CLAIMS

1. A paper sheet handling machine comprising:

a money entry port for receiving paper sheets;

a money output port for payout of paper sheets;

a return port for returning paper sheets;

a discrimination unit for detecting significances of damages of the paper sheets; and

a storage unit for storing the significances of damages of the paper sheets as damage levels in a ranked manner, wherein

a significance of damage of a specific paper sheet as received from the money entry port is distinctly detected by said discrimination unit, wherein a damage level of the specific paper sheet detected is stored, and wherein paper sheets are sorted and gathered for collection in the plurality of take-out ports in accordance with a damage level comparison result with the stored specific paper sheet damage level;

wherein paper sheets having their damage levels equivalent in significance to or less than said stored specific paper sheet damage level are sent to said money output port while causing remaining paper sheets to be gathered at said return port in a sorted manner.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said discrimination unit further operates to discriminate types of paper sheets, wherein said storage unit further stores the paper sheet types, wherein type and damage significance of a specific

paper sheet received from said money entry port are distinctly detected by said discrimination unit, wherein the detected type and damage significance of the specific paper sheet are stored, wherein paper sheets having damage levels equal in significance to or less than said stored specific paper sheet damage level are sent to said money output port while causing remaining paper sheets to be gathered at said return port in a sorted manner.

3. The apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

a temporary reserve unit for permitting temporary accumulation of paper sheets,

wherein paper sheets which are the same in type as the specific paper sheet stored and which have damage levels equivalent to a damage significance greater than the damage level of the specific paper sheet are sent to said temporary reserve unit while causing remaining paper sheets to be gathered at said return port in a sorted manner.

Claim

1. A paper sheet handling machine comprising:

a money entry port for receiving paper sheets;

a plurality of take-out ports for output of paper sheets;

a discrimination unit for detecting types and significances of damages of the paper sheets;

a storage unit for storing the types of the paper sheets and the significances of damages of the paper sheets as damage levels in a ranked manner; and

a temporary reserve unit for permitting temporary accumulation of paper sheets,

wherein said plurality of take-out ports include a money output port for payout of paper sheets and a return port for returning paper sheets;

wherein type and damage significance of a specific paper sheet received from said money entry port are distinctly detected by said discrimination unit;

wherein the detected type and damage significance of the specific paper sheet are stored; and

wherein paper sheets which are the same in type as the specific paper sheet stored and which have damage levels equivalent to a damage significance equal to or less than the damage level of the stored specific paper sheet are sent to said money output port, and

paper sheets which are the same in type as the specific paper sheet stored and which have damage levels equivalent to a damage significance greater than the damage level of the specific paper sheet are sent to said temporary reserve unit, while causing remaining paper sheets to be gathered at said return port in a sorted manner.