To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, William I. Stone, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at the city of St. Louis, State of Missouri, United States of America, have invented a certain new and useful Automobile Signal Device, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description as will enable any one skilled in the art to which it app pertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification.

My invention relates to a signal device for automobiles and more particularly to that form of signal device in which a switch or circuit closing device is mounted upon one of the control levers of the machine so that the signal may be displayed at the same time that the lever is operated.

The object of my invention is to provide a device in which one of a plurality of signals may be selected when the control lever is operated by a simple tilting or rocking movement of the foot obviating the necessity of shifting the foot upon the lever to secure the desired signal.

In the accompanying drawings which illustrate one form of device made in accordance with my invention, Figure 1 is a top plan view of the foot plate being removed. Figure 2 is a section on the line 2-2 of Figure 1. Figure 3 is a section on the line 3-3 of Figure 1; Figure 4 is a side elevation showing the device in position on one of the control levers of a motor vehicle and Figure 5 is a diagrammatic view illustrating the circuits.

6 indicates the body of the device which consists of a shallow metallic box preferably rectangular in form. This box 6 is secured to one of the control levers of the machine, preferably the brake lever 7, by any suitable means such as the bolts 8. Situated in the body 6 is an insulating block 9 carrying a socket 10 which together with a ball 11 forms a universal joint. Mounted on the ball 11 is a foot plate 12 in the form of a cover or lid for the box 6. This plate 12 is normally held parallel with the body 6 by means of four coil springs 13. Carried by the insulating block 9 are contact plates 14, 15, 16 and 17 which are secured to the insulating block 9 by means of bolts 22, the nuts of which also form binding posts for securing to the said contacts the wires 23 leading to the signal devices 24. These signal devices may be of any usual form but will preferably consist of incandescent lamps situated behind transparent or translucent plates bearing appropriate warning signs. The current is supplied to the signal devices 24 by means of a battery 25 or other source of electro-motive force. An insulating plate 26, preferably of mica, is situated between the body 6 and the block 9 to prevent possibility of contact of the bolts 22 with the body. The block 9 and plate 26 are secured in position by any suitable means, such for instance, as the screws 27.

The operation of my device is as follows: When the lever 26 is depressed by means of the foot, if the foot is held in such a position as to retain the plate 12 parallel with the body 6 no contact will be made with any of the plates 14, 15, 16 or 17 and consequently no signal will be displayed. If, however, the foot is rocked so as to cause the upper part of the plate to approach more nearly to the body than the lower part the pin 19 will be caused to contact with the plate 15 so as to display a suitable signal such for instance as "Slow." If the lower part of the plate is caused to approach more nearly to the body 6 the pin 21 will be caused to contact with the plate 17 so as to close a different circuit and display a different signal, such for instance, as "Stop." By moving the plate either to the right or left the pin 18 or the pin 20 will be caused to contact with the plate 14 or the plate 16, respectively, and display other signals to show word "Right" or "Left," or arrows or hands or other suitable signals to indicate the directions right or left.

It will be evident, therefore, that by the use of my device any one of four different signals may be displayed merely by a slight rocking of the foot on the foot plate 12 thus obviating the necessity of shifting the foot as in devices heretofore in use for this purpose. At the same time my device is very simple in construction and easy not only to manufacture but also to install.

Having fully described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. In a device of the class described, the...
combination with a base, of means securing said base to a brake lever, an insulating block within said base, contacts carried by said insulating block, a foot plate supported by a universal joint, said foot plate being provided with a flange overlapping said base, contacts carried by said foot plate and cooperating with said first named contacts, and electric circuits controlled by said contacts.

2. In a device of the class described, the combination with a base, of means for securing said base to a brake lever, an insulating block within said base, contacts secured to said block by screws passing therethrough, an insulating plate situated between said block and base to separate the screws from the latter, a foot plate supported by a universal joint, said foot plate being provided with contacts cooperating with said first named contacts, and electric circuits controlled by said contacts.

3. In a device of the class described, the combination with a base, of means for securing said base to a brake lever, an insulating block within said base, a socket carried by said block, contacts also carried by said block, a ball in said socket, a foot plate supported from said ball, contacts carried by said foot plate and cooperating with said first named contacts, and electric circuits controlled by said contacts.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal.

WILLIAM I. STONE. [L. s.]