

F. P. DUNN.
 STAMP VENDING MACHINE.
 APPLICATION FILED DEC. 15, 1910.

1,158,905.

Patented Nov. 2, 1915.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

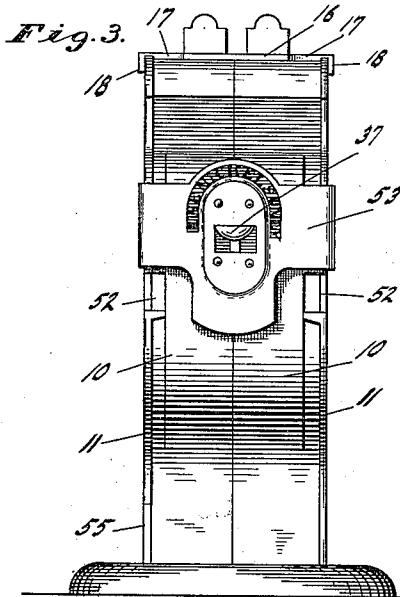
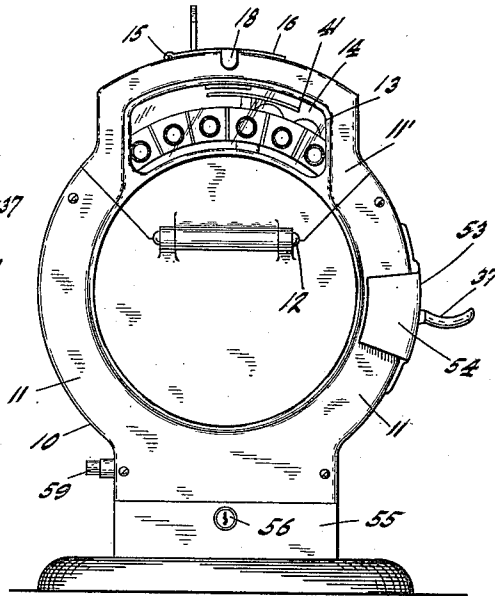
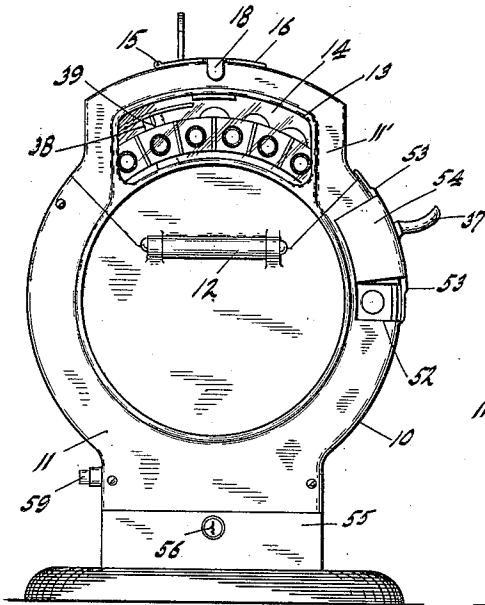
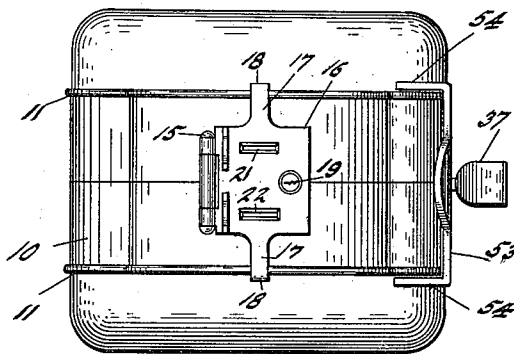


Fig. 4.



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 3 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 6.

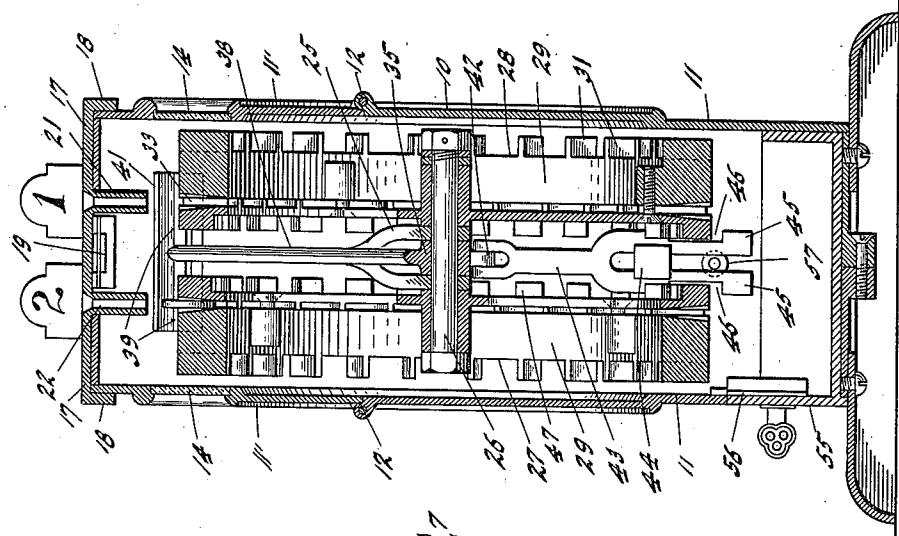
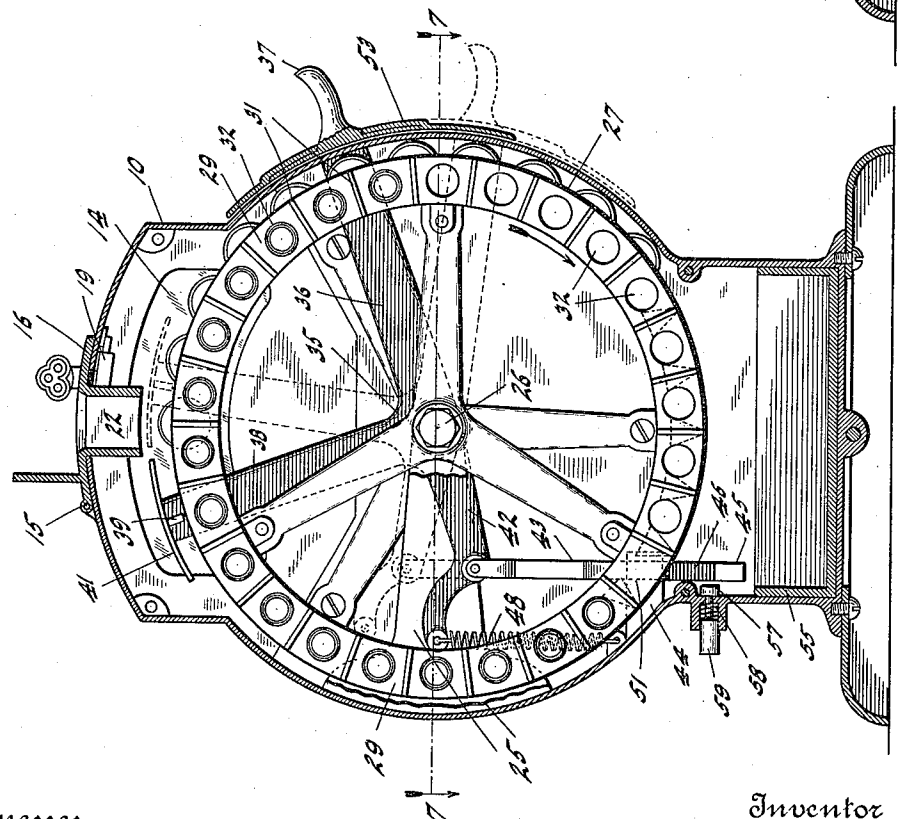


Fig. 5.



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3 SHEETS—SHEET 3.

Fig. 7.

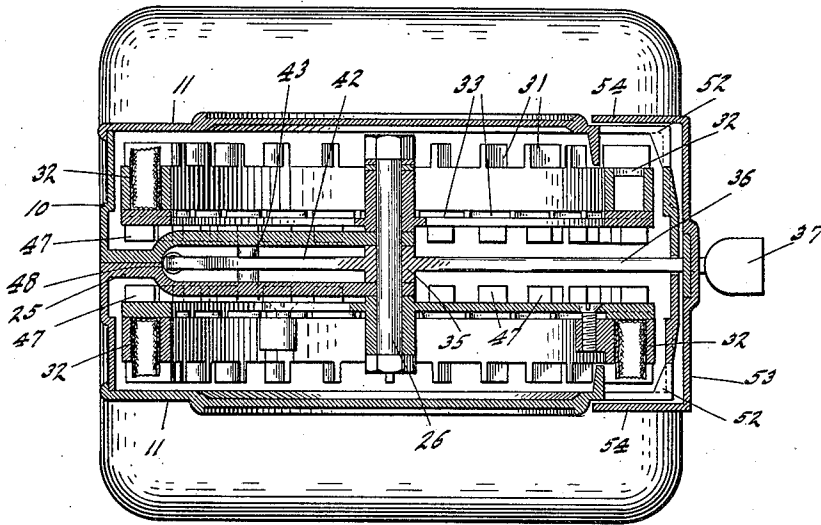


Fig. 8.

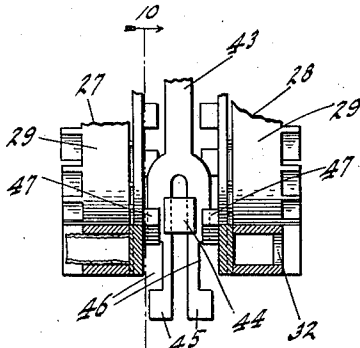


Fig. 9.

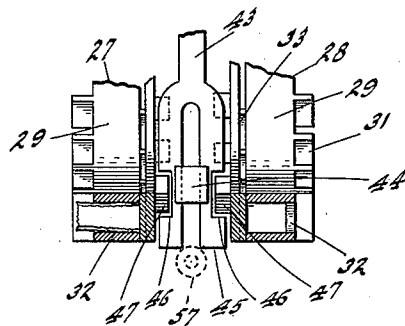


Fig. 10.

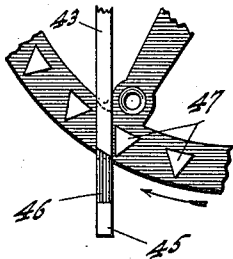
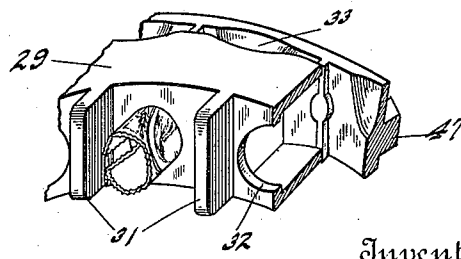


Fig. 11.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK P. DUNN, OF ANDERSON, INDIANA, ASSIGNOR, BY MESNE ASSIGNMENTS, OF ONE-THIRD TO ALFRED L. REED, OF ANDERSON, INDIANA.

STAMP-VENDING MACHINE.

1,158,905.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Nov. 2, 1915.

Application filed December 15, 1910. Serial No. 597,477.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK P. DUNN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Anderson, in the county of Madison and State of Indiana, have invented a new and useful Stamp-Vending Machine, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention is to produce a neat and efficient mechanism for the automatic vending of postage stamps, the apparatus being such that it can be readily placed upon a counter where it can be conveniently observed from time to time by the clerk whose services are not needed in connection with the machine, except for occasionally loading the same. The arrangement is also such that the stamps are bent and, by their own resilience, held in place without possibility of accidental displacement during operation, yet in such condition that they can be readily withdrawn without possibility of injury.

The accompanying drawings illustrate my invention.

Figure 1 is a side elevation showing the parts in the positions occupied immediately after the insertion of a proper coin; Fig. 2 a similar view showing the positions of the parts when actuated after insertion of the coin; Fig. 3 a front elevation with the parts in position shown in Fig. 1; Fig. 4 a plan; Fig. 5 a transverse section, on a larger scale, just inside the casing; Fig. 6 an axial section; Fig. 7 a section on line 7—7 of Fig. 5; Figs. 8 and 9 details of the lock; Fig. 10 a section on line 10—10 of Fig. 8, and Fig. 11 a fragmentary perspective showing the manner of mounting the stamps in the carrier.

In the drawings, 10 indicates a suitable inclosing casing formed by two mating sections, each having an open side closed by a removable cover plate 11. Each of these cover plates is preferably formed in part by an upper hinged portion 11', connected to the main body of the plate by a horizontal hinge 12, and the portion 11' is provided with a sight opening 13 closed by a glass panel 14.

Hinged at 15, on top of the main casing 10, is a locking plate 16 provided with a pair of oppositely extending arms 17, each of which is provided with a downturned finger 18 arranged to overlap the upper edge of the adjacent door 11' so as to

normally hold the door in place. The plate 16 is provided with suitable lock 19 adapted to engage the main body of the casing to hold the plate in place. Plate 16 is provided with two coin chutes 21 and 22 which lead into the interior of the casing 10.

Secured to the inside of the casing 10 is a bracket 25 which, at its inner end, lies at the middle of the casing and carries a stud shaft 26 on the opposite ends of which are independently journaled the two stamp carrying wheels 27 and 28. Each of these wheels comprises a ring 29, which, upon its outer face, carries a plurality of radial ribs 31. In the ring 29 between each pair of ribs 31, I form a cylindrical stamp receiving pocket 32. Each wheel 27 and 28 also carries in its circumference as many spaced coin receiving pockets 33 as there are stamp pockets 32, and each coin pocket, in the present instance, is of such form as to receive and retain a five-cent piece in such position that it will project beyond the circumference of the wheel, as clearly shown in Fig. 5.

Pivoted upon shaft 26 between the two stamp carrying wheels, is an operating lever 35, the arm 36 of which is projected through a suitable opening formed in casing 10 and provided at its outer end with a finger piece 37. Another arm 38 of lever 35 is projected up between the two stamp carrying wheels and at its outer end is provided with a pair of oppositely projecting fingers 39, 39 which overlie the circumferences of the two stamp wheels and project across the planes of the coin receiving pockets 33. Arranged over the fingers 39 is a guard 41, the purpose of which will appear. Another arm 42 of lever 35 carries a depending locking bar 43, the lower end of which is slidably mounted in a suitable guide 44 arranged between the two stamp carrying wheels. Locking bar 43 is bifurcated at its lower end so as to form a pair of fingers 45, 45 each of which is provided in its outer edge with a notch 46.

Each of the stamp wheels on its inner face, is provided with a plurality of wedge-shaped locking blocks 47, there being as many blocks as there are stamp receiving pockets.

A spring 48 having one end connected to arm 42 of lever 35 and the other end connected to the casing 10, serves to normally keep the lever in the position shown in full lines in Fig. 5.

Each of the stamp carrying wheels is provided with one space 51, (see Fig. 5) between two of the ribs 31, which has no stamp receiving pocket.

5 Casing 10 is provided at each side with a delivery opening 52 which is approximately the size of the space between any two ribs 31 and the tips of these ribs 31 come close enough to the inner face of the casing, adjacent the delivery opening 52, to prevent the insertion of any implement past a rib in such way as to improperly extract a stamp from the adjacent pocket not immediately opposite the delivery opening.

15 Arm 36 of lever 35 carries a guard plate 53 which completely guards the slot through which the lever is projected, in all of its possible positions, and the guard plate 53 carries a pair of overlapping portions 54 which guard the openings 52 during the operation of the lever 35.

Mounted in the lower part of casing 10 beneath the stamp carrying wheels in position to receive the coins therefrom, is a cash drawer 55 held in place by a suitable lock 56.

25 Arranged adjacent the lower end of the lock bar 43 is a retainer 57 which is normally held in the position shown in Fig. 5 by spring 58, said retainer having a head 59 which is readily accessible from the exterior of the casing.

Each stamp pocket 32 is of such size that from two to four or five stamps may be rolled into a small tube and inserted into the 35 pocket, the resilience of the rolled stamps being sufficient to hold them in place against accidental displacement yet not interfering with their free withdrawal.

The operation is as follows: In order to 40 load the machine, the owner will withdraw lock 19 and swing plate 16 up so as to free the two doors 11' whereupon said doors may be swung down so as to give convenient access to both of the stamp carrying wheels.

45 Arm 36 of lever 35 may be then thrown down to an intermediate position where the notches 46 lie in the paths of travel of the locking blocks 47, whereupon retainer 59 may be pushed in below the lower end of the locking bar, the spring 47 being of sufficient strength to hold the locking bar down on the retaining pin hard enough to prevent spring 58 from withdrawing the pin. In this position of parts the two stamp carrying 55 wheels will be free for rotation in either direction and the owner will roll successive groups of stamps into short tubes and insert them into the several pockets 32 until all the pockets are filled. If two-cent 60 stamps are to be vended, two stamps will be placed in each pocket with the intention of selling them for five cents. In dispensing one-cent stamps, four stamps will be placed in each pocket. When the wheels have been 65 properly loaded the blank space 51 of each

wheel will be brought opposite the adjacent delivery opening 52; retaining pin 57 retracted so as to permit lever 35 to assume its normal position; doors 11' closed, and the locking plate 16 locked in place. With 70 the parts in these positions neither wheel can be turned in either direction because the locking bar lies between the wedge shaped blocks 47 of the wheels. Lever 35 may be freely reciprocated but it will not actuate 75 either of the stamp carrying wheels; the guards 54 will pass entirely over the delivery openings 52 before the locking bar is brought to a position where its notches 46 lie entirely opposite the locking blocks of 80 the wheels, and at the same time the guard 41 will lie between the inner ends of the coin chutes and the wheels, thus preventing any improper manipulation of the stamp carrying wheels from the exterior. If too small a 85 coin is inserted in the coin slot, it will drop through the coin pocket 33 which is immediately beneath it, but if a proper coin, say a five-cent piece, is dropped in place, it will lie in the pocket so as to project a short 90 distance above the circumference of the stamp slot into which it has dropped and lie in the path of movement of the corresponding finger 39, so that, when lever 35 is operated, the finger 39 will be brought into en- 95 gagement with the inserted coin at just the time when notch 46 comes opposite the locking blocks 47 so that the wheel will be propelled by the action of the finger 39 upon the inserted coin. The locking blocks are 100 wedge-shaped so that, while one of these blocks is moved through the notch 46 the lower portion of the locking bar may pass up between that block and the next one, and thus prevent any overthrowing of the wheel 105 no matter how hard the lever 35 may be thrown down by the person operating the machine.

When the operating member is released, the guards 54 are turned up away from the 110 delivery openings 52 and the stamps which have been presented by the forward movement of the stamp wheel may be readily extracted. It will be understood, of course, that only that stamp carrying wheel into 115 which a coin has been dropped will be moved by the actuation of lever 35 and that, if two coins be simultaneously dropped one into each wheel, the two wheels will be simultaneously driven forward. 120

I claim as my invention:

1. In a stamp vending machine, the combination with an inclosing casing having a delivery opening, of a stamp-carrying wheel 125 journaled in the casing and provided with a multiplicity of cylindrical stamp pockets arranged to traverse the delivery opening, an operating lever, a plurality of locking blocks associated with the stamp-carrying wheel, and a notched locking bar associated 130

with the operating lever and the locking blocks for locking the stamp-carrying wheel against rotation when the operating lever is at either end of its stroke.

5 2. In a stamp vending machine, the combination with an inclosing casing having a delivery opening, of a stamp-carrying wheel journaled in the casing, an operating lever, a plurality of locking blocks associated with
10 the stamp-carrying wheel, and a notched locking bar associated with the operating lever and the locking blocks for locking the stamp-carrying wheel against rotation when the operating lever is at either end of its
15 stroke.

3. In a stamp vending machine, the combination with an inclosing casing having a delivery opening, of a stamp-carrying wheel journaled in the casing and provided with a
20 multiplicity of stamp pockets arranged to traverse the delivery opening, an operating lever, a plurality of locking blocks associated with the stamp-carrying wheel, and a notched locking bar associated with the op-
25 erating lever and the locking blocks for locking the stamp-carrying wheel against rotation when the operating lever is at either end of its stroke, said locking bar being distinct from the operating means for the
30 stamp-carrying wheel.

4. In a stamp vending machine, the combination with an inclosing casing having a delivery opening, of a stamp-carrying wheel journaled in the casing and provided with
35 a multiplicity of cylindrical stamp pockets

arranged to traverse the delivery opening, said pockets being of proper size to receive stamps in roll form so that they will be held in place by their own resilience, an operating lever, a plurality of locking blocks asso- 40
ciated with the stamp-carrying wheel, a notched locking bar associated with the operating lever and the locking blocks for locking the stamp-carrying wheel against rota- 45
tion when the operating lever is at either end of its stroke, and a guard associated with the operating lever for covering the delivery opening during movement of the stamp-carrying wheel.

5. In a stamp vending machine, the combination with an inclosing casing having a delivery opening, of a stamp-carrying wheel journaled in the casing, an operating lever, a plurality of locking blocks associated with
50 the stamp-carrying wheel, a notched locking bar associated with the operating lever and the locking blocks for locking the stamp-carrying wheel against rotation when the operating lever is at either end of its stroke, and a guard associated with the operating
60 lever for covering the delivery opening during movement of the stamp-carrying wheel.

In witness whereof, I, have hereunto set my hand and seal at Anderson, Indiana, this twelfth day of December, A. D. one thou- 65
sand nine hundred and ten.

FRANK P. DUNN. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

EMORY W. CLIFFORD,

EDITH M. WILLIAMSON.

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