ENCLOSURE FOR IMPRINTER SUBJECT TO WEATHER ELEMENTS

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ABSTRACT

A boxlike, transparent, rigid, plastic enclosure for an imprinter supported by an outdoor cash stand at a service station having a bottom wall formed to be supported by the cash stand with an imprinter disposed on the enclosure above the cash drawer of the cash stand. One end of the enclosure adjacent to the access for the cash drawer is pivotally attached or removably attached to the top wall of the enclosure to provide easy access to the imprinter.

10 Claims, 3 Drawing Figures
ENCLOSURE FOR IMPRINTER SUBJECT TO WEATHER ELEMENTS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates in general to an enclosure for an imprinter and more particularly to an enclosure for an imprinter disposed on a cash stand exposed to the outdoor weather elements.

With the advent of credit cards, the use of imprinters became a necessity for service station attendants. Such imprinters are generally on the top of a cash stand adjacent gasoline pumps so as to be conveniently located for the service station attendant. Consequently, the imprinters have been exposed to the elements such as rain, snow, hail, sleet and the like. Also, the attendant operating the imprinter exposed the credit records to the same weather elements. This resulted in the blurring and illegibility of the information contained in the credit records, as well as a general deterioration of the paper itself.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A transparent enclosure for an imprinter supported by a cash stand. The enclosure includes a bottom wall adapted to be mounted on the cash stand with the imprinter disposed on the enclosure above the cash stand. An upright wall of the enclosure at the forward end thereof is pivotally attached or removably attached to provide easy access to the imprinter. In addition thereto, the enclosure is dimensioned to permit the attendant to operate the imprinter.

By virtue of the present invention, an imprinter is protected from weather elements and also the credit records used in conjunction with the imprinter are not exposed to the weather elements during the imprinting process. Hence, the credit records are not blurred, rendered illegible, or caused to deteriorate.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the enclosure of the present invention mounted on a cash stand to enclose an imprinter disposed on the cash stand.

FIG. 2 is a fragmentary perspective view of the enclosure shown in FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view, reduced in size, of the enclosure shown in FIG. 1 mounted on a cash stand to enclose an imprinter disposed on the cash stand.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Illustrated in FIG. 1 is a conventional cash stand S located in the vicinity of gasoline pumps at a service station. The cash stand S includes a top wall W and a drawer D.

Supported by the top wall W of the cash stand S is a conventional imprinter I. According to the present invention, an enclosure 10 (FIGS. 1 and 2) is supported by the top wall W of the cash stand S and surrounds the imprinter I to protect the same and the credit records used therewith from weather elements, such as rain, snow, sleet, hail and the like.

The enclosure 10 comprises a top wall 11 of transparent, rigid, plastic material, which top wall is parallel to the top wall W of the cash stand S and is greater in length than the length of the imprinter I. Preferably, the dimension of the top wall 11 is equal to the dimension of the top wall W.

Depending from the top wall 11 is a rear wall 12 of transparent, rigid, plastic material. The rear wall 12 of the enclosure 10 is at right angles to the top wall 11 and has a depending flange 12a suitable for engaging a rear, upright wall of the cash stand S. The rear wall 12 is of sufficient height to enable an attendant to conveniently have access to the imprinter I for operating the same.

Also, depending from the top wall 11 are perpendicular, confronting sidewalls 13 and 14 of transparent, rigid, plastic material. Upright flanges 13a and 14a depend from the sidewalls 13 and 14, respectively, and are suitable for engaging the confronting sidewalls of the cash stand S. The sidewalls 13 and 14 of the enclosure 10 are of sufficient height to enable an attendant to conveniently have access to the imprinter I for operating the same.

The enclosure 10 is formed with a bottom wall 15 having longitudinally spaced, horizontally disposed segments 15a and 15b. The segments 15a and 15b are disposed in the same plane and extend between the sidewalls 13 and 14. The segment 15b also extends from the rear wall 12. Preferably, the bottom wall 15 is made of transparent, plastic material and rests on the top wall W of the cash stand S. Hence, the enclosure 10 is supported by the top wall W of the cash stand S. The imprinter I is disposed on the bottom wall 15 of the enclosure 10.

Formed in the segment 15c of the bottom wall 15 is a suitable opening 15c (FIG. 2) for receiving a wingnut N. Aligned openings are formed in the imprinter I and the top wall W so that the wingnut N can anchor the imprinter I to the enclosure 10 and, in turn, anchor the enclosure 10 to the cash stand S. It is the forward end of the imprinter I that is anchored through the wingnut N. The wingnut N is inserted into opening 15c and into the imprinter I through the lower surface of the top wall W of the cash stand S.

A suitable slot 15d (FIGS. 2 and 3) is formed in the bottom wall segment 15b to receive a clip C on the top wall W of the cash stand S to anchor the rear end of the imprinter I to the top wall W of the cash stand S. Conventionally, a clip was secured to the top wall W and the imprinter I was moved onto the top wall W rearwardly so that the rear portion of the imprinter I was engaged by the clip to be secured thereby.

A shim 20 (FIGS. 2 and 3) is now screwed to the top wall W of the cash stand S in alignment with the slot 15d. The clip C is now disposed on the shim 20 and secured thereto by means of the screws fixing the shim 20 to the top wall W. The clip C projects into the slot 15d to engage the rear portion of the imprinter I for anchoring the same to the top wall W of the cash stand S.

For providing access to the imprinter I so that an attendant can operate the imprinter I, a front end wall 25 (FIG. 1) is removably or pivotally attached to the enclosure 10. The front end wall 25 is a transparent, flexible, plastic material, and may be referred to as a flap. At the upper portion of the front end wall 25 is attached a hinge 26, which may be made of a flexible material, such as vinyl, leather, or a plastic material. Eyelets 27 and 28 are secured to the hinge 26 for receiving studs 29 and 30, respectively, fixedly secured to the forward portion of the enclosure 10. The flap 25 is disposed adjacent the drawer D of the cash stand S.

In the use of the enclosure 10 for imprinters I previously installed on a cash stand S, the screw at the forward end thereof is removed and the imprinter I is moved out of engagement with the rear clip C on the cash stand S. The imprinter I is then removed from the top wall W of the cash stand S. The rear clip C is removed from the top wall W of the cash stand S.

Now, the shim 20 is fixed to the top wall W at the location where the clip C was removed and the clip C is therewith secured to the upper surface of the shim 20. The enclosure 10 is mounted on the top wall W of the cash stand S with the flanges 12a, 13a and 14a engaging upright walls of the cash stand S and with the forward end adjacent the cash drawer D (FIG. 1).

The imprinter I is then placed on the bottom wall 15 and is moved rearwardly so that the rear portion thereof engages the clip C projecting into the slot 15d and a forward opening aligned with the opening 15c. The wingnut projecting upwardly through the top wall W projects through the opening 15c and anchors the imprinter I on the bottom wall 15. The forward end flap 25 is then attached to the top wall 11 through the eyelets 27 and 28 and the studs 29 and 30.

I claim:
1. In combination:
a. an outdoor cash stand;
b. an imprinter on said cash stand; and
3. An enclosure for protecting said imprinter on said outdoor cash stand from weather elements, such as rain, snow and the like, said enclosure comprising:
   a. Transparent top wall disposed above the imprinter a sufficient height to enable an attendant to operate the imprinter;
   b. Walls depending from said top wall to support said top wall at said sufficient height;
   c. Supporting means interconnecting said walls and said cash stand to support said enclosure on said cash stand;
   d. Forward wall for said enclosure; and
   e. Means pivotally mounting said forward wall to enable an attendant to gain access to operate said imprinter.
2. The combination as claimed in claim 1 wherein said enclosure is pivotally attached to said top wall.
3. The combination as claimed in claim 2 wherein said forward wall is flexible along the upper portion thereof for pivotal attachment to said top wall.
4. The combination as claimed in claim 1 wherein means interconnect said top wall and said forward wall for removably attaching said forward wall to said top wall.
5. The combination as claimed in claim 1 wherein said means comprise flexible means interconnecting said top wall and said forward wall for pivotally attaching said forward wall to said top wall to enable an attendant to gain access to operate said imprinter and comprising detachable means for interconnecting said flexible means with said top wall for removably attaching said forward wall to said top wall to enable an attendant to gain access to operate said imprinter.
6. The combination as claimed in claim 1 wherein said supporting means is a bottom wall seated on said cash stand and on which is seated said imprinter.
7. The combination as claimed in claim 6 wherein said bottom wall includes a forward segment and a rear segment.
8. The combination as claimed in claim 7 wherein said rear segment is formed with a slot to receive a clip for securing the rear end of said imprinter.
9. The combination as claimed in claim 8 wherein said forward segment is formed with an opening to receive anchoring means for anchoring the forward end of said imprinter.
10. The combination as claimed in claim 6 wherein said walls are formed with flanges at the lower ends thereof for engaging said cash stand to stabilize said enclosure on the cash stand.