

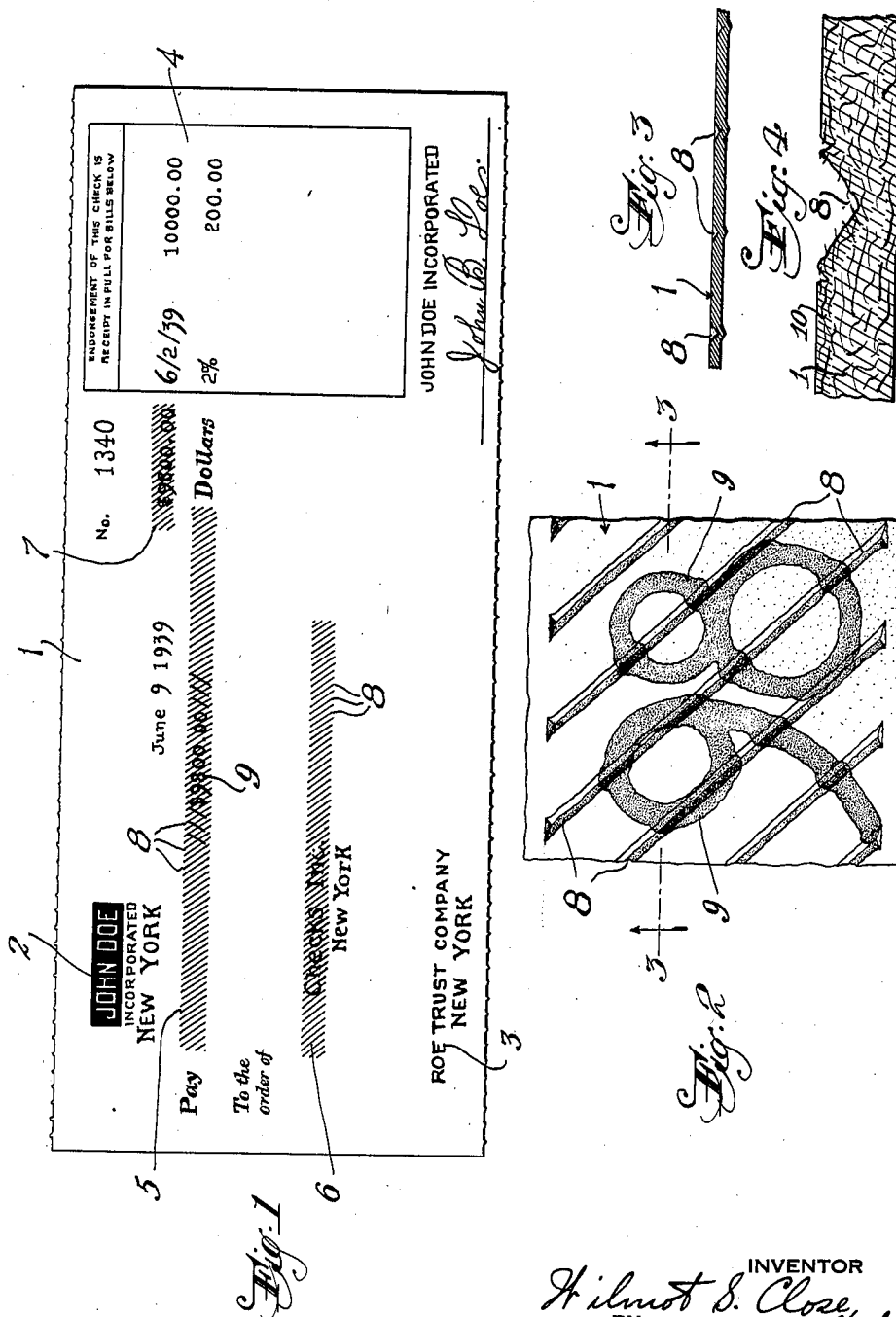
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MEANS FOR PREVENTING FRAUDULENT ALTERATION OF DOCUMENTS

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MEANS FOR PREVENTING FRAUDULENT
ALTERATION OF DOCUMENTS

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2 Claims. (Cl. 283-9)

This application is a continuation in part of my application Serial No. 187,578 filed January 29, 1938, that is a continuation in part of my application Serial No. 649,910 filed January 3, 1933. In those applications is described a typewriter supply roll comprising a strip of check blanks, a strip of transfer medium, such as carbon paper, and a strip of cash book blanks, spirally rolled together and adapted to be mounted on a typewriter, whereby a check can be written or filled in on the typewriter, a copy of the check can be made on the cash book blank and many required book entries relating to the transaction can be made on the same cash book blank with said carbon copy.

The present application relates particularly to the check blank, and one object of the invention herein described and claimed is to provide a novel and improved means for reducing the possibility of alteration without detection, of certain inscriptions on the document, for example the amount of the check and the name of the payee.

Another object is to provide such means wherein the portion of the document to receive an inscription shall be partially mutilated, serrated, slitted or roughened in a novel and improved manner so that an inscription can be made thereon by pen and ink, a typewriter or printing machine but practically cannot be altered or obliterated without detection.

An important feature of the invention is the provision of a surface on a document to receive an inscription of such character that the inscription can be written over the surface after the latter has been formed, in contrast to writing the inscription and then mutilating or serrating the surface bearing the inscription by a check protecting machine or the like, the invention thereby affording adequate protection against fraudulent alteration of the document without the necessity of using a check protecting machine or the like.

Another feature is the provision of such a protecting surface as a part of the manufacture of the document or check blank, for example, simultaneously with the printing of the check form, so that the inscription is protected automatically as it is written and without additional operations or effort on the part of the writer.

Other objects, advantages and results of the invention will appear from the following description in conjunction with the accompanying drawing in which

Figure 1 is a plan view of a check embodying the invention.

Figure 2 is a greatly enlarged fragmentary plan view of the mutilated or protected portion of the check.

Figure 3 is a sectional view on the line 3-3 of Figure 2, and

Figure 4 is a greatly magnified fragmentary sectional view of the protected portion of the check.

As usual, the document, such as a check, preferably comprises a sheet 1 of fibrous material such as paper that has a surface of a character to receive an inscription in ink, and has certain inscriptions printed thereon, for example the name of the maker of the check as indicated at 2, and the name of the bank upon which the check is drawn as indicated at 3. Also, preferably each check blank has a space 4 to receive inscriptions identifying invoices of which the check is payment, or any other suitable data.

In accordance with the invention, it is intended that certain inscriptions on the check, for example the amount of the check, the name and address of the payee, shall be written by a typewriter or printing machine so as to produce a clear carbon copy of such inscriptions on another sheet, for example a cash book page. As shown on the drawing, the check blank has a space 5 to receive an inscription representing the amount of the check, a space 6 to receive the name of the payee, and an additional space 7 to receive an inscription in figures representing the amount of the check.

To reduce the possibility of certain of these inscriptions, such as the amount of the check and the payee's name, being altered or obliterated after the inscription has been made, I contemplate mutilating, roughening, serrating or slitting the areas or zones of the face of the check which are provided to receive said inscriptions. As shown on the drawing, these areas or zones have a plurality of transverse closely spaced narrow and approximately parallel indentations, grooves, depressions, slits or incisions 8 that at least partially penetrate the sheet of which the check is formed so as to at least break, cut or roughen the surface of the sheet so that the ink of the inscriptions will permeate and be diffused in the sheet in and immediately adjacent the depressions, grooves, indentations, slits or incisions, and frictional rubbing of said areas or zones will tend to disintegrate the paper or other material of which the check is formed, as more clearly shown in Figure 4 of the drawing,

the breaking or roughening of the surface of the sheet deforms, dislocates or separates certain of the fibers and causes them to project from the surface of the sheet in the closely spaced areas bearing the indentations or incisions 8, while the portions 10 of the surface of the sheet between said areas is smooth and the fibers thereof are undisturbed; and the smooth portions 10 of the surface permit an inscription to be easily and legibly written in ink, while the ink will be diffused in the broken surface and along the projecting fibers in the depressions or incisions. Preferably the grooves, indentations, etc. are line-like and extend obliquely downwardly from the left to the right whereby there will be a minimum tendency for a pen point to become caught in the grooves or indentations during writing of the inscription, and also to ensure that the depression shall be transverse of vertical portions of letters of inscriptions so that such vertical portion, for example, the leg of an "h," does not coincide with a depression and thus become illegible. It is desirable that the indentations, grooves or incisions be colored in contrast to the color of the ink used in the inscription as well as in contrast to the color of the face of the check and this may be easily effected during and as a part of the operation of printing the check blank.

Preferably the protected zones 8 are wider or longer, or both wider and longer, or have greater over-all dimensions than any inscription that might be written on said zones, either by pen and ink, typewriter, check protector or check writer, whereby any attempt to obliterate by the impression of a check writer or check protector an inscription written in pen and ink or by typewriter, could be easily and quickly detected by the portions of the protected zones extending and exposed beyond the inscription.

The inscriptions 9 may be written on the mu-

tilated and protected zones with a pen and ink, or ordinary typewriter or other printing machine, and are clearly legible. However, the ink of the inscriptions tends to run along the fibers on the surface of the check that are deformed or severed by the indentations, grooves, or incisions so as to make obliteration of the inscriptions practically impossible, and also the fibers on the surface of the check are so deformed or severed that frictional rubbing of the zones of the check carrying the indentations or incisions will result in tearing away portions of the surface of the check or further deformation or severing of the fibers, so that any attempts at alterations of the inscription may be easily and quickly detected.

Accordingly, it will be observed that the inscriptions will be automatically protected against alteration immediately upon making of the inscriptions, and no further operations, or machines or devices such as check protectors, are required.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

1. As an article of manufacture, a sheet of fibrous material having a face to receive inscriptions in ink, the zone of said face intended to receive an inscription having its surface in closely spaced areas broken and certain of the fibers dislocated and projecting therefrom in said areas, the portions of said surface between said areas being smooth so that an inscription can be legibly written in ink in said zone and ink will be diffused in said areas, whereby to render alteration of said inscription without detection practically impossible.

2. The article of manufacture set forth in claim 1 wherein said closely spaced areas are line-like and approximately parallel to each other.

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