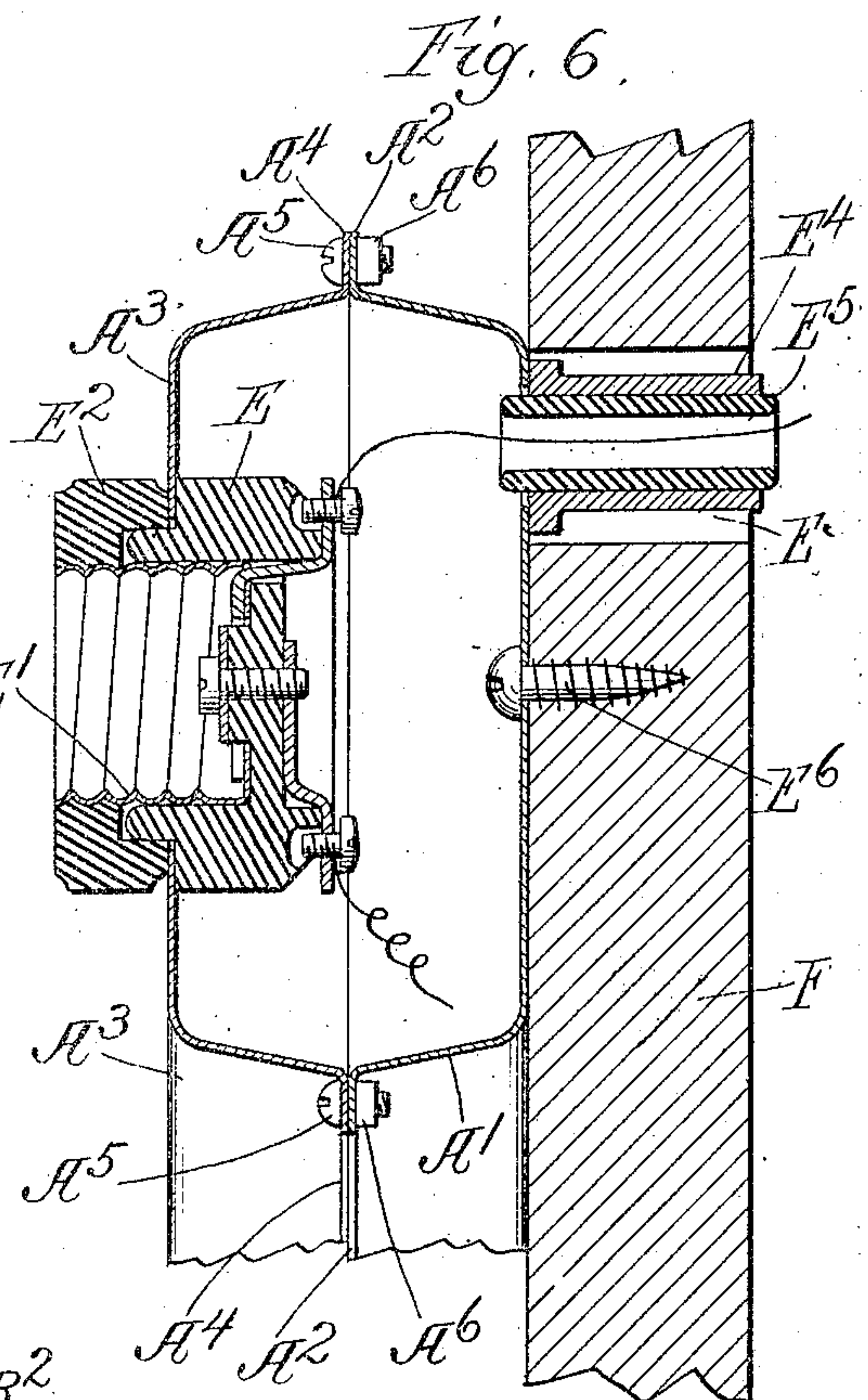
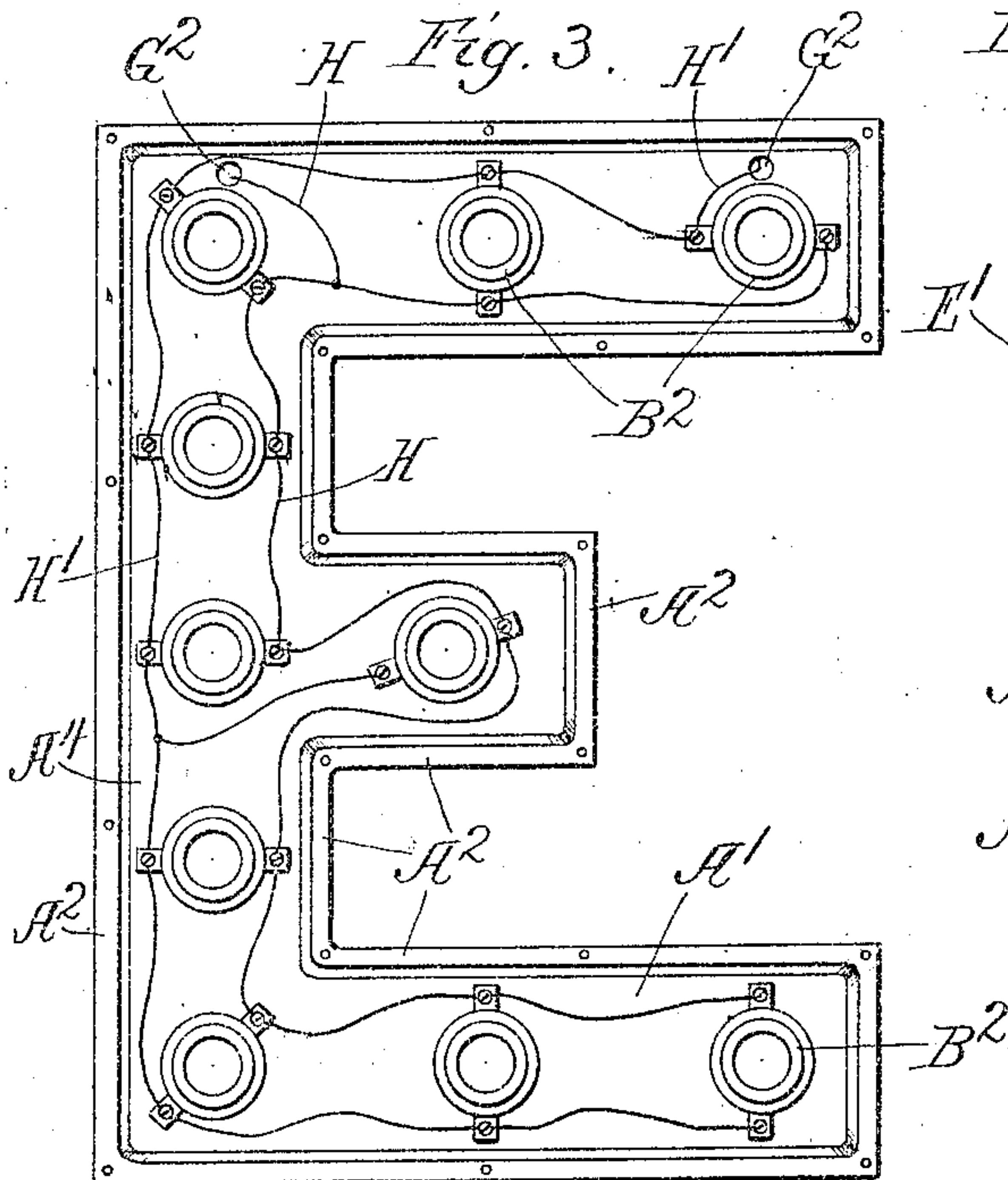
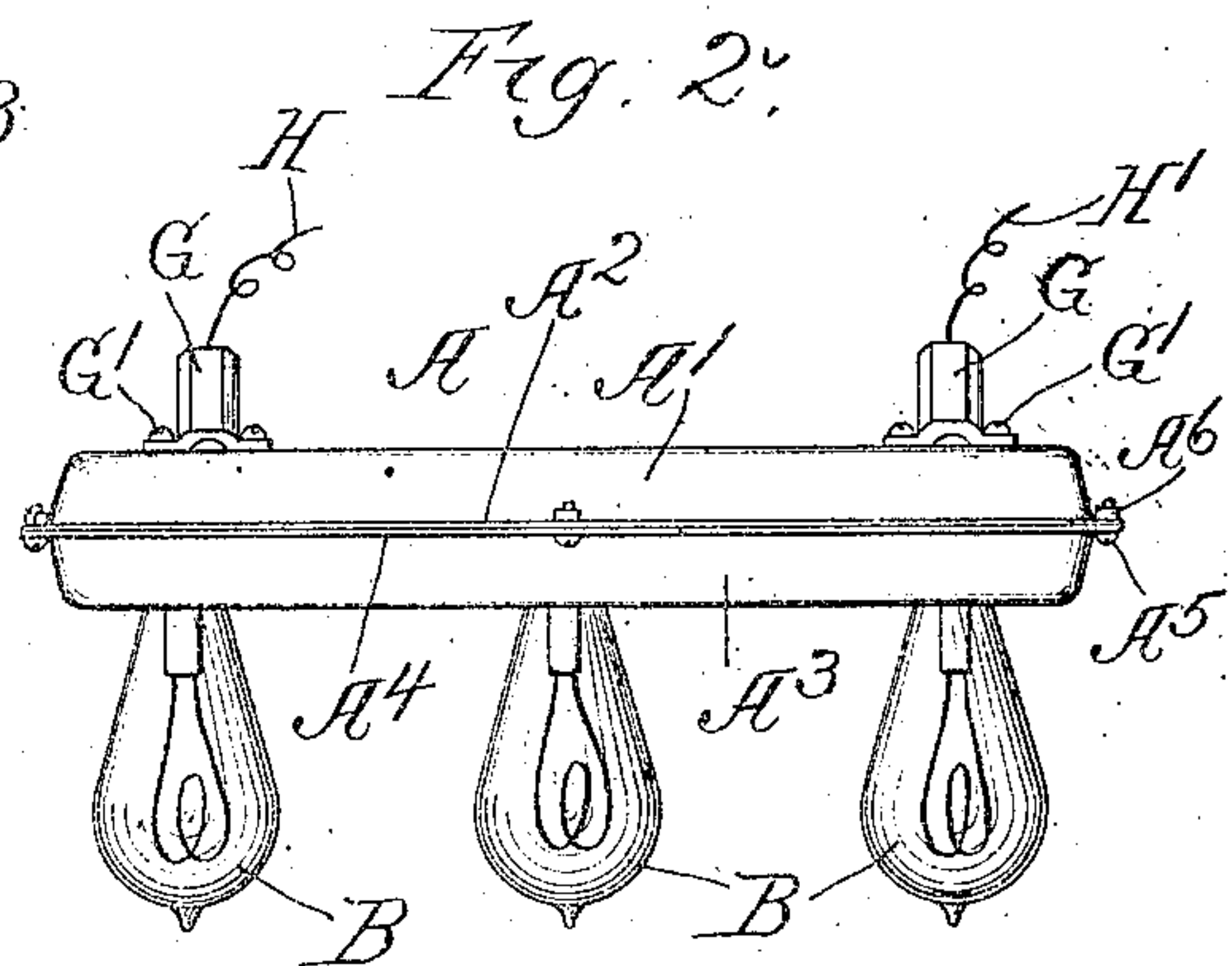
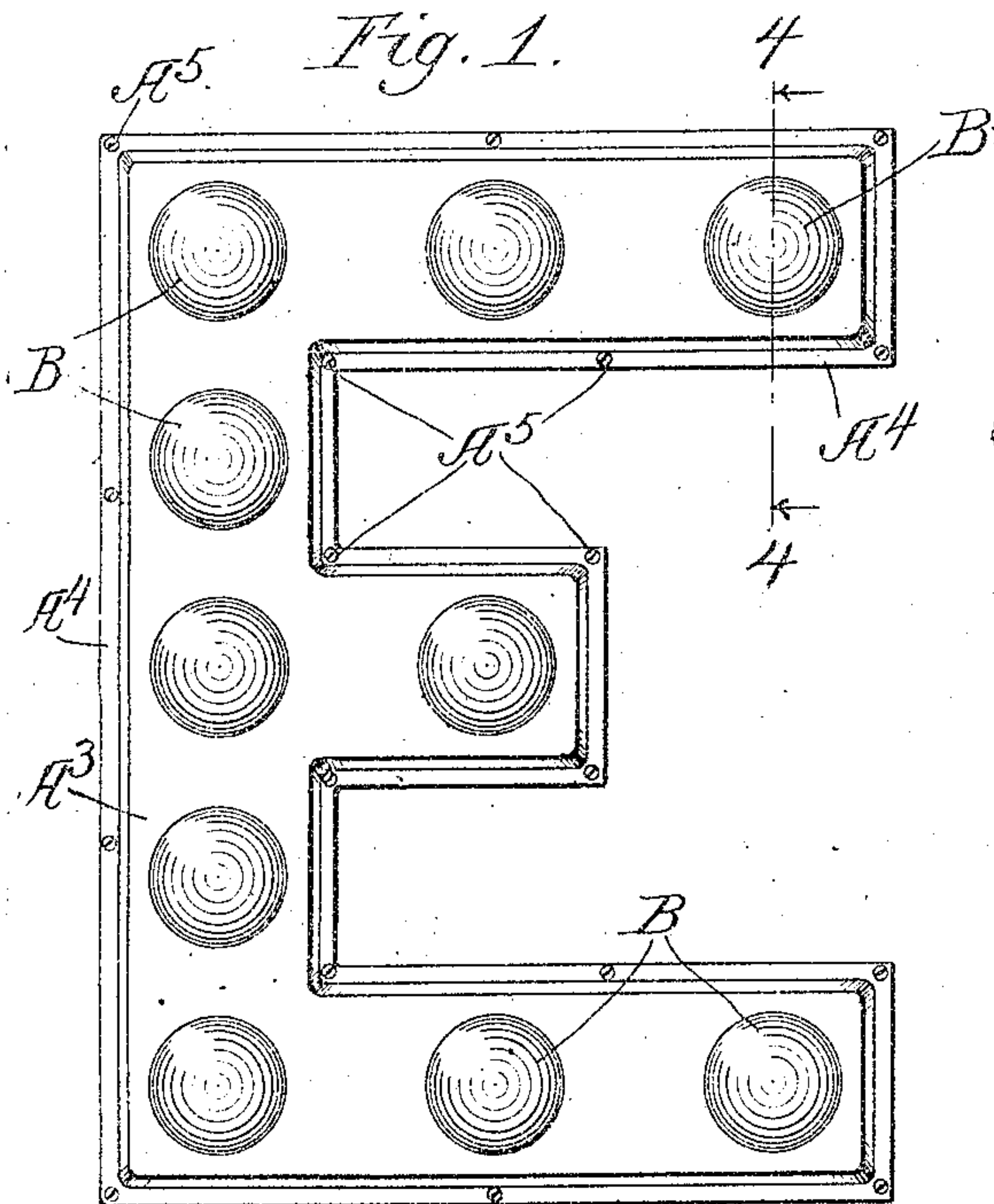


No. 835,848.

PATENTED NOV. 13, 1906.

C. A. CHASE.  
ELECTRIC SIGN LETTER.  
APPLICATION FILED APR. 13, 1905.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



Witnesses,  
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Lucy A. Falkenberg

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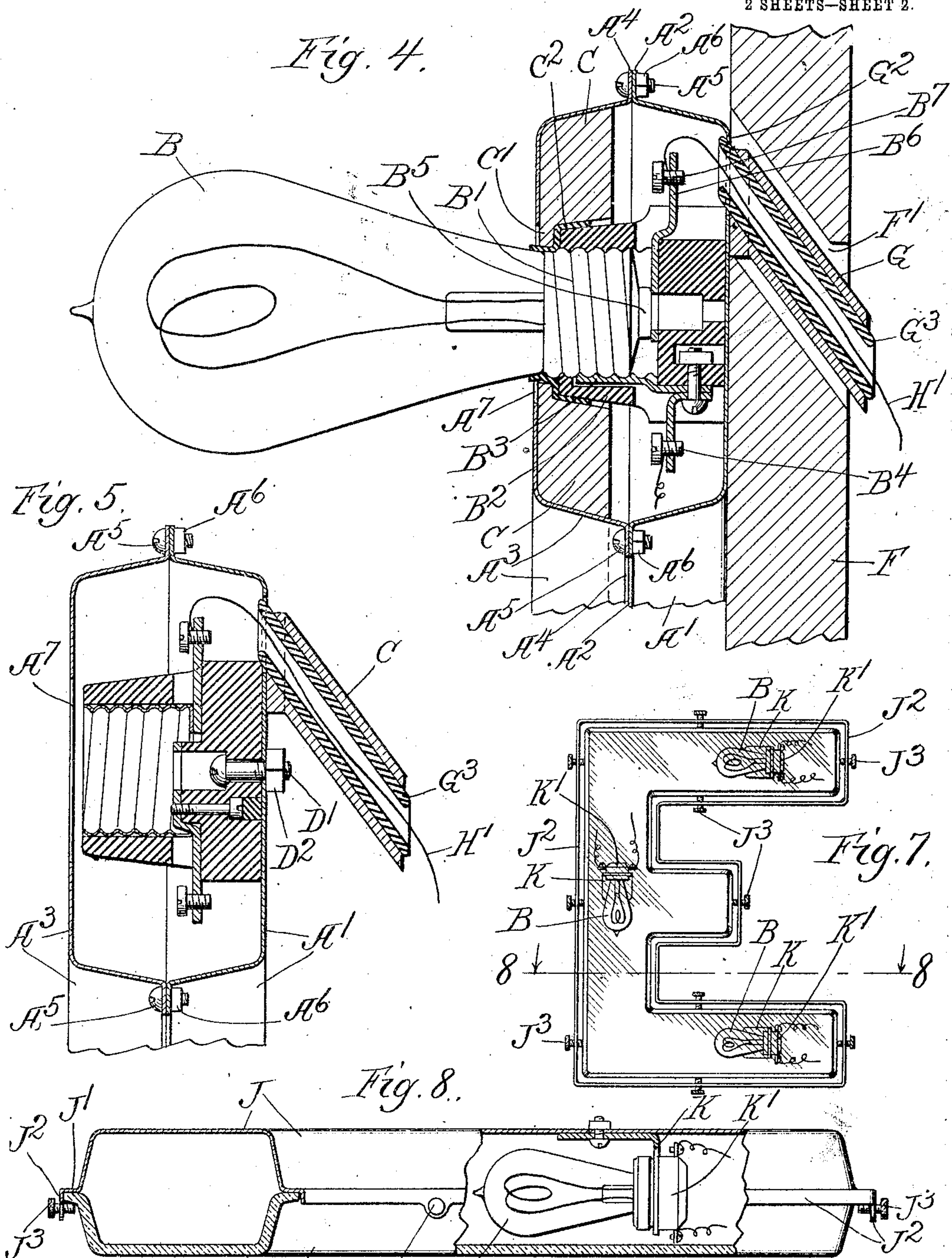


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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES A. CHASE, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

## ELECTRIC-SIGN LETTER.

No. 835,848.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Nov. 13, 1906.

Application filed April 13, 1905. Serial No. 255,282.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CHARLES A. CHASE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Electric-Sign Letters, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to electric-sign letters, and has for its object to provide new and improved constructions for devices of this sort.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein—

Figure 1 is a front elevation; Fig. 2, a top view of the same; Fig. 3, a view of the back section with the front section removed; Fig. 4, an enlarged sectional view on line 4 4 of Fig. 1; Fig. 5, a similar view of a modification; Fig. 6, a similar view of another modification; Fig. 7, a front view of a different form of letter, and Fig. 8 an enlarged sectional view on line 8 8 of Fig. 7.

Like letters of reference indicate like parts in all the drawings.

The invention relates to hollow electric-sign letters made with a removable section or sections and adapted for use under widely differing conditions.

Referring particularly to Figs. 1 to 6, inclusive, A represents the letter or other character upon which the lamps are adapted to be set. The letter is preferably composed of a back section A', which, as shown, is a dish-shaped piece of metal stamped out or manufactured by galvanic or other process and provided with the flange A<sup>2</sup>. A<sup>3</sup> represents the front section of the letter, which may be made of like material and with the flange A<sup>4</sup>. The two sections are held together by the bolts A<sup>5</sup> A<sup>5</sup> and nuts A<sup>6</sup> A<sup>6</sup> or in any desired manner. The section A<sup>3</sup> has the circular apertures A<sup>7</sup> A<sup>7</sup> for the lamps. In my preferred type of letter there are two dish-shaped sections of equal depth; but this construction is not essential. Broadly, the letter consists of two parts, forming a chamber, one of these parts being removable from the sign or the other part of the letter.

The lamps may be disposed on the letter by any desired arrangement. Where incandescent electric lights of the ordinary type are used, the particular construction of the letter here shown permits the use of a diversity of forms of lamp-socket. As shown in Fig. 4, the sockets may be held in position by the clamping action of the sections A' A<sup>3</sup>.

B represents a lamp of ordinary type, B' the usual threaded annulus of metal surrounding the stem and which screws into the porcelain socket B<sup>2</sup>. The electrical connections are made by means of the annulus B', contact-finger B<sup>3</sup>, connected with the binding-post B<sup>4</sup>, the electrode B<sup>5</sup> on the lamp, and the electrode B<sup>6</sup> of the socket, upon which is the binding-post B<sup>7</sup>. A strip C of wood or other material, apertured and having the lips C', is interposed between the sockets and the outer section A<sup>3</sup>. I prefer, also, to place a rubber gasket C<sup>2</sup> between the socket B<sup>2</sup> and the strip C. When the sections of the letter are secured together, the strip C holds the sockets in position.

In Fig. 5 I have shown the ordinary form of lamp-socket, (indicated generally by the letter D,) which may be secured to the back section A' by means of the bolt D' and the nut D<sup>2</sup>.

In Fig. 6 the device is shown as adapted for use in connection with a different style of lamp-socket. Here the socket is made in two pieces with the part E, of porcelain or other insulating material, placed inside the letter and which has the socket part E' screw-threaded to receive on the inside the lamp and on the outside the ring E<sup>2</sup>, by means of which the device is clamped to the front section A<sup>3</sup> of the letter.

The letters may be fastened onto the sign permanently and in any desired manner. For example, as shown in Fig. 6, the back section E' may be screwed onto the framework F of the sign by the screw E<sup>6</sup>, and in that case it is desirable to aperture the sign at E<sup>3</sup> and provide the letter with the thimble E<sup>4</sup>, having the lining of porcelain E<sup>5</sup>, through which an electric conductor may pass.

My letter, however, is particularly adapted to be removably set in a framework with other letters or characters of like construction, so as to form temporary arrangements—as, for example, words or other designs or devices. This construction of letter is particularly shown in Fig. 4, where the frame comprises the part F, which is provided with slots F', preferably oblique in direction. The letters are suspended by means of the brackets G G, which enter this slot, there being preferably two of these for each letter, as shown in Fig. 2. These brackets are made hollow and are secured to the back of the letter by the bolts G' G'. The letter is also apertured at G<sup>2</sup> G<sup>2</sup> and the brackets pro-



vided with the interior lining of insulation G<sup>3</sup>. The brackets therefore serve the double purpose of supporting the letter on the framework and of affording an insulated passage-way for the wires leading to the lamps. The lamps may be connected up in parallel by the conductors H H', the terminals of which extend one through each of the apertures G<sup>2</sup> G<sup>2</sup>, as is shown in Fig. 3.

10 In Fig. 8 I have shown a modified form of sign-letter in which the front section is made of glass. The back section J in this type of letter may be stamped out of sheet metal or made in any desired manner and is provided with the lip J' and a forwardly-projecting flange J<sup>2</sup>, apertured for the screws J<sup>3</sup> J<sup>3</sup>. The front section J<sup>4</sup> is made of glass and is held in position between the lip J' and the screws J<sup>3</sup> J<sup>3</sup>. In order not to make the letter too deep, the lamps in this form of device may be placed horizontally within the letter. An angle-iron K, secured to the back section J, serves as a support for the socket K', which may be secured thereto in any desired manner. In Fig. 8 I have shown a form of socket similar to that illustrated in Fig. 6.

I have thus described certain concrete forms of apparatus in which my invention may be embodied; but it will be obvious that considerable change might be made in form and construction and that the materials used might be changed without departing from the spirit of my invention. I have illustrated and described the arrangement of parts forming the letter E. Of course it is intended that the sign shall comprise a number of different letters or characters requiring perhaps some change in the arrangement of the parts according to circumstances. Because of these considerations I do not wish to limit myself to the particular forms, devices, and constructions here shown, but desire that the drawings shall be taken as in a sense diagrammatic and illustrative of the principles of my invention as set forth in certain concrete and practical forms. When the word "letter" is used in the specification and claims this term is intended to cover not only the characters of the alphabet, but any character, device, symbol, or decorative form or design.

The use and operation of my device will perhaps have been made sufficiently clear by the foregoing. The making of the letter in two sections has several advantages, among which are convenience in assembling and the opportunity for using a variety of sockets, as is shown. Since the front section of the letter is removable from the sign, it is very easy to make repairs, put in new sockets and the like without disturbing the other parts of the sign. Where the letter is made of two dish-shaped sections of equal depth, which is one of the preferred forms of construction, it will be obvious that there can be a considerable

saving made in patterns and molds on all letters or other devices which are symmetrical, since both the bottom and top sections may be formed on the same mold. This will be true, for example, in the letters "A H I N O S T U V W X Y Z." By inverting the parts the upper sections of certain letters and characters may also be made on the same mold as the lower sections of other letters or characters. This involves a considerable saving in manufacture. The letters are preferably made by stamping them from sheet metal, or they may be made by the galvanic process or in any other preferred way. When they are stamped, it has been found that it is only practical to stamp the metal to a depth of about one-half the depth of the letter. This forms an additional reason for making the letters in two symmetrical parts, as I prefer to do. Obviously it will, however, not be necessary to make the letters like that under all circumstances.

When the letters are combined to make up a temporary word or device, the work of arrangement is very simple, the letters merely being hung in the proper slots in the sign, the wires of each letter extending out through the bracket so as to be easily connected up with the service-conductors. When the style of sockets shown in Figs. 4 and 6 is used, the letter is practically water-tight, which has the advantage of protecting the wiring and connections. The projecting lip or flange, by means of which the removable section is fastened to the rest of the device, besides its mechanical advantage is an ornamental feature. It may be decorated in another color from the body of the letter.

I claim—

1. In an electric sign, the combination of a supporting-frame with an electric-sign letter, and a bracket rigidly attached to the back of the letter by means of which the said letter is suspended on the frame, such bracket having a passage-way for an electric wire.

2. In an electric sign, the combination of a supporting-frame with a hollow electric-sign letter, and a bracket rigidly attached to the back of the letter by means of which said letter is suspended on the frame, such bracket having a passage-way for an electric wire communicating with the interior of the letter.

3. In an electric sign the combination of a supporting-frame with a hollow electric-sign letter and an oblique downwardly-extending bracket rigidly attached to the upper part of the letter forming a hook by means of which said letter is suspended on the frame, such bracket having a passage-way for an electric wire communicating with the interior of the letter.

4. In an electric sign, the combination of a supporting-frame having an oblique slot extending downwardly therethrough with an electric-sign letter, and a bracket rigidly at-

tached to the upper part of the letter to extend into the slot, by means of which said letter is suspended on the frame, such bracket having a passage-way for an electric wire.

5 5. In an electric sign a sign-letter comprising a sheet-metal dish-shaped back section, a sheet-metal dish-shaped front section, such sections being symmetrical and formed with flanges means for securing the sections to-

gether at the flanges, a plurality of lamp- 10 sockets in the chamber formed by such sections and a bracket rigidly attached to the back section and having a perforation communicating with the interior of said letter.

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