Oct. 11, 1932. G. E. JUDD 1,881,650

TICKET HANDLING APPARATUS

Filed Aug. 22, 1929 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

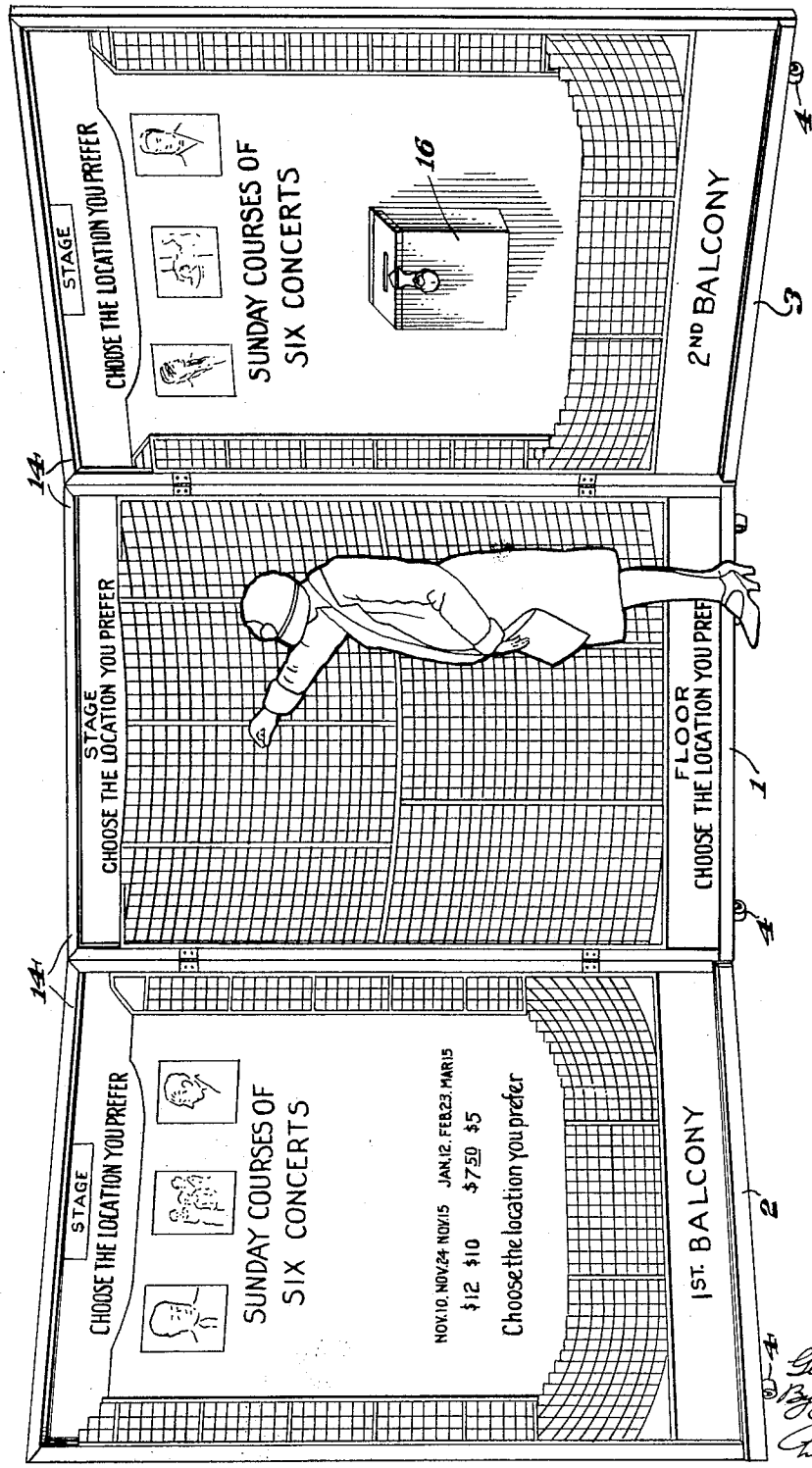


Fig. 1

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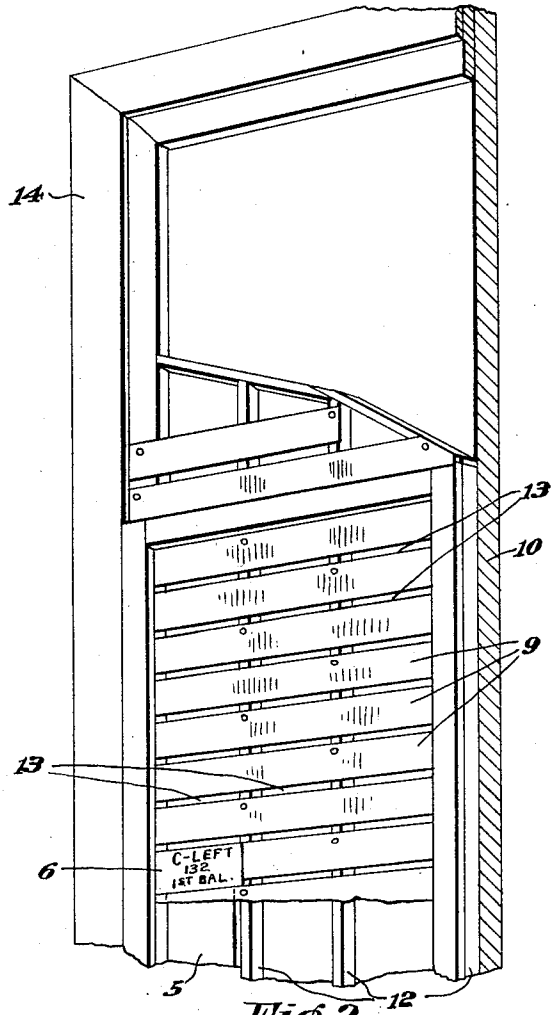


Fig. 2

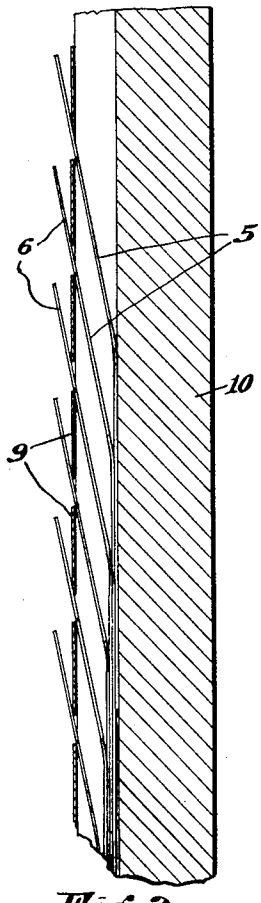


Fig. 3

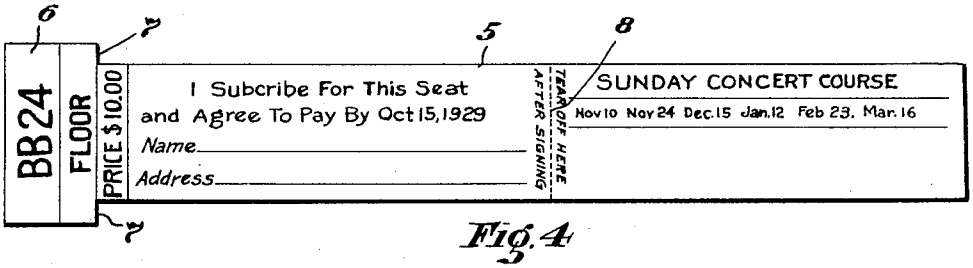


Fig. 4

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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TICKET HANDLING APPARATUS

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This invention relates to apparatus designed for use in making subscriptions to or selling or reserving tickets for public performances.

For example, it is a common practice for patrons of the theatre, opera, and the like, to subscribe for tickets entitling them to a certain seat or seats for a designated day of each week during an entire season, or for a specified series of plays, operas, concerts, or other entertainments. By subscription I mean any form of subscription or reservation. Usually the subscription is made at a relatively early date and the tickets for each individual opera, play or concert are mailed to the subscribers a few days before the respective dates of such operas, plays or concerts. In the course of a season several series of such entertainments may be put on at a single theatre or opera house, the selling of the tickets for all of them being handled largely by subscription. The same method is useful in handling a great variety of affairs, including educational, sporting events, and others.

The present invention aims to reduce the labor involved in handling subscriptions and selling tickets and to facilitate the selection and purchase of seats by the public. It involves a case or cabinet designed to be accessible to the public and to which any person can go directly, make his own selection of seats, and enter his subscription without requiring the services of a ticket seller or other person acting for the management.

The nature of the invention will be readily understood from the following description when read in connection with the accompanying drawings, and the novel features will be particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view illustrating, somewhat diagrammatically, a ticket case constructed in accordance with this invention;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view, partly in section, illustrating certain structural features of the case shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view of portions of the case shown in Figs. 1 and 2; and

Fig. 4 is a plan view of a ticket or subscription slip of a form suitable for use in the case or cabinet.

Referring first to Fig. 1, the case or cabinet there shown includes three panels indicated, respectively, at 1, 2 and 3. These panels are relatively large and are supported in upright positions on castors 4. Each panel holds the tickets or subscription slips, or the like, (hereinafter referred to as tickets) for a given section of the hall, theatre, or opera house, and it is laid out in accordance with the floor plan of the particular section to which it relates. For example, in Fig. 1 the panel 1 is arranged to agree with the seating arrangement of the floor or orchestra of a particular hall. The panel 2 is laid out according to the floor plan of the first balcony, and the panel 3 like that of the second balcony. In this layout or arrangement pockets or slots for the tickets are provided at the locations corresponding to the respective seats. In other words, the pockets correspond in number and arrangement to the number and arrangement of the seats, each seat being represented by a single pocket or slot. It will be observed also that the pockets are preferably arranged in parallel rows, located side by side.

Each of these pockets or slots is designed to receive and hold a ticket which may conveniently be of the form shown in Fig. 4. Referring to this figure it will be seen that the ticket comprises a relatively long narrow portion 5, which may for convenience be designated the "shank," and a widened end portion 6 with abrupt shoulders 7—7 at the junction of said portions 5 and 6. The part 6 of the ticket bears a printed designation of the number and location of a single seat, while the part 5 bears printed matter appropriate to the particular entertainment for which the ticket is provided. Assuming that the entertainment consists of a series of Sunday concerts, and that the ticket is a subscription or application for a seat to the series it may bear such printed matter as that shown in Fig. 4, and would include a blank

for the name and address of the subscriber. It might also have a section to be torn off at the line 8 bearing the dates of the several concerts and certain information concerning them.

The pockets for holding these tickets may conveniently be formed by making the cabinet with a front wall 9 and a rear wall 10, Figs. 2 and 3, spaced from each other, and providing slots in the front wall to permit the introduction of the shanks of the tickets into the space between the two walls. The particular method of manufacture may vary considerably, but as shown in Fig. 2 the front wall 9 is separated from the rear wall 10 by a series of vertical bars 12, and the front wall consists of relatively narrow metal strips nailed to these bars, the strips being separated vertically from each other to provide narrow slots, such as those shown at 13. Each panel also includes a frame 14 which stiffens the entire structure and makes it more rigid. Portions of the front wall are also covered with paper, cardboard, or other suitable material, on which advertising matter or information relating to the entertainments may be printed or pasted.

Each of the slots 13 is made slightly longer than the width of the shank part of the ticket and wide enough to permit the placing of the tickets in them in inclined positions, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3. The length of these slots, however, is substantially less than that of the wide end 6 of the ticket so that when the ticket is in one of the pockets or slots, its shoulders 7—7 will rest on the lower edge of the slot, as shown in Fig. 2. In this position the shanks of the tickets extend into the vertical passages or channels formed between the spacing bars 12, overlapping each other as illustrated in Fig. 3.

In using this apparatus the tickets are placed in the case and it is set up in the lobby of the theatre or opera house where the public has free access to it. A person goes to the case, takes out the ticket or tickets for the seat or seats which he wishes to occupy, signs his name and address on the tickets, and mails them to the manager. Or, he can take them to the box office and pay for them, or drop them into the box 16, Fig. 1, which is located on one of the panels. His check to pay for the seats may be sent with the tickets or forwarded before the time named on them. If he desires he may tear off the parts of the tickets which contain simply a memorandum of the dates of the concerts or performances and retain them for his convenience. In due time the tickets for the seats which he has purchased are mailed to him, either in one group, or the tickets for each entertainment may be mailed a few days before their respective dates, or may be held to be called for.

The apparatus is particularly useful in relieving the management of much of the work which otherwise is involved in making subscriptions. The selection of seats by the public is facilitated since any one can go directly to the case, see exactly which seats are available, and choose the particular seats which he wishes to purchase. Those tickets which have not been paid for by the date specified on the tickets, may be withdrawn from subscription and sold at the box office in the usual manner.

While the apparatus is especially useful in handling subscriptions, it can also be used in selling tickets directly subject, of course, to certain safeguards which need not be mentioned here. For purposes of disclosure it has been necessary to show and describe a particular seating arrangement and a typical construction of case or cabinet. It will be understood, however, that this disclosure has been made rather by way of illustration than limitation and that the invention may be embodied in a variety of forms without departing from the spirit or scope thereof.

Having thus described my invention, what I desire to claim as new is:

1. A ticket case adapted to occupy an upright position and having front and rear walls spaced apart, said front wall having slots therein corresponding in number and arrangement to the number and arrangement of the seats to be sold, and spacing members connecting said front and rear walls and dividing the space between them into vertically disposed channels, each slot being adapted to receive a ticket with the lower part of the ticket extending into one of said channels and the upper end portion thereof exposed at the front of the case.

2. A ticket selling device adapted to occupy an upright position and comprising a frame, front and rear wall members supported on said frame and spaced apart, said front wall member having slots therein opening into the space between said members, said slots corresponding in number and arrangement to the number and arrangement of the seats to be sold, and spacing members connecting said front and rear wall members and dividing the space between them into vertically disposed channels, each slot being adapted to receive a ticket with the lower part of the ticket extending into one of said channels and the upper end portion thereof exposed at the front of the case.

3. A ticket selling device comprising a case adapted to occupy an upright position and having relatively spaced front and rear walls, said front wall containing ticket-receiving slots corresponding in number and arrangement to the number and arrangement of the seats in an auditorium with which the tickets are to be used, spacing members for connecting said front and rear walls and dividing the space between them into vertically disposed channels, and dummy tickets support-

ed in said slots, said tickets each comprising an exposed portion of lateral extent exceeding the width of a slot, and a shank portion extending into the channel associated with the slot which supports the ticket, each ticket bearing indicia identifying it with the slot in which it is placed, and also bearing a contract agreement.

4. A ticket selling device adapted to occupy an upright position and comprising a frame, front and rear wall members supported on said frame and spaced apart, said front wall member having slots therein opening into the space between said members, said slots corresponding in number and arrangement to the number and arrangement of the seats of an auditorium, spacing members connecting said front and rear wall members and dividing the space between them into vertically disposed channels, each of said slots being adapted to receive a ticket with the lower part of the ticket extending into one of said channels and the upper portion thereof exposed at the front of the case, and a sealed container carried by said frame for receiving and enclosing severed portions of said tickets.

GEORGE E. JUDD.