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ACCESSORY ATTACHMENT FOR TELEPHONES

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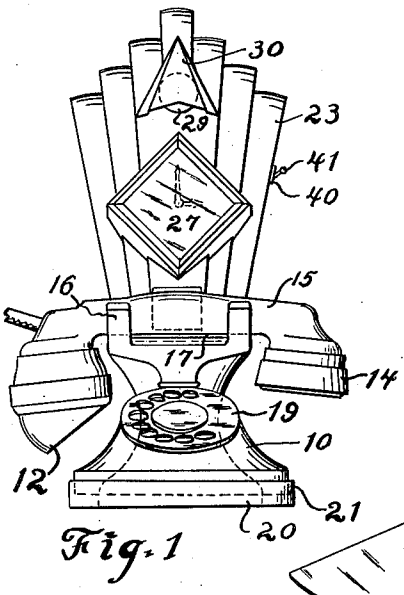


Fig. 1

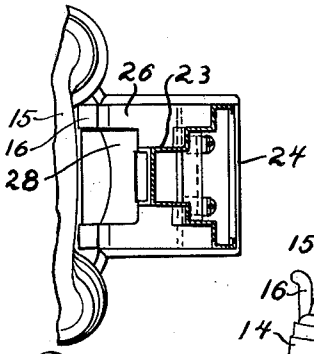


Fig. 3

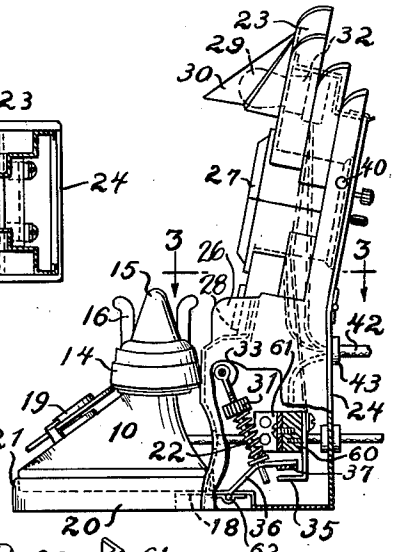


Fig. 2

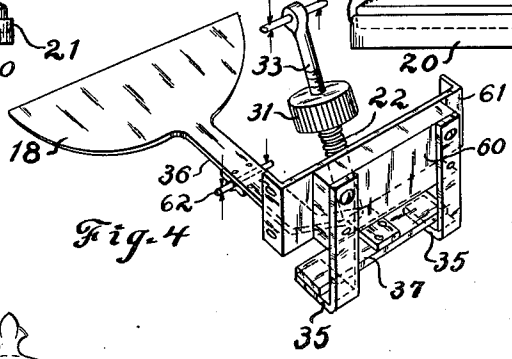


Fig. 4

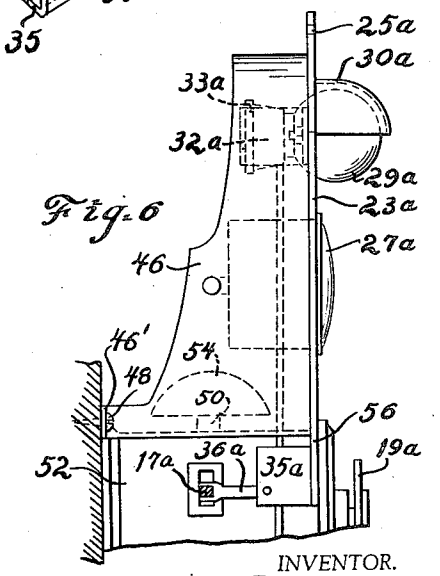


Fig. 6

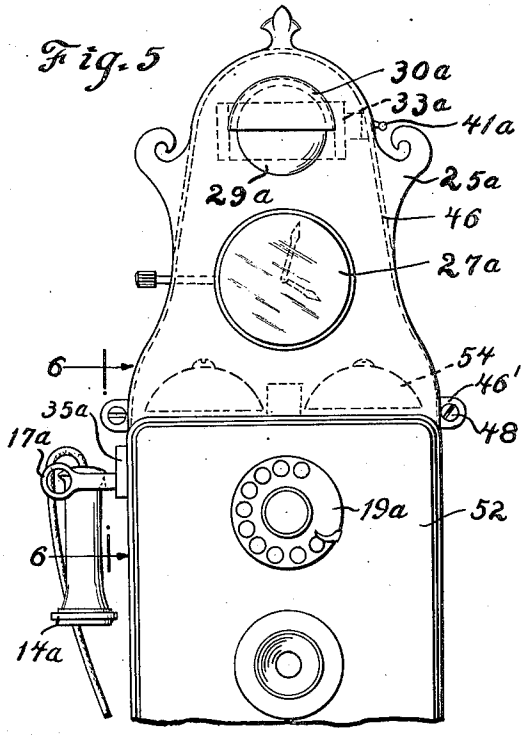


Fig. 5

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ACCESSORY ATTACHMENT FOR TELEPHONES

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Application November 6, 1933, Serial No. 696,854
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3 Claims. (Cl. 240—2.17)

This invention relates to accessory devices for telephones, and more particularly to an ornamental and useful attachment of improved nature adapted to be associated with a telephone instrument to provide illumination therefor, thereby facilitating its use, and incorporating as well, if desired, a timepiece conveniently arranged and carried by the device and positioned to be illuminated by the lighting means when lit, although unobstructedly visible at all times, as well when the telephone is in use as when idle.

An important object of the invention is also the provision of improved means for controlling the switching on and off of the iluminating means in response to lifting and replacement of the telephone instrument or receiver,—which switching means is so constructed and arranged that no parts thereof, or any other portion of the accessory, need be connected to the telephone instrument in any fashion whatever—other than by standing the telephone upon a tray portion of the accessory device adapted to receive it.

Another important object is the provision in such a device of an improved casing and supporting construction adapted to interfit with and support a telephone instrument, and which is simple and inexpensive of construction, rugged and foolproof, as well as of graceful, ornamental appearance.

A still further object is the provision of such an accessory adapted to be closely associated and portable as a unit with a telephone, but which cannot interfere with operation or convenience of use of the latter.

Other objects and advantages will be apparent from the following description, wherein reference is made to the accompanying drawing illustrating preferred embodiments of my invention, and wherein similar reference numerals designate similar parts throughout the several views.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a front elevational view of a telephone instrument, showing one form of my invention incorporated therewith;

Figure 2 is a side elevational view of the assembly, partly broken open to show interior parts;

Figure 3 is a horizontal section taken substantially on the line 3—3 of Figure 2 and looking in the direction of the arrows;

Figure 4 is a detail perspective view of a portion of the switch and switch actuating mechanism;

Figure 5 is a front elevational view of a telephone instrument of a different type, showing associated therewith an accessory attachment incorporating the invention in somewhat modified form; and

Figure 6 is a view partly in side elevation and partly in vertical section taken substantially on the line 6—6 of Figure 5 and looking in the direction of the arrows.

Referring now to the drawing, reference character 10 designates the base portion of a hand set telephone, of the sort commonly referred to as the "European" type, in which the transmitter 12 and receiver 14 are carried by and at opposite ends of a handle portion 15, by which the instrument is supported in the brackets or hooks 16 of the stand 10 when not in use. Switching means (unshown) within the base of the instrument is mechanically so connected to switch bar 17 that upon downward movement of the bar under the weight of the instrument the circuit is broken, while spring means (also unshown) moves the bar upward and makes the circuit when the instrument is lifted, all in a well known manner. The telephone is also shown equipped with a calling dial 19.

My improved accessory, which is intended to provide a reliable timepiece conveniently arranged within the view of a user of the telephone, and to illuminate both the timepiece and the dial and other portions of the instrument, preferably comprises a base portion 20 formed as a tray adapted to receive the base of the telephone standard, and provided with an upturned flange portion 21 adapted to prevent displacement of the telephone.

An upstanding housing or frame, shown as of enclosed box-like construction, is affixed to the supporting base or tray portion 20 of the accessory which underlies the telephone, and the side walls thereof may be formed integrally with its front face 23 by offsetting the walls rearwardly in the stepped fashion shown, which also provides for a pleasing modernistic ornamental appearance. The entire housing is preferably inclined rearwardly somewhat, as best shown in Figure 2. The base plate 20 may also be sufficiently heavy to stabilize the device and hold it erect, even when the telephone instrument is not in place. The front wall of the housing may be of the ornamental outline best shown in Figure 1, and may carry at about the midpoint thereof a timepiece, shown as an electric clock 27, over which is arranged an electric light, the bulb 29 of which projects from the front wall and is partly covered by a hood-like shade 30. The light socket 32 is arranged within the hous-

ing. The lower portion of the front wall, although generally conforming to the configuration of the telephone instrument, has forwardly projecting portions 26 adapted to fit beneath the hooks 16, and of substantially the same width, and is preferably cut away to provide hand clearance, as at 28, immediately behind the space between the brackets 16, so that despite the closeness of the accessory to this portion of the telephone instrument, the central or handle portion 15 may be conveniently grasped by the user without any inconvenience by reason of the presence of the attachment.

It is desirable that the light be arranged to be turned on and off by removal of the telephone instrument from and replacement thereof upon the standard. Telephone companies, which own most of the telephones in use, however, frequently refuse to permit the attachment of accessory devices to their instruments. I have therefore so arranged my improved switch and switch actuating means that although operable in response to lifting and replacement of the telephone instrument, no parts are actually attached to any portion of the telephone. The switch comprises a pair of contacts 35 connected in series with the light and arranged inside and near the bottom of the housing. The contacts are supported and normally insulated from each other by the block 60, which in turn is carried by the bracket 61 secured at its ends to the housing walls. The switch contacts 35 are connectible, to illuminate the bulb, by a contact arm 37 carried by a switch lever 36 rockably supported on a pivot pin 62 and projecting from the front of the housing through a suitably arranged slot (undesignated). The lever is provided with an enlarged and flattened actuating portion 18 which lies directly above the tray portion 20, and is so proportioned and positioned relatively to the path of movement of the switch lever that when the exposed end of the switch lever is down, and the contact arm accordingly lifted from the contacts, so that the switch is in off position, the actuating portion 18 lies flat against the tray. A spring 22 arranged within the housing in the manner shown in Figure 2 urges the switch lever toward the "on" position with more than enough force to counterbalance the weight of the telephone standard 10 alone, but insufficient force to counterbalance the combined weight of both the standard and telephone instrument. As a result, when the instrument is lifted from the standard, the spring throws the switch to on position, the portion 18 of course then slightly lifting the standard from the tray, and the bulb 29 is lighted. When the instrument is replaced upon the standard, the additional weight overcomes the tension of the spring and moves the actuating portion 18 of the switch lever downwardly to throw the switch to off position and extinguish the bulb. A nut 31 threaded upon the spring retaining screw 33 serves as an adjustable abutment for one end of the spring, to permit adjusting its counterbalancing effect. In series with the automatic switch 35 may also be a hand switch 40 carried by a side wall 23 of the housing, and having suitable operating means, as the toggle lever 41, conveniently projecting from the side thereof, permitting cutting off the illuminating means when not needed.

Current for the clock and light may be supplied through a flexible cable, as 42, which enters the housing through a grommet 43 in the rear wall 24.

In Figures 5 and 6 a somewhat modified embodiment is shown, in which the supporting frame of the accessory comprises a flat front panel 25a, which also may be of ornamental configuration, carrying rearwardly projecting angular bracket and shielding side wall portions 46, the ends of which are flanged as at 46' and adapted to be secured, as by the screws 48, to the wall directly above the telephone cabinet, generally designated 52. The call bells 54 of the telephone, if carried in exposed position on top of the cabinet as shown, may be partially enclosed and concealed by the accessory.

The panel 25a also carries an electric clock 27a, and an electric light 29a immediately thereabove and arranged to illuminate both the clock and the dial 19a of the telephone. The light socket 32a may be carried by a suitable bracket 33a affixed to the rear of the panel 25a and carrying at one end a hand switch, the operating lever 41a of which projects conveniently from an edge of the panel through one of the side walls 46.

The telephone instrument is shown provided with a receiver 14a of conventional construction, carried by a hook 17a, which also serves as a switch-actuating lever and is movable vertically upon removal of the receiver from and replacement thereof upon the hook. The supporting panel 25a of this accessory is provided with a downwardly extending portion 56 adapted to fit against the side of the cabinet 52 and carrying at its lower extremity a switch 35a operable by a switch lever in the form of a yoke 36a. The end of the yoke engages the receiver hook 17a, and the switch, which is in series with the light 29a, is so arranged that when the receiver is lifted and the hook accordingly moves upward, the light is turned on by the switch 35a, and vice versa, provided, of course, the hand switch 41a be in closed position.

While it will be apparent that the illustrated embodiments of my invention herein disclosed are well calculated to adequately fulfill the objects and advantages primarily stated, it is to be understood that the invention is suceptible to variation, modification and change within the spirit and scope of the subjoined claims.

What I claim is:

1. A telephone accessory device including a base portion forming a tray adapted to support a telephone instrument, a standard carried by the base and projecting upwardly and rearwardly therefrom, said standard having a lower portion projecting upwardly substantially vertically and adapted to lie close to a telephone instrument carried by the base, and having a cut-out portion appurtenant the hand portion of the telephone to facilitate convenient handling and use thereof, electric illuminating means for the telephone instrument carried by the standard above said instrument, and means responsive to movement of a portion of the telephone instrument for controlling energization of said illuminating means.

2. A telephone accessory device comprising a standard including a base portion forming a tray adapted to support a telephone instrument, an upright portion carried by the rear of the base including a substantially vertical section projecting upwardly therefrom in a manner adapted to lie close to a telephone instrument carried thereby, said vertical section having an inset hand portion of increased clearance with respect to such telephone instrument to facilitate manipulation thereof, a rearwardly inclined upward continua-

tion of the vertical section having a face portion arranged above the normal height of such telephone instrument for convenient visibility thereover, illuminating means carried by the standard, and automatic switching means for the illuminating means responsive to movement of a portion of the telephone instrument.

3. A telephone accessory device including a base portion forming a tray adapted to support a telephone instrument, a standard carried by the rear of the base and including a portion projecting upwardly substantially vertically therefrom and in a manner adapted to lie close to a telephone instrument carried thereby, said vertical portion having an inset hand portion of increased clearance with respect to the telephone instrument to facilitate manipulation thereof, a rearwardly inclined upward continuation of the vertical portion of the standard having a face portion arranged above the normal height of such telephone instrument for convenient visibility thereover, and means for illuminating said face portion including an electric light carried by the accessory and switching means responsive to movement of a portion of the telephone instrument for controlling operation of the light.

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