July 21, 1925. 1,547,120

E. E. HAMILTON

SIGN

Filed Aug. 29, 1924

Fig. 1.

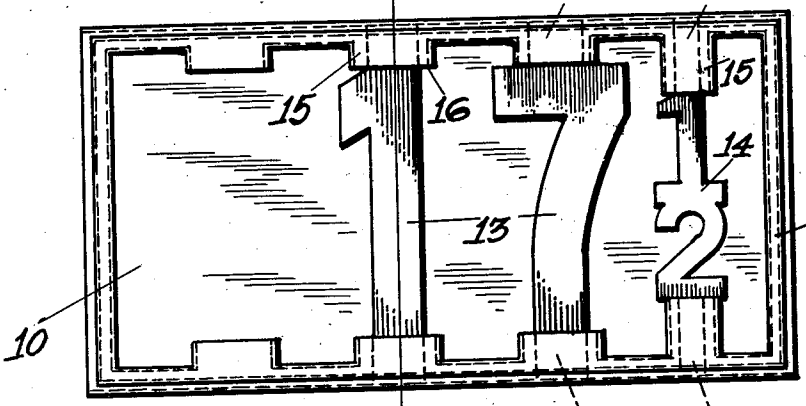


Fig. 2.

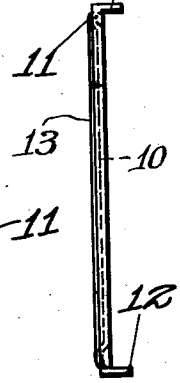


Fig. 4.

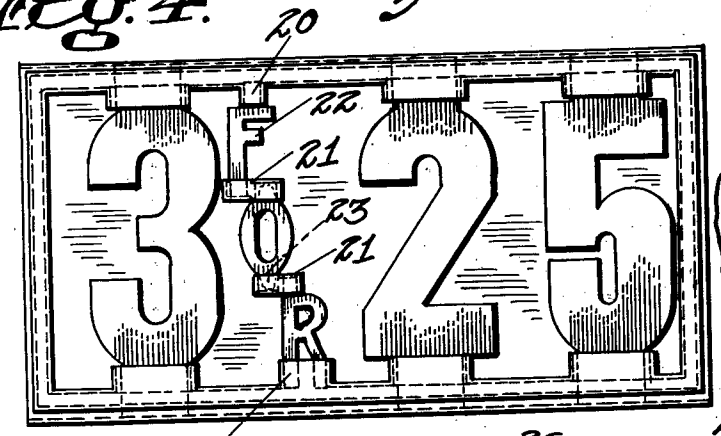
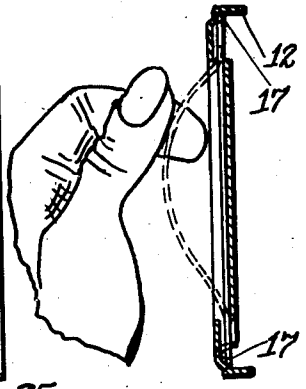


Fig. 3.



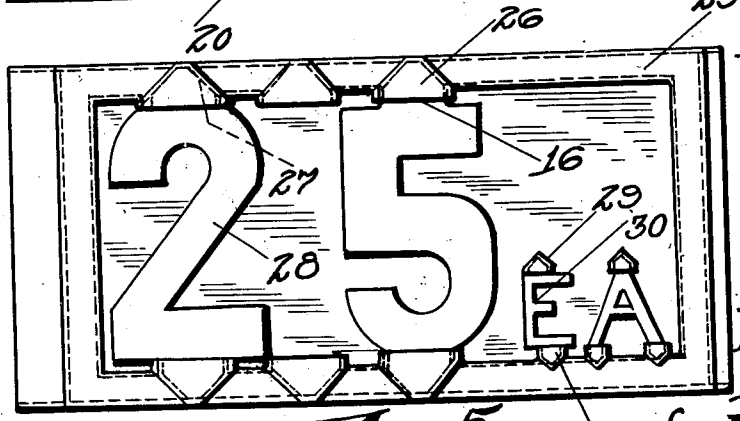


Fig. 5.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD E. HAMILTON, OF WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS.

SIGN.

Application filed August 29, 1924. Serial No. 734,921.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD E. HAMILTON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Westfield, in the county of Hampden and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Sign, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a sign supplied with removable or detachable characters so that it can be changed at the convenience of the user and can be set up in various ways so that if desired prices or other facts indicated by it can be changed at will and without inconvenience and only a single kind of character need be required.

The principal objects of the invention are to provide a neat and attractive sign that can be made of celluloid or any other composition material capable of being formed into desired shape and of thin stock and capable of being cleaned readily so that it will not get into an unsightly condition; to provide a sign of this character especially adapted for grocery and other stores to indicate prices but capable of general use; to arrange the means for connecting the detachable characters with the sign board itself in such a manner that the pockets for holding the characters will be continuous with the border of the sign and the characters themselves can be made in the simplest possible manner, that is perfectly flat; and to provide means whereby words can be formed across the sign of smaller letters or characters in any convenient way.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Fig. 1 is a front view of a sign showing a preferred embodiment of this invention applied thereto;

Fig. 2, is an end view of the same;

Fig. 3 is a sectional view on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1; and

Figs. 4 and 5 are views similar to Fig. 1 showing modifications.

I have shown the invention in the first three figures in a form in which the characters are all detachable and replaceable in any position. This sign consists of a main sign board 10 formed of a thin sheet of celluloid or the like and provided in the act of pressing or other formation with a convex bead or border 11 all around the periphery equally spaced from the edges. This is preferably made on a curvature with a short radius so that it forms an edge finish for the article. The sign board projects beyond it equally all around and at the top and bottom is bent over to form two parallel flanges 12 at right angles to the plane of the board to finish the upper and lower edges and to serve a purpose that will appear.

For the purpose of securing characters 13 and 14 in place on the board where they will be formed into the desired combinations I provide the board with a series of pockets 15. These pockets are made by cutting a slit 16 in the celluloid and pressing the body of celluloid 15 up from the level of the main part of the board into registration with the front surface of the bead 11 so that the surfaces of that and the pocket 15 are continuous. This avoids the formation of creases at this point or any other irregularity that could catch dirt and dust and forms a slot elevated above the main surface of the board 10 so that a perfectly flat character 13 can be moved in without distorting the board 10 or the character except temporarily in the act of inserting it as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 3. It might be well to state that these slits are merely cuts through the celluloid which have no width. By raising the pocket on one side of the slit a material space is provided for receiving the tab on the character.

It will be noticed that the characters 13 have projecting end tabs 17 at both ends for insertion in these pockets. These characters being perfectly flat tend naturally to lie in the proper position flat against the flat surface of the board 10 after they have been put in place and there is no force on them to cause them to get out of place. The character 14 is not materially different from the others, but is shown as indicating one use to which this invention can be put. It is shown as indicating "½" and can indicate any other combination of figures or letters. The two parts are integrally connected together and they have the tabs 17 at the ends for fitting in the tab pockets 15 which may be formed originally of such shape or length as to accommodate them. In both cases it will be seen that the entire character 13 or 14 with its tab is of a length substantially equal to the distance between the two flanges 12 as illustrated more clearly in Fig. 3. In this way the characters are held practically in place so that they will always appear right when the sign is read from the proper side the flanges cooperating

with the length of the combined character and the two tabs prevent the letter shifting up or down. This is not necessary with all letters as some of them are so shaped that they can abut against the sides as shown at the top of the numeral 7 illustrated in Fig. 1 and also the character 14, but I make all the tabs in the same way so that they will all have the same characteristics and will not shift longitudinally even if they are so shaped that they would be liable to otherwise.

By making the pockets 15 in the manner described so that their surfaces are flush with the top of the marginal bead and raising them above the surface of the plate throughout their area they present continuous smooth surfaces so that I am enabled to clean the sign very readily and keep it always in a bright and attractive condition. If it gets soiled both the character and board itself can be wiped off with a wet cloth and every kind of a stain that is likely to come upon it can be removed without difficulty.

In the form shown in Fig. 4 the parts above described are formed as has been stated, but in addition thereto I have provided small pockets 20 and 21 for receiving smaller characters 22. The characters are made as described above and the pockets 20 are just like the pockets 15, but the pockets 21 are made at intermediate points to receive the tops and bottoms of letters otherwise secured at the other end and as shown here both of the pockets 21 have provision for the entrance of a tab on a character 22 from above and another one from below. These are offset from each other so that a word can be spelled as indicated. In this case I have shown a projection 23 on the character "O" which is integral and engages against the top of the pocket 21 to prevent sliding motion as a substitute for the flanges 12 as previously described.

In the form shown in Fig. 5, I have shown a similar main board with a slightly modified border 25 having a series of pockets 26 of a general triangular shape located in pairs opposite each other for receiving triangular tabs 27 on the ends of the characters 26. On account of the triangular shape these tabs can fit into the pockets and they will serve to prevent the shifting of the characters in all directions. In this case as in the other the main board is perfectly plain inside and the celluloid is raised to form pockets, the slit being really an opening in the plane of the main surface of the board. When viewed from the back the tabs which are in the same plane as the characters, shown on the rear as indicated in Fig. 3. In this case I have also shown similar small pockets 29 for receiving the tabs of smaller characters 30 for the purpose which, in view of the explanation of the other figures, will be obvious. Most of these pockets, as indicated, are formed on the border 25 and may project above it, as indicated, or lie in the same plane.

In all the forms shown a very simple sign is provided in which the characters can be removed and replaced by others to indicate changes in prices and the like in a very simple manner. The characters themselves are very inexpensive because they are merely cut out of flat thin celluloid in any desired color and do not have to be bent or pressed in any way. All the press work comes on the sign board itself and it is always of such a simple character that it will all be performed in a single operation and the slits made also at the same time. Also the formation of the pockets in the sides of the bead 11 or border 25 is a feature of importance because that permits the tabs to go in under this bead or border where there is room for it and avoids the necessity of providing a wide slit or bending the letters. Several ways are also shown for adapting this invention for indicating prices which makes it possible to use this system throughout all the departments of a store selling varied kinds of goods.

Although I have illustrated and described only three forms of the invention I am aware of the fact that other modifications can be made therein by any person skilled in the art without departing from the scope of the invention as expressed in the claims. Therefore I do not wish to be limited to all the details of construction herein shown and described, but what I do claim is:—

1. As an article of manufacture, a sign comprising a main sign board or plate formed of sheet celluloid and having an integral raised border around the periphery and having a series of pockets projecting inwardly from said border and of substantially the same thickness, the plate having a slit through it at the end of each of said pockets, and detachable characters, each consisting of a flat piece of celluloid having a projection therefrom at each end for entering the pockets at the edges of said slits, whereby said characters can lie flat on the surface of said board or plate and the projections at their ends will lie in the same plane but will be concealed by the pockets.

2. As an article of manufacture, a sign comprising a main sign board or plate formed of sheet celluloid and having an integral border around the periphery raised into a plane in front of the plane of the central part of the said border or plate and having a series of pockets projecting inwardly from said border and of substantially the same thickness, the plate having a slit through it at the end of each of said pockets, and detachable characters, each

consisting of a flat piece of sheet material having a tab projecting therefrom at each end for entering the pockets at the edges of said slits, whereby said characters can lie flat on the surface of said border plate, and the tabs or projections at their ends will lie in the same plane but will be concealed by the pockets, said board or plate having integral flanges extending at right angles to the plane of the same at the top and bottom and spaced apart a distance substantially equal to the entire length of each character including its end tabs, whereby the characters are prevented from moving lengthwise.

3. As an article of manufacture, a sign comprising a main sign board or plate formed of sheet material having a series of pockets, the plate having a slit through it at the end of each of said pockets, and detachable characters, each consisting of a flat piece of sheet material having a tab projecting therefrom at each end for entering the pockets, said board or plate having integral flanges extending at right angles to the plane of the same at the top and bottom and spaced apart a distance substantially equal to the entire length of each character including its end tabs, whereby the characters are prevented from moving lengthwise.

4. As an article of manufacture, a sign comprising a main sign board or plate of sheet material having pairs of slits oppositely located at its upper and lower sides near the edges thereof, the material of which the board is made being raised on the outer side of each slit to form a space, characters adapted to be detachably located on the board each having a projection or tab extending beyond the same and adapted to enter the raised portions through the slits, each character extending all the way from a slit at the top to a slit at the bottom, means for preventing longitudinal shifting of the characters, and a series of pockets located in pairs between the upper and lower edges of the plate and being formed from integral bodies of the material thereof, each one located intermediate between the edges of the board having two pockets one opening down and the other up to receive characters between them and hold the same.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto affixed my signature.

EDWARD E. HAMILTON.