contact with the carbon electrode terminal 16, of the cell 11; the member 13, being held in place by a ring 17. A member comprised of ring 18 and plug 19, both of insulative materials, cap the bottom of the cell 12, whereby the container electrode of said cell is left uninsulated, except at a small portion, both at top and bottom.

A flexible member 20, of electrically conductive material, preferably in the form of a sleeve of

sheet metal, wire mesh, metal cloth or the like, or else in the form of a spiral spring (not shown) or other equivalent for the purpose intended, is mounted to be slightly spaced from the container electrode of the cell 12, maintained so, in the embodiment shown, by the insulator rings 21. A narrow metal ribbon 22, connects the U member 13 and the flexible member 20. A leather cover 23, or other flexible material, is cemented or glued about the casing 10 and the ring 18, to give a finished appearance and to maintain the components assembled as described.

It is natural to hold the flashlight at the region of the cell 12, and when so grasped, the flexible member 20, coming in contact with the container electrode of the cell 12, will close the circuit of the lamp 14. Upon release of pressure of the hand, or when the flashlight is laid down, the flexible member 20, will resume its original position spaced from the container electrode of said cell 12, whereupon the circuit is opened and the light extinguished.

The construction shown in Fig. 3, is substantially that of Fig. 1, above described, with the addition of an auxiliary switch, whereby the circuit of the lamp can be maintained open, or subject to the control effected when the flexible member 20 is made to contact the container electrode of the cell 12, or else to maintain said circuit constantly closed.

In this Fig. 3, the numeral 24 indicates a sleeve into which the casing 10 is secured to by gluing or otherwise, and the numeral 25 designates a felt filler, lying between the cover 23 and the flexible member 20.

The ribbon 22 is provided with a slot 26, in which is positioned free to slide, the reduced extremity 27 of an inturned end 28 of a member 29, the other end 30, of which is also turned inward and adapted to come in contact with the contact buttons 31 or 32, the former of which buttons connects with the flexible member 20, while the latter is in contact with the electrode which is the container of the cell 12. The said slot 26, is long enough to permit the member 29 to be moved to a position towards the lamp 14, whereby the end 30 is out of contact with any of said buttons 31 and 32.

It is evident that when the member 29 is out of contact with any of said buttons, the circuit of the lamp is maintained open, when in contact with the button 31, the circuit is controlled as in Fig. 1, and when in contact with the button 32, the lamp is continuously lit.

A knob 33, the neck of which is adapted to slide

in slot 34 cut in the cover 23, is secured to the member 29, to facilitate moving the latter. When this auxiliary switch is included in the device, it is expedient to space the cells 11 and 12, and provide a ribbon spring 35 to connect the cells in series with, in order to give the button 31, an insulated mounting.

In Fig. 2, the cells 11 and 12, lie within a metal tube 36; the cell 11, being insulated therefrom by a paper tube 37, which also separates the U member 13 from said tube 36, while the electrode container of cell 12 is in contact with said metal tube 36. A flexible tubular member 20' is mounted concentric over the tube 36, and is maintained spaced therefrom by the insulator members 21'. Said flexible member being of electrically conductive material, it is evident that when the flashlight is grasped anywhere along its length between the narrow end rings 21', the lamp will be lighted.

This invention is capable of numerous forms and various applications without departing from the essential features herein disclosed. It is therefore intended and desired that the embodiments shown herein be deemed illustrative and not restrictive, and that the patent shall cover whatever features of patentable novelty exist in the invention disclosed; reference being had to the appended claims rather than to the specific descriptions herein to indicate the scope of the invention.

I claim:—

1. In a flashlight, the combination of an electric cell having a container electrode, a flexible metallic sleeve member mounted concentrically spaced about said electrode whereby a tubular gap is formed between the electrode and the sleeve member, and a lamp, having one terminal in electrical connection with the other electrode of the cell, and its other terminal in electrical connection with said sleeve member, adapted to become actuated upon pressing the sleeve member anywhere on its surface, whereby said sleeve mem-

ber is brought into contact with the container electrode of the cell, whereupon the circuit of the lamp is closed.

2. In a flashlight, an electric cell having a container electrode, a metallic tubular member carried concentrically on said electrode and in contact therewith; said cell only partially occupying the tubular member, another cell within the tubular member and electrically insulated therefrom, in electrical series with the first cell, a flexible metallic tubular member mounted concentrically spaced about the first tubular member, whereby a tubular gap is formed between said tubular members, and a lamp mounted onto one of the tubular members, in electrical series connection with the cells and the outer tubular member, adapted to become actuated upon pressing the outer tubular member anywhere on its surface, whereby said tubular members are brought into contact, whereupon the circuit of the lamp is closed.

3. In a flashlight, a casing comprising a pair of concentric metallic tubular members; the outer member being flexible, non-conductive spacer elements secured to and between said tubular members at the respective ends thereof, whereby a tubular gap is formed between said pair of members, an electric battery within the casing; one terminal of the battery being in electrical connection with one of the tubular members, and a lamp mounted on the casing, having one of its terminals in electrical connection with the other tubular member, and its other terminal in electrical connection with the other terminal of the battery; said lamp being adapted to become actuated upon pressing the outer tubular member anywhere on its surface between the spacer elements, whereby said tubular members are brought into contact, whereupon the circuit of the lamp is closed.

EUGENE P. BEAUMONT.