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 **Article detection and recognition.**

 A programmable coin acceptor which is readily reprogrammable to accept different coin sets is described. The acceptor includes a detector (10) which generates an alternating magnetic field through two spatially symmetric flux paths (23,25). Disposed in each of the flux paths (23,25) is a detector coil (22,26). When the acceptor is in use a coin is passed through one of the flux paths (23). The resulting difference in the flux through the two paths (23,25) induces a voltage across the detector coils (22,26). The amplitude of this voltage and its phase relative to the excitation voltage are derived and compared with stored information to determine whether the coin should be accepted. The stored information may readily be changed for a new coin set by switching the acceptor to programming mode and passing selected coins from the coin set through the detector (10) in a predetermined manner.

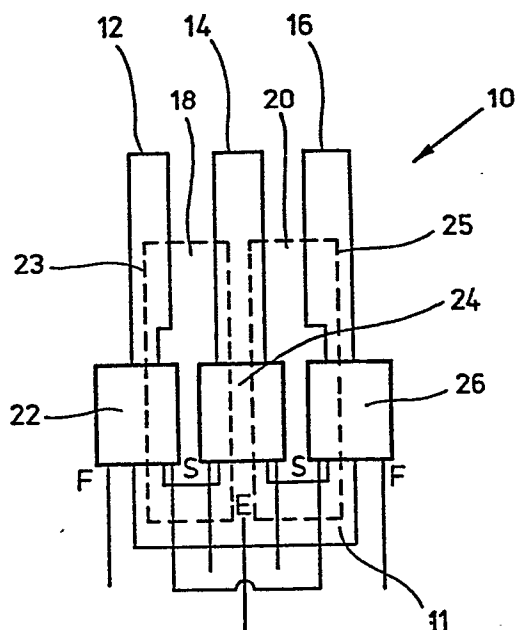


FIG. 1



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
X	EP-A-0 101 276 (UNIVERSAL) * Abstract; figures 1,2; page 5, line 23 - page 11, line 29 *	1,4-6, 9,11, 13-16	G 07 F 3/02 G 07 D 5/08
A	---	10,12	
X	GB-A- 765 071 (L.J. YELLAND) * Claims; figures *	1,4-6	
A	---	2,3,7-12	
X	CH-A- 486 078 (REGA) * Column 7, line 54 - column 8, line 24; column 10, line 57 - column 11, line 3; figures 4,8 *	1,3,4, 6-8	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4) G 07 F G 07 D
A	---	2,5,9-12	
X	US-A-4 086 527 (R.G. CADOT) * Whole document *	13,15, 16	
	---	-/-	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 24-09-1987	Examiner DAVID J.Y.H.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
A	---	14, 1, 3 , 6, 9- 12	
A	WO-A-8 404 617 (L. KLINGER) ---		
A	GB-A-2 092 798 (COIN CONTROLS) --- -----		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 24-09-1987	Examiner DAVID J.Y.H.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS ○ particularly relevant if taken alone ○ particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background ○ : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	