UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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PROTECTOR FOR CHECKS.


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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, William W. Arnold, a citizen of the United States, residing at Dayton, in the county of Montgomery and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful improvements in Protectors for Checks, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawing.

This invention relates to protectors for checks and the like and more particularly to devices of this kind which mark upon the check the amount for which it is drawn or a certain maximum amount, for which the check will be honored, thus preventing the raising of the check above the amount marked thereon, the marking being of such a character that it cannot be altered.

The object of the present invention is to provide in a protector an organization of mechanism in combination with a casing characterized by great compactness without sacrificing efficiency and which can be operated by hand quickly and easily.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation of a protector embodying my invention, with part of the casing broken away; Fig. 2 is a top plan view with part of the casing removed; Fig. 3 is a sectional view taken on the line a a of Fig. 1 and looking in the direction of the arrows; Fig. 4 is a detail view of the feeding device; Fig. 5 is a detail view of the adjustable marking device or type wheel; and Fig. 6 is a detail view of the casing.

In these drawings I have illustrated one embodiment of my invention and have shown the same as comprising two parts movably connected together and in the normal position of the spring which is provided with an angular groove 6 in which is arranged a spring 7 extending about the pivot pin 5 and connected at its opposite ends to legs 8 and 9 carried by the respective members. The arrangement of the spring is such that the tension of the same tends normally to separate the two members and the members are so arranged that they will be brought into engagement by the action of the spring and will tend to limit the movement of the two members under the influence of the spring. The member 1 carries the greater portion of the mechanism and is provided with a flat member, the main portion 10, of which carries the marking device and the movable portion 11, of which forms a closure for the fixed portion and carries the feeding device.

The marking device may be of any suitable character and may be such as to print, emboss, perforate or otherwise place a per-
mation mark on the paper. In the present instance the marking device is shown as comprising a type wheel 12, the type of which are preferably of metal and are serrated so that they will not only print on the paper but will emboss therein a series of lines or serrations so arranged as to form the figures. This characteristic of type, however, is well known in devices of this kind and does not form a part of the present invention.

The type wheel is provided with numerals 0 to 9 and with the dollar mark and such other characteristics as it may be desired to use in connection with the marking of the check or other paper. This type wheel is mounted on a shaft 13, one end of which is journaled in a boss 14, formed on the inner side of the portion 10 of the casing and forming a bearing for that end of the shaft, and the other end of which extends through and is rotationally supported by the portion 11 of the casing. That end of the shaft 13 which extends beyond the portion 11 of the casing is provided with a knurled head 19 by means of which the type wheel may be rotated. Suitable means are provided to hold the type wheel in its adjusted positions and this means is here shown as comprising a series of recesses 16 formed in one side of the type wheel and a corresponding series of grooves 17, corresponding to the type wheel, carried by the back of the casing. The recesses and grooves correspondingly serrated so that a type wheel is easily inserted therein.

The type wheel 12 is provided with a spring-actuated detent, such as is shown at 20, to prevent the type wheel from rotating while it is in use. This detent is provided with a plunger 21 which is held against the back of the type wheel by a spring 22, and which extends beyond the cutout portion 23 of the casing. The plunger 21 is shown in a position which is at the lower right side of the plunger 21, or impression-taking device. This slot is 25 is arranged so that the portion of the check adjacent to one end of the slot may be feeding into the feed slot which is provided in the check. The portion of the check that is feeding into the feed slot is therefore in a position to register 200 with the marks.

A feeding device is provided to advance the check or paper step by step after the feeding of each mark thereon and this feeding device is preferably actuated by the relative movement of the two 12, members of the protector. Thus after the check has been cleared in proper position on the slot 26 is required no further attention on the part of the operator. The set is actuated by the desired mark on the check, and that brings the marking device to rest the next mark which it is desired to place upon the paper, the operation of the device then being as follows: 111 the inked wheel is moved to the next mark position to receive the next mark. In the present instance the feeding mechanism is carried by the part 11 of the casing, the upper portion of which is 120 provided with a character to receive the same.

The feeding mechanism may be of various kinds but it preferably consists of feeding rollers, and, in the present instance, I have shown a feeding roller 27 journaled in the part 11 of the casing above the slot 26 and a second feeding roller 28 journaled in the part 11 of the casing below the slot 26 and adapted to extend into the slot 100.
to press the paper which has been inserted therein against the upper feed roller 27. This lower feed roller is here shown as formed in two parts but this is not a necessary feature of its construction. One of the rollers and, in the present instance, the lower roller is movable relatively to the other roller so as to permit the two rollers to be separated to enable the check to be placed in the slot. In the present instance, the lower roller is journaled on a crank shaft 29 and a spring 30 tends to move the same upward toward the roller 27. To enable the roller 28 to be moved downward against the tension of the spring 30 I have provided a lever 31 journaled in the casing and having at one end an arm 33 provided with a finger 34 extending across the shaft 29 above the spring 30 and between the two parts of the roller, whereby the movement of the lever about its axis in one direction will cause the finger 34 to press down on the shaft and thus carry the roller away from the upper roller 27, thereby leaving the slot 26 unobstructed for the insertion of the check. The outer end of the lever 31 is in the form of a finger 35 which is placed exteriorly of the casing and is arranged in such a position that it can be engaged by the thumb or finger of the hand which grasps the protector, thereby enabling the operator to open the slot to receive the check and then release the check after it has been marked, by the use of one hand, leaving the other hand free to handle the check. The upper roller 27 is preferably the one that is actuated to feed the paper and, to this end, it is provided with a ratchet wheel 36 which is rigidly secured thereto and is adapted to be engaged by a spring-pressed pawl 37 mounted on the member 2 of the protector which is provided with a projection or finger 38 to support the same. The pawl and ratchet are so arranged that the movement of the two members one toward the other will not actuate the feed roller but the separation of the two members after the marking has been accomplished will actuate the upper feed roller and cause the paper to be advanced. A second pawl 39 acts as a detent to hold the feed roller against backward movement during the upward movement of the feed pawl 37. The operation of the device will be readily understood from the foregoing description and it will be apparent that the device is small and compact, is readily portable and will mark the check as efficiently as will the non-portable devices. The device can be carried in the pocket if desired. In the present instance it is designed more particularly for desk use and is intended to be kept in a drawer or carried in a satchel. Consequently, the handles 3 and 4 are un objectionable but it is obvious the movable member could be operated without the use of the long handles 3 and 4. The mechanism is very simple and positive in its operation and is of such a character that it can be produced at a low cost. Further, it will be noted that the two members of the device are formed in three parts which can be readily cast, thus simplifying and cheapening the construction.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:

1. In a device of the character described, a casing having a longitudinal slot therein to guide and support an article to be printed, said casing having a handle fixed thereto, a marking device rotatably mounted within said casing above said slot, an inking device journaled in said casing above said slot and on an axis parallel to the axis of said marking device, means to hold said inking device in engagement with said marking device, and a second rigid one piece handle pivoted to said first-mentioned handle and projecting into said casing below said slot, the projecting end of said second handle constituting a platen to cooperate with said marking device to cause a mark to be placed on the article.

2. In a device of the character described, a casing having a longitudinal slot therein to guide and support an article to be printed, said casing having a handle fixed thereto, a marking device rotatably mounted within said casing above said slot, a second rigid one piece handle pivoted to said first-mentioned handle and projecting into said casing below said slot and said marking device, the projecting end of said handle constituting a fixed platen to cooperate with said marking device to cause a mark to be placed on the article, a feeding device comprising cooperating feed rollers mounted in said casing laterally of said marking device and the projecting end of the second handle, one of said rollers being mounted below said slot and the other of said rollers being mounted above said slot, and means operable by the relative movement of said handles to actuate said rollers to feed the paper.

3. In a device of the character described, a casing having a longitudinal slot therein to guide and support an article to be printed, said casing having a handle fixed thereto, a marking device rotatably mounted within said casing above said slot, a second handle pivoted to said first-mentioned handle and projecting into said casing below said slot and marking device, feeding rollers actuated by a relative movement of said handles to feed said paper, said rollers being mounted within the casing and laterally of said marking device and the projecting end of the second handle and arranged...
one above and the other below said slot, one of said rollers being capable of bodily movement toward and away from the other, and a lever pivotally mounted on said casing to the rear thereof and to one side of said handles to move said bodily movable roller away from the other roller.

4. In a device of the character described, a two part casing having a longitudinal slot therein to guide and support an article to be printed, one part of said casing having a marking device rotatably mounted therein above said slot, a handle fixed to said part; and a second handle pivoted to said first-mentioned handle and projecting into the first part of said casing below said slot and marking device, the projecting end of said second handle comprising a rigid fixed portion and having a platen fixed thereto to cooperate with said marking device to cause a mark to be placed on the article, feeding rolls mounted in the second part of said casing, one of said rolls being mounted above and the other below said slot, means on said second handle cooperating with said rolls to actuate the same to feed the article, and means mounted on the casing to the rear thereof and to one side of said handles to bodily separate said rolls.

5. In a device of the character described, a casing having a longitudinal slot therein to guide and support an article to be printed, said casing having a marking device rotatably mounted therein above said slot, a handle fixed to said casing, a second handle pivotally mounted upon said first handle and projecting into said casing below said slot and marking device, the projecting end of said second handle constituting a fixed platen immovable relatively to its handle to cooperate with said marking device to cause a mark to be placed on the article, feed rolls mounted in said casing, a ratchet wheel on one end of one of said feed rolls, and a pawl slidably mounted upon said second-mentioned handle cooperating with said ratchet wheel and adapted to actuate said feed rolls on each operation of said handle.

6. In a device of the character described, a casing having a longitudinal slot therein to guide and support an article to be printed, a marking device rotatably mounted in said casing above said slot, a handle fixed to said casing, a second handle pivoted to said first-mentioned handle and projecting into said casing below said slot and marking device, the projecting end of said handle constituting a platen to cooperate with said marking device to cause a mark to be placed on the article, feeding devices mounted in said casing to one side of said marking device, and means slidably and resiliently mounted upon said second-mentioned handle to operate said feeding devices at each operation of said second-mentioned handle.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM W. ARNOLD.

Witnesses:
F. W. Schaefer,
Edward L. Reed.