Dec. 27, 1949 J. S. KOBLAS 2,492,296

PORTABLE ELECTRIC LANTERN

Filed April 5, 1948

Fig. 1.

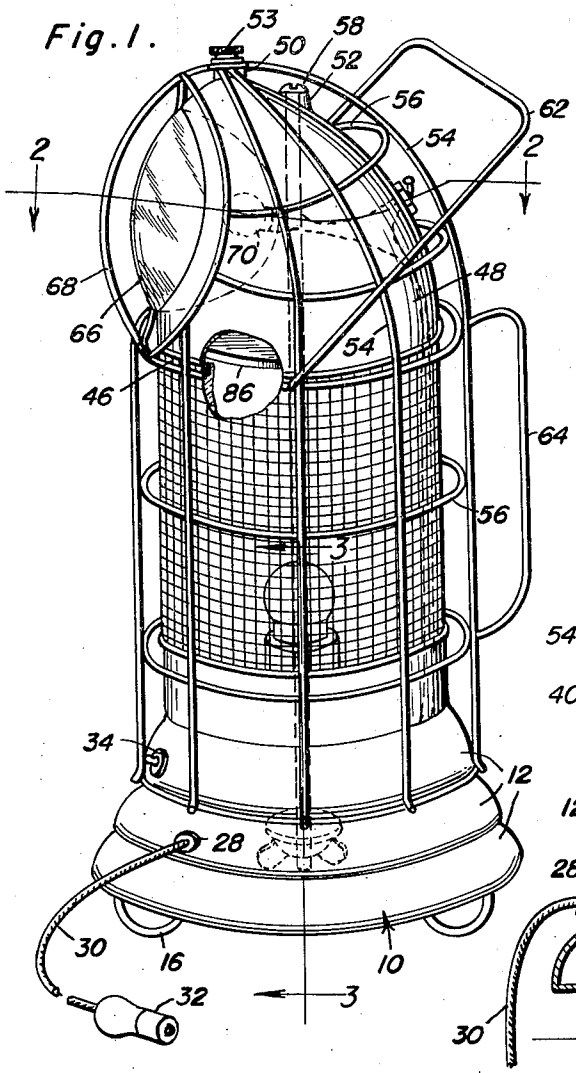


Fig. 2.

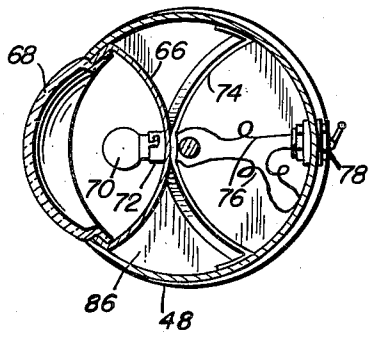


Fig. 3.

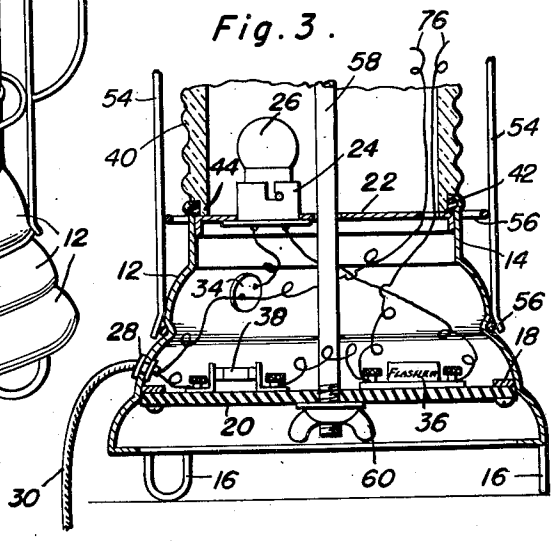
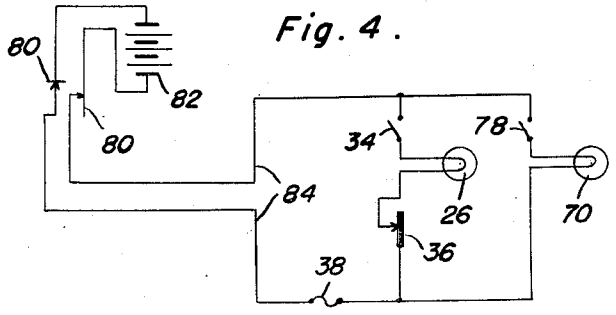


Fig. 4.



John S. Koblas

INVENTOR.

BY Clarence A. O'Brien and Harvey B. Jacobson

Attorneys

Patented Dec. 27, 1949 2,492,296

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,492,296

PORTABLE ELECTRIC LANTERN

John S. Koblas, Minneapolis, Minn.

Application April 5, 1948, Serial No. 19,072

3 Claims. (Cl. 177—329)

1

This invention relates generally to lamps, and more particularly to a portable electric lantern designed to provide illumination when required, and alternatively to function as a caution or safety light.

The primary object of this invention is to provide a lantern which can be used alternatively as mentioned in the preceding sentence, the specific field of use for which this invention is designed being that of a lantern to be carried by a motorist, the lantern when used as a source of illumination serving to facilitate the changing of a tire or making other emergency repairs on the road, while a separately controlled flashing lamp is either simultaneously or alternatively provided for warning other motorists.

Another object of this invention is to provide a portable electric lantern which is comprised of relatively few and simple parts which are simple to assemble, so that the lantern is easily serviced and maintained in repair.

Still another object of this invention is to provide a portable lantern with flexible power lead lines or cord terminating in a male contact member for insertion in the socket of a cigarette lighter on the dashboard of an automobile.

Still another object of this invention is to provide a portable electric lantern in which a hollow base, a hollow cylindrical translucent globe and a top cap are combined in a novel manner with a cage for the lantern.

And a last object to be mentioned specifically is to provide a lantern which is relatively inexpensive and practicable to manufacture, which is extremely safe, simple and convenient as well as versatile in use, and which will give generally efficient and durable service.

With these objects definitely in view, this invention resides in certain novel features of construction, combination and arrangement of elements and portions as will be hereinafter described in the specification, particularly pointed out in the appended claims, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings which form a material part of this application, and in which:

Figure 1 is a three dimensional view of the assembled lantern;

Figure 2 is a horizontal transverse sectional view, taken on the line 2—2 in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a central vertical sectional view taken substantially on a vertical plane through the line 3—3 in Figure 1; and,

Figure 4 is a diagrammatic view illustrating the electrical connections in this electric lantern.

Similar characters of reference designate similar or identical elements and portions throughout the specification and throughout the several views in the drawing.

2

Referring now to the drawing in detail, the environment wherewith this invention is adapted to be used includes an automotive vehicle having a cigarette lighter socket, ordinarily located on the dashboard of the vehicle, it being understood that other electrical contacts for use with other types of electrical connections may be used with this invention which is not limited to the combination thereof with a cigarette lighter socket.

The lantern is comprised of a hollow base 10, preferably constructed of arcuately configurated tiers 12, a neck portion 14, a plurality of leg members 16 and an in-turned flange 18 to which is secured a transverse plate member 20. The neck portion 14 is provided with another transverse plate member 22 adapted to support the socket 24 in which is removably mounted an electric lamp 26. One of the tiers 12 is apertured to receive an insulating grommet 28 and an electric cord 30 extends therethrough and terminates in a male contact member 32 adapted to be inserted into the socket of a cigarette lighter or the like, ordinarily provided on an automotive vehicle and not thought necessary to be illustrated in the drawings. The socket 24 and lamp 26 are connected in series with the switch 34, a flasher 36 and a fuse 38, the switch 34 being mounted on one of the tiers 12 for manual control, and the flasher and fuse being referably mounted upon the transverse member 20.

A translucent hollow cylindrical globe 40, preferably red in color and having a roughened, undulating or diamond-cut surface, is undercut at the lower end thereof to fit inside the neck portion 14 and a gasket 42 is inserted between the inner depending flange portion 44 of the globe 40 and the upper inner surface of the said neck. The upper end of the globe 40 is constructed in similar manner and is similarly fitted within the downwardly extending lip portion 46 of the cap 48 which is of irregular shape with the lower end portion configurated to fit snugly upon the globe 40 while the upper end of the cap is formed with a pair of bosses 50 and 52.

The boss 50 is removably secured, as by a center post and thumb nut indicated at 53, to the convergent upper ends of the members 54 forming a portion of what will be referred to herein as the cage. This cage also comprises substantially horizontally disposed members 56 which are welded in vertically spaced relation to the members 54. The lowermost of the members

56 rests, as indicated in Figures 1 and 3, upon an intermediate portion of the base 10, and a bolt 58 extends from the boss 52 downwardly through the cap 48 and through the globe 40 for connection by means of a wing nut 60 with the transverse plate member 20 which is, of course, apertured to receive the lower end of the bolt 58. It will thus be seen how the cage is made an integral portion of the frame of the lantern, while the actual interconnection of the cap 48 and the base 10 is made relatively independent of the globe 40, so that undue strains are not applied thereto. A bail 62 is pivoted on an upper intermediate portion of the cage, and a fixed handle 64 is also secured to an intermediate portion of this cage so that the lantern may be carried by either the bail or handle.

The cap 48 is apertured on one side thereof and a reflector which will ordinarily be substantially parabolic will be welded or otherwise secured to the cap within this recess, as indicated at 66. A lens 68 is secured on the cap 48 to cover the aperture therein and to cooperate with the reflector 66 and a lamp 70 to supply steady illumination when required. The lamp 70 is removably mounted in a conventional socket 72 carried by the reflector 66, and a supporting brace 74 may be welded on the cap 48 to further support this socket 72 and the reflector 66. A suitable complement of electric lead wires 76 connect this socket 72 to a switch 78 mounted on the cap 48 to terminals on the flasher and on the switch 34, it being understood that the exact means of wiring this lantern need not be adhered to in order to implement this invention. However, a suitable wiring diagram is illustrated in Figure 4, the contact pieces 80 representing the side and center terminals of the cigarette lighter socket referred to above, the battery 82 representing any suitable source of power, ordinarily the battery carried by the automotive vehicle, and the leads 84 representing those carried in the electric cord 30. It will be obvious that the switches 34 and 78 are alternatively or simultaneously closed according to the needs of the motorist, thus energizing the lamp 26 and/or the lamp 70, and it will be obvious that the lamp 26 will provide a flashing signal by reason of the connection in its circuit of the flasher 36, while the lamp 70 will provide a steady illumination, directable by the motorist as required by simply shifting the lantern so that the light from the lamp 70 is beamed in the desired direction. A disc 86, indicated in Figures 1 and 2, may be inserted, if desired, in the base of the cap 48, the undersurface of this disc being highly polished in order to conserve light from the lamp 26.

The operation of this invention will be clearly understood from the foregoing description of the mechanical details thereof, taken in connection with the above recitation of the objects

sought to be achieved by this invention. It will be obvious that minor variations may be made in the exact physical construction and proportionment of the various elements of this invention without departure from the spirit and scope thereof which should be limited only by a proper interpretation of the terminology used in the subjoined claims.

Having described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. A portable electric lantern including a hollow base, a hollow cylindrical translucent globe fitted on said base, a cap closing the upper end of said globe, a cage encircling said globe and secured to said cap, and means extending through said globe and securing said cap to said base, said base having a transverse member, and said means comprising a bolt terminally secured to said cap and to said transverse member, said cap having a recess at one side, a reflector secured to the cap in said recess, a lens closing said recess, and electric lamps operatively mounted on said reflector and within said globe.

2. A portable electric lantern including a hollow base, a hollow cylindrical translucent globe fitted on said base, a cap closing the upper end of said globe, a cage encircling said globe and secured to said cap, and means extending through said globe and securing said cap to said base, said base having a transverse member, and said means comprising a bolt terminally secured to said cap and to said transverse member, said cap having a recess at one side, a reflector secured to the cap in said recess, a lens closing said recess, and electric lamps operatively mounted on said reflector and within said globe, said lamps being separately connected through control switches, and the circuit through the lamp with the globe including a flasher.

3. The combination of a lantern according to claim 2 and an electric cord connected at one end in circuits through both said lamps and terminating at the other end in a male contact member insertable in the socket of a cigar lighter on an automobile, said cap being constructed of sheet material and said cage being extended to encompass said cap and lens.

JOHN S. KOBLAS.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
516,824	Knowles	Mar. 20, 1894
1,886,542	Haire	Nov. 8, 1932
2,165,562	Mack et al.	July 11, 1939
2,224,742	Muldoon	Dec. 10, 1940
2,408,568	McClure	Oct. 1, 1946