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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

Improvements in or relating to Apparatus for Producing Symbols on a Record

We, GEORGES PIERRE BAFOUR, a French Citizen of 27, rue de la Convention, Paris 15, France, ANDRE RENE BLANCHARD, a French Citizen of 57, rue Vercingetorix, Paris 15, France, and FRANCOIS HENRI RAYMOND, a French Citizen of 138, Boulevard de Verdun, Courbevoie, Seine, France, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

The present invention relates to keyboards for automatic composing machines as used in automatic composing plants for printing texts.

There are known composition systems for printing texts in which the typing of the texts to be printed also serves for perforating or otherwise marking a band or tape or a recording medium which is later used in a composing machine for printing these texts. Such a system is described in United Kingdom Patent Specification No. 771,551.

One of the objects of the present invention is to make it possible to use for such typing of texts a typewriter, preferably an electric typewriter, the keyboard of which has been adapted to the requirements of automatic composing of texts. This is accomplished by the provision thereon or the association therewith, in addition to a conventional keyboard, of one or several auxiliary keyboards with one or more sets of auxiliary keys in order to increase the amount of information contained in the texts by the addition of "service information" used for the composition of texts.

Another object of the invention is to realize this increase in the capacity of the keyboard, designed to make available a number of characters or signs much higher than that provided by the keys of an ordinary typing machine, preferably without adding type levers and without increasing the dimensions of the set of characters of the machine.

According to the present invention there is provided apparatus for producing symbols on a record in response to the manual actuation of keys of a keyboard system, wherein the number of different characters and signs that the apparatus is capable of producing is less than the number of keys in the keyboard system, wherein at least two keys cause the same character or sign to be produced on the record, and wherein the character or sign is given one characteristic when produced in response to actuation of one of said two keys and a modified characteristic when produced in response to actuation of the other of the keys.

The keyboard system preferably controls at the same time a code recorder and a printing device, actuation of the said two keys causing different characters or signs to be recorded by the code recorder but causing the printing on the one hand of a character or sign with its said one characteristic and on the other hand the same character or sign with its said modified characteristic.

The character or sign is preferably printed in one colour to give it its said one characteristic when said one key is actuated and is printed in a different colour to give it its said modified characteristic when said other key is actuated.

The code recorder preferably consists of a perforator adapted to punch a tape or other recording medium according to a predetermined code representative of the kev or keys depressed either in a main keyboard or in an auxiliary keyboard or keyboards included in the said keyboard system.

The above and other features of the present invention will now be more particularly described with reference to the accompanying diagrammatic drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 illustrates the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 2 illustrates certain details of a

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