Feb. 27, 1934. A. G. BLAYLOCK 1,949,141

INDICATING DEVICE

Original Filed Dec. 2, 1931

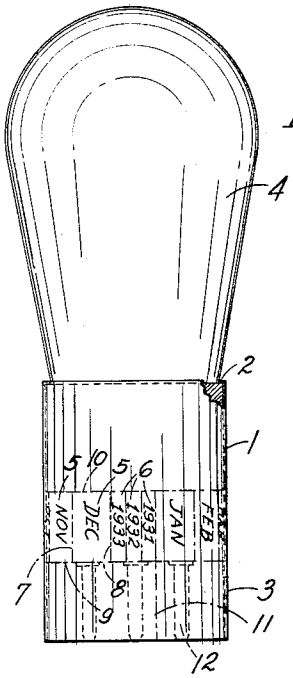


Fig. 1

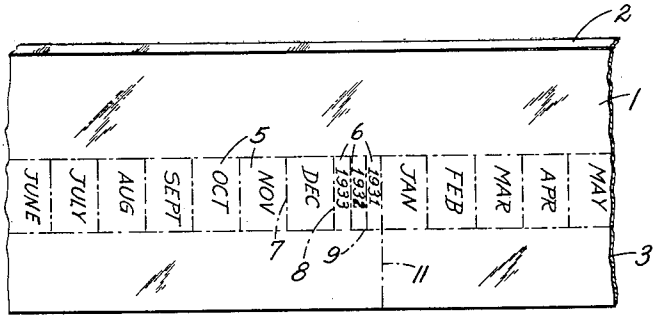


Fig. 2

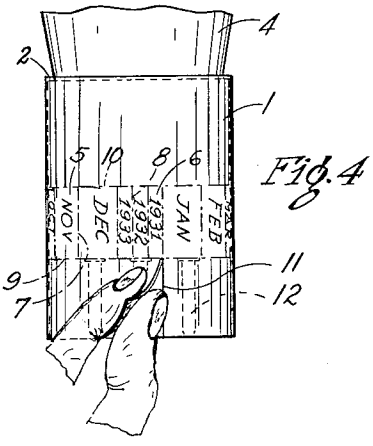


Fig. 4

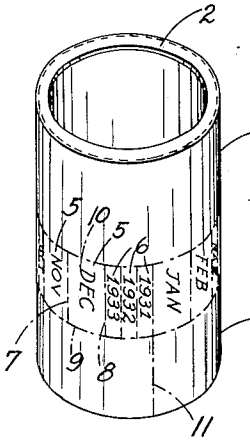


Fig. 3

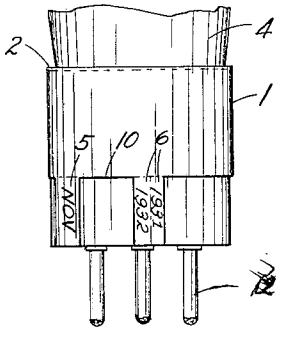


Fig. 5

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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INDICATING DEVICE

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Application December 2, 1931, Serial No. 578,508
Renewed October 18, 1933

15 Claims. (Cl. 40—21)

My invention is an improvement in indicating devices and relates more particularly to date indicators for articles such as radio tubes or the like and which when applied to the article prevents use of the same prior to the date indicated thereon.

It is one of the objects of my invention to prevent use of articles such as radio tubes during the period from their manufacture until they are sold to the consumer.

It is a further object of this invention to guarantee to the purchaser that the article purchased has not been used prior thereto, by providing means associated with the articles which can be utilized to permanently indicate the date of sale to the purchaser. In this manner it is also an object of the invention to insure the dealer and the manufacturer against loss in the replacement of defective articles subsequent to the expiration of the manufacturer's guarantee.

Another object of this invention is to provide a simple device of the above named character which may be applied to an article such as a radio tube, by the manufacturer and which may be severed in a selective manner so as to indicate the date including the month and year in which the tube is sold to the purchaser, at the same time removing that portion of the device which has previously been used to prevent use of the tube prior to its sale.

A further object of the invention is to construct a simple indicating device for radio tubes which may easily be applied to the base of the tube by slipping the same thereover yet which may not be removed without destroying the device.

Other objects and advantages of my invention will become more apparent as the following description of an embodiment thereof progresses, reference being made to the accompanying drawing, in which like reference characters are employed to designate like parts throughout the same.

In the drawing:—

Figure 1 is an elevation of one embodiment of my invention shown applied in use to the base of a radio tube.

Figure 2 is a view of the device severed longitudinally and shown as extending in a single plane for purposes of clearness.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the device.

Figure 4 is a view similar to Figure 1 and illustrates the first step in removing the skirt and certain portions of the device for indicating a predetermined date thereon.

Figure 5 is a view similar to Figure 4 in which the portion of the device indicating the date of sale has been disengaged from the remainder of the removable portion of the device, and retained to indicate the selected date.

Although I have shown my invention applied in use in connection with radio tubes it is, of course, to be understood that the invention may equally well be applied to other articles which are sold under a manufacturer's guarantee and on which it is desired to indicate the date of sale to the consumer and it is to be further understood that I do not wish to be limited to the particular use described herein, namely radio tubes.

My invention comprises essentially a tubular body 1 which is preferably formed by molding the material of the body to the proper tubular cross-section and diameter so that the device when applied to the article will fit snugly thereon. In the present embodiment the body is cylindrical in cross-section and is preferably formed in one piece having an inwardly extending flange 2 formed on its upper end and having a depending skirt 3 formed at its lower end. In applying the device to a radio tube the flanged end is slipped over the lower portion of the tube base in telescopic relation until the flange 2 overrides the upper edge of the base whereupon the flange is snapped into seating position on the ledge of the base as indicated in Figure 1. It will readily be seen that in this position the device can not be removed from the tube base since the flange is permanently locked or seated on the ledge against downward movement of the device, the outwardly converging walls of the tube 4 preventing appreciable upward movement of the device on the base.

Intermediate the skirt 3 and the flange 2, the body 1 is divided circumferentially into a series of portions 5 and 6, the portions 5 being provded for indicia representing the months of the year, while the portions 6 are provided with indicia indicating the years such as 1931, 1932, 1933, etc. Each of the indicated areas 5 and 6 may be severed one from the other along the dividing lines 7 and 8 respectively and from the skirt 3 and the upper portion of the body along the dividing lines 9 and 10 respectively. Each of the dividing lines may be in the form of weakened portions or perforations to permit easy and accurate separation of one or more selected portions from the remaining portions.

In order that the dealer at the time of sale of the tube may readily sever certain portions of the device from certain other selected portions

I provide a weakened line of severence 11 extending from the free edge of the skirt to the weakened line 9. In this manner the operator may readily sever the skirt before proceeding to sever the body portion along any of the selected lines hereinbefore described. This first step is clearly shown in Figure 4.

In Figure 5 I have shown the manner of indicating the date of "November, 1932".

It will thus be seen that the tube cannot be used by the manufacturer or dealer until the skirt 3 is removed, since the skirt 3 extends downwardly for a distance substantially equal to the length of the prongs or contacts 12 of the tube.

Although the device embodying my invention may be made of any suitable material I prefer to employ a material which is transparent and which is of sufficient stiffness to prevent deformation of the skirt 3 while it is attached to the body 1 thereby preventing unauthorized use of the tube and eliminating the necessity of providing a bottom wall across the open end of the skirt, although it is to be understood that such a bottom wall may be used, if desired.

In use, if it is desired to indicate the date of sale of the tube as of November, 1932, for example, the dealer severs the skirt along the line 11 as indicated in Figure 4 and then proceeds to tear along the lines 9, 8, 10 and 7 in Figure 4. This will leave exposed the area indicating the last highest month, November, and the last highest year, 1932. The dealer then proceeds to tear the remainder of the skirt around the line 9 until the entire skirt is removed. It will therefore be obvious that my invention will protect the dealer and manufacturer against fraud and will insure an enormous saving to the manufacturer in the case of replacements since with the date of sale clearly indicated on the tube in accordance with my invention, the dealer can refuse replacement if the period of guarantee from the date of sale has expired.

Various changes in the details of construction and arrangement of parts may be made without departing from the spirit of my invention or the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A device of the class described comprising a tubular body having a locking flange formed at one end thereof and having a skirt depending from its other end, the portion of the body intermediate the flange and skirt having indicia arranged thereon, said intermediate portion being weakened circumferentially to permit removal of the skirt.

2. The combination with a radio tube, having a base and contact members extending from the base, of a body snugly fitting over the base to enclose the base and said contacts, the portion of said body enclosing said contacts being removable from the main body portion.

3. The combination with a radio tube, having a base and contact members extending from the base, of a body snugly fitting over the base to enclose the base and said contacts, the portion of said body enclosing said contacts being removable from the main body portion, and a locking member carried by the body for engaging the tube base and preventing removal of the remaining body portion as a unit.

4. A device of the class described including a tubular body having a locking flange formed at one end thereof for engagement with an object on which the body is placed in use, and having a separable skirt portion and a portion intermediate the said flange and skirt, said intermediate portion being divided lengthwise of the body into a plurality of detachable indicating units.

5. An indicating device for a radio tube including a body for telescopically engaging said tube and having a detachable skirt portion, said main body portion being divided into a plurality of detachable indicating units.

6. A date indicating device for a radio tube, including a body for telescopically engaging the base of said tube, said body having a retaining flange formed at one end thereof and having a detachable skirt formed at its other end, said body being divided intermediate the flange and skirt portion into a plurality of date indicating portions selectively detachable from one another and from the remaining body and skirt portions.

7. A date indicating device for a radio tube including a body for telescopically engaging the base of the tube, a portion of said body being divided into a plurality of indicating portions selectively separable from the body and from one another, and a detachable skirt depending from said body and overlying the base of the tube.

8. A date indicating device for a radio tube including a body for engaging the base of the tube, a portion of said body being divided into a plurality of indicating portions selectively separable from the body and from one another, and a detachable skirt depending from said body and overlying the base of the tube, said skirt being weakened lengthwise of the body to permit its being severed along the weakened portion.

9. A date indicating device for a radio tube including a body for engaging the base of the tube, a portion of said body being divided into a plurality of indicating portions selectively separable from the body and from one another, and a detachable skirt depending from said body and overlying the base of the tube, said skirt being weakened lengthwise of the body to permit its being severed along the weakened portion, said weakened portion of the skirt extending from the free edge of the skirt to one of said separable indicating portions.

10. A date indicating device for a radio tube including a body for telescopically engaging the base of the tube, means on said body for retaining the same on the tube base, a portion of said body being divided into a plurality of indicating portions selectively detachable from the body and from one another, and a detachable skirt depending from said body and overlying the base of the tube.

11. A date indicating device for a radio tube including a body for engaging the base of the tube, means on said body for retaining the same on the tube base, a portion of said body being divided into a plurality of indicating portions selectively detachable from the body and from one another, and a detachable skirt depending from said body and overlying the base of the tube, said skirt being weakened lengthwise of the body to permit its being severed along the weakened portion.

12. A date indicating device for a radio tube including a body for engaging the base of the tube, means on said body for retaining the same on the tube base, a portion of said body being divided into a plurality of indicating portions selectively detachable from the body and from one another, and a detachable skirt depending from said body and overlying the base of the

tube, said skirt being weakened lengthwise of the body to permit its being severed along the weakened portion, said weakened portion of the skirt extending from the free edge of the skirt to one of said separable indicating portions.

13. A device of the class described comprising a hollow body for receiving a radio tube or similar article, said body having a flange formed at one end thereof for engagement with the tube and weakened near its other end to provide a skirt portion, the length of the skirt portion being such that the contact end of the tube is substantially housed within the body and skirt.

14. A device for preventing unauthorized use or testing of radio tubes which comprises a tubular body for receiving a radio tube, said body having an inward flanged portion formed at one end thereof for engagement with the tube, and having a skirt portion depending from its other end to substantially enclose the contact end of the tube, said body being weakened to permit removal of the skirt portion from its initial position relative to the contact end of the tube.

15. A device for preventing unauthorized use or testing of radio tubes which includes a tube-like body having a portion extending inwardly thereof near one end for engagement with a radio tube within the body whereby to prevent movement of the tube in one direction relative to the body, said body having a skirt portion depending from its other end and normally substantially overlying the base contact members of the tube, said body being weakened to permit severing the skirt portion and its removal from its normal position relative to the tube base.

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