Sept. 30, 1930. M. SHERAS 1,776,955

SIGN

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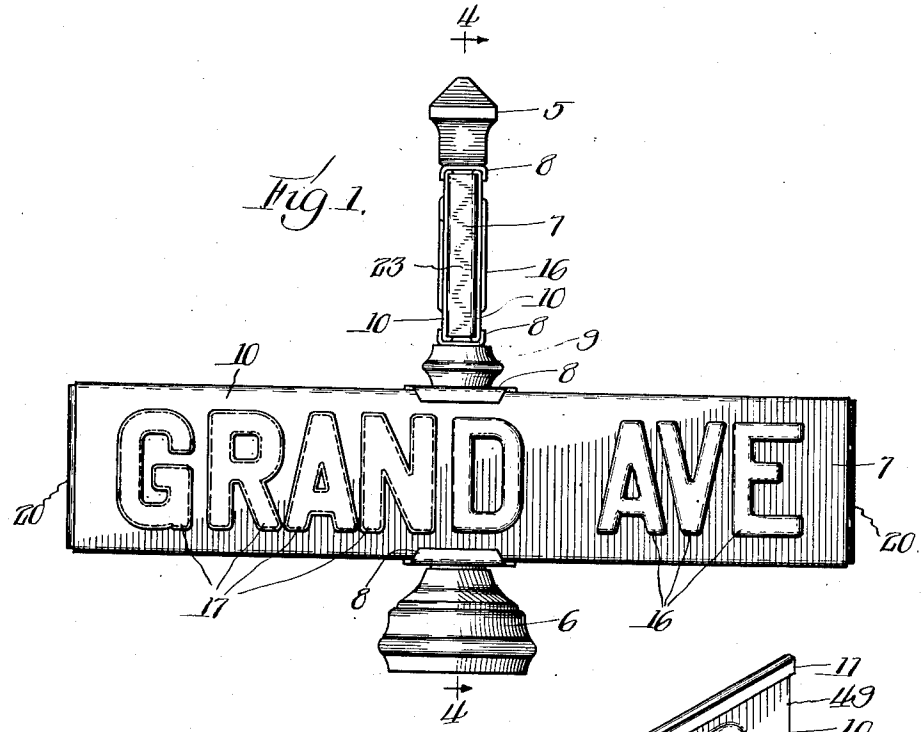


Fig. 1.

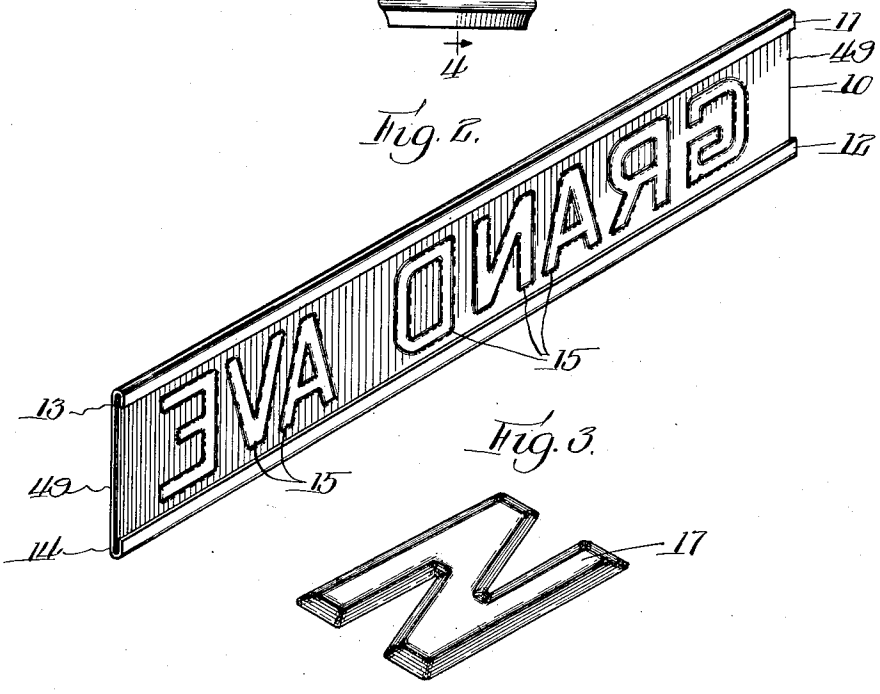


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

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Fig. 4.

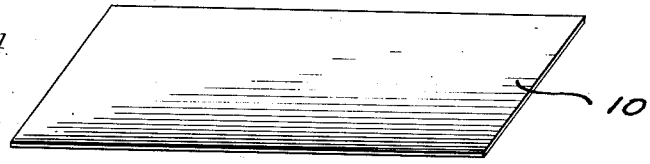


Fig. 5.

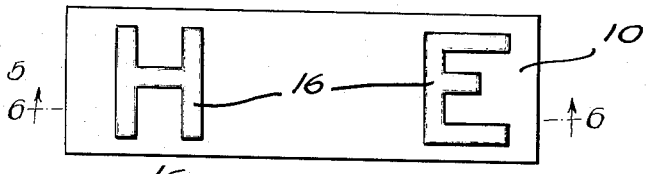


Fig. 6.



Fig. 7.

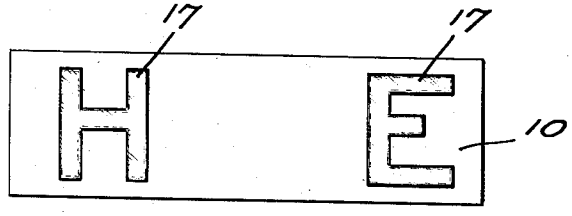


Fig. 8.

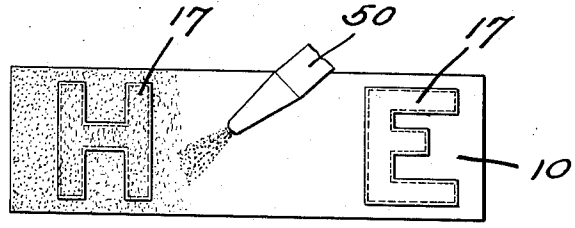


Fig. 9.

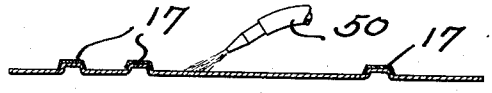
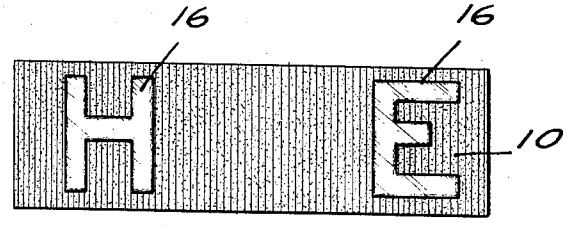


Fig. 10.



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Patented Sept. 30, 1930

1,776,955

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

MORRIS SHERAS, OF MANISTEE, MICHIGAN

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Application filed August 11, 1928. Serial No. 298,903.

This invention relates to a method of forming signs of high visibility and permanency and particularly relates to a method of painting or decorating outdoor crossing or warning signs.

The object of the present invention is to provide a sign which is suitable for outdoor usage which will not decrease in brilliancy or visibility upon weathering and which may be readily painted or redecorated in assembled or disassembled condition.

Another object of this invention is to provide a sign from an aluminum plate which is provided with raised figures of aluminum material and a background or field of a black or some other strongly contrasting color.

A further object of this invention is to provide an improved method of painting or decorating signs.

Other objects will appear during the course of the following description.

The following drawings illustrate an embodiment of the invention, to which the invention is by no means restricted.

Figure 1 represents an assembled sign showing the face plates in position;

Figure 2 represents a rear view of one of the face plates;

Figure 3 represents a view of one of the painting masks; and

Figures 4 to 10 illustrate the process of preparing the sign.

The assembled sign is shown upon Figure 1 and it contains a central pole provided with a cap element 5 and a base element 6. Centrally positioned on this central pole may be one, two or more horizontal sign elements 7, two being shown. These elements may be positioned at varying angles to each other by means of the cooperating clamps 8 and the connecting element 9. The clamps 8 are adapted to fit over the central pole and their side portions are adapted to contact and fit against the upper and lower middle outside faces of the sign elements 7. The lower part of the central pole is threaded so as to receive the base element 6 and this base element 6 when screwed in position acts to clamp the sign elements into any desired angular inter-relationship. The sign elements may also be positioned at the desired angles to each other or be clamped into position by other means than those shown.

The designating figures upon the sign elements are contained upon the face plates 10, one of which is shown in rear view, disassembled, upon Figure 2.

The face plate 10 is provided at its upper and lower horizontal sides with the bent-over edges 11 and 12 which form the grooves or runways 13 and 14. These bent-over edges and runways are utilized to assemble the face plate into the structure shown upon Figure 1. If desired, however, other means of assembling and attaching the face plate may be employed. The letters or figures are embossed on the face plate with the result that the depressed portions 15 are left at the rear of the face plate, while the raised or embossed portions 16 forming the letters or figures are positioned on the front of the face plate (see Figures 5 and 6). The display or face plate 10 is preferably made of aluminum and of one piece of metal, which is stamped into the desired shape.

Upon Figure 3 is shown one of the masks 17 which is adapted to fit over the letters of the face plate when it is desired to paint or repaint the face plate disassembled by itself or assembled in the designating device. The embossed or raised letters 16 should project a sufficient distance beyond the surface of the face plate 10 so that they will retain the mask 17 during the painting operation. Upon Figure 1 are shown four masks 17 in position upon the embossed Figures 16 (see also Figures 7, 8 and 9).

The masks are utilized and the face plates are prepared in the following manner: The sheet of metal 10 is first pressed to show the letters in relief (see Figures 5 and 6), and the raised or embossed letters 16 are polished. The field or the background is then sand blasted. The raised portions are covered by masks such as 17 and the whole face 10, including the mask 17, is painted with an air brush 50 (see Figures 7, 8 and 9). There will be no tendency for the mask 17 to fall off during this operation since the force of the paint applied by the air brush 50 tends to hold the

mask in position. These face plates 10 may be painted in this manner unassembled, or when assembled in the designating device. All other parts of the designating device including the base 6, the connecting element 9 and the top of the pole 5 are coated with a similar pigment. After the painting operation is completed the mask 17 is removed (see Figure 10). The preferred paint is black nitrocellulose lacquer such as Duco. By finishing the sign in this manner the letters or numerals have a highly polished, natural aluminum finish which contrasts sharply with the black painted field. Upon weathering, the letters or figures of the aluminum face plate take on a film or corrosion of silver grey color and still remain attractive and durable.

What is claimed is:

1. In the production of signs with metallic figures and backgrounds of contrasting color, providing a metal plate of light color, forming figures therein of such shape and character as to be able to receive and retain masks, positioning masks upon such figures, applying a contrasting color to masked metal plate and then removing the masks.

2. In the production of signs with aluminum colored figures and black fields, providing an aluminum plate, pressing said plate so that the figures will be in relief, polishing the portions in relief, covering the relief portions with masks, sand blasting the field, painting the whole face including the masks with a black pigment by means of an air-brush and removing the masks.

3. In the production of signs with metal colored figures and backgrounds of contrasting color thereto, providing a metal plate having or capable of acquiring upon weathering a light or dark appearance, providing embossed figures on said plate of such size and depth as to enable them to receive and retain masks, polishing said embossed figures, placing masks upon such figures and spray-painting the whole face including the masks with a contrasting color and removing the masks.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name.

MORRIS SHERAS.