April 1, 1924. 1,488,840

G. W. SCOTT

LICENSE PLATE COLOR COMBINATION INDICATOR

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Fig. 1.

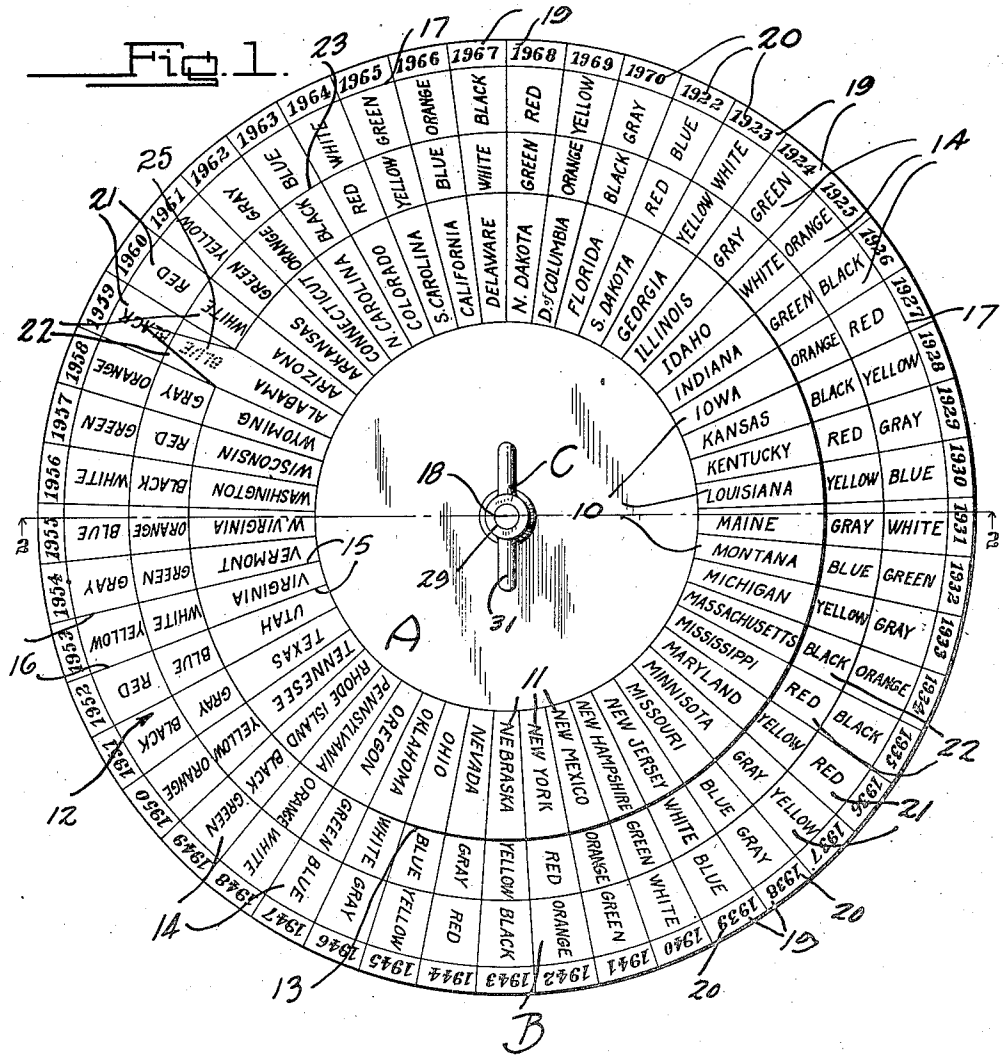
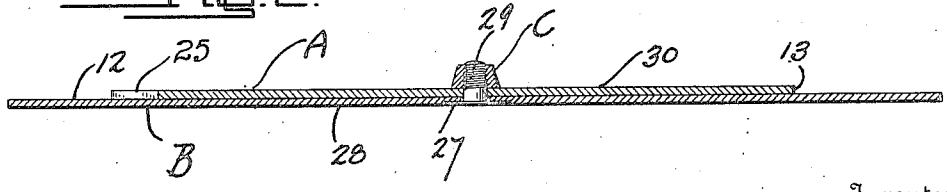


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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LICENSE-PLATE COLOR-COMBINATION INDICATOR.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GILBERT W. SCOTT, a citizen of the United States, residing at La Salle, in the county of La Salle and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in License-Plate Color-Combination Indicators, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a device for determining the color combination of a license tag for automotive vehicles, for any geographic subdivision of a country.

The prime object of the invention is the provision of a device for chronological arrangement of a uniform system of automotive vehicle registration throughout a country.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a device of the above described character for use in a country, geographically subdivided, and which embodies a color combination, for each geographic subdivision, for any period of time, being so systematically arranged that the color combination of any geographical subdivision for a certain period of time can be accurately determined by either knowing the year or the color combination for any single geographic subdivision.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a system of the above described character, which could be enacted by Federal statutes in a country, and used by the public authorities, in the immediate determination of the particular geographic subdivision to which a vehicle belongs; which if adopted by the United States would avoid confusion, mistakes, and in many cases avoid wrongs now incident to interstate travel and due to lack of a uniform system of Federal vehicle registration.

Further objects and advantages will be apparent during the course of the following detailed description.

In the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, and in which like reference characters designate like parts throughout the same:

Figure 1 is a plan view of the improved license plate color combination indicator.

Figure 2 is a cross sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1.

In the drawings, wherein for the purpose of illustration is shown a preferred embodiment of my invention, the letter A designates in a flat circular disc, which has a plurality of geographical subdivisions thereon, and which is rotatably mounted upon a disc B having a plurality of different color combinations, in number equal to the geographic subdivisions, upon the disc A. Means C is provided for clamping the disc A to the disc B and is so adjustable as to permit rotation of the disc A with respect to the disc B.

The disc A is circular in formation and is provided upon its marginal circumference with a plurality of subdivisions 10, of equal degree, there being a name or some indentifying mark 11 in each subdivision, or segment 10, which designates a particular geographic subdivision of any country in which the improved device might be used; it being understood that the total number of geographic subdivisions as indicated upon the disc A will comprise those districts and States which have authority or are given authority to maintain a separate vehicle registration, which would be a unit in the national system as outlined under this invention.

The disc B is relatively larger than the disc A and is circular, the two discs A and B being concentrically arranged upon the clamping mechanism C in such manner that a circumferential portion 12 will project outwardly from the outer edge 13 of the disc A. The circumferential extending portion 12 is subdivided into a plurality of segments, of equal degree, and in number equal to the segments as outlined on the geographic divisions upon the disc A, it being understood, of course, that the boundary lines 15 which subdivide any one geographic district from the others will align with any two boundary lines 16, which form a subdivision upon the portion 12; since the boundary lines 15 and 16 are in reality struck from the centers of the discs A and B. Each of the segmental divisions 14 upon the disc B is further subdivided, along the outward marginal circumference of the portion 12 by a circle 17, struck upon, or cut into the plate C, and scribed from the axis 18 of the disc A; and in each of which subdivisions, an equal period of time is marked, as one year, and in chronological arrangement around the circumference of the disc B. The remaining portions of each segment 14 is further subdivided into sections 21 and 22, by a circle 23 scribed or cut into the face of the disc B and struck from the axis

18 of the discs A and B. Each of the sections 21 and 22 of the subdivisions 14 contain a distinct and individual color, the colors being so arranged and combined that no two segmental subdivisions 14 have the same color combinations as to cause confusion. The sections 21 of the various subdivisions 14 are provided to contain that color which will appear upon the various license tags as a back ground color, in contra-distinction to the colors appearing in the sections 22 upon the various subdivisions 14, and which colors appearing in the sections 22 designate the colors which will appear upon the numerals themselves. It will thus be seen that a color combination appears in each segment 14, which is distinct and separate from any other color combination each of which color combinations has a year or period of time designated in the sections 19 forming a part of the subdivisions 14.

An indicator or pointer 25 is preferably rigidly disposed with respect to the disc A, and may be integral with one of the subdivisions appearing upon the disc A, the pointer 25 extending outwardly from the edge 13 of the disc A and overlying the portion 12 of the disc B.

The retaining means C for rotatably mounting the disc A upon the disc B comprises a substantially flat portion 27, disposed within an indentation provided in the under surface 28 of the disc B and provided centrally with an upwardly projecting screw threaded shank 29 adapted to extend through suitable apertures defining the axis of the disc A and B, in such manner that the screw threaded portion of the shank 29, extends upwardly from the top surface 30 of the disc A. A wing nut 31, is adapted for adjustable engagement with the screw threaded portion of the shank 29 and adapted to be rotated for clamping the disc A securely to the disc B, or for loosening the same upon the shank 29 to permit of rotation of the disc A with respect to the disc B, as desired.

Since the subdivisions 14 appearing upon the disc B are equal in degree and in number to the subdivisions 10 which appear upon the disc A, it follows that when one of the subdivisions 10 is aligned with any one of the subdivisions 14 that all of the remaining subdivisions 10 will each one align with any one of the remaining subdivisions 14. Thus if a person desires to know what the color combination of the State of Texas, of the United States was for the year 1922; and the indicator 25 appears upon the subdivisions 10 designating the State of Alabama; it would merely be necessary to point the indicator 25 to the year 1922 in that subdivision upon which it appears, and the color combination appearing in that segmental subdivision 14 which is opposite the segmental subdivisions 10 containing the geographic designation "Texas" would be the proper color combination for the State of Texas for the year 1922.

Due to the fact that the abbreviations of States and districts are sometimes unintelligible as printed upon license tags and due to the fact that in the United States, some States adopt the same color combinations upon the license tags for the same period of time, it has been impossible for the authorities in one State to definitely apprehend to what State a vehicle belonged, the occupants of which had been guilty of an offense and made their escape; although the authorities might even have secured the color combination and license tag number. By reason of the above device, a determination of the particular State could be readily effected, it being merely necessary to point the indicator 25 to the segment 14, which denoted the period of time 20 for which the license plate was issued. An observation of the States in the segment 10, upon the smaller disc A, which is in alignment with that segment upon the larger disc B containing the color combination which appeared on the license tag, would be the proper State or district to which the vehicle belonged.

It can be seen from the foregoing that a national system of vehicle registration would be effected which could be maintained in use, from year to year, the color combination automatically changing with the year and as designated upon the device.

It is to be understood, that the form of my invention herewith shown and described is to be taken as a preferred example of the same, and that various changes in the shape, size and arrangement of parts, may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention, or the scope of the subjoined claims.

I claim:

1. A device of the class described comprising a member provided with a plurality of color combinations arranged thereon, and a second member movable with respect to the first mentioned member having a series of geographical subdivisions thereon adapted for cooperative disposal with respect to the first mentioned member so that upon placement of any geographic subdivision in alignment with its known color combination, the true color combinations of the remaining geographical subdivisions will align therewith.

2. In an indicator, the combination of a relatively large disc having a plurality of segmental subdivisions thereon of equal degree defining a plurality of color combinations, and a second disc relatively smaller than said first mentioned disc rotatably and

concentrically disposed thereon, said second disc having a plurality of geographical subdivisions disposed thereon of equal degree and number with respect to the subdivisions of said first mentioned disc, said first mentioned disc having indicia thereon chronologically arranging the segments and color combinations thereof, said geographical subdivisions of the second mentioned discs cooperating with the color combinations and their chronological indicia whereby upon the passing of a period as defined by said chronological arrangement, said geographical subdivisions may have different color combinations than that for a preceding period.

3. A device of the class described comprising a relatively large disc member, a relatively smaller disc member concentrically pivoted upon the top surface of said larger disc member to expose an annular portion of said top surface extending from the annular edge of said smaller disc member, said exposed annular portion of the upper surface of said larger disc having radial lines subdividing this portion into a plurality of subdivisions of equal degree, said exposed annular portion of the larger disc having a circular line extending concentrically thereof inwardly of the outer edge of the said disc to provide an outer space in each subdivision of said relatively larger disc, which are adapted to receive chronologically arranged indicia, each of said subdivisions of the larger disc intermediate said circular line and annular edge of the relatively smaller disc having a color combination thereon, said smaller disc having radial subdivisions thereon of equal degree with the subdivisions of said larger disc which are adapted to receive geographical indicia thereon designating States, whereby a State may be aligned with a known color combination subdivision, so that the remaining States will designate their true color combinations on the first mentioned disc, said geographical subdivisions adapted for cooperation with the chronological arrangement on said large disc, whereby the same may have a change in color combination upon the passing of a predetermined period as defined by said chronological arrangement.

GILBERT W. SCOTT.