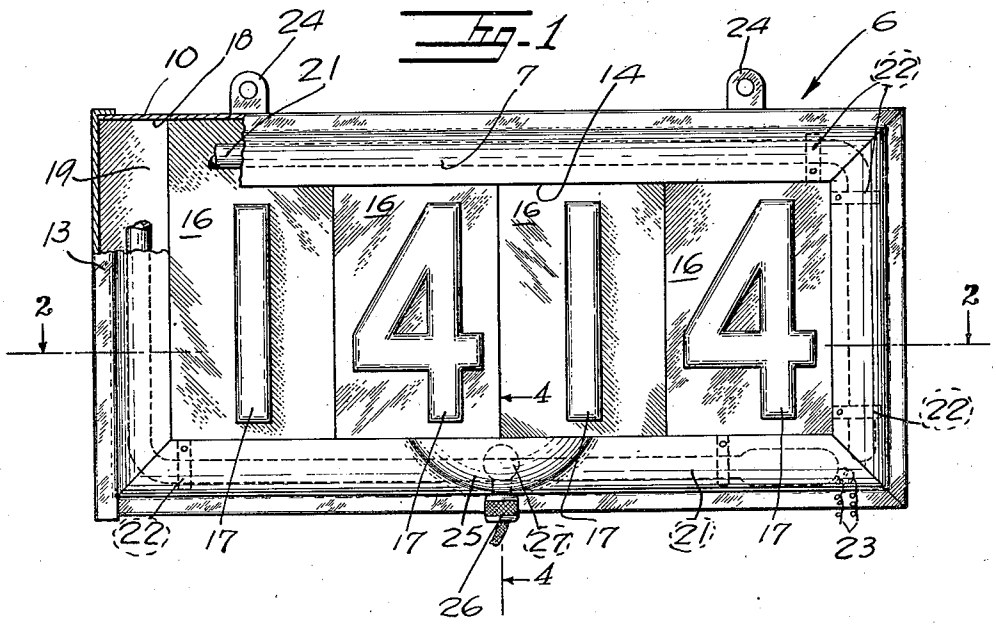
Dec. 17, 1929. P. J. CHIAPETTO 1,739,709

ILLUMINATED HOUSE NUMBER

Filed Nov. 7, 1928

Fig-1



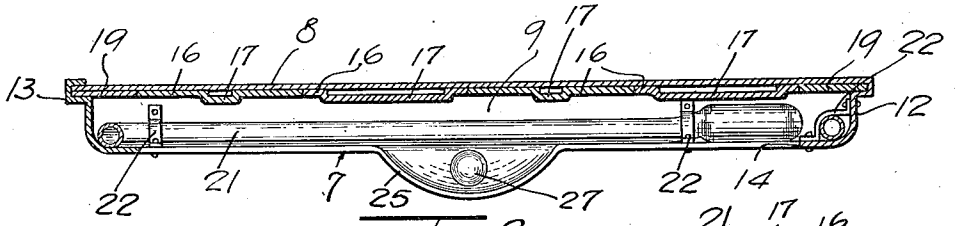


Fig-2

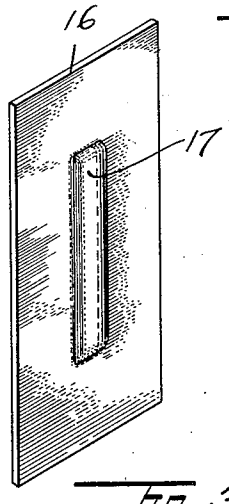


Fig-3

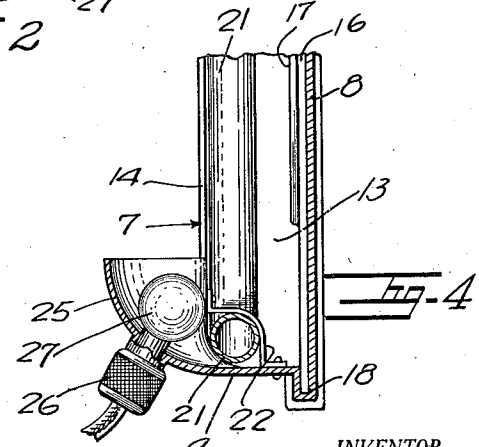


Fig-4

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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ILLUMINATED HOUSE NUMBER

Application filed November 7, 1928. Serial No. 317,715.

The invention forming the subject matter of this application relates to indirectly illuminated signs and particularly house numbers.

It is the primary object of the invention to provide an illuminated sign or house number in which a plurality of plates are insertable for indicating the house number, the plates being readily detachable from the illuminating members of the device, said illuminating members being so designed as to be adapted to employ an elongated tubular lighting element, such as a neon light, substantially surrounding the circumference of the plate upon which the numerals are indicated, and reflecting light rays thereon, thereby indirectly illuminating the same.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a box, closed at one end, in which tracks are provided, adjacent to the rear wall of the box, into which guide plates marked with the desired indicia may be readily inserted, the front wall of the box being apertured so that the indicia representing the house number appears therethru, a neon tube being provided around the aperture in the front wall of the box for illuminating the interior of the box and the house number therein, and an auxiliary light being provided in a socket on the front wall of the box for illuminating the sign when the neon light is out of order.

Other objects of the invention are to provide a device of the character described, that will be superior in point of simplicity, inexpensiveness of construction, positiveness of operation, facility and convenience in use, and general efficiency.

In this specification and the annexed drawing, the invention is illustrated in the form considered to be the best, but it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to such form because it may be embodied in other forms, and it is also to be understood that in and by the claims following the description, it is desired to cover the invention in whatsoever form it may be embodied.

The invention is clearly illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a front view of the illuminated house number and the box, part of the front wall of the box being broken away;

Figure 2 is a section taken thru the line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of one of the plates upon which a number is impressed or imprinted; and

Figure 4 is a vertical sectional view of the auxiliary light on the box, the section being taken on the line 4—4 of Figure 1.

Referring to the accompanying drawings wherein similar reference characters designate similar parts thruout, the various figures described above adequately illustrate my invention, and the following detailed description is commensurate with the above mentioned drawings in enabling an artisan to construct and assemble the constituent parts of the same.

In carrying out my invention, I make use of a housing, denoted in its entirety by the numeral 6, which housing has a front wall 7, a rear wall 8, and a bottom 9, and a top 10 connecting the longitudinal edges of the front wall 7 and the rear wall 8, and forming an enclosure therein. One end of the enclosure is closed by an end wall 12, while the other end of the enclosure is open and is adapted to be covered by a detachable cover 13, the flanges of which substantially overlap the top and the bottom and the sides of the housing. In the front wall, a substantially rectangular opening 14 is provided, the opening being of such a size as to leave a rim around the circumference of the opening.

In order to indicate the house number, I employ a plurality of plates 16 upon which is imprinted or impressed a numeral denoted by 17. It is preferable that each plate carry only one numeral so as to allow a plurality of combinations of numbers to be formed thereby within the housing as required. The background or the surface of the plate is preferably painted in a color conspicuously distinguishing from the color in which the numerals or the characters are painted, thereby rendering the numerals readily observable from a distance. In order to hold the plates 16 in place and to allow the endwise insertion thereof, the box is so formed and the

bottom 9 and the top 10 are so bent adjacent to the rear wall thereof as to form longitudinal grooves 18 extending substantially below the bottom and above the top thruout the whole length of the box. At one end the grooves 18 are terminated by the end wall 12, while the open ends thereof are covered usually by the detachable cover 13. The grooves 18 are of such width as to allow the slidable insertion of the plates 16 thereinto.

It is apparent, then, that in order that the required numbers should appear, the plates are selected and in the required order are endwisely inserted in the grooves 18 side by side, and slid toward the other end of the box, abutting one against the other. In order to center the location of the numerals in the box, spacing plates 19 are employed. One spacing plate is inserted before any of the numeral plates are inserted so as to space the last number from the end wall 12, thus the numbers appear at the edge of the opening in the proper position. The other spacing plate 19 is inserted between the first plate of the house number and the detachable cover 13, thereby allowing the detachable cover to exert a certain pressure upon the plates in the grooves 18, so as to hold the same against rattling or accidental displacement.

The house numbers at the rear wall of the box are indirectly illuminated by means of a neon tube 21 which extends around the whole circumference of the front wall and which is supported in place around the rim of the opening 14 by means of brackets 22 secured to the inside face of the front wall 7. The neon light is of the usual structure and is bent into substantially rectangular shape and is connected by means of wires 23 to a switch connecting the device to a source of electricity.

The box supported in place by means of ears 24 having apertures therein thru which the usual securing means, such as bolts or nails, can be secured into the wall.

In order to prepare for any emergency, if the neon light is for some reason or other out of order, I provide an auxiliary light at the lower edge of the front wall 7. About midway between the ends of the lower edge of the front wall 7 is formed a semi-spherical reflector 25 in which is a socket 26, and into which socket, in turn, is threaded the usual small electric bulb 27. The reflector 25 protrudes slightly in front of the plane of the front wall 7 and reflects the light upon the plate 16 and numerals 17. It is preferable that the socket 26 be connected to a different switch than the neon light 23 so as to provide the illumination of the house numbers at all times.

It will be recognized that the assembly of the housing and the insertion thereinto of the interchangeable number plates 16 is readily accomplished after the removal of the detachable end cover 13 and by the use of suitable spacing plates 19, the numerals are properly positioned so as to appear thru the front opening 14. The plates 16 are securely held in the grooves 18 and prevented from rattling and accidental removal by the end cover 13. The neon light 14 is disposed in curved reflectors circumferential to the front wall and formed at the junctures of the front wall with the top, bottom and the end walls so that the light will be readily reflected from all corners upon the plates 16 and the numerals 17, thereby rendering the house numbers conspicuously illuminated in an indirect manner.

The numerals may be readily changed by the average layman without necessitating the removal of any part of the housing other than the end cover 13. After the numerals are inserted in place in the housing, the illuminable house number may be readily secured in place by any layman.

I claim:

1. In a device of the character described, a housing having a front wall, a rear wall, a top and bottom, and an end wall at one end thereof, the other end thereof being open; tracks formed at the opposite longitudinal edges of the rear wall by the bent edges of the top and bottom; an indicia bearing plate adapted to be inserted endwise thru said open end into said tracks and being held in place thereby; said front wall having an opening therein opposite said plate; and a bent illuminating tube supported in said housing around the said opening.

2. In a device of the character described, a housing having a front wall, a rear wall, a top and bottom, and an end wall at one end thereof, the other end thereof being open; tracks formed at the opposite longitudinal edges of the rear wall by the bent edges of the top and bottom; an indicia bearing plate adapted to be inserted endwise thru said open end into said tracks and being held in place thereby; said front wall having an opening therein opposite said plate; a bent illuminating tube supported in said housing around the said opening; and an auxiliary light secured to the front wall, adapted to reflect light upon the plate.

3. In a device of the character described, a housing having a front wall, a rear wall, a top and bottom, and an end wall at one end thereof, the other end thereof being open; tracks formed at the opposite longitudinal edges of the rear wall by the bent edges of the top and bottom; a plurality of interchangeable indicium bearing plates adapted to be inserted endwise thru said open end into said tracks and being held in place thereby; said front wall having an opening therein opposite said plate; and a bent illuminating

tube supported in said housing around the said opening.

4. In a device of the character described, a housing having a front wall, a rear wall, a top and bottom, and an end wall at one end thereof, the other end thereof being open; tracks formed at the opposite longitudinal edges of the rear wall by the bent edges of the top and bottom; a plurality of interchangeable indicium bearing plates adapted to be inserted endwise thru said open end into said tracks and being held in place thereby; said front wall having an opening therein opposite said plate; a bent illuminating tube supported in said housing around the said opening; spacing plates insertable in said tracks; a cover on the open end of the housing; and means on the rear wall of the housing for securing the housing in place.

5. In a device of the character described, a housing having a front wall, a rear wall, a top and bottom, and an end wall at one end thereof, the other end thereof being open; tracks formed at the opposite longitudinal edges of the rear wall by the bent edges of the top and bottom; an indicia bearing plate adapted to be inserted endwise thru said open end into said tracks and being held in place thereby; said front wall having an opening therein opposite said plate; and a bent illuminating tube supported in said housing around the said opening; the edges of the front wall being curved so as to reflect the light rays from said tube upon said plate.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

PETER JOSEPH CHIAPETTO.