May 8, 1945. A. HOLLINS ET AL 2,375,472

FUSE ASSEMBLY

Filed July 8, 1943

Fig. 1

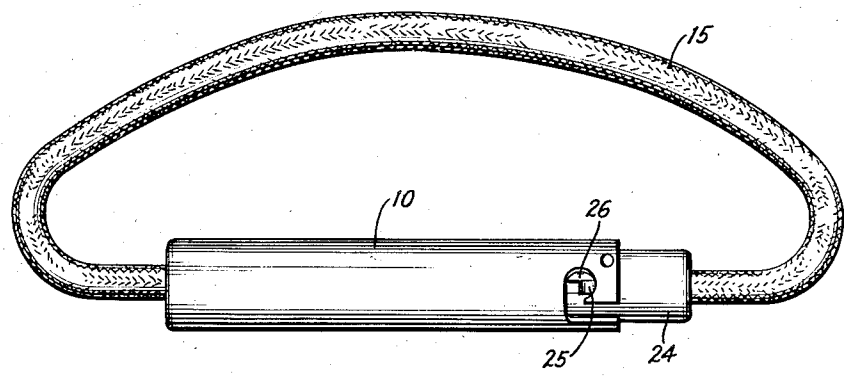


Fig. 2

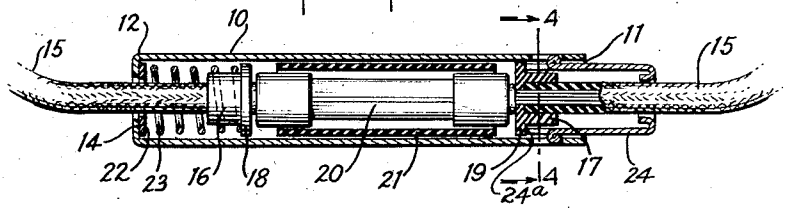


Fig. 3

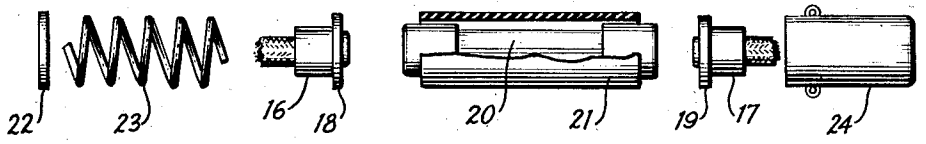
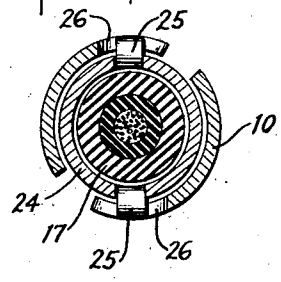


Fig. 4



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FUSE ASSEMBLY

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Application July 8, 1943, Serial No. 493,932

1 Claim. (Cl. 200—115.5)

This invention relates to improved means for installing fuses in electric circuits of vehicles such as automobiles, and the like.

Up to the present time, in order to insert a fuse in an electric circuit of an automobile or the like, it has been customary to break the circuit and to install terminal clips mounted on suitable supports fastened to stationary parts of the vehicle; therefore, whenever it was desired to install an additional fuse for which provision had not been made by the maker of the vehicle, for instance in connection with the installation of additional lights or other electrical devices, it has been necessary to install additional clips for the fuse, which is not a simple matter and sometimes results in placing the fuse in such a position as to make difficult the replacement thereof, as the choice of suitable positions for the clips and their supporting member is limited.

It is an object of this invention to provide means whereby a fuse can be inserted in an electric circuit without installing clips, or the like, for the fuse so that the fuse may be located in any desired and easily accessible position.

More specifically, it is an object of the invention to provide a fuse assembly comprising a continuous wire normally held in electric contact with a conventional fuse and adapted to be severed to form portions that are connectible into an electric circuit, thereby inserting the fuse in the circuit at any desired point.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a device of this character that can be readily disassembled and reassembled to replace the fuse whenever necessary.

These and other objects of the invention will become more apparent while the description proceeds.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a view of the device according to the invention with its various elements assembled together.

Figure 2 is a longitudinal sectional view of the device of Figure 1, showing the various elements assembled within a casing forming part of the device.

Figure 3 is an exploded view of the various elements that are normally assembled in the casing.

Figure 4 is a cross-section on line 4—4 of Figure 3.

Referring now in detail to the drawing, it will be seen that the device comprises a cylindrical hollow member or casing 10 having an open end 11 and an opposite end 12 provided with an aperture in the end wall 14 thereof. A continuous wire 15 carries at the opposite ends thereof collars 16 and 17, made of insulating material, adapted to be introduced into said casing 10 and having flanges 18 and 19, respectively. The ends of wire 15 are secured to said collars in such a manner as to afford electrical contact with the opposite ends of a ferrule-type fuse 20, which is removably mounted in an insulating housing 21 adapted to be inserted into casing 10 between collars 16 and 17. A washer 22 is located in casing 10 adjacent the end wall 14 thereof, and a coil spring 23 is interposed between said washer 22 and flange 18 of collar 16 with its ends in abutting relation to said washer and said flange. A socket 24 adapted to be introduced into the casing through the open end 11 of this latter, with its end or forward edge 24*a* in abutting relation to flange 19 of collar 17, is provided with lugs 25 that are adapted to be engaged in slots 26 provided in the circular walls of casing 10 in proximity of the open end of said casing, spring 23 causing said lugs to be resiliently locked in said slots when all parts are assembled together.

To initially assemble the various parts of the device, collar 16 is secured to one end of wire 15, spring 23 and washer 22 are mounted on wire 15 and this latter is passed through the aperture in end wall 14 of casing 10; housing 21 and fuse 20 are introduced into the casing, socket 24 is mounted on the opposite end of the wire and collar 17 is suitably secured to this latter. Socket 24 can then be introduced into casing 10 with its lugs 25 in engagement with slots 26, and it is obvious that spring 23 will resiliently lock said lugs in said slots, and concurrently cause fuse 20 to contact the opposite ends of wire 15; it is also obvious that socket 24 can be easily removed from casing 10 whenever necessary for the purpose of replacing the fuse.

It is furthermore evident that wire 15 can be severed at any point outside of casing 10 to form wire portions that can be connected into an electric circuit at any desired point thereby inserting the fuse in the circuit without recurring to fixed installations of any kind.

It will be understood that while we have described a preferred embodiment of our invention, many modifications may be made therein without departing from the spirit of the invention or exceeding the scope of the claim.

We claim:

A fuse assembly comprising, in combination, a hollow casing consisting of a pair of tubular members separably associated in telescopic rela-

tion, a continuous wire disposed outside of the casing and having its ends extending into the casing from the opposite ends thereof, a pair of insulating collars slidably mounted in the casing adjacent the ends of this latter, each of said collars having a flat end face, the ends of said continuous wire that extend into the casing being fixedly supported in said collars and protruding from the flat faces thereof to form contact terminals, an insulating sleeve removably inserted into the casing intermediate said collars, a fuse removably mounted in said sleeve with its body portion insulatingly supported therein and its ends protruding therefrom, and resilient means associated with one of said collars for maintaining said ends of the fuse in electrical connection with the contact terminals of the wire when the tubular members are telescopically associated to form the casing.

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