

W. S. HAMM.
 LANTERN.
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934,438.

Patented Sept. 21, 1909.

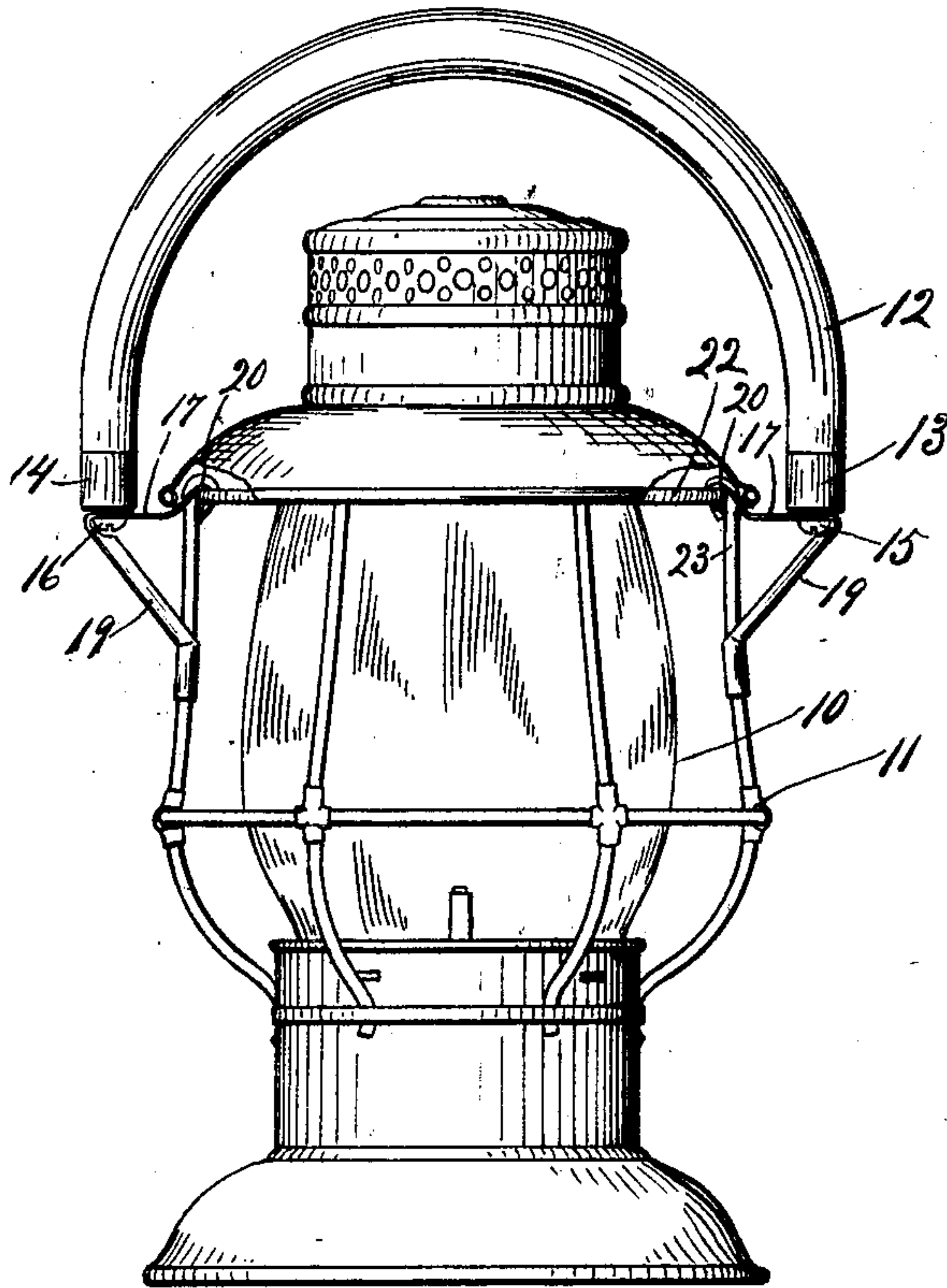


Fig. 1.

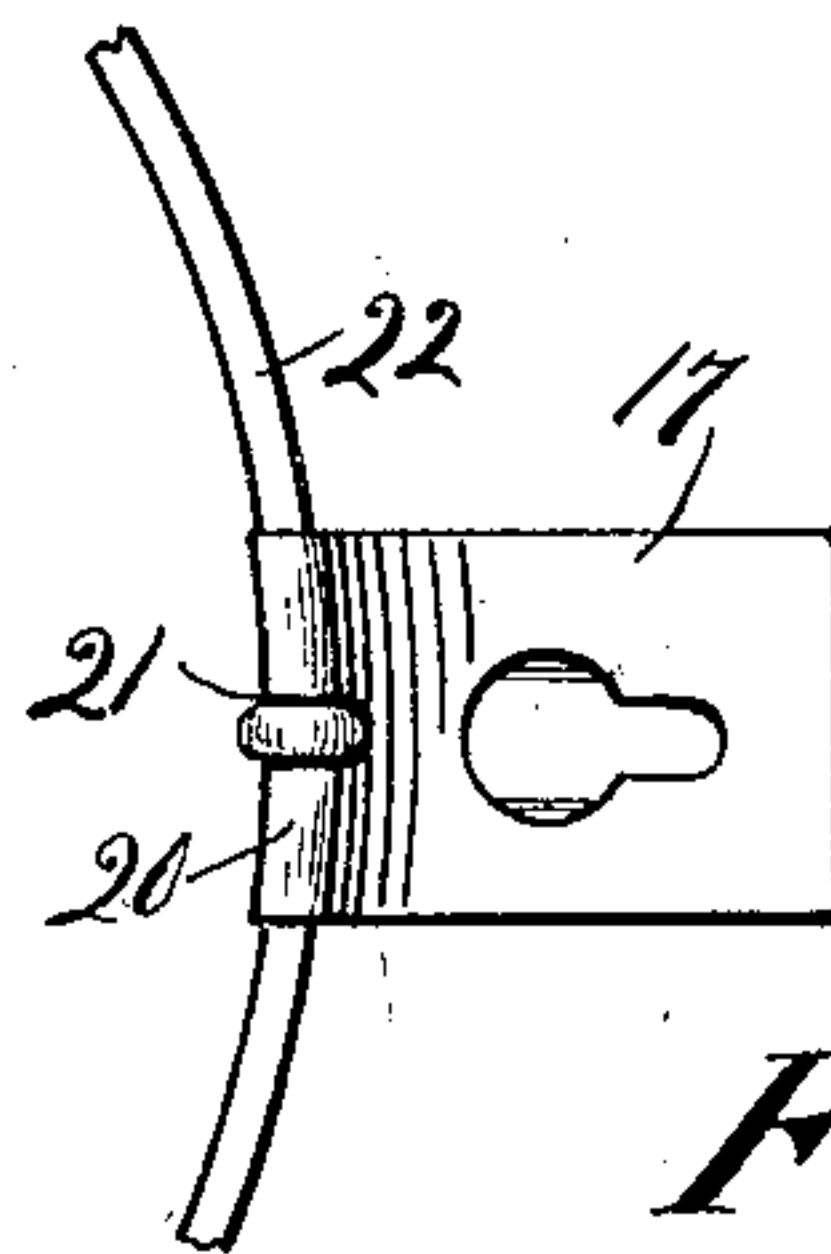


Fig. 2.

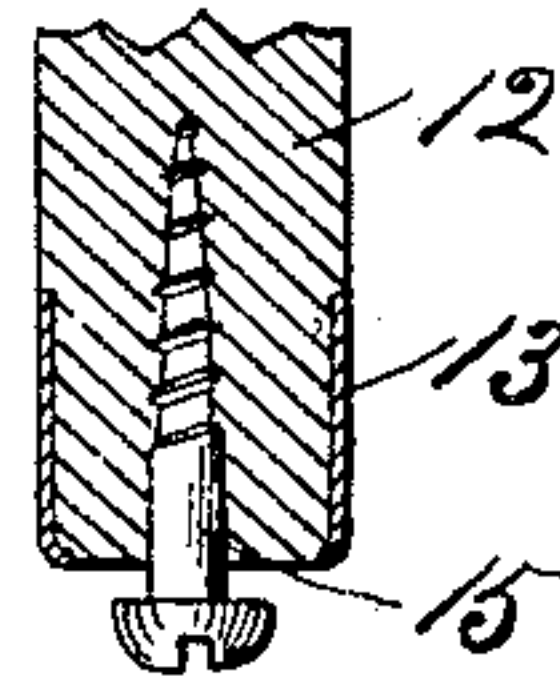


Fig. 3.

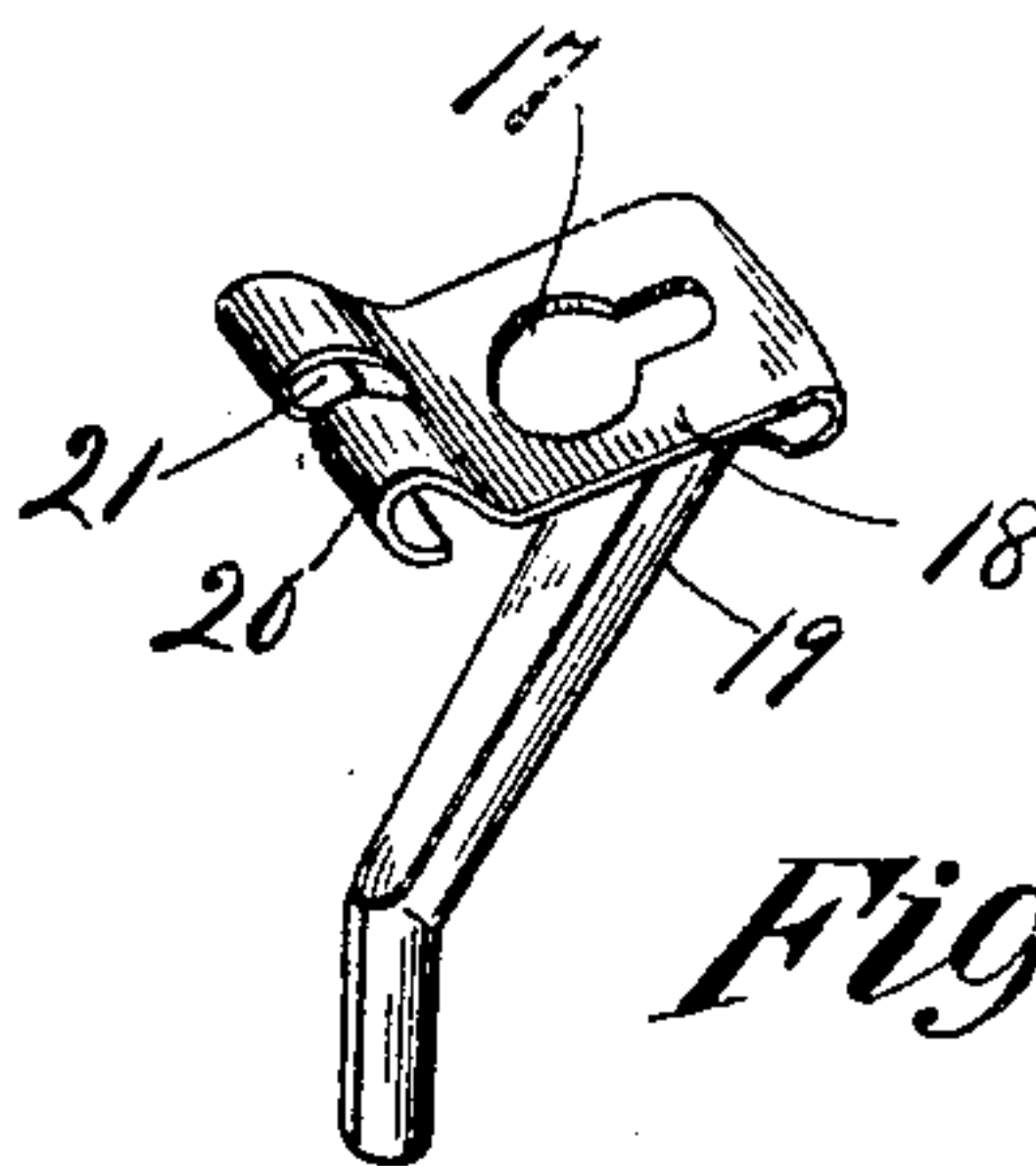


Fig. 4.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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LANTERN.

934,438.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM S. HAMM, a citizen of the United States, and resident of Hubbard Woods, county of Cook, and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Lanterns, of which the following is a specification, and which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings, forming a part thereof.

This invention relates to lanterns especially adapted for use by trainmen.

Its object is to provide an improved form of handle or bail for such lanterns, which will constitute a firm grip member and, while securely attached to the lantern, may be readily removed therefrom for the purposes of renewal or repair.

The invention consists of a lantern having a handle or bail made of a rigid fibrous material, such as wood, it being provided at its ends with studs which engage suitable sockets formed in the lantern frame.

In the drawings Figure 1 shows a side elevation of the lantern provided with the improved handle; Fig. 2 is a detail plan view of the lantern frame showing the socket for engaging the handle; Fig. 3 is a detail longitudinal section of the handle showing its attaching stud; and Fig. 4 is a detail in perspective of the preferred form of socketed bracket, by means of which the handle is attached to the lantern.

The lantern 10 may be of any suitable form, as shown it is provided with a wire guard frame 11. The handle 12 is in the form of a simple bow, and is made of wood or similar fibrous material, which is of sufficient size to permit the user to securely grasp it, the character of the material contributing to the firmness of the grasp. Upon each end of the handle is placed a ferrule 13, 14, to prevent splitting, and into each end is set a headed stud 15, 16, preferably consisting of a simple headed screw as shown. These studs engage suitable sockets 17, formed in the lantern frame, as shown being formed in the sole plate 18 of a bracket 19. This bracket may be made of sheet metal, the inner end of its sole-plate being bent to hook form, as shown at 20, and bifurcated, as shown at 21, to engage the top ring of the lantern frame and straddle one of its uprights 23. From the outer end of the sole-plate 19 the bracket is bent downwardly

and inwardly, and folded to U shape to form a rigid supporting member, the lower end of which is again bent downwardly and folded around the frame upright 23.

The socket 17 is T shape to afford an entrance for the head of the stud 15, the stem of the socket being outwardly directed, and the handle is normally bowed to a wider curve than is assumed when applied to the lantern, its elasticity holding the studs at the outer ends of the sockets and thereby preventing accidental disengagement from the lantern frame.

In signaling the user swings the lantern in various ways, and in some situations, especially when trains are being made up in the yards, these signals must be given very quickly. This rapid signaling is facilitated by the use of a rigidly attached handle and one upon which a firm grip may be secured, to the end that there may be complete control.

When the handle is made of wire, as has been usual, it is as durable as the lantern itself, but does not afford a firm grip, even though when looped or twisted, not only because of the form but because of the character of the material, and this disadvantage is more marked when its attachment to the lantern is rigid. When of wood, it may become worn because necessarily more frangible than metal. While the wood handle has the decided advantages over the metal handle hereinbefore pointed out, it is less durable and usually needs replacing. Such repairs have heretofore necessarily been shop jobs, putting the lantern out of service until they could be made and requiring its transfer to the repair shop. The lantern herein shown and described may be repaired by the substitution of a new handle for the disabled one, by the user.

I claim as my invention—

1. In a lantern, in combination, a frame, a pair of brackets secured to the frame and having T-slots, and a handle or bail having headed studs at its ends adapted to enter the slots and to be held in the contracted portion thereof by the spring action of the handle or bail.

2. In a lantern, in combination, a frame, a pair of brackets secured to the frame and having T-slots, and a handle or bail of fibrous material having headed studs at its

ends adapted to enter the slots and to be held in the contracted portion thereof by the spring action of the handle or bail.

3. In a lantern, in combination, a frame,
5 a pair of brackets attached thereto and having outstanding slotted sole plates, the slots having their outer ends contracted, and a bail having headed ends for engaging the

bracket slots, the spread of the bail being normally greater than the distance between 10 the wider portions of the slots of the two brackets.

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