Jan. 5, 1960 H. E. FULTZ 2,920,309

FLASHING STOP SIGN

Filed May 20, 1958

FIG. 1

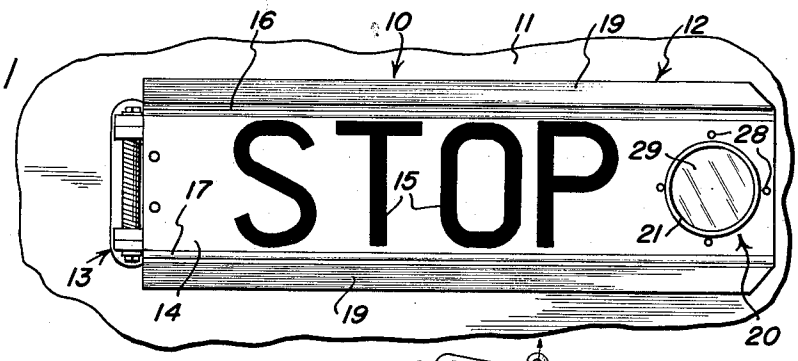


FIG. 2

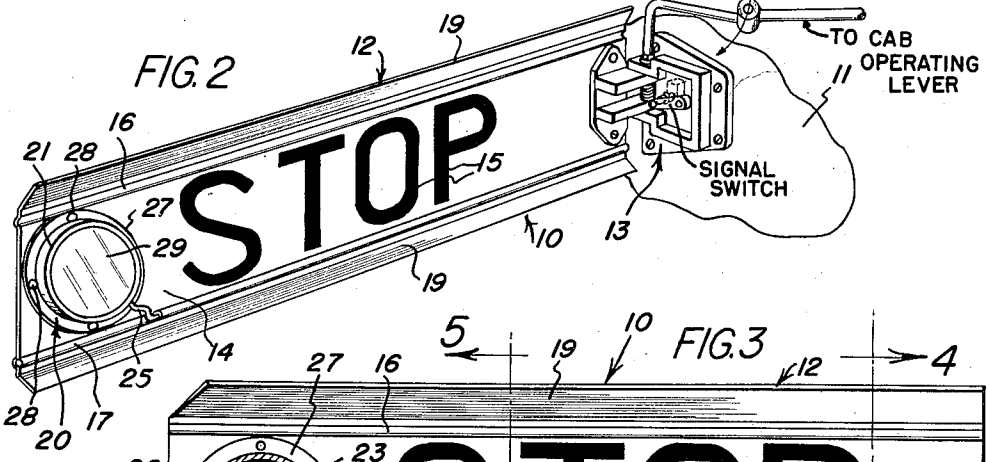


FIG. 3

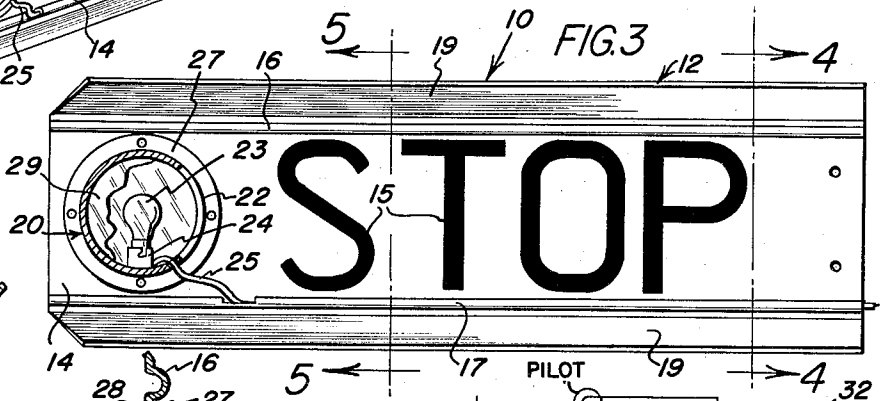


FIG. 4

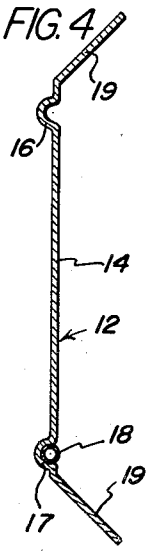


FIG. 5

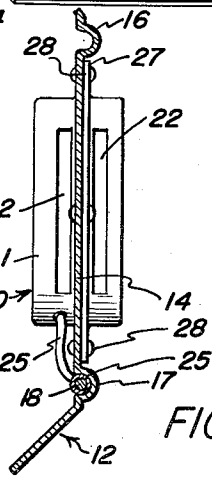
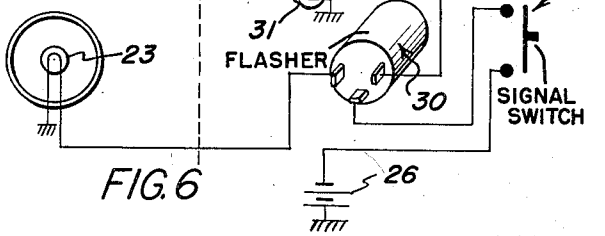


FIG. 6



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FLASHING STOP SIGN

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1 Claim. (Cl. 340—128)

This invention relates to a stop sign or signal, and more particularly to a stop sign for use with school buses.

The object of the invention is to provide a stop sign which is constructed so that persons outside of a school bus or other vehicle on which the stop sign is mounted, will be readily warned or advised that the school bus is stopping or stopped, so that children can enter or leave the bus with increased safety.

Another object of the invention is to provide a school bus stop sign which includes a member that is adapted to be moved to an outward position when the bus stops, and wherein the member carries a light bulb that is adapted to be actuated in a flashing or intermittent fashion so that the word "Stop" on the sign will be illuminated in a highly efficient and noticeable manner so that children will be able to embark or disembark from the school bus with greater safety and wherein persons driving other vehicles will be more likely to notice the flashing stop sign of the present invention.

A further object of the invention is to provide a flashing stop sign for school buses which is extremely simple and inexpensive to manufacture.

Other objects and advantages will be apparent during the course of the following description.

In the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this application, and in which like numerals are used to designate like parts throughout the same.

Figure 1 is an elevational view showing the stop sign of the present invention in closed position adjacent to the bus body.

Figure 2 is a fragmentary perspective view showing the stop sign in extended or operative position.

Figure 3 is an elevational view of the stop sign, and with parts broken away and in section.

Figure 4 is a sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of Figure 3.

Figure 5 is a sectional view taken on the line 5—5 of Figure 3.

Figure 6 is a view illustrating schematically the wiring diagram for the present invention.

Referring in detail to the drawings, the numeral **10** indicates the flashing stop sign of the present invention, and the numeral **11** indicates a portion of a supporting structure such as a bus body. The flashing stop sign **10** of the present invention includes a body member **12** which has an end thereof hingedly connected to the bus body **11** as for example by means of a conventional hinge assembly **13**.

As shown in the drawings, the body member **12** is shaped to include an intermediate main portion **14** of flat formation, and the portion **14** is provided with indicia such as the word "Stop" thereon, and this word "Stop" may be arranged on both sides of the portion **14**. The indicia **15** may be printed or otherwise arranged on the portion **14**.

As shown in Figure 4 for example, the body member **12** is shaped to include a pair of spaced parallel channels **16** and **17** which are arranged on opposite sides of the main flat portion **14**. The numeral **18** indicates a tube or sleeve which is seated in the channel **17**, and the tube **18** may be secured in the channel **17** in any suitable manner, as for example by welding.

The body member **12** is further provided with a pair of angularly arranged shoulders **19**. These shoulders **19** are arranged in converging relation with respect to each other.

There is further provided a sleeve which is indicated generally by the numeral **20**, and the sleeve **20** is arranged adjacent the free end of the body member **12**. The sleeve **20** includes a cylindrical wall member **21** which extends through the portion **14** of the body member **12**, and the wall member **21** is provided with slot **22** whereby light rays from a bulb **23** can pass through the slot **22** in order to illuminate the indicia **15**. The bulb **23** is connected to a socket **24** which is mounted in the sleeve **20**, and a wire **25** is electrically connected to the socket **24** and extends through the tube **18**, the wire **25** adapted to supply electrical energy from a suitable source of supply such as the vehicle battery **26**, Figure 6.

A means is provided for securing the sleeve **20** in place in the body member **12**, and this means comprises a circular flange **27** which extends outwardly from the wall member **21** and which is secured thereto or formed integral therewith, and the flange **27** is secured to the adjacent portion of the body member as for example by means of securing elements **28**.

Arranged on opposite sides of the bulb **23** are lenses **29** which may be colored red so as to provide a further means of providing notice of the signal, and the numeral **30** indicates a flasher which is electrically connected to the bulb **23**. The flasher **30** has the effect of causing the bulb **23** to intermittently flash on and off which will further enhance the effectiveness of the signal. The numeral **31** indicates a pilot light which is adapted to be arranged on the dashboard or instrument panel of the vehicle such as the bus so that the operator of the vehicle will be able to observe on the pilot light **31** the flashing effect of the bulb **23**.

From the foregoing, it is apparent that there has been provided a flashing stop sign which is especially suitable and effective for use with school buses, although it is to be understood that the principle of the present invention is applicable to other types of signs or signals. According to the present invention the sign **10** includes a body member **12** which is hingedly connected to the bus body **11** by means of a conventional hinge assembly **13**. The body member **12** may be stamped out of a suitable piece of sheet metal and carries the sleeve **20**. The sleeve **20** is provided with the wall member **21** which has the slot **22** so that light rays from the bulb **23** can shine out through the slot **22** and illuminate the indicia or letters **15**. Normally the body member **12** is in a position contiguous to the side of the bus body **11**. However, when the bus is stopped, the driver of the vehicle can actuate a suitable member within the interior of the bus such as a handle or lever so as to cause the body member **12** to swing outwardly from the position shown in Figure 1 to the position shown in Figure 2, and as the body member **12** swings outwardly on the hinge **13**, it will be seen that the flasher **30** and bulb **23** and pilot light **31** will be actuated. Thus, this will have the effect of causing the bulb **23** to go on and off in an intermittent manner which is noticeable from a long distance away.

The pilot light **31** is adapted to be arranged on the dashboard of the vehicle so that the driver of the vehicle can readily ascertain when the bulb **23** is functioning properly.

The red lenses **29** arranged on opposite sides of the bulb **23** provide a further means of making the signal

more noticeable to drivers of other vehicles so that children can more safely enter or leave the bus since there will be less likelihood of such children being hit by drivers of other vehicles which may be in the vicinity of the stopped school bus.

The body member **12** includes the angularly arranged shoulders **19** that are adapted to contact the outer surface of the body **11** when the body member **12** is in closed position. Furthermore, the channels **16** and **17** help reinforce the body member and the channel **17** has the tube **18** secured as by welding therein, whereby the wire **25** from the bulb **23** can extend through the tube **18**. In Figure 6 the numeral **32** indicates a switch which may be automatically actuated by the hinge **13** when the body member **12** swings open or to an extended position.

The parts can be made of any suitable material and in different shapes or sizes.

The tube **18** prevents the wire **25** from getting out of place. The switch **32** may be placed in an opening so that it can be contacted by the operating cam of the hinge assembly **13**. The hinge **13** and associated switch mechanism may be of any suitable type. The parts can be made of any suitable material and in different shapes or sizes.

The stop sign of the present invention can be used on any type of mechanical stop sign mechanism.

In use, when the sign or member **12** is in opened position, the switch **32** is released so that the current will go through the flasher **30** and alternately light the lamp **23** and pilot light **31** as for example when the bus is stopped to discharge or pick up pupils. When the member **12** is returned to closed position, the lights go out and stay out until the device is reopened. The pilot light **31** is adapted to be mounted in a position so that it is readily visible to the driver of the vehicle. The flasher **30** can be arranged in any convenient location.

Minor changes in shape, size and rearrangement of details coming within the field of invention claimed may be resorted to in actual practice, if desired.

I claim:

In a flashing stop sign, a supporting structure, a body member having one end hingedly connected to said supporting structure, said body member including an intermediate main portion of flat formation, indicia arranged on said main flat portion, opposed spaced parallel curved channels arranged on opposite sides of said main flat portion, a tube secured in one of said channels, said body member further including angularly arranged shoulders, a sleeve having a cylindrical wall member mounted in the body member adjacent the free end thereof, there being slots in said wall member for permitting light rays to be directed therethrough onto the indicia, a circular flange extending from said wall member and connected to said body member, colored lenses mounted in said wall member, a bulb positioned between said lenses, and a wire electrically connected to said bulb and extending through said tube.

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