Dec. 6, 1927. 1,651,429

H. H. WINEBURGH

SIGN

Filed March 19, 1927

Fig. 1.

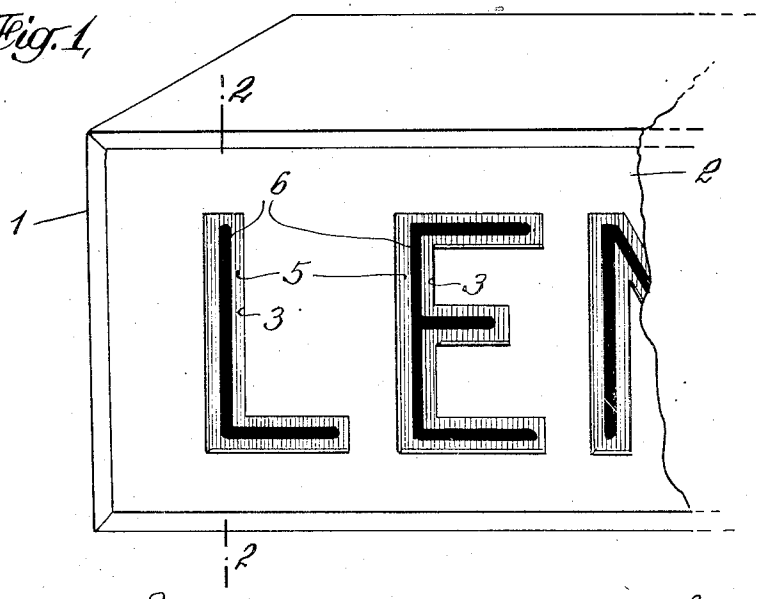


Fig. 2.

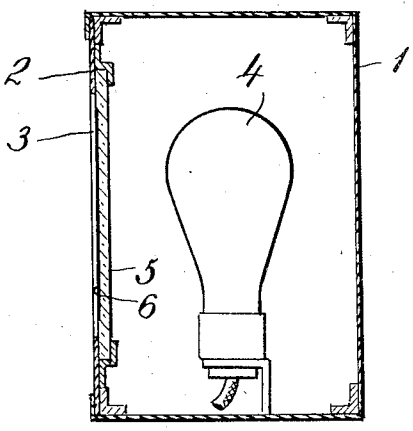


Fig. 3.

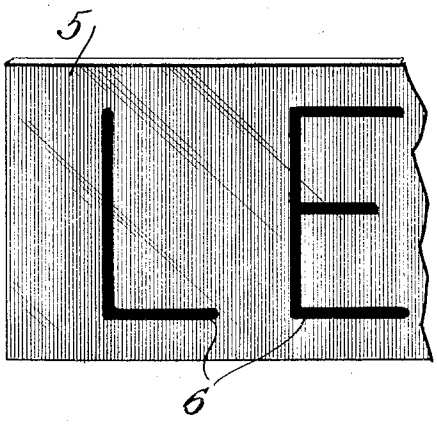
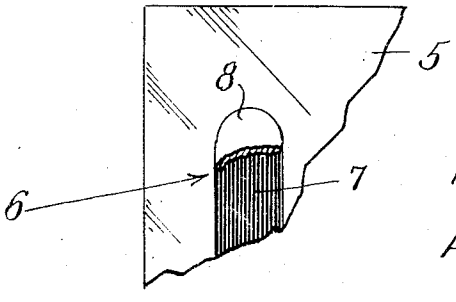


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY HAROLD WINEBURGH, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR TO TEXLITE ELECTRIC SIGN CO. INC., OF NEW YORK, N. Y., A CORPORATION OF TEXAS.

SIGN.

Application filed March 19, 1927. Serial No. 176,648.

This invention relates to improvements in illuminated signs for displaying advertising matter or other information.

At present there is being used a type of illuminated sign wherein the characters to be displayed are defined or outlined by means of electric lamps or tubes containing vapor or gas, such as neon tubes. While these signs are attractive, they are expensive and the tubes are liable to be broken or to get out of order.

The principal object of this invention is to provide a sign of simple, durable, and inexpensive construction which will simulate the effect and appearance of signs having illuminated characters formed of electric gas or vapor tubes.

Other and further objects of the invention will appear from the following description thereof.

One embodiment of the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a fragmentary perspective view of a sign embodying the invention,

Fig. 2 is a section thereof on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1,

Fig. 3 is a face view of a portion of the translucent plate of the sign and,

Fig. 4 is a broken detailed view of the plate.

Referring to the drawings the sign consists of a casing 1 made of metal or other suitable material and of any conventional or approved construction and design. The front or cover 2 of the sign is formed with openings 3 which are each cut out in the outline of a character such as a letter of the alphabet, a numeral, or other symbol or figure. Mounted within the casing is a source of light such as an electric lamp 4.

Within the casing, and closing the openings of the front 2, is a translucent plate 5 made of any suitable material, preferably colored opal glass. Marked or mounted on the plate 5 are characters 6 of a contrasting color to that of the plate and preferably formed of a substantially light impervious material. The characters 6 conform respectively in configuration with the characters outlined by the openings 3 of the casing but are somewhat smaller in size so that when the plate is in place in the casing a uniform border of the plate material, surrounding each character 6, is visible through the openings 3. Now when the plate is illuminated by means of the electric lamp 4, the characters 6 will be luminously outlined, thus causing them to stand out prominently and simulating the effect or appearance of characters formed or outlined with gas or vapor tubes. It is to be understood that instead of having a single plate 5 for all of the characters of the sign, individual plates for each separate character may be used.

The characters 6 may either be marked directly on the plate with a dark coloring matter, preferably an opaque black paint, or they may be made of porcelain or other material and cemented to or mounted on the plate. In the former case I prefer to first etch the characters on the plate, as indicated at 7 in Fig. 4, so as to provide a good bonding surface for the paint. If desired a surface coat 8 of paint, enamel, or other substance, either white or any bright color, may be applied over the dark undercoating to give the characters a more attractive appearance. In Figs. 1, 2 and 3 of the drawings the characters 6 are shown in black merely to indicate their opacity and without limitation as to color.

While I have shown the invention applied to a single faced sign, it is obvious that it may be used in a double faced sign, and that other modifications in the details of construction may be made without departing from the scope of the invention.

What I claim is:—

1. An illuminated sign comprising a casing having an opening formed in the outline of a character, a light source within the casing, a translucent plate backing and closing the opening, and an opaque character on the plate conforming in configuration with the character outlined by the casing opening but of a smaller size so as to leave visible a luminous border of the plate material surrounding the opaque character.

2. An illuminated sign comprising a casing having an opening formed in the outline of a character, a light source within the casing, a colored translucent plate backing and closing the opening and an opaque character on the plate of a color contrasting with that of the plate, said plate character conforming in configuration with the character outlined by the casing opening but being of a smaller size so as to leave visible

a luminous border of the colored plate material surrounding the opaque character.

3. An illuminated sign comprising a casing having an opening formed in the outline of a character, a light source within the casing, a colored translucent plate backing and closing the opening, and an opaque character on the plate conforming in configuration with the character outlined by the casing opening but of a smaller size so as to leave visible a luminous border of the colored plate material surrounding the opaque character.

HENRY HAROLD WINEBURGH.