

Description

The present invention relates to apparatus for dispensing coins or tokens. More particularly, it relates to coin dispensing apparatus including a hopper for storing coins in bulk and a rotary disc for delivering the coins from the hopper one at a time and in specific quantities.

Various coin dispensing apparatus have been known and in particular, an apparatus as disclosed in Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 55-48,634 to the assignor of the present application or GB-A-1,445,089 to Coin Controls Limited has been known as a miniature type coin dispensing apparatus.

Such a miniature type coin dispensing apparatus comprises an inclined substrate, a cylindrical coin container mounted on the substrate, a hopper connected to the top mouth of the coin container for storing coins, a coin transporting rotary disc rotatably mounted on the substrate within the coin container for rotation concentrically with the coin container, means for rotationally driving the rotary disc, an outlet slot provided at the bottom of an outlet portion of the side wall of the coin container and outlet guide means positioned at the outlet portion of the coin container to engage coins entrained by the rotary disc and thereby to cause the course of the coins to direct toward the outlet slot. The coin transporting rotary disc has a plurality of coin receiving apertures spaced apart circumferentially and of diameter to accept the coin to be dispensed and also has a plurality of coin transporting arms radially extending between each adjacent pair of the apertures on the bottom of the rotary disc, whereby coins passing through said apertures to be supported by the substrate are entrained by the coin transporting arms to be transported in the circumferential direction within the coin container when the coin transporting rotary disc is rotated. The coin transporting arms have a radial length such that their outer ends do not extend substantially beyond a circle upon which lie the centers of the coin receiving apertures in order to prevent the arms from interfering with the outlet guide member positioned at the outlet portion of the coin container as mentioned above.

In the coin dispensing apparatus disclosed in the above Japanese Patent Application Publication, each of the transporting arms transports a coin on the substrate in the circumferential direction along the inner side wall of the coin container and at the outlet portion of the coin container cooperates with the guide means to cause the course of the coins to direct toward the outlet slot, but can not push the coin out of the container through the outlet slot in the side wall of the coin container since the radial length of the transporting arms is not enough

long to push the coin out of the coin container. Therefore, the coins engaged with the outlet guide means and changed their course toward the outlet slot by the transporting arms must be pushed out of the coin container by the succeeding coins entrained by other transporting arms.

However, such a coin dispensing apparatus has disadvantages that the last one coin left in the coin container can not be subjected to the pushing force by the succeeding coin as mentioned above and therefore one coin usually remains in the coin container and the rate of dispensation is limited by numbers of coin receiving apertures and also by the speed of rotation of the rotary disc since when the speed of rotation of the rotary disc is increased, the coins are often jammed or wedged at the outlet portion.

As a solution to the above problem, the inventor of the present invention has tried to increase the radial length of the transporting arms such that their outer ends extend to the outer periphery of the rotary disc as disclosed in Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open Publication No. 52-85,895. This solution can dispense the all of coins from the coin container, but does not solve the problem of limited speed of dispensation.

Furthermore, the inventor has proposed as disclosed by Japanese Utility Model Application Laid-Open Publications No. 59-80,873 and No. 60-57,867 to provide a recess or pitfall in the substrate at the outlet portion of the coin container such that coins transported by the transporting arms or the coin receiving apertures of the rotary disc on the substrate are dropped in the pitfall and to provide a scraper having a plurality of scraping arms radially extending from the central portion at which the scraper is mounted on a scraper shaft at the outside of the coin container such that the outer ends of the rotating scraping arms enter successively into the pitfall, whereby dropped coins in the pitfall are scraped out by the scraping arms.

It is however found that such arrangement of the pitfall and the scraper has a disadvantage that the coins dropped in the pitfall are not subjected to any controlled feed action by the transporting arms and this results in that the scraping arms of the scraper do not effectively engage the coins in the pitfall so that the coins can not be effectively scraped out of the pitfall by the scraper and are often caused to jam at the outlet portion and therefore the dispensation speed can not be increased as expected.

Further, US-E-Re 28557 discloses a coin dispensing apparatus comprising an upper rotary disc having a plurality of circumferentially distributed coin receiving apertures for transporting coins to an outlet portion, a lower disc having a coin supporting surface and a coin outlet recess at the outlet por-

tion, the upper rotary disc having coin ejecting pins to engage a coin in the recess and to drive the coin in the recess. This coin dispensing apparatus has a disadvantage that an outlet position is limited to the lowermost portion of the hopper so that a total height from a coin outlet to the top of the hopper is great.

In view of the foregoing, it is a principal object of the present invention to provide a coin dispensing apparatus of miniature type having a high dispensation speed without jamming at the outlet portion.

According to the present invention, a coin dispensing apparatus including a substrate, a cylindrical coin container mounted on the substrate, a hopper connected to the top mouth of the coin container for storing coins, a coin transporting rotary disc rotatably mounted on the substrate within the coin container, the rotary disc having a plurality of coin receiving apertures spaced apart circumferentially and further having a plurality of coin transporting arms radially extending between each adjacent pair of the apertures on the bottom of the rotary disc, said coin transporting arms having a radial length such that their outer ends do not extend beyond a circle upon which lie the centers of the coin receiving apertures, means for rotating the rotary disc, an outlet slot provided at the bottom of the side wall of the coin container at the outlet portion thereof, and outlet guide means positioned at the outlet portion of the coin container, characterised in that a scraper having the same number of radial scraping arms as there are coin transporting arms is arranged at the outside of the coin container on the substrate and is rotated synchronously with the rotary disc such that the outer end portions of the scraping arms enter through an extended slot portion of the outlet slot under the rotary disc between each adjacent pair of the apertures, whereby coins transported on the substrate by the transporting arms are scraped out of the coin container by the scraping arms, and the outlet guide means includes an outlet guide member retractable in a recess formed in the substrate.

Further objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent as the following description of an illustrative embodiment proceeds with reference to the drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a sectional view of the coin dispensing apparatus according to the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the apparatus of Fig. 1 when taken generally along line II-II thereof with certain parts broken away;

Fig. 3 is a diagrammatic plan view showing an arrangement of gears in a transmission;

Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken along line IV-IV of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the outlet portion

of the coin container with parts broken away;

Fig. 6 is an elevational view of parts for supporting an outlet guide; and

Fig. 7 is a diagrammatic plan view showing various positions of transporting arms and scraping arms.

With reference to drawings, it will be seen that a hopper 1 for storing coins is connected at the lower end thereof to the top mouth of a cylindrical coin container 2 which is mounted on an inclined substrate 4 at the lower portion thereof. This substrate 4 is supported in an inclined position by a supporting base 3.

Within the coin container 2, a coin transporting rotary disc 5 is rotatably mounted on the substrate 4 by inserting a cylindrical boss 6 of the rotary disc 5 into a hole 7 formed in the substrate 4 to rotate the rotary disc 5 concentrically with the container 2. The boss 6 is secured to a drive shaft 10 which is driven by means of an electric motor 8 through a transmission 9.

The rotary disc 5 has a plurality of coin receiving apertures 11 formed by extending through the rotary disc in positions spaced circumferentially. The apertures 11 have a diameter to accept the coin to be dispensed. The rotary disc 5 also has a plurality of coin transporting arms 12 radially extending between each adjacent pair of the apertures 11 on the bottom of the rotary disc 5. The space between the bottom of the rotary disc 5 and the surface of the substrate 4 is made sufficient freely to allow the passage of a coin of the size to be dispensed, but to prevent any possibility two thinned coins from becoming wedged in the space.

The transporting arm 12 has a thickness able to transport a coin which is passed through the aperture 11 and supported on the substrate 4 and also has a radial length such that its outer end does not extend substantially beyond a circle upon which lie the centers of the coin receiving apertures 11.

The lower rim of the cylindrical coin container 2 is partly cut away (Fig. 7) at the outlet portion thereof to form an outlet slot 13 allowing coins to leave the container.

At the downstream position of the outlet slot 13, an outlet guide member 14 and a retractable guide pin 34 are positioned on the substrate 4 to engage coins entrained by the transporting arms 12 and thereby to cause the course of the coins to direct toward the outlet slot 13.

On the substrate 4, a scraper 15 is arranged side by side with the rotary disc 5 at the outside of the outlet slot 13. The scraper 15 has radial scraping arms 16 of the same number as that of the coin transporting arms 12 of the coin transporting rotary disc 5.

The scraper 15 is secured at the central por-

tion to a scraper shaft 17 which is rotated synchronously with the disc shaft 10 of the rotary disc 5 and arranged such that the outer end portions 16a of the scraping arms 16 enter into the space under the rotary disc 5 of the substrate 4 within the container 2 and between each adjacent pair of the coin receiving apertures 11 through an extended slot portion 13a of the outlet slot 13, whereby each of coins entrained by the transporting arms 12 is scraped out of the coin container 2 at the outlet portion thereof by each of the scraping arms 16 as shown in Fig. 7 which shows various positions 16-2, 16-3, 16-4 ... of a scraping arm 16-1 coacting with a transporting arm 12-1 at successive positions 12-2, 12-3, 12-4.

On the substrate 4, there are arranged two approximate coin counting switches 18 and 19 along the passage of coins scraped by the scraping arms.

The switches 18 and 19 have spring loaded rocker arms 20 and 21, respectively which are provided with counter rollers 22 and 23 rotatably supported on the arm free ends and are pivoted at 25 and 26 such that each of coins to be dispensed contacts substantially simultaneously with both of the rollers 22 and 23 before discharging through a discharge chute 24 to rotate the rocker arms 20 and 21 and thereby to actuate the switches 18 and 19 to effect the count of coins by double detecting.

Referring to Figs. 3 and 4, the transmission 9 includes a pinion 28 on an output shaft 27 of the motor 8, a first reduction gear 29 engaged with the pinion 28 and a secondary reduction gear 30 which rotates the disc shaft 10 via a disc gear 31 in one direction and synchronously rotates the scraper shaft 17 via an intermediate gear 32 and a scraper gear 33 in opposite direction.

The outlet guide member 14 is retractable under the surface of the substrate 4 to allow the coin to pass beyond the guide member if the coin entrained by the transporting arm 12 can not be scraped out the container 2 through the outlet slot 13 by the scraping arm 16.

Referring to Figs. 5 and 6, the outlet guide member 14 has a tapered tip 14a for causing a downward force by a coin and is downwardly slidable on the supporting post 37 against springs 39 and 40 so as to retract into a recess 35 formed in the substrate 4. On the post 37 which is fixed to a stationary plate 36, an auxiliary side member 41 is also supported slidably together with the outlet guide member 14. The side member 41 has a lug 42 which is guided in a groove of a guide 43 on the plate 36 and a side for closing an opening which is generated in the side wall of the container 2 by lowering of the guide member 14 into the recess 35.

It will be seen from the above mentioned that

the coin dispensing apparatus according to the present invention, the coins transported on the substrate by the transporting arms 12 of the rotary disc 5 rotating in the cylindrical coin container 2 are effectively scraped out of the container through the outlet slot 13 by the scraping arms 16 of the scraper 15 which is rotated on the same surface of the substrate synchronously with the rotary disc 5 when the speed of rotation of the rotary disc 5 is increased so that the dispensation speed can be greatly increased.

Claims

1. A coin dispensing apparatus including a substrate (4), a cylindrical coin container (2) mounted on the substrate (4), a hopper (1) connected to the top mouth of the coin container (2) for storing coins, a coin transporting rotary disc (5) rotatably mounted on the substrate (4) within the coin container (2), the rotary disc (5) having a plurality of coin receiving apertures (11) spaced apart circumferentially and further having a plurality of coin transporting arms (12) radially extending between each adjacent pair of the apertures (11) on the bottom of the rotary disc (5), said coin transporting arms (12) having a radial length such that their outer ends do not extend beyond a circle upon which lie the centers of the coin receiving apertures (11), means (10) for rotating the rotary disc (5), an outlet slot (13) provided at the bottom of the side wall of the coin container (2) at the outlet portion thereof, and outlet guide means (14) positioned at the outlet portion of the coin container (2), characterised in that a scraper (15) having the same number of radial scraping arms (16) as there are coin transporting arms (12) is arranged at the outside of the coin container (2) on the substrate (4) and is rotated synchronously with the rotary disc (5) such that the outer end portions of the scraping arms (16) enter through an extended slot portion of the outlet slot (13) under the rotary disc (5) between each adjacent pair of the apertures (11), whereby coins transported on the substrate (4) by the transporting arms (12) are scraped out of the coin container (2) by the scraping arms (16), and the outlet guide means (14) includes an outlet guide member retractable in a recess formed in the substrate (4).
2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, the apparatus further comprising two coin counting switches (18,19) arranged along the passage of coins scraped by the scraping arms (16) such that both of counter rollers (22,23) of the



tion to a scraper shaft 17 which is rotated synchronously with the disc shaft 10 of the rotary disc 5 and arranged such that the outer end portions 16a of the scraping arms 16 enter into the space under the rotary disc 5 of the substrate 4 within the container 2 and between each adjacent pair of the coin receiving apertures 11 through an extended slot portion 13a of the outlet slot 13, whereby each of coins entrained by the transporting arms 12 is scraped out of the coin container 2 at the outlet portion thereof by each of the scraping arms 16 as shown in Fig. 7 which shows various positions 16-2, 16-3, 16-4 ... of a scraping arm 16-1 coacting with a transporting arm 12-1 at successive positions 12-2, 12-3, 12-4.

On the substrate 4, there are arranged two approximate coin counting switches 18 and 19 along the passage of coins scraped by the scraping arms.

The switches 18 and 19 have spring loaded rocker arms 20 and 21, respectively which are provided with counter rollers 22 and 23 rotatably supported on the arm free ends and are pivoted at 25 and 26 such that each of coins to be dispensed contacts substantially simultaneously with both of the rollers 22 and 23 before discharging through a discharge chute 24 to rotate the rocker arms 20 and 21 and thereby to actuate the switches 18 and 19 to effect the count of coins by double detecting.

Referring to Figs. 3 and 4, the transmission 9 includes a pinion 28 on an output shaft 27 of the motor 8, a first reduction gear 29 engaged with the pinion 28 and a secondary reduction gear 30 which rotates the disc shaft 10 via a disc gear 31 in one direction and synchronously rotates the scraper shaft 17 via an intermediate gear 32 and a scraper gear 33 in opposite direction.

The outlet guide member 14 is retractable under the surface of the substrate 4 to allow the coin to pass beyond the guide member if the coin entrained by the transporting arm 12 can not be scraped out the container 2 through the outlet slot 13 by the scraping arm 16.

Referring to Figs. 5 and 6, the outlet guide member 14 has a tapered tip 14a for causing a downward force by a coin and is downwardly slidable on the supporting post 37 against springs 39 and 40 so as to retract into a recess 35 formed in the substrate 4. On the post 37 which is fixed to a stationary plate 36, an auxiliary side member 41 is also supported slidably together with the outlet guide member 14. The side member 41 has a lug 42 which is guided in a groove of a guide 43 on the plate 36 and a side for closing an opening which is generated in the side wall of the container 2 by lowering of the guide member 14 into the recess 35.

It will be seen from the above mentioned that

the coin dispensing apparatus according to the present invention, the coins transported on the substrate by the transporting arms 12 of the rotary disc 5 rotating in the cylindrical coin container 2 are effectively scraped out of the container through the outlet slot 13 by the scraping arms 16 of the scraper 15 which is rotated on the same surface of the substrate synchronously with the rotary disc 5 when the speed of rotation of the rotary disc 5 is increased so that the dispensation speed can be greatly increased.

Claims

1. A coin dispensing apparatus including a substrate (4), a cylindrical coin container (2) mounted on the substrate (4), a hopper (1) connected to the top mouth of the coin container (2) for storing coins, a coin transporting rotary disc (5) rotatably mounted on the substrate (4) within the coin container (2), the rotary disc (5) having a plurality of coin receiving apertures (11) spaced apart circumferentially and further having a plurality of coin transporting arms (12) radially extending between each adjacent pair of the apertures (11) on the bottom of the rotary disc (5), said coin transporting arms (12) having a radial length such that their outer ends do not extend beyond a circle upon which lie the centers of the coin receiving apertures (11), means (10) for rotating the rotary disc (5), an outlet slot (13) provided at the bottom of the side wall of the coin container (2) at the outlet portion thereof, and outlet guide means (14) positioned at the outlet portion of the coin container (2), characterised in that a scraper (15) having the same number of radial scraping arms (16) as there are coin transporting arms (12) is arranged at the outside of the coin container (2) on the substrate (4) and is rotated synchronously with the rotary disc (5) such that the outer end portions of the scraping arms (16) enter through an extended slot portion of the outlet slot (13) under the rotary disc (5) between each adjacent pair of the apertures (11), whereby coins transported on the substrate (4) by the transporting arms (12) are scraped out of the coin container (2) by the scraping arms (16), and the outlet guide means (14) includes an outlet guide member retractable in a recess formed in the substrate (4).
2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, the apparatus further comprising two coin counting switches (18,19) arranged along the passage of coins scraped by the scraping arms (16) such that both of counter rollers (22,23) of the



switches (18,19) are simultaneously actuated by a coin.

Revendications

1. Distributeur de pièces de monnaie comprenant un substrat (4), un conteneur de pièces de monnaie cylindrique (2) monté sur le substrat (4), une trémie (1) reliée à l'embouchure supérieure du conteneur de pièces de monnaie (2) afin de stocker des pièces de monnaie, un disque rotatif de transport de pièces de monnaie (5) monté de façon rotative sur le substrat (4) à l'intérieur du conteneur de pièces de monnaie (2), le disque rotatif (5) ayant plusieurs ouvertures de réception de pièces de monnaie (11) espacées circonférentiellement et ayant en outre plusieurs bras de transport de pièces de monnaie (12) s'étendant radialement entre chaque paire adjacente des ouvertures (11) sur le fond du disque rotatif (5), lesdits bras de transport de pièces de monnaie (12) ayant une longueur radiale telle que leurs extrémités extérieures ne s'étendent pas au delà d'un cercle sur lequel se trouvent les centres des ouvertures de réception de pièces de monnaie (11), des moyens (10) destinés à entraîner en rotation le disque rotatif (5), une fente de sortie (13) prévue au niveau du fond de la paroi latérale du conteneur de pièces de monnaie (2) au niveau de la partie de sortie de celui-ci, et des moyens de guidage de sortie (14) positionnés au niveau de la partie de sortie du conteneur de pièces de monnaie (2), caractérisé en ce qu'un élément de balayage (15) ayant le même nombre de bras de balayage radiaux (16) qu'il y a de bras de transport de pièces de monnaie (12) est disposé à l'extérieur du conteneur de pièces de monnaie (2) sur le substrat (4) et est entraîné en rotation en synchronisme avec le disque rotatif (5) de telle sorte que les parties d'extrémité extérieure des bras de balayage (16) entrent dans une partie de fente prolongée de la fente de sortie (13) sous le disque rotatif (5) entre chaque paire adjacente d'ouvertures (11), les pièces de monnaie transportées sur le substrat (4) par les bras de transport (12) étant ainsi poussées hors du conteneur de pièces de monnaie (2) par les bras de balayage (16), et les moyens de guidage de sortie (14) comprennent un élément de guidage de sortie pouvant se rétracter dans un renforcement réalisé dans le substrat (4).
2. Distributeur selon la revendication 1, le distributeur comportant en outre deux contacteurs de comptage de pièce de monnaie (18, 19)

disposés le long du passage des pièces de monnaie balayé par les bras de balayage (16) de telle sorte que les deux galets de comptage (22, 23) des contacteurs (18, 19) sont actionnés simultanément par une pièce de monnaie.

Patentansprüche

1. Münzenausgabevorrichtung, enthaltend eine Unterlage (4), einen zylindrischen Münzenbehälter (2), der auf der Unterlage (4) montiert ist, einen mit der oberen Mündung des Münzenbehälters (2) verbundenen Trichter (1) zum Aufnehmen von Münzen, eine Münzen transportierende Drehscheibe (5), die an der Unterlage (4) innerhalb des Münzenbehälters (2) drehbar gelagert ist und mehrere Münzenaufnahmeöffnungen (11) aufweist, die in Umfangsrichtung verteilt angeordnet sind, und die weiterhin mehrere Münzentransportarme (12) aufweist, die sich radial zwischen jedem benachbarten Paar von Öffnungen (11) an der Unterseite der Drehscheibe (5) erstrecken und solche radiale Länge aufweisen, daß ihre äußeren Enden sich nicht über einen Kreis hinaus erstrecken, auf dem die Mitten der Münzenaufnahmeöffnungen (11) liegen, eine Einrichtung (10) zum Drehen der Drehscheibe (5), einen Auslaßschlitz (13), der unten an der Seitenwand des Münzenbehälters (2) am Auslaßabschnitt desselben vorgesehen ist, und eine Auslaßführungseinrichtung (14), die am Auslaßabschnitt des Münzenbehälters (2) angeordnet ist, **dadurch gekennzeichnet**, daß ein Schieber (15), der eine der Zahl der Münzentransportarme (12) gleiche Zahl von radialen Schieberarmen (16) aufweist, außerhalb des Münzenbehälters (2) auf der Unterlage (4) angeordnet ist und synchron mit der Drehscheibe (5) gedreht wird, sodaß die äußeren Endabschnitte der Schieberarme (16) durch einen erweiterten Schlitzabschnitt des Auslaßschlitzes (13) unter die Drehscheibe (5) zwischen jedem benachbarten Öffnungspaar (11) eintreten, wodurch Münzen, die auf der Unterlage (4) durch die Transportarme (12) transportiert werden, von den Schieberarmen (16) aus dem Münzenbehälter (2) herausgeschoben werden, und daß die Auslaßführungseinrichtung (14) ein Auslaßführungselement enthält, das in eine Ausnehmung zurückziehbar ist, die in der Unterlage (4) ausgebildet ist.
2. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, weiterhin enthaltend zwei Münzenzählschalter (18,19), die längs des Weges der von den Schieberarmen (16) geschobenen Münzen derart angeordnet sind, daß zwei Zählrollen (22,23) an den Schal-



tern (18,19) von einer Münze gleichzeitig betätigt werden.

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