

Oct. 6, 1925.

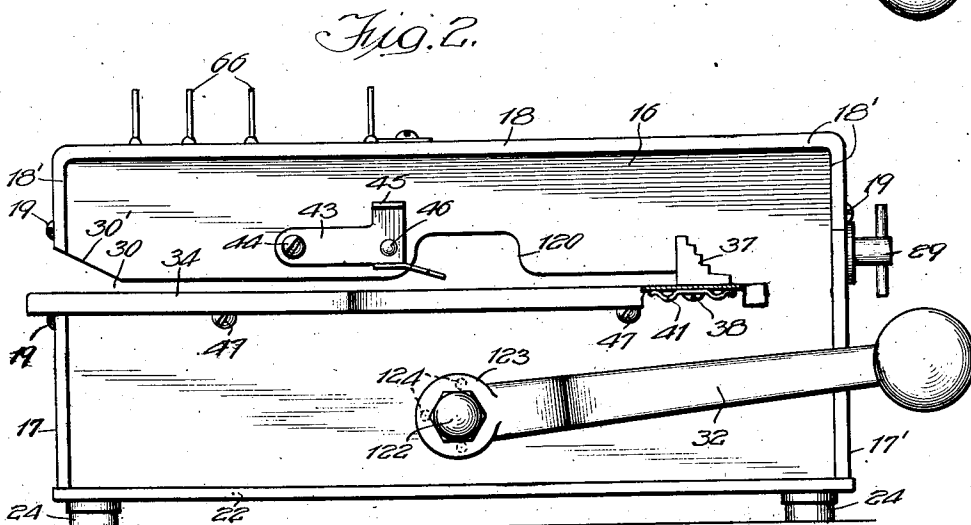
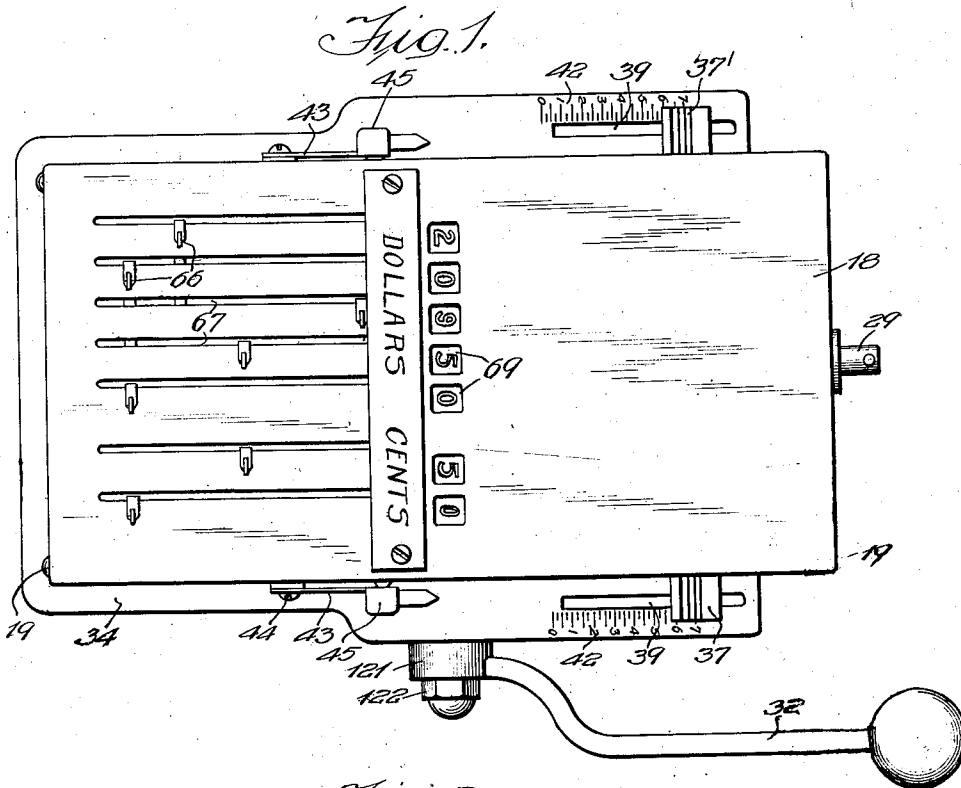
1,556,466

G. M. WILLIS

CHECK WRITER

Filed May 24, 1922

4 Sheets-Sheet 1



Witnesses:
W. F. Hilroy
Harry R. L. White.

Inventor
George M. Willis
Morton Portner & Diener
ATTY'S.

Oct. 6, 1925.

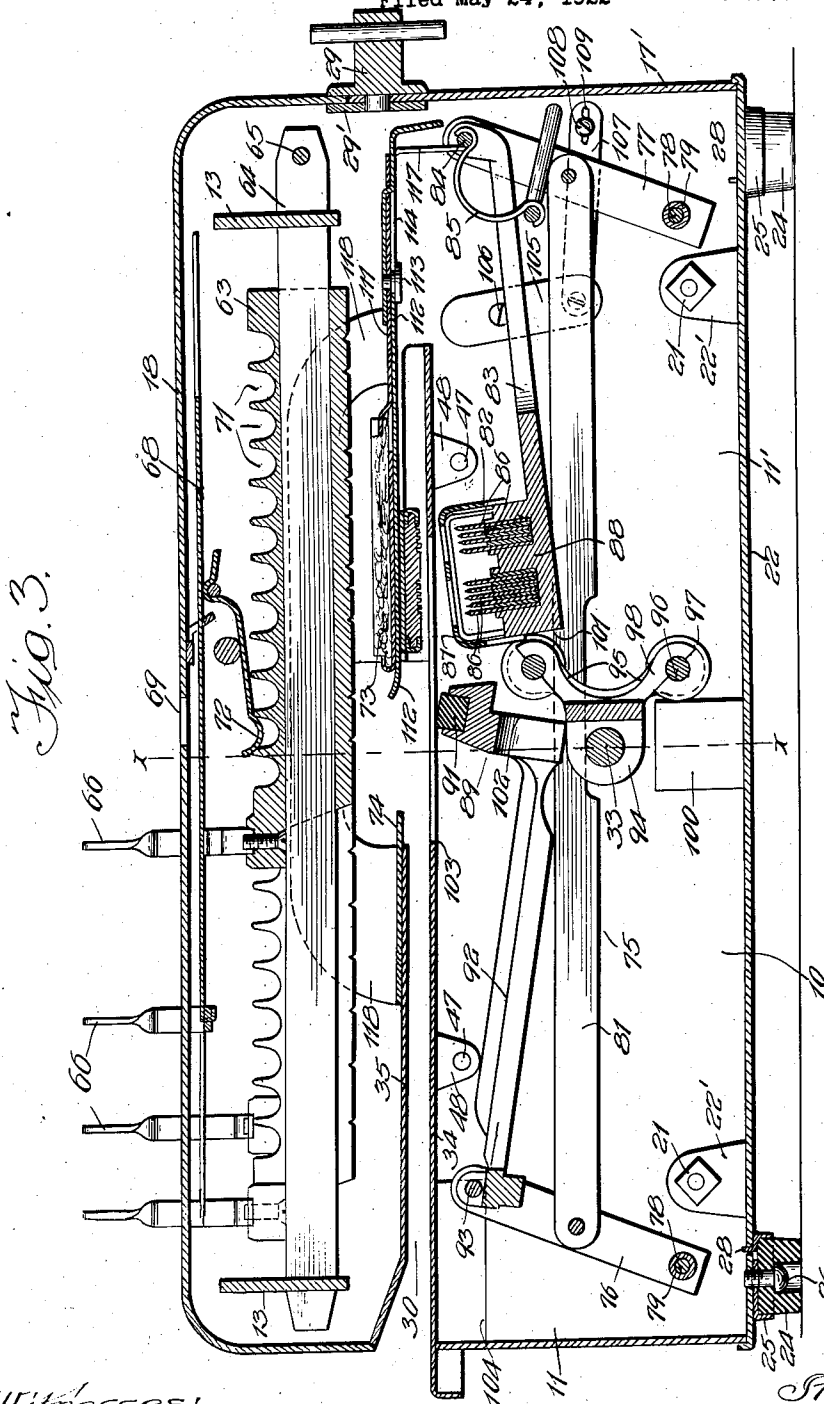
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G. M. WILLIS

CHECK WRITER

Filed May 24, 1922

4 Sheets-Sheet 2



Witnesses:

W. P. Kilroy
Harry R. L. White.

104-11-24
Inventor:
George M. Willis
Brown Bottcher & Dinn
By atty

Oct. 6, 1925.

1,556,466

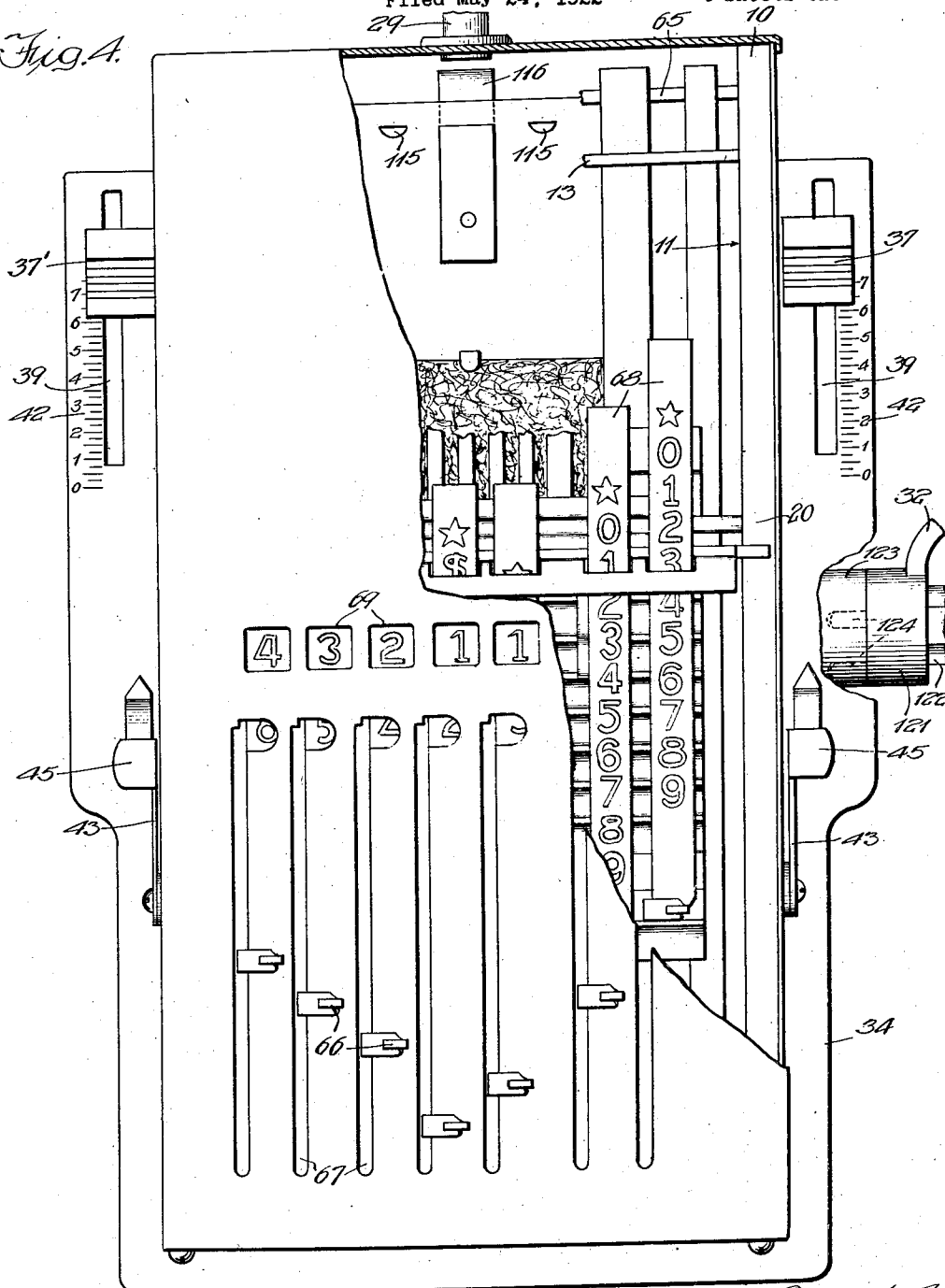
G. M. WILLIS

CHECK WRITER

Filed May 24, 1922

4 Sheets-Sheet 3

Fig. 4.



Witnesses:

W. P. Kilroy
Harry R. White.

Inventor:

George M. Willis
Mowbray Porter & Denny,
By Attys

Patented Oct. 6, 1925.

1,556,466

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE M. WILLIS, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

CHECK WRITER.

Application filed May 24, 1922. Serial No. 563,229.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE M. WILLIS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Check Writers, of which the following is a full, clear, concise, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification.

The present invention relates to check writers, and embodies improvements upon the construction of check writer disclosed in my co-pending application, Serial No. 481,632, filed June 30, 1921.

One of the prominent objects of the invention is to improve upon the form of check writer disclosed in this prior application to the end of permitting a more convenient insertion of the check into the machine, and to adapt the machine to receiving voucher checks and other commercial paper of large size.

A further object is to provide an improved arrangement of gripping fingers which operate to grip and retain the check against displacement while the perforating and printing operations are being performed thereon.

A further object is to provide an improved arrangement of aligning mechanism for properly aligning the check with the printing line in the machine.

A further object is to provide an improved arrangement of adjustable stops for limiting the throw of the oscillatory frame which carries the perforating mechanism and printing platen.

A further object is to provide an improved construction of reinforced frame for strengthening that portion of the machine disposed above the check receiving slot.

A further object is to provide an improved arrangement of "smudge" plate or member for deflecting away from the type bars that portion of the check not to be printed.

In the accompanying drawings illustrating a preferred construction of my invention:

Figure 1 is a plan view of the check writer;

Fig. 2 is a side elevational view of the same;

Fig. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view through the machine;

Fig. 4 is a plan view, partly in elevation, and partly in section, of the machine on substantially the scale illustrated in Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a side elevational view of the machine with the housing removed, illustrating the construction of the machine frame and the arrangement of the gripping fingers;

Figs. 6 and 7 are fragmentary sectional views illustrating different steps in the operating cycle of the machine; and

Fig. 8 is an inverted fragmentary elevational view of the type bars and the plate bearing the trade symbol or other indicia.

The operating parts of the machine are supported in an oblong frame 10 comprising two side plates 11—11' which are stamped out with channels 12 bent backwardly along the vertical ends of the plates. Extending along the upper edge of each side plate is a laterally bent flange 20 which serves to reinforce that portion of the frame overhanging the check receiving slot 30. The frame plates are secured together in spaced relation by transverse bars or plates 13 which have their ends rigidly secured in slots in the side plates 11—11'. Both these transverse bars are disposed above the level of the check receiving slot 30. The lower edges of the side plates 11—11' are held in spaced relation by securing these plates to the bottom housing plate 22. As shown in Fig. 3, this is preferably accomplished by striking tongues 22' up from this housing plate and securing the side frame plates to these tongues by suitable screws and nuts 21.

The aforesaid frame 10 is enclosed in a sheet metal housing comprising side and end walls 16 and 17—17' and a cover plate 18. The ends of this cover plate are curved downwardly to meet the upper edge of the end wall 17' and the edge of the check receiving slot 30. These downwardly bent ends are secured to the channel formations 12 of the frame by screws 19. The left hand end wall 17 (Fig. 2) is comparatively short so as to terminate at the bottom of the slot 30, this end wall being similarly secured to the channel formations 12 by screws 19. The longitudinal and vertical edges of the cover plate 18 are formed with short flanges 18' which overlap the adjacent edges of the side walls 16—16' and thus securely confine these side walls against

the channel formations 12. The end walls 17—17' are similarly formed with flanges which overlie the side plates 16—16'. The margins of the bottom plate 22 are likewise provided with flanges which overlie the side plates 16—16' and also the end plates 17—17'. The bottom plate is provided with rubber feet 24 for supporting the device, these rubber feet being confined in metallic cups 25 engaging the bottom plate 22, (Fig. 3). A screw 26 passing up through the rubber foot and through the cup 25 taps into the bottom plate 22, and a tongue 28, which is struck up from the cup 25 is adapted to enter a corresponding slot in the bottom plate 22 for holding the rubber foot against accidental unscrewing. The right hand end plate 17' is made readily removable through the provision of a knob 29 which controls a locking lug 29' adapted to engage behind the adjacent edge of the cover plate 18. This end plate 17' is made removable to afford convenient access for the removal of the inking pad, all of which is described in detail in my co-pending application.

The operation of perforating the check and impressing the type characters therein is performed by the back and forth movement of an operating handle 32. This handle is pivoted on a transverse operating shaft 33, the vertical plane of which defines the printing line along which the printing operation is performed. As viewed in Figs. 2 and 3, the check receiving slot 30 extends from the left hand end of the machine past this printing line and to a point in proximity to the right hand end of the machine. As shown in Fig. 1 the handle 32 is curved away from the machine so as to accommodate relatively wide checks or vouchers in the slot 30. The bottom of the slot is faced by a plate 34 which extends substantially the full length of the slot and which has extending, flanged margins which project beyond the end and sides of the machine. The entering edge of the slot is inclined upwardly, as indicated at 30', to facilitate insertion of the check, and this inclined portion and the top of the slot is faced by a plate 35 having flanges 36 bent over and secured to the side plates 16—16', as shown in Fig. 5.

The lateral portions of the lower guide plate 34 are extended outwardly at the inner end of the plate, as shown in Fig. 1, to mount the two adjustable stops 37—37' on each side of the machine. These stops are adjustably held to the plate 34 by screws 38 which extend up through slots 39. The head of each screw presses a spring metal clip 41 up against the under side of the plate 34 so as to resiliently retain the stop in any adjusted position. Scale indicia 42 is provided on the plate 34 along the slots

39, this scale indicia having numerals which are aligned transversely of the machine so as to indicate when the two check stops 37 are exactly parallel in a true right angle relation to the type bars. This is to insure that the selected type will register accurately along the "amount line" in the check. Two indicating fingers 43 are pivoted at 44 on opposite sides of the machine, each finger having an indicating pointer which serves to indicate the lower edge of the printing line along which the "Amount payable" is printed. These fingers have lateral projections 45 to enable them to be swung up out of the plane of the slot, and have punched depressions 46 adapted to engage over projections on the side plates for holding the fingers when the same are swung down to indicating position. These indicating fingers simplify the setting of the check stops 37 for any size of check inserted, it being apparent that after these stops have been set for a given size of check, no further adjustment is necessary. The lower guide plate 34 is detachably secured in the slot 30 by screws 47 which extend through holes in the side plates 16—16' and tap into ears 48 struck out of the plate 34.

The several operations of (1) writing and protecting the amount payable; (2) protecting the payee's name; and, (3) possibly protecting the drawee's signature, are all performed with the check remaining in one stationary position in the machine. As soon as the operating handle 32 is swung up to begin the first of these operations, the check is positively gripped in the slot 30 by gripping fingers 51 on opposite sides of the machine, (see Fig. 5). Each of these fingers is pivoted on a pin 52 mounted in the side plate 11 or 11', and has a nose 53 which is adapted to swing up through a slot 54 in the plate 34 and press the check against a lug 55 extending laterally above the slot 54. Each gripping finger has a tail 56 which is adapted to be engaged by lever 57 pivoted at 58 to the frame plate 11. The short arm of the lever 57 has an inclined nose 59 which is adapted to be engaged by a cam 61 on the operating shaft 33. A similar arrangement of lever 57 and cam 61 is, of course, provided on the other side of the machine for operating the other gripping finger. When the operating handle is down in its normal position, the cam 61 occupies the position shown, at which time the gripping finger 53 is retracted below the level of the plate 34. With the initial upward movement of the handle 34 the cam 61 moves out from under the inclined nose 59 of the lever 57 and allows the gripping finger to be swung upwardly under the biasing action of a wire spring 62. This occurs before the handle has moved but a comparatively short distance, so that the gripping function is

effective from the first part of the handle movement, whereby there is minimum possibility of displacing the check. When the operating handle is swung back into its normal position at the completion of the check protecting operation, the cam 61 rides under the inclined nose 59, and by tilting the lever 57, cams the gripping finger 53 downwardly to free the check.

10 The manner of perforating the check and impressing the printed characters therein is described at length in my copending application. The mechanism for performing these operations in the present construction is to a large extent a duplicate of that disclosed in my prior application so that a brief, general description of these parts will suffice.

15 The type characters which print the amount payable, and make such other impressions as may be desirable, are formed on the lower surfaces of a plurality of horizontal type bars 63 having reciprocable support in the upper part of the frame above the check slot 30. As shown in Fig. 8, each type bar from the tens-of-dollars upwardly may be provided with a \$ sign and then a star or other symbol after the unit digit. When so arranged the star or other symbol would normally coincide with the printing line when the type bar was in its initial position. These stars or symbols would thus normally stop-off the space occupied by the numerals without requiring movement of the type bars. The \$ sign could be shifted up to locate directly in front of the first dollar numeral by movement of the type bar adjacent the dollar indicating bar. The above is illustrated as an alternative arrangement to that disclosed in my copending application, either of which can be used.

20 The amount payable may be preceded by a symbol or other printed matter impressed from a removable plate 60. As described in my preceding application, this plate may have a signature, advertising symbol or other printing matter bearing a definite relation to the drawer's signature so as to protect the latter. The type characters in the type bars are preferably in intaglio.

25 The type bars are all supported between a series of parallel spacing bars 64 which are extended through slots in the transverse plates or bars 13. These spacing bars are all linked together against shifting movement by a pin or rod 65 which is extended through holes in the ends of the spacing bars and through holes in the side plates 11—11' of the main frame. The type bars are each provided with operating fingers 66 which are extended up through parallel slots 67 in the cover plate 18. Each operating finger carries an indicating slide 68 bearing characters which are adapted to be exposed

through individual windows 69 in the cover plate for indicating the positions of their corresponding type bars.

The upper edge of each type bar 63 is formed with a series of detent depressions 70 71, in which engages an individual detent finger 72 for retaining the selected type characters in alignment with the printing line. This printing line is designated $x-x$ in Fig. 3. The type bars are inked by a pad 73 which is reciprocated into and out of the printing line during the inking and perforating operation. This inking pad, together with the smudge plate 74 have simultaneous reciprocation back and forth above the check slot 30, as I shall presently describe. The perforating mechanism and the platen mechanism are disposed below the check slot 30, and are moved into and out of registration with the printing line $x-x$ through the instrumentality of an oscillatory frame or cradle 75. This oscillatory frame comprises a pair of swinging arms or levers 76 at one end of the machine and a corresponding pair of arms 77 at the other end of the machine. The arms of each pair are pivoted for swinging movement along the inner side walls of the frame plates 11—11' on pivot rods 78 extending through the frame plates. The two arms are spaced to remain in proximity to the frame plate by spacing sleeves 79. The arms are linked for joint oscillatory movement by links 81 extending between corresponding arms 76 and 77 and pivoted thereto.

30 The perforating mechanism, which is designated 82 in its entirety, has a pair of arms 83 extending up between the ends of the oscillatory frame arms 77. The arms 83 are pivoted to the oscillatory frame upon a pivot pin 84 extending between the frame arms 77, and connected to the pin 84 intermediate the arms 83 is a biasing spring 85 which imparts a snap motion to the oscillatory frame in moving from one extreme position to the other. The perforating mechanism comprises a plurality of perforating plates 86 having serrated upper edges, there being two groups of these perforating plates for perforating the area in which is written the payee's name, and for perforating the area in which is subsequently impressed the figures corresponding to the amount payable. A resiliently mounted stripper hood or plate 87 strips the check from the perforating points when the perforating mechanism is lowered below the slot 30. In the to and fro oscillatory motion of the frame 75, the head or block 88, which carries the perforating points, slides along the upper edges of the horizontal links 81.

35 The printing platen, which is designated 89 in its entirety, is constructed of a strip or bar of rubber 91 set in a recess in the upper part of the platen head. This platen

has a yoke 92 which is pivoted between oscillatory frame arms 76 upon a transverse pin 93, the platen in its to and fro oscillation with the frame 75 being similarly supported on the upper edges of the links 81.

The oscillation of the frame 75, and of the perforating and platen mechanisms, is effected through the medium of a yoke member 94 which is rigidly mounted on the transverse operating shaft 33. From opposite ends of this yoke member extend pairs of diverging arms 95, between which extend pivot shafts 96. Mounted on these pivot shafts on opposite ends of the yoke are rollers 97 which are confined adjacent the arms 95 by lugs 98. The two pairs of rollers are adapted to alternately engage between opposing vertical faces 101 and 102 on the ends of the perforating mechanism and the platen mechanism, respectively. The position of the rollers shown in Fig. 3 corresponds to the forward and down position of the operating handle 32, and it will be apparent that upon swinging the handle 32 backwardly, the uppermost pair of rollers 97 will engage the face 102 and oscillate the frame 75 to the left. Near the termination of this backward movement of the operating handle, the pair of rollers which were lowermost at the beginning of this operation will move up under the perforating head and exert pressure against the same for perforating the check. This step is illustrated in Fig. 6. The final part of the handle movement in this direction swings this pair of rollers 97 past the end of the perforating head 88, so that the perforating head drops and this pair of rollers occupies the uppermost position between the perforating mechanism and the printing platen. On the return throw of the handle, this latter pair of rollers will oscillate the frame 75 back again to the right by engagement with the face 101, and during the last part of the handle movement, the trailing pair of rollers 97 will ride up under the printing platen and cam the same upwardly so as to exert a firm impression pressure against the under sides of the type bars. This latter step is illustrated in Fig. 7. When the operating handle is swung down to its normal position, the pairs of rollers 97 resume the position indicated in Fig. 3. In swinging up into engagement with the check the perforating mechanism and the printing platen move up through a relatively large hole 103 in the lower guide plate 34. The movement of the operating handle is stopped at each end of its throw by one or the other pairs of rollers 97 striking against the front or back edges of lugs 100, which lugs are struck up from the bottom casing plate 22.

To assure an effective perforation and impression of the check the camming action of the rollers passing under the perforating

head 88 and platen head 89 (as shown in Figs. 6 and 7) is so designed that a considerable pressure is exerted upwardly against the bottoms of the type bars. This stress is carried by the overhanging portions of the frame plates 11—11' above the check slot 30, assisted to some extent by the side casing plates 16—16'. The rigidity of these frame plates is increased by flanging the edges of the plates, as indicated at 20.

To limit the throw of the oscillatory frame 75 in one direction, the pivot pin 93 at the left hand end thereof is arranged to play in slots 104 in the frame plates 11—11'. The throw of the oscillatory frame to the right is limited by the ends of the pin or shaft 93 striking the ends of the slots 104. The throw in the opposite direction is limited by adjustable stop arms 105 which are pivoted upon screws 106 on the inside of each of the frame plates 11—11'. The arm 77 of the oscillatory frame is adapted to strike the upper end of the stop arm 105 when the oscillatory frame is thrown to the left. The pivot 106 is located intermediate the ends of the stop arm 105 so that by shifting the lower end of this stop arm the upper end can be shifted for adjustably locating the stopping point. In order that this adjustment may be made conveniently, a link 107 is pivoted to the lower end of the stop arm 105 and is extended out to a point adjacent the end of the frame plate 11. Here a screw 108 passes through a slot 109 in the link and caps into the frame plate for adjustably clamping the link 107 in any desired position. It will thus be seen that by the removal of the housing plate 17' convenient access is afforded to this stop adjustment.

The removal of this housing plate 17' also affords access to the inking pad 73. This pad is mounted on a pad plate 111 which is removably supported on a lower reciprocating plate 112. The pad plate has a headed rivet 113 which has guiding engagement in a slot 114 in the lower plate 112, the head of the rivet 113 overlying the margins of the slot 114. Two punched depressions 115 in the pad plate (Fig. 4) are adapted to snap into holes in the reciprocating plate 112. By flexing the pad plate upwardly through the medium of the finger piece 116, these punched depressions can be sprung out of the holes in the plate 112 so that the pad plate can be withdrawn.

The plate 112 has reciprocating motion with the oscillatory frame 75 through the medium of arms 117 which extend down from the end of the plate 112 and have pivotal connection around the transverse pivot rod 84. The other end of the plate 112 is supported by the reciprocating smudge plate 74 which reciprocates back and forth on the other side of the printing

line $x-x$. This smudge plate is supported on the upper facing plate 35, and has raised arms 118 which extend back and join the plate 112. These two arms 118 result in the joint reciprocation of the inking pad plate and the smudge plate. When the inking pad 73 has been moved to the left for inking the type characters, as shown in Fig. 6, the smudge plate is moved back from the printing line so as not to interfere with the perforating operation. The retraction of the inking pad back out of the printing line draws the smudge plate forwardly into proximity to the printing line, so that when the platen ascends for making the impression, as shown in Fig. 7, the smudge plate will deflect that portion of the check which is not to receive the impression away from the type characters. On the other side of the printing line, the upwardly turned end of the reciprocating plate 112 performs the same function by deflecting the check downwardly from the edge of the platen. The side frame plates and the side casing plates are notched out as indicated at 120 to accommodate this upward flexing of the check. The sudden straightening of the check after this flexure has a tendency to kick or project the check outwardly in the slot 30. Supported on the under side of the reciprocating plate 112 is a matrix 119 having depressions which match with the perforating points of the perforating member 82; see Fig. 6.

To enable the check writer to be packed in a space of minimum size for shipment, the handle 32 is removable, and provision is made to insure that the handle can only be replaced in its one correct position. As shown in Fig. 4, the handle proper is formed with a hub 121 which is adapted to be slipped over the reduced threaded end of the operating shaft 33. A cap nut 122 is employed for forcing the hub 121 up against a cooperating hub 123 which is pinned to the shaft 33. To render impossible the misplacing of the handle on the operating shaft, the face of the hub 122 is provided with three projecting studs 124 adapted for reception in pockets in the opposing face of the hub 121. As shown in Fig. 2, these studs are so grouped about the face of the hub 123 that it is impossible to apply the hub 121 except in the one position in which all three studs are received in their respective sockets.

The ability to insert the check into the check slot from the end of the machine permits of an easy quick insertion, and extends the use of the machine to commercial paper of large size, such as voucher checks. The slot 30 has a considerable depth beyond the printing line so that impression can be made at a low point on the instrument if necessary. The ease with which the check stops

37-37' can be adjusted by their mere sliding along the guide plates 34, and the precision of indication afforded by the indicating fingers 43 also simplify the use of the machine.

I do not intend to be limited to the particular details herein shown and described, except as they are defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In a check writer, the combination of a casing comprising an end wall and two side walls, the latter extending substantially from top to bottom of the machine, said end wall and said two side walls having a check receiving slot extending therethrough, a frame having a slot opening from one end thereof to register with the side wall slots and to dispose an overhanging frame portion in the overhanging portion of the casing, a plurality of type bars having longitudinal sliding adjusting motion between said side walls and above said slot, and a platen between said side walls and disposed below said slot.

2. In a check writer, the combination of a substantially rectangular casing comprising an end wall and two side walls, said two side walls extending in substantially vertical planes from the top to the bottom of the machine, a check receiving slot cut through said end wall and said two side walls for permitting one edge of the check to be inserted from the end of the machine, a frame having a slot opening from one end thereof to register with the side wall slots and to dispose an overhanging frame portion in the overhanging portion of the casing, a plurality of type bars having horizontally reciprocable adjusting motion between said side walls and above said check receiving slot and a platen normally disposed below said check receiving slot and adapted to move upwardly therethrough for cooperating with said type bars.

3. In a check writer, the combination of a frame comprising side plates, a casing assembled over said frame, said casing comprising an end wall and two side walls, a check receiving slot cut through the end wall and two side walls of said casing and through said side plates of said frame, the frame slots opening through one end of the frame and registering with the side wall casing slots to permit insertion of the check from the end and providing an overhanging frame portion disposed in the overhanging portion of the casing, a plurality of type bars having horizontal rectilinear adjusting motion, means for supporting said type bars on said frame above said check receiving slot, platen mechanism supported by said frame, and means for moving said platen mechanism up and down through said slot.

4. In a check writer, the combination of a

- casing having an end wall and two side walls, a plurality of longitudinally slidable type bars supported in said casing, a check receiving slot cut through said end wall and
- 5 two side walls below said type bars, a plate mounted on the bottom of said slot and extending across the machine from side to side thereof, said plate comprising ledge portions projecting beyond the side walls of
- 10 said casing, and shiftable stop members carried by said ledge portions and movable relative to said casing, said stop members limiting the insertion of the instrument into the machine.
- 15 5. In a check writer, the combination of a casing having an end wall and two side walls, a plurality of type bars having horizontal rectilinear adjusting motion in the upper part of said casing, platen mechanism
- 20 disposed in the lower part of said casing and movable vertically relative to said type bars, a slot cut through the end wall and both side walls of said casing between said type bars and said platen mechanism, a plate facing
- 25 the bottom of said slot and extending across said slot from side to side of the machine, said plate comprising ledge portions projecting beyond the side walls of said casing, said ledge portions having slots therein, and
- 30 shiftable stop members guided in said slots and movable therealong relative to said casing, said stop members limiting the insertion of the instrument into the machine.
- 35 6. In a check writer, the combination of a casing having a check receiving opening, a plurality of type elements adapted to be moved into registration with a printing line, and an indicator for indicating the printing
- 40 line, said indicator being movable into and out of indicating position.
- 45 7. In a check writer, the combination of a casing having a check receiving slot therein, a plurality of type elements adapted for selective actuation to bring selected type characters into registration with a printing
- 50 line, and a pair of indicating fingers pivoted to said casing and movable into and out of indicating position for designating said printing line.
- 55 8. In a check writer, the combination of a casing having a check receiving slot therein, a plurality of movable type elements in said casing above said slot, an operating handle for making the impression between the
- check and said type elements, and gripping mechanism operable by said handle for gripping the check in said slot, the parts actuated in the performance of said gripping
- function being all confined below the level of said slot.
9. In a check writer, the combination of a casing having a check receiving slot therein, a plurality of reciprocating type bars above said slot, an operating handle for making the printing impression, a gripping finger
- adapted to move upwardly into said slot for gripping the check, a cam actuated by said operating handle, a lever engaged by said cam and operable to raise and lower said gripping finger, said finger, cam and lever
- 70 being all confined below the level of said slot.
10. In a check writer, the combination of printing members having printing characters thereon, perforating mechanism, a printing platen, an oscillatory frame on which said perforating mechanism and said printing platen are supported for operative motion, a limiting stop for said frame, and an adjusting member for said stop extending remotely therefrom for accessibly disposing said adjustment.
11. In a check writer, the combination of a supporting frame, a plurality of printing members, perforating mechanism and a platen mechanism, oscillatory means for actuating said perforating mechanism and said platen mechanism, a stop for limiting the motion of said oscillatory means, and an adjusting member for said stop extending to a point adjacent the margin of said supporting frame for accessibly locating the adjustment.
12. In a check writer, the combination of a casing, check protecting mechanism in said casing comprising a plurality of printing members, perforating means, and platen means, means affording access to said check protecting mechanism, actuating means for moving said mechanism, a stop for limiting
- 100 the movement of said actuating means, and an adjusting member for said stop extending therefrom to a point adjacent said access affording means.
13. In a check writer, the combination of
- 105 a supporting frame, check protecting mechanism carried by an oscillatory frame moving relative to said supporting frame, a lever pivoted to said supporting frame for limiting the motion of said oscillatory frame,
- 110 and a link extending from said lever for adjusting the latter from the end of said supporting frame.
14. In a check writer, the combination of
- 115 a casing having a check receiving slot therein, a plurality of type elements in said casing above said slot, an operating handle for making the printing impression between the check and said type elements, and a smudge member movable by said operating handle
- 120 for deflecting that portion of the check away from the type elements which is not to receive the impression, said smudge member moving above the level of said slot.
15. In a check writer, the combination of
- 125 a casing having a check receiving slot therein, a plurality of type elements in said casing above said slot, inking means for inking said type elements, operating mechanism for actuating said inking means, a smudge plate
- 130

movable by said actuating means, said smudge plate operating to deflect that portion of the check away from the type elements which is not to receive the impression, said smudge plate and said inking means operating above the level of said check receiving slot.

16. In a check writer, the combination of a casing having a check receiving slot, a plurality of printing elements, an inking pad for inking said elements, and a smudge plate connected to said inking pad, said inking pad and smudge plate being disposed above said check receiving slot.

17. In a check writer, the combination of a plurality of type elements, an inking pad for inking the latter, and a smudge plate connected with said inking pad and moving therewith.

18. In a check writer, the combination of a plurality of type elements each having amount indicating characters spaced and in alignment longitudinally along the type elements and adapted to be brought into selective registration with a printing line in said check writer, and single indicia means carried by each said type elements and aligned longitudinally thereof with all said indicating characters on the type elements for impressing the species of currency in immediate proximity to the amount indicating characters, said type elements being incapable of movement to a non-printing position.

19. In a check writer, the combination of a plurality of type elements having a plurality of amount indicating characters adapted to be brought into registration with a printing line in said check writer, symbols carried by a plurality of said type elements and adapted for impression along the printing line to stop-off the space on one side of the amount indicating characters, a plurali-

ty of said type elements each having single indicia means for impressing the species of currency in immediate proximity to the amount indicating characters, the movement of each of said latter type elements being limited whereby the impression of an amount indicating character, a symbol or a currency indicating character is compelled at all times.

20. In a check writer, the combination of a plurality of reciprocating type bars, each of said bars having a plurality of digit characters for impressing the amount payable, said characters being adapted to be brought into selective registration with a printing line in said check writer, stars or other symbols on a plurality of said type bars aligned longitudinally with the other characters thereon and adapted to stop-off the space on one side of the amount payable, and \$ signs on a plurality of said type bars intermediate said symbols and said digit characters and aligned longitudinally of the bars therewith, whereby a \$ sign can be impressed in immediate proximity to the first amount indicating digit by corresponding setting of the adjacent type bar, the impression of either said digit character, said symbol or said \$ sign being compelled by the limited movement of the type bar.

21. In a check writing machine having a check guideway therein, an abutment adjacent said guideway, a bell crank lever pivoted below said guideway, yielding means for urging one arm of said lever into contact with said abutment for gripping a check therebetween, and operating means for engaging the other arm of said bell crank lever for disengaging the first arm from said abutment.

In witness whereof, I hereunto subscribe my name this 21st day of April, 1922.

GEORGE M. WILLIS.