US011852306B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Myers

(10) **Patent No.: US 11,852,306 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent: Dec. 26, 2023**

(54) **FLASHLIGHT REMOVABLY CONNECTED TO COVER PLATE**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **17/517,852**

(22) Filed: **Nov. 3, 2021**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2023/0134750 A1 May 4, 2023

(51) **Int. Cl.**

F21L 4/08	(2006.01)
F21V 21/02	(2006.01)
F21V 23/06	(2006.01)
H01H 23/04	(2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC ***F21L 4/085*** (2013.01); ***F21V 21/02*** (2013.01); ***F21V 23/06*** (2013.01); ***H01H 23/04*** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC F21L 4/085; H01H 23/04

See application file for complete search history.

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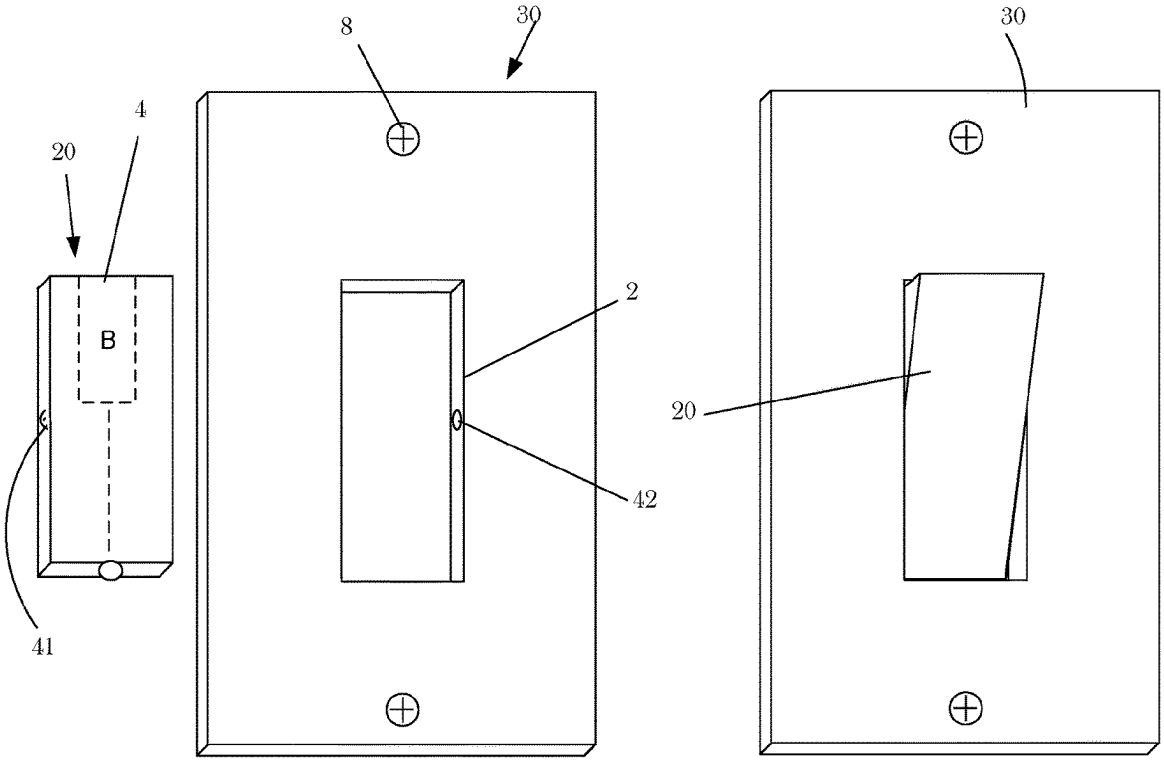
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A storage device for storing a removable flashlight. The storage device includes an electrical switch surrounded by a cover plate. A power source is electrically connected to the electrical switch. A removable flashlight is removably connected to the cover plate. The removable flashlight is stored in the storage device and removable from the storage device when needed for use.

5 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets



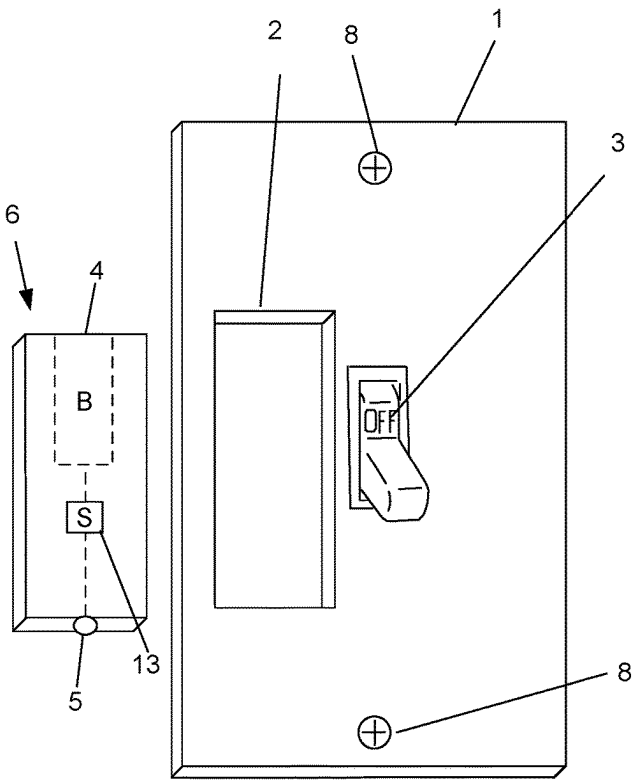


FIG. 1

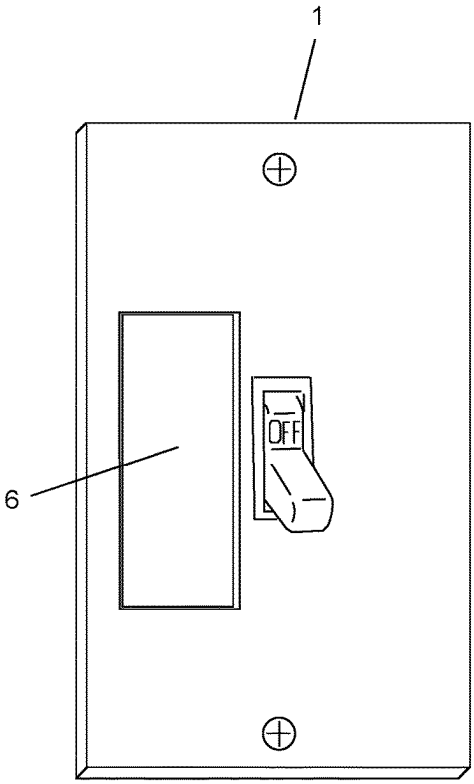


FIG. 2

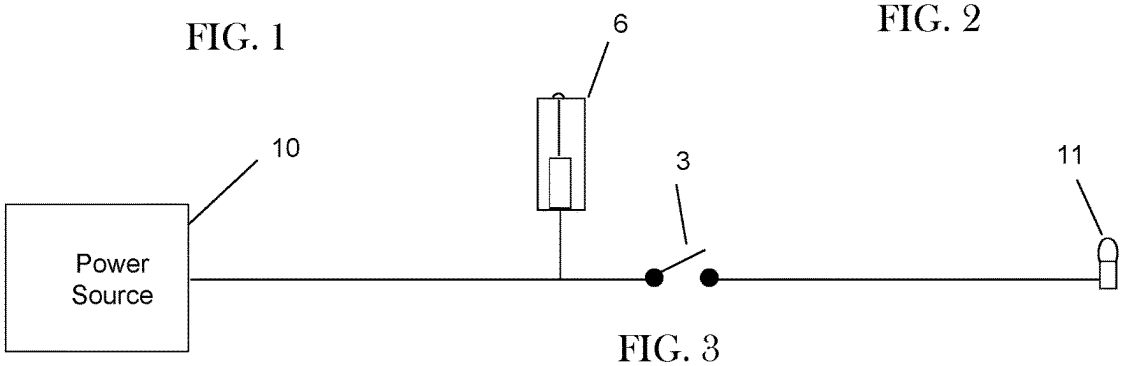


FIG. 3

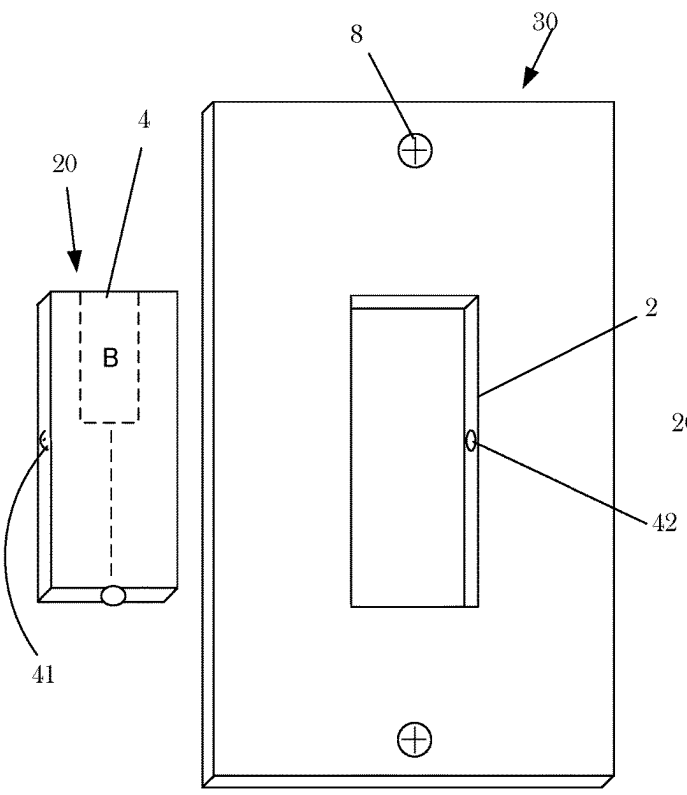


FIG. 4

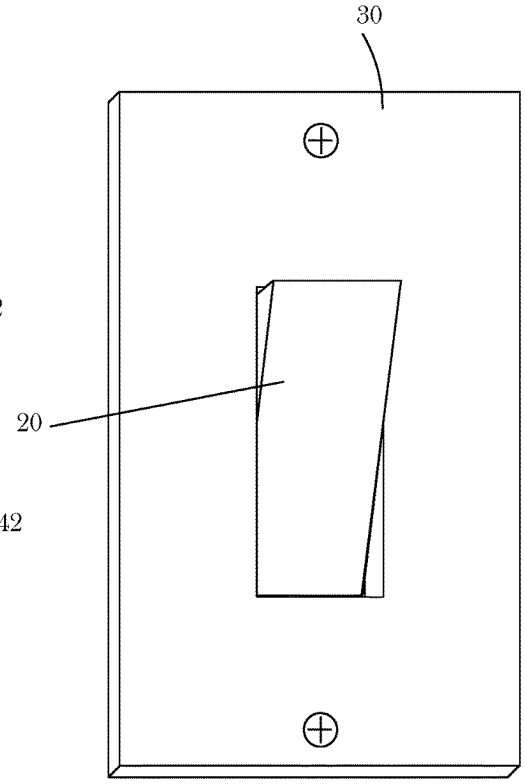


FIG. 5

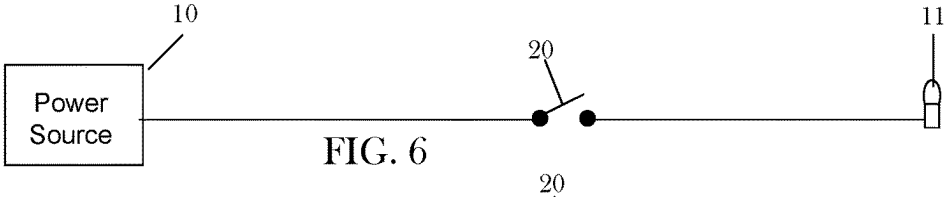


FIG. 6

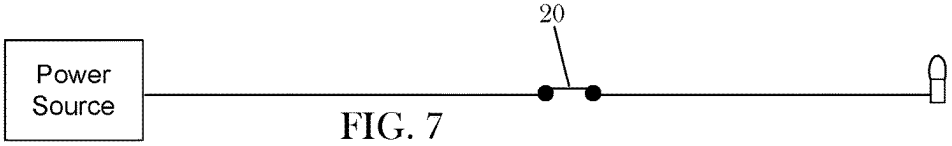


FIG. 7

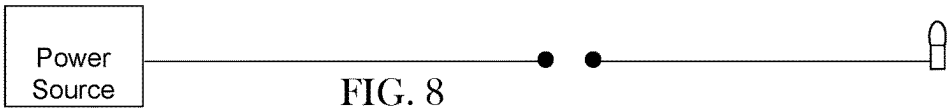


FIG. 8

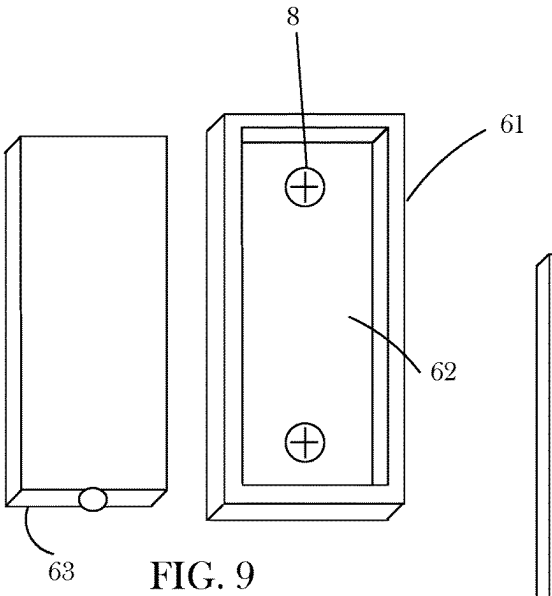


FIG. 9

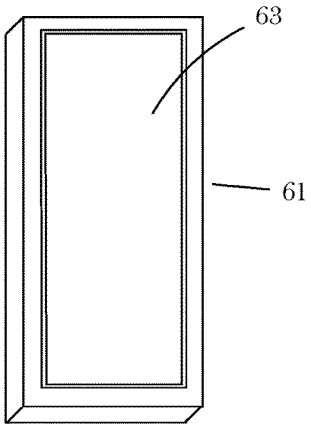
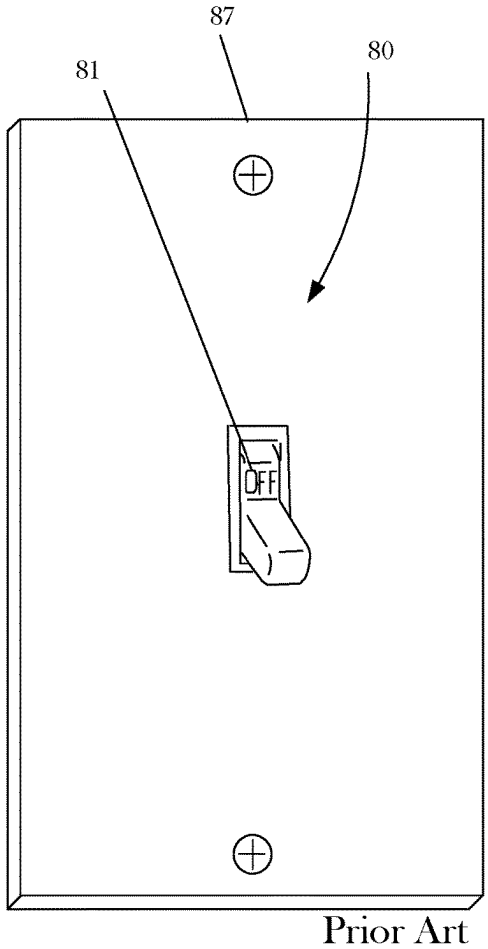


FIG. 10



Prior Art

FIG. 11

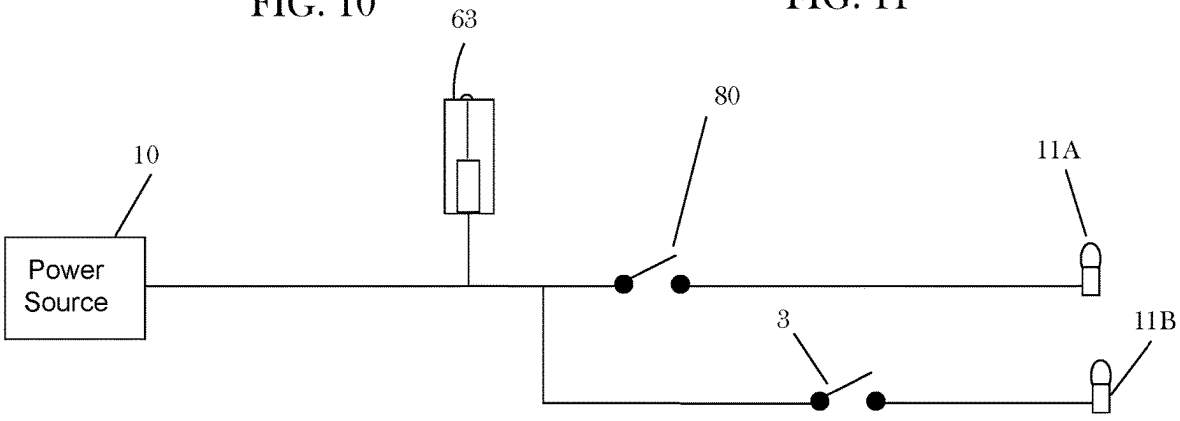


FIG. 12

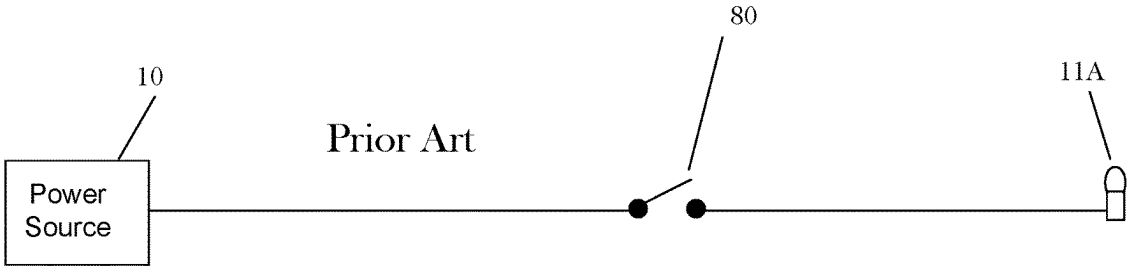


FIG. 13

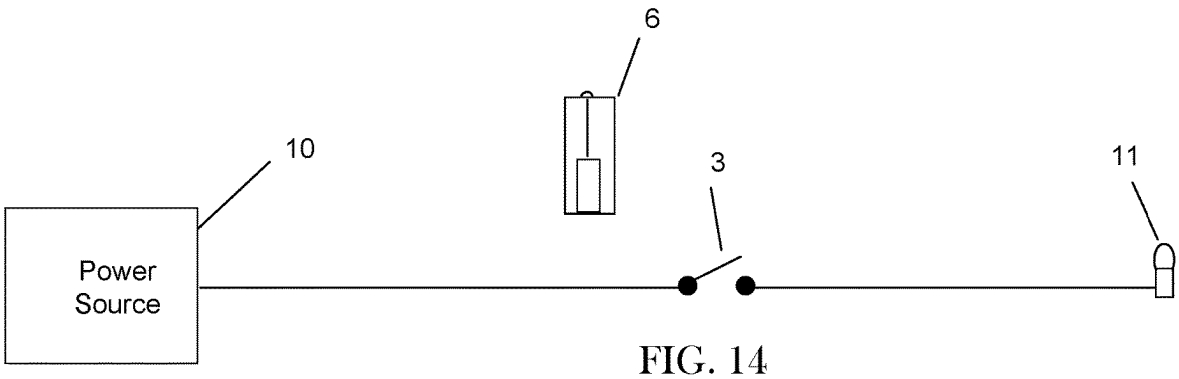


FIG. 14

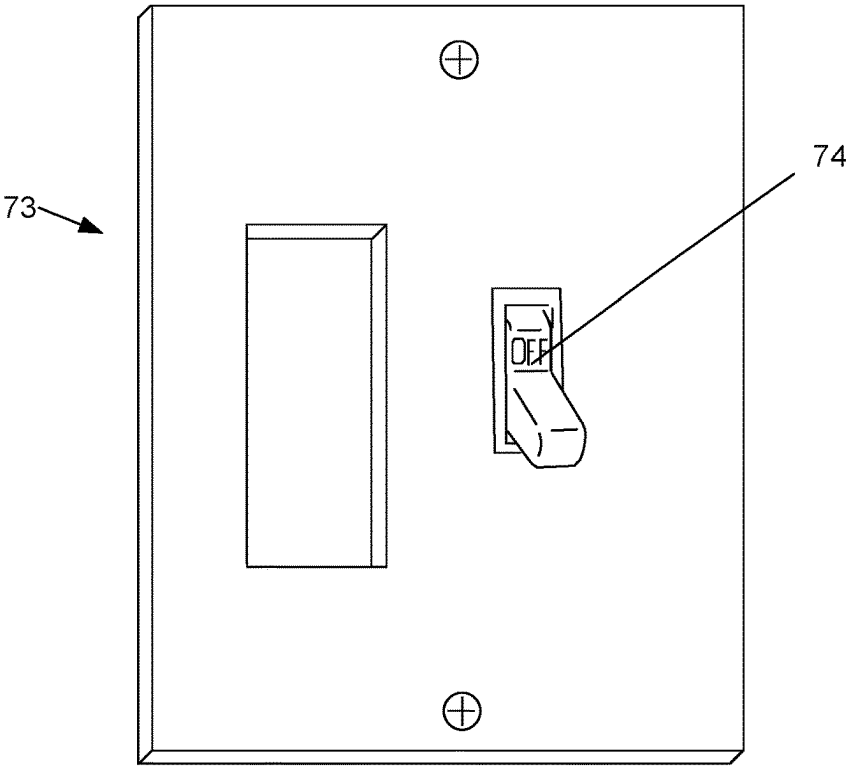


FIG. 15

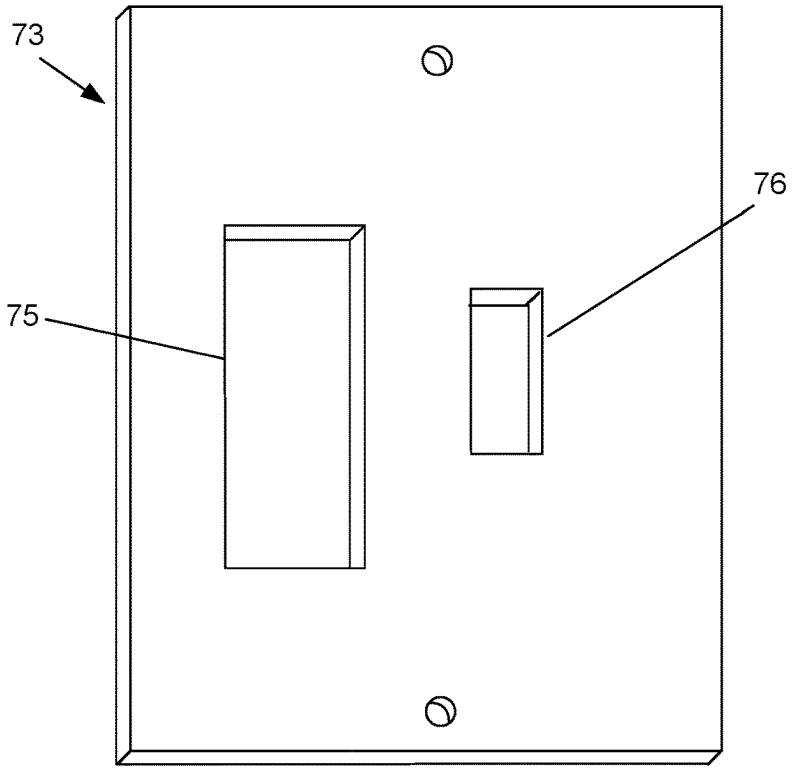


FIG. 16

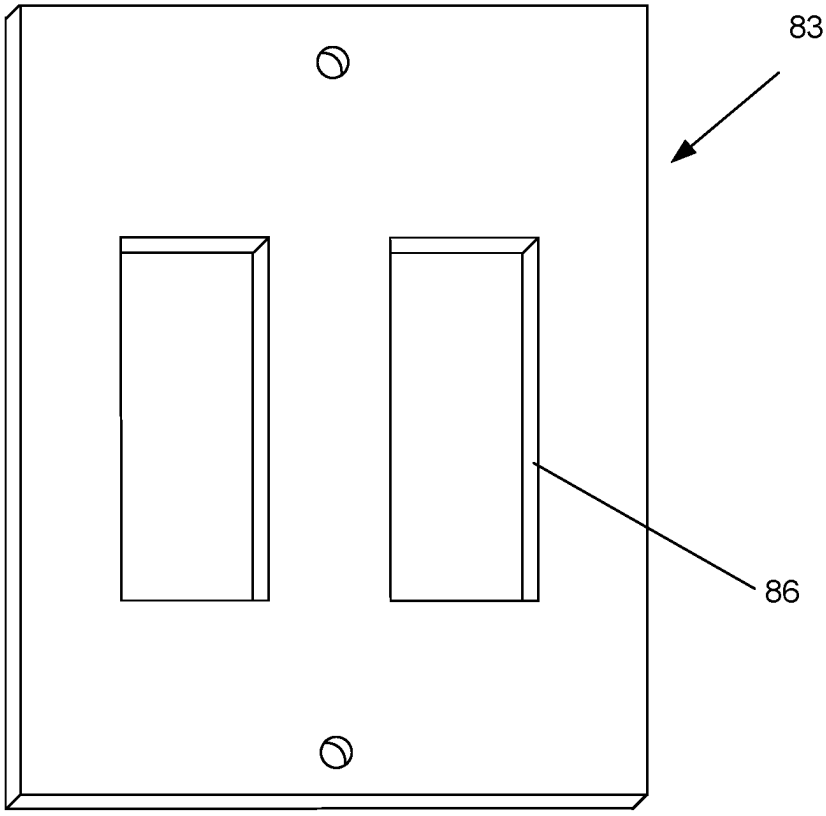


FIG. 17

FLASHLIGHT REMOVABLY CONNECTED TO COVER PLATE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to flashlights, and in particular to flashlights removably connected to existing structures.

Flashlights are known in the prior art. A flashlight includes a battery, a bulb electrically connected to the battery and a switch for turning the flashlight on and off.

It is very common for home owners to own a flashlight. However, a flashlight is typically not an everyday use item. Therefore, it is common for a flashlight owner to have difficulty finding the flashlight when truly needed, such as in the event of a power outage. Or, even if the flashlight owner is able to find the flashlight, it may be unusable because the batteries are missing or expired.

Light switches are also known in the prior art. Prior art light switch **80** is shown in FIGS. **11** and **13**. Prior art light switch **80** includes cover **87** and toggle switch **81**. When a user manipulates toggle switch **81** to an on position, electricity is permitted to flow from power source **10** to bulb **11**A (FIG. **13**).

Light switch **80** includes cover **87**. Cover **87** is also commonly referred to as a wall plate, a light switch cover, a light switch cover plate, a decorative light switch cover, or a switch plate. Cover **87** functions to cover the switch mechanism and electrical wiring that operate the installed electrical fixtures and helps to prevent electrocution. Cover **87** often has a plain design that blends with home decor.

What is needed is a device that allows for an easy-to-find flashlight that also blends in nicely with home decor.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a storage device for storing a removable flashlight. The storage device includes an electrical switch surrounded by a cover plate. A power source is electrically connected to the electrical switch. A removable flashlight is removably connected to the cover plate. The removable flashlight is stored in the storage device and removable from the storage device when needed for use.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGS. **1-3** show a first preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. **4-8** show a second preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. **9**, **10** and **12** show a third preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **11** shows a prior art electrical switch with cover plate.

FIG. **13** shows a prior art electrical system.

FIG. **14** shows another preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. **15-17** show preferred light switch cover plates.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

First Preferred Embodiment

FIGS. **1-3** show a first preferred embodiment of the present invention. Power source **10** provides electricity to bulb **11**, as shown in FIG. **3**. By manipulating toggle switch **3**, a user can turn bulb **11** on or off. Removable flashlight **6** includes rechargeable battery **4**, on/off switch **13** and is electrically connected to power source **10**, as shown.

In FIG. **1**, light switch cover **1** includes cut-out section **2** and toggle switch **3**. Light switch cover **1** is mounted to a wall by using mounting screws **8**. Removable flashlight **6** is press-fit into cut-out section **2** for secure attachment, as shown in FIG. **2**. When a user needs a flashlight, he can easily grab flashlight **6** with his fingers and remove it from cover **1**. For example, in the event of a power outage, the user will easily be able to find removable flashlight **6** in the darkness because the user will know that removable flashlight **6** is attached to cover **1**. The flashlight will be charged and ready to use when needed. When the user is done using flashlight **6**, he can easily mount it back into cut-out section **2** so that flashlight **6** will once again be electrically connected to power source **10**. It should be noted that in the preferred embodiment shown, flashlight **6** is close in height to cover **2**, thereby providing an aesthetically pleasing appearance.

Second Preferred Embodiment

FIGS. **4-7** show a second preferred embodiment of the present invention. Power source **10** provides electricity to bulb **11**, as shown in FIG. **6**. By manipulating removable flashlight switch **20**, a user can turn bulb **11** on or off. Flashlight switch **20** includes rechargeable battery **4** and is electrically connected to power source **10**, as shown.

In FIG. **4**, light switch cover **20** includes cut-out section **29**. Cut-out section **29** allows for the pivotal connection of flashlight switch **20**, as shown in FIG. **5**. For example, when flashlight switch **20** is pivoted downward (FIG. **5**, FIG. **7**), switch **20** is closed permitting power to flow to bulb **11** turning it on.

Light switch cover **30** is mounted to a wall by using mounting screws **8**. Flashlight switch **20** includes snap nodule **41** and cover **30** includes snap indention **42**. Utilizing nodule **41** and indention **42**, flashlight switch **20** is pivotally snap-fit into cut-out section **2** for secure attachment, as shown in FIG. **5**. When a user needs a flashlight, he can easily grab flashlight switch **20** with his fingers and remove it from cover **30** (FIG. **4**, FIG. **8**). For example, in the event of a power outage, the user will easily be able to find flashlight switch **20** in the darkness because the user will know that flashlight switch **20** is attached to cover **30**. The flashlight will be charged and ready to use when needed. When the user is done using flashlight switch **20**, he can easily mount it back into cut-out section **29** so that flashlight switch **20** will once again be electrically connected to power source **10**. It should be noted that in the preferred embodiment shown, flashlight switch **20** has the appearance of a common rocker switch, thereby providing an aesthetically pleasing appearance.

Third Preferred Embodiment

In the third preferred embodiment a user can connect additional removable flashlights to the electrical system without adding additional switches or modifying existing switches.

FIGS. **9**, **10** and **12** show a third preferred embodiment of the present invention. Power source **10** provides electricity to bulb **11**A and bulb **11**B, as shown in FIG. **12**. By manipulating prior art light switch **80** a user can turn bulb **11**A on or off and by manipulating light switch **3** a user can

turn bulb **11**B on and off. Additionally, removable flashlight **63** mounted onto cover **61** is also electrically connected to power source **10** for charging.

In FIG. **9**, cover **61** includes cut-out section **62**. Cut-out section **62** allows for the press-fit connection of removable flashlight **63**, as shown in FIG. **9**. Cover **61** is mounted to a wall by using mounting screws **8**. When a user needs a flashlight, he can easily grab flashlight **63** with his fingers and remove it from cover **61**. For example, when the user needs a flashlight, the flashlight will be charged and ready to use. When the user is done using flashlight **63**, he can easily mount it back into cut-out section **62** so that flashlight **63** will once again be electrically connected to power source **10**. It should be noted that in the preferred embodiment shown, flashlight **63** mounted onto cover **61** has the pleasing aesthetic appearance as shown in FIG. **10**.

Fourth Preferred Embodiment

A fourth preferred embodiment is shown in FIG. **14**. The fourth preferred embodiment is very similar to the first preferred embodiment shown in FIGS. **1-3**. However, in FIG. **14**, removable flashlight **6** is not electrically connected to power source **10**. The fourth preferred embodiment recognizes that it is not necessary for flashlight **6** to be rechargeable or connected to power supply **10**.

For example, many flashlight owners would prefer to simplify installation of the present invention. In the fourth preferred embodiment a flashlight owner would purchase cover **1** along with removable flashlight **6**. Then the owner would only need to replace his existing cover with cover **1** having flashlight **6**. The owner would be responsible for making sure that flashlight **6** contains charged batteries. Or the owner would need to be responsible for making sure charged batteries were easily accessible when flashlight **6** was needed.

Switch Covers

FIGS. **15-17** show a clear presentation of preferred light switch cover plates. FIG. **15** shows cover **73** installed on a wall. FIG. **16** shows cover **73** prior to installation. In FIG. **15** cover **73** is installed over pre-existing installed toggle light switch **74**. Cover **73** includes cut-out sections **75** and **76**. Switch **74** extends through cut-out section **76**. A flashlight, such as flashlight **6** (FIG. **1**) may be press fit into cut-out section **75** for storage, as described in detail above. Cover plate **83** (FIG. **17**) is very similar to cover plate **73**. However, cover plate **83** includes larger size cut-out section **86** to accommodate a larger sized pre-existing rocker switch.

Although the above-preferred embodiments have been described with specificity, persons skilled in this art will recognize that many changes to the specific embodiments disclosed above could be made without departing from the spirit of the invention. Therefore, the attached claims and their legal equivalents should determine the scope of the invention

What is claimed is:

1. A storage device for storing a removable flashlight, said storing device comprising:

A. a cover plate,

B. an electrical switch surrounded by said cover plate,

C. a power source electrically connected to said electrical switch,

D. a flashlight removably connected to said cover plate, wherein said removable flashlight is stored in said storage device when not needed and removable from said charging device when needed for use, and wherein said removable flashlight is said electrical switch removably connected to said power source.

2. The storage device as in claim **1**, wherein said flashlight is a rechargeable flashlight connected to said power source.

3. The storage device as in claim **2**, wherein rechargeable flashlight is removably and electrically connected to said power source, wherein said removable flashlight is stored in said storage device while charging and removable from said charging device when needed for use.

4. The charging device as in claim **1**, wherein said cover plate comprises a cut-out section and said removable flashlight is removably connected to said cover plate via said cut-out section.

5. A storage device for storing a removable flashlight, said storing device comprising:

A. a cover plate,

B. an electrical switch surrounded by said cover plate,

C. a power source electrically connected to said electrical switch,

D. a flashlight removably connected to said cover plate, wherein said removable flashlight is stored in said storage device when not needed and removable from said charging device when needed for use, wherein said removable flashlight is a rocker switch removably connected to said power source, wherein said rocker switch is said flashlight and said electrical switch.

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