

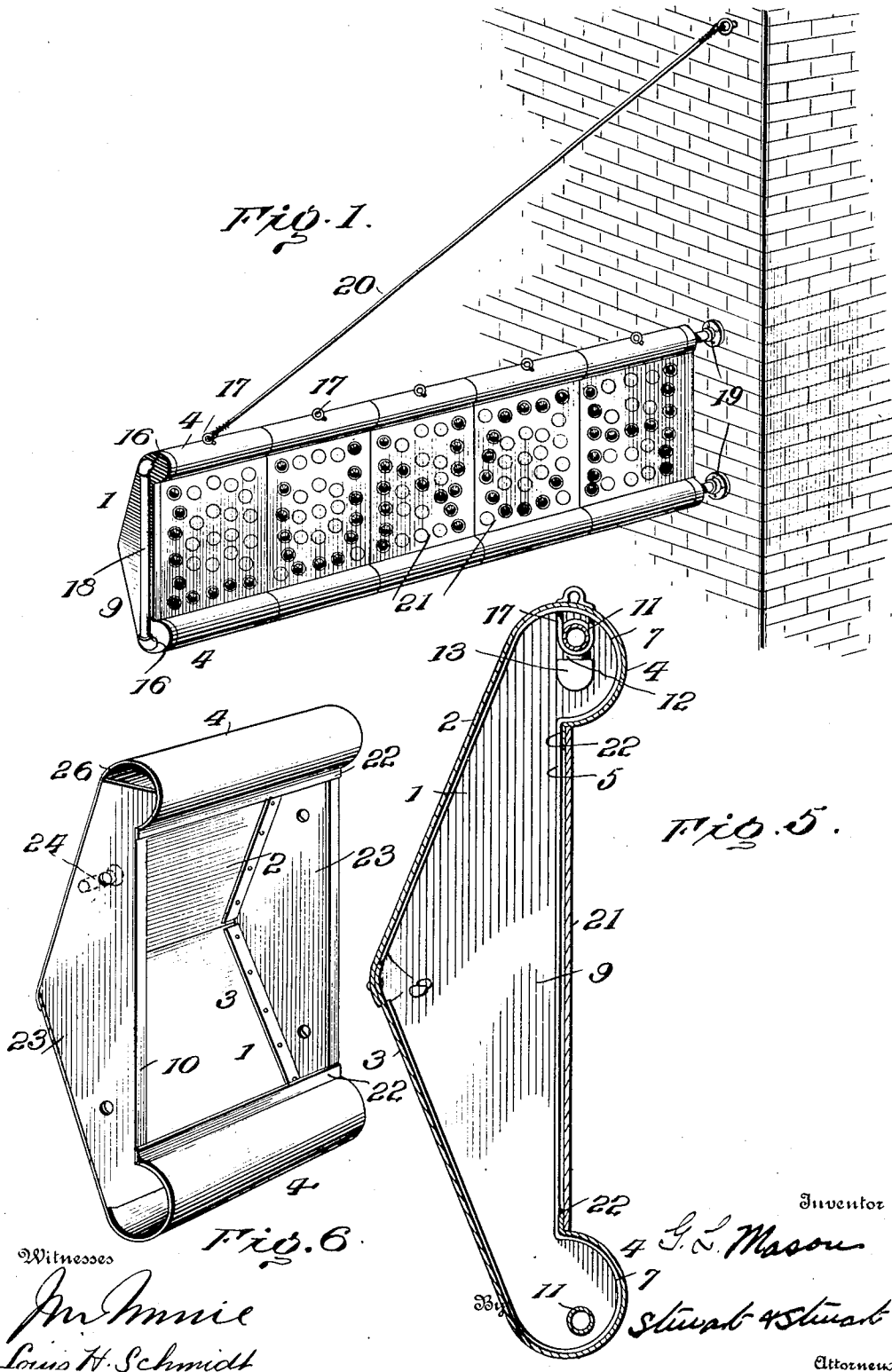
No. 887,408.

G. L. MASON.
SIGN.

PATENTED MAY 12, 1908.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 28, 1905. RENEWED AUG. 29, 1907.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



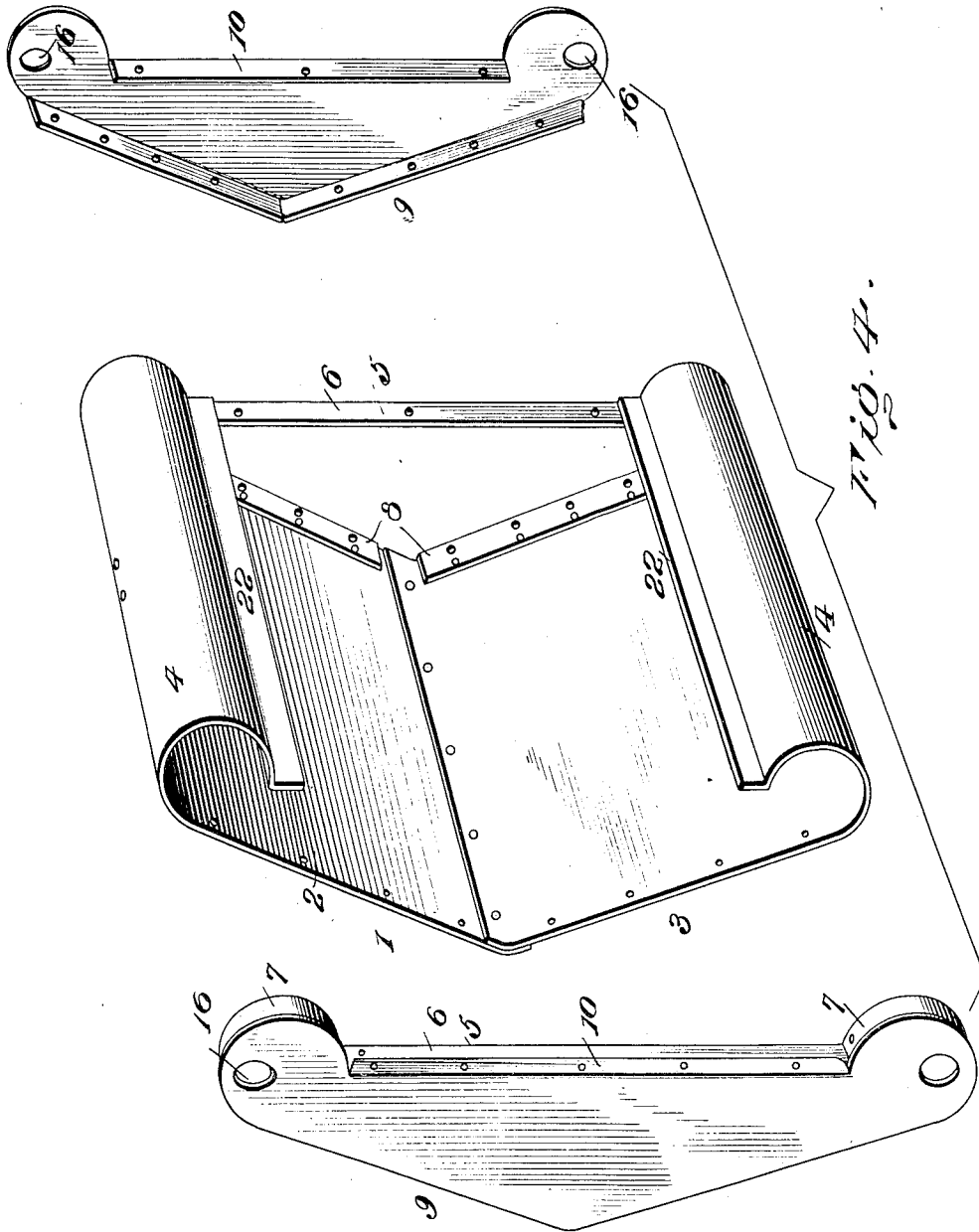
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3 SHEETS—SHEET 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE L. MASON, OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, ASSIGNOR TO GEORGE L. MASON COMPANY,
OF NEW YORK, N. Y., A CORPORATION OF NEW YORK.

SIGN.

No. 887,408.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented May 12, 1908.

Application filed April 28, 1905, Serial No. 257,894. Renewed August 29, 1907. Serial No. 390,644.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE L. MASON, a citizen of the United States of America, and resident of the city of Newark, county of Essex, and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Signs, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in signs or the like.

The object of my invention is to produce a sign which can be made up of any desired number of letters, the sign being composed of a number of units, each of which is complete in itself and which is capable of being united with a number of similar units desired to produce a sign of any desired length. Preferably and as shown, each unit carries but a single letter. It is obvious that if desired more than a single letter could be carried by a single unit or only a part of a letter carried by each unit. Furthermore, while I have shown a separate sign section connected to each unit, it is to be observed that if desired a sign section may extend over all the units or a plurality of them.

My invention consist in providing a series of open ended units which are adapted to be secured together to form an undivided box adapted to contain illuminating means, with a sign supported by the units and adapted to be illuminated by the illuminating devices.

My invention also consists in novel means for mounting the illuminating means in the box so that the sign will be uniformly illuminated and illuminated without presence of light spots. In the forms of my invention shown in this application, this is effected by mounting the illuminating means in the plane of the sign so that no light is received directly from the illuminating means, but the light passing through the sign is all reflected light.

My invention also consists in the means for supporting the sign and in using the supporting means to support the illuminating means.

My invention further consists in certain constructions and combination of parts which will be first described in connection with the preferred embodiment of my invention and then particularly pointed out in the claims.

Referring to the drawings wherein the

same part is designated by the same reference numeral wherever it occurs, Figure 1 is a perspective view showing my sign as attached to a building and extending out at right angles to the wall thereof. Fig. 2 is a front view of the sign partly broken away. Fig. 3 is a central longitudinal section of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the parts from which a complete sign is constructed. Fig. 5 is a vertical section through one of the boxes in which my sign is constructed. Fig. 6 is a perspective view of a modified form of box.

Referring to the form of my invention shown in Figs. 1 to 5 inclusive, 1 designates a box which is shown as being substantially triangular in cross-section, the back of the box being formed by the parts 2 and 3 set at an angle to each other. These parts 2 and 3 are formed at their outer ends into the rolls or pockets 4—4, these rolls or pockets forming receptacles for the illuminating means.

5 is a brace having an outline corresponding to the sectional form of the box, the parts being formed of the main portion 6, roll portions 7—7 and the converging ends 8—8. As shown, these braces 5 are secured on one end of each box and extend beyond the edge. Thus, it will be seen that I am enabled to secure together as many of these boxes or units as desired by inserting the projecting part of the brace 5 into the unbraced side of another unit. The sections afterward being united by suitable screws or bolts which are passed through the brace and the edge of the section. In this manner, a box composed of any number of sections is formed.

In order to close the open side of a box where but a single unit is used, or the open side of the boxes at the ends of a series of boxes, I provide caps 9 which are of the same outline as the cross-section of one of the boxes and the sides of these caps are provided with inwardly turned flanges 10. The cap 9 which is adapted to close the end of the box which is not braced, is also provided with a brace 5 which is identical with the braces of the units, this brace is slipped into the open side of the box and is secured thereto. At the sides of a box which is provided with a brace 5, the flanges 10 extend over the brace 5 and are secured thereto by suitable bolts or the like. Thus, the ends 9 are secured in position in the same manner that the units

are secured together and the end sections may be placed on any box. By this construction, I form a trough which may be made up of any desired number of units.

5 It will be seen that by the construction above described a box or trough is formed which has no partitions intermediate its length and that therefore, all parts of the sign will be equally illuminated, due to the
10 fact that the trough is undivided.

11 are a series of short pipe sections, each section being of substantially the length of one of the units or boxes 1. These sections between the boxes are united together by a
15 T coupling 12 to which is secured an elbow 13 onto the other end of which is mounted the socket 14 for a lamp or other illuminating devices 15. It will be seen that by this construction as many of these sections as there
20 are units or boxes are made up into a continuous line of piping with a socket projecting for each unit or section, the wires, if electric lights are used being carried in the piping. A line so made up is placed in each end
25 of the set of boxes, the line extending through the openings 16 in the end pieces or caps and then through the rolls 4 at each end of the boxes.

17 are hangers which preferably extend
30 through the rolls 4 and support the line of piping in position. At one end the piping is preferably connected together by a section 18, thus forming a rectangular frame. At the other end, the piping may be provided
35 with suitable brackets 19 by which it may be secured to a wall or other device. It will be seen that this line of piping will support the sign and that no other frame-work is necessary if the sign is to project out from a wall
40 as shown in Fig. 1. One or more guys 20 are provided which are secured to the hangers 17 in order to support the outer end of the sign, if however, the sign is to run parallel to the face of a building, then brackets are at-
45 tached to each end of the piping. It will be noticed from an inspection of Fig. 2, that the lamps 15 or other illuminating means are within the pockets 4 and with the light from these lamps is all reflected down into the
50 body of the box.

21 is a plate which has formed therein a suitable sign or character to be illuminated from the rear. For the sake of illustration, I have shown the form of monogram sign de-
55 scribed and claimed in my application Serial Number 257,893 filed April 28, 1905. As the construction of the sign itself forms no part of this invention, it will not be further described. The plate 21 rests upon the ex-
60 tended edge 22—22 of the rolls 4 and also upon the cross-strips 6 of the braces 5. The plate is secured to the strips 6 and projections 22 by screws or in any other manner desired. If desired, one end of the plate 21
65 may be passed under one of the projection

lips 22 and in this case, it would only be necessary to provide screws for the other ends thereof to secure the plate in position.

It will be noticed that the lights 15 are substantially in the plane of the sign plate and that light is transmitted through the sign by being reflected from the back of the box, the light being entirely away from behind the sign plate. This gives a perfectly uniform illumination of all parts of the sign and en-
75 tirely obviates the objectional feature of "light spots" which are present in all signs in which the light is behind the sign.

In Fig. 6, I have shown a modification of my structure in that each box or unit is
80 complete in itself, that is to say, it is composed of the back portion 2—3, the rolls or pockets 4 and is further provided with the sides 23—23, these sides closing the box. The braces 5 are unnecessary in this con-
85 struction and the boxes or units are secured together by passing bolts 24 through their adjacent ends suitable openings being formed in the ends for this purpose. These units are mounted on a frame similar to the frame
90 previously described, the frame passing through the openings 26 in the sides, the openings being in line with the center of the rolls 4.

It is evident that many changes may be
95 made in the form, construction and arrangement of the parts, for example, the units or boxes can be made with a curved or other shaped back instead of an angular back shown. The rolls at the sides of the units
100 may be changed or other means substituted therefor, if found desirable. Other means for connecting the units together may be substituted for those herein shown and de-
105 scribed, or any other form of sign plate desired may be substituted for that herein shown and described. All these changes and many more which I contemplate come within the scope of my invention as set forth in the
110 appended claims and for the purpose of showing and describing a particular form of device is merely to illustrate my invention, it being clearly understood that I am not to be limited to the forms of my invention
115 shown and described.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

1. In a sign, the combination with an undivided box composed of a series of separate units united together, illuminating means
120 within the units and a sign supported on the front of the box and adapted to be illuminated by the illuminating means.

2. In a sign, the combination with an open ended box, and means separate from the box
125 and adapted to close the ends of the box, illuminating means within the box and a sign supported on the front of the box and adapted to be illuminated by the illuminat-
130 ing means.

3. In a sign, the combination with a series of units means for connecting the units together to form a single undivided box, illuminating means within the box, and a sign supported on the box and adapted to be illuminated by the illuminating means.

4. In a sign, the combination with a series of open ended boxes, means for connecting the series of boxes together to form a continuous box, means to close the ends of the continuous box, illuminating means within the continuous box, and a sign supported on the front of the continuous box and adapted to be illuminated by the illuminating means.

5. In a sign, the combination with a box triangular in cross-section, of a sign supported on the base of the triangle and adapted to be illuminated from behind, the sides of the triangle being adapted to form reflectors, and illuminating means located in one of the angles between the base and the sides.

6. In a sign, the combination with a box triangular in cross-section, of a sign supported on the base of the triangle and adapted to be illuminated from behind, the sides of the triangle being adapted to form reflectors, and illuminating means located in the angles between the base and the sides.

7. In a sign, the combination with a box or casing, of illuminating means mounted in the casing, a sign supported on the casing and adapted to be illuminated by the illuminating means, the illuminating means being mounted in the casing in substantially the plane of the sign whereby the sign is illuminated by reflected light only.

8. In a sign, the combination with a box or casing, pockets formed at the sides of the casing, illuminating means mounted in the pockets, the back of the box being provided with a reflecting surface for said illuminating means a sign mounted on the casing between the pockets and in substantially the plane of the illuminating means and adapted

to be illuminated by the illuminating means, whereby the sign will be illuminated by reflected light only.

9. In a sign, the combination with a series of units adapted to be connected together to form a continuous box, each unit being composed of a body portion having open ends, and pockets adapted to receive the illuminating means formed at the sides of the body portion, of means for closing the open ends of the end units and a sign supported on the faces of the units, and adapted to be illuminated from behind.

10. In a sign, the combination with a series of units means for connecting the units together, a frame passing through the units and adapted to support the same, illuminating means carried by the frame within the units, and a sign supported on the units and adapted to be illuminated by the illuminating means.

11. In a sign, the combination with a series of units, means for connecting the units together, a frame composed of piping passing through the ends of the units and supporting the same, the frame being connected together at one end, illuminating means carried by the frame within the units and a sign supported on the units and adapted to be illuminated by the illuminating means.

12. In a sign, the combination with a series of units, of means for connecting the units together, a frame composed of short pipe sections united by couplings, illuminating means connected to the couplings and supported within the units and a sign supported on the units and adapted to be illuminated by the illuminating means.

Signed by me at Washington, District of Columbia, this 27th day of April 1905.

GEORGE L. MASON.

Witnesses:

FRANCES M. PHELPS,
E. E. WARFIELD.