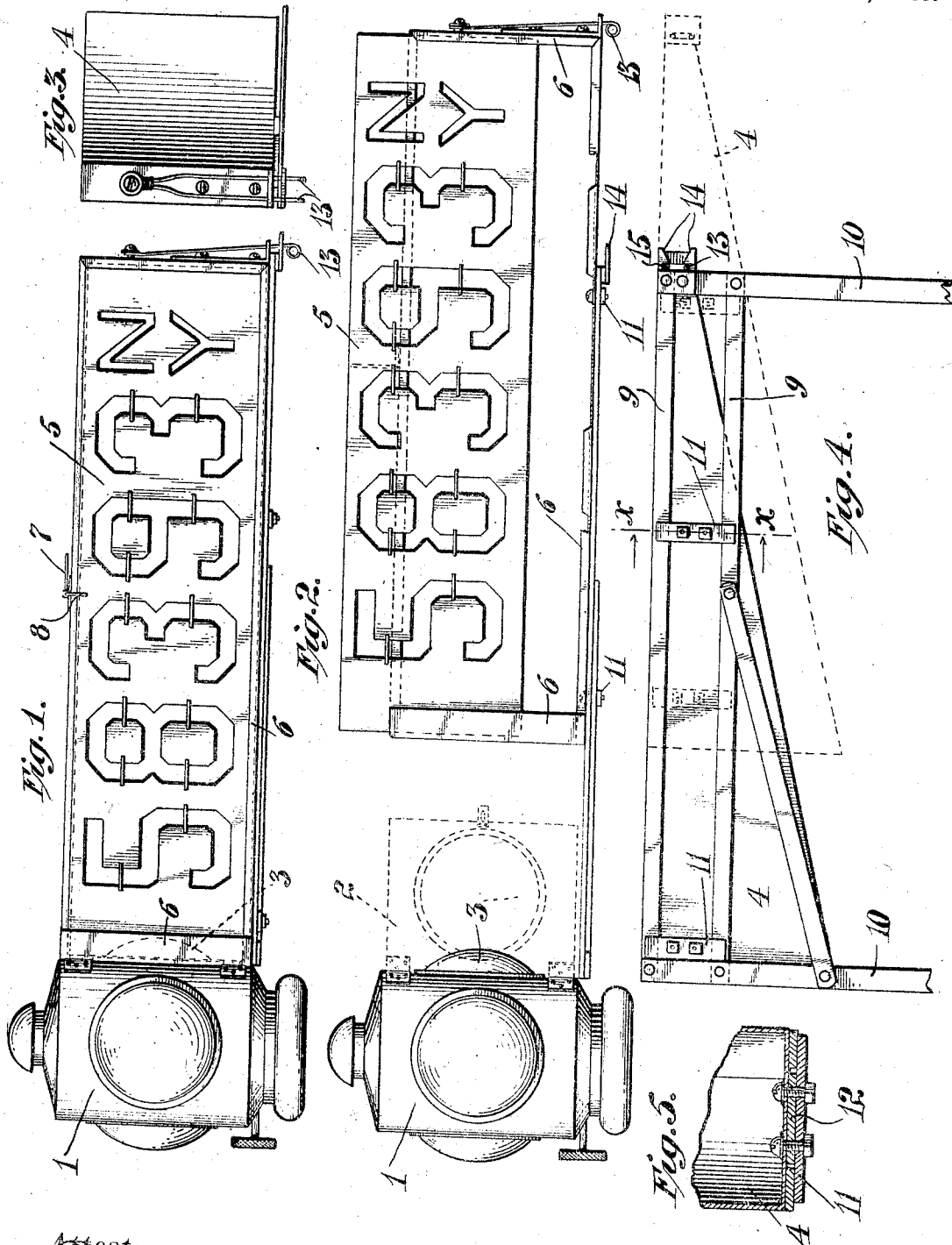


F. W. BOTH.
 AUTOMOBILE NUMBER DISPLAY DEVICE.
 APPLICATION FILED MAR. 13, 1911.

1,051,479.

Patented Jan. 28, 1913.



Attest:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FREDERICK W. BOTH, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

AUTOMOBILE NUMBER-DISPLAY DEVICE.

1,051,479.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 28, 1913.

Application filed March 13, 1911. Serial No. 614,226.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FREDERICK W. BOTH, of the United States of America, residing at No. 523 East Two Hundred and Thirty-fourth street, New York city, New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Automobile Number-Display Devices, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to devices adapted to display license numbers of automobiles and the like.

One of the objects of the invention is to provide a device which may be employed in connection with the usual form of lamp which is used upon vehicles and which will cause the license number of the vehicle to be clearly shown.

Another object of the invention is to provide a device which will be simple in construction and operation and which will, therefore, be comparatively cheap to manufacture and not liable to get out of order.

Other objects of the invention will be in part obvious and in part pointed out hereinafter.

In the accompanying drawings showing the illustrative embodiment of the invention and in which the same reference numeral refers to similar parts in the several figures, Figure 1 is a front elevational view of the device in position with respect to the lamp. Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the position of the device when the lamp is to be lighted or extinguished and also showing the manner of removing the plate bearing the license number, parts being broken away for the sake of clearness. Fig. 3 is an end view of the device taken from the right hand of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a bottom plan view, the lamp being omitted. Fig. 5 is a partial sectional view taken on the line X-X of Fig. 4.

In the illustrative embodiment of the invention 1 represents the tail lamp of ordinary construction provided with a door 2 having the usual white lens 3. In lamps of this character which are now used it is usual to have the door which contains the white lens situated upon the side of the lamp which is directed toward the license number plate, and one of the objects of this invention is to provide a casing for carrying the license plate and which may be moved relatively to the lamp whereby the

door may be opened when it is desired to have access to the interior of the lamp for lighting or extinguishing the same.

4 represents a casing which may be of any suitable construction and which is provided with an opening at the end adjacent to the lamp, into which opening the lens 3 is adapted to project when the casing is in its innermost or operative position, as clearly shown in Fig. 1. Although the casing may be of any suitable construction, I preferably so form the rear wall, the inner surface of which acts as a reflector, that it slants toward the outer end of the casing, whereby the reflecting surface which is farthest from the source of light will be brought nearer the plate 5 bearing the license number, positioned at the front of the casing, which is open. This plate may be of glass with the license number painted or otherwise placed thereon, or it may be, as shown in the drawing, formed of metal having the license number cut out therefrom in the manner in which a stencil is formed. The plate is held in position by channels 6 formed at the ends and bottom of the casing, and may be removed by drawing the same upwardly, as clearly indicated in Fig. 2. It may be locked in position by any suitable means, as, for example, by a catch 7 pivotally mounted upon the upper wall of the casing and provided with a bent end 8 adapted to extend over and engage the outer surface of the plate 5.

The casing 4 is slidingly mounted upon guides 9 which are carried by supports 10, which, in turn, are secured to the body of the vehicle in any suitable manner, and are so arranged relatively to the lamp 1 that when the casing 4 is in its innermost position its open end will be in proximity to and register with the door of the lamp thereby assuring that the light which passes through the lens 3 will pass within the casing. As clearly shown in Figs. 4 and 5, the casing has secured to its bottom wall members 11 which slidingly engage the under surface of the guides 9, and spacing members 12 are preferably positioned between the members 11 and the bottom of the casing, as clearly shown in Fig. 5. The sliding members 11 are preferably so positioned upon the casing with respect to the casing and the supports 10, that when the casing is in its innermost position, as shown in Fig. 1,

the inner member 11 will engage the inner support 10, and when the casing is in its outermost position, as shown in Fig. 2, the outermost member 11 will engage the outermost support 10. It will, of course, be understood that the outermost member 11 should be so positioned that when the casing is moved to its outermost position, its inner end will be at a distance from the lamp such that the door of the latter may be readily opened without striking the casing.

In order to prevent accidental movement of the casing due to the jarring of the vehicle suitable locking means is provided, which, in the embodiment shown, consists of a pair of spring members 13 secured to the outer end of the casing and adapted, as the casing is moved inward, to pass between the inclined edges of the jaws 14 which are attached to the outermost support 10 and engage in recesses 15 formed in said jaws.

The operation of the device, which should be largely obvious from the description, is as follows: Assuming the casing to be in its normal or innermost position, as shown in Fig. 1, if it is desired to light the lamp or to extinguish the same, it is merely necessary to press the spring locking members 13 together thereby moving them out of their corresponding recesses 15, and then move the casing outward into the position shown in Fig. 2. The outward movement of the casing will be limited by the outermost member 11 coming into engagement with the outermost support 10. The door of the lamp may now be opened, as indicated in Fig. 2, thus giving full access to the interior of the lamp. After the lamp has been lighted or extinguished and the door shut it is merely necessary to push the casing inward into its normal position, the spring members 13 passing between the jaws 14 and engaging within the recesses 15, automatically locking the casing in its operative position. If the vehicle is taken from one State to another, it is merely necessary upon passing the State line to raise the catch 7, remove the license plate 5 corresponding to the State from which the vehicle has come and insert another license plate corresponding to the State into which the vehicle has just passed. It will also be seen that by arranging the plate holding grooves in such a manner that the license plate must be drawn upward when being removed it is practically impossible for the same to be jarred out of position owing to the roughness of the roads. Even if the catch 7 should break or get out of order there would still be no danger of the license plate being accidentally displaced from position. By providing a casing of this character in such a manner that it may be slid back and forth with respect to the lamp it will be at once seen that it is adapted to be placed upon vehicles which are supplied

with the usual form of tail lamps whereas, if the casing were made stationary, it would be necessary for the owner of the vehicle to obtain a lamp in which the door was positioned upon some other side than that upon which it is ordinarily positioned thus incurring the additional expense of a new lamp. In fact, it might even be necessary in some instances to have a lamp made to order.

I preferably paint the entire inner surface of the casing white to form a good reflector, but, of course, the same could be formed of tin. However, I have found that white paint gives the best results, as it makes a better back ground for the number upon the license plate in the day time.

While I have shown a casing in which the back slants toward the front in the direction of the outer end, it will, of course, be understood that the invention is not limited to a casing of this construction.

Having described this invention in connection with the illustrative embodiment thereof to the details of which disclosure the invention is not, of course, to be limited except as required by the scope of the claims, what is claimed as new and what is desired to be secured by Letters Patent is set forth in the appended claims:

1. In combination with a lamp provided with an opening through which the light is adapted to be emitted, a casing provided with an opening adapted to register with the opening in said lamp, guides upon which said casing is slidably mounted, whereby it may be moved away from and toward said lamp, a catch adjacent the outer ends of said guides, means carried by said casing for engaging said catch when the casing is in its innermost position to lock the same against movement, said casing being open at its front side and a license plate registering with said opening.

2. In combination with a lamp provided with an opening through which the light is adapted to be emitted, a casing provided with an opening adapted to register with the opening in said lamp, guides upon which said casing is slidably mounted, whereby it may be moved away from and toward said lamp, oppositely disposed jaws adjacent the outer ends of said guides and having recesses in their inner edges, means carried by said casing for engaging said recesses when the casing is in its innermost position to lock the same against movement, said casing being open at its front side and a license plate registering with said opening.

3. In combination with a lamp provided with a door having an opening through which the light is adapted to be emitted, a casing provided with an opening adapted to register with the opening in said door, a support for said casing, said casing being mounted to be moved upon said support

away from and toward said lamp, said casing being open at its front side and a license plate registering with said opening.

4. In combination with a lamp provided
5 with a door having an opening through which the light is adapted to be emitted, a casing provided with an opening adapted to register with the opening in said lamp, guides upon which said casing is slidingly
10 mounted, whereby it may be moved from and toward said lamp, and means free from connection with said lamp for automatically

locking the casing against movement in its innermost position, said casing being open at its front side and a license plate registering with said opening. 15

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

FREDERICK W. BOTH.

Witnesses:

WM. P. JONES,
ARTHUR H. EICHHOLZ.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."