May 19, 1953 M. E. SCHLENKER 2,638,735

CLOCK

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Fig. 1

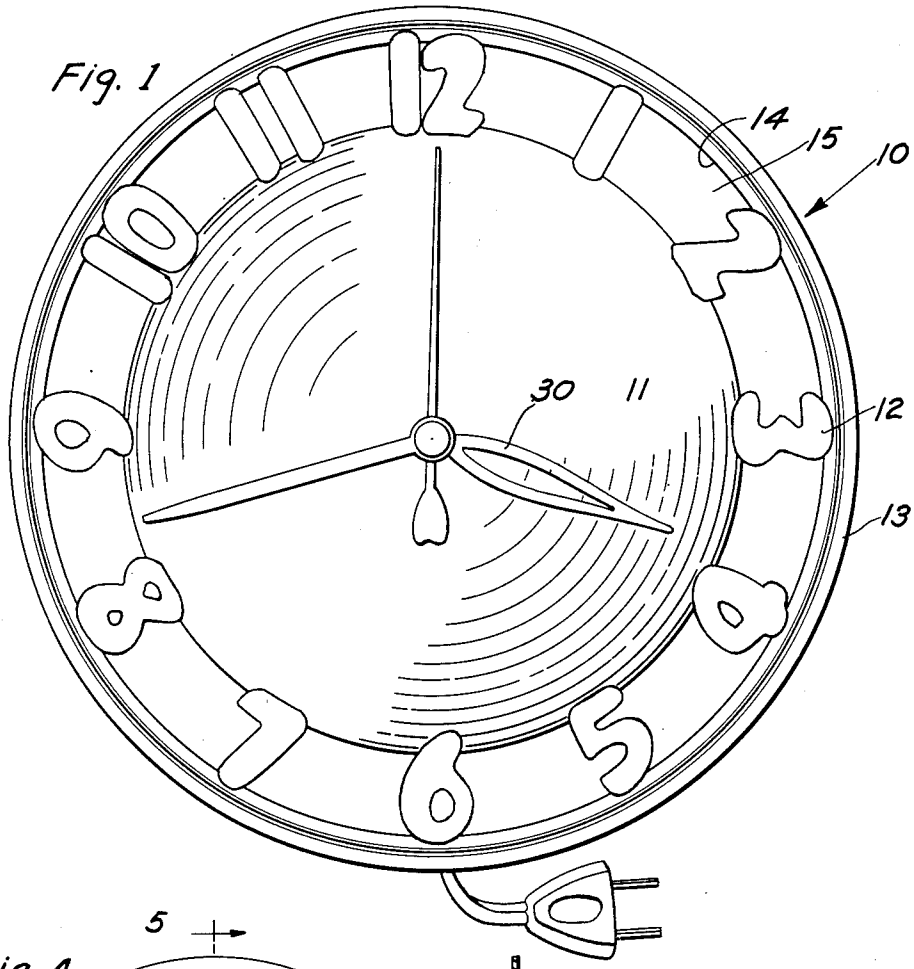


Fig. 4

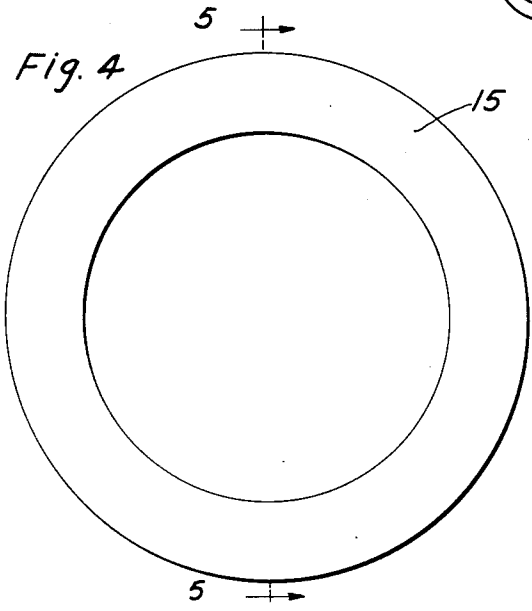


Fig. 5



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Fig. 2

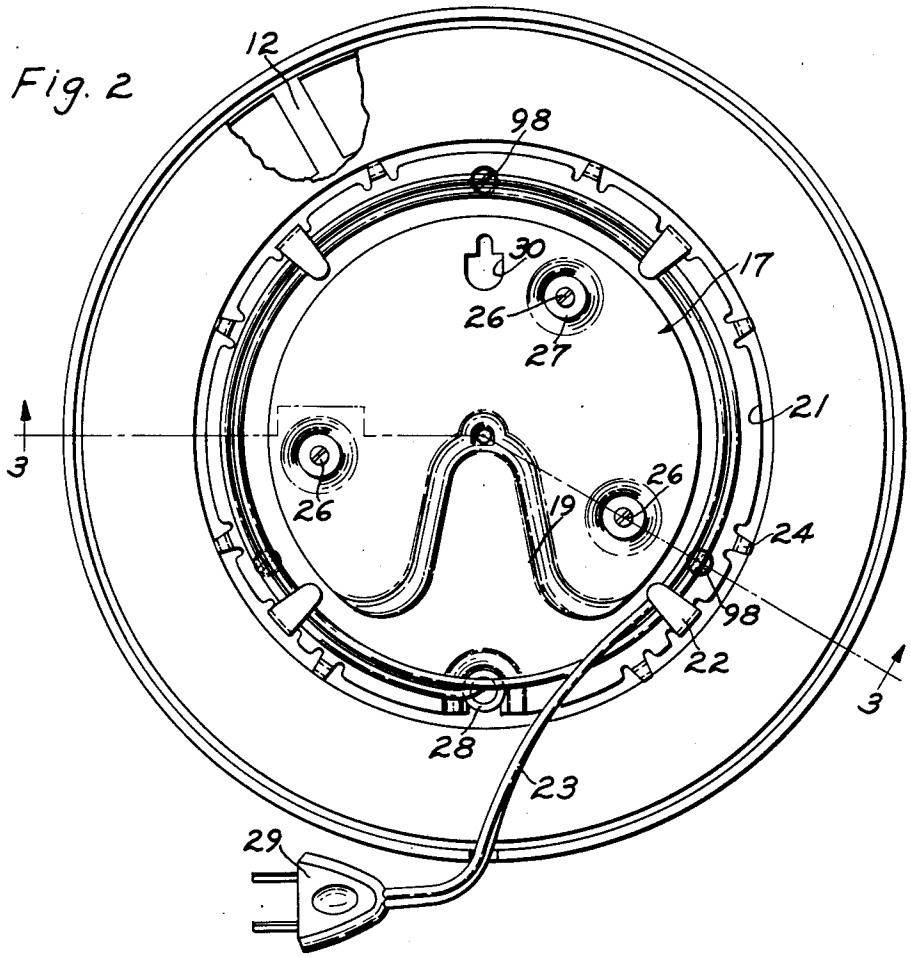
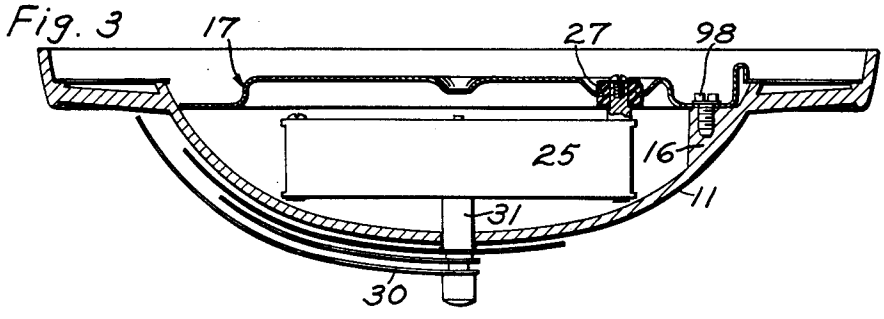


Fig. 3



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Fig. 6

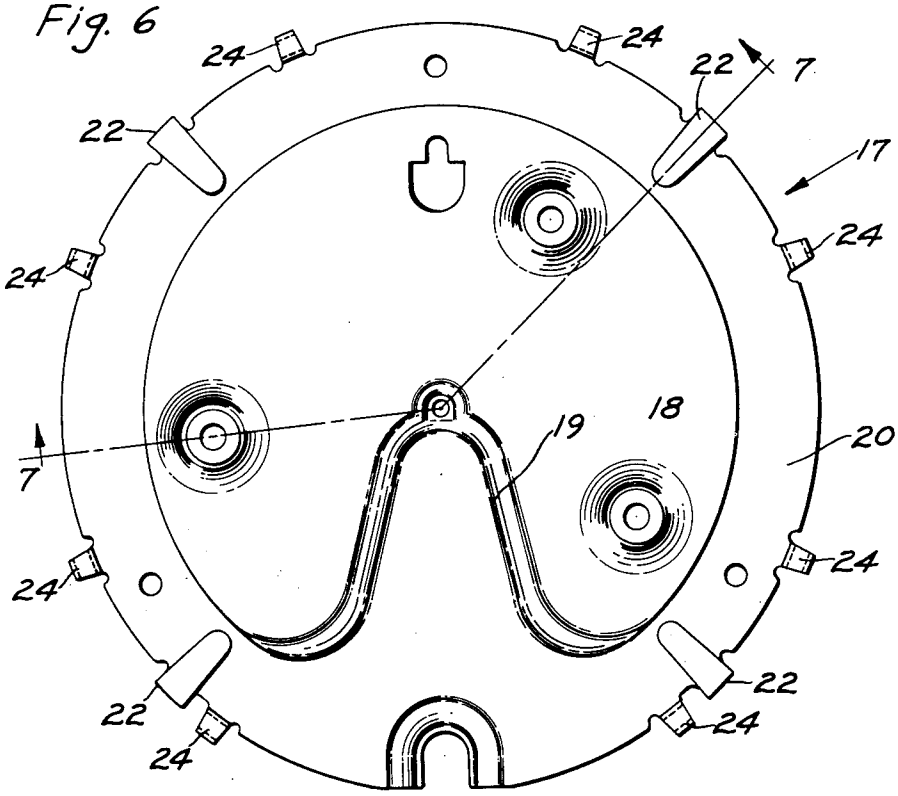
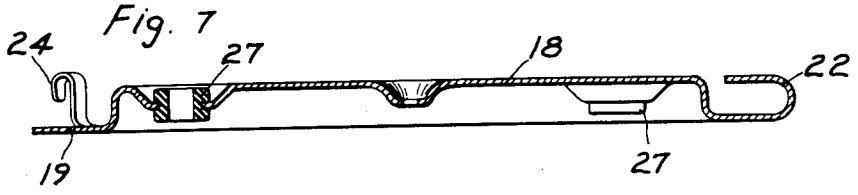


Fig. 7



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Patented May 19, 1953 2,638,735

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,638,735

CLOCK

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Application July 3, 1950, Serial No. 171,797

14 Claims. (Cl. 58—53)

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This invention relates to a clock, and without being limited thereto, is particularly applicable to an electric wall clock. In the past one of the problems connected with wall clocks was the necessity of supplying them in several colors so that the purchaser could select a color to suit the decorative scheme of the room in which the clock was to be used. The manufacturer was also faced with a second problem, namely the length of the electric cord. If the cord were made long enough to reach the electrical outlet in certain locations, it was sure to dangle when hung in a location nearer to an outlet.

Therefore, one of the objects of the present invention is to provide a clock having a case part that is removable without tools so that the consumer can change the color scheme of said clock by merely replacing said case part.

A second object is to provide a clock having means to support a cord on the clock so that the consumer may select the length of cord that hangs from said clock or he may conceal the entire cord.

Another object is to provide an improved clock that may be manufactured for low cost and is exceptionally simple to assemble.

Other objects and advantages will be apparent from the following description of a preferred embodiment of the invention taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a front elevational view of a clock embodying the invention;

Fig. 2 is a back elevational view of said clock;

Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2, with the cord not shown;

Fig. 4 is a front elevational view of a detachable case part removed from the clock case;

Fig. 5 is a cross-sectional view taken on the line 5—5 of Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is an elevational view of the back plate removed from the clock; and

Fig. 7 is a cross-sectional view taken on the line 7—7 of Fig. 6.

Referring now to Fig. 1, reference numeral 10 designates a clock case preferably moulded of plastic, but which may be made of other suitable materials, such as wood or metal.

The case 10 includes a central portion 11 generally hemispherical in shape; a series of cut-out numerals or other indicia 12 surrounding said central portion; and a ring portion 13 surrounding said numerals. A series of cut-outs or openings 14 in the case are defined by the outer border of the central portion 11, the inner border of the ring portion 13 and the spaced numerals 12. A

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removable ring 15 is positioned behind the numerals 12 so that portions of the ring can be seen through the openings 14.

Turning now to Figs. 2 and 3, three bosses 16 are moulded in the rear of the central portion 11 of the case. A back plate 17 is secured to said bosses by self-tapping screws 98. As will be further described, the back plate 17 performs several functions including supporting the movement, providing a receptacle for the electric cord, and providing fastening means for the removable ring 15.

The back plate 17 may be made of any suitable material, but steel or aluminum is preferred. The back plate is formed with a raised central portion 18 generally circular in outline except for a sector 19. The sector 19 and a flange 20 are in the same plane. As shown in Fig. 2, when the back plate 17 is assembled in the clock case an annular channel 21, having a U-shaped cross-section, is formed by the raised portion 18, the flange 20 and the inside of the central portion 11 of the clock case.

Two series of fingers are formed on the periphery of the flange 20. In one series, four fingers 22 are bent toward the center of the back plate so that they project over the channel 21 and almost touch the raised portion 18. The purpose of these fingers is to retain an electric cord 23 in said channel.

A second series of fingers 24 project from the flange at right angles, and are bent over outwardly at their ends. The fingers 24 should be resilient or spring-like. Therefore, if the back plate 17 is made of a material such as aluminum, it may be preferable to fasten steel fingers 24 to the back plate by suitable means. When the removable ring 15 is pressed into the back of the case, the fingers 24 are bent slightly inward so that their resiliency serves to hold the ring 15 in place by pressure on the inner periphery.

The clock movement 25 is conventional and may be either synchronous motor driven or spring driven. In this example a synchronous motor type is shown. The movement 25 is supported by three screws 26 that pass through rubber grommets 27 to secure the movement to the back plate 17. The movement 25 drives three hands 30 by means of co-axial shafts 31.

The electric cord 23 passes from the movement 25 through a grommet 28 and is coiled in channel 21 where it is held in place by fingers 22. If the clock is to be used with a standard receptacle, just enough cord to reach the receptable is unwound from the channel. Thus there need by no

long loop of cord left dangling, as with the ordinary electric clock.

If the clock is to be placed directly over a special clock receptable, then no cord need be unwound. In this case, the electrical plug **29** will be positioned in the depression **19** so that the clock will set flat against the wall.

An opening **30** in the case is provided for hanging the clock.

It is contemplated that the above described clock will be sold to the consumer with one or more rings **15**. Each ring will be furnished with one color on the front and another on the back. Thus to change the color scheme of the clock, the consumer need merely push on the front of the ring releasing it from the spring fingers **24**. The ring could then be reversed and replaced in the clock case by pressing on the back of the ring. The spring fingers would then hold it in place. If the customer is not satisfied with the colors furnished, he may purchase other rings or color his own ring. It will be seen that both the manufacturer's and the dealer's stock may be reduced since only one model need be stocked with a variety of rings to be offered to the customer to give him his choice of color.

Obviously, the invention is not limited to the details of the described embodiment, since these may be modified. Moreover, it is not indispensible that all of the features of the invention be used conjointly since certain features may be used to advantage in different combinations.

What is claimed is:

1. A clock comprising a case having a movement portion and a flange portion with a plurality of openings therein surrounding said movement portion, a reversible member positioned behind said flange portion so that parts of said member are visible through said openings and means to frictionally support said member behind said flange portion, solely by contact between the periphery of said reversible member and a portion of said case so that said member can be removed from the case by pressure on its front surface.

2. A clock comprising a case having a movement holding portion and an indicia portion surrounding said movement holding portion with openings in said case between the indicia, a removable member and means to support said member behind said indicia portion so that it is visible through said openings, said member being supported solely by frictional contact between its periphery and a portion of said case so that it can be removed from said case by pressure on the front of said member.

3. A clock comprising a movement, a case having a flange portion and a movement portion projecting from said flange portion, said flange portion having a plurality of openings therein, a removable member, a back plate secured to said case and supporting said movement, a plurality of fingers projecting from the periphery of said back plate and adapted to support said removable member behind said openings so that portions of said member are visible through said openings.

4. A clock comprising a movement, a case having a movement holding portion and a portion having openings therein surrounding said movement holding portion, a back plate for said movement holding portion and a plurality of spring fingers on said back plate adapted to hold a removable member in position behind said openings.

5. A clock comprising a casing having a movement holding portion at the back and a second portion having openings therein surrounding said movement holding portion, a back plate secured to said movement holding portion, a plurality of spring fingers positioned around the periphery of said back plate and adjacent said second portion and a removable member held in position behind the openings of said second portion by said spring members.

6. A clock comprising a casing having a movement portion and an annular portion surrounding said movement portion and having a series of openings therein, an annular plate adapted to be positioned behind said annular portion and adjacent said openings and resilient means to hold said annular plate in position.

7. A clock comprising a casing having an opening at the back, a time movement positioned in said casing, a back plate secured to said casing and closing said opening, one series of bendable fingers positioned around the periphery of said back plate and adapted to hold a removable member in position behind said casing, and a second series of fingers positioned around said periphery and adapted to hold a coiled electrical cord on the back of said casing.

8. A clock comprising a one piece case having a central portion generally hemispherical in shape, a ring shaped portion surrounding and spaced from said central portion, a plurality of spaced members connecting said central portion to said ring portion with openings in the casing between adjacent members, a detachable annular plate adapted to be positioned inside of said ring portion and means to support said plate on said case and behind said members so that it is visible through said openings.

9. In a clock having a movement and a clock case with a movement holding portion and a portion having spaced openings therein, the combination comprising a back plate for said clock case, a first series of resilient fingers spaced around the periphery of said back plate and adapted to hold a member in position by spring tension and a second series of fingers bent toward the center of said back plate to form clamping means for holding an electric cord in position.

10. A clock comprising a movement, an electric cord connected to said movement, a clock case enclosing said movement, a plate attached to the back of said case having a portion raised from the plane of said plate around which said electric cord is adapted to be coiled, and a series of clamping members spaced around the outside of said plate and adapted to hold a coiled cord to said back plate.

11. A clock comprising a one piece case having a central portion, an annular portion surrounding and spaced from said central portion, a plurality of spaced members connecting said central portion to said annular portion with openings in said casing between adjacent members, and a detachable plate positioned within the periphery of said annular portion and behind said spaced members so that portions of said plate are visible through said openings.

12. A clock comprising a movement; a case having a movement portion and a flange portion with a plurality of openings therein surrounding said movement portion; and a plate positioned behind said flange portion so that portions of said plate are visible through said openings, said case having means to hold said plate in position by frictional contact with the periphery of said

plate so that said plate may be removed from said case by pressure on its front surface.

13. A clock comprising a case having a movement portion and an annular portion surrounding said movement portion, said annular portion having a plurality of openings therein, and an annular plate positioned behind said openings, said case having means to contact the periphery of said plate and hold said plate in position by frictional contact with its periphery.

14. A clock comprising a one-piece case having a movement holding portion, a series of spaced numerals surrounding said movement holding portion, and a ring portion surrounding and connecting said numerals; and a removable plate positioned behind said numerals so that it is visible through the spaces between said numerals, said plate being held in position solely by friction

between its periphery and a portion of said case so that it is removable from the case by pressure on its front surface.

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