Nov. 20, 1923 1,474,706

E. F. CARDELL

THEFT DETECTING MEANS

Filed Oct. 12, 1922

Fig. 1

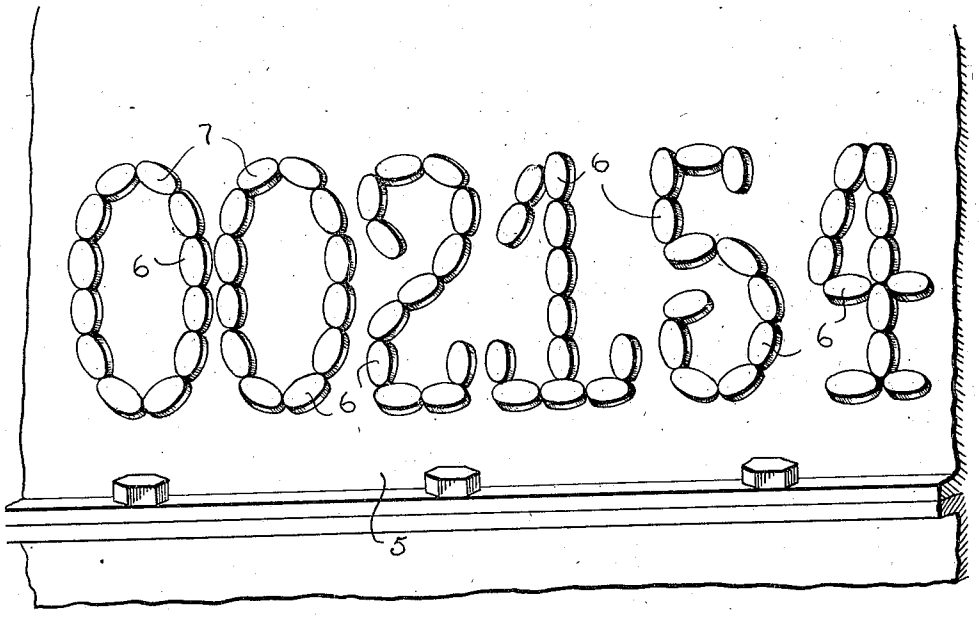
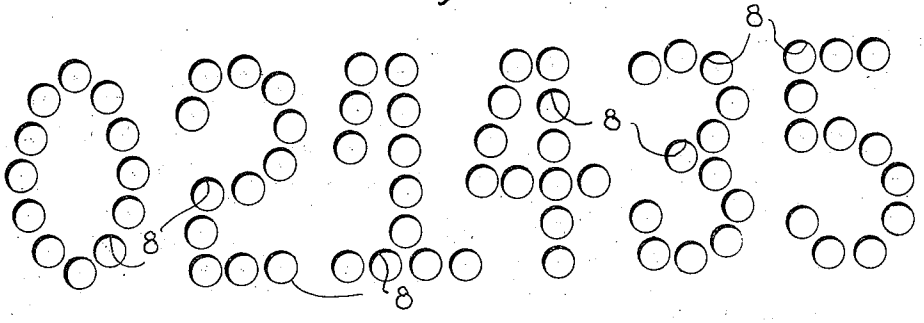


Fig. 2



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EUGENE F. CARDELL, OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND.

THEFT-DETECTING MEANS.

Application filed October 12, 1922. Serial No. 594,055.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EUGENE F. CARDELL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Providence, in the county of Providence and State of Rhode Island, have invented new and useful Improvements in Theft-Detecting Means, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a means for preventing theft, and is particularly useful in preventing the theft of automobiles, although it is adapted to be applied to any manufactured article.

The object of my invention is to mark each automobile or other article with distinctive identifying indicia, which cannot be altered without being subject to certain detection. When every automobile of a given make is marked in this manner, a thief will have great hesitancy in stealing it. An unlawful possessor of the automobile could not expect to go along undiscovered, since every officer of the law is furnished daily with the numbers of all stolen automobiles. It would be impossible to sell the stolen automobile because no intelligent person would buy it without first learning whether or not an automobile bearing that particular indicia had been reported as stolen.

The means by which I accomplish this object will be best understood in connection with the accompanying drawing, in which,

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of a fragment of an engine base having one form of my device thereon.

Fig. 2 is a view showing another form of my identifying device detached.

In the drawing, the base 5, as will be noted, is marked with a number consisting of six digits, each digit consisting of exactly twelve elements or units 6, which, as shown in Fig. 1, are in the form of beads cast with the engine casting.

In carrying out my idea, every engine manufactured by a given company will be marked with a number having an equal number of digits, noughts being added at the lefthand side as indicated at 7, in order to make up the full complement of digits. Each digit, as above stated, consists of a certain predetermined number of like units or elements, in the present example, twelve, and obviously it will be impossible to change one digit into another, as for example 4 into 1, or 8 into 3, by removing certain of the beads, without leaving a deficiency in the number of beads required. Consequently, if the number had been altered, a person who was familiar with the system of numbering the automobiles, would at once detect the alteration and know that the automobile had been stolen.

In Fig. 2, is shown a modification of my invention, wherein each of the digits is made up of twelve holes 8 which may be bored in the casting after the same has been set up.

It will be understood that the ways which I have shown for carrying out the invention are merely illustrative, and that other forms or characters may be used for making up the identifying indicia, the main idea being to have the indicia on each article of manufacture made up of a like number of characters, each character having an equal number of like elements.

What is claimed is:—

1. A system of identifying manufactured articles, which consists in identifying each article with indicia made up of a certain predetermined number of characters, each character being made up of a predetermined number of elements.

2. A system of identifying manufactured articles, which consists in numbering each article with a distinctive number, each digit of which consists of a certain predetermined number of elements arranged in a manner to form the digit.

3. A system of identifying manufactured articles, which consists in numbering each article with a distinctive number having a predetermined number of digits, noughts being used at the lefthand end of the number to make up the required complement, each of said noughts and other digits consisting of a certain predetermined number of elements arranged in a manner to form said digit.

4. The combination with an article, of an identifying device formed integral therewith and consisting of a certain predetermined number of various characters, each character being made up of a certain predetermined number of like elements.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature.

EUGENE F. CARDELL.