Dec. 18, 1962 R. E. STEWART 3,068,835

DOOR KNOCKER ASSEMBLY

Filed Aug. 18, 1960

FIG. 1.

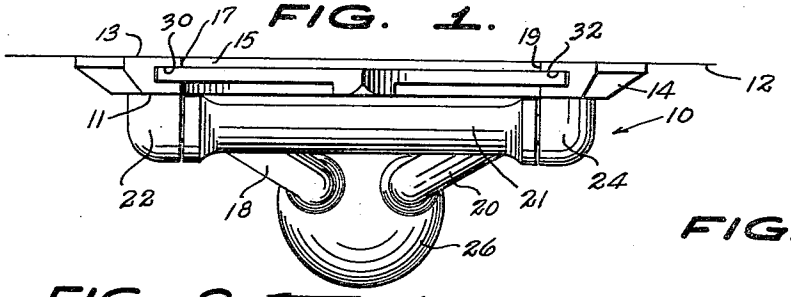


FIG. 2.

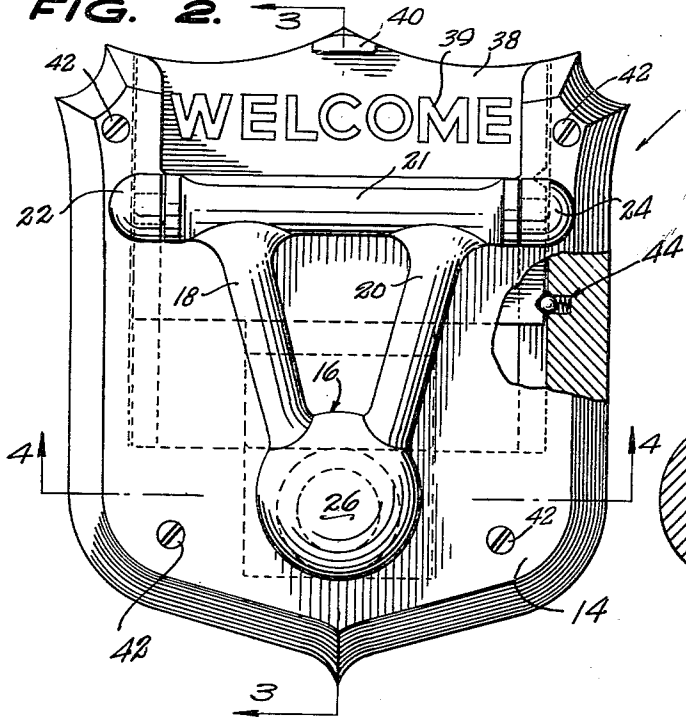


FIG. 3.

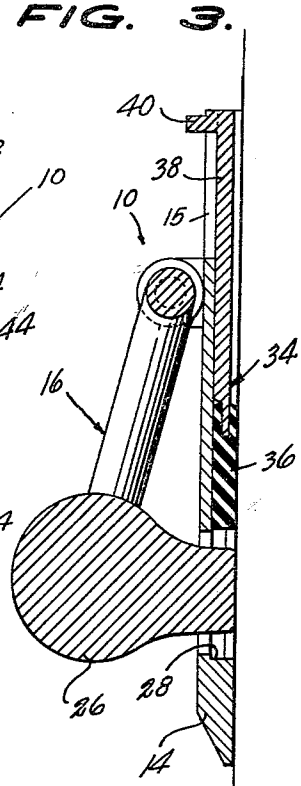


FIG. 4.

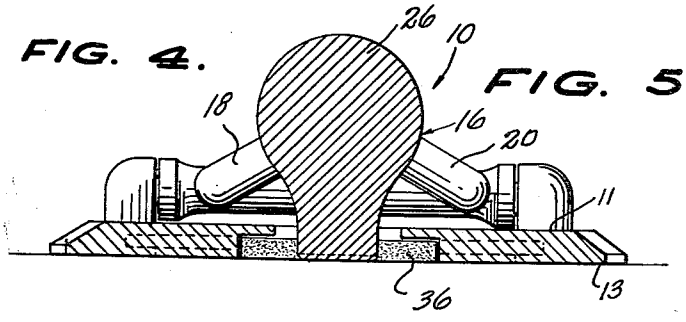
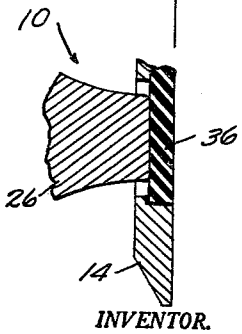


FIG. 5.



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DOOR KNOCKER ASSEMBLY

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1 Claim. (Cl. 116—148)

The present invention relates to door knockers generally and in particular to an improved door knocker for installation on the door of a residence.

The primary object of the present invention is to provide a door knocker which may be silenced or made inoperative when desired.

Another object is to provide a door knocker which is attractive in appearance, whether in the operative condition or in operative condition.

A further object is to provide a door knocker which may be made inoperative but which, when in the inoperative condition, does not readily reveal its inoperativeness.

A still further object of the present invention is to provide a door knocker unique in appearance, novel in use, one which may afford interest and amusement and therefore of commercial advantage, one which may be manufactured at reasonable cost and in quantity, and one which is completely practical for the purpose intended.

These objects will be fully understood and appreciated when considered in the light of the following description and claims, and with the annexed drawing in mind, in which:

FIGURE 1 is a top plan view of the invention,

FIGURE 2 is a front elevational view of the device shown in FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 3 is a sectional view on line 3—3 of FIGURE 2, showing the knocker in operative position,

FIGURE 4 is a sectional view on line 4—4 of FIGURE 2, and

FIGURE 5 is a fragmentary view in section on line 4—4 of FIG. 3, showing the knocker in inoperative position.

Referring in detail to the drawing, in which like numerals refer to like parts in the several views, the reference numeral **10** designates the door knocker assembly generally, and the numeral **12** the outer face of the door of a residence, or the like.

The assembly **10** includes a vertically disposed backing member or plate **14** having front and back faces **11** and **13**, respectively and disposed with the back face **13** abutting the door face **12** and with the front face facing outwardly.

A knocker element **16**, substantially U-shaped in form, has its legs **18** and **20** pivotally connected to trunnions **22** and **24** which project outwardly of the front face of the plate **14** and are disposed in horizontal alignment and laterally spaced from each other. The legs **18** and **20** are connected together by a bar **21**. The bight of the element **16** is enlarged to form a hammer **26**.

The plate **14** is provided with an aperture **28** of a size larger than the diameter of the head of the hammer **26** and the head of the hammer **26** is swingable into and out of the aperture **28** to strike the door face **10**.

The back face **13** is provided with a recess **15** and the side walls **17** and **19** of the recess **15** are provided with grooves **30** and **32** forming a slideway. A slide

element **34** is mounted in the grooves **30** and **32**, or slideway, for up and down vertical movement.

The lower end portion of the element **34** carries a resilient pad **36**, fabricated of rubber, neoprene, or the like. The upper end portion of the element **34** is formed to a flat sheet-like part **38** having on its front face indicia **39** thereon in the form of the word "WELCOME." A lip **40** projects outwardly from the upper end edge of the part **38** and forms a hand grip means by which the slide element **34** may be caused to execute its sliding movement.

In use, suitable fastening means such as wood screws **42**, **43**, **45** and **47** are employed to secure the assembly **10** to the door face **12**. A detent mechanism **44** (FIG. 2) having a ball **49** and a spring **51** releasably holds the slide element **34** in either the normal or up position in which the part **38** and word "WELCOME" is displayed, or in the down position in which the part **38** is wholly concealed behind the plate **14**.

Upon engagement of the lip **40** by the finger, a person may easily shift the element **34** downwardly which causes the pad **36** to move from the position exteriorly of the aperture **28** to a position in registry with the aperture **28** and blocking the entrance of the head of the hammer **26**. Simultaneously, for obvious reasons, the word "WELCOME" disappears.

Now, when the knocker element **16** is raised and released, the head of the hammer **26** will strike the pad **36** producing little or no noise.

As will be apparent from the foregoing, the knocker assembly **10** may be easily and with facility returned to the operation condition by shifting the slide element **34** upwardly to the first position.

A feature of the invention is that the device serves also to inform intimate friends of the occupants of the house when the occupants do not wish to be disturbed, presuming that the device has been shown and demonstrated to such friends.

While only a single embodiment of the present invention has been shown and described it is to be understood that other embodiments are contemplated and that many changes may be made in the invention without departing from the spirit of the invention as set forth in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

In a door knocker assembly including a backing plate having a front face and a back face, and a knocker element disposed adjacent the front face of said plate and having one end connected to said plate for swinging movement of said element toward and away from said plate, a hammer on the other end of said knocker element, a head on said hammer, said plate being provided with an aperture into which said hammer head is received responsive to execution of swinging movement of said knocker element, said hammer head being adapted to strike the adjacent surface of a door when said plate is mounted on said door with the back face thereof abutting said door, the back face of said plate being provided with a recess opening outwardly of the upper end of said plate, the side walls of said recess being provided with grooves forming a slideway, a vertically disposed slide element mounted on said slideway, for upward and downward movement, a resilient pad carried by the lower end portion of said slide element and moveable

with said slide element to a position in registry with said aperture upon execution of downward movement of said slide element and to a position out of registry with said aperture responsive to execution of upward movement of said slide element, said pad when in the downward movement position blocking the complete entry of said hammer head into said aperture, the portion of said slide element adjacent the upper end being positioned above said upper end of said plate when said slide element is in the upward movement position, and being positioned below said upper end of said plate when said slide element is in the downward movement position and a lip on the upper end of said slide element adapted to be grasped by the fingers of a hand of the user.

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