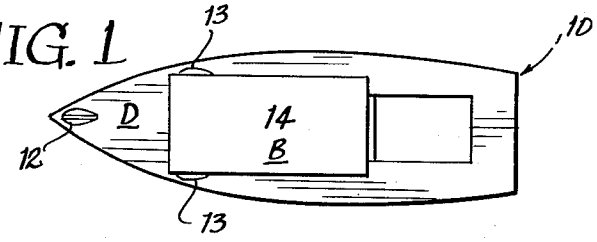
May 31, 1966 R. G. MARTELET 3,254,206

NAUTICAL LIGHT

Filed Jan. 31, 1964

FIG. 1



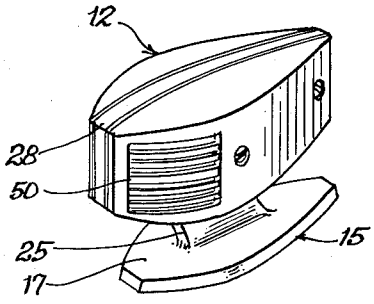




FIG. 2

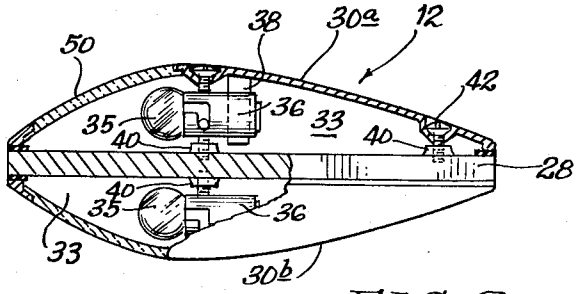



FIG. 3

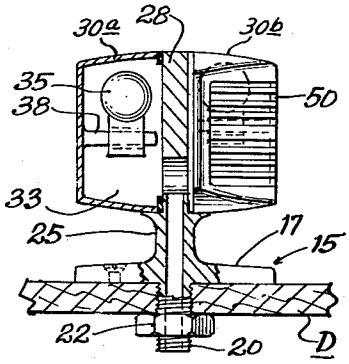



FIG. 5

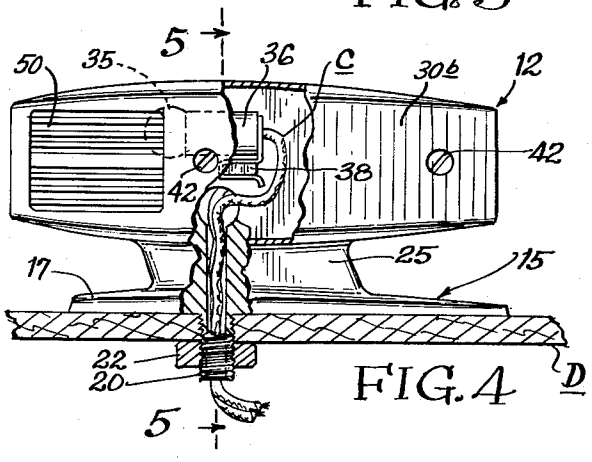



FIG. 4

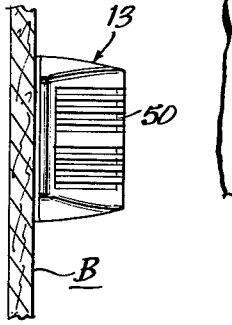



FIG. 7

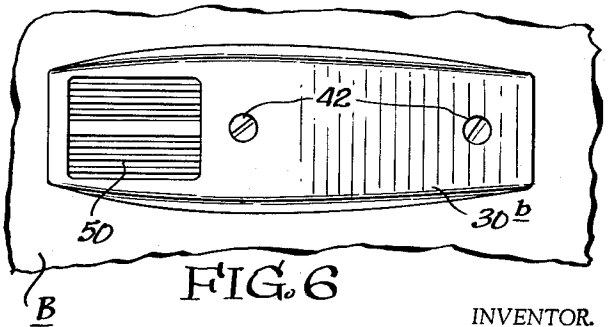



FIG. 6

INVENTOR.
Ronald G. Martelet
BY
Frank H. Marks
Nathan N. Kraus,
Att'ys

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3,254,206

# NAUTICAL LIGHT

Ronald G. Martelet, Chicago, Ill., assignor to Sears, Roebuck and Co., Chicago, Ill., a corporation of New York

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4 Claims. (Cl. 240—7.5)

My invention relates generally to the field of lights for use on boats and generally known as "running lights." Such lights are required by maritime regulations for the bow and sides of a craft, in order that neighboring ships may know the direction of movement of the craft carrying the lights.

More particularly, my invention has to do with lights of this character intended primarily for owners of small boats, such as cruisers and sail boats, and has been especially conceived from the standpoint of economy.

My invention contemplates a construction which is adaptable for use either as a bow light or side light for a boat, without modification.

Specifically, according to my invention, I provide a light of the character referred to formed, as by molding, die casting or like methods of fabrication, in a plurality of simple parts. All of said parts may be assembled to form a bow light while one of said parts may be used independently as a side light. Thus, a saving may be effected in fabrication by elimination of special tooling which otherwise would be required for a side light, which saving may be passed on to the consumer.

Various other objects and advantages will become apparent as the description proceeds.

Referring now to the drawings forming a part of this specification and illustrating a preferred embodiment of my invention,

FIG. 1 is a top plan view of a boat, showing more-or-less diagrammatically bow and side running lights mounted thereon in accordance with my invention;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of a bow light embodying my invention;

FIG. 3 is a top plan view of the light shown in FIG. 2, with parts broken away to reveal portions of the interior construction, and with certain parts in section;

FIG. 4 is a side elevational view of the light of FIGS. 2 and 3 mounted on a deck, here again certain parts being broken away to reveal the interior arrangement and with parts in section;

FIG. 5 is a view partly in section substantially along the line 5—5 of FIG. 4 and partly in elevation;

FIG. 6 is a side elevational view showing one of the side elements of the light secured to the side of a cabin to provide a side running light, and

FIG. 7 is an end elevational view of the light shown in FIG. 6, with a portion of the supporting wall shown in section.

Referring first to FIG. 1, the numeral **10** represents a boat of any type whatever to which my invention is applicable. I have shown a small launch or "cruiser" type which is popular for private ownership and operation on inland or coastal waters, although it should be understood that my invention is applicable to a sail boat or ship of any other size and description.

Adjacent the bow may be secured a bow light embodying my invention as hereinafter described in detail, while side running lights **13**, **13**, may be attached to the side walls of a cabin **14**, also as hereinafter described.

The major parts embodying my invention may conveniently be formed of cast or die-cast metal or alloy of any suitable type. For a bow light I provide a mid-section **15** which includes a base portion **17** adapted to rest on a deck D. Depending from base **17** is a hollow screw **20** engageable in a nut **22** embedded in deck D.



Integral with base **17** is a post portion **25** which is preferably hollow, communicating with the passage inside screw **20**, and serves to support integral mid-section **28**. Thus, post **25** and section **28** may be molded or cast as a unit. It will be noted that said mid-section constitutes a sort of median rib for the light **12** when employed as a bow light and, with allochiral side portions **30***a* and **30***b*, serves to provide a pair of generally parallel spaces **33** within which are disposed electrical lamps **35**, **35**.

Each of the lamps is seated in the usual manner in an appropriate socket **36** which may be of more-or-less standard construction in the electrical industry and carried by side members **30***a* and **30***b* through a lug **38** extending inwardly from the wall of the side member.

Formed on rib member **28** is a plurality of female-threaded bosses **40** adapted to receive screws **42** for securing side members **30***a* and **30***b* to rib member **28**. (FIG. 3.)

Side members **30***a* and **30***b* are substantially allochiral or mirror images of each other, each having adjacent one end, which I will call the forward end of the light, a window portion **50** therein closed by a suitable translucent or transparent pane or lens of glass or a suitable synthetic plastic resin. To satisfy marine regulations each of the windows will be so shaped and disposed that the rays of lamps **35** passing therethrough will be visible forwardly and laterally of the craft but not rearwardly thereof, and side members **30***a* and **30***b* are provided with suitable contours to this end. Thus, it will be seen that the rearward extremity of each window **50** is disposed at the widest portion of the lamp housing, thus effectively preventing rearward projection of light.

As seen in FIG. 4, electrical conductors C are fed through hollow screw **20** from a suitable source of electrical energy and on through post **25** to socket members **36** for illuminating the lamps **35**.

From what has been described it will be seen that, to provide a bow light **12**, base member **15**, along with the parts integral therewith, is secured to the deck in the manner shown in FIGS. 4 and 5. Side members **30***a* and **30***b* are screwed to rib portion **28**, the window elements of the side members of course being disposed toward the bow of the craft.

Side members **30***a* and **30***b* are so constructed that they may be used without modifications as side lights for the craft. Thus, as seen in FIGS. 6 and 7, to utilize one of the side members as a side light, said member may be secured to a side wall of cabin B by screws **42** passing directly into said wall. When so used, the lamp socket **36** may be wired with a conductor passing through the wall B into the cabin.

It will be seen that I have provided an extremely versatile lamp which may be utilized as a bow light while the side portions of the latter serve without modification or special adaptation as side running lights. This arrangement is conducive toward low-cost production, obviating the need for extra tooling. As designed, the parts may all be conveniently produced by such efficient production methods as molding or die casting.

Various changes coming within the spirit of my invention may suggest themselves to those skilled in the art; hence, I do not wish to be limited to the specific embodiments shown and described or uses mentioned, but intend the same to be merely exemplary, the scope of my invention being limited only by the appended claims.

I claim:

**1.** A nautical bow light comprising, in combination,

(a) a midsection including a support portion and a frame portion mounted thereon in a generally vertical plane, the latter having a pair of substantially parallel flat planar faces, and

(b) a pair of allochiral concavo-convex side members detachably secured to said frame portion and having flat planar faces abutting those of said frame portion, with cooperating securing means in said side members and frame portion,

(c) each side member having a lamp socket mounted therein and a window adjacent one end thereof, said window being so designed and positioned as to direct light only laterally and forwardly,

(d) each side member, when detached from said frame portion, being attachable to a generally flat and vertical surface with its socket and a lamp seated therein to serve as a running light as a complete unit.

**2.** A combination as in claim **1**, wherein said support portion includes,

(a) a pedestal providing a conduit for an electrical conductor for actuating lamps disposed in said sockets, and

(b) means for fixing said pedestal on a deck.

**3.** In a combination as in claim **1**,

(a) threaded bosses in said frame portion,

(b) said side members having passages formed therein, and

(c) threaded male securing elements extending through said passages and engaging said bosses detachably retaining the side members in assembled relation with the frame portion.

**4.** A combination as in claim **1**, wherein said support portion includes



(a) a pedestal portion providing a conduit for an electrical conductor for actuating lamps disposed in said sockets,

(b) a base portion adapted to seat on a deck, and

(c) a female exteriorly threaded element in communication with said pedestal portion and adapted to be embedded and secured in a deck.


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NORTON ANSHER, *Primary Examiner.*

J. F. PETERS, *Assistant Examiner.*