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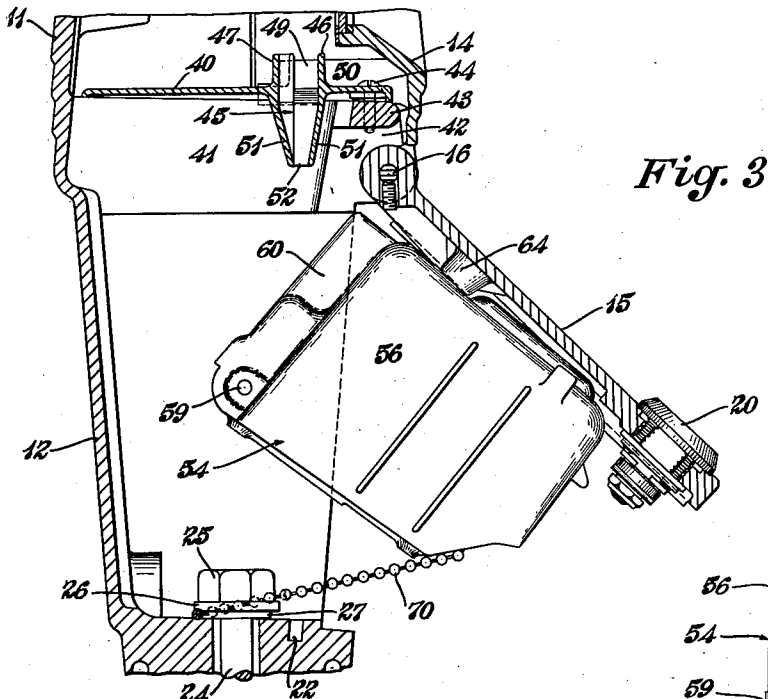


Fig. 3

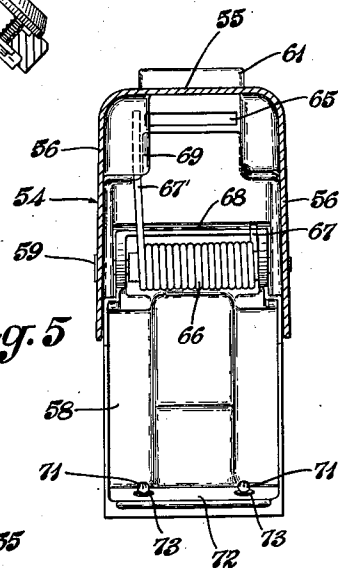


Fig. 5

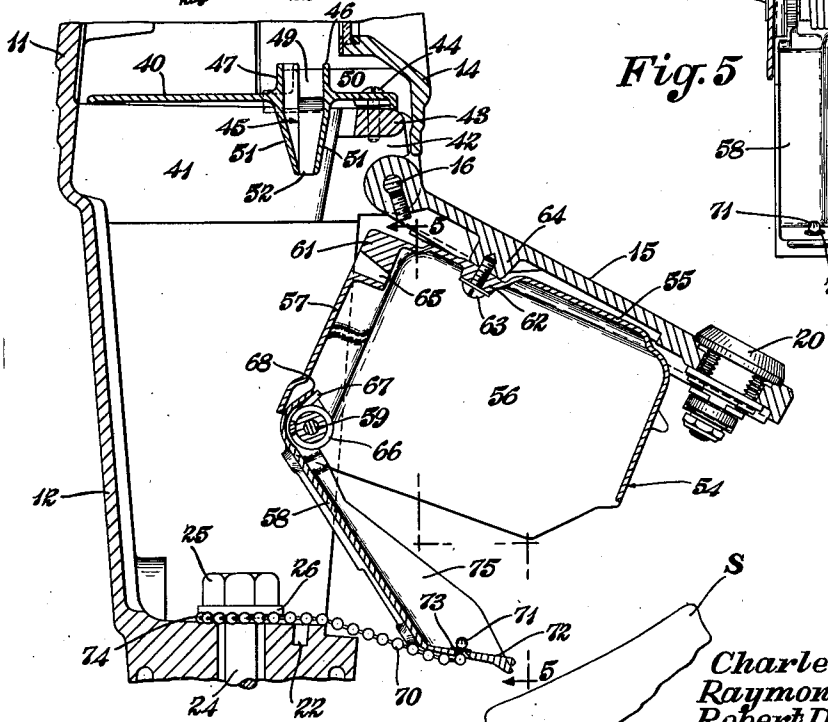


Fig. 4

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PARKING METER COIN DISCHARGE GUIDING CONSTRUCTION

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The invention relates generally to coin-operated parking meters of the general type shown in the McGay Patent No. 2,284,221, and more particularly to improvements in structure for guiding all coins discharged from the meter mechanism into a storage box and periodically from said box into the bag or receptacle of a person authorized to make collections.

The housing for parking meters of this type normally has an upper door giving access to the meter mechanism and a lower door giving access to the discharged coin storage compartment. In certain prior constructions a sealed cylindrical coin tube having a coin-receiving slot in its upper end is placed in the coin storage compartment with its coin slot located immediately under the normal discharge opening in the bottom of the meter mechanism through which coins are discharged. An authorized collector periodically unlocks and opens the lower door to the coin storage compartment and replaces the coin tube therein with an empty sealed tube.

If these coin tubes become worn or if they are carelessly inserted, the coin slot in the tube becomes misaligned with the coin discharge opening in the meter mechanism. Such misalignment often occurs because the meter housing and coin box are castings and therefore become warped or distorted during manufacture. In any case, the result is that some of the coins fall into the storage compartment outside the coin tube and may become lodged around the usual mounting bolt for the meter housing where they can be appropriated without being accounted for, either by the person doing the collecting or by someone opening the upper door to the mechanism compartment and fishing the coins out through the upper compartment.

In certain parking meters of this type which are designed to be operated by coins of a certain denomination, provision has been made for bypassing smaller coins through the meter mechanism without operating the mechanism. In certain other meters designed to be operated for different time intervals by coins of different denominations, provision has been made for bypassing certain coins by which the meter is not designed to be operated. In such cases, the bypassed coins are discharged at a point laterally adjacent to the normal coin discharge opening, and these by-passed coins either become lodged in the lower part of the meter mechanism compartment or fall into the coin tube compartment outside of the tube, where they can be appropri-

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ated, without being accounted for, by the collector or anyone else having a key to either the upper or lower door.

It has been proposed to replace the coin tube by a spring-hinged box mounted on the inside of the coin compartment door and arranged to be opened automatically when the compartment door is opened for discharging coins into a collecting bag or receptacle. Such boxes are apt to spill some of the coins because they open too quickly, and because they have inadequate guiding walls for directing the coins into a small area. Moreover, the box is automatically pulled open by a chain hooked over a clip in the back of the coin compartment, and because the chain has to be arranged to hook on easily when the box is installed, the chain or the clip frequently becomes accidentally detached in shipment or because of the jar when the box repeatedly snaps shut.

Another difficulty with prior constructions is that the mechanism compartment and coin box compartment are open one into the other, and a person gaining access to one compartment has easy access to the other.

It is a general object of the present invention to provide an improved coin discharge construction for a parking meter which overcomes all of the foregoing difficulties and disadvantages.

A specific object is to provide a novel coin chute which guides coins discharged from the meter mechanism into a coin storage box, regardless of variations in location and alignment of the mechanism and coin storage box.

Another object is to provide a novel coin discharge construction which guides all coins discharged from the meter mechanism into the storage box, including by-passed coins discharged at a location laterally adjacent to or different from the normal discharge point.

Another object is to provide a novel coin discharge construction including a partition wall preventing access in either direction between the meter mechanism compartment and coin storage compartment, said partition wall having a coin chute for guiding all coins discharged from the mechanism into the coin box, and cooperating means on the meter housing for guiding bypassed coins into the chute.

A further object is to provide an improved spring-hinged coin box adapted to be mounted on the coin storage compartment door and the box having a lower door acting as a chute when opened to guide coins from the box into a collector's bag.

Another object is to provide an improved spring-hinged coin box which does not open until the chute door has swung out to a proper discharging position.

Another object is to provide a novel detachable support for the improved coin box, which support is easily inserted in the bottom of the coin storage compartment for supporting the coin box in quickly removable position.

A still further object is to provide improved means for hooking a pull chain for the coin box door over the meter housing mounting bolt in such a way that the chain is easier attached and less apt to become accidentally detached.

Finally, it is an object of the present invention to embody all of the foregoing objectives in a compact and practical construction which is economical to manufacture and simple and easy to operate, and which requires substantially no maintenance or repair.

These and other objects are accomplished by the parts, improvements, arrangements, constructions and combinations comprising the present invention, a preferred embodiment of which is set forth herein by way of example of the best known mode for carrying out the invention, said embodiment being illustrated in the accompanying drawings and described in detail in the specification, the scope of the invention, including reasonable mechanical equivalents, being defined in the appended claims.

In general terms, the improvements comprising the present invention may be stated as including a partition wall located between the meter mechanism compartment and the coin storage compartment of the meter housing and having a funnel-shaped chute therein for guiding coins discharged from the meter downwardly into the storage compartment, there being inwardly projecting means on the meter housing for cooperating with the coin chute to direct by-passed coins downwardly into the storage compartment, a spring-hinged coin box adapted to be mounted on the coin storage door or removably supported within the storage compartment by an insertable support, said coin box having a coin-receiving slot in its upper wall normally positioned under the coin chute in the partition wall, and a hinged chute door on the coin box having side guiding walls and a discharge lip, there being a pull chain attached to the hinged chute door and adapted to hook under a washer on the meter housing mounting bolt projecting into the bottom of the coin storage compartment.

Referring to the drawings forming part hereof in which a preferred embodiment of the invention is shown by way of example;

Figure 1 is a front vertical sectional view of a parking meter embodying the invention, parts of a meter housing being shown in cross section;

Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view substantially on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary sectional view similar to Fig. 2 showing the coin storage compartment door in partially open position;

Fig. 4 is a similar view showing the coin storage compartment door more fully opened, and the chute door of the box in position to discharge coins into an exterior receptacle;

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary view as on line 5—5; Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary front elevation of a slightly different embodiment of the invention, with the coin storage compartment door broken

away, showing the manner of removably supporting the coin box on the insertable support;

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary sectional view thereof similar to Fig. 2 showing the coin box removably mounted;

Fig. 8 is an enlarged detached perspective view of the insertable support for removably supporting the coin box;

Fig. 9 is a plan sectional view as on line 9—9, Fig. 1; and

Fig. 10 is a plan sectional view as on line 10—10, Fig. 1.

Similar numerals refer to similar parts throughout the drawings.

Referring first to Figs. 1 and 2, the parking meter has a housing including an upper head portion 11 and a lower neck portion 12 of reduced size. The housing portion 11 forms a compartment for the meter mechanism indicated generally at 13, and the lower portion 12 forms a storage compartment for coins which have been discharged from the meter mechanism. The housing portion 11 has a front door 14 giving access to the meter mechanism compartment, and the housing portion 12 has a front door giving access to the coin storage compartment.

As best shown in Figs. 6 and 10, both doors 14 and 15 are hinged preferably on the same horizontal hinge pin 16 located between the two housing portions 11 and 12. The mechanism door 14 is hinged at its lower end for swinging outwardly downward, and the coin door 15 is hinged at its top end for swinging outwardly upward as indicated in Figs. 3 and 4.

A screw lock 17 is provided in the top of door 14 for engaging the threads 18 on the inner end of a stud 19 to lock the door shut. A bolt lock 20 is provided in the bottom of door 15 for locking the door shut by engaging the pivoted cam lever 21 in a slot 22 in the bottom of the housing portion 12.

A shank 23 is provided at the lower end of the housing portion 12, and the shank is normally mounted on a suitable post (not shown) and secured thereto in a usual manner by an expansion anchor bolt 24, the head 25 of which projects into the coin storage compartment. Preferably, two washers 26 and 27 of decreasing diameter are provided under the head 25 of the bolt for a purpose to be described.

The meter mechanism 13 includes the usual indicator or pointer 28 which is movable across a dial 29 for indicating elapsed time, the dial being visible through an observation window 30 in the door 14 when the meter is operating. The dial carries an expired time flag 31 extending above the dial and the flag is visible through the window 30 and a similar rear observation window 32 in the housing portion 11 when the meter is not operating.

The meter mechanism housing has a coin plate 33 mounted in spaced relation on the front thereof, and a coin cap plate 34 is mounted in front of the plate 33 and in spaced relation thereto, as indicated in Fig. 2. The upper edge 35 of the coin cap plate is angled outwardly for receiving a coin inserted through the exterior slot 36 so that the coin will pass by gravity downwardly between the plates 33 and 34. After the coin has operated the mechanism it comes to rest temporarily at the position indicated at A in Fig. 1 in front of plate 33 and behind an opening in the cap plate 34, where it is visible through a small observation window 37 known as a "Scotch eye" in the door 14. When another coin

is deposited in the meter it operates the mechanism and discharges the previous coin out between the plates 33 and 34, and on the left side of screw 34', as indicated by the position B in Figs. 1 and 2.

In certain prior constructions where a sheet metal coin tube having a slot in its upper end was removably inserted in the coin storage compartment, it is obvious that relatively slight variations in the position of the coin tube, due to distortion or wear of the tube or to inaccurate positioning, would produce misalignment between the coin-receiving slot in the tube and the discharge point B in the meter mechanism 13. The result was that often the coins missed the coin-receiving slot and found their way down into the coin storage compartment around the outside of the coin tube. Thus the person collecting the coin tubes could very easily appropriate these loose coins without accounting for them, because the only coins required to be accounted for were the ones within the sealed coin tube.

Moreover, in parking meters of this type designed to be operated by nickels only for one or two-hour periods, the meter mechanism is arranged so that if a penny is inserted in the slot 36 it passes down behind the cap plate 34, but bypasses the operating mechanism and is discharged out between the plates 33 and 34 at a point laterally opposite to the point B, on the right side of screw 34', such as indicated at C in Fig. 1. Certain other meters of this general type which are designed to be operated for different time intervals by nickels and pennies, for example, are also constructed so as to by-pass coins of smaller dimension, such as dimes. These are discharged at the point C also.

With all such meter mechanisms the conventional housing would cause such by-passed coins to become lodged in or around the point C between the meter mechanism and the side wall 38 of the door 14, so that a person collecting coins from the meters, or a traffic officer having access to the mechanism compartment, could appropriate the by-passed coins without accounting for them. Moreover, any person having access to the mechanism compartment could fish out loose coins in the coin storage compartment up through the mechanism compartment.

According to the present invention, a partition wall 40 is mounted between the mechanism compartment and the coin storage compartment, and the partition wall 40 rests on the upper ends of laterally spaced vertical wall portions 41 which extend upwardly from the lower housing portion 12 into the bottom of upper housing portion 11 and define the opening 42 which connects the two compartments.

The wall portions 41 have forwardly projecting ears 42 in which the hinge pin 16 is mounted, and the tops of the ears are connected by a transverse web 43 to which the front end of the partition wall 40 is secured by screws 44. Thus the partition wall 40 completely separates and closes off all communication between the mechanism compartment and the coin storage compartment, except for the coin chute indicated generally at 45 which is formed in the partition wall. Thus, the partition wall prevents access from the coin storage compartment into the mechanism compartment, and from the mechanism compartment into the coin storage compartment.

The coin chute 45 has upwardly projecting vertical front and rear walls 46 and 47, and a vertical wall 48 closing one side or end of the chute. These

walls form a substantially rectangular chute opening, as best shown in Fig. 9, which is substantially larger than the discharge opening between plates 33 and 34, and the top of the chute opening is positioned with a slight clearance very closely adjacent to the bottom edges of the coin plates 33 and 34 of the mechanism; so that a coin being discharged at the position B is substantially midway between the front and rear walls 46 and 47, and also substantially midway of the sides or ends of the chute opening.

As shown, the side of the chute opposite wall 48 is slotted or left open as indicated at 49 and the walls 46 and 47 are extended laterally on both sides of the opening 49 so as to terminate substantially under the center of a by-passed coin being discharged at the position C, as best shown in Fig. 1. Means for cooperating with the extended walls 46 and 47, to guide or deflect the by-passed coins from the position C into the open side of the chute, preferably consists of a rounded boss portion 50 projecting inwardly from the side wall 38 of door 14 at a location immediately adjacent the side opening 49 of the chute. Thus as a by-passed coin is discharged at the position C, it is deflected inwardly and downwardly by the boss 50, as indicated in dot-dash lines in Fig. 1.

The walls of the chute 45 extend downwardly below the partition wall 40 and are tapered inwardly in all directions as indicated at 51 to form a relatively narrow funnel-shaped discharge slot 52 for discharging coins into the coin storage compartment. Thus all coins discharged from the normal position B, and all by-passed coins discharged at the position C, are guided through the chute 45 and discharged therefrom at the narrow bottom slot 52.

A coin box indicated generally at 54 is positioned in the coin storage compartment for receiving and storing coins discharged through the slot 52 of chute 45. This coin box preferably consists of a die casting made in two parts, a front part comprising a front wall 55, side walls 56 and a top wall 57, and a rear wall or door 58 hinged between the side walls 56 on a hinge pin 59 located at the rear end of the top wall 57.

At their upper front portions the side walls 56 are recessed, as indicated at 60, to form a narrow coin slot portion 61 which is adapted to fit between the ears 42 of wall portions 41, as shown in Fig. 10. The front wall 55 is provided with an internal boss 62 through which a screw 63 is normally inserted and screwed into an internal boss 64 on the coin compartment door 15, for mounting the coin box 54 on the door with the narrow coin portion 61 between the ears 42.

The coin-receiving slot 65 is formed in the coin portion 61, and when the coin box is mounted on the door 15 and the door fully closed, the coin slot 65 is positioned immediately below the discharge slot 52 and closely adjacent thereto, as shown in Fig. 2. Preferably the coin slot 65 is tapered inwardly downward as best shown in Fig. 10, and its upper end is somewhat larger both longitudinally and transversely than the discharge slot 52, so that regardless of any inaccuracies in the relative position between the two slots, they will always be in sufficient alignment to guide coins into the coin box.

The bottom of coin slot 65 is narrow or thin and substantially the same thickness as the discharge opening at B between mechanism plates 33 and 34, which thickness is slightly greater than the thickest coin being discharged, so that the coins cannot be shaken out after they drop into the

box. Consequently, any misalignment of the slots would cause difficulty were it not for the tapered or funnel shape of both the chute 45 and coin slot 65.

As best shown in Fig. 5, a torsion spring 66 is mounted around the hinge pin 59 for normally maintaining the rear wall 58 in closed position. One end 67 of the spring bears against the top flange 68 of the rear wall 58, and the other end 67' bears against a lug 69 formed on one side wall 56 of the front part of the box.

Means for automatically opening the box 54 when the coin door 15 is manually opened preferably includes a pull chain 70, the ends 71 of which are inserted through holes in an inclined discharge lip 72 on the bottom of the rear wall 58, and secured to the lip by washers 73. The loop end 74 of the chain is positioned under the larger washer 26 around anchor bolt 24 and engaged around the smaller washer 27, the rear of washer 26 forming a shoulder for retaining the chain. The length of the chain 70 is such that it becomes taut when the door 15 is swung open to the partly open position of Fig. 3, in which position the front edge of the discharge lip 72 has moved out beyond all portions of the coin compartment housing 12.

Further opening movement of the door to the substantially fully opened position of Fig. 4 causes the chain 70 to pull the rear door 58 open, in which position all coins within the box are discharged by gravity into a receptacle or sack, such as indicated at S, which may be held by the coin collector. The rear wall 58 is provided with side guide walls or flanges 75 which cooperate with the discharge lip 72 to guide and direct the coins in a channel or path of relatively small area, so they can be caught in the sack or receptacle S without danger of spilling any coins.

Referring to the embodiment of the invention shown in Figs. 6, 7 and 8, in this case the coin box 54a is not secured to the door 15 of the coin storage compartment, but is removably supported in the compartment in a sealed condition so that the collector can quickly remove the box and replace it with an empty one. The box 54a is preferably sealed shut with a strip of tape indicated at 77 which engirdles the entire box. The means for removably supporting the coin box 54a in the coin compartment, with the narrow portion 61 thereof located between the ears 42 of the housing, preferably includes a novel detachable clip indicated generally at 78.

The clip 78 is preferably formed of sheet metal, and has an upper wall 79 provided with a reinforcing rib 80, and a cutout portion 81. Side walls 82 extend vertically downward from the top wall and are provided at their bottom edges with inturned flanges 83. As shown in Figs. 6 and 7, the inturned flanges 83 are adapted to rest on the bottom of the coin storage compartment behind the mounting bolt 24 and the washers 26 and 27 thereon. In this position the upper wall 79 of the clip supports the rear edge portion 84 of the coin box 54a so that the coin portion 61 is positioned immediately under the discharge slot 52 of the chute 45 in the partition wall. When the coin compartment door 15 is closed it abuts the front wall 55 of the coin box in a manner such as shown in Fig. 2, so that the coin box is securely supported in position with its coin-receiving slot 65 under the chute 45.

The cutout portion 81 of the top wall of the clip receives the depending rib 85 of the coin box

when it is in coin-receiving position. Accordingly, the coin box 54 which is normally mounted on the coin compartment door 15 by the screw 63, can be quickly converted into the sealed removable coin box 54a, merely by removing the screw 63, and inserting the clip 78 in the position of Figs. 6 and 7 to removably support the coin box in proper coin-receiving position. After this has been done, it requires only a few seconds for the collector to grip the box behind the rib 85 and remove the sealed box 54a, and then replace it with an empty sealed box.

The improved construction comprising the present invention provides for guiding all coins discharged from the meter mechanism, including bypassed coins, through a narrow confined path into the coin-receiving slot of the coin box, regardless of variations in location and alignment of the meter mechanism and coin box; and provides for selectively guiding the coins from the coin box into a collector's receptacle automatically on opening the coin box door, or removably supporting a sealed coin box for quick and easy replacement by the collector.

In the foregoing description, certain terms have been used for brevity, clearness and understanding, but no unnecessary limitations are to be implied therefrom beyond the requirements of the prior art, because such words are used for descriptive purposes herein and are intended to be broadly construed.

Moreover, the embodiments of the improved construction illustrated and described herein are by way of example; and the scope of the present invention is not limited to the exact details of construction.

Having now described the invention, the construction, the operation and use of preferred embodiments thereof, and the advantageous new and useful results obtained thereby; the new and useful constructions; and reasonable mechanical equivalents thereof obvious to those skilled in the art, are set forth in the appended claims.

We claim:

1. In a parking meter having a housing providing an upper meter mechanism compartment and a lower coin storage compartment, a partition wall between said compartments, a tapered chute formed in said partition wall and adapted to guide coins normally discharged from the meter mechanism in a narrow path into said coin storage compartment, an outer door hinged on said meter compartment having lower portions swinging past the sides of said chute, the top of said chute being open at one side, and an inner projection on said door for cooperating with the open side of said chute to guide into the chute coins discharged at a point laterally of the normal discharge point in the meter mechanism.

2. In a parking meter having a housing providing an upper meter mechanism compartment and a lower coin storage compartment, a partition wall between said compartments, a tapered chute formed in said partition wall and projecting above and below said wall for guiding coins normally discharged from the meter mechanism into said coin storage compartment, an outer door hinged on said meter compartment having lower portions swinging past the sides of said chute, the upper projecting portion of the chute being open at one side and extending laterally of the normal coin discharge point on the meter mechanism, said extended portion being open at its outer side, and a rounded inner projection on said door for cooperating with said open outer

side to guide into the chute coins discharged at a point laterally of the normal discharge point in the meter mechanism.

3. In a parking meter having a housing providing an upper meter mechanism compartment, a lower coin storage compartment, and a coin box in said lower compartment having a receiving slot in its top wall, a partition wall between said compartments, a tapered chute formed in said partition wall and adapted to guide coins normally discharged from the meter mechanism in a narrow path into said coin box receiving slot, an outer door hinged on said meter compartment having lower portions swinging past the sides of said chute, the top of said chute being open at one side, and an inner projection on said door for cooperating with the open side of said chute to guide into the chute coins discharged at a point laterally of the normal discharge point in the meter mechanism.

4. In a parking meter having a housing providing an upper meter mechanism compartment, a lower coin storage compartment, and a coin box in said lower compartment having a receiving slot in its top wall, a partition wall between said compartments, a tapered chute formed in said partition wall and projecting above and below said wall for guiding coins normally discharged from the meter mechanism into said coin box receiving slot, an outer door hinged on said meter compartment having lower portions swinging past the sides of said chute, the upper projecting portion of the chute being open at one side and extending laterally of the normal coin discharge point on the meter mechanism, said extended portion being open at its outer side, and a rounded inner projection on said door for cooperating with said open outer side to guide into the chute coins discharged at a point laterally of the normal discharge point in the meter mechanism.

5. In a parking meter having a housing forming an upper meter mechanism compartment and a lower coin storage compartment, a meter mechanism in said upper compartment having a relatively narrow coin discharge opening, a coin box in said lower compartment having a coin-receiving opening of substantially the same dimensions as said coin discharge opening, a partition wall between said compartments having a funnel-shaped chute for guiding coins from said mechanism discharge opening to said coin box, and said coin box having funnel-shaped walls for guiding coins from said partition wall opening into said coin-receiving opening.

6. In a parking meter having a housing providing an upper meter mechanism compartment, and a lower coin storage compartment, a partition wall between said compartments, a tapered chute formed in said partition wall and projecting above and below the same, said upper projecting chute portion being located under the normal coin discharging opening of the meter mechanism and being larger than said opening, an outer door hinged on said meter compartment having lower portions swinging past the sides of said chute, said upper projecting chute portion being open on one side, an inner projection on the door for cooperating with the open side of said chute to guide into the chute coins discharged laterally of the normal discharge point in the meter mechanism, a box in said lower compartment having a coin-receiving slot in its upper wall and located under said chute, and the lower projecting chute portion being smaller than said coin-receiving slot.

7. In a parking meter housing forming a coin storage compartment, a mounting bolt in the bottom of said compartment, and a door hinged on said compartment, a coin discharge chute extending downwardly into the upper end of said compartment, a coin box mounted on the inner side of said door and having a coin-receiving slot in its upper end located under said chute when the compartment door is closed, said coin box having a rear door normally closed by a spring hinge, and a pull chain connected to said door and hooked under said mounting bolt for opening the coin box door when the compartment door is substantially fully opened.

8. In a parking meter housing forming a coin storage compartment, a mounting bolt in the bottom of said compartment, and a door hinged on said compartment, a coin discharge chute extending downwardly into the upper end of said compartment, a coin box mounted on the inner side of said door and having a coin-receiving slot in its upper end located under said chute when the compartment door is closed, said coin box having a rear door normally closed by a spring hinge, said coin box door having side guide flanges and an inclined lower discharge lip, and a pull chain connected to said door and hooked under said mounting bolt for opening the coin box door when the compartment door is substantially fully opened.

9. In a parking meter housing forming a coin storage compartment and a door hinged on said compartment, a coin discharge chute extending downwardly into the upper end of said compartment, a coin box mounted on the inner side of said door and having a coin-receiving slot in its upper end located under said chute when the compartment door is closed, said coin box having a rear door normally closed by a spring hinge, and a pull chain connected between the coin box door and compartment housing for opening the coin box door when the compartment door is substantially fully opened, said coin box door having side guide flanges and an inclined lower discharge lip.

10. In a parking meter housing forming a coin storage compartment and a door hinged on said compartment, a coin discharge chute extending downwardly into the upper end of said compartment, a coin box mounted on the inner side of said door and having a coin-receiving slot in its upper end located under said chute when the compartment door is closed, said coin box having a rear door normally closed by a spring hinge, and a pull chain connected between the coin box door and compartment housing operable to initiate opening movement of the coin box door only when its lower edge has been moved entirely out of the compartment.

11. In a parking meter housing having a coin storage compartment and a door hinged on said compartment, coin guiding means at the upper end of said compartment, a coin box mounted on the inner side of said door and having a coin-receiving slot in its upper end located under said coin guiding means when the compartment door is closed, said coin box having a rear door normally closed by a spring hinge, and a pull chain connected between said coin box door and compartment operable to initiate opening movement of the coin box door only when its lower edge has been moved entirely out of the compartment.

12. In a parking meter housing forming a coin storage compartment and a door hinged on said compartment, a coin discharge chute extending

downwardly into the upper end of said compartment, a coin box mounted on the inner side of said door and having a coin-receiving slot in its upper end located under said chute when the compartment door is closed, said coin box having a rear door normally closed by a spring hinge, said coin box door having side guide flanges and an inclined lower discharge lip, and a pull chain connected between the coin box door and compartment housing for initiating opening movement of the coin box door only when its discharge lip is moved out beyond the said compartment.

13. In a parking meter having a housing forming a coin storage compartment, and a housing mounting bolt extending into the bottom of said compartment, a coin discharge chute extending downwardly into the upper portion of said compartment, a coin box for fitting within said compartment and having a coin-receiving slot in its upper end, and a detachable supporting clip for fitting around said mounting bolt and supporting said coin box with its coin slot immediately below said discharge chute.

14. In a parking meter having a housing forming a coin storage compartment, and a housing mounting bolt extending into the bottom of said compartment, a coin discharge chute extending downwardly into the upper portion of said compartment, a coin box for fitting within said compartment and having a coin-receiving slot in its upper end, and a detachable supporting clip having a bottom flange for fitting behind said mounting bolt and a top wall spaced from said flange and adapted to support said coin box with its coin slot immediately below said discharge chute.

15. In a parking meter having a housing forming an upper meter mechanism compartment and a lower coin storage compartment, a pair of laterally spaced ears on the housing between said compartments, a meter mechanism outer door and a coin compartment outer door hinged on said ears, said doors being substantially vertical in closed position, and a partition wall secured to said ears and separating said compartments, said partition wall having a tapered chute formed therein for guiding coins discharged from the meter mechanism in a positive narrow path into said coin storage compartment.

16. In a parking meter having a housing forming an upper meter mechanism compartment and a lower coin storage compartment, a pair of laterally spaced ears on the housing between said compartments, a meter mechanism outer door and a coin compartment outer door hinged on said ears, a coin box in said lower compartment having a narrow top portion fitting between said ears and provided with a coin-receiving slot, said doors being substantially vertical in closed position, and a partition wall secured to said ears and separating said compartments, said partition wall having a tapered chute formed therein for guiding coins discharged from the meter mechanism into said coin-receiving slot.

17. In a parking meter having a housing forming an upper meter mechanism compartment and a lower coin storage compartment, a pair of laterally spaced ears on the housing between said compartments, a meter mechanism outer door and a coin compartment outer door hinged on said ears, a coin box in said lower compartment having a narrow top portion fitting between said ears and provided with a coin-receiving slot, said doors being substantially vertical in closed posi-

tion, and a partition wall secured to said ears and separating said compartments, said partition wall having a chute formed therein and projecting above and below said wall, the upper projecting portion being located immediately under the normal coin discharging opening of said meter mechanism and being larger than said opening, and the lower projecting chute portion being tapered inwardly for guiding coins into the coin-receiving slot of said coin box.

18. In a parking meter having a housing forming an upper meter mechanism compartment and a lower coin storage compartment, a pair of laterally spaced ears on the housing between said compartments, a meter mechanism door and a coin compartment door hinged on said ears, a coin box in said lower compartment having a narrow top portion fitting between said ears and provided with a coin-receiving slot, and a partition wall secured to said ears and separating said compartments, said partition wall having a tapered chute formed therein for guiding coins discharged from the meter mechanism into said coin-receiving slot, and a detachable supporting clip for fitting in the bottom of said coin storage compartment and removably supporting said coin box with its coin-receiving slot under said chute.

19. In a parking meter having a housing forming an upper meter mechanism compartment, a lower coin storage compartment, and a housing anchor bolt extending into the bottom of said lower compartment, a pair of laterally spaced ears on the housing between said compartments, a coin box for fitting in said lower compartment and having a narrow top portion for fitting between said ears, said narrow top portion having a coin-receiving slot, a partition wall secured to said ears and having a chute formed therein for guiding coins discharged from said meter mechanism into said coin-receiving slot, and a detachable supporting clip for fitting around said anchor bolt and removably supporting said coin box with its coin-receiving slot under said chute.

20. In a parking meter housing having a coin storage compartment and an outer door hinged at its upper end on the upper end of said compartment, a coin discharge chute extending downwardly into the upper end of said compartment, a coin box having a coin-receiving slot in its upper end detachably positioned in said compartment with said coin-receiving slot located under said chute, and means selectively mounting said coin box on the inner side of said door with said coin-receiving slot located under said chute in the closed position of the door and permitting opening movement of said outer door with the box mounted thereon.

21. In a parking meter housing having a coin storage compartment and an outer door hinged at its upper end on the upper end of said compartment, a coin discharge chute extending downwardly into the upper end of said compartment, a coin box having a coin-receiving slot in its upper end detachably positioned in said compartment with said coin-receiving slot located under said chute, means selectively mounting said coin box on the inner side of said door with said coin-receiving slot located under said chute in the closed position of the door and permitting opening movement of said outer door with the box mounted thereon, and said coin box having a funnel-shaped opening for guiding coins from said discharge chute into the box, the bottom of said opening having a thickness slightly greater

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than the thickness of the coins passing there-through.

22. In a parking meter housing having a coin storage compartment and an outer door hinged at its upper end on the upper end of said compartment, a coin discharge chute extending downwardly into the upper end of said compartment, a coin box having a coin-receiving slot in its upper end, a detachable supporting clip selectively supporting said box in said compartment with the coin-receiving slot located under said chute, and means selectively mounting said coin box on the inner side of said door with the coin-receiving slot located under said chute when the door is in closed position.

23. In a parking meter housing having a coin storage compartment and an outer door hinged at its upper end on the upper end of said compartment, a coin discharge chute extending downwardly into the upper end of said compartment, a coin box having a coin-receiving slot in its upper end, a detachable supporting clip selectively supporting said box in said compartment with the coin-receiving slot located under said

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chute, means selectively mounting said coin box on the inner side of said door with the coin-receiving slot located under said chute when the door is in closed position, and said coin box having a funnel-shaped opening for guiding coins from said discharge chute into the box, the bottom of said opening having a thickness slightly greater than the thickness of the coins passing therethrough.

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