July 2, 1929. S. A. ESKILSON 1,719,602

TRAFFIC SIGNAL REFLECTOR

Filed June 4, 1927

Fig. 1.

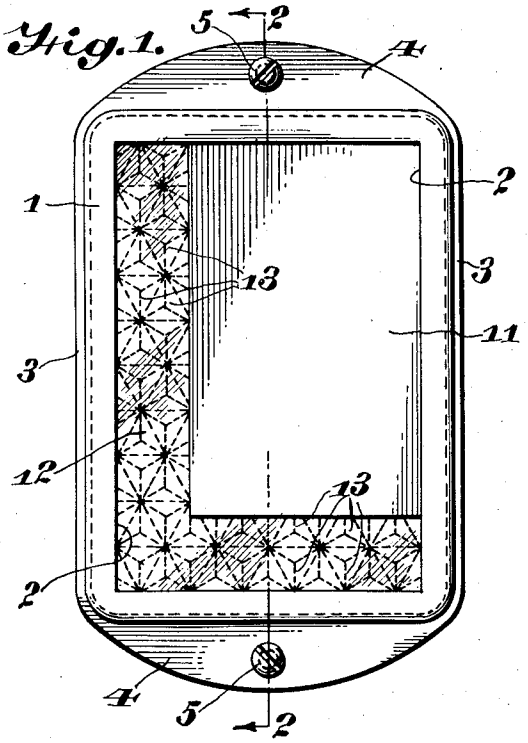


Fig. 2.

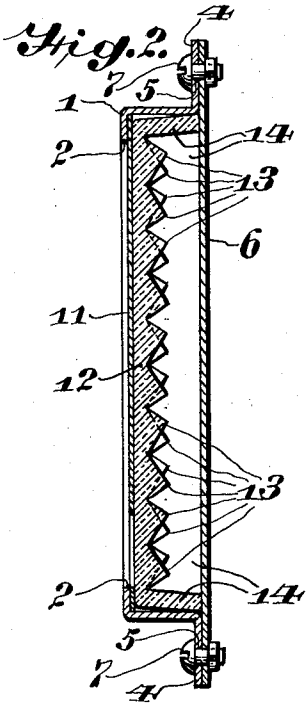


Fig. 3.

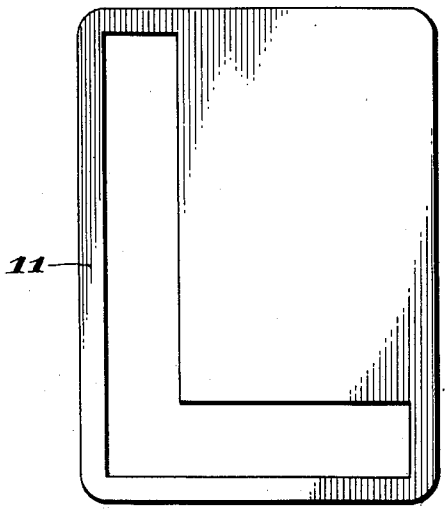
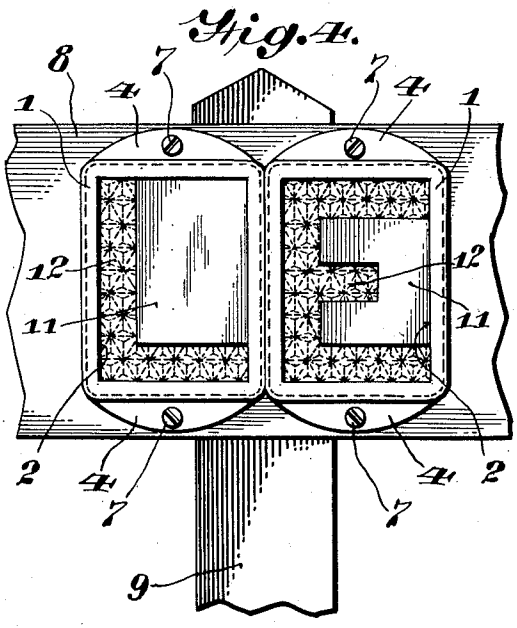


Fig. 4.



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Patented July 2, 1929. 1,719,602

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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TRAFFIC-SIGNAL REFLECTOR.

Application filed June 4, 1927. Serial No. 196,439.

My invention relates to traffic signals adapted for use upon highways, streets and other places where traffic is to be controlled and directed. More especially the invention relates to signals comprising reflectors, preferably central triple reflectors, from which the rays of light which impinge thereon are reflected in directions substantially parallel with the impinging rays. The use of such reflecting means upon highways to denote dangerous points has become quite general.

The general object and purpose of this invention is to provide a reflector having means associated therewith by which more definite information may be imparted than is practicable where reflection alone is depended upon for furnishing information as to traffic conditions. The said means may be employed also for imparting information other than that pertaining to traffic conditions.

The invention comprehends the construction and arrangement of parts as hereinafter described in detail, particularly pointed out in the claim, and as illustrated in the drawing in which I have shown one form of a convenient embodiment thereof.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a view in front elevation of a reflector structure embodying the invention;

Fig. 2 is a sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a view in plan of a member of the structure provided with a letter formed by cutting out a portion thereof; and

Fig. 4 is a view in front elevation of a plurality of reflectors arranged side by side upon a suitable support.

In the drawing I have shown a holder 1 of rectangular shape which is in the form of a shallow pan constructed of sheet metal. However, it may be constructed of any other suitable material. The central portion of the bottom is cut out to form an opening therethrough as indicated at 2. The opposite sides of the pan 1 are provided with narrow laterally extending flanges 3 while the edges of the opposite ends thereof are provided with wider flanges 4 having a central opening 5 therein by means of which the cover 6 may be secured in place by bolts or screws 7 and by which also the said reflector holder together with the cover 6 may be secured to a support 8 upon the upper end of a supporting post or standard 9. Located within the holder 1 and resting against the portions of the bottom surrounding the opening 2 is a thin plate 11 of opaque material, such as sheet metal, which is provided with a letter formed by cutting out a portion thereof in the form of the letter desired. In the drawing I have shown the plate 11 of one of the reflectors with a portion cut out in the form of the capital letter L while in a second device shown in Fig. 4 I have shown the plate 11 provided with the capital letter E, likewise formed by cutting out the requisite portions of the metal thereof.

I have provided a reflector 12 which is located within the holder 1 between the back cover 6 and the plate 11 which extends across the opening 2 in the bottom of the pan or holder 1. In the construction as illustrated the reflector consists of glass the front face of which is plane while upon the rear thereof a plurality of contiguous trihedral projections 13 are formed. The surfaces of the respective projections are arranged at right angles to each other, as the three sides of the corner of a cube, in consequence of which, according to well known principles of light reflection, the impinging rays of light which pass through the front portion of the reflector 12 and into the projections 13 are reflected back in directions substantially parallel with the directions of the impinging rays. The reflector 12 is provided around its side and end edges with rearwardly extending flanges 14 of a depth or height substantially equal to the distance between the inner surfaces of the plates 6 and 12.

It will be understood that the plate 11 is of dimensions such that it fits snugly within the holder 1 and extends over the opening 2 in the bottom thereof as shown in Fig. 2. It also will be understood that a number of these plates may be kept on hand, the different plates having different letters of the alphabet formed therein by cutting out portions thereof, so that by locating a plurality of reflector devices in juxtaposition as shown in Fig. 4 upon a suitable support, such as the support 8, the letters may be arranged to spell any selected word or words.

It will be understood that as the rays of

light from any suitable source, as for example the headlights of an automobile, impinge upon the exposed portions of the reflector 12 the light is reflected back to a point or points coincident or in proximity to their source. In consequence of this the outline of the letter of each reflector will be made apparent to anyone who may be located at or in proximity to the source of light the rays of which are being reflected.

Plates such as the plate 11 having the letters of the alphabet therein may be constructed very cheaply whereby means is afforded for producing reflectors having letters associated therewith at an extremely small cost. By the removal of the screws or bolts 7 a reflector 12 may be removed from a holder and a plate 11 having the required letter formed therein placed in position, after which the reflector may be placed and secured in positon by securing the cover 6 in place by means of screws or bolts 7 or other means.

It will be apparent that my invention affords means whereby any combination of letters may be provided in proper relation with respect to each other for the spelling of any selected word or sentence and that such result may be accomplished at a minimum of expense and trouble.

Instead of letters the plates 11 may have openings therein of any other configuration or design, as may be desired.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

A traffic signal reflector, comprising a holder of pan like formation having the greater portion of its bottom removed, a plate mounted in said holder and seated against the outer edge portion of the bottom, said plate having an opening therein which may be in the form of a letter, a reflector mounted in said holder, which reflector consists of glass and the front face of which is plane while the rear side thereof is provided with a plurality of contiguously related trihedral projections, a cover for closing the rear side of the said holder, and means for supporting said holder and cover.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention, I have hereunto signed my name this 18th day of May, A. D., 1927.

SVEN AUGUST ESKILSON.