

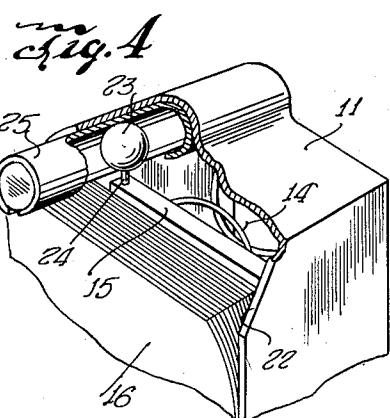
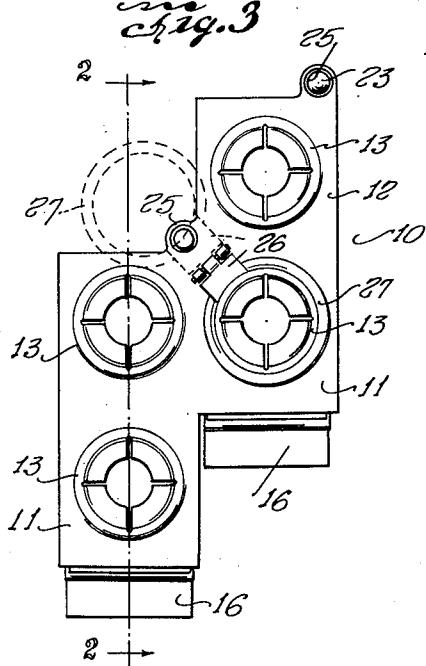
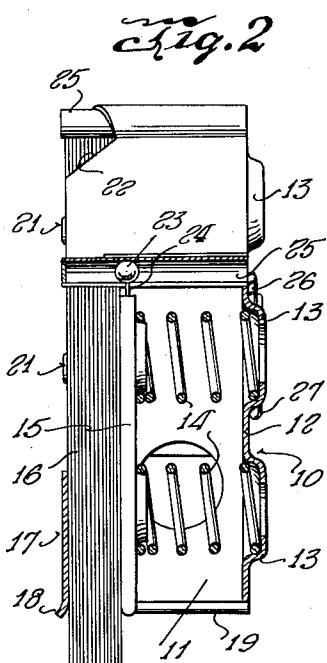
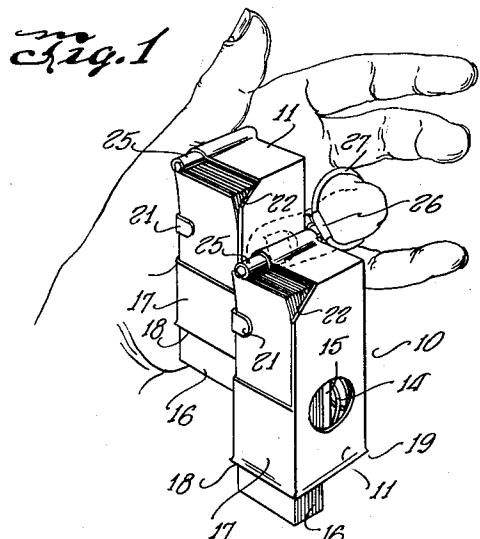
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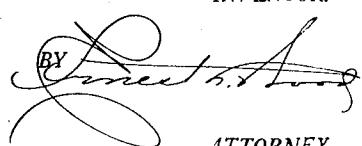
2,492,480

CONDUCTOR'S CHECK HOLDER

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## CONDUCTOR'S CHECK HOLDER

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5 Claims. (Cl. 206—40.5)

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This invention relates to ticket or check holders and more particularly to certain improvements in hat check holders usually employed by railway conductors.

The principal object of the invention is to provide a check holder which, by virtue of its peculiar shape, has certain advantages over conventional devices for like purpose, in that it consists of a case having two chambers adapted to hold checks having different color characteristics and which chambers are axially offset to better accommodate the case to the palm of the hand. A recess is thus provided in the case to receive the third finger of the hand and a foldable ring is disposed in an appropriate position in relation to the recess to be received by the finger as a means for holding the device in the palm of the hand.

Another object of the invention is to provide a conductor's hat check holder consisting of a case made up of two complementary chambers, each having therein a false bottom under which is one or more coil springs normally urging the false bottom outwardly to advance a stack of checks on the false bottom towards the open face of the chamber for ready detachment of checks singly from the stack. The invention also includes among its novel features a ball attached to one corner of the false bottom in each chamber of the case and which is retained in a tube affixed to a corner of the chamber and capable of longitudinal sliding displacement therein by virtue of a slot in the wall of the tube. Thus, the false bottom is held for free movement in the chamber to insure like movement of the checks to position for removal.

Still another object of the invention is to provide in each of the chambers of the case an opening in one end thereof to expose the ends of the checks nearest the open face of the chamber for free access to the checks therein and adjacent which opening an end of a guide tube for the false bottom extends beyond the plane of the face of the case to define a stop to limit endwise displacement of the checks exposed at the opening.

With the foregoing objects in view, the invention has further reference to certain features of accomplishment which will become apparent as the description proceeds, taken in connection with the accompanying drawing wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a check holder constructed according to the invention shown held in the hand.

Figure 2 is a view in longitudinal section, taken on line 2—2 of Figure 3.

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Figure 3 is a rear elevational view of the case, and

Figure 4 is a fragmentary perspective view, partly in section, showing the ball and guide tube for holding the false bottom of each chamber for free movement therein.

Continuing with a more detailed description of the drawing, reference numeral 10 denotes generally the check or ticket case which is made up of two identical compartments or chambers 11 which are longitudinally offset, as shown, for the purpose to be presently explained.

These chambers 11 are closed at the bottom by a plate 12, shaped to conform to the offset relationship of the chambers and this plate is provided with circular depressions 13 in which are retained the ends of a plurality of coil springs 14, two in each compartment 11. The opposite ends of the spring in each compartment bear against the underside of a plate or false bottom 15 whose dimensions are equal to those of the compartment 11 in which it moves. The springs 14 are collapsed by cards, checks or tickets 16 inserted under a plate 17 which closes the lower front portion of the compartment 11 and whose lower edge is curved slightly outward at 18, as is likewise the lower extremity of the walls of each compartment at 19 to facilitate insertion of the cards into the chambers.

The upper portion of the top check of each compartment is exposed to enable the conductor to make notations or inscriptions thereon and is held down by a tab 21 formed on and turned inwardly at right angles from a wall of the compartment 11.

The upper end of each compartment 11 is cut away as at 22 to expose the upper ends of the topmost checks of the stack in each compartment. This provision is to enable the conductor to more easily remove the top card by lifting its upper end and withdrawing it from under the tab 21 and the partial cover plate 17.

The false bottom plates 15 are held for free movement in their respective chambers 11 by means of a ball 23, affixed to an uppermost corner of the plate 15 by means of a neck or stem 24. The ball is slidable longitudinally in a tube 25, one being affixed to a corner of each compartment. The tube is slotted longitudinally to accommodate the stem 24 of the ball and is closed at its outer end to prevent release of the ball and thus prevent removal of the false bottom 15 from its compartment. Moreover, it will be observed especially in Figure 2 that the outer ends of the tubes 25 extend slightly beyond the face of the

case to thus afford a stop against which the upper ends of the top checks abut and to remove the topmost check, its upper end must be lifted over the protruding end of the tube 25.

Affixed to the rear plate 12 is a hinge 26 and to which is attached a ring 27. The hinge is so positioned that the ring 27, when the case is not in use, may be folded onto the plate 12, in the manner shown in Figure 3, to embrace one of the embossments defined by the depressions 13 and thus lie flush with the common plate thereof. However, when the ring is in operative position, the third finger of the hand is inserted therethrough, as shown in Figure 1 and the finger may be closed to lie in the recess formed by the offset chambers and thus hold the case in an appropriate position for the removal of checks therefrom or for making inscriptions on the checks.

Manifestly, the construction as shown and described is capable of some modification and such modification as may be construed to fall within the scope and meaning of the appended claims is also considered to be within the spirit and intent of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A conductor's hat check holder comprising a case composed of two rectangular chambers in longitudinally offset relationship defining a recess at each end of the case, a false bottom in each chamber, a slotted tube affixed in parallelism to a corner of said chamber, a ball on a corner of the false bottom in said chamber and slideable longitudinally in the tube, spring means normally urging said false bottom outwardly of said chamber, a finger ring hinged to said case adjacent one of said recesses for supporting said case and means for holding checks against release of said chambers under pressure of said spring means.

2. A conductor's check holder comprising a case composed of two check retaining chambers in longitudinally offset relationship defining a recess at each end of said case, said chambers each hav-

ing an opening in one end to expose the ends of checks therein for removal singly from said chamber, a false bottom in said chamber, spring means collapsible under pressure of checks in said chamber, a longitudinally slotted tube at one corner of said chamber, a ball on said false bottom and slideable in said slotted tube to hold said false bottom against release from said chamber and means hinged on said case and movable in relation to one of the end recesses thereof for supporting the case from a finger of the hand.

3. A check holder comprising a case having at least one chamber for retention of checks, said chamber being provided with a cut-away portion at one end to expose the ends of topmost checks therein, a longitudinally slotted tube on said chamber extending at one end beyond the face of said chamber and defining a stop prohibiting displacement of checks through the cut-away portion of said chamber, a spring actuated false bottom in said chamber for urging checks towards the front thereof, a ball extension on said false bottom slideable longitudinally in said slotted tube to hold said false bottom against displacement from said chamber, means for holding said checks in said chamber against the pressure of said false bottom and means pivoted to said case for supporting the same from the finger of the hand.

4. A check holder as set forth in claim 3, in which the case supporting means consists of a finger ring hinged to the rear wall of the case and foldable in inoperative position into flush engagement with said wall.

5. A check holder as set forth in claim 3 in which the end of the chamber opposite the cut-away portion is open for the reception of checks and whose walls are flared outwardly about the open end to freely admit said checks.

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No references cited.