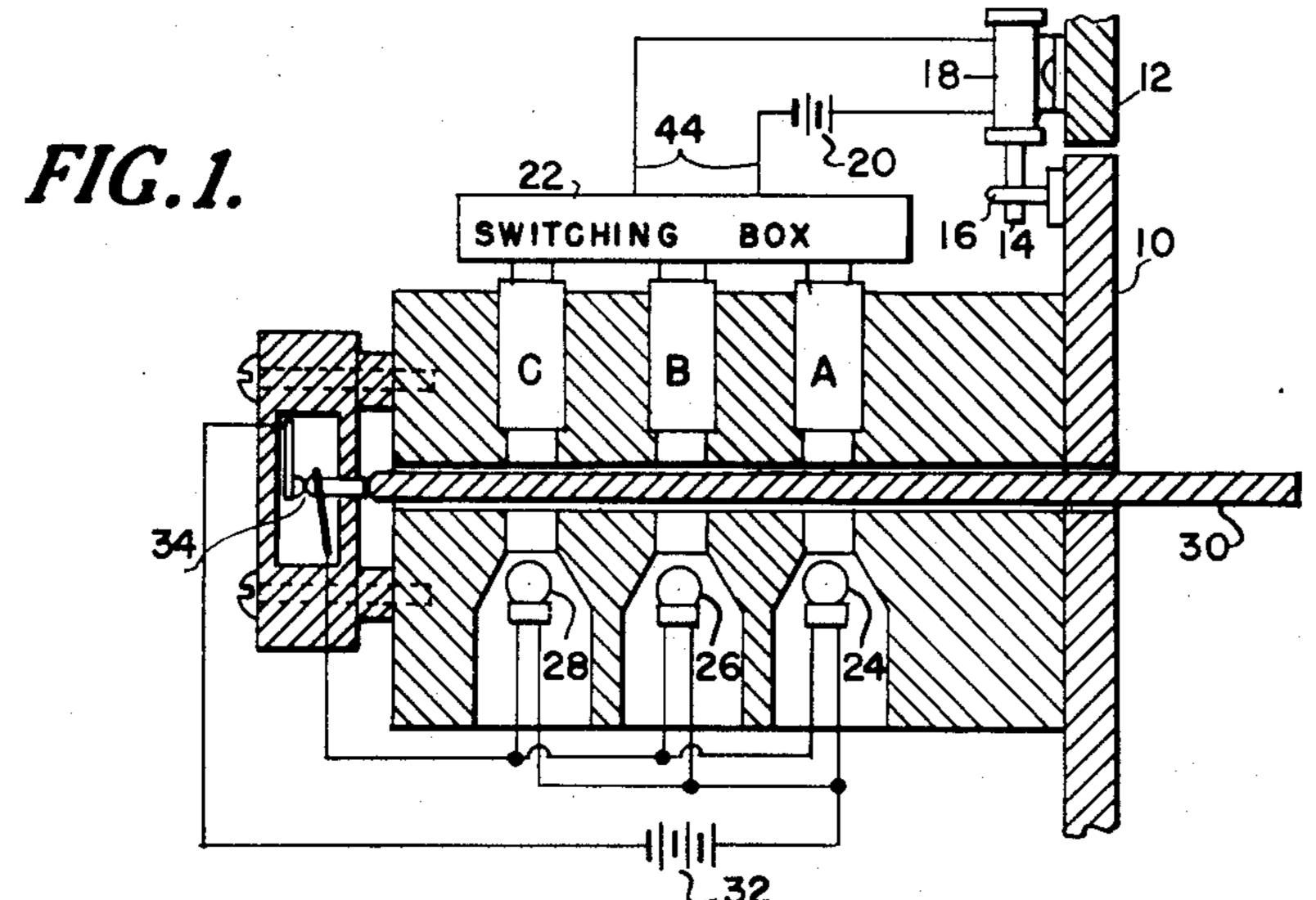
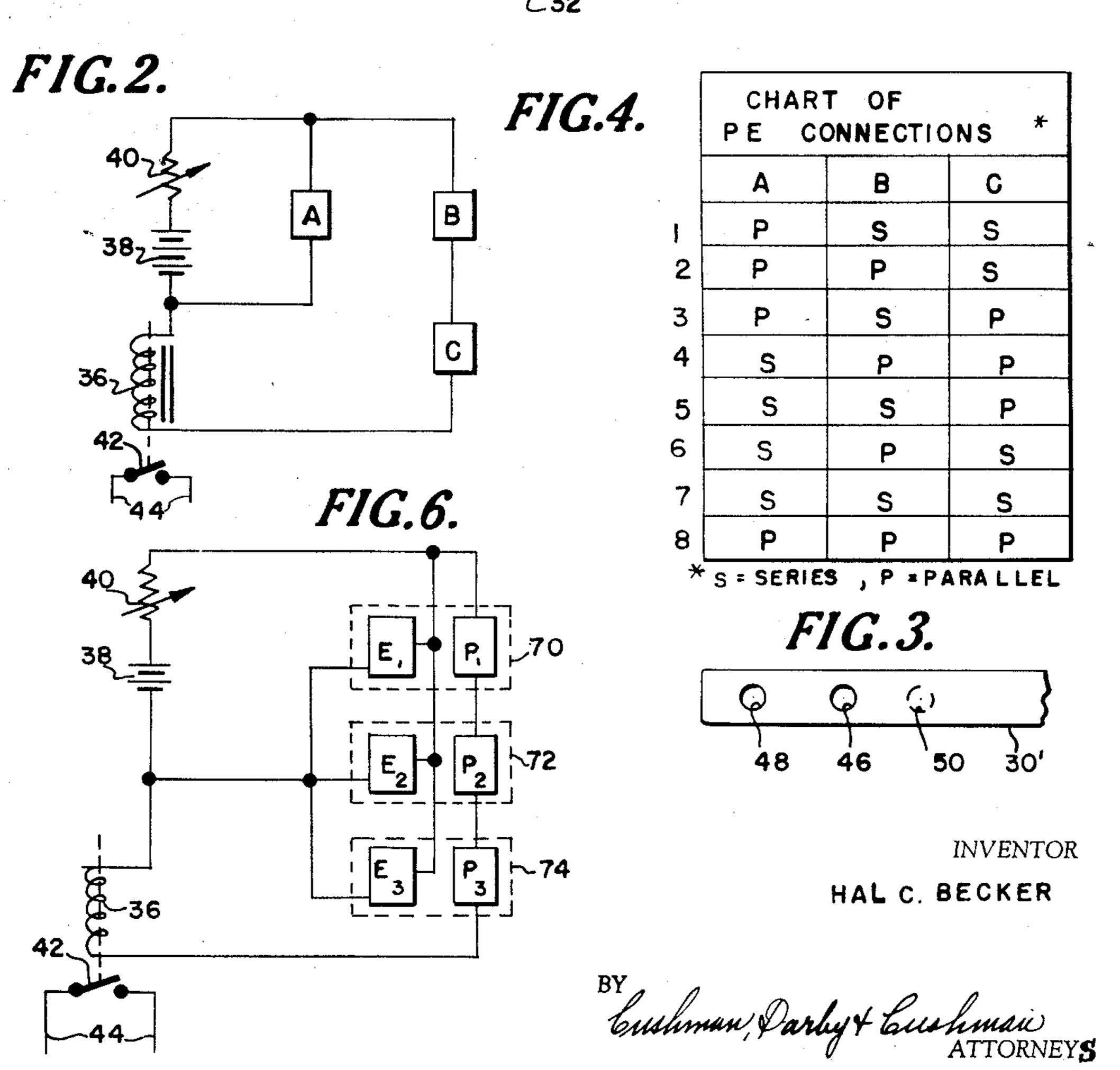
ACTUATING SYSTEM

Filed May 9. 1956

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Sept. 20, 1960

H. C. BECKER

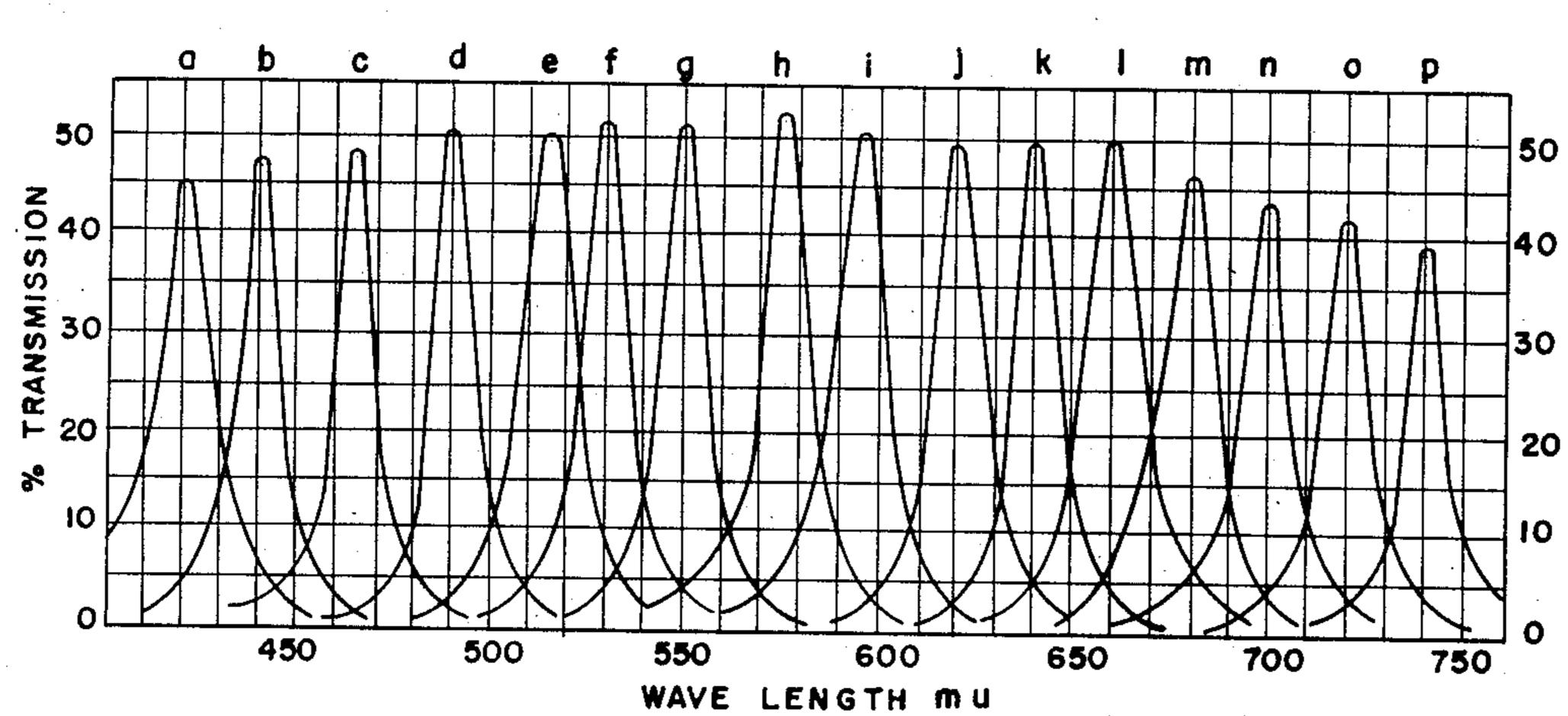
2,953,689

ACTUATING SYSTEM

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FIG.9.



INVENTOR

HAL C. BECKER

By Cushman, Darly + Cushman ATTORNEYS

Sept. 20, 1960

H. C. BECKER

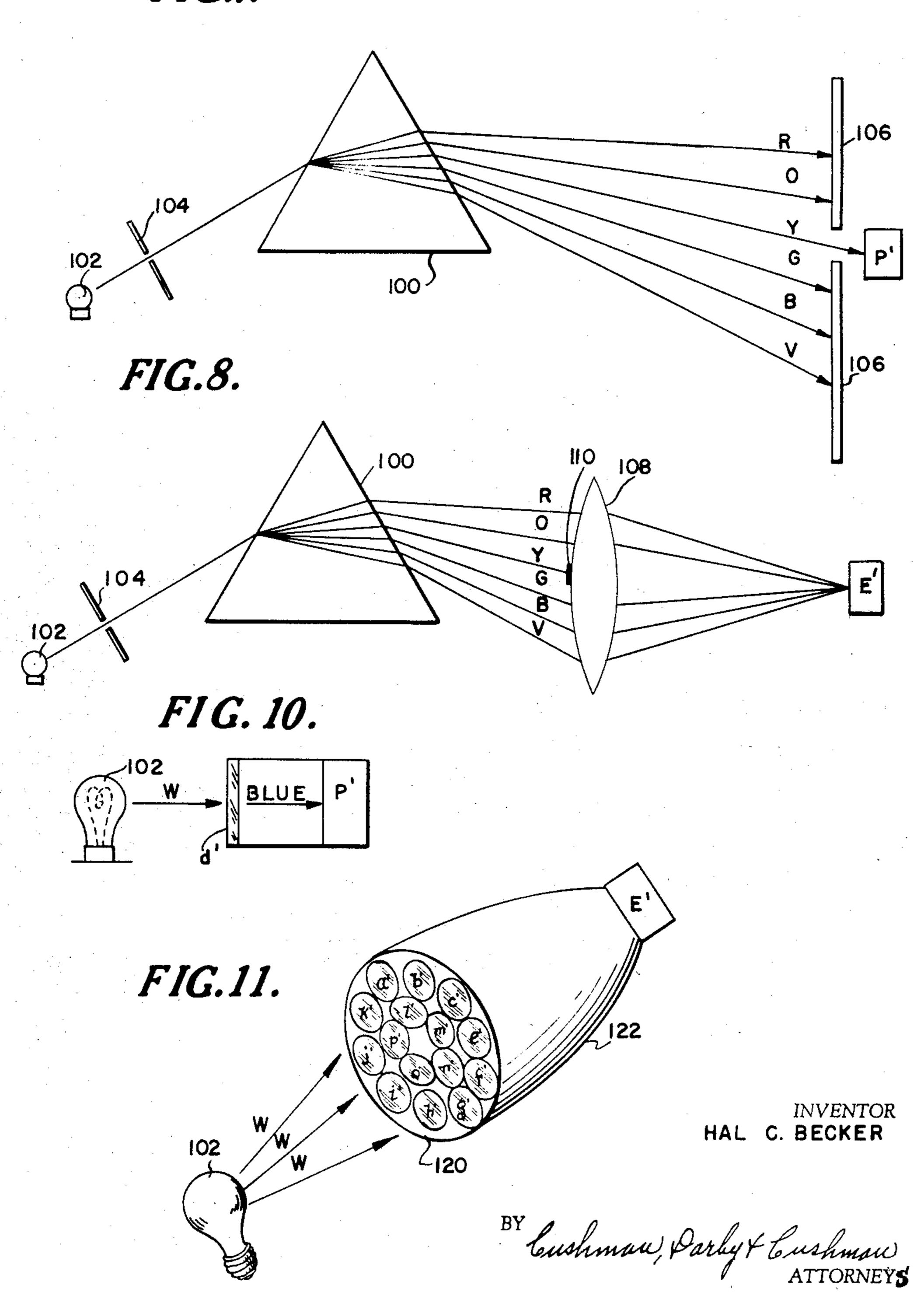
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ACTUATING SYSTEM

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FIG.7.



Sept. 20, 1960

H. C. BECKER

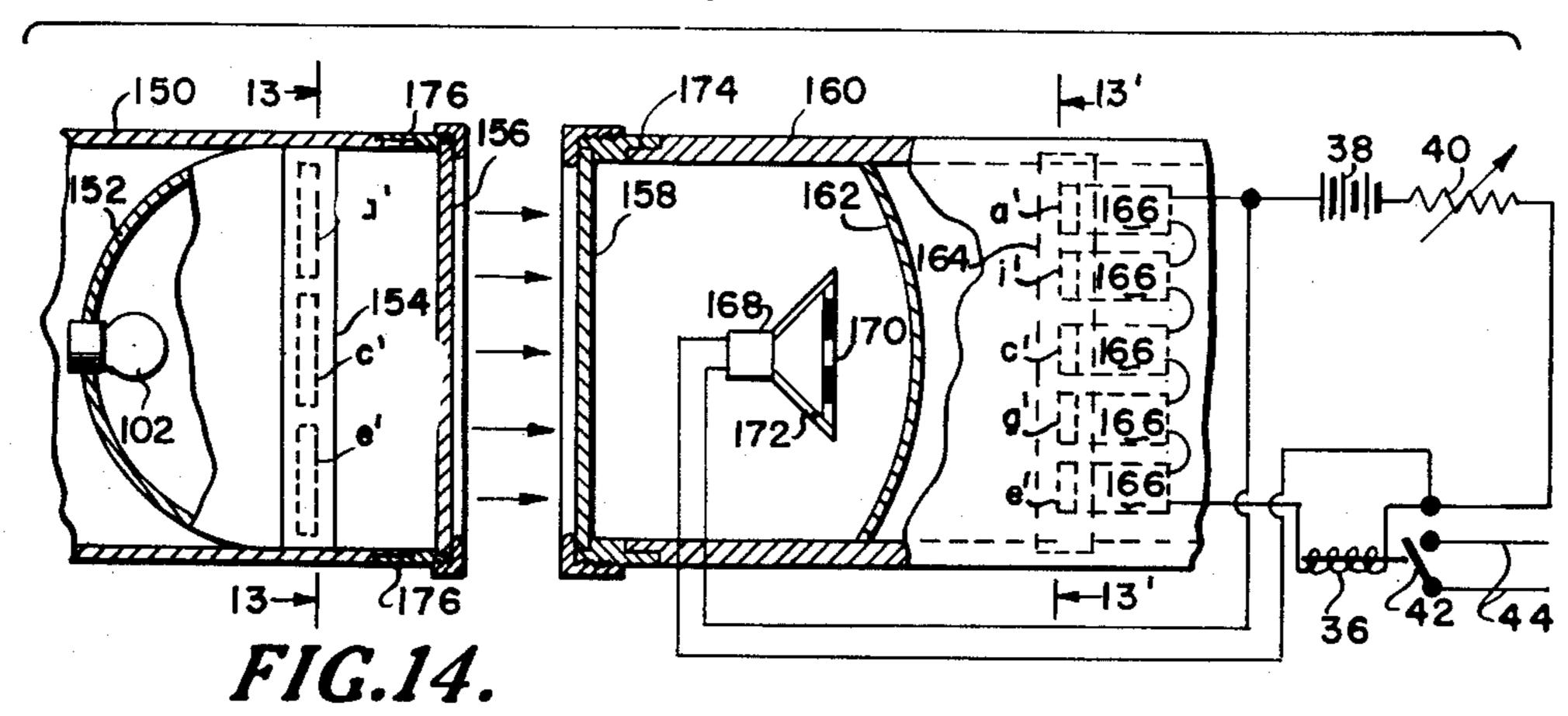
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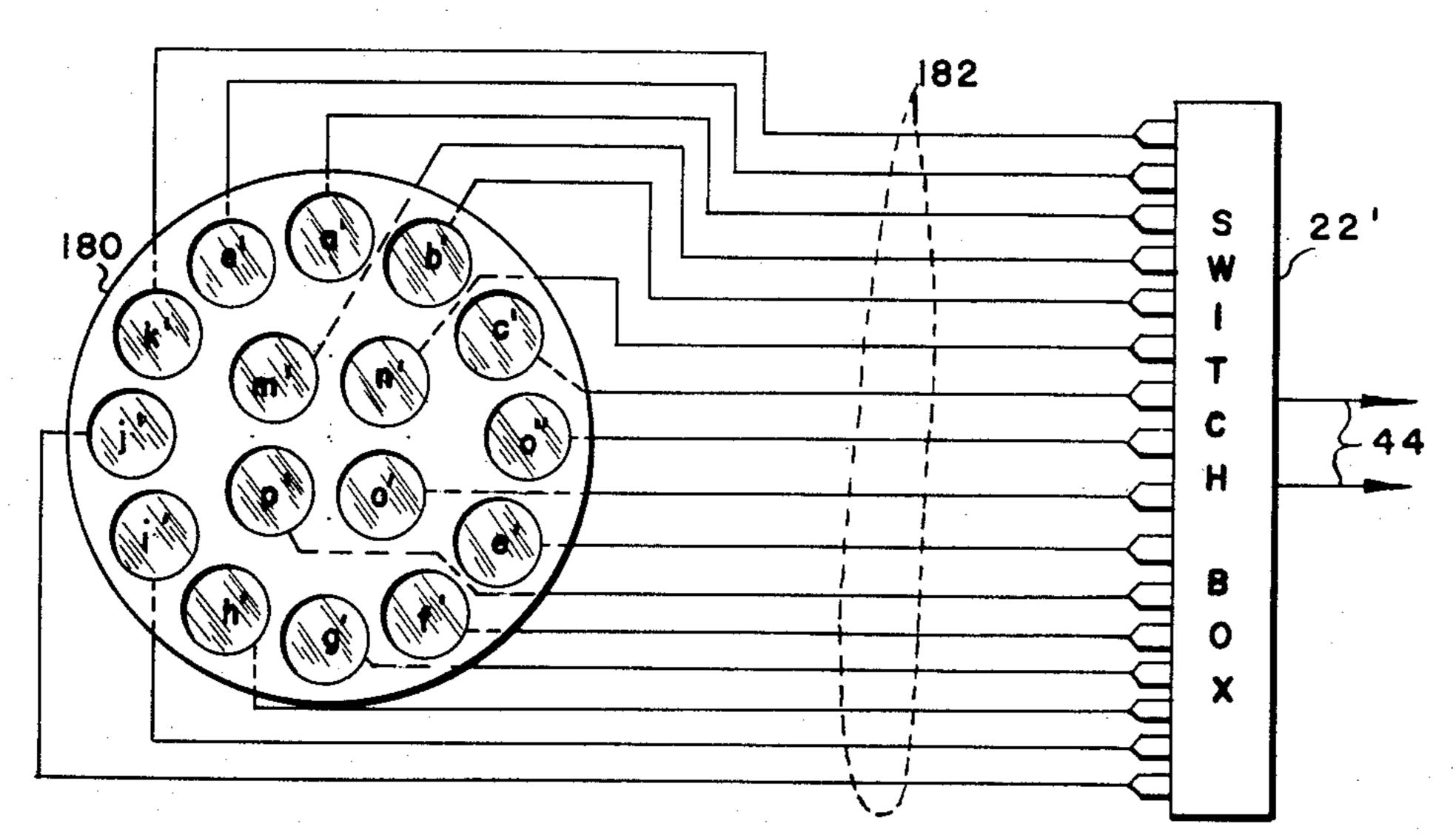
ACTUATING SYSTEM

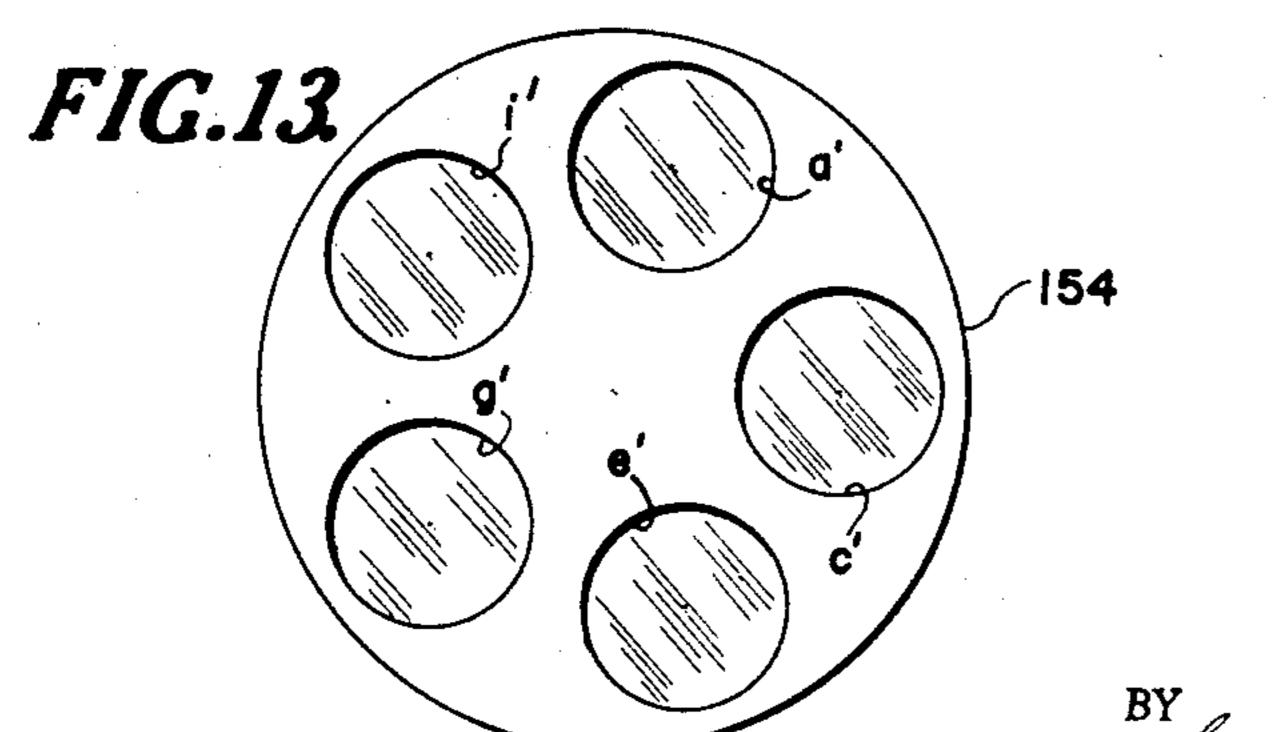
Filed May 9. 1956

4 Sheets-Sheet 4

FIG.12.







INVENTOR

HAL C. BECKER

BY Cushman Parly & Eushman ATTORNEY S

2,953,689

ACTUATING SYSTEM

Hal C. Becker, New Orleans, La., assignor to Precon Process and Equipment Corporation, New Orleans, La., a corporation of Louisiana

> Filed May 9, 1956, Ser. No. 583,875 12 Claims. (Cl. 250-209)

This invention relates to a photoelectric actuating system and in particular to the operating of a device, whether 15 remote or near, by use of either white light or colored light.

In the past photoelectric actuating systems have been designed to open or close circuits connected to doors or the like. However, such systems are not foolproof since 20 by the connections of the photoelectric cells such systems may be operated by the presence of light on all cells or the absence of light on all cells.

Therefore, it is the primary object of this invention to provide apparatus responsive to light in a foolproof 25 manner.

It is another object of this invention to provide apparatus including light sensitive means connected so as to be responsive neither to the absence of light nor the presence of light on all the light sensitive means.

It is a further object of this invention to provide photoelectric actuating apparatus wherein the photoelectric cells are connected at least one in parallel and one in series with the load to be actuated.

photoelectric cells in sets of two, each set having one cell connected in series with the load to be actuated and the other cell connected in parallel with the load, and each set being responsive to a different wavelength of light.

Another object of the invention, in combination with the preceding object, is to provide prismatic means for operating each set of photoelectric cells.

Still another object of the invention is to provide apparatus including narrow spectral band filters by which 45 a narrow band of wavelengths of light may be operative to cause current conduction in a photoelectric cell in series with a load to be actuated and by which a narrow band of light may be eliminated or prohibited from reaching a photoelectric cell connected in parallel with 50 said load.

Another object of the invention is to provide remote control apparatus for operating a light sensitive unit, the unit being operative upon receipt of only predetermined colors of light.

Other objects and the entire scope of the invention will become further apparent from the following detailed description of the exemplary embodiments of the various phases and aspects of the invention.

tion may be best understood with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 illustrates the invention as applied to a lock actuating device;

Figure 2 is a schematic drawing of one possible set 65 of circuit connections for the photoelectric cells of Figure 1;

Figure 3 shows a keying device for use with the circuit of Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a chart of the several possible connections 70 of the three photoelectric cells of Figure 1;

Figure 5 is a schematic drawing showing switching

means for obtaining the different connections charted in Figure 4;

Figure 6 is a schematic illustration of another embodiment of the invention;

Figures 7 and 8 illustrate means for obtaining bandpass and band-elimination elements for use in Figure 6; Figure 9 is a graph of spectral band filters;

Figures 10 and 11 illustrate apparatus using the spectral band filters of Figure 9 to obtain band-pass and band-10 elimination elements:

Figure 12 illustrates a remote operating system operative in response to predetermined hues only;

Figure 13 is a sectional view taken along lines 13—13 or 13'—13' of Figure 12, and

Figure 14 is a modification of the arrangement of the invention illustrated in Figure 12.

The invention will be described in reference particularly to the use thereof in a locking device. However, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art upon reading this specification that the invention may be employed in many different ways, and is not to be limited to lock actuating devices.

In Figure 1, the invention is illustrated as applied to the locking of the door 10 to the door frame 12. The bolt 14 is withdrawn from latch 16 upon energization of coil 18 by battery 20 and the connections made in the switching box 22. Connected to the switching box are three light sensitive means such as photoelectric cells A, B and C, each cell being responsive to light from 30 respective light sources such as bulbs 24, 26 and 28 when their path of light is not obstructed. In this invention a keying device such as key 30 may be inserted through the door 10 so as to determine which of the light sources 24, 26, 28 illuminates its respective photoelectric cell. It is still another object of this invention to provide 35 The light sources may be connected in series or in parallel directly across a source of energy such as battery 32 or through a switch 34 to said source of energy. When switch 34 is used, it is disposed in such a manner that key 30, when inserted, will close the switch.

The photoelectric cells A, B and C may be connected either in series or parallel with a load and as such will determine whether or not the load will receive current. For example, if a photoelectric cell is connected in series with the load, it is evident that the cell must conduct current as upon the receipt of light before its load will receive current. Likewise, if a cell is connected across the load, conduction of current through the cell reduces the amount of current through the load. In this invention it is assumed that the load is adjusted such that it will not operate upon a reduction of current therethrough as by part of the current being conducted through a photoelectric cell in parallel with the load. Figure 2 illustrates the preceding by the connection of photoelectric cells B and C in series with a load such as relay 55 coil 36. When current is caused to conduct through both photoelectric cells B and C from battery 38 and variable resistor 40, the current through coil 36 is sufficient to close the relay switch 42 to allow current to flow in lines 44. The preceding is true only if no cur-The exemplary arrangements according to the inven- 60 rent flows through photoelectric cell A, since current therethrough will reduce the current through coil 36 and prevent the closing of switch 42. In that case, lines 44 will not carry current from battery 20 (Figure 1) to actuate bolt 14. Those skilled in the art will recognize that coil 36 may, instead of actuating switch 42, operate to control bolt 14 directly so that the intervening circuitry including battery 20 is unessential.

To operate a system as shown in Figure 2, a key 30' as illustrated in Figure 3 is used. The insertion of key 30' between light sources 24, 26 and 28 and photoelectric cells A, B and C with the latter being connected as shown in Figure 2, so that the apertures 46 and 48 allow

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light from sources 26 and 28 to cells B and C respectively, while blank 50 prevents light from source 24 to cell A, allows full energization of coil 36. However, if blank 50 were an aperture, or either apertures 46, 48 were blanks, insufficient current would be conveyed to 5 coil 36.

The photoelectric cells are preferably connected so that there will also be one cell in parallel with the load and one cell in series with the load. In this manner a key composed of all apertures could never operate the system, 10 nor could a key composed of all blanks operate the system. With three photoelectric cells, eight different combinations of connections may be obtained. Figure 4 shows a chart of the different photoelectric connections for three cells A, B, C with "P" and "S" in the chart 15 referring to "parallel" and "serial" connection respectively. Line 1 of the chart represents the situation as depicted in Figure 2. In line 2, both photoelectric cells A and B are in parallel while photoelectric cell C is in series with the load. Line 3 shows another combina- 20 tion in which photoelectric cells A and C are in parallel with each other and with the load while only cell B is in series with the load. Lines 4, 5 and 6 likewise show other combinations which may be used. Lines 7 and 8, however, should not be used since, as explained above, 25 all holes or all blanks in the key would operate the cells when connected in accordance with lines 7 and 8 respectively, which situation would provide an easily "pickable" lock.

To obtain the different connections illustrated in the chart of Figure 4, a switching system such as the one contained within dotted line 52 of Figure 5 may be used in the switching box 22 of Figure 1. In Figure 5, photoelectric cells A, B and C are connected through a six-pole, six-position switch to a relay coil 36, battery 38 35 and variable resistor 40 to operate switch 42 connected in lines 44. Each lead from the different photoelectric cells A, B, C is connected to a different pole of the switch 54 and the six different poles 56, 57, 58, 59, 60 and 61 are mechanically connected as shown by dotted 40 line 62 for movement together around the six different terminal positions, numbered counterclockwise 1 through 6 for convenience, for each pole. When the poles are in their top position, i.e., position 1, the connections of cells A, B and C correspond to line 1 of chart 4; when in position 2, i.e., the first position counterclockwise from the top terminal position, the cells are connected in accordance with line 2 of the chart of Figure 4; when in position 3, the cells are connected as illustrated for line 3 of Figure 4; etc. In this manner, six different combinations may be readily obtained so that it will be necessary for the person desiring to operate the system to use the proper and corresponding key before he may acquire access through the locked door.

To further complicate the system, a variety of colors of light or hues may be utilized for keying the device. For example, if two photoelectric elements are used together in a manner such that one element is constructed so that the photoelectric cell in the element responds only to a given hue, while the cell of the second ele- 60 ment is arranged in the element to respond to all hues except said given hue, then the combination of the two photoelectric elements, if the former be connected in series and the latter in parallel with the load, will operate to actuate the load only if a single hue and no other hue is present. A photoelectric element of the first type may be termed a narrow band pass filter element while a photoelectric element of the second type may be referred to as a narrow band elimination filter element. Figure 6 illustrates three sets 70, 72 and 74 of band-pass 70 and band-elimination filter elements P₁ and E₁, P₂ and E₂, and P₃ and E₃ respectively. The band-pass elements P₁, P₂ and P₃ are in series with the load coil 36, battery 38 and variable resistor 40, while the band-elimination elements E₁, E₂ and E₃ are in parallel with the load 36.

Therefore, assuming each of the three sets of elements to be responsive to a different hue, any other hues incident upon the photoelectric elements will cause insufficient current to coil 36. For example, if element P₁ were set to be responsive to the wavelengths of red light while E₁ was set to be responsive to all wavelengths of light except red, and elements P₂, and E₂ were similarly set to wavelengths of blue light, and elements P₃, E₃ to wavelengths of green light, sufficient operating current would pass through coil 36 if light rays of wavelengths corresponding to the hues red, blue and green only were present respectively upon the different sets of passelimination elements.

Pass and elimination light filtering elements of the type described in the preceding paragraph may be constructed in several different forms. Figures 7 and 8 illustrate band-pass and band-elimination elements respectively as accomplished by use of a prism 100. White light from source 102 may be passed through a slit in mask 104 to be incident upon one side of prism 100. As is well known, the white light is refracted through the prism to produce a dispersion of the light beam into its component colors, the six principal ones of which (red, orange, yellow, green, blue and violet) are indicated in Figures 7 and 8 by the emerging rays R. O. Y. G, B and V respectively. In Figure 7, the photoelectric cell P' is placed so as to intercept only one of the color rays, for example, the yellow ray. For greater accuracy, a mask 106 may be used so that cell P' is assured of being responsive only to a desired narrow band.

To form a band-elimination element, the rays emerging from prism 100 as shown in Figure 8 are subjected to a lens 108. All the rays except that which is to be eliminated are passed through the lens and focused on photoelectric cell E'. The band of wavelengths which is to be eliminated is rejected by the lens. This is accomplished by blackening or masking the lens in the area thereon where the wavelengths to be eliminated would naturally fall incident on the lens. For example, to reject wavelengths of yellow light, the area 110 is darkened so that yellow light waves will not pass through the lens.

In a manner similar to the production of band-pass and band-elimination elements through prisms as above described, it will now be apparent to those skilled in the art that similar elements may be made by use of the well known process of diffraction grating.

Additional ways of making band-pass and band-elimination elements are possible by the use of the commercially available "interference filters" for isolating narrow spectral bands. In Figure 9 there is reproduced a chart showing the wavelength range of sixteen different spectral filters now commercially available. The wavelength is given in millimicrons and is plotted against the percent transmission of light for the different filters. It should be noted that the spectral width of each of the different filters is narrow and that they do not overlap at 30% transmission or above. For identifying purposes, each different filter as represented by the different curves and their peaks in the chart of Figure 9 is as designated respectively a, b, c, d, etc., as may be noted at the top of the chart.

To make a band-pass element from one of the filters charted in Figure 9, the form shown in Figure 10 may be used. For example, white light from source 102 may be made incident upon filter d' which corresponds to curve d of Figure 9. Assuming this filter to pass only blue light, the photoelectric cell P' will receive no light except that in the blue light range.

Figure 11 illustrates the method of forming a bandelimination element. The face plate 120 of the container 122 is opaque except for the fifteen circular shaped filters therein, designated a', b', c', e', f', etc., through p' in correspondence with the respective curves of Figure 9. It should be noted that a filter d' is not placed in the face plate 120. Therefore, white light from source 102 will pass all light wavelengths except the wavelengths represented by the absent filter d' which, as in the examples illustrated in Figure 10, represents blue light wavelengths. Photoelectric cell E' provides a signal, 5 then, only when light other than that having a wavelength in the blue light range is received.

Referring now to Figure 12, there is an embodiment shown which utilizes band-pass filtering elements as well as band-elimination elements with the individual filters 10 therein being of the type illustrated in Figure 9. The apparatus of Figure 12 may be used in many different ways and is particularly useful as a remote control system. A light source 102 is held in casing 150 by reflector 152. In front of the reflector and light source 15 is an array of color filters disposed in a manner such as that shown in Figure 13. The filter holder 154 is opaque except for the areas including the different color filters a', c', e', g' and i'. With reference back to Figure 9, these particular filters correspond to the curves 20 therein designated a, c, e, g and i, respectively. Therefore, light will emerge from holder 154 and pass through lens 156 in color corresponding to the filters in the holder 154. At a remote location the light flux may be received after passage through a transparent or trans- 25 lucent window or lens 158 which is held in a suitable manner in casing 160. Further within casing 160 is a semi-transmitting mirror 162, preferably spherical in shape, which passes a part of the light and reflects a part. For example, it may pass nearly 50 percent of 30 every wavelength of light flux, while reflecting a similar amount of every wavelength of light received. The flux which is passed directly through mirror 162 is received by a second array of color filters disposed in holder 164. The filters in holder 164 are identical with 35 those in holder 154 and may be arranged in a manner similar to that shown in Figure 13. However, rotational displacement of the filters in holder 164 is immaterial, and the filters therein need not be aligned with the respective filters in holder 154. Behind each filter in 40 holder 164 is a photoelectric cell 166 disposed to receive light only from its respective filter. These photoelectric cells are connected in series with each other and with the relay coil 36, battery 38 and variable resistor 40 in the manner heretofore described, so that when light is inci- 45 dent upon each of the cells 166 simultaneously, current will flow in coil 36 to operate switch 42 and close the circuit containing lines 44.

The light flux which is received by mirror 162 but reflected thereby is directed toward photoelectric cell 168. However, all of the light reflected thereby will not necessarily be incident upon cell 168 since there is an array of light filters in front of the cell. This third array of filters is disposed in holder 170 which is connected to the radial light baffle 172 attached to the front of cell 55 168. The filters in holder 170 are arranged in a circular manner like those illustrated in Figure 13, but correspond in wavelength transmission to curves b, d, f, h and j of Figure 9. Preferably, these filters are disposed in holder 170 in a circle concentric with, but smaller than, the 60 circle upon which the centers of the filters in holder 164 are preferably located. However, the radial lines upon which the third array of filters lies is rotated slightly with respect to the second array so that, in a longitudinal view of casing 160 wherein the two array holders appear su- 65 perimposed, the radial lines of the two arrays combined containing filters representing curves a through p do not overlap but are adjacent successively and progressively in increasing order of wavelengths. As indicated above, this is a preferred arrangement; however, limitation 70 thereto is not desired since the second and third arrays may be positionally rotated or otherwise disposed with a workable result obtained. In either of these manners wavelengths of light which are meant to cause operation of switch 42, do not fall on photoelectric cell 168. How- 75

ever, if light other than the wavelengths meant to operate the switch are present, current will pass through photoelectric cell 168 and reduce the current in coil 36 so that switch 42 is not operated.

The system may be further complicated by polarization of the light incident upon the semi-transparent mirror 162. This may be accomplished by polarizing lens 158 and making it rotatable as indicated at 174 with respect to the remainder of the casing 160 (including the two arrays of color filters therein). To provide the correct "combination" the remote control unit must compensate for the polarizing produced by lens 158. Therefore, lens 156 may be polarized and rotatable in respect to the remainder of the case as indicated at 176. In this manner the person operating the remote control unit must not only have the correct combination of light filtering elements, but must also polarize the emerging light to the proper degree before switch 42 will be operated.

A modification of the apparatus shown in Figure 12 may comprise the use of a filtering array containing filters of each of the sixteen different spectral bands indicated in Figure 9. In this manner, mirror 162 and the photoelectric cell arrangement 168 and filter holder 170 may be removed from the casing 160. In this modification a holder 180 is opaque except for the circular areas designated a' through p', these areas corresponding to the respective filters and their bands as illustrated in Figure 9. Each filter a' through p' has located adjacent thereto a photoelectric cell so that any light passing through the filter will actuate the photoelectric cell. The cells may be each connected as by wires 182 to a switch box 22' (similar to the switching arrangement shown in Figure 5) so that the photoelectric cells may each be connected either in series or parallel with the load. In this manner numerous combinations may be obtained and the combination may be changed from day to day.

Although the foregoing description has been in particular with relation to lock type devices, it will be found useful in various forms in light identification purposes and particularly in secret communication via light beam or in IFF operations.

Thus, it is apparent that there is provided by this invention a construction in which the various phases, objects and advantages hereinbefore set forth, inter alia, are successfully achieved.

Modifications of this invention now described herein will become apparent to those skilled in the art. Therefore, it is intended that the matter contained in the foregoing description and accompanying drawings be interpreted as illustrative and not limitative, the scope of the invention being defined in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. In a photoelectric actuating system, light source means and a remote unit for receiving the light from said means, said light means including means for providing light therefrom in a variety of predetermined colors, said remote unit comprising light sensitive means in number equaling said variety of predetermined colors and each including means causing response to a different one of said variety of colors, photoelectric means responsive to a second variety of predetermined colors not including any color of the first mentioned variety of predetermined colors, circuit means including an actuable load and a source of energy, means coupling said light sensitive means in series with the load and coupling said photoelectric means in parallel with the load, the arrangement being such that the load is actuated only when said first mentioned variety of predetermined colors is received by said remote unit, other colors of light being operative to cause the photoelectric means to prevent actuation of said load.

2. Apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said photoelectric means includes a spectral band filter for each color in said second variety and wherein each light sensitive means includes a spectral band filter corresponding to a

3. Apparatus as in claim 1 wherein the remote light receiving unit includes means for transmitting a prede-

different color in the first mentioned variety of colors.

termined amount of the light incident thereupon and for reflecting a predetermined amount of said light, and wherein the reflected light is received by said photoelectric means, while the transmitted light is received by said light sensitive means.

4. Apparatus as in claim 3 wherein the means for transmitting and reflecting light incident thereupon is a 10 semi-transparent reflecting surface disposed between said light sensitive means and photoelectric means.

5. Apparatus as in claim 4 wherein the photoelectric means includes a spectral band filter for each color in said second variety of colors and wherein each light 15 sensitive means includes a spectral band filter different than that for another light sensitive means and different than the filters for said photoelectric means.

6. Apparatus as in claim 5 wherein the spectral band filters for the light sensitive means are disposed in an increasing wavelength configuration while the filters for the photoelectric means are disposed in like manner, the arrangement being such that a beam of light having a wavelength band width larger than necessary to cause response by one of said light sensitive means prohibits actuation of said load by response to a portion of said band width by the photoelectric means.

7. In an actuating system, a plurality of light sensitive means each responsive respectively to predetermined wavelengths of light, circuit means including an actuatable load and a source of energy, and connection means coupling each of said light sensitive means in a predetermined manner to said circuit means including means connecting at least one of said light sensitive means in parallel with both said load and energy source for diverting the current of said source from said load and consequently preventing actuation thereof when said one light sensitive means is receiving wavelengths of light to which it is responsive, said connection means further including means connecting at least one other of 40 the light sensitive means in series with both said load and energy source for passing the current of said source to said load and allowing consequent actuation thereof only when each series connected light sensitive means receives wavelengths of light to which each is responsive if at the same time each parallel connected light sensitive means does not receive wavelengths of light to which each is respectively responsive, and further comprising means including light source means to cause actuation of said load, wherein the load actuating means comprises an opaque member having light transmitting means therein for each of said serially connected light sensitive means to permit response thereof to the associated predetermined wavelengths of light.

8. In an actuating system, a plurality of light sensitive means each responsive respectively to predetermined wavelengths of light, circuit means including an actuatable load and a source of energy, and connection means coupling each of said light sensitive means in a predetermined manner to said circuit means including means connecting at least one of said light sensitive means in parallel with both said load and energy source for diverting the current of said source from said load and consequently preventing actuation thereof when said one light sensitive means is receiving wavelengths of light to which it is responsive, said connection means further including means connecting at least one other of the light sensitive means in series with both said load and energy source for passing the current of said source to said load and allowing consequent actuation thereof only when each series connected light sensitive means receives wavelengths of light to which each is responsive if at the same time each parallel connected light sensitive means does not receive wavelengths of light to which each is respectively responsive, and further comprising means includ-

ing light source means to cause actuation of said load, wherein said light source means includes a different source of light associated with each of the light sensitive means, and wherein the load actuating means includes an opaque member having light transmitting means therein aligned only with each series connected light sensitive means and its respective light source.

9. In an actuating system, a plurality of light sensitive means each responsive respectively to predetermined wavelengths of light, circuit means including an actuatable load and a source of energy, and connection means coupling each of said light sensitive means in a predetermined manner to said circuit means including means connecting at least one of said light sensitive means in parallel with both said load and energy source for diverting the current of said source from said load and consequently preventing actuation thereof when said one light sensitive means is receiving wavelengths of light to which it is responsive, said connection means further including means connecting at least one other of the light sensitive means in series with both said load and energy source for passing the current of said source to said load and allowing consequent actuation thereof only when each series connected light sensitive means receives wavelengths of light to which each is responsive if at the same time each parallel connected light sensitive means does not receive wavelengths of light to which each is respectively responsive, and further comprising means including light source means to cause actuation of said load, wherein the load actuating means includes light transmitting means for each of said serially connected light sensitive means for transmitting thereto the predetermined wavelengths of light to which same are respectively responsive and means to prohibit receipt by the parallel connected light sensitive means of the light wavelengths to which the serially connected light sensitive means respond.

10. Apparatus as in claim 9 wherein the light transmitting means and the light prohibiting means includes prismatic means for dispersion of the light into component hues, the light prohibiting means further including means in the path of said component hues to eliminate the wavelengths to which the serially connected light sensitive means responds.

11. Apparatus as in claim 9 wherein the light transmitting means includes a different spectral band filter for producing each of said predetermined wavelengths of light for the serially connected light sensitive means and wherein the light prohibiting means includes other different spectral band filters for producing each of said predetermined wavelengths of light for the parallel connected light sensitive means.

12. Apparatus as in claim 9 wherein said light sensitive means are divided into sets, each set including a light sensitive means connected in series with the load and another light sensitive means connected in parallel with the load and responding to different wavelengths of light, the serially connected means being responsive to actuate said load upon receipt of said different wavelengths respectively if the parallel connected means receive light containing only the same wavelengths respectively.

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