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B. A. WACHTER

2,876,571

INTERCHANGEABLE LETTER SIGN

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Fig. 1

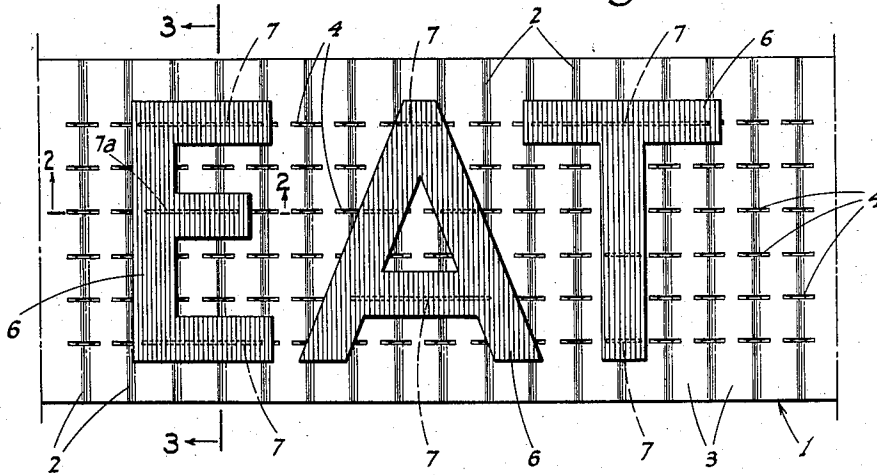


Fig. 2

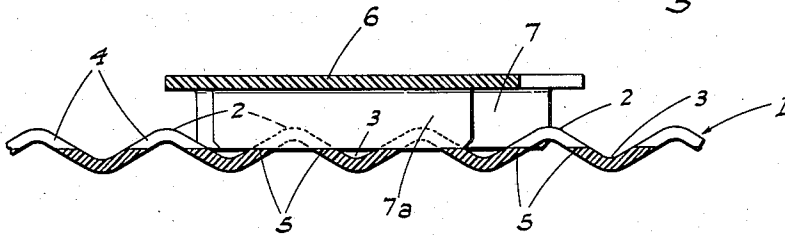


Fig. 3

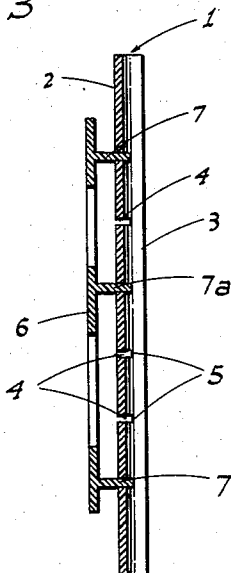
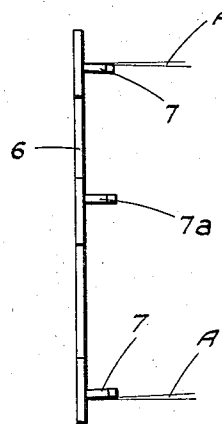


Fig. 4



INVENTOR.

B. A. Wachter

BY

Walter Wachter
ATTYS

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INTERCHANGEABLE LETTER SIGN

Bertram A. Wachter, Sacramento, Calif.

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2 Claims. (Cl. 40—143)

This invention relates to signs of the interchangeable letter type; the major object being to provide a sign of this general type so constructed that different letters may be easily and quickly attached, removed, or replaced on the base panel of the sign, without the use of any tools.

This sign comprises a base panel and a number of sign-forming letters or other symbols separate from the panel, and another object of the invention is to construct the panel—and the letters—so that letters of different sizes may be mounted on the panel without having to make any changes on the latter.

Also, the letter mounting or attaching features of the panel and letters are arranged so that the letters may be disposed at different levels on the panel, or in different arrangements relative to each other, without any change in the basic construction of the panel being necessary.

Still another object of the invention is to provide an interchangeable letter sign which is designed for ease and economy of manufacture.

An additional object of the invention is to provide a practical and reliable interchangeable letter sign, and one which will be exceedingly effective for the purpose for which it is designed.

These objects are accomplished by means of such structure and relative arrangement of parts as will fully appear by a perusal of the following specification and claims.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a fragmentary front elevation of my improved sign as preferably constructed.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary longitudinal section on line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged cross section on line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is an end or edge elevation of a sign letter, detached.

Referring now more particularly to the drawings, and to the characters of reference marked thereon, the sign comprises a base panel 1 of any desired size, and here shown as being made of plastic material.

The panel is corrugated in a vertical direction throughout its height and length, so as to form ridges 2 and intermediate troughs 3.

Cut into the ridges are longitudinal rows of open-ended slots 4, the depth of which is such that the bottom edge 5 of the slots is above the bottom of the troughs, as shown in Fig. 2, so that the panel as a whole is not unduly weakened. As many rows of slots as may be desired are provided in the panel, all such rows being parallel to each other and evenly spaced apart, and the spacing between adjacent slots is less than the length of any slot.

The various sign symbols 6, such as letters, numerals, or indicia of any type which go to make up the sign are constructed of relatively stiff but somewhat resilient material. A suitable grade of plastic is preferably used for the purpose, since this material lends itself admirably

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to coloring, and the various symbols may thus be easily made in different non-destructible colors. The height of any such symbol is at least as great as the spacing between adjacent rows of slots 4, and is ordinarily considerably greater, or so as to span a plurality of rows, as shown.

Each symbol, irrespective of its configuration, has at least a pair of rectangular webs 7 projecting from the back side thereof and of a thickness to snugly fit the slots. The symbols here shown are of such a size and height as to employ three such webs, the spacing between adjacent ones of which is a multiple of the spacing between adjacent rows of slots 4.

The length of each web 7 is at least as great as that of any one slot, and—depending on the configuration of the symbols—may be sufficient to span a number of slots, as shown in Fig. 2, so that the possibility of lateral teetering is minimized. The depth of the webs is somewhat greater than the depth of the slots from the top of the panel ridges 2 to the bottom edge 5 of the slots, so that the symbols—when the webs are fully seated in the slots in engagement with the bottom edge thereof—are maintained in spaced relation to the upper or outer surface of the panel, as is desirable. Since the edge 5 of each slot is in the form of separated portions, it is not necessary that the bottom edge of the webs be perfectly straight in order to avoid the undesirable lateral teetering of the symbols.

In any symbol, whether provided with two or three webs, the top and bottom webs are set at a slight acute angle less than 90 degrees to the adjacent face of the symbol, as indicated at A in Fig. 4; said webs being disposed in opposed angular relation to each other, as shown. The intermediate web 7a, if three webs are used, is however set at 90 degrees to said face of the symbol.

This web arrangement enables the top and bottom webs of any symbol to have wedging engagement in the slots 4 after the symbol is initially deflected to dispose each angled web in turn so that it is parallel to the corresponding slot (or slots) before being projected into the same. A firm holding engagement of the webs in the slots is thus assured without the necessity of cutting the slots with the extreme width accuracy otherwise necessary to assure a proper hold of the webs in the slots.

Although the corrugated type of panel is preferably employed, other panel configurations may be used as long as the necessary repeated high and low portions are provided, as is required for the provision of the spaced slots without cutting through and destroying the unitary nature of the panel.

The panel, being provided with a plurality of rows of slots, spaced as described with respect to the spacing of the webs of the symbols, enables said letters to be set at different levels on the panel relative to a longitudinal edge of said panel or to each other, as may be desired to provide different symbol alinement or arrangement on the panel.

The slots being open-ended, the symbols 6 are not restricted in their spacing relative to each other when mounted on the panel.

From the foregoing description it will be readily seen that there has been produced such a device as will substantially fulfill the objects of the invention, as set forth herein.

While this specification sets forth in detail the present and preferred construction of the device, still in practice such deviations from such detail may be resorted to as do not form a departure from the spirit of the invention, as defined by the appended claims.

Having thus described the invention, the following is

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claimed as new and useful, and upon which Letters Patent are desired:

1. A sign comprising a base panel formed with alternating high and low areas, there being a plurality of parallel rows of slots extending lengthwise of the panel cut in the high areas and extending the full width thereof so as to be open-ended but having solid bottom portions, a plurality of sign symbols separate from the base and from each other, and a pair of webs projecting from the back of each symbol lengthwise thereof and spaced vertically thereon to correspond to the spacing of certain ones of the rows of slots; the width and depth of the webs being such as to enable the same to fit snugly into the slots and to engage the bottom portions thereof.

2. A sign comprising a base panel having longitudinally spaced corrugations extending vertically of the panel and providing alternating ridges and troughs along the panel, longitudinal parallel rows of spaced slots being provided in and extending across the ridges for their full width whereby the slots are open-ended but include solid bottom portions, a plurality of sign symbols separate from the panel and from each other, and a pair of webs

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projecting from the back of each symbol lengthwise thereof and spaced vertically thereon to correspond to the spacing of certain ones of the rows of slots; the width of the webs being such as to enable the webs to fit snugly into the slots, the length of any web being at least as great as the length of any slot and the length of the slots is greater than that of the spacing between adjacent slots.

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