June 26, 1951 R. SANDOR 2,558,585

TELEPHONE DIAL ATTACHMENT

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Fig 1

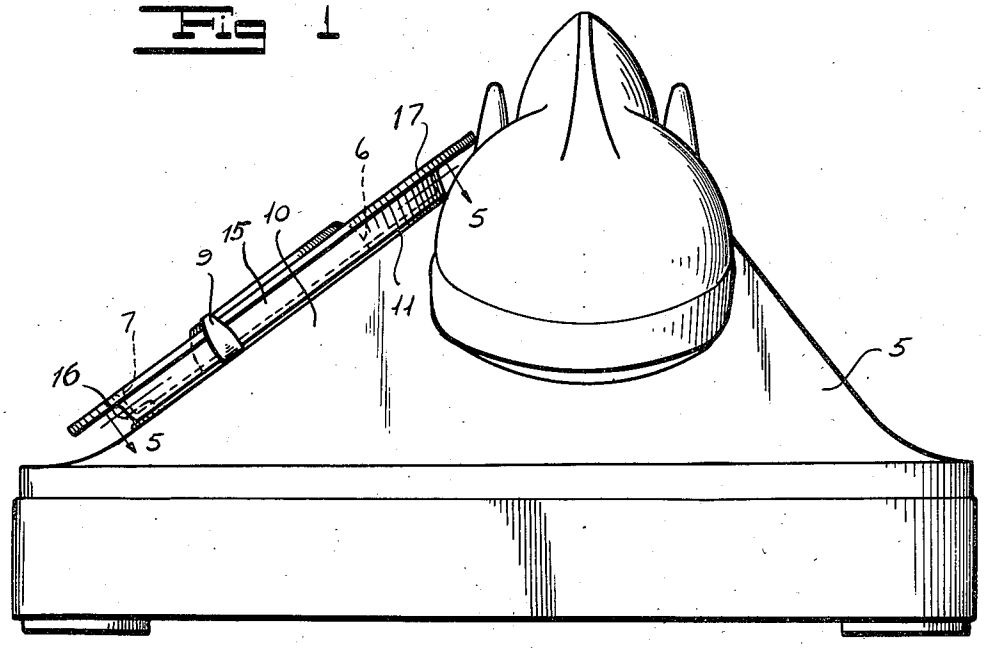
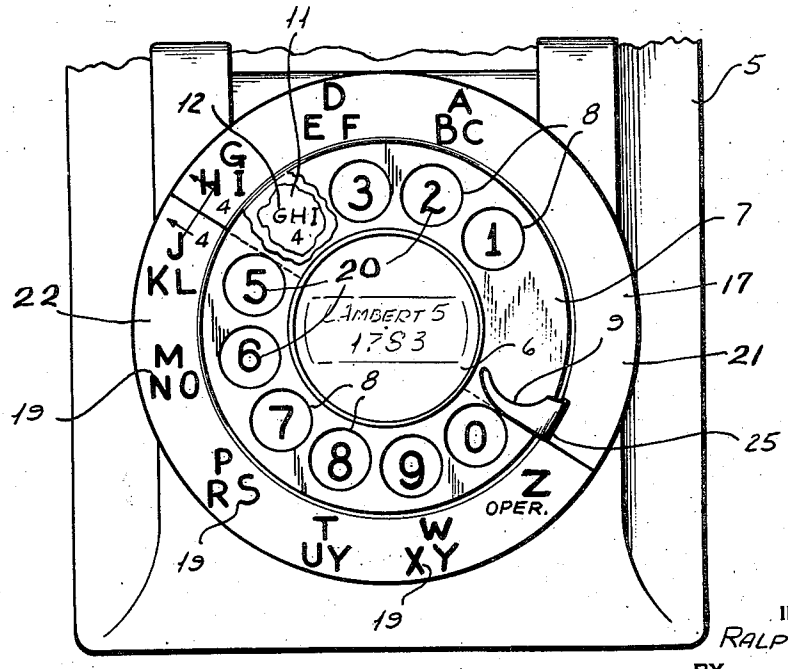


Fig 2



INVENTOR
RALPH SANDOR
BY
Robert F. Beck
ATTORNEY

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Fig 3

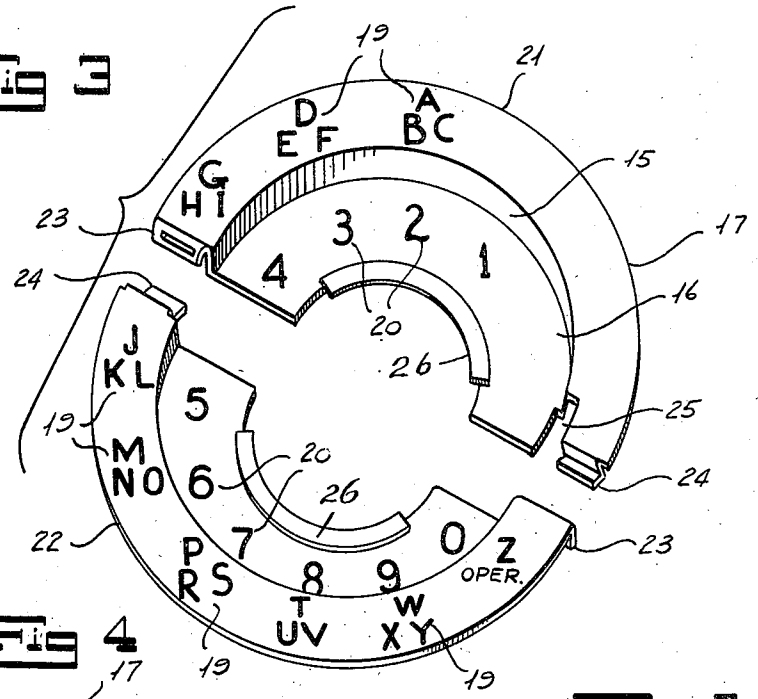


Fig 4

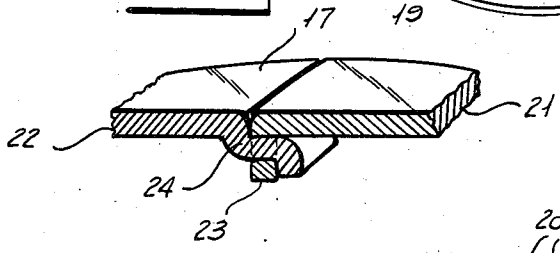
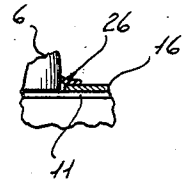


Fig 6



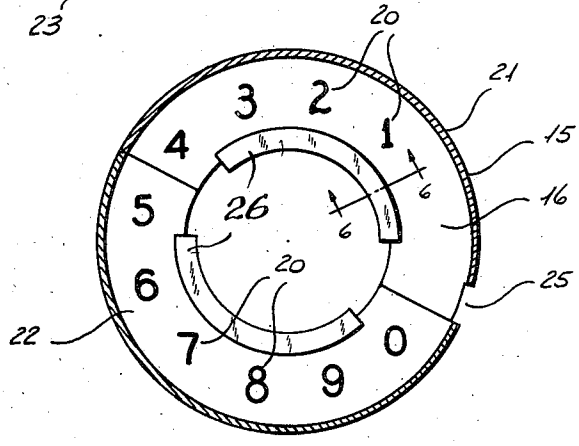


Fig 5

INVENTOR
RALPH SANDOR
BY
Robert L. Beck
ATTORNEY

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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TELEPHONE DIAL ATTACHMENT

Ralph Sandor, Passaic, N. J.

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4 Claims. (Cl. 40—10.5)

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My invention relates to an attachment for dial telephones and more particularly to an attachment for more clearly indicating the dial stations from which movement of the dial is initiated.

Present day telephones of the dial type are equipped with a dialing device provided with a rotatable dial formed with the usual finger-openings for operating the dial by a finger of the user and which openings also serve as means for viewing the indicia or symbols denoting dialing stations from which movement of the dial is initiated. Inasmuch as these finger-openings are, of a necessity, relatively small, the indicia displayed therethrough is relatively small and therefore not conducive to good vision, especially in those instances where the indicia comprises numerals and letters of the alphabet usually arranged in a manner comprising groups of three letters and a numeral in substantially each group for display through each opening, with the result that the user frequently selects an undesired and improper dialing station due to the poor visibility of the indicia.

My invention overcomes the foregoing described disadvantages and undesirable features inherent in these types of dialing devices, it being one of the objects of my invention to provide an attachment adapted to be secured to the dialing device of a telephone in a manner to mask the station denoting indicia thereof and to provide representative indicia in lieu thereof which is conducive to better visibility.

Another object of my invention is to provide an attachment of the foregoing described character which is equipped with a pair of members which are adapted to surround the dial and to overlie the indicia plate to mask the indicia thereon, respectively, of a dialing device and which members are provided with indicia representative of said first mentioned indicia and of a size and arrangement conducive to better visibility than the indicia arranged on the plate.

An important object of my invention is to provide an attachment of the foregoing described character which is simple in construction, durable in use, efficient in operation, economical in manufacture and capable of being readily attached to dialing devices without modifying the latter.

With the above and other objects in view, as will hereinafter appear, the invention consists in the combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter set forth and illustrated in the accompanying drawings from which the several features of the invention and the advantages attained thereby will be readily understood by those skilled in the art.

Referring to the drawings wherein like reference characters designate like parts throughout the several views:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a telephone having my invention attached to the dialing device thereof.

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Figure 2 is a plan view of my invention and illustrating the same as attached to the dialing device.

Figure 3 is a disassembled perspective view of my invention.

Figure 4 is an enlarged sectionalized perspective view taken on the line 4—4 of Figure 2.

Figure 5 is a detail sectional view taken on the line 5—5 of Figure 1, the dialing device being removed for purposes of clarification.

Figure 6 is a detail sectional view taken on the line 6—6 of Figure 5.

As illustrated in the drawings, my invention is employed in conjunction with a telephone 5 equipped with a dialing device having a dial mounting 6 provided with a rotatable dial 7 formed with the usual finger-openings 8. The movement of the dial is normally limited by a finger-engaging stop 9 secured to the base 10 of the mounting 6 and extending over the dial and into the path of the finger-openings 8 during movement of the dial for engaging the finger of the user when disposed in a selected opening. The device is also provided with a stationary indicia plate 11 which embraces the mounting and is disposed in spaced relation with the dial. The indicia plate 11 has printed or otherwise formed thereon, suitable indicia 12, for instance, letters of the alphabet and numerals arranged in groups with each group denoting a dialing station from which rotary movement of the dial is initiated, it being understood that each group is arranged on the plate for view through a finger-opening 8 when the dial 7 is in position for operation. As heretofore stated, as a consequence of the limited size of the openings 8, the letters and numerals of each group are relatively small and therefore not conducive to good vision, especially in instances where the telephone is located where visibility is poor.

My invention or attachment, when secured to a dialing device of the foregoing described character comprises a hollow cylindrical body 15 having its ends provided with radially disposed inner and outer flanges or bands 16 and 17, respectively, with the inner band or flange 16 embracing the mounting 6 and overlying the indicia plate 11 to mask or cover the indicia 12, while the outer flange or band 17 is disposed about and encompasses the dial 7 in substantially flush relation therewith. The inner and outer bands 16 and 17 are provided with indicia 18 representative of the indicia 12 for denoting the dialing stations and with the indicia of the outer band 17 comprising letters 19 of the alphabet and arranged in groups 19 on the band circumjacent the openings 8 and which groups denote the respective dialing stations in the same manner and in accordance with the letters contained in the indicia 12 but of a materially greater size to increase visibility. The indicia of the inner band or flange 16 is composed of numerals 20 representative of the numerals contained in the in-

dicia 12 for denoting the respective dialing stations and are of a materially greater size, being limited solely by the size of the openings 8 in order to permit clear viewing therethrough.

As illustrated in the drawings and with particular reference to Figure 3 thereof, the body 15 is diametrically divided to provide separable sections 21 and 22, respectively, to enable the body to be readily assembled and arranged about the dialing device as heretofore described. In order to secure the sections together in fixed relation about the dialing device, the ends of the flange 17 of each of the sections 21 and 22 are formed with a depending slotted lip 23 on one side and downwardly offset and circumferentially extending tongue 24 on the other side, the lip and tongue of one section being confrontingly disposed with the tongue and lip of the other section to enable the tongues to be inserted through the slots in the lips and have their free ends bent downwardly to thus lock the sections together as illustrated in Figure 4 of the drawings. One end of the section 21 is provided with a slot 25 through which extends the upright portion of the finger-engaging stop 9, the latter snugly fitting the stop 9, when the sections 21 and 22 are secured together, to preclude rotation of the body relative to the dialing device. A pair of radially inwardly projecting rubber lips 26 are secured, by means of adhesive, to the inner margin of the exposed radial face of the flange 16 and engage the mounting 6 to preclude shifting of the attachment relative to the plate 11.

While various components of the attachment, as herein disclosed, are constructed of metal, it is to be distinctly understood that other suitable material may be utilized, for instance, plastic, and that indicia thereon may be of the luminous type, if desired, to render the same visible in the dark or under other adverse lighting conditions.

From the foregoing, it will be apparent that I have provided an attachment for a telephone dialing device wherein the numerals and letters contained thereon are of a materially greater size than those ordinarily used in selecting dialing stations and which, because of their greater size, greatly facilitate dialing by minimizing dialing errors occasioned by the poor visibility inherent in dialing indicia of prior art devices because of limited size and crowding.

Without further elaboration, the foregoing will so fully explain the invention that others may, by applying current knowledge, readily adapt the same for use under various conditions of service. Moreover, it is not indispensable that all the features of the invention be used conjointly since they may be employed advantageously in various combinations and subcombinations.

It is obvious that the invention is not confined to the herein described use therefore as it may be utilized for any purpose to which it is adaptable. It is therefore to be understood that the invention is not limited to the specific constructions as illustrated and described, as the same is only illustrative of the principles involved which are capable of extended application in various forms, and the invention comprehends all construction within the scope of the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. An attachment for a telephone dialing device of the type having a mounting and a rotary dialing member thereon provided with an annular row of finger openings; comprising a first inner annular band of a diameter substantially equal to that of the dialing member and having thereon an annular row of station denoting numerals spaced correspondingly with and visible through the finger openings of the dialing member, a second annular band of a diameter greater than that of the dialing member and arranged at a different level than the inner band and having thereon an annular row of station denoting letters spaced correspondingly with the spacing of the finger holes in the dialing member, and an annular member between and connecting the inner periphery of the second band with the outer periphery of the inner band, and engageable with said mounting to support said first band concentrically with and below the dialing member and to support said second band substantially in the plane of the dialing member and in surrounding relation therewith.

2. An attachment as defined in claim 1, wherein said bands and connecting member are composed of separate segments for assembly from opposite sides of said mounting, and including means for interconnecting said segments when assembled.

3. An attachment as defined in claim 1, wherein said bands and connecting member are divided into separate substantially semi-circular sections which are movable bodily toward one another in a common plane for assembly from opposite sides of said mounting and to bring their opposed ends into abutting engagement, and including means on the abutting ends of said sections for interconnecting them.

4. An attachment for a telephone dialing service of the type having a dial mounting, a rotary dialing member thereon formed with an annular row of finger openings and an annular stationary dial plate spaced below the dialing member and having thereon groups of station denoting characters visible respectively through the finger openings of the dialing member; said attachment comprising a pair of separate segmental sections capable of assembly on said mounting by movement of said sections toward one another from opposite sides of the mounting, and means for interlocking the opposed ends of said sections in the assembly, the assembled sections comprising an inner annular band of a width sufficient to overlie and mask the characters on the dial plate and having thereon an annular row of station denoting characters spaced correspondingly with and visible through the finger openings in the dialing member, a second and larger diameter annular band offset to a higher level relatively to said inner band to lie substantially in the plane of the dialing member and having thereon an annular row of station denoting characters aligned radially with the annular row of characters on said inner band, and an annular member surrounding said mounting and rigidly interconnecting the inner periphery of said second band and the outer periphery of said inner band.

RALPH SANDOR.

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