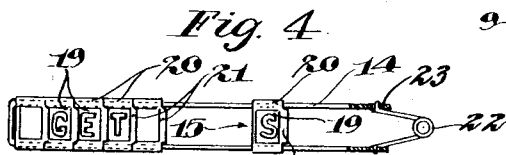
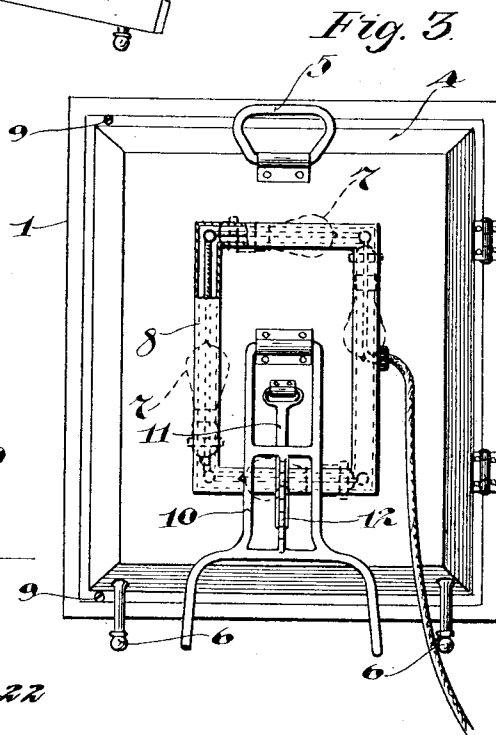
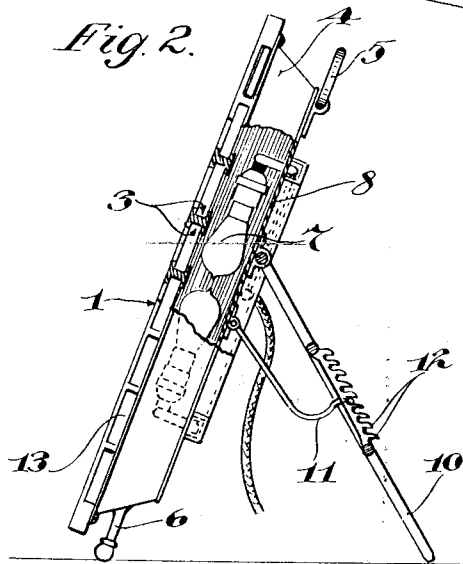
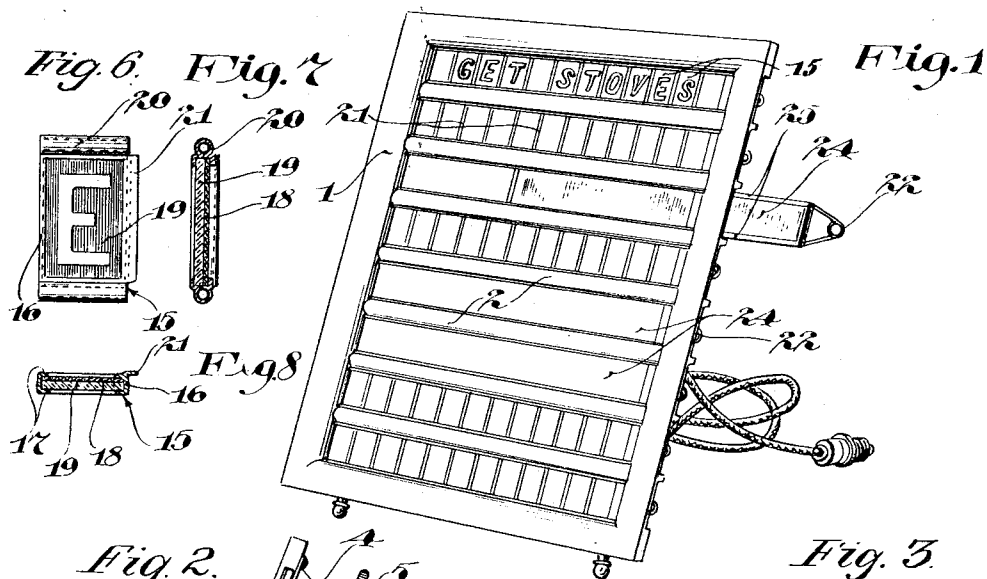


1,120,876.

Patented Dec. 15, 1914.



Witnesses  
Emily King  
E. C. Skinkle



Inventor  
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By his Attorneys

William D. Muehler

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

PHILLIP WITZ, OF MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.

SIGN.

1,120,876.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Dec. 15, 1914.

Application filed December 15, 1913. Serial No. 806,942.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, PHILLIP WITZ, a citizen of the United States, residing at Minneapolis, in the county of Hennepin and State of Minnesota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Signs; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention has for its object to provide an improved sign or business bulletin; and, to this end, it consists of the novel devices and combinations of devices hereinafter described and defined in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, which illustrate the invention, like characters indicate like parts throughout the several views.

Referring to the drawings:—Figure 1 is a perspective view of the improved sign; Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the same, some parts being broken away, and some of the exposed parts being indicated in section; Fig. 3 is a rear view of the improved sign, some parts being broken away, and some of the exposed parts shown in section; Fig. 4 is a plan view of the so-called character units holder, having mounted thereon a plurality of the character units, some parts of said frame being separated, and some parts indicated in section; Fig. 5 is a view corresponding to Fig. 4, but showing the parts assembled; Fig. 6 is a face view of one of the character units; Fig. 7 is a longitudinal central section taken through the character unit; and Fig. 8 is a transverse section thereof.

The numeral 1 indicates a rectangular metallic frame having rigidly secured thereto a plurality of vertically spaced, horizontally extended bars 2 having, on their upper and lower faces, guide channels 3.

Hinged to the back of the frame 1 is a metallic casing 4 having, at its upper edge, a hand piece 5, and having, at its lower edge, a pair of feet 6, on which the improved sign is supported.

Mounted within the casing 4 is a plurality of electric lamps 7, the wiring of which is located within a conduit 8 on the back of the casing 4. The casing 4 and lamps 7 afford a light font. Screws 9, or other suitable means, are provided for holding the casing 4 on the frame. Hinged to the back of the

casing 4 is a pair of supporting feet 10, adapted to hold the improved sign in an inclined position. These feet 10 are secured in different oblique positions by a bent rod 11 hinged to the back of the casing 4, and having interlocking engagement with the teeth of a vertically extended bar 12 secured to the feet 10.

The frame 1, at one edge, is open at 13, to permit character unit holders 14 to be applied to or removed from the frame 1, by sliding the same horizontally in the channels 3 formed in the bars 2. Each of these holders is in the form of a U-shaped rod adapted to receive and hold a plurality of interchangeable unit characters 15. Each character unit comprises a rectangular frame 16 having marginal clenching edges 17 adapted to hold, within the frame, a front and back plate 18 and 19, respectively.

The frames 16 are provided with sleeve-like ends 20 adapted to be telescoped onto the prongs of the holder 14, and at one side of the frame 16 is a joint strip 21, adapted to overlap the adjacent edge of one of the character units. These joint strips 21 form a barred effect between the several character letters, and, also, give the same a neat appearance.

The character units assembled on each holder 14 are secured against removal therefrom by a head clamp 22, in the form of a sear spring. The ends of this clamp are bent laterally and adapted for interlocking engagement with perforations 23 formed in the ends of the prongs of the holder 14, outward of the character units. The clamps 22, at the junction with their laterally bent ends, are expanded to afford shallow channels to receive the prongs of said holders, and thereby secure said clamps against lateral movement and alined with said holders. These clamps 22 also afford finger pieces, by which the holders 14 may be removed from or inserted into the frame 1.

The plate 18 of each character unit is preferably made from clear glass, with a background of paint or other opaque material outlining the letter, figure, or character represented on the character unit. The plate 19 is preferably made from opal glass or other translucent material. Obviously, in constructing the character unit as described, the paint or background placed between the two plates 18 and 19 cannot be marred or scratched, and the same is also

weather-proof. By mounting the plates 18 and 19 in a frame, as described, they cannot be easily broken.

Blanks or dummies 24, having, on their upper and lower edges, sleeves 25 adapted to be telescoped onto the prongs of the holders 14, are provided for closing one or more of the spaces between the bars 2, when the same is not in use. These dummies are made of some suitable opaque material, to cut out the light from the light font.

From the foregoing description, it is evident that the character unit holders are interchangeable, and the unit characters and dummies are also interchangeable. The above described device has, in actual usage, been found highly efficient for the purpose had in view.

What I claim is:--

1. The combination with a frame structure having spaced guide rails between which the light may pass, of a skeleton character unit holder slidably and removably mounted on said guide rails, interchangeable character units detachably mounted on the said holder, and a clamping head applied to said holder and removable therewith from said guide rails for locking said character units to said holder, said clamping head comprising a finger piece by which said holder may be applied to said guide rails or removed therefrom.

2. The combination with a frame struc-

ture having spaced guide rails between which the light may pass, of a character unit holder in the form of a U-shaped rod slidably and removably mounted on said guide rails, interchangeable opaque character units with translucent characters, said character units having sleeve-like ends telescoped onto the prongs of said holder, and a clamping head applied to the prongs of said holder and removable therewith from said guide rails, for locking said character units on said holder.

3. The combination with a frame structure having spaced guide rails between which the light may pass, of a character unit holder in the form of a U-shaped rod slidably and removably mounted on said guide rails, interchangeable opaque character units with translucent characters, said character units having sleeve-like ends telescoped onto the prongs of said holder, and a spring clamping head having interlocking engagement with the prongs of said holder and removable therewith from said guide rails, for locking said character units on said holder.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

PHILLIP WITZ.

Witnesses:

EMILY MAY KING,  
HARRY D. KILGORE.