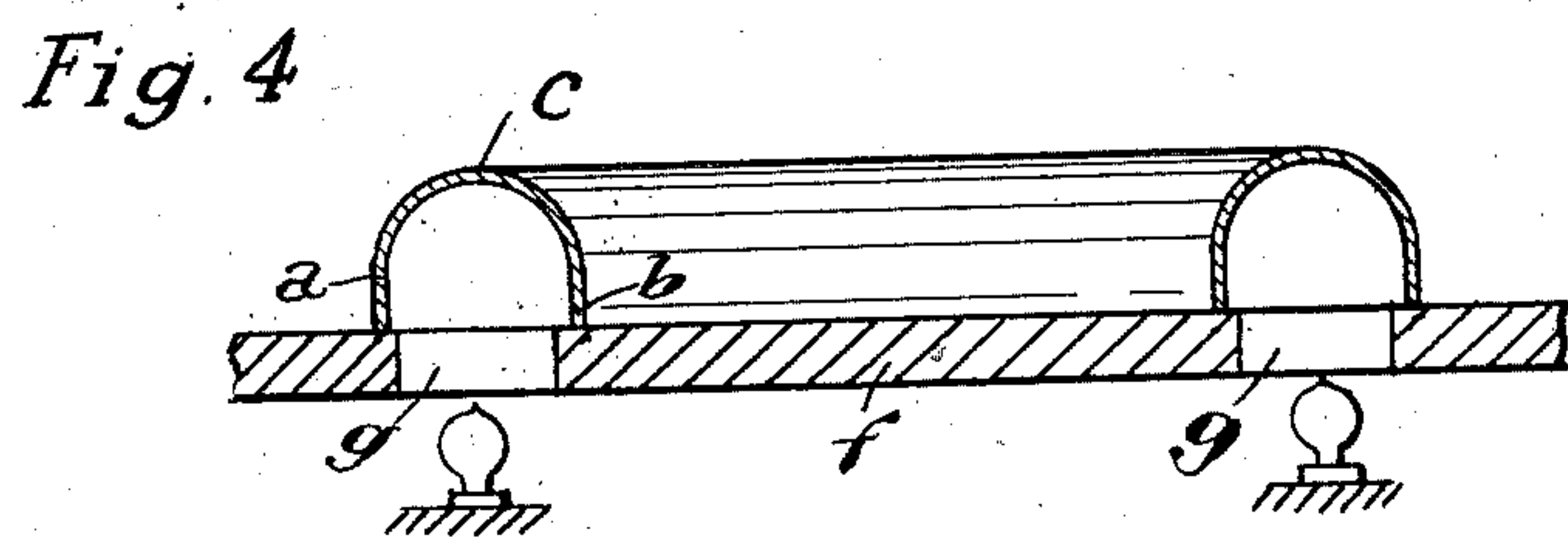
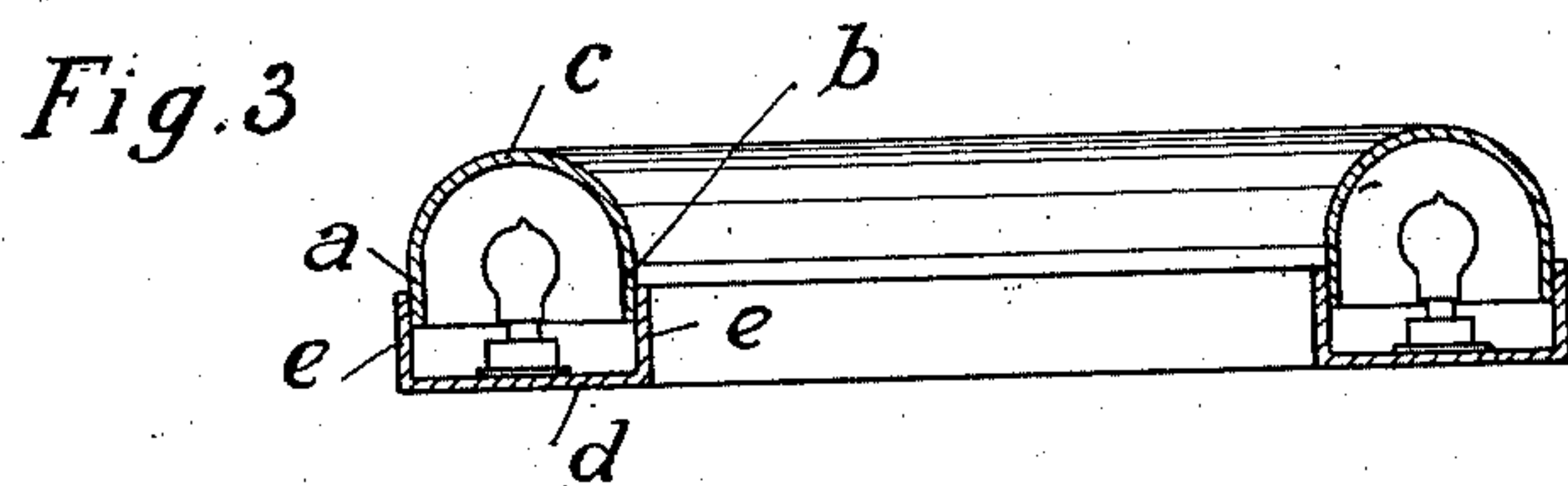
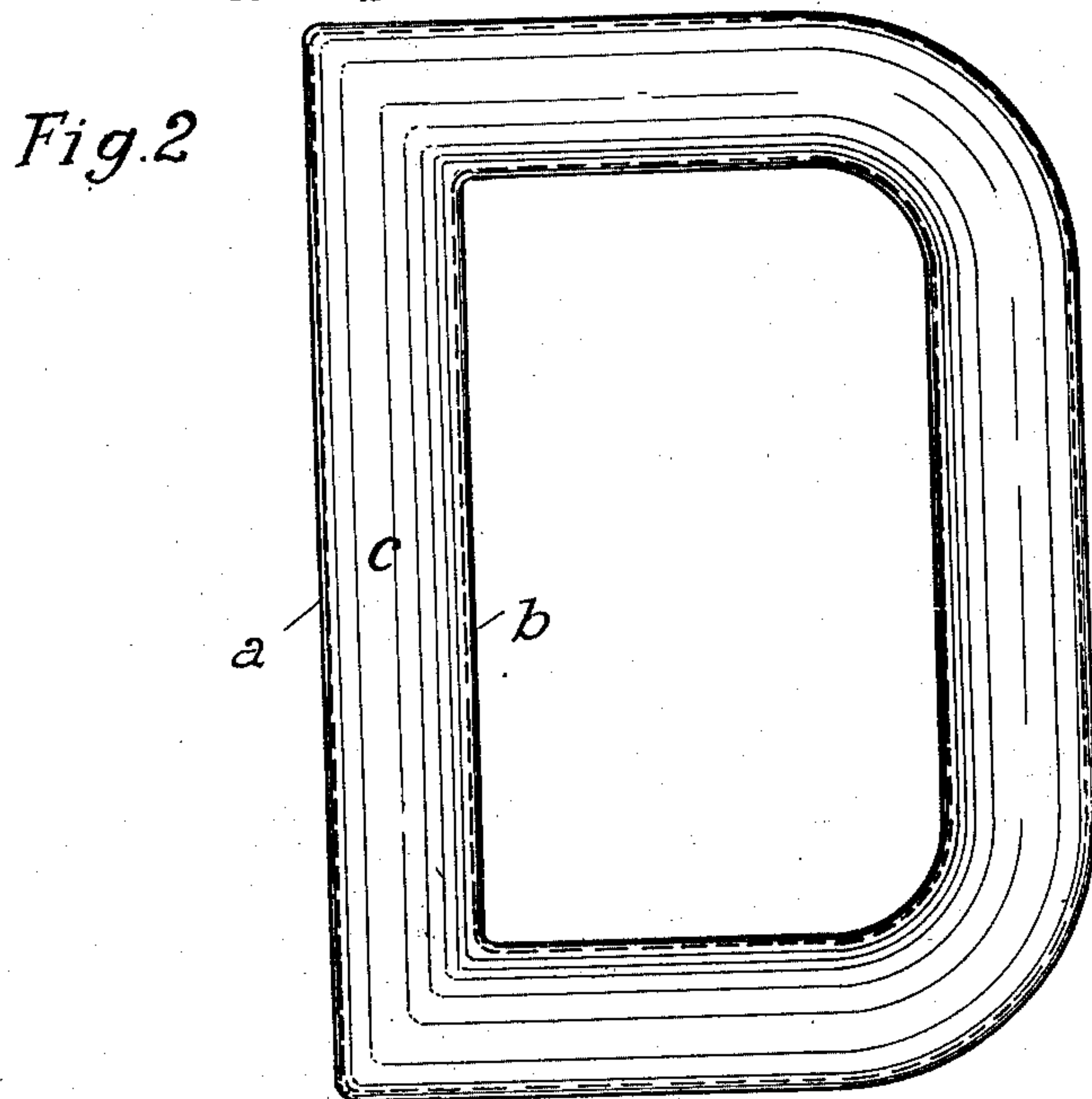
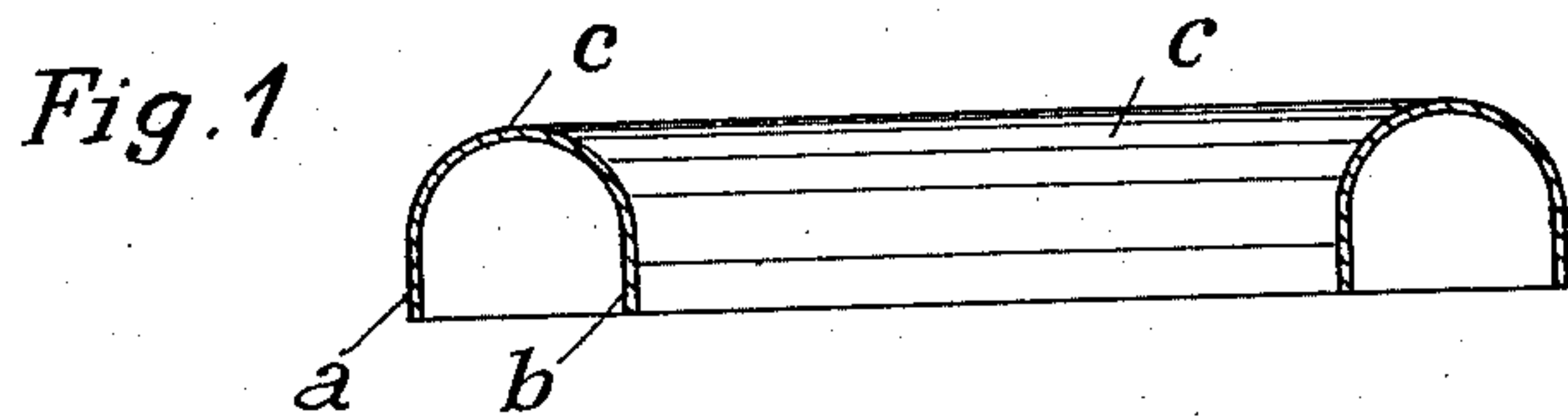


Oct. 7, 1930.

F. GRÜNHUT
LUMINOUS CHARACTER
Filed Aug. 14, 1928

1,777,793



Inventor:

Friedrich Grünhut

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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LUMINOUS CHARACTER

Application filed August 14, 1928, Serial No. 299,540, and in Germany September 30, 1927.

My present invention relates to a luminous character—such as letters or numerals—as used on a large scale for advertising purposes in order to attract the notice of the public and to allow reading the advertisement also at night.

The types of luminous characters known up to date have the disadvantage that they either are very expensive or that they have no uninterrupted and completely closed surface whereby the clearness of the character is very unfavourably interfered with at night. Moreover water of condensation or foreign bodies are liable to intrude which greatly reduce the reliability of service and in short time destroy the material. A further great disadvantage of the luminous characters known up to now is the fact that they cannot be seen and read from the side but only when regarding them practically from the front.

My present invention has the purpose to obviate the existing disadvantages and to create a luminous hollow character forming a completely closed body which consists of two parts. The upper part having the shape of the desired character is manufactured in one piece of any suitable translucent material and comprises two lateral shanks connected with each other by aid of an intermediate yoke the cross-section of which may be shaped in any suitable form. The lower part serving to receive the upper translucent part consists of a ground plate having exactly the shape of the upper part, said ground plate being provided on its inner and outer edges with rims projecting upwardly. When connecting the two parts with each other a hollow space is created in which the source of light is arranged. Instead of the ground plate registering in shape with the upper translucent part a base plate of any suitable material can be used as carrying means, in which case the latter is provided with apertures registering with the outlines

of the upper character part, so that the light of a source situated behind the base plate can pass through these apertures.

The annexed drawing illustrates by way of example the present invention, in which Figs. 1 and 2 show the upper translucent part of the character in cross-section and plan view respectively, Figs. 3 and 4 show the connection of a character with a ground or base plate serving as carrying means for the translucent upper part.

According to Figs. 1 and 2 the upper vaulted part of letter is made in one piece of any suitable translucent material and consists of two lateral shanks *a* and *b* connected with each other by means of an intermediate yoke *c*, which may have any suitable form of cross-section.

In Fig. 3 is illustrated a metal ground plate *d* registering in its shape with a letter and provided on its inner and outer edges with upwardly projecting rims *e* which are adapted to receive the upper vaulted part of the letter *a*, *b*, *c*. The connection of the lower part *d* with the upper one *a*, *b*, *c* may be effected by aid of known elements in a simple manner. In the hollow space formed between the two connected parts the electric lamps are arranged for illuminating the translucent part, said lamps being mounted on the ground plate.

As shown in Fig. 4 the arrangement of the translucent letter is of such kind, that the upper vaulted part *a*, *b*, *c*, is fixed directly onto a base-plate *f* serving as carrying means, whereby a direct connection to the base-plate *f* is obtained, the letter being provided with apertures *g* registering with the outlines of the letter so as to allow the light coming from the source arranged behind this base-plate to pass.

It is understood that the vaulted character can be read from the side, because the upper translucent part offers also laterally a lighting surface, and the represented lumi-

nous letter appears in relief clearly above its carrying means.

What I claim is:

5 A luminous character comprising a base-part and a superposed character body, the base plate serving as a support for the character body and having an aperture according to the outline of said character, the character being made of translucent material and
10 secured at its edges to the base plate so as to cover the aperture, places not occupied by the character body being formed so as to prevent the transmission of light rays.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

15 FRIEDRICH GRÜNHUT.

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