April 21, 1925. 1,534,943

J. GONZALEZ

VEHICLE SIGNAL

Filed Feb. 13, 1924 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

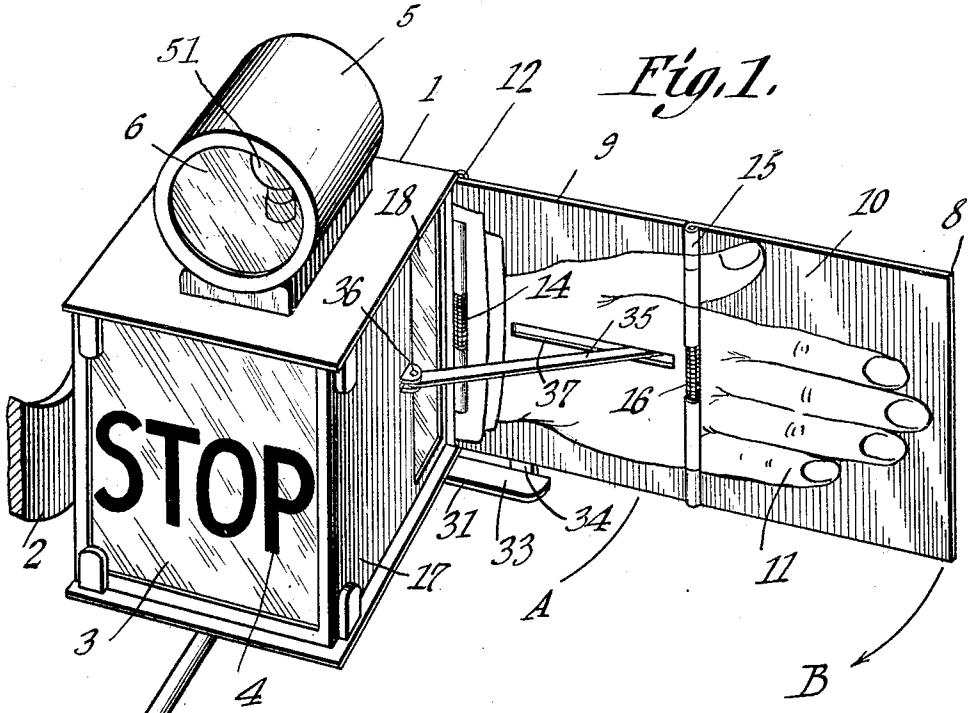
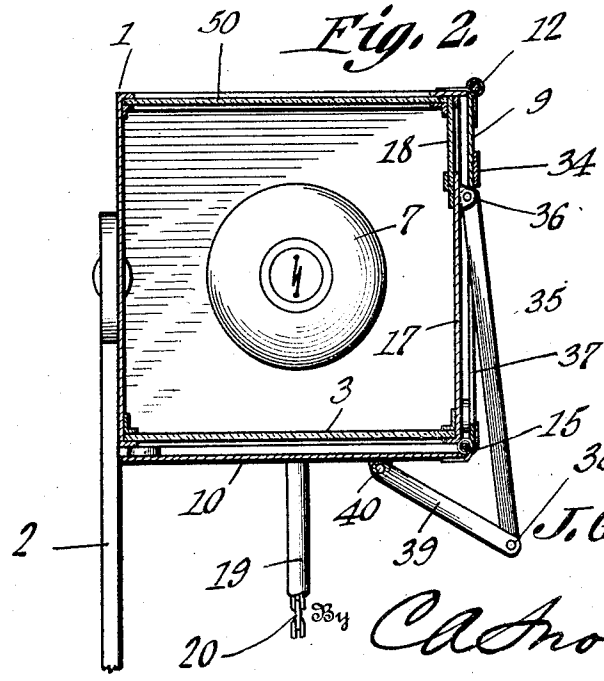


Fig. 2.



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Filed Feb. 13, 1924 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

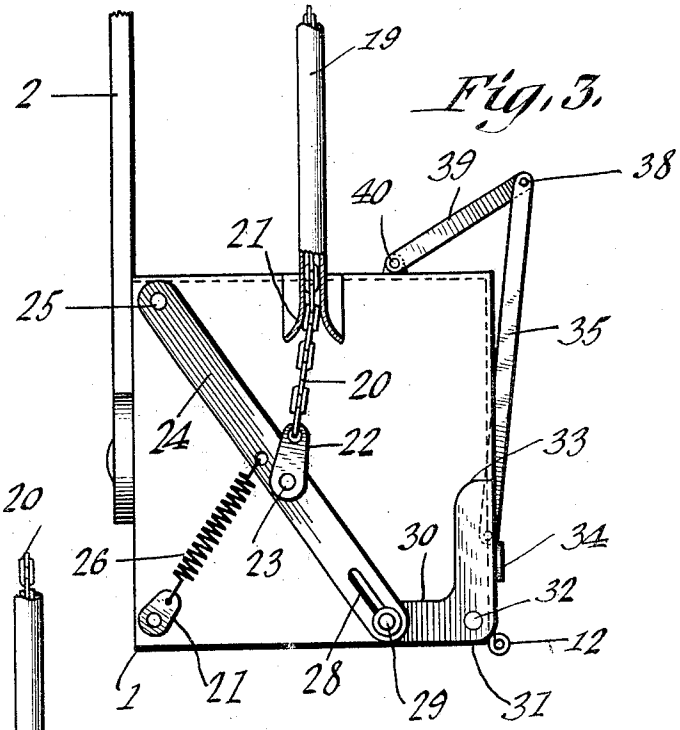


Fig. 3.

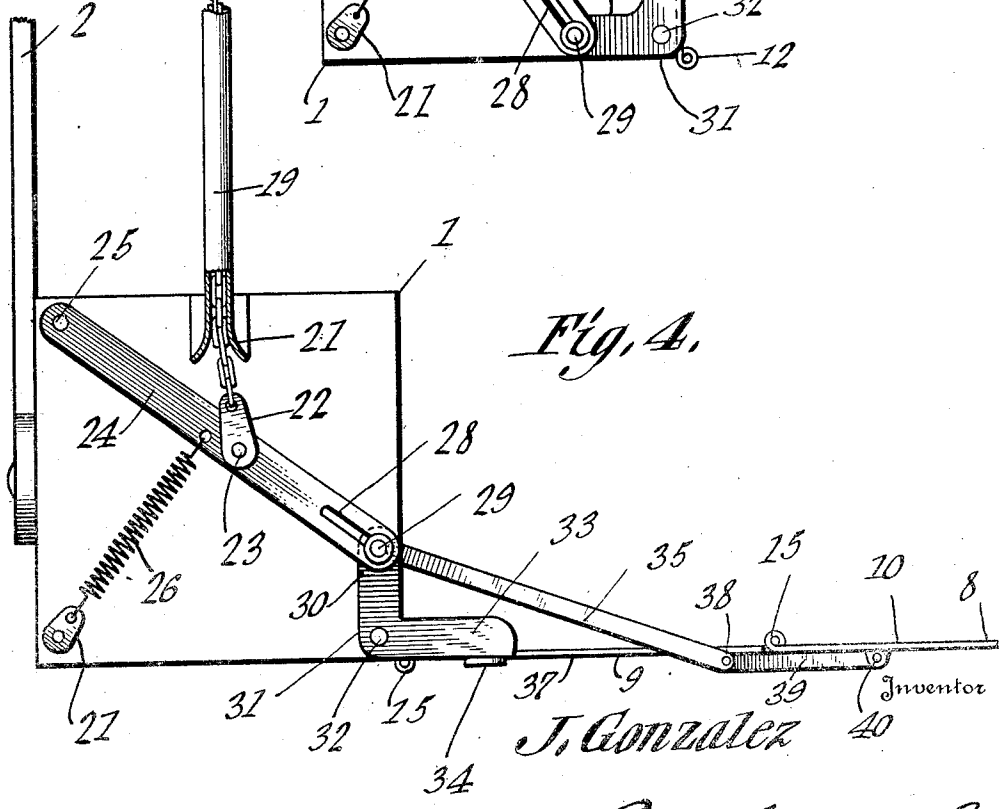


Fig. 4.

By Crowell & Co.
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Patented Apr. 21, 1925. 1,534,943

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSE GONZALEZ, OF TAMPA, FLORIDA.

VEHICLE SIGNAL.

Application filed February 13, 1924. Serial No. 692,566.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSE GONZALEZ, a citizen of the United States, residing at Tampa, in the county of Hillsborough and State of Florida, have invented a new and useful Vehicle Signal, of which the following is a specification.

This invention aims to provide a device which may be used as a tail-light on an automobile, or as a signal for the purpose of making it manifest to the drivers of other vehicles, that the vehicle which carries the signal is about to be brought to a stop, the construction being such that the device may be used either in the daytime or after nightfall.

It is within the province of the disclosure to improve generally and to enhance the utility of devices of that type to which the invention appertains.

With the above and other objects in view, which will appear as the description proceeds, the invention resides in the combination and arrangement of parts and in the details of construction hereinafter described and claimed, it being understood that, within the scope of what is claimed, changes in the precise embodiment of the invention shown, can be made, without departing from the spirit of the invention.

In the drawings:—

Figure 1 shows in perspective, a device constructed in accordance with the invention; Figure 2 is a transverse horizontal section; and Figures 3 and 4 are bottom plans showing the operating mechanism in different positions.

In carrying out the invention, there is provided a box-like main casing 1, equipped with any suitable means 2 whereby the casing may be mounted on an automobile. The casing 1 comprises translucent panels 3 and 50, the panel 3 carrying a monitory legend 4, such as the word "Stop," although a marking of any desired sort may be placed on the panel 3. It may be desired to have the panel 3 show red. On the casing 1 is mounted an auxiliary casing 5, carrying a lens 6 which, may be red, the parts 5 and 6 constituting a parking-light. Within the casing 1 is located a lamp 7 which may be an electric lamp or any other kind of a lamp, the lamp 7 serving to illuminate the panel 3, the lens 6 being illuminated by a lamp 51 the parking-light 5—6.

A folding shield and sign 9 is provided, and comprises an inner member 9 and an outer member 10, the shield being provided with a hand 11 or other indicator. A hinge 12 connects the inner member 9 of the shield and sign 8 to one corner of the casing 1, the hinge 12 comprising a spring 14 which tends to swing the member 9 around, in the direction of the arrow A in Figure 1, until the member 9 extends along one side 17 of the casing 1. A hinge 15 connects the outer end of the inner member 9 of the shield 8 to the inner end of the outer member 10 of the shield, the hinge 15 including a spring 16 which tends to swing the member 10 in the direction of the arrow B until the member 10 overlaps, shields and covers the panel 3 which carries the monitory legend 4.

The side 17 of the casing 1 is equipped with a transparent pane 18, so that when the shield and sign 8 is in the outstanding position of Figure 1, the indicator 11 may be illuminated from the lamp 7. The pane 18, however, may be omitted if desired.

A means is provided whereby the shield and sign 8 may be swung from the closed position of Figure 2 to the opened or outstanding position of Figure 1. Having this consideration in mind, a guide tube 19 is secured to the bottom of the casing 1, and in the guide tube slides an operating member 20, which may be a light chain, a wire or the like. The operating member 20 may be connected to the brake mechanism or to the gear shift, or the member 20 may be operated independently of either of the instrumentalities above alluded to. In order to facilitate the sliding movement of the operating member in the guide tube 19, the guide tube is equipped at its inner end with a flared mouth 21 which is shown clearly in Figures 3 and 4. By means of a link 22, the operating member 20 is connected to the intermediate portion of a radius arm 24, the pivotal mounting of the link 22 being designated by the reference numeral 23. One end of the radius arm 24 is pivoted at 25 to the bottom of the casing 1. In the opposite end of the radius arm 24 there is an elongated slot 28. One end of a retractile spring 26 is connected to the intermediate part of the radius arm 24, the opposite end of the spring being anchored at 31 on the bottom of the casing 1. In the slot 28 of the radius arm 24 a pivot element 29 is adapted to move, the pivot element 29 being

mounted in one arm 30 of a bell crank lever 31, fulcrumed at 32 on the bottom of the casing 1, the bell crank lever 31 embodying an arm 33 adapted to cooperate with a depending finger 34 on the member 9 of the folding shield and sign 8.

The mechanism above described is used to swing the member 9 of the shield and sign 8 into the outstanding position of Figure 1, and, in order to swing the member 10 of the shield and sign into the position shown in that figure, a link 35 is pivoted at 36 to the side 17 of the casing 1, the link extending through an elongated slot 37 in the member 9. The outer end of the link 35 is pivoted at 38 to a link 39, which, as shown at 40, is pivoted to the outer member 10 of the folding shield and sign 8, the toggle connection between the parts 17 and 10 thus being afforded.

The spring 14 tends to swing the member 9 against the side 17 of the casing 1, and the spring 16 tends to swing the member 10 across the transparent panel 3, as shown in Figure 2. When a pull is exerted on the operating member 20, swinging movement is imparted to the radius arm 24, by way of the link 22, the arm 24 swinging on its pivotal mounting 25, and the spring 26 being put under tension. From the radius arm 24, motion is imparted to the bell crank lever 32, the pivot element 29 on the bell crank lever moving in the slot 28 of the radius arm 24. The part 33 of the bell crank lever 31, cooperating with the finger 34 on the member 9 of the shield and guard 8, swings the member 9 into the outstanding position shown in Figure 1, and, by way of the toggle links 35 and 39, motion is transmitted to the outer member 10 of the shield and guard 8, the member 8 being swung into alignment with the member 9, in an outstanding position, as depicted in Figure 1. When the pull on the operating member 20 ceases the springs 16 and 14 react to dispose the parts 10 and 9 of the folding shield and sign in the position shown in Figure 2.

In the daytime, the indicator 11 gives the desired information, and after nightfall, the marking 4 gives the desired information, relative to the stopping of the vehicle.

Having thus described the invention, what I claim is:

In a device of the class described, a casing having a signal which is visible when the casing is illuminated, a combined shield and sign including hingedly connected inner and outer members, the inner member being hinged to the casing and being adapted to extend along one side of the casing when the shield and sign is closed, and the outer member being adapted to cover the signal when the shield and sign is closed, spring means for swinging the shield and sign to a closed position with respect to the casing, and means for swinging the shield and sign to an open outstanding position with respect to the casing, the means for swinging the shield and sign to an open position embodying a radius arm mounted to swing on the casing, a lever connected with the radius arm and cooperating with the inner member of the shield and sign, the lever being fulcrumed on the casing, and a connection between the outer member of the shield and sign and the casing, the connection constituting means for swinging the outer member of the shield and sign to open position when the inner member of the shield and sign is swung to an open position.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

JOSE GONZALEZ.

Witnesses:
FERNANDO GARCIA,
JOSÉ CARRENO.