Aug. 2, 1938. G. H. PEEBLES 2,125,687

ILLUMINATED SIGN UNIT

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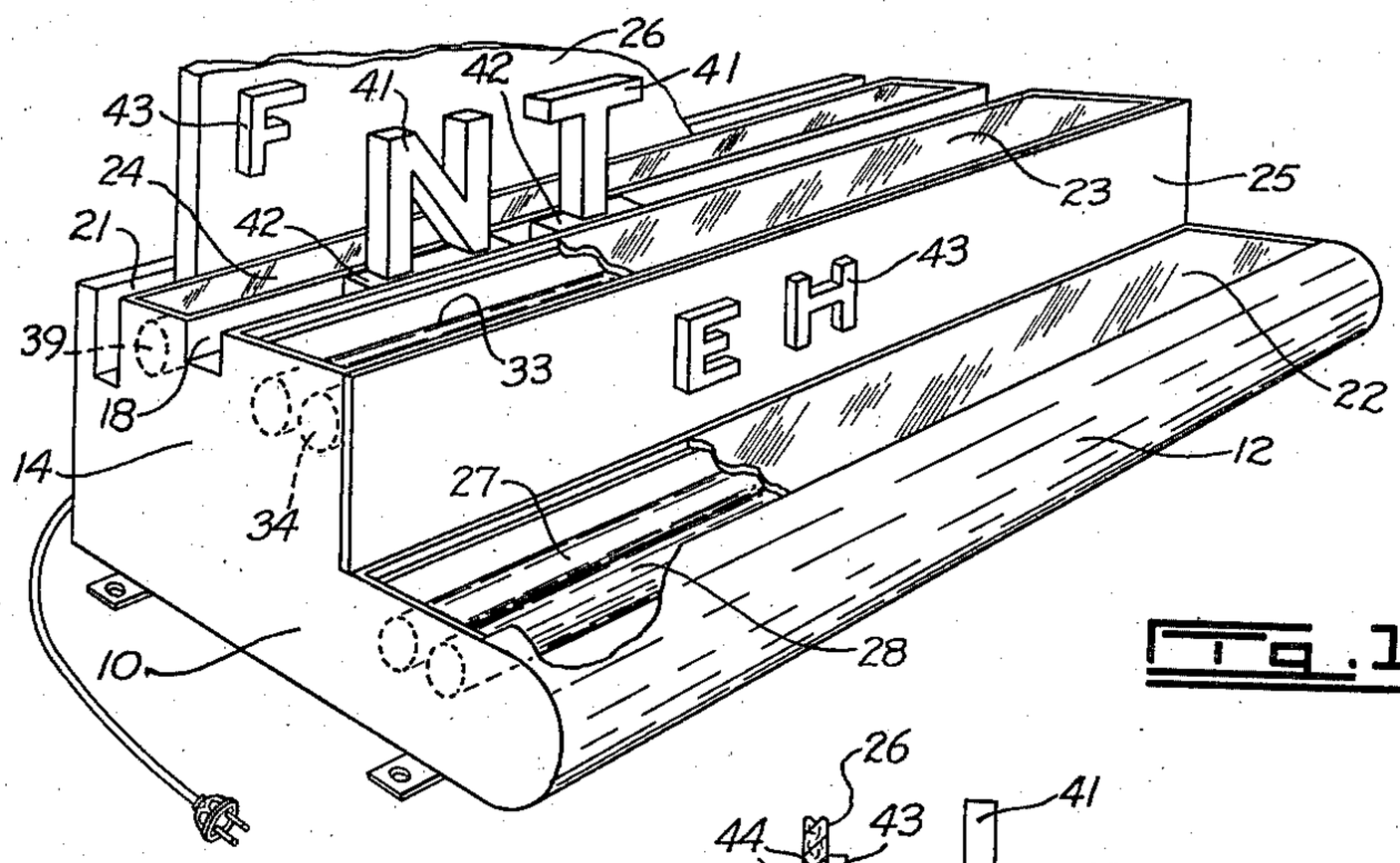

Fig. 1.

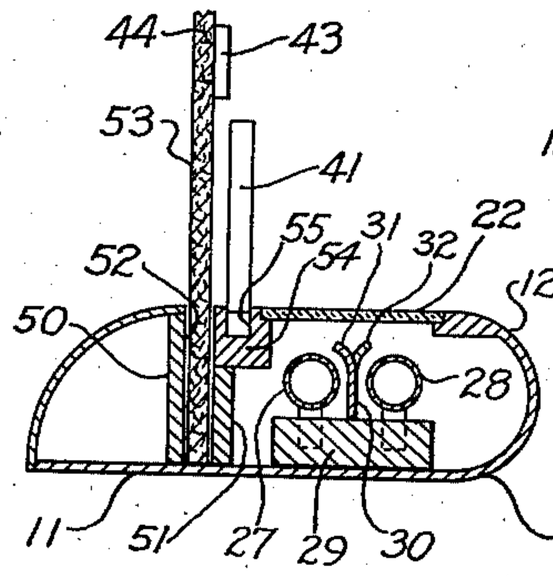

Fig. 3.

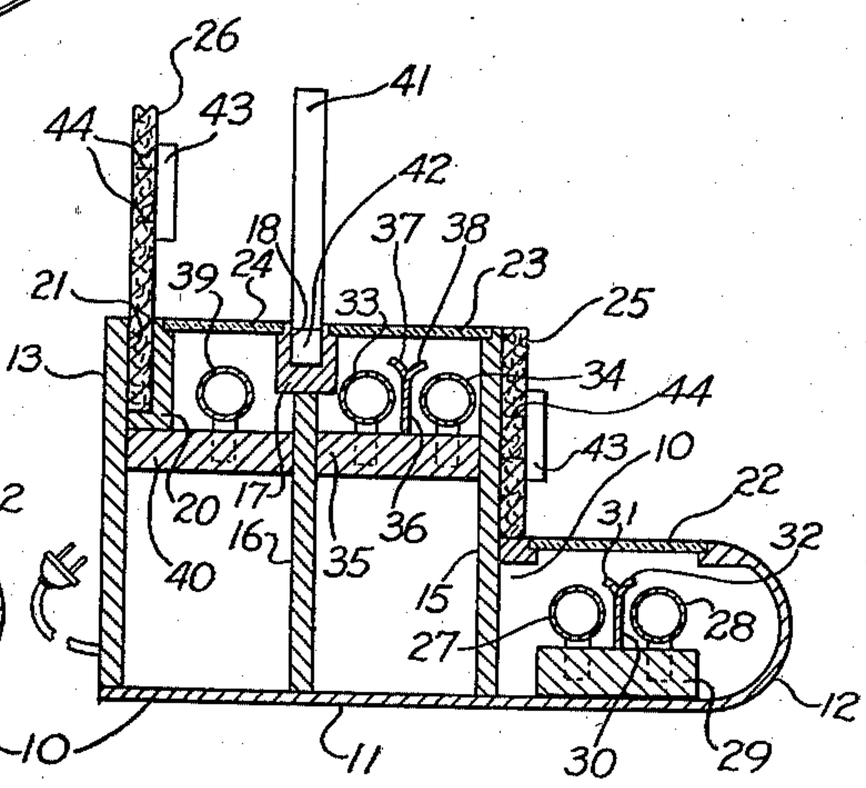

Fig. 2.

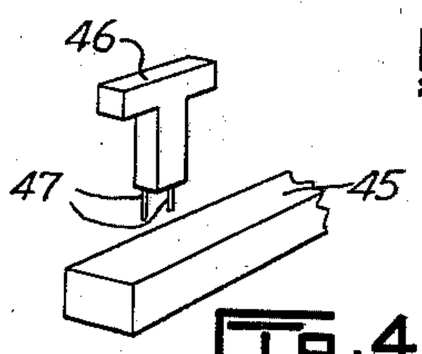

Fig. 4.

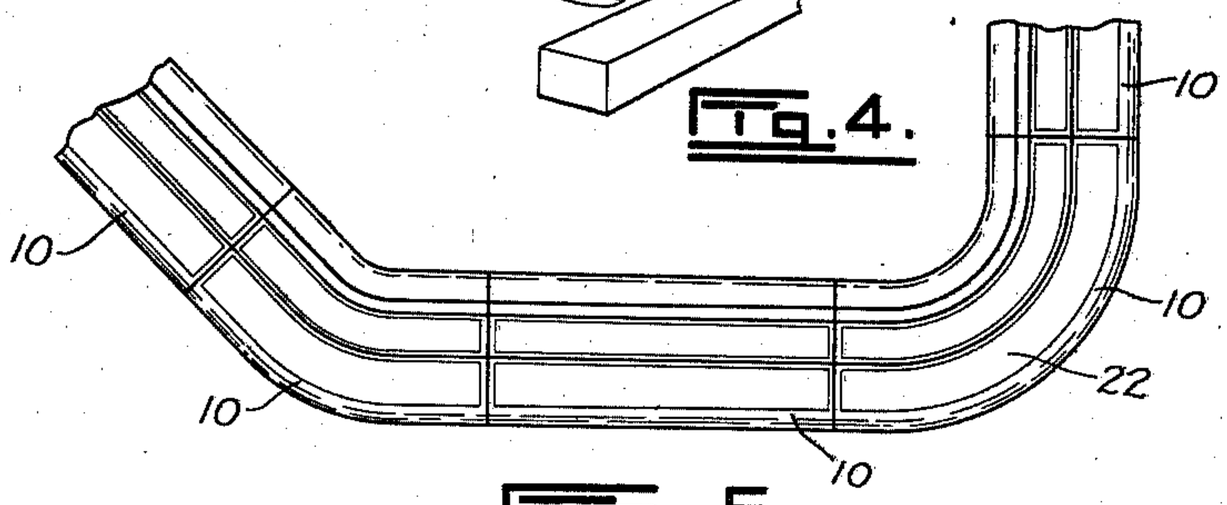

Fig. 5.

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ILLUMINATED SIGN UNIT

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6 Claims. (Cl. 40—130)

This invention relates to an improved illuminated sign unit.

An object of the present invention is the provision of an illuminated sign unit of very compact construction having a relatively large display area.

Another object is the provision of an illuminated sign unit capable of producing a variety of displays without altering its construction.

A further object is the provision of an illuminated sign unit in which the display material stands out clearly and presents a striking appearance.

A still further object is the provision of an illuminated sign unit a number of which may be combined to provide an enlarged sign of any desired shape.

With these and other objects in view, the present invention consists essentially of a casing including means for removably retaining one or more types of interchangeable indicia such as letters, numerals, figures, characters or the like, means for illuminating the indicia in such a way as to make them stand out in a most attractive manner, and means through which the whole colour effect of the sign may be altered without disturbing the indicia, as more fully described in the following specification and illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of one type of illuminated display unit with certain parts broken away to show the interior thereof,

Figure 2 is a transverse, sectional view of the unit shown in Figure 1,

Figure 3 is a transverse, sectional view of an alternative form of sign unit,

Figure 4 is a perspective view of one type of indicia adapted to be used with this sign, and

Figure 5 is a plan view of a series of illuminated sign units combined to form an enlarged sign, illustrating units of three different shapes.

Referring more particularly to the form of the invention illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, 10 is a casing having a bottom 11, a curved front wall 12 and a rear wall 13. The casing 10 is formed with a vertical extension 14 at the rear thereof, said extension having a front wall 15 and a central partition 16 extending from one side to the other of the extension dividing said extension into two compartments. A support 17 mounted on the upper edge of the partition 16, is formed with a channel 18, and a support 20, secured to the wall 13 adjacent the top thereof, is spaced from said wall to form a channel 21, said channels each extending the full width of the vertical extension of the casing 10. A transparent or translucent panel 22 is removably mounted in any suitable manner on the top of the casing 10 and similar transparent or translucent panels 23 and 24 are removably mounted in any suitable manner on the top of the vertical extension 14 on each side of the support 17.

A panel 25 formed of relatively soft material, such as wall board or the like, is secured to the outer surface of the wall 15 above the casing 10 and a panel 26 formed of similar material is adapted to be removably mounted in the channel 21 of the support 20.

The lighting means for the sign unit is preferably a plurality of tubular lighting units independently connected so that each unit may be turned on or off as desired. A set of lighting tubes 27 and 28 is mounted on a base 29 in the casing 10 beneath the panel 22 with a baffle 30 between said tubes. This baffle is formed with deflectors 31 and 32 adapted to aid in directing the rays of light from the tubes through the panel. Similarly, a set of lighting tubes 33 and 34 is mounted on a base 35 in the vertical extension 14 immediately beneath the panel 23 with a baffle 36 between said tubes, said baffle being formed with deflectors 37 and 38, and a lighting tube 39 is mounted on a base 40 in said extension immediately beneath the panel 24.

As stated above, the indicia to be displayed in the illuminated sign unit may be letters, numerals, figures, characters or the like. Letters have been shown in the drawings by way of example but it is to be understood that the other indicia will be mounted in a similar manner. Any desired combination of letters 41, commonly known as track letters, having bases 42 may be removably mounted in the channel 18 of the support 17 and letters 43, commonly known as pin letters, may be removably mounted on the panels 25 and 26 by means of pins 44. If desired, a strip of relatively soft material 45 (see Fig. 4) may be set in the channel 18 in place of the letters 41 and letters 46 may be mounted thereon by means of pins 47 extending downwardly from the bases of the letters.

The whole interior of the sign unit, the lighting tubes 27, 28, 33 and 34 and 39 and the panels 22, 23 and 24 may be painted any desired colour or combination of colours. The light rays from the tubes 27 and 28 pass upwardly through the panel 22 on to the indicia 43 mounted on the panel 25, the light rays from the tubes 33 and 34 pass upwardly through the panel 23 on to the fronts of the indicia 41 and the light rays from the tube

39 pass through the panel 24 on to the indicia 43 on the panel 26 and on to the backs of the indicia 41. Any one of the light tubes or any combination of them may be used at one time to secure various lighting effects in the unit. For example, the tube 39 might be turned off so that the indicia 41 would cast shadows on the panel 26 or the tubes 33 and 34 might be turned off with the result that said indicia 41 would be illuminated from the back only. The colour effect of the whole sign unit may be changed without disturbing the display by merely substituting panels of different colours for the panels 22, 23 and/or 24 in the device and/or substituting different coloured lighting tubes for those in use at the time.

The deflector 31 of the baffle 30 directs the light rays from the tube 27 on to the lower portions of the indicia 43 while the deflector 32 directs the light from the tube 28 on to the upper portions of said indicia. Similarly, the deflector 37 of the baffle 36 directs the light rays from the tube 33 on to the lower portions of the indicia 41 while the deflector 38 directs the light rays from the tube 34 on to the upper portions of said indicia.

If desired the above described sign unit may be terminated at the partition 16 or, in other words, the wall 13, the tube 39 and its mountings, and the panel 26 and its mountings may be omitted. In this case only the indicia 43 mounted on the panel 25 and the indicia 41 would be used. When the strip 45 is placed in the channel 18 and the indicia 46 are used, the latter may be set at varying angles to each other to produce different effects. When desired, flasher plugs may be used with the lighting tubes to obtain further variations of lighting and colours. Suitable indicia may be placed on the panels 22, 23 and 24 thus again increasing the display value of the unit.

Referring to the form of the invention shown in Figure 3, the casing 10 has the bottom 11, curved front wall 12 and a panel 22 in the top thereof but it is not formed with a vertical extension. Lighting tubes 27 and 28 along with the baffle 30 are mounted in the casing 10 in the same manner as in the above described form of the invention. This casing is formed with a rear wall 50 and with a partition 51 spaced from said rear wall to form therebetween a channel 52 adapted to receive a panel 53 formed of relatively soft material, such as wall board or the like. A support 54 mounted on the upper edge of the partition 51 is provided with a channel 55 extending from side to side of the casing 10. This channel is adapted removably to retain indicia 41 and the panel 53 is adapted to have secured thereto indicia 43. With this construction, the light rays from the tubes 27 and 28 pass upwardly through the panel 22 on to the indicia 41 and 43. The indicia 41 may be removed and the panel 53 left alone or vice versa and the lighting tubes may be used singly or together. Various colour combinations and effects may be obtained just as in the first described modification of the invention. Also, if desired, the strip 45 may be placed in the channel 55 and the indicia 46 used.

Figure 5 illustrates how a number of the sign units of either form of the invention may be placed end to end to form an enlarged sign of any desired shape. This figure shows straight sign units along with two units of different degrees of curvature.

The above described sign units are very compact and simple in construction, and yet they offer a relatively large display area with infinite possibilities as to colour combinations and effects.

Various modifications may be made in this invention without departing from the spirit thereof or the scope of the claims, and therefore the exact forms shown are to be taken as illustrative only and not in a limiting sense, and it is desired that only such limitations shall be placed thereon as are disclosed in the prior art or are set forth in the accompanying claims.

What I claim as my invention is:

1. An illuminated sign unit comprising a casing, means in the top of the casing adapted removably to retain suitable indicia, a panel mounted in the casing adjacent the rear thereof and projecting upwardly therefrom, said panel being adapted to have secured thereto additional indicia, a plurality of lighting tubes mounted in the casing, means for directing the light rays from at least one tube to the lower portions of the indicia, and means for directing the light rays from at least one other tube to the upper portions of said indicia.

2. An illuminated sign unit comprising a casing, a translucent panel removably mounted in the top of the casing, a support in the top of the casing having a channel therein adapted removably to retain suitable indicia, a panel formed of relatively soft material removably mounted in the casing adjacent the rear thereof and projecting upwardly therefrom, said panel being adapted to have additional indicia removably secured thereto, a plurality of lighting tubes mounted in the casing, at least one baffle mounted between said tubes, a deflector formed with the baffle for directing the light rays from at least one tube to the lower portions of the indicia and another deflector formed with the baffle for directing the light rays from at least one other tube to the upper portions of said indicia.

3. An illuminated sign unit comprising a casing, a vertical extension formed at the rear of the casing, translucent panels mounted in the tops of the casing and the extension, a support mounted at the top of the extension having a channel therein adapted removably to retain suitable indicia, a panel formed of relatively soft material mounted on the front wall of the vertical extension above the casing, said last mentioned panel being adapted to have secured thereto additional indicia, and lighting means in both the casing and the extension from which light rays pass upwardly through their respective translucent panels to illuminate the indicia.

4. An illuminated sign unit comprising a casing, a vertical extension formed at the rear of the casing, a support mounted at the top of the extension having a channel formed therein adapted removably to retain suitable indicia, a panel formed of relatively soft material mounted on the front wall of the vertical extension above the casing, said panel being adapted to have additional indicia removably secured thereto, a set of lighting tubes mounted in the casing, and a set of lighting tubes mounted in the extension, each set of tubes having a baffle mounted therein with a deflector for directing the light rays from at least one tube to the lower portions of the indicia immediately above that set of tubes and another deflector for directing light rays from at least one other tube to the upper portions of said indicia.

5. An illuminated sign unit comprising a casing, a vertical extension formed at the rear of the casing, a central partition dividing the extension into two compartments, a support mounted on the top of the partition having a channel formed therein adapted removably to retain suit-

able indicia, a panel of relatively soft material mounted on the front wall of the vertical extension above the casing, a support mounted at the back of the vertical extension adjacent the top thereof having a channel formed therein, a panel formed of relatively soft material removably mounted in said last mentioned channel behind the above mentioned indicia, each of said panels being adapted to have additional indicia removably secured thereto, at least one lighting tube mounted in the extension between the central partition and the back of said extension, a set of lighting tubes mounted in the extension between the central partition and the front of said extension, and a set of lighting tubes mounted in the casing, each set of tubes having a baffle mounted therein with a deflector for directing the light rays from at least one tube to the lower portions of the indicia immediately above that set of tubes and another deflector for directing light rays from at least one other tube to the upper portions of said indicia.

6. An illuminated sign unit comprising a casing, a partition spaced from the rear wall of the casing forming a channel therebetween, a panel of relatively soft material removably mounted in said channel, said panel being adapted to have suitable indicia secured thereto, a support mounted on the top of the partition having a channel formed therein adapted removably to retain suitable indicia, a set of lighting tubes mounted in the casing, a baffle mounted in the set of tubes having a deflector for directing the light rays from at least one tube to the lower portions of the indicia and another deflector for directing the light rays from at least one other tube to the upper portions of said indicia.

GEORGE HENRY PEEBLES.