June 5, 1923. 1,457,347

F. COLLINS

TELEPHONE CABINET OR HOUSING

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Fig. 1

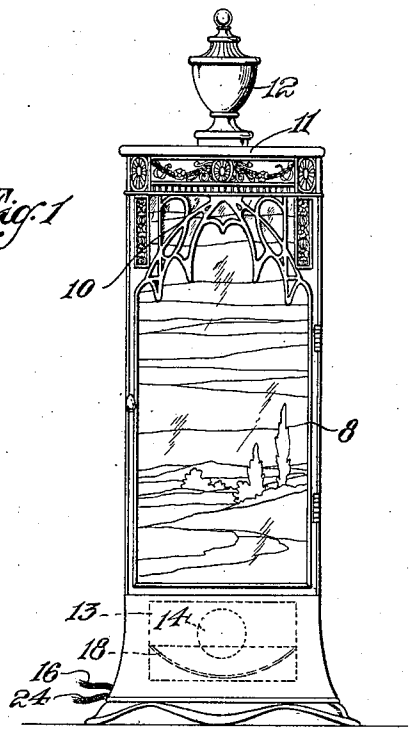


Fig. 2

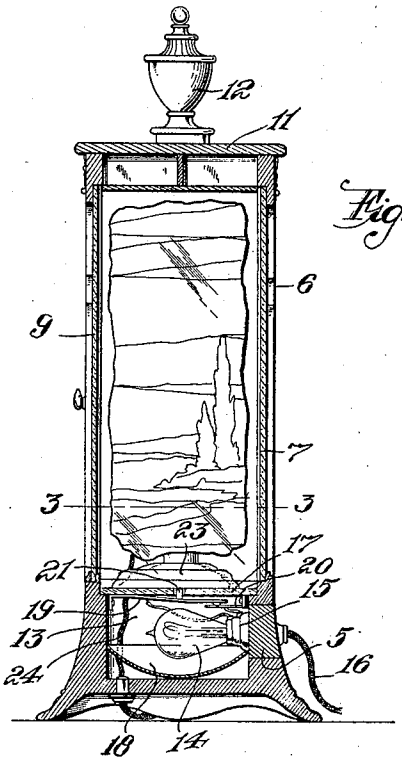


Fig. 4

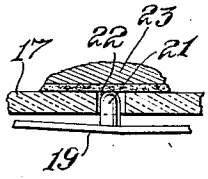


Fig. 3

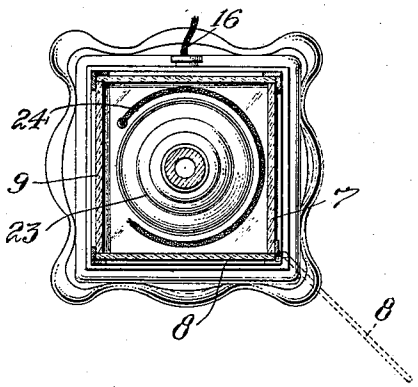
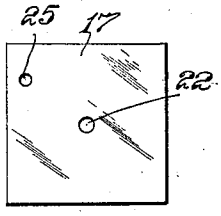


Fig. 5



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Fig. 6

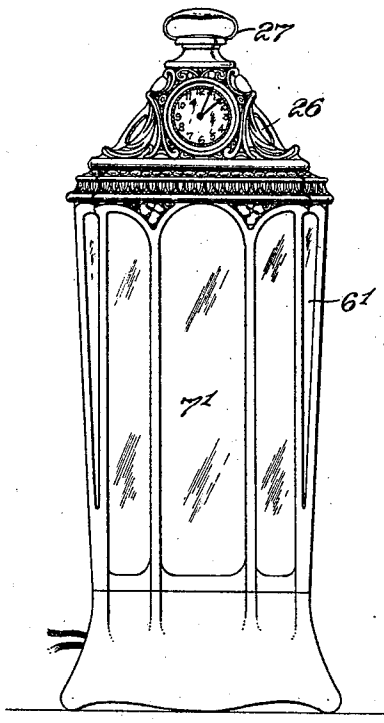


Fig. 7

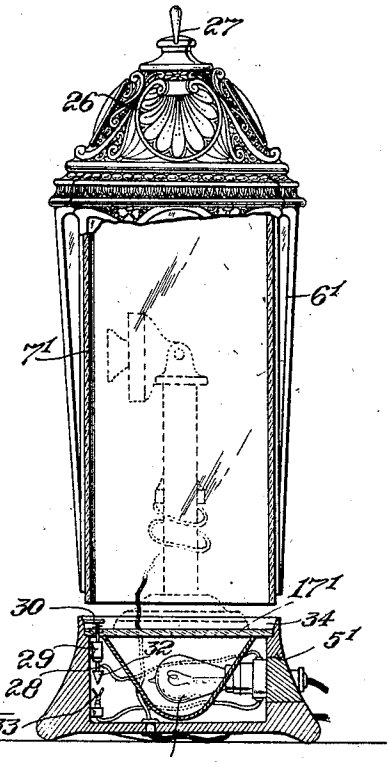


Fig. 9

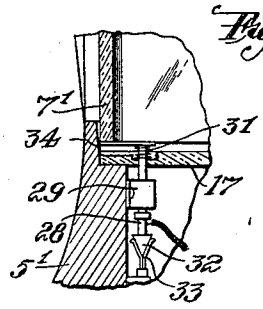
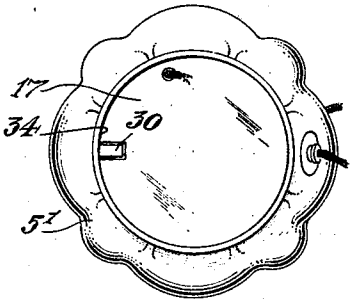


Fig. 8



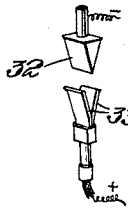


Fig. 10

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Fig. 11

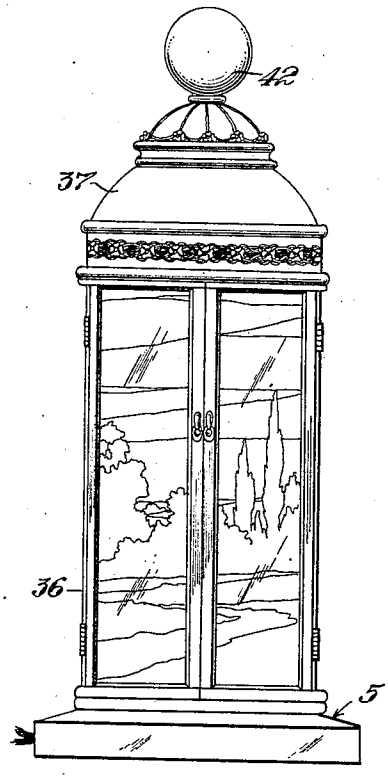


Fig. 12

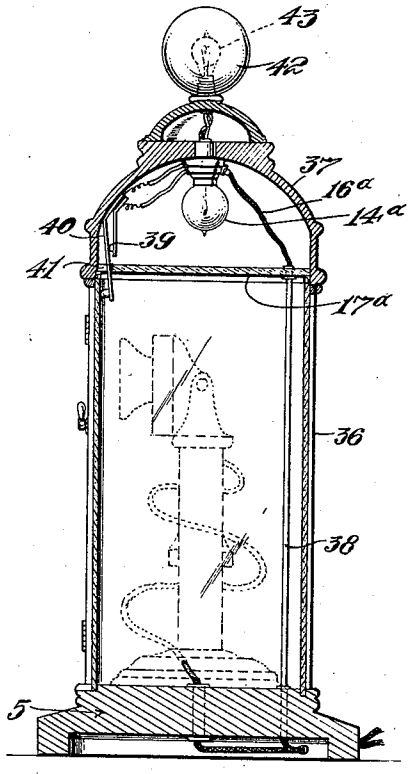
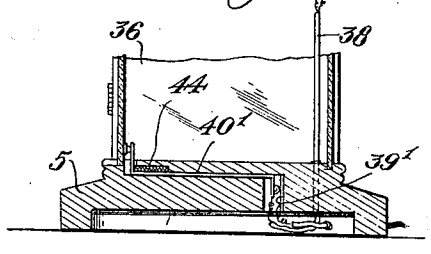


Fig. 13



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Patented June 5, 1923. 1,457,347

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK COLLINS, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

TELEPHONE CABINET OR HOUSING.

Application filed September 8, 1921. Serial No. 499,168.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK COLLINS, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of New York city, in the borough and county of the Bronx, city and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Telephone Cabinets or Housings, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improved telephone cabinet or housing of that character which is adapted to conceal or enclose the telephone instrument and is of ornamental design so as to harmonize with the furnishings of a room or apartment.

The primary object of the present improvement is to provide such a cabinet or housing for the instrument having translucent side walls or panels and means for illuminating the interior of the cabinet when the telephone instrument is enclosed therein.

In one embodiment of the invention I provide an electric lamp having suitable circuit connections and mounted within a part of the cabinet structure and a switch located in the lamp circuit and automatically actuated by the telephone instrument when the latter is positioned within the cabinet to close the circuit and illuminate the lamp. In an alternative embodiment of the invention I propose to operate the lamp switch by means of a movable part of the cabinet structure. In each construction, however, when the telephone instrument is exposed and in use the illuminating lamp is extinguished so that the speaker will not be annoyed by the glare of light therefrom.

It is another object of the invention to provide an ornamental cabinet or housing for telephone instruments as above characterized which is comparatively simple in its construction, may be manufactured and sold at relatively small cost, and which, in use, provides a very ornamental and attractive accessory to the furnishings of a room.

With the above and other objects in view the invention resides in the improved telephone cabinet and in the form, construction and relative arrangement of its several parts as will be hereinafter more fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings and subsequently incorporated in the subjoined claims.

In the drawings wherein I have illustrated several practical and desirable embodiments of the invention and in which similar reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several views:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of an ornamental telephone cabinet or housing constructed in accordance with one embodiment of the invention;

Figure 2 is a vertical sectional view thereof;

Figure 3 is a horizontal section taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 2;

Figure 4 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view illustrating the manner in which the lamp switch is operated;

Figure 5 is a plan view of the transparent or translucent base plate of the cabinet upon which the telephone is supported;

Figures 6 and 7 are side elevation and vertical sectional views respectively, illustrating another embodiment of the invention;

Figure 8 is a plan view of the base portion of the cabinet shown in Figure 7;

Figure 9 is a fragmentary vertical section showing the lamp switch closed;

Figure 10 is a detail perspective view of the parts of the switch seen in Figure 9;

Figures 11 and 12 are side elevation and vertical sectional views respectively of another modified construction; and,

Figure 13 is a fragmentary vertical section illustrating the lamp switch in closed position.

Referring in detail to the drawings and more particularly to Figures 1 to 5 inclusive, in which I have shown a cabinet or housing of rectangular form, a base or supporting section 5 of any desired ornamental configuration is provided. The body structure 6 of the cabinet is suitably mounted at its lower end upon the base section and is in the form of a frame having side panels 7 of translucent glass or other suitable semi-opaque material. The cabinet body on one side thereof is provided with a hinged door 8 also having a translucent glass panel 9 set

therein. The upper portion of the door frame as well as the several sides of the body frame of the cabinet may be ornamentally cut or engraved in any preferred manner, as indicated at 10. The top 11 of the cabinet structure may also be provided with a suitable ornament as shown at 12.

The base section 5 of the cabinet is hollow or provided with a chamber 13 which accommodates the lamp bulb 14 connected to the socket 15 on one wall of the base 5. The circuit wires 16 which supply current from the house circuit are led in through the wall of the base 5 and connected to the contact elements of the socket.

The walls of the base 5 at their upper ends and at their inner sides are rabbeted to receive the edges of a base plate 17 of transparent or translucent glass. Beneath the lamp bulb 14 a concavo-convex reflecting disc 18 is arranged in the chamber 13 and reflects the light rays upwardly through the base plate 17. The circuit for the lamp 14 is closed through the medium of a switch which includes a yieldable spring metal part 19 fixed at one of its ends to one of the side walls of the base beneath the plate 17. One side of the lamp circuit is connected to this switch by the wall and the other side of this circuit is connected to a contact plate 20 secured to the opposite walls of the cabinet base. The switch part 19 is provided intermediate of its ends with an upstanding pin 21 disposed through an opening 22 centrally located in the plate 17 and normally projecting above the upper face of said plate, the free end of the switch part 19 overlying the contact plate 20. The telephone instrument 23 is adapted to be arranged within the cabinet upon the base plate 17, the diameter of said plate being sufficiently greater than the telephone base in order that the light rays from the lamp may be projected upwardly between the translucent panels of the cabinet all around the telephone instrument. The wires 24 for the telephone lead upwardly through the chamber 13 and may be readily drawn or pulled through a guide opening in the base 5 and an aligned opening 25 in the supporting plate 17 when the instrument is removed from the cabinet. However, in practise there will be sufficient slack in the telephone wires which may be contained within the cabinet in order to permit the instrument to be freely withdrawn.

From the above description it will be apparent that while the telephone instrument is contained within the cabinet, with its base resting upon the supporting plate 17, the switch part 19 is held in a depressed position by reason of the engagement of the telephone base with the pin 21. Thus said switch part is caused to engage the contact plate 20 and the circuit for the lamp 14 is closed. The interior of the cabinet or housing will, therefore, be illuminated and its structure or decorative features more prominently displayed. The area immediately surrounding the cabinet will likewise be dimly illuminated. When the door 8 is opened and the telephone instrument is removed from the cabinet for the purpose of use, the circuit for the lamp 14 is immediately broken as the switch part 19, owing to its inherent resiliency, will spring upwardly against the underside of the plate 17 and will be out of contact with the plate 20. Therefore, during the use of the telephone, the speaker's eyes are not subjected to the glare of light rays from the lamp 14.

In Figures 6 and 7 of the drawings I have shown another desirable embodiment of the invention wherein the electric lamp 14′ is mounted in the base 5′ of the cabinet as above explained, but in this construction the cabinet body 6 is not provided with a hinged door, but is adapted to be bodily removed from its position in superposed relation to the base section as indicated in Figure 7 of the drawings. This cabinet body is, however, likewise provided with a series of translucent glass panels 7′ and may be of hexagonal, octagonal or any other desired multi-sided form. The ornamental top portion 26 for this form of the cabinet is provided with a suitable handle 27 as a convenient means for removing the cabinet body or replacing the same upon the base section 5.

In the modified construction above referred to, the lamp switch is not closed by the telephone instrument, but in this case a vertically movable switch part 28 is mounted upon one of the side walls of the lamp chamber in a suitable guide 29 and projects upwardly through an opening in the transparent or translucent supporting plate 17′ for the instrument. The upper end of this switch part has a rigid horizontal arm 30 fixed thereto and a coil spring 31 disposed between said arm and the supporting plate 17′ normally acts to project the switch part upwardly. At its lower end the switch part 28 terminates in a knife wedge 32 which is adapted to enter between the yieldable parts of the relatively fixed contact member 33.

It will be apparent from this construction that when the cabinet body 6′ is arranged upon the base 5′, the body wall at its lower end which sets within a flange 34 on the upper end of the base section, will engage the arm 30 and force said arm downwardly whereby the knife wedge 32 of the movable switch part is engaged with the contact 33 and the circuit of the electric lamp 14′ thus closed. Preferably, the upper surface of the supporting plate 17′ for the telephone instrument is recessed to accommodate the

arm 30 when the switch is closed so that the cabinet body at its lower edge may firmly seat upon the upper edge of the supporting plate 17'.

In Figures 11, 12 and 13 of the drawings I have illustrated another alternative form of the invention wherein the cabinet or housing includes a base section 35, a body section 36 and a top section 37. In this case the lamp 14ª is mounted within the hollow top section 37 of the cabinet, said top section being provided below the lamp with a horizontal panel or plate 17ª of transparent or translucent glass. The vertically disposed tube 38 extends through one corner of the cabinet and has its opposite ends fixed in the base and in the plate 17ª respectively. Through this tube the wires 16ª for the lamp extend.

Within the top section 37 of the cabinet the fixed and movable parts 39 and 40 respectively of the lamp switch are arranged and insulated from each other. The movable part of the switch is in the form of a resilient arm or plate fixed at one of its ends and extending downwardly through the recess 41 in the edge of the plate 17ª. The free end of this switch part is opposed to one of the doors 42 with which the body 36 of the cabinet is provided and when these doors are closed this switch part 40 is moved into engagement with the part 39 so that the circuit for the lamp 14ª is closed. In this case the light rays from the lamp are disseminated in a downward direction through the plate 17ª and around the telephone instrument. If desired, a suitable reflector might also be provided in connection with the lamp. I have further illustrated in connection with this form of the invention an ornamental globe or dome 24 for the top section 37 of the cabinet. This dome may be of transparent or translucent glass and an electric light bulb 43 is contained within the same and receives current through the wires 16ª from the house circuit, said lamp being illuminated at all times and independently of the lamp 14ª.

In Figure 13 of the drawings I have shown another arrangement of the switch in the form of the invention as described in which the fixed switch part or contact 39' is fixed to the base of the cabinet or housing and the movable part 40' is mounted for sliding or rectilinear movement therein, one end of this latter switch part being upwardly extended above the base for engagement by one of the doors when the latter is closed. A spring 44 coacts with the switch part 40' and normally holds the same out of contact with the part 39' so that the circuit is broken.

From the foregoing description considered in connection with the accompanying drawings, the construction, manner of operation and the several advantages of the invention will be clearly and fully understood. By providing such means for illuminating the interior of the cabinet or housing for the telephone instrument, the attractive appearance of the cabinet when the instrument is not in use will be greatly enhanced. The present invention is readily adaptable to such cabinets in a great variety of ornamental forms. It will accordingly be understood that the accompanying drawings are merely illustrative and that in so far as the structural features of the cabinet are concerned or the ornamentation thereof, the present invention is not to be limited. It is further to be understood that the mounting and arrangement of the circuit closing switch together with the form and construction of various other features of the invention as above described are susceptible of considerable modification and that the device might be embodied in still other alternative constructions without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as claimed. For instance, in lieu of the translucent or transparent base plate 17 a support of heavy interwoven wires might be provided. I have also referred to the translucent or transparent panels of the body of the cabinet as consisting of glass plates. However, any suitable equivalent might be employed, such as a glazed fabric or textile material.

I claim:

1. A cabinet for a telephone instrument or the like having a main telephone receiving compartment provided with translucent glass side panels and a second compartment at one end of said main compartment, said compartments being separated from each other by a glass plate, an electric lamp arranged in said second compartment, and a switch for closing the lamp circuit located in said second compartment and having a part projecting into the main compartment, said switch adapted to be closed when the telephone is arranged in the main compartment whereby the light rays from said lamp are projected through said glass plate to illuminate the interior of the main compartment.

2. A cabinet for housing a telephone instrument or the like comprising a base and a body mounted upon said base having translucent glass panels, a glass supporting plate upon which the telephone instrument is adapted to be positioned, an electric lamp mounted in the base beneath said supporting plate, and a switch automatically actuated when the telephone instrument is enclosed within the cabinet body to close the circuit for said lamp.

3. A cabinet for telephone instruments and the like, comprising a base section and a removable body section, having translucent glass panels, adapted to be arranged in

superposed relation to said base section, a translucent supporting plate for the telephone instrument mounted in the base section, a lamp mounted in said base section beneath the supporting plate to illuminate the interior of the body section of the cabinet, and a switch automatically actuated when the said body section is positioned in superposed relation to the base section of the cabinet to close the circuit for said lamp.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention, and I have signed my name hereunder.

FRANK COLLINS.