Aug. 1, 1967 E. J. CROSSLAND ET AL 3,333,766

VOTING DEVICE

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FIG. 1

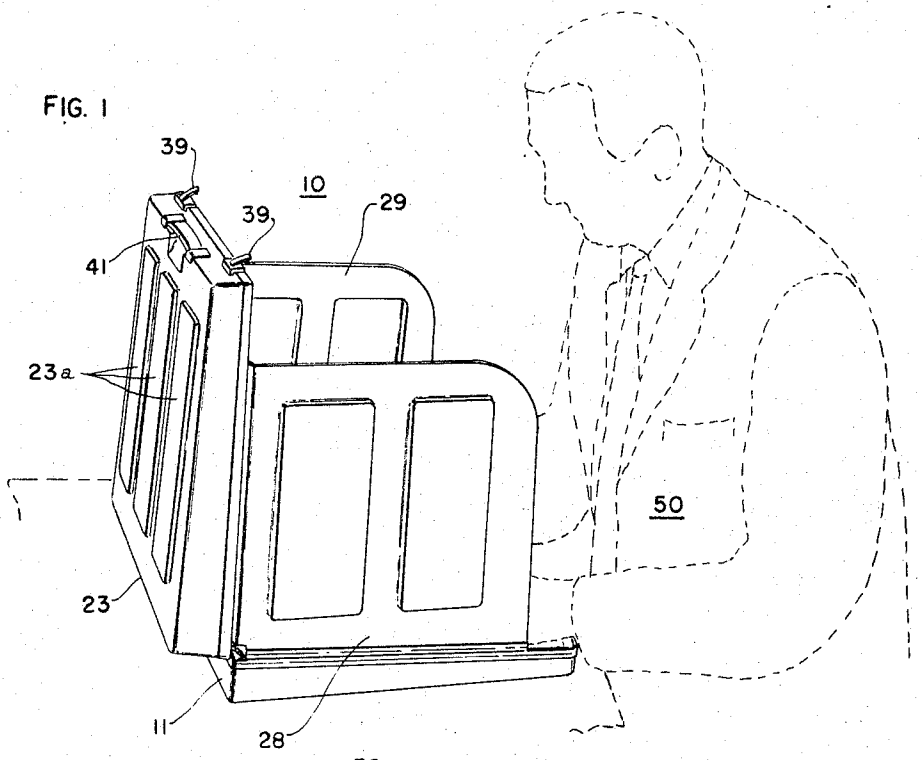

FIG. 2

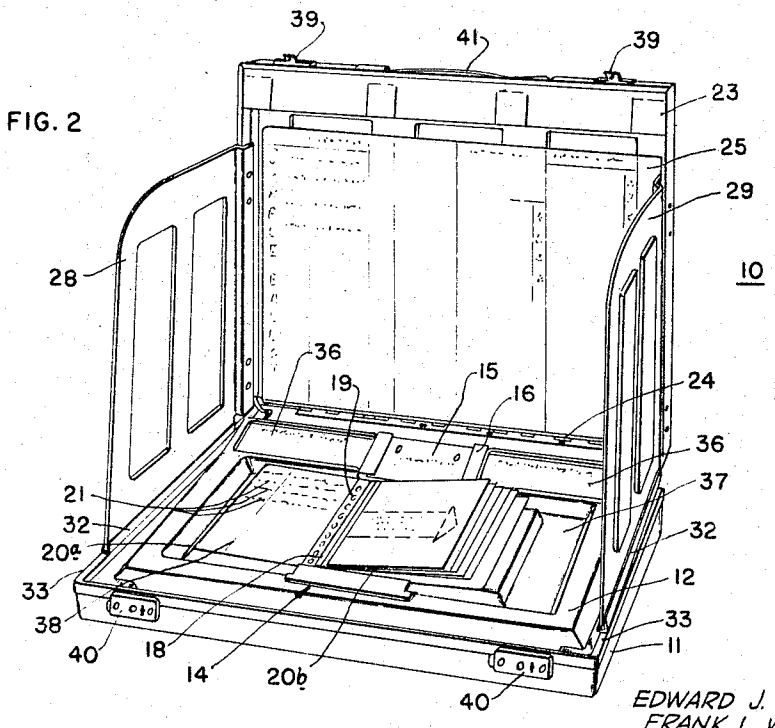

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FIG. 4

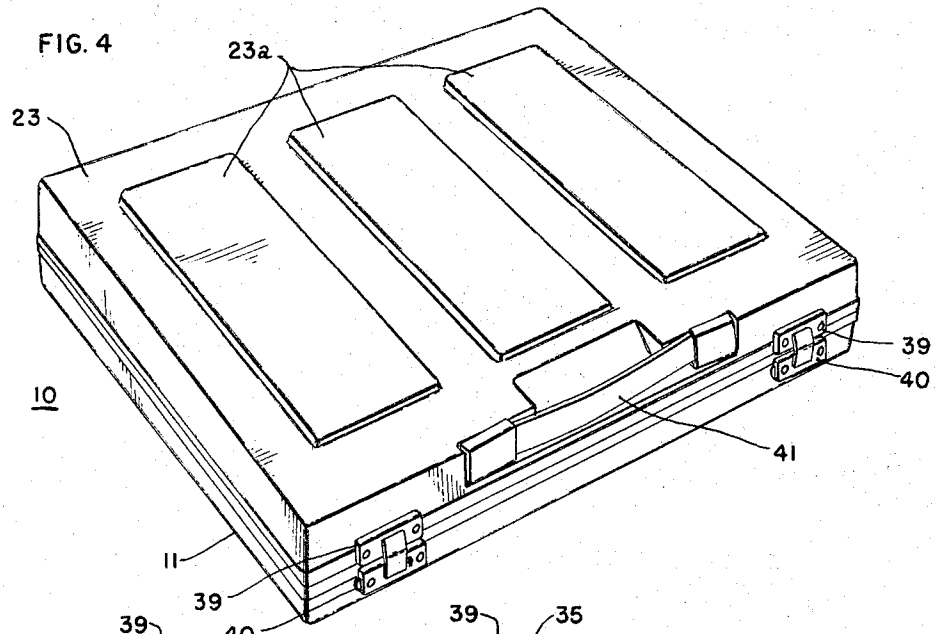


FIG. 3

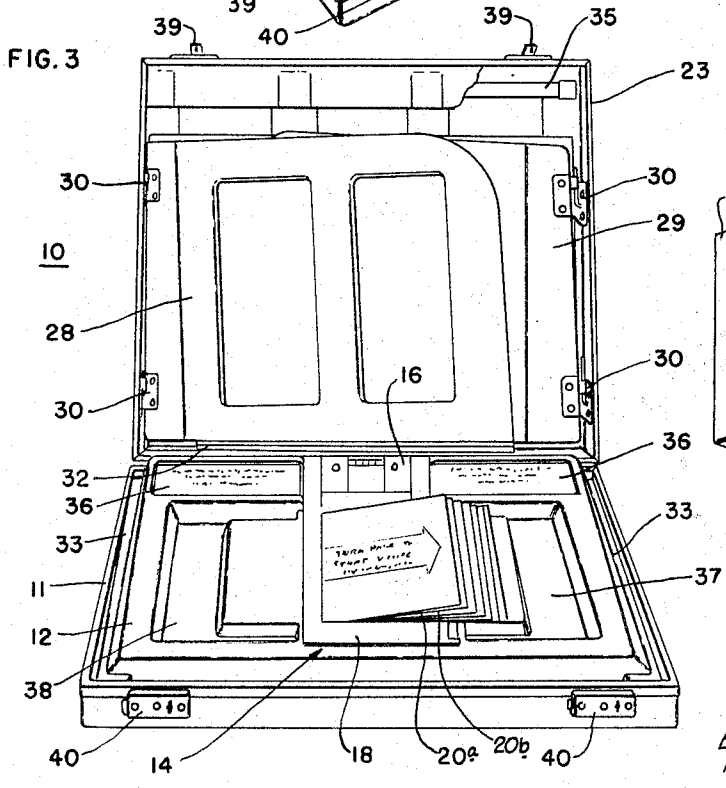
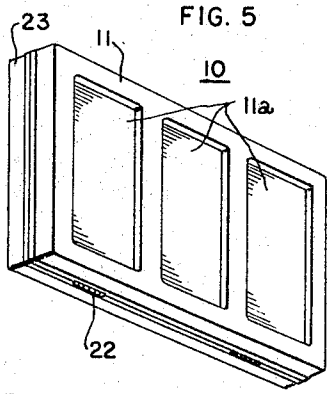


FIG. 5



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VOTING DEVICE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 235—50)

The present invention relates to a voting device, and more particularly, to a combined vote recording system, voting booth, and carrying case.

Vote recording systems or data registering machines of the type employing machine-processable record cards for recording the vote or data are known. One such vote recording system, described in U.S. Patent No. 3,201,038, granted Aug. 17, 1965, to Joseph P. Harris, employs conventional punch receiving ballot cards for manually recording data pertaining to voter selections. Such a system includes a base member providing a track for positioning a ballot card in the vote recording system. The vote recording system contains a plate overlying the ballot card and containing a plurality of perforations, groups of the perforations being associated with respective areas on the ballot card. A marking stylus is provided for manipulation by the voter to punch through the perforations in the plate in order to perforate the ballot card. One means of aligning the respective perforations with the ballot includes providing a plurality of sheets or leaves having reference indicia associated with respective areas on the record card. The leaves can be turned to a position wherein selective ones of the indicia are in alignment with respective areas or rows of the ballot card and cover other areas of the ballot card. In this manner the set of perforations associated with the indicia on a particular leaf are exposed to permit recording of voter selections along the corresponding area or row of the ballot card.

Such vote recording systems require packaging for transportation and require installation in a voting booth to insure secrecy for the voter. This means that storage facilities must be provided between elections for the voting booths and the vote recording systems.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a combined vote recording system, voting booth, and carrying case to minimize the storage problems.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a new and improved voting device forming a self contained voting booth and foldable into a carrying case.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a small, light, and inexpensive voting device which is self contained and may be folded readily into briefcase size for handling.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a small, light, and inexpensive voting device which is self contained and which permits the voter to record his vote in seclusion.

Further objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent as the following description proceeds and the features of novelty which characterize the invention will be pointed out with particularity in the claim annexed to and forming a part of this specification.

In accordance with these and other objects, there is provided an improved voting device including a base member defining a shelf of a voting booth and having positioning means for receiving a record or ballot card therein in predetermined orientation. Suitable sheets or leaves are provided with reference indicia respectively associated with different areas on the record card. The sheets or leaves are mounted for movement from a position wherein selective ones of the indicia are in alignment with respective ones of the areas and in covering relation relative to others.

In accordance with the present invention, a back member is hinged to the base and may be folded to define a carrying case. Moreover a pair of side flaps defining side walls of a voting booth are hinged to the base or the back and fold in for storage.

A light is recessed in the back to provide illumination to facilitate the vote casting operation. Moreover the open back can display a sample ballot or other information. Additionally, voter instructions may be located in the voting booth on the shelf or otherwise as required. According to the invention there is provided a small, light, and inexpensive voting device including the vote recording system and voting booth, and which is readily foldable into a briefcase size carrying case.

For a better understanding of the present invention reference may be had to the accompanying drawings wherein:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the voting device illustrating its use;

FIG. 2 is a front perspective view of the voting device;

FIG. 3 is a partially folded front perspective view of the improved voting device;

FIG. 4 is a top perspective view of the voting device folded into a carrying case; and

FIG. 5 is a bottom perspective view of the folded voting device drawn to a smaller scale.

Referring now to the drawings, there is illustrated an improved voting device **10** according to the present invention. As will hereafter become apparent, the voting device **10** is a combined vote recording system, voting booth, and carrying case. The voting device **10** includes a base or base member **11** forming a shelf **12** and defining one side of a carrying case. The shelf **12** carries the vote recording system **14** shown as a means for perforating machine-processable record or ballot cards **15** (FIG. 2). The vote recording system **14** may be of the type more fully described in the above mentioned Harris patent. Briefly, the vote recording system **14** includes a track **16** on the base **11** for receiving and positioning the ballot card **15** in predetermined position relative to the base. A template **18** overlays the ballot card **15** and contains a plurality of rows of perforations or holes **19** with respective rows being in alignment with associated areas or rows of the ballot card **15**. A plurality of voting sheets or leaves **20**, individually identified as **20***a*, **20***b*, etc., each containing indicia **21** such as the names of candidates, are hinged to the base member so that each of the leaves **20** is movable to a position wherein a selected pair of the holes **19**, and thereby the indicia **21**, are exposed and in alignment with an associated row or area of the ballot card **15**, while the remaining rows of holes **19**, and therefore the remaining indicia **21** on the other leaves **20**, are covered by the leaf.

In order for a voter to make his voting selection, there is provided a stylus (not shown) normally attached to the base **11** by means of a chain and utilized to punch the ballot card **15** through the holes **19** in the template **18**. After the voter casts his votes for the candidates or issues on the first leaf **20***a*, the next leaf **20***b* is turned, thereby covering the row of holes **19** previously exposed and also exposing an additional row of holes **19** which are then aligned with other indicia **21** on the second leaf **20***b*.

To provide a back for the voting booth, and a top for the carrying case, there is provided a back or back member **23** hinged to the base **11** by suitable hinges **22** (FIG. 5). When opened, the back **23** defines a back of the voting booth, and when closed, as shown in FIG. 4, the back cooperates with the base **11** to define a carry-

ing case for the voting device. A sample ballot **25** or other instructions or indicia may be displayed against the inside of the back **23**. The illustrated sample ballot **25** is fastened to the voting device **10** by means of a hinge **24**.

To provide sides for the voting booth, there are provided side flaps **28** and **29** which are hinged along a respective edge to opposite sides of the back **23** by suitable hinge means **30** (FIG. 3). An enlarged rail or U-shaped flange **32**, secured to the bottom edge of each of the side flaps **28** and **29**, is seated in a corresponding guide track **33** defined in the base **11** to position the side flaps when the voting booth is in the open position shown in FIGS. 1 and 2.

A recessed light **35** (FIG. 3) may be provided in the top of the back member to illuminate the voting device **14**, the sample ballot **25**, and the like. Voter instructions on cards **36** may be displayed within the voting booth in any suitable place; for example, toward the rear on the top of the base **11**. Recessed compartments **37** and **38** formed in the top of the base **11** and respectively disposed along opposite sides of the template **18** provide easy access to the voting sheets or leaves **20**.

As previously indicated, when the side flaps **28** and **29** and the back **23** are all folded as illustrated in FIG. 4, a briefcase type carrying case is defined to facilitate handling and storage. To this end the base **11** and back **23** are provided with interlocking latch members **40** and the back **23** is provided with a carrying handle **41** along one side edge near the center.

To permit locked stacking of the folded cases, the upper surface of back **23** is provided with ornamental elevated projections **23***a* which are receivable within complementary recessed areas **11***a*, FIG. 5, in the base **11**. When several cases are stacked one on top of the other, the projections **23***a* fit within recesses **11***a* of the adjacent case to form a compact stack in which the several cases are locked together against individual movement. Thus, a large number of cases can be stored conveniently in a relatively small area.

From the above detailed description the operation of the improved voting device **10** is believed clear. However, briefly, it will be understood that the voting device **10** is foldable into a briefcase type carrying case having a handle **41**, as best illustrated in FIG. 4. In this manner the voting device **10** may be transported readily and economically without damage to the components parts. When it is desired to install or use the voting device **10**, the voting device **10** is opened by first unfolding the back **23** upwardly, as indicated in FIG. 3, and thereafter by unfolding the side flaps **28** and **29** and locking the lower flanges **32** thereof into the tracks **33**. In this manner a voting booth is formed to permit a

voter **50**, FIG. 1, to record his vote in seclusion. The inner surface of the back **23** may display a suitable sample ballot **25** and suitable voter instructions or other cards may be removed from the storage compartments **37** and **38** and inserted in suitable spaces provided adjacent the rear of the base **11**. The voter **50** may readily manipulate the stylus to punch through the ballot card **15** as more fully described in the above mentioned Harris patent.

Although the present invention has been described by reference to only a single embodiment thereof, it will be apparent that numerous other modifications and embodiments may be devised by those skilled in the art and it is intended by the appended claim to cover all modifications and embodiments which will fall within the true spirit and scope of the present invention.

What is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent of the United States is:

A voting device of the type defining a combined vote recording system, voting booth, and carrying case; comprising a base member defining a generally horizontal shelf of a voting booth; positioning means carried by said horizontal shelf member for positioning a ballot card thereon in predetermined position relative to said base member, leaf means provided with reference indicia associated with areas on a record card, means mounting said leaf means for movement to a position wherein selective ones of said indicia are in alignment with respective ones of said areas and in covering relation relative to other areas, a back member defining a back wall of a voting booth, hinge means joining said base member and said back member along respective adjacent edges thereof, said base member and said back member being foldable about said hinge means to provide a carrying case, handle means on at least one of said members, latch means cooperatively associated with said members, a pair of side flaps defining side walls of a voting booth, and hinge means joining an edge of each of said flaps to said back member, said horizontal shelf being provided with a pair of tracks along opposite sides thereof and the lower edge of each of said flaps being adapted to ride within one of said tracks.

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