RACK FOR COUNTERS

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ABSTRACT

Rack for holding a plurality of counters in rows and columns. The rack comprises a number of casings, each with a rectangular bottom part divided into compartments the construction of which is made in such a way that it facilitates an easy pushing-in of a counter into a compartment. A single lid provided with window-openings for reading of the counters protects all the counters in one casing. The casings are provided with hinges so that they can be swung out for connection or inspection.

5 Claims, 4 Drawing Figures
RACK FOR COUNTERS

The present invention concerns a rack for holding a plurality of counters, for example call meters, in rows and columns.

Installation of a large number of counters in a rack is commonly carried out by mounting on bars, which is space-requiring and necessitates attachment of every individual counter to the bar. Furthermore a protective cover for each individual counter is necessary.

The purpose of the invention is to eliminate said disadvantages by providing a rack in which a great number of counters can be mounted rapidly and with the least possible manual operations. Another purpose is to protect at the same time the counters against dirt without making individual covers necessary. Still purpose is to achieve an exact mutual position of the counters in order to make more convenient the photographing of the counters.

The rack according to the invention is defined in the accompanying claims.

The invention will be described here below by means of an embodiment with reference to the enclosed drawing on which

FIG. 1 shows a perspective view of a rack according to the invention,

FIG. 2 shows a section through part of casing, and a lid comprised in the rack,

FIG. 3 is a plan view of a part of the lid of the casing seen from the inner side and

FIG. 4 shows a section of the bottom part of the casing.

FIG. 1 shows a part of a rack 17 according to the invention in perspective. This rack mounts a plurality of casings 1 one of the casings being shown 1 in working position and another in a swung-out position in which it is accessible from the backside. Such casing has a bottom part 2 and a lid 3. It is shown on a larger scale in FIGS. 2, 3 and 4. The casings can be swung in and out by means of hinges 16. The bottom part 2 is divided into rectangular compartments 15 by means of intersecting partitions 4. These compartments serve to accommodate counters 5. The lid is provided with window-openings 6 for reading of the counters. At the mounting the counters are placed in their respective compartments and then the lid 3 is pushed in and is fastened with suitable and conventional fastening means, for example spring holders 7. In order to center the counters relative to the window-openings, cross-shaped guide members each consisting of four wedges 8 is arranged on the inside of the lid opposite to each crossing point between the partitions in the bottom part. The narrow ends 8a of the wedges are directed towards the bottom part in order to make it possible for these wedges upon pushing the lid into position to engage the counters which not yet are completely centered relative to the window-openings 6 and to force the counters upon complete pushing in of the lid are into a centered position in which the digits of the counters are exactly in the window-openings. Thus it will be possible to photograph a large number of counter digits located in a well defined position. Each of the casings 1 is provided with a sheet 10 of transparent material having holes for the cross-shaped members 8. The transparent sheet rests directly against the window-openings and facilitates a dust-proof closing of the casing.

We claim:

1. A mounting assembly for mounting a plurality of counters, said assembly comprising in combination:
a rack structure;
a plurality of open casings each including intersecting partition walls dividing the casings into a plurality of compartments each for accommodating a counter therein;
a lid for each of said casings for closing the same, said lids each having window openings one for each compartment;
a plurality of guide members inwardly protruding from said lids, said guide members being disposed to engage upon fitting the lids to the casings side walls of counters inserted into said compartments for guiding each inserted counter into centered registry with the respective window opening.

2. The mounting assembly according to claim 1 wherein each of said guide members consists of four wedges 8a and the narrow ends 8a of the wedges are directed towards the bottom part in order to make it possible for these wedges to engage the counters which are not yet centered relative to the window-openings 6 and to force the counters upon complete pushing in of the lid are into a centered position in which the digits of the counters are exactly in the window-openings. Thus it will be possible to photograph a large number of counter digits located in a well defined position. Each of the casings 1 is provided with a sheet 10 of transparent material having holes for the cross-shaped members 8. The transparent sheet rests directly against the window-openings and facilitates a dust-proof closing of the casing.

3. The mounting assembly according to claim 2 wherein each of said guide members has a cross-shaped cross section and is in alignment with an intersection point of the partition walls when the lids are fitted into the casings.

4. The mounting assembly according to claim 1 wherein each of said casings is hinged to the rack structure for individually swinging the casings into and out of a working position on the rack structure.

5. The mounting assembly according to claim 1 wherein a transparent sheet is placed upon the inside of each lid covering the window openings therein, said sheets including passage openings for said guide members.

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