June 24, 1958 A. MARTINET 2,839,854

VEHICLE PARKING SYSTEMS

Filed June 16, 1953

Fig. 1

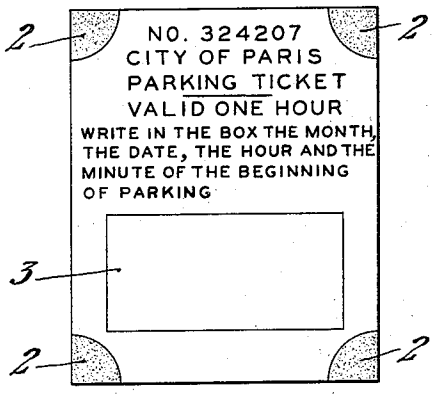


Fig. 2

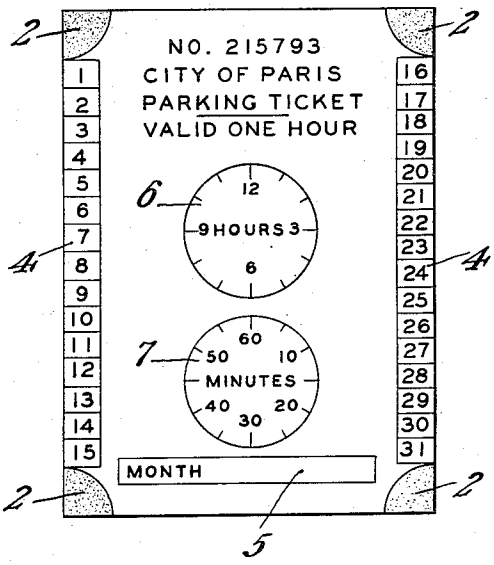


Fig. 3

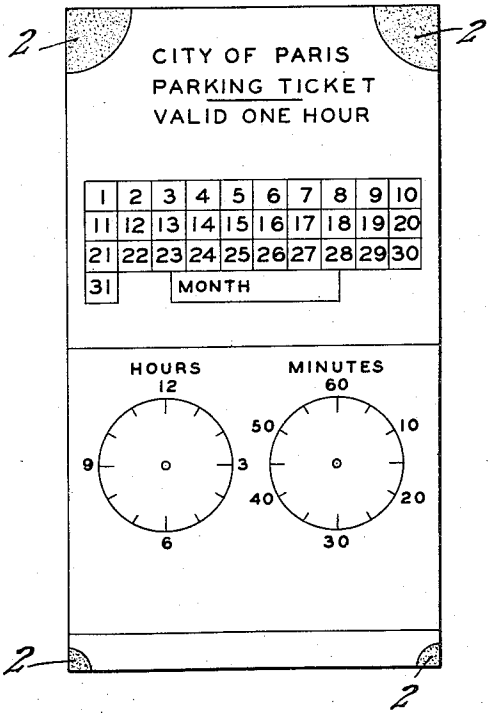
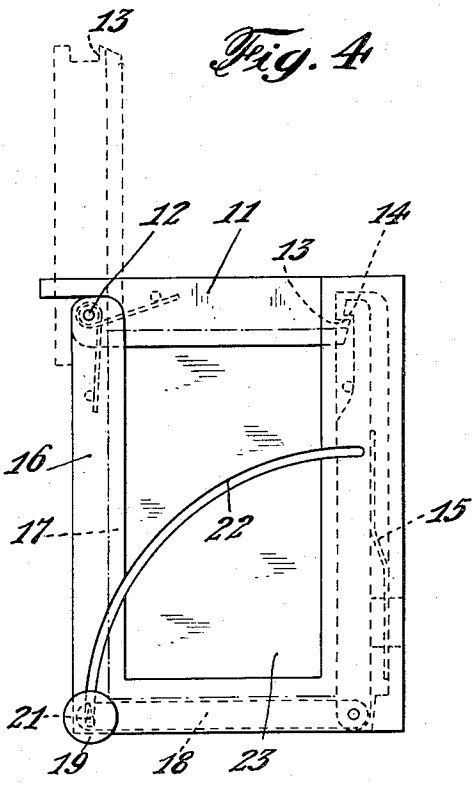


Fig. 4



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VEHICLE PARKING SYSTEMS

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3 Claims. (Cl. 40—10)

This invention is for improvements in or relating to a method of and means for controlling the parking of vehicles in busy thoroughfares.

The constant increase in traffic in main thoroughfares in towns has led to the establishment of places where parking is permitted for a limited period of time with or without payment, in addition to places in which parking is completely forbidden and to car parks in which unlimited parking is permitted. All these measures involve inspection and, in some cases, the collection of fees, which must be carried out with relatively limited personnel.

There has been applied, in particular, a system which consists in placing at each of the spaces provided for the parking of one vehicle a prepayment meter mounted on a column, into which meter the user inserts a coin which entitles him to park for a predetermined period of time. When this period has elapsed, the meter releases a visual or audible signal in order to inform the attendant that the parking entitlement of the user has expired. Such installations are capable of ready supervision, even from a distance and they ensure payment without permitting the excess of the authorised period of time for which any position may be occupied.

However, such installations also possess a number of inherent faults which considerably restrict the development thereof. Firstly, they necessitate the use of costly apparatus permanently installed in a fixed position on the pavement or the like and thus tend seriously to limit the essential facility of experimenting with or modifying the places in which temporary parking is permitted. Further, such installations obstruct the roads and pavements and thereby render cleaning difficult and they are not favourably viewed by the police by reason of the difficulties which they cause in the case of processions and the like. Also, the users are not always able to find coins of appropriate denomination when they need them and the collection of the coins inserted into the meters requires a considerable staff.

The object of the present invention is to provide a system which eliminates these faults and according to the present invention there is provided a method of parking control which consists in that the user himself, when wishing to park, attaches to a prominent part of his vehicle (preferably the windscreen) a device for which a prepayment has been made, for example a ticket valid for a predetermined period, on which he has himself entered the date and the commencing time of the parking. It is sufficient for the attendants to glance at the parking ticket in order to ascertain whether the user is in order. It is clear that this method necessitates a certain tolerance (for example 5 minutes) in the application of the time in order to allow for any disagreements arising as to the exact time. Instances in which the user might fraudulently enter on the ticket a time substantially later than that at which the parking has commenced can readily be detected by the inspecting personnel.

Further, according to the present invention, there is

provided, as a new industrial product, a prepayment ticket on which spaces are provided to facilitate the entry of the date and the time of commencement of the parking.

The ticket preferably has incorporated therein means to prevent fraudulent re-use thereof, for example, the said ticket may be made of a special paper of which the texture is such as to prevent erasure of any portion of either the pre-printed or non-preprinted matter thereon. Such means may also be distinct from the ticket and consist, for example, of a support from which the ticket cannot be removed without being lacerated.

The present invention will now be more particularly described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figures 1, 2 and 3 illustrate three types of tickets which may be employed in accordance with the present invention, and

Figure 4 illustrates diagrammatically one embodiment of means to prevent the fraudulent re-use of a used ticket.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 illustrates a very simple type of ticket which is provided at the corners thereof with a layer of gum **2** by means of which it may be stuck to the windscreen of a vehicle, and a section **3** in which the user must enter the month, the day of the month, the hour of the day and the minute of the commencement of the period of time during which the said user desires to park his vehicle. The ticket may consist, for example, of waxed paper or of any other paper of the type used for cheques, for example, paper designed to prevent erasure of matter previously entered upon the ticket. Having obtained a number of tickets, for example, from a shop in which such tickets may be obtained, the user will enter on one of the tickets the date, the hour and the minute at which the parking commences and will stick it or otherwise secure it to the windscreen of his vehicle before leaving the vehicle.

The ticket illustrated in Figure 2 is also provided with adhesive means at the corners thereof and is printed so as to exhibit a scale **4** comprising numbers which correspond to each day of the month, a space or box **5** in which the name of the month must be entered and two dials **6** and **7**, the dial **6** being for the hours and the dial **7** being for minutes. Before leaving his vehicle, the user will enter the month in the space **5**, will mark in an easily recognised manner the day of the month on the scale **4** and will mark the hour and the minute on the dials **6** and **7**, for example, by means of a radial line or a cross.

In Figure 3 there is illustrated a ticket very similar to that illustrated in Figure 2, the arrangement of the space or box compartment, of the scale and of the dials having been varied.

As has hereinbefore been stated, means embodied in the ticket, such for example as quality and lay-out of the paper may be employed to prevent re-use thereof. There may also be provided for the said ticket a suitable support rendering re-use thereof impossible, one embodiment of such a support being diagrammatically illustrated in Figure 4. A locking member **11** pivotally mounted on a pin **12** comprises an abutment **13** for closing, with the aid of the hook **14** urged by a spring **15**, a frame **16** having a slot **17** in which the edges of the ticket can be inserted, the hook **14** only being operable by means of a lever **18** provided with a button **19**. A small knife edge **21** is situated between the end of the lever **18** and the button **19** and upon operation of the lever **18**, the said knife edge **21** passes through a slot **22** in a backing plate **23** of the frame **16**. The knife edge **21** cuts the ticket engaged in the slot **17** into two before releasing the abutment **13** at the end of the travel thereof. Thus, as soon as a ticket is engaged in the slot **17** and the lever **18**

closes the frame **16**, the latter cannot be opened without lacerating the paper.

It will readily be appreciated that any other means of preventing fraud could be employed, while it should be noted that the use of means not inherent in the tickets to prevent fraud might result in a complication of the device and destroy some of the advantages of the simplicity of the method.

What I claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. Vehicle parking validating means for attachment to a vehicle, comprising a ticket bearing predetermined indicia on a face thereof and including means for designating the date and time when said vehicle is parked, means for removably attaching said ticket to said vehicle and including a frame member, means for releasably supporting said ticket on said frame member, and means for invalidating said ticket incident to its removal from said frame member.

2. Vehicle parking validating means, comprising a ticket bearing predetermined indicia on a face thereof including means for designating the date and time when a vehicle is parked, a frame member releasably supporting said ticket and adapted to be mounted on the vehicle, retaining means for preventing the removal of said ticket from said frame member and movably mounted on said frame member for movement between locking and releasing positions, and means for moving said retaining means to its releasing position including defacing means for invalidating said ticket when said releasing means is actuated.

3. Support means for a vehicle parking validating ticket bearing indicia on a face thereof for designating the date and time when a vehicle is parked, comprising a frame member having a slot formed therein for supporting said ticket in the vehicle with said face of the ticket exposed to the exterior of the vehicle, a locking member movably mounted on said frame member for closing said slot, a lever connected to said frame member for releasing said locking member and movable across said slot, and a knife edged member connected to said lever and movable therewith through said slot.

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