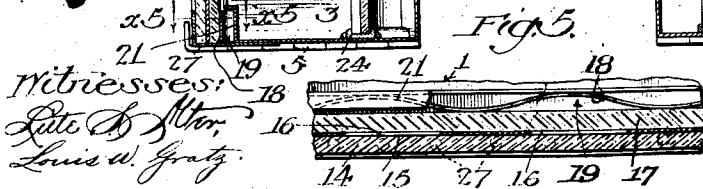
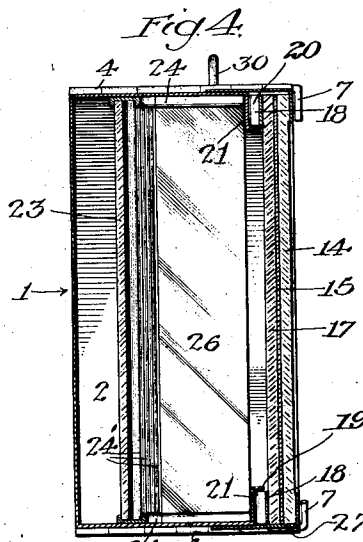
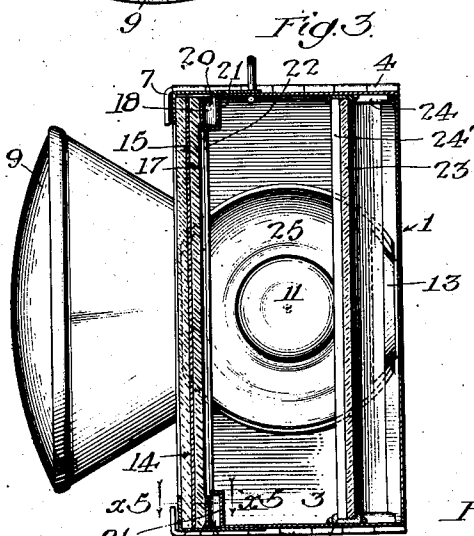
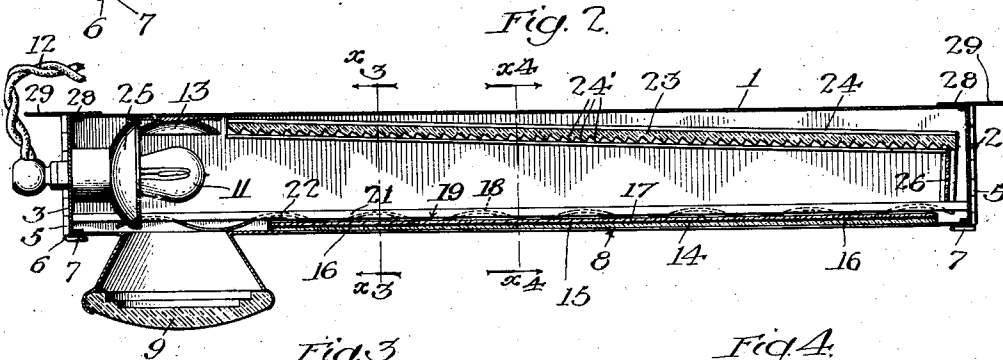
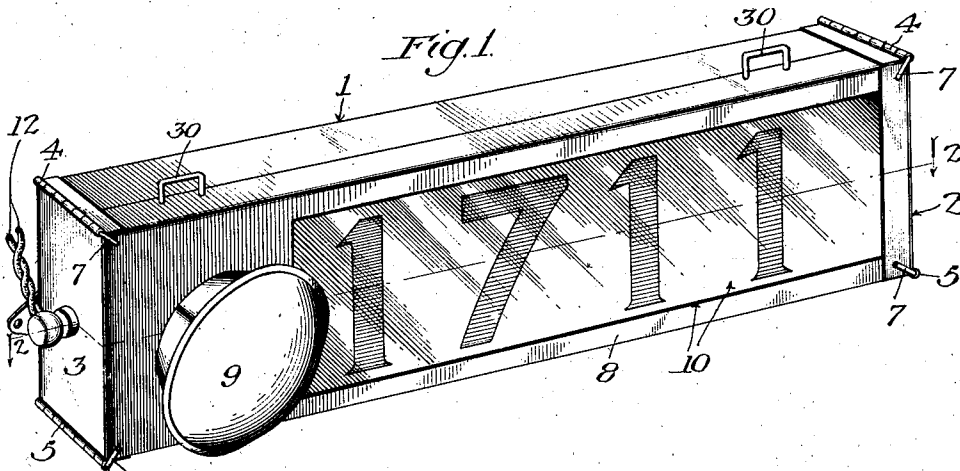


D. S. CAKE.
 COMBINED TAIL LIGHT AND NUMBER FOR AUTOMOBILES.
 APPLICATION FILED MAR. 16, 1910.

1,009,470.

Patented Nov. 21, 1911.



Witnesses:
 L. H. Altor
 Louis W. Gratz

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DAVID S. CAKE, OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

COMBINED TAIL LIGHT AND NUMBER FOR AUTOMOBILES.

1,009,470.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Nov. 21, 1911.

Application filed March 10, 1910. Serial No. 549,769.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DAVID S. CAKE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Los Angeles, in the county of Los Angeles and State of California, have invented a new and useful Combined Tail Light and Number for Automobiles, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to tail lights and numbers for automobiles, and one of the objects of the invention is to produce a device of the character described in which a single source of illumination is used for the purpose of lighting both the number and the tail light.

Another object of the invention is to produce a device of the character described in a compact form and of simple construction.

Another object is to provide an electric tail light and number.

Other objects and advantages will appear as hereinafter specified.

Referring to the drawings:—Figure 1 is a perspective view of the device. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal, horizontal sectional view on line 2—2 Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a transverse section on the line x^3 — x^3 Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a transverse section on the line x^4 — x^4 Fig. 2. Fig. 5 is a detail view partly in section of the clamping device.

1 designates an elongated case or box formed of thin sheet metal or other suitable material provided at each end with end closures or plates 2 and 3. Each closure 2 and 3 is hinged to the case 1 at the top and bottom at 4 and 5 respectively, the hinges being provided with removable pintles 6 having their ends bent, as shown at 7, to provide handle means by which they may be readily removed. With this construction the plates 2 and 3 may be removed entirely, or by removing either the top or bottom pintle from its respective hinge the plate may be swung open on the remaining pintle. The rear face 8 of the case 1 is provided with a bull's-eye or light distributing lens 9 preferably red in color and a longitudinal opening 10 therein for displaying the license number as hereinafter described.

Supported on the end plate 3 is an incandescent electric bulb 11 provided with electrical connections 12. The bulb 11 is so arranged as to be directly in line with the bull's-eye 9 and forms therewith the rear light of the automobile.

A reflector 13 is secured to the interior

wall of the box 1 in position to direct light from the bulb 11 to the bull's-eye. The number display consists of a plate 14 of transparent glass arranged against the inner side of the wall 8 of the box 1, the plate 14 being of sufficient size to extend beyond the opening 10 on all sides thereof. Next to the plate 14 on the inner side is a sheet 15 of black or other opaque paper or other similar material having stenciled openings 16 therein forming the numerals of which the license number is composed. On the inner side of the sheet 15 is arranged a plate 17 of red glass. The plate 14, sheet 15 and plate 17 are held tight against the wall of the box by flat springs 18 bent in undulating form to present a plurality of bearing faces against the plate, the springs 18 being seated within recesses 19 and 20 formed by bent portions 21 on the inner walls of the box. The plates 14 and 17 and the number sheet 15 therebetween are placed within the box through the end of the body and the springs 18 inserted therein along the upper and lower portion of the plate 17, the end plate 2 having first been swung open on either the upper or lower hinge. The inward movement of the plate 14, sheet 15 and plate 17 is limited by means of a stop 22.

While I have described the plate 14 as being transparent glass and the plate 17 of red glass, I do not limit myself to the use of the plates as specified, but may vary the arrangement and color of plates to meet the requirements of the particular use desired.

Within the case 1 is a glass deflector plate 23 secured to the bottom and top of the case by means of channels 24. The plate 23 is provided with a plurality of prisms 24' cut in the face thereof in such a manner that light rays from the bulb 11 are directed through the number openings 16 in the sheet 15, causing the numbers to be displayed in red or other color through the opening 10 in the case. A reflector 25 is arranged between the light bulb 11 and the end 3 of the case to direct rays of light from the bulb along the deflector plate 23. A mirror or reflector 26 is arranged adjacent to the end 2 of the box for the purpose of reflecting any rays from the bulb which may reach the end 2 of the box.

It is desirable that means be provided for allowing rain or other moisture which may enter between the plate 14 and the lower edge of the opening 10 to escape before it

reaches the paper sheet 15, and for this purpose perforations 27 are provided in the bottom of the case under the plate 14.

The device is designed to be carried at the rear of an automobile and may be rigidly secured thereto, ears 28 having perforations 29 therein being provided for this purpose, or the device may be hung from the rear axle or other convenient place, staples or loops 30 being provided through which fastening means such as straps may be inserted.

What I claim is:—

A tail light and number display for automobiles, comprising a case having an opening in one side thereof and a bull's eye at one side of said opening, lighting means in said case, a number display member in said

case and elastic means in said case for holding said number display member against the inner wall of the side of said case having said opening therein, said elastic means consisting of a flat spring having a plurality of bearing faces engaging the inner side of said number display member, adjacent the upper edge thereof, and a similar flat spring engaging the inner side of said number display member against the lower edge thereof.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand at Los Angeles, California, this 8th day of March 1910.

DAVID S. CAKE.

In presence of—

G. T. HACKLEY,
FRANK L. A. GRAHAM.