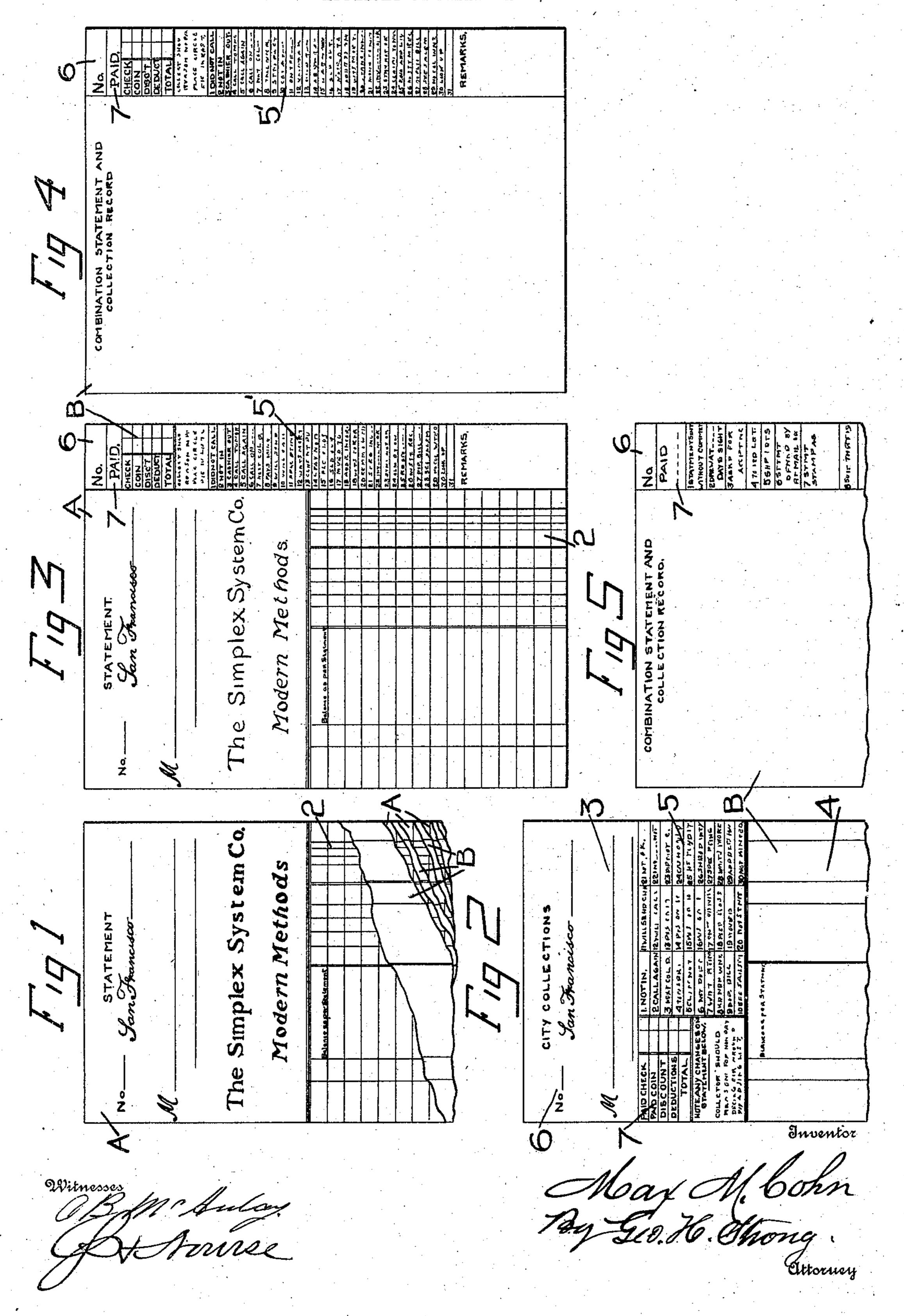
M. M. COHN.

COMBINATION STATEMENT AND COLLECTION RECORD.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 5, 1904.



## United States Patent Office.

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## COMBINATION STATEMENT AND COLLECTION RECORD.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 785,291, dated March 21, 1905.

Application filed May 5, 1904. Serial No. 206,481.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, Max M. Cohn, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city and county of San Francisco and State of California, have invented new and useful Improvements in Combination Statement and Collection Records, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a system of issuing statements, collecting accounts, and keeping a record of the same for the use of business houses.

It is usual for firms to prepare statements of account with their local customers and 15 send these out by collectors on certain days and to their country customers to mail statements. Under present methods an immense amount of labor is entailed on the office force on these constantly recurrent occasions by the 20 necessity, after going through the ledgers and making out all due and discount statements. of having to enter up these statements separately in the collection-book before sending them out with the collector and on his return 25 to segregate the various unpaid accounts according to the oral or hastily-noted reasons given by the collector on which payment was deferred or refused for the future use of the credit-man.

The object of the present invention is to provide a time-and-labor-saving system which does away with the need of separately entering up the statements in the collectors' books, affords a means for rapidly and intelligently noting memoranda, and assists in the book-keeping and in the general supervision of accounts requiring attention.

The invention consists of the parts and the construction and combination of parts, as hereinafter more fully described and claimed, having reference to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 represents a pad with an ordinary statement-blank alternating with my city-collection record of the form employed in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 shows the statement in combination with the collection-record when odd-size statement is used. Fig. 4 shows the same statement as 50 Fig. 3 separately. Fig. 5 shows a country-collection record.

A represents any suitable form of blank statement having the usual heading and ruled space 2 for entry of amount due, &c., and B is my improved blank upon which a carbon copy 55 in duplicate of the statement is to be made. The statement is sent out or mailed. The duplication is retained.

Where a statement of uniform size is used by a firm, the statement and blank may be 60 both of the same size, as shown in Fig. 1, and bound up in pad form, with one alternating with the other. In this case the blank is printed with a space 3 for the name and address, a ruled space 4 for the account proper, 65 and an intermediate space 5, having advisory notation setting forth the several reasons for non-payment or character of payment, &c., the rulings for the name and the statement of account on the two sheets registering and the 7° intermediate printed space on the blank B corresponding to the space on the statement-sheet A generally occupied with the name of the firm sending out the statement, address, and other matter.

The record-blanks are preferably of different color from the regular statements to avoid any possible confusing of the two.

In Fig. 3 is shown a style of blank adapted for use with all sorts and sizes of statements. 80 In this case the blank comprises a plain sheet of paper with a marginal space 5' set off for the legend in connection with the presentation and collection of the account. Preferably this marginal space is to the right side of the sheet, leaving the blank space of sufficient width to be covered by the statement. In case the statement is narrower than the record-blank the latter may be trimmed to suit. If desired, the statements and blanks may be bound up 90 in pad form, the imprinted margin of the blank extending beyond the edge of the statement.

In practice statements are written with an indelible pencil or type-written, and a carbon 95 copy is simultaneously made on the special record-blank. The statements and duplicates having been properly made out the former are mailed or delivered, while the latter are retained for future use and guidance. The recopies are then numbered consecutively in the space 6 in the order in which they were made

out, so that they may be easily and quickly reassembled in the same order after their return from the various collectors' hands. The copies are then segregated according to the several routes, placed in temporary binders, and taken out by the collectors on collection day. It will be observed that these temporarily-bound copies form a collection-book in lieu of the old-style collection-book, which had to be separately written up before a collector started out on his rounds.

If a statement is paid, the collector makes his entry in a space 7, set apart for this purpose, which shows the amount and discount and also indicates whether the account was

settled for in coin or by check.

If any changes are made on the statement by the customer, the collector, having an exact facsimile, makes the same change on his copy.

This gives the ledger-clerk the correct information, which under the old system is very difficult to arrive at owing to many collectors being incompetent to make proper memoranda.

In case of non-payment the collector indicates the reason therefor by a suitable mark opposite the proper one of the many printed

possible reasons in space 5 or 5'.

On the return of the copies to the office those
that are paid are separated from those unpaid,
the former rearranged consecutively according to the numbering in space 6 and entered
in the cash-book. Being in the same order as
the accounts in the ledger, posting is greatly
facilitated. The data noted in space 5 or 5'
as to the unpaid accounts form the basis for
future action in respect to these accounts.
For out-of-town accounts a record-blank Fig.
is used of essentially the same character, but
having notation suiting it to the difference in
prevailing conditions. The carbon copies are
retained, and each indicates exactly what was
done with the statement.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent is—

ent, is---

1. A combination statement and collecting

record comprising independent members arranged in succession with alternate members constituting the original or customer's state- 50 ment-blank and the other member constituting the merchant's filing-blank, said original blank printed in the usual manner with reserved spaces for the name and for the account and said filing-blank having reserved spaces 55 registrable with the corresponding spaces of the original blank and having thereon in permanent form a variety of legal excuses of selective character any one or more of which may be resorted to by the collector to indi- 60 cate the disposal of the original statement.

2. A combination statement and collection account comprising original and duplicate sheets, said original sheet printed in the usual manner and said duplicate sheet having areas 65 registrable with the name and account spaces of the original, and said duplicate blank having, also, in permanent form a variety of legal excuses any one or more of which may be resorted to by the collector to indicate the dis-70

posal of the account.

3. A combination statement and collection record comprising original and duplicate sheets, said original sheet having a reserved area suitably designated for the customer's 75 name, a reserved area designated for the account and an intermediate area printed with the merchant's name, and said duplicate sheet having reserved areas registrable with the said areas of the original sheet which are designated 80 for the customer's name and the account and having, also, an area registrable with the said intermediate area of the original sheet, provided with notation in permanent form which is resorted to by the collector to indicate the 85 disposal of the account.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing wit-

nesses.

MAX M. COHN.

Witnesses:

N. C. Ellingwood, Antoine Schmitt.