CLAIMS

1. A paper sheet handling apparatus comprising:

a money entry port for receiving paper sheets;

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

a discrimination unit for distinctly detecting orientations of paper sheets; and

a storage unit for storing the orientations of paper sheets, wherein

an orientation of a specific paper sheet received from the money entry port is detected by the discrimination unit, wherein the orientation of the specific paper sheet detected by said discrimination unit is stored in the storage unit, and wherein paper sheets are sorted and gathered for accumulation in the plurality of take-out ports in accordance with a comparison result with the orientation of the specific paper sheet being stored in said storage unit; and

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, and wherein paper sheets which are the same in orientation as the specific paper sheet stored are sent to the money output port while causing remaining paper sheets to be gathered at the return port in a sorted manner.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said discrimination unit further operates to detect types of paper sheets, wherein said storage unit further stores the paper sheet

types, wherein type and orientation of a specific paper sheet as received from said money entry port are detected by said discrimination unit, wherein the type and orientation of the specific paper sheet which are detected by said discrimination unit are stored in said storage unit, and wherein paper sheets identical in type and orientation to the specific paper sheet stored are sent to said money output port while causing remaining paper sheets to be gathered at the 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 identical in type and orientation to the specific paper sheet stored are sent to said money output port while causing one or more paper sheets identical in type to the specific paper sheet and yet different therefrom in orientation to be sent to the temporary reserve unit and causing remaining paper sheets to be gathered at the return port in a sorted manner.

4. 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 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.

5. The machine according to claim 4, 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 and 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.

6. The apparatus according to claim 5, 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.

7. The apparatus according to claim 6, 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.

8. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said specific paper sheet is a paper sheet which was first detected by said discrimination unit in an event of transaction.

9. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage unit stores as said specific paper sheet a paper sheet as first detected by said discrimination unit.

10. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

transport means for transportation of paper sheets, wherein a paper sheet which first passes through said discrimination unit by said transport means is stored in said storage unit as said specific paper sheet.

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.