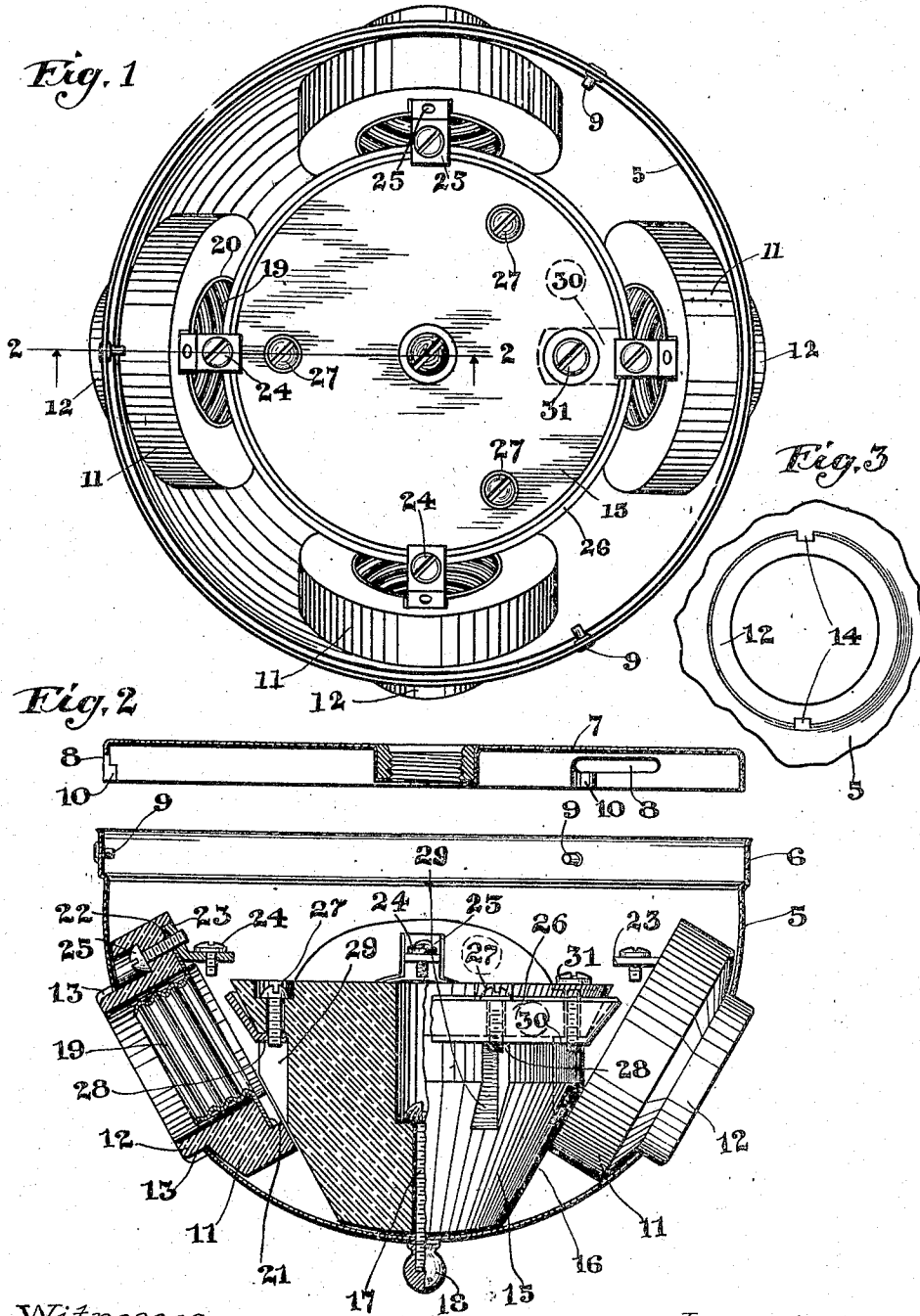


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PLURAL LAMP SOCKET.
APPLICATION FILED DEC. 28, 1907.

942,241.

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Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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PLURAL LAMP-SOCKET.

942,241.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Dec. 7, 1909.

Application filed December 28, 1907. Serial No. 408,408.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, REUBEN B. BENJAMIN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented new and useful Improvements in Plural Lamp-Sockets, of which the following is a full, clear, concise, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, forming a part of this specification.

This invention relates to improvements in plural lamp sockets and has for one of its objects the provision of a device of this class in which the lamps carried thereby are separately controllable, so as to provide for the regulation of the number of lamps which are burning at one time.

Another object is to provide a plural lamp-holding device which is of simple and economical construction.

A still further object is to provide such a device which may be readily changed to vary the number of lamps which the device is adapted to carry.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a top plan view of the device with the back plate removed; Fig. 2 is a sectional view of the same, the section being taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1, part of the interior construction being shown in elevation; Fig. 3 is a broken elevational detail showing a method of preventing the rotation of a lamp holder in its opening in the casing.

In the several figures of the drawings, in which like reference numerals indicate the same parts throughout, 5 is the lower portion of the casing consisting of a substantially hemispherical shell, the upper edge of which is expanded at 6 to a slightly larger diameter than the main portion. The back plate 7 forms the remainder of the casing and extends into the enlarged portion 6 of the hemispherical shell 5 when the parts are assembled, being held in place therein by a bayonet connection comprising a series of slots 8, preferably three in number, in the back plate, and corresponding inwardly-projecting pins 9 on the shell 5. Leading downwardly from the slots 8 are passages 10, through which the pins 9 pass when the shell 5 is being put up in place, whereby these pins are led into the slots 8. After the pins 9 have passed into the slots the shell is given a slight rotation to carry these pins to the inner ends of the slots.

The shell 5 is provided with a circularly-arranged series of openings, as many in number as the number of lamps which it is desired that the device shall carry. I have illustrated herein a casing provided with four such openings. In each of these openings is arranged a lamp-receiver comprising an insulating bushing 11 having a portion 12 of reduced diameter. These bushings are passed through the openings in the casing from the inside of said casing, and are held against rotation in the openings by forming each of the bushings with a pair of diametrically opposite grooves 13, 13 and providing on the casing a pair of corresponding tongues 14, 14 which, when the bushing is passed out through the opening in the casing, occupy the grooves 13, 13 in the bushing. The bushings are held against inward movement by the insulating base 15, which is formed with inclined converging sides 16 bearing against the bushings 11. After the bushings 11 and base 15 have been put in place in the casing the base 15 is secured in place by means of a bolt 17, extending centrally through the base and casing and provided with a nut 18 on the exterior of the casing.

Each of the lamp-holders is provided with an outer contact member which, when the device is adapted for Edison lamps, will take the form of a threaded shell 19. This threaded shell is provided with an outturned flange 20 which engages the inner circumference of the bushing and prevents the shell being drawn outward when the lamp is screwed into the same. This shell 19 is further provided with retaining means in the form of a pair of laterally-extending tongues 21 and 22. Over the tongue 22 lies a plate 23 provided with a binding screw 24. This plate 23 is held in place by means of a screw 25, the head of which is sunk in the bushing 11, and which passes through the plate 23 and tongue 22. By this means a separate binding terminal is provided for each of the sockets, whereby it is made possible, by the use of proper wiring and suitable switching means, to control each lamp or to combine these lamps in groups of such numbers as may be desired. If this grouping feature be not desired, a wire or other suitable conductor may be arranged to connect all of these binding terminals together.

Center lamp-terminal-engaging means are

provided for the sockets, this means consisting of a ring 26 which extends around the base 15 and is held in place on said base by means of three screws 27 passing through the base into lugs 28 formed on the ring. These lugs are bent inwardly from the ring and occupy recesses 29 formed for their accommodation in the base 15. A fourth lug 30 on the plate 26 is provided with a binding screw 31 by means of which a lead may be connected with the ring 26.

Having thus described my invention what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In a plural lamp-holding device, a casing, insulating lamp-receiving means carried by said casing, separate outer contacts for said lamp-holding means, a separate binding terminal for each of said outer contacts, a continuous center contact for all of said lamp-holding devices, a binding terminal for said center contact member, and a base carrying said center contact and its binding terminal, said base being removable independently of said outer contacts or their binding terminals.

2. In a plural lamp-holding device, a casing having lamp-receiving openings, outer lamp-terminal-engaging members carried by said casing and corresponding to said openings, each of said members having its own binding terminal, an inner contact opposite each of said openings, a binding terminal common to all of said inner contacts, and a base to which said common binding terminal is secured, said base being secured in said casing independently of said outer lamp-terminal engaging members and removable independently of said members.

3. In a plural lamp-holding device, a casing having lamp-receiving openings, an outer contact corresponding to each of said openings, an inner contact common to all of said openings, separate binding terminals for said outer contacts, and a base carrying said inner contact and made removable independently of said outer contacts.

4. In a plural lamp-holding device, a casing having lamp-receiving openings, an insulating bushing in each of said openings, a threaded shell in each of said bushings, a binding terminal for each of said threaded shells, an insulating member within said casing arranged to engage said bushings and hold the same in said openings; an annular contact member extending around said insulating member and forming a center contact for engagement with all of the lamps, and a binding terminal for said annular contact member.

5. In a plural lamp-holding device, the combination of a casing, conducting lamp-

receiving shells carried by said casing, an individual binding terminal for each of said shells carried by and insulated from the casing, an insulating member located within said casing, and secured therein independently of said shells, and means carried by said insulating member for electrically connecting with the center terminals of lamps inserted into said shells.

6. In a plural lamp-holding device, the combination of a casing, conducting lamp-receiving shells carried by said casing and insulated therefrom, an independent binding terminal for each of said shells, an insulating member within said casing, secured therein independently of said shells, and means carried by said insulating member for electrically connecting with the center terminals of lamps inserted into said shells.

7. In a plural lamp-holding device, the combination of a casing having a plurality of openings, an insulating lamp-receiving member in each of said openings, a lamp-engaging contact secured in each of said insulating members, independent binding terminals therefor secured to said insulating members, and a second contact within said casing corresponding to each of said lamp-receiving members.

8. In a plural lamp-holding device, the combination of a casing having a plurality of openings, an insulating lamp-receiving member inserted into each of said openings from the inside of said casing, a lamp-engaging contact secured in each of said insulating members, independent binding terminals secured to said insulating members, a base insertible into said casing after said insulating members have been placed in position and arranged to engage said insulating members and thereby hold said members in position, and means carried by said base for engaging the center terminals of the lamps.

9. In a plural lamp-holding device, the combination of a casing having a plurality of openings, an insulating lamp-receiving member inserted into each of said openings from the inside of the casing, a base inserted into said casing after said insulating members have been placed in position and arranged to hold said members in position, a threaded shell in each of said insulating members, and means on said base for engaging the center terminals of said members.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name in the presence of two witnesses.

REUBEN B. BENJAMIN.

Witnesses:

M. L. FARRAR,

CHARLES L. HOPKINS.