April 5, 1949. M. A. WATTS 2,466,342

ILLUMINABLE TOOL

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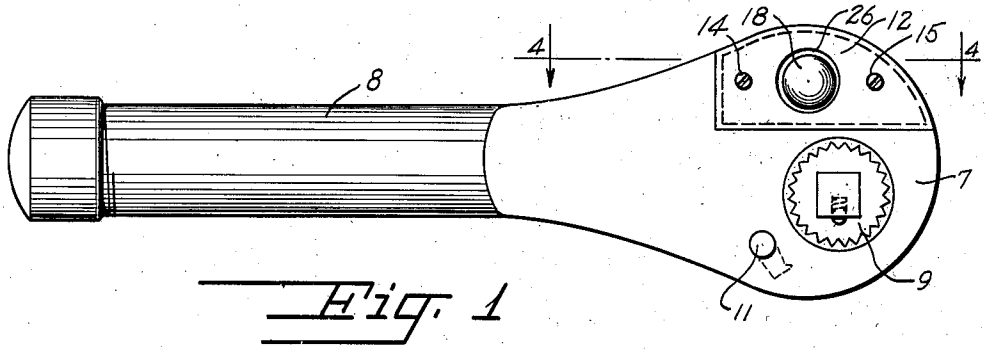


Fig. 1

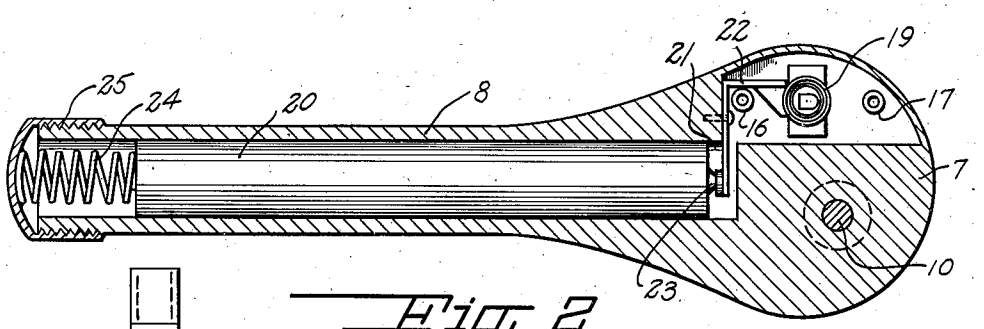
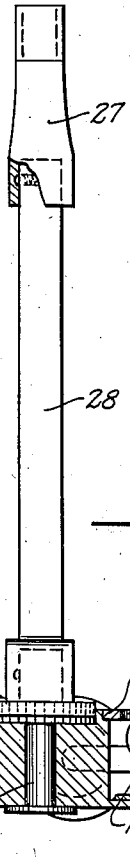


Fig. 2



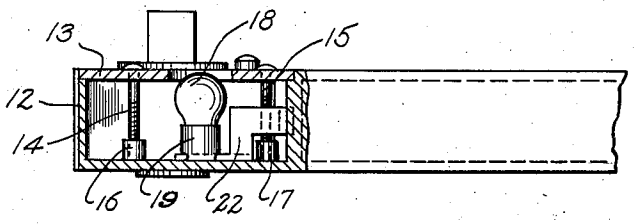
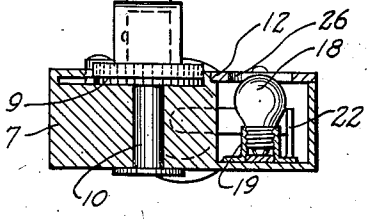


Fig. 4

Fig. 3



INVENTOR.
Melvin A. Watts
BY
McMorrow, Berman & Davidson
Attorneys

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ILLUMINABLE TOOL

Melvin A. Watts, Columbus, Ohio

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1 Claim. (Cl. 240—6.46)

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This invention relates to a tool, such as a wrench, in which the head is disposed in a relatively stationary position during use and in which, in any event, the tool is not used for or subject to sudden impact or blows.

An object of the invention is to provide a tool of this kind with means for illuminating the work as well as the operating portions of the tool during use.

Another object is to provide such a device in which a beam of light is provided for following the movement of the tool.

Another object is to produce means of this character simply, efficiently, with a minimum of cost.

These and other objects are attained by the means described herein and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a plan view of a ratchet wrench provided with the means of this invention.

Figure 2 is a longitudinal cross sectional view through the same.

Figure 3 is a transverse cross sectional view through the head of the wrench and showing an accessory tool associated therewith for performing types of work.

Figure 4 is a cross sectional view on the line 4—4 of Figure 1.

With detailed reference to the drawing: the tool shown herein for purposes of illustration is a ratchet wrench comprising a head 7 and a handle 8 fixed thereto and preferably, as shown in Figure 2 formed integrally therewith. The head is provided with a work-engaging ratchet 9 lying within the head and rotatably mounted on a stud shaft 10 and having the usual cooperating pin and catch means 11 associated therewith. It will be noted that the ratchet and the associated parts are located adjacent one side of the head.

Adjacent the other side, the head is formed with a housing 12 covered laterally by a plate 13, secured in place by screws 14 and 15 entering studs 16 and 17 in the housing. A light bulb 18 is mounted in the housing in a socket 19.

The handle 8 is hollow and has a battery 20 positioned therein. At 21 (Figure 2) the hollow of the handle is shown as communicating with the interior of the housing 12. Circuit connections 22 extend between the bulb socket 19 and

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the end contact 23 of the battery. At the opposite end of the latter, a spring 24 bears at one end against the battery and at the other end against the inner face of a cap 25, threadedly mounted on the handle 8 and adapted to be selectively advanced or retracted for respectively energizing and de-energizing the light bulb and its circuit.

The plate 13 is formed with a light-directing aperture 26 by means of which a beam from the light is directed upon the work and also illuminates adjacent parts of the tool itself. It will be seen that, as the wrench is turned during use, the housing is simultaneously turned so that the beam follows the work. In narrow and restricted places, the wrench, as seen in Figure 3, may be placed in a flat position with the light beam directed upwardly, and an accessory tool such as the upper socket member 27 of socket rod 28 applied to the wrench in a manner known.

Modifications will be suggested upon consideration of the means herein disclosed but these are believed to be comprised within the spirit and scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

In an illuminable ratchet wrench having a head, a tubular handle on one end of said head, a work-engaging member on one side of said head and the longitudinal axis of said handle and a ratchet for said member, said head being formed with a housing adjacent said work-engaging member on the other side of the longitudinal axis of said handle, a light bulb socket in said housing adjacent said ratchet, a flashlight battery in said handle, and circuit connecting means between said socket and said battery.

MELVIN A. WATTS.

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