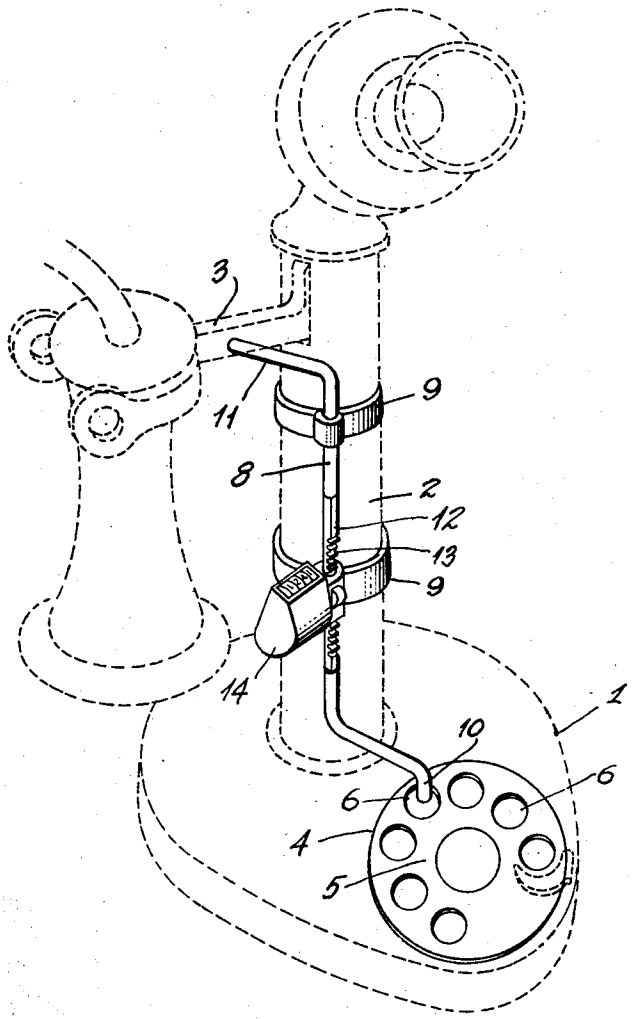
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S. MINDLIN

RECORDER FOR DIAL TELEPHONES

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INVENTOR.
Samuel Mindlin
BY Cornelius Fabricius
ATTORNEYS.

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SAMUEL MINDLIN, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

RECORDER FOR DIAL TELEPHONES.

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This invention is a recorder for dial telephones and its purpose is to permit the outgoing calls of a telephone to be checked up in a manner to clearly show surreptitious use of the telephone by authorized persons.

It is the common practice for maids, stenographers, and other employees to use the telephone in the employer's absence and it is not unusual for calls of relatively long distance to be made in this manner. Calls of this character are the cause of considerable annoyance to the telephone company, as well as to subscribers, who, when they pay their monthly bills, frequently object to the charges for calls thus surreptitiously made.

The purpose of this invention is to provide means whereby it will be impossible to dial a number without registering a call. By this means, the total number of calls will be registered and the subscriber can check these calls against his telephone bill and ascertain whether or not the bill is correct. If the number of calls check, he will know at once that his telephone is being used surreptitiously.

Speaking generally, the invention consists in means for normally locking the dialing disk of the telephone against a dialing operation, said means being formed to hold in position to lock the disk by the hook of the telephone instrument, so that in order to dial the telephone, it is necessary to raise the telephone hook. In order to return the hook to its shut off position, it is necessary to relock the disk. With this locking means is associated recording mechanism which records the movements thereof, so that each time the disk is unlocked and relocked, a call will be registered. Inasmuch as it is necessary to depress the hook between successive calls, in order to dial, it necessarily follows that each call made will be recorded.

In its preferred, practical form, the device is mounted directly on the telephone instrument, but it may be mounted on the stand with which the instrument is associated. When secured to the instrument itself, the invention may conveniently take the form of a reciprocating member mounted in suitable brackets on the standard of the telephone instrument for vertical reciprocation. The lower end of the member is adapted to extend through one of the openings in the dial disk, while the upper portion of the member is formed to extend under the hook of the instrument. Positioned adjacent the reciprocating member is a counter of any suitable construction operatively connected to the member to register the reciprocations thereof, so that each time the member is raised and lowered, one call will be registered. This arrangement will not interfere with the reception of calls and such incoming calls will not be registered, but it will be impossible to dial an outgoing call without registering such call.

Features of the invention, other than those specified, will be apparent from the hereinafter detailed description and claims, when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

The accompanying drawings illustrate one practical embodiment of the invention, but the construction therein shown is to be understood as illustrative, only, and not as defining the limits of the invention.

The drawing shows the conventional form of dial telephone instrument with which the present invention is associated.

Referring to the drawing, 1 is the base, 2 the standard, and 3 the hook of a conventional telephone instrument provided with dial apparatus 4 embodying a dial disk 5 of conventional form. This disk has a number of dial openings 6 therein and is mounted to rotate pivotally. The instrument, thus far described, forms no part of the present invention, but its showing is deemed necessary in order to illustrate the manner in which the present invention functions.

The reciprocating member 8 shown in the form of a rod is illustrated as mounted on the standard 2 by means of suitable brackets 9, which are rigidly clamped about the standard in such manner as to render their removal inconvenient or impossible. The lower end of the rod 8 is offset as at 10, so as to be alined with one of the openings 6 of the dial disk, while the upper end of the rod is bent laterally as shown at 11 to underlie the hook 3. The rod is preferably secured against rotation in any suitable manner as by forming a portion 12 of polygonal cross section. The portion 12 is shown as provided with a serrated or rack-like edge 13 which operates through a portion of the casing 14 of a counter or recorder.

Counters and recorders are so well known that it is not considered necessary to illustrate one in detail as the counter here used may be of any conventional form adapted

to accumulate calls one at a time. The counter may be conveniently operated from the rod 8 by providing the actuating shaft of the counter with a ratchet wheel meshing with the rack 13, so that as the rack is reciprocated in one direction or the other, the counter will be advanced one unit.

It will be apparent from the foregoing description that calls may be received without necessitating reciprocation of the rod 8 as the hook may be raised and lowered freely without necessitating the lifting of the rod so that during the reception of calls the dial disk 5 will remain locked. However, when it is desired to transmit a call, the receiver is taken from the hook and the rod 8 manually lifted to release the dial disk and permit of the dialing operation. When the receiver is again replaced on the hook and the hook lowered, the rod will be depressed to again lock the dial disk.

It is a peculiarity of dial instrument construction that two numbers cannot be dialed in succession without an intermediate depression of the hook and it therefore follows that every outgoing call must be recorded when the present invention is associated with the instrument.

The invention has been shown in the accompanying drawings as associated with a standard disk telephone instrument. I am aware, however, that it may be associated with other forms of telephone instrument, such as wall phones, or phones of the foreign type. The application of the invention to these various types of phone will be apparent when it is borne in mind that the hook 3 constitutes, broadly stated, the controlling device for the telephone circuit and in accordance with this invention, the position of the disk locking element is controlled by this circuit controlling member. Thus, no matter what type of phone the invention is associated with, the same general relations of the parts will exist.

The foregoing detailed description sets forth the invention in its preferred practical form, but the invention is to be understood as fully commensurate with the appended claims.

Having thus fully described the invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In apparatus for recording the outgoing calls of a dial telephone, the combination of a locking member movable into and out of engagement with the dialing disk of the telephone instrument and provided with means to be engaged by the circuit closing element of the instrument to preclude withdrawal of said member unless the telephone circuit of the instrument is closed, and a recorder associated with and operated by said locking member.

2. In apparatus for recording the outgoing calls of a dial telephone, the combination of means interposed between the dialing disk and the circuit closing element of a telephone instrument and formed to engage with and lock the disk against rotation when the circuit controlling element of the instrument is in circuit opening position and being capable of retraction from the disk when said circuit controlling element is in circuit closing position, and recording means associated with and operated by said interposed means.

3. In apparatus for recording the outgoing calls of a dial telephone, the combination of a rod mounted for longitudinal reciprocation with respect to the telephone instrument and in a position wherein a portion of the rod will engage with the dial disk of the telephone, while another portion of the rod will underlie the hook of the telephone, and said rod being formed to preclude withdrawal of the rod from the dial, while the hook of the instrument is depressed, and a recorder operatively connected to the rod and operated by the reciprocations thereof.

In testimony whereof I have signed the foregoing specification.

SAMUEL MINDLIN.