Sept. 27, 1932. L. J. LEVI 1,879,354

PORTABLE CHECK PROTECTOR

Filed Sept. 13, 1930

Fig. 1.

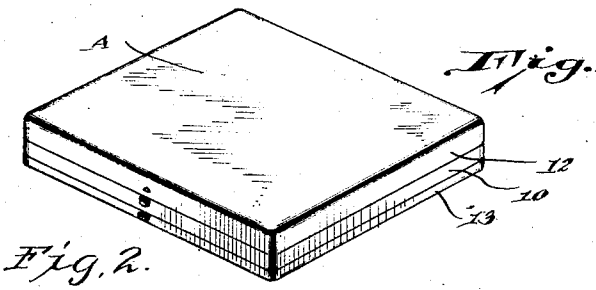


Fig. 2.

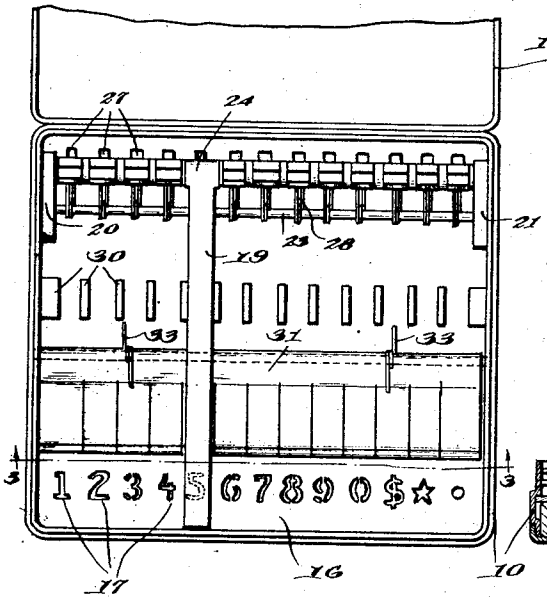


Fig. 3.

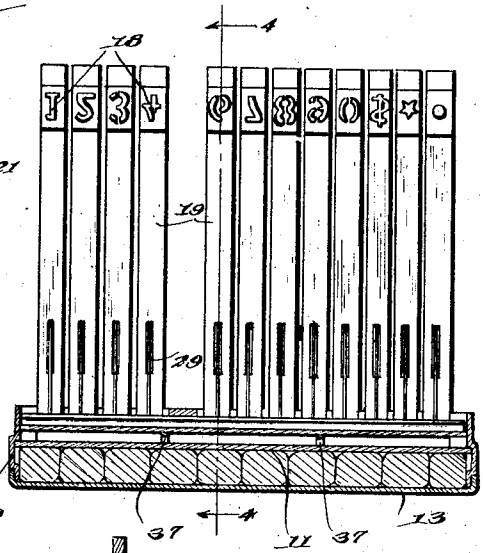


Fig. 5.

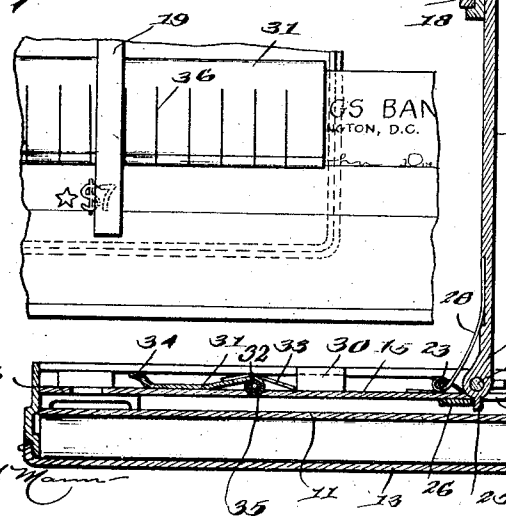


Fig. 4.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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PORTABLE CHECK PROTECTOR

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My invention relates to check protectors and particularly to such a device which is adapted for personal use.

It is an object of the invention to provide a check protector of compact form which may be conveniently carried in the pocket of the user.

It is a further object to provide a combination check protector and cigarette or vanity case thereby eliminating the carrying of a multiplicity of articles.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a check protector in which the several parts will be removable, easily demountable and readily replaced.

It is a further object to provide a device of the character described which will be cheap to manufacture, efficient in operation and which will not be easily damaged or become out of order.

Further objects of the invention will become apparent during the course of the following detailed description, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, in which like numerals refer to like parts throughout the same and in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the check protector in closed position,

Figure 2 is a top plan view with the cover opened back,

Figure 3 is a section taken on line 3—3 of Figure 2 and looking in the direction of the arrows,

Figure 4 is a section taken on line 4—4 of Figure 3 and looking in the direction of the arrows, and

Figure 5 is a detail enlarged view of a part of the device, showing the manner of positioning a check therein and of operating upon the same.

Referring now to the drawing it will be seen that the improved check protector is enclosed in a flat, square or rectangular case A which may be formed of any suitable metal and which may be suitably decorated commensurate with the price to be charged for the article. The side walls of the case are formed by an open ended square or rectangular metal member 10 provided with a division plate 11 approximately midway of the ends thereof which with the hinged covers 12 and 13 and the side walls forms two compartments. The covers are independently hinged to one of the side walls at 14 as best shown in Figure 4.

For convenience the compartments will be referred to as the upper and lower compartments.

With the parts in the relation shown in the drawing, the lower compartment is used either as a cigarette case, vanity case or for any other purposes for which a small case is usually carried on the person.

The upper compartment is used to house the improved check protecting apparatus.

In order to make provision for the possibility of repairs, all of the working parts are made readily removable, the keys, cutting dies, springs, shafts and die plate all being mounted on a base plate which may be readily removed from the case.

The base plate 15 is shown as having its forward portion serving as a die plate 16 although a separate die plate could be provided and attached to the base plate in the same position. The die plate 16 in the embodiment shown is provided with thirteen die characters 17 reading from 1 to 9 inclusive and also a dollar sign, zero, star and decimal point.

These dies are adapted to cooperate with punches 18 corresponding each with a particular die member. The punches 18 are carried near the free end and on the forward face of elongated key members 19 pivotally mounted rearwardly of the base plate 15. The punches are preferably formed separately from the keys and are attached thereto in any convenient manner.

At the rear of the base plate and at either side thereof are provided shaft bearings 20 and 21 which support between them a key shaft 22 and a spring shaft 23. The keys 19 are provided at one end with enlarged bearing portions 24 through which the key shaft 22 passes and whereby they are pivotally mounted thereon. A projection 25 extending from each bearing portion 24 is adapted to abut against the edge of a stop plate 26, carried by the underside of the base plate

thereby limiting the backward pivotal movement of the keys 19 past the vertical position shown in Figure 4. Apertures 27 formed in the base plate are provided for the passage of the stops 25 therethrough.

The key shaft 22 may be slid endwise of the bearings 20 and 21 when the base plate is removed from the case, thereby releasing all of the keys and allowing replacement of worn or damaged parts. The walls of the case serve to retain the shaft in position when the base plate is in position in the case.

In order that the keys will automatically assume a vertical position ready for operation when the cover 12 is opened and thrown back, springs 28 are provided for raising the same to such vertical position. These springs are carried by the spring shaft 23 above referred to and have one end adapted to ride in slots 29 formed in the forward face of the keys 19, the other end being adapted to lie upon the upper face of the base plate as will be clearly understood.

When the device is in closed position, the cover 12 serves to hold the keys in their downward position. However, as soon as the cover is opened the keys are snapped to erect position by the springs 28.

For the protection of the punches and dies and to insure that the punches will enter the dies in true alignment therewith, spaced, key guides 30 are provided at a suitable place on the upper face of the base plate. These upstanding spaced guides 30 form a passage into which the keys must fit before the punches can come into operation.

In order to hold a check in the device and to properly align the same ready for the punching operation, a check bail and guide 31 is provided just rearwardly of the die members 17. The bail and guide 31 is formed of an elongated piece of sheet metal or other suitable material and is rolled at its rear edge to provide an eye for the reception of a shaft 32 carried by the base plate 15. This construction provides a pivotal mounting for the bail and springs 33 are provided for holding the forward portion of the bail in yielding contact with the plate 15. The forward edge of the bail may be provided with a slightly raised lip 34 to facilitate the introduction of a check thereunder. The rolled rear edge 35 of the bail forms a guide for the top edge of the check when in position in the device. The top surface of the bail is provided with markings 36 which facilitate even spacing of the characters cut in the check.

As the die plate will be subjected to quite a bit of pressure during continued use of the device, supports 37 are provided at suitable points thereunder, these supports resting on the division plate 11. The supports 37 are cut out in U shape so as to provide for the easy removal of the cuttings from the dies.

In the operation of the device, the cover of the check protecting compartment is opened, thereby allowing springs 28 to automatically raise the keys to erect position thereby making the numerals and characters thereon clearly visible. The written check to be operated upon is then slipped under the bail 31 and is pushed against the back guide 35 as shown in Figure 5. The check is then adjusted under the twelfth key, leaving about an inch from the left hand edge exposed, the key is pressed down and a star is cut out of the paper. The check is then slipped from that position and the previously punched star is brought into alignment with the marking on the bail just preceding the dollar sign. The "dollar" key is then pressed down and a "dollar sign" is cut in the check. This operation is then repeated for each of the required numerals in rotation. By aligning the last punched character in each case with the bail marking just preceding the character to be punched next, the cut out characters in the check will be properly and evenly spaced. At the completion of the numerals the "star" key is used again to prevent possible alteration of the check.

It will thus be seen that I have provided a very simple, efficient and compact device of the character described and one which may be easily taken apart for repairs or replacements. By providing a second compartment in the same case with the protector which may be used as a cigarette case, ladies compact or the like I also eliminate the necessity for the owner of the check protector carrying an unnecessary number of cases about his person.

Although a preferred embodiment of the invention has been shown and described, it is to be understood that various changes in detail as may seem desirable may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

I claim:—

1. In a device of the character described, a receptacle, a hinged cover therefor, a base plate mounted within said receptacle, a die plate forwardly thereof, a key shaft rearwardly of said base plate, key members having bearing portions formed at one end thereof for pivotal mounting upon said key shaft, springs normally urging said key members to erect position, stops projecting from said bearing portions adapted to limit rearward pivotal movement of said key members, punches adjacent the free ends of said key members adapted to cooperate with said die plate, said hinged cover serving to engage and retain said key members in lowered position when closed.

2. In a device of the character described, a receptacle, a division plate serving to divide said receptacle into superposed compart-

ments, hinged covers for each of the compartments thus formed, a base plate mounted in one of said compartments, a die plate formed forwardly of said base plate, bearing members mounted rearwardly and at either side of said base plate, a key shaft mounted in said bearing members, key members pivotally mounted upon said key shaft, said key shaft being held from axial movement by the side walls of said receptacle and being capable of endwise removal from said bearings when said base plate is removed from said compartment, and punches mounted adjacent the free ends of said key members adapted to cooperate with said die plate.

3. In a device of the character described, a base plate, a die plate forwardly thereof, a check guide mounted on said base plate adjacent and rearwardly of said die plate, said check guide being in the form of a pivotally mounted sheet metal bail adapted to engage the upper face of a check to be operated upon and having a portion in alinement with said die plate for engagement by the upper edge of said check, said bail being provided with markings on its upper face, key members pivotally mounted rearwardly of said base plate, punches mounted adjacent the free ends of said key members and adapted to cooperate with said die plate, and upstanding key guides mounted on said base plate rearwardly of said check guide.

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