June 20, 1933. C. F. HIGGINS 1,915,127

CHANGEABLE EXHIBITOR

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Fig. 1.

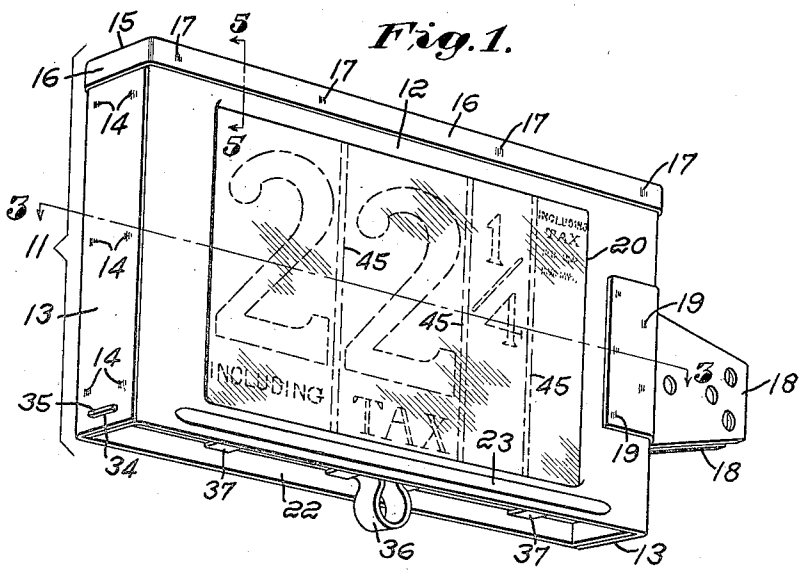


Fig. 2.

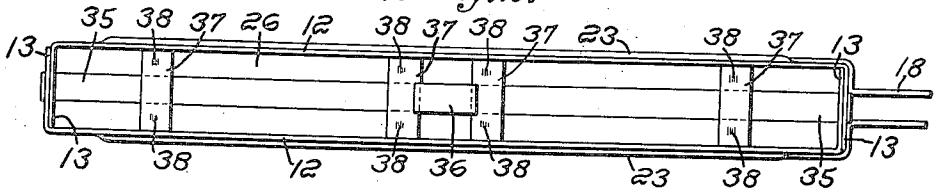


Fig. 3.

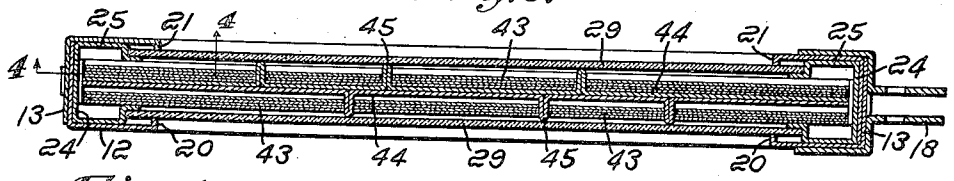


Fig. 4.

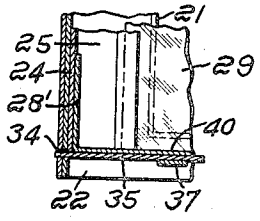
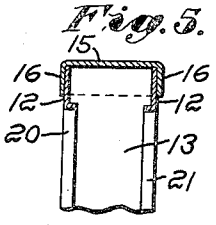


Fig. 5.



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Fig. 6.

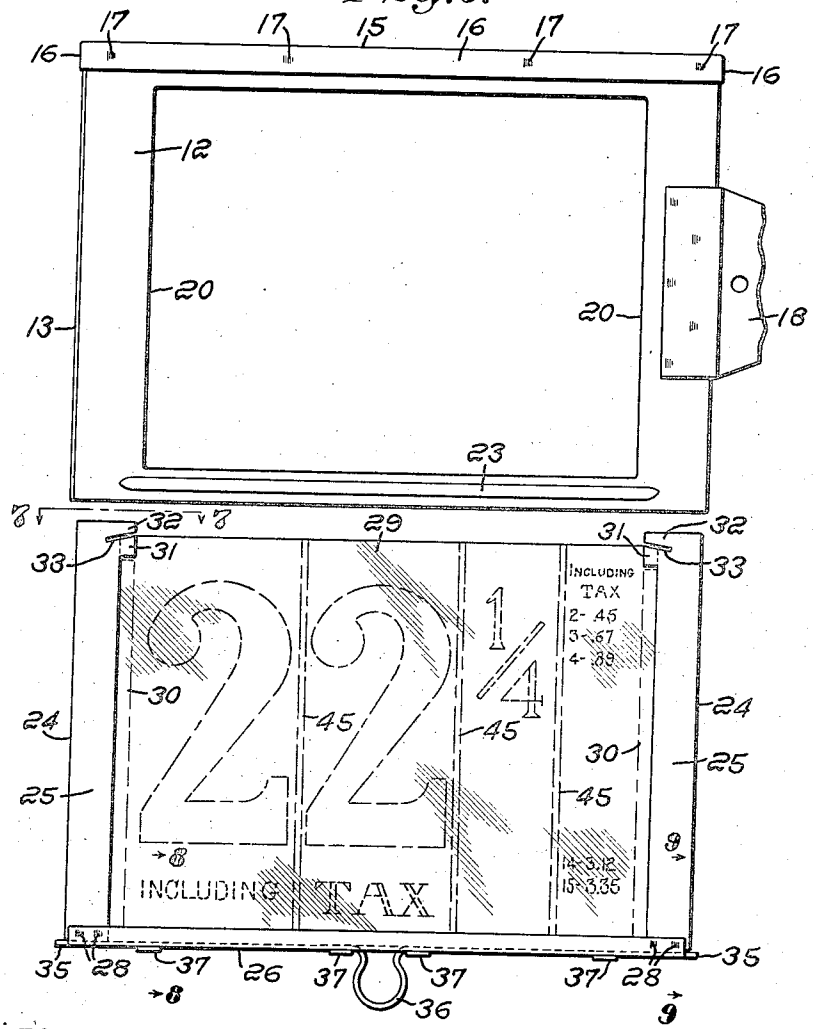


Fig. 7.

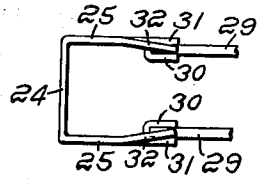


Fig. 8.

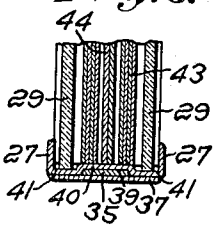
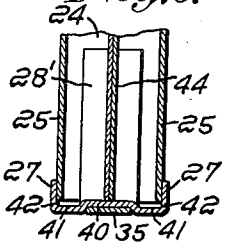


Fig. 9.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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CHANGEABLE EXHIBITOR

Application filed January 23, 1930. Serial No. 422,790.

This invention relates to changeable exhibitors of the class in which interchangeable plates are presented to view through one or more apertures in the housing. While the invention is susceptible of use for various purposes, it is particularly intended to use as a sign to be employed at places where gasoline is sold, to show the price per gallon, and also, if desired, the price computation for various amounts of gasoline in excess of one gallon.

The invention will best be understood by reference to the following description, when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings of one specific embodiment thereof, while its scope will be more particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a changeable exhibitor embodying the invention;

Fig. 2 is a plan of the same, as viewed from the bottom;

Fig. 3 is a sectional view on line 3—3 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a sectional view on line 4—4 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a sectional view on line 5—5 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 6 is an elevation of the exhibitor as it appears with the inner carrier for the plates withdrawn from the housing;

Fig. 7 is a detail plan of a portion of the carrier on an enlarged scale;

Fig. 8 is a sectional view on an enlarged scale on line 8—8 of Fig. 6; and

Fig. 9 is a sectional view on an enlarged scale on line 9—9 of Fig. 6.

Referring to the drawings, and to the embodiment of the invention which is illustrated therein, there is shown an exhibitor comprising a housing 11, conveniently made of sheet metal, and herein comprising complementary sections 12, each of which is provided with two flanges 13, best shown in Fig. 2, overlapping each other and conveniently secured together as by spot-welding at several points, such as the spots 14 in Fig. 1. One edge of the housing, herein the top, is permanently closed by a cap 15, which, as shown in Figs. 1 and 5, is provided on all sides with a flange or flanges 16, conveniently secured to the sections 12 by spot-welding, as at the points 17. The housing may be mounted on an appropriate support, as by the use of a pair of brackets 18, conveniently secured to the housing, as by spot-welding at the points 19.

The housing is provided with one or more apertures 20, through which the plates, cards or other matter to be displayed may be viewed. In the present example, there are two such apertures at opposite sides of the housing, and the margins of these apertures are provided with inwardly-directed flanges 21, best shown in Fig. 3. Herein, the housing is open at the bottom to permit the introduction and removal of a carrier presently to be described. This opening is best shown in Fig. 1, and is designated 22. As shown, the housing is strengthened between its lower edges and the lower edges of the apertures 20 by ribs 23 pressed outwardly.

In Fig. 6, the exhibitor is shown as it appears with the carrier withdrawn downwardly from within the housing. As herein shown, the carrier comprises two uprights 24, conveniently in the form of channel bars, which as shown in Fig. 7 are provided with inwardly-directed flanges 25. These uprights are connected to each other by a horizontal tie-piece 26, herein having a channel-shaped cross section (see Fig. 8), and provided with upwardly-directed flanges 27, which are conveniently united with the flanges 25 by spot-welding at 28. While this means of attachment might be sufficient in and of itself, in the present example the tie-piece is provided with upwardly-directed tabs or flanges 28′ united with the uprights as by spot-welding.

The two opposite faces of the framework of the carrier as thus constituted are covered by transparent plates, such as sheets of glass 29, which as shown have their vertical margins received in rabbets 30 (see Fig. 7), presented by the flanges 25, while the lower horizontal margins of the glass plates are overlapped by the upwardly-directed flanges 27 (see Fig. 8). The glass plates are conveniently held in place by providing each flange 25 with a tongue 31, which overlies the outer face of the glass near the top,

and a second tongue 32, which overlies the upper edge of the glass plate. This second tongue is bent inwardly after the glass plate has been introduced. By sloping the lower edge of the tongue 32 downwardly, as at 33, the tongue as it is bent inwardly is caused to thrust the glass plate downwardly, and to seat it firmly against the cross member, or tie-piece 26 at the bottom. This downward slope of the lower edge of the tongue 32 can be formed conveniently by a slightly sloping saw-cut, which divides the tongues 31 and 32.

The carrier as thus constituted is thrust upwardly through the bottom opening 22 into the housing, and when in place may be retained therein by appropriate means, such as that now to be described, reference being had at first to Fig. 4. Each pair of flanges 13 at one end is provided with a slot 34 to receive a locking member 35, which as shown extends from side to side through both slots, but may be withdrawn from the slots, thereby to unlock the carrier from the housing, and to permit the carrier to be withdrawn downwardly. This is conveniently accomplished in the present example by forming the central portion of the locking member as a spring 36, whose sides may be squeezed toward each other to withdraw the ends of the locking member from the slots. This spring also provides a convenient handle to be grasped in manipulating the carrier, and moving it about. When it is to be employed in this manner, the locking bar should be attached to the carrier, as by short cross-pieces 37, suitably secured to the bottom cross member 26, as by spot-welding at 38.

Herein, the bottom cross member is formed to provide in its under side a channel 39 (see Fig. 8), to receive the locking bar and at the same time an elevated support 40 for the lower edges of the plates or cards. This formation of the bottom member also provides at each side of the elevated support a depressed channel 41 which is in the nature of a gutter to carry away any water which might leak into the housing. These channels have outlets 42 at each end for the escape of the water. By elevating the lower edges of the plates and by providing channels for conducting the water away, any moisture which might possibly enter the bottom cross member is prevented from injuring the plates.

The carrier as thus constituted provides a container for one or more plates to be displayed. The term "plates" as used in this connection is intended to mean sheets of metal, cardboard or other appropriate material, bearing the character, characters or other data or material to be displayed. While the carrier might serve for a display of a single plate to be viewed from both sides through the windows presented by the carrier and the housing when assembled, as herein shown, each window affords a view of a plurality of plates 43, and to facilitate the display of any desired group of characters, there are several packs of the cards or plates (see Fig. 3), the plates of each pack being interchangeable. Separation of the packs from one another is conveniently accomplished by the provision of holders, herein sheets 44 of metal, provided with one or more ribs 45 forming compartments or pockets. Thus, each rib constitutes a separator disposed between adjacent edges of two packs of plates. The two holders are placed back to back, and the depth of the ribs is such that they fit snugly between and are pressed against the inner faces of the glass plates 29, thereby preventing any possibility of the plates 43 becoming displaced.

When a change of the display is to be made, as when there is a change in the price of gasoline, this is conveniently accomplished by first unlocking the carrier from the housing and withdrawing the former from the latter (see Fig. 6), whereupon the desired interchange of plates can be made. If the weather should be stormy, or if the change is to be made at night when the light might be insufficient out of doors, the carrier can be removed from the housing and taken indoors into the gasoline station, when the change can be made and the glass washed or wiped, if desired, after which the carrier can be taken out of doors and reintroduced into the housing by thrusting the same upwardly and squeezing the two sides of the spring together until the carrier has reached its proper position, when the spring may be released and the ends of the locking bar will spring into place in the slots provided therefor in the housing.

The construction of the exhibitor is such that there is little, if any, chance for moisture to enter the same, but if perchance any slight amount of moisture should enter, it gravitates to the channels 41, which drain it away without any possibility of injury to the plates.

Having thus described one embodiment of the invention, but without limiting myself thereto, what I claim and desire by Letters Patent to secure is:

1. In a changeable exhibitor, the combination of a housing having oppositely directed, display openings, a carrier normally housed within said housing and withdrawable in a downward direction therefrom, said carrier being provided with vertical guides, oppositely facing plates carried by said carrier displayed through said openings, respectively, and guided by said guides and withdrawable therefrom in an upward direction after said carrier has been withdrawn from said housing, and means normally to prevent said carrier from gravitating from said housing.

2. In a changeable exhibitor, the combination of inner and outer casings, each provided with a chamber, and each provided at one edge with an opening leading into its chamber, said outer casing having at one edge a wall which normally covers said opening in the edge of said inner casing, each casing having oppositely facing openings, oppositely facing plates within the chamber of said inner casing and presented to view through said oppositely facing openings, and transparent plates carried by said inner casing and extending across said oppositely facing openings, respectively.

3. In a changeable exhibitor, the combination of a plurality of plates, inner and outer casings, each provided with a chamber, the chamber of said inner casing housing said plates, said outer casing being closed at the top and having an opening at the bottom, and said inner casing being open at the top for the insertion and removal of a plate and closed at the sides and bottom to support the plate, said casings having registering openings through which the plate may be viewed, and means normally to prevent said inner casing from gravitating through said opening in the bottom of said outer casing, said means being movable to permit the downward removal of said inner casing.

4. In a changeable exhibitor, the combination of a plate, a plate holder, a carrier which receives said holder, and a housing which receives said carrier; said carrier and said housing having registering openings through which said plate may be viewed.

5. In a changeable exhibitor, the combination of a plurality of plates, a plurality of plate holders, a carrier which receives said holders in abutting relationship, and a housing which receives said carrier; said carrier and said housing being constructed to afford a view of said plates, simultaneously.

6. In a changeable exhibitor, the combination of a plurality of plates, a plurality of plate holders having compartments in their outer faces, said holders being disposed back to back, a carrier which receives said holders, and a housing which receives said carrier; said carrier and said housing having registering openings through which said plates may be viewed.

7. In a changeable exhibitor, the combination of oppositely facing plates, plate-holding means in which said plates are held, a carrier for said plate-holding means, a housing which houses said carrier, said plates and said plate-holding means and is provided with oppositely facing apertures through which said oppositely facing plates may be viewed, and transparent plates extending across said apertures, respectively.

8. In a changeable exhibitor, the combination of two sets of plates, each set facing in a direction opposite to the other, plate-holding means having two sets of compartments in which said two sets of plates are held, a carrier which carries said plate-holding means, a housing which houses said carrier, said plates and said plate-holding means, and is provided with oppositely facing apertures through which said oppositely facing sets of plates may be viewed, and transparent plates extending across said apertures, respectively.

9. In a changeable exhibitor, the combination of two sets of plates (each set facing in a direction opposite to the other, plate-holding means having ribs forming two sets of compartments in which said two sets of plates are held, a carrier which carries said plate-holding means, a housing which houses said carrier, said plates and said plate-holding means and is provided with oppositely facing apertures through which said oppositely facing sets of plates may be viewed, and transparent plates extending across said apertures, respectively.

10. In a changeable exhibitor, the combination of two sets of plates, each set facing in a direction opposite to the other, plate-holding means having two sets of compartments in which said two sets of plates are held, a carrier which carries said plate-holding means, transparent plates carried by said carrier and extending across said two sets of plates, respectively, and a housing which houses said carrier and is provided with oppositely facing apertures through which said oppositely facing sets of plates may be viewed.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification.

CLARK F. HIGGINS.