

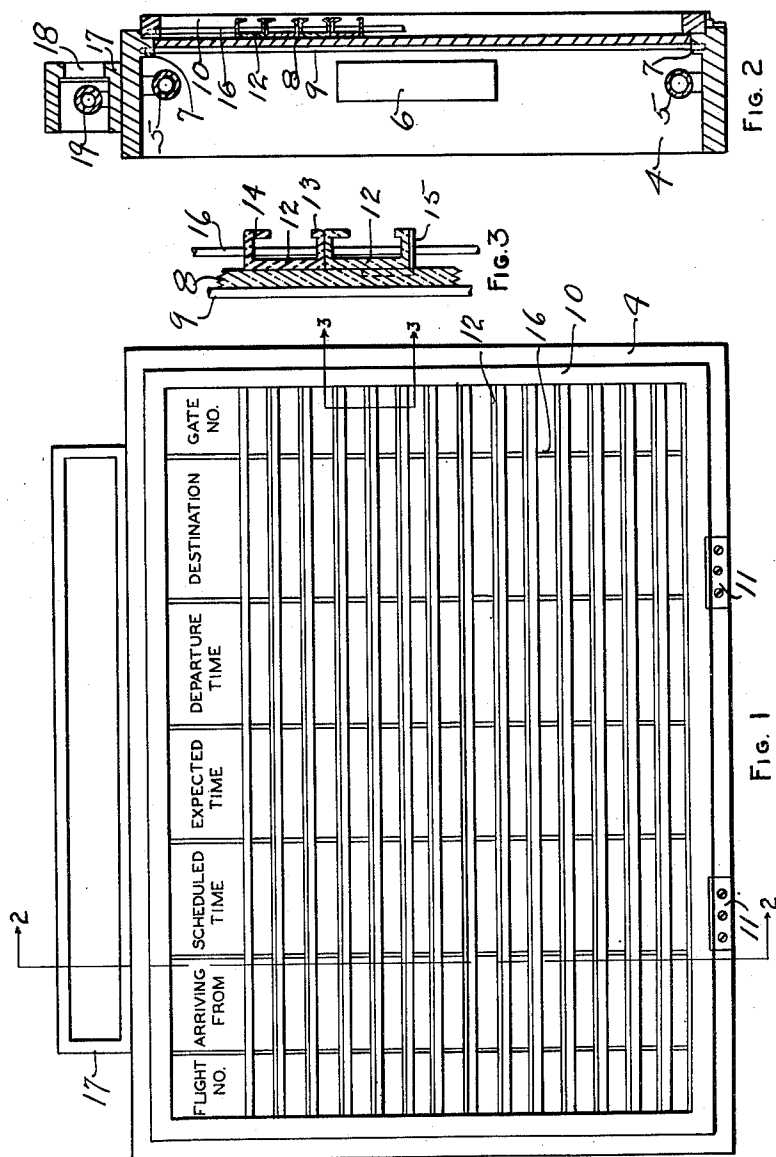
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ILLUMINATED SIGNBOARD

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ILLUMINATED SIGNBOARD

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5 Claims. (Cl. 40—132)

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The following specification relates to my improved illuminated sign board designed to supply data interchangeably at the will of an attendant. It has been developed for special use as a bulletin board to give data on arrival and departures of trains, airplanes and the like. It is equally well adapted, however, to posting information, quotations, facts and figures for public inspection.

It is an object of my invention to provide a sign board which is illuminated from the rear but arranged with a maximum economy of space.

A further object of my invention is to provide special facilities for obtaining even illumination over the full area of the board.

A still further object of my invention is to provide for convenient and easy interchange of letters and numerals or other indicia from the front of the board.

Among the objects of my invention is to make it possible to adjust the arrangement and widths of the respective columns of lettering and figures.

A still further object of my invention is to provide replaceable units for holding interchangeable letters, numerals and other indicia permitting their display against transmitted light.

Sign boards constructed in accordance with this invention are marked by economical construction, ease of operation, compactness in arrangement and durability.

For the purpose of illustrating the essential features of the invention I have shown the preferred form thereof in the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of my improved illuminated sign board;

Fig. 2 is a vertical cross-section of the same on line 2—2 of Fig. 1 and

Fig. 3 is a similar vertical cross-section on an enlarged scale of a portion of the sign-holding assembly taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

The sign board is constructed on a self-supporting base or casing 4 generally rectangular in form and of any desired dimensions. This casing may be mounted upon a wall or other backing and several units may be interlocked. It is designed to hold suitable lights and I have illustrated these as border light 5, 5. These lights are tubular fluorescent ones suitably mounted on the top and bottom walls of the casing. I have also shown a transformer or similar adapter for supplying current to the lights 5, 5 from the usual alternating current light sources.

The front edge of the casing has an inwardly

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directed molding 7 which forms a bead or inner flange entirely around the casing. This bead serves to support a translucent panel or sheet 8. The sheet 8 may be glass but is preferably a thin panel of transparent, synthetic plastic such as Vinylite, Lucite, acetyl-cellulose or the like. These products have suitable properties of permitting light to pass through. Optionally, the panel may give the effect of ground glass and thus serve to diffuse the transmitted light for more even illumination. The panel is most effective when it produces a fairly even source of illumination. For this purpose the border lights may be extended around all four sides if desired.

Some parts of the panel 8, such as the upper line shown in Fig. 1, may have lettering painted as desired.

The back surface of the panel is supported by a series of vertical rods 9 which may be two or more in number and spaced to coincide with the columns designated by the captions printed on the panel. These rods serve not only as retainers for the panel but also division lines between the several columns desired.

The front part of the casing 4 has a front frame 10. This frame is pivoted along one side of the housing 4 and in the form illustrated is pivoted across the bottom by means of pivots 11, 11. Suitable means is provided to hold the frame against the molding 7 as shown in Fig. 2. The frame forms a retainer for the panel 8.

A series of sign holders 12 is provided to hold in position any desired indicia, letters or numerals. Each holder 12 extends laterally across the front of the frame 7 but need not be recessed into the sides of the latter. Each holder consists of translucent or transparent plastic material preferably extruded in the form of a channel member. It thus has a bottom flange 13 with an upturned edge, back of which the letter or like symbol rests. An upper flange 14 has a depending edge which may be sufficiently long to permit the number card or the like to be inserted between the edge of flange 14 and raised to clear the edge of the flange 13 after which, when the card rests upon the lower flange, the upper edge will hold the card from falling out. It is to be understood that the card will be cut in the form of a letter, numeral or index character. It may be, however, formed of transparent material on which the desired designation is painted.

The holders 12 are superposed one upon another. To prevent undue weight upon the lower ones of the series, selected holders 12 are independently supported from the sides of the frame

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10. Thus in Fig. 3 I have shown the lower holder 12 to rest upon a bracket 15 which is set into the side wall of the frame 10.

The flanges of the holders 12 are apertured to receive a series of vertical rods 16. These rods fit in recesses in the top and bottom members of the frame 10. They are spaced to coincide with the vertical lines designed to separate the several columns corresponding with the designations printed on the upper line of the panel 8. The rods reinforce the holders and prevent them from getting out of line.

As illustrated in Fig. 3 the panel 8 is held clamped between the retainers 9 in the rear and the sign holders 12 which, in turn, are fastened in place by the front rods 16. The rods 9 are preferably coincidental with two or more of the front rods 16.

The utility of the frame is enhanced by the addition of a supplemental light cabinet 17 mounted above the casing 4. This has an illuminated window 18 and a tubular light 19 in the rear.

By use of the arrangement above described, a sign board is provided in which an illuminated diffusing panel is displayed. Interchangeable tracks or guideways are provided which permit the arrangement of any suitable translucent sign or designation to be arranged as desired in front of the panel and illuminated thereby. The channel members serve also to hold the diffusing panel in place while the vertical rods are inconspicuous because they coincide with the dividing lines between the several columns. The front frame may be tilted out to replace the translucent panel. It also permits rearrangement of the channel members as may be desired.

In practice it has also been found advantageous to reverse the positions of the retaining bars 9, the holders 12 and reinforcing bars 16. Thus the bars 9 are put in front of the panel 8 and the holders 12 and bars 16 put behind the panel. This permits changing the sign inserts from the rear without obstructing the view or diverting attention. In all other respects the arrangement and operation are the same. Panel sections not being used are obscured by opaque inserts.

The preferred form of the invention has been illustrated by way of example. However, many minor changes may be made in proportions, materials and minor structural details without departing from the scope of the invention as defined in the following claims.

What I claim is:

1. A sign board having a casing open at the front, a plurality of rods across the front opening, lamps mounted within the casing, a translucent panel extending over the front opening, a frame fitted over the opening and clamping the panel against the rods, a series of translucent channel members in the frame and a plurality of rods running transversely through the channel members opposite the first named rods.

2. A sign board having a casing open at the

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front, an inwardly extending rib around the front opening, a plurality of rods across the front opening and seated on opposite sides of the rib, lamps mounted within the casing, a translucent panel extending over the opening in the plane of the rib, a frame fitted over the opening and resting against the outer face of the rib, a series of translucent channel members in the frame and a plurality of rods running transversely through the channel members opposite the first named rods.

3. A sign board having a casing open at the front, an inwardly extending rib around the front opening, a plurality of rods across the front opening and seated on opposite sides of the rib, lamps mounted within the casing, a translucent panel extending over the opening in the plane of the rib, a frame fitted over the opening and resting against the outer face of the rib, a series of translucent channel members in the frame, brackets on the frame for supporting certain of said members and a plurality of rods running transversely through the channel members opposite the first named rods.

4. A sign board having a casing open at the front, an inwardly extending rib around the front opening, a plurality of rods across the front opening and seated on opposite sides of the rib, lamps mounted within the casing, a translucent panel extending over the opening in the plane of the rib, a frame fitted over the opening and resting against the outer face of the rib, a series of translucent channel members in the frame, said members having forwardly projecting flanges with vertically extending edges and a plurality of rods running transversely through the flanges of the channel members opposite the first named rods.

5. A sign board having a casing open at the front, an inwardly extending rib around the front opening, a plurality of rods across the front opening and seated on opposite sides of the rib, lamps mounted within the casing, a light diffusing panel extending over the opening in the plane of the rib, a frame fitted over the opening and resting against the outer face of the rib, a series of transparent channel members in the frame and a plurality of rods having their ends set in the opposite sides of the frame and running transversely through the channel members opposite the first named rods.

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