Nov. 7, 1939. W. K. SCHAUWEKER 2,179,023

CHECK AND CHECK-SELECTING DEVICE

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FIG. 1.

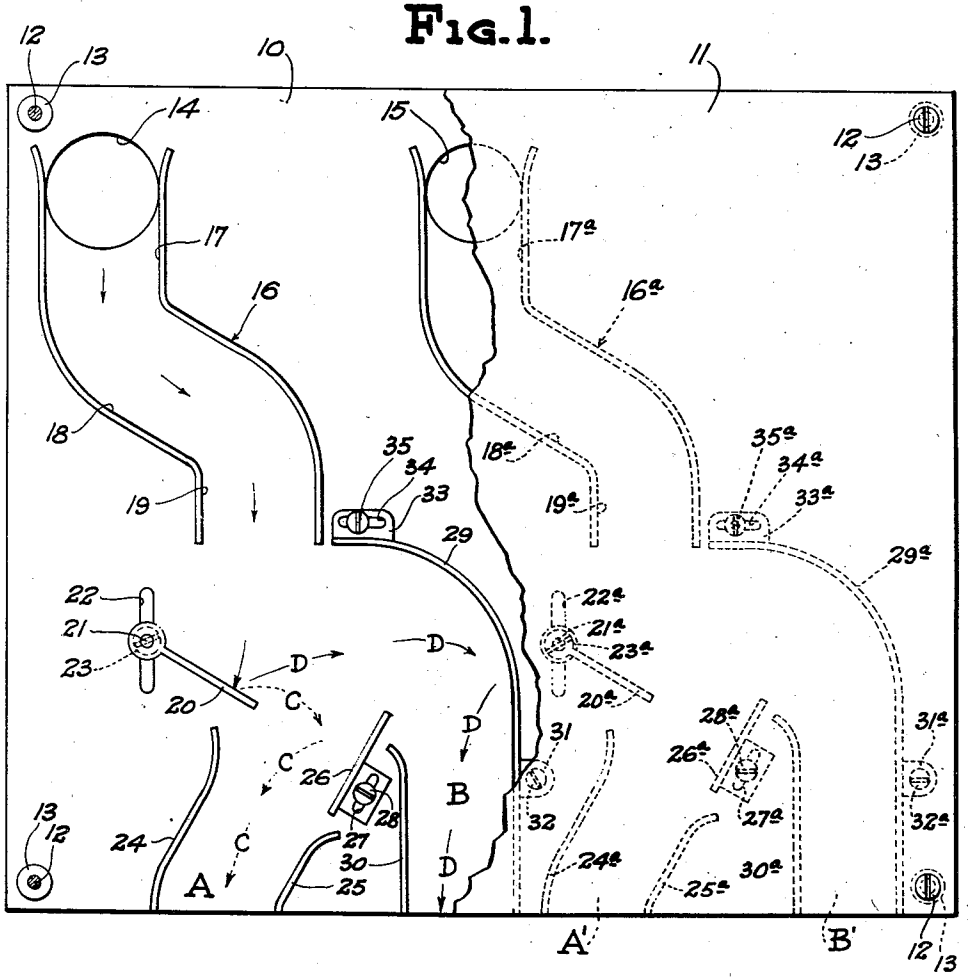


FIG. 2.

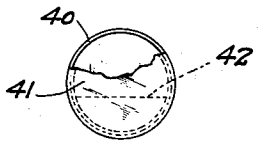
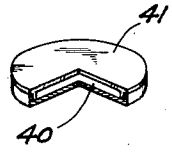


FIG. 3.



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CHECK AND CHECK-SELECTING DEVICE

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3 Claims. (Cl. 194—4)

This invention relates to check-controlled mechanism and to a special check for use therewith. One of the objects of the invention is to provide, for the operation of such mechanism, a check the cost of the reproduction of which will be so high as to render it impossible of being counterfeited profitably.

Another object of the invention is to provide a device which is especially adapted to select checks made in accordance with my invention from coins or slugs that may be introduced thereinto and to deliver said checks in operative relation to the mechanism to be controlled thereby.

A more specific object of the invention is to provide a check possessing less resiliency than is possessed by slugs of any of the ordinary relatively cheap metals and materials, as well as of less resiliency than is possessed by the coins by which coin-controlled mechanisms are usually operated; also to provide, for cooperation with such non-resilient checks, a check-selecting and distributing device comprising one or more chutes and associated parts which will provide for the effective selection of the checks embodying my invention for the subsequent operation of any check-controlled mechanism with which the aforesaid device is intended to cooperate.

Other and more limited objects will be pointed out hereinafter in connection with the accompanying drawing, wherein Fig. 1 is a fragmentary elevation, with parts broken away, of a check-selecting and distributing device made in accordance with my invention; Fig. 2 a plan view of my check, with certain parts broken away; and Fig. 3 a view in perspective of said check, with parts of the same broken away.

In the drawing there are illustrated only the parts of my check-selecting device, it being understood that the parts so illustrated may form an integral part of a check-controlled mechanism of any kind, such as employed with the present type of coin-controlled telephones, vending machines, phonographs, games, or the like.

Describing the parts by reference characters, 10 and 11 denote parallel plates which are secured together in spaced parallel relation, as by means of screws 12 and spacing sleeves 13. The plate 10 is provided with openings 14 and 15, for the reception of different-sized checks, which may correspond respectively to the openings provided for the reception of dimes and nickels for the operation of ordinary coin-controlled mechanism. Extending downwardly from the openings 14 and 15 are the initial or receiving chutes 16, 16a, respectively. Each of these chutes comprises a substantially vertical receiving portion 17, 17a; a downwardly and laterally inclined portion 18, 18a; and a laterally offset downwardly directed portion 19, 19a. Directly beneath the bottoms of the chutes 16, 16a, are impact elements 20, 20a, respectively, each of said elements consisting preferably of a flat spring which is mounted for vertical and angular adjustment upon a stud 21, 21a, extending through a vertical slot 22, 22a, the springs being clamped in any vertical and angular positions to which they may be moved by means of the nuts 23, 23a, respectively, mounted on the ends of the studs which project through the said slots.

A and A' denote delivery chutes which are located below the impact elements 20 and 20a, respectively, and from which chutes the checks constructed in accordance with my invention are delivered to the operative parts of the check-controlled mechanism with which my device cooperates. Each chute is conveniently formed between downwardly inclined chute members 24, 25 and 24a, 25a, the members 25 and 25a being located below upper chute members 26, 26a, respectively, the chute members 26, 26a each having a downwardly inclined wall and being longitudinally adjustable, in the general direction of the chutes A, A' by means of slots 27, 27a, adapted to receive clamping and adjusting screws 28, 28a, respectively.

B and B' represent delivery chutes that are located laterally beyond the chutes A and A' respectively, the chutes B and B' being provided between the chute members 29, 30 and 29a, 30a, respectively. The chute members 29, 29a comprise each a portion extending downwardly as far as the bottoms of the chute members 30, 30a and an upper curved portion located above the impact members 20, 20a and below and at one side of the delivery portions of the chutes 16, 16a, thereabove. Each chute member 29, 29a is pivotally secured to the plate 10, as by means of an ear 31, 31a and screw 32, 32a and is also adjustably secured to the plate 10 by means of an ear 33, 33a having a slot 34, 34a therein and screws 35, 35a, extending through said slots, respectively. Each chute member 30, 30a extends downwardly below the chute member 26, 26a.

In cooperation with the parts thus far described, I employ a particularly non-resilient check consistsing preferably of a short cylindrical receptacle, in the form of a shallow box having a bottom 40 provided with an upstanding cylindrical wall and a cover 41 having a cylindri-

cal wall adapted to be received within the former cylindrical wall. Within the receptacle thus formed, I place ballasting and shock-absorbing material. For such material, I preferably employ mercury, indicated at 42, which only partially fills the receptacle. In practice, I have found that best results are accomplished by filling the receptacle to less than one-half of its capacity with mercury. Where mercury is used I employ for the receptacle a metal which is capable of withstanding the destructive action thereof, steel having been found suitable for this purpose. The telescoping parts of the receptacle are fitted tightly together so that the check is capable of withstanding repeated use.

With the parts constructed and arranged in the manner described, the operation of my checks and my cooperating check selecting device is as follows, it being understood that checks used with the aforesaid device will be of such diameters as to enable them to be inserted, with only a small amount of clearance, within the opening 14 and 15. Assuming one of my checks has been inserted in the opening 14, it first strikes the inclined surface of the receiving chute 16 beneath the section 18 thereof and thence is delivered downwardly through the laterally offset section 19 upon the impact element 20. The purpose of constructing the chute 16 in the particular manner shown herein is to prevent my check from being given a rotary motion, prior to its delivery upon the impact element 20, in a direction which will cause it to rebound over the chute member 26 and thus enter the chute B. With the impact element positioned properly with respect to the delivery end of the chute 16 and with respect to the laterally spaced inlets of the chutes A and B, the rebound of my check therefrom will be so limited in extent and in direction of movement that it will be delivered into the chute A, as shown by the arrows C, said chute being arranged to deliver my check to the cooperating portion of the particular check-controlled mechanism with which my selecting device is to be used.

Should a slug of any of the ordinary metals (including lead), or a coin made of any of the metals used for its production, be inserted in the opening 14, it will, by virtue of its greater resilience, be delivered from the impact surface into the chute B, as shown by the arrows D, whence it may be delivered in turn to a receptacle such as is ordinarily provided for the reception of slugs or for the reception of coins which are returned to the user.

It is within the purview of my invention to use other damping or shock-absorbing material in the receptacle of my check; but I have found mercury to be the material best suited for this purpose because of its high specific gravity and its fluidity, the latter quality ensuring its presence immediately above the portion of the receptacle which strikes the impact members 20, 20a.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

1. A check for operating a check controlled device, said check comprising a closed thin cylindrical receptacle having therein a metal of high specific gravity filling only a portion of the space enclosed within the said receptacle and being freely movable within said space.

2. A check for operating a check controlled device, said check comprising a closed thin cylindrical receptacle made of resilient material and having therein a metal of high specific gravity filling only a portion of the space enclosed within the said receptacle and freely movable within said space.

3. A check for operating a check controlled device, the said check comprising a closed thin cylindrical receptacle of resilient material and having mercury therein, the mercury only partially filling the said receptacle, and the said receptacle being composed of material which is not corrodible by mercury.

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