Nov. 20, 1956 R. E. SMITH 2,770,900

PROGRAM INDICATOR

Filed Oct. 31, 1951 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

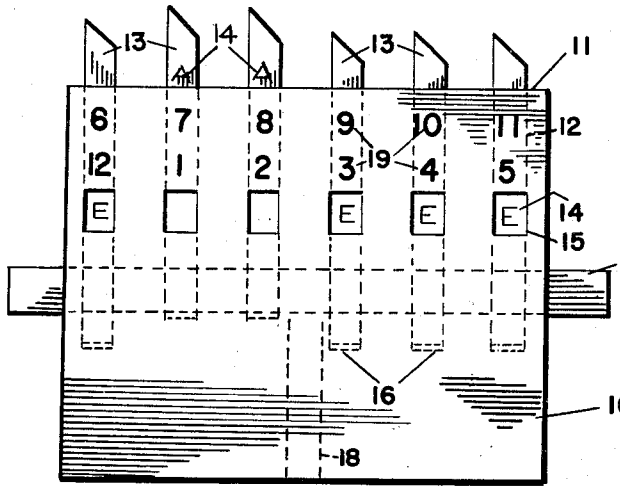


FIG. 1.

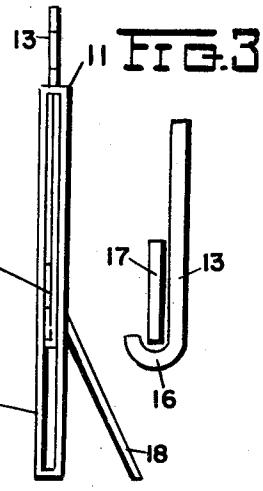


FIG. 2.

FIG. 3.

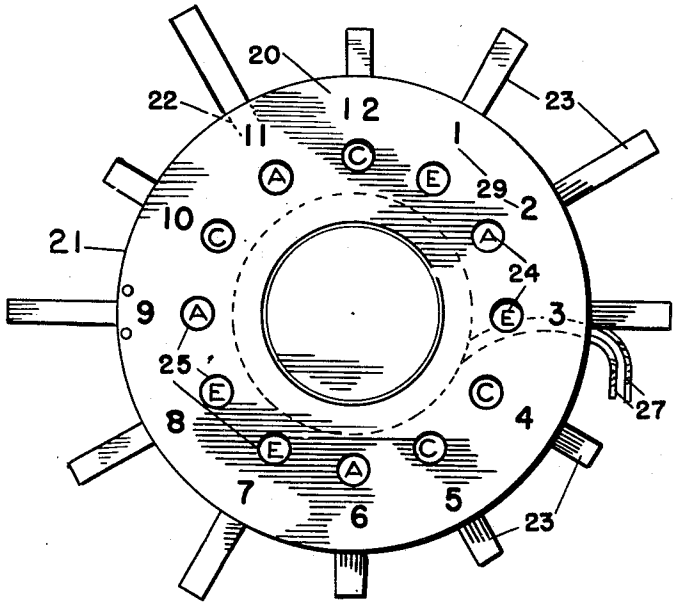


FIG. 4.

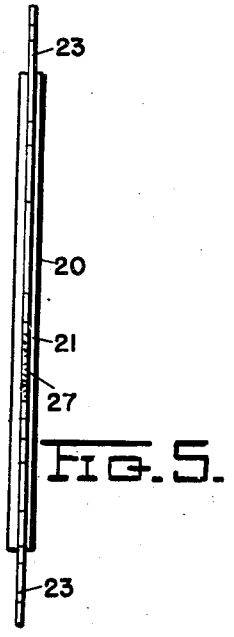


FIG. 5.

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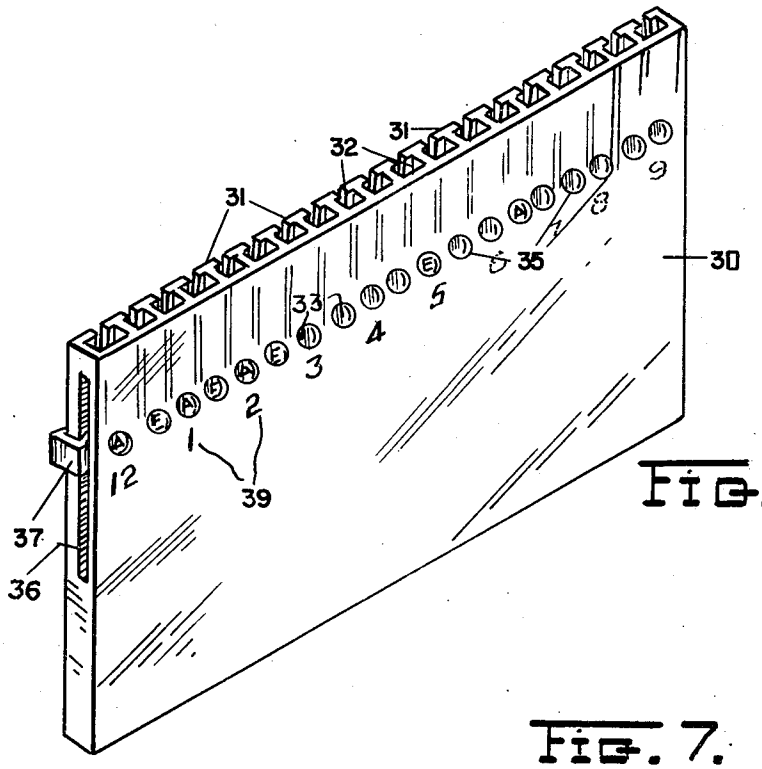


FIG. 6.

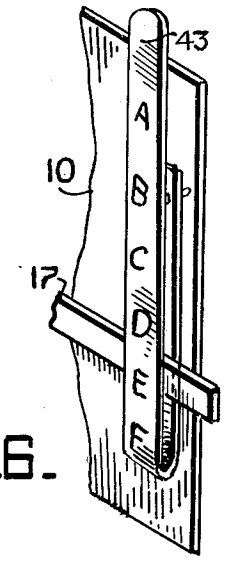


FIG. 10.

FIG. 7.

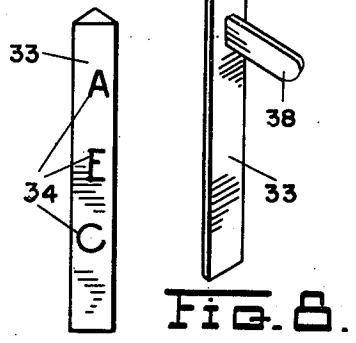
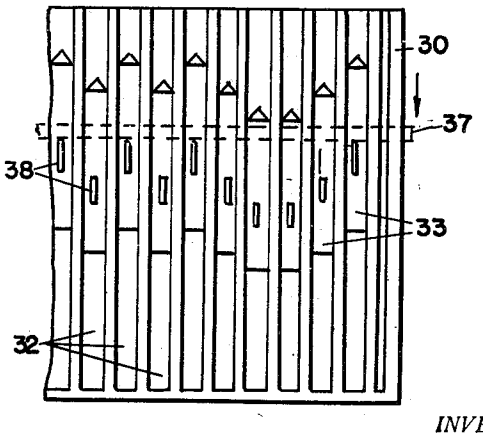


FIG. 9.

FIG. 8.



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PROGRAM INDICATOR

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Application October 31, 1951, Serial No. 254,070

1 Claim. (Cl. 40—65)

This invention relates to mechanical program indicators and more particularly to those usable for radio and television presentations.

It is customary at the present time for observers and listeners on television and radio to read the programs listed on a newspaper or other printed bulletin. Since the lists are usually long and varied, they cannot be memorized satisfactorily by the ordinary layman. He therefore finds it necessary to make repeated observations during the day to find out which program he prefers to observe. This takes time, occasions mistakes, and in some instances causes the missing of an important program which is especially interesting to the user. This invention consists of a device that will make possible the identification of the time and station on which all the preferred and selected programs may be brought to the attention of the observer in a positive and attractive manner. For this purpose a device is constructed with a casing or folder suitably perforated in which ribbons or sliders are operated manually to register the programs conspicuously and visually so as to be brought to the active attention of the user.

The invention has for an object the provision of a mechanical program indicator that will facilitate the setting of a television or radio set to suit the user thereof, in accordance with his predetermined selection.

Another object of the invention is to provide a new and improved program indicator that will permit a user to mark on a mechanical board the particular presentations during the broadcast periods that he deems of particular interest to himself.

An additional object of the invention is to provide a new and improved program indicator that will facilitate and expedite the finding of television or radio programs of particular interest to the specific user at any time of the day.

Still another object is to provide a new and improved mechanically set program indicator that will be artistic and attractive, which will work effectively and be relatively inexpensive to produce.

Other objects of the invention will be apparent as the latter is more fully outlined.

For a clearer understanding of the invention and the objects thereof, reference is made to the accompanying drawings which indicate a particular form of it by way of example. The drawings in conjunction with the following description illustrate the type of the invention in its preferred form while the claim designates the scope thereof.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a mechanical program indicator embodying this invention;

Figure 2 is an end elevation of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a detail of the cross-bar and slider used in this embodiment;

Figure 4 is a modified form of program indicator;

Figure 5 is a side elevation of Figure 4;

Figure 6 is a view in perspective of another modified form of indicator;

Figure 7 is a rear elevation of a portion of Figure 6 to show the general structure of the indicator and sliders;

Figure 8 is a detail in perspective of the slider used in Figure 6;

Figure 9 is a front view of the slider, shown in Figure 8; and

Figure 10 is a view in perspective of a modified form of indicator and slider usable in the indicator type shown in Figure 1.

Similar reference characters refer to the same parts throughout the drawings.

Referring to the drawings, and particularly to Figures 1, 2 and 3, a mechanical program indicator comprises a folder or casing **10** bent double on itself and preferably made of cardboard or other thin but stiff material suitable for the purpose in question. The bent edge portion **11** of the folder is provided with a series of slots **12** spaced uniformly apart and arranged to permit sliders **13** of similar material to be pulled easily therethrough. The sliders **13** are marked longitudinally with indices **14** designating different television channels or radio stations. Each slider is marked similarly and its indices are spaced longitudinally thereon so as to register consecutively at windows **15** left in the walls of the folder or casing **10**. The windows **15** are provided in both walls, and the sliders **13** are marked on both sides to make the indicator readable on either side of the device through the windows or above the upper row of time markings **19**. The time of day is printed at **19** across the face of the walls as shown, so each slider **13** will register its selected Station Index to the time it broadcasts the desired program. Thus if the station on channel "E" has a preferred program at 3 p.m. the slider is pulled out until "E" on the slider appears at the window **15** positioned under "3 p.m." or above 6 p.m. when that hour is scheduled.

In order to clear the board at the end of the day or before resetting it for the next set of programs selected, the sliders **13** have hooks **16** formed on their lower ends operating between the walls. A cross-bar **17** extends across the folder between the walls and is adapted to engage the hooks and allow the sliders to be pulled down simultaneously out of the way. When the sliders are pulled up the bar **17** is raised by these hooks **16**. A bracket **18** enables the indicator to stand upright on a table.

In the modified form of indicator shown in Figures 4 and 5 the indicator casing is made in the form of a circular disc **20**. The sliders **23** are pulled out radially through the peripheral slots **22** in the edge **21** so their indexes **24** can appear consecutively at the circular windows **25**. The time numerals are printed at **29** adjacent the periphery of the indicator wall. Strings **27** engage with the sliders **23** to reset them when they are pulled tight.

In the modified form shown in Figures 6, 7, 8 and 9, the indicator casing **30**, is shown in the form of a plastic member having a front flat sheet. Channels are formed at its back of plastic by employing T-elements **31** in which the sliders **33** can be readily reciprocated. These sliders are preferably actuated by means of handles **38** extending from their backs through the long slots between the elements **31**. The casing **30** is made opaque at locations where same is desirable. In other locations such as the windows **35** where the station indices **34** are observed during its use, the plastic is left transparent. A cross bar **37** running in grooves **36** is used for resetting the sliders **33** by sliding against the handles **38**. Time is shown by the spaced numerals **39** printed on the face of the casing.

In the modified form shown in Figure 10 a ribbon **43** fastened at one end to the casing and foldable on itself

as indicated, is employed instead of the slider **13**, and is used where the number of stations is large. The number of spaces for the sliders will be varied to suit the number of divisions of the hour that are to be selectively observed.

The device in all its forms enables programs to be marked off and left ready for observation when the user takes up the newspaper list and selects those that appeal to his interest. The setting is made at one time and leaves the device ready to be used for the whole broadcasting day. The user simply looks at the device at the time of day he wishes to hear a program, and observes the station setting, then he dials his receiver accordingly and gets the program he wants to hear at that time. The seting is simply done and when a change in setting is required, the cross bar or string is operated to clear the board and make it ready for the next setting.

While several general forms of the invention are shown in the drawings and described in the specification, it is not desired to limit this application for patent to these particular forms as it is appreciated that other forms could be made that would use the same principles and come within the scope of the appended claim.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:

A program indicator consisting of a thin casing, having a flat front face, two opposite lateral sides each having an extended slot therein, and a back portion constituted by aligned, equally spaced T-shaped elements extending rearwardly of the front face and defining channels therebetween running parallel to the aforesaid slots, the front face of the casing having a row of viewing openings, each of the openings corresponding to each of the channels, a plurality of imperforate sliders, there being one slider frictionally and slidably received in each one of the channels, whereby when the indicator is held in the hand of the user with the channels in a substantially upright position, the sliders will remain in place until forcibly moved by the user, said sliders bearing indices visible through the openings, a handle on each of the sliders protruding outwardly of the casing, a bar extending transversely of the back of the casing, said bar terminating at both ends into a hook fitted in and guided by the aforesaid slots, said bar cooperating with the handles for resetting them to a starting position after use, said hooks being operable from either end of the indicator for actuating the bar.

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