April 9, 1929. G. E. PANCOAST 1,708,028

SIGN

Filed Dec. 9, 1926

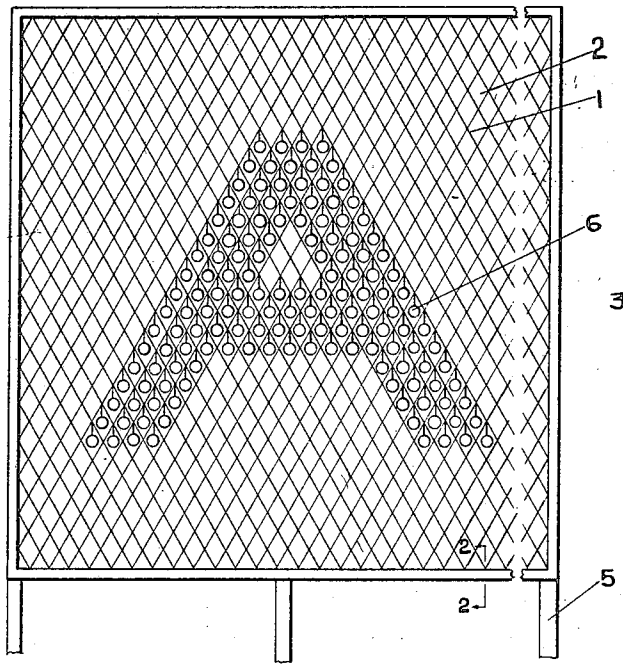


Fig. 1.

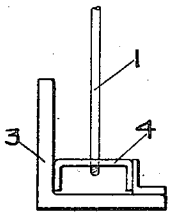


Fig. 2.

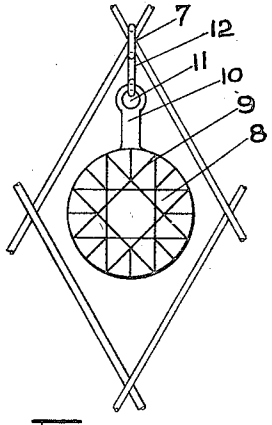


Fig. 3.

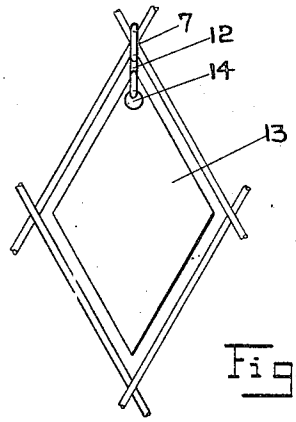


Fig. 4.

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Patented Apr. 9, 1929. 1,708,023

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE E. PANCOAST, OF SEABRIGHT, NEW JERSEY.

SIGN.

Application filed December 9, 1926. Serial No. 153,490.

This invention relates to certain improvements in signs such as may be used for advertising purposes, and particularly to signs of large size.

It is the especial object of the invention to produce a sign structure which will be readily and clearly visible either by artificial or natural light, in which the elements making up the sign are so supported as to have free movement so as to eliminate pressure occasioned by wind, and in which the elements are interchangeable, so that a flexible sign is produced, that is, one in which the character or the design may be quickly and easily changed.

A further object of the invention is to provide a novel form of elements, a plurality of which are employed for making up a character or design, and means for supporting these elements so that they will freely move and thus give an animated effect to the sign, the elements being so formed or of such material as to reflect either natural or artificial light.

With these and other objects not specifically referred to in view, the invention consists in certain novel parts, arrangements and combination which will be described in connection with the accompanying drawings, and the novel features pointed out in the claims hereunto annexed.

In these drawings,—

Figure 1 is a front elevation, partly broken away, of the improved sign structure showing one letter in position;

Figure 2 is a detail section taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Figure 3 is a face view of one form of an element used for producing the desired effect or design, and

Figure 4 is a similar view of a modified form of element.

Referring now to these drawings, the sign will include a skeleton support in which the individual elements used in making up the character or design may be hung, and this support is conveniently formed from a metallic network, this network being indicated at 1. In signs embodying the invention in its best form, this metallic network will be in the form of a diamond shaped mesh, as indicated at 2. This network is supported in any suitable way. In the particular structure illustrated, there is provided an angle-iron framework 3, to which is secured a U-shaped bar 4, to which the mesh 1 is secured, this angle-iron frame being supported in any suitable manner, as by standards 5.

Supported in this network, so that they can be selectively arranged to form any desired character or design, are a plurality of small elements, indicated generally in Fig. 1 by the numeral 6. The character or design to be produced is made up of these elements, the elements being provided in numbers sufficient to form the desired character. In the sign selected to illustrate the invention, these elements are arranged to form the letter A, and one of these elements is provided for each mesh of that part of the netting which is to form the letter.

These elements may vary in shape and may be made of various materials. They will, however, be of such form and material as to reflect light either natural or artificial so that the sign will be visible by night and by day, and they will be so supported as to freely swing in the meshes, being hung from the upper point of the diamond as indicated at 7 in Figs. 3 and 4. In the best constructions, these elements will be of a size to substantially fill the diamond so that a solid character or design will be produced when the elements have been assembled in the desired position. These elements may be of various characters and of various configurations. In Fig. 3 there is provided an element 8 of glass having facets 9, and these elements 8 may be of any desired colors. The element 8 is supported by a stem 10 having a hole 11 through which passes one end of a wire hook 12, the other end of the hook being hooked over the crossed metal of the mesh.

In Fig. 4 there is shown an element in the form of a diamond shaped plate 13 made of light reflective material, this plate being provided with a hole 14 for the reception of the hook 12.

It will be seen from the above that a sign of extreme flexibility has been provided, and one in which the character or design can be readily changed as desired. It will be observed that by hanging the elements which make up the design so that they may freely swing wind pressure is eliminated and, due to the movement of the elements, an animated effect is produced, which is desirable in these signs.

While the invention has been shown and described in what is believed to be its best form, it will be understood that metallic network of various forms may be provided and the elements may assume widely different forms, so that the invention is not to be restricted to the

particular metallic network shown, nor to the particular elements for making up the design, but that these can be changed, if desired, without departing from the invention.

What I claim is:

1. In a sign, a metallic network and means for supporting it, a plurality of independent elements capacitated to be selectively arranged to form a character or design, each element being freely interchangeable and hung in the netting from a single point with a clearance on all sides between the strands of the netting and elements so that the elements turn and swing freely through the mesh of the net, said elements being formed with a light reflecting surface so that the formed character or design is clearly visible either by artificial or natural light.

2. In a sign, a metallic network arranged to form a diamond shaped mesh and means for supporting the network, a plurality of independent elements capacitated to be selectively arranged to form a character or design, each element being freely interchangeable and hung at a single point from the apex of the diamond with a clearance on all sides between the strands of the mesh so that the elements turn and swing freely through the mesh of the net, said elements being formed with a light reflecting surface so that the formed character or design is clearly visible either by artificial or natural light.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand.

GEORGE E. PANCOAST.