Aug. 2, 1927. 1,637,541

S. K. WOOD

MOTOR CAR IDENTIFYING APPLIANCE

Filed Jan. 24. 1927

Fig. 1

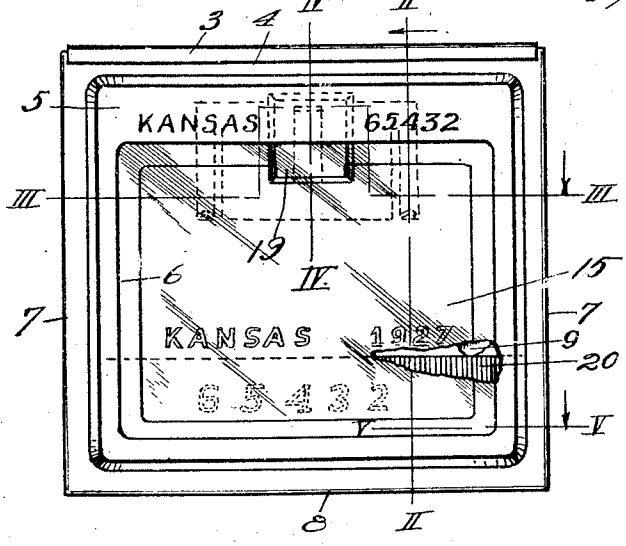


Fig. 2

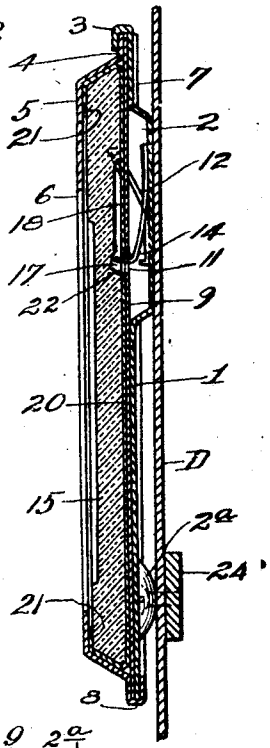
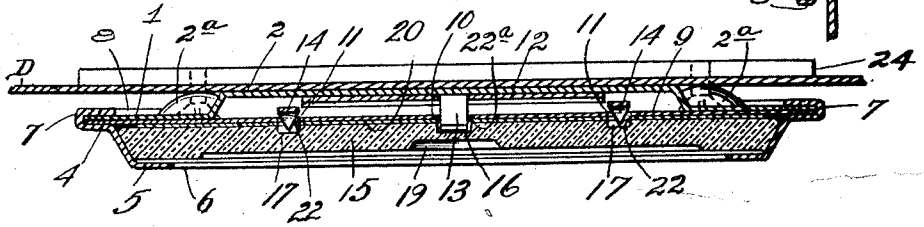


Fig. 3



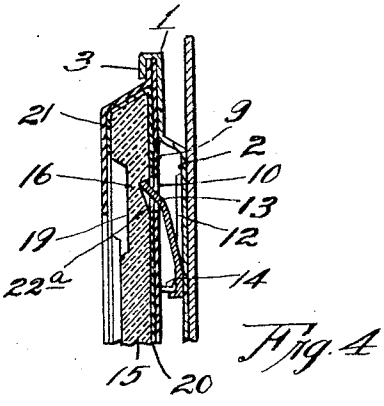


Fig. 4

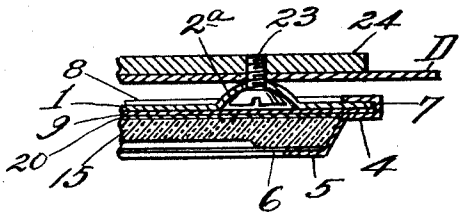


Fig. 5

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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MOTOR-CAR IDENTIFYING APPLIANCE.

Application filed January 24, 1927. Serial No. 163,060.

This invention relates to motor car identifying appliances of the type intended to make impossible the transfer of ownership of a car by an unauthorized person without showing evidence that such transfer was unauthorized.

An appliance of such character indicated by U. S. Letters Patent No. 1,519,472, issued December 16, 1924, but is not entirely satisfactory in that there is a possibility of the license certificate element being accidentally destroyed, and also because of the practicability of the ready removal or transfer of the appliance without injury thereto, from the car for which it was issued to another car.

Accordingly, my object is to produce an appliance not open to either of the objections mentioned, that is, one which cannot be removed from position on a car by anyone, authorized or not, without destroying a part difficult and expensive to replace, by an unauthorized person, and in which accidental injury to the certificate element is prevented by a permanent locking together of the housing and the transparent plate protecting but not hiding the certificate, when such parts are once in assembled relation.

With the general objects in view mentioned, and others of a tributory character, the invention consists in certain novel features of construction and organization of parts as hereinafter described and claimed; and in order that it may be fully understood, reference is to be had to the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a front view of a motor car identifying appliance embodying the invention.

Figure 2 is an enlarged vertical section taken on the line II—II of Figure 1, and also showing in section the car dash or equivalent supporting plate for the appliance.

Figure 3 is an irregular horizontal section on the line III—III of Figure 1, the figure being on substantially the same scale as Figure 2.

Figure 4 is an enlarged fragmentary section on the line IV—IV of Figure 1.

Figure 5 is an enlarged fragmentary section on the line V—V of Figure 1.

Referring to the drawing in detail, 1 indicates a rectangular plate provided near its upper central portion with a depressed panel 2 and near its lower corners with depressed perforated portions 2^a of substantially the same depth as the panel 2, so that when the appliance is placed in operative position against the dash D of a car it will have a stable three-point bearing against such dash. The upper end of the plate is bent forwardly and downwardly to provide a keeper 3, and is equipped with certain spring elements hereinafter mentioned. The plate constitutes the back member of a housing.

The front member 4 of the housing corresponds in contour and proportion to the back member, and for the greater portion of its area is depressed forwardly to provide a forwardly projecting panel 5, the face of said panel being provided with a large opening or window 6. Said front member is bent rearwardly and inwardly at its side margins to provide upright keepers 7, and at its lower margin is correspondingly bent to provide an upwardly facing keeper 8, the arrangement being such that the upper ends of the keepers 7 can be fitted on the side margins of the rear member and member 4 is then slid upward upon the rear member until the upper edge of the front member and the lower edge of the rear member simultaneously enter the keepers 3 and 8 respectively, this arrangement locking the plates together around the margins thereof so that they cannot be spread apart at any point.

A metal or equivalent plate 9 conforms in contour and size to the back member and is adapted to be slipped into the keepers of the front member prior to the engagement of the latter with the rear or back member, so as to constitute a back for the paneled portion 5 of the front member. Said plate or back 9 is provided near its upper edge and midway between its side edges with an opening 10, and at opposite sides of and in a lower plane than opening 10 with openings 11, the function of these openings being hereinafter set forth.

A plate 12 of resilient material is welded or otherwise secured to and within the depressed panel of the back member, and is formed with an upwardly and inwardly extending spring tongue 13 which is adapted for locking the two members together by preventing the front member from being slid downwardly off the back member, the said spring locking tongue 13 being adapted to be forced back by the plate 9 when the two members are slid together as hereinbefore explained, and then react or snap forwardly through the opening 10 as the same comes opposite the free end of the tongue. The

plate 12 is also provided with a pair of spring spurs or hooks 14 spaced apart to correspond with the openings 11 of plate 9, so that when the front and back members are slid together and as they are respectively engaged by the keepers 3 and 8, said spring spurs or hooks, repressed at first by the plate 9, shall react and snap forwardly through the respective openings 11 of said plate.

A corresponding or equivalent plate 15 of frangible transparent material, is of size and form to substantially fill the chamber provided by the panel 5 of the front member, a snug fit being desirable to avoid the production of a rattling noise when the car is in motion, and also to guard against slippage of a license certificate, hereinafter referred to. The frangible plate is provided with a recess 16 in its rear face, the recess registering with the opening 10 of plate 9, and providing an abrupt downwardly-facing shoulder which will so engage the locking tongue 13 when the parts are finally assembled in operative relation, that it will be impossible to reverse the relative sliding movement of the members which occurs in the assembling operation. The frangible plate is also provided with a pair of recesses 17 registering with openings 11 of plate 9, and are adapted to receive the points of the spring hooks or spurs 14 at the same instant that recess 16 receives the locking tongue 13, and for a purpose hereinafter explained the said plate is also provided with upwardly-extending grooves 18 opening at their lower ends into the recesses 17.

The said plate is furthermore provided with a recess 19 opposite the recess 16 and accessible through the window 6, this paneling of the plate so weakening it that under the impact of a small hammer or chisel or the like the frangible plate can be broken so that a tool can be applied through the break upon the locking tongue 10 to repress the same sufficiently to permit of such relative slidable movement of the front and back members as to effect their separation, it being noted that the points of the spring hooks or spurs bear such angular relation to the openings 11 of plate 9, that they will lock the plate 9 to the back member when the front member with the plate 15, is slid downward, this retention of the backing plate 9 being desirable for a reason which hereinafter appears.

A paper license or equivalent certificate issued by the State or equivalent authority to an applicant upon proof that such applicant is the owner of the car for which the license certificate is requested is indicated at 20, the certificate bearing the indicia required thereon by the State, such as the name of the State, the number of the certificate and other data. The certificate is fitted against the back of the frangible plate and folded as at 21 over the upper and lower edges thereof before the plate is fitted in the chamber of the panel 5, the snug fit of the plate in the chamber, and the fitting of the backing plate 9 against the back of the certificate guarding against slippage of the certificate, which latter also serves as a cushion or packing against rattling action of said plate 15 or plate 9. The certificate is preferably provided with openings 22 registering with the openings 11 of the backing plate 9, and with an opening 22^a registering with the opening 10, so that the locking tongue 13 and the hooks or spurs 14 may readily snap into the recesses 16 and 17 respectively, though it is obvious that if the certificate is of ordinary paper, the tongue and spurs may be left to form or punch openings in the certificate as the two members are fitted together, as explained.

As hereinbefore explained, when the parts are once slid together the locking tongue will prevent reverse slidable action of the members and necessitate the fracture of the frangible plate to permit the locking tongue to be repressed or unlocked. There is no other method of disconnecting the front and back members short of so injuring one or both of them as to make it or them incapable of further use, and the necessity of the destruction of plate 15 is desirable so as to make it impracticable or impossible for any one to use the frangible plate a second time or the same certificate a second time, as when the frangible plate is broken and the locking tongue is repressed, the sliding downward of the front member results in the tearing by the hooks or spurs, of strips out of the certificate, this tearing of the strips being made certain and positive by the provision of the grooves or channels 18. In this connection it will be noted that the backing plate primarily guards against injury to the certificate by the locking tongue and hooks or spurs when the assembly is taking place, as it acts to take the thrust of the said spring elements during the assembly operation, from the certificate, and by the retention of the backing plate on the back member when the front member is slid downward, the spurs can be relied upon to tear strips from the certificate where the latter bridges the channels or grooves 18.

Before the front member equipped as described with the backing plate, and the certificate and frangible plate which of course is transparent so that the certificate may be read through it, is slid into operative relation with the back member, screw bolts 23 are fitted through the perforated portions 2^a until the heads of the bolts are completely countersunk in the chambers of said portions, the said bolts being fitted through the dash and screwed into a relatively heavy bar 24 fitted against the back of the dash, which bar cannot be readily removed, not only be-

cause it is in a rather inaccessible place but also because it is engaged by a plurality of screw bolts and hence cannot be unscrewed, and when the front member and its equipment is slid upon and locked to the back member the kerfed heads of the said bolts are completely hidden and inaccessible.

From the foregoing it will be apparent that neither the front member of the housing, the frangible plate nor the certificate can be removed from position without the destruction of the plate and the mutilation of the certificate, it being desirable that the plate be destroyed because it is an element that would be very difficult of duplication by an unauthorized person, as such person by attempting to obtain a duplicate plate from the proper source of supply, would be under the necessity of explaining or showing that he had made a legitimate purchase of the car. It would be possible at relatively small expense to duplicate the certificate mutilated or destroyed by removal with the plate 15 of the front member of the housing, and for this reason the desirability of fracturing plate 15 is important.

To properly identify or associate the front member, the plate 15 thereof and the certificate, the two former elements should bear the name of the State and the license number, the plate also indicating the year of issuance so as to be practically irradicable, and the certificate along its lower margin where visible through the lower part of the plate should preferably be colored as indicated by lining (Figure 1), to provide a background for the license number on the plate, as this coloring with the number in bold characters upon the plate presenting such a contrast as to be readily noted by an observer.

From the above description, it will be apparent that I have produced a car identifying appliance which embodies the features of advantage set forth as desirable in the statement of the object of the invention, and which may be modified in minor particulars within the principle of construction and mode of operation involved and also within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. A car identifying appliance comprising a housing consisting of a back member and a front member having a window, slidably connected together, a suitable support against which the back member fits, means for fastening the back member to the support, a transparent plate within the housing and covering the said fastening means and rendering the same inaccessible, a certificate within the housing and fitting against the back of said transparent plate, and means within the housing projecting through the certificate for tearing the same in the event the front member and said transparent plate are slid out of engagement with the back member.

2. A car identifying appliance comprising a housing consisting of a back member and a front member having a window, slidably connected together, a suitable support against which the back member fits, means for fastening the back member to the support, a transparent plate within the housing and covering the said fastening means and rendering the same inaccessible, a certificate within the housing and fitting against the back of said transparent plate, means within the housing projecting through said certificate, and means within the housing projecting into said transparent plate for locking the same and the front member of the housing from being slid out of engagement with the back member.

3. A car identifying appliance comprising a housing consisting of a back member and a front member having a window, slidably connected together, a suitable support against which the back member fits, means for fastening the back member to the support, a transparent plate within the housing and covering the said fastening means and rendering the same inaccessible, a certificate fitting flat against the back of and interlocked with the transparent plate, a backing plate within the housing and fitting against the back of the certificate and provided with an opening, and a spring spur secured within the back member and adapted to be repressed by said backing plate when the front member, certificate and backing plate are slid into engagement with the back member and to snap forward through the opening of the backing plate and through the certificate when the front member and the back member are properly assembled together.

4. A car identifying appliance comprising a housing consisting of a back member and a front member having a window, slidably connected together, a suitable support against which the back member fits, means for fastening the back member to the support, a transparent plate within the housing and covering the fastening means and rendering the same inaccessible and provided with a back recess, a certificate fitting flat against the back of and interlocked with the transparent plate, a backing plate within the housing and fitting against the back of the certificate and provided with an opening registering with the said recess, and a spring locking tongue carried by the back member and adapted, when the front member and said plate and certificate are in assembled position with respect to the back member, to snap through the said registering opening of the backing plate and the certificate and engage the transparent plate recess to prevent slidable disengagement

thereof and of the front member from the back member.

5. A car identifying appliance comprising a housing consisting of a back member and a front member having a window, slidably connected together, a suitable support against which the back member fits, means for fastening the back member to the support, a transparent plate within the housing and covering the fastening means and rendering the same inaccessible and provided with a back recess, a certificate fitting flat against the back of and interlocked with the transparent plate, a backing plate within the housing and fitting against the back of the certificate and provided with a pair of openings, one registering with the said recess, a spring spur secured within the back member and adapted to be repressed by said backing plate when the front member, certificate and backing plate are slid into engagement with the back member and to snap forward through the other opening of the backing plate and through the certificate when the front member and the back member are properly assembled together, and a spring locking tongue carried by the back member and adapted when the front member and said plate and certificate are in assembled position with respect to the back member, to snap through the said opening of the backing plate registering with and into said recess, and through the certificate and engage the transparent plate to prevent slidable disengagement thereof and of the front member from the back member.

6. A car identifying appliance comprising a housing consisting of a back member and a front member having a window, slidably connected together, a transparent plate fitting within the housing and covering said window and provided with a recess in its rear side, a certificate within the housing and fitting against the back of and interlocked with said transparent plate, a backing plate fitting in the housing and against the back of the certificate and provided with an opening opposite the recess of said plate, and a spring spur secured to the back member and projecting forwardly through the opening of the backing plate and the certificate into said recess of the transparent plate and locking the backing plate against sliding movement and mutilating the certificate when the front member and certificate are slid from engagement with the back member.

7. A car identifying appliance comprising a housing consisting of a back member and a front member having a window, slidably connected together, the front member being panelled, a transparent plate fitting in the panel of the front member and covering the window thereof, a certificate fitting against the back of the transparent plate and between the upper and lower edges thereof and the upper and lower portions of the panelled portion of the front member, said transparent plate having a recess in its rear side, a backing plate holding the certificate flat against the back of the transparent plate and slidably connected to the front member, and a spring spur carried by the back member and projecting through the backing plate and certificate and into the recess of the transparent plate and adapted when the latter with the front member and certificate, is slid downward from disengagement with the back member, to prevent corresponding sliding movement of said backing plate.

8. A car identifying appliance comprising a housing consisting of a back member and a front member having a window, slidably connected together, the front member being panelled, a transparent plate fitting in the panel of the front member and covering the window thereof, a certificate fitting against the back of the transparent plate and between the upper and lower edges thereof and the upper and lower portions of the panelled portion of the front member, said transparent plate having a recess in its rear side, a backing plate holding the certificate flat against the back of the transparent plate and slidably connected to the front member, a spring spur carried by the back member and projecting through the backing plate and certificate and into the recess of the transparent plate and adapted when the latter with the front member and certificate, is slid downward from disengagement with the back member, to prevent corresponding sliding movement of said backing plate, and means within the housing back of and engaging the transparent plate to lock the same and the front member against slidable disengagement from the back member.

9. A car identifying appliance comprising a housing consisting of a back member and a front member having a window, slidably connected together, the front member being panelled, a transparent plate fitting in the panel of the front member and covering the window thereof, a certificate fitting flat against the transparent member and interlocked therewith; said transparent plate having in its rear side a recess and a channel extending upwardly therefrom, a backing plate fitting against the back of the certificate and provided with an opening opposite the recess in the back of the transparent plate, and a spring spur carried by the back member and projecting through the opening of the backing plate and the certificate and into the recess of the transparent plate.

10. A car identifying appliance comprising a housing consisting of a back member and a front member having a window, slidably connected together, the front member being panneled, a transparent plate fitting in

the panel of the front member and covering the window thereof, a certificate fitting flat against the transparent member and interlocked therewith; said transparent plate having in its rear side a recess and a channel extending upwardly therefrom, a backing plate fitting against the back of the certificate and provided with an opening opposite the recess in the back of the transparent plate, a spring spur carried by the back member and projecting through the opening of the backing plate and the certificate and into the recess of the transparent plate, and means to lock the backing plate against disengagement with the front member from the back member.

11. A car identifying appliance comprising a housing consisting of a back member and a front member having a panel and a window therethrough, a transparent plate fitting in the panel and covering said window, and provided with a downwardly-facing shoulder at its rear side, a certificate fitting against the rear side of the transparent plate and interlocked therewith, and a spring locking arm carried by the back member and projecting through the certificate and engaging the shoulder of the transparent plate to lock the same and the front member against slidable withdrawal from the back member.

12. A car identifying appliance comprising a housing consisting of a back member and a front member having a panel and a window therethrough, a transparent plate fitting in the panel and covering said window, and provided with a downwardly-facing shoulder at its rear side, a certificate fitting against the rear side of the transparent plate and interlocked therewith, a spring locking arm carried by the back member and projecting through the certificate and engaging the shoulder of the transparent plate to lock the same and the front member against slidable withdrawal from the back member, and a spring spur carried by the back member and projecting through the certificate into the transparent plate and adapted to tear the certificate in the event the front member and transparent plate and certificate are slidably disengaged from the back member.

In witness whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

STRAUD K. WOOD.