May 8, 1928. 1,668,805

W. E. FINDLATER

NUMBER PLATE FOR VEHICLES

Filed Dec. 15, 1923

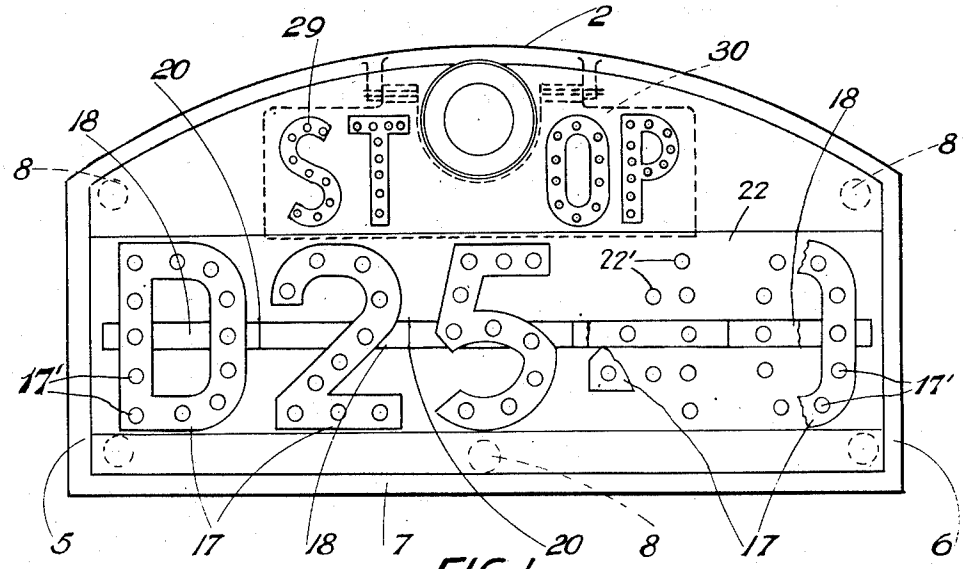


FIG. 1

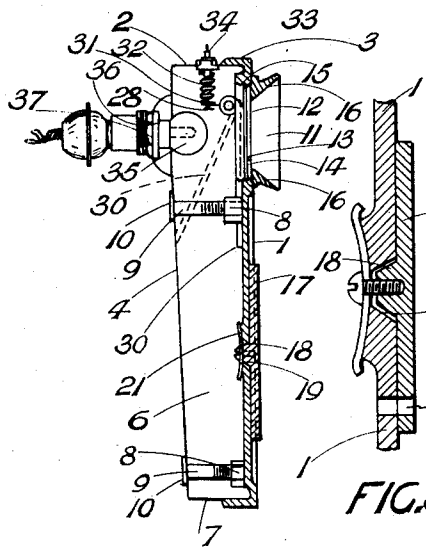


FIG. 2

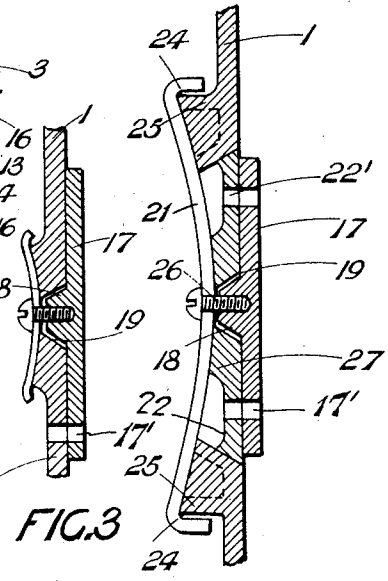


FIG. 3

FIG. 4

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Patented May 8, 1928. 1,668,805

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WALTER EARNEST FINDLATER, OF DUNEDIN, OTAGO, NEW ZEALAND.

NUMBER PLATE FOR VEHICLES.

Application filed December 15, 1923. Serial No. 680,796.

This invention relates to number plates for vehicles.

The object of the invention is to provide means whereby the numerals will be more conspicuous by night, and for this purpose, we combine the number plate with the tail light.

According to this invention, the front member of the casing is perforated, or perforated numerals are provided of a size and shape to conform with the motor registration act. The numerals are perforated so that the light in the compartment will shine through the perforations to render the numerals distinguishable by night; the latter means are shown in the drawings, in which,

Figure 1 is a front elevation of the invention, partly broken away.

Figure 2 is a sectional view of a different form of the invention from that shown in Figure 1.

Figure 3 is an enlarged sectional view of part of the front member of the casing, as shown in Figure 2 showing means of fixing the numerals thereto.

Figure 4 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view of the form of invention shown in Figure 1.

The casing includes a perforated front member 1; this front is fashioned preferably in the manner illustrated, having a curved top 2; the front 1 is supplied with a flange 3, projecting from its inner surface, which embraces a portion of the casing, forming a front therewith. The casing comprises a back 4, top 2, sides 5 and 6, and bottom 7; the top of the casing is preferably deeper than the bottom to assist reflection.

The front and the casing members are secured to each other, there being boss members 8 with threaded holes therein; the said bosses project inwardly from the inner surface of the front to register with set screws 9 whose heads 10 project to the outside of the back.

There is a threaded aperture in the front, preferably above the perforated numerals, the said aperture is adapted to register with a socket member 11 housing the red coloured glass disc 12; the socket 11 is fashioned with a shoulder forming a surface 13 with which the red glass disc 12 faces, the said glass being maintained in the faced position by a spring member 14, which is adapted to house in a groove 15 under its own influence. The socket 11 is further fashioned in the form of a reflector, the inner surface 16, with its greater diameter to the outside, is finished bright to intensify the light.

Means are provided to suitably mount the perforated numeral plates 17 having perforations 17′ therein on the front member 1, which is also provided with perforations aligned with the perforations in the numeral plates so that the light from the interior of the casing will be reflected through the aligned perforations and thus effectively define the numbers represented by said numeral plates so that they may be clearly distinguished at night; one method of securing them consists of a rib 18 cast integral with each numeral 17, the said rib being adapted to fit a slot 19, formed in the front plate and of sufficient length so that when they butt, as indicated at 20, the right pitch or distance between the numerals is maintained.

A detachable snib 21 or such similar means are provided to secure the numerals to the face of the front member 1 so that in the event of a change in the ownership of the vehicle and new numerals being required, this can be done without destroying the casing. In the method illustrated in Figures 1, 2 and 3, suitable plugs can be supplied to close the existing perforations in the front member 1 if a change is desired; or a plate 22, as indicated in Figure 4, may be supplied with the new numerals, said plate 22 having perforations 22′ therein, corresponding to those in the numerals 17, so that said perforations will align when the plate and numerals are properly positioned. Thus with the perforations in the numeral plate 17 aligned with perforations in the plate 22, it will be obvious that light from the interior of the casing will be reflected in said aligned perforations and will thus clearly define the numbers represented by said plates 17. In that case, the plate 22 would have means to readily attach and detach the said number plate, said means consisting of a snib 21 having its ends 24 engaging ribs 25 cast to the interior surface of the front member 1, said snib 21 being connected with the rib 18 on the back of the numeral by means of a screw 26 passing through a slot 19 formed in the plate 22, and thereby drawing the numeral against the plate 22 and the beveled edges of the latter plate against the correspondingly beveled edges of the ribs 25 of the front plate.

In addition to the perforated numerals 17 giving indication of the registered number of the vehicle, other perforated signs may be added, as indicated in Figure 1; for example, "Stop" in the event of desiring to signal to a following car or vehicle that you intend to stop, indication thereof can be signalled through this medium, controlled by bowden (as indicated at 28) or other suitable control operated from the dash, or somewhere adjacent to the driver.

Normally the perforations 29 indicating the word "Stop" would be covered by a pivotally mounted spring controlled flap 30. There is a lug 31 projecting therefrom, to which one end of the Bowden wire 28 is attached, and between the said lug 31 and the top 2 of the casing, there is a spring 32, normally holding the flap against the surface of the front member covering the perforations 29 when the vehicle is in motion.

There is a fitting 33 adapted to be made watertight where the Bowden wire 28 for the control armour 34 enters the compartment.

An electric light bulb fitting, preferably of the usual type having a bayonet joint to which the bulbs 35 may be detachably mounted is used; the fitting preferably registers with the red glass disc mounting, and is attached by a flange member 36 and jamb nut 37 with the necessary washers to ensure the joint being watertight or damp proof.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

In a signalling device of the character described, a casing, a front plate for said casing detachably secured thereto and having an opening surrounded upon the inner face of the plate with inwardly projecting and spaced flanges, a perforated plate mounted within said opening and having a longitudinal slot, a plurality of number plates each having perforations adapted to aline with the perforations in the last named plate, and further having transverse ribs extending on opposite sides thereof and engageable in said slot with the ends of the ribs of each number plate in abutting relation with the ends of the ribs of the next adjacent number plates to retain said number plates in definitely spaced relation, a snib for each number plate having its end portions engaged with both of said flanges and its intermediate portion with the inner face of said perforated plate, and a screw extending through said snib and into the rib of the adjacent number plate to secure the latter against said perforated plate.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

WALTER EARNEST FINDLATER.