June 1, 1926. 1,587,242

V. P. RUMELY

CHECK OR SIMILAR INSTRUMENT

Filed July 26, 1923

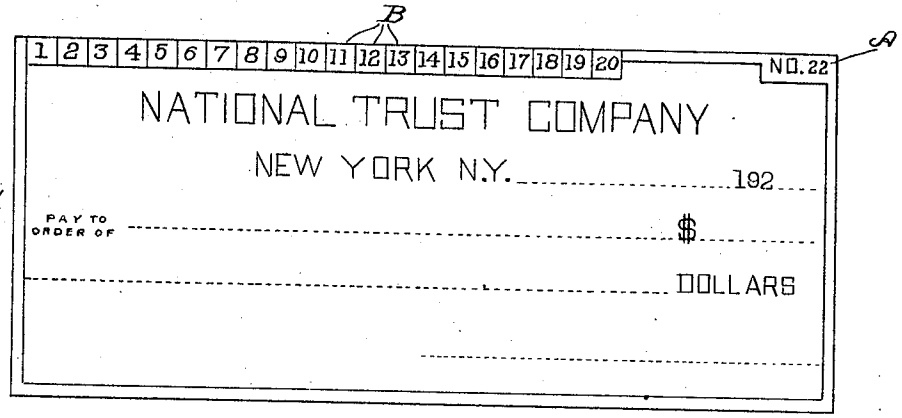


Fig. 1.

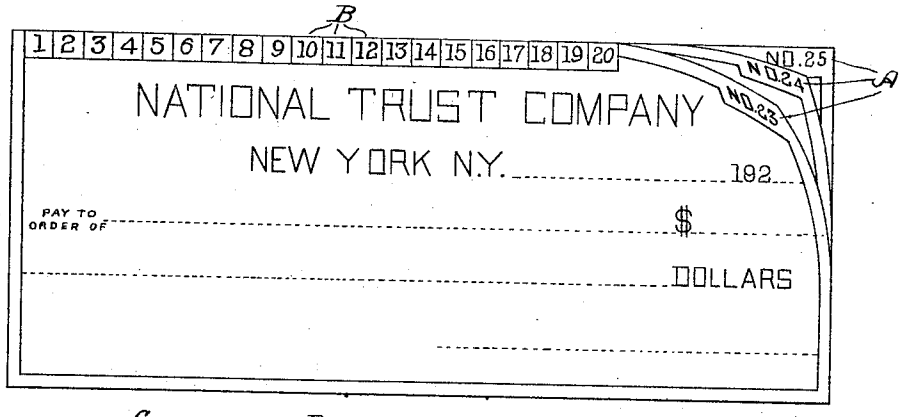


Fig. 2.

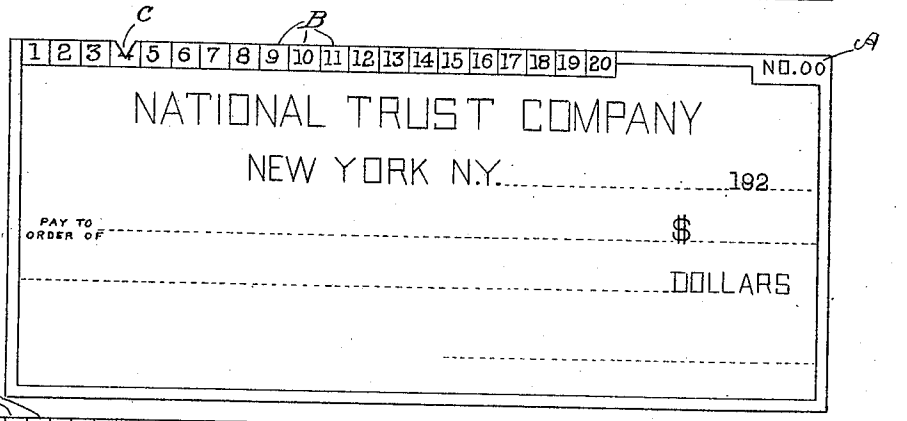


Fig. 3.

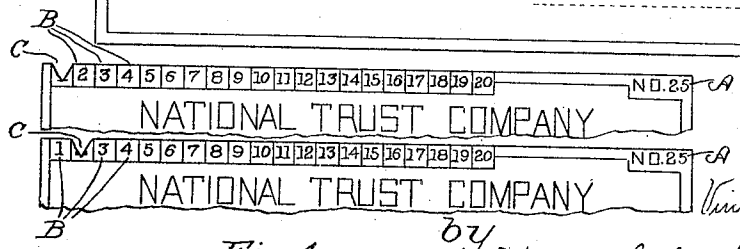


Fig. 4.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CHECK OR SIMILAR INSTRUMENT.

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This invention relates to bank checks or similar instruments which are usually supplied in books or sets and which, when used, are identified respectively by distinguishing serial numbers. In the use of such instruments, it is necessary that each be serially numbered by the user at the time it is issued or else, as is customary in preparing such instruments for the use of business establishments and individual clients using them in considerable numbers, that each book or set be consecutively numbered in advance by the bank or other institution supplying them, the numbers of successive sets being different, so that the serial numbers of the instruments of all of the sets will run consecutively.

The present invention has for its object to avoid this necessity of the separate numbering of each instrument and provide a construction wherein the instruments may be issued in sets all of which are initially exactly alike, the several instruments of each set being consecutively numbered, and the several sets being capable of receiving distinguishing designations whereby in the preferred form a total is provided for each instrument, the total serial numbers being different in the several sets.

The foregoing and other objects of the invention, together with means whereby the same may be carried into effect, will best be understood from the following description of one form or embodiment thereof illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a face view of a check arranged in accordance with the invention.

Fig. 2 is a plan view of a part of a check book, the corners of the two uppermost checks being turned to illustrate the consecutive numbering.

Fig. 3 is a plan view of a check or a complete book of checks illustrating the designation of the series of several successive books.

Fig. 4 is a view on a reduced scale illustrating portions of two books differently designated.

The invention is herein shown as embodied in a set of blank checks one of which is illustrated in Fig. 1, each of said checks bearing on its face the usual printed form with blank spaces for the date, the name of the payee, the amount and the signature of the maker. The precise form used may be any of those usually employed for this purpose. In accordance with the present invention, the checks are supplied in books of a suitable number in each, herein shown as one hundred, a portion of such a book being illustrated in Fig. 2, and the first check of a complete book being shown in Fig. 3, the binding and stub portions of the books, if such be employed, being omitted in each instance. The several checks of each book are consecutively numbered as indicated at A, the numbers in each book running from "00" to any desired maximum, for example, "99." Also at a convenient place on each check, preferably at an edge, and herein shown as the upper edge, each check bears a series of characters B preferably numerals which run consecutively and which are the same on all checks of all books, corresponding numerals on the several checks of each book being superimposed or in registering relation with one another. As herein shown the numerals B run from "1" to "20."

In the use of the particular embodiment of the invention shown and above described, the checks of the first book will be issued in their original form, the complete serial number of each of the checks being the numeral A. In order to identify the checks of a given book by a complete serial number, the numerals B are employed, one of said numerals being suitably identified or designated on all of the checks of the book to constitute an additional part of the complete serial numbers of all of the checks in the book. This may conveniently be done by punching or otherwise cutting through the book at a point corresponding to one of said numerals. As shown in Fig. 3, this, in the present instance, is accomplished by notching or punching the book or otherwise designating the desired identifying numeral B, as shown at C. The complete serial number of each check is thus composed in part of the notched or otherwise identified numeral B, and in part of the number A. For example, the check shown in Fig. 3 bears a number A of the value "00" and has a distinguishing notch C corresponding to the number "4" in the series B. The total serial number of this check may therefore be taken as "400." The total serial number of the next check will be "401," that of the next "402," and so on through the set.

It will be understood that after the first book above described, and comprising the

checks serially numbered from "1" to "99," has been used up in its original form and without notching, the second book will be notched at C opposite the numeral "1" in the series B, and that the complete serial number of each check in the said second book will be 100 plus the number borne at A by the particular check in question. It will further be understood that in the use of successive books, the numerals "2," "3," "4," etc. of the series B will be notched at C, thereby providing checks bearing total serial numbers of values in the 200's, 300's, 400's, etc. In Fig. 4 are shown two books or sets notched at "1" and "2," respectively. The set shown is capable of supplying serial numbers up to and including "2099," and it will be obvious that numerals B of greater value may be employed if desired.

The embodiment of the invention above described and illustrated in the drawings is designed to provide for a consecutive numbering of the checks through successive books. It will be obvious, however, that a greater or less number of checks than 100 may be included in each book, that the identifying characters B may assume forms other than the numerals shown, such, for example, as letters, that the desired character B may be identified by a distinguishing designation other than the notch C shown, and that more than one of said characters may be so designated if desired. These and other modifications and advantages of the invention will, however, be understood to those skilled in the art without further discussion in detail.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. A check or similar instrument bearing a serial number composed of two parts one of which comprises a numeral and the other of which comprises one of a series of characters all appearing on said instrument, the character of said series which forms said other part of said serial number being identified by a distinguishing designation.

2. A check book or the like, including a plurality of checks bearing consecutive serial numbers, each of said checks also bearing a series of identifying characters which are the same on all the checks, and all of said checks having the same identifying character identified by a distinguishing designation.

3. In combination, a plurality of check books, each check book comprising a plurality of checks, the checks in each book having serial numbers, each of the checks having a series of identifying characters, all the checks in one book having the same identifying character designated by distinguishing means, but different books having different characters so designated.

4. A serially numbered check or the like bearing a numeral and having adjacent one edge a series of other numerals, said edge being cut at a point corresponding to one of said last named numerals to identify or designate the same, and the serial number of said check comprising the numeral of said series so identified or designated together with said first named numeral.

5. A check book or the like comprising a plurality of checks bearing respectively consecutive serial numbers to designate parts of the intended complete serial numbers of the several checks, said checks all bearing adjacent one edge of the set the same series of identifying numerals, like numerals on the several checks being in registration when superimposed, and said book being cut at a point adjacent one of the numerals of said series to designate the same numeral on all the checks and to complete the serial numbers of all of the checks of said book by an equal increment.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

VINCENT P. RUMELY.