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FOOT-OPERATED NIGHT LIGHT

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Fig. 1

Fig. 2

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This invention relates to a night light for use in a bed-
room or a like place of installation.

It is an object of this invention to provide a night
light which can be disposed on the floor in a conven-
tient location and which can be readily turned on and off by
simply stepping on a treadle. This particular object is
best accomplished when the light is utilized as a night
light in a bedroom and is disposed directly beneath the
dege of a bed so that the user can readily step onto the
treadle when leaving the bed and he can also step onto the

treadle when entering the bed to respectively turn the
light on and off, and of course the light is disposed under
the bed so that it will not illuminate the entire room and
disturb other occupants of the bedroom and create like
undesirable results.

Still another object of this invention is to provide a
foot operated night light which can be readily and easily
located at night, and which is simple and inexpensive in its
construction, but yet completely reliable in its opera-
tion.

Still a further object of this invention is to provide a
foot operated night light which has no exposed parts,
such as hinges which would harm the foot of the user
when stepping on the treadle of the night light without
protection covering the feet. In addition with the above-
mencinoned safety feature, is the safety and comfort
feature of providing a non-skid surface over the
treadle so that the latter can be stepped on without risk-
ing slipping and falling of the user, and also the treadle
covering material is preferably of a low coefficient of
heat transfer so that it will not become unduly cold and
thus uncomfortable to the user when touched by the bare
foot even though the light and treadle are located on the
bedroom floor which would normally be cold.

Still a further object of this invention is to provide a
night light which is readily and easily found in the night
as the actuating part thereof is provided with a cover of
a luminous material.

Other objects and advantages will become apparent
upon reading the following description in conjunction with
the accompanying drawings wherein:

FIG. 1 is a top perspective view of a preferred em-
bedment of this invention.

FIG. 2 is a sectional view of a fragment of that shown
in FIG. 1 and taken along the line 2—2 of FIG. 1.

The same reference numerals refer to the parts be-
tween the two views.

The drawings show the night light to consist of a sup-
porting or support member which comprises the two
wedge-shaped blocks 10 which of course have an in-
clined upper surface 11 terminating at a lower end 12.
The support or base member may also include a rear part or portion 13 which can be affixed to the blocks 10
in any suitable manner to form the base of the unit in
conjunction with the blocks 10. A pushbutton type of
electrical switch 14 is shown disposed in the space or
cavity between the supporting blocks 10 and the moving
part of the switch extends above the plane of the in-
cline 11 of the block 10 as clearly shown in FIG. 2.

Of course, the switch 14 can be mounted in the position
shown in any suitable manner. Also, a lamp 17 is con-
ected to the portion 13 to extend thereabove as shown,
and a wire 19 is connected between the switch 14 and
lamp 17. Also, a wire 19 is connected to the switch
14 to extend therefrom and to a suitable source of elec-
trical power. The source of power can either be the usual
current available in the home through the wall outlet, and in this instance, the wire 19 would of course extend
to the wall outlet to make the conventional connection
therewith. Also, the wire 19 could extend to the portion
13 wherein batteries 21 are shown, and in this in-
stance, the batteries of course provide the source of
power.

It will be further noted that a light reflector or shield
22 is attached to the portion 13 to extend thereabove
and over the lamp 17 to thus prevent the light from the
lamp 17 from going to the rear of the night light and
instead to cast the light only to the front of the night
light. Of course, the shield 22 will be connected to the
portion 13 so that the light 17 could shine in all directions around itself and under the bed where it is disposed. With further regard to the electrical sys-
tem, it should be understood that the switch 14 is of the
conventional pushbutton type such that when the button
16 is depressed and released, the light will come on, and
when it is again depressed and released, the light will
turn off.

The drawings further show a step plate 23 extending
over the support members 10 and thereacross and also
across the switch button 16. The step plate 23 and the
support members 10 are suitable for supporting the en-
tire weight of the user of the light so that he can stand
on the step plate to depress the switch button 16 down-
wardly a distance to where the plate 23 abuts the top
incline 11 on the support members 10. Thus, the plate
23 is movable up and downwardly and is incorporated in
the structure being attached to a treadle member 24 which
extends over the top of the plate 23 for substantially the
width of the light structure. It should be understood
that the treadle 24 is preferably of a rubber or other suit-
ble, flexible material such that the member 24 extends around
the lower end of the support block 10 in a hinged or
curved portion 26, and it also extends beneath blocks 10
in an underfloor or floor portion 27. Thus, it will be
understood that the member 24 is of one continuous
length extending both above the blocks 10 and below
the blocks 10, as shown. Also, the member 24 pro-
vides a hinge at the portion 26 so that the step plate
23 can have the action described for the purpose of actuat-
ing the switch 14. At this time, it might also be men-
tioned that the material for the treadle member 24 is
of course of a flexible nature, and of a high coefficient of
friction so that there will be no danger of the opera-
tor slipping when stepping thereon, and further it will be
of a low heat conductivity quality, so that it will not
become unduly cold to the touch of the bare foot, and
still further, it will be of an electrical insulating material
so that there will be no danger of electrical shock in the
event of a short in the electrical apparatus employed.

Of course, with the material 24 extending both above
and below the support members 10, and having the non-skid
feature mentioned, it will also be substantially fixed in its
position on the floor and will not slip with respect to the
floor. Still further, with the incline of the support mem-
bers 10 and with of course the treadle 24 also assuming
the inclined position, the user can readily step onto the
treadle 24 without bumping the foot or toe when ap-
proaching the light.

The drawings further show that a sponge rubber or
the like block 28 is disposed between the support members
10 to occupy most of the cavity therebetween and it ex-
tends between the treadle portion 27 and the step plate
23 as best indicated in FIG. 2. Resilient member 28 is
thus depressed by the treadle member 24 and may, in
the latter, and this of course permits the switch button
16 to be depressed. Also, when the user steps off the treadle, the resilient member 28 will place the treadle back
into the position shown in FIG. 2 so that the switch button
will again be relieved of its depressed and thus operating position. It is also preferred that a luminous tape or coating be attached along the opposite edges of the treads 24 so that the latter is visible at night by virtue of the member 29 reflecting whenever light is available in the room. Of course the tape 29 also serves to retain the treads 24 in a position of an upper limit in that the tape 29 can be attached to the treads 24 at both the top and the floor portion 27.

The step plate 23 is preferably made of a material having some flexibility, such as masonite, plywood, or the like. Thus when it is stepped on, it will bend along the center. Note that the opposite side edges 30 of the blocks are of a greater height than the height of the blocks adjacent the switch. This causes the force of stepping to bend the step plate down onto the switch even though the force is applied immediately inside either of the edges 30. Also, understand that the resilient member 28 could, except for the greater height on the block edge 30, present a fulcrum for the step plate to hamper the switch action in certain positions of applying the force. Also note that the area of the upper total surface of the support is several times greater than the span of the space or cavity between the two supports 10, and thus the latter are used for supporting the entire weight of a person.

While a specific embodiment of this invention has been described and shown, it should be obvious that certain changes could be made in the embodiment and the invention should, therefore be limited only by the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An electric switch actuator for operation by stepping thereon, comprising an electric lamp, an electric switch having a pushbutton of the type set closed when depressed and released and set open when depressed and released, electric wiring connecting said switch with both said lamp and a source of electric power, a support member, said electric lamp being mounted on said support member, said support member being disposed with a declined upper surface extending away from said lamp and presenting a cavity therein of a span less than that of said upper surface and receiving said switch and being sufficiently sturdy for supporting the weight of a person, a step plate disposed over said pushbutton of said switch and said support member along the declination of the latter, a treadle of a flexible material attached to said step plate and overlying the said same and extending continuously around the lower edge thereof and underneath said support member and being attached forming a hinge along said lower edge, and resilient means mounted on said treadle on a portion of the end thereof extending underneath said support member and being disposed beneath said step plate and in contact therewith to be operatively associated with said step plate for yieldingly urging the latter upwardly off said support member to provide clearance for up and down movement of said step plate for operation of said switch.

2. An electric switch actuator for operation by stepping thereon, comprising a support member including an inclined upper surface and being suitable for supporting the weight of a person, an electric lamp attached to said support member and being disposed at the upper end of the incline thereof, an electric switch having a pushbutton and being attached to said support member and having said pushbutton thereof projecting through the plane of the incline thereof, electric wiring connected between said electric switch and both said lamp and source, a step plate disposed above said support member and said pushbutton of said switch and along the incline of said support member and being operatively associated with said pushbutton of said switch, resilient means disposed below said step plate and forming a contact with said step plate for yieldingly urging the latter upwardly to provide clearance above said support member for up and down movement of said step plate to operate said switch, and a flexible sheet attached to said step plate and continuously extending around the lower edge of the incline of said support member and beneath the latter and being attached thereto for presenting a treadle for a person to step thereon in turning said lamp on and off, the portion of said sheet extending around said lower edge of said support member being spaced above said support member a distance equal to the thickness of a person, said sheet extending laterally from said support member a distance equal to the width of a person, said sheet extending upwardly from said support member a distance equal to the height of a person, and said sheet being flexible to allow for yield in stepping thereon.

3. A lamp switch actuator for use on a floor for operation by stepping thereon, comprising an electric lamp, an electric switch having a pushbutton, electric wiring connecting said switch with both said lamp and a source of electric power, a support member, said electric lamp being mounted on said support member, said switch being attached to said support member and projecting through the plane thereof, a step plate disposed over said support member and the pushbutton of said switch for up and down movement to actuate said switch and to abut said support member in the lower limit of movement, resilient means disposed below and in contact with said step plate to support the latter in the upper limit of movement, a flexible sheet attached to said step plate and extending over the upper surface thereof and around an end of said support member and beneath the latter and being attached forming a hinge along said end of said support member, said resilient means being mounted on the end of said flexible sheet extending beneath said support member, and a luminous flexible tape attached to said flexible sheet and extending along the side edges on opposite sides thereof above said step plate and below said support member for flexing with the movement of said step plate and for indicating the borders of the said step plate.

4. A lamp switch actuator for use on a floor for operation by stepping thereon, comprising an electric lamp, an electric switch having a pushbutton of the type set closed when depressed and released and set open when depressed and released, electric wiring connecting said switch with both said lamp and a source of electric power, a support member, said electric lamp being mounted on said support member, said support member including an upper surface having a cavity centrally thereof and said switch attached to said support member and being disposed in said cavity and with said support member being sufficiently sturdy for supporting the weight of a person, the opposite sides of said support member being of a greater height than that of the area surrounding said cavity, a flexible step plate disposed over said pushbutton of said switch and said support member along said upper surface of the latter and extending between said opposite sides, a treadle of a flexible material attached to said step plate and overlying the same and extending continuously around the lower edge thereof intermediate said opposite sides and underneath said support member and being attached to the latter, and resilient means mounted in said actuator on the portion of said treadle extending underneath said support member and spanning said cavity and with said resilient means being operatively associated with said step plate for yieldingly urging the latter upwardly off said support member to provide clearance for up and down movement of said step plate for operation of said switch.

5. A lamp switch actuator for use on a floor for operation by stepping thereon, comprising an electric lamp, an electric switch having a pushbutton of the type set closed and both said electric lamp and said switch depressed and released, electric wiring connecting said switch with both said lamp and a source of electric power, a support member, said electric lamp being mounted on said support member, said support member having said switch attached thereto and being disposed with a declined upper surface and surrounding said switch and being sufficiently sturdy for supporting the weight of a person and
being of a greater height at the opposite side edges along the decline than the height adjacent said switch, a step plate of a flexible material disposed over said pushbutton of said switch and said support member along the decline of the latter and extending between two locations thereon which are elevated with respect to said height adjacent said switch, a treadle of a flexible material attached to said step plate and overlying the same and extending continuously around the lower edge thereof and underneath said support member and being attached to the latter, and resilient means mounted on the end of said treadle extending underneath said support member and being disposed adjacent said switch and being in contact with said step plate for yieldingly urging the latter upwardly off said support member to provide clearance for up and down movement of said step plate for operation of said switch.

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