

July 5, 1966

M. C. MANNING

3,259,173

MACHINE COVER

Filed Aug. 28, 1963

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

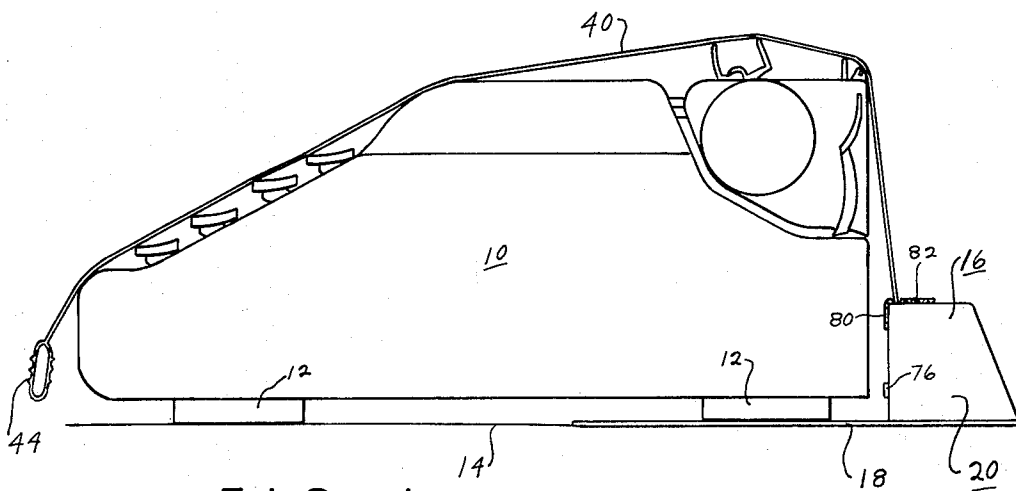


FIG. 1

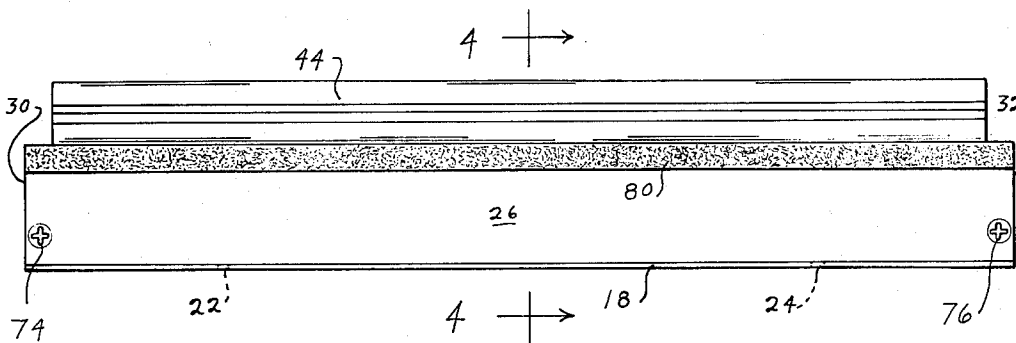


FIG. 2

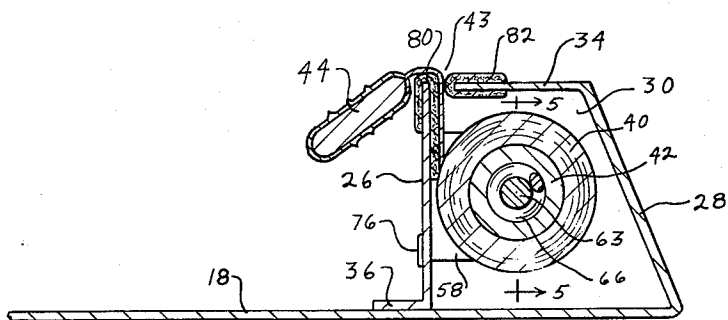


FIG. 4

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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

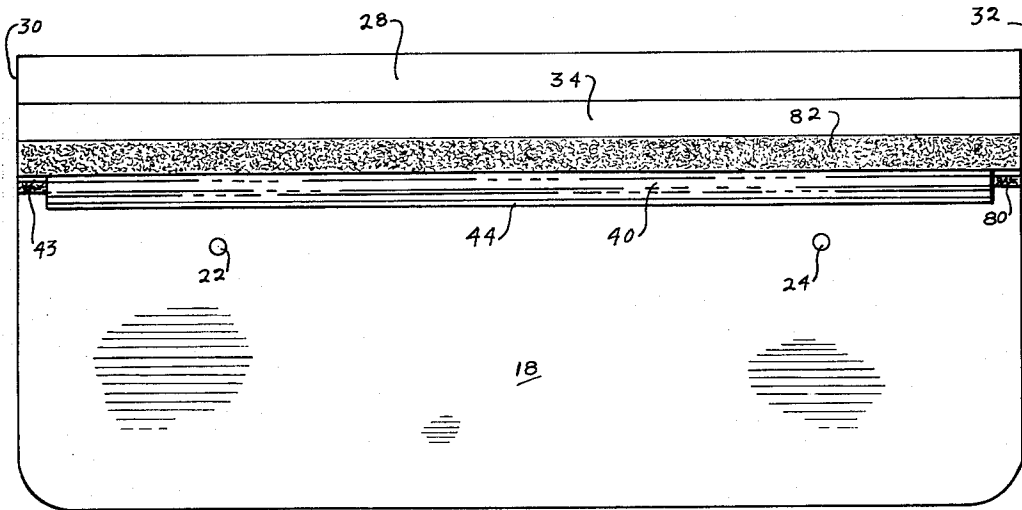


FIG. 3

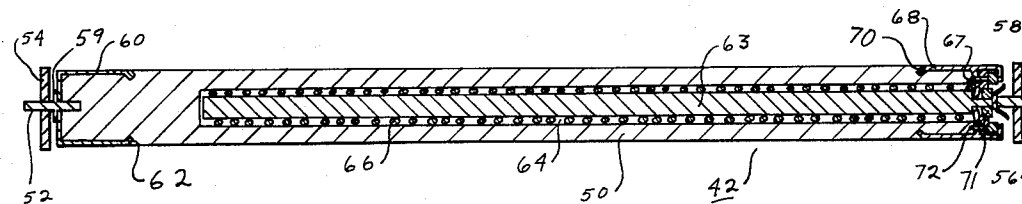


FIG. 5

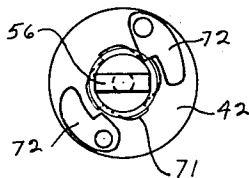


FIG. 6

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MACHINE COVER

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4 Claims. (Cl. 160-238)

The present invention relates to a machine cover and more particularly to a retractable cover for use primarily with typewriters, adding and dictating machines, calculators and check protectors, and similar business machines.

Most typewriters, adding and dictating machines, calculators and check protectors are provided with removable covers which conform generally to the configuration of the machine. These covers are placed on the machines at the end of the working day and removed bodily therefrom at the beginning of the day and stored in a desk drawer or the like, often using much needed space therefor. Further, in view of the fact that the cover is often cumbersome and inconvenient to place on the machine and to store, the machine is frequently not covered during the day when it is unused for long periods of time, and, when the covers are on the machines, they are often wrinkled, loosely fitted or otherwise unsightly and detract from the general office appearance. Attempts have been made in the past to provide retractable covers for business machines of the foregoing type; however, those prior covers had certain inherent defects or disadvantages which prevented continuous satisfactory use. Consequently, they have failed to replace the conventional removable cover.

It is therefore one of the primary objects of the present invention to provide a cover for typewriters, adding and dictating machines, calculators, check protectors, and similar business machines, which can be readily retracted into a compact container, and which can be quickly pulled from the container over the machine to give the machine protection throughout the working day when it is not in use, without detracting from the utility of the machine and the general appearance of the office.

In the use of typewriters, erasures are often made, creating eraser dust and fragments which naturally tend to adhere to the typewriter covers. It is therefore another object of the present invention to provide the present retractable business machine cover with a means for cleaning the cover while it is being retracted, thus preventing eraser dust and similar foreign materials from fouling the retracting mechanism and providing a consistently clean and attractive cover.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a retractable cover for typewriters and other business machines which is stored when not in use in a compact container at the rear of the machine, and which is transparent so that when it is pulled over the machine, the machine, or its general configuration, can be readily seen, thus eliminating the unsightly appearance normally associated with business machines covered with the conventional covers.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a retractable cover which can be readily and firmly installed adjacent the machine to be covered thereby, and which permits the machine to be moved or adjusted in position while it is being used, without any interference from the retractable cover mechanism.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a relatively simple, easy to operate retractable cover for business machines which can be readily fabricated using standard fabricating equipment and materials, and which can be easily serviced and cleaned at the same time that the business machine is being serviced.

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Additional objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following description and accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a side elevational view of a conventional typewriter, showing the present retractable cover device installed and illustrating the manner in which the present retractable cover device is used;

FIGURE 2 is a front elevational view of the retractable cover device shown in FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 3 is a top plan view of the retractable cover device shown in the preceding figures;

FIGURE 4 is a vertical cross sectional view of the present retractable cover device, the section being taken on line 4-4 of FIGURE 2;

FIGURE 5 is a vertical cross sectional view of the reel of the retractable cover device shown in the preceding figures, the section being taken on line 5-5 of FIGURE 4; and

FIGURE 6 is a fragmentary elevational view of the operating mechanism of the present retractable cover device.

Referring more specifically to the drawings, numeral 10 designates a conventional typewriter having four legs or pads 12 for supporting the typewriter on the top of a desk or other typewriter support 14. For the purpose of the present invention, the typewriter, legs and support are considered standard equipment and will not be described in detail herein. Numeral 16 designates the present retractable machine cover device having a base plate 18 secured to the bottom of a container 20 and extending beneath the two rear legs 12 of the typewriter. The base plate is held firmly in place by the weight of the typewriter; however, for permanent installations, the base plate may be secured to the typewriter support by screws extending downwardly through holes 22 and 24 in the base plate.

The container 20 consists of a front wall 26, rear wall 28, two end walls 30 and 32, and a top wall 34, the front wall being removably secured to the end walls and supported in part by a flange 36 extending laterally from the lower edge of the front wall. Rear wall 28 is preferably formed as an integral part of the base plate, extending upwardly from the rear edge of the plate and supporting upper wall 34, which, likewise, is formed integrally with rear wall 28. The exact configuration of the container is not critical and may be changed to correspond with the designs of the machines and decor of the office.

The actual cover for the typewriter consists of a flexible panel 40 attached to a reel 42 disposed in container 20 and adapted to coil panel 40 thereon as the panel is retracted into container 20. The panel passes downwardly through space 43 provided between the forward edge of upper wall 34 and the upper edge of front wall 26, and is provided with a hand part or portion 44 extending the full length of the forward edge of panel 40, thereby giving reinforcement to the panel to assist in maintaining it in its laterally extended position, and to provide an easily grasped handle for pulling the cover over the typewriter and retracting it into container 20. The hand portion 44 is sufficiently heavy to hold panel 40 firmly over the top of the typewriter and prevent it from being accidentally removed therefrom. Panel 40 is preferably made of transparent plastic, so that the business machine can be seen through the panel, thus protecting the machine without detracting from the appearance of the office during the working day.

Reel 42 consists of an elongated roller 50 supported at one end by a pin 52 extending into a bracket 54 and at the other end by a bar 56 extending into a bracket 58, brackets 54 and 58 being rigidly attached to the front wall 26. Pin 52 has a rigid reinforcing collar 59 and is rigidly attached to roller 50 by a cup-shaped member

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60 extending over the end of the roll and along the side and securely attached thereto by inwardly extending flanges 62. Bar 56 is connected to a stem 63 which extends inwardly from the end of roller 50 in a cylindrical chamber 64 and supports a coil spring 66, the spring 66 being attached to the inner end of stem 63 and to inwardly extending annular flange 67 of a cup-shaped head member 68 mounted on the respective end of roller 50. Head member 68 is provided with another inwardly extending annular flange 70 which firmly secures the cup-shaped head member onto the end of roller 50. A ratchet mechanism consisting of a ratchet wheel 71, and a plurality of dogs or pawls 72 operates in conjunction with spring 66 to permit panel cover 40 to be uncoiled from roller 50 and to retain the panel in its uncoiled position until it is intentionally released. Upon releasing of the pawls by a quick, short forward movement of panel 40, spring 66 rewinds panel 40 on roller 50. The reel 42 is mounted by brackets 54 and 58 on front wall 26, and front wall 26 is secured to the end walls by removable screws 74 and 76. Thus, roller 50 can be readily removed from the container by merely removing the two screws and lifting the front wall from the container.

One of the principal features of the present retractable cover device is the cleaning device consisting of felt members 80 and 82 mounted, respectively, on the upper edge of front panel 26 and the forward edge of top panel 34. The two felt members project into space 43, restricting the space to the extent that the two surfaces of panel 40 are wiped thoroughly each time the panel is retracted into container 20, thus removing any eraser dust or any other foreign objects on either the top or bottom surface of the panel. This prevents the foreign materials from accumulating on reel 42 and in container 20 where they would interfere with proper operation of the coiling and uncoiling mechanism, and possibly dent, score or otherwise damage the surface of panel 40.

In the operation, the present device is preferably firmly mounted on the typewriter support 14 and the typewriter placed on the support and on the upper surface of base plate 18 adjacent the front edge of container 20. Panel 40 is then pulled upwardly over the typewriter until hand portion 44 reaches the forward edge of the typewriter. On releasing the hand portion 44, the weight thereof is sufficient to retain panel 40 in a taut position over the typewriter, thereby giving a neat appearance to the cover. When the cover is to be retracted, the hand portion is lifted upwardly from the typewriter, and a quick forward movement is applied to panel 40, thus disengaging ratchet wheel 71 and pawls 72 and permitting spring 66 to coil panel 40 on roller 50. When the retractable cover is not in use, panel 40 is fully retracted with hand portion 44 resting on the upper surfaces of felt members 80 and 82 in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 2.

While only one embodiment of the present invention has been described in detail herein, various changes and modifications may be made without departing from the scope of the invention.

I claim:

1. A retractable business machine cover, comprising a rectangular base plate extending the full width of the machine for receiving the machine on a supporting surface, an elongated container mounted on and above said base plate along one edge thereof, said container having end walls, a rear wall formed integrally with said base plate, a top wall formed integrally with said rear wall and a front wall removably secured to said end walls and spaced from said top wall to provide an elongated opening in said container, a reel in said container, means at each end of said reel for supporting said reel on said front wall, a panel of flexible transparent material on said reel secured at one end to said reel, an elongated stiff hand

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portion attached to the forward edge of said panel and being of a width larger than said opening, a spring in said reel for winding said panel thereon, a plurality of pawls on said reel for retaining said panel in any desired unwound position, a felt-like member mounted on the forward edge of said top wall, and a felt-like cleaning member mounted on the upper edge of said front wall, said members engaging and cleaning opposite surfaces of said panel simultaneously each time said panel is retracted.

2. A retractable business machine cover, comprising a base plate, an elongated container mounted on and above said base plate extending the full width of the machine for receiving the machine on a supporting surface, said container having end walls, a rear wall formed integrally with said base plate, a top wall formed integrally with said rear wall and a front wall removably secured to said end walls and spaced from said top wall to provide an elongated opening in said container, a self-winding reel in said container, means at each end of said reel for supporting said reel on said front wall, a panel of flexible transparent material on said reel secured at one end to said reel, an elongated stiff hand portion attached to the forward edge of said panel and being of a width larger than said opening, and felt-like members mounted on said container along each longitudinal edge of said opening for cleaning both sides of said panel each time the said panel is retracted.

3. A retractable business machine cover, comprising a base plate extending the full width of the machine for receiving the machine on a supporting surface, an elongated container mounted on said base plate and having a removable front wall and an elongated opening in the front upper edge thereof and with the front wall forming one side of said opening, a reel in said container, means at each end of said reel for supporting said reel on said front wall, a panel of flexible transparent material on said reel secured at one end to said reel, an elongated stiff hand portion attached to the forward edge of said panel and being larger than said opening, a spring in said reel for winding said panel thereon, a plurality of pawls for retaining said panel in any desired unwound position, and felt-like members mounted on said container along each longitudinal edge of said opening for cleaning both sides of said panel each time the said panel is retracted.

4. A retractable business machine cover, comprising a base plate, an elongated container mounted on said base plate and having a removable front wall and an elongated opening positioned longitudinally therein, one side of said opening being formed by said front wall, a self-winding reel in said container, means at each end of said reel for supporting said reel on said front wall, a panel of flexible transparent material on said reel secured at one end to said reel, an elongated hand portion attached to the forward edge of said panel and being of a width larger than said opening, and felt-like cleaning members mounted on said container along each longitudinal edge of said opening for cleaning both sides of said panel each time the said panel is retracted.

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