

R. A. STEVENSON.
INTERCHANGEABLE NUMBER FRAME.
APPLICATION FILED MAY 2, 1907.

Fig. 1.

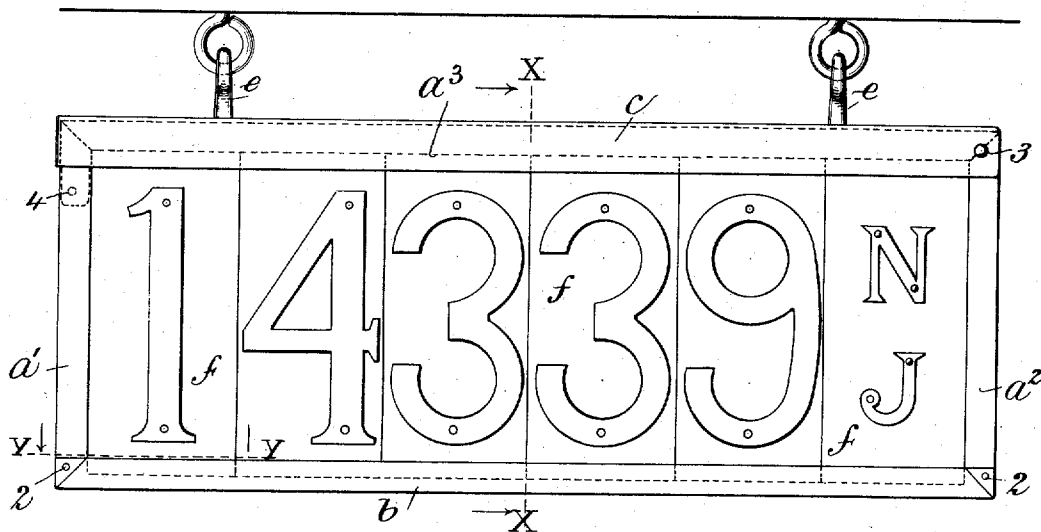


Fig. 3.

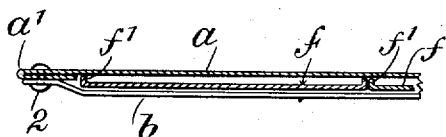


Fig. 2.

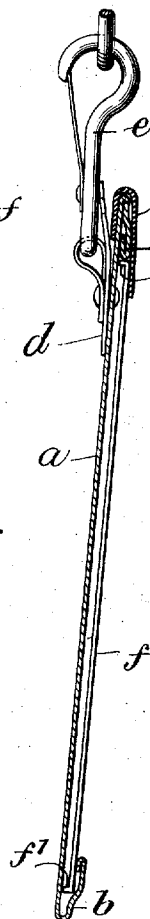
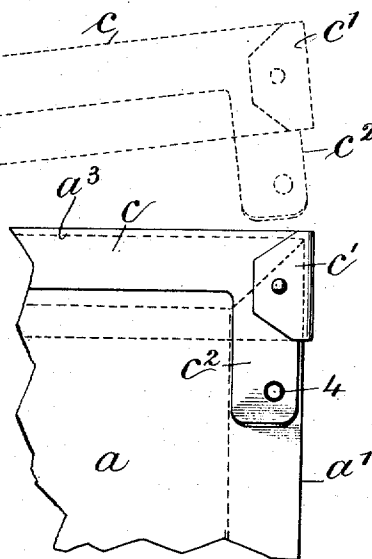


Fig. 4.



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT A. STEVENSON, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO N. STAFFORD CO.,
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INTERCHANGEABLE-NUMBER FRAME.

No. 872,769.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Dec. 3, 1907.

Application filed May 2, 1907. Serial No. 371,401.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT A. STEVENSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at the borough of Manhattan, city, county, and State of New York, have invented an Improvement in Interchangeable-Number Frames, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a frame adapted to hold interchangeable plates for numerals or letters, or both, for forming various desired designations, and the same is especially adapted for use with motor vehicles.

Owners of motor vehicles are now-a-days required to take out a license and their vehicles to be numbered and to carry about the number conspicuously displayed, usually depending from the rear of the machine and often also attached at the front. Each State issues licenses and numbers; the numbers of the States are regulated in size and color and touring motor vehicles passing from one State into another must change their number on the border, and the object of my invention is to provide a frame or holder adapted to receive the respective desired sets of numerals or letters, or both, so that the tourist only carries the sets of numerals etc.

In carrying out my invention, I provide a rectangular plate of sheet metal and overturn the edges thereof against the same surface so as to form a frame. One edge is spaced apart from the plate and the other and opposite edges are placed down snugly against the plate. I provide a member or edge to come opposite the spaced apart edge and this is pivotally connected at one end to one over-turned edge preferably at one corner of the frame and at its other end is provided with a suitable catch.

Suspending devices are employed secured to the plate at its back for suspending the frame from eyes or straps to a support—the parts being so arranged that the frame may remain in position while the number is being changed from the number of one State to the number of another.

The numerals or letters, or both, are arranged upon plates forming a parallel series adapted to lie side by side in the frame and to fit in the spaced apart edge and beneath the hinge member of the frame by which they are held in position. The numerals or letters of the desired size and color are to be

secured to these plates and the surfaces of the plates are to be prepared according to regulation, and the series of plates of one member are interchangeable with others at the pleasure of the autoist or when necessary in touring.

In the drawing, Figure 1 is an elevation of the device of my invention as suspended from a point of support. Fig. 2 is a vertical cross section on the dotted line x, x , Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a sectional plan on the dotted line y, y , Fig. 1, and Fig. 4 is a rear view at the upper left hand corner of Fig. 1 of the frame showing the construction of this corner of the hinge member and the way of attaching the same to the frame.

a represents the plate or back of the frame, the edges a^1, a^2, a^3 of which are over-turned and pressed down upon the surface of the plate a against which they are over-turned. The lower edge b is also over-turned in like manner but is not pressed down. This edge is spaced apart from the plate a and its ends are advantageously turned down against the outer surfaces of the over-turned edges a^1, a^2 and small rivets 2 may be passed through these parts so as to hold the spaced apart edge strip b in position.

I provide a hinge member c formed essentially in the shape of an inverted U with one limb prolonged beyond the other. This will be apparent from the cross section Fig. 2. The internal width of this hinge member c is sufficient to straddle the plate a and its upper over-turned edge a^3 , and in width the member is wide enough at the front to extend appreciably beyond the over-turned edge a^3 . This hinge member is pivotally connected by a rivet 3 to one corner of the frame and at its opposite end is preferably formed with an over-turned tang c^1 which extends around the side of the frame so as to grasp the same frictionally. This tang c^1 is preferably connected by a rivet to the main portion of the hinge member and the hinge member adjacent to the tang is provided with a spring tongue c^2 provided with an opening. A stud rivet 4 is secured to the plate a and its over-turned edge a^1 and projects rearwardly from the frame so as to pass through the opening in the spring tongue c^2 and therewith to form a catch employed for holding the hinge member c in place in the frame.

I have shown plates d riveted to the plate a at the back thereof. These plates carry

snap-hooks *e* adapted to engage eyes in the vehicle body so as to suspend the number frame from the vehicle body. These plates *d* are slotted and may be engaged by a strap 5 extending from the same portion of the vehicle body for the purpose of connecting thereto the said frame, in which case the snap-hooks *e* will not be used but will hang free against the back of the frame.

10 I have shown and employ a series of removable plates *f* which are alike and which plates are provided with over-turned edges *f*¹ for the two-fold purpose of stiffening the plates *f* and facilitating the placing of the 15 plates of the series in the frame and preventing their longitudinal movement and tendency to override. The lower edge *b* of the frame is spaced apart sufficiently to receive these removable plates and the edge of the 20 hinge member *c* is wide enough to extend over the upper edges of these plates *f*.

In Fig. 1 I have shown numerals as secured to five of the plates and forming the number 14339 and on the following plate the 25 letters N. J. indicating the State granting to the autoist this number for his car. While this is illustrated it serves to indicate the application of the device for these numerals and indicating that any number may be em- 30 ployed, together with any letters standing for a State, and while I have shown five plates for numerals in the frame and one for the letters of the State, the frame may be of any size adapted to receive any number or 35 plates, and furthermore, the plates for the frame may not all contain numbers as some of them may be blank in cases where the number of the car only includes two or three numerals.

40 The exposed surfaces of the plates *f* may be given any color desired or required by the State issuing the license, likewise the numerals made in any color according to the same requirements.

45 It is however, quite apparent that it is a very simple proposition to unlatch the hinge member *c* from the stud rivet 4 and to swing the frame with reference to the hinge member so as to change the number of the car at 50 the pleasure of the autoist or necessity of the case. The over-turned edges of the plates *f* provide a stiffness to the plates increasing their useful life and serving to keep them in shape so as to prevent buckling or twisting.

55 I do not limit myself to the precise details shown and described as obvious equivalents may be employed within the scope of the appended claims without departing from the spirit of my invention.

60 I claim as my invention:

1. A frame for interchangeable numerals or letters, comprising a plate with over-turned edges and a lower edge spaced apart 65 opposite to the spaced apart edge and

pivotaly connected to the frame at one corner in a hinged relation and adapted to fit over one over-turned edge so as to receive between the said member and the spaced apart edge the interchangeable 70 numerals or letters.

2. A frame for interchangeable numerals or letters, comprising a plate with over-turned edges and a lower edge spaced apart from the plate, a member along the 75 edge opposite to the spaced apart edge and pivotaly connected to the frame at one corner in a hinged relation and adapted to fit over one over-turned edge so as to receive between the said member and the 80 spaced apart edge the interchangeable numerals or letters, and means secured to the said plate for removably connecting the same with a suitable support.

3. A frame for interchangeable numerals 85 or letters, comprising a plate with over-turned edges and a lower over-turned edge spaced apart from the plate, a member fitting over the edge opposite to the spaced apart edge and pivotaly connected to the 90 said plate at one corner of the frame so as to swing, and a series of interchangeable plates having over-turned edges and upon which are numerals or letters, said plates 95 being interchangeable with one another and received within the lower spaced apart edge and beneath the pivotal member along the opposite edge of the frame.

4. A frame for interchangeable numerals or letters, comprising a plate with over- 100 turned edges and a lower over-turned edge spaced apart from the plate, a member fitting over the edge opposite to the spaced apart edge and pivotaly connected to the 105 said plate at one corner of the frame so as to swing, and a series of interchangeable plates having over-turned edges and upon which are numerals or letters, said plates 110 being interchangeable with one another and received within the lower spaced apart edge and beneath the pivotal member along the opposite edge of the frame and devices 115 connected to the back of the plate for removably suspending the same from a point of support.

5. In a frame for interchangeable numerals or letters, the combination with a plate of rectangular configuration, an over-turned spaced apart edge along the longest dimensions of the plate, a member adapted to fit 120 over and along the opposite longest edge of the plate and a pivotal connection therefor at one end, a part adapted to extend around the corner of the edge of the frame at the opposite edge of said hinge member and a 125 catch device connected to this latter end of the pivotal member for fixing the position of the same.

6. In a frame for interchangeable numerals or letters, the combination with a plate 130

of rectangular configuration, an over-turned spaced apart edge along the longest dimensions of the plate, a member adapted to fit over and along the opposite longest edge of the plate and a pivotal connection therefor at one end, a part adapted to extend around the corner of the edge of the frame at the opposite edge of said hinge member, a catch device connected to this latter end of the pivotal member for fixing the position of the same and a series of interchangeable numeral or letter plates each having over-turned edges adapted to be received in said frame between the spaced apart edge and the pivotally connected member.

7. In a frame for interchangeable numerals or letters, the combination with a plate of rectangular configuration, an over-turned spaced apart edge along the longest dimensions of the plate, a member adapted to fit over and along the opposite longest edge of the plate and a pivotal connection therefor at one end, a part adapted to extend around the corner of the edge of the frame at the opposite edge of said hinge member, a catch device connected to this latter end of the pivotal member for fixing the position of the same, and plates secured at the back of the frame plate and suspending devices

connected to said plates for suspending the frame device from a suitable support.

8. In a frame for interchangeable numerals or letters, the combination with a plate of rectangular configuration, an over-turned spaced apart edge along the longest dimensions of the plate, a member adapted to fit over and along the opposite longest edge of the plate and a pivotal connection therefor at one end, a part adapted to extend around the corner of the edge of the frame at the opposite edge of said hinge member, a catch device connected to this latter end of the pivotal member for fixing the position of the same, a series of interchangeable numeral or letter plates each having over-turned edges adapted to be received in said frame between the spaced apart edge and the pivotally connected member, and plate devices secured to the frame plate at the back thereof and to which are connected devices for suspending the said frame and the interchangeable number plates held thereby from a suitable support.

Signed by me this 5th day of April, 1907.
ROBT. A. STEVENSON.

Witnesses:

GEO. T. PINCKNEY,
E. ZACHARIASEN.