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INDICATING DEVICE FOR THEATER SEATS.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 3, 1920.

1,429,057. Patented Sept. 12, 1922.

Fig. 1.

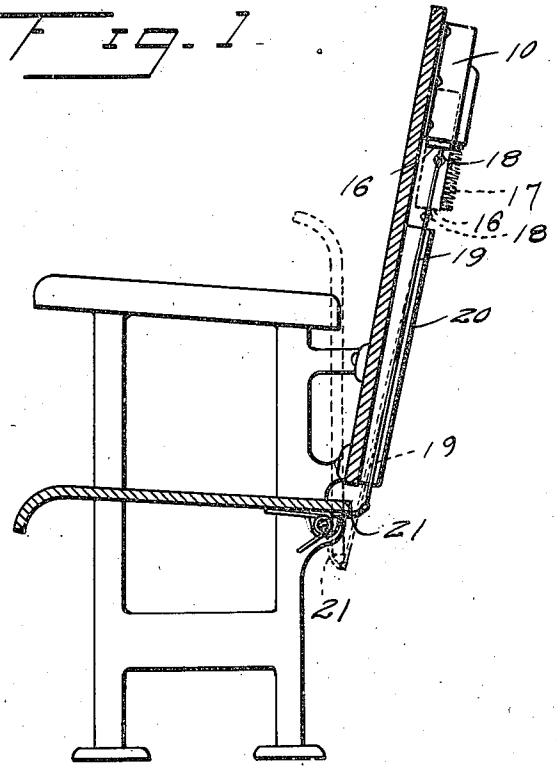
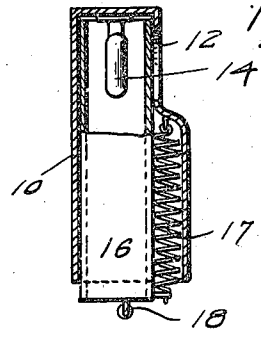


Fig. 3.



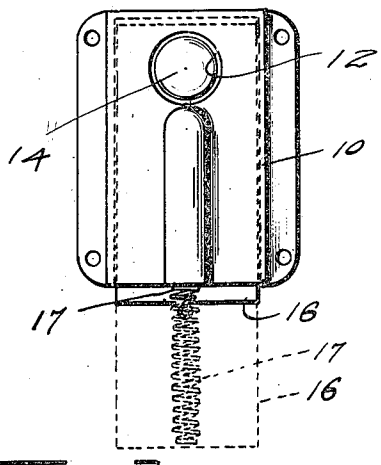


Fig 2.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DAVID R. ALLEN AND JOHN FRANEK, OF OMAHA, NEBRASKA.

INDICATING DEVICE FOR THEATER SEATS.

Application filed September 3, 1920. Serial No. 408,063.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, DAVID R. ALLEN and JOHN FRANEK, citizens of the United States, residing at Omaha, in the county of Douglas and State of Nebraska, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Indicating Devices for Theater Seats; and we do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to an indicating device for theater seats, and the object is to provide means for designating vacant seats, so that an individual entering an auditorium or theater may be able to ascertain at a glance, from a point in the rear, which seats are turned up and unoccupied.

A further object is to provide in connection with a glowing element enclosed in a casing mounted on the back of the seat, means for shielding the glowing element, when the seat is turned down, and means connecting the shield with the seat per se, whereby the shield is withdrawn for exposing the glowing element when the seat is turned up, and therefore not in use, it being understood in general that a seat may be turned down indicating use for a particular performance, but not perhaps actually occupied.

A still further object is to provide, in a device for indicating vacant seats, a casing or housing to be mounted on the back of the seat, a glowing element within the housing, a slide or shield covering said glowing element at times, a spring connected with the slide, and a flexible device connected with said slide and with the lower side of the seat, and serving to withdraw the slide against the tension of the spring, for exposing the glowing or indicating element when the seat is in a raised position.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, the invention consists in the novel construction, combination, and arrangement of elements hereinafter described and claimed in the accompanying drawings,

Figure 1 is a longitudinal sectional view illustrating an indicating device for theater seats constructed in accordance with our invention,

Figure 2 is a front elevation illustrating the device and removed from a theater chair,

Figure 3 is a sectional view illustrating the same.

In carrying out our invention, we employ a casing 10 of suitable form and configuration, designed for attachment to the rear side of a theater seat, and more particularly to the central portion of the back near the top. The casing 10 is provided with an opening 12 through which a glowing element 14 is visible, in order that it may serve as an indicating device, when the slide or shield 16 is in an open position. Connected with the slide is a spring 17, serving to restore the slide to normal position for closing the opening when released by the flexible device referred to below.

Also connected with the slide by means of a securing device such as shown at 18, is a flexible device, or cord 19, passing through a guiding element 20 and being secured by means of any suitable device 21 to the lower side of the seat per se.

The cord or other flexible element is of such length, that when the seat is raised, tension will be exerted on the cord and the slide will be pulled downwardy exposing the glowing element through opening 12. Upon moving the seat to operative position, tension on the cord is relieved and the slide moves to closed position under the action of the spring. The glowing element may be of phosphorescent material, or any other suitable substance may be provided. The amount of light emitted will of course be slight and will not interfere with the lighting effect in the auditorium.

Having thus fully described the invention, what we claim is:

1. A chair having a signalling element above the seat, said element having a casing provided with a housing and an opening above the housing, a signal opposite the opening, a shutter slidable in the casing over said opening, a spring in the housing connected to the casing and shutter to urge the latter to closed position, and a means to operate the shutter.

2. A chair having a movable seat, and a signalling element above the seat, said element having a casing provided with a hous-

ing and an opening above the housing, a signal opposite the opening, a shutter slidable in the casing over said opening, a spring in the housing connected to the casing and shutter to urge the latter to closed position, and a flexible operating element connected to the shutter and to the seat.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures in presence of two witnesses.

DAVID R. ALLEN.
JOHN FRANEK.

Witnesses:
JOSEPH V. KASPAR,
JOSETH KOFKA.