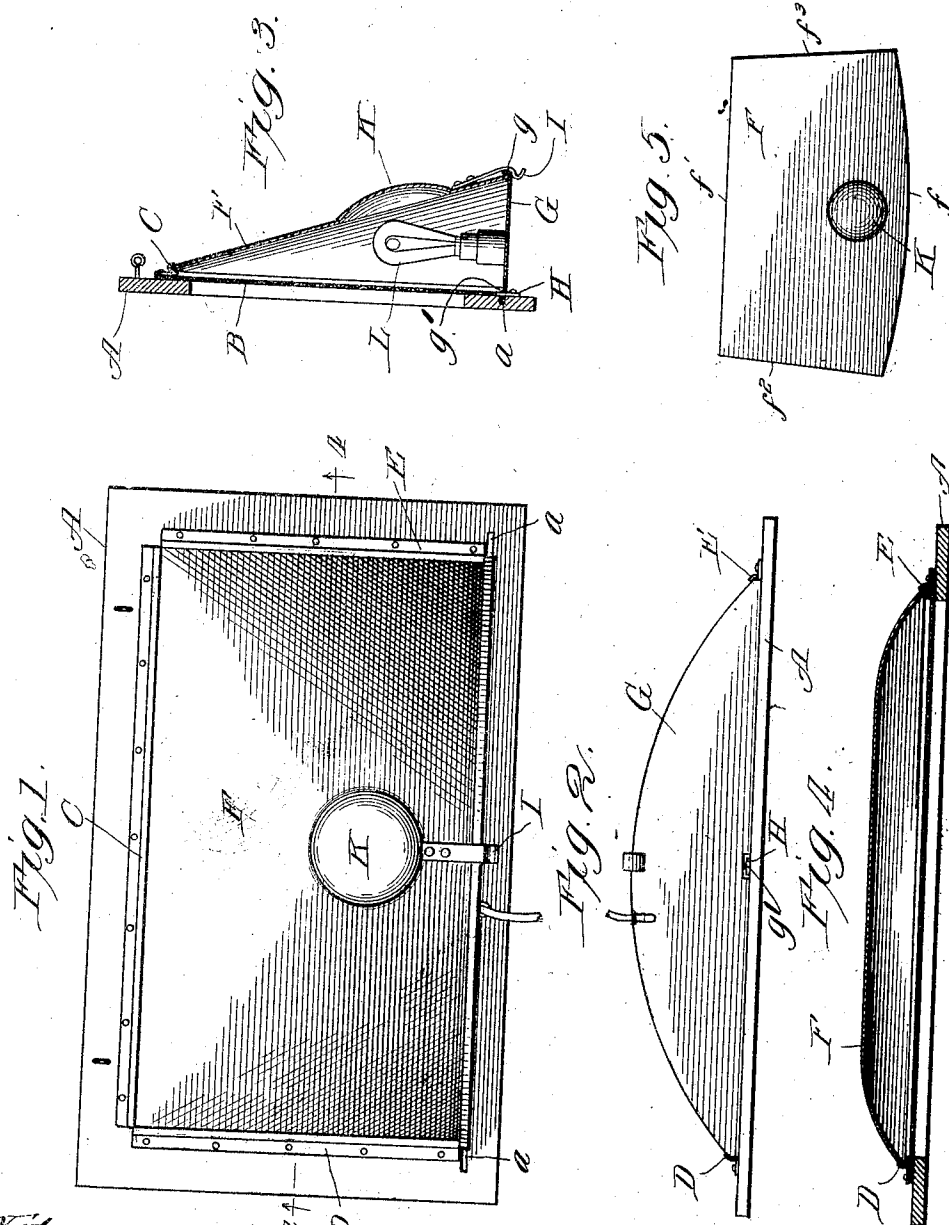


H. R. LAWRENCE.
 COLLAPSIBLE BACK FOR SIGNS.
 APPLICATION FILED MAR. 5, 1910.

1,056,035.

Patented Mar. 18, 1913.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HARRISON R. LAWRENCE, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

COLLAPSIBLE BACK FOR SIGNS.

1,056,035.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Mar. 18, 1913.

Application filed March 5, 1910. Serial No. 547,425.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HARRISON R. LAWRENCE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, county of Cook, State of Illinois, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Collapsible Backs for Signs, and declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates particularly to illuminated signs and has for its object to provide a simple and novel construction and arrangement of parts constituting a collapsible housing for the illuminating device, whereby it is possible to transport the signs in a flat condition and to set them up quickly and conveniently in the form of a tightly closed housing.

Although my invention is particularly applicable to signs, it may of course be used to advantage wherever it is desired to have a knock-down or collapsible housing.

The various features of novelty whereby my invention is characterized will hereinafter be pointed out with particularity in the claims; but for a full understanding of my invention and of its object and advantages, reference may be had to the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Figure 1 is a rear view of a sign arranged in accordance with a preferred form of my invention; Fig. 2 is a bottom view; Fig. 3 is a vertical central section; Fig. 4 is a section on line 4-4 of Fig. 1; and Fig. 5 is a view illustrating the collapsible back in a flattened condition.

Referring to the drawing, A represents a suitable front piece of any usual form or construction. In the arrangement shown this piece is in the form of a rectangular frame having a transparent or translucent center B.

C, D, and E are guides secured to the rear face of the member A so as to form three sides of a rectangle. These guides may be formed in any suitable manner, conveniently by fastening three Z-bars to the frame.

F is a collapsible back made of a flat sheet of tin or other suitable material cut approximately in the form of a trapezoid, the longer of the two sides which correspond to

the two parallel sides of a trapezoid being curved slightly as at *f*. The edge *f'* opposite the edge *f* is of a length equal to the distance between the two parallel guides D and E. The back member is slipped between the guides D and E with the edge *f'* in advance, and is pushed along these guides until the edge *f'* enters the guide C. As the back member is forced in place it bulges gradually from the edge *f'* to the edge *f* so as to bring the two other edges *f''* and *f'''* parallel with each other. The back member consequently takes the form of a rounded wedge when in place. Cooperating with the front piece and the back member is an end or bottom member G which is shaped to correspond with the opening between the end of the back member and the front piece and is provided with a laterally extending flange *g* which overlies the outer surface of the back member so as to make a tight joint. In order to make a tight joint between the member G and the front piece, the latter is preferably provided with its rear face with a groove *a* into which the adjacent edge of the end or bottom piece projects. The end member may be locked to the front piece and to the back in any suitable way so that after the parts are assembled they will be securely tied together. For the purpose of detachably locking the end piece to the front piece I provide a dog H which is pivotally mounted on the front piece in position to swing through an opening *g'* in the end piece. The locking device between the back member and the end piece may conveniently take the form of a spring catch I carried by the former and projecting over the edge of the latter.

I have found that there is a tendency on the part of the back member to flatten at the center near the free edge thereof and, in order to stiffen it, I prefer to dish it at this point by pressing the metal inwardly or outwardly as indicated at K. I prefer to press the metal outwardly since this enlarges the housing at this point and affords ample room for a lamp L or other illuminating device without unnecessarily increasing the depth of the housing. The dished portion, in addition to stiffening the back member and preventing it from flattening when placed in position, has the further function of serving as a reflector for the rays of light emanating from the illuminating device in front of it. Of course in

order to serve as a reflector, the inner side of the back member should be left bright while the outer side may be painted or decorated in any suitable manner. The lamp L may conveniently be mounted on the end or bottom member G so that by taking this member off the lamp comes off with it.

It will be seen that the edge *f* of the back member is made curved so that when this member is sprung in position the open end may be closed by a flat plate. It is possible to obtain a housing of sufficient depth with a back member whose longest edge is no longer than the front piece so that for shipping the housing the parts may be detached from each other and the back member laid flat upon the front piece without leaving projecting ends which might be damaged in transit. Furthermore the joints around the back piece may easily be made tight without interfering with the ready assembly of the parts and thus make the device simple and convenient without permitting the light to pass through the back portions after the parts are assembled.

While I have illustrated and described in detail only a single preferred form of my invention I do not desire to be limited to the specific details so illustrated and described; but intend covering all constructions and

arrangements which fall within the terms employed in the definitions of my invention constituting the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. In a housing, a front piece having guides running across the top and down the sides, a flexible back member shaped to fit into said guides, said back member being made wider adjacent to the lower edge than the distance between the guides at that point so as to cause the lower portion thereof to bulge outwardly from the front piece.
2. In a housing, a front piece having guides running across the top and down the sides, a flexible back member shaped to fit into said guides, said back member being made wider adjacent to the lower edge than the distance between the guides at that point so as to cause the lower portion thereof to bulge outwardly from the front piece, said back piece having a section thereof at the center and near the bottom pressed outwardly so as to render it less flexible at this point.

In testimony whereof, I sign this specification in the presence of two witnesses.

HARRISON R. LAWRENCE.

Witnesses:

WM. F. FREUDENREICH,
H. S. GAITHER.