

W. J. NEWTON.
 SIGNALING DEVICE.
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1,199,710.

Patented Sept. 26, 1916.

Fig. 1.

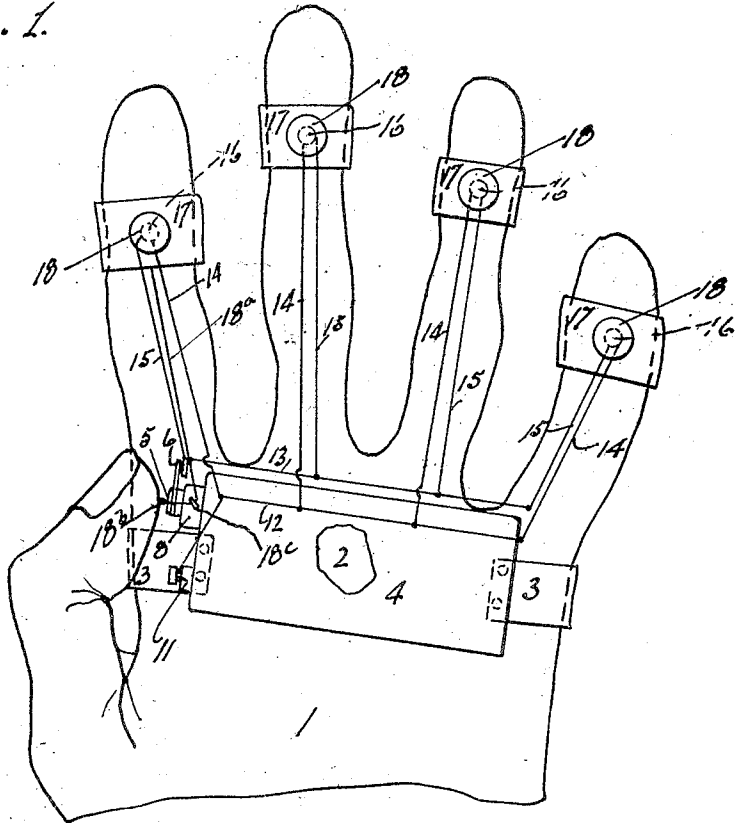


Fig. 2.

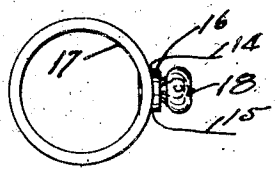


Fig. 3.

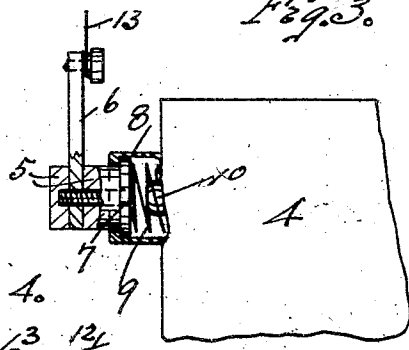
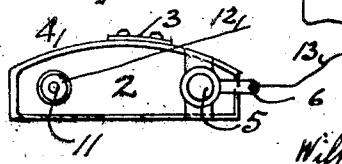


Fig. 4.



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SIGNALING DEVICE.

1,199,710.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILHELMINA J. NEWTON, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Seattle, in the county of King and State of Washington, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Signaling Devices, of which the following is a full, true, and exact specification.

My invention relates to signaling devices of that class which is adaptable to be attached to the person of the operator, and has for its principal object; to provide a movable means which is attachable to the operator for displaying illuminated signals and the manipulation of which involves but one and the same mechanical operation, such as closing an electrical circuit which is held in the hand of the operator, regardless whether it is desired to display one or more signal lights.

A further object is to provide a device of the above described general character which is attachable to the hand of the operator and which will illuminate the digits of the hand in such a way as to render said digits visible at a distance in a darkened room. It will be further explained that the simplest, commonest and most convenient means of signaling numbers from 1 to 5, from one person to another at comparatively short distances in the light, is by holding up the hand with the desired number of digits extended and displayed. This means of signaling is in universal use and requires the minimum of time, thought and labor of the operator. Furthermore, the signaling means are always at hand ready for use and requires no searching for the signaling means as is common with enunciators, whistles, bells and the like.

A further object of my invention is to utilize the hand as a signaling means for use in the dark in precisely the same way as it is so commonly used in the light and the operation of which requires a minimum of thought, time and labor.

Other objects will appear as my invention is more fully explained in the following specification, illustrated in the accompanying drawings and pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a general plan of my device shown attached to a human hand. Fig. 2 is an enlarged plan of a finger ring light socket. Fig. 3 is an en-

larged fragmentary view of a battery and switch mechanism with parts broken away. Fig. 4 is an enlarged end elevation of the battery.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, numeral 1 designates a hand in the palm of which is held a battery or storage source of electrical energy 2 which is of a peculiar shape to best fit the palm of said hand in such a way as to least interfere with the use of the hand and be most convenient of operation. The battery 2 is held to the hand by a strap 3 which is secured to said battery. The battery is provided with an outer casing 4 which fits it snugly and which is equipped with a switch consisting of a push button 5, terminal post 6, contact member 7, casing 8 and spring 9. The push button is normally held by spring 9 in such a way as to prevent contact between contact point 7 and the usual battery pole 10, but contact may be made and the circuit closed by pushing the push button inwardly until the contact member 7 and pole 10 touch. The battery 2 is provided with the usual pole 11 to which one of the circuit wires 12 is attached. The other circuit wire 13 is secured to terminal post 6. Lead wires 14 and 15 extend from circuit wires 12 and 13 respectively to connections on socket 16 on finger rings 17, thus completing circuits from each of the sockets 16 to the battery 2. Sockets 16 are adapted to hold a small incandescent light bulb 18 in the usual manner. The rings 17 may be secured to the fingers in any convenient manner or may be frictionally held in place.

The operation of my device is as follows: The device being secured to the hand of the operator as shown in Fig. 1 and it being desired to display one or more signal lights within the range of the device. The hand is normally closed when signaling except for the desired number of fingers which are extended to display the lights. The thumb now closes the battery switch by pressure on push button 5, as previously explained, which closes the circuit to all lights 18, but only those lights which are on the extended fingers are visible as the others are obscured by being held in the closed hand. The release of the pressure of the thumb against push button 5 puts out the light 18. It will thus be seen that the only mechanical operation necessary is to close the switch and

thus close the lighting circuits to the lamps. The only other operation necessary is the usual one of raising the desired number of fingers and thus display the desired number of signal lights.

My invention is particularly adaptable for use in theaters and the like, where it is necessary for the usher to signal an attendant in the rear of the house as to how many vacant seats in a row he has found, etc. Many similar uses will develop where night signaling is desirable.

The push button 5 need not be operated by separate manual movement, as above described, but may be operated automatically whenever the fingers are upraised as shown in Fig. 1, or at least when the index finger is upraised, and of course, that finger will also be operated whenever a display of any of the signals is made, and this automatic operation of the push button is accomplished, in this instance, by means of a flexible connection 18^a, one end of which is secured to the ring 17 on the index finger and its opposite end is secured to an eye 18^b rigid with the push button, the flexible member 18^a slidably passing through a similar eye 18^c in the casing 8.

While I have shown and described a particular form of embodiment of my invention, I am aware that many minor changes therein will readily suggest themselves to others skilled in the art, and I therefore desire to avoid being limited to the exact form shown and described, except as pointed out in the appended claims.

Having described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to protect by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a device of the class described, the combination in an illuminated annunciator comprising a plurality of signals, means for removably attaching the signals to the fingers of an operator, connections between the said signals and a source of electrical power and a switch, whereby by extension of the fingers and the closing of said switch between said source and said signals, the signals are made visible.

2. In a device of the class described, the combination of an annunciator portable

with the body of the operator and comprising a plurality of small electric lamps, means for removably attaching the lamps to the inner sides of the fingers and nearer their upper ends, a source of electrical energy and means for removably attaching the same to the palm of the hands, flexible connections between the said source and each of the said lamps and a switch whereby the operator may close one or more fingers to conceal the lamps thereon, and only a predetermined lamp or a group of lamps will be exposed.

3. In a device of the class described, the combination in an annunciator portable with the body of the operator, and comprising a plurality of small electric lamps, means for removably attaching one of the lamps to the ball of each finger, a battery and means for removably attaching the same to the palm of the hand, wires which connect the battery to each of the lamps, and a push button upon the battery which is in the path of the natural inward movement of the thumb, whereby the lamps may be caused to glow and whereby the operator may close one or more fingers to conceal the lamps thereon and only a predetermined lamp or group of lamps will be exposed.

4. In a device of the class described, the combination in an annunciator portable with the body of the operator and comprising a plurality of small electric lamps, a ring for attaching one of the lamps to the ball of each finger, a battery which fits the palm of the hand, and a strap for removably attaching the battery to the hand, wires which connect the battery to each of the lamps, a switch and a flexible connection between the same and one of the lamps whereby the upraising of the fingers to which such connections exists will cause all the lamps to glow and by selective extension of the fingers on which said lamps are located expose a predetermined lamp or lamps to view.

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Witnesses:

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