V. & O. S. GILSEY.

DIRECTION INDICATOR FOR AUTOMOBILES.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 24, 1913.

1,122,100. Patented Dec. 22, 1914.

Fig. 1.

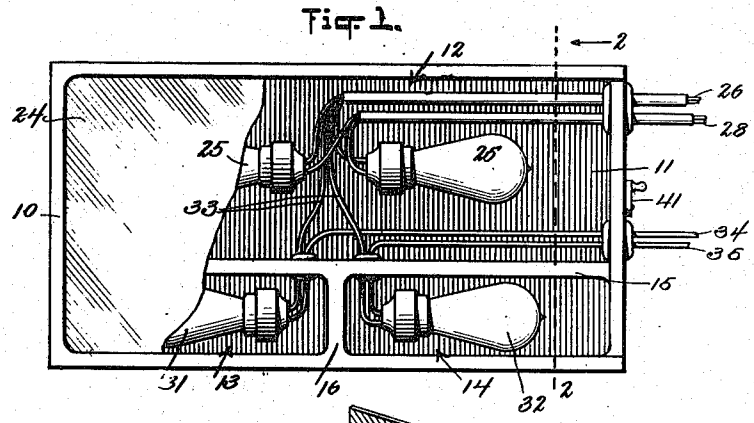


Fig. 2.

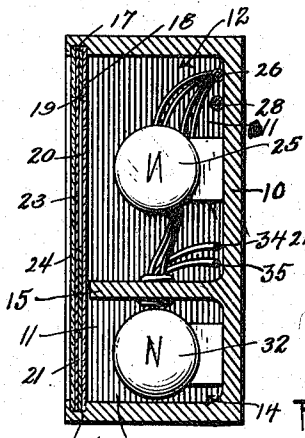


Fig. 3.

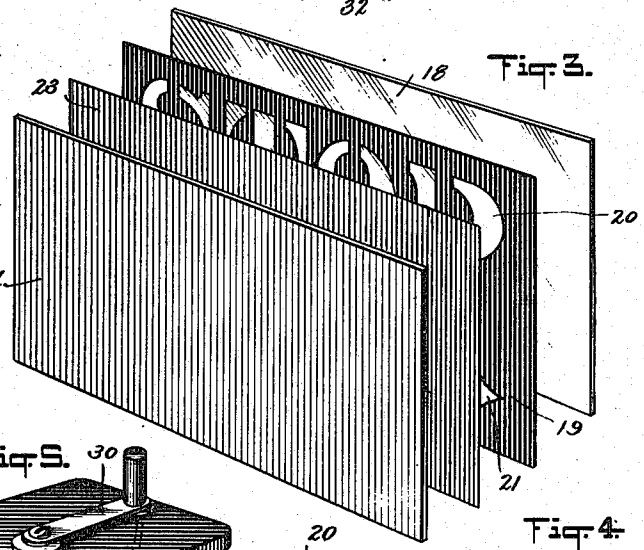


Fig. 5.

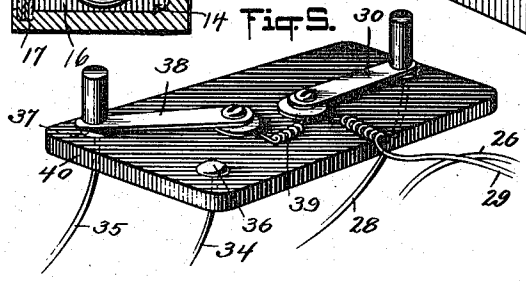
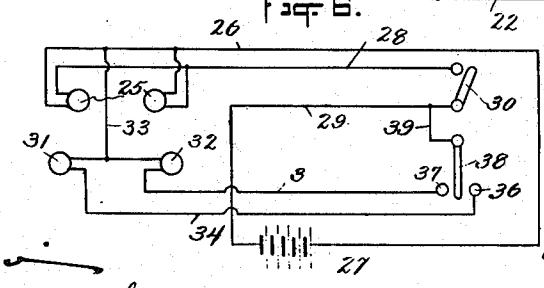


Fig. 4.



Fig. 6.



WITNESSES

J. Edwin Burch.

INVENTORS

VICTOR GILSEY

OLIVE S. GILSEY

BY Munn & Co

ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

VICTOR GILSEY AND OLIVE S. GILSEY, OF RED BANK, NEW JERSEY.

DIRECTION-INDICATOR FOR AUTOMOBILES.

1,122,100. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 22, 1914.

Application filed May 24, 1913. Serial No. 769,593.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, VICTOR GILSEY and OLIVE S. GILSEY, citizens of the United States, and residents of Red Bank, in the county of Monmouth and State of New Jersey, have invented a new and Improved Direction-Indicator for Automobiles, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to improvements in signal devices and more particularly to an improved direction indicator for automobiles designed to operate in the rear of a car to warn the chauffeur of an approaching car of the direction of travel of the preceding car, thus providing an efficient means for obviating collisions and accidents which would otherwise be caused.

An essential object of the invention resides in the provision of a receptacle divided into compartments having illuminating means, preferably in the form of incandescent bulbs or lamps, while the front of the receptacle is provided with cover sections including a sign so that by igniting the lamps which are connected in a novel circuit arrangement, certain portions of the sign may be displayed to indicate the stoppage or movements of the car to the right or left independently, or the former with either of the latter.

A still further object is to provide a covering of such nature, including a stenciled sign, that the sign characters will not be visible in the sunlight or daytime except when the lamps are ignited, whereas the device will efficiently serve its purpose in the darkness or night time.

With the above and other objects in view, the invention resides more particularly in the peculiar combination and arrangement of parts which will be illustrated as a preferred embodiment in the accompanying drawings and described in the specification.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the views, and in which—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a receptacle constituting part of a direction indicator for automobiles forming our invention, the cover of the receptacle being broken away to disclose the lamp arrangement and the switches for controlling the circuits being omitted; Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1; Fig. 3 is a perspective view of one form of covering for the receptacle, including a stenciled sign; Fig. 4 is a front elevation of the latter on a reduced scale; Fig. 5 is a detail perspective view of an arrangement of switches employed for controlling the circuits; and Fig. 6 is a diagrammatic view of the wiring arrangement employed in the device.

As shown in the drawings, the improved direction indicator for automobiles and the like embodies a receptacle 10 of any preferred material and shape but preferably provided with black or dark inner walls 11 and being preferably of rectangular form as illustrated. The receptacle is divided into a plurality of compartments, preferably three in number and suitably arranged, but shown in the present instance as having an upper compartment 12 and a pair of lower compartments 13 and 14 produced by a longitudinal division wall or partition 15 and a vertical partition 16 connecting one wall of the receptacle with the partition 15. The receptacle is grooved on three sides, as illustrated by the numeral 17, for receiving a covering including a stenciled sign and designed to preclude the characters of the sign from view both in the day time and night time when certain illuminating means provided are extinguished, but adapted to permit such characters to be readily seen or deciphered when such illuminating means are ignited. This covering in its essential characteristics embodies an opaque plate having characters punched or stenciled therethrough, and an exterior plate of less opaque material designed to render the characters invisible in day light but to permit the passage of the light rays to render the characters or sign visible when the lamps are ignited, and in the present instance is made up of an inner transparent glass plate or other transparent stiffening member 18, outwardly of which is an intensely opaque sign plate 19 through which the characters are punched or stenciled, and in the present instance provided with the indication "stop" as shown at 20 and with the arrows 21 and 22 therebeneath indicating the right and left directions of travel of the car, although it is obvious that any other form of indicating means may be provided. Outwardly of the sign plate 19 is a covering of less opaque material, the same in the present instance being indicated in the form of a section 23

of some smoked material such as linen tracing paper, outwardly of which section is a plate of ground glass indicated by the numeral 24, the same being placed one in front of the other to increase the opaque character. By this arrangement of covering, it is found that the characters of the stencil or sign plate are not visible in day time or in the night time when there is an absence of illumination behind the same, but that the characters of the sign will readily appear upon the disposition of illumination behind the same. For this purpose, and in further carrying out the invention, illuminating means are provided in each of the compartments 12, 13 and 14, the same in the compartment 12 being indicated in the form of incandescent bulbs or lamps 25 which are each joined in circuit with a feed wire 26 leading from a single source of supply indicated by the numeral 27, the return being made through a conduit 28 and a conduit 29 connected by a switch 30 for throwing the lamps 25 into and out of circuit and thus illuminating the compartment 12, or vice versa, to expose or hide the sign indicating the stoppage of the car as shown to be desired. Disposed in the compartments 13 and 14 are incandescent bulbs or lamps 31 and 32 which are joined in circuit with the feed wire 26 by a conduit or conduits 33 and which have separate leads 34 and 35 joined to the return wire 29 through a two-point switch including the contacts 36 and 37 and the switch point 38, the return to the conduit 29 being made through a secondary 39.

A form of switch arrangement which may be employed is indicated in Fig. 5 of the drawings in which a base 40 is provided to be mounted on the steering wheel or at any other convenient place to be operated by the chauffeur, and it will be seen that when it is desired to expose the stop sign the switch 30 is closed, the circuit is traced from the batteries or source of power through the feed wire 26 to the lamps 25, thence to the return wires 28 and 29 to the batteries. Should it be desired to illuminate or expose either one of the arrows 21 or 22 indicating the right and left positions or directions of movement of the car, or direction of turning after making a stop or bringing the car to a very slow speed, the switch 30 is retained in the closed position and by operating the switch 38, the switch may be closed through either of the conduits 36 or 37. When the switch 38 connects with the contact 36, the circuit through the lamps is traced through the wires 33 to the lamp 31, thence through the conductor 34 and switch 38 connected to the contact 36, through the secondary 39 and back to the batteries through the return wire 29. When the switch 38 connects with the contact 37 the circuit is traced through the lamps 25 in the same manner, thence through the wire 33 to the lamp 32, the return being made through the conduit 35, switch 38 connected with the contact 37, thence through the secondary 39 and return wire 29 to the batteries, and by cutting out the switch 30, either one of the lamps 31 or 32 may be independently operated to indicate the right and left positions during the forward or backward movement of the car, independently of the stop sign.

The covering is fitted in the grooves 17 provided at three sides of the receptacle and communicating with the interior thereof, preferably at the top and bottom edges and one end, and the covering is held in position by a catch 41 at the end of the receptacle provided with the open portion.

Having thus described our invention, we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:—

A direction indicator for automobiles including a receptacle having a plurality of compartments, illuminating means for said compartments, and a covering for the receptacle having a sign disposed over each compartment, said covering including an inner transparent plate, a dark sign plate having apertures forming characters, a section of opaque material in front of said sign plate and a ground glass covering in front of the same.

In testimony whereof we have signed our names to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

VICTOR GILSEY.
OLIVE S. GILSEY.

Witnesses:
GEO. W. PITTENGER,
ROBERT L. KUDER.