March 15, 1927. P. E. CLEMENT 1,621,351

COMBINATION TAIL LIGHT AND ILLUMINATED LICENSE PLATE

Filed June 19, 1926 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

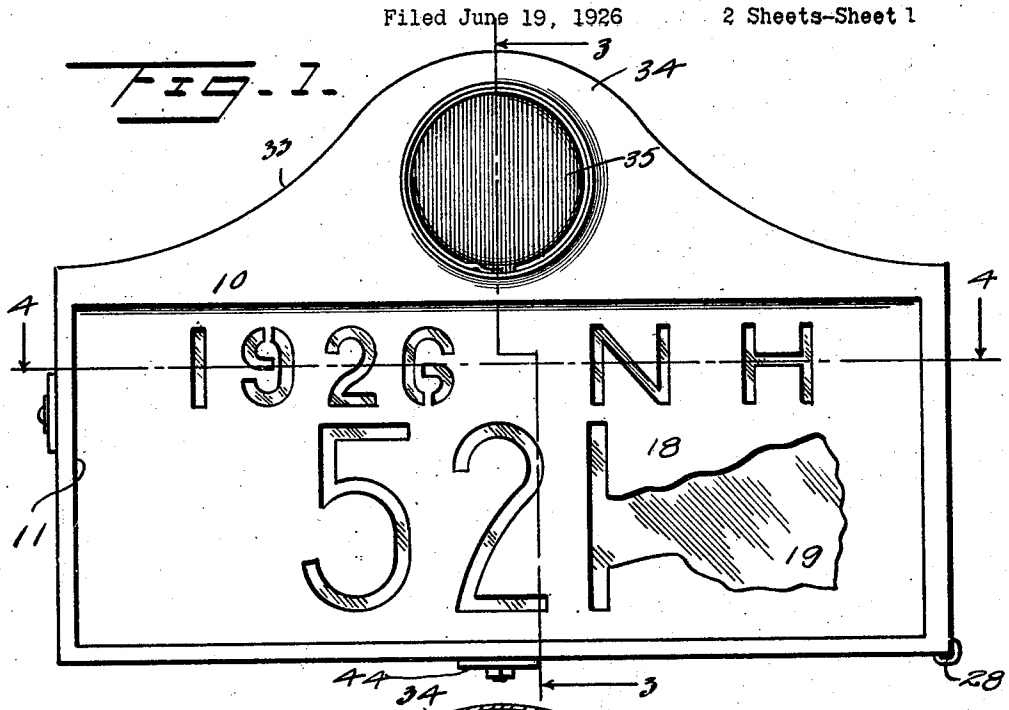
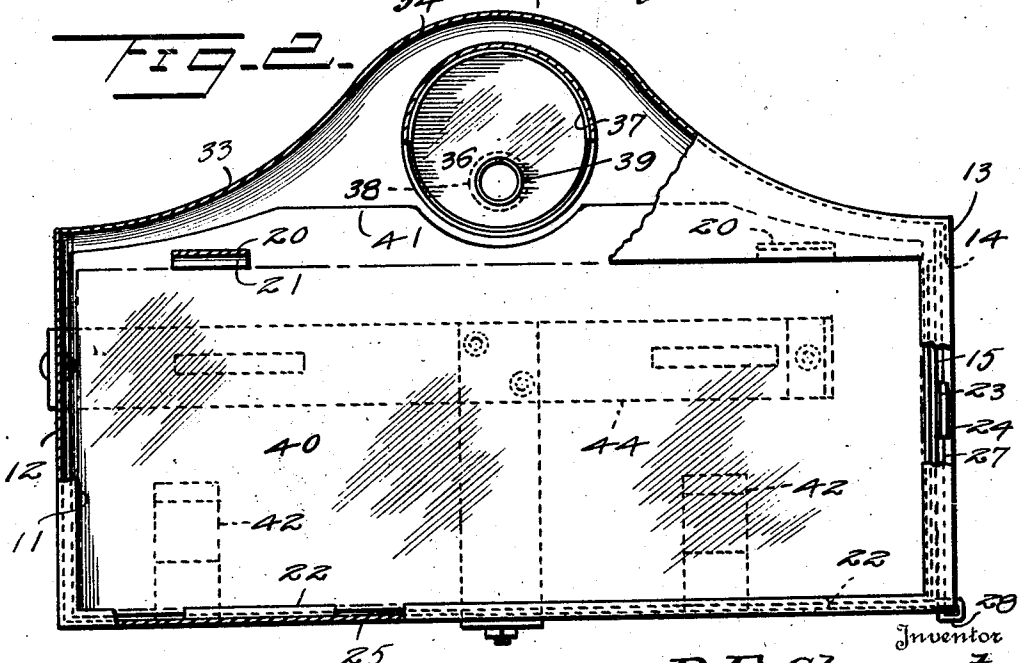


Fig. 2.



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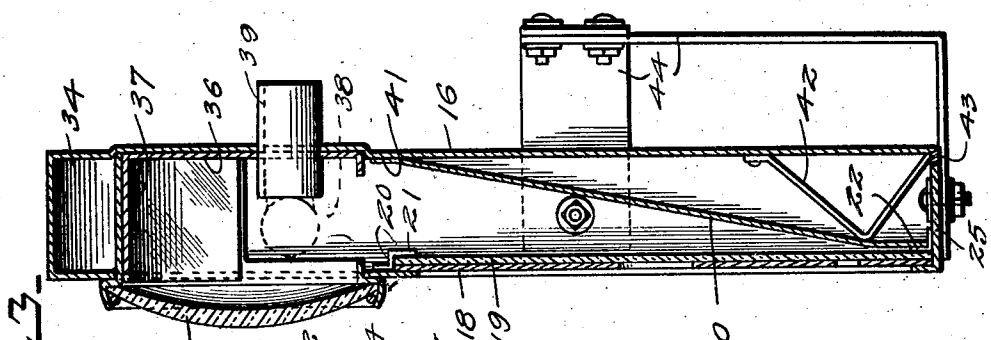


FIG. 3.

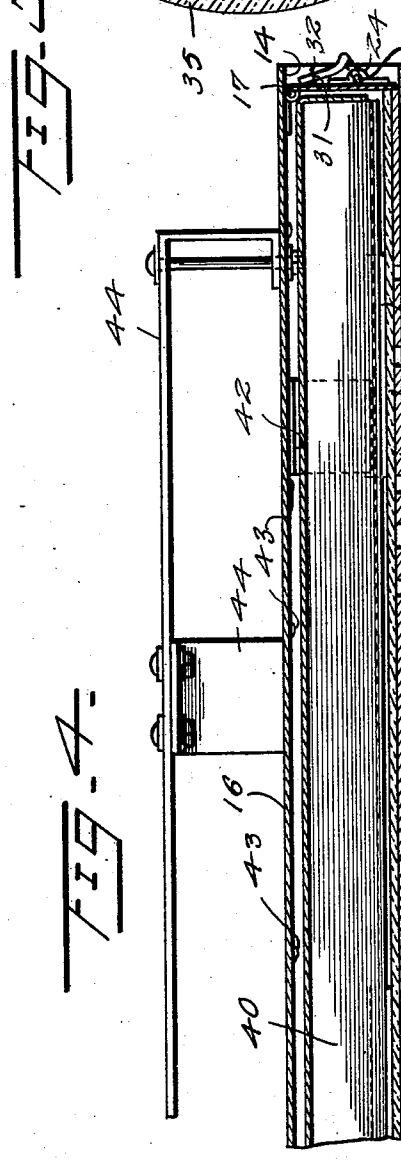


FIG. 4.

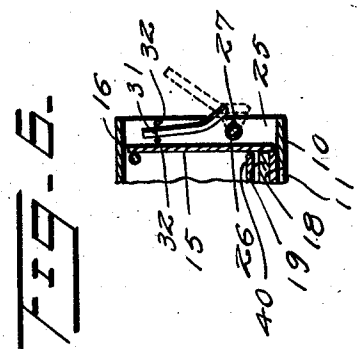


FIG. 6.

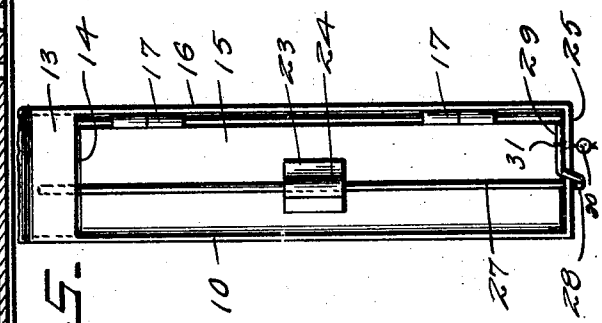


FIG. 5.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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COMBINATION TAIL LIGHT AND ILLUMINATED LICENSE PLATE.

Application filed June 19, 1926. Serial No. 117,155.

This invention relates to a combination tail light and illuminated license plate of that character in which the license plate is perforated and the indicia thereof read by an illumination projected through the openings of the plate.

An important object of the invention is to provide a device of this character giving efficient illumination for the license plate which may be very cheaply and readily produced.

A further object of the invention is to provide a construction of this character by means of which the license plate may be secured in adjusted positions against unauthorized removal, thereby preventing the substitution of license plates upon the vehicle.

A further object of the invention is to provide a novel and improved reflector structure for illuminating the license plate.

These and other objects I attain by the construction shown in the accompanying drawings, wherein for the purpose of illustration is shown a preferred embodiment of my invention and wherein:—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a combined tail light and illuminated license plate constructed in accordance with my invention;

Figure 2 is a view with the license plate and backing sheet removed, the device being partially in section to show the construction of various portions thereof;

Figure 3 is a section on the line 3—3 of Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a section on the line 4—4 of Figure 1;

Figure 5 is an end elevation of the casing showing the door and securing element therefor;

Figure 6 is a transverse sectional view through this end of the casing showing the manner in which the securing element is applied and retained in position.

Referring now more particularly to the drawings, the numeral 10 indicates the front wall of a casing formed with an opening 11 arranged adjacent the bottom thereof and extending transversely of the casing. The side and bottom edges of this opening are slightly spaced from the end edges of the front wall and from the bottom edge thereof to provide retaining ledges, for a purpose presently to appear.

One end of the casing is closed by a wall 12 while the opposite end thereof is closed by a wall 13 having at its lower end an opening 14 closed by a door 15 hinged to the rear wall 16, as at 17. This door 15 is of substantially the same height as the opening so as to admit to the casing a stencil plate 18 and a transparent plate 19 associated therewith. To the front wall immediately above the opening 11 are secured guides, each including a horizontal ledge 20 adapted to overlie the upper edges of the plates 18 and 19 and a vertical flange 21 secured to the rear edge of the horizontal ledge and adapted to oppose the rear face of the plate which is arranged innermost. Extending upwardly from the bottom wall are vertical flanges 22 which correspond to the flanges 21 and oppose the lower edge of the innermost plate. The door has secured to its outer surface a member 23 providing upon the outer surface of the door a vertically directed guide tube 24.

The bottom wall 25 of the casing is provided with an opening 26 which aligns with this guide tube when the door is in the closed position. A rod 27 is formed at its lower end with a hook 28 from the bill of which extends a horizontal arm 29 which is substantially radial to the rod 27. This rod is made of greater length than the distance from the bottom of the casing to the upper end of the opening 14 and is employed to secure the door in closed position by inserting the rod through the opening 26 and eye 24 until the upper end of the rod is disposed above the level of the upper edge of the opening. In order to accomplish this, the arm 29 must be directed outwardly from the casing and when the rod is in proper position, the rod can be rotated so that the arm 29 overlies the bottom wall 25 and may be secured in this position by a seal 30 shown in the present instance as secured to a wire 31 passed through openings 32 in the bottom wall 25 and over the arm 29. When the door 15 is in its closed position, it is engaged against the adjacent ends of the plates 18 and 19, the opposite ends of which are engaged with the end wall 12, so that longitudinal movement of these plates is effectually prevented. The casing is likewise sealed, so that any possibility of removal of the license plate by an unauthorized person is avoided.

The upper wall 33 of the casing is centrally peaked, as at 34, so that between the

center of the upper edge of the opening 11 and the top wall, a space is provided for the reception of a tail light lens 35. To the inner face of the rear wall of the casing, in opposition to this lens is secured a reflector disk 36 to the upper edges of which is secured a horizontally directed semi-circular reflector flange 37. The disk 36 serves to direct light from an illuminating element 38 arranged in a socket 39 directed through the rear wall 16 upon the tail light lens 35, while the reflector 37 directs the light downwardly to that portion of the casing lying rearwardly of the plates 18 and 19. A flat reflector plate 40 substantially co-extensive with the casing has its lower edge resting against the bottom of the casing immediately at the rear of the flanges 22 and its upper edge secured to the inner face of the rear casing wall 16 at a point 41 adjacent the upper end of this wall. To the rear wall 16 are secured brackets 42 which engage the reflector 40 intermediate its upper and lower edges to slightly flex the same, as illustrated, so that the reflector plate will always be held under tension and will not tend to rattle. The bottom wall of the casing may be formed with drain openings 43 to permit drainage of any water which may leak into the casing and the casing may be provided with suitable attaching brackets 44 whereby it may be secured to the license plate bracket (not herein shown) of a vehicle.

It will be obvious that the construction hereinbefore set forth is capable of a certain range of change and modification without materially departing from the spirit of the invention and I accordingly do not limit myself to such specific structure except as hereinafter claimed.

I claim:—

In a device of the character described, a casing having an opening formed in the front wall thereof, a stencil plate alignable with the opening and when aligned therewith having one end thereof engaged with one end wall of the casing, the opposite end wall of the casing having an opening, a door for said opening hinged to the rear wall of the casing and when in the closed position having its free edge abutting the opposite end of the stencil to thereby prevent longitudinal movement of the stencil, means for locking the door in closed position including a rod of greater length than the distance from the bottom of the casing and the top of the opening of said end wall, the outer face of the door having a vertically directed eye, the bottom wall of the casing having an opening with which the eye aligns when the door is in closed position, means for securing the rod in position including a hook upon the lower end of the rod adapted to underlie the bottom wall of the casing, an extension upon the bill of the hook adapted to overlie the bottom wall of the casing when the rod is in its latching position and openings formed in the bottom wall of the casing between which the extension may be disposed whereby a seal wire is directed through said openings and over the extension and will lock the rod in position.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

PHILIP E. CLEMENT.