(No Model.)

E. WESTON.

SAFETY STRIP FOR ELECTRIC CIRCUITS.

No. 301,030. Patented June 24, 1884.

Fig. 1.

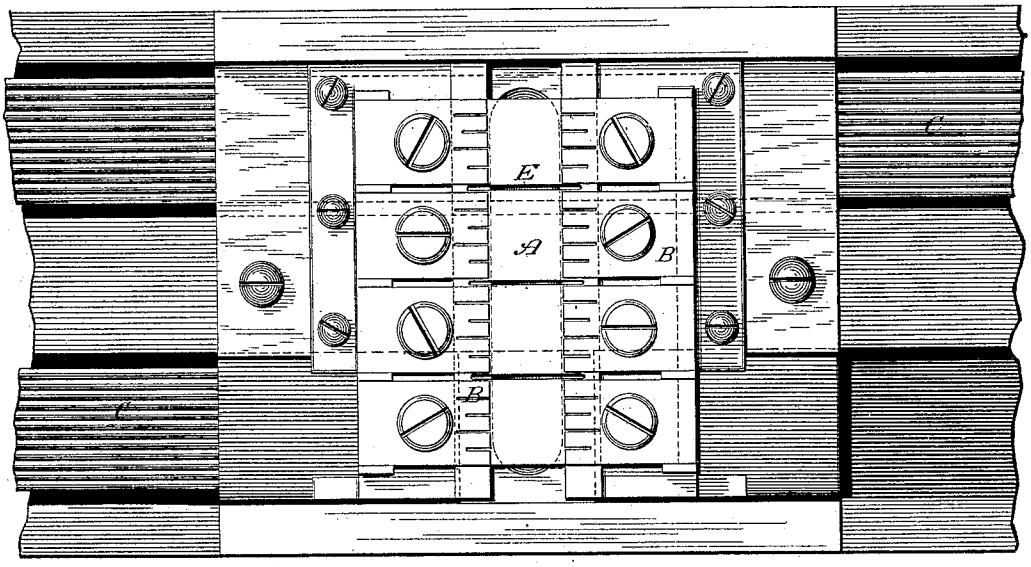


Fig. 2.

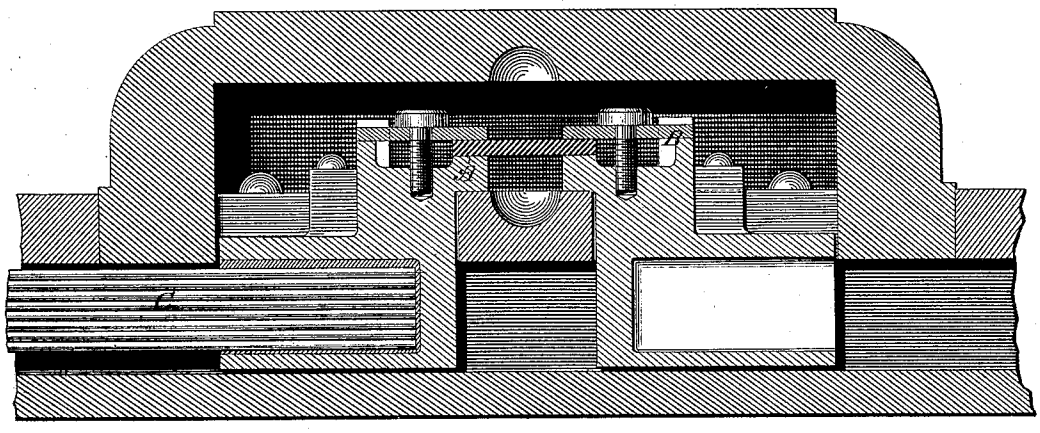
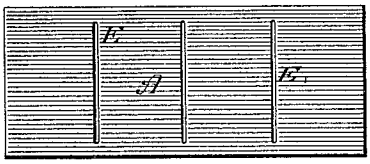


Fig. 3.



Attest:

Raymond W. Barnes.
W. Frisby

Inventor:

Edward Weston
By Parker W. Page
atty.

N. PETERS. Photo-Lithographer. Washington, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD WESTON, OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, ASSIGNOR TO THE UNITED STATES ELECTRIC LIGHTING COMPANY, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

SAFETY-STRIP FOR ELECTRIC CIRCUITS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 301,030, dated June 24, 1884.

Application filed February 1, 1884. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD WESTON, a subject of the Queen of Great Britain, and a resident of Newark, in the county of Essex and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Safety-Strips for Electric Circuits, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the drawings accompanying and forming a part of the same.

In a former patent granted to me, I have described safety-strips for electric circuits composed of an alloy that fuses at a comparatively low temperature. It has been my practice to make these strips of different sizes, each size conforming to a given standard and designed for insertion in a circuit or branch in which a certain number or kind of devices is included. For circuits through which very strong currents are passed, the size of the safety-strip is necessarily large, and should they be fused by an excess in the flow of current a sudden rupture of the circuit is produced that is preceded by a flash or discharge often destructive in its effects. My object is mainly to avoid this, and for this purpose I make safety strips or plates with slots or divisions across them, by which means the strips are divided into a number of sections, so that on fusing, the whole strip will not melt at once, but will go gradually, one section fusing after another.

In the drawings hereto annexed Figure 1 is a plan view of a safety strip made in accordance with my invention, and a holder for the same; Fig. 2, a vertical section on line *x x*, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a plan view of the safety-strip detached.

A designates the safety-strip. It is to be made of any metal readily fused, but preferably of the composition or alloy described by me in Patent No. 259,614. The size or cross-section of the strip will vary according to the purpose to which it is to be applied, or the current which it is designed to carry. It is inserted in the circuit by placing its edges under metal clamping-plates B B, forming the terminals of a severed circuit, the conductors C C of which are here shown for illustration, contained in the grooves of a board, slat, or holder D.

In the strip are formed, at any stage in their manufacture, and in any way preferred, insulating divisions E E, which, by preference, are parallel slots extending nearly across the strip.

The number of slots for a safety-strip of given size may be arbitrary, though I prefer to divide, by the slots, a strip into a certain number of sections, each capable of carrying a given current, so that a person can tell at a glance in what circuit or branch a strip with a given number of slots or sections belongs.

The slots or insulating divisions may, as above stated, be made or formed in any way desired.

I have shown herein a device for holding the conductors, and means for connecting the conductors with the safety-strips. These devices are not claimed herein, as they form the subject of other applications for Letters Patent.

I am aware that a number of independent safety-strips have been connected in multiple arc with one of the conductors of an electric circuit, and this I do not claim, broadly.

What I claim is—

1. A safety strip or plate of fusible metal, containing slots or insulating divisions, as herein set forth.

2. The safety strip or plate A, composed of a fusible metal or alloy, and containing the parallel slots E, as herein set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 19th day of January, 1884.

EDWARD WESTON.

Witnesses:
W. FRISBY,
H. D. HARTLEY.