

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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CHECK DETECTOR

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My invention relates to check detectors and more particularly to a device of this character that is adapted for use in ascertaining whether or not a check has been raised when presented to a bank for payment. Certain objects of the invention are to provide a detector device with a slidable perforated and numbered element that may be shifted to numerous positions in cooperative relation with a scale whereby the position of a check placed thereon and in registry with certain other scales, in conformity with a predetermined combination or key number comprising readings on said scales, will fix the position individually for the bank depositors and whereby holes may be punched through the check by the depositor to correspond with the amount for which the check is drawn, and whereby any raising of the check may be detected by placing the check within a duplicate device by the cashier of the bank when same is presented for payment. Other objects are to provide adjustable means for the slidable element, to provide a slidably adjustable guide member for the check, and to provide other novel details of construction and arrangement as hereinafter set forth.

With the above and other objects in view which will appear as the description proceeds, the invention consists of the novel construction, adaptation, combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter described and claimed. These objects are accomplished by devices illustrated in the accompanying drawings; wherein:—

Figure 1 is a general view in perspective of the device;

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the same;

Fig. 3 is a top plan view of the slidable tabulated and perforated block member;

Fig. 4 is a detail view in elevation of the punch pin;

Fig. 5 is a detail view in vertical section taken substantially on a broken line 5, 5 of Fig. 2 and showing details of the adjusting means for the slidable or perforated block member;

Fig. 6 is a view in vertical section taken on a broken line 6, 6 of Fig. 2 and showing details of the adjustable check guide;

Fig. 7 is a view in transverse vertical section of the device taken substantially on a broken line 7, 7 of Fig. 2; and

Fig. 8 is a view in vertical section taken on a broken line 8, 8 of Fig. 2 and showing the perforated and slidable arrangement for the slidable block.

Referring to the drawings throughout which like reference numerals designate like parts and more particularly to Fig. 1, the device may be made in the form of a cabinet having a drawer 5 wherein the slidable block and other appurtenances of the device may be kept. The top of the device, as designated by the numeral 6, is centrally provided with a rectangular recess 7 extending from its front to a point adjacent its back or end. A block member 8 is adapted to fit snugly within said recess and may be slidably moved back and forth therein. As shown in Fig. 8, the sides of said recess and block may be beveled if desired.

The means for adjustably moving the block member 8 back and forth within its recess 7 comprises a bar 9 that is slidably disposed and beveled into a recess extending rearwardly through the portion of the top 5 from the recess 7. Said bar may have a bracket arm 10 with a screw 11 threadedly disposed therethrough and swiveled through a bracket lug 12 that is secured to said top. A slotted arm 13 may be adjustably secured to said bar by a clamp screw 14 and said arm is provided with a pin 15 at its inner end that is arranged to fit into a hole in the slidable block member. Thus by turning the screw 11 said block member may be moved back or forth and by loosening said clamp screw the slotted arm may be raised, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 7, for the purpose of installing or removing the block members as will be understood.

Referring particularly to Fig. 3 of the drawings, the upper surface of the block member 8 is divided by a system of right lines into one hundred small rectangles and a perforation, as designated by the numeral 16, is provided in each of said rectangles. Along the upper margin of said system of rectangles each vertical column thereof is

numbered from one to ten beginning at the left, and along the left hand edge the horizontal columns are lettered from A to J beginning at the bottom. In each of said small rectangles a number is placed above and a letter is placed below its perforation. Although not arranged consecutively or alphabetically said numbers range from zero to ten in each vertical and horizontal column of rectangles and said letters range from A to J in said columns. A screw member 17 having a pointer directed toward the right hand edge of the block member is fixed in the upper right hand corner thereof and by moving said block member as hereinbefore set forth the pointer of said screw may be brought to coincide with any one of the horizontal lines of a block setting scale 18 which lines are numbered from one to twelve and disposed on the edge portion of the top 5 adjoining the recess 7. A pair of dummy scales 19, one comprising numbers and the other comprising letters, may be placed on either side of said screw for the purpose of misleading persons engaged in malicious use of the device.

A longitudinal check edge scale 20 is provided centrally of the device top 5 and comprises a plurality of spaced lines extending horizontally from the left hand edge of said top across the recess 7 and are numbered upwardly from zero to twelve at their right hand terminals. A guide member having a slotted arm 21 with a clamp screw 22 therethrough and through the top 5 is provided with a raised straight transverse end edge portion 23 that may thus be brought to coincide with any one of the horizontal lines of said check edge scale. The block member 8, when disposed within its recess 7, projects above the top 5 of the cabinet and a slot 24 is provided in said member substantially flush with said top and extending under all the perforations 16 therethrough.

Referring to Fig. 2 wherein the straight edge 23 of the guide member coincides with one of the horizontal lines of the check edge scale 20, the horizontal top edge 25 of a check shown in dotted lines is placed or inserted in the slot 24 and against said straight edge and in coincidence with said horizontal line. An end check edge scale 26 is provided at the lower right hand corner of the top 5 and comprises a plurality of spaced vertical lines each having a letter at its top alphabetically ranging from A on the left to P on the right. Thus the position of the check is fixed by the horizontal line six of the scale 20 and the line H of the scale 26 which coincides with the right hand end edge 27 of the check as clearly shown in Fig. 2 of the drawings. The check is now in readiness to be punched which is done with a punch pin 28, shown in detail in Fig. 4, and which may be secured to the top 5 by means of a chain 29. A series of slots

30 may be provided through the bottom of the recess 7 whereby the bits of paper punched from the check may fall into the drawer 5.

In the practical use of my check detector it will be understood that one of the devices is retained by the bank and another by the depositor and that both the bank and depositor are furnished with identical block members 8. Although the figures, letters and the like may be shifted on said block members, it will be understood that the block member in possession of the bank must always be an absolute duplicate with respect to said figures and letters of the block member held by the depositor and said duplicates may be designated by the letter A as shown at 31 on said block member in Fig. 2.

Each depositor is furnished with a combination or key number such as A—8—6—H for the particular device shown herein. This number means that the depositor's block member is designated by the letter A, the pointer screw 17 is to be set to the line eight on the block scale 18, the top edge 25 of the check is to be set to coincide with the horizontal line six of the check edge scale 20, and that the right hand end edge 27 of said check is to be placed in coincidence with the line H of the end edge scale 26. It will thus be seen that the position of the check is absolutely fixed by the key numbers and it will also be apparent that the number of permutations made available by the three scales provides means whereby a sufficient number of combination or key numbers may be provided for each and all the depositors of a bank.

We will now assume that a check has been written by the depositor for seventy-nine thousand, five hundred, fifteen dollars and ninety-six cents (\$79,515.96). The depositor then places the check in the device as shown in the drawings and in accordance with his hereinbefore described combination or key number and with the punch 28 he punches through the seven perforations 16 as collectively designated by the numeral 32 in Fig. 3 beginning with the last number of cents at the right hand vertical column of the block member 8 and moving to the left column by column until the first or highest figure of dollars, namely seven, is reached.

When this check is presented to the bank for payment the cashier, noting the name of the depositor thereon, will place the check in his duplicate detector device before cashing same. If the check has not been altered each of the perforations previously made by the depositor will coincide with the perforations 16 corresponding to the amount of the check, it being understood that the cashier's device is set in accordance with the depositor's combination or key number. On the other hand, if the check had been raised to seventy-nine thousand, seven hundred, fifteen dollars and ninety-six cents (\$79,-

715.96) the cashier would note that the perforation seven in the hundred column had not been punched or was not punched in the proper place and he would immediately conclude that the check had been raised.

a punch pin adapted to be inserted in the aforesaid perforations for punching holes through the check at the numbers on the block member to correspond with the amount for which the check is written, and slidable plate members carrying the designatory characters for the lines of the two check edge scales.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.
WILLIAM C. BOULTON.

5 In order to provide further means whereby the readings of the scales may be changed for the purpose of increasing their combination possibilities and also for the purpose of shifting the scale readings to deceive those who might have learned the readings of a particular device, the letters at the top of the end scale 26 may be placed on a slidable member 33 and an additional corresponding slidable member 34 with numbers thereon may also be provided. The numbers at the right hand edge of the top scale 20 may likewise be placed on a slidable bar 35, and all of said slidable members may be provided with screw or other means for shifting said letters or numbers to other lines of the scales whereby their readings may be completely altered as will be understood.

Having thus described my invention, it being understood that minor changes may be resorted to in its construction and arrangement without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:—

1. A check detector having in combination a top base member with a recess therein, a block member slidably disposed in said recess, said block member having a tabulated system of numbers and letters with a system of perforations therefor, a scale on said top for setting the block member, said block member having a slot intersecting all of its aforesaid perforations and adapted to receive a check, a longitudinal check edge scale on said top extending transversely across said recess and block member for setting the top edge of the check, an end edge scale for setting the end edge of the check, and a punch pin adapted to be inserted in the aforesaid perforations for punching holes through the check at the numbers on the block member to correspond with the amount for which the check is written.

2. A check detector having in combination a top base member with a recess therein, a block member slidably disposed in said recess, said block member having a system of numbers and letters with a system of perforations therefor, a scale on said top for the setting of the block member, means for adjustably setting said block member, said block member having a slot intersecting all of its aforesaid perforations and adapted to receive a check, a longitudinal check edge scale on said top extending transversely across said recess and block member for setting the top edge of the check, a slidable guide member for said scale, an end edge scale for setting the end edge of the check,

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