Dec. 21, 1926. 1,611,512

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FLASH LIGHT HOLDER

Filed Nov. 2, 1923

Fig. 1.

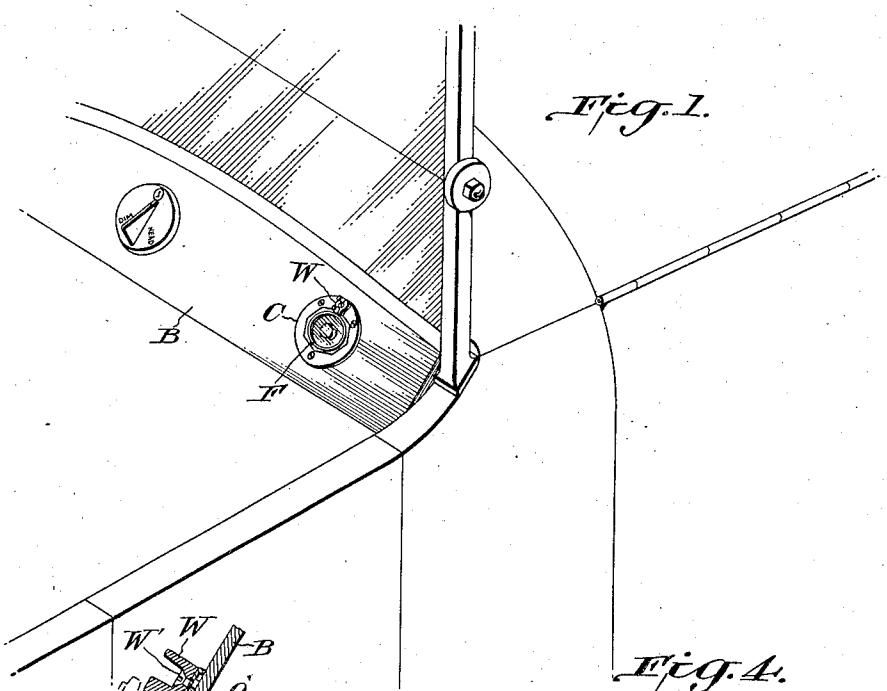


Fig. 2.

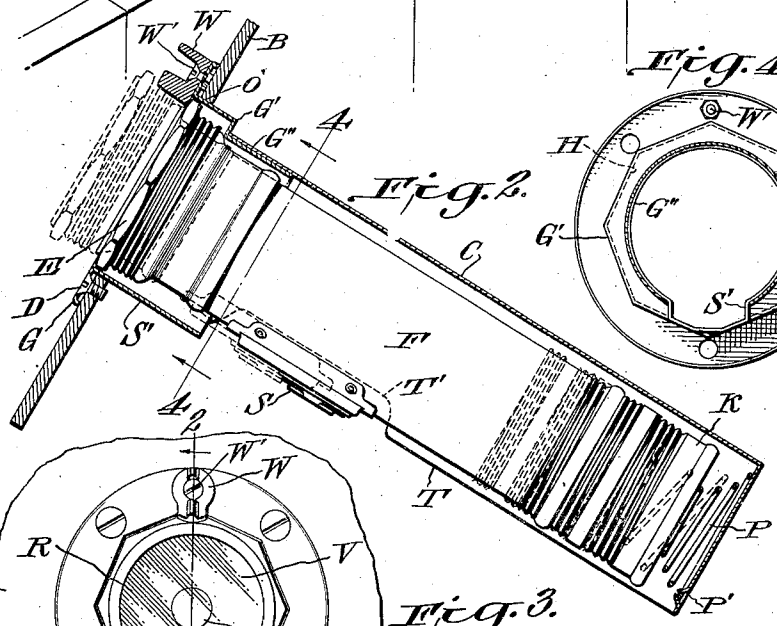
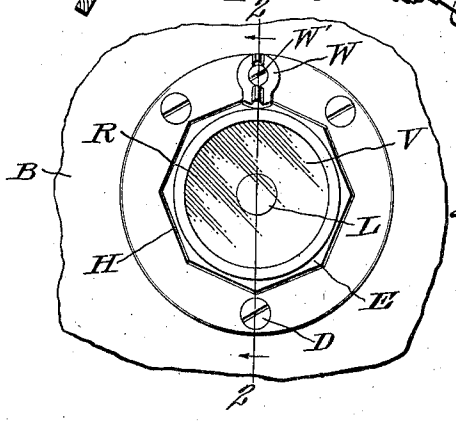


Fig. 4.

Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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FLASH-LIGHT HOLDER.

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This invention relates to an improved flashlight holder. When used about automobiles, for example, portable lighting devices such as flashlights are sometimes mislaid, contain run-down batteries, or are kept in a rather inaccessible tool-box, and are therefore often not at hand and in working order when quickly needed.

Accordingly, the principal object of this invention is to provide an improved flashlight holder that may be permanently secured to a support, such as an automobile instrument board, where a flashlight is more readily accessible for use as well as replacement of its battery and lamp, and where its absence or condition are so noticeable that there will be a greater tendency to keep it at hand in the improved holder and in good working order, thereby considerably enlarging the usefulness of the flashlight.

The above and other objects and the novel features of this invention will be apparent from the following description taken with the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a view of a portion of an instrument board illustrating the application of the improved flashlight holder thereto;

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view of the flashlight holder on an enlarged scale, taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 3, showing a flashlight in place therein;

Fig. 3 is a front view of a mounted flashlight holder containing a flashlight; and

Fig. 4 is a transverse section of the holder taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2, looking in the direction indicated by the arrows.

Generally speaking, the improved flashlight holder comprises a case or receptacle provided with means to releasably retain a standard or any preferred type of flashlight therein, and to push such flashlight at least part way out of the case upon release of such retaining means The case also has means whereby it may be secured to a suitable support and an opening exposing the usual switch of the flashlight so that the latter can also be lighted while it is within the case.

As shown, the case C of the improved holder is designed to contain a standard tubular flashlight F that has the usual tubular battery-containing body thereof closed at the bottom by a cap K, and a lamp L, reflector R and lens or plain cover glass V are held in place at its opposite end by a threaded lens ring E, which may have the well known octagonal edge. The case C that constitutes a receptacle for the flashlight comprises a cylindrical body or shell of metal, fiber or other suitable material which is desirably closed at its bottom end and permanently open at its front end through which a flashlight may be readily inserted and withdrawn.

The case C is desirably provided with means whereby it may be secured to a rigid support and accordingly has an exterior flange G secured to its front end by a sleeve G′ that is united to the case at G″. While the improved holder may, of course, be mounted upon any suitable support and where desired, it is here illustrated as mounted upon and combined with an instrument board B of an automobile, motorboat, airplane or the like. The case may be secured into an opening O in the board B, the flange G being secured to the front face of the board by screws D, riveting or other suitable means, so that the open front end of the case lies substantially in the plane of the board. The major portion of the case extends downwardly behind the inclined board B where it is out of the way. A flashlight holder thus placed provides a valuable adjunct to an instrument board on an automobile or the like since it renders a flashlight therein readily accessible and, on the other hand, when empty, it serves as an indicator of a lost or misplaced flashlight. There is then naturally more of a tendency to keep the flashlight in its holder when not in use, and the battery, lamp and other parts of the flashlight are more apt to be kept in good working order, all of which increases the usefulness of the flashlight.

When the flashlight is in place in its holder, the front end or cover glass thereof is desirably disposed in the plane of the instrument board. It is therefore necessary to provide means whereby the flashlight may be pushed at least part way out of the case, so that it may be completely removed for use. When the flashlight is inside the holder, the bottom end thereof rests upon and compresses a resilient device or helical spring P that is secured in the bottom of the case C, as by an inwardly punched tongue P′ that hooks over a bottom coil of

the spring. Suitable means may be provided to hold the flashlight down inside the case against the expansive force of the spring. For this purpose, a retaining device is provided that is readily releasable and which, as shown, may consist of a latch or wing nut W that is eccentrically pivoted at W′ on the outer face of the flange G, so that its longer end may swing inwardly across the open end of the case C and slide over and engage the outer end of a flashlight in the case. In its retaining position, the latch W bears against the flashlight and thereby holds the spring P under compression, as indicated in full lines in Fig. 2. When the flashlight is needed, the latch may be swung out of the way and the expanding spring P then pushes the front end of the flashlight part way out of the case, as indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 2, where the flashlight may be gripped by hand and withdrawn from the case. The spring P also assists in firmly holding the flashlight in its case to prevent rattling thereof. As indicated, the periphery of the lens ring E is desirably of non-circular outline, being of standard octagonal outline closely interfitting with the corresponding octagonal inner edge H of the flange 6 to prevent the turning of the flashlight in its holder and to provide a mounting that generally conforms to the other devices on the instrument board.

It may be desirable to light the flashlight without removing it from its case. The underside of the case is therefore slotted lengthwise as at T, a portion of such slot at T′ being of sufficient size to expose the usual switch S on the flashlight body, whereby the flashlight may be lighted in the usual manner by reaching under the lower edge of the instrument board and operating the switch. The sleeve G′ may be pressed out at S′ to properly guide the flashlight into its case with the switch S in position opposite the slot T′.

From the foregoing, it will be apparent that the improved holder provides a simple means for effectively supporting a flashlight, an important accessory for automobiles and the like, at a point where it is easily kept in working order and accessible. Various changes may be made in details of the construction of the holder without departing from the invention or sacrificing its advantages.

I claim:

1. A flashlight holder comprising, in combination, a case constructed and adapted to receive and enclose a flashlight, means whereby said case may be rigidly secured to a support, releasable means adapted to retain a flashlight within said case, and resilient means substantially coaxial with said case adapted to push such flashlight at least part way out of said case upon release of such retaining means.

2. A flashlight holder comprising a case having a permanently open front end through which a flashlight or the like may be inserted and removed and whereby its presence or absence in said case may be observed at all times, means adjacent the front end of said case for securing the latter to a support, and releasable means upon the front of said holder for retaining a flashlight or the like in said case.

3. A flashlight holder comprising in combination, a support having a permanently open front end through which a flashlight may be inserted and withdrawn, a flashlight case secured therein and closely fitting said support, releasable means on the front of said holder adapted to retain a flashlight in said case with the front face of the flashlight exposed and substantially in a plane with the front of said support, and means adapted to push such flashlight at least part way out of said case upon release of such retaining means.

4. A flashlight holder comprising, in combination, a support, a case secured thereto and having an open front end through which a flashlight may be inserted and withdrawn, the rear of said case extending behind said support and having an opening therein through which the usual switch of a flashlight therein may be operated, and releasable means adjacent the front end of said case for retaining a flashlight therein.

5. A flashlight holder comprising a case having an open front end through which a flashlight may be inserted and removed and whereby the presence or absence of a flashlight in said case may be readily observed, means whereby said case may be secured to a support, manually operable latching means on the front of said case for retaining a flashlight in said case, and means adapted to push such flashlight at least part way out of said case through said open end upon release of such retaining means.

6. A flashlight holder comprising a case having an open front end through which a flashlight may be inserted and removed, means whereby said case may be rigidly secured to a support, releasable means outside the front end of the case for engaging a flashlight to retain it in the case, and a spring in the bottom of the case compressible by an inserted flashlight and adapted to push the latter part way out of said case upon release of such retaining means.

7. A flashlight holder comprising a case having a non-circular portion adapted to interfit with a corresponding non-circular portion of a flashlight insertable into and removable from said case, and releasable means on the front of said case for retaining such flashlight in said case.

8. A flashlight holder comprising a case having an open front end and a flange thereat whereby said case may be secured to a support, the inner edge of said flange having an outline adapted to interfit closely with the outer edge of the front end of a flashlight insertable into and removable from said case, and exposed releasable means for retaining such flashlight in said case.

9. A flashlight holder comprising a case having an open front end and a flange thereat whereby said case may be secured to a support, the inner edge of said flange having a polygonal outline to interfit with the corresponding polygonal outer edge of the lens ring of a flashlight that is adapted to be inserted into and removed from said case, and releasable means mounted on said flange adapted to retain such flashlight in said case.

10. The combination with a support having an opening therethrough, of a case secured in said opening and having an open front end through which a flashlight may be inserted and removed, said open end being substantially in the plane of the front of said support, and releasable means outside said open end adapted to retain a flashlight in said case with the front face of said flashlight substantially in a plane with the front of said support.

11. The combination with an instrument board having an opening therethrough, of a case secured in said opening and having an open front end through which a flashlight may be inserted and removed, the rear of said case extending behind said board and having an opening therein through which the usual switch of a flashlight therein may be operated, releasable means adapted to retain a flashlight in said case, and means adapted to push the front end of a flashlight out of said case through said open end.

12. The combination with an instrument board having an opening therethrough, of a case in said opening having a flange at its front end whereby it is secured to said board, said case having an open front end through which a flashlight may be inserted and removed, the rear of said case extending behind said board and having an opening therein through which the usual switch of a flashlight therein is accessible for operation, latch means on said flange adapted to engage a flashlight in said case and retain its front face substantially in the plane of the front of said board, and a spring in the bottom of said case compressible by an inserted flashlight and adapted to push the front end of the same out of the case upon the release of said latch means.

13. A flashlight holder comprising, in combination, a case having a permanently open front end through which a flashlight may be inserted and removed, whereby the presence or absence of a flashlight in said case may be observed at all times, and whereby the light-emitting end of a flashlight in said case is exposed by and may project light out through said open end; means on said case whereby it may be rigidly secured to a support; means for retaining a flashlight in said case; means adapted to push such flashlight at least part way out of said case through said open end upon release of such retaining means; and means whereby the usual switch of a flashlight in said case is accessible for operation.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature.

EDWARD G. CLEMENSON.