Feb. 24, 1959 E. E. SHATTOW 2,875,290

DOOR SWITCH DEACTIVATOR

Filed Aug. 7, 1958

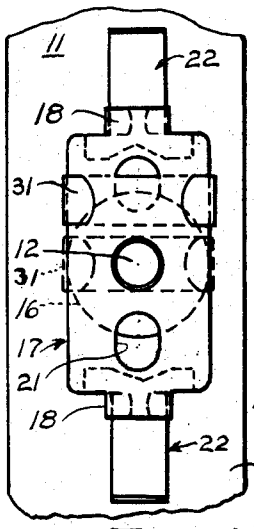



Fig. 1

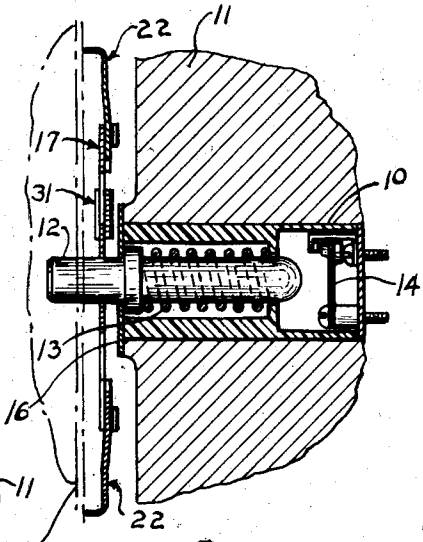



Fig. 2

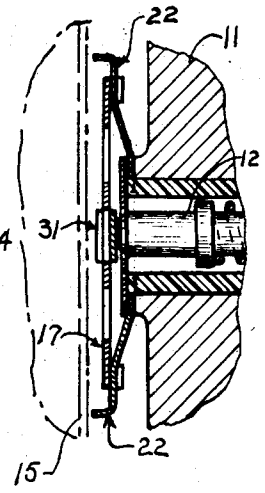
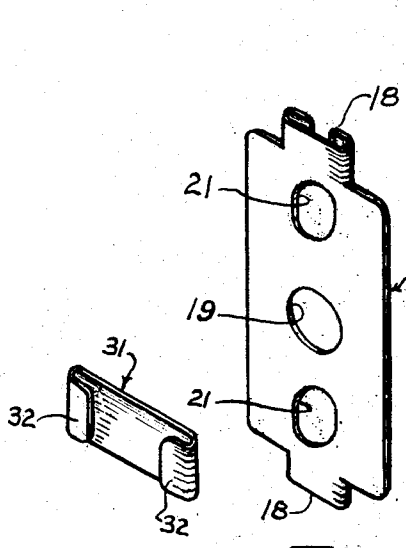



Fig. 3



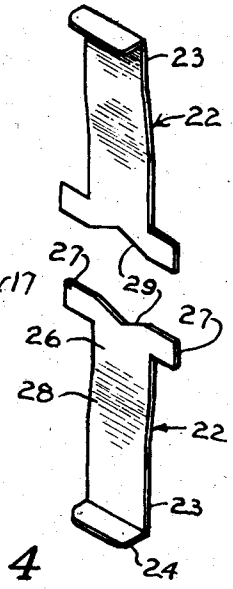




Fig. 4

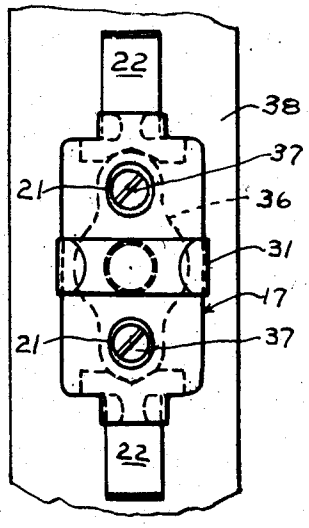



Fig. 5

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# DOOR SWITCH DEACTIVATOR

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4 Claims. (Cl. 200—61.79)

My invention relates to a door switch deactivator.

Modern automobiles are provided with switches which are mounted in the door frames and which are arranged to close an electrical circuit to turn on a dome light or other lights within the automobile whenever certain of the doors are opened. Where it is necessary or desirable that the doors remain open for an extended period of time, the automobile manufacturers have not provided means whereby the lights may be turned off so as to avoid unnecessary depletion of the automobile battery.

Accordingly, it is an object of my invention to provide a switch deactivating device which has universal application for installation in automobiles having different switch constructions and mounting means therefor. It is known that automobiles of different manufacture have different types of door switches and mounting means.

Another object of my invention is the provision of a device of the foregoing character which may be readily installed on a switch of the type mentioned to occupy a position between the door and door frame, and which may be selectively actuated to render the switch operative or inoperative as desired.

Other and further objects and advantages of my invention will become apparent from the following description when considered in connection with the drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a front elevational view of my invention preparatory to mounting on an automobile door switch showing in broken and solid lines two different positions of the deactivating element, and showing also the securing elements in inoperative position;

Fig. 2 is a vertical cross sectional view thereof showing the switch in operative position, with the automobile door shown in broken lines;

Fig. 3 is a cross sectional view similar to Fig. 2, but showing my invention in mounted position and the switch plunger deactivated;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the components of my invention in separated relation; and

Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 1 showing my invention mounted on a different type of switch.

Referring to the drawings, and particularly Figs. 1–3 which illustrate a popular type of switch used on a relatively large number of automobiles, the numeral **10** indicates a switch of the conventional type under consideration shown mounted in the door frame **11** of an automobile. The switch **10** includes a generally tubular body which is snugly received within an opening in the door frame. The body is force-fitted into the opening so that it is held securely in position. Slidably supported within the body is a reciprocating plunger **12** normally biased outwardly by an encircling compression spring **13**. In this position the switch elements **14** are rendered effective to close a conventional electrical circuit which includes the dome light and battery (not shown) when the door **15** is opened.

In the embodiment above described an annular escutcheon plate **16** is attached to the body **10** and affords a flange for limiting the positioning of said body within the opening. The foregoing is all of conventional construction and forms no part of the invention which will presently be described.



My invention comprises a plate member **17** having corner portions struck out and bent rearwardly to form medially disposed longitudinally aligned channel portions **18**. The plate member **17** is also provided with a central aperture **19** of sufficient size to accommodate the plunger **12**. Two additional, somewhat ovalized apertures **21** are provided above and below the central aperture **19**.

Frictionally retained within the channel portions **18** for relative sliding movement are a pair of opposed generally T-shaped securing elements **22** formed as illustrated, each comprising an elongated body portion having an outer end **23** provided with a flange **24** and an inner end **26** having two oppositely directed ears **27**, said outer and inner ends being connected by an angular intermediate portion **28** whereby the planes of the respective inner and outer portions are offset from each other. Each of the inner edges is provided with a relatively flat V-notch **29**.

A switch deactivating element **31** comprising a strip of metal with the ends **32** thereof reversely bent embraces the plate member **17**, as shown, and is arranged for sliding movement longitudinally thereof.

The device of my invention is adapted for ready universal mounting on a variety of types of door switches. For example, in the switch type illustrated in Fig. 1, in order to install the device of my invention, the switch body **10** is drawn outwardly a short distance to provide clearance between the escutcheon plate **16** and the surface of the door frame **11**.

The securing elements **22** are pulled outwardly as in Figs. 1 and 2 to the limit of their movement, and the device is positioned as in Fig. 2 with the plunger **12** passing through the opening **19**. The elements **22** are then pushed inwardly from opposite sides so that the V-notched edges **29** engage against the body **10** rearwardly of the escutcheon plate **16** as in Fig. 3. When the switch body **10** is driven into its opening to the limit of its travel the elements **22** are held securely between the plate **16** and forward wall of the door frame **11**, and the switch deactivator of my invention is installed securely in position. It will be observed that by reason of the offset relationship of the portions **23** and **26** the plate **17** will be spaced forwardly of the escutcheon plate **16**.

In Fig. 5 is illustrated in broken lines another type of switch having an escutcheon or mounting plate **36** provided with two apertures to receive screws **37** which are threaded into a door frame **38**. In order to mount the device of my invention on this type of swtich, the screws **37** are first loosened to permit separation of the plate **36** from the door frame **38** so as to provide sufficient clearance to receive the securing elements **22** rearwardly of the plate **36**, similarly as in the first described construction. The apertures **21** of the plate **17** will be in registration with the screws **37** and will permit the use of a screw driver to tighten the screws **37** in order to secure the device in position.

While only two types of switches have been illustrated, it will be understood that the device of my invention may be installed on a variety of types of switches, whether used on doors of automobiles or in other uses.

When it is desired that the switch be operative, the deactivating element **31** is moved out of registration with the aperture **19**, as in Fig. 2, so that the plunger **12** may pass freely through the aperture. In order to deactivate the switch, the plunger **12** is pushed inwardly and the element

31 is moved to the position illustrated in Fig. 3, in registration with the aperture 19 thereby providing a barrier which prevents the plunger 12 from moving outwardly.

It will be apparent from the foregoing that I have provided a novel door switch deactivator which finds universal application for use with a large variety of types of door switches and which is highly effective for its intended purpose.

Various changes coming within the spirit of my invention may suggest themselves to those skilled in the art. Hence, I do not wish to be limited to the specific embodiments shown and described or uses mentioned, but intend the same to be merely exemplary, the scope of my invention being limited only by the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In combination with a door switch having a body received in an aperture in a door frame and having a flange at its outer end arranged to normally engage the face of said door frame and a spring biased plunger normally held outwardly, a switch deactivator comprising a plate having a substantially centrally located aperture through which the plunger may pass and arranged to be superimposed on the outer end of said body, a pair of securing elements longitudinally aligned and carried by and rearwardly of said plate and slidable towards and away from each other, a member slidably mounted on said plate and movable into and out of registration with said aperture, the ends of said securing elements being adapted to engage said body and to be retained between said flange and said door frame and affording means whereby said deactivator is secured to said door switch.

2. In combination with a door switch having a body received in an aperture in a door frame and having a flange at its outer end arranged to normally engage the face of said door frame and a spring biased plunger normally held outwardly, a substantially rectangular plate having a central aperture through which the plunger may pass and arranged to be superimposed on the outer end of said body, a pair of longitudinally aligned guide means rearwardly of said plate, a pair of substantially flat securing members retained in said guide means and slidable towards and away from each other and adapted to engage said body and to be retained between said flange and said door frame, and a member slidably mounted relative to said plate and movable into and out of registration with said aperture.



3. In combination with a door switch having a body received in an aperture in a door frame and having a flange at its outer end arranged to normally engage the face of said door frame and a spring biased plunger normally held outwardly, a substantially rectangular sheet metal plate having a substantially centrally located aperture and having opposite ends bent to form spaced longitudinally aligned guide means, substantially flat securing elements retained in said guide means and slidable towards and away from each other and adapted to engage said body and to be retained between the flange and the door frame with the aperture in registration with said plunger, a member mounted transversely of said plate and slidable longitudinally thereof into and out of registration with said aperture, said member when in registration with said aperture being adapted to hold said plunger in depressed position.

4. In combination with a door switch having a body received in an aperture in a door frame and having a flange at its outer end arranged to normally engage the face of said door frame and a spring biased plunger normally held outwardly, a switch deactivator comprising a plate having a substantially centrally located aperture through which the plunger may pass and arranged to be superimposed on the outer end of said body, oppositely positioned slidable means carried by said plate and movable towards and away from said central aperture, said means being adapted to engage said body and to be retained between said flange and said door whereby to secure said switch deactivator to said door switch, means slidably carried on said plate and movable into and out of registration with said aperture, said last mentioned means when moved into registration with said aperture being adapted to hold said plunger in depressed condition.

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