United States Patent Office 3,538,633 Patented Nov. 10, 1970

3,538,633

EXPRESSWAY SIGN

Frederick H. Elliott, Jr., 63 Maplewood Drive, East Greenwich, R.I. 02818

Filed Apr. 15, 1968, Ser. No. 721,337
Int. Cl. G09f 11/18
U.S. Cl. 40—129 4 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A portable sign including a housing having windows formed therein through which messages are visible, the messages being imprinted on movable tapes located within the housing, illumination means that are located in the housing being provided for illuminating the messages as they appear on the tapes.

The present invention relates to improvements in signs and more particularly to an improved sign for use on expressways.

An object of the present invention is to provide an improved sign for use on expressways to promote safety wherein the sign is portable and has a series of messages from which a single message can be positioned for exposure.

Another object of the present invention is to provide an improved sign for use on expressways wherein an extensive choice of messages is available for use according to need and wherein the sign is portable, weatherproof and self contained.

Other objects of the present invention are to provide an improved expressway sign which is compact, simple to transport and use and inexpensive in construction.

Various other objects and advantages will becomes apparent from the detailed description to follow.

The expressway sign consists of a portable, weatherproof housing containing a set of tapes carried on rollers, wherein the tapes carry multiple emergency messages for selective exposure, with illumination means for the messages.

In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of my improved expressway sign;

FIG. 2 is a front elevational view thereof with the front panel removed to expose the interior components;

FIG. 3 is a sectional view taken substantially on the plane of line 3—3 in FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 is a sectional view taken substantially on the plane of line 4—4 in FIG. 2.

Referring more particularly to the drawings wherein like numerals apply to like parts throughout, it will be seen that I have provided an improved expressway sign **10** which includes a housing **12**, support means **14**, tape means **16**, and illumination means **18**.

The housing can be formed in a variety of constructions and materials. For example, the housing can be formed of sheet metal having a front panel **28**, side panels **22**, **24**, bottom panel **26** and top panels **28**, **30** all suitably joined in weathertight relation, as will readily be understood. Welded seams or weather-stripping at the joints are examples.

The front panel is formed with at least one window **32** and preferably three as shown. Transparent or translucent

plastic **34** can seal the openings while providing visibility. The plastic pieces **34** can be secured in position in any desired fashion.

The side panel **24** has an access door **36** removably secured by screws **38** for a purpose to be described.

The support means **14** includes any suitable wheel arrangement such as the pair of wheels **40** journalled on shaft **42** which in turn is resiliently carried on spring bar **44**, the latter being secured to bottom panel **26** by bolts or the like.

The tape means **16** includes at least one and preferably three tapes **46**, one for each window. The tapes are formed of suitable material such as plastic or metal and have multiple messages carried thereby. For example the tape can be transparent tape with the message printed thereon as at **47** or cut-out or it could be thin metal with the message punched-out. The tapes are rolled on rollers **48**, **50** which are journalled on shafts **52**, **54** supported in the top and bottom panels **28** and **26**. The rollers at each end have one of their flanges formed with gear teeth as at **56**, **58** for cooperation with the worm on each shaft **60**. The latter are journalled in bearings as at **62** so as to extend outwardly of the casing. Also the shafts **60** have at their free outer ends a rectangular cross-section so as to be adapted to receive a suitably formed crank thereon, as at **64**, whereby the shafts **60** can be rotated to rotate the cooperative roller and thus wind the tape in either direction to expose a selected message.

The illuminating means **18** includes a series of lights **66** mounted on board **68** within the housing and behind translucent panel **70** which in turn is behind the tapes. Thus, the lights **66** serve to illuminate the selected message shown through the front panel windows. A battery **72** is connected to the lamps and an exterior switch **74** serves to control lighting.

The battery can be replaced through access door **36**.

From the foregoing it will be understood that the instant design of expressway sign can be towed to a selected site and placed in a suitable position. Then the rollers can be cranked until the selected emergency message is exposed and the sign is illuminated as by red or amber lights. Flashing lights may also be used if desired.

It will thus be seen that I have provided an improved expressway sign suitable for emergency use where needed.

As this invention may be embodied in several forms without departing from the spirit or essential characteristics thereof, the present embodiment is therefore illustrative and not restrictive, since the scope of the invention is defined by the appended claims rather than by the description preceding them, and all changes that fall within the metes and bounds of the claims or that form their functional as well as conjointly cooperative equivalents, are therefore intended to be embraced by these claims.

I claim:

1. A portable sign for use on roadways, comprising a housing including a front panel in which at least one window is formed, an elongated tape mounted for movement in said housing in close proximity to said window and having a series of messages imprinted thereon that are selectively aligned with said window, spaced rollers mounted for rotating movement in said housing and receiving said tape therearound, wherein rotation of said rollers provides for selection of a message on said tape for viewing through said window, the axes of said rollers being disposed in

ticular device, those parts of the picture which are to be painted with the same or similar colors to be painted different shades of the chosen color to enhance the illusion of movement and depth to the viewer when viewed through said lens sheet.

References Cited

UNITED STATES PATENTS

1,475,430	11/1923	Curwen	40—137
2,799,938	7/1957	Anderson.	
2,832,593	4/1958	Anderson	40—137 X
2,954,615	10/1960	Brown	35—26

EUGENE R. CAPOZIO, Primary Examiner

R. CARTER, Assistant Examiner

U.S. Cl. X.R.

40—137