The invention relates to gripping devices for gripping a plurality of registering edges of typewritten sheets for holding the sheets so the operator can pull upwardly on the plurality of carbon sheets for removing the carbon sheets from the typewritten sheets, and in some cases tearing the typewritten sheets along perforations.

A further object is to mount the device on the forward side of the keyboard frame and anchor the ends of the device to opposite sides of the keyboard frame.

A further object is to provide opposite ends of the gripping device with outwardly extending ears, in which ears are rockingly mounted the ends of an eccentrically mounted gripping roller for gripping the edge of the manifold against a clamping plate, and to provide the lower end of the clamping plate with an outwardly extending flange below the roller for limiting downward movement of the manifold edge when placed between the gripping roller and the plate.

With the above and other objects in view the invention resides in the combination and arrangement of parts as hereinafter set forth, shown in the drawing, described and claimed, it being understood that changes in the precise embodiment of the invention may be made within the scope of what is claimed without departing from the spirit of the invention.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a conventional form of typewriter keyboard and keyboard frame, showing the device applied.

Figure 2 is a detail perspective view of one end of the device, parts being broken away to better show the structure.

Figure 3 is a vertical transverse sectional view taken on line 3-3 of Figure 1, and showing a manifold gripped.

Referring to the drawing, the numeral 1 designates a conventional form of keyboard of a typewriter, disposed within a keyboard frame 2. The frame 2 comprises a front rail 3, and side rails 4. The upper edges of the side rails 4 incline upwardly and rearwardly in the usual manner. The gripping device is supported forwardly of the front rail 3 and is attached to the side rails 4 by means of inverted U-shaped brackets 5, and held in position by set screw 6. Side brackets 5 are provided with outwardly extending arms 7, which arms are connected together by a transverse stationary clamp bar 8, the upper end of which inclines inwardly as shown at 9, so that the lower end 10 of the manifold 11 can be guided to a position on the limit flange 12, as shown in Figure 3. Arms 7 terminate in outwardly extending lugs 13, which lugs support the rotatable clamping roller 14. Clamping roller 14 has its pinions 15 eccentrically disposed and rotatable in bearings of the lugs 13. Pinions 15 are positioned whereby the handle member 16 will be in the dotted line position, shown in Figure 3 and with the periphery of the roller engaging the flange 12, when there is a declutching operation. Upon upward movement of the handle 16 the eccentrically mounted roller 14 will grip the lower manifold portion 16 throughout its length, and then the operator grasps the carbon sheet ends and jerks upwardly thereon. This will separate the lower ends of the manifold typed sheets 17 and carbon sheets, hence the typed sheets and carbon sheets are separated in the usual manner. Although a three sheet manifold is shown it is to be understood that applicant does not limit himself to any particular type of manifold or number of sheets.

When the handle member 16 is in the lowered position as shown in Figure 3, there is no danger of the manifold passing between the flange 12 and the gripping roller 14, therefore there is a quick separating of the carbons from the sheets.

From the above it will be seen that a manifold holding device is provided which is simple in construction, positive in its action, and one which may be easily and quickly attached to a conventional form of typewriter without modifying the construction of the typewriter.

The invention having been set forth which is claimed as new and useful is:

1. The combination with a typewriter keyboard frame, said frame comprising a front bar and side bars, of a manifold gripping device carried by said frame, said manifold gripping device comprising a gripping bar to the outside of the frame front bar, the ends of said gripping bar having arms extending rearwardly toward said frame, said rearwardly extending arms being anchored to the frame, the outer ends of said rearwardly extending arms having ears to the outside of the gripping bar, and an eccentrically mounted gripping roller carried by said ears and positioned whereby a manifold edge will be gripped between the roller and gripping bar upon a partial rotation of the roller.

2. A device as set forth in claim 1 wherein the rearwardly extending arms engage the outer sides of the side bars of the keyboard frame and are provided with inverted U-shaped portions arching the upper edges of the side bars of the keyboard frame.
3. A device as set forth in claim 1 wherein the lower edge of the gripping bar is provided with an outwardly extending manifold stop flange below the eccentrically mounted gripping roller.

4. A device as set forth in claim 1 wherein the upper longitudinal portion of the gripping bar is inclined upwardly and inwardly above the roller.

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