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(54) IMPROVEMENTS IN LAMPSHADES

(71) We, STAR INDUSTRIAL CO. LTD., a corporation organized under the laws of Hong Kong, of 25 Tai Yau Street, San Po Kong, Kowloon, Hong Kong, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

10 The invention relates to lampshades and particularly to lampshades which are assembled from subsidiary parts.

15 The invention provides a lampshade in the form of a hollow body of substantially spherical configuration and comprised of a number of part-spherical body-defining parts disposed in edge-to-edge relationship, and resilient clips engaging the parts to hold them together.

20 In a preferred embodiment, the hollow body comprises four identical part-spherical body-defining parts which may be moulded in the same mould. The body-defining parts are preferably moulded from clear rigid plastics material.

25 One exemplary embodiment of the invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:—

30 Figure 1 is a plan view of an assembled lampshade according to the invention;

Figure 2 is a sectional elevation on the line II—II of Figure 1 with the lamp holder omitted; and

35 Figure 3 is a sectional detail on the line III—II of Figure 1.

Referring generally to the drawings, the lampshade 1 there shown is in the form of a generally spherical hollow body assembled from four identical part-spherical body-defining parts 2. Each part 2 has flat edge faces 3 radially arranged with respect to the vertical axis of the lampshade. Each part 2 has apertures 4 adjacent its edge faces 3, the apertures of adjoining parts 2 being opposite each other as seen in Figure 1. The parts 2 are held together by resilient

clips 5 which may be made of any suitable resilient material but which are preferably made of plastics material. Each clip 5 comprises two arms 6 which pass through the apertures 4 and hold the edge faces 3 of the parts 2 together in abutting relationship. To enable parting of the arms 6 two spaced finger grips 7 are provided which extend in a direction opposite to that of the arms 6. Preferably, the clips 5 enter the apertures 4 from within the lampshade so that the clips do not project to any substantial extent beyond the external decorated surface of the lampshade.

At its upper end, as viewed in Figures 1 and 2, the lampshade 1 is provided with a circular aperture 8 having its centre on the vertical axis of the lampshade and defined by flanges 9 of parts 2. A moulded recess 10 is provided centrally of each flange, and each flange has a radial hole 11 therein to receive a screw 12. A cross-shaped bracket 13 has its arms 14 received at their ends in the recesses 10 and secured thereto by the screws 12 which enter screw-threaded holes formed radially in the ends of the arms. At its centre, the bracket 13 is provided with a conventional lampholder which will be disposed internally of the lampshade and the usual electrical connections which will be disposed externally thereof and which do not form part of this invention.

At its lower end, as viewed in Figures 1 and 2, the lampshade is provided with a circular aperture 15 which also has its centre on the vertical axis of the lampshade and which is normally closed by a cover 16 having a flange 17 which peripherally overlaps the edges of the aperture 15.

In order to fit a lamp in the lampholder when the lampshade is assembled, the cover 16 can be readily lifted to give the necessary access and, after fitting, can be readily replaced by being lowered in position.

The body of the lampshade of the invention may be comprised of more than four,

or less than four, body-defining parts. Desirably, the body-defining parts are of identical shape so that they may be formed in a single mould. A metal cover 18 may be provided which engages over the flanges 9 to provide protection against dust deposition when the lamp is in use. The cover may also have ventilation holes 19 therein.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

10 1. A lampshade in the form of a hollow body of substantially spherical configuration and comprised of a number of part-spherical body-defining parts disposed in edge-to-edge relationship, and resilient clips engaging the parts to hold them together.

15 2. A lampshade as claimed in claim 1, wherein the parts are apertured adjacent their adjoining edges, and wherein the clips enter the edge apertures in adjoining parts to hold the parts together.

20 3. A lampshade as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein said hollow body comprises four identical part-spherical body-defining parts.

25 4. A lampshade as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein there is an aperture at an end of the hollow body, and means are provided at the aperture for securing a lampholder to the hollow body.

30 5. A lampshade as claimed in claim 4,

wherein there is a further aperture which is at an end of the hollow body remote from the first-mentioned end to provide access to the interior of the hollow body to fit a lamp in the lampholder.

6. A lampshade as claimed in claim 5, wherein a cover is provided for the further aperture, the cover having a flange dimensioned to overlie internal surface portions of the hollow body adjacent the further aperture for support of the cover peripherally of the aperture.

7. A lampshade as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein each clip has a U-shaped clip portion of plastics material.

8. A lampshade as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein each clip has two spaced finger grips to enable the clip to be opened for fitting to adjoining body parts.

9. A lampshade substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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