MILTON T. MILLER, OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

SIGNALLING DEVICE FOR VEHICLES.

1,137,070.


To whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MILTON T. MILLER, citizen of the United States, residing at Los Angeles, in the county of Los Angeles and State of California, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Signaling Devices for Vehicles, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to signaling devices and more particularly to a device which is particularly designed for use upon automobiles and similar vehicles whereby the operator may give a visual signal of his intentions to the operator of another vehicle, with regard to the direction of subsequent movement of the vehicle.

The present invention has for one of its objects to provide a lamp box of improved construction, and means for mounting a plurality of series of lamps within the box including a reflector whereby each individual series of light bulbs illuminates a portion of a stencil plate in which the words of warning are cut.

The invention has for a further object to produce a reflector of improved construction whereby the light rays from each series of lamp bulbs is concentrated upon a portion of the stencil plate, said reflector and all of the lamp bulbs being bodily removable from the lamp box or case.

The invention has for another object to produce a signaling device of the above character which is simple and inexpensive in its construction, reliable, efficient and durable in practical operation, and in which the several illuminating lamp bulbs are capable of being easily and quickly replaced when necessary.

With the above and other objects in view as will become apparent as the description proceeds, the invention consists in certain constructions, combinations and arrangements of the parts that I shall hereinafter fully describe and claim.

For a full understanding of the invention, reference is to be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of the lamp box constituting a part of the device, certain of the parts being illustrated in dotted lines. Fig. 2 is a section taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a section taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is an elevation of the insulating base board upon which the reflector and lamp bulbs are mounted.

Referring in detail to the drawings, 5 designates the outer box or case of the lamp.

The upper and lower walls of this case are provided with longitudinally extending guides indicated at 6, to receive the edges of a ruby glass 7 and a stencil plate 8. This plate has the letters of the words "Right", "Left", "Slow" and "Stop" cut therein. The glass and the stencil plate are inserted into the guide ways 6 through a slot 9 provided in one of the end walls of the case.

Within the box a reflector is removably arranged. This reflector is constructed from a metal plate 10 which is bent to form a plurality of narrow compartments 11. The ends of these compartments are closed by the plates 12, which are soldered to the ends, of the compartment walls, said plates being provided with attaching flanges 13 whereby the reflector may be permanently secured by means of suitable screws upon a base of insulating material indicated at 14.

The base of each of the compartments 11 is provided with a series of circular openings 15 to accommodate the lamp bulbs 16, said bulbs being provided with the usual plugs for engagement in the threaded sockets 17 arranged in the insulating base 14. Upon the back of the insulating base 14 a plurality of longitudinally extending metal conducting strips 18 are secured, said strips corresponding in number with the number of compartments in the reflector wherein the light bulbs are arranged. Each bulb is provided with a contact point at the end of the threaded plug for engagement with one of the metal conducting strips. An additional metal conducting strip 19 is secured to and connects each series of the threaded sockets 17 in which the lamp bulbs are engaged.

When the colored glass plate and the stencil plate are arranged in position in the lamp box, the outer edges of the walls of the compartments 11 provided in the reflector contact with the stencil sheet between the letters therein so that one series or row of lamp bulbs will be located directly in line with each of the words. Any approved means may be employed for mounting the lamp box upon the body of the vehicle. The box is preferably arranged at the rear of the vehicle at one side thereof, but it will of course be understood that an additional
lamp box may be arranged at the forward end of the vehicle body.

From the foregoing description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, the construction, manner of operation, and several advantages of my invention will be clearly and fully understood.

The device may be readily applied to motor vehicles of the several types now in general use without necessitating any alterations to its construction. It will also be obvious that the number of series of lamp bulbs may be multiplied and the stencil plate supplied with additional words of warning as may be deemed necessary or desirable. The reflector and the lamp bulbs may be very easily and quickly removed from the lamp box or case when it is necessary to replace the bulbs with new ones, or make repairs to the several parts of the device. It will also be apparent that the particular manner of inserting the glass plate and the stencil plate above referred to is not an essential feature of the invention, as the lamp box may be constructed in various ways to admit of the easy and quick insertion and removal of said members. It is also to be borne in mind that while I have above described the present preferred construction, combination and arrangement of parts, the invention is susceptible of many modifications therein and I therefore reserve the privilege of resorting to all such legitimate changes as may be fairly embodied within the spirit and scope of the invention as claimed.

What is claimed is:

1. In a signal lamp the combination with a lamp box or case, of a reflector provided with a series of narrow longitudinal compartments, an insulating base, plates permanently secured upon said base and to the body of the reflector to close the ends of said compartments, a series of lamp bulbs arranged in each of the compartments and having portions of the indicia thereon in front of the respective compartments.

2. In a signaling lamp the combination with a lamp box or case, of a reflector having a series of narrow longitudinal compartments, a base upon which said reflector is permanently secured, a series of lamp bulbs arranged in each of the compartments, the base wall of the compartment having openings therein to receive the plugs of the lamp bulbs, threaded sockets in the base alining said openings to receive the plugs of said lamp bulbs, said reflector and the insulating base being removable as a unit from said case, a glass plate mounted in the lamp case in front of the reflector and a sign plate arranged between said glass plate and the compartments of the reflector and having portions of the indicia thereon in front of the respective compartments.

3. In a signal lamp the combination with a lamp box or case, of a reflector provided with a series of narrow longitudinal compartments, an insulating base, plates permanently secured upon said base and to the body of the reflector to close the ends of said compartments, a series of lamp bulbs arranged in each of the compartments and mounted on said base, said reflector and insulating base being removable as a unit from the case, a glass plate removably mounted in the case in front of said reflector, and a sign plate arranged between said glass plate and the compartments of the reflector and having portions of the indicia thereon in front of the respective compartments.

4. In a signal lamp the combination with a lamp box or case, of a reflector including a body provided with a plurality of longitudinal compartments, the base wall of each compartment having a plurality of openings therein, an insulating base, plates permanently secured upon said base and to the body of the reflector to close the ends of said compartments, a series of electric light bulbs in each of the compartments having plugs extending through the openings in the wall thereof and removably mounted on said base, said reflector and the base being bodily removable from the lamp case, a colored glass plate removably mounted in the case in front of said reflector, and a sign plate mounted in the case between the glass plate and the open side of said compartments and having portions of the indicia thereon and disposed in front of the respective compartments.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

MILTON T. MILLER.

Witnesses:
THOS. F. BUCKEE,
CHARLES W. CORISON