Aug. 14, 1923. 1,465,099

H. K. STOLBERG

SAFETY DEVICE FOR CHECKS

Filed Dec. 17, 1917.

FIG 1

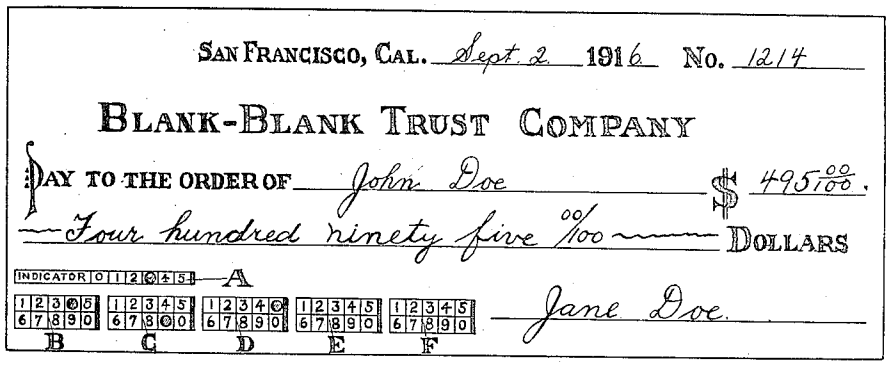


FIG 2

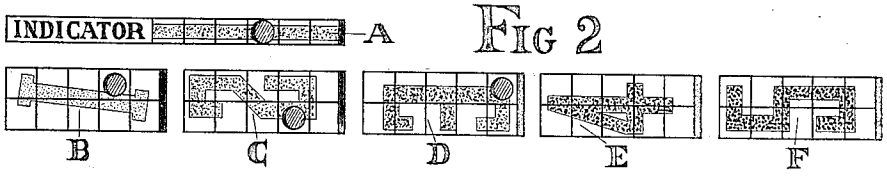


FIG 3

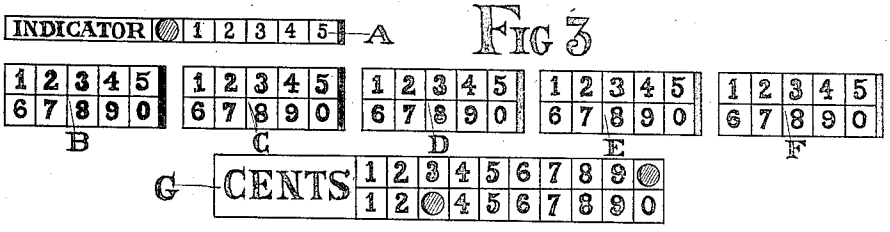
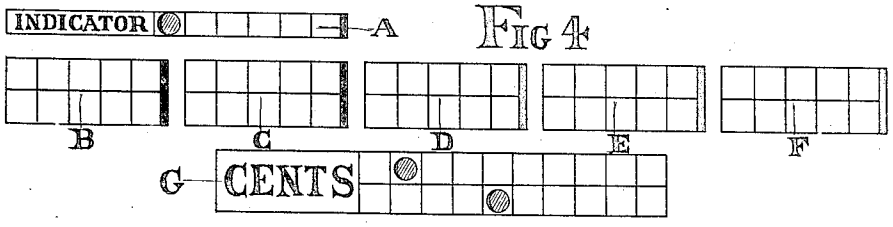


FIG 4



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Patented Aug. 14, 1923. 1,465,099

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HERMAN K. STOLBERG, OF ELMHURST, CALIFORNIA.

SAFETY DEVICE FOR CHECKS.

Application filed December 17, 1917. Serial No. 207,416.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HERMAN K. STOLBERG, a citizen of the United States, residing at Elmhurst, Alameda County, State of California, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Safety Devices for Checks, whereof the following is a specification.

This invention relates to safety devices for checks, drafts, bills of exchange, and other evidences of indebtedness, which are susceptible of being fraudulently "raised."

It is the object of my invention to prevent such fraudulent raising.

In carrying out the invention I print upon the blank for the check etc., a series of sections, which I shall hereinafter denominate "rectangles," each of which contains a series of subdivisions, which I shall hereinafter denominate squares.

The first rectangle is an indicator section and may contain that word for convenience. The other rectangles are related to the digits which determine the amount for which the instrument is drawn. For example, the indicator rectangle may contain any desired number of squares which will respectively and successively contain the digits 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, etc. The other rectangles must in number equal the highest figure in the indicator rectangle, and be used to denote the amount of dollars for which the instrument is drawn, as hereinafter explained. There may also be a rectangle G to indicate the amount of cents when so desired.

I contemplate, also, giving each rectangle a distinctive character so that it will be impossible to cut out a square from one rectangle and place it in another. Such distinctive character may take the form of a different stippling in the various rectangles, or different color or shape, or the rectangles may be separately numbered in such a way that in cutting out any square a portion of the characteristic number must also be taken.

In the accompanying one sheet of drawing I have illustrated my invention so that it may be fully understood.

Figure 1 shows a check containing the invention in its simplest form, there being one indicator rectangle and five dollar rectangles.

Figure 2 shows the relative arrangement of the rectangles, apart from the rest of the check, the dollar rectangles being consecutively numbered, but the squares left blank, and the stippling of the numbers being varied. The figure is made on a larger scale than Figure 1.

Figure 3, also on a larger scale, shows the rectangles in the same arrangement, with each square numbered, and an added rectangle with 20 squares for cents.

Figure 4, also on a larger scale, shows the same arrangement of rectangles, with the added cents rectangle, the squares being all blank.

In these several figures: A represents the indicator section, or rectangle and contains the word "indicator," together with six squares, the first square being for 0, and the others for the digits 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. As the ordinary check usually has less than five places of dollars, five digits will in most cases, be sufficient in the indicator, and I have accordingly carried it no further.

Below the indicator section are sections B, C, D, E, F. These sections are intended for dollars only, as the amount of cents in a check is usually not important and not likely to be tampered with. Section B is for the first digit of dollars, section C for the second, and so on. The check shown in Figure 1 is drawn for four hundred and ninety-five dollars. Hence there are three digits in the amount, to-wit: 4, 9 and 5. Accordingly the indicator section has the figure 3 obliterated. As the first digit of the dollars is 4, the first dollar section, B, has the digit 4 obliterated, and, similarly, section C has the digit 9, and section D the digit 5, obliterated. It will, now be impossible to change the amount of this check except by cutting out and transposing squares from one section to another. To prevent this I propose to give each section a characteristic appearance, so that any such transposition will be immediately apparent. One means of giving this characteristic appearance is shown in Figure 2. In Figure 2 each of the dollars sections is numbered, to correspond with the place of dollars which it represents, section B being numbered 1; section C, 2; and so on. As a further precaution these figures are stippled, and the stippling is of different character in the different figures. For greater clearness in the illustration the numbers in the squares are omitted in Figure 2. In fact the numbers in the squares may be omitted altogether if desired, and the digits determined by the count of the squares, but I prefer to

employ the numbers. The dollar sections, of course, each contain ten squares, numbered from 1 to 9 and 0, and for greater compactness I arrange the squares in two rows, one above the other. Where a cents section is used, it would contain twenty squares in two rows, one row for each place of cents, as shown in Figures 3 and 4. In Figure 3 the amount indicated is $0.03 and in Figure 4 the amount is $0.25, as shown by the obliterated squares.

The words rectangle and square as hereinbefore used are designatory merely and not specific as the shape of the part so designed.

Having thus described my invention, and an embodiment of it, in the full, clear and exact terms required by law, and knowing that it comprises novel, useful and valuable improvements in the art to which it pertains, I here state that I do not wish to be limited to the precise construction and arrangement of the several parts, as herein set forth, as the same may be variously modified by a skilled mechanic without departing from the spirit of the invention.

What I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is the following, to-wit:—

1. An instrument of the character described having an indicator rectangle and a series of independently arranged auxiliary rectangles apart from each other, said last named rectangles being consecutively numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and each number having a different characteristic appearance from the other whereby the substitution of a part of one rectangle from another will be immediately apparent.

2. An instrument of the character described, comprising a series of dollars and cents rectangles each divided into rows containing numbered spaces, an indicator rectangle containing a series of spaces numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, adapted to have one of those spaces obliterated to correspond with the number of spaces obliterated in the series of dollars and cents rectangles and a zero in said indicator rectangle adapted to co-act at one time with said dollars and cents rectangles or either one of then independently.

3. An instrument of the character described, having an indicator rectangle, and a series of auxiliary rectangles each containing 10 divisions, each of said divisions presenting a different characteristic appearance from the other.

4. An instrument of the character described, having an indicator rectangle divided into subdivisions, and a series of auxiliary rectangles corresponding in number to the digital highest number of the indicator rectangle, each of said auxiliary rectangles divided into ten subdivisions, and each presenting a different characteristic appearance from the other.

5. An instrument of the character described, having an indicator rectangle divided into subdivisions, and a series of auxiliary rectangles corresponding in number to the subdivisions of the indicator rectangle, each of said auxiliary rectangles divided into ten subdivisions, the subdivisions of said indicator rectangle numbered zero and from one onward and the subdivisions of the auxiliary rectangles numbered in each rectangle from 1 to 9 and 0, and each presenting a different characteristic appearance from the other.

6. An instrument of the character described, having an indicator rectangle, and a series of auxiliary rectangles each containing 10 divisions, each of said auxiliary rectangle being numbered consecutively, presenting thereby a different characteristic appearance from the others.

In testimony, that I claim the foregoing I have hereto set my hand in the presence of two witnesses, this 11th day of Dec., 1917.

HERMAN K. STOLBERG.

Witnesses:
OTTO H. STOLBERG,
FLORENCE L. WOLFE.