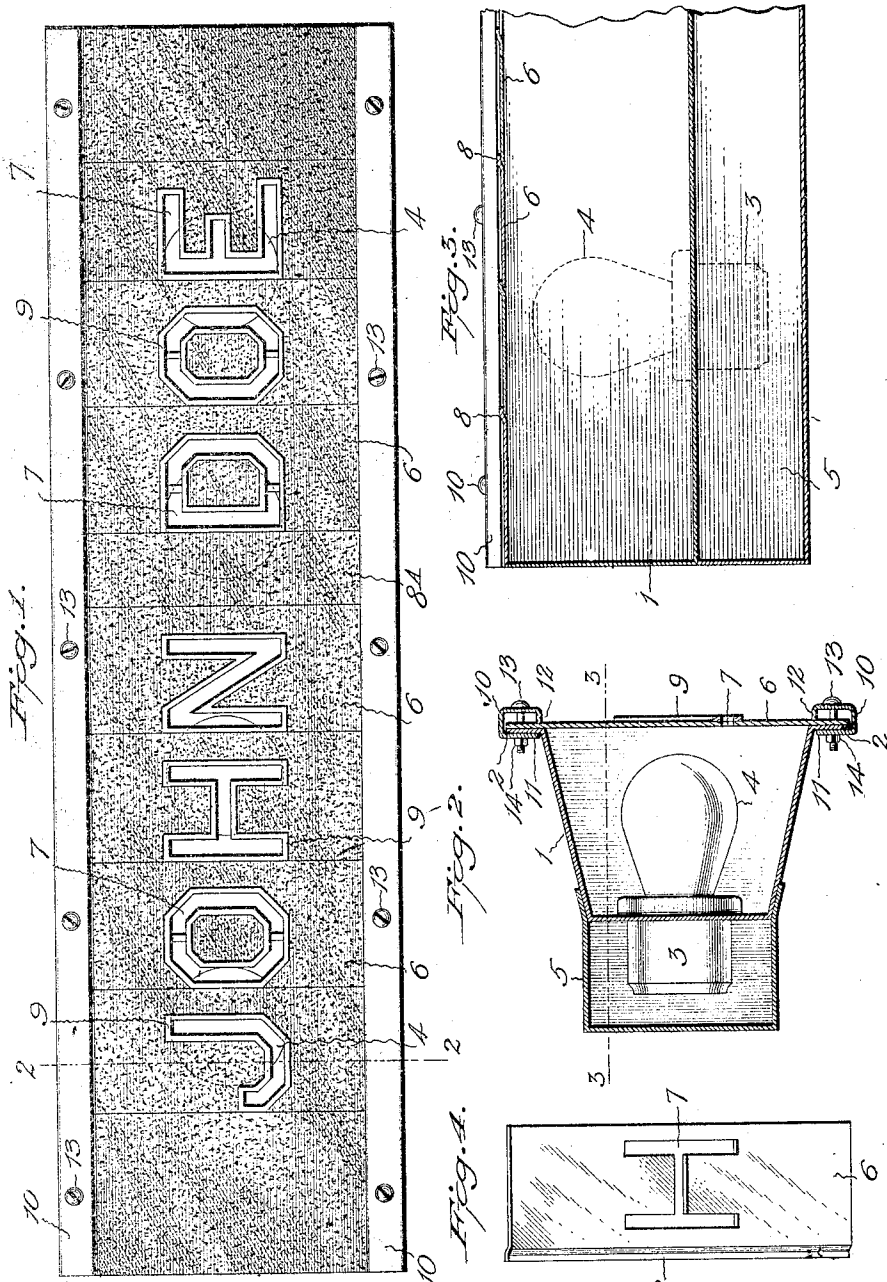


J. W. ELLIS.
 ADVERTISING SIGN.
 APPLICATION FILED JULY 28, 1908.

931.188.

Patented Aug. 17, 1909.



Witnesses:
 G. Sargent Elliott
 Adella M. Towle

Inventor:
 James W. Ellis.
 H. S. Bailey, Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES W. ELLIS, OF DENVER, COLORADO, ASSIGNOR, BY MESNE ASSIGNMENTS, TO THE ELLIS ELECTRIC SIGN COMPANY, A CORPORATION OF COLORADO.

ADVERTISING-SIGN.

No. 931,188.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Aug. 17, 1909.

Application filed July 28, 1908. Serial No. 445,695.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES W. ELLIS, a citizen of the United States of America, residing in the city and county of Denver and State of Colorado, have invented a new and useful Advertising-Sign, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in advertising-signs.

The object of the invention is to provide a sign which may be distinctly seen by day, and which is adapted to be illuminated at night, the electric lamps by which the sign is illuminated being inclosed in a casing or trough, the outer covering of which is provided with openings in the form of the letters composing the sign.

A further object of the invention is to provide a sign made up of independent sections, each of which is perforated or apertured to form a letter or character, the said sections forming the outer covering of a casing or trough, which is provided with electric lamps, the sections being removable, so that any combination of them may be used in producing a required sign.

These objects are accomplished by the device illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1, is a front elevation of a sign, constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2, is a transverse, vertical sectional view thereof on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3, is a longitudinal, sectional view of a portion of the sign on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2. And Fig. 4, is a perspective view of one of the letter sections, taken from the rear side. Similar characters of reference refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, the numeral 1, indicates a trough-shaped casing, which may be of any desired dimensions, the sides of which preferably converge toward the bottom, and are bent down at their edges to form flanges 2, which extend the entire length of the casing. The bottom of the casing is provided at intervals with circular apertures, in which are placed the usual lamp sockets 3, in which are secured electric lamps 4. A second casing 5, is attached to the bottom of the trough or casing 1, which forms a housing for the lamp sockets, and circuit wires, and prevents injury to the sockets, or accident which might otherwise happen

through contact with the exposed wires and sockets.

Along the top of the box, upon the flanges 2, is secured the sign proper, which may consist of a single sheet of metal perforated or apertured to form letters composing a desired sign, but the sign is preferably made up of independent metal sections 6, each of which has an opening or aperture 7, in the form of one of the letters of the alphabet or of any other desired form. On one side of the letter opening of each section, the metal is extended for a distance corresponding to the interval between any two letters in forming a word, while the opposite edge of the section extends only a slight distance beyond the adjacent side of the letter opening.

The sections may be assembled so that their opposing edges will meet, as shown in Fig. 1, but it is preferable to have the edges lap, as shown in Fig. 3, so as to prevent the escape of light except through the letter openings. In forming these joints, one section may simply overlap the other a slight distance, but a more effective joint is made by bending the edge of the overlapping sections, as shown at 8, Fig. 4, so that when the sections are assembled they will fit together in the manner shown in Fig. 3. Blanks 8^a are used to give the proper space between any two words of a sign.

A raised ledge 9 of any desired width, is secured to the section around each letter opening, and these ledges conform to the outline of the opening, as clearly shown in Fig. 1. The ledges are designed to give a distinct outline to the letters, by day, as, otherwise, the letters would be indicated only by the openings in the sections, which would not be sufficiently distinctive or attractive, and the ledges are made prominent by gilding or otherwise, while the ground of the sections is preferably black.

When the letter sections are assembled upon the flanges 2, of the casing 1, to form the required word or words, they are secured to the said flanges in the following manner: Metal strips of the length of the casing, are bent to form clamps 10, which are substantially C-shaped in cross section, as shown in Fig. 2. These clamps are slipped over the flanges, so that their members 11, will engage the rear sides of the flanges, while their turned edges 12, will engage the ends of the

letter sections. Bolts 13, are then passed, at intervals, through the clamps, flanges, and letter sections, and are secured by nuts 14, by which the inturned edges of the clamps 5 are tightly clamped against the ends of the letter sections, which are thereby held upon the flanges 2.

The lamp casing may be of any desired length, and by the employment of individual 10 letter sections, signs descriptive of different articles of merchandise can at any time be set up by removing the clamps and assembling the letters to form the desired word or words. The sign herein described, is not 15 only attractive by day, but when illuminated, presents a brilliant and clear-cut letter, as the lamps are wholly inclosed within the casing 1, which prevents any diffusion of their light, the full power of which is seen 20 only through the letter openings. By inclosing the lamps in this manner, a smaller number of them will produce a more brilliant light than could be obtained by a larger

number of uninclosed lamps; thus an appreciable saving in the cost of illumination is 25 effected.

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

In a device as specified, the combination 30 with a casing having a plurality of electric lamps, and a flange on each of its side edges, of a plurality of over-lapping sections on the flanges, having apertures in the form of letters or characters; a ledge around each letter 35 aperture conforming to its outline; clamps which engage the flanges and the ends of the sections; and bolts which pass through said flanges, clamps, and sections, and are provided with nuts. 40

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JAMES W. ELLIS.

Witnesses:

G. SARGENT ELLIOTT,
ADELLA M. FOWLE.