March 10, 1931. P. S. SHIELD 1,795,739

TOKEN FOR CHECK CONTROLLED APPARATUS

Filed Feb. 9, 1929

Fig. 1.

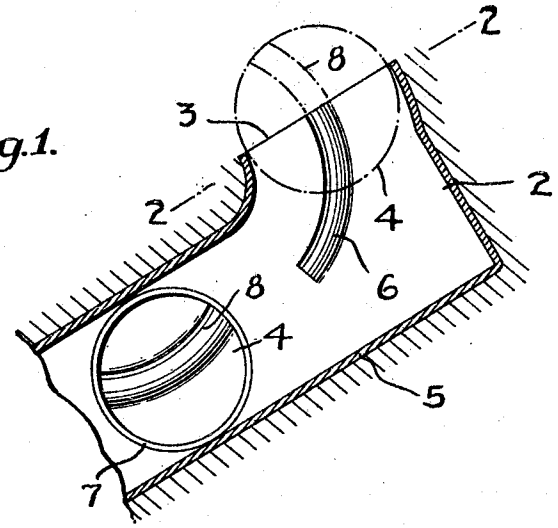


Fig. 2.

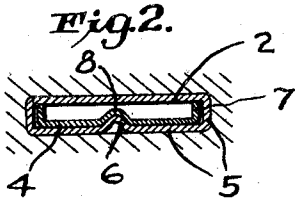


Fig. 3.

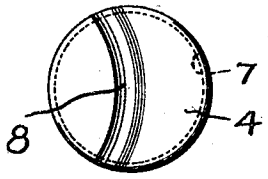
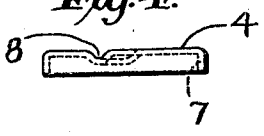


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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TOKEN FOR CHECK-CONTROLLED APPARATUS

Application filed February 9, 1929. Serial No. 338,732.

This invention relates to slot machines or check-controlled apparatus and to tokens for use therein.

For vending commodities the price of which fluctuates, for example gasoline, by or with the aid of such apparatus, the use of coins is unsatisfactory or at least involves considerable complication.

The object of the present invention is to provide in a simple and advantageous way for the control of such apparatus by tokens, which can be sold in suitable quantities and at suitable prices to intending purchasers.

The object is, further, to provide a token so formed that only a proper token can be introduced into the apparatus.

A further object is to provide a token which it is practically impossible to counterfeit by home manufacture.

A further object is to provide such a token which is adapted to be made accurately and cheaply by stamping or pressing from thin material.

A further object is to provide a circular token made inexpensively from light material, which is adapted to serve as a connector in edgewise position between relatively movable parts, and which will properly enter the recesses in such members without special presentation.

According to the invention, the token is made with a formation, specifically a groove, extending in a circular arc across its face, to fit a corresponding formation, specifically a ridge, in the token slot. The token slot has an entrance in such relation that the token, inserted edgewise, must change its course or turn a corner, and the ridge or equivalent formation extends inwardly in a circular arc from the entrance. No token or counterfeit can be inserted into or passed through the slot which does not have a groove, or equivalent formation, of precisely the proper radius of curvature, location, width, depth and/or slope of sides, to slide on the ridge into the main portion of the token slot. The duplication by hand manufacture of a token thus safeguarded is practically impossible.

In the accompanying drawings forming part hereof:

Fig. 1 is a section through the token slot taken in a plane parallel with its wide dimension, a token which has been introduced into the apparatus being shown in full lines, and broken lines being employed to illustrate the manner in which a token enters the slot;

Fig. 2 is a cross-section through the entrance to the token slot, with a token therein;

Fig. 3 is a face view of the token; and

Fig. 4 is an edge view of the token.

The token slot 2 has a slotted entrance 3 in angular relation to the main or inner portion of the slot, so that the token 4, inserted edgewise into the entrance, is compelled to change its course in order to pass into and through the inner portion of the slot. The coin slot may be formed by or in a massive enclosing part or parts or walls, but its walls 5, or a portion of them, are preferably made of sheet metal.

One of the broad, parallel walls of the slot is formed or provided with a ridge 6 which extends inward from the entrance for a suitable distance. This ridge is curved lengthwise on a circular arc so disposed as to direct the token into the inner part of the slot. By making the slot enclosure, or the slot wall which carries this ridge, of sheet metal, the ridge can be accurately formed by stamping or pressing.

The coin slot and its entrance are preferably so disposed that the token enters and passes through the slot by gravity.

The token 4 is advantageously made from sheet metal by stamping or pressing operation, which provides it with a continuous down-turned circumferential flange 7, giving the token adequate effective thickness and rendering it highly resistant to subsequent deformation, and with a curved groove 8 which extends across the face of the token. This groove 8 and the ridge 6 have the same radius of curvature, and for maximum security should be of similar width, depth and cross-section, with sufficient allowance for clearance so that the token can slide with the proper degree of freedom on the ridge. The groove 8 forms a corrugation in the metal of the disc, further stiffening it.

The continuous circular wall flange 7 affords adequate width of thrust surface for engagement with the formations of members to be connected by the check, and insures that the check will be properly engaged as it rolls naturally from the chute into the pockets of such members.

It will be evident that only a token having precisely the correct groove, of precisely the same curvature as the ridge, can be inserted into the slot.

The invention adapts itself to the vending of different qualities and different amounts of gasoline or other merchandise from or with different apparatus. Thus, tokens to be used in different apparatus can be formed with grooves of different radius of curvature, or even with a plurality of grooves, the slots of the machines in which these tokens are to be used being provided with ridges of corresponding curvature or number. In this way, a token intended for one machine or apparatus can be used in that apparatus only, even though the sizes of the tokens and of the slots may be otherwise the same.

The tokens can be accurately sized by grinding if necessary or desired. In this connection, the edge of the flange 7 lends itself readily to sizing for effective thickness.

It will be understood that the term "token slot" used herein implies and includes the necessary walls, casting or physical part or parts which form the boundaries of the slot.

I claim:

1. A token for slot machines comprising a metal disc having a circular flange turned down around its circumference, and a formation extending in a circular arc across its face.

2. A token for slot machines comprising a metal disc having a circular flange turned down around its circumference, and a corrugation forming a groove extending in a circular arc across its face.

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