Oct. 17, 1933. V. R. DESPARD 1,930,610

CARD HOLDER

Filed Feb. 20, 1933

FIG. 1.

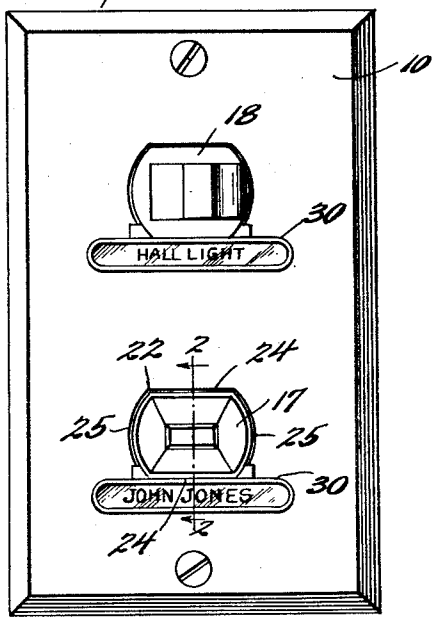


FIG. 2.

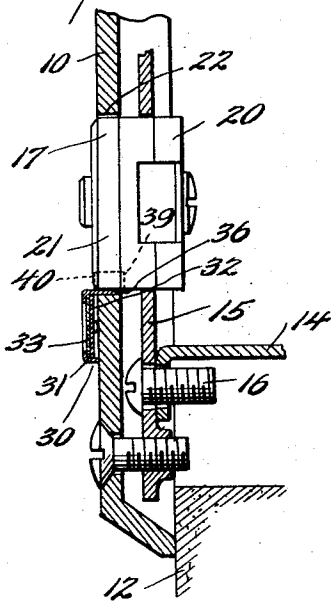


FIG. 3.

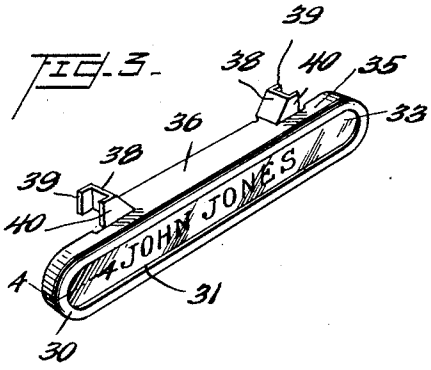
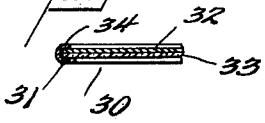


FIG. 4.



Inventor

Victor R. Despard,

By Watson, Coit, Morse & Grindle

Attorney

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

1,930,610

CARD HOLDER

Victor R. Despard, Syracuse, N. Y., assignor to Pass & Seymour, Inc., Syracuse, N. Y., a corporation of New York

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7 Claims. (Cl. 40—10)

This invention relates to card holders or name plates for use with electric wiring apparatus.

It is a general object of the present invention to provide a novel and improved name plate or card holder and mounting means for attaching the same to electric wiring apparatus.

More particularly it is an object of the invention to provide a card holder or name plate having means thereon for association with a face plate and a wiring device whereby it is locked in place on the front of the face plate by the device.

One of the features of the invention resides in the provision of a name plate or card holder for use with that type of wiring apparatus wherein an apertured face plate accommodates a portion of a wiring device which projects through the aperture and wherein the name plate is equipped with means passing through the aperture and locked therein by the wiring device.

Another feature of the invention resides in the provision of a name plate adapted to rest on the front of a wall or face plate and having a flange passing through an aperture in the face plate and locked therein by a neck on a wiring device which substantially fits said aperture and wherein a portion of the flange engages the rear of the face plate.

Other and further features and objects of the invention will be more apparent to those skilled in the art upon a consideration of the accompanying drawing and following specification, wherein is disclosed a single exemplary embodiment of the invention, with the understanding that such changes and variations may be made therein as fall within the scope of the appended claims without departing from the spirit of the invention.

In said drawing,

Figure 1 is a face view of wiring apparatus equipped with the device of the present invention shown in full size;

Figure 2 is a fragmentary vertical section on line 2—2 of Fig. 1, shown on an enlarged scale;

Figure 3 is a perspective view, on the scale of Fig. 2, of the card holder or name plate; and

Figure 4 is a fragmentary section on line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

In electric wiring apparatus of the wall plate type, and particularly where various combinations of wiring devices can be made up at will, as for instance, in accordance with my Patent 1,875,224 for electric wiring apparatus granted August 30, 1932, there is sometimes a need for some means of indicating on the front of the device the circuit controlled by a switch, the type of power available at a power outlet, or the name of a party, station or the like served by the push button of a signal system. Obviously this indication cannot well be applied directly to the name plate, because the various uses and designations would require too large a variety of plates to be economically stocked. It is the purpose of the present invention to provide a card holder or name plate which can be applied without the use of any additional attaching means to any wall plate of the type in which a portion of the wiring device protrudes through an opening in the plate.

Referring now to the drawing, there is shown at 10 a face or wall plate, in the present instance being formed of suitable insulating material and having a considerable thickness as shown in Fig. 2, although this is not necessary, for the invention can be applied to any type of wall plate. In Fig. 2 this plate is shown as mounted against a wall 12 in which is carried a switch or outlet box 14 in the customary manner. Across the face of this box is secured a mounting strap or bridge 15 by means of screws 16, and this strap carries one or more wiring devices which are interchangeable therein as regards position and type, there being provided for the purpose various styles of switches, power and convenience outlets, radio outlets, pilot lights, push buttons and the like. At the lower part of Fig. 1 is shown a push button 17, whereas the device numbered 18 is a switch.

Each of the wiring devices is carried by the mounting strap 15 and has a body portion 20 and a forwardly extending neck portion 21 which extends through an aperture 22 in the face plate 10 so that its front face is more or less flush with the front face of the wall plate, thus providing a neat appearance. The neck construction permits a uniform size of opening to be used in the plate for various wiring devices. As shown in Fig. 1, the aperture is formed with two straight sides 24 at top and bottom which are connected by the arcuate shaped ends 25. The fit of the neck 21 of the wiring device into this aperture is necessarily not perfect because of alignment difficulties and several hundredths of an inch clearance is allowed.

The name plate or card holder may be formed of any suitable material in one or more parts. As shown, it is formed from a single piece of metal stamped to form a suitably shaped frame portion 30 which is rabbeted as at 31 to receive a card 32 on which the name may be written or printed.

The card may be covered by a transparent waterproof sheet 33 of celluloid or the like. A pair of integral lugs or tabs 34 are provided at the ends, as shown in Fig. 4, to be bent over the back of the card to hold it in position in the frame. These in fact can be permanently bent and the card slipped in by buckling the center and inserting the ends under the tabs, for the card is otherwise held in position when the holder is mounted against the face plate as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, where it is positioned just below the opening carrying the push button and with its upper edge in alignment with the lower straight edge 24 of the opening.

To permit of this positioning, the upper edge 35 of the frame has its central portion extended rearwardly to form a flange 36 preferably of a depth equivalent to the thickness of the plate 10, as shown in Fig. 2, and which is received between the flat wall 24 of the aperture and the lower flat surface of the neck 21 on the wiring device, there being sufficient clearance for this purpose. To insure the card holder remaining in position, the ends of the flange 36 are turned up as at 38 to follow for a short distance along the curved end walls 25 of the aperture in the face plate, as shown in Fig. 1, their spacing insuring against any longitudinal movement of the name plate. Each of these turned up ends is provided with a depending skirt portion 39 turned down parallel to the general plane of the frame so as to be received behind the face plate and substantially in engagement with the rear face thereof, as seen in Fig. 2, to prevent withdrawal of the name plate. Conveniently in the stamping operation which forms the portions 38, a web or gusset 40 is provided attaching them to the main portion of the frame for added rigidity.

It will be clear that instead of having a frame to receive a card that the name plate could be formed of some molded material with a surface adapted to receive suitable markings and having molded therein material to form the flange 36 and associated parts for securing the name plate in position.

In applying the device, the bridge or strap 15 is equipped with its wiring devices, wired and secured in position to the box by means of the screws 16. The aperture in the face plate which is to receive the name plate then has the portions 38, 39 passed therethrough, which they will readily do, since the distance between them is less than the greatest length of the opening in the face plate. The name plate is then lowered until the skirts 39 engage behind the rear face of the plate and the flange 36 rests against the lower wall of the opening. The plate is then applied to the wall so that the necks of the wiring devices pass through the openings in the plate, thus locking the name plate in position. The face plate is then secured in position by means of screws 42 passing through the face plate and received into threaded apertures in the strap or bridge 15. Obviously two name plates can be provided for each opening in the face plate if necessary, one above and one below the wiring device.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

1. Electric wiring apparatus including a face plate having an aperture therethrough, a wiring device having a portion adapted to fit through said aperture, a card holder adapted to rest on said plate adjacent said aperture and means on said holder extending through the aperture and engaged by said device.

2. Electric wiring apparatus including in combination, a wall plate having an opening therein, a wiring device having a projection adapted to substantially fill said opening, a card holder adapted to fit against said plate adjacent said opening and a hook on said holder adapted to engage an edge of the opening and the back of said plate and be held in position by said projection.

3. The combination with an apertured face plate and a wiring device having a part to substantially fill said aperture, of a name card holder fitting against the front of said plate, a portion of said holder engaging a wall of said aperture and of said part and means extending from said portion into engagement with the back of said plate.

4. A card holder for electric wiring apparatus comprising in combination, a stamped metal frame adapted to receive a card, means thereon to secure a card in position, a flange on said frame extending rearwardly therefrom, one end of said flange being sharply bent away from the frame, said end having a skirt portion at each side thereof.

5. A card holder for electric wiring apparatus comprising in combination, a rabbeted metal frame adapted to hold a card, a flange extending rearwardly from one side of the frame, an end portion of said flange diverging from the frame side and an overhang at the rear edge of said portion substantially parallel to the plane of the frame.

6. Electric wiring apparatus including in combination, a face plate having an opening therethrough with a straight side wall and end walls meeting the side at an angle, of a wiring device having a neck extending into and substantially filling said opening, a rabbeted metal frame fitting against the front face of said plate and adapted to hold a card, a flange extending rearwardly from said frame and lying against the straight wall of the opening, ends on said flange bent to lie against the end walls and skirts on said ends engaging the rear face of said plate.

7. The combination with electric wiring apparatus including a face plate having an opening therethrough and a wiring device having a neck substantially filling said opening, of a name plate having a portion extending into said opening between the neck and opening wall and means on said portion engaging the rear wall of the plate whereby the name plate is locked in place by said neck.

VICTOR R. DESPARD.