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# PATENT SPECIFICATION



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PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION.

## Improvements in or relating to Smokers' Companions, Ash-trays, Match or Cigarette Containers and like Smokers' Requisites.

We, BERNARD CHARLES HOWELL, a British subject, and HENRY HOWELL & COMPANY LIMITED, a British company, both of 180, Old Street, London, E.C. 1, do hereby declare the nature of this invention to be as follows:—

This invention consists in improvements in or relating to smokers' companions, ash-trays, match or cigarette containers and like smokers' requisites.

The present invention comprises in one form the combination with an electric light and an energising circuit therefor of a switch device for the energising circuit, an operative part of which comprises a match-striking surface, or a surface to be rubbed by the hand or a member which is moved in striking a match, or raising the lid of a cigarette, match, or ash container or by the movement of some part which will take place consequent on the use of one of the elements of the device.

Conveniently when a match-striking surface is to constitute an operative part of the switch device, the switch is preferably spring-controlled so that pressure of the match as it is rubbed across the striking-surface will close the switch and the latter will be opened by the spring when the pressure is released either immediately or after a time interval has elapsed. In the latter case a delay-action device must be employed such as a dash-pot or the like.

In one preferred example of the invention the lamp is used to illuminate an object such as an ornamental object and the latter is conveniently mounted on a match-stand in which the switch device, striking surface and energising circuit are also carried. For example in one form a hollow base member serves to contain within it a battery and to support on its upper surface an ash-tray and

a receptacle for containing loose matches. In addition to this and normally flush with the upper surface of the stand there is a spring-pressed switch button, the outer surface of which is provided with a match-striking composition preferably of a character suitable to the so-called safety matches as well as to those of the non-safety type. Supported on the base there is an ornamental figure for example, in the shape of an owl or other character, the eyes, or some other portion of which are translucent. The body of the owl or the like is hollow and opens at the lower end of the figure and this end is adapted to be received in a socket in the top wall of the base. An incandescent electric lamp is supported in any preferred manner in the body of the owl, the current-carrying conductors for energising the lamp passing through the socket in the base and into the hollow interior of the figure. The lamp may, for example be supported at the ends of the conductors at a height which will best illuminate the desired part of the figure. Thus the conductors and the lamp will extend upwardly through the socket and the hollow figure can thus be passed over the lamp and the conductors and inserted into the socket.

The base may be provided with a removable or hinged bottom cover so as to give access to the interior thereof and any preferred form of clip for retaining the battery in place may be provided.

In the base is also disposed the wiring connecting the switch contacts and the battery with the conductors leading to the lamp.

It is obvious that details of the invention may be modified while still retaining the objects and benefits of the invention. For instance, it is not necessary that the electric lamp be associated with

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any particular figure to be illuminated as it may serve the purpose solely of a convenient source of light when required in which case it will be mounted on the base of a stand or holder of any desired height.

It is further obvious that the invention may be applied in many other ways. For instance, the switch could be operative by the opening of a lid of a cigarette container; or by the opening of a match-box or container; or by the movement of a part intended to be engaged by the hand. For instance, the figure may be

in the form of a cat or other animal and the switch device may constitute a part of the body of the animal which, when stroked by the hand or by a match held in the hand will cause the energising circuit to be closed and the lamp to be illuminated.

Dated this 20th day of February, 1926.

BOULT, WADE & TENNANT,  
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#### COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

### Improvements in or relating to Smokers' Companions, Ash-trays, Match or Cigarette Containers and like Smokers' Requisites.

We, BERNARD CHARLES HOWELL, a British subject, and HENRY HOWELL & COMPANY LIMITED, a British company, both of 180, Old Street, London, E.C. 1, do hereby declare the nature of this invention and the manner in which it is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

This invention consists in improvements in or relating to smokers' companions, ash-trays, match- and cigarette-containers and like smokers' requisites. Hereinafter, and in the appended claims, all these articles will be referred to, for the sake of brevity, by the term "smokers' companion"; and it is to be understood wherever this term appears that it is intended to refer to any of the articles enumerated, or like articles.

The present invention comprises, in one form, the combination of an electric lamp, an energising circuit therefor, and a switch-device for said energising circuit, said switch-device comprising a member which will be moved as a consequence of the use of one of the elements of the "smokers' companion". For example, the switch-device may comprise a movable match-striking surface so that when a match is struck on it the circuit of the lamp will be closed and the lamp will be illuminated. The switch may be actuated by other means, for instance, it may be a surface to be rubbed by the hand of the user; or a member which is moved by raising the lid of a cigarette- or match- or ash-container; or by the movement of some part which will take place as a consequence, as aforesaid, of the use of one of the elements of the device.

In a specific embodiment of one appli-

cation of the invention, there is a hollow ornamental figure of which a portion is translucent and an electric lamp is situated within the interior of the hollow figure so that, when the lamp-circuit is energised, the translucent portion of the hollow figure will be illuminated.

In order that the invention may be more clearly understood, one preferred construction embodying the features of the invention, will now be described with the aid of the accompanying drawings, in which

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a "smokers' companion";

Figure 2 is a plan of the underside of the hollow base of the companion with the cover removed, and

Figure 3 is a section on the line 3—3 of Figure 2.

Like reference numerals indicate like parts in all the figures of the drawings.

It will be seen that a hollow base member 10 serves to contain within it a battery 11 (Figures 2 and 3) of the dry cell type which is held in position by means of clips 12 constituting terminal-connectors through which the battery is connected in electric circuit to be detailed hereinafter. The base-member 10 supports on its upper surface an ash-tray 13 and a receptacle 14 for containing loose matches. In addition to these articles, and normally flush with the upper surface of the base-member 10, there is a spring-pressed switch-button 15, the outer surface of which is provided with a match-striking composition preferably of a character suitable to the so-called safety matches as well as to those of the non-safety type.

Supported also on the base-member 10 is an ornamental figure 16 which, in the

illustrated example, is shaped to represent an owl. The eyes 17 are formed of translucent material such, for example, as coloured glass or a translucent composition. The body of the owl, as seen in Figure 3, is hollow and is open at the lower end. The latter is received in a socket in the top wall of the base and an incandescent electric lamp 18 is supported in any preferred manner within the body of the owl, preferably at the level of the eyes 17. In the particular example shown, the current-carrying conductors 19, which pass through the hollow interior of the figure 16 and through the socket in which the owl is seated in the base 10, serve not only to convey the energising current to the lamp 18 but also to support the latter at the required height.

In the interior of the base 10 is disposed the wiring which connects the switch-contacts (operated by the button 15) and the battery with the conductors 19. The circuit for the wiring is clearly shown in Figures 2 and 3 from which it will be seen that one pole of the battery 11 is electrically connected to a contact-stud 20 which can be engaged by a metal under surface of the button 15, which metal surface is constituted as part of a spring strip 21 electrically connected to one of the conductors 19 and normally tending to retain the switch in its open position. The other conductor 19 is electrically connected with the other pole of the battery. It will, therefore, be seen that whenever a match is struck on the surface of the button 15 the circuit will be closed and the eyes will light up which gives an impression rather as though the owl's eyes have blinked.

The parts contained within the base 10 can be enclosed by means of a cover-plate 22 which may be secured, for example, by screws as shown or by any other preferred form of fastening.

It is obvious that details of the invention may be modified while still retaining the objects and benefits of the invention. For instance, it is not necessary that the lamp, such as 18, be associated with any particular figure to be illuminated as it may serve the purpose solely of a convenient source of light when required, in which case it will be mounted on a base, such as 10, in a stand or holder of any desired height. Also, instead of the energising circuit of the lamp being opened immediately pressure on the match-striking surface or other switch operating element is released a time interval may be obtained by providing the switch operating element with a dash-pot or the like.

It is further obvious that the invention may be applied in many other ways. For instance, the switch may be operated by the opening of a lid of a cigarette-container or by movement of any part or member intended to be engaged by the hand. For example, the figure may be in the form of a cat or other animal and the switch-device may comprise a part of the body of the animal which, when stroked by hand or by a match held in the hand, will cause the energising circuit to be closed and the lamp to be illuminated.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of our said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, we declare that what we claim is:—

1. In a "smokers' companion" the combination of an electric lamp, an energising circuit therefor, and a switch device for said energising circuit, said switch-device comprising a member which will be moved as a consequence of the use of one of the elements of the "smokers' companion".

2. A "smokers' companion" comprising a hollow ornamental figure, a portion of which is translucent, an electric lamp serving to illuminate the interior of the hollow figure, an energising circuit for the lamp and a switch device for said energising circuit, said switch comprising a movable match-striking surface.

3. A "smokers' companion" according to Claim 2 in which the switch device comprises a resiliently controlled button switch adapted to close the energising circuit when a match is struck upon a match-striking surface on one side of the button.

4. A "smokers' companion" according to Claim 2 or 3, in which the hollow ornamental figure and the switch device are mounted on a hollow base and an electric battery for the energising circuit is retained within the hollow base.

5. A "smokers' companion" according to any one of the preceding claims in which the hollow ornamental figure is shaped to represent an owl having translucent eyes and the lamp is arranged within the hollow figure and is adapted to illuminate the said eyes.

6. A "smokers' companion" substantially as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

Dated this 21st day of October, 1926.

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