United States Patent

Webster, Jr. et al.

[15] **3,666,936**

[45] **May 30, 1972**

[54] SHADOW BOX

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[21] Appl. No.: **51,201**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **240/2**, 40/130, 240/10

[51] **Int. Cl.** **F21v 33/00**

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 40/130, 132, 130 B, 106.52, 40/219; 116/124.1, 124.4; 240/10.2

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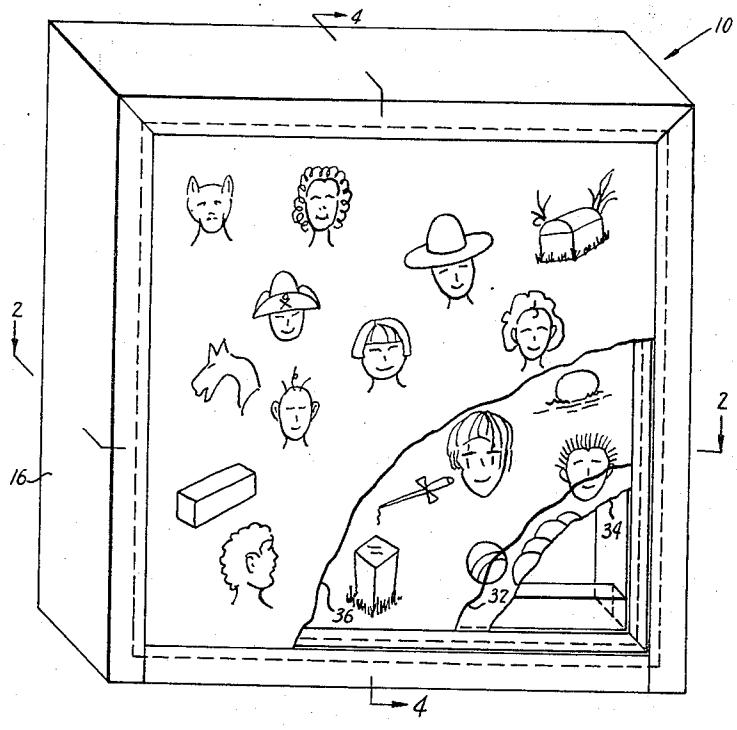
[57] **ABSTRACT**

An enclosure having a translucent screen at the front thereof, a plastic screen having a pattern thereon parallel to and spaced from the translucent screen, and colored light bulbs arranged on the inside surface of the rear of the enclosure for blinking various colored patterns onto the translucent screen.

1 Claims, 4 Drawing Figures



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2 Sheets-Sheet 1

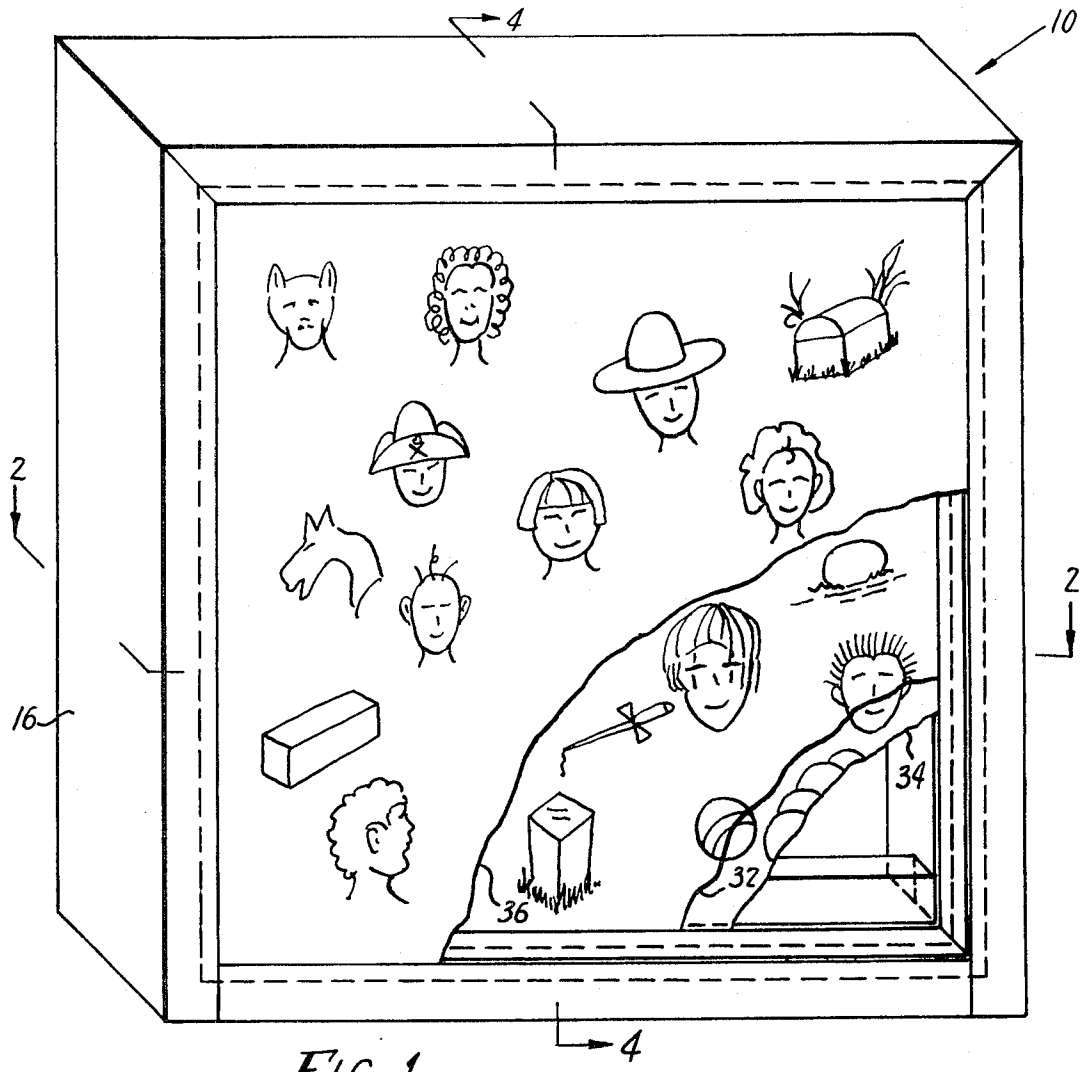

FIG. 1

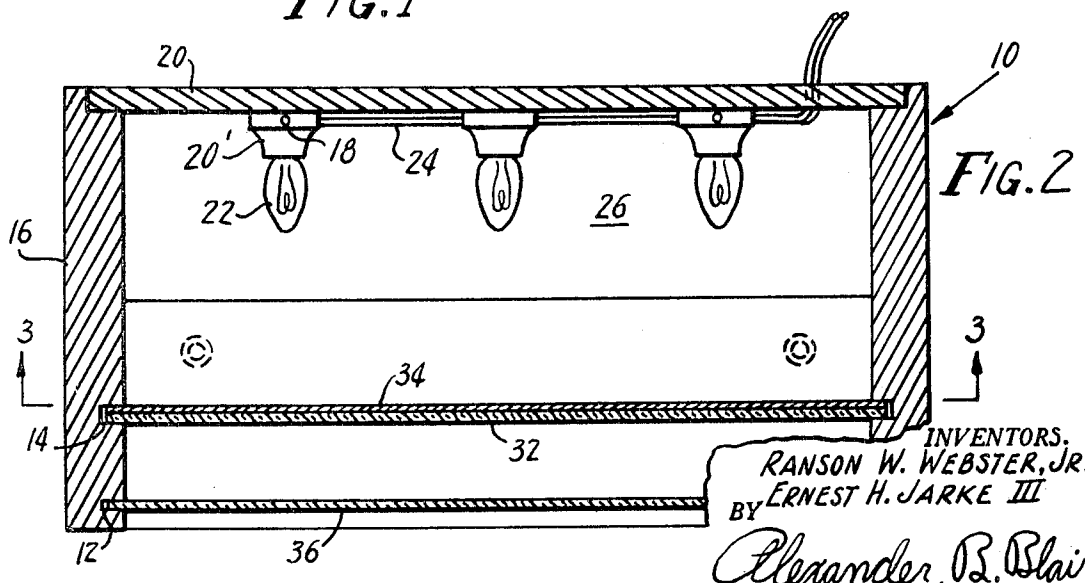

FIG. 2

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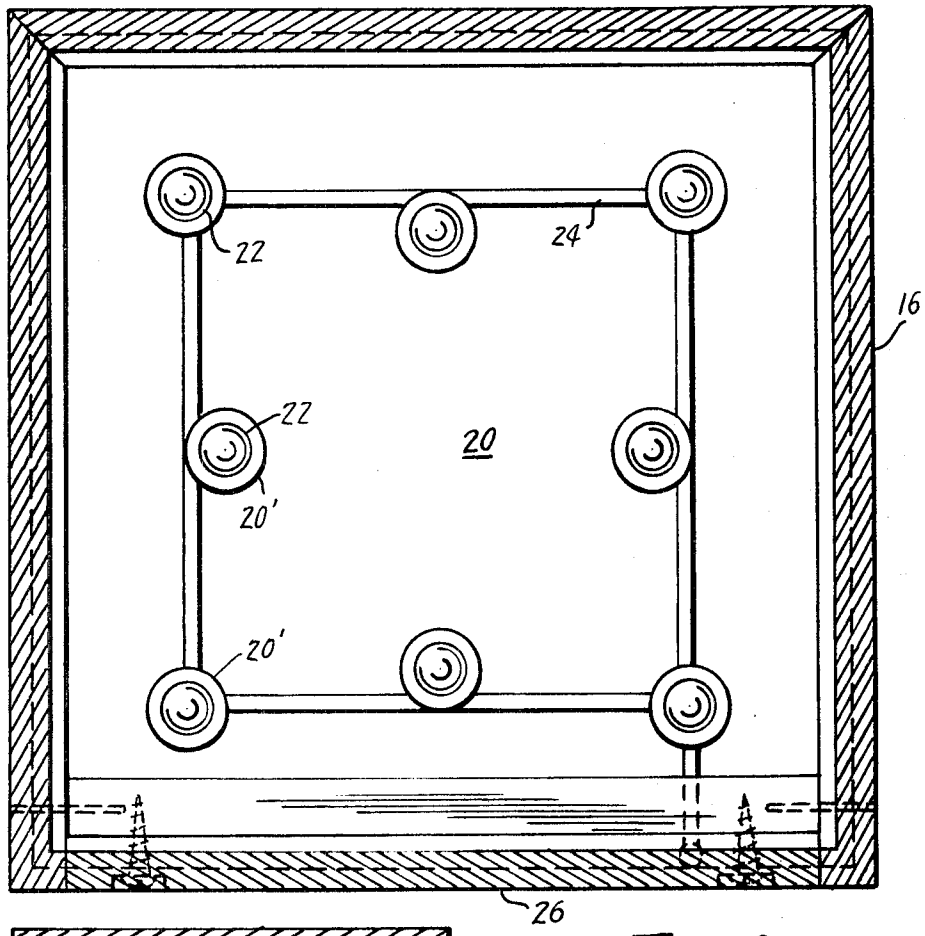

FIG. 3

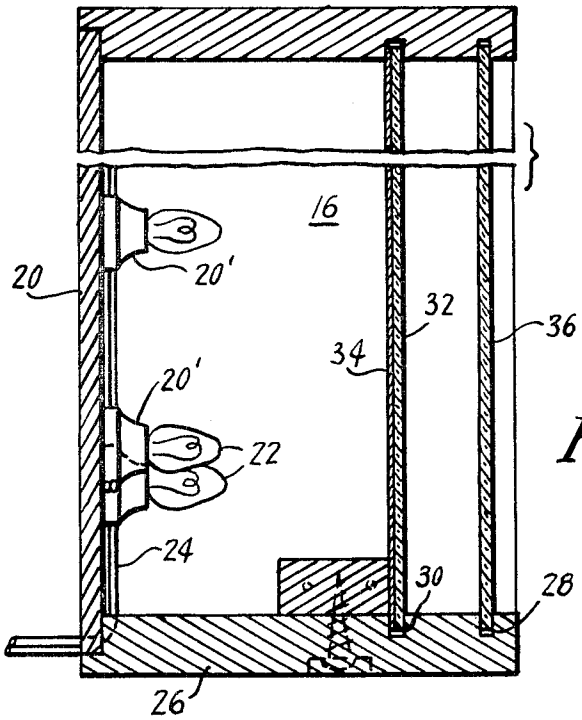

FIG. 4

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SHADOW BOX

This invention relates to a shadow box for producing different effects which may be utilized for amusement or educational purposes.

Accordingly, a primary object of this invention is to provide means for producing an effect consisting of various colored blinking patterns simultaneously and alternatively in different areas of a screen.

Another object of this invention is to provide various patterns for amusement and educational purposes.

A further object of this invention is to provide means for adjusting the lighting arrangement and distances between screens for varying the effect produced.

A still further object of this invention is to provide means for producing an effect where the objects seen on the screen appear to be moving notwithstanding they are actually static.

The above and other objects of this invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art after a consideration of the following detailed description of the preferred embodiments of this invention taken together with the accompanying drawing wherein:

FIG. 1 is a perspective cut-away view of the shadow box;

FIG. 2 is a sectional view taken on line 2—2 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a sectional view taken on line 3—3 of FIG. 2; and

FIG. 4 is a sectional view taken on line 4—4 of FIG. 1.

Referring to the drawing in detail, there is shown a box-like enclosure **10** having vertical grooves **12** and **14** in the inside surface of side walls **16** and extensions **18** extending from the inside surface of the rear wall **20**. Extensions **18** may be spaced along the inside of rear wall **20** in any type of symmetrical and non-symmetrical pattern. Attached to extensions **18** are light sockets **20** with single or multiple colored light bulbs **22** for blinking undiffused light. Sockets **20** are connected in series by means of a wire **24** which leads to a source of power (not shown). The bottom wall **26** is removably attached to enclosure **10** and has horizontal grooves **28** and **30** corresponding to grooves **12** and **14** respectively. Vertically housed within enclosure **10** and more specifically within grooves **14** and **30** is a clear plastic sheet **32** having on the surface thereof facing bulbs **22** a positive or negative image layer **34** placed thereon by silk screening or some other desired method. Vertically housed within grooves **12** and **28** is an outer screen **36** consisting of a translucent white plastic or some other desired material.

Layer **34** may be any type of pattern of pictures, textural material, the ABC's, nursery ryhmes, etc. As each bulb **22** blinks on, it will project the pattern image of a small area of layer **34** directly in front of bulb **22** onto screen **36**. At any one time, there may be one or more projections of different areas of image layer **34** in different colors giving the viewer an aesthetic lighting effect in addition to viewing the specific energies of layer **34**.

It will be understood by those skilled in the art that while the preferred embodiments of this invention have been illustrated and described, various changes and modifications may be resorted to without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. For instance, there may be a plurality of grooves in the walls of enclosure **10** so that sheet **32** and screen **36** may be placed at varying distances from each other and bulbs **22** in order to vary the lighting effect produced. Likewise, there may be extra grooves so that a plurality of sheets **32** with layers **34** may be used simultaneously. There are, of course, a plurality of sheets **32** with various pattern layers **34** thereon for interchangeability within enclosure **10**. Enclosure **10** may be of any size and may consist of any type of desired material. It should also be noted that screens **36** and **32** may be made of any appropriate material which produces the specified effects.

We claim:

1. A shadow box comprising a housing, light sockets connected in series to a power source and spaced in a desired pattern within said housing attached to the rear wall thereof, colored light bulbs mounted in said sockets capable of casting undiffused light, a transparent support sheet secured within said housing parallel to the rear wall thereof, an image layer supported on the surface of said sheet facing said bulbs, a translucent screen spaced from and positioned on the side of said transpatent sheet opposite said rear wall and forming the front of said housing, said bulbs blinking and projecting simultaneously and in alternative various images from said image layer of different colors onto said translucent screen in different areas thereof producing an aesthetic lighting effect, said image layer forming illustrative and textural material for the amusement and education of the viewer and a bottom wall detachably secured on said housing for access to said housing for varying the geometric arrangement in which said bulbs are spaced from each other and changing the spacing of said transparent sheet and said translucent screen from each other and the rear of said housing thereby producing different lighting effects on said translucent screen.

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