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This invention appertains to improvements in means for rotatable mounting billing machines and the like on store or other counters.

The primary object of this invention is to provide a rotatable counter top support for a billing machine or the like, which support is rotatably mounted in a counter top and forms a part thereof, whereby the machine may be easily and conveniently moved from a position facing the clerk behind the counter to a position facing a customer in front of the counter.

Another object of this invention is to provide a turntable for a receipt machine or the like, provided with means for releasably locking the turntable in position so that the machine is locked in a position facing a clerk behind the counter.

Another object of this invention is to provide a turntable for an electrically actuated receipt machine, the turntable enabling the machine to be rotated to various positions on a counter top, electrical contacts being carried by the turntable and by the counter top which are engageable in only one position of the turntable, so that the machine can be actuated only when the turntable is in a predetermined position.

These and ancillary objects and structural features of merit are attained by this invention, the preferred embodiment of which is set forth in the following description and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a portion of a counter top equipped with a turntable for a billing or similar machine, constructed in accordance with the principles of this invention;

Figure 2 is a longitudinal vertical sectional view taken on line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a fragmentary transverse sectional view taken on line 3—3 of Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a bottom plan view, taken on line 4—4 of Figure 2;

Figure 5 is an enlarged detail sectional view of the latching assembly, taken on line 5—5 of Figure 1;

Figure 6 is a fragmentary enlarged view taken on line 6—6 of Figure 6, and,

Figure 7 is a diagrammatic view of the wiring arrangement for the contacts, carried by the turntable and the counter top.

This invention appertains generally to means for rotatably mounting a billing or receipt machine on a counter top, so that the machine may be easily rotated from a position facing a clerk behind the counter to a position facing a customer in front of the counter. The device is adapted for any such machine but is particularly designed and provided with adjuncts for supporting an electrically operated machine and particularly a receipt machine, which is provided with an electrically operated ejector mechanism for ejecting the receipt slips or tickets. To this end, fixed electrical contacts are carried by the counter top and electrical contacts are carried by the turntable, the contacts being arranged to be brought into complementary engagement, only when the turntable is in a predetermined position. When the contacts are out of engagement, the ejector mechanism is rendered inoperative.

Referring now more particularly to the accompanying drawings, a portion 16 of the top of a store counter has been illustrated and the counter top is formed with a circular opening 12, within which a circular turntable plate 14 is positioned.

An annular trackway 16 is secured to the underside of the counter top and depends therefrom around the opening 12. The trackway 16 includes an inverted circular channel 18 which extends radially into the opening 12 and is connected by a lateral flange 20 to the lower edge of a vertical flange 22. An annular flange 24 having a peripherally octagonal outer edge extends laterally outwardly from the upper edge of the vertical flange 22 and is affixed by headed fasteners 25 to the underside of the counter top 10.

A top plate 28 is superimposed on the turntable plate 14 and disposed flush with the counter top 10, so that the turntable forms a part of the counter top. An annular peripheral flange 30 depends from the peripheral edge of the turntable plate 14. Mounting assemblies 32 are spaced around the turntable and each includes an S-shaped bracket 34, which is affixed to the underside of the turntable plate 14 and depends therefrom. Rollers 36 are located between and are journaled in the flange 30 of the turntable plate and the first vertical flange 36 of the S-shaped brackets, the rollers 36 being horizontally arranged and rolling on the upper surface of the web of the inverted channel 18. Vertically disposed rollers 46 are located between and journaled in between the lower horizontal flanges 42 and 44 of the brackets 34 and roll against the radially inward sidewall of the channel 18.

A rectangular opening 48 is formed in the turntable and extends through the top 28 and the plate 14 for accommodating a conventional receipt machine 48, means being provided for de-
tachably mounting the machine within the opening, so that the machine depends from the turntable, with the upper flange thereof engaged on the top 28. For retaining the machine in position, a pair of U-shaped straps 50 and 52 are provided and have their opposing legs affixed to depending straps 54 and 56, which are formed in metal and depend from the turntable adjacent to the opening 46. Elongated registered slots 58 are formed in the depending straps 54 and 56 and in the legs of the straps 50 and 52 and suitable fasteners 60 are disposed therethrough for adjustably securing the legs to the depending straps 54 and 56.

Means is cooperatively carried by the turntable and by the depending flange 22 of the trackway 16 for locking the turntable against free rotative movement. The manually actuated latch means 62 includes a keeper plate 64, which is secured by means of headed fasteners 66 to the inner surface of the flange 22. The keeper plate 64 is formed at the center portion of its convex upper edge with a notch 68, within which the outer end of a latch bolt 70 is engageable, as seen in Figure 5. The latch bolt 70 is pivotally mounted by a pivot 72 on a radial ear 74, which projects inwardly from the depending flange 30 of the turntable. The inner end 76 of the bolt is turned at right angles to the outer end thereof and to the pivot 72 and the lower end of a plunger 78 is secured thereto. The plunger 78 is slidably disposed through a sleeve 80, formed in the turntable and a stepped housing 82 is mounted in a suitable flanged opening 84 formed in the top 28 of the turntable. A spring 86 is secured to the pivot 72 and arranged around the outer end of the latch bolt 70 so as to normally urge or bias the latch end of the bolt 70 into engagement with the notch 68 formed in the keeper plate. Manual depression of the plunger 78, the upper end of which is disposed through the housing 82 and easily engaged by the finger of a clerk behind the counter releases the bolt 70 from the notch 68.

The receipt machine 48 is conventionally constructed and, as such, is equipped with an electrically actuated ejector mechanism, which functions to automatically eject the slips of receipts from the machine, after the transaction has been completely entered. Thus, means is provided and is operatively associated with the turntable for controlling the operation of the electrical ejector mechanism, so that the turntable is in a predetermined position, preferably, with the machine facing the clerk or directed toward the rear of the counter.

In this respect, a pair of housings 86 and 88, formed of insulative material, are secured to the depending vertical flanges 90 of angle irons 92, which have their horizontal flanges riveted to the underside of the horizontal flange 44 of two of the S-shaped brackets 34. Conductors 94 and 96 are affixed to contacts, which are formed in casings 86 and the contacts are in engagement with prongs 98 and 100, which extend outwardly from the casings. It will be noted, from a consideration of Figure 4, that the casings 86 and 88 are arranged so that they are in a diagonal angular relationship with the axis of rotation of the turntable and the relationship is predetermined, so that the circuit for the ejector mechanism will only be completed, when the turntable is in a definite position, the position being illustrated in Figure 4.

Casings 102 and 104 are mounted by means of mounting straps 106 to the flange 22 and are arranged in a specific angular relationship, so that the casing 102 and the casing 104 do not overlap the casing 106. The latchings 108 and 110 are engaged in the slot or notch in the keeper bar and the machine is facing a clerk, who is disposed behind the counter.

The conductors 116, extending from a suitably source of electrical energy, are affixed by screws 118 to a pair of fixed contacts. Vertically spaced horizontal slots 114 and 116 expose the fixed contacts and the slots are provided, so that the prongs 98 and 100 can slide therethrough and be in wiping engagement with the fixed contacts.

A switch 118 is mounted on the mounting flange 24 and is communicated by means of conductors 120 and 122 to the casing 104, so that operation of the switch is required for the completion of a circuit to the electrically controlled ejector mechanism of the register.

In use, the turntable is locked in a position by means of the latching mechanism 62, so that the register or other similar machine is facing a clerk, who is disposed behind the counter. The clerk prepares the receipts and, in so doing, writes upon the tickets in the register. The clerk can, after pressing the plunger 78, release the latching mechanism, so that the turntable can be rotated to bring the register into a position facing the counter, who can then sign his signature or add any other information to complete the recording of the transaction.

The turntable is then swung to its normal position, whereupon the locking bar is automatically biased into engagement of the notch 68 by the spring and the prongs carried by the casings 86 and 88 are in engagement with the contacts carried by the casings 102 and 104, so that the electrical circuit for the ejector mechanism is completed, upon the manual actuation of the associated switch.

Obviously, any type of recording machine or other business machine can be mounted in the turntable and the electrical circuitry may be associated therewith, can be controlled in a manner similar to the controlling of the ejector mechanism for the register.

Accordingly, limitation is sought only in accordance with the appended claim.

Having thus described this invention, what is claimed is:

In combination, a counter top formed with a circular opening, an annular trackway concentric with said opening, said trackway comprising a first horizontal flange secured to the underside of the counter top, a vertical flange depending from said horizontal flange, a second horizontal flange on said vertical flange and spaced below said first horizontal flange, said second horizontal flange projecting radially inwardly into said opening and having a radially inward edge, a circular turntable plate positioned in said opening, said turntable plate having a depending peripheral flange located close to the radially inward side of said vertical flange in a position spaced radially outwardly from the radially inward edge of said second horizontal flange, said peripheral flange having a lower edge spaced above said second horizontal flange, guide assemblies secured to and depending from said
turntable plate at circumferentially spaced intervals, said guide assemblies having upper vertical flanges spaced radially inwardly from said peripheral flange and vertically spaced lower horizontal flanges, horizontal rollers located between and journalled in the peripheral flange and the upper vertical flanges of the guide assemblies and rolling upon said second horizontal flange, and vertical rollers located between and journalled in said vertically spaced lower horizontal flanges of the guide assemblies and rolling against the radially inward edge of said second horizontal flange.

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