April 10, 1928. 1,665,374

W. H. B. LAVARACK ET AL

RAILWAY SIGN

Filed April 6, 1926

Fig 1

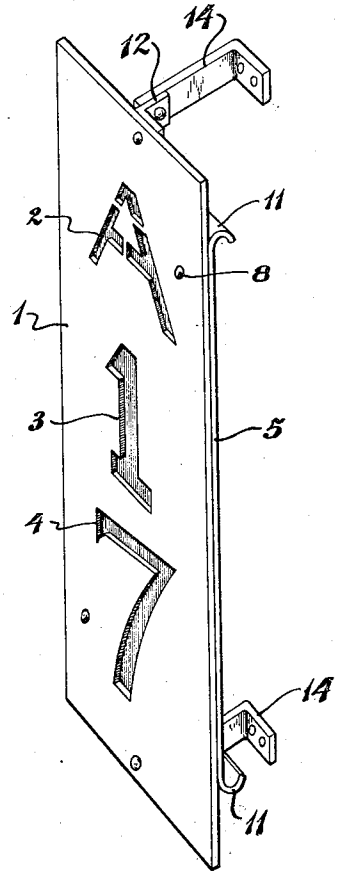


Fig 3

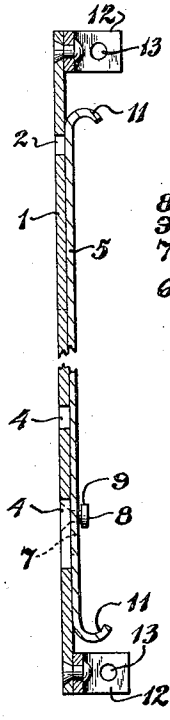


Fig 2

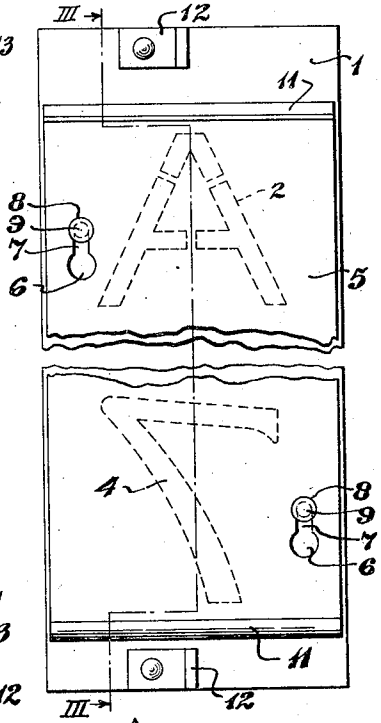
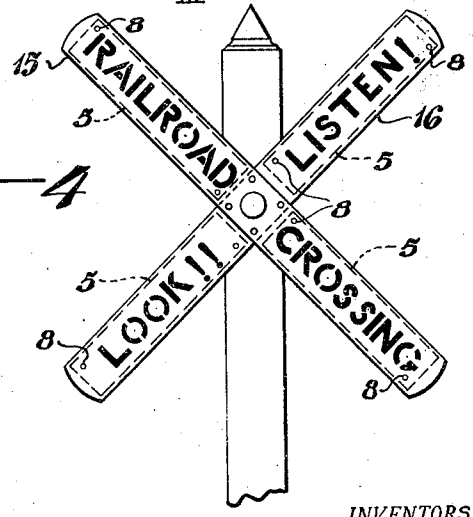


Fig 4



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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RAILWAY SIGN.

Application filed April 6, 1926. Serial No. 100,011.

This invention relates to signs and particularly to railway signs and more especially railway signs positioned along the right-of-way.

It is well known to those skilled in the railway art that various signs are used along the right-of-way of a railway. Such signs may be distance indication signs such as mile posts, signal pole numbers, so-called whistle signs and signs at crossing at grade of high-ways. It is also well known that to serve their purpose, these signs must all be of such a nature that the characters thereon may be readily read at some considerable distance by a person while moving at perhaps a somewhat high speed. In order to obtain a legible sign of the type mentioned it has heretofore been necessary to make such signs having letters or figures thereon of such a nature that the surface thereof was not readily attacked by the noxious gases and fumes generally prevalent in and about railway tracks and also of such a nature that the soot, dirt or dust generally prevalent about railway tracks would not readily adhere to and so obscure the letters or figures or their indicia on the sign.

Signs of the type which are suitable for railway work, have in consequence of the difficulties encountered, been made of comparative expensive materials, such as enameled metal. By using enameled metal very good results have been obtained, because such signs are somewhat resistant to noxious fumes and gases and may be quite readily washed.

Such signs although expensive obviate the necessity of a skilled sign painter repainting the sign as is necessary with painted signs when the sign becomes obscured. Such signs, however, offer the difficulty that a very large number of practically identical signs must be required in order to make it a fairly reasonable plan as regards costs to use them because special tools and dies and other apparatus are necessary in order to produce such signs, so that by their use the advantages of the ordinary painted sign are lost, the advantage of the ordinary painted sign being that almost any form or style of lettering may be produced as an individual sign fairly cheaply.

It is the object of applicants' invention to produce a sign which may be readily made in small or large number profitably and which furthermore will comprise means by which the original legibility of the sign may be quickly restored after it has become soiled by means which do not involve the use of skilled labor, such for instance, as sign painters.

Other objects and advantages will appear as the description of the particular physical embodiment selected to illustrate the invention progresses and the novel features of the invention will be particularly pointed out in the appended claim.

In describing the invention in detail, and the particular physical embodiment selected to illustrate the invention, reference is had to the accompanying drawing, wherein has been illustrated a particular preferred physical embodiment of the invention, and wherein like characters of reference designate corresponding parts throughout the several views and in which

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a sign embodying the invention;

Fig. 2, is a rear view of the sign shown by Fig. 1;

Fig. 3, is a cross sectional view on the plane indicated by the line III—III of Fig. 2, viewed in the direction of the arrows at the ends of the line;

Fig. 4 is a face view of the ordinary and well known high-way crossing signal constructed in such a way as to embody the invention.

In the drawings Fig. 1, numeral 1, designates a sheet of material of adequate thickness to give the required strength, preferably of metal and preferably sheet iron. By ordinary well known common tools desired letters or figures or both, may be formed in the sheet 1. These letters and figures are cut so as to extend entirely through the sheet. In Fig. 1, we have shown the letter A designated by 2 and the number 1, designated by 3 and the number 7 designated by 4. Of course, any desired combination of letters, words, figures or numbers may be formed. If the sheet or plate 1 is positioned on the pole or other structure along the right-of-way in such a way as to have a sky background, the letters and figures would be readily readable, but a sky background is not always to be secured and even if it can be secured at times it is not in suitable condition for assisting the legibility of the figures or letters. Conse-

quently, applicants place on the back or rear side of the plate 1, another plate 5 as best shown in Fig. 3. This plate is of such size that it completely covers the cut-out portions of the plate 1. The plate 5 may be held in place on the rear of plate 1 by any suitable or appropriate means, but it is preferable to form one or more circular orifices in the plate 5 such as 6, as shown in Fig. 2, and connect these circular orifices with slots as 7 and to attach to the plate 1 projections as 8, best shown in Fig. 3, which have enlarged heads 9 of such size that they will just pass through the circular orifice 6 on the plate 5. By this construction plate 5 may be placed in position on the rear of plate 1 so that circular orifice 6 coincides with the enlarged heads 9, whereupon the plate 5 may be placed closely adjacent the plate 1 and then by being moved endwise slightly the reduced portion of the projections will enter the slots 7 of the plate, whereupon the plate may be let go, because it will be then held in place firmly and securely by the enlarged heads 9 bearing against the rear side of the plate 5.

In order to render the letters and figures more conspicuous, the plate 5 is given a coating of some white substance, preferably ordinary white paint.

After the sign has been in place for sometime if it becomes somewhat obscured by reason of noxious gases affecting the paint, or soot being deposited thereon, plate 5 may be readily removed and for this purpose applicant forms handholds, such as 11 at each end thereof by turning up the ends of the plate 5. Upon removal the plate 5 may be washed readily and completely or it may be given a new coating of a white substance, either applied by dipping or in any of the well known manners, as by a brush. In applying the new coating unskilled labor may be used, as no particular skill is required. Such a plate 5 when recoated is virtually as good as new and may be readily replaced in the manner hereinbefore described all by unskilled labor.

The plate 1 may be attached to any desired wayside structure and to facilitate this, applicant has provided bridging members as 12, each having an orifice therethrough as 13, through which a rivet or bolt may be passed to attach the plate to a supporting arm as 14.

In Fig. 4, the ordinary and well known highway crossing sign is illustrated composed of crossed members 15 and 16 in each of which are the necessary and desired cut out letters forming the necessary words. On the back of each arm are plates 5 and corresponding to the plates 5 of Fig. 1, which are removable in the same manner as the plate illustrated in Fig. 1.

Although the construction of one physical embodiment of the invention has been particularly described and the principle thereof explained, it is desired to have it understood that the form selected is merely illustrative, but does not exhaust the possible physical embodiments of the idea of means underlying the invention.

What is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent of the United States is:

In a sign, in combination; a plate formed with cut-away portions extending through the plate in the form of letter or figure characters, fastening means extending rearwardly from the plate, headed lugs projecting from the rear face of the plate, and a backing plate having a light-reflecting surface and provided with slots having enlarged portions to receive said headed lugs to thereby removably hold the plates together, said backing plate having rearwardly projecting flange portions forming handholds for positioning it upon the front plate or removing it therefrom.

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