Oct. 1, 1940. W. B. STEHLIN 2,216,424

GREETING LIGHT

Filed June 7, 1939

Fig. 1.

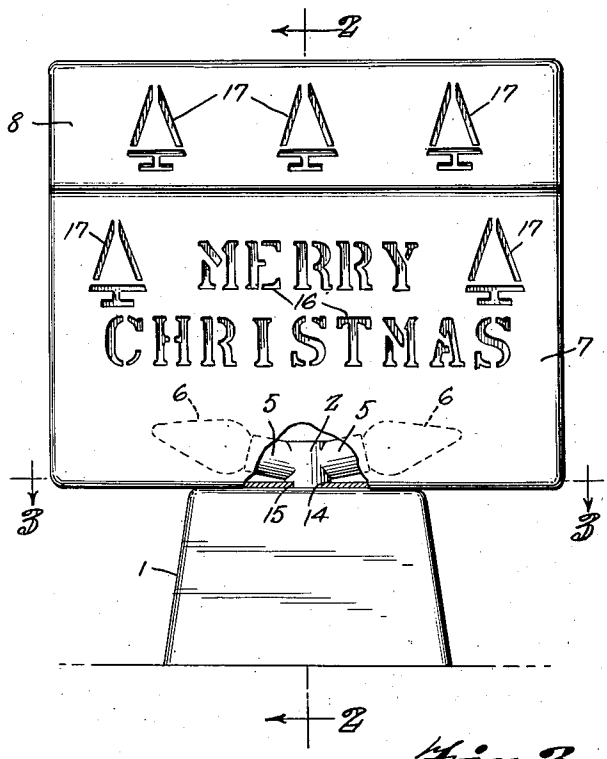


Fig. 2.

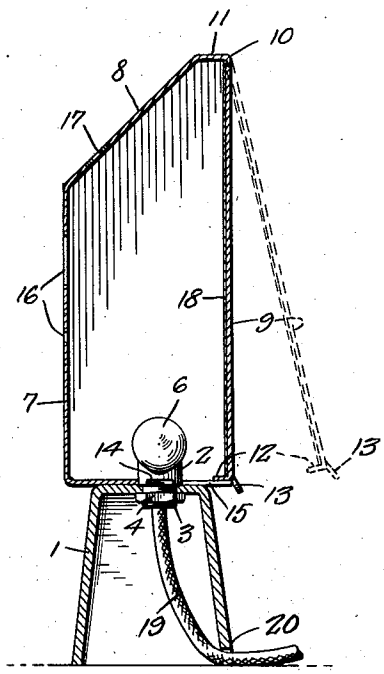


Fig. 3.

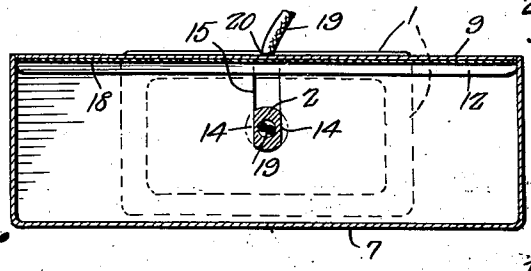


Fig. 5.

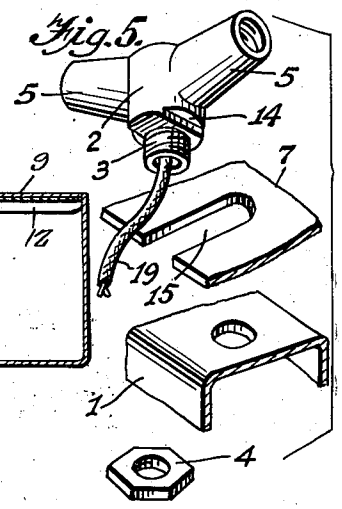
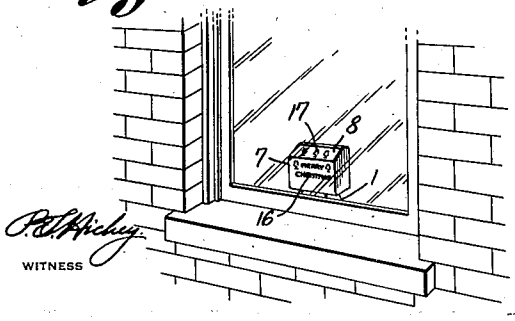


Fig. 4.



WITNESS

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GREETING LIGHT

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Application June 7, 1939, Serial No. 277,918

3 Claims. (Cl. 40—133)

This invention relates to illuminable display devices and more particularly to a greeting light to be placed on a window sill or other support for display.

The invention has for its principal object to produce a device of its character which is simple in structure, economically manufactured and fanciful and attractive in appearance.

A particular object is to provide a base unit with lighting means thereon and having provision for the detachable and interchangeable mounting of different removable lantern bodies or shades thereon.

With the foregoing objects in view and certain advantages to be attained as will hereinafter more fully appear, the invention consists in the general structure and parts and combinations and arrangements of parts thereof as hereinafter described and set forth in the appended claims, reference being had to the accompanying drawing illustrating a practical adaptation of the invention, in which—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of the device with portions broken away and shown in section to illustrate internal structural features;

Figure 2 is a vertical section on the line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a horizontal section on the line 3—3 of Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a pictorial view illustrating the device placed for display in a window; and

Figure 5 is a view, on an enlarged scale, showing details of parts of the lamp socket, base and lantern casing, the respective elements being detached but illustrative of their cooperative connection in the assembled structure shown in the other figures of the drawing.

Referring now to the drawing the numeral 1 designates a hollow base made of any suitable material but preferably "Bakelite" or kindred material. As shown, the base is generally oblong with an open bottom and having upwardly convergent side and end walls and a flat top. Mounted on the top of the base 1 midway between its ends and to one side of the longitudinal axis thereof is an electric socket member 2, the main body portion of which is generally cylindrical and provided with a reduced shank 3 which is fitted in an aperture provided therefor in the top of the base, said shank being screw-threaded and of a length to receive thereon a securing nut 4 which is tightened against the under side of the top of the base (see Figure 2). Obviously, the socket 2 and base 1 may be cast in one piece and the socket may be of either the single or multiple lamp receptacle type, but, preferably as shown, it is of the double receptacle type, having the diametrically opposed upwardly inclined receptacle portions 5 in each of which a light bulb 6 is placed, the object being to locate the source of light close to the bottom of a lantern body or shade 7 constituting the display portion of the device and constructed and applied to the base as will now be described.

The lantern body or shade 7, which is preferably made of cardboard or other suitable opaque material, may be obviously constructed of translucent material, the only particular difference being that in the use of opaque material the indicia to be displayed is produced by punching or cutting out the letters, characters or other representations, while in the use of the translucent material the indicia is printed opaquely on the material or separate pieces constituting the indicia may be applied to the translucent body by a suitable adhesive. The lantern body or shade 7 may be of any desirable fanciful form, but for the particular greeting purposes as shown, the major body portion is of general oblong or rectangular form having square side, end and bottom walls, but the top being preferably inclined, as at 8, whereby to break the continuity of plain flatness and give a more fanciful front appearance to the device.

In the structure shown, the entire rear wall 9 of the lantern body or shade 7 is free at its opposite vertical and bottom margins from the adjacent marginal portions of the end and bottom walls of the body 7, said rear wall 9 being hingedly attached at its top marginal portion 10 to the adjacent horizontal top portion 11 of the body 7, preferably by having said wall 9 as an integral extension of the top portion 11 and scoring the material along the line where the hinge effect is to be obtained, or, obviously, said rear wall 9 may be made as a separate piece hingedly attached to the body portion 11 by the interposition of a strip of flexible material or any other obvious expediency. As shown, the hinged rear wall 9 is provided at its bottom edge with an inturned flange or angular lip 12 which enters the body 7 and rests upon the bottom thereof in the closed position of said hinged will 9, and for convenience in moving the wall 9 into closed and opened position the wall is also provided with a tab or handle piece 13. In this connection, it is also noted that the vertical margins of the hinged wall 9 may or may not be flanged, as desired, similarly to the flange 12, depending upon the

inherent stiffness and form retentive qualities of the material of which the wall is made.

For the purpose of detachably mounting the lantern body or shade 7 on the base 1, the body portion of the electric socket member 2 is grooved on opposite sides to provide parallel slideways 14 extending transversely of the base 1, the bottoms of the grooves being flush with the top face of the base and the distance between the adjacent top face portions of the base and the top walls of the grooves being approximately equal to the thickness of the bottom of the lantern body or shade 7 and preferably slightly less in such dimension so that the adjacent edge portions of said body bottom at opposite sides of a transverse open-ended slot 15 in the bottom are placed under a certain amount of compression whereby the lantern body or shade 7 is frictionally held in place upon the base 1 after forcing the body into position with the slotted portion 15 straddling the reduced intermediate portion of the socket member 2, the forcible attaching and removing operation of the lantern body or shade 7 being of course effected with the rear wall 9 in opened position.

In the device as illustrated in the drawing the vertical front wall of the lantern body or shade 7 bears the legend "Merry Christmas," the letters thereof being punched out by the conventional stenciling process, as at 16, and associated with the legend are cutaway simulations of trees, as at 17, which simulations are also provided in the inclined top portion 8 of the lantern or shade body. As shown, the cutaway characters are left uncovered. However, it is obvious that they may be covered with colored translucent material placed thereover on the inner faces of the adjacent wall portions of the body. In order to provide a reflecting surface on the rear wall 9 of the lantern or shade body an inner lining sheet 18 of tinfoil or other suitable material is applied to the wall by an adhesive or such characteristic surface may otherwise be provided. In this connection, it is here pointed out that with the location of the light bulbs 6 close to the bottom of the lantern body or shade and at least in a plane below the illuminable indicia, the light is balanced and distributed evenly within the lantern body or shade and delivered through the cutaway indicia by reflection rather than directly from the source. As shown, the extension cord 19 by which the electric lamp socket member 2 is attached to the conventional electrical outlet is passed through a notch 20 provided in the bottom edge portion of the rear wall of the hollow base 1. By this provision there is no interference by the cord in the placement of the base 1 on a window sill or other supporting surface.

In accordance with the invention the lantern body or shade 7 may be made in different sizes so as to fit in nested relation the one within the other for storage and shipping convenience, and each bearing a different greeting legend or indicia appropriate to different seasons or occasions and applied interchangeably to a single base 1, inasmuch as the slotted bottom portions of the lantern body or shade may be accordingly produced in like dimensions. That is to say, one lantern body or shade will have the legend "Merry Christmas" thereon, another bearing the legend "Happy New Year," and so on.

While the structure illustrated and herein described embodies a practical adaptation of the invention, it is obvious that considerable modification and alteration may be made therein without departing from the invention as defined in the appended claims. The invention, therefore, is not limited to the specific construction and arrangement shown.

What is claimed is:

1. An illuminable display device of the character described, comprising a portable supporting base provided with an upstanding lamp socket element on its top, and a detachable lantern casing mounted on said supporting base and having a detachable retentive engagement directly with the lamp socket element on the base and the lamp-receiving portion of the element being disposed within the casing.

2. In an illuminable display device of the character described, a portable supporting base having a flat top, lighting means including an electric socket member mounted on the base top and projecting upwardly therefrom, and a hollow lantern body detachably mountable on said base, said body having an openable side wall and a transverse open-ended slot in its bottom wall extending inwardly from its opening side to straddle said socket member in slidable interlocking engagement therewith and the bottom of the lantern body resting flatwise on the base top, a side wall portion of the lantern body opposed to the openable side wall thereof having characteristic indicia thereon, said indicia being displayed with intensified contrast by the passage of light through the carrying wall from within the lantern body.

3. In an illuminable display device of the character described, a hallow open-bottomed base having upwardly convergent side and end walls and a flat top wall, one of the side walls having a notched lower edge portion, the top wall having an aperture therein, lighting means including an electric socket member having a shank portion inserted in the apertured top portion of the base and held in place by a securing nut impinging the under side of the base top wall, said socket member having parallel grooves in its opposite sides extending transversely of the base top with the bottoms of the grooves flush with the base top, and a hollow lantern body detachably mounted on the base, said body having an openable side wall and an open-ended slot in its bottom wall extending inwardly from its opening side, said slotted portion of the bottom wall straddling said socket member with the edge portions slidably fitted in the parallel grooves of the socket member and the adjacent bottom portions of the lantern body slidably supported on the base top, the wall portion of the lantern body opposed to the openable wall thereof having characteristic indicia thereon, said indicia being displayed with intensified contrast by the passage of light through the carrying wall from within the body.

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