No. 630,505. Patented Aug. 8, 1899.

J. T. HICKS.

CASHIER'S FILE BOX.

(Application filed May 22, 1899.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

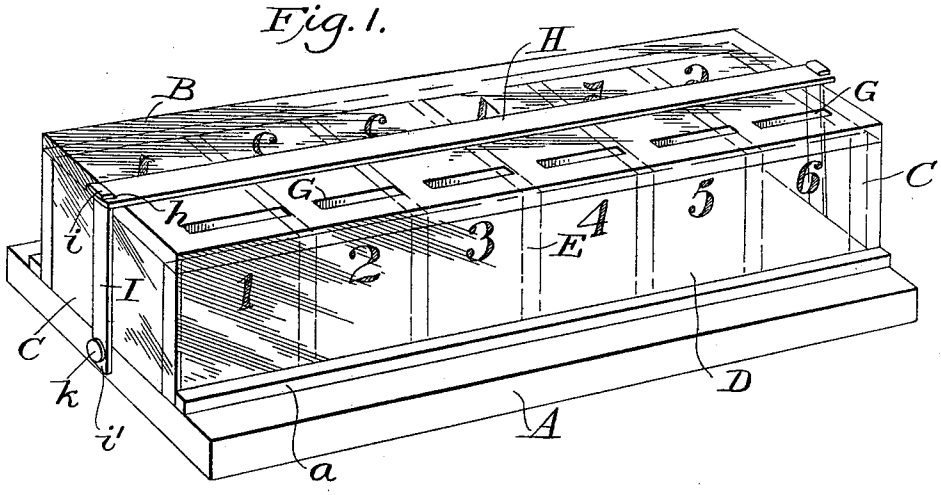


Fig. 2.

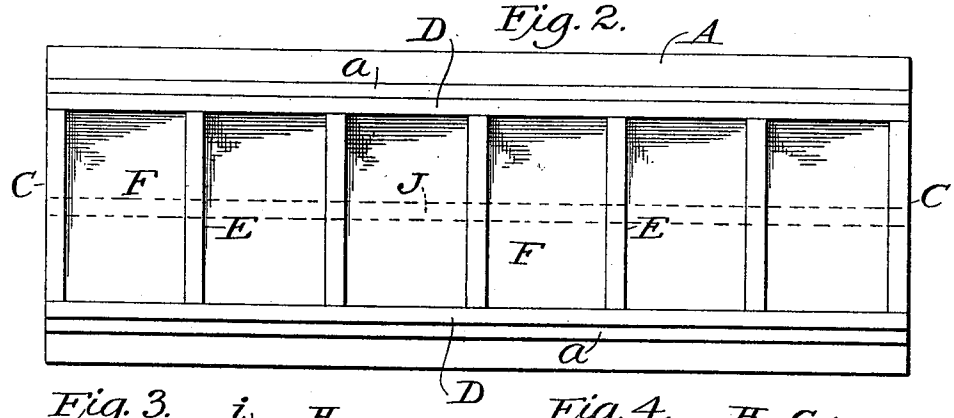


Fig. 3.

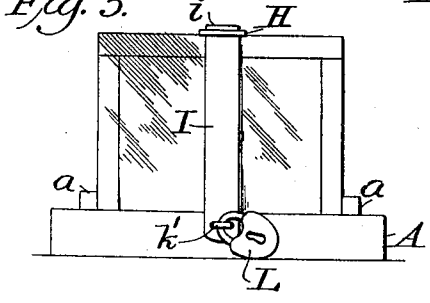


Fig. 4.

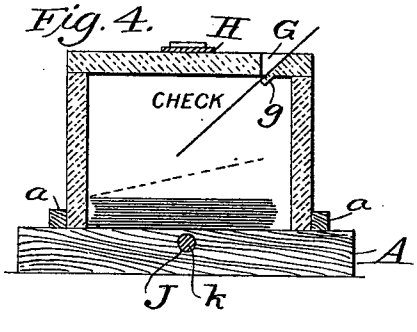
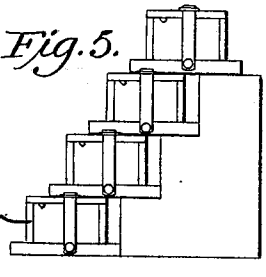


Fig. 5.



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CASHIER'S FILE-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 630,505, dated August 8, 1899.

Application filed May 22, 1899. Serial No. 717,731. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN TYLER HICKS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Cashiers' File-Boxes; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention refers to a multireceptacled check-receiver intended to be used by the cashier or treasurer of a hotel, restaurant, or other concern having a money-receiving clerk, as well as also numerous waiters or salesmen, the object of the invention being to provide a novel box wherein the checks when payment is made may be deposited by the cashier after being turned in to him by the waiters or salesmen (or by the customers) in consequence of the purchases made by the guests or customers, said novel box being designed to provide separate compartments, pouches, or envelops for the checks of the different waiters in order that all the checks belonging to any individual waiter may be collected together and arranged in a consecutively-numbered series; and the invention consequently consists in a lock-box having a series of chambers or compartments entirely distinct and separate from each other, each chamber having a slot through which the checks may be deposited within the compartment and said slot being so constructed with a projecting lip as that the checks when they are passed through the slot will fall upon the bottom of the compartment face upward, all in similar position, whereby all the checks in each compartment occupy a consecutively-numbered series. This improved box is preëminently adapted for use in conjunction with what is known as the "Hicks method of cash-registering and account-checking," the same being covered by United States Letters Patent No. 500,071, dated June 20, 1893. In the employment of said method the waiters or salesmen are commonly provided with packages of checks or slips, on which are to be marked the prices of the purchases made by the guests or customers, the constituent members of each package being numbered in a regularly-increasing series from "1" upward, so that as any individual waiter uses the checks in his hands he does so by first using check No. 1, then check No. 2, and so on, so that the checks of each waiter reach the cashier in numerical order. It is the common plan of cashiers as the checks are turned in to them and the payment of purchases made to deposit the paid checks in a lock-box or on a spindle. When this is done, however, the checks are all dropped helter-skelter and without order into a promiscuous pile within said box, and before the box is opened at the end of the day or other period of time there is usually, in large establishments at least, a collection of some hundreds or thousands of them. The work of the auditor under these circumstances is very great, because before he can begin the comparison of the checks with the cash and with the main record-sheet employed in the practice of the Hicks method it is necessary for him to segregate the checks belonging to the different waiters and also to arrange in series all the checks belonging to each waiter. My improved box, however, provides a labor-saving device in this respect, that the auditor finds the checks already arranged in order, both as to different waiters and as to the regularity of the members of the series belonging to each waiter, and the large amount of labor ordinarily attending the manipulation of the checks to find out whether one is missing is avoided.

In the accompanying drawings, illustrating my invention, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved cashier's file-box. Fig. 2 is a plan view of the same with the top plate that covers the compartments removed to show more clearly the exact construction of said compartments. Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional view. Fig. 4 is a cross-section showing more particularly the lip or inclined flange belonging to the slot and indicating the way in which the checks are introduced into the several chambers. Fig. 5 is a conventional illustration of a series of file-boxes placed one upon the other in a sort of step-like arrangement in order to economize space, especially

in cases where there is a very large number of waiters.

Similar letters of reference designate corresponding parts throughout the different figures of the drawings.

A designates the base-board of my improved file-box. It is preferably of rectangular form and of some substantial thickness. It is provided with a pair of longitudinal parallel cleats *a a* on its upper face that run from end to end of the base on lines an inch or so distant from the longitudinal edges of the base. Superimposed upon this base and held in position between the two parallel cleats *a a* is a pocket-provided structure that furnishes the compartments of my box, the same consisting of a top plate B, vertical upright ends C C, longitudinal side plates D D, and intermediate partitions E E E, all of which parts are securely fastened together by some suitable means and when so secured provide the compartments F F F. Said parts B, C, D, and E may be made of wood, glass, or any other suitable material, though I often preferably make the top and sides of glass in order that the contents of the chambers may be visible. It will be obvious that the upper compartment structure is easily removable from the base A, that when it is placed upon the base A the compartments F are closed and complete, and that when it is removed from said base the checks which may have been within the compartments are left arranged in heaps or piles on base A.

Each compartment F is provided at the top with an entry-slot G, cut or formed in the top piece B, through which slot the checks are introduced into the compartment. Each slot G is provided with an inclined downwardly-projecting lip *g*, the lower edge of which is slightly beyond a vertical line dropped from the adjoining edge of the slot, in order that when a check is introduced through the slot it cannot occupy at any time a vertical position, but must pursue the inclined direction, which will cause it to fly first against the opposite wall of the compartment, and in its rebound it will be impossible for it to reverse its position, but will be obliged to fall, as is indicated in Fig. 4, so as to lie on the top of the pile with its face upward, so that its consecutive number, as well as its other imprinted matter, may be visible to any one looking through the glass wall of the box.

In order to secure the compartment structure upon the base, I provide some suitable locking device. One form that I employ consists of a flat longitudinal plate H, secured to the top piece B and extending from end to end thereof, said plate or strip H having slots *h* in the ends, which project slightly beyond the ends of the top piece B. At each end of the box there is likewise a vertical plate or strip I, having at its upper end a hook *i*, adapted to engage the slot *h* of the plate H, and at its lower end an aperture or orifice *i'*. In the base A is a longitudinal tubular passage J, which registers with the apertures *i' i'*, and through this passage, as well as through the coinciding apertures, is designed to pass a rod K, having on one end a head *k*, while the other end is slotted at *k'* to permit the engagement therewith of a retaining-padlock L. Thus it will be seen that the compartments may be kept securely locked until the proprietor or other person in authority desires to release the confined checks and turn them over to the proper person for auditing. I preferably place at each of the compartments a number corresponding to the number of the waiter, and this number may be marked on the front side, as well as on the rear side, of the box, thus being simultaneously visible to the cashier and to the waiter, assuming that the box rests on the cashier's desk in a position between him and the waiter.

Numerous changes may be made in the exact construction and arrangement of the parts without varying from the true intent and scope of my improvement. The box obviously may be made to open on either side.

In using a cashier's file-box of this character it will be seen that a proprietor receives a valuable protection, in that a cashier and bar-tender or other salesman is effectually prevented from working "dead-wood" checks, inasmuch as the checks must appear in numerical order when the file-box is opened. When checks are dropped in the old-style lock-box or when they are simply impaled upon a spindle all together and not in numerical order, a cashier need not spindle checks if he does not wish it or if he does he can later remove them and destroy them, remove the amount of cash represented by them from the drawer, and after the work passes through the auditor's hands the checks are missing and show against the barman or waiter, as the case may be. The same rule applies to the lock-box, as the cashier may not drop the checks unless he wishes. Hence by the use of my improved file-box the waiter receives protection. The cashier is likewise protected, inasmuch as his work cannot be in any way tampered with, there being no opportunity to molest his work after it has passed through his hands.

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

1. The herein-described cashier's file-box consisting in the combination with a supporting-base, of a series of compartments one of which is assigned to the checks of each waiter, each compartment being provided with a slot having an inclined lip together with locking means for keeping the compartments securely locked against unauthorized entry.

2. The combination in a cashier's file-box

of a base, a series of chambers or compartments, arranged thereon, each compartment having a slot through which the checks are introduced, said slot being provided with an inclined downwardly-projecting lip or flange for providing an inclined chute for the checks, together with locking means consisting of removable plates at the ends of the box, and a removable locking-rod engaging the plates, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JOHN TYLER HICKS.

Witnesses:
FRED E. TASKER,
ROBERT A. MORGAN.