

G. G. GREENBERG.
VEHICLE LAMP.
APPLICATION FILED APR. 19, 1909.

1,065,444.

Patented June 24, 1913.

Fig. 1.

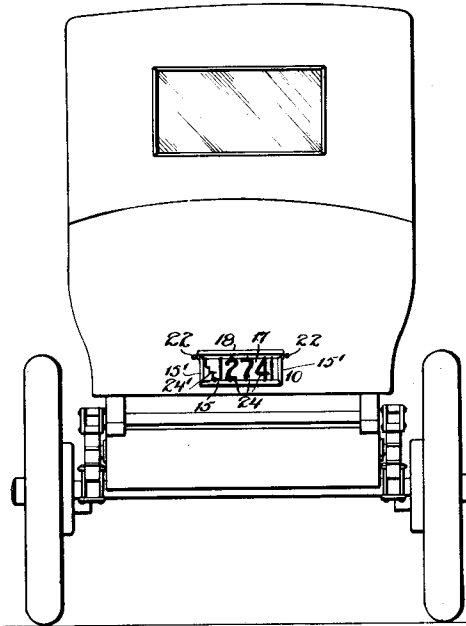


Fig. 2.

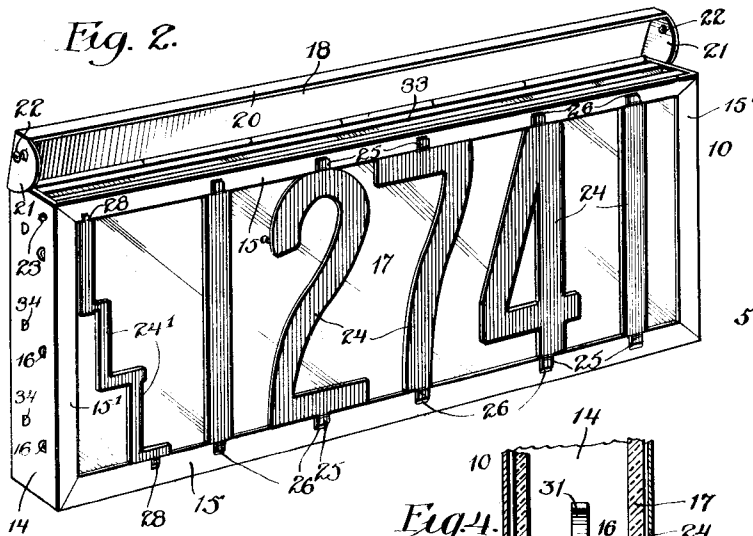


Fig. 4.

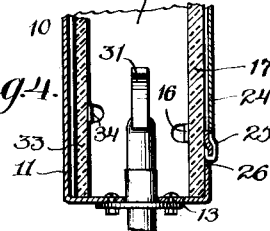
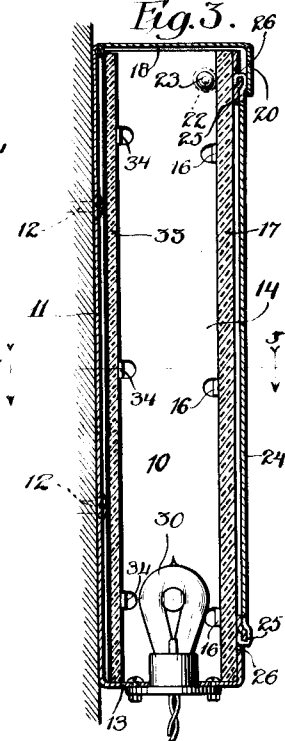


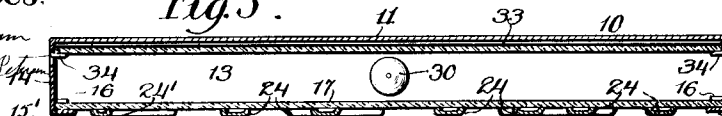
Fig. 3.



Witnesses:-

Frank W. Brown
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Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE G. GREENBERG, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

VEHICLE-LAMP.

1,065,444.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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Application filed April 19, 1909. Serial No. 490,668.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE G. GREENBERG, a resident of Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Vehicle-Lamps, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The invention relates to automobile lamps and identification-tags and designs primarily to provide an improved device which serves the combined purpose of a lamp and an identification tag or marker.

It is now common practice to require automobiles to carry registry numbers for convenience in identification and to require them to carry a tail lamp or lamps disposed to illuminate the numbers on the tags on the car, so that they may be seen at night. In practice, however, the desired result is not always attained, because the lens of the lamp, as well as the number, frequently become covered with dust or bespattered with mud, or both, and sometimes the lamp is not focused to illuminate the number.

The invention designs to provide a transparent marker or identification tag which is embodied in a lamp so that the number on the tag may be, at all times, conveniently read and clearly visible, and which is adapted to be secured in a suitable place on the vehicle body. Resultantly, when the lamp is lighted, the number will be visible even though the outer face of the transparent plate becomes dusty. It is also desirable to provide a construction in which the numbers or characters are interchangeably secured to the lamp body so that the device will be adapted to receive different numbers or characters, since essentially each must be different and the invention also designs to provide an improved device which is adapted for this interchangeability and in which the characters are separately formed from, and secured in, position against the transparent plate of the lamp so that in event the plate becomes broken the numbers may still be used.

The invention consists in the several novel features hereinafter set forth and more particularly defined by claims at the conclusion hereof.

In the drawings: Figure 1 is a perspective of a vehicle equipped with the improved

illuminated identification marker. Fig. 2 is a perspective of the combined lamp and tag. Fig. 3 is a vertical section thereof. Fig. 4 is a similar view showing a gas burner in the case. Fig. 5 is a section on line 5—5 of Fig. 3.

The lamp-body or case 10 is preferably of rectangular shape and sufficient in length so that one of its faces will have sufficient area to contain the figures or characters in desired or necessary number, the figures usually constituting the number and an abbreviation of the State issuing the registration. The case is narrow transversely to avoid unnecessary projection from the body of the vehicle when it is secured thereto and is provided with a straight or flat back so that it may be rigidly secured or screwed to the body of the vehicle, it being unnecessary to remove it for cleaning as is usual with vehicle-lamps generally used.

The case is formed of sheet metal, bent to form a straight back 11 adapted to fit against the vehicle-body and to be secured thereto by screws 12, a bottom 13, ends 14, a bottom-flange 15 on the front face, side-flanges 15' extending inwardly from the end-walls and a strip or top-rail 15^a extending across the front of the body adjacent the top thereof.

The end-walls 14 are cut to permit tongues 16 to be bent inwardly into the body of the lamp near the flanges 15' to form with the latter a guide for removably holding a transparent face-plate 17 in the case, so that the plate may be withdrawn for convenience in cleaning or replacement, and to provide access to the interior of the case to permit the screws 12 to be driven into the vehicle-body or a part thereof.

The top of the case is open and is normally closed by a door 18 which is hinged to the upper edge of the back-wall so it may be swung to normally close the top and to overlie the edge of the transparent plate 17 and the top rail 15^a or to swing upwardly or so it may be swung upwardly to permit the transparent plate to be lifted out of the case. The top-door 18 is provided with a flange 20 which extends across the front of the body and with end-flanges 21 which are provided with securing-means such as screws adapted to enter seats or depressions 23 in

the case-ends to securely hold the top closed and these flanges protect the top of the case against the entry of rain or mud.

A reflector 33 consisting of a flat rectangular plate suitably coated, extends entirely across the case adjacent the back thereof and is held against displacement therein by tongues 34 bent inwardly from the case-ends. The reflector may be formed of a straight sheet of glass or other suitable material to extend entirely across the case so that there will be light back ground for all of the characters and figures on the transparent plate 17.

The identification figures 24 and letters 24' are usually formed of enameled metal, and are therefore opaque, and each is provided with a tongue 25 at its upper and at its lower end, which pass through holes 26 formed in the top rail 15^a and the bottom flange 15 respectively to separately or independently secure each figure or character on the outside of the transparent plate, and in making-up these devices the bottom-flange and top-rail are perforated when supplied to the dealer, and the desired number may be made up from a supply of units or figures and characters in stock. The name of the State issuing the registration, *e. g.*, "Ill." is similarly made of enameled metal and provided with tongues 28 whereby it may be secured on the outside of the transparent face-plate.

A suitable burner is mounted centrally in the case to illuminate the inside thereof, as well as the face plate, and the reflector which diffuses light throughout the entire width of the case. The burner is mounted on the bottom 13 and may be either an incandescent electric lamp 30, as shown in Fig. 3, or a top 31 such as is usually employed for acetylene gas. When the lamp is burning the entire face of the transparent plate, except those portions covered by the opaque characters will be illuminated and produce clear contrast between the plate and the figures and render them clearly legible from a distance. Furthermore, the numbers are usually dark in color so that in daylight there will also be a distinct contrast between them and the plate to render the numbers visible during such time.

The device thus described provides a combined lamp and identification tag which will cause the numbers to be clearly visible at night when the lamp is lighted and in daylight. Furthermore the interchangeability of the figures makes it possible to make up the numbers by collocation of separate units. An important advantage of the rectangular lamp-body or case is that a straight piece of transparent glass may be used and can be easily replaced in event of breakage and substantially the entire front face of the body can be utilized for the number so it becomes

possible to use large clear figures which are clearly visible when the vehicle is passing at a high speed. Furthermore it becomes possible to use a flat mirror as a reflector which can also be readily replaced in event of breakage. By providing the body with a straight back which is adapted to be secured permanently and rigidly to the vehicle body and providing the lamp with a removable transparent plate and reflector there will be no necessity for removing the lamp body in cleaning the vehicle, and therefore the invention provides a device which can be permanently secured to the vehicle.

It will be observed, by referring more particularly to Fig. 3 of the drawing, that when the identification characters 24 are positioned in the top and bottom flanges by bending the tongues 25 and 26 to engage therewith, and the transparent plate 17 has been slid into position, the said plate will effectually lock the identification characters in position, owing to the fact that it will be impossible to obtain access to the tongues 25 and 26, in order to rebend them to detach them from their retaining strips.

The invention is not to be understood as restricted to the details illustrated and described since these may be modified within the scope of the appended claims without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

Having thus described the invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:—

1. In a lamp for vehicles, the combination of a lamp-case, a fixed flat bottom strip and a fixed flat top strip at the front face thereof, a removable flat transparent plate forming the front side of said case and held therein inwardly of and adjacent said strips, a lamp in said case, and identification characters extending between said strips and separately attached thereto to lie across the outer side of said transparent plate, said characters being locked against removal by said transparent plate when the latter is in position.

2. In a lamp for vehicles, the combination of a lamp-case, a fixed flat bottom strip and a fixed flat top strip at the front face thereof, a removable flat transparent plate forming the front side of said case and held therein inwardly of and adjacent said strips, a lamp in said case, and identification characters each provided with tongues adapted to be bent to separately engage in apertures in said strips at the top and bottom of said case, said characters being locked against removal by said transparent plate when the latter is in position.

3. In a lamp for vehicles, the combination of a lamp-case having an open top and face, a fixed flat bottom strip and a fixed flat top strip at the front face thereof, a re-

movable flat transparent plate forming the front side of said case and held therein inwardly of and adjacent said strips, a lamp in said case, identification characters each
5 provided with tongues adapted to be bent to separately engage in apertures in said strips at the top and bottom of said case, said characters being locked against removal

by said transparent plate when the latter is in position, and a door for closing the top 10 of said case and preventing the removal of said transparent plate.

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Witnesses:

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