

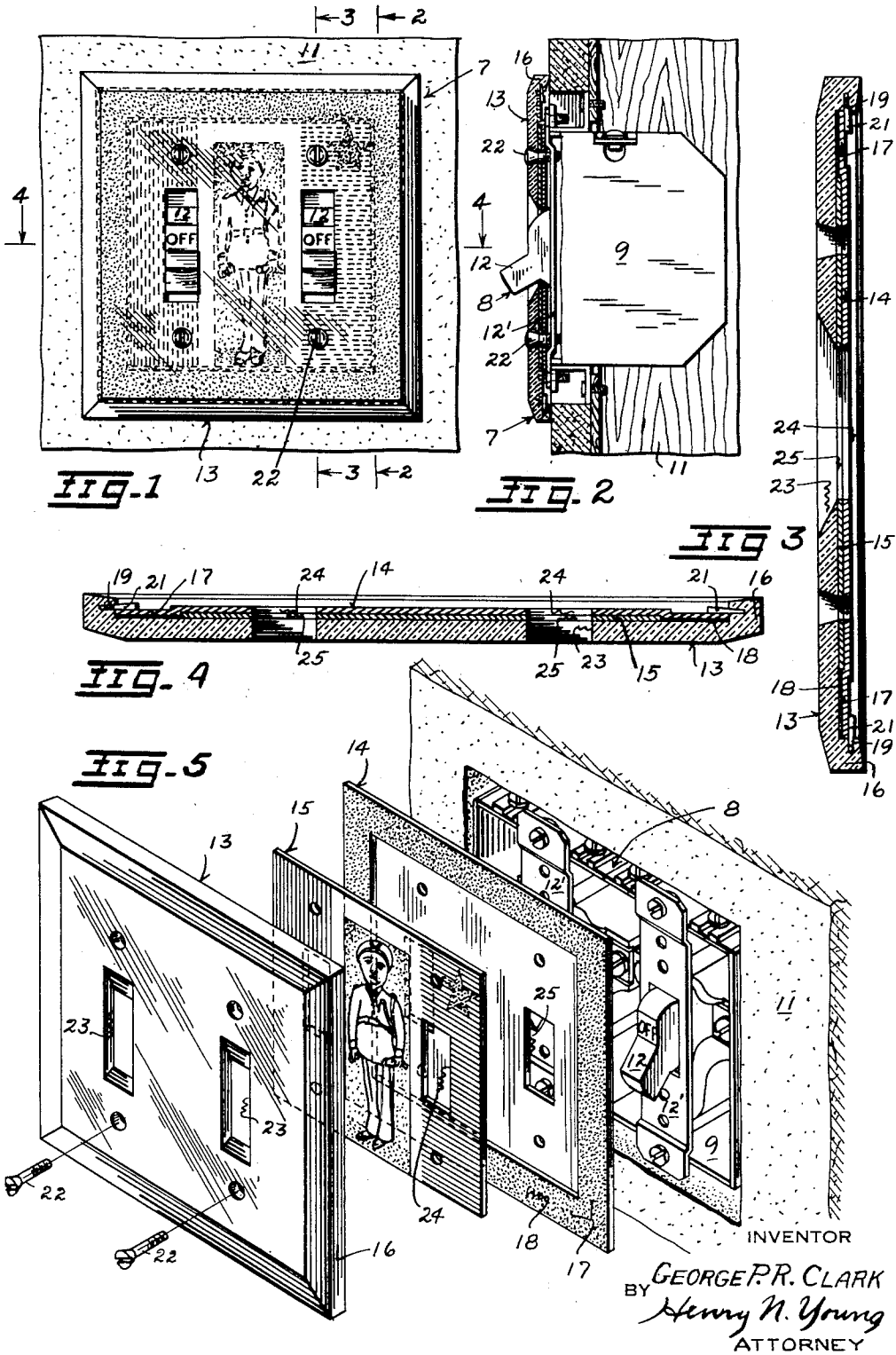
July 18, 1950

G. P. R. CLARK

2,515,820

LUMINOUS DISPLAY UNIT

Filed Oct. 15, 1945



INVENTOR
GEORGE P. R. CLARK
BY Henry N. Young
ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,515,820

LUMINOUS DISPLAY UNIT

George P. R. Clark, Oakland, Calif.

Application October 15, 1945, Serial No. 622,419

4 Claims. (Cl. 40—134)

1

The invention relates to a unit providing a luminescent area for use in indicating the location of an article which must be located in the dark.

An object of the invention is to provide a unit of the character described which is particularly adapted for use with an electric switch.

Another object is to provide a unit of the character described including replaceable decorative elements.

A further object is to provide an assembly which may be vended and installed as a unit.

The invention possesses other objects and features of advantage, some of which, with the foregoing, will be set forth or be apparent in the following description of a typical embodiment thereof, and in the accompanying drawings, in which,

Figure 1 is a front face view of a unit embodying the features of the present invention associated with a double snap switch of the flush type installed on a wall.

Figure 2 is a section at the line 2—2 in Figure 1.

Figures 3 and 4 are enlarged sections of the unit only taken at the lines 3—3 and 4—4 respectively of Figure 1.

Figure 5 shows in perspective, the elements of the unit in transversely separated relation to each other and to a wall-mounted switch with which the assembled unit is to be used.

A unit 7 embodying the features of present invention is particularly shown in cooperative association with a double snap switch assembly 8 mounted in a usual outlet box 9 fixedly disposed in an opening of a wall 11 and having switch-operating levers 12 extending beyond the plane of a wall face. The unit 7 generally comprises an escutcheon plate providing openings through which the switch levers 12 extend for their manipulation to close or open the switch as required. The switches are mounted on usual strap members 12' fixed across the front of the outlet box 9. When the switches of the assembly 8 are used to control electric lights which are to illuminate the place where the switch assembly is located, the luminescent design provided by the unit 7 is utilized as a guide to the switch location when the lights are out.

The unit 7 essentially comprises a transparent pane member 13 of glass or other plastic which is hollowed out from the back to receive and retain a backing plate 14 and a decorative or picture element 15 imprisoned between the pane and backing plate. The wall-engaging rim 16 of the pane 13 is preferably arranged for line

2

engagement at its periphery against the wall 11; the rear face of the present rim 16 is shown as bevelled forwardly and inwardly for the purpose. Preferably and as shown, the backing plate 14 of the unit lies forwardly of the bearing plane of the rim 16 to insure clearance for the unit opposite the switch assembly. The front face of the bounding rim portion 17 of the backing plate 14 is provided with a coating 18 of luminescent material, and the plate portion within the coated area is off-set transversely rearwardly for a distance which is preferably the same as the thickness of the decorative element 15 which comprises a sheet of material providing the decorative features on its front face, the element 15 being trimmed to fit the recess in the backing plate. As particularly illustrated, the decorations of the element 15 comprise a picture of an Army officer in a central area, with areas of blue and red at opposite sides thereof, whereby to provide a patriotic motif for the decorations.

Rearwardly of the rim portion 17 of the backing plate 14, the pane rim is provided with a series of sockets 19 for receiving wedge members 21 which comprise a means to firmly and removably secure the backing plate in its position within the pane cavity; since the wedges 21 are laterally opposite the rearwardly off-set portion of the backing plate 14, they extend no further toward a mounting wall than does the back plate. Registering openings 23 and 24 and 25 are provided respectively through the pane 13 and decorative element 15 and backing plate 14 for the operative extension of the switch levers 13 therethrough. Transverse openings are provided through the unit at appropriate points thereof for receiving screws 22 which threadedly engage the switch-supporting straps 12' for fixing the unit to and against the wall.

In view of the foregoing, it will be understood that I have provided a decorative unit for use at a light switch which may be assembled and sold and installed as a unit, either originally or as a replacement for conventional escutcheon plates. The feature of the present structure may, of course, be applied to the escutcheon plates of door locks and other mechanisms for aiding in a finding thereof in the dark. Aside from the mechanism-locating feature, the general assembly provides an attractive picture or display unit per se, and may be so used, the openings otherwise provided for permitting access to a mechanism being then omitted.

From the foregoing description taken in con-

55

3

nection with the accompanying drawings, the advantages of the construction and operation of the present device will be readily understood by those skilled in the art to which this invention appertains. While I have described the features and principles of operation of an assembly which I now consider to comprise a preferred embodiment of my invention, I desire to have it understood that the showing is primarily illustrative, and that such changes may be made, when desired, as fall within the scope of the following claims.

I claim:

1. In combination with a mechanism mounted in a wall and having an actuating member extending transversely from the wall, an escutcheon plate member comprising a transparent pane for mounting on the wall and providing an opening for the operative extension of the actuating member therethrough, said plate member being uniformly recessed forwardly from its rear face, a backing plate disposed entirely in the member recess and having an interior portion rearwardly offset from its rim portion to provide a recess behind the front wall of the first recess for receiving a display card or the like, means operative within the confines of the pane recess releasably securing the backing plate in the first recess, and a display card in the recess, said backing plate and display card being provided with openings in registration with the opening in the escutcheon plate and receiving the mechanism-actuating member therethrough, and the front face of the rim portion of the backing plate being coated with a luminescent material for framing the actuating member in the dark.

2. In combination with a mechanism mounted in a wall space and having an actuating member extending transversely from the wall, an escutcheon member comprising a transparent pane for mounting on the wall and providing an opening for the operative extension of the actuating member therethrough, said escutcheon member being recessed forwardly from its rear face, a backing plate disposed and secured within the confines of the escutcheon member recess and having an interior portion rearwardly offset from its rim por-

4

tion to provide a recess portion behind the front wall of the member recess, and an article for display fittedly disposed within said recess portion, said backing plate and article providing openings in registration with the opening in the escutcheon plate for the operative extension of the mechanism-actuating member therethrough.

3. In combination with a mechanism mounted on a wall and arranged to have an actuating member extending transversely therefrom and from the wall, an escutcheon plate unit for mounting on the wall and provided with a transverse opening therethrough for the operating extension of the actuating member therethrough, said unit comprising a front plate member having a transparent pane portion and being recessed forwardly from its rear face behind said pane, a backing plate member disposed within the confines of the recess of the front pane plate member behind said pane portion thereof and being interiorly recessed rearwardly from a planar front rim portion opposite the pane and extending about the mechanism-actuating member, and an article for display disposed within the recess of the backing member.

4. A structure in accordance with claim 3 having the outer face of the rim portion of the backing plate provided with a luminescent coating for viewing through the pane and the article within the recess of the backing plate non-luminescent.

GEORGE P. R. CLARK.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
296,431	Miller	Apr. 8, 1884
527,744	Follenius	Oct. 16, 1894
737,124	Manor	Aug. 25, 1903
899,873	Kodjbanoff	Sept. 29, 1908
953,053	McMullen	Mar. 29, 1910
1,202,589	Roasman	Oct. 24, 1916
1,220,418	Hawkes	Mar. 27, 1917
1,385,300	Bohrdt	July 19, 1921
1,522,169	Young	Jan. 6, 1925