

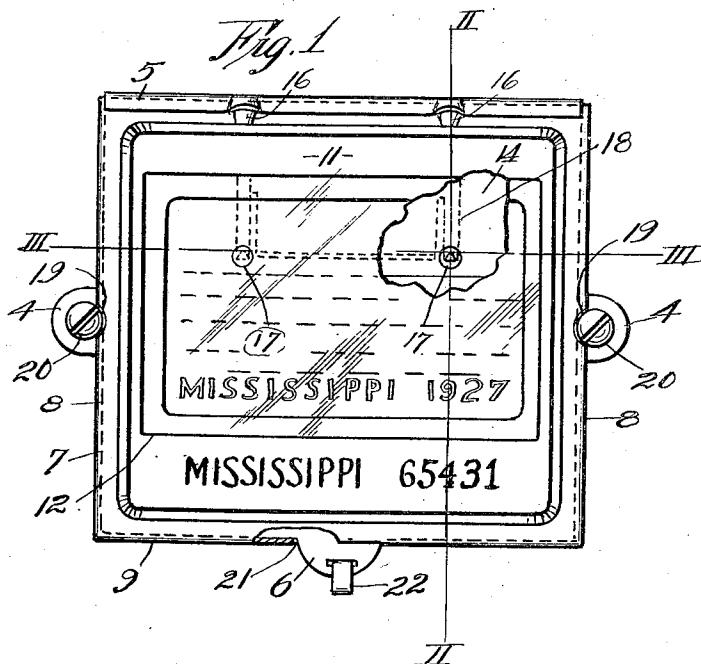
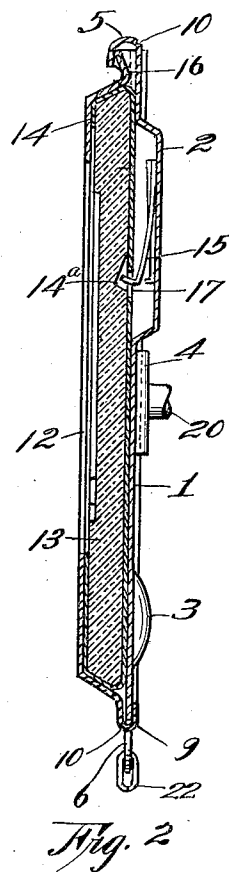
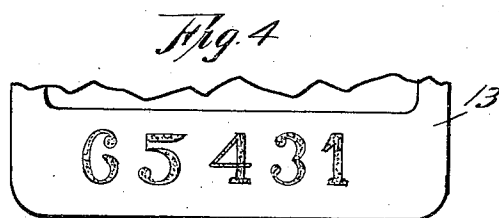
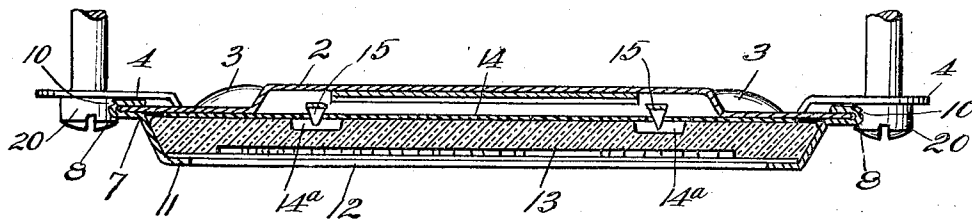
May 29, 1928.

1,671,392

S. K. WOOD

CAR IDENTIFYING MEANS

Filed Dec. 20, 1926



Witness:

R. Hamilton

INVENTOR.
S. K. Wood.

BY

Thorpe & Crowl ATTORNEYS.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

STRAUD K. WOOD, OF HUTCHINSON, KANSAS.

CAR-IDENTIFYING MEANS.

Application filed December 20, 1926. Serial No. 156,026.

This invention relates to motor car identifying appliances of that character involving the use of a State or equivalent certificate or ticket adapted for display on the car and which if mutilated is justification for investigation and perhaps arrest of the party in possession of such car. The invention is designed more especially as an improvement in the corresponding device on which Letters Patent No. 1,519,472, issued to me December 16, 1924, and my object is to produce a car identifying means of the same general character as that of the patent above identified but of more compact construction, more certain in the mutilation or destruction of the certificate under the conditions hereinafter mentioned; which can be assembled or opened more readily than the patented one referred to, and which is less liable to be accidentally opened and hence effect the inadvertent mutilation of the certificate.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists in certain novel and useful features of construction and combinations of parts as set forth in the statement of the objects of the invention; and in order that it may be fully understood reference is to be had to the accompanying drawing, in which:—

Figure 1 is a face view of an appliance embodying the invention.

Figure 2 is an enlarged vertical section on the line II—II of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is an enlarged horizontal section on the line III—III of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a fragmentary face view of a transparent plate forming a part of the invention.

Referring to the drawing in detail, 1 indicates a back member of rectangular form and provided with a rearwardly offset panelled portion 2 and a pair of offset portions 3, so that when the portion 2 is fitted against the dash or equivalent part of an automobile, the offset portions 3 will engage the dash also and in conjunction with the offset panel 2 insure a flat firm bearing against the dash. At opposite vertical edges the member 1 is provided with outwardly projecting perforated ears 4 which are offset rearwardly from the member inward of its side margins. The upper end of the members is bent forwardly and downwardly at 5 to provide a downwardly opening groove,

and at its lower edge is formed with a depending slotted tongue 6.

The front member 7 which corresponds in form to the rear member, is bent at its opposite vertical edges as at 8 to provide rearwardly and inwardly opening grooves for the slidable reception of the side edges of the rear member, and at its lower edge the front member is bent rearwardly and upwardly as at 9 to provide a groove for the reception of the lower edge of the rear member, it being also noted that the upper edge of the front member is received in the grooved upper edge of the rear member. The two members are thus, when slid together, interlocked at all four edges against movement tending to spread them apart, and to guard against the opening of any of said grooved edges by bending the metal, each of the bent edges is weakened, as by scoring them as at 10, so that if an attempt is made to straighten out one of the grooved edges, the metal will break along the score and thus indicate that the appliance has been tampered with.

The front member is provided with a forwardly offset portion 11 of rectangular form and of almost the full area of the member, and such offset is provided with a window openings 12.

A transparent plate 13 is of size and form to fill the chamber of the offsetting portion 11, and is of sufficient thickness to press a paper certificate 14 firmly against the back member. In practice, as in the patented construction hereinbefore identified, these certificate bear certain indicia, such as the State, Make, Type, Model, Power, Capacity, Factory number, License number, etc., of the car or engine. It also may bear indicia indicating when the car was bought, when the license was issued, the signature of the owner and other matter, if desirable, and while not absolutely essential it is desirable that the transparent plate shall also bear the name of the State, the number of the license, and the year in which the license was issued, preferably in some permanent character or form as by molding or sand blasting.

The transparent plate is provided with one or more angular recesses 14^a in its rear side and projecting into said recess or recesses is the hook end of spring or springs 15 spot-welded or otherwise rigidly secured to the back member within the panel portion

2 thereof. Each hook end and recess 14^a of the plate when in operative relation, are in vertical alinement with a channel 16 formed in the upper edges of the front member by bowing the material outward, the channels being sufficiently deep to receive the hook ends of the springs without necessitating repression of the hooks by finger pressure of the operator. In other words, the provision of the channels facilitates the operative assembly of the two members, it being obvious that if the upper edge of the front member above the offsetting portion 11 thereof was fitted flat for its entire area against the corresponding portion of the back member, the lower ends of the hook members in the sliding of the two members together would strike upon and arrest the sliding action. In this case the hooks would have to be repressed by hand before such action could continue. With channels provided in the upper end of the front member to receive said hook ends, this trouble is not encountered, it being further noted that the base of each channel slopes downwardly and rearwardly and thus serve as a cam to repress the respective hook end so that the latter may readily pass the upper rear edge of the plate and the paper where folded around such edge without injury or appreciable injury to the latter, as in sliding the members together, the relative downward movement of the back member and upward movement of the front member, the hook ends are adapted to slide downward on the paper and when they register with the recesses 14^a snap forward into the same. In the event the paper is of a tough character and cannot be readily punctured by the hook ends as they spring forward, it is desirable to provide the paper with openings 17, and it is furthermore desirable that the upper edges of said openings shall stand in a lower plane than the upper edges of the recesses 14^a, so that should the members be drawn apart the inevitable consequence would be the mutilation or tearing of the certificate and thus indicate that the appliance had been tampered with and authorize a proper officer to make an investigation as to the ownership of the person in charge of the car, and to insure the mutilation of the certificate when it is opened, without destroying data which may be upon the certificate in proximity to the openings 17, the certificate is weakened in parallel lines as at 18 from the openings 17 to the upper edge of the plate. By thus weakening the certificate, the mutilation will be confined to tearing on and between the weakened lines.

To make it necessary to remove the appliance from a car before it can be opened by sliding the members apart, and thereby guard against accidental downward movement of the front member through jolting

of the car or otherwise, the front member is provided in its opposite side edges outward of the corresponding edges of the back member, with segmental notches 19 adapted to receive the heads 20 of the bolts by which the appliance is clamped to the dash, which heads consequently constitute a lock against slidable separating movement of the two members.

To prevent accidental separation by slidable action of the two members when not fastened to the dash, the front member is provided with a slot 21 through which the tongue 6 of the rear member projects, and the tongue is equipped with a detachable loop or clip 22. This loop or clip can readily be removed by hand when desired but when in place will prevent accidental disengagement of the front and back members, as it is incapable of passing through the slot 21. The tongue 6 has an additional function in that it can be used as a hammer to enable an authorized person to start the slidable operation of the members when not secured together by the bolts, in the event that they tend to stick. With the device properly made, the members fit together very snugly and a reasonable force is required ordinarily to draw them apart. For this reason one may, by starting the separation by hitting the tongue 6 against a fixed surface, make it much easier to obtain a good grip on the two members for completing the movement, which movement as hereinabove stated will effect the mutilation of the certificate through the action of the spring hooks.

From the above description it will be apparent that while I have produced a construction embodying all of the features of advantage set forth as desirable, it is to be understood that I reserve the right to make all changes properly falling within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

I claim:—

1. A car identifying means comprising a back member and a front member fitted slidably together with a tongue and groove relation at vertical edges, one member having rearwardly-offset perforated lugs projecting laterally beyond its own vertical edges and the corresponding edges of the other member, and the latter having notches in its vertical edges outward of the corresponding edges of the first member, and in register with the perforations of said lugs, and securing devices extending through the perforations of said lugs and provided with heads bearing against the lugs and fitting in said notches to prevent relative sliding movement of the members.

2. A car identifying means, comprising a back member and a front member having a window opening, for fitting slidably together, the back member having its upper

edge bent forwardly and downwardly to receive the corresponding edge of the front member, a transparent plate to fit within and close the window opening of the front member and provided with a recess at its rear side, a readily destructible certificate for interposition between the said plate and back member, and a spring secured to the back member provided with a hook terminal for projecting forwardly through the certificate into said recess of the plate; the upper edge of the front member in the vertical plane of the plate recess, being bowed forwardly and providing a cam sloping downwardly and rearwardly to a point in proximity to the upper rear edge of the plate, to repress the spring as the members are slid together so that the hook-terminal may readily pass back of the plate and the certificate without mutilating the latter, and, as the sliding action is completed, snap forward through the certificate into the recess of the plate.

3. A car identifying means comprising a back member and a front member fitted flatly together with a tongue and groove relation at opposite parallel edges, the front

member having a forwardly projecting panel portion having a window, a glass plate fitting in the recess provided by said panel and covering said window, a readily destructible certificate interposed between the glass plate and the back member and in contact with said plate and the back member, and a spring secured within the back member and having a prong engaging the certificate to tear or mutilate the same should the members be slid apart; one of the said members having rearwardly-offset perforated lugs projecting laterally from the sides of said member, and the other member having notches in its side edges outward of the corresponding edges of the body portion of the first member and in register with the perforations of said lugs, and securing devices extending through the perforations of said lugs and provided with heads bearing against the latter and fitting in said notches to prevent relative sliding movement of the members.

In witness whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

STRAUD K. WOOD.