Sept. 29, 1942. M. ROSENBERG 2,297,168

BLACKOUT DIMMER

Filed Jan. 30, 1942

Fig. 1.

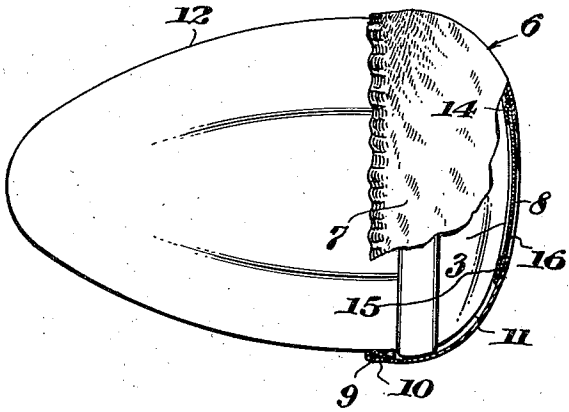


Fig. 2.

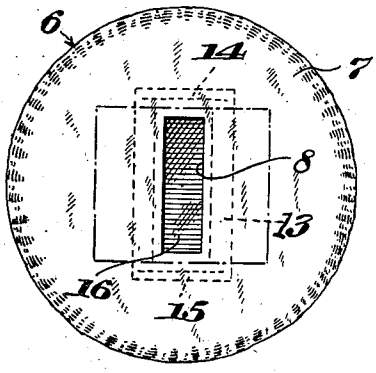


Fig. 3.

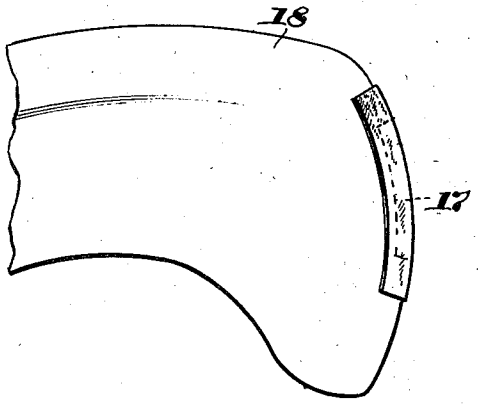


Fig. 4.

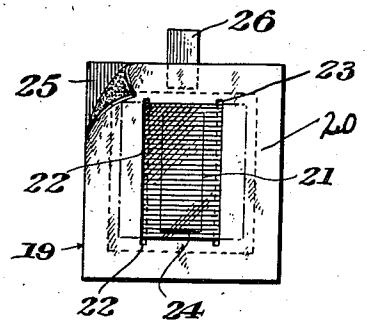
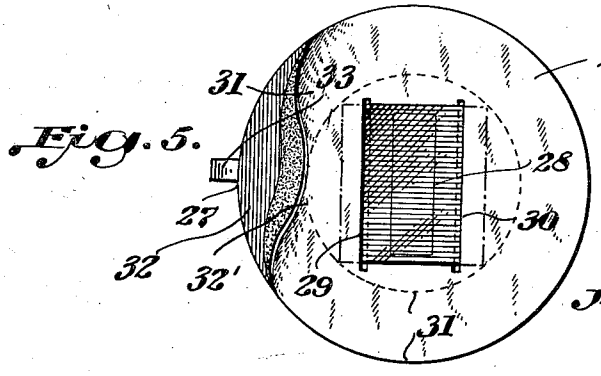


Fig. 5.



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BLACK-OUT DIMMER

Max Rosenberg, New York, N. Y.

Application January 30, 1942, Serial No. 428,961

4 Claims. (Cl. 240—48.4)

This invention relates generally to attachments adapted to be readily attached to or detached from the lenses of lighting devices for the purpose of "blacking out" the greater part of the light emitted therefrom, and for dimming the remaining part of the light sufficiently to comply with such laws as may be enacted to cover matters of this nature. More particularly, the invention is concerned with "blackout" attachments adapted to be readily attached to or detached from the head or tail lights of automotive or other vehicles to black out such lights completely or to dim them sufficiently to meet legal requirements and provide sufficient light to prevent collision of slowly moving vehicles with each other or with pedestrians.

The main object of the invention is to provide attachments of this character which are strong, durable, moisture-proof and cheap to manufacture in quantities, and which are capable of being attached to or detached from light lenses without the aid of tools and of being folded or laid flat to occupy as little space as possible.

With the above objects in view, and others which may hereinafter appear, the invention consists of the novel construction, combination and arrangement of parts as will be more specifically described, and are as illustrated in the accompanying drawing, wherein specific embodiments of the invention are shown, with the understanding that changes, variations and modifications may be resorted to which fall within the scope of the claims appended hereto.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a fragmentary side elevation, with parts broken away and illustrated in section, of one form of the invention applied to a headlight;

Figure 2 is a front elevation of the attachment shown in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a fragmentary side elevation of a fender in which a headlight is supported with its lens flush with the forward end thereof;

Figure 4 is an elevation of one form of the attachment adapted to be applied to black out a lense of the flush type shown in Figure 3; and

Figure 5 is an elevation of a slightly modified form of the attachment illustrated in Figure 4.

In the form of the invention shown in Figures 1 and 2, the blackout attachment, designated as a whole by the reference numeral 6, comprises a sheet 7 of flexible material impervious to light rays and provided with an aperture 8 illustrated as substantially rectangular in outline, but which may be of any suitable or desired contour. The perimeter of the sheet 7 is provided with a hem 9 to receive a draw-string or elastic band 10 providing a means by which the attachment may be snapped over or removed readily from the lens 11 of the light 12. Obviously, the attachment may be applied to or removed from the light in less than one minute.

To the inner surface of the sheet 7 there is secured a substantially rectangular frame 13 of flexible material similar in outline to the aperture 8 but somewhat larger. The top 14 and bottom 15 only of this frame 13 are secured to the inner face of the sheet 7 by stitching or by the use of any suitable adhesive. The sides of this frame 13, therefore, constitute means for holding a sheet 16 of translucent material, such as Pliofilm, isinglass, Celluloid and the like, which may be inserted in the manner of a slide between the inner surface of the sheet 7 and the adjacent surfaces of said sides to form a detachable closure for the aperture 8. Preferably, the sheet 16 will be colored to comply with any laws which may be enacted to control such matters during emergencies. In any event, it will be obvious that the attachment 6 may be used without the colored closure plate 16 to black out most of the rays of light from the light 12. It is obvious, too, that the presence or absence of the closure plate 16 will not in any way lessen the speed with which the attachment may be applied to or removed from the light 12.

Many of the latest type automotive vehicles have the lenses of their head and tail lights flush with their supporting fenders. Some of these lenses are circular in outline, while others are square or rectangular. A slightly modified form of the invention is illustrated in Figures 3, 4 and 5 to provide for the blackout of these lenses.

In Figure 3 of the drawing, there is shown a lens 17 flush with the forward end of the fender 18 and substantially rectangular in outline. The attachment 19 to be applied for "blackout" purposes to this lens 17 comprises a sheet 20 of flexible opaque material and of the same contour as the lens. The sheet 20 is provided with a substantially rectangular opening 21 and with slits 22 and 23 slightly longer than the opening 21 and parallel to the sides thereof. These slits receive the opposite sides or edges of the translucent colored sheet 24 which therefore forms a closure for the opening 21.

The back of the sheet 20 is coated with a suitable adhesive only in the space surrounding the portion of the back designed to receive the

inserted ends of the closure sheet **24**. A backing sheet **25** is applied, in the usual manner, to the adhesive coating to preserve it in tacky condition until the user desires to apply the blackout attachment to the lens **17**. A tab **26** is secured to the backing sheet **25** to facilitate removal thereof from the sheet **20** when desired.

The form of the invention shown in Fig. 5 is structurally the same as that shown in Figure 4, but is circular in outline and obviously intended for use on a flush lens having a similar outline. This modified form comprises a circular blackout sheet **27** having a central aperture **28**, of substantially rectangular outline, and slits **29** and **30** parallel to the sides of said aperture to receive, when desired, the opposite edges of a translucent colored sheet similar to sheet **24** of Figure 4.

The back of the sheet **27**, in the annular space **31** around the circle **32'** which bounds the aperture **28** and slits **29** and **30**, is provided with an adhesive coating for applying sheet **27** to a flush lens. An annular backing **32** is applied to this adhesive to preserve it in tacky condition until the user desires to apply the blackout sheet to the lens; and a tab **33** is secured to the annular backing **32** to facilitate removal of the backing sheet from the blackout sheet.

It is obviously immaterial whether the translucent colored dimming sheet be applied to the front or the rear face of the blackout sheet to form a dimming closure for the aperture therethrough. Where the rectangular frame **13** is used, as in Fig. 1, the mounting of the frame on the rear face of the blackout sheet will make a neater article. In the forms of blackout sheets using slits on opposite sides of the central aperture, the insertion of the opposite edges of the translucent closure sheet through the front face of the blackout sheet will make a better appearing article, and will eliminate the possibility of damage to the edges of the closure sheet, which would otherwise project through the front face of the attachment.

While the attachment has been described as being designed for use on the head or tail lights of automobiles, it must be understood that it may be employed in any connection where it may be found useful.

What I claim is:

1. A blackout attachment for lamps, comprising a sheet of flexible opaque material adapted to be applied to the light-transmitting face of a lamp and having a light-transmitting aperture therethrough, said sheet being provided with slits at opposite sides of said aperture, a light-dimming sheet of translucent material having its opposite edges inserted through said slits and held thereby against said aperture to form a dimming closure therefor, and means at the periphery of said sheet for detachably connecting the attachment as a whole to the light transmitting face of said lamp.

2. A blackout attachment for lamps, comprising a sheet of flexible opaque material adapted to be applied to the light transmitting face of a lamp and having a light transmitting aperture therethrough, said sheet being provided with slits at opposite sides of said aperture, a light-dimming sheet of translucent material having its opposite edges inserted through said slits and held thereby against said aperture to form a light-dimming closure therefor, one face of said opaque sheet being provided at its periphery with an adhesive to be applied to the said face for securing the attachment as a whole detachably to said face.

3. The blackout attachment set forth in claim 2 in combination with a protective backing applied to said adhesive to preserve the tackiness thereof prior to the application of the attachment to said light-transmitting face.

4. The blackout attachment set forth in claim 2 in combination with a protective backing detachably applied to said adhesive to preserve the adhesive qualities thereof prior to the application of the attachment to said light-transmitting face, and a tab secured to said protective backing to facilitate removal of the backing from said adhesive.

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