Jan. 30, 1968 C. K. COCHRAN 3,366,944

WIG THEFT ALARM

Filed June 28, 1965

FIG. 1

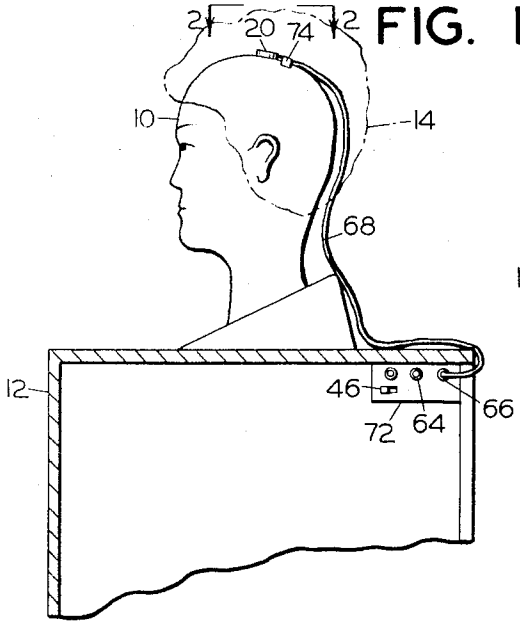
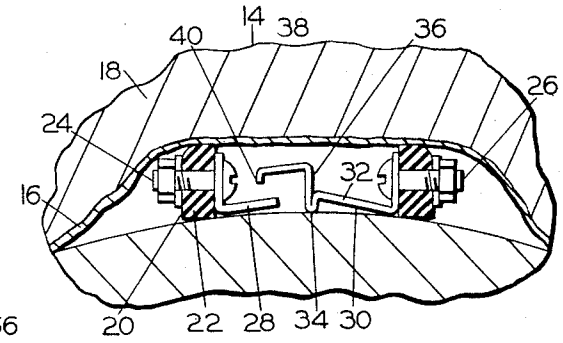


FIG. 3



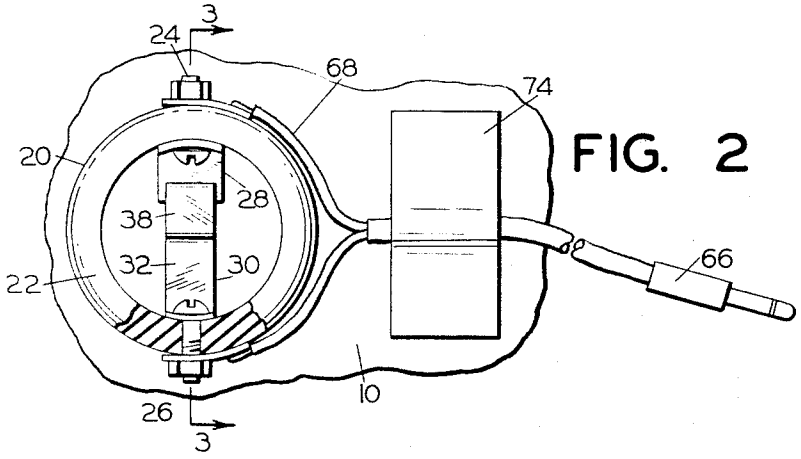


FIG. 2

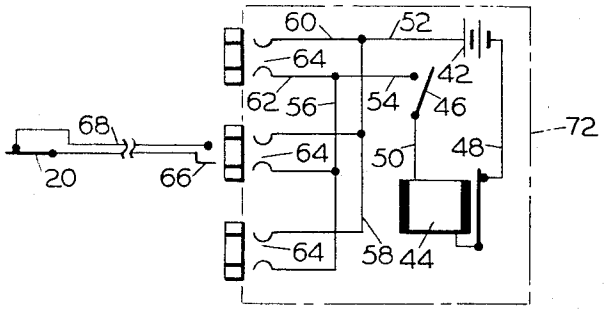


FIG. 4

INVENTOR.
CHARLES K. COCHRAN
BY Eugene M. Eckelman
ATTORNEY

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WIG THEFT ALARM

Charles K. Cochran, Rte. 1, Box 165, Cornelius, Oreg. 97113

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This invention relates to a wig theft alarm.

In view of the demand now prevalent for ladies' wigs or hair pieces, it is customary for shops to display a plurality of such wigs for selection by the customer. Such wigs customarily are removably fitted on mannequins, and since they are readily removable a great loss is incurred through shoplifting. A primary objective of the present invention therefore is to provide an alarm system associated with a mannequin-mounted wig which is capable of alerting the shop owner when a wig is being wrongfully removed from a mannequin.

A more particular object is to provide a wig theft alarm employing electric circuit means which includes a switch arranged to be mounted between the wig and the head of the mannequin and arranged to energize an alarm in the circuit when the wig is wrongfully removed.

Another object is to provide a wig theft alarm employing an electric circuit in which is included a switch of novel construction capable of energizing the alarm as above mentioned.

Briefly stated, the invention comprises an electric circuit in which is incorporated a novel normally closed switch which is arranged to be mounted on the head of a mannequin and held in open position by a wig fitted on the said head. The electric circuit includes an alarm controlled in its operation by the switch and arranged to be sounded when the wig is wrongfully removed from the head of the mannequin. The invention will be better understood and additional objects will become apparent from the following specification and claims, considered together with the accompanying drawings, wherein the numerals of reference indicate like parts.

In the drawings:

FIGURE 1 is an elevational view of a mannequin showing the present wig theft alarm in place, the wig for the mannequin being shown in phantom lines;

FIGURE 2 is a top plan view of the energizing switch for the alarm mechanism;

FIGURE 3 is a cross sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of FIGURE 2; and

FIGURE 4 is a wiring diagram of the wig theft alarm electrical system.

Referring in particular to the drawings and first to FIGURES 1 and 2 it is customary to mount one or more mannequin heads **10** on a support **12** such as a display case or table and to place wigs **14** on the heads **10** for selection by the customers. The wigs **14** comprise inner liners **16**, FIGURE 3, to which are secured the hair portions **18** of the wigs. The wigs are arranged to be removably fitted on the heads of the mannequins.

The present invention employs a novel switch **20** and an electric circuit which is adapted to alert the shop keeper when a wig is removed from a mannequin without authority. The switch **20** comprises a body portion **22** of electrically insulating material which is annular in shape and which has a pair of poles **24** and **26** of electrically conducting material secured thereto. Poles **24** and **26** may simply comprise bolts, and these bolts secure to the body portion interiorly thereof a pair of electrically conducting switch arms **28** and **30**, respectively. As best seen in FIGURES 2 and 3, the switch arms project diametrically toward each other and overlap slightly to provide contact therebetween. Arm **28** is substantially rigid, and arm **30** is resilient and arranged normally to engage switch arm **28**.

Switch **20** is arranged such that the switch arm **30** will be disengaged from the arm **28** when the switch housing is seated on the head of a mannequin and is held in surface engagement with the surface of said head by the wig **14**. For this purpose, the switch arm **30** has a substantially horizontal portion **32**, a downward projection **34** formed by bending a portion of the arm downwardly and then reversely bending it upwardly, an upward extension **36** projecting above the horizontal portion **32**, and a second horizontal portion **38** on the arm **30** which terminates in a downwardly turned end portion **40**. The terminal end of horizontal portion **38** overlaps a portion of the switch arm **28** whereby the downturned end **40** is arranged to engage the switch arm **28** and form a contact between the switch arms. The downturned portion **34** of the arm **30** normally projects below the bottom surface of the body portion of the switch, and the switch arm **30** has sufficient spring power such that it is capable of lifting or tilting the switch body **20** off the head of the mannequin to allow the downturned end portion **40** thereof to engage switch arm **28**. The switch **20** is thus capable of being seated on the head of the mannequin with the arm **30** being held away from arm **28** by the pressure of a wig fitted on the head. However, when the wig is removed or loosened from the head, the switch arm **30** lifts or tilts the switch **20** sufficiently to allow the switch arm **30** to contact switch arm **28**.

The switch **20** is in an alarm circuit the electrical diagram of which is shown in FIGURE 4. Such circuit comprises a source of potential **42** such as a battery connected in a series circuit with an alarm bell **44** and an on-off switch **46**. Such series circuit includes a lead wire **48** connected between the battery and the alarm bell, a lead wire **50** connected between the alarm bell **44** and switch **46**, and a pair of wires **52** and **54** leading from the battery **42** and switch **46**, respectively. Connected in parallel to the wires **52** and **54**, as by means of suitable common lead wires **56** and **58** and by lead wires **60** and **62**, are electrical female plug-in sockets **64**.

A switch **20** for mounting on the mannequin is adapted to be plugged into one of the sockets **64** of the crcuit just described, and for this purpose the switch is associated with a conventional male-type plug **66**, FIGURE 2, connected suitably to the switch by lead wires **68** attached to the poles **24** and **26**. The male plug **66** is arranged to be engaged with any one of the female plug-in sockets **64**, and thereby it is apparent that the circuit described can accommodate any number of switches **20**, depending upon the number of female plug-in sockets **64** provided.

It is preferred to enclose the battery **42**, alarm **44**, and female plug-in sockets **64** in a box or housing **72** which may be mounted in any suitable place such as inside the display case **12**, FIGURE 1. Such a circuit assembly can thus accommodate a number of the switches **20** associated with mannequins supported on the display case.

In the operation of the present alarm system, the switch **46** will ordinarily be turned to its off position and the switches **20** installed on the mannequins and held in open position by the downward pressure applied by the fitted wig. The switches **20** are held in place on the mannequins by a strip of pressure sensitive tape **74** attached to the mannequins across the wires **68**. With the switch **46** in its off position, the clerk is free to install and remove the wigs **14** as necessary without sounding the alarm. However, if the clerk desires to leave the room temporarily, or it is desired to utilize the present system as a night alarm, the switch **46** is turned to its on position, whereupon the alarm will be sounded upon whole or partial removal of the wig from the mannequins.

It is to be understood that the form of my invention herein shown and described is to be taken as a preferred example of the same and that various changes in the shape,

size and arrangement of parts may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of my invention or the scope of the subjoined claims.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. A wig theft alarm arranged to be sounded upon the removal of a wig from a mannequin comprising an electric circuit, alarm means in said circuit, a switch in said circuit arranged to be mounted between the mannequin and a wig thereon, means on said switch movable between open circuit and closed circuit positions, said movable switch means being arranged to be held in its open circuit position when said switch is seated on a mannequin and held down by a wig on the mannequin and arranged for movement to its closed circuit position when the wig is released from the mannequin.

2. A wig theft alarm arranged to be sounded upon the removal of a wig from a mannequin comprising an electric circuit, alarm means in said circuit, a switch in said circuit arranged to be mounted between the mannequin and the wig thereon, and a pair of switch arms on said switch, one of said switch arms being movable and being urged to a normally closed position in engagement with said other switch arm, said movable switch arm being arranged to be held in an open circuit position away from said other switch arm when said switch is seated on a mannequin and held down by a wig on the mannequin and arranged for movement to a normally closed switch position in engagement with said other arm when the wig is released from the mannequin.

3. The wig theft alarm of claim 2 wherein said movable switch arm has a portion thereof normally projecting beyond one side of said switch whereby to be engageable with the mannequin and caused to move away from said other arm in its open circuit position.

4. The wig theft alarm of claim 2 wherein said movable switch arm is constructed of a spring material and has a portion thereof normally projecting beyond one side of said switch whereby to be engageable with the mannequin and caused to move away from said other arm in its open circuit position.

5. The wig theft alarm of claim 2 wherein said switch comprises a flat body member having a hollow interior which opens through the bottom of said body member and said switch arms are mounted interiorly of said body member, said movable switch arm having a portion projecting through the bottom opening of said body member whereby to be engageable with the mannequin and caused to move away from said other arm in its open circuit position.

6. A wig theft alarm in combination with a wig and a mannequin upon which the wig is arranged to be fitted, comprising an electric circuit, alarm means in said circuit, a switch in said circuit arranged to be mounted between said mannequin and said wig, means on said switch movable between open circuit and closed circuit positions, said movable switch means being arranged to be held in its open circuit position when said switch is seated on said mannequin and held down by said wig on the mannequin and arranged for movement to its closed circuit position when the wig is released from the mannequin.

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THOMAS B. HABECKER, *Acting Primary Examiner.*

D. L. TRAFTON, *Assistant Examiner.*