Oct. 11, 1960 S. A. BAHR 2,956,262

APPARATUS FOR PARKING VEHICLES

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Fig. 1.

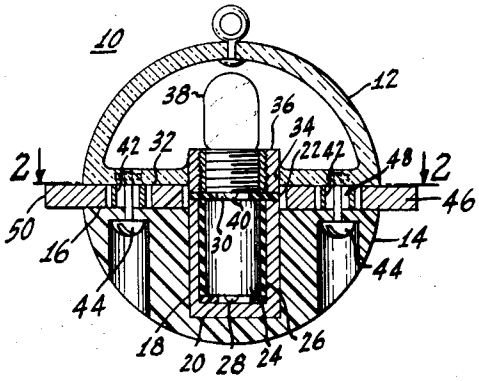
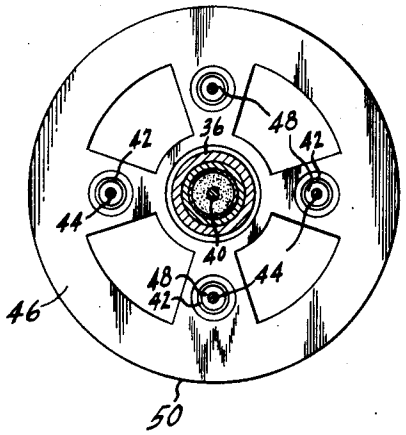


Fig. 2.



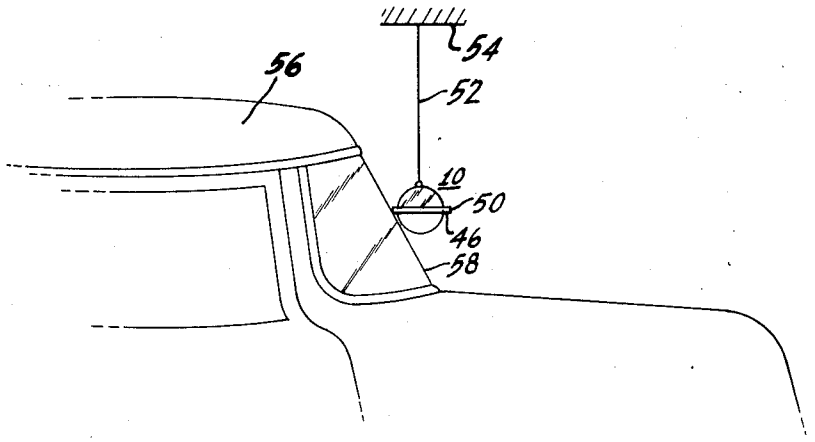


Fig. 3.

INVENTOR.
SIMON A. BAHR
BY
Robert A. Green
ATTORNEY

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APPARATUS FOR PARKING VEHICLES

Simon A. Bahr, 109 Laurence Ave., Highland Park, N.J.

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4 Claims. (Cl. 340—61)

This invention relates to the art of parking vehicles and, particularly, to an apparatus for parking vehicles accurately and safely in a limited parking area.

At the present time, it is difficult to park vehicles in a location where the vehicle approaches a wall or other obstacle as it is being parked. Generally, the driver strikes the wall before the desired parking position has been reached.

The objects of the invention concern the provision of a new and improved apparatus for parking vehicles accurately and safely in a desired location.

In general, the apparatus of the invention comprises a generally ball-like member having a transparent body portion in which is embedded a light bulb which is operated by a small electrical cell. The light bulb and the cell are axially aligned and an annular metal plate is slidably positioned coaxial with them and is adapted to slide into contact with them and to complete the electrical circuit which causes the light bulb to light. According to the invention, the ball, with the contact plate out of contact with the light bulb and the cell, is suspended over the selected parking area and it is so positioned that when a vehicle is driven into the correct parking position, it strikes the ball and the slidable contact plate. The contact plate is thus caused to complete the electrical circuit whereby the bulb lights up and the driver is aware that the vehicle is properly parked.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a sectional elevational view of a device embodying the principles of the invention;

Fig. 2 is a plan view along the section line 2—2 in Fig. 1; and

Fig. 3 is an elevational view of the device of Fig. 1 shown in its relation to a vehicle which is properly parked by means of the device.

Referring to the drawing, a device **10** for facilitating the parking of a vehicle, according to the invention, is preferably in the shape of a ball and comprises upper and lower body portions **12** and **14**, respectively, with at least the upper portion being transparent. The two body portions may be made of plastic or any other suitable insulating material. The lower body portion **14** is generally hemispherical in form and is provided with a generally plane surface **16** and a central depression **18** therein in which a metallic cup **20** is press fit with the rim **22** of the cup at its open end projecting above the plane surface **16**. A primary cell **24** having an insulating jacket **26** is carried within the cup **20** with one terminal **28** in contact with the base of the cup **20** and the free end **30** comprising its other terminal exposed.

The upper body portion **12** is similarly hemispherical in form and has a plane surface **32** provided with a central depression **34** in which is positioned a threaded metallic sleeve **36** which carries a small light bulb **38** having its contact pin **40** exposed beyond the plane surface **32**. The free end of the sleeve **36** extends beyond the plane surface **32** of the upper body portion **12**.

The upper and lower body portions are spaced apart by sleeves **42** and are secured together by means of bolts **44** which pass through the sleeves. When so secured, the contact pin **40** of the bulb **38** is in contact with the free end **30** of the primary cell. However, the sleeve **36** and cup **20** are spaced apart so that the electrical circuit between the cell **24** and the light bulb **38** is not complete. In the space between the upper and lower body portions **12** and **14**, an annular metal contact plate **46** is slidably positioned coaxial with the bulb and cell which are substantially in axial alignment. Thus the contact plate **46** is also coaxial with the sleeve **36** and the cup **20**. The contact plate is provided with suitably shaped openings **48** which surround the sleeves **42** and allow the contact plate to move freely with respect to the metal sleeve and the metal cup. The inside diameter of the contact plate **46** is greater than the outside diameters of the metal sleeve and cup and, accordingly, when it is properly centered, the contact plate does not contact these members. However, when a force is applied to the rim of the contact plate which is designated as **50** and which projects beyond the outer surfaces of the upper and lower members or body portions of the device **10**, the plate slides into contact with the metal sleeve **36** and the metal cup **20** and completes the electrical circuit and the bulb lights up.

Referring to Fig. 3, in using the device **10**, it is suspended over the desired parking area by means of a chain or rope **52** having one end secured to the ball and its other end secured to a roof or ceiling **54** above the parking area. The ball is thus positioned so that a portion of a vehicle **56**, for example the windshield **58** strikes the ball at the desired parking location. When the vehicle strikes the ball and the contact plate **46**, the plate slides inwardly into contact with the metal sleeve **36** and cup **20** to complete the electrical circuit and cause the bulb to light up. Thus, the driver knows that the desired parking location has been reached.

What is claimed is:

1. Apparatus for parking vehicles comprising a housing consisting of two spaced apart portions, one of said portions being transparent, an electrical circuit within said housing and including a glow bulb which is visible through said transparent portion of said housing, the other of ing a discontinuity whereby said circuit is normally not completed and said bulb does not glow, a dry cell in said housing and in said electrical circuit, and electrically conductive means slidably interposed between said two portions of said housing for completing said circuit by coupling said dry cell and said bulb and causing said bulb to glow, said means extending just outside of the circumference of said housing and lying in a plane which is near the horizontal.

2. Appartus for parking vehicles comprising a ball consisting of two spaced apart portions, one of said portions being transparent, a light bulb in one of said portions and visible through said transparent portion, a primary cell in the other of said portions, an electrical circuit including said cell and said bulb, said circuit having an open portion whereby said circuit is normally not complete and said bulb does not glow, and an annular metal contact plate extending beyond the circumference of said ball and slidably positioned between said two portions and of a size sufficient to close said open portion of said circuit whereby said bulb is caused to glow.

3. Lighting apparatus comprising a two-part housing of insulating material and having a transparent portion, said housing comprising two sections secured together in spaced-apart relation, a metallic cylinder positioned in the center of said housing, said cylinder comprising two portions spaced apart and insulated from each other, one

portion carrying a glow bulb in electrical contact therewith, said bulb being oriented to transmit light through said transparent portion of said housing, the other of said two portions carrying a two terminal battery, one of said terminals being in contact with said bulb, the other terminal being in contact with the other of said two portions of said cylinder, and a metallic plate extending beyond the periphery of the housing and slidably positioned between the two sections thereof, said plate having a thickness equal to the spacing between said two sections whereby said plate may slide into contact with said two portions of said cylinder and thus complete an electrical circuit therebetween.

4. Lighting apparatus comprising a spherical housing member of insulating material and having a transparent portion, said spherical member comprising two sections secured together in spaced-apart relation, a metallic cylinder positioned in the center of said spherical member, said cylinder comprising two portions spaced apart and insulated from each other, one portion carrying a

glow bulb in electrical contact therewith, said bulb being oriented to transmit light through said transparent portion of said spherical member, the other of said two portions carrying a two terminal battery, one of said terminals being in contact with said bulb, the other terminal being in contact with the other of said two portions of said cylinder, and a metallic plate extending beyond the phriphery of said spherical member and slidably positioned between the two sections thereof, said plate having a thickness equal to the spacing between said two sections whereby said plate may slide into contact with said two portions of said cylinder and thus complete an electrical circuit therebetween.

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