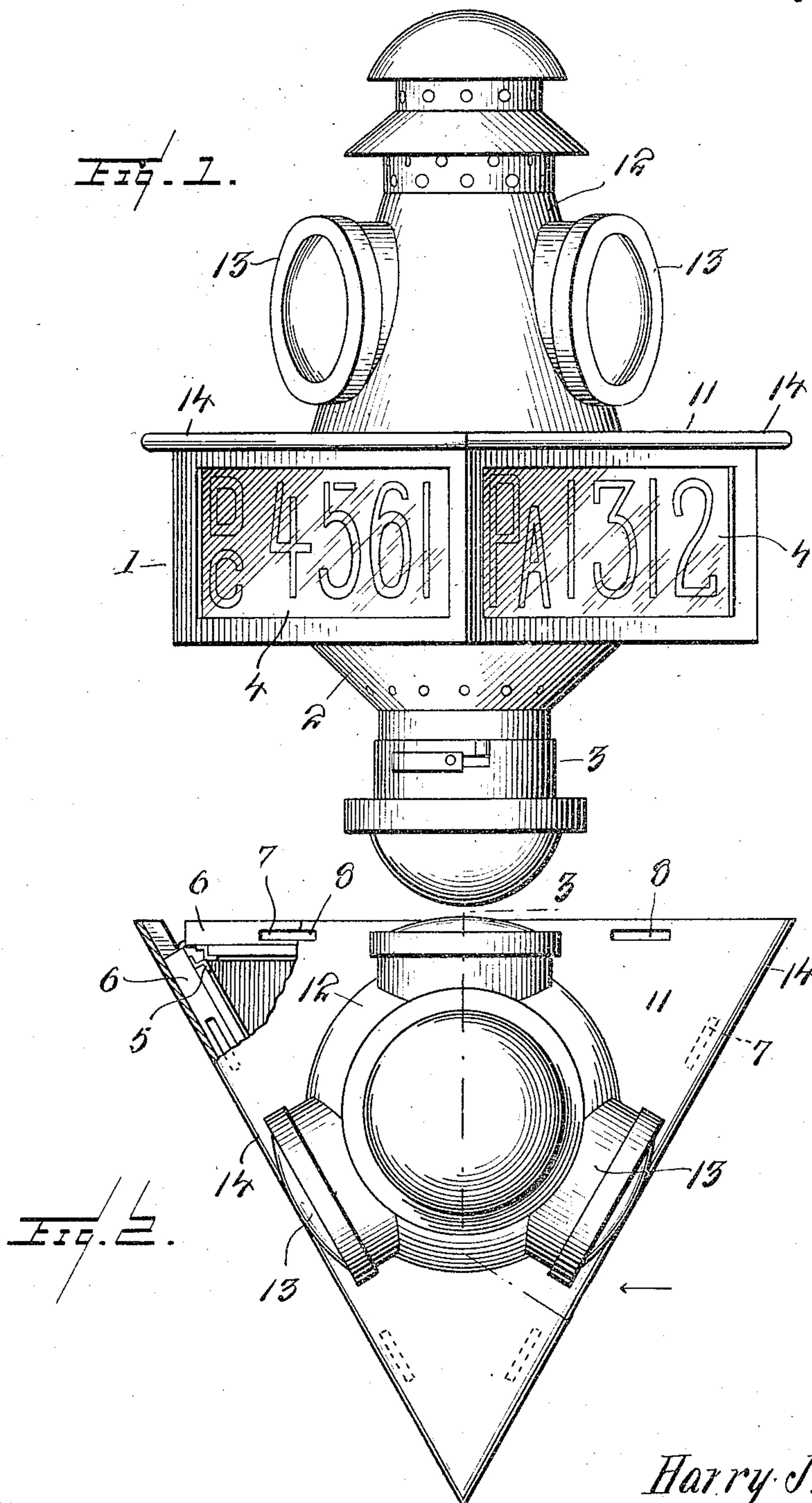


H. J. KNIPPLE.  
 AUTOMOBILE LAMP.  
 APPLICATION FILED MAR. 15, 1910.

982,142.

Patented Jan. 17, 1911.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



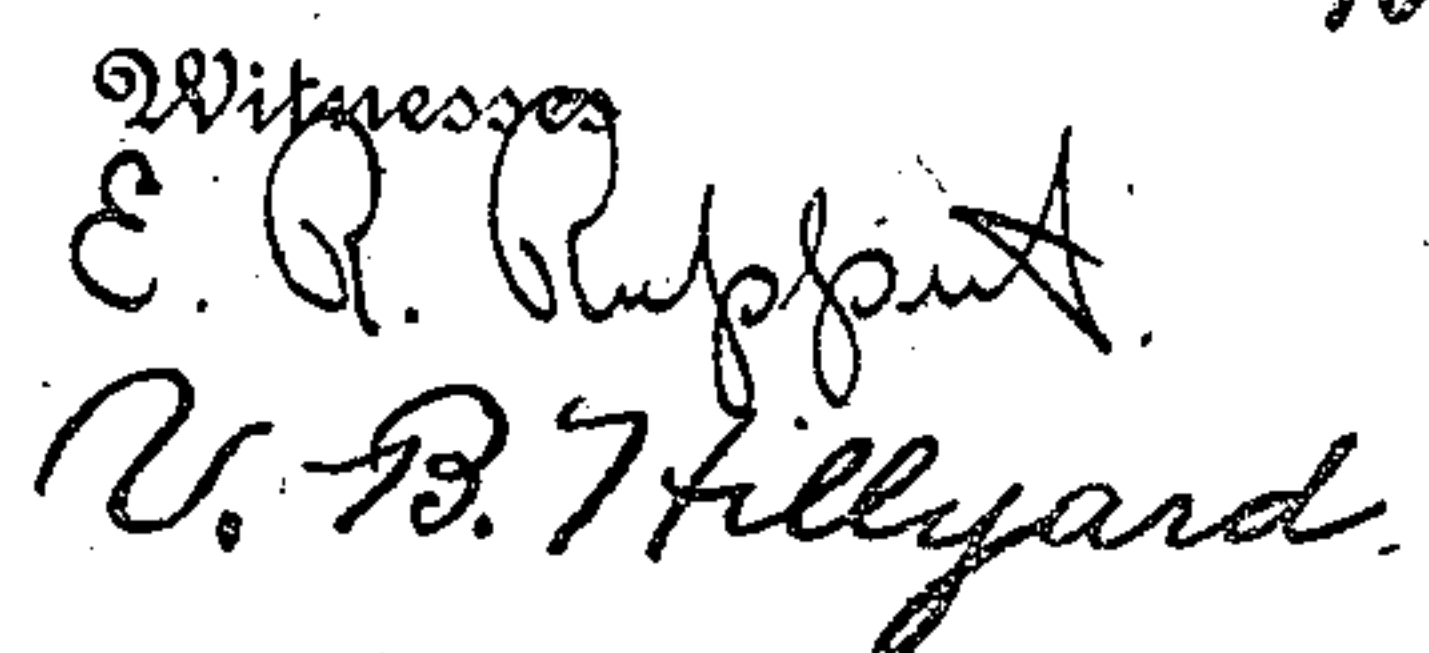
Witnesses  
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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HARRY J. KNIPPLE, OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA.

## AUTOMOBILE-LAMP.

982,142.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 17, 1911.

Application filed March 15, 1910. Serial No. 549,436.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HARRY J. KNIPPLE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Johnstown, in the county of Cambria and State of Pennsylvania, have invented new and useful Improvements in Automobile-Lamps, of which the following is a specification.

Certain jurisdictions require mechanically propelled vehicles to carry lamps displaying identification numbers. This occasions considerable annoyance and inconvenience on the part of the person operating such machine in the changing of the number when passing from one municipality to another requiring illuminated identification numbers.

The purpose of this invention is the provision of a lamp embodying a plurality of sides of transparent material, each side bearing a different identification number and the lamp body being so mounted as to admit of its ready adjustment to display the number according to the jurisdiction to be traversed or in which the machine is to be operated.

A further purpose of the invention is the construction of a lamp of the character and for the purpose aforesaid which will admit of two identification numbers being displayed at the same time, so that when passing from one jurisdiction into the adjacent jurisdiction it will not be necessary to adjust the lamp.

The invention consists of the novel features, details of construction and combination of parts, which hereinafter will be more particularly set forth, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and pointed out in the appended claims.

Referring to the drawings, forming a part of the application, Figure 1 is a front view of an automobile lamp embodying the invention. Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the lamp, a portion being broken away. Fig. 3 is a vertical section of the lamp on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2, the upper portion being broken away. Fig. 4 is a view of the top of the lamp inverted. Fig. 5 is a top plan view of the lamp body, the lamp top being removed. Fig. 6 is a front view of the lamp bracket.

Corresponding and like parts are referred to in the following description, and indicated in all the views of the drawings, by the same reference characters.

The lamp comprises essentially three parts,

a top, a body, and an oil reservoir provided with a burner and constituting the lamp proper. The lamp body is indicated at 1 and is provided with a pendent portion 2 adapted to receive the lamp 3, which latter is detachable to admit of trimming and to be replenished with oil when required. The lamp body comprises a plurality of sides each adapted to receive a transparent plate bearing an identification number, the several plates being retained in position by suitable means so as to be easily replaced when required from any cause. The sides of the lamp body are open and are adapted to receive the transparent plates 4, which latter bear the identification numbers. Strips 5 applied to the sides of the lamp body upon the inner walls thereof serve to retain the plates 4 in place. The identification plates 4 are slipped into position from above and are retained in place by the lamp top. The lamp body may be constructed with any number of sides, usually three being sufficient, in which case the lamp body presents a triangular appearance in plan view, as indicated most clearly in Figs. 2, 4 and 5. This construction admits of two sides of the lamp body being conspicuously displayed so as to admit of two identification numbers being seen, with the result that when passing from one jurisdiction into an adjoining jurisdiction it is not necessary to adjust the lamp, it being understood that the two numbers displayed bear different identifying characters to designate the respective jurisdictions or municipalities. The body of the lamp is provided along the upper edge of each side with an outwardly extending flange 6, which is adapted to engage a retaining flange of the lamp top so as to hold the lamp body in place. Each of the flanges 6 is provided with a pair of slots 7 adapted to register with corresponding slots 8 in an edge portion of the base of the lamp top so as to receive ears 9 of the lamp bracket 10, whereby the parts are locked when assembled.

The lamp top comprises a base 11, a chimney 12 and a series of bull's eyes 13, which latter are provided with colored lenses according to the color of light to be displayed. The base 11 corresponds in outline to the shape of the lamp body, so as to close the top thereof and is provided along its edges with recurved flanges 14, which are adapted to engage with the outwardly extending



flanges 6 of the lamp body so as to support the latter. The lamp body is slipped into position by a sliding movement and in order to provide for engagement and disengagement of the interlocking flanges 6 and 14 the edge portion of the base 11 provided with the slots 8 is barren of a flange 14, as indicated most clearly in Fig. 4. In the event of the base 11 being of triangular form to match the triangular shape of the lamp body two of its edges only are provided with flanges 14, the third edge being left straight so that the lamp may be slipped in and out of the third edge. When the lamp body is in position and opposite flanges 6 are engaged by the flanges 14 at opposite edges of the base 11, the slots 8 of the base 11 register with the slots 7 of the flange 6 of the side of the lamp body opposite the third or rear edge of the lamp top and when placing the lamp in position upon the lamp bracket 10, attached to the vehicle, the ears 9 passing through the registering openings 7 and 8 form lock means to prevent displacement of the lamp body and top. The ears 9 curve upwardly and rearwardly, thereby preventing casual displacement of the lamp from the bracket when placed in position thereon. When it is required to change the position of the lamp body with reference to the lamp top the lamp is removed from the bracket 10 and the body is disengaged from the top and after being adjusted to present the required identification numbers the lamp is replaced upon the bracket and is supported and locked thereby in the manner stated.

From the foregoing description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, the advantages of the construction and of the method of operation will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art to which the invention appertains, and while I have described the principle of operation of the invention, together with the device which I now consider to be the embodiment thereof, I desire to have it understood that the device shown is merely illustrative, and that such changes may be made when desired as are within the scope of the claims appended hereto.

Having thus described the invention what is claimed as new, is:—

1. A lamp of the character specified comprising a body provided with an illuminator and having a plurality of sides embodying transparent material upon which designating matter appears, a top closing the upper end of the lamp body and detachably fitted

thereto and adapted to be adjusted with reference to the lamp body to admit of any selected designating matter being moved to a position for observation, said lamp top having bull's eyes around its sides, and means for securing the lamp body and lamp top in the adjusted position.

2. A lamp of the character set forth comprising a lamp body having a plurality of transparent sides bearing identifying matter and having flanges at the upper edge of its sides, and a lamp top having bull's eyes in its sides and detachably fitted to the lamp body, and having flanges adapted to interlock with the flanges of the lamp body and hold the lamp body and lamp top when properly placed together.

3. A lamp of the character specified comprising a lamp body provided with an illuminator and having a plurality of transparent sides bearing identifying matter and having outwardly extending flanges at the upper edges of the sides, said flanges having openings, a lamp top comprising a base and a chimney, the latter having bull's eyes at its sides and said base having flanges to interlock with the flanges of the lamp body, and having an edge portion formed with an opening to register with the openings in the flanges of the lamp body sides, and interlocking means passing through the registering openings in the flanges of the lamp body and top.

4. A lamp of the character described comprising a lamp body having an illuminator and provided with a plurality of transparent sides bearing identification matter and having outwardly extending flanges at the upper edges of the sides, said flanges having openings therein, a top for closing the upper end of the lamp body and comprising a base and an upper portion, the latter having bull's eyes in its sides, and said base having an edge portion formed with openings to register with the openings in the flanges of the lamp body sides and provided with flanges to interlock with the flanges of the lamp body, and a lamp bracket having ears to pass through registering openings in the matching parts of the lamp body and lamp top.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

HARRY J. KNIPPLE.

Witnesses:

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