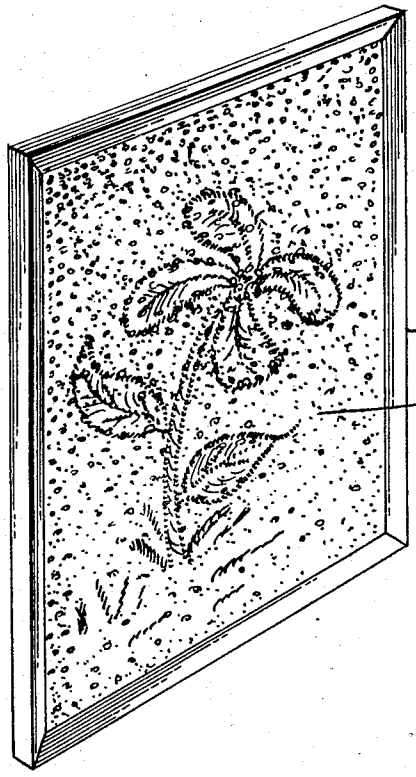
June 24, 1930. L. KATHE 1,765,981

TRANSLUCENT DECORATION AND SIGN

Filed Dec. 22, 1927

Fig. 1.



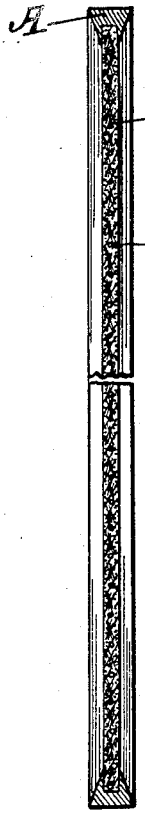


Fig. 2.

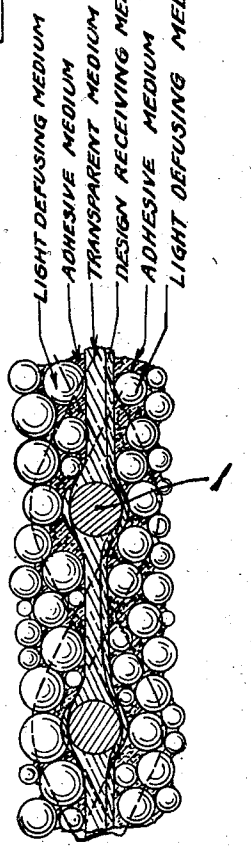


Fig. 3.

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TRANSLUCENT DECORATION AND SIGN

Application filed December 22, 1927. Serial No. 241,983.

This invention provides a novel and improved method of applying pictures or designs constituting a display to a sign or decorative base having translucent or transparent characteristics. A sign of this type is particularly effective under certain conditions, inasmuch as the design carried thereby may be viewed from either side with equal results; this being true when the design is applied to only one side of the sign base.

By availing of some material including a cellulose compound, such as collodion, for the stock from which the sign body is made a surface that is readily sensitized is provided. Such a sensitized surface is capable of functioning to receive and retain impressions from any picture or inscription which may be projected thereon. One of the important features of my invention is the employment of a photographic process for projecting or inscribing designs or characters on the sensitized surface. After the surface has received the proper impressions it may be developed by any well known developing process, whereby the image thereon will be brought out in such a manner that that portion of the sign base carrying the image will retain its translucent characteristics, while the remainder of the base will have assumed an opaque condition.

Another important object of this invention is to provide a sign of the type above referred to which is capable of having coloring matter applied thereto. In carrying out this idea I propose to employ paint solutions containing collodion or other cellulose compounds as the binder or vehicle in the solution. This coloring matter when applied to the sign base in no way detracts from its translucent properties.

Still another highly important feature of my invention is the incorporation into translucent signs or displays of means for diffusing the light passing therethrough, whereby a unique and pleasing effect is obtained. This is achieved by covering one or both sides of the decorative base with a coating of glass or crystal beads which, due to their refractory and reflecting properties, thoroughly diffuse the light passing through the translucent portions of the sign. In connection with the use of the crystal beads, it might be well to mention that a particular feature of the invention is the manner in which these beads are applied to the surface of the base. Again, I avail of a collodion solution as the adhesive which binds the beads to the body of the sign. As previously mentioned, the use of this substance does not in any way detract from the translucent properties of the display. Obviously any other desired translucent adhesive could be used for this purpose.

Other more detailed objects and advantages will in part become apparent and in part be hereinafter stated as the description of the invention proceeds. For a complete understanding thereof reference may be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective of a sign made made in accordance with this invention.

Figure 2 is a vertical cross section showing the composition of the sign base.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged section of the sign.

While the preferred form of the invention is herein set forth, it is to be understood that I am not to be limited to the exact constructions illustrated and described, because various modifications of these details may be provided in putting the invention into practice within the scope of the appended claim.

A sign or display made in accordance with this invention comprises any suitable framework A, and a sign or decorative base B. The material from which I prefer to make the main base B may be the so-called cel-o-glass. However, any transparent or translucent material including a cellulose compound having properties of collodion may be availed of as the stock from which the sign body is made. In the present instance the base B consists of a wire mesh or screen 1, which is covered with an acetone-cellulose compound. It might be well to mention that I could just as well employ some textile or fabric in place of the wire mesh. The reason for employing a compound contain-

ing cellulose is that a sensitizing emulsion may be readily applied thereto, to provide a sensitized surface. I have found that any of the silver halides, particularly silver bromide, affords an emulsion which gives very desirable results.

Having obtained a sensitized surface the sign or figures constituting the desired display may be inscribed thereon by any appropriate process. However, I prefer to employ a photographic process for this purpose as it affords a fine definition in the resulting sign. It is to be understood, however, that I am not to be limited to this particular method of applying the picture to the sign base as stenciling processes have been found to be very effective for work not requiring such fine detail.

After the sensitized surface has received the impression of the design projected thereon any appropriate developing process may be employed to bring out the image or picture. This may be brought out in the manner of negative photographic plates which provide a dark background and a light image. In the present instance this will result in providing a display on the sign base which is translucent, while the remainder of the base is in an opaque state. However, the converse may be obtained if desired. This is done by first projecting the sign on any appropriate sensitized surface to afford a negative thereof, whereupon this negative may be availed of for projecting its image on the sign. The display will then have the characteristics of a silhouette, the sign portion being opaque with the remainder thereof translucent.

Coloring effects may be obtained by applying appropriate paint solutions employing collodion or like cellulose compounds as a vehicle or carrier. A sign base with such coloring matter applied thereto will retain its translucent properties.

I have found that a very desirable and unique effect may be obtained in signs of this type by diffusing the light that passes through the translucent portions thereof. I propose to do this by applying a coating of glass or crystal beads to one or both sides of the decorative base. This is done by first coating the surface or surfaces of the base with an adhesive (preferably one containing collodion as its major constituent) and sprinkling the beads or crystals thereover to provide a thin layer or coating. This coating of beads will function to reflect and refract any light passing through the sign to thoroughly diffuse the same. The coating may be applied only to the translucent portions of the sign base, or to the whole thereof, in accordance with the needs of the particular occasion. When it is to be applied only to the translucent portions of the sign the adhesive is applied only to that portion, whereupon the sprinkling of the beads will cause them to adhere only to that portion of the sign carrying the adhesive.

When various coloring effects are added to the decorative base the latter will usually comprise portions that are partially translucent and opaque to varying degrees. Obviously any coloring material having the required translucent properties may be availed of in place of the type hereinbefore described. This also applies to the binder for the crystal beads.

The invention herein described and claimed is susceptible to a wide range of usage as it may be availed of in connection with any articles of the decorative or display type having translucent characteristics, such as lamp shades, screens, and kindred products.

Having thus described my invention what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is:

The method of making translucent articles of the class described, which consists in building up a base by filling in the spaces of an open mesh woven fabric with a cellulose compound, sensitizing a surface of the base, inscribing a design on the sensitized surface, treating the surface to develop opaque and translucent portions in the base, coating a side of the base with a translucent adhesive, and applying a diffusing medium to the base by embedding the same in the adhesive.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

LEO KATHE.