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HIGHWAY PAINTED LINE MARKER

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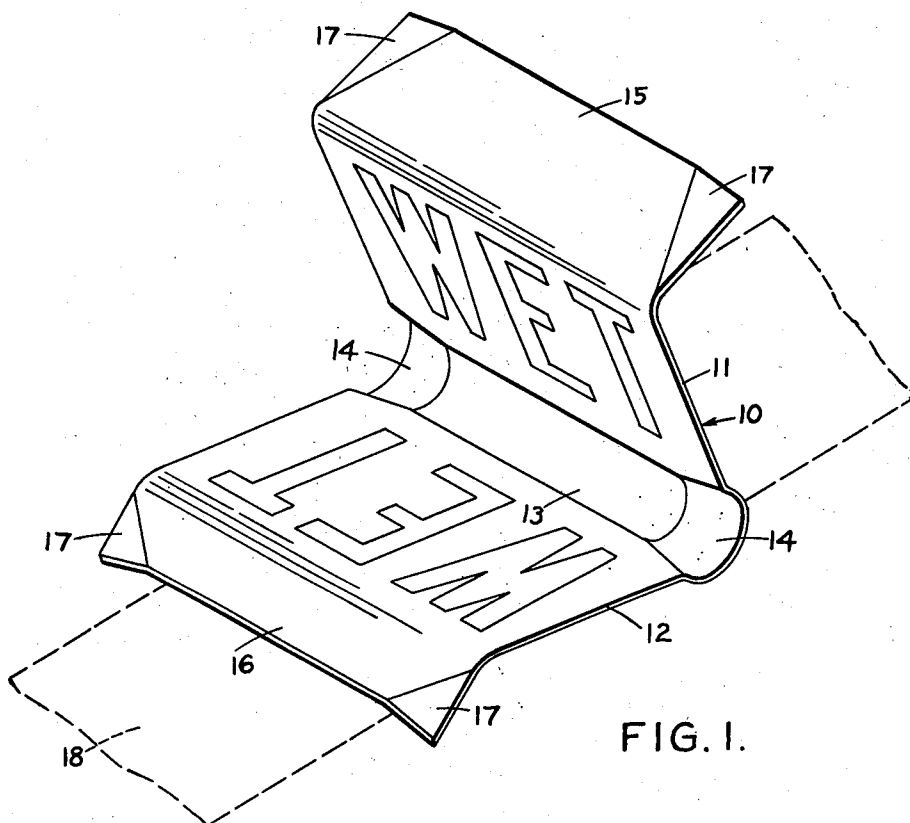


FIG. 1.

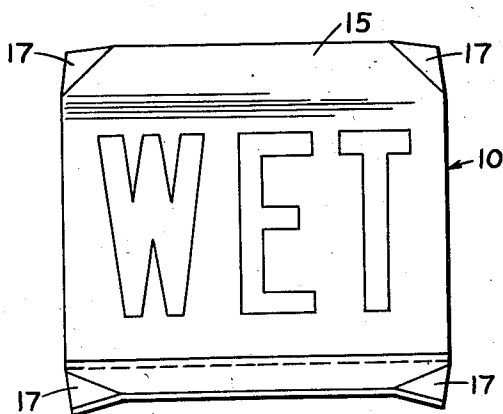


FIG. 2.

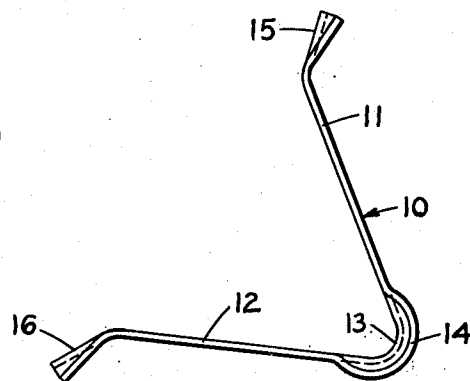


FIG. 3

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HIGHWAY PAINTED LINE MARKER

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3 Claims. (Cl. 40-125)

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This invention relates to signs, and more particularly to warning signs used to mark prohibited zones, such as freshly painted lines on highways.

It is the custom for road maintenance men to paint on hard surfaced roads warning marks, such as center line stripes, curve indicating arrows, and the like. Although quick drying paints are usually employed, an appreciable period elapses after the application of the paint before it is dry enough to permit vehicles to travel on the painted surface. Accordingly, it is customary to place various types of warning devices, such as flags mounted on standards, at intervals along the painted lines.

Devices previously have not been particularly satisfactory. They have been relatively expensive and have been easily broken if struck by vehicles. They are frequently knocked out of position by passing cars, if not by direct contact with the vehicle, by the rush of air set up by rapidly moving automobiles and trucks.

The present invention eliminates the principal disadvantages of previous warning devices of this general character.

The objects of the invention are to provide a warning sign of inexpensive construction, relatively hard to displace from its set position, not easily damaged, and easy to repair if not seriously damaged.

These objects will more fully appear, and other objects will become apparent in the following specification, when read in connection with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a warning sign embodying the invention;

Figure 2 is a front elevational view thereof; and

Figure 3 is an end elevational view of the sign. The sign, designated in its entirety by numeral 10, is of relatively simple construction. It is preferably formed from a rectangular blank of relatively heavy gauge sheet steel. The blank is pressed or bent into a V-shape, as seen in Figure 3. It comprises two legs 11 and 12 forming approximately a 45° angle between them and joining each other in a curve 13 of relatively short radius. The metal at the two extremities of the junction is flared outwardly at 14 for a purpose which will appear presently.

The free extremities of both legs 11 and 12 of the sign are flanged laterally outwardly at 15 and 16 to form grips, as will be more fully pointed out subsequently.

The free corners of each flange 15 and 16 are

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bent slightly outwardly, as indicated at 17. The corners 17 provide points which have a tendency to dig into the road surface, as well as to aid in supporting the body of the sign above and free of the freshly painted stripe.

The sign is painted with a good quality paint, preferably of a dark color. On both surfaces of each leg a warning mark is painted in a color contrasting well with the background. The warning marks may be a word such as the word "Wet" indicated in the drawings, or a "bull's-eye" or other suitable mark. If a word, the bottoms of the warning marks should adjoin the vertex of the angle formed between the legs.

The signs are placed over a freshly painted stripe 18 on the highway, as shown in Figure 1. The stripe is indicated in broken lines. The points 17 on leg 12 and the ends of the flared portions 14 rest upon the road surface, straddling the painted stripe 18 and supporting the main body of the sign clear of the stripe. The warning marks on the leg 11 are then in a position to be read by the driver of a vehicle approaching from either direction.

The points 17 and the edges of the flared portions 14 tend to dig into the road surface sufficiently to prevent the sign from turning in a horizontal plane, thus keeping the sign always facing correctly. The points 17 also minimize movement of the sign longitudinally of the stripe.

The shape of the sign, a 45° V, is such that the center of gravity is located near enough to the center of the ground side leg to minimize overturning. However, if the rush of air set up by a passing car is sufficient to overturn the sign, it simply tips over to a position where the leg 11 rests on the road and leg 12 is in the air. The sign can be set up either way, and will merely topple back and forth occasionally as passing cars pass too close. It will not take the position of an inverted V.

The flanges 15 and 16 provide grips by which the signs can be easily picked up. Usually when center lines are painted on rural highways it is desirable to drop the signs and gather them up from a slowly moving pick-up truck. A man on the truck can easily grasp the signs by either grip that is uppermost.

The dimensions of the sign are such as to straddle a painted stripe of the normal width, and to permit vehicles to pass directly over the signs between the wheels of the vehicle.

The signs can be nested and a great many carried in a small space. Also, if actually struck by an auto and flattened out, they can be readily

bent back to their original shape. Being stamped or bent from sheet metal, they are easily fabricated.

The uses of the invention are numerous, and of course, the shape thereof can be varied considerably without departing from the spirit of the invention. Accordingly, the invention is to be limited only by the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A warning sign adapted to be placed on a roadway to mark a painted line consisting of a symmetrical one piece body formed of material of sufficient rigidity to retain its shape under normal conditions of use, said body comprising two rectangular side walls intersecting in an acute angle, said body having projections only at the lateral extremities of the apex and the corners of the free edges of said side walls extending outwardly from the planes of the side walls to support all of said body except the extremities of the projections clear of a surface on which said body rests.

2. A warning sign adapted to be placed on a roadway to mark a painted line consisting of a symmetrical one piece body formed of material of sufficient rigidity to maintain its shape under normal conditions of use, said body comprising two rectangular side walls intersecting in an acute angle, the free edges of said side walls being flanged outwardly away from each other, said body having projections only at the lateral extremities of the apex and the corners of the free edges of said flanges extending outwardly

away from the planes of the flanges to support all of said body except the extremities of the projections clear of a surface on which said body rests.

3. A warning sign adapted to be placed on a roadway to mark a painted line consisting of a symmetrical one piece body comprising two rectangular side walls intersecting in an acute angle, the lateral extremities of the apex of said body being flared outwardly from the planes of the side walls and the corners of the free edges of each of said side walls being bent outwardly from the planes of the side walls away from the opposite side wall to provide relatively sharp projections.

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