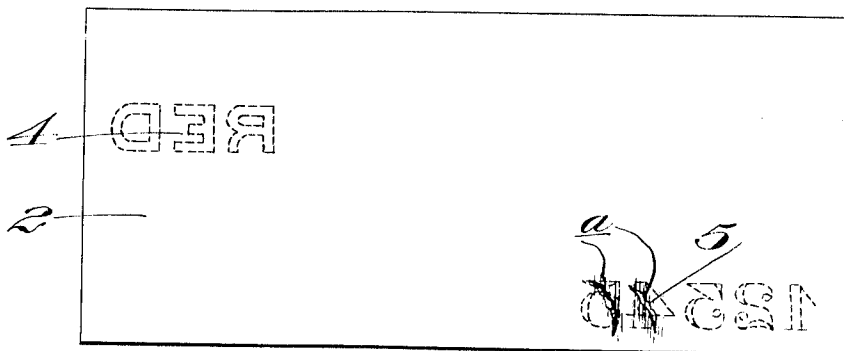
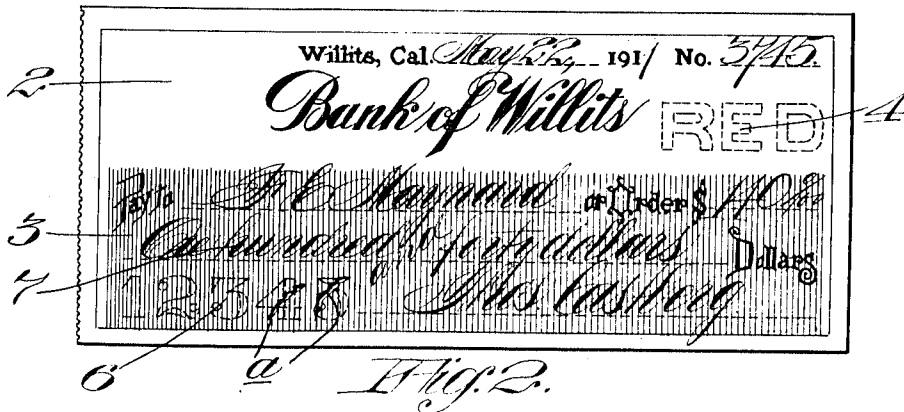
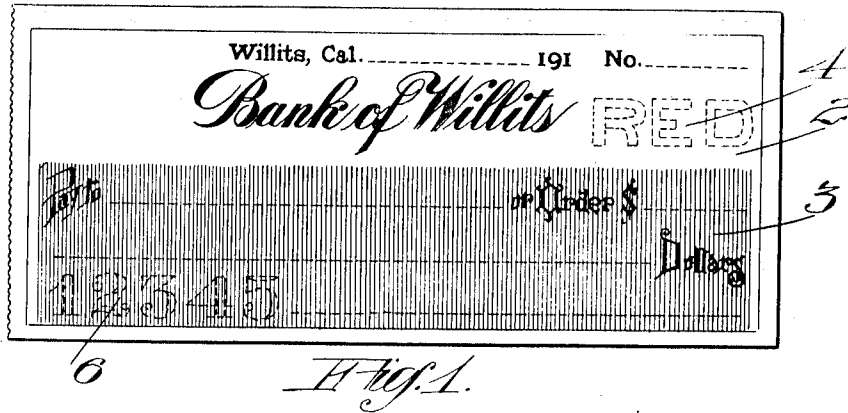


C. H. W. KOERNER.
 PROTECTED BLANK.
 APPLICATION FILED MAY 29, 1911.

1,048,708.

Patented Dec. 31, 1912.



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES H. W. KOERNER, OF SHERWOOD, CALIFORNIA.

PROTECTED BLANK.

1,048,708.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Dec. 31, 1912.

Application filed May 29, 1911. Serial No. 629,976.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES H. W. KOERNER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Sherwood, in the county of Mendocino and State of California, have invented new and useful Improvements in Protected Blanks, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to means for protecting documents against alterations.

The object of the present invention is to so prepare and treat blanks which may afterward be used for checks, drafts, notes, specifications, certificates, tickets, bill heads, and in fact all other stationery which it is desired to use for the formation of a record or contract, and which must be protected against alteration and change for the safety of the parties concerned; and particularly to provide a blank upon which records or other inscriptions may be made which will readily and clearly indicate the fact that an alteration or change has been attempted after the original document was filled out, and which blank may be manufactured very cheaply and in numerous designs, forms, and for any desired subject matter.

The invention, consists of the parts and the construction and combination of parts, as hereinafter more fully described and claimed, having reference to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view of an improved blank before any inscription has been made. Fig. 2 shows the blank filled out. Fig. 3 is a view of the rear or back of the check.

In practicing my invention I may use any appropriate material, such as paper, etc., of the desired size and form, determined by the nature of the record to be made upon the paper. While I have illustrated the invention as in the form of a check, it is understood that I may make and perfect blanks of great variety which it is desired to protect against alteration or change.

As a means for protecting the filled form against erasure or other treatment in an attempt at altering the face of the instrument, I coat either a part or the whole of one face of the blank 2 with a suitable material which is readily soluble, when moistened, with any fluid which may be used in the attempt to change the nature or denomination of the instrument.

The blank in Fig. 1 shows a portion 3 of

its surface as being coated with a coloring material, here indicated as red, and which covers that portion of the blank upon which may be written the name of the payee, the amount to be paid, and the payer. Manifestly the coloring used upon the different checks or instruments may be varied, but in order to prevent the removal and substitution on any blanks which have a colored portion, I indicate by suitable means upon the blank that it originally possessed a given color protector. A simple and practically indestructible means for indicating the given color of a blank is to "water-mark" the paper during its manufacture with a symbol, character, or word, as shown at 4, which forms a key to indicate the color of the soluble, protecting material covering, or upon, a part of the face of the document. In this way a large number of checks or other blanks may be manufactured, in which would be water-marked the word "red," "blue," "green," or in fact whatever color was to be placed originally upon the face of the instrument would be indicated by the water-marked word in the material of which the record sheet is manufactured.

Having thus provided a means for preventing the change of the coloring material upon the face of the instrument, it is desirable that provision should be made to indicate any attempt at alteration of the face of the instrument. This is accomplished in a very simple manner in the present instance. For instance, when the instrument is filled out, as indicated in Fig. 2, the blank may then be punctured, perforated, lacerated, or otherwise slightly mutilated, as at *a*, through the words or numbers which have been written or otherwise formed upon the face of the instrument. When these lacerations have been made in the colored portion of the filled-out instrument, any attempt to erase some of the writing on the face of the instrument, or any attempt to change the face of the instrument by moistening the writing will be indicated on the back of the sheet, as in Fig. 3, by the transference or flow of the soluble coloring material from the face of the instrument through the lines of mutilation and to the back, as indicated at 5. A further protection against alteration or change of the face of the instrument is procured by forming at some suitable place upon the blank, water-

marks, at 6, which may be symbols, characters or figures, as here shown, which represent columns of figures. The user of the blank, having properly filled out its face, may then puncture or sever the sheet through the characters or figures 6 to correspond, leaving unpunctured the figures to correspond with the number of columns that is contained in the figure he writes upon the blank. For instance, if a person draws a check for one hundred and forty dollars, which may be written as clearly shown in Fig. 2, upon the line provided, and also written in number form, as at 7, on the blank, he then counts the number of digits in the whole number, which in this instance equals three digits, and perforates or severs the material of the instrument through two of the characters or figures at 6, thus leaving three uninjured characters, indicating that there are three digits in the number which he originally inscribed upon the face of the instrument. This provision for the protection against alteration of the number, by reason of the limiting, or indicating that a certain number of digits was used in the original figure is very important, and a very simple means for protecting the instrument against alteration. In order to aid persons in filling out the blanks, I may use figures at 6 as 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, thus permitting this particular check to be drawn for a sum not exceeding five digits; then any number may be used having from one to five columns, and as many of the column-indicating characters at 6 may be indicated as will leave a number sufficient to designate how many columns were in the original number written or otherwise made upon the check. Hence it will be seen that my system and means for protecting instruments against alteration or change after they have been once properly filled out is very secure and simple, and requires no elaborate calculation or study, and may be rendered complete

by simply perforating the desired parts of the instruments with the finger-nail, penknife, nail or other handy device. If a larger amount for blanks should be desired, more figures, or as many more in the watermark, should be added as occasion requires. The color selected should be preferably different from the color of blank and these may be of any tint or color desired.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is—

1. A document having means for protecting it against alteration, said means comprising a soluble coloring material applied to the field designed to contain the written portion of the document and an inerasable key on the document defining the color of the material which the written portion of said document should bear to be genuine.

2. A document having means for protecting it against alteration, said means comprising a soluble coating on the field designed to contain the written portion of the document, said document having a permanent sign to indicate the color of the coating so applied and said document having a series of characters representing the number of the digits in the figure which may be placed upon the face of the document, the soluble coating and the characters representing said digits occupying a common field on the same face of the document, and certain of said characters designed to be canceled until a number of them remain equal to the number of digits in the figure.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CHARLES H. W. KOERNER.

Witnesses:

ZITA HASTINGS,

CHARLES EDELMAN.