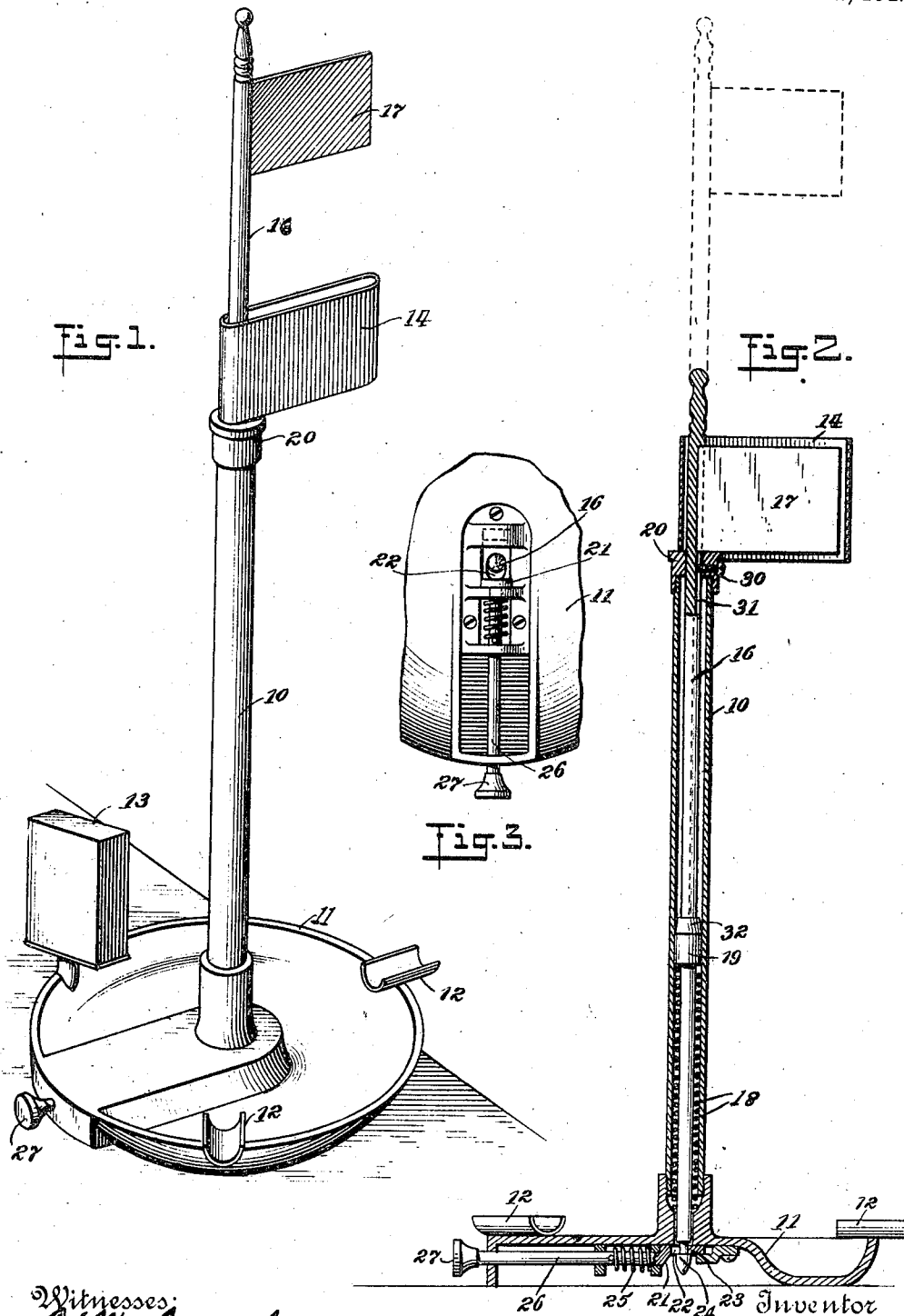


J. BEDINI.
RESTAURANT SIGNALING DEVICE.
APPLICATION FILED MAR. 28, 1911.

1,013,582.

Patented Jan. 2, 1912.



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RESTAURANT SIGNALING DEVICE.

1,013,582.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 2, 1912.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JEAN BEDINI, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the borough of Manhattan, in the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Restaurant Signaling Device, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to signals or attention-attracting devices, and more particularly to visual signals.

The object of the invention is to provide a novel, attractive and useful device for use especially on the tables of restaurants and cafés or in the dining rooms of hotels as an improved means for attracting the attention of waiters or announcing the desires of the diners at any particular table.

To this end the invention consists in a suitable standard or support adapted to stand on or be secured to the table, and a rod or the like vertically slidable therein and carrying a flag-like extension, the rod being normally held down by means of a catch with the flag concealed within a shield or portion of the standard, but projectable upward to display the flag when the catch is released, as by means of a push-button, to permit a spring to move the rod.

In the accompanying drawings illustrating the invention by means of the preferred embodiment thereof: Figure 1 is a perspective view of the device, standing on a table, with the signal exposed; Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional elevation, showing the flag within the shield in full lines, and projected upward, in dotted lines; and Fig. 3 is a fragmentary bottom plan.

In these views the numeral 10 indicates a suitable standard, which may be in the form of a comparatively narrow tube as shown or of other suitable construction. This standard is provided with an enlarged base 11, for affording stable support to the standard. Preferably the base rests loosely on the table. The base, as also the standard, may be formed in a variety of ways and may be adapted to discharge various added functions. For example, the base may be in the form of an ash-tray, as shown. On the margin of the tray may be fixed cigar-rests 12 and a match-box receiver 13. Aside from the double utility which is thus given to the base, its construction as a hollow tray is of structural importance in connection with its

duty as the support for the standard and the parts therein, since by means of this construction it has an extended area, with consequent stability, together with light weight and attractive appearance.

At or near the top the standard is provided with a portion for receiving and concealing the flag, this portion preferably being in the nature of a laterally projecting shield 14, as shown. This shield may consist of two flat vertical walls spaced a slight distance apart and secured to the standard. The walls are preferably united at their outer ends, and in the simplest construction the shield is bent from one piece of sheet metal. The shield is preferably fixed on a cap 20 screwed or otherwise mounted on the top of the standard. This cap may have a screw or other internal projection 30, referred to hereafter.

Inside the standard is mounted a vertically slidable rod or the like 16, at or near the upper end of which is fixed the laterally projecting "flag" 17. Means are provided for holding the flag against turning, for which purpose the rod may have a slot 31 engaging the projection 30. The flag may be simply a square, oblong or other shaped piece of sheet metal suitably colored. Red makes a good color for attracting attention. This flag is of a size to be received in and concealed by the shield 14.

The flag is actuated by means of a spring, such as the spiral spring 18 encircling the rod 16 and confined between a collar 19 on the rod and a shoulder at the base of the interior of the standard. The collar 19 also serves as a stop to limit the upward movement of the rod and the flag, cooperating with the apertured cap 20 in which the rod slides. A rubber ring 32 at the upper side of the collar is a suitable embodiment of cushioning means.

The rod and flag are normally held in depressed position by means of a suitable catch. A simple and preferred construction is indicated at 21, the same consisting of a slide horizontally movable in guiding openings in the base and provided with an aperture 22 considerably larger than the rod and receiving the lower end thereof. One side of this aperture is provided with a detent edge 23, which is adapted to engage above an annular shoulder 24 on the lower end part of the rod. A spring 25 coiled about

the shank of the catch affords means for holding the same with its detent edge in locking relation to the shoulder on the rod. The catch may be disengaged by simply
5 pressing on a button 27 provided on the end of the catch outside of the base, in convenient position for manipulation. The latching parts are suitably beveled to enable
10 the lower end of the rod to ride over the catch on its downward movement, to carry the shoulder 24 below the detent edge 23. To this end the rod may be tapered below this shoulder.

The whole device is designed with reference to its suitability for use on restaurant tables and the like.

In use the flag is normally concealed in the shield, but when a diner desires to attract the attention of his waiter he presses
20 the button and the flag flies upward to a distance where it will be certain to catch the eye of the waiter as soon as the latter looks in that direction. It will be seen that the device is extremely simple and at the
25 same time attractive and wholly suited for its purposes. By means of this visual signal, which remains exposed until the waiter comes to the table and depresses it, the diners are saved much vexation from futile at-

tempts to signal the waiter by gesticulations 30 or other maneuvers. It is also a great improvement on bell signals.

It will be obvious that numerous changes, omissions and substitutions may be made in the device without departing from the in- 35 vention.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:

A signaling device for use in restaurants 40 and the like comprising, in combination, a hollow standard adapted to be supported in an upright position on a table, a rod slidable vertically in said standard and provided with a longitudinal slot, a vertical 45 signal plate secured in the upper part of said slot, a projection carried by the standard and entering the slot below said plate to prevent the rod from turning, a shield in which said plate is normally concealed, a 50 spring for elevating the rod and plate, and a catch for holding them depressed.

In witness whereof I have signed my name in the presence of two witnesses.

JEAN BEDINI.

Witnesses:

JOHN D. BRADLEY,
MABEL STEWART.