

No. 881,683.

PATENTED MAR. 10, 1908.

L. T. HATFIELD.  
ELECTRICAL SOCKET SEAL.  
APPLICATION FILED AUG. 3, 1906.

Fig. 1.

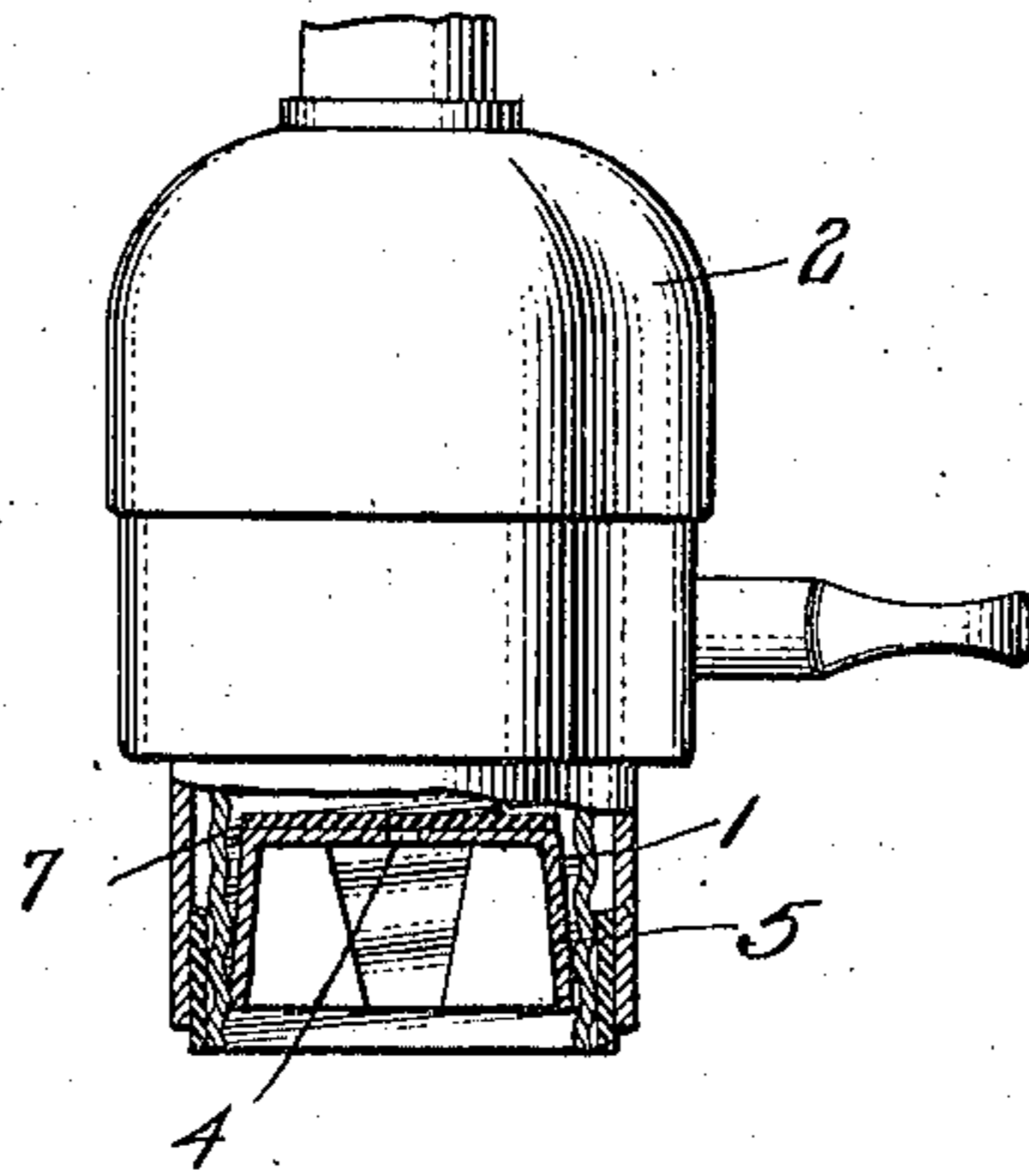


Fig. 2.

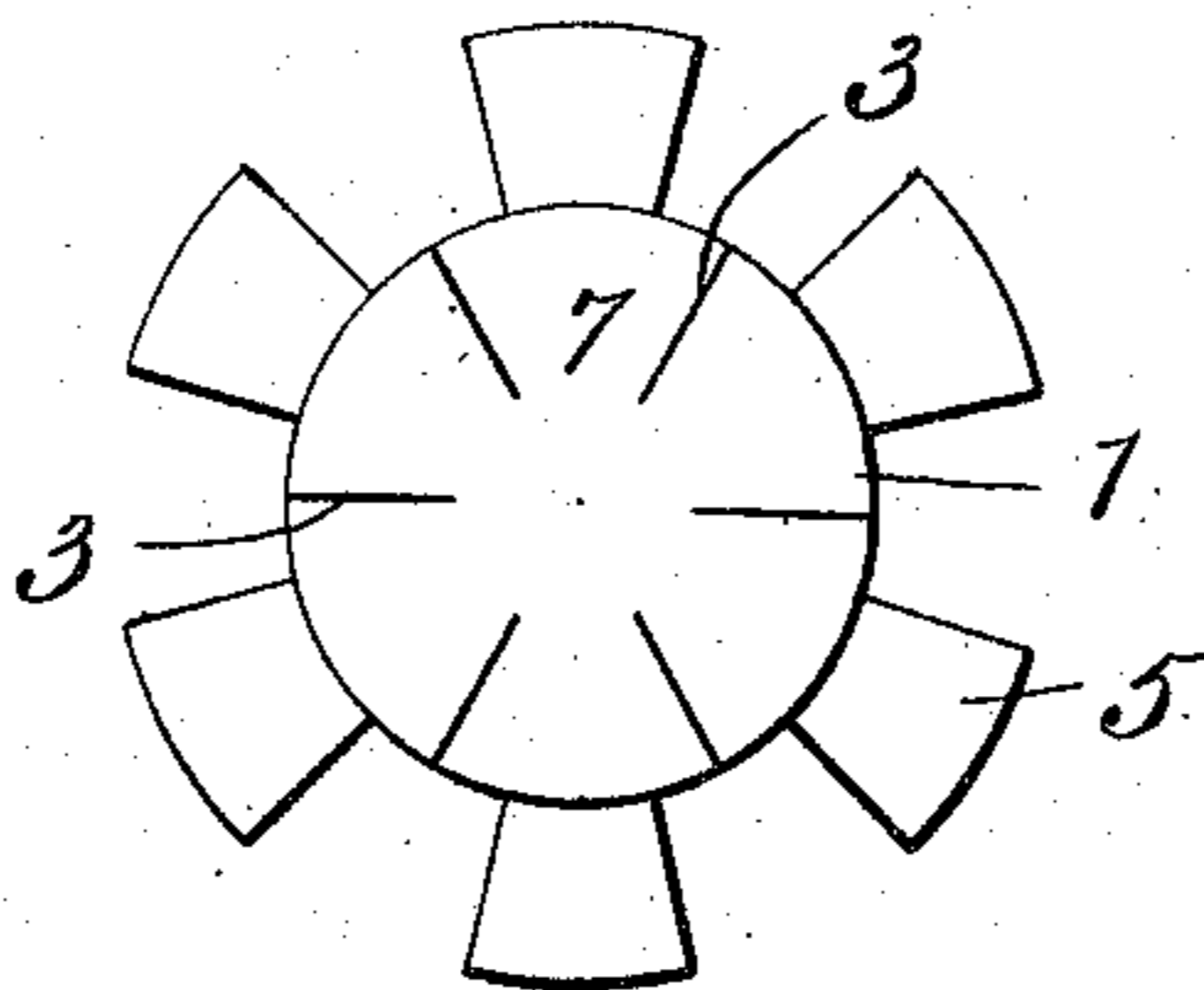
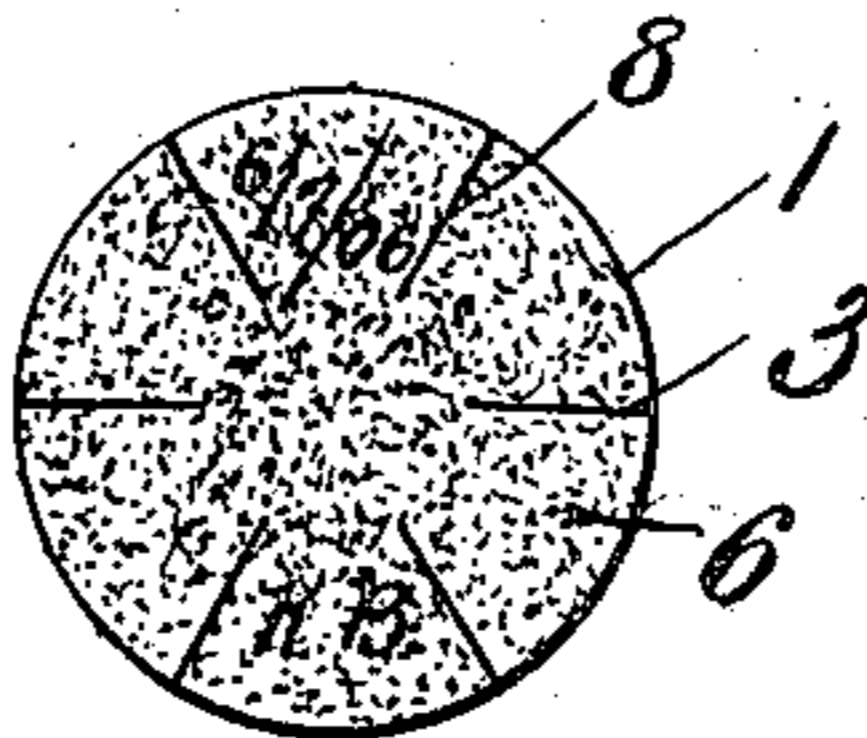


Fig. 3.



Witnesses

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LLEWELLYN T. HATFIELD, OF SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA.

## ELECTRICAL SOCKET-SEAL.

No. 881,683.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented March 10, 1908.

Application filed August 3, 1906. Serial No. 329,120.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, LLEWELLYN T. HATFIELD, a citizen of the United States, residing in Sacramento, in the county of Sacramento and State of California, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Electrical Socket-Seals, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to electrical socket seals.

In an application filed by me on the 4th day of October 1905, serially numbered 281,290, I have claimed broadly a device for sealing sockets for electric lamps, plug cut out switches and the like.

The present application is drawn to cover one of the specific embodiments disclosed in my former application in which it was impossible to protect specifically all the embodiments shown and described.

The object of this present invention is to provide a sealing device which will permit a lamp, plug or the like to be fitted into the socket when the sealing device is in place, and at the same time prevent electrical connection with the contacts of the socket being made without destroying the seal in whole or in part.

Other and further objects will appear in the following description and will be more particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawing: Figure 1 is an elevation of a key socket partly in section. Fig. 2 is a plan view of the seal; Fig. 3 is a plan view of another form of seal for accomplishing the same purpose.

Referring particularly to the drawings: 1 indicates a disk of a size to fit within the socket 2, provided with slits 3 preferably radial, and a central perforation 4. Extending radially from the disk each between a pair of slits are extensions 5.

The device may be made of metal stiff enough to permit the extensions 5, when bent at an angle to the disk, to expand against the inner wall of the socket 2 and prevent the removal of the disk, except upon destruction of the device. Of course the destruction of the device by distortion or otherwise, would notify the company that access had been had to the current and the company could then charge for the current in accordance with its rules. To remove this device, a hooked or pointed tool is introduced into the perforation 4 and the device is then

pulled out. In being pulled out, it is, owing to the radial slots, destroyed to such an extent that further use is impossible. The extensions do not interfere with the insertion of the plug 9 of the lamp or other device, yet electrical connection with the contacts of the socket cannot be made, as the disk is either spaced from the inner contact, or has its inner face covered with insulating material as shown at 7. The insulating material closes opening 4 and prevents a wire being introduced therethrough.

If desired, the device may be made entirely of an insulating material. In all forms, the perforation 4 should be covered inside or out with any suitable material to prevent access to the contacts therethrough.

In the form shown in Fig. 3, the radial extensions are dispensed with, making the device circular in form. The device may be of such a size to fit tightly the walls of the socket so that it cannot be removed except upon the destruction or distortion of the same.

Both forms may be made of paper, paper maché, or similar material, and in this case, may be secured in the socket by an adhesive, as shown at 6.

The device can be marked in any suitable manner to indicate the date of the sealing, as shown at 8.

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

1. The combination with an electrical socket, of a sealing device arranged in said socket, permitting the insertion of a current consuming plug and preventing electrical connection with the socket contacts.

2. The combination with an electrical socket, of a sealing device held in said socket to prevent access to the socket contacts and provided with slits preventing the removal of the device except upon destroying the device.

3. The combination with an electrical socket, of a sealing device held in the socket to prevent access to the socket contacts and provided with means preventing the removal of the device except upon destroying the device.

4. The combination with an electrical socket, of a sealing disk arranged in said socket to prevent access to the socket contacts and provided with radial slits.

5. The combination with an electrical socket, of a non-conducting disk held against

one of the contacts of the socket between the contact and the mouth of the socket.

6. The combination with an electrical socket, formed to receive a current consuming plug, of a non-conducting sealing device arranged in the socket to prevent electrical connection between the contacts of the plug and the contacts of the socket.

7. A sealing device constructed to fit within an electrical socket, comprising a non-conducting disk provided with slits, which render it compressible to permit it to be forced into the socket, and automatically expansible to cause it to engage with the socket when introduced.

8. A sealing device constructed to fit within an electrical socket, comprising a non-

conducting disk provided with radial slits, which render it compressible to permit it to be forced into the socket, and automatically expansible to cause it to engage with the socket when introduced.

9. The combination with the socket, and a lamp plug, of a non-conducting sealing disk interposed between the lamp plug and a socket contact.

The foregoing specification signed at Sacramento California this 20th day of July, 1906.

LLEWELLYN T. HATFIELD.

In presence of two witnesses—

V. L. HATFIELD,  
CORA BARNES.