

Nov. 29, 1932.

G. A. LONG

1,889,737

TELEPHONE DIRECTION PLATE

Filed Jan. 25, 1930

Fig. 1.

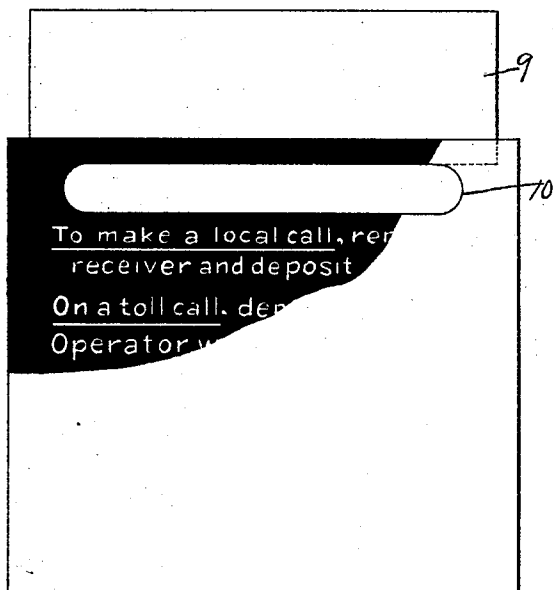


Fig. 2.

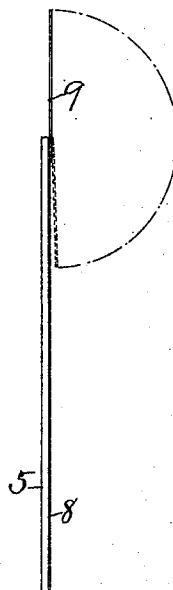
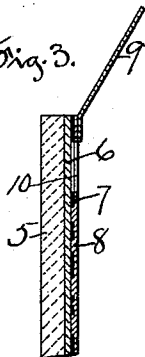


Fig. 3.



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TELEPHONE DIRECTION PLATE

Application filed January 25, 1930. Serial No. 423,395.

My invention relates to the class of devices that are employed for displaying information or other visible matter, as directions for operating a telephone or other instrument by the deposit of a coin, and an object of my invention, among others, is to provide a direction plate having transparent qualities to permit the directions to be readily seen and to retain in position all cracked or broken parts of a fragile nature in the event that such parts become shattered.

One form of a direction plate embodying my invention and in the construction and use of which the objects herein set out, as well as others, may be attained, is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a face view of a direction plate embodying my invention.

Figure 2 is an edge view of the same.

Figure 3 is a view in cross-section on an enlarged scale and with the thickness of different portions greatly exaggerated in order to clearly bring out the relationship of the parts.

My invention is especially applicable to direction plates commonly employed on coin controlled mechanisms, and particularly telephone pay stations, to inform customers how to use the device, and I have therefore selected a plate commonly used in connection with a telephone instrument for the purpose of illustration and description of my invention herein, but it will be understood that the invention may be embodied in structures used for other purposes than in connection with telephones or coin controlled instruments.

It is common practice in the formation of structures of this class to employ a face plate of glass and to enclose the direction plate within a frame attached to the instrument in connection with which the direction plate is used. This glass is liable to be broken and jutting pieces of glass held by the frame become in such case a source of imminent danger to users of the instrument. A plate made in accordance with my invention illustrated and described herein eliminates this danger as any broken pieces of glass will be securely held in place and will be prevented from jutting in a dangerous manner.

My improved plate consists of a face 5 of glass of medium thickness for the purpose in hand, and to the back of this glass a sheet 6 of tough transparent material is secured. I have found that celluloid will answer this purpose to a satisfactory degree. The celluloid is secured to the glass by an adhesive that has an affinity for both the glass and celluloid so that the latter is held securely in place under varying conditions of temperature and other elements commonly present around telephone instruments.

The directions are placed upon the back of this celluloid sheet preferably by the use of paint 7 forming a direction layer or coat, in the preferred form, and as illustrated herein, this paint being black and the letters being formed by leaving openings of the shape of the letters. This paint may be of any desired material suitable for the purpose.

After the paint has been applied in a manner to clearly display the directions in the manner described a covering coat 8 of a contrasting color to the direction coat is applied over the entire back. This will fill the openings in the direction coat, thereby causing the letters or other matter to appear in the color of the covering coat. This covering coat may be of waterproof material or of any other material suitable for the purpose.

It has been found that it is practically impossible to so shatter a plate thus constructed that any particles of glass will protrude.

An identification tab 9 may be secured to the back of the plate near its upper edge which may receive on the back thereof numbers or names designating the telephone or other instrument in connection with which the direction plate may be used, these characters being placed upside down so that the tab, being folded into position as shown in dotted lines in Figure 2, will have the designating characters displayed through an opening 10 formed in the coating 7 of the direction layer on the back of the plate right side up.

I claim—

1. A direction plate assembly adapted for telephone or similar service wherein direction reading is required under the conditions

of reflected light, said assembly including a face plate of transparent sheet material of frangible characteristic such as to produce sharp edges when broken, a backing sheet of tough transparent material tenaciously secured to the rear of the face plate and serving to maintain the position of face plate fragments when the face plate is broken, the rear face of the backing sheet carrying the direction indicia, said indicia being provided by successive coatings of contrasting color characteristic with the first coating of stencil-like arrangement to present the indicia characters as uncoated portions of the backing sheet, the second coating being exposed through both sheets solely as the characters forming the indicia, whereby the indicia is readable through both sheets and will be unaffected by breaking of the frangible face plate while the first coating will provide a definite and uniform color background for the indicia characters.

2. A direction plate assembly adapted for telephone or similar service wherein direction reading is required under the conditions of reflected light, said assembly including a face plate of transparent sheet material of frangible characteristic such as to produce sharp edges when broken, a backing sheet of tough transparent material tenaciously secured to the rear of the face plate and serving to maintain the position of face plate fragments when the face plate is broken, the rear face of the backing sheet carrying the direction indicia, said indicia being provided by successive coatings of contrasting color characteristic, with the first coating of stencil-like arrangement to present the indicia characters as uncoated portions of the backing sheet, the second coating being exposed through both sheets solely as the characters forming the indicia, whereby the indicia is readable through both sheets and will be unaffected by breaking of the frangible face plate while the first coating will provide a definite and uniform color background for the indicia characters, and a tab secured to the backing sheet and adapted to be folded into position in rear of the coatings, said folded tab having its unexposed face provided with indicia, said backing sheet having a zone free from coating opposite the position of the tab indicia.

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