Feb. 2, 1960 W. J. HANSON ET AL. 2,923,544

TOKEN ISSUING MACHINE

Filed June 11, 1956 5 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1

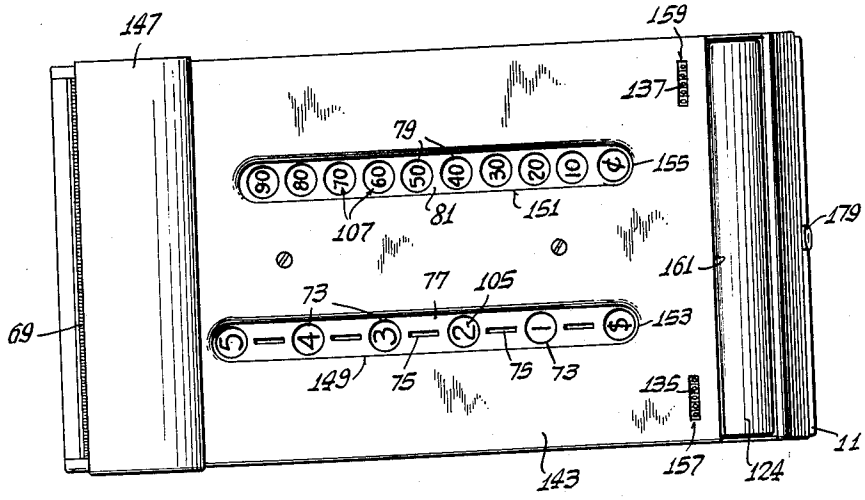
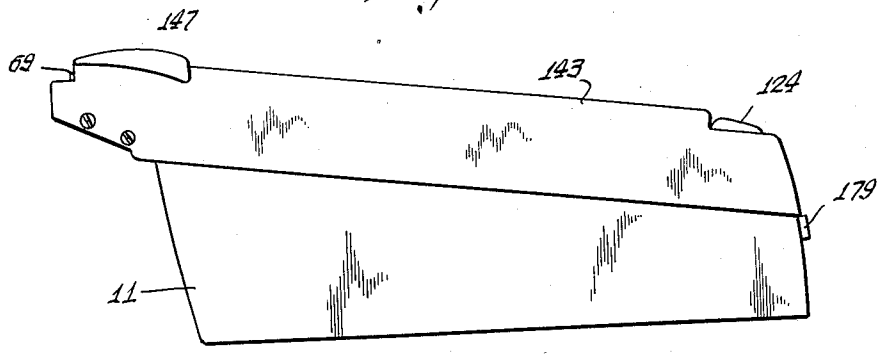


Fig. 2



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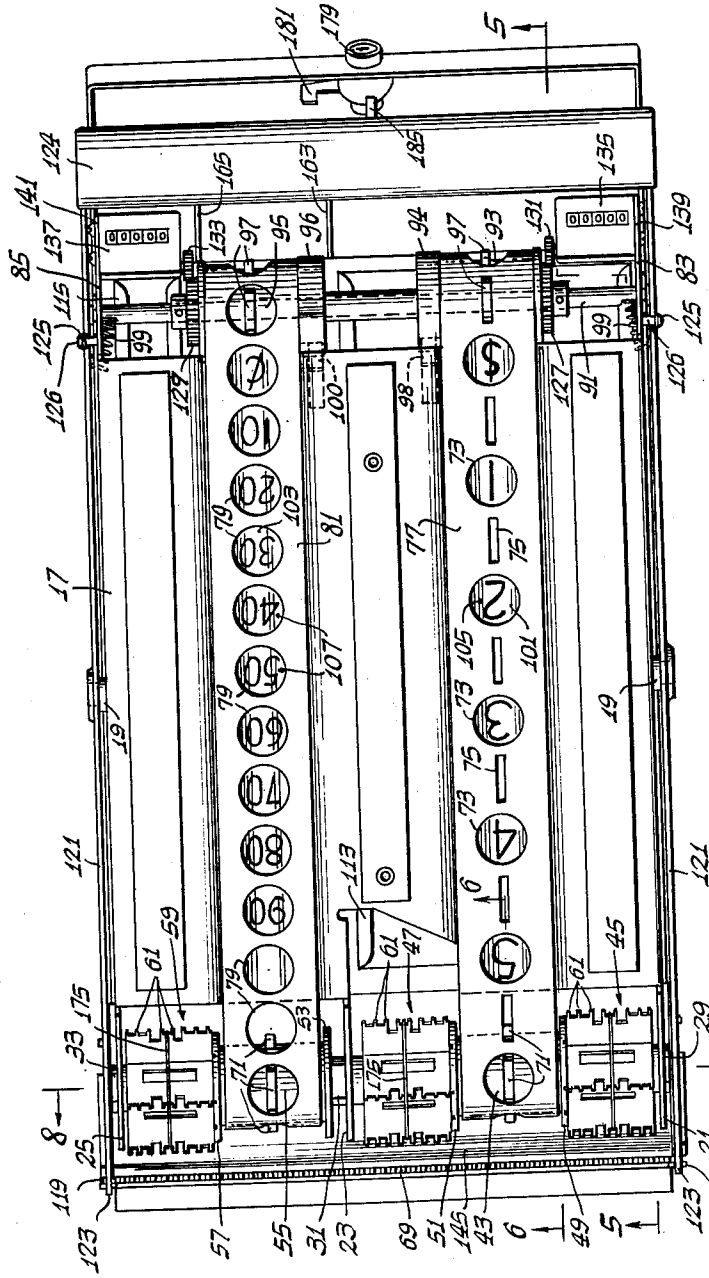


Fig. 3

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Filed June 11, 1956 5 Sheets-Sheet 3

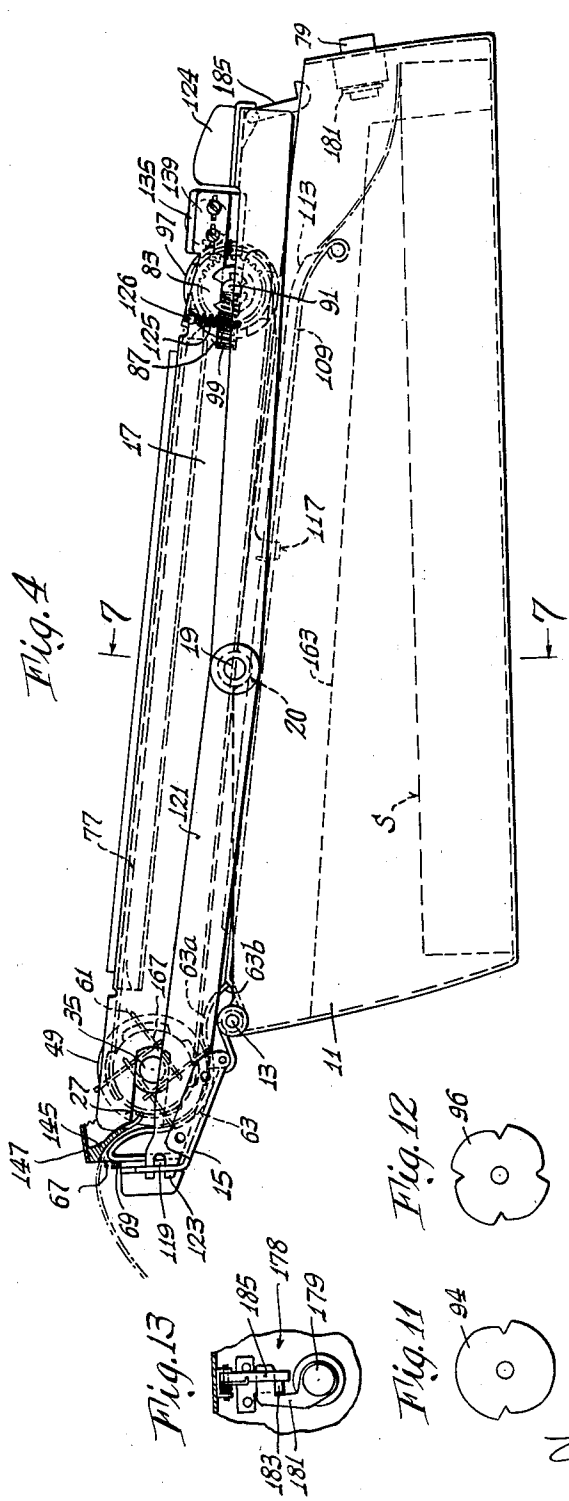


Fig. 4

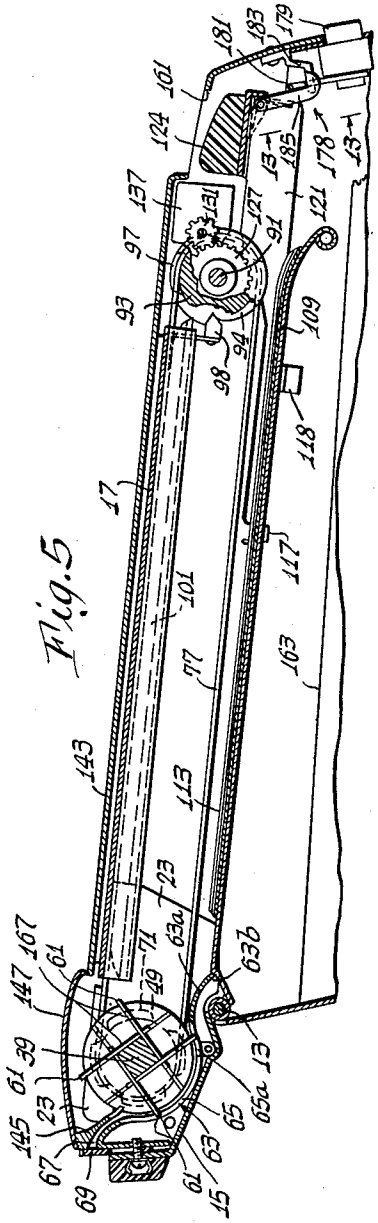


Fig. 5

Fig. 12

Fig. 11

Fig. 13

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Filed June 11, 1956 5 Sheets-Sheet 4

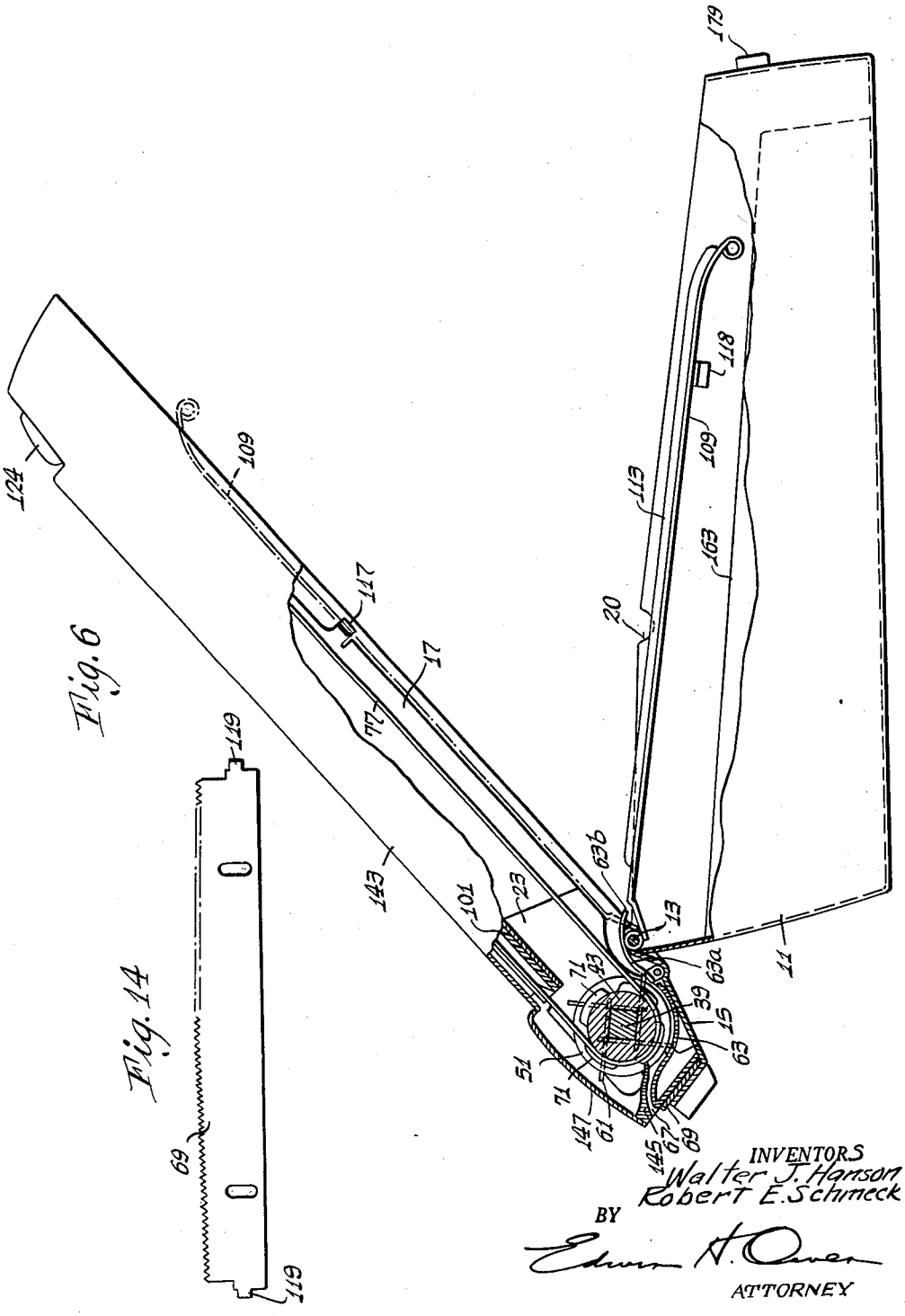


Fig. 6

Fig. 14

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Fig. 7

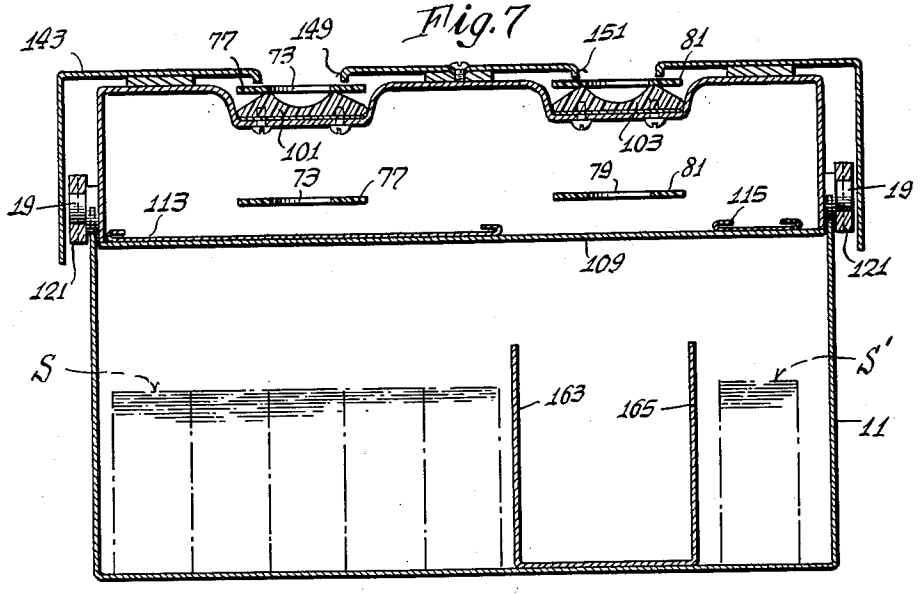


Fig. 8

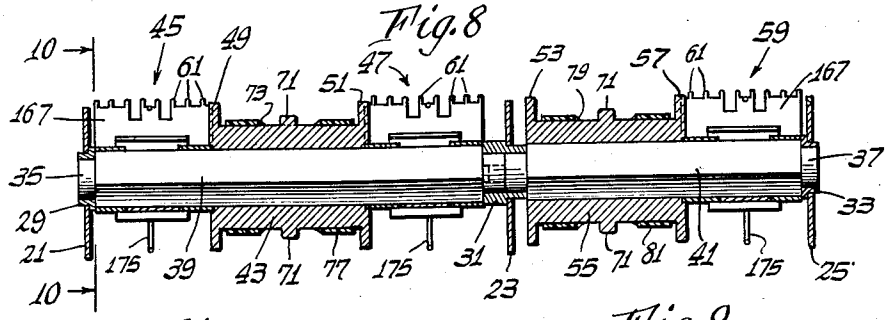


Fig. 10

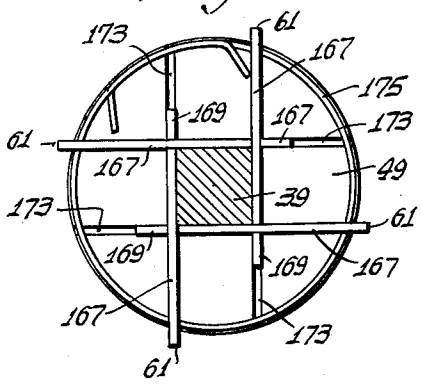
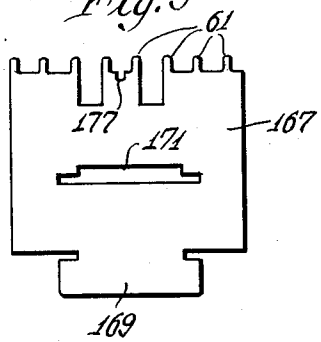


Fig. 9



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2,923,544

TOKEN ISSUING MACHINE

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Application June 11, 1956, Serial No. 590,596

7 Claims. (Cl. 271—2.4)

This invention relates to the art of ticket issuing and particularly to the issuing of such items as valuable tickets, stamps or other paper value tokens which are to be supplied in accurately counted numbers. The invention finds particular application, for example, in the field of trading stamp issuing where it is often desired to supply stamps rapidly in accurately counted groups of varying size.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a device so simple in structure and arrangement that it can be readily operated by anyone without danger of error, and further of such nature that it can be inexpensively constructed for widespread use. For example, in trading stamp use, the cost should be kept to a low enough figure that the device can be economically furnished to most retailers as a part of a package installation for trading stamp operations.

An object of this invention is to provide a machine of the character described which is of such size and weight as to be easily carried from place to place and small enough so that it may be used on a counter or table without occupying too much space thereon, and yet will hold a substantial quantity of stamps to be issued so that frequent refilling is not necessary.

A feature of the present invention is the operation of the token feeding mechanism by a device analogous to a telephone dial, wherein the operator merely selects a numbered finger hole in an operating member and draws the same to a terminal position, automatically feeding out the desired number of tokens.

Another feature of the invention is the provision of an arrangement wherein the aforementioned operating member serves as the drive belt rotating the feeding elements for the tokens in a simple and direct manner.

Another feature of the invention is an arrangement whereby tokens of a single value denomination can be issued either in units or small groups on one hand, or in accurately gauged bulk quantities on the other, merely by selecting the appropriate operating member.

A further feature of the invention is the provision of a pinwheel feed member constructed in a novel and inexpensive fashion.

Still a further feature of the invention is the arrangement of the feeding mechanism at a point on the device remote from the operator which may be directed towards the person to whom the tokens are issued, and a cut-off means at said remote location but simply operated by means located conveniently for the operator.

Other objects, features and advantages will appear hereinafter as the description proceeds.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a top plan of a token issuing device according to the invention;

Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the device of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a top plan of the device of Figs. 1 and 2 drawn to a larger scale and with the cover removed;

Fig. 4 is a side elevation of the device of Fig. 3, but with a fragment of the cover included in section to illustrate the exit throat, and showing the token strip supplies in broken lines;

Fig. 5 is a partial longitudinal section taken substantially on line 5—5 of Fig. 3, but showing the cover in place and the cutter mechanism in actuated and locked position;

Fig. 6 is a view similar to Fig. 4 but showing the frame raised and the guide plate lowered for threading of stamp strips into the feeding mechanism, the normal position of the guide plate being shown in broken lines, and a portion of the device being broken away adjacent the feed wheels to expose a detail section substantially on line 6—6 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 7 is a transverse detail section to a slightly larger scale taken substantially on line 7—7 of Fig. 4, and illustrating the token strip supplies in broken lines;

Fig. 8 is a detail section to a slightly larger scale taken substantially on line 8—8 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 9 is a detail face view of one of the elements making up the pin-feed wheels of the device;

Fig. 10 is a detail section to a larger scale taken substantially on line 10—10 of Fig. 8;

Fig. 11 is a detail face view of one of the detent wheels;

Fig. 12 is a detail face view of the other detent wheel;

Fig. 13 is a detail elevation taken substantially on line 13—13 of Fig. 5; and

Fig. 14 is a detail elevation of the cutter bar used in the device of the present invention.

Referring to the drawings, the presently preferred form of the invention includes a stamp storage receptacle 11 which serves as a base for the mechanism. At the forward upper end of the receptacle 11 is hinged, as by pin 13, a bracket 15 which depends from and forms a rigidly extending part of the frame 17 of the stamp issuing mechanism. The whole frame 17 overlies the top opening of the receptacle 11 and may be swung upwardly about pin 13 as seen in Fig. 6 to uncover the receptacle for inserting or removing the supplies of stamps. A pair of pintles 19 (Fig. 7) extend from the sides of the frame 17 and are positioned to rest against the upper edge of the receptacle 11, for example in notches 20 therein, when the frame 17 is lowered to closed position.

The forward end of the frame carries three forwardly extending vertical wall portions 21, 23 and 25 each slotted as indicated by reference character 27 in Fig. 4. The slots 27 carry bearing members 29, 31 and 33 as seen in Figs. 3 and 8. A long shaft 35 is rotatably carried between bearings 29 and 31, and a shorter shaft 37 is rotatably carried between bearings 31 and 33. Each of the shafts 35, 37 has a central portion square in cross section, designated 39 and 41 respectively. Shaft 35 carries a driving sprocket 43 arranged between two pin-feed wheels 45 and 47, all drivingly associated with the squared portion 39 of the shaft. Disks 49 and 51 act as flanges to separate the sprocket 43 from the pin-feed wheels 45, 47 and may be either separate elements or integral with the body of sprocket 43 as shown. Shaft 37 is similarly equipped, except that there is only one pin-feed wheel, the parts being arranged as shown in Fig. 8 with an end flange 53, driving sprocket 55 and dividing flange 57, and a pin-feed wheel 59 to the right of the driving drum, all being fitted on the squared portion 41 of the shaft 37.

The pin-feed wheels each have teeth or pins 61 arranged in four axially disposed sets. The pins of each set are spaced from the pins of adjacent sets an amount equal to the spacing (or a multiple of the spacing) between perforations on the stamps to be handled. The sets are peripherally spaced around the shaft at distances equal to a standard stamp length so that once a set of pins is introduced into a transverse row of perforations, each subsequent set will fall automatically into the next

row as the stamps move past the feeding mechanism. The pin-feed wheels shown are of a particularly ingenious and economical construction which will be described at length hereinafter.

The frame **17** includes a curved plate **63** which underlies the shafts **35** and **37** and provides between itself and the body of the pin-feed wheels **45**, **47** and **59** a curved, deflecting stamp passage. The plate **63** has slots **65** (Fig. 5) formed therein and arranged to mesh with the teeth **61** of the pin-feed wheels so that the stamp perforations will be retained on the pins **61** by the plate **63** while they are in driving position adjacent the pin-feed wheels. As the stamps are fed forward by the pin-feed wheels they pass into an exit throat **67** formed between the plate **63** and a portion of a cover to be hereinafter described.

A cutter bar **69** slidable on frame **17** adjacent the exit throat may be raised to cut off the issued stamps. The cutter bar preferably has a serrated cutting edge which slopes downwardly towards both sides of the machine as seen in Fig. 14 so that it will tend to catch in the row of perforations between the issued stamps and the retained stamps to progressively tear the connecting necks between the perforations of said row.

In order to drive the pin-feed wheels, sprockets **43** and **55** include radial lugs or teeth **71** which in the case of sprocket **43**, engage in openings **73** and **75** in a driving belt **77**, and in the case of sprocket **55**, engage in openings **79** in a driving belt **81**. The openings in the belts and the lugs **71** are so spaced that a step from one lug to the next (or from one opening to the next) will progress the pins **61** one stamp length, which, in the form shown, is equivalent to one quarter revolution of the pin-feed wheels. The belts **77** and **81** are trained about the frame **17** with one reach above and one below. At the opposite or rear end of the frame are rearwardly extending vertical wall portions **83** and **85** which are slotted as shown at **87** in Fig. 4 to receive the ends of a tail shaft **91** which in turn rotatably carries tail sprockets **93** and **95** with lugs **97**, similar to the lugs **71** of drive sprockets **43** and **55**, and similarly spaced. The drive belts **77** and **81** are trained about the tail sprockets **93** and **95** respectively, and compression springs **99** are positioned between the frame **17** and the ends of shaft **91** to urge the same rearwardly and maintain the belts **77** and **81** taut. The sprockets **93** and **95** are drivingly associated with notched detent wheels **94** and **96** respectively which are in turn engaged by spring pressed detents **98** and **100** respectively, to signal audibly and tactilely definite predetermined positions at which feeding should be stopped at each operation.

On the upper surface of the frame **17** are concave finger guides or tracks **101** and **103** (Fig. 7) which underlie the upper reaches of the belts and which are provided with suitable indicia **105** and **107** respectively. It will be noted that holes **73** in belt **77** and holes **79** in belt **81** are circular finger holes of a size to receive the tip of the operator's finger so that they can be readily engaged, when the desired indicia is exposed therethrough, and drawn to a terminal position, in the manner of a telephone dial, to feed out the desired number of stamps, from which it can be seen that the belts and the holes therein, in addition to being sprocket actuating means, also constitute a manual operating device for the feeding mechanism. The belts **77** and **81** may be of any suitable material, but are preferably of a smooth surfaced, tough, wear-resistant and tear-resistant plastic such as polyethylene or nylon.

Beneath the frame **17** is provided a generally horizontal guide plate **109** also hinged about pin **13** to swing downwardly away from the frame, and which is provided on its upper surface with guide chutes **113** and **115** for guiding strips of stamps from the receptacle **11** to the pin-feed wheels **45**, **47** and **59**. A spring catch **117** normally holds the guide plate **109** in upper position against the bottom of frame **17**, and means such as stop **118** prevents its dropping into the receptacle **11** even though detached from the catch **117** while the frame **17** is raised.

As seen in Figs. 4 to 6, the curved plate **63** which underlies the feeding mechanism may terminate directly beneath the feed wheels and a flap or extension **63***a* is preferably provided with slots **65***a* matching the slots **65** of the plate **63** is rockably mounted on the frame **17** adjacent the terminal edge of plate **63**. The flap **63***a* has a free edge **63***b* which is normally in contact with a portion of guide plate **109** so as to be held in uppermost position and in substantially abutting relation to plate **63**. However, when the frame **17** is in raised position with guide plate **109** lowered as seen in Fig. 3, the flap **63***a* is permitted to drop slightly so as to provide improved access to the pins **61** on the feed wheels for threading a new strip of stamps.

The cutter bar **69** is preferably operated from the rear or operator's end of the machine, and accordingly is provided with laterally extending ears **119**. Levers **121** at either side of the frame **17** are pivoted on pintles **19** and have forked forward ends **123** each embracing one of the ears **119**, and guided in suitable slots in the forward portion of the frame **17**. The rearwardly extending ends of the lever are connected for joint operation by a finger bar **124** and are urged upwardly by return springs **125**, each attached at one end to one of the levers **121** and at the other to a spring perch **126**.

Also drivingly attached to the sprockets **93**, **95** are gears **127** and **129** respectively which can be meshed with the driving pinions **131** and **133** of counters **135** and **137**. The counters are mounted at a suitable point on frame **17**, for example on ears **139** and **141** forming part of the rearwardly extending vertical wall members **83** and **85**. The mountings are preferably adjustable so that the counter position can be set to secure a proper mesh between the gears while preserving the full effect of the tightening action on belts **77** and **81** effected by springs **99**. The counters **135** and **137** are designed to register either the number of stamps or the value of the stamps which have been fed from the supply in the receptacle **11**, and will preferably be arranged in a known manner for ready resetting when the supply is renewed. The counters may of course be either adding or subtracting counters running either from zero upwardly, or from an initial setting corresponding to the number of value of a new charge of stamps, downwardly towards zero.

The frame **17** and the mechanism carried thereby is protected by a cover **143** which is suitably secured to the frame **17** and has flanges depending at the sides to house the levers **121**. Adjacent the front end, the cover carries an integral, rearwardly and downwardly directed curved plate **145** (see Figs. 4 to 6), which approaches the curved plate **63** when the cover is in place, and forms therewith the exit throat **67** heretofore described. Preferably the edge of the plate **145** overlaps the path of pins **61** and is notched to mesh with pins of the pin-feed wheels **45**, **47** and **59** so as to positively separate the stamps from the feeding pins at the proper time. The cover **143** also preferably includes a removable upper forward section **147** which permits inspection of the feed mechanism especially during the threading of a new stamp supply. Elongate openings **149** and **151** are provided in the cover **143** at a location to overlie the finger tracks **101** and **103** and expose the tracks and the upper runs of the belts **77** and **81** for view and operation. The rearward ends of openings **149** and **151** are positioned to provide finger stops **153** and **155** respectively to determine the limiting position to which the belts should be pulled when operating the device. Counter viewing windows **157** and **159** are also preferably provided at an appropriate location on the cover.

A transverse opening **161** at the rear end of the cover exposes the finger bar **125** for cutter operation.

The receptacle **11** preferably includes partitions or dividers **163** and **165** (Fig. 7) for positioning stamp supplies such as S and S', and keeping them in approximate alignment with their respective feeding wheels. As shown in the drawing, these supplies are preferably fan-folded packs.

The particular form of the invention shown is designed for the issuing of trading stamps whose value is normally related to the value of a retail purchase, the stamps being normally of one denomination, for example ten cents, meaning that one stamp is to be issued for each ten cent value purchased.

Since many purchases will require the issuance of large numbers of such small denomination stamps, the left hand side of the device looking from the operator's end, is devoted to the issuing of bulk lots, preferably in an amount representing multiples of one dollar of purchase at a time. Thus the pin-feed wheels **45** and **47** which rotate together are capable of spanning a column five stamps wide and, if a strip two stamp rows in length is fed forward, a one dollar stamp issue will be effected. This is the reason for forming openings **75** in belt **77** as narrow rectangles instead of circles. While the openings **75** could also be circular if desired, the shape shown prevents the operator from inadvertently selecting an opening which would feed out an odd number of stamp rows. The indicia **105** are, of course, located to indicate the number of dollars in the stamp issue which will result if the indicated opening is engaged by the operator's finger and the latter drawn rearwardly until it strikes the stop **153**. The detent wheel **94** (see Fig. 11) is also preferably arranged to provide a detenting action only between the issuance of each two rows of stamps, while wheel **96** (Fig. 12) will provide a detenting action after each single stamp.

The arrangement at the right hand side of the device is designed to handle a strip of stamps one stamp wide and hence can issue individual stamps from one at a time to nine at a time, i.e. in amounts which are designated at ten cents or in multiples thereof up to ninety cents.

The pin feed wheels **45**, **47** and **59** are all similarly constructed so that a single description will suffice for an understanding of the makeup of each. Four identical elements **167** like the one shown in Fig. 9 are prepared, for example by a simple stamping process. One edge of each element is formed with the teeth or pins **61** arranged therealong, while the opposite edge includes a T-shaped locking lug or extension **169** and the central portion has a T-shaped locking slot **171**. Four of the elements **167** can be arranged to form a wheel by inserting the lug **169** of the first through the longer side of the slot **171** of the second, and sliding the lug **169** to locking position in the shorter side of slot **171**. This process is repeated with the second and third elements, third and fourth elements and fourth and first elements, until all four elements are arranged in right angular relationship defining a hollow central rectangular tube as seen in Fig. 10. The parts are so dimensioned that the size of the tube thus formed is a light push fit on the squared portion **39** of shaft **35** (or squared portion **41** of shaft **37**). The shaft, when in place, rigidly maintains the elements **167** against unlocking displacement and provides a rigid pin-feed wheel which can be very economically manufactured. If desired the arrangement may further include, as shown, the disk **49** (or **51** or **57**) provided with grooves **173** in one face and arranged in a pattern to receive a small marginal portion of each element **167** for further guiding and steadying the same. In addition, a wire snap ring **175** is preferably arranged peripherally about the wheel centrally located in a notch **177** in each element **167**. The ring **175** serves to fill out the wheel periphery and prevent the leading edge of a strip of stamps from inadvertently turning into and becoming trapped in the space between elements **167**. Such trapping of the edge, if allowed to occur, might prevent proper entry into the exit throat **67** and cause a jam. It will be understood, of course, that while the pin-feed wheels have been described above in the preferred embodiment as made up of four elements **167** arrayed about a square shaft, equivalent wheels can be constructed on the basis of any shaft of polygonal cross section using as many elements **167** as there are major faces on the shaft.

In order to prevent tampering with the machine and removal of stamps by unauthorized persons during periods when the device is not supposed to be in use, a locking mechanism **178** is preferably provided. This is best seen in Figs. 4, 5 and 13 and includes a key-controlled barrel **179** which carries a swingable hook **181** locked in upward operative locking position by the barrel and movable to inactive position by a clockwise rotation of the barrel which can be effected only when the proper key is inserted. In the upward position of the hook **181** it overlies an abutment **183** suitably connected to the frame **17** through the orifices of the cover **143**, if the frame is in lowered position, and thus holds the same closed against access to the interior of receptacle **11**. This prevents removal of the packs S and S' from the receptacle. In order to prevent unauthorized issuance of stamps, advantage is taken of the fact that the cutter bar **69** closes the exit throat **67** when in actuated position. Thus the finger bar **124** carries a depending spring pressed hook **185** which automatically engages under hook **181** whenever the latter is in upward or locked position. Thus locking of the issuing mechanism may be brought about by merely pressing the bar **124** at any time after the frame **17** has been locked in lowered position. Unlocking motion of the barrel **179** and hook **181** due to key-controlled rotation thereof will automatically both unlock the frame **17** and release the cutter mechanism to permit normal stamp issuance.

In using the device of the present invention, after unlocking as just described, the frame **17** may be swung upwardly about pivot **13** to open the receptacle **11**, whereupon stamp supplies S and S' may be placed within the same in their proper locations. Then guide plate **109** is withdrawn from catch **117** and swung downwardly to give access to the feed mechanism as seen in Fig. 6. The strips leading from supplies S and S' are introduced into guide chutes **113** and **115** respectively and progressed into contact with the lowermost pins **65** of the feed wheels **45**, **47** and **49**. While urging the stamps forward manually the feed wheels are moved through 180° via belts **77** and **81**, or by direct contact with the wheels when removable section **147** of cover **143** has been opened, thus placing a row of pins **65** through the first transverse row of perforations of each stamp strip and finally progressing the leading edge of the strip up to the cut-off point, ready for issue. The guide plate **109**, resting against stops **118**, then automatically reengages with the catch **117** as the frame **17** with its cover **143** is dropped to receptacle closing position.

In order to issue stamps the belts **77** and **81** are manually actuated to feed out the required number. In case a purchase totaling $2.60 has been made, for example, the operator will place a finger in the number two hole of the left hand belt **77** and draw the same towards him until arrested by stop **153**. This will feed out four rows of stamps, five stamps to a row, having a total designation of two dollars. The operator then places a finger in the number sixty hole of the right hand belt **81** and draws the same towards him until arrested by stop **155**. This will feed out six stamps of the single strip supply having a total designation of sixty cents. By depressing the finger bar **125**, the stamps which have been

fed out are cut off and may be delivered to the purchaser.

When the operator wishes to secure the device for temporary disuse, a key is placed in the barrel **179** and the hook **181** turned to locking position, thus locking the frame **17** in receptacle closing position. Depression of the finger bar **124** permits the hook **185** to latch over hook **181**, thus holding cutter bar **69** in position to prevent issuance of stamps through the exit throat **67**.

It will be readily seen from the foregoing that the present invention provides a handy portable machine in the nature of a top-opening box for holding a pack of stamps arranged as a zigzag folded strip and with a hinged cover unit. All of the operating means for the strip feed is arranged on the cover unit for raising therewith when the latter is swung upwardly for loading with additional stamps. The whole device, by virtue of these features, is arranged within a small compass and so made as to be sufficiently light in weight that it can be readily taken from one counter to another or removed to a safe place for storage.

While the foregoing description has proceeded primarily to discuss the invention with reference to the issuing of trading stamps, it will be understood that many aspects of the invention will be fully applicable to the issuing of stamps, tickets and strip stored value tokens of various sorts. For instance, the counting out of and issuing of postage stamps for sale at post offices could be expeditiously handled in this fashion.

Variations and modifications may be made within the scope of the claims and portions of the improvements may be used without others.

What is claimed is:

1. A strip feeding device comprising a frame; a strip feeding wheel and a drive sprocket connected for simultaneous rotation on said frame; said sprocket having large radiating lugs of peripheral extent sufficient substantially to reach across a finger hole; a drive belt trained about said sprocket and having openings therealong of a size to receive said lugs and spaced to mesh therewith, at least some of said openings also being of finger hole size to receive the operator's finger; means for keeping said belt in relatively taut condition so as to maintain driving contact with said sprocket; means on said frame underlying a length of said belt for guiding the operator's finger; a stop on said frame adjacent one end of said guiding means; and indicia carried by said last named means and visible through said openings for indicating the opening to be entered by the operator's finger for feeding forward various lengths of strip if the finger, after being placed in the designated opening, is drawn to a position against said stop.

2. A strip feeding device comprising a frame; a strip feeding wheel and a drive sprocket connected for simultaneous rotation on said frame; said sprocket having large flat radiating lugs of peripheral extent sufficient substantially to reach across a finger hole but substantially narrower in the axial direction of the sprocket; a drive belt trained about said sprocket and having openings therealong of a size to receive said lugs and spaced to mesh therewith, a first set of said openings also being of finger hole size to receive the operator's finger, others of said openings interspersed between the opening of said first set, and regularly spacing the same, being shaped to fit approximately said lugs and prevent inadvertent entry by the operator's finger so as to simplify the manual selection of the proper opening; means for keeping said belt in relatively taut condition so as to maintain driving contact with said sprocket; means on said frame underlying a length of said belt for guiding the operator's finger; a stop on said frame adjacent one end of said guiding means; and indicia carried by said last named means and visible through the openings of said first set for indicating the opening to be entered by the operator's finger for feeding forward various lengths of strip if the finger, after being placed in the designated opening, is drawn to a position against said stop.

3. A strip feeding device comprising a frame; a strip feeding wheel and a drive sprocket connected for simultaneous rotation on said frame; said sprocket having large radiating lugs of peripheral extent sufficient substantially to reach across a finger hole; a drive belt trained about said procket and having openings therealong of a size to receive said lugs and spaced to mesh therewith, at least some of said openings also being of finger hole size to receive the operator's finger; means for keeping said belt in relatively taut condition so as to maintain driving contact with said sprocket; a detent wheel rotatable coordinately with the operation of said belt, sprocket and strip feeding wheel; and detent means engaging said wheel for indicating the point at which the feeding of predetermined increments of strip is complete.

4. A pin-feed wheel for feeding perforated strip comprising a shaft of polygonal cross-section; and a plurality of identical flat elements each having a toothed operating edge, a locking extension projecting oppositely from said toothed edge and an intermediate locking opening, all arrayed about said shaft each against a face thereof, said locking projection of each element entering the locking opening of the adjacent element, and the elements when thus assembled in locked position forming among them a hollow tube which is a press fit on said shaft which holds the elements in such position relative to each other that the extension of each element is maintained in locking relation to the opening of the adjacent element.

5. A device for selectively feeding successive numbers of transversely perforated stamps in strip form, a pin-feed wheel engageable with the stamp perforations while feeding stamps, a sprocket connected with said pin wheel, a second sprocket spaced relative to the first named sprocket, a horizontally disposed belt supported by the sprockets and having openings therein engageable by sprocket teeth and by the finger of an operator when stamp feeding is to be effected, a stationary element positioned beneath the upper reach of the belt and having numerals thereon positioned beneath certain belt openings, and a cover over the upper reach of the belt having an elongate opening exposing the numerals and associated belt openings, said elongate opening terminating at one end in a stop position, whereby an operator's finger upon engaging an opening in the belt which exposes the numeral designating the total value of stamps desired and moving from the finger engaging position to the stop position will rotate the pin wheel and feed stamps accordingly.

6. A device for selectively feeding successive multiple numbers of perforated stamps in strip form, pin-feed wheels engageable with transverse stamp perforations while feeding stamps, a sprocket connected with said pin wheel; a second sprocket spaced relative to the first named sprocket, a belt supported by the sprockets and having sprocket drive openings therein with alternate openings of sufficient size to be engaged by an operator's finger, a stationary element positioned beneath the upper reach of the belt and having numerals thereon positioned beneath certain of the finger openings, and a cover over the upper reach of the belt having an elongate opening exposing the numerals and associated belt openings, said elongate opening terminating at one end in a stop position, whereby an operator's finger upon engaging an opening in the belt which exposes the numeral designating the total value of stamps desired and moving from the finger engaging position to the stop position will rotate the pin wheel and feed stamps accordingly.

7. A strip feeding device comprising a frame and a cover supported thereby; a strip feeding wheel and a drive sprocket connected for simultaneous rotation on said frame; said sprocket having radiating lugs; a drive belt trained about said sprocket and having openings therealong, at least some of said openings being of a

size to receive said lugs and spaced to mesh therewith, at least some of said openings being of finger hole size selectively to receive an operator's finger preparatory to movement of said belt thereby; means for keeping said belt in relatively taut condition so as to maintain driving contact with said sprockets; said cover providing access from the exterior of the device to a reach of said belt, said reach of the belt providing a plurality of said last-mentioned openings of finger hole size; and stop means supported by said frame for engagement by said operator's finger to determine the terminal position of said operator's finger and thereby the extent of rotation of said strip feed wheel depending upon the particular one of

said last-mentioned openings in which the operator's finger is selectively received.

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