

L. M. HICKEY.  
 REAR LAMP AND LICENSE NUMBER.  
 APPLICATION FILED MAR. 30, 1912.

1,055,172.

Patented Mar. 4, 1913.

2 SHEETS-SHEET 1.

Fig. 2.

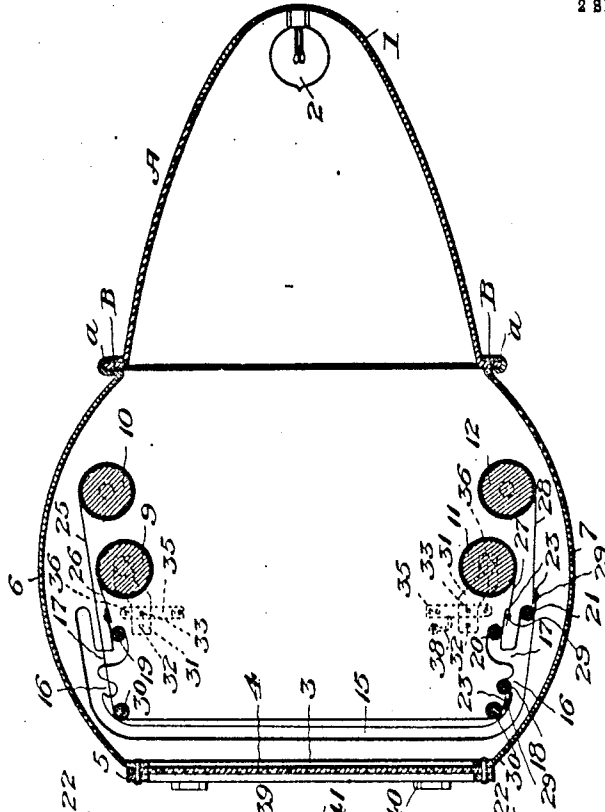
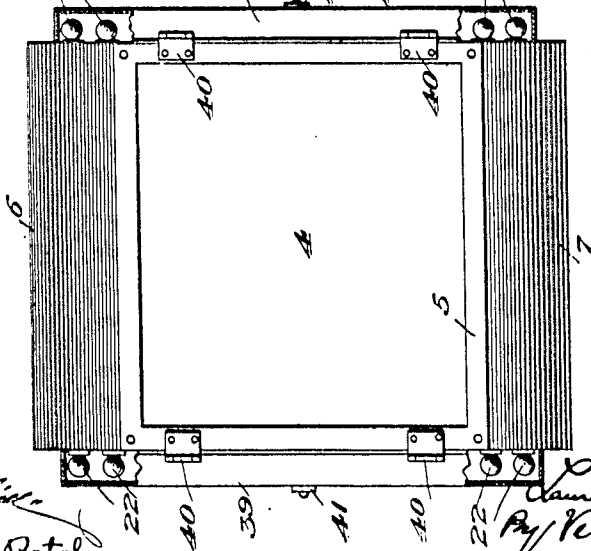


Fig. 1.



WITNESSES

*Lloyd W. Patch*

INVENTOR

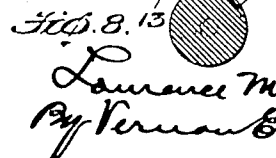
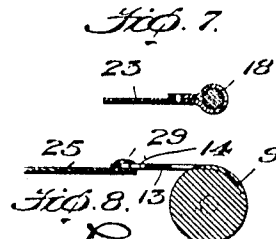
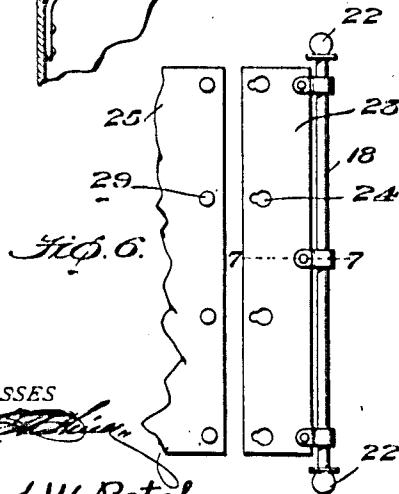
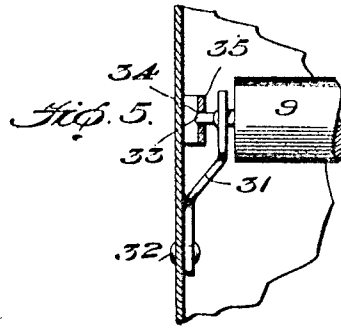
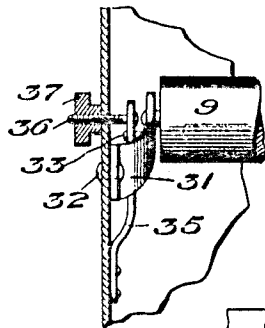
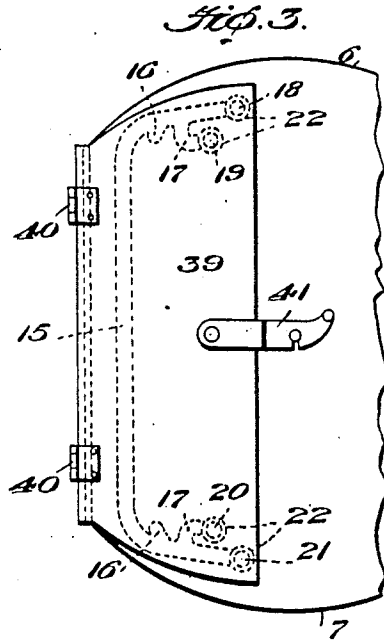
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2 SHEETS-SHEET 2.



WITNESSES

*Lloyd W. Patch*

INVENTOR

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LAURENCE M. HICKEY, OF DENVER, COLORADO.

REAR LAMP AND LICENSE-NUMBER.

1,055,172.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Mar. 4, 1913.

Application filed March 30, 1912. Serial No. 687,335.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, LAURENCE M. HICKEY, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city and county of Denver and State of Colorado, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Rear Lamps and License-Numbers, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in rear lamps and license-numbers, and the object is to provide a lamp having a transparent window and provided with a plurality of number-displaying curtains which are manually movable to such a position that the numbers thereon are visible through the transparent window, and that at night the light shines through the curtain to accomplish the double function of displaying the number and showing a rear light.

This invention relates to certain other novel features of construction and combinations of parts which will be hereinafter fully described and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings:—Figure 1 is a view in front elevation of my improved lamp, Fig. 2 is a longitudinal, vertical, sectional view, showing one of the number-carrying curtains moved to a position to display the number thereon, Fig. 3 is a fragmentary side elevation, Figs. 4 and 5 are detail views of the winding rolls, and Figs. 6, 7 and 8 are detail views of the curtain.

A, is the lamp casing which is provided with the usual reflector 1 in position to focus the rays from the lamp 2, which in this instance is shown as being an incandescent electric bulb of the usual type, although it is evident that an oil or other lamp may be used with equally good results. An opening 3 is formed in the front of the casing A, and this opening is covered by a transparent window 4 of celluloid which is held in place by a binding strip 5 received upon its edges. The top and bottom 6 and 7 of the casing are provided on their inner edges with grooves *a* which receive flanges B when the casing is moved transversely with respect to the reflector for holding the two in their assembled position.

Spring rollers 9, 10, 11, and 12 are mounted on the casing and have attached thereto

strips 18 of fabric or other flexible material which are provided on their free edges with the button-hole openings 14, 14. Slots 15 are formed through each side of the casing, and near their upper and lower terminus these slots are provided with branches 16 and 17. Rods 18, 19, 20, and 21 are received in the slots 15 and are held from endwise displacement by the knobs 22, 22, received upon their ends. Each of the rods 18, 19, 20 and 21 has secured thereto (by riveting or otherwise) a button-hole strip 23 similar to the strip 13 which is provided with button-holes 24. When the rods are in their normal position, rod 18 rests in the upper terminus of the slot 15; the rod 19 in the upper branch 17; rod 21 in the lower terminus of the slot; and rod 20 in the lower branch 17. Flexible number-carrying curtains 25, 26, 27, and 28, shown more in detail in Figs. 6, 7 and 8 have a row of buttons 29 along each end spaced to be received within the button-holes 14 and 24 formed in the flexible strips connected to the spring rollers and the rods. The curtain 25 is connected with the roller 10 and the rod 18; curtain 26 is connected with roller 9 and rod 19; curtain 27 is connected with roller 11 and rod 20; and curtain 28 is connected with roller 12 and rod 21. It is preferable that the curtains 25 and 26 carried by the upper spring rollers be exact duplicates of each other with the exception that the numbers carried by one curtain are in white or a like color, whereas the other curtain has the numbers printed in red; and the same arrangement as to the curtains is also desirable with the lower pair of rollers, although it will be readily understood that each curtain may be provided with different subject-matter. It is the intention with this arrangement of parts that the lamp shall carry two sets of license-numbers, for instance the license-numbers in two different States, a city and State, or two foreign countries, and that one curtain of a set shall be moved to a position that the numbers thereon are visible during the day through the window 4. At night this curtain may be moved from visible position and the other curtain of the set substituted in its place, and then when the lamp is lighted the numbers appear visible through the window in red, which accomplishes the double function of illuminating

the license-number and providing a red light in the rear as required by the motor laws in most localities.

Assuming that the parts are in their normal position, or in such position that any one of the curtains is not visible through the window, the operation is as follows to display the number contained upon one of the curtains:—The rod 18, for instance, will be in the upper terminus of the slot 15. The knobs 22 at each end thereof are grasped and the rod is moved down through slot 15, and thence up into the branch 16 near the lower terminus which, due to the spring tension of the roller 10, draws the curtain taut over rods 30 and 30' which hold it in position to be visible through window 4. When it is desired to display a number contained upon one of the other curtains, the rod 18 is released from branch 16 and permitted to go back to its normal position due to the spring tension of the roller 10, and one of the other rods is moved through the slot 15 and into one of the branches 16 to display its number through the window.

The spring rollers 9 and 11 are in such close proximity to the rollers 10 and 12 respectively that to remove or insert a curtain in said rollers would be very difficult, and to overcome this difficulty I have mounted the rollers 9 and 11 at each end upon the swinging brackets 31, 31, which are pivoted to the sides of the casing as at 32. A pin 33 is carried on the outside of each of the brackets 31 in position to be received in an opening 34 formed in the spring 35 secured to the side of the casing. As a means of releasing the pin from the spring, a screw-threaded rod 36 connected with the free end of the spring and extending through the casing has a nut 37 received upon the screw-threads to draw the spring 35 against the side of the casing and release the pin 33 from the opening 34 which permits of the roller being swung from its close proximity with the other roller of that set. To hold the lower roller 11 in the raised position to which it is swung, it may be necessary to provide a hook 38 in position to be received around the pin 33.

As a means for protecting the slots 15 and preventing ice, mud, and other foreign substances from lodging therein, shields 39 are provided at each side which are hinged at 40 to swing into line with the front of the casing, and are held closed by latches 41.

It will thus be seen that I have provided a device of the character described in which a plurality of number-displaying curtains which are detachably received within the casing may be brought to a position so that the numbers are visible through an open-

ing in the casing, and also when the lamp is burning, the light and numbers are visible at the same time.

Having fully described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:—

1. A device of the character described comprising a casing having a window formed therein, a plurality of spring-rollers mounted in the casing, slots formed in either side of the casing, rods received within the slots, number-carrying curtains connected with each of the rollers and with the rods, and means for moving one of said rods through the said slot to a position to display the number carried on the curtain connected therewith.

2. A device of the character described comprising a casing having a window formed therein, a plurality of spring-rollers mounted in the casing, slots formed in either side of the casing, rods received within the slots, number-carrying curtains connected with each of the rollers and with the rods, means positioned to be manually operated from the exterior of the casing for moving one of said rods through said slot to a position to display the number carried on the curtain connected therewith, and a branch extending from said slot for holding the rod in said last-named position.

3. A device of the character described comprising a casing having a window formed therein, two sets of spring-rollers mounted within the casing, slots formed through the sides of the casing, rods received within the slots, number-carrying curtains detachably and interchangeably connected with said rollers and rods, and one roller of each set movable with respect to the other whereby more ready access may be had to said movable roller for adjusting said curtains.

4. A device of the character described comprising a casing having a window formed therein, one or more sets of spring rollers mounted in the casing, slots formed in the casing, rods received within the slots, number-carrying curtains connected with the spring-rollers and rods, means for displaying each of said curtains before the window, one of said curtains having the numbers thereon printed in red, and a lamp received behind said curtain in a position to throw its light therethrough.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature, in the presence of two witnesses.

LAURENCE M. HICKEY.

Witnesses:

ELMER D. DAVIS,

VIRGIL F. WETMORE.