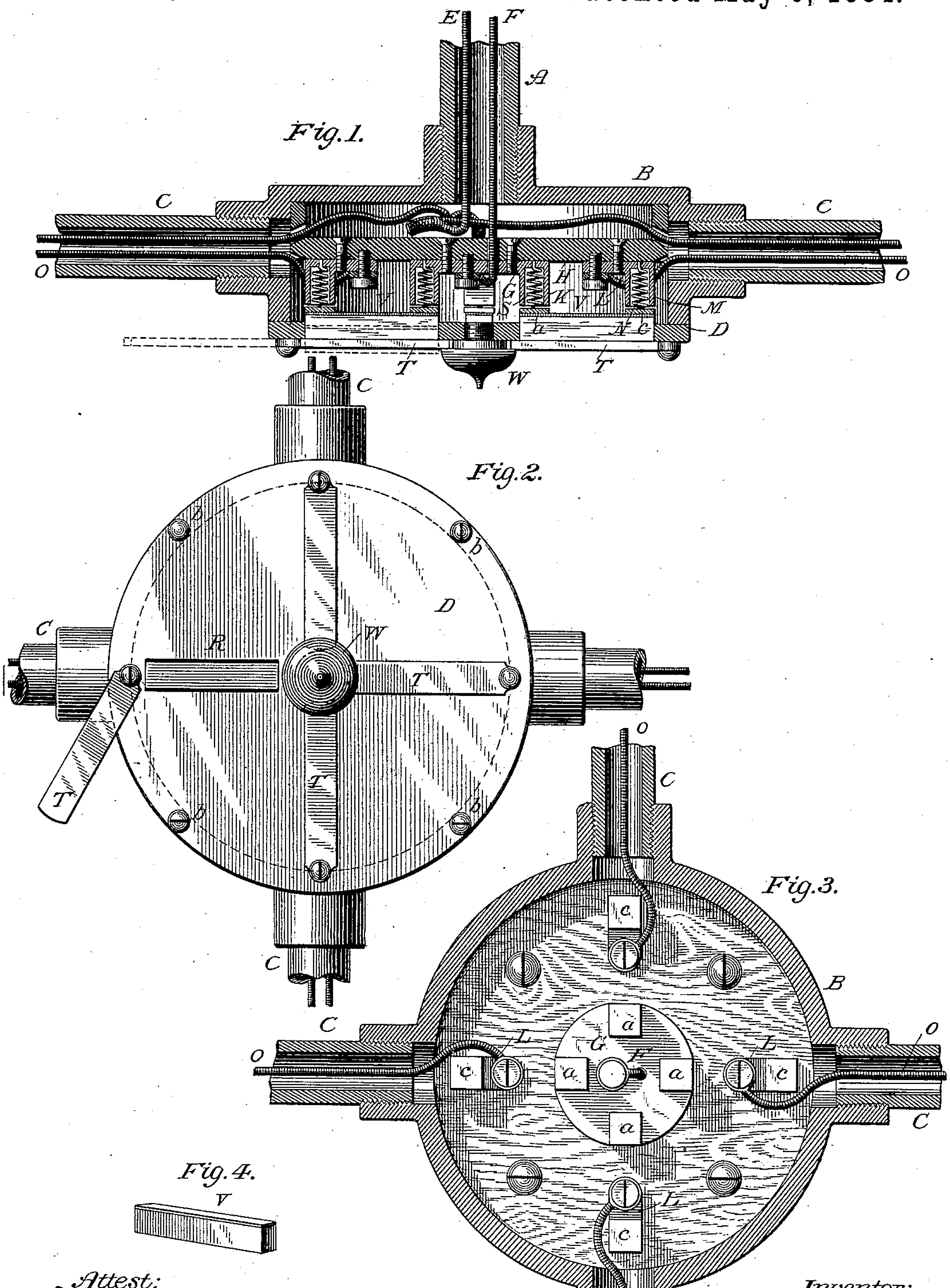
(No Model.)

E. WESTON.

INCANDESCENT LAMP FIXTURE.

No. 298,327. Patented May 6, 1884.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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INCANDESCENT-LAMP FIXTURE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 298,327, dated May 6, 1884.

Application filed October 31, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD WESTON, a subject of the Queen of Great Britain, and a resident of Newark, in the county of Essex and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Incandescent-Lamp Fixtures, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the drawings accompanying and forming a part of the same.

My invention relates to chandeliers for incandescent lamps; and it consists in improvements in devices for connecting with the conductors running through the chandeliers safety or fusible conducting-strips, for preventing an abnormal flow of current.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a central vertical section of the part of a chandelier to which my invention is applied. Fig. 2 is a plan view of the under side; Fig. 3, a horizontal section of the same, and Fig. 4 a detail view of the fusible safety-strip.

A is the main or vertical pipe or stem of an ordinary chandelier such as is commonly used for gas or incandescent lighting; B, a box, from which extend the branches C C, that support the lamps. The box B here shown is a shallow circular casting closed by a cover, D, held in place by screws. It may, however, have any other shape, or be made in many other ways. The main stem A and the branches C, the number of which is arbitrary, are secured to the box B by screw-threads. The conductors for conveying the current to the lamps are brought down through the main stem A into the box B. There one conductor, E, is divided into as many conductors as there are arms or branches to the chandelier, and these conductors are run through the branch pipes to the lamps. The other conductor, F, is connected to a metal plate, G, secured to an insulating plate, support, or box, H, contained within the box B. The plate G is provided with sockets K, corresponding in number and position to the branches C. In the sockets K are spiral springs J, carrying plates *a*. Plates L, each with a socket, M, spring N, and plate *c*, are fastened to the plate or support H, in line with the branches C, and at a short distance from the plate G. From the plates L lead conductors O, through the branch pipes C, to the lamps carried thereby.

D is the circular plate or cover, that is fastened by screws *b*. In the plate are radial slots R, corresponding in number and position to the branches C. When the cover is in place, therefore, the slots will expose the plates *a* and *c*.

T are sliding or pivoted plates, that serve as covers to the slots R.

When the chandelier is to be used, the branch circuits from the plate G to the plates L are completed by strips V of an easily-fused metal—such as described by me in various patents—and which, for convenience in handling, are cemented or attached in any way to strips of insulating material, such as wood. These strips are inserted in the slots R, and bridge over the spaces between plates G and L. They should be of such thickness that, in order to slide the covers T over them, they must be pressed down upon the plates *a c*, compressing the springs under said plates. In this way spring-seats for the safety-strips are formed, which maintain perfect contact between the strips and the plates *a* and *c*.

The strips or plates T may be applied in a variety of ways, though I have found it desirable to pivot them in the manner shown, and to use a button, W, in the center of the plate D, under which the ends of the strips T extend when the slots are closed.

This invention may be applied to many of the ordinary forms of gas-chandeliers without material alteration of the same; and it affords a ready and practicable means of securing perfect safety from an abnormal flow of current in any of the branches of the chandelier.

In the drawings those parts of the chandelier that are constructed in the ordinary way are not shown. It is obvious that their arrangement and design may be greatly varied without affecting the invention.

In other applications I have shown and described a safety-strip re-enforced by a backing of insulating material, and also a spring seat or holder for a safety-strip. Neither of these features, therefore, do I claim herein.

Without restricting myself to the precise details of construction herein shown, what I now claim is—

1. The combination, with the stem and branches of a chandelier, of metal plates arranged within a box or casing from which the branches extend, a central plate in said box, means for connecting the plates with fusible safety-strips, and conductors arranged within the chandeliers, and connected in the manner set forth.

2. The combination, with the stem and branches of a chandelier, of metal plates with spring seats or rests arranged within the box from which the branches extend, a central plate in said box with spring seats or rests, means for connecting the spring-seats with fusible safety-strips, and conductors arranged within the chandelier, and connected in the manner set forth.

3. The combination, with the stem of a chandelier, a box, and branches extending therefrom, of spring-seats forming terminals of severed branch circuits running through the arms or branches of the chandelier, a cover with slots for the introduction of safety-strips for joining the spring-seats, and means for retaining the strips in place, as herein set forth.

4. The combination, with the stem A, box B, and branches C of a chandelier, of the metal plates L, the central plate, G, means for connecting the central plate, G, with the plates L by fusible metallic strips, and conductors connected in the manner herein described.

5. The combination, with the box B and branches C, of a plate, H, of insulating material, plates L, with spring rests or seats, central plate, G, with corresponding rests or seats, slotted cover D, fusible safety-strips V, slides T, and conductors for completing the electrical connections, as described.

6. A holder for safety-strips for electric circuits, consisting of metal plates with spring rests or seats forming the terminals of a severed circuit, and contained in a box or casing, in combination with a slotted cover and a slide, or its equivalent, for retaining the strips when placed across the spring-rests, as set forth.

7. The combination, with a box or casing, B, and branches C of a chandelier, of rests or seats forming terminals of severed circuits running through the branches, and slotted cover D, with slides T, arranged for the insertion and retention of safety-strips for completing the circuits within the box, as and for the purpose specified.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 29th day of October, 1883.

EDWARD WESTON.

Witnesses:

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