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P. J. TIMBERLAKE

ILLUMINATED WREATH

Filed June 14, 1926

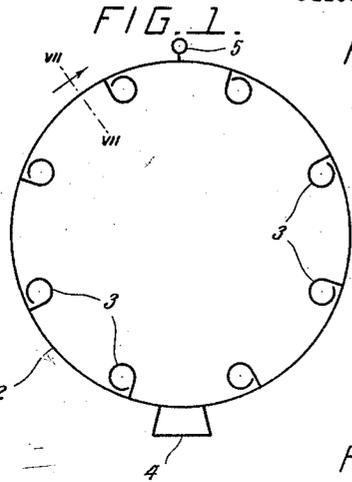


FIG. 7.



FIG. 2.

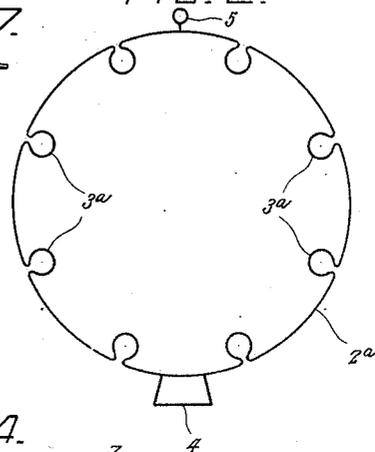


FIG. 4.

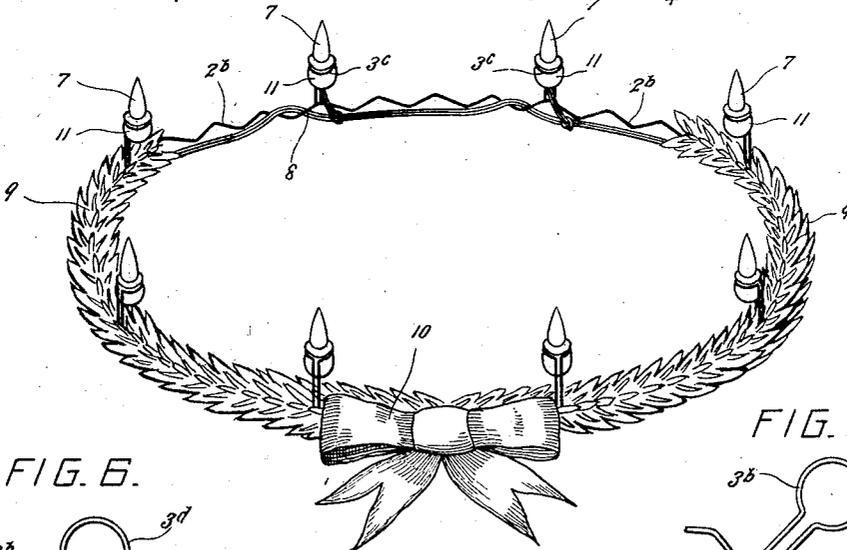


FIG. 3.

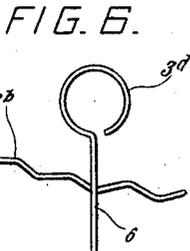
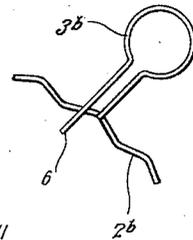


FIG. 5.

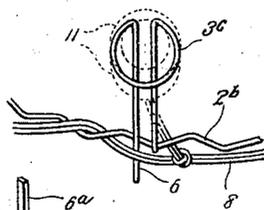


FIG. 9.

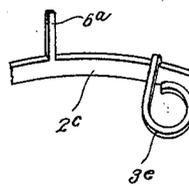
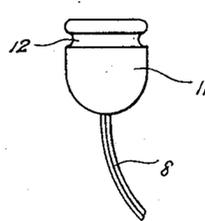


FIG. 8.



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ILLUMINATED WREATH.

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My invention has for its object the production of an illuminated, ornamental wreath adapted to be used for decorative purposes, and which is fireproof, may be cheaply manufactured, is durable and is sufficiently rigid in construction to permit of being handled for sale, distribution and use without danger of distortion or breakage. In the following description I employ the term "wreath" in a generic sense, without particular reference to the shape and design of the article, having chosen an article of circular form to illustrate the invention. The article comprises a naked frame, which subsequent to its manufacture is ornamented by having applied thereto material such as tinsel, artificial leaves, flowers or foliage, and illuminating devices.

The invention, as illustrated, is embodied in wreaths of various constructions especially intended for decorative use at the Christmas and other festal seasons. I therefore wish it to be understood that when I herein use the term "wreath" I do not thereby intend that it shall refer only to a frame of circular shape, but, as stated, use it in a generic sense and intend it to apply to frames of other designs or shapes, as it is apparent that my invention is clearly applicable to other designs than circular ones, as, for instance, a star, a cross and other shapes that will readily suggest themselves to manufacturers and users.

In the accompanying drawings Figs. 1, 2 and 3 are plan views illustrating three different embodiments of my invention, the frames illustrated being undecorated and not provided with the electric lamps which they are intended to carry.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of another form of invention illustrating it fully equipped and decorated.

Figures 5 and 6 are detail views illustrating particular forms of holders for the electric lamps.

Figure 7 is a sectional view on the line VII—VII of Figure 1.

Figure 8 is a perspective view of still another form of my invention, partly broken away.

Figure 9 is an elevation of a lamp socket especially designed for use in connection with illuminated wreaths such as herein illustrated.

Referring to Fig. 1, 2 indicates a plain

wire frame of circular shape. This frame carries a series of holders 3 for electric lamps 7, and is provided with a hook 5 by which the frame may be suspended and with a loop 4 into which may be tied a bow of ribbon 10, as represented in Fig. 4. The lamp holders are formed of wire bent into loops which are not entirely closed, thus producing holders that are elastic and adapted to securely hold a lamp socket 11 of common or special form.

The holders 3 are disposed in the plane of the circular frame 2, being represented as extending radially inward from the ring 2. They may, however, be arranged to extend outward from such ring, as represented in Fig. 3. By disposing the holders in the plane of the frame the articles may be packed closely for shipment and storage, as is apparent. Each holder 3 is formed of a separate piece of wire the stem of which is securely attached to the frame 2 as by brazing or soldering.

In the form of invention illustrated in Fig. 2 the circular frame 2^a and the lamp holders 3^a are formed integral from a single piece of wire. The lamp holders are produced by bending the wire into open loops located at desired distances apart, these loops being in the plane of the article, and, in the instance illustrated, extending inwardly from the circular frame 2^a.

The frame 2^b illustrated in Fig. 3 is formed of bent wire. There are advantages in the use of wire of this kind for producing the frame as it gives a broader base than is found in a frame such as shown in Fig. 1, for the support of leaves 9, or other material that may be secured to the frame, as illustrated in Fig. 4, for decorative purposes. The holders 3^b, Fig. 3, for the electric lamps are practically in the plane of the frame and extend radially outward. They differ from the holders illustrated in Fig. 1 in that the loops of the holder have each two legs or stems one of which is secured to the wire of the frame as by soldering or brazing, while the other extends across the frame and forms a pin or post 6 about which the cords 8 carrying the conductors that supply electric current to the lamps may be bent or twisted for the purpose of giving intermediate support to the cords between the lamp holders, thus causing the cords to closely follow the contour of the frame and also anchoring the

conductor cords adjacent to the lamp holders, making it practically impossible for these to drop out of their holders after the parts of the wreath have been properly assembled.

In Fig. 4 I have illustrated a frame decorated to serve as an illuminated Christmas wreath. As represented it carries leaves 9 and has a bow of ribbon 10 attached to the loop 4. The lamp holders 3^a differ from those illustrated in the views that have been described in that they stand up from the frame 2^b, rather than being located in the plane of the frame. There are artistic advantages incident to this arrangement, as for instance where an illuminated wreath is intended as a table decoration. In the form of invention illustrated in Fig. 4 the lamp holders 3^a are formed with two legs or stems but neither of these is extended to form a pin or post 6.

In Fig. 5, which is a detail view illustrating but a single lamp holder 3^a, this being drawn to a larger scale than are some of the other views, the holder is arranged to stand up from the frame 2^b as in Fig. 4, but differs from the holders shown in the latter view in that one of the legs of the holder is shaped to form the pin or post 6 about which the conductor cord may be wound or looped. The leg constituting this pin is not secured directly to the frame 2^b.

In Fig. 6 a lamp support 3^a quite similar to that illustrated in Fig. 1 is represented, differing however from the latter in that the loop into which the lamp socket 11 is set stands up from the frame 2^b instead of being in the plane of such frame, and the single stem of the holder is extended to form a pin or post 6.

In Fig. 8 I illustrate a form of my invention in which the supporting frame is formed of sheet material. For this purpose metal will usually be employed, though that is not the only material that may be used. Referring to that view 2^c indicates the frame which may be bent to circular or other desired form. From this frame extend a series of elastic loops 3^a adapted to support the lamps. These supporting loops are represented as being integral with the frame 2^c. A series of pins or posts 6^a extend from the rim, being preferably integral with the latter and about these may be wrapped or bent the conducting cords 8 for the lamps.

I prefer that the lamp socket 11 should be constructed as represented in Fig. 9, that is they should be formed with a circumferential channel or groove 12 in which may lie the elastic or spring holders of any one of the forms illustrated in the drawings. This arrangement serves to prevent the lamp sockets from falling out of their holders after they have been applied during the handling of the wreath.

As will be seen from the foregoing description the frame of the article which I have described is manufactured from wire or other metal that may be easily shaped and is sufficiently rigid to permit handling without danger of breakage or distortion. The holders for the electric lamps or other illuminating devices that may be employed, when constructed as illustrated in Figs. 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 are manufactured in quantities, independent of the frame of the article to which they are afterwards applied as by being soldered, brazed, or welded thereto.

Each holder comprises a stiff stem at the free end of which is a resilient open loop that constitutes the support and holder for the lamp socket or the equivalent light support. The stem serves not only as the means for rigidly attaching the support to the frame, but also to permit the open loop to be located in the desired position relative to the main frame, being offset therefrom so as not to interfere with the clothing or ornamentation 9 that may be applied to the frame. The extensions of the lamp holders, designated 6 in the drawings, serve, as has been stated, as means for anchoring or holding in position the cords 8 carrying the electric wires for the lamps 7. They may also serve to anchor or give support to the wires or cords which are commonly employed to hold together the leaves 9 constituting the clothing or ornamentation of the article and to unite these to the frame. The extensions 6 or 6^a are short, free-ended pins or posts, about which the cords may be passed without necessitating their being strung through an enclosed opening, thus making for easy application and removal.

The lamp socket 11 has a tapering end through which enter wires 8 and is formed near its other end with a groove 12 that serves to form a shoulder with which engages the elastic loop of the lamp holder. Sockets of this general construction may be very quickly and easily applied to a supporting holder of the kind described herein and when applied are securely held. The open loop of the supporting holder permits the electric wires to be easily passed into the space enclosed by the loop, after which the lamp socket may be forced into place by endwise movement, the tapering shape of the socket permitting it to spring the resilient holder somewhat as it comes to its seat, while the shoulder and groove toward the outer end of the socket serve to arrest it in desired position. When it is desired to dismantle the article the lamps may be easily removed by reverse movement.

I make no claim to being the inventor of a resilient holder for an electric lamp socket, broadly considered, realizing that such holders are well-known. But I believe that I am the first to have made an illuminated wreath,

or similar article, such as herein described and having the characteristics stated in the following claims.

It will be apparent that my invention may be embodied in other shapes than those illustrated and that the component parts thereof may be differently constructed and arranged, and therefore I wish to be understood as not limiting my invention to the specific articles shown.

What I claim is:

1. A frame for an illuminated wreath comprising a part shaped to give to the article the desired form, holders for electric lamps carried thereby formed of wire bent into loop form to support the lamps the loops having stems that extend across the frame part, to which they are secured to constitute posts about which may be twisted flexible electric conductors.

2. An ornamental illuminated wreath comprising a frame shaped to give to the article the desired form, and holders for illuminators carried by the frame and offset therefrom, such holders comprising open resilient loops and stems connecting them with the frame, the stems being extended to form short, free-ended posts adapted to serve as supports and anchoring means for cords used in the ornamentation of the naked frame.

3. An ornamental illuminated wreath or

similar article comprising a frame shaped to give to the article a desired form, and holders for illuminators carried by the frame and offset therefrom, such holders comprising open resilient loops and stems connecting them with the frame, each holder having two stems, extending from the opposite ends of the loop, one of which is extended to form an anchoring and supporting device adapted for cords employed in the ornamentation of the naked frame.

4. An illuminated wreath or similar article comprising a metal frame shaped to give the article the desired configuration and of stiffness sufficient to maintain its shape and carry the desired decoration, metal holders for independent lamps employed to illuminate the article the holders being spaced apart and each consisting of a rigid stem secured to the frame and a resilient open loop, the stem serving to offset the loop from the frame as desired, and wired electric lamp sockets of tapering configuration at one end to permit them to be easily inserted endwise into the loops of the holders and to spring the latter into holding engagement therewith as they are forced into place, the sockets being formed with shoulders with which the loops of the holders engage when the sockets are properly seated.

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