

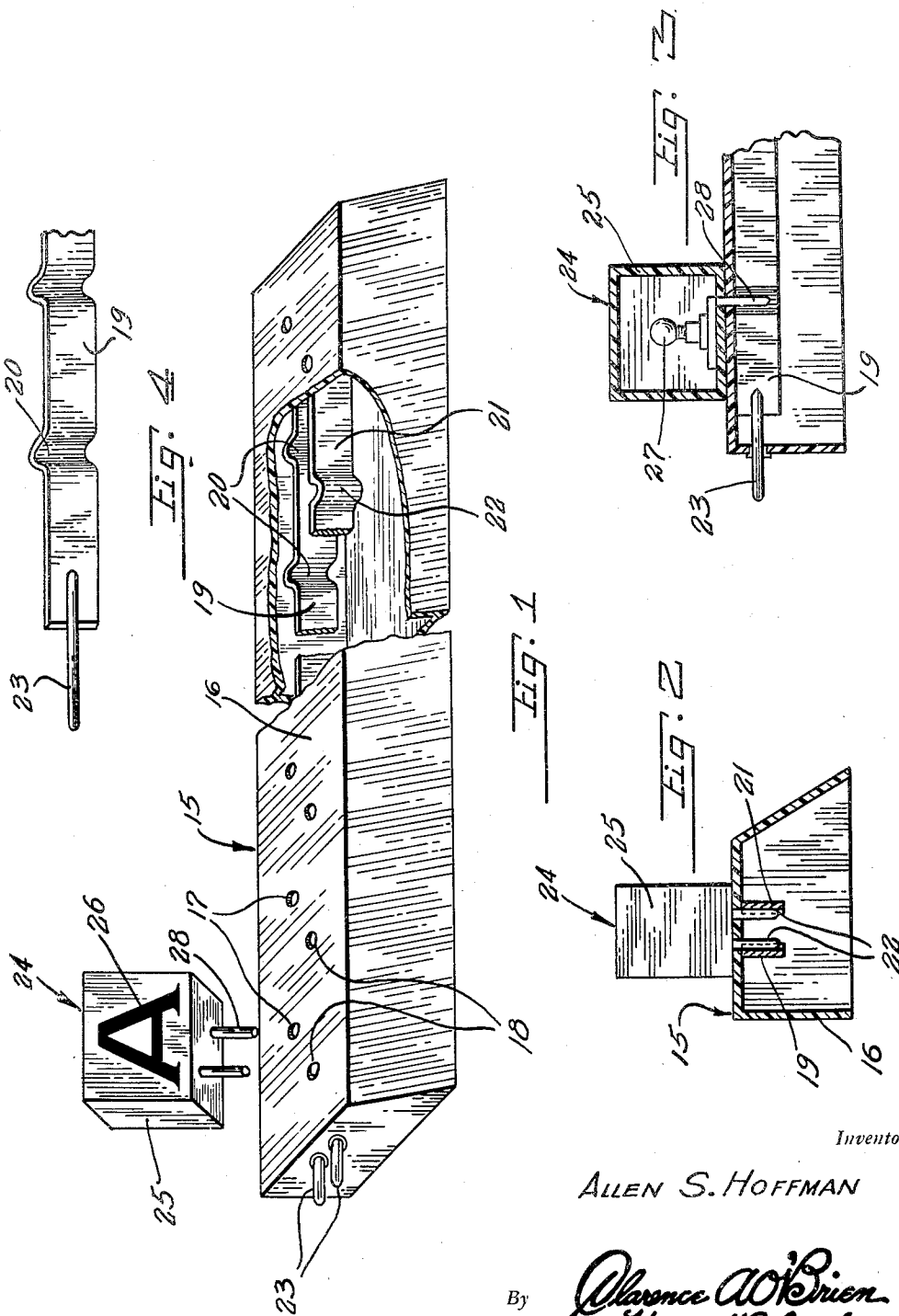
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A. S. HOFFMAN
ILLUMINATED SIGN

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Inventor

ALLEN S. HOFFMAN

By

Clarence A. O'Brien
and Harvey B. Jacobson
Attorneys

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ILLUMINATED SIGN

Allen S. Hoffman, Council Bluffs, Iowa, assignor
to Howard Sales Company, Council Bluffs,
Iowa, a copartnership

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1 Claim. (Cl. 40—130)

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This invention relates to improvements in a display device and more particularly to a changeable illuminated sign.

A primary object of the invention is to facilitate the display of menus, price lists, house numbers, and all forms of advertising matter and the like where illumination is desired.

Among its features my invention embodies a hollow box-like base having spaced rows of openings in its upper side, a contact strip extending longitudinally within the space adjacent each row of openings, contact pins attached to the contact strips and extending through one end of the base and interchangeable blocks of opaque material having at least one translucent area and containing illuminating means and contact pins carried by the bottom of each block and adapted to be extended through the openings in the space to engage the contact strips and establish communication between the contact strip and the illuminating means within the block.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a base embodying the features of this invention, portions being broken away to more clearly illustrate the details of construction.

Figure 2 is a transverse sectional view through the base illustrated in Figure 1 showing one of the blocks in place on the base.

Figure 3 is a fragmentary longitudinal view through Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a fragmentary perspective view of one of the contact strips showing the contact pin carried thereby.

Figure 5 is a front view of a built up sign embodying the features of this invention.

Figure 6 is a fragmentary sectional view through a portion of the sign illustrated in Figure 5.

Figure 7 is a fragmentary perspective view from the underside of one of the supporting columns, and

Figure 8 is a fragmentary perspective view of the underside of one of the block supporting bars.

Referring to the drawings in detail, a base designated generally 15 comprises a hollow box-like body 16 having spaced rows 17 and 18 of openings in its upper side. Arranged within the body 16 and extending longitudinally of the row 17 of spaced opening is a conductor strip 19 which as illustrated is provided at spaced intervals in alignment with the opening 17 with vertically extending indentations 20, the purpose of which will more fully hereinafter appear. A similar strip 21 having vertically extending in-

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dentations 22 extends longitudinally within the body 16 in spaced relation to the strip 19 and adjacent the row 18 of openings. Each of these strips is provided at its end with a contact pin 23 which projects through one end wall of the body 16 and is adapted to enter sockets in a suitable connector (not shown) through which electrical power is supplied to the contact strips 19 and 21. It will be understood, of course, that the body 16 is preferably formed of a suitable non-conductor or insulating material so that short circuiting between the strips 19 and 21 will be avoided.

Suitable display blocks generally designated 24 are adapted for association with the base 15 as suggested in Figures 2 and 3, and each of these blocks comprises a hollow rectangular body 25 preferably formed as a hollow rectangular box-like structure of opaque insulating material having at least on one face a panel 26 of a transparent or translucent character. As suggested in the drawings, the panel 26 may take the form of letters of the alphabet though it is to be understood that numerals as well as other figures may be carried in lieu of the letters. Mounted within the hollow box-like body 25 of each block 24 is a suitable illuminating means 27 such as an incandescent electric lamp and opposite terminals of this lamp are connected to contact pins 28 which project through the bottom wall of the box-like body 25 and are adapted to enter the openings 17 and 18 to engage the contact strips 19 and 21 preferably in the depressions 20 and 22 which are so shaped as to partially embrace the pins 28 in order to establish good electrical contact between the parts. It will be understood that the pins 28 of each block are so arranged as to be readily received within the openings 17 and 18 so that a plurality of words may be spelled out as suggested in Figure 5.

In order to build up a display sign, I provide in addition to the base 15 a plurality of columns designated generally 29, each of which comprises a substantially hollow rectangular body 30 of insulating material carrying at its lower end spaced contact pins 31. These pins are so arranged that they may be entered into the openings 17 and 18 in the base 15 and engage the conductor strips 19 and 21. Carried at the upper end of each body 30 is a pair of spaced sockets 32 which are arranged to conform to the spacing of the openings 17 as will be readily appreciated upon reference to Figure 5. It will thus be seen that should it be so desired, each column 29 may be surmounted with an illumi-

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nated block 24 so that the blocks may be arranged to attract attention to the sign.

A block supporting bar designated generally 33 is adapted to be mounted upon the upper ends of the columns 29 and this bar 33 comprises a hollow box-like body 34 having spaced rows 35 and 36 of openings which correspond in spacing to the rows 17 and 18 of openings in the base 15. Like the base 15, the body 34 contains spaced parallel conductor strips 37, one for each row 35 and 36 of openings, and depending from the contact strips 37 and projecting through the bottom wall of the box-like body 34 are contact pins 38 which are so arranged as to enter the sockets 32 in the columns 29 as will be readily understood on reference to Figure 5.

From the foregoing it will be readily understood that various combinations of letters, figures or other designs may be made by mounting the blocks 24 on the base 15 and where so desired, the columns 29 may be likewise mounted on the base 15 with the supporting bar 33 mounted on the upper ends thereof. Additional columns 29 may surmount the supporting bar 33 as suggested in Figure 5 and an infinite number of combinations may thus be produced for the purpose of displaying menus, house numbers, price lists and any other material suitable for such display.

While in the foregoing there has been shown and described the preferred embodiment of this invention it is to be understood that minor changes in the details of construction, combination, and arrangement of parts may be resorted to without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as claimed.

I claim:

In a changeable display device, a base comprising an elongated hollow box-like body of insu-

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lating material, the upper wall of said body having spaced parallel rows of uniformly spaced openings extending therethrough, elongated relatively thin narrow strips of conducting material within said body adjacent the upper wall thereof, said conductor strips lying perpendicular to said upper wall and having spaced transversely extending indentations therein which register with the openings in said upper wall, a contact pin carried by each conductor strip and extending through one end wall of the body, a plurality of individual blocks each comprising a hollow box-like body of opaque insulating material having a translucent area on at least one side face thereof, illuminating means in said block, and contact pins carried by the bottom wall of each block, said contact pins being electrically connected to the illuminating means and removably entering the openings in the base and the indentations in the conductor strips to retain the blocks in place on the base and establish electrical communication between the conductor strips and the illuminating means.

ALLEN S. HOFFMAN.

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