W. B. MURTHA.

CHECK PROTECTOR.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 22, 1919.

1,356,548. Patented Oct. 26, 1920.

Fig. 1.

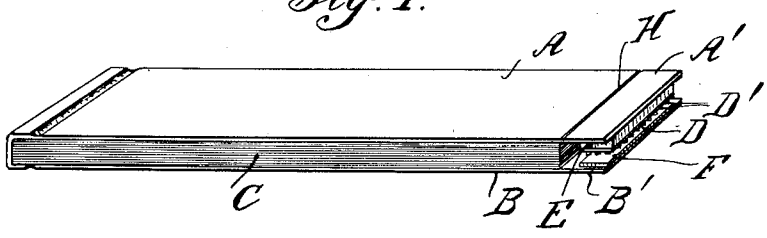


Fig. 2.

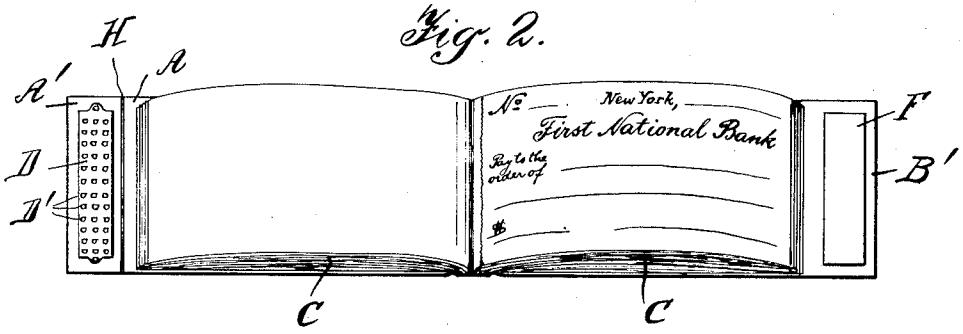
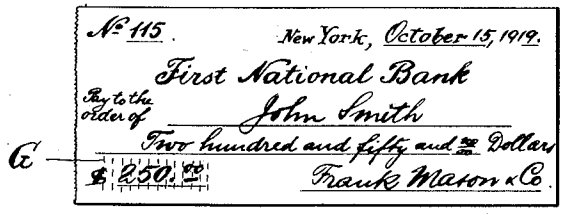


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CHECK-PROTECTOR.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WALTER B. MURTHA, a citizen of the United States, residing at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Check-Protectors, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact specification.

This invention relates to devices for protecting checks and like documents against falsification, and its purpose is to provide an exceedingly simple device of this character, which can be manufactured at very low cost and can readily be combined with the ordinary check book of pocket size or any other size.

In the accompanying drawing, forming part of this specification, I have shown my invention as applied to, or combined with, a pocket-size check book, but it is to be understood that this is an example only, and that the use of my invention is not confined to check books, but that it may be used in any other connection where it is desired to protect certain writing, and especially figures, against falsification; it is also evident that my device need not be attached to the check book, but may be designed and used independently of such book.

In the drawing, Figure 1 represents a check book of small size, with my protecting device attached thereto, and in closed position; Fig. 2 shows the check book in open position; and Fig. 3 illustrates the manner of protecting a check against falsification, by means of my device.

In Figs. 1 and 2, A and B represent the upper and lower covers respectively hinged together in the usual manner and holding between them a number of blank checks C. At their edges opposite to the hinge, the covers are formed with extensions A′, B′ respectively, that is, portions projecting beyond the edges of the checks C.

To the inner face of the cover portion A′ is secured a plate D, preferably made of sheet metal and having sharp prongs or points D′ extending toward the cover portion B′. As a convenient way of securing the plate to the cover, it may be mounted on a backing E of wood or the like, which may be glued to the inner face of the cover. To the inner face of the lower cover extension B′ is preferably secured a pad F made of rubber or other resilient material, and of substantially the same size, or slightly larger than the plate D.

After a check has been written and separated from the check book, it is placed over the pad D in such a manner that that portion of the check which is to be protected against falsification, will come to lie above the pad D. The check book, lying on a firm surface such as a table, is then closed, and pressure exerted on the cover portion A′ from the outside. This pressure will cause the prongs D′ to penetrate through the check and produce in the paper perforations or indentations, the pad F, owing to its resiliency, facilitating such penetration. The check will then present the appearance indicated in Fig. 3, the fine dotted lines G indicating the perforations or indentations produced in the body of the check. These perforations, while not distorting the writing or rendering it illegible, will nevertheless prevent the writing from being erased or altered; any attempt at erasing would tear the paper, and any alteration of the figures would likewise be practically impossible owing to the closeness of the perforations.

I have thus provided a very simple device which will effectively and surely protect a check or similar document against falsification.

While I have shown only the figures in the lower left-hand corner as being protected in this manner, it is evident that other portions of the check, such as, for instance, the line in the center bearing the amount written out in full, may be perforated as well. This might be accomplished, for instance, by making two rows of perforations through said line, side by side, with the plate D, or I might provide a perforating plate along the upper or lower edge of the check-book, of sufficient length to perforate the whole line in one single operation.

If desired, the upper cover might be scored along the meeting line between the cover portions A and A′, as indicated at H, to provide a hinge between these portions. This will insure a proper positioning of the perforating plate D with respect to the pad F, whether the book be still full of checks or almost empty.

As indicated above, I do not desire to

limit myself to a device connected with a check-book, but I have shown this only as a convenient way of using my invention. The device may be entirely separate, if desired.

This and other modifications may be made without departing from the spirit of my invention, as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In an article of the class described, two leaves hinged together along one edge, a resilient pad secured to the inside of one of said leaves at the outer end thereof, and a plate secured to the inside of the other leaf at the outer end of said leaf, said plate having a roughened surface to coöperate with said pad to produce perforations or indentations on a sheet of paper placed between said pad and said plate.

2. In combination with a check-book, covers having portions projecting beyond the edges of the checks contained therein, a resilient pad secured to the inside of one of said projecting portions at the outer end thereof, and a perforating member secured to the inside of the other projecting cover portion at the outer end of said portion.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature, in presence of two witnesses.

WALTER B. MURTHA.

Witnesses:
ROSE TURK,
FRANK P. MURTHA.