

July 22, 1941.

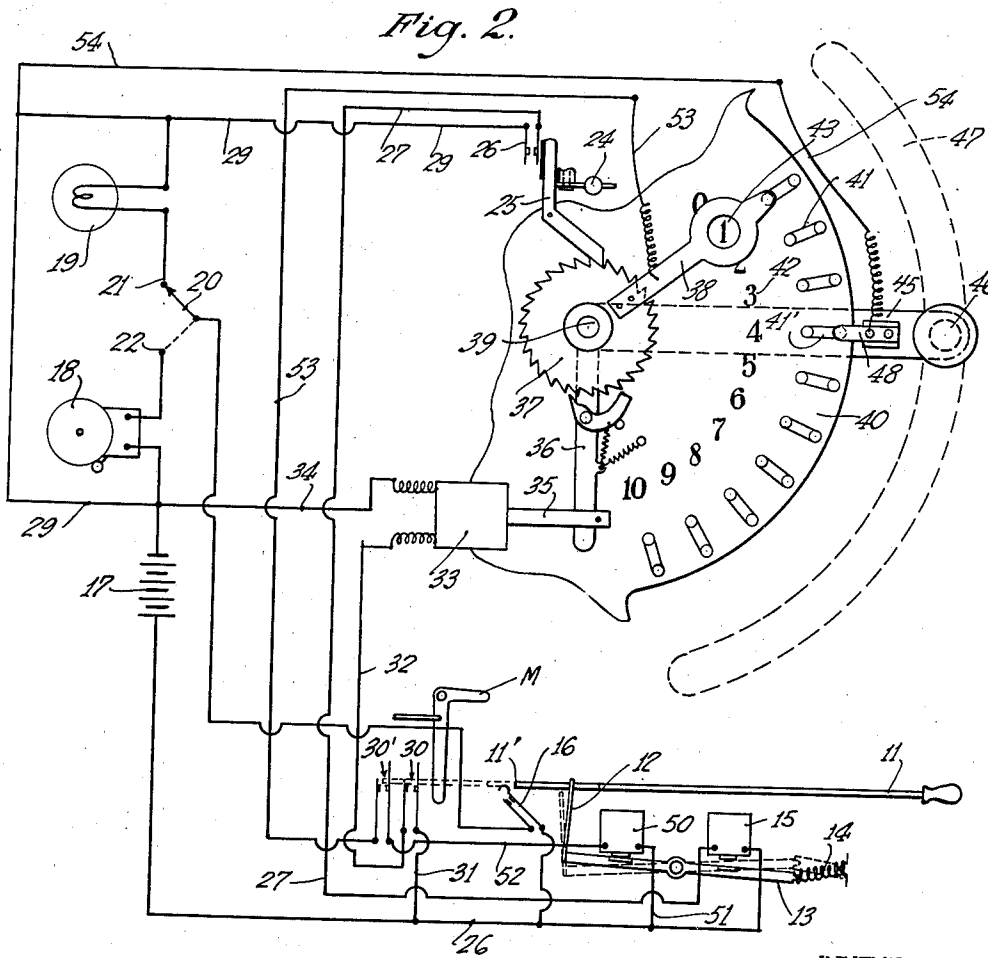
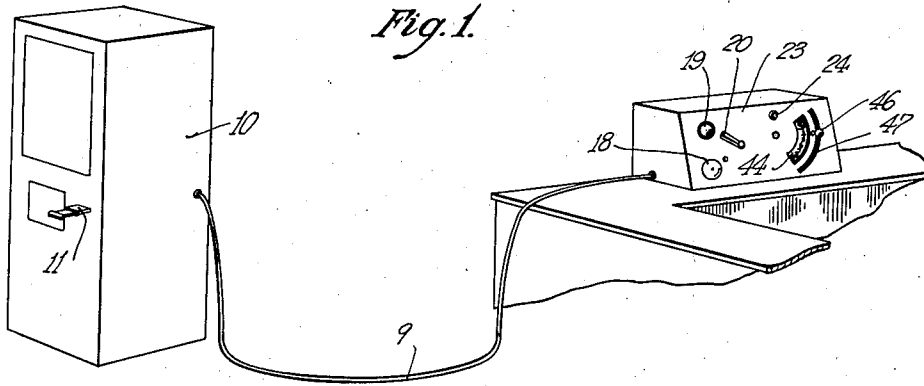
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2,249,805

AMUSEMENT APPARATUS CONTROL

Filed Oct. 4, 1937

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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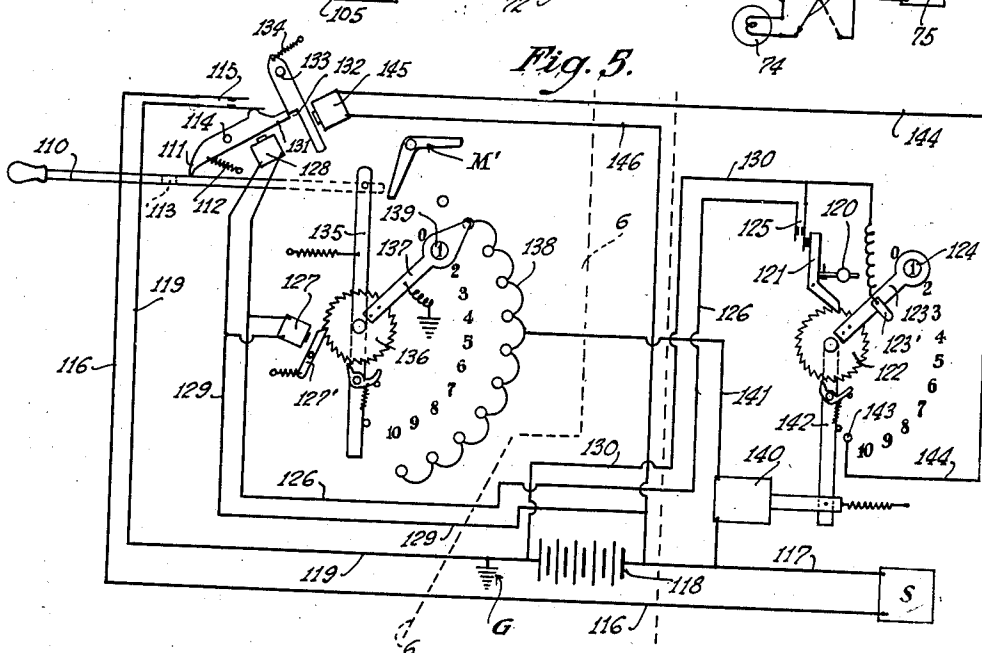
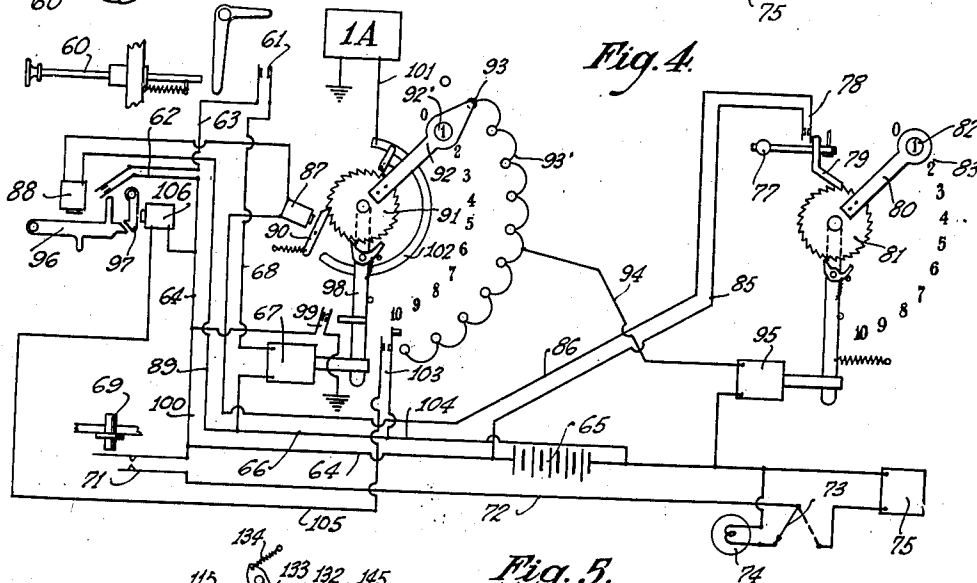
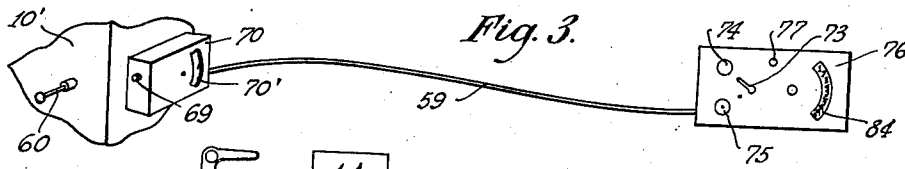
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AMUSEMENT APPARATUS CONTROL

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2 Sheets-Sheet 2



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AMUSEMENT APPARATUS CONTROL

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16 Claims. (Cl. 177—311)

This invention pertains to control apparatus, more particularly to a remote control system especially adapted for use with amusement apparatus such as electric shooting gallery devices, automatic phonographs, and also devices such as merchandise dispensing machines, automatic photographing apparatus and the like.

More particularly stated, it is an important object of the invention to provide a remote control for controlled apparatus having an operating instrumentality and adapted to be set up in a public place, the operation of the control being such that one desiring to use the amusement or like machine may actuate the control instrumentality thereon to give a signal at the main remote control, whereupon the proprietor or other attendant may operate the remote control mechanism to release the control instrumentality of the amusement or other device for further effective operation by the patron.

It is another object to provide a remote control system for amusement and like apparatus in which the latter is released for operation by the patron responsive to a preliminary signal transmitted by him to a remote control cabinet by operation of a signal button or lever, whereupon the attendant at the remote control releases the amusement or other device for operation, and there being mechanism provided in the remote control for automatically permitting a predetermined number of operations of the controlled device.

It is a further object to provide in a remote control mechanism of the class described, automatic means for permitting a predetermined number of operations of the controlled device and automatically indicating the number of operations by a patron at the remote control.

Yet another object is the provision of a remote control device for amusement and similar apparatus operable to release the controlled device for operation by a patron responsive to a signal transmitted by the latter to the remote control panel and adjustable means at the remote control device for selectively conditioning the amusement device for a determined number of operations, each operation being visually indicated both at the amusement device and remote control panel.

Still another object is the provision of a combination of an amusement device having an operating instrumentality arranged for a normal ineffective or idle movement and a remote control device including signal means actuated by idle stroke operation of the control instrumentality in

the amusement device, electrical means in the amusement device for freeing the operating instrumentality for effective or full stroke movement to operate the amusement device and electrical means selectively operable at the remote control device for determining the number of operations of the control instrumentality, and means for automatically latching the control instrumentality against effective operation when the determined number of operations have been completed.

A still further object is the provision of remote control mechanism for use in combination with amusement, entertainment, and dispensing apparatus, the remote control mechanism being selectively operable to permit a determined number of operations of the controlled amusement or other device, and automatic visual indicating means both at the remote control and the amusement or other apparatus for indicating the number of times the controlled device has been operated, together with automatic time limit means for rendering the amusement apparatus inoperable after a determined period, should the patron not avail himself of the determined number of operations.

Other novel aspects of the invention both in construction and operation will become apparent as the following description proceeds in view of the drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a controlled device and remote control means therefor;

Fig. 2 is a circuit diagram for the arrangement of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary perspective similar to Fig. 1, but including visual indicating means at the controlled device;

Fig. 4 is a circuit diagram for the device of Fig. 3; while

Fig. 5 is a circuit diagram for a modified arrangement of the remote control.

The remote control device of the present invention is intended for use with a controlled apparatus such as the device 10 of Fig. 1 and which includes an operating or actuating instrumentality or handle 11 arranged for limited idle stroke operation by the patron for the purpose of setting up a signal at the control panel. In one embodiment, as seen in Fig. 2, the control member 11 is latched by an arm 12 arranged on a rocker 13 having a snap-action spring 14 adapted to hold the same in either of its extreme positions. When the arm 13 is snapped into the dotted line position by means such as the electromagnet 15, the latching member 12 is withdrawn so that the handle or control instrumentality 11 may be

moved in its full stroke operation into the dotted line position of Fig. 2 for purposes to be described hereafter.

In its idle stroke movement, the handle 11 closes a switch 16 arranged in circuit with a battery 17 and signal means in the form of a bell 18 or a light 19, either of which may be selectively cut into or out of circuit with the switch 16 and battery 17 by setting a switch 20 onto one or the other of its contacts 21 or 22. As seen in Fig. 2, the lamp 19 is arranged in circuit with the switch 16 so that when the handle 11 is pushed in, the lamp will light, and this lamp is arranged on the control panel 23 (Fig. 1) so as to attract the attention of the attendant.

Having determined the number of operations or items of merchandise which the patron desires, the attendant may push the button 24 on the control panel and effect the release of a latching dog 25 (Fig. 2) and the simultaneous operation of a release switch 26 connected by a conductor 27 with one side of the tripping magnet 15, the other side of which is connected by a common conductor 28 with one side of the battery 17. The other side of this battery is connected for the return circuit of magnet 15 to the switch 26 by a conductor 29. Thus, when the button 24 is pushed, the switch 26 is closed to operate the release magnet 15 and the rocker 13 is attracted and snapped by its spring 14 to withdraw the latch arm 12 so that the handle 11 may be manipulated freely.

By operating the handle or instrumentality 11 successively, the patron may cause its inner end 11' to engage and operate a lever M, constituting a control for the apparatus 10, and the gang switch including a switch 30, one side of which is connected by conductor 31 to the common conductor 28 and thence to battery, the other side of the switch 30 being connected by conductor 32 to one side of a stepping solenoid 33, the return side of which leads via conductor 34 back to the battery 17. Therefore, each full stroke operation of the member 11 energizes the solenoid 33 so that its armature 35 may actuate a ratchet arm 36 engageable with a ratchet wheel 37 to step a wiping contact arm 38 in a clockwise direction once for each operation of the handle or instrumentality.

This advance or stepping movement of the contact arm 38 is effected against the tension of a conventional return clock spring (not shown) on the shaft 39 of the ratchet 37, so that when the attendant initially operated the push button 24 to effect the simultaneous operation of the master or resetting switch 26 and the latching dog 25, the clock spring returned the contact arm 38 in an anti-clockwise direction to a position corresponding to zero position adjacent that shown in Fig. 2.

The contact arm 38 sweeps over an insulating base 40 on which are arranged a plurality of spaced contacts 41 engageable by the arm 38 successively as the same is advanced. Corresponding to each of these contacts 41 is a number, 42, delineated on the base 40 and visible through an opening 43 in the contact arm when the same is in contacting engagement with one of the several contacts 41. Thus, each time the solenoid 33 is energized, the ratchet mechanism 36-37 steps the arm 38 into successive engagement with the contacts 41, the number of steps from the initial or zero position being indicated

through the opening 43. This stepping switch is mounted behind the remote control panel 23 in such manner that the apertured or sight opening portion 43 of the arm 38 and the several indicating numbers are visible through an arcuate window 44 in order that the attendant may be apprized of the number of operations of the device 10 by the patron, once it has been released.

In order to limit or predetermine the number of operations by the patron, the controlled panel 23 is provided with a selecting arm 45 pivoted on the shaft 39 and having a handle portion 46 protruding through an arcuate slot 47 in the panel 23 for access to the attendant so that he may set the arm opposite any of the numbers, 42, appearing through the window 44. Mounted on the arm 45 is a wiping contact finger 48 engageable with a contact 41 corresponding to the number before which the handle 46 is set.

Having released the controlled device 10 for operation by manipulation of the push button 24, and having set the handle 46 on the selector arm 45 before the number 4, for example as seen in Fig. 2, the patron may reciprocate the handle or control instrumentality 11 four times in succession, and for each reciprocation the solenoid 33 will be energized to step the contact arm 38 one contact in advance until the contact arm 38 engages the particular contact 41' corresponding to the number 4, whereupon the second one of the gang switches 30' will be closed to energize the latching magnet 50, through the conductor 51 connected to the common battery conductor 28, conductor 52, and a return circuit 53 leading through the contact arm 38, the particular contact 41', the wiping contact 48 and a return conductor 54 back to the battery 17.

Energization of the latching magnet 50 rocks the arm 13 into the full line position and projects the latching arm 12 in the path of movement of the member 11 so that the latter can be moved only in its partial or idle stroke operation to actuate the signal switch 16. In this condition the apparatus is prepared for a repetition of the foregoing cycle, and as soon as a new signal appears on the lamp 19 or bell 18, the operator may push the button 24 and cause the stepping contact arm 38 to be restored to initial position by means of a clock spring.

In the arrangement of Figs. 1 and 2, it will be apparent that the controlled mechanism including the rocker arm 13, the release magnet 15, latching magnet 50, switches 11', 30 and 30' are all arranged in the controlled device 10, this mechanism being operably linked for cooperation with the remote control unit by means such as the cable 9.

In Fig. 3, there is shown a type of control which includes a visual indicator on both the control panel and the controlled device, the operating mechanism for which is schematically illustrated in Fig. 4 and includes a reciprocable actuating instrumentality 60 mounted on the housing 10' and having an actuating switch 61 operated upon each reciprocation of the same. This switch 61 is arranged in circuit with a supervisory switch 62 connected by conductors 63 and 64 with one side of the battery 65, the return side of which is connected by a conductor 66 through a stepping solenoid 67 and conductor 68 to the return side of switch 61. Thus, closing of the switch 61 by operation of the handle 60 is ineffective to operate the stepping solenoid 67 unless the switch 62 is closed.

Normally the switch 62 is open, and it is necessary before the device 10' can be operated by the patron, that he push the button 69 arranged in a control box 70 mounted on the side of the controlled apparatus 10'. Operation of the button 69 closes the switch 71 connected by a conductor 72 with a switch 73 which in turn is selectively operable for connection with either a lamp 74 or a buzzer 75, both mounted on the panel of the remote control device 76. This will attract the attendant's attention, and he may push a master control button 77 for the purpose of simultaneously closing a release switch 78 and operating a release dog 79 to permit the anti-clockwise restoring movement of an arm 80 driven by a conventional return clock spring (not shown) connected with its ratchet wheel 81, as in the case of the return operation of the stepping switch explained in conjunction with Fig. 2. In this instance, however, the arm 80 is merely provided with a sight opening 82 positionable in register with any of the digits arranged to be visible through a sight opening 84 on the control panel 76, so that the attendant may be apprized of the number of times the device 10' has been operated by the patron.

Manipulation of the button 77 by the attendant, in addition to effecting the restoration of the indicating arm 80, closes the switch 78 which is connected by a conductor 85 with one side of the battery 65, and by a conductor 86 with a release magnet 87 and a supervisory magnet 88, the return circuit for which is completed through a conductor 89 back to battery 65. Thus, closing the switch 78 energizes the release magnet 87 and the supervisory magnet 88, magnet 87 attracting a latch dog 90 which releases a ratchet wheel 91 for return in an anti-clockwise direction by conventional clock spring means (not shown) to an initial or starting position so as to dispose the combination indicating and contact arm 92 on the first contact 93 of a sequence all connected in common by a conductor 94 with a stepping solenoid 95. The simultaneous operation of the supervisory magnet 88 attracts a switch operating arm 96 to close the supervisory switch 62, the arm 96 being latched in this condition by a release dog 97 so that the switch 62 will remain closed. The dog 97 is retracted and thus the main operating circuit through the switch 61 will be set up, and the patron may reciprocate the handle 60, and each time he does so the solenoid 67 will step the ratchet 91 successively over the contacts 93—93' through its connection with a ratchet drive arm 98. Each time the ratchet arm 98 is reciprocated, the switch 99 is closed and, through its connection by a conductor 100 with conductor 64 and battery 65 to ground, will energize the amusement or like apparatus 1A also connected to ground and by a conductor 101 to a wiper segment 102 which is contacted by the arm 92 so that a circuit will be completed successively through the contacts 93', the conductor 94 and solenoid 95, back to battery; and each time the contact 92 steps, the indicating arm 80 on the control panel is likewise stepped.

This particular arrangement is intended to give the patron a fixed number of operations, in this instance ten, so that when the arm 92 has been stepped ten times, it will engage and close a resetting switch 103 in circuit by a conductor 104 with battery 65 and by conductor 105 with a resetting magnet 106 adapted to release the dog 97 to permit the supervisory latch arm 96 to open

the supervisory switch 62, whereupon further manipulation of the handle 60 will be ineffective since the switch 61 thereof is cut out of the circuit. In this condition the apparatus is ready for a repetition of the foregoing cycle, all indicating and stepping switches being restored to normal by operation of the push button 77.

The stepping switch 91—92 is arranged in the housing 70, the switch arm 92 having a sight opening 92' which passes before a window 70' so that indicating digits may be viewed through the opening 92' to apprise the patron of the number of times he has operated the machine. In this instance the controlled apparatus 10' and particularly the unit 60—70 thereof are linked by cable means 59 with the control panel 76 and mechanism thereon.

A modified arrangement of the device of Fig. 4 is shown schematically in Fig. 5 and includes a manual actuating instrumentality or member 110 similar to the other reciprocable controls heretofore described except that it is directly connected with the stepping switch, and like the others it is arranged on the controlled amusement or other device as in the case of the member 60 of Fig. 3. In order to transmit a signal to the remote control panel, the member 110 is moved inwardly, whereupon the nose 111 of a latch dog will be urged by a spring 112 into an opening 113 in the member 110, and cause the dog to be pivoted as at 114 in an anti-clockwise direction to close a switch 115 connected by a conductor 116 with a signal S and through the latter by a conductor 117 to one side of a battery 118, the return circuit for which is completed through a conductor 119 back through the switch 115. Thus the signal, which is situated on the control panel as in the case of the previously described devices, will attract the attendant who may depress a push button 120 to release a latch dog 121 so that a ratchet wheel 122 may be restored by a clock spring mechanism (not shown) in an anti-clockwise direction in a position so that an indicating arm 123 mounted on the ratchet wheel will be restored to an initial position where, for example, the indicating number 1 will be visible through a sight opening 124 in the end of arm 123, this sight opening being visible through a window, such as the window 84 in the control panel of Fig. 3. Simultaneously with the release of the latch dog 121 by operation of the button 120, the master switch 125 is closed to complete a circuit via conductor 126 through a release magnet 127 and a latch magnet 128 and via a return conductor 129 back to one side of the battery 118, the opposite side of which is connected by a conductor 130 to the other side of the release 125.

The release magnet 127 and latch magnet 128 are thus energized simultaneously, the former releasing a latch dog 127' to permit anti-clockwise return movement of the ratchet wheel 136 by its return spring mechanism (not shown) as in the case of the other stepping switches, and magnet 128 pivoting the latch dog 111 in a clockwise direction so as to dispose an end 131 thereof in a notch 132 on a pivoted dog 133 normally urged in a clockwise direction by a spring 134. In this way it will be apparent that the dog 111 cannot engage an opening 113 and this operating instrumentality may be moved through its full stroke to pivot a ratchet drive arm 135 into operative engagement with an operating lever M and constituting part of the apparatus such as 10 or 10', and also to turn its ratchet wheel 136

in an advancing or clockwise direction. The advancing movement of the ratchet 136 successively positions a contact arm 137 into engagement with one of a plurality of common contacts 138, there being a sight opening 139 in the arm 137 and through which indicating digits are visible as in the case of the stepping switches of Figs. 2 and 4, it being contemplated that the stepping switch 136—137 be arranged in a housing 70 in the manner described in conjunction with Fig. 3 so that the patron may observe through a sight opening 70' the number of times the machine has been operated by him.

Each time the switch arm 137 advances the circuit from battery 118 through a solenoid 140 via a conductor 141, the common contacts 138, the switch arm 137 and thence to ground, back to the other side 119 of the battery, is interrupted so that the ratchet drive arm 142 for the ratchet wheel 122 will be reciprocated to step the indicating arm 123 once for each operation of the handle 110 until the arm 123 has made a predetermined (in this instance ten) number of steps, so as to cause its contact finger 123' to engage an end contact 143 and close a circuit from the ground side of the battery, conductor 130, contact 123', end contact 143, conductor 144, through a tripping magnet 145 and a return conductor 146 back to the other side of the battery.

Energization of the tripping magnet 145 pivots latching arm or dog 133 to withdraw the notch portion 132 from latching engagement with the end 131 of the main dog so that the nose portion 111 of the latter will again fall into the opening 113 when the handle 110 is manipulated, such manipulation, however, being insufficient to operate the ratchet mechanism 135, so that it will be necessary for the attendant again to operate the control button to actuate the dogs 121, 127' and 111, and the master switch 125.

It is to be understood that the local control mechanism 110, 111, 137—138, is all situated in the controlled amusement or other apparatus, while the master switch 125 and indicating mechanism 122—123 is disposed in the remote control unit.

The foregoing particularly described embodiments of the invention are illustrative of only a preferred arrangement and are not intended to exclude other and equivalent arrangements, nor any modifications or combinations thereof coming fairly within the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to protect by Letters Patent is:

1. In combination, controlled apparatus having an operating instrumentality adapted to be operated by a patron, releasable means normally latching said instrumentality against effective movement and not accessible to the patron, and a remote control unit stationed at a distance from said apparatus, means operatively linking said apparatus and remote control unit, signal means in said unit, means in said controlled apparatus and adapted to be set into operation by the patron for actuating said signal means, means in said control unit adapted to be actuated by an attendant for releasing said latching means of the controlled apparatus, and mechanism selectively operable in said remote control unit by the attendant aforesaid for permitting a determined number of operations of said control instrumentality and thereafter automatically latching the latter against effective movement.

2. In combination with a machine patronized by the public, and having a manual control and a principal mechanism operable thereby, remote control means including a control unit placed at a distance from said machine, electrically operable latch mechanism in said machine and normally locking said manual control against effective operation to actuate said principal mechanism, electrical means in said machine and actuated by means at said remote unit for unlocking said manual control, and means including a manually set selector switch in said unit and cooperable means actuated by said manual control upon each effective operation thereof for automatically actuating said latch mechanism to lock said manual control against further operation after a selected number of operations thereof, together with conductive means operably linking said machine and remote control unit for cooperation as aforesaid.

3. In combination with an amusement machine having an operating member adapted to be actuated by a patron, remote control apparatus spaced at a distance from said machine, means operatively linking said machine and apparatus for control of the former by the latter, releasable electric means in said machine and normally locking said operating member against effective actuation, means in said control apparatus for releasing said releasable means, and selectively adjusted means in said control apparatus for effecting automatic operation of said releasable means to lock said operating member after a selectively determined number of operations of said operating member.

4. In combination with a public-patronized machine having a manually operated control, a remote control device including a unit placed at a distance from said machine and having a master switch, a signal device operated by means on said machine, a control switch on said machine and operated by said manually operated control, a supervisory switch normally rendering said operating switch ineffective, releasable means in said machine controlled by said master switch for operating said supervisory switch to render the operating switch effective, a controlled apparatus constituting an operative part of said machine and actuated by said operating switch, electrically actuated stepping switch mechanism including visual step-indicating means therefor for indicating the number of operations of said manual control and arranged for operation by said control switch to render said supervisory switch inoperative after said operating switch has been operated a determined number of times, electrically operable visual indicating means in said remote unit and connected for cooperation with said stepping switch mechanism for indication in unison with the indicating means thereof, and conductive means operably linking said machine and remote control unit.

5. The device of claim 4 further including a housing for attachment exteriorly of said machine and containing said stepping switch mechanism and providing a sight opening through which the patron may observe said step indicating means.

6. In combination, an attendant-supervised machine having an actuating control, and means including a remote control device placed at a distance from said machine, dog means in said machine and normally limiting movement of said actuating control to prevent actuation of

the machine, electrical dog operating means in said machine for rendering the dog means ineffective whereby to permit actuation of the machine by said control attendant-operated master switch means in said unit and arranged for actuating said dog operating means, stepping switch means in said unit and connected for operation of said dog operating means to render said dog means normally effective when said actuating control has been operated a determined number of times, stepping switch means operated by said actuating control in said machine and connected to operate said stepping switch means in the unit, and means operatively interconnecting said machine and control unit for cooperation as aforesaid.

7. The device of claim 6 in which said several stepping switch means are arranged for visual indication in both said machine and remote control unit to indicate the number of operations of said actuating control.

8. In combination, a patronized machine having a control for operating a principal mechanism therein and having detent means normally locking said control against effective operation but arranged to permit a limited idle stroke movement thereof, and a remote control unit including electrically operable signal means actuated by switch means in said machine and arranged for operation by said control responsive to idle stroke movement thereof, electrical detent-operating mechanism in said machine and arranged to lock and release said detent means, attendant-operated means in said unit for actuating said detent-operating mechanism to effect release of the detent and permit effective operation of said control, and attendant-operated selecting mechanism in said unit and arranged to automatically actuate said detent-operating mechanism to lock said control against effective operation after the same has been effectively operated a predetermined number of times, and means providing operative connection between said remote control unit and said detent-operating mechanism and said switch means in said patronized machine.

9. In combination, a patronized machine and a remote control device therefor, said machine having a principal mechanism and a manual control for actuating the same and electrically operated supervisory means arranged in a normal condition to render operation of said manual control ineffective to actuate said principal mechanism, a signal at said remote control device, and patron-operated means at said machine for actuating said signal, attendant-operated means at said remote control device for actuating said supervisory means to render said manual control effective to actuate said principal mechanism, visual-indicating counting mechanism in both the patronized machine and the control device, means under the control of said manual control for effecting operation of said counting mechanisms in unison responsive to each operation of said control, and means co-operable with one of said counting mechanisms for automatically effecting operation of said supervisory means to render the manual control ineffective to actuate the principal mechanism as aforesaid upon indication of a predetermined count by said counting mechanism, and means providing a remote control connection between said machine and control device.

10. The device of claim 9 in which said manual control is arranged for limited movement when

said supervisory means is in normal condition and is arranged to operate said means for actuating the signal.

11. The device of claim 9 further characterized by the provision of restoring means for restoring said counting mechanisms to an initial counting condition, one of said restoring means being arranged for mechanical operation at said control device by an attendant, and the other restoring means being arranged for operation by electrical means cooperably controlled by switch means actuated by said first-mentioned restoring means.

12. The combination, with a patronized machine including a principal operating mechanism and a manually operable control therefor, of a remote control device operatively linked with said machine and including signal means arranged for operation by means in said machine, an actuating switch in said machine and arranged for operation by manipulation of said manual control under control of a supervisory switch, an electrically operable supervisory switch in said machine and arranged in circuit with said actuating switch and a source of power for effecting operation of said principal mechanism, an electrically operable limit switch arranged for operation a predetermined number of times to render said supervisory switch ineffective, visual indicating means arranged in view of the patron at said machine to indicate the number of times the same has been operated responsive to manipulation of said control, and a second electrically operable indicating means at said device and arranged for operation in unison with said limit switch for indicating the number of operations of the machine as aforesaid at said remote control device, manually operable means at said device for resetting said second indicating means from indicating position to an initial position, electrical resetting means at said machine and actuated by switch means at said remote control device and operably controlled by said manually operable resetting means for resetting said limit switch to an initial position, said last-mentioned switch means arranged for cooperation with said supervisory switch to render the latter ineffective whenever said resetting means is actuated.

13. In combination, a patron-operated machine including a manual control, a detent arranged for movement by said control and normally operable to permit limited movement of said control which is inadequate to operate said machine, a signal switch operable by said detent means responsive to movement thereof by limited movement of the control, a first electrical means for rendering said detent means ineffective, release switch means arranged at a distance from said machine for actuating said first electrical means, automatic locking means in said machine for holding said detent means released, electrical means energizable to release said locking means and effect return of said detent means to said normal condition, a limit switch also arranged at a distance from said machine for cooperation with said release switch and operable a predetermined number of steps from an initial position to energize said last-mentioned electrical means, manually released means cooperable with said limit switch and said release switch means for effecting operation of the latter and also effecting restoration of said limit switch to said initial position, said limit switch being arranged to give visual indication of the number of steps taken from said initial position, a step by step

indicator at said machine and ratchet mechanism for moving the same in steps from an initial position and arranged for actuation by reciprocation of said manual control, together with electrical means for effecting restorative movement of said ratchet mechanism to return said indicating mechanism to initial position, said last-mentioned electrical means being operated by said release switch.

14. In a machine adapted to be patronized by the public, the combination of a manual control for operating said machine, and remote control mechanism including the provision in said machine of electrically operable latch means normally latching said control against effective operation but permitting limited idle movement of the control, and a remote control unit adapted to be placed at a distance from said machine and having electrical connections with said latch means, master control means in said unit to be operated by an attendant to energize said latch means and effect release of the same to free said control for effective operation, and electrical means in said unit operably controlled by said manual control in the machine for energizing said latch means when said manual control has been operated a certain number of times.

15. In a machine adapted to be patronized by the public, the combination of a manual control for operating said machine and remote control mechanism including the provision in said machine of electrically operable latch means normally latching said control against effective operation but permitting limited idle movement of the control, and a remote control unit adapted to be placed at a distance from said machine and having electrical connections with said latch means, master control means in said unit to be operated by an attendant to energize said latch

means and effect release of the same to free said control for effective operation, electrical means in said unit operably controlled by said manual control in the machine for energizing said latch means when said manual control has been operated a certain number of times, an electrically operated signal in said unit and switch means arranged for actuation by limited idle stroke movement of said manual control to apprise the attendant that it is desired to operate said machine, and visual indicating means in said unit and coacting with said master control means for indicating the number of effective operations of said manual control in the patronized machine.

16. The combination, with a machine adapted to be patronized and having a main control manually actuated by a patron to set the machine into operation, of remote control mechanism comprising: electrically operated latch means normally latching said machine against operation by said control, a remote control unit adapted to be situated at a distance from said machine, means providing electrical operating connections between said unit and machine, electrically operated signal means in said unit and operated by means at said machine and adapted to be actuated by the patron to signal an attendant at the unit of the patron's desire to use the machine, means in said unit adapted to be operated by an attendant for releasing said latch means in said unit, means in said unit adapted to be selectively operated by an attendant for limiting the number of operations of said machine by said main control when the latch means is released as aforesaid and automatically operating to restore said latch means to latched condition following operation of the machine the selected number of times.

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