Oct. 19, 1943. H. EPSTEIN 2,332,138

LIGHT FIXTURE

Filed June 12, 1941

Fig. 1

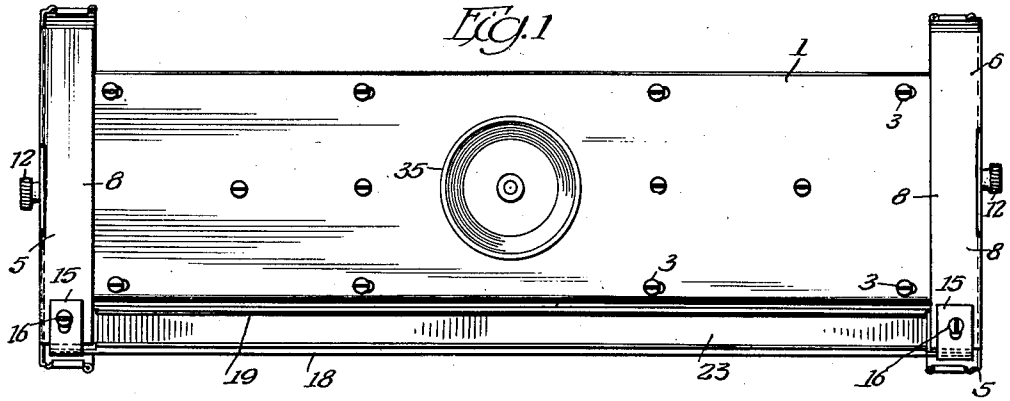


Fig. 2

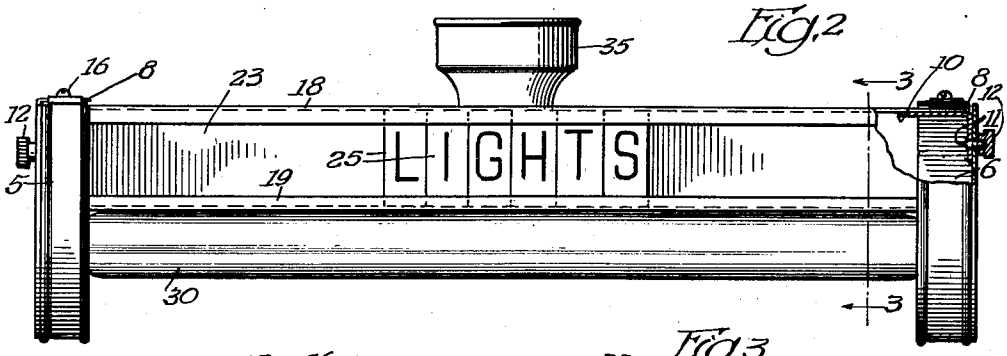


Fig. 3

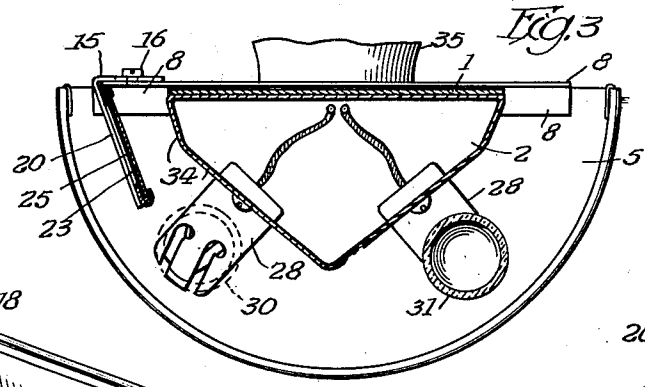


Fig. 5

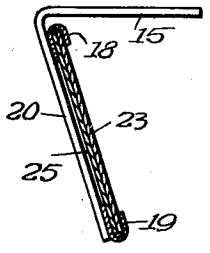
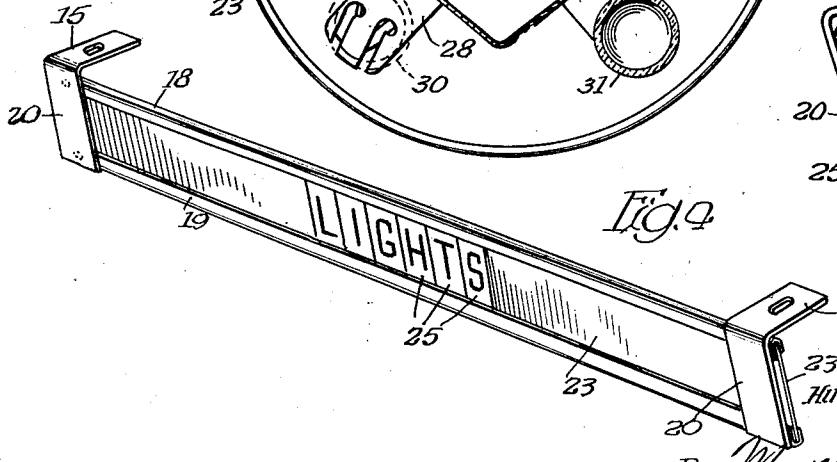


Fig. 4



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2,332,138

LIGHT FIXTURE

Hirsch Epstein, Chicago, Ill.

Application June 12, 1941, Serial No. 397,757

1 Claim. (Cl. 40—130)

This invention relates to illuminating fixtures, and more particularly to such fixtures as are provided for illuminating commercial or industrial establishments. It is one of the objects of the present invention to provide an illuminating fixture of the above mentioned character with means for receiving a sign for conveying a message which may be informative, advertising, or the like, which sign will afford substantially no interference with the functioning of the fixture as an illuminating means. By way of example, in large stores it is customary to provide signs which will indicate the number of the aisle, or the type of merchandise sold at a given position, or will indicate the position of the cashier's desk, wrapping clerk, or the like. In accordance with the present invention such messages may be placed on the illuminating fixture and will not interfere with the functioning of the fixture for illuminating purposes.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide an illumination fixture of the above mentioned character wherein there is provided a portion for receiving individual letters or groups of letters to convey a desired message, and which letters may be readily and easily changed as desired.

It is a still further object of the present invention to provide such a sign in a fixture utilizing glow discharge lighting tubes or lamps. Such lamps generally consist of a straight tube of glass-like material having a cathode at each end between which ends a glow discharge of electric arc is formed in the tube for providing the necessary illumination. The message receiving portion of the fixture is preferably placed above the light producing lamps so that it receives a small amount of light therefrom but does not substantially interfere with the transmission of light for general illuminating purposes.

The attainment of the above and further objects of the present invention will be apparent from the following specification taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing forming a part thereof.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a fixture embodying the present invention;

Figure 2 is a longitudinal side view of the fixture of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken along the line 3—3 of Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the sign or message carrying portion of the fixture; and

Figure 5 is an enlarged view of the sign or message carrying portion of Figure 3.

The fixture of the present invention includes a top plate 1 having a hollow body 2 secured to the underside thereof, which hollow body extends substantially the full length of the plate and is preferably, although not necessarily, formed of metal. The exterior surface of the hollow body 2 is preferably of a color that will reflect light efficiently, preferably white enamel. The body 2 is secured to the top plate 1 in any desired manner as, for instance, by a series of screws 3 that extend through slightly oversized holes in the plate 1 and thread into the body 2, the oversized holes being provided to permit a slight longitudinal adjustment of the body 2. Semi-circular end plates 5 and 6 of identical construction are secured to the ends of the cover 1 and constitute end closures for the hollow body 2. These plates may be secured to the plate 1 in any desired manner as, for instance, by means of angle strips 8 that are welded or otherwise secured one to each end plate and extend over and rest upon the top plate 1. A small angle bracket 10 is welded or otherwise secured to each end of the plate 1 and has a threaded stud 11 extending therefrom through a hole in the associated end plate. A nut 12 threads on the stud 11 and thus holds the end plate against retraction. Each end plate thus serves as a removable cover for the ends of the housing 2.

An angle bracket strip 15 is secured to the angle strip 8 of each end plate, as by means of a screw 16 passing through an oversized hole in the bracket 15, to permit slidable adjustment of the bracket. The two brackets 15 at the opposite end plates 5 and 6 are joined by upper and lower U-shaped metal strips 18 and 19 that are spot welded to the depending arms 20—20 of the brackets 15. The U-shaped strips 18 and 19 constitute a trackway for receiving a rectangular backing 23 of suitable translucent material preferably, although not necessarily, white. This may consist of a thin strip of thermoplastic material. It is held in the trackways formed by the folded U-shaped strips 18 and 19, which strips loosely embrace the backing. There is sufficient space between the backing 23 and the strips 18 and 19 to permit the insertion of individual letter strips 25. Each letter may consist of a transparent plasic strip having the desired letter printed thereon, preferably in opaque paint or the like. The letter strips are sufficiently flexible to permit flexing of the same for insertion into or removal from between the trackways 18 and 19, where

they are held snugly, since the thickness of each letter **25** plus the thickness of the backing **23** is approximately equal to the width of the U-shaped trackways in the strips **18** and **19**.

The hollow body **2** has two sockets **28—28** located adjacent the end plate **5** and two similar sockets adjacent the end plate **6**. These sockets are of the usual type adapted to receive a hot cathode type of glow discharge lamp such as is indicated at **30** and **31**. These lamps provide the usual illumination. Some of the light from the lamp **30** is directed upwardly where it strikes the surfaces **34** of the housing **2**, from which surfaces it is reflected forward through the translucent backing **23** and the light letters **25**. The printing on the letters **25** thus appears as black or opaque printing on a white background.

It is to be noted that the sign portion of the fixture, that is, the backing **23**, extends almost radially of the light bulb **30**, as seen in Figure 3. As a result it affords substantially no obstruction to passage of the light rays to the top of the fixture as may be desired for reflecting purposes in order to enhance the general room illumination. The light rays that pass through the backing **23** are all substantially rays reflected from the surfaces **34**.

The fixture of Figure 2 is adapted to be mounted in place in the usual manner by means of a fitting **35**.

In compliance with the requirements of the patent statutes I have here shown and described a preferred embodiment of my invention. It is, however, to be understood that the invention is not limited to the precise construction here shown, the same being merely illustrative of the principles of the invention. What I consider new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

A light fixture and sign comprising a support, a tubular lamp mounted on the fixture and exposed along a longitudinally extending side for general room illumination, said fixture including means forming a light reflecting surface in the path of light rays from the lamp, and a sign carried by the fixture and extending longitudinally of the tubular lamp adjacent the lamp and in a direction substantially radially thereof and in the path of light rays from the lamp that are reflected from the fixture, said sign comprising a translucent backing and means for releasably holding individual letters in place against one side of the backing, said sign including also supporting brackets at opposite ends thereof, and means for adjustably mounting said brackets on the fixture.

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