April 16, 1963 A. M. ANDREWS 3,086,106

LANTERN

Filed Aug. 22, 1960

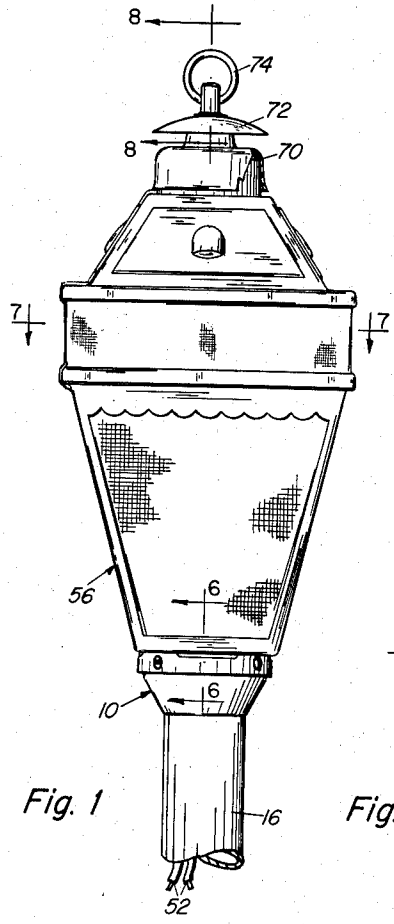


Fig. 1

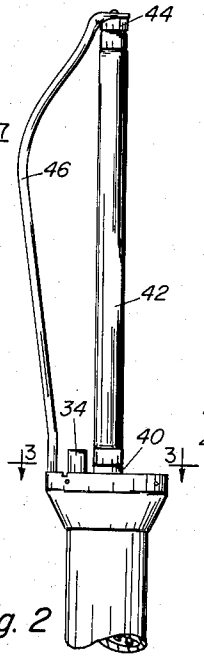


Fig. 2

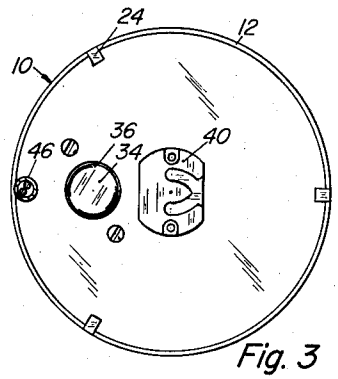


Fig. 3

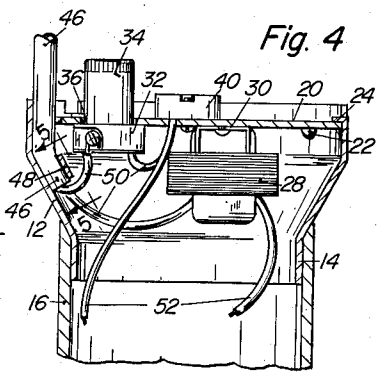


Fig. 4

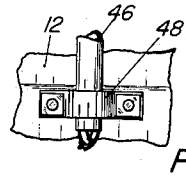


Fig. 5

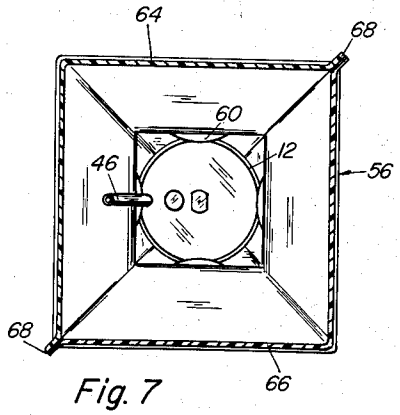


Fig. 7

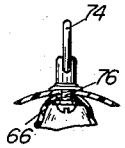


Fig. 8

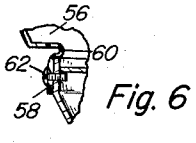


Fig. 6

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LANTERN

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1 Claim. (Cl. 240—25)

The present invention relates to a new and improved construction for a lantern.

An object of the invention is to provide a new and improved construction for a lantern utilizing a fluorescent bulb.

A further object is to provide a lantern construction wherein the components are completely protected from the elements.

Another object is to provide a lantern having a fluorescent bulb so constructed as to dissipate harmlessly the heat generated by the ballast transformer.

Other objects and advantages will become apparent in the following detailed description of the invention and the accompanying drawings wherein;

FIG. 1 is an elevation of a lantern constructed in accordance with the invention;

FIG. 2 is a view of the lantern with the decorative housing removed;

FIG. 3 is an enlarged top view of the base of the lantern;

FIG. 4 is a sectional elevation of the base;

FIG. 5 is a fragmentary view looking in the direction of arrows 5—5 in FIG. 4;

FIG. 6 is a fragmentary sectional view taken along line 6—6 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 7 is a sectional view taken along line 7—7 of FIG. 1; and

FIG. 8 is a fragmentary sectional view taken along line 8—8 of FIG. 1.

Referring to the drawing, the lantern of the invention comprises a base **10** including a generally tubular shell **12** formed of metal, preferably aluminum. The base **10** is provided at its lower end with a cylindrical neck **14** which may be inserted into the top of a mounting post **16**.

Mounted in the shell **12** near its upper end is a horizontal plate **20** which is preferably of aluminum or other metal having good heat conducting properties and which is preferably in snug engagement with the side wall of the shell **12** so as to facilitate conduction of heat from the plate to the shell. Suitable means such as lips **22** punched in the shell **12** support the plate **20** which is held against the lips by tabs **24** bent inwardly from the upper rim of the shell.

Secured by screws **30** or other suitable means to the undersurface of the plate **20** is a ballast transformer **28**. Also mounted on the underside of the plate **20** is a conventional mounting block **32** for a fluorescent bulb starter **34** and which projects upwardly above the plate through an opening **36** therein.

Secured to the upper surface of the plate **20** is a mounting socket **40** for a fluorescent bulb **42** which extends vertically upwardly from the plate. The opposite end of the bulb **42** is engaged in a mounting socket **44** secured to the upper end of a tubular mounting arm **46**, the lower end of which is secured to the shell **12** by means of a bracket **48**, as best shown in FIG. 5. The transformer, lamp, socket and starter are suitably innerconnected by

leads indicated generally at **50**, the leads for the mounting socket **44** extending upwardly through the arm **46**. Power may be supplied for the lamp through conductors **52** extending through the post **16** to a suitable source of electric power.

Mounted on the base **10** and enclosing the bulb **42** and other structure is a decorative housing **56** having a rounded base portion **58** which extends about the upper portion of the base **10**, see FIG. 6. Lips **60** may be provided on the housing base to engage the upper edge of the shell **12** so as to hold the housing in position and screws **62** may be provided removably to secure the housing to the base. Preferably the housing **56** is molded of a translucent or transparent plastic material such as polyethylene. Obviously, the housing **56** may be of various decorative shapes and designs.

The housing **56** comprises identical, separately molded body half portions **64**, **66** which are cemented or heat sealed together along their mating surfaces as indicated at **68**. The housing is capped by a cup-shaped member **66** which surrounds an upwardly projecting tubular part **70** of the body. The cup **66** is topped by an umbrella-like shield **72** and a decorative ring **74** secured in place by a bolt **76** which may be mounted thereon. It will be seen that the housing **56** is completely sealed and thus the bulb, transformer, starter, etc. are completely protected from rain, snow, dust and the like.

As will be apparent with the structure as shown the leads to the upper socket **44** are fully enclosed and protected from injury when the housing **56** is removed for any reason. Moreover, the housing **56** can be easily removed and replaced in the event it is necessary to replace the lamp bulb **42** or to replace the starter **34** which by reason of the manner in which it is mounted on the base is easily accessible.

In locations having low power cost it is feasible to permit the lamp to burn continuously since a fluorescent lamp draws relatively little power. In such instances the construction of the base **10** is of added advantage in that the plate **20** conducts heat from the ballast transformer **28** to the shell **12** from which it can be radiated to the atmosphere or conducted to the post **16**. This is particularly desirable since the accumulated heat from the ballast transformer and that from rising by reason of the sun shining on the lamp might over-heat the plastic housing **56** were all the heat to accumulate therein.

Having illustrated and described a preferred embodiment of the invention, it should be apparent to those skilled in the art that the invention permits of modification in arrangement and detail. I claim all such modifications as come within the true spirit and scope of the appended claim.

I claim:

In combination, a post having a top end, a lantern mounted on the top end of said post, said lantern comprising a generally tubular metal base having means on its lower end attaching the same to said post top end, a circular, horizontally extending thermally conductive plate mounted in said base in thermally conductive engagement with the wall of said base, a ballast transformer secured to the undersurface of said plate, said plate having an opening therethrough, a fluorescent bulb starter mounting block secured to the undersurface of said plate, a fluorescent bulb starter removably mounted in said block and

extending above said plate through said plate opening, a mounting socket for a fluorescent bulb secured to the upper surface of said plate coaxially therewith, a second fluorescent bulb mounting socket, a tubular mounting arm for said second socket secured to said base and extending upwardly therefrom in offset relation to the axis of said plate, said second socket being secured to the upper end of said arm, a fluorescent bulb mounted in and extending between said sockets coaxially with said base, a housing removably mounted on said base and enclosing said bulb, and circuit means electrically connecting said starter, ballast transformer and sockets.

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