March 5, 1929. J. H. DEPLER 1,704,534

IDENTIFICATION PANEL

Filed Aug. 15, 1927

Fig. 1.

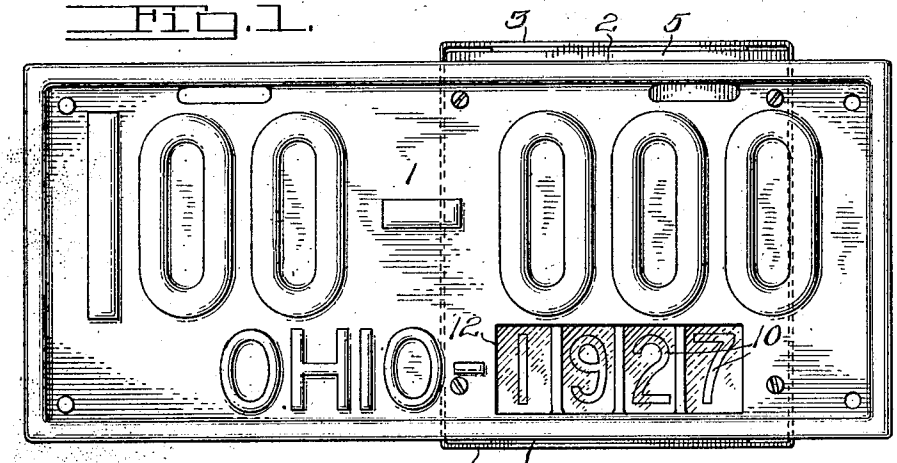


Fig. 2.

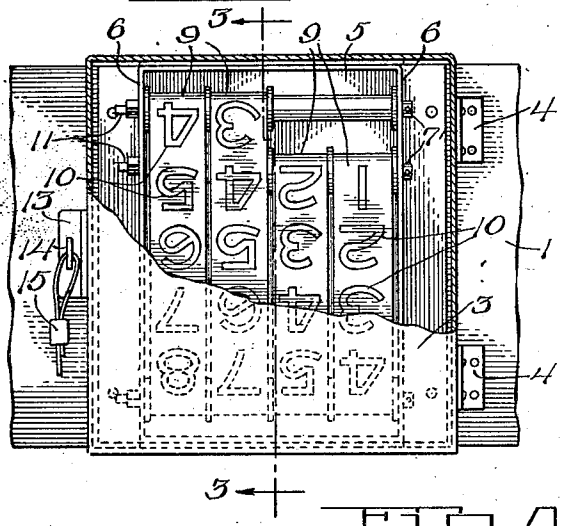


Fig. 3.

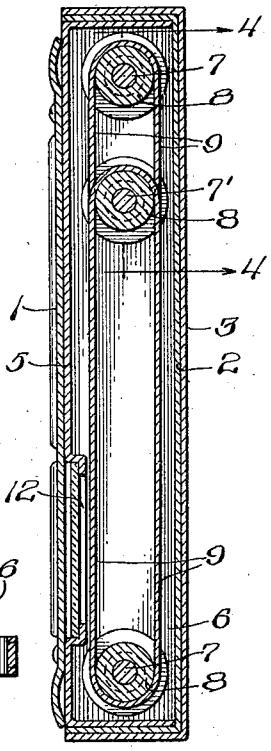
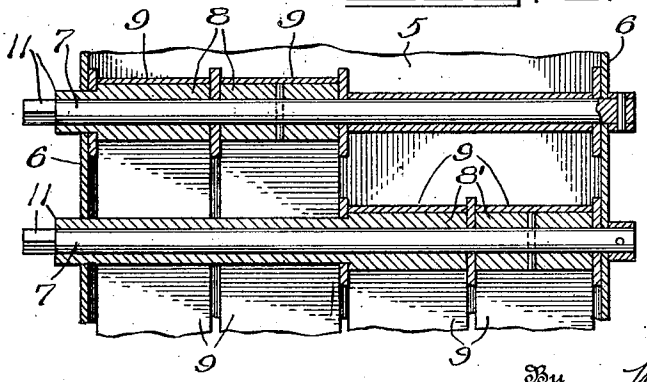


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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IDENTIFICATION PANEL.

Application filed August 15, 1927. Serial No. 212,905.

This invention relates to improvements in motor vehicle identification panels, and has for an outstanding object the provision of a panel or tag of the kind used by the various States and Government for the purpose of license identification, and wherein such tag or panel will be of a durable and permanent character capable of being used from year to year for the purpose of producing a more substantial construction which in point of appearance will harmonize to greater advantage with the appearance of the motor vehicle upon which it is carried so as to avoid the unsightly appearance which the ordinary license tag commonly imparts to a motor vehicle, regardless of the cost and appearance of the latter, and also to avoid the waste of metal and the cost of manufacture of the ordinary license tag which is merely used for but a short period and then discarded, at the expiration of a tax period, for another.

Another object of the invention resides in the provision of a permanent motor vehicle identification panel wherein the year displaying numerals are capable of being changed from time to time as changing license periods require, the changeable numerals being arranged within a sealed casing, so that unauthorized tampering therewith is precluded and in order that a duly authorized tax official may upon the payment of the required license fee, break said seal and adjust the year numerals to bring the latter into correspondence with the tax period, all of this being accomplished without necessarily demounting the tag or panel and without discarding any parts thereof.

For a further understanding of the invention reference is to be had to the following description and the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Figure 1 is a front elevation of my improved permanent automobile identification panel,

Figure 2 is a rear elevation thereof, parts being broken away to disclose interior structure,

Figure 3 is a vertical transverse sectional view taken on the plane indicated by the line 3—3 of Figure 2,

Figure 4 is a vertical sectional view taken on the plane indicated by the line 4—4 of Figure 3,

Referring more particularly to the drawing the numeral 1 designates the main panel of my improved license display device. This panel has its obverse surface provided with suitable license data, setting forth usually the number of the license and the name of the State issuing the same. Any suitable and convenient method may be employed for effecting the mounting of the panel in an operative position upon a motor vehicle. The back of the panel 1 is provided with a casing 2, which is formed to include a swinging door 3, the latter being hinged as at 4 upon the back of the panel 1. Also secured to the back side of the panel 1 is a base plate 5, which is formed to include rectangularly arranged flanges 6, in which are journaled parallel upper and lower shafts 7, which carry drums or spools 8. The spools of the lower shaft 7 are loosely mounted and arranged to rotate freely upon the shaft, whereas, the spools on the upper shaft, which are two in number, are frictionally engaging the flanges 6 of the base plate 5. The inner spool is pinned to the shaft so as to rotate therewith and the other spool is formed with an extension projecting beyond one of the flanges 6 above which the latter spool may be turned independently of the shaft. Trained over the drums or spools 8 are endless belts or ribbons 9, which are provided with numerals as indicated at 10. The upper shaft 7 and the extension of the spool 8 is provided with squared ends 11, which project beyond one of the flanges 6 for the purpose of permitting of the application of a suitable wrench or tool in order to rotate the shafts and the spools arranged thereon, to thereby permit of the adjustment of the belts 9 so as to bring the desired numerals into registration with a glass covered opening 12 provided in the panel 1.

In order that the two first numerals indicate the year, as disclosed in Figure 1 of the drawing, there is provided a third shaft 7′ which is positioned intermediate the upper and lower shafts 7. This shaft is of a construction identical to that of the upper shaft 7, with the exception that the reduced extension of the spool 8′ is of greater length, permitting the same to be rotated from the same side as that of the upper spool 8.

The hinged door 3 completely covers this interior mechanism and in this instance the door is provided on one side with a slotted keeper plate 13, which is adapted to receive an eye or bail 14 fastened to the back side of the panel 1. A seal 15 is forced through the eye 14 for the purpose of locking or sealing

the door 3 in its closed position, and to prevent unauthorized tampering or actuation of the numeral bearing belts or ribbons.

In practice the identification panel is permanently mounted on a motor vehicle and may be attractively and ornamentally finished in any desired manner for the purpose of enhancing the appearance of the panel and to adapt the same æsthetically to the appearance and style of the vehicle in connection with which it is used. Upon the payment of the required license fee, usually from year to year, the duly appointed tax collecting official may break the seal and turn the numerals belt to bring the proper year number into registration with the sight opening 12 provided in the front of the panel. After which the door is again sealed and the identification panel may then be employed without additional adjustment until the next succeeding tax period. It will be appreciated that I may use one or more of the belts 9 without departing from the principles of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A permanent tag comprising a license bearing panel having an opening formed therein, a casing arranged on the back of said panel and provided internally with a pair of flanges spaced from the side walls of said casing, spaced upper and lower shafts rotatably mounted in said flanges and having their ends extending into the spaces between said flanges and walls of said casing, spools loosely mounted on one of said shafts, a spool fixed to rotate with the other of said shafts, a second spool loosely mounted on the last named shaft and having an extension formed therewith, endless belts trained around said spools provided with numerals, said belts being arranged in registration with the opening in said panel, means formed with one end of the last mentioned shaft and similar means formed with said extension for turning the spools mounted on the latter shaft independently of each other, and a closure for said casing.

2. A permanent tag comprising a license bearing panel having an opening formed therein, a casing arranged on the back of said panel and provided therein with a pair of spaced flanges, spaced upper and lower shafts parallelly arranged and rotatably mounted in said flanges, spools loosely mounted on one of said shafts, a spool fixed to rotate with the other of said shafts, a second spool loosely mounted on the last named shaft and having extensions formed therewith, said extension and one end of said shaft projecting beyond one of said flanges, said shaft projecting a distance beyond said extension, endless belts trained around said spools provided with numerals, said belts being arranged in registration with the opening in said panel, and means formed with the projecting end of the last mentioned shaft and means formed with said extension for permitting of the turning of said spools mounted on the latter shaft independently of each other.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

JOHN H. DEPLER.