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## **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

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**Bulletin 80/25**

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⑤④ **A method for the production of numerals and a comprehensive numeral convertible into other numerals.**

⑤⑦ By means of a standard, comprehensive numeral, chosen numerals in the set 1 to 9 and 0 can be prepared therefrom, thus simplifying manufacturing tooling and overcoming the problem of stock shortages resulting from the greater demand for certain numerals.

The comprehensive numeral can be an 8 of stylised, rectilinear form which is traversed by an array of scores or lines of weakness (b), the lines being aligned with the internal edges defining the two openings in the numeral. By detaching selected portions (a, a<sup>1</sup>, a<sup>2</sup>...d, d<sup>1</sup>, d<sup>2</sup>, d<sup>3</sup>) from the numeral 8, any of the numbers 0 to 7 and 9 can be produced.

The numerals can be used for signs such as house numbers.

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"A METHOD FOR THE PRODUCTION OF NUMERALS AND A  
COMPREHENSIVE NUMERAL CONVERTIBLE INTO OTHER NUMERALS"

5 This invention relates to an improved method for  
the production of numerals and numerals produced in  
accordance with the method.

10 Numerals are used for a multifarious variety of  
purposes for numbering houses etc. Normally a stock  
of ten numerals have had to be kept by distributors,  
wholesalers and retailers. The demand for certain  
numerals may be greater than for other numerals and  
hence maintaining adequate stocks of numerals for  
customers is complicated. An object of the invention  
is to avoid the above drawbacks by reducing to one  
the number of numerals to be stocked.

15 According to the invention there is provided a  
method for the production of numerals characterised  
by selecting a basic numeral, marking the basic  
numeral (along b) for severance to produce other  
numerals within the set 1 to 9 and 0 and severing  
20 selected unrequired residue ( $a, a^1, a^2 \dots d, d^1, d^2, d^3$ )  
from the basic numeral to produce a remainder of  
the basic numeral which constitutes a chosen numeral.

25 Advantageously, the basic numeral is an 8 from  
which all the other numerals from 0 to 7 and 9 can  
be derived. An alternative to the 8 might be chosen  
but then fewer numerals could be derived by practising  
the present method.

The invention also provides a basic shape adapted

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to be converted into other numerals within the set  
1 to 9 and 0, characterised in that the basic shape  
comprises the outline of a comprehensive number  
which is one numeral of the set, the shape  
5 possessing markings or lines (b) of weakness defining  
selected portions of the shape which are detachable  
selectively therefrom to leave a remnant of the  
shape constituting a chosen numeral. Again, the  
preferred severable shape has the outline of the  
10 numeral 8.

It will be appreciated that the unrequired  
residue severed from the basic numeral shape in  
producing a given numeral would constitute integral  
portions of other numerals which might instead be  
15 produced from the basic numeral shape.

The invention will be described now by way of  
example with reference to the accompanying drawings:-

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a numeral 8;

Fig. 2 is a plan view of numeral 0, 1, 2, 3, 4,  
20 5, 6, 7 and 9 formed from the numeral 8 showing the  
discarded material by dotted lines;

Fig. 3 is a plan view from below of the numeral 8  
showing markings or score lines indicating the material  
to be discarded to create any particular numeral from  
25 0 - 7 and 9.

Fig. 1 shows a stylised numeral 8 and Fig. 2  
shows the numerals produced by severing and discarding

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the material not required for any one of the numerals  
0 - 7 and 9.

Fig. 3 shows the demarcation lines b on the  
numerals for the production of a particular number.

5 As will be seen, the lines b traverse the stylised,  
rectilinear 8 and are aligned with its internal edges  
which border the upper and lower openings of the  
numeral.

In forming the numeral 0 the surplus material  
10 a is discarded.

Two numerals 1 are available by discarding the  
material a, a<sup>1</sup>, a<sup>2</sup>,. The numeral 2 is formed by  
discarding the material c, c<sup>1</sup> and d<sup>3</sup> and for the  
numeral 3 by discarding the material c<sup>1</sup> and c<sup>3</sup>.

15 The numeral 4 is formed by discarding the  
material a<sup>1</sup>, a<sup>2</sup>, c<sup>3</sup> and c<sup>4</sup> and the numeral 5 by  
discarding the material c<sup>3</sup> and d<sup>1</sup>, or alternatively  
c<sup>3</sup>, d and d<sup>1</sup>.

The numerals 6 and 9 are formed by discarding  
20 the material d and d<sup>1</sup> or alternatively only the  
material d<sup>3</sup> and the numeral 7 by discarding the  
material a, a<sup>2</sup>, c<sup>2</sup>, c<sup>3</sup>, c<sup>4</sup> and optionally the  
material c<sup>1</sup>.

The numerals may be produced by injection moulding  
25 from plastics material or by cutting from sheet  
plastics material formed of less thickness along the  
demarcation lines b to facilitate cutting or breaking

along the lines for the required numeral.

Alternatively the numeral 8 may be of metal with grooves or partial shear, to form the demarcation lines b and which may be visible on the front or back of the numeral 8.

An impact adhesive with closed cell foam is applied to the back of the numeral, with a protective cover or liner for stripping off prior to applying the chosen numeral to a door or other surface or anchorage.

Attachment of the numeral to a substrate can be made by pins or screws instead of by means of an adhesive.

Alternatively other numerals than 8 may be selected as the basic number, but then it will not be possible to derive all the numbers from 1 to 9 and 0. For example, if the chosen basic numeral were 6 or 9, only the numerals other than 0, 2, 3 and 8 could be obtained.

It is envisaged that the comprehensive numerals convertible into other numerals could be educationally useful, and for use as an educational toy could be supplied without any anchoring means such as adhesive, pins or screws.

As will be recognised, adoption of a single comprehensive numeral, ready weakened, represents a significant advantage to the user, as well as simplifying

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manufacture and keeping expensive tooling costs to  
the very minimum.

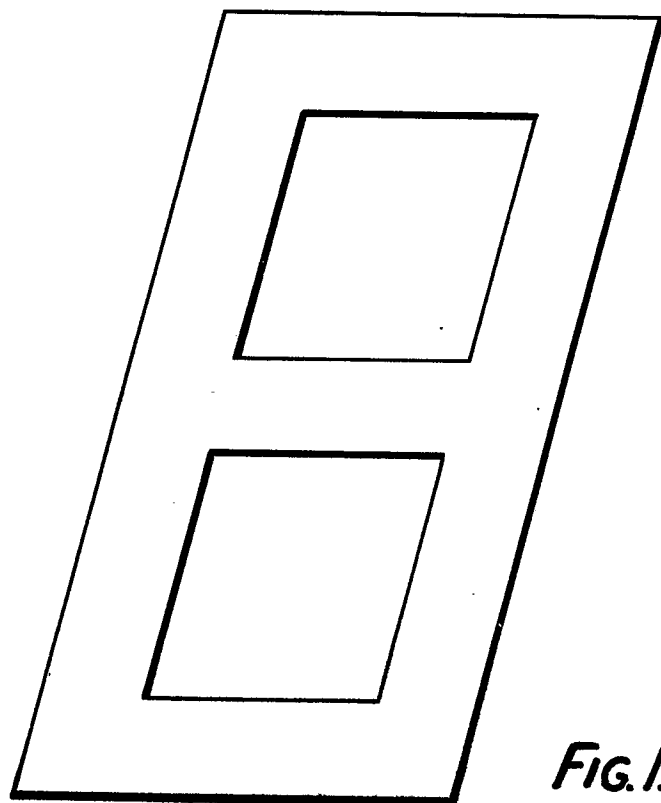
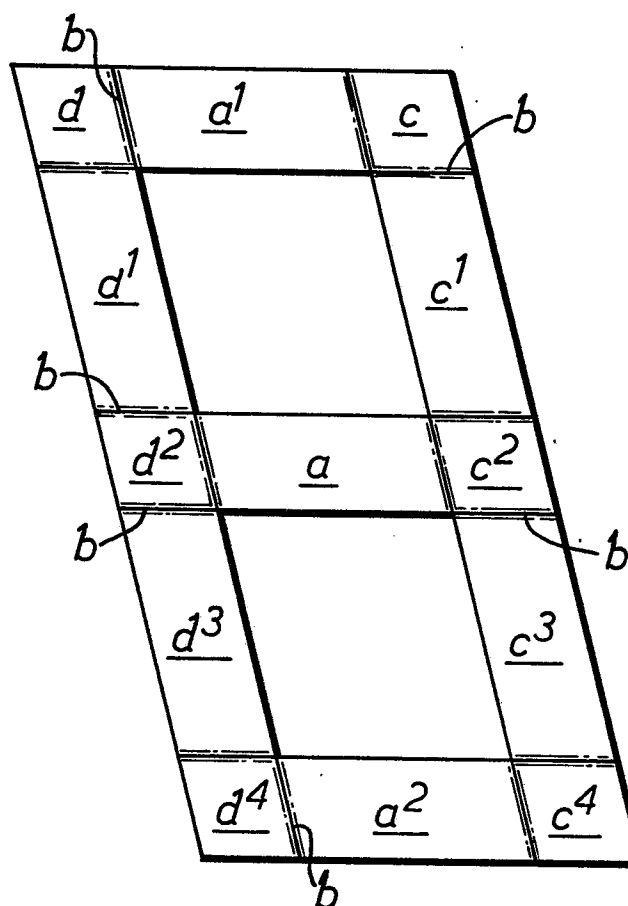
## Claims:

1. A method for the production of numerals characterised by selecting a basic numeral, marking the basic numeral (along b) for severance to produce  
5 other numerals within the set 1 to 9 and 0 and severing selected unrequired residue ( $a$ ,  $a^1$ ,  $a^2$  ...  $d$ ,  $d^1$ ,  $d^2$ ,  $d^3$ ) from the basic numeral to produce a remainder of the basic numeral which constitutes a chosen numeral.
2. A method according to claim 1, characterised  
10 by selecting 8 as the basic numeral, marking the numeral 8 along lines (b) which traverse the 8 for severance to produce numerals from 0 - 7 and 9 and then severing the unrequired residue to leave a remnant constituting the chosen numeral.
- 15 3. A method according to claim 2, characterised in that the 8 is severable along lines crossing the 8 which are aligned with internal borders defining the upper and lower openings of the 8.
4. A method according to claim 1, 2 or 3,  
20 characterised in that anchoring means is applied to a surface of the basic numeral for use in securing the chosen numerals prepared therefrom to a substrate.
5. A basic shape adapted to be converted into other numerals within the set 1 to 9 and 0, characterised  
25 in that the basic shape comprises the outline of a comprehensive number which is one numeral of the set, the shape possessing markings or lines (b) of weakness

defining selected portions of the shape which are detachable selectively therefrom to leave a remnant of the shape constituting a chosen numeral.

5       6. A basic shape according to claim 5,  
characterised by being in the form of the number 8,  
the shape possessing markings or lines of weakness  
(b) defining selected portions of the shape detachable  
selectively therefrom to leave a remnant of the shape,  
the form of remnants producible from the shape being  
10 representative of all the numbers from 1 to 9 and 0.

7. A basic shape according to claim 6 which  
comprises the form of a stylised rectilinear numeral  
8, characterised by the lines of weakness (b)  
traversing the shape in alignment with internal  
15 borders defining the upper and lower openings of the 8.

$1/2$ *FIG. 1.**FIG. 3.*

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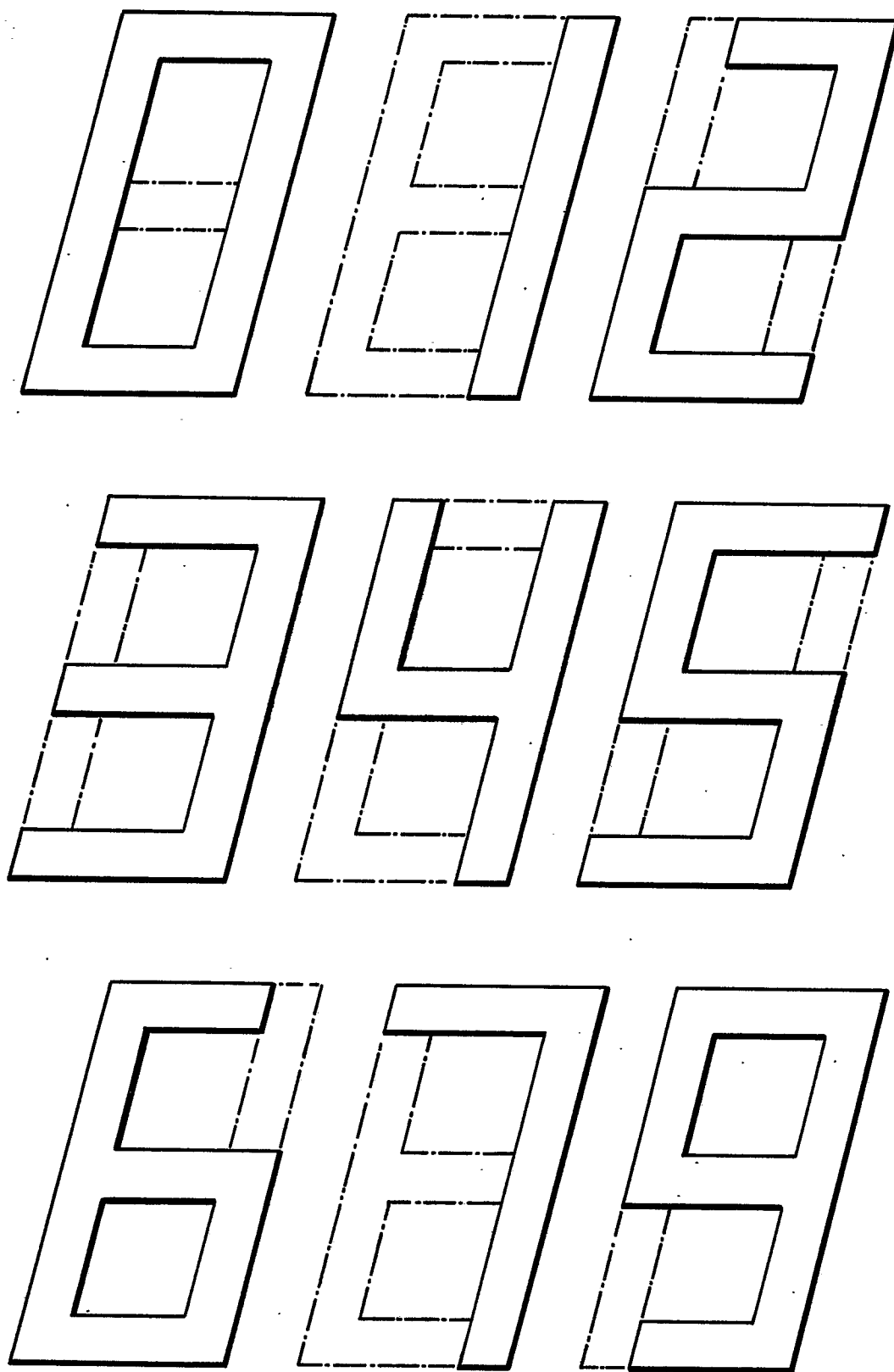


FIG. 2.



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