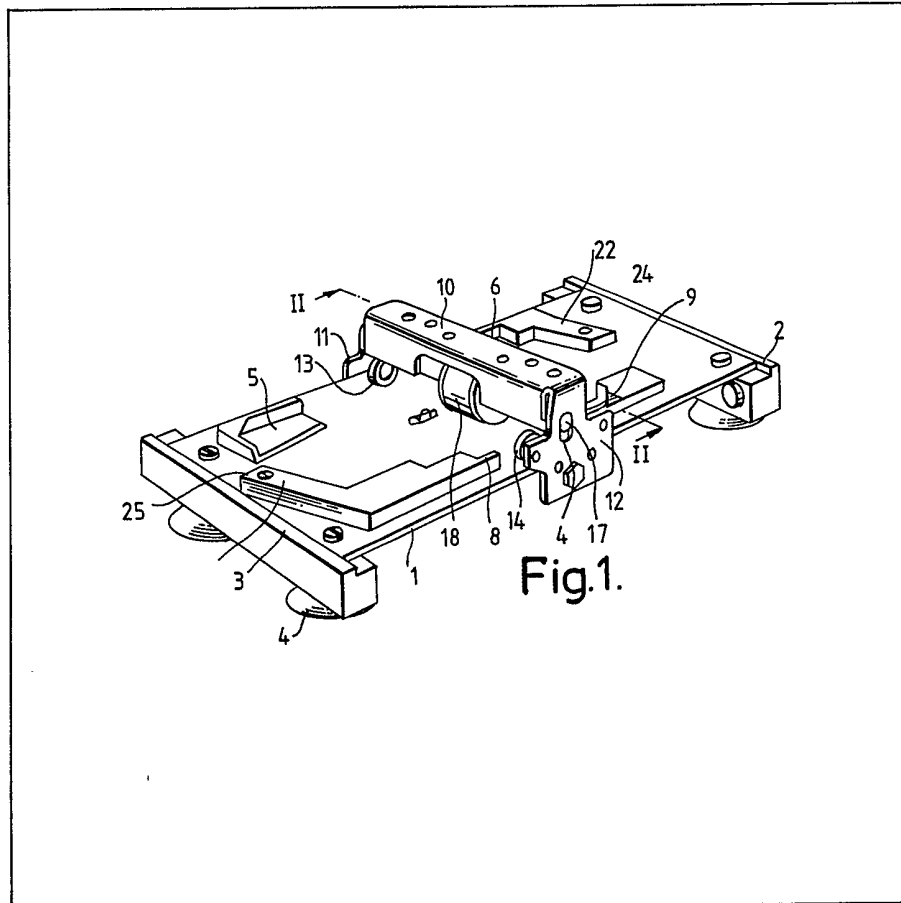
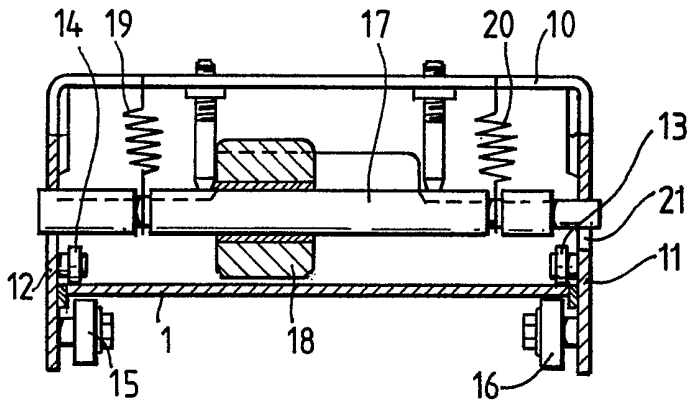
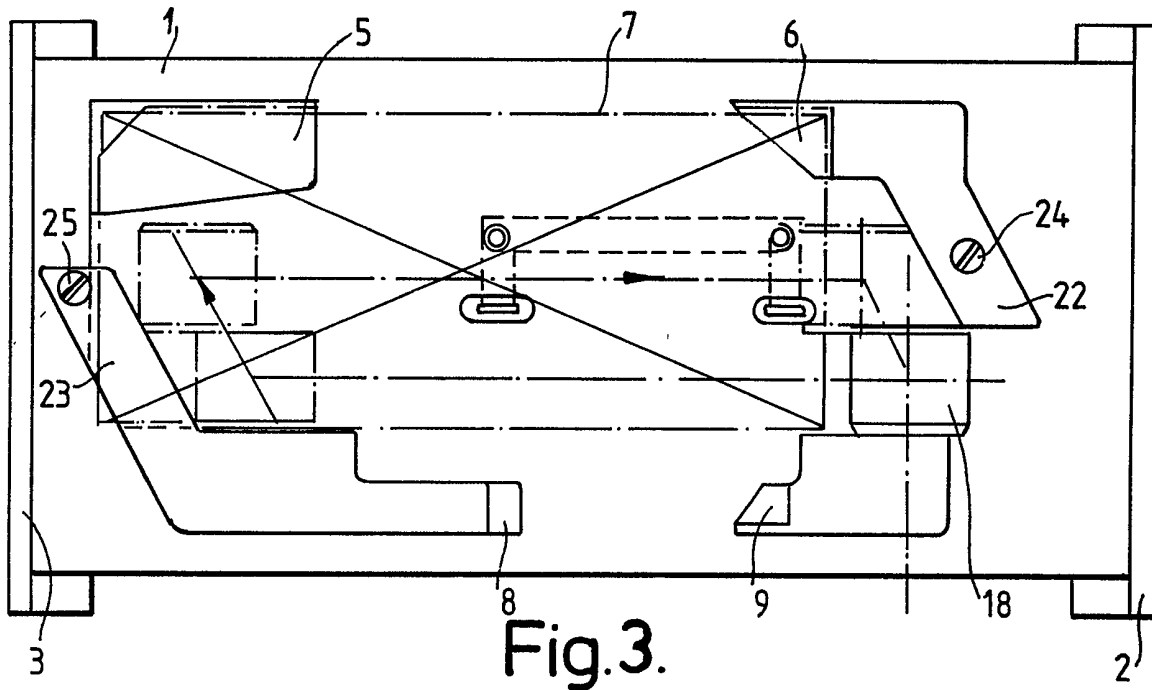
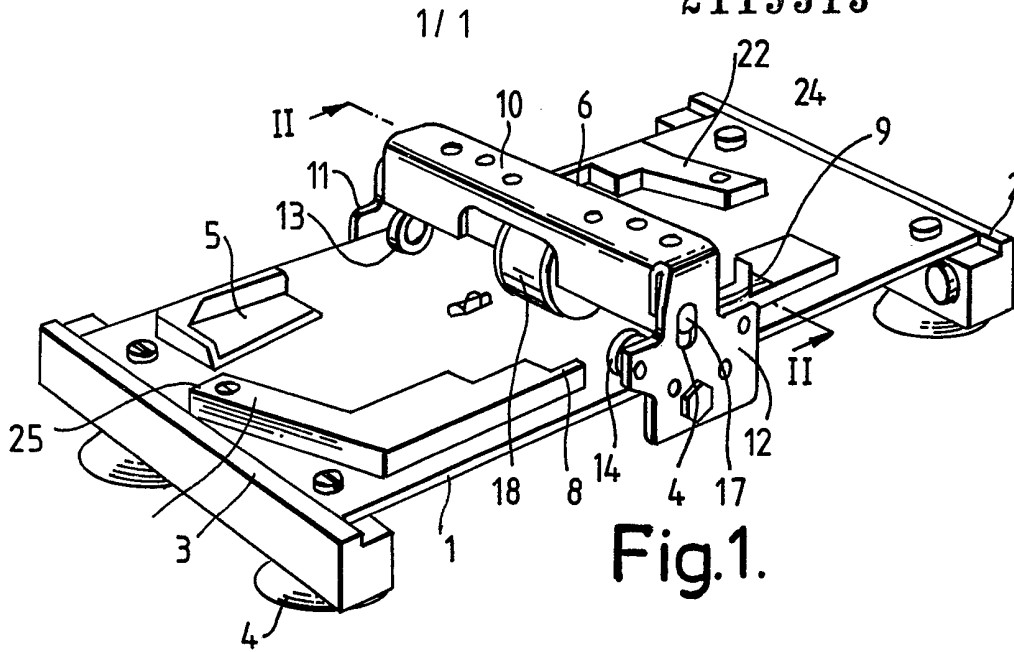


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(54) Reversing device for marking machines

(57) A credit card voucher processing machine wherein a voucher received, in use, on a surface of the machine is marked by advancing a member 18 over said voucher and in contact therewith, the surface underlying adjacent forward and return paths of travel for the member and the arrangement being such that advancement of the member along its forward path displaces the member from the end of said path to the origin of the return path in order that successive marking operations may be conducted successively in relation to a voucher with respect to a credit card and other indicia disposed respectively in the said paths.





SPECIFICATION

Reversing device for marking machines

- 5 The invention relates to a credit card voucher processing machine in which vouchers received in use on a surface of the machine are marked by advancing a member of the machine over a voucher so received and in contact therewith.
- 10 Credit card processing machines of the above kind are well-known and in general vouchers are placed on a surface of the machine over relief indicia representative of the owners of the machine and over a credit card placed at a special position on the surface. A member is then advanced over the voucher to imprint the owner indicia and relief indicia on the credit card in a single operation which can often be difficult to accomplish and may even damage the voucher.
- 20 Document marking in other fields can be achieved in a similar fashion subject to the same problems and it is to be understood that the invention relates also to machines used other than in connection with credit card transactions.
- 25 As will be appreciated from the description which follows with reference to the drawings the invention provides a machine in which a roller used for recording relief indicia on a voucher is shifted from one position to another, the two positions corresponding respectively to the marking of the data contained on a credit card and that on a metal plate which has the particulars of an establishment, for example having sold a product or rendered a service.
- 30 The invention provides a credit card voucher processing machine wherein a voucher received, in use, on a surface of the machine is marked by advancing a member over said voucher and in contact therewith, the surface underlying adjacent forward and return paths of travel for the member and the arrangement being such that advancement of the member along its forward path displaces the member from the end of said path to the origin of the return path in order that successive marking operations may be conducted successively in relation to a voucher with respect to a credit card and other indicia disposed respectively in the said paths.
- 35 In a particular embodiment the invention provides a credit card voucher processing machine comprising a table defining a surface on which in use to receive a voucher adjacent a first of two opposed extremities of the table surface, a mount member mounted to the said opposed extremities for linear advancement and return along a path between said extremities, a roller mounted rotatably to said mount member and moveable between a first position in which, in use, the mount member when advanced carries the roller over and in contact with the voucher and a second position in which, in use, the mount member when returned carries the roller over a path adjacent a second of said table extremities, an abutment member provided on said table for deflecting said roller from said first position to said second position and optionally a further such abutment member for deflecting said roller from said second

position to said first position.

A particular embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example, reference being made to the accompanying drawings in which:-

- 70 *Figure 1* is a perspective view of a voucher processing machine;
Figure 2 is a cross-section in a vertical plane extending through the machine along the line II-II of *Figure 1*; and
 75 *Figure 3* is a top view of the machine showing by means of arrows the direction of movement of the roller in the course of its advancement and return movement.

The machine shown in the drawings comprises a table 1 in the form of a metal plate having end supports 2 and 3 for engagement with a support surface (not shown). Supports 2 and 3 are advantageously provided with flexible legs or suction pads made of rubber or plastics. Guiding stops 5 and 6 are provided for positioning a set of paper sheets 7 (Figure 2). These include copying sheets such as sandwiched carbon paper sheets. Stops 8 and 9 are provided at the opposite side of the table plate 1 to retain a credit card of standard type.

- 80 A bridge 10 is mounted between supports 11 and 12 equipped with wheels 13 and 14 which enable longitudinal displacement of bridge 10 along the longer sides of the plate 1. Wheels 15 and 16 engage the underside of the plate 1. An axial shaft 17 is mounted between the supports 11 and 12 and has a roller 18 mounted for free rotation thereon and in such manner as to allow axial displacement in relation to the shaft. Springs 19 and 20 suspend shaft 17 in a floating position and allow it to adapt to embossings on a credit card. Oblong apertures 21 receive and support the ends of the shaft 17. Protrusions 22 and 23 present chamfered side surfaces 30 oblique with respect to the sides of plate 1 and in use cause roller 18 to shift along shaft 17 thereby displacing the roller 18 from the lowermost position shown in *Figure 3* in chainlines to the uppermost position shown in similar fashion.

The utility of elements 22 and 23 will hence be that of obtaining the displacement of roller 18 along its shaft 17 when the bridge part 10 arrives at each of its stroke ends, in such a way that when the roller incides with its chamfered edges against the end of each of the above-mentioned protrusions, the roller shifts along its shaft, always provided that the said incidence is carried out with some effort.

- 110 Screws 24 and 25 respectively, fasten the protrusions 22 and 23 to plate 1 (although fastening may alternatively be achieved, for example, by means of lugs or other appendages of the protrusions inserted in holes of the plate 1).

CLAIMS

1. A credit card voucher processing machine wherein a voucher received, in use, on a surface of the machine is marked by advancing a member over said voucher and in contact therewith, the surface underlying adjacent forward and return paths of travel for the member and the arrangement being such that advancement of the member along its

forward path displaces the member from the end of said path to the origin of the return path in order that successive marking operations may be conducted successively in relation to a voucher with respect to
5 a credit card and other indicia disposed respectively in the said paths.

2. A machine as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said member is a roller mounted for rotation to mounting means of the machine.

10 3. A machine as claimed in Claim 2 wherein said roller is mounted to a shaft along which the roller may be moved axially in displacing the member from the end of one path to the origin of the other.

4. A machine as claimed in any one of Claims 1
15 to 3 wherein said member is disposed to contact an abutment surface at the end of each path of travel and said abutment surface is so configured that the force of said member in advancement reacts with said abutment surface to displace the member
20 laterally with respect to said force.

5. A credit card voucher processing machine comprising a table defining a surface on which in use to receive a voucher adjacent a first of two opposed extremities of the table surface, a mount
25 member mounted to the said opposed extremities for linear advancement and return along a path between said extremities, a roller mounted rotatably to said mount member and moveable between a first position in which, in use, the mount member when
30 advanced carries the roller over and in contact with the voucher and a second position in which, in use, the mount member when returned carries the roller over a path adjacent a second of said table extremities, an abutment member provided on said table for
35 deflecting said roller from said first position to said second position and optionally a further such abutment member for deflecting said roller from said second position to said first position.

6. Reversing device for marking machines of the
40 type used for credit cards, essentially characterized by the fact that two prismatic elements protruding over the machine's base plate and oriented obliquely with respect to the sides of the said plate are arranged at the ends of the stroke of travel of the
45 bridge part carrying the axial shaft of the roller which marks the signs of a card on some superimposed sheets of paper, in such a way that the roller shifts longitudinally along its axial shaft, around which it can freely rotate, when the edge of each of the
50 roller's base incidences against the respective protruding element.

7. A credit card voucher processing machine substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to, and as illustrated in, the accompanying
55 drawings.