April 20, 1926. 1,581,997

M. A. FLAUTT

AUTOMOBILE HEAD LAMP

Filed March 27, 1924

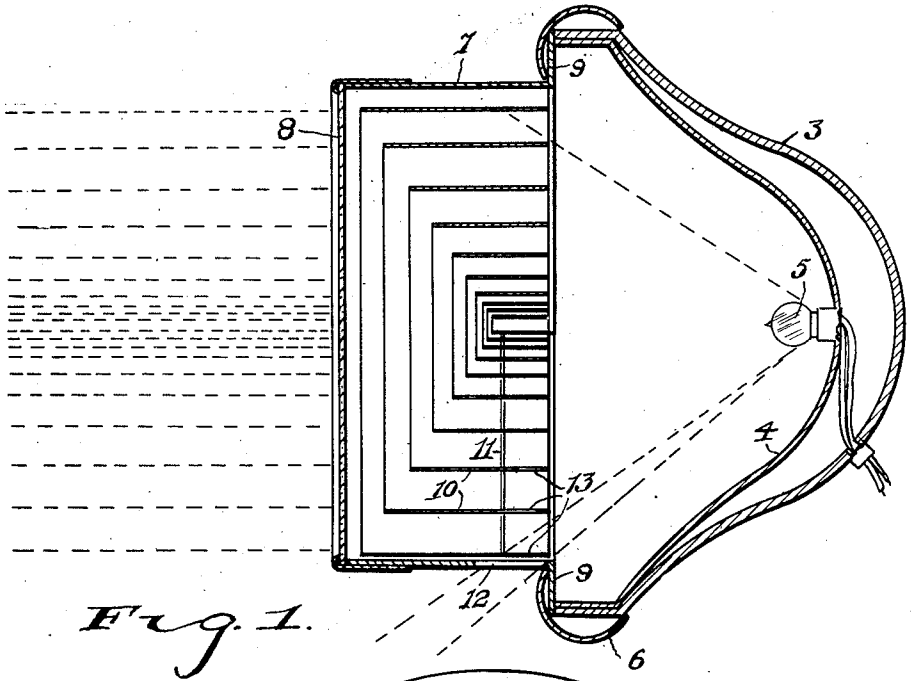


Fig. 1.

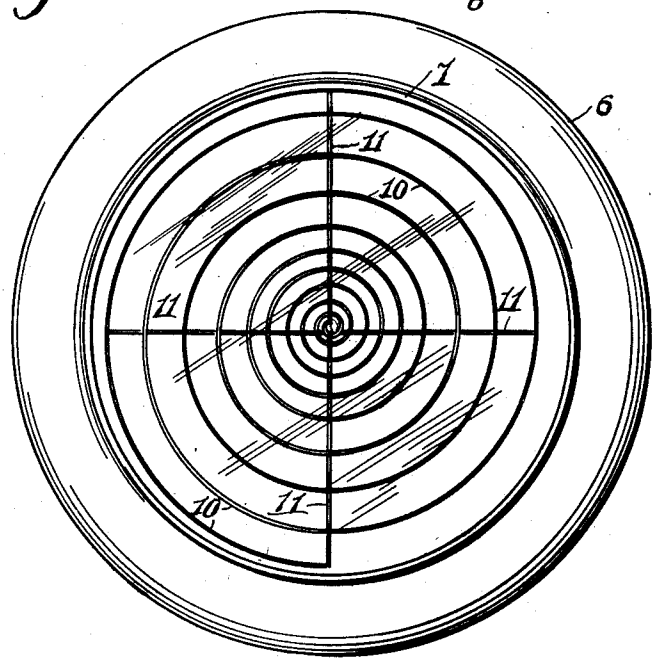


Fig. 2.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MELVIN A. FLAUTT, OF WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA.

AUTOMOBILE HEAD LAMP.

Application filed March 27, 1924. Serial No. 702,391.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MELVIN A. FLAUTT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Waynesboro, in the county of Franklin and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Automobile Head Lamps, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to means for controlling or directing the rays of light from the head lamps of automobiles and the like, and the object is to provide a simple structure of this character, preferably in the form of an attachment that can be applied to the standard type of head lamp and will insure the light therefrom being confined to a substantially horizontal direction, thereby eliminating the broad glare that ordinarily emanates from lamps of this character.

In the accompanying drawings:—

Figure 1 is a vertical sectional view through the preferred embodiment of the invention,

Figure 2 is a front elevation of the same, the structure being illustrated as mounted on a head lamp.

In the drawing, the head lamp is designated by the reference numeral 3 and includes a reflector 4, in front of the central portion of which is mounted an electric lamp 5. The usual ring or rim for holding the glass in place is shown at 6. In the embodiment disclosed the glass is supplanted by the light controlling means.

This means comprises a cylindrical housing 7 open to the passage of light therethrough, but preferably having a glass 8 across its front end. The rear end of the housing has an outstanding annular flange 9 which is engaged behind and held by the ring or rim 6 in a manner well understood to those skilled in the art. Within this housing is a strip of any suitable opaque material, formed into a coil 10. The space between the whorls of the coil increases from the center or inner end of the strip to the outer end of the same. This spacing is preferably maintained by right angular rods 11 passing through the coil. It will also be noted by reference to Figure 1 that the strip increases in width from its inner end or the center of the coil to its outer end.

The lower side of the housing 7 is preferably provided with a light emitting opening 12 and the whorls of the coil on their lower sides are cut away as shown at 13 in line with this opening. As a consequence a beam of light will be emitted forwardly and downwardly upon the roadway.

By this construction, the widely divergent rays of light ordinarily coming from a head lamp are prevented and a relatively "straight ahead" beam is projected from the lamp. The continuously increasing width of the walls formed by the coils is also of importance. Obviously the rays of light projected from the reflector can have limited diagonal paths determined by the space between the walls. This furnishes a flood of light ahead, but as the point of vision of said lamp, for example by an approaching automobilist, lessens, the width of the flood of light decreases so that the vision of a person approaching is not blinded by the light but the path of the latter is wholly at one side as two cars come within passing distance and the lights do not interfere. In addition provision is made for illuminating the roadway in front of the automobile carrying the lamp. It will be noted that the structure may be in the form of an attachment that can be readily applied to the standard lamp.

From the foregoing, it is thought that the construction, operation and many advantages of the herein described invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art, without further description, and it will be understood that various changes in the size, shape, proportion and minor details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

What I claim, is:—

1. A light-shield for head lamps and the like comprising a housing open at its ends to the passage of light, and a light-controlling strip in the form of a continuous open coil located within the housing, said strip increasing in width from its inner to its outer end.

2. A light-shield for head lamps and the like comprising a housing open at its ends to the passage of continuous light, and a light-controlling strip in the form of an open coil located within the housing, the space between the whorls of the coil increasing toward one end of said coil and said strip increasing in width from its inner to its outer end.

3. A light-shield for head lamps and the like comprising a housing having its ends open to the passage of light, a coiled light-controlling strip in the housing, said strip increasing in width from its inner towards its outer end and the space between the whorls also increasing from its inner towards its outer end, said housing and a portion of said strip having alined cutaway portions to permit the lateral passage of a beam of light.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature.

MELVIN A. FLAUTT.