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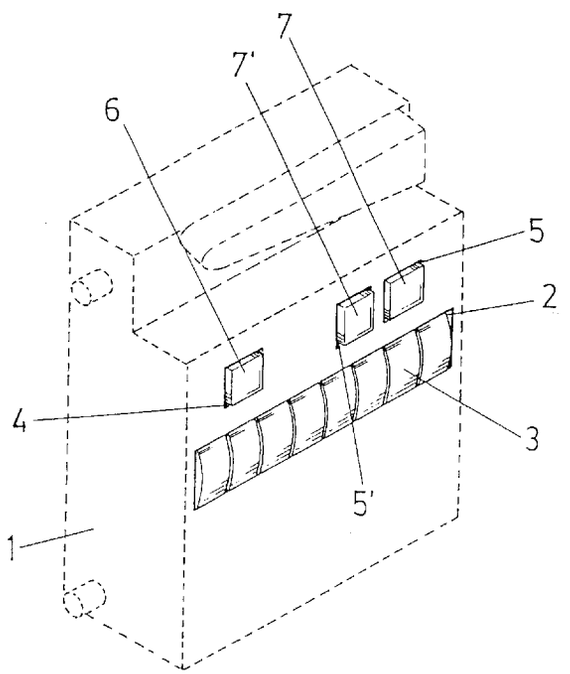
(54) Improved coin selector.

(57) It integrates the control unit to execute the programming in the core of the enclosure (1). The enclosure has also a window (2) where an alphanumeric display (3) is situated, another window (4) where an acceptance switch is placed (6), and two other windows (5-5') with both forward/backward switches (7-7'). With those switches we run over a menu. Thanks to the switch (6) we fix one of the menu options and then, repeating once more the process, we can enter a sub-menu, until we reach the level of any specific order.



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OBJECT THE INVENTION

The present invention regards a coin or a token selector, the kind that is used in any machine which is able to provide a product, a good or a service, after having introduced the coins needed to pay the price. The selector has been slightly improved, concretely in order to obtain a larger autonomy from the point of view of programming and other applications that can be executed.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

As we know, coin selectors are usually able to detect the legal validity of the different types of coins, that is, coins that have different values. For this purpose, selectors have different electromagnetic tools that are able to accomplish the convenient validation processes.

These coin selectors have to be conveniently programmed so as to generate the convenient signs for each type of coin. Sometimes programming must be executed on selectors that are already working, right in the moment of the incorporation of new type of coins, or the substitution of other coins, etc...

Up to the date, programming control and other operations performed by the selector, are being accomplished thanks to a control dispositive that incorporates a LED type display and a series of accesories, among them the unavoidable keyboard which is used to introduce the commands. The common point is that this control group forms a dispositive foreign to the so called selector that is situated in its own grid linked to the selector through the necessary buses or connecting wires and through the appropiate connectors. The coin selector and the control dispositive will be situated in different and appropiate places of the machine's core.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The coin selector proposed by the invention solves this problem in a highly satisfactory way. Starting at the classic structuring proper to any conventional and appropiate coin selector, it focusses its features on the fact that it integrates the control unit in the core of its own grid. The grid is also provided in one of its sides, preferably in one of its bigger sides, with four windows, one of which bears the alphanumeric display. An acceptation switch is situated in another window, and a couple of switches for forward/backward sliding.

According to this structuring, control is accomplished through a menu that offers a series of options that can be explored thanks to the forward/backward switches. The desired option is selected through the acceptation switch, acceptation that will lead us later to a sub-menu from which we can enter new options in a similar way, and so on. At the end we will obtain the specific desired function, being internal or external to the selector performance, checking control parameters such as tension, stock, etc.

For specific functions that involve the need of assuring a right operation (for example erasure), it has been established that the user had to be forced to operate the combination of, at least, two of the switches at the same time.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

To complement the description and to help improving the comprehension of the features of the invention, we enclose to the descriptive recollection, as one of its elements, just one sheet of plans where, with an illustrative but not limitative intention, we have represented a view in perspective of a coin selector build according to the improvements treated in the present invention. There, we can underline the new features of the invention, in contrast with the conventional structure of that selector drawn with a discontinuous line.

PREFERRED EXECUTION OF THE INVENTION

According to those drawings we can observe that the coin selector that we propose includes a grid (1), no matter the configuration used, bearing inside the so called selecting mechanisms, no matter the type, but with the special particularity consisting in the location of the control unit in the core of that grid, without influencing its size or its shape. This unit could be conventional and would be useful to control the programming and any other type of operation usually executed with this type of machines.

As a complement, and according to the essenciality of the invention, a large window (2) will be situated in the grid (1) of the coin selector, where an alphanumeric display will be placed (3). In our example of execution presented in the drawing, and according to the usual needs in those kind of selectors, the display comprehends eight screen modes. Another window (4) is also situated in the grid (1), where the switch is (6). This is the acceptance switch related to the control system and to another two windows (5) and (5'), where a couple of switches (7) and (7') are located. Those are forward and backward switches useful for the operator to move from one menu to another during the programming process.

According to this structure, and as we said before, the alphanumeric display (3) will offer a menu to the operator. The operator will be able to run over it thanks to the forward and backward switches (7) and (7'), until one of the options is selected. The option will be operative thanks to the acceptation switch (6) which transforms the selected option into a sub-menu that will offer again a new series of possible options

in the same way. This process can be repeated as many times as it is needed until the desired level is reached and becomes a precise and planned order (two switches have to be pressed to execute orders that bear with a risk of error).

We obtain, as we can see from the present description, a coin selector that has a size and a configuration similar to the one of any other appropiate conventional coin selector. Programming tools, up to the date foreign to the selector itself, are incorporated, simplifiying, as a consequence, the machine strucutre to which the latest is related, and making easier its installation in the core of the machine.

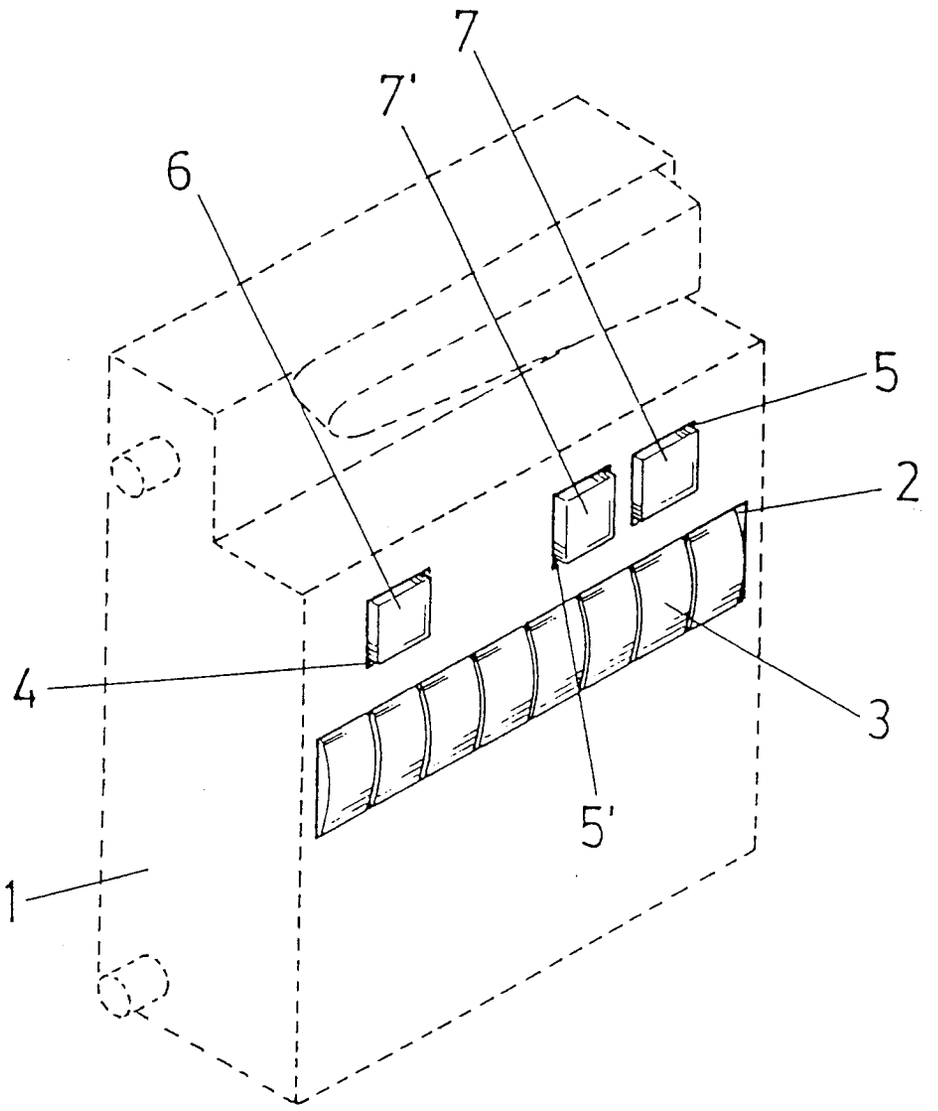
We do not consider necessary to extend this description so as anyone experienced in this subject could understand the reach of this invention and the advantages coming from it.

The materials, shape, size and location of the elements will be susceptible of any variation, as long as this fact does not imply an alteration of the essence of the invention.

The terms used in this statement should be interpretated in an broad and not limited sense.

Claims

1st: Improved coin selector, type used in automatic or semiautomatic machines able to provide a product, a good or a service in exchange of introducing inside coins or tokens with a defined value. Those selector types that comprehend a range of validation tools for several kinds of coins, have in the core of their own grid (1), as an essential feature, the selector control unit. It has been planned that this grid should have windows (2), (4), (5), (5') in one of its sides, preferably four windows, one (2) where an alphanumeric display is situated (3), another (4)' where an acceptance switch (6) is placed, and the other two (5-5') where a couple of forward/backward switches (7-7') will be situated so as to have access to the options of the menus, using the acceptation switch (6) to enter it, and having later access to several sub-menus.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