F. C. RINSCHE.

CHECK TABLE AND KEYBOARD COVER FOR CALCULATING MACHINES AND THE LIKE.

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1,159,339. Patented Nov. 2, 1915.

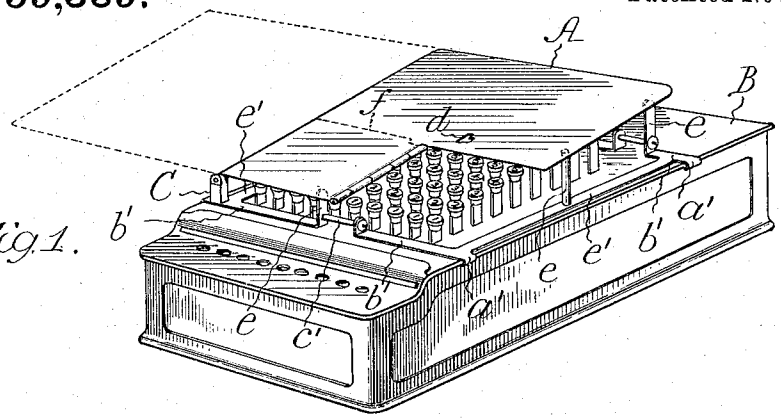


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2

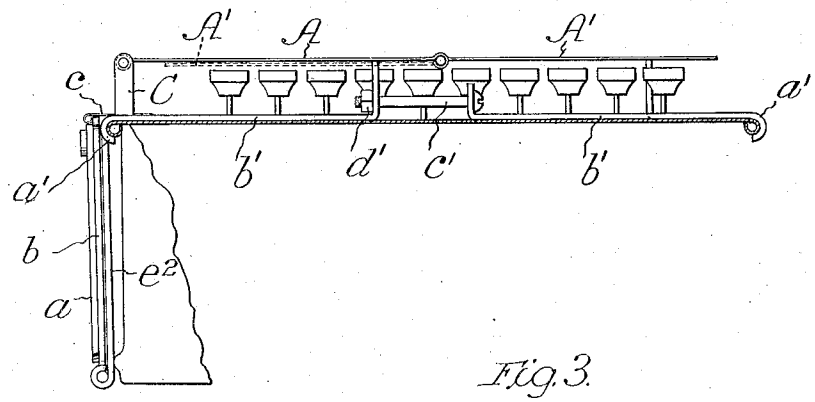


Fig. 3.

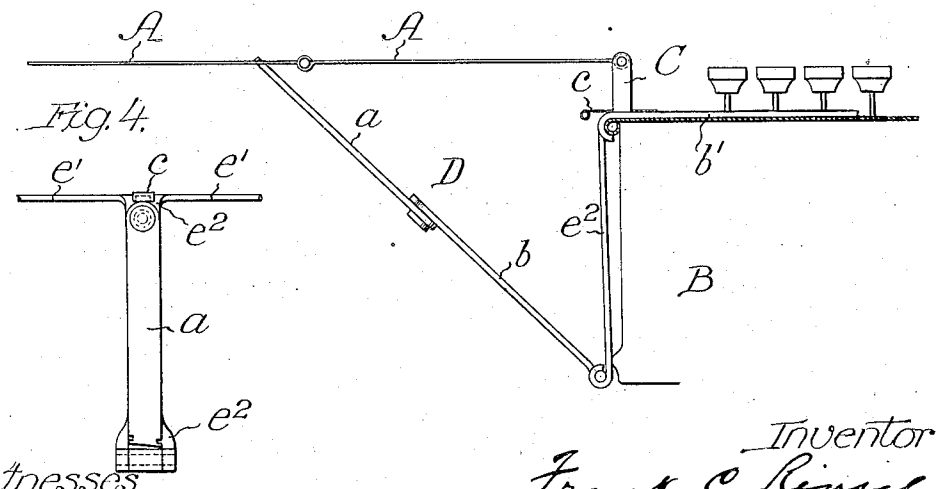


Fig. 4.

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CHECK-TABLE AND KEYBOARD-COVER FOR CALCULATING-MACHINES AND THE LIKE.

1,159,339. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Nov. 2, 1915.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK C. RINSCHE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Detroit, in the county of Wayne and State of Michigan, have invented a certain new and useful Check-Table and Keyboard-Cover for Calculating-Machines and the like, of which the following is a description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification.

My invention has for its object the provision of a convertible check-table and keyboard-cover which in one position may be used as a convenient support or table upon which to place checks, sales-slips and the like which are being added upon the machine, and which in another position serves as a cover and protection for the keyboard of the machine and prevents the accumulation of dust and dirt thereon when the machine is not in use.

A further and subordinate feature of the invention, but one of considerable importance and advantage, consists in the provision of a hinged section of the check-table and cover which may be folded back upon or beneath the latter when it is otherwise in position to cover the keyboard, for the purpose of exposing for operation a part only of the keys of the machine, leaving the remainder of the cover to serve at one and the same time both as a check-table and support and as a cover for the remainder of the keys; all as hereinafter more fully explained and particularly pointed out in my claims.

In the accompanying drawings Figure 1 is a perspective view of a calculating machine equipped with my invention, the check-table and cover being shown in full lines in the position occupied by it when it is being used both as a check-table and as a partial cover for the keyboard, and in dotted lines in the position occupied by it when being used solely as a check-table or support; Fig. 2 is a front elevation, partly in section, of the parts shown in Fig. 1; Fig. 3 a similar view with the check-table and cover in the position occupied by it when serving solely as a check-table or support; and Fig. 4 a side elevation of the hinged supporting arm for the check-table in folded position against the side of the machine.

The same letters of reference are used to indicate corresponding parts in the several views.

The combined check-table and keyboard-cover A is hinged at its lefthand edge to supports upon the frame or casing of the calculating machine B, in the present instance to a post C near the lefthand forward corner of the machine and to a similar but higher post at the rearward lefthand corner of the check-table, the latter post being hidden from view by the table itself in Fig. 1 of the drawings. The check-table and keyboard-cover A may, in its simplest form, consist of a single plate of thin sheet metal of sufficient size and proper shape to fit over and cover the keyboard when swung to righthand horizontal position, and to form a check-table or support at the left of the machine, for checks, sales-slips and the like when swung to lefthand horizontal position, in which latter position it may be supported by means of a hinged bracket or supporting arm D, as shown in Fig. 3. This supporting arm D is composed of two arms *a* and *b* hinged together at the middle of the support in such manner that the arm *a* may be swung around into line with and against the outer face of the arm *b*, when the support is not in use, and the two be swung upward against or adjacent the side of the machine and engaged by a spring-clip *c*, as shown in Figs. 2 and 4. When the support D is to be used it is swung outward and its part *a* is extended into the position shown in Fig. 3, in which position its outer end engages a notched opening *d* in the check-table A (best shown in Fig. 1) the extremity of the arm *a* being provided with notches in its opposite edges for engaging the opening *d* and supporting the table A in horizontal position. When the table A is not required for use the supporting arm D may be disengaged from it and the arm be folded up against the side of the machine and engaged by the clip *c*, and the table A be swung over into righthand horizontal position above the keyboard of the machine, in which position it will serve as a cover and protection for the keyboard and may rest and be supported upon posts *e e* projecting upward from the right side of the machine.

In the use of calculating machines of this

character expert operators frequently employ only the first five keys in each row, instead of the full nine, and where the items being added upon the machine are small in amount, as in the case of ordinary sales-slips, for instance, it is not usually necessary to employ more than four or five rows of keys. For the purpose of accommodating my combined check-table and keyboard-cover to the use of the machine under these conditions I have formed its forward righthand portion of a hinged section A′, instead of forming the entire table and cover of a single piece of sheet metal, and have so arranged this hinged section that it may be swung backward upon or beneath the portion of the table at the left of it, to expose only the keys which are required for use under the conditions mentioned. This permits all of the plate A excepting its hinged portion to be employed as a table and support for the sales-slips in convenient relation to the exposed keys, while at the same time serving as a cover and protection for the remaining keys. The hinged section A′ of the plate A is provided at its rear edge with a narrow projecting flange, indicated in dotted lines at *f* in Fig. 1, adapted to overlap the front edge of the main portion of the plate when the latter is swung outward into its lefthand position as in Fig. 3, such engagement of the flange *f* with the body of the plate serving to support the hinged section in position in the plane of the body of the plate when the latter is being used in such lefthand position. A third support *e* for the plate A, when the latter is in the position shown in Fig. 1, is provided beneath the forward righthand corner of the portion of the plate beneath which the hinged section is folded.

As will be understood from the foregoing, my invention provides a convertible check-table and keyboard-cover which may be used at one time exclusively as a check-table or support for checks, sales-slips and the like, and at another time exclusively as a keyboard-cover for the protection of the entire keyboard, and which may also be used when desired both as a cover for a portion of the keyboard, leaving certain of the keys exposed for operation, and as a table and support for sales-slips and the like in convenient relation to such exposed keys.

The supports for the check-table—both the hinge supports for its lefthand edge and the supports upon which its righthand edge rests—may be of any suitable character and may be secured to the frame or casing of the machine in any convenient way, but a further and subordinate feature of my invention consists in the means I have provided for detachably securing such supports to the casing of the machine. This means consists of clips *a′ a′* at the opposite sides of the machine, engaging the projecting bead or flange around the upper edge of the casing, and forming the outer extremities of inwardly-extending sheet metal strips or arms *b′ b′* resting upon the top of the casing. The inner ends of the strips *b′ b′* are upturned and connected by screw-bolts and nuts *c′ d′*, by means of which, after they have been applied to the machine, they may be drawn toward each other and the clips *a′ a′* at their outer ends be securely engaged with the flange or bead at the top of the casing. The two strips *b′ b′* at each side of the casing are connected by a strip *e′* extending longitudinally of the casing and resting upon the top thereof, the forward post *e* which supports the righthand edge of the check-table and cover A being secured to and projecting upward from the righthand strip *e′* about midway of its length, and the rear one of said posts *e* being formed by a vertical extension of the upturned inner end of the rear clip-strip *b′*. The forward post C at the lefthand side of the machine, to which the lefthand forward corner of the check-table is hinged, is carried by the clip-strip *b′* at that corner of the machine, and the rear post, to which the lefthand rear corner of the check-table A is hinged, is carried by the rear clip-strip *b′* at that side of the machine, or by the longitudinal strip *e′* connecting the two clip-strips. The longitudinal strip *e′* at the left side of the machine has formed integral with it a depending arm e^2 which extends downward to the bottom of the casing and at its lower end bears against the side thereof, this depending strip e^2 forming the hinge-support for the lower end of the arm D, Fig. 3. The spring clip *c* is secured to the strip *e′* above and in line with the depending arm e^2.

As will be understood from the foregoing I have provided a convenient means for attaching my convertible check-table and keyboard-cover to the casing of the machine, by means of which it may be readily attached to or detached from the machine, and which requires no special provision upon the machine itself or its casing for such attachment.

Having now thus fully described my invention, I claim:

1. A convertible check-table and keyboard-cover for calculating machines and the like, comprising a plate hinged upon a fixed axis at one side of the machine and adapted to be swung outward into horizontal position at the side of the machine, to serve as a support for checks, sales-slips and the like, and also adapted to be swung over into horizontal position above the keyboard of the machine, to serve as a cover and protection for the latter; substantially as described.

2. A convertible check-table and keyboard-support for calculating machines and the like, comprising a plate hinged at one side of the machine and adapted to be swung outward into horizontal position at the side of the machine, to serve as a table or support for checks, sales-slips and the like, and also adapted to be swung over into horizontal position above the keyboard of the machine, to serve as a cover and protection therefor, said check-table and keyboard-cover being provided with a hinged section adapted to be swung back into approximately the plane of the body of the table and cover, to expose a portion of the keyboard while leaving the remainder of it covered by the remainder of the cover and permitting the latter to serve as a table and support for sales-slips and the like in convenient relation to the exposed keys; substantially as described.

3. A convertible check-table and keyboard-cover for calculating machines and the like, comprising a plate hinged upon a fixed axis and adapted to be swung over the keyboard to serve as a cover and protection therefor and also to be swung outward at one side of the machine to serve as a table and support for checks, sales-slips and the like, and a hinge-support and attaching means for said plate by means of which it may be detachably secured in position upon a machine; substantially as described.

4. A convertible check-table and keyboard-cover for calculating machines and the like, comprising a hinged plate provided with a hinged section adapted to be swung backward upon the body of the plate to expose a portion of the keyboard while leaving the remainder thereof covered by the body of the plate and permitting the latter to serve as a table and support for sales-slips and the like in convenient relation to the exposed keys, and means for detachably securing said hinged plate in position upon a machine; substantially as described.

5. A convertible check-table and keyboard cover for calculating machines and the like, comprising a hinged plate adapted to be swung over the keyboard to serve as a cover and protection therefor and to be also swung outward at the side of the machine to serve as a table and support for checks, sales-slips and the like, and means for detachably securing such plate to a machine, such means comprising clips engaging the opposite sides of the machine and extending inwardly upon the top of the same and having their inner ends detachably connected together; substantially as described.

6. A convertible check-table and keyboard-cover for calculating machines and the like, comprising a hinged plate adapted to be swung over the keyboard to serve as a cover and protection therefor and also adapted to be swung outward at the side of the machine to serve as a table and support for checks, sales-slips and the like, and means for detachably securing such plate to a machine, said means consisting of clips engaging the opposite sides of the machine and extending inwardly upon the top thereof and having their inner ends detachably connected together, said clips at one side of the machine carrying hinge-posts for the hinged plate, and those at the opposite side of the machine carrying supporting-posts for the free edge of the hinged plate; substantially as described.

7. A convertible check-table and keyboard-cover for calculating machines and the like, comprising a hinged plate adapted to be swung over the keyboard to serve as a cover and protection therefor and to be swung outward at one side of the machine to serve as a table and support for checks, sales-slips and the like, means for detachably securing said hinged plate in position upon a machine, and a hinged support carried by such attaching means for supporting the check-table in position at the side of the machine; substantially as described.

8. In an attachment of the character described for calculating machines and including a hinged keyboard-cover and check-table adapted to be swung to opposite horizontal positions and also including securing means for detachably securing said hinged plate in working position, a folding hinged support carried by said securing means at one side of the machine, and retaining means carried by said securing means for holding said hinged support in folded position at the side of the machine.

9. A convertible check-table and keyboard-cover for calculating machines and the like consisting of the plate A hinged at one side of the machine and adapted to be swung over the keyboard to serve as a cover and protection therefor and to be also swung outward at the side of the machine to serve as a table and support for checks, sales-slips and the like, and means for supporting the free edge of said hinged table and cover in each of its opposite positions; substantially as described.

10. A convertible check-table and keyboard-cover for calculating machines and the like, consisting of the plate A hinged at one side of the machine and itself provided with the hinged section A′ adapted to be folded back upon the body of the plate, whereby said plate and its hinged section may be swung outward at the side of the machine to serve as a table and support for checks, sales-slips and the like, and whereby they may be also swung over the keyboard of the machine to serve either as a cover and protection for the entire keyboard, or may leave a portion of the keyboard exposed for use while the remainder of the cover serves

as a table and support for sales-slips and the like in convenient relation to the exposed keys; substantially as described.

11. A convertible check-table and keyboard-cover for calculating machines and the like, consisting of the hinged plate A adapted to be swung over the keyboard to serve as a cover and protection therefor and to be also swung outward at the side of the machine to serve as a table and support for checks, sales-slips and the like, rigid supports for the free edge of said plate at one side of the machine, and a hinged support at the opposite side of the machine for supporting said plate in position for use as a check-table, such hinged support being adapted to be folded up against the side of the machine when not in use; substantially as described.

12. The combination, with a calculating machine or the like provided with a projecting flange or bead around its upper edge, of the clips a' b' engaging such flange or bead at the opposite sides of the machine and having their inner ends detachably connected together, hinge-posts carried by said clips at one side of the machine, the plate A hinged to said posts, and the supports for the free edge of said plate carried by the clips at the opposite side of the machine; substantially as described.

13. The combination, with a calculating machine or the like, having a projecting flange or bead around its upper edge, of the clips a' b' engaging said flange or bead at the opposite sides of the machine and having their inner ends detachably connected together, hinge-posts carried by said clips at one side of the machine, the hinge plate A hinged to said posts and provided with the hinged section A', the supports e, e carried by the clips at the opposite side of the machine for the free edge of the plate A, the support e carried by one of the clips at the front of the machine for supporting the front edge of the plate when its hinged section is turned back to expose a portion of the keyboard, and a support carried by the machine for supporting the check-table in position at the side thereof; substantially as described.

14. A convertible check-table and keyboard-cover for calculating machines and the like, consisting of the plate A hinged upon a fixed axis at one side of the machine adapted to be swung outward into horizontal position at the side of the machine to serve as a support for checks, sales slips and the like, and also to be swung over into a horizontal position above the keyboard of the machine to serve as a cover and protection for the latter, said plate being provided with the notched opening d, in combination with the hinged support D shaped at its outer end to coöperate with the opening d in the plate A and support the latter in position for use as a check-table; substantially as described.

15. The combination of the clips a' b' provided with means for detachably connecting their inner ends, the hinge-posts carried by one set of clips, the plate A hinged to said posts, and the supports for the free edge of said plate carried by the opposite set of clips; substantially as and for the purpose described.

16. The combination of the clips a' b' provided with means for detachably connecting their inner ends together in pairs and the clips of the opposite pairs being also connected together by the strips e', the hinge-posts carried by one set of clips, the plate A hinged to said posts, the depending arm e^2 carried by the strip e' connecting the clips which carry the hinge-posts, the hinged support D for the plate A carried by the arm e^2, and the supports e, e carried by the opposite clips and their connecting strip e'; substantially as and for the purpose described.

17. The combination of the clips a' b' provided with means for detachably connecting their inner ends together in pairs and the clips of the opposite pairs being also connected together by the strips e', the hinge-posts carried by one set of clips, the plate A hinged to said posts, the depending arm e^2 carried by the strip e' connecting the clips which carry the hinge-posts, the hinged support D for the plate A carried by the arm e^2, said hinged support D being adapted to be folded upon itself and swung inward against the depending arm e^2, the spring clip c for engaging the folded support D and holding it in such position, and the supports e carried by the opposite clips and their connecting strip e' for supporting the free edge of the plate A; substantially as and for the purpose described.

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Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."