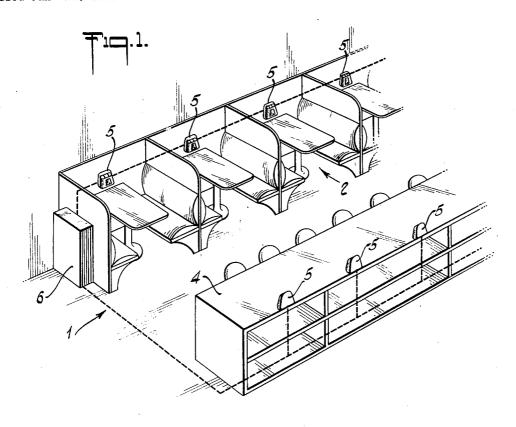
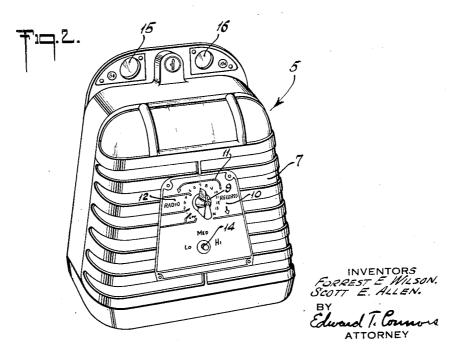
F. E. WILSON ET AL

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COIN OPERATED ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM

Filed Jan. 26, 1949



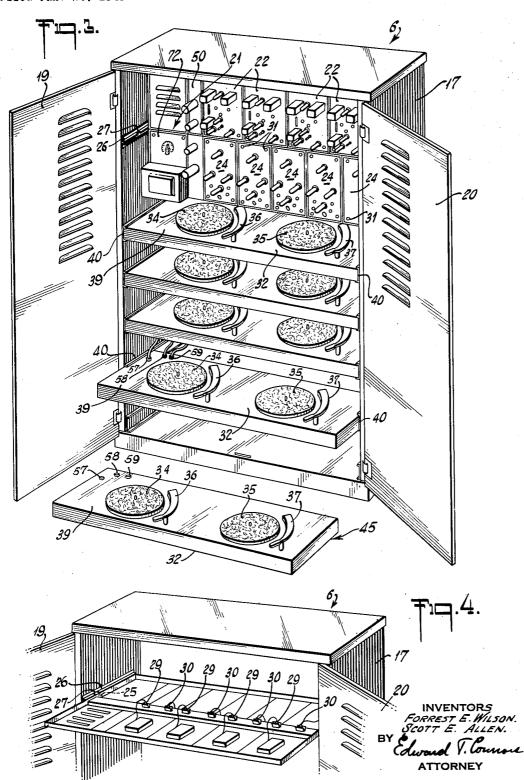


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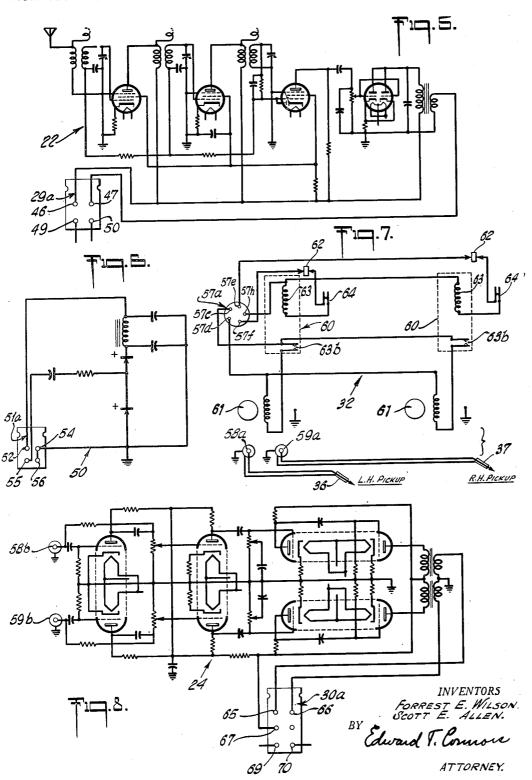


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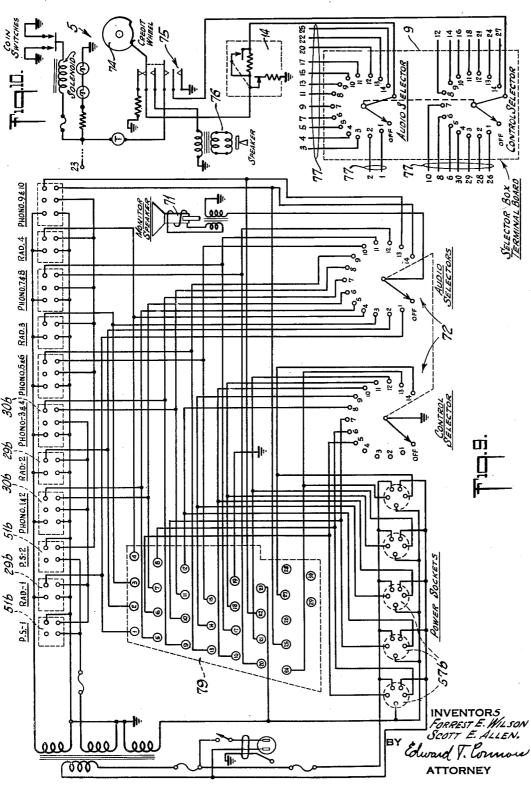


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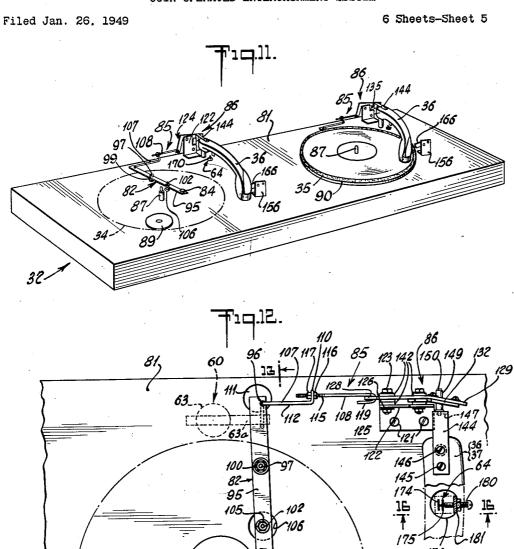
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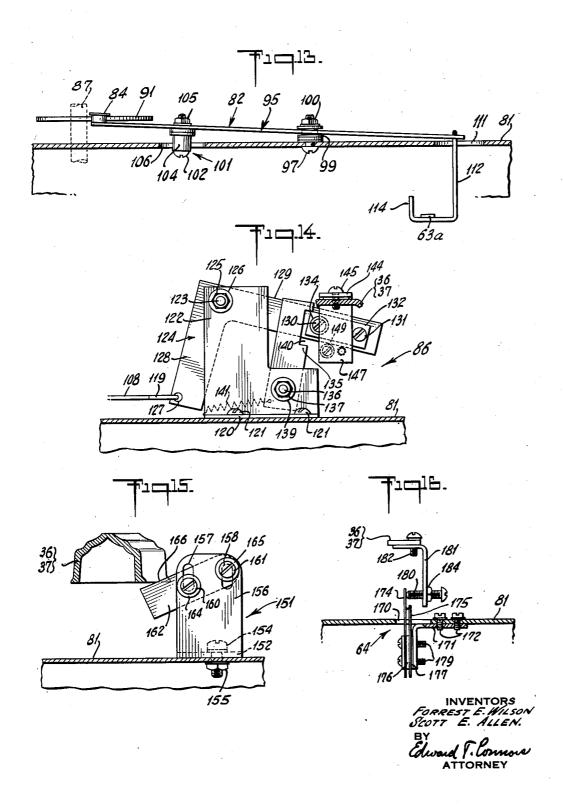
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COIN OPERATED ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM

Filed Jan. 26, 1949



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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COIN OPERATED ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM

Forrest E. Wilson, Los Angeles, Calif., and Scott E. Allen, Verona, N. J., assignors of one-half to Solotone Corporation, Los Angeles, Calif., a corporation of California, and one-half to C-O-Two Fire Equipment Company, Newark, N. J., a corporation of Delaware

Application January 26, 1949, Serial No. 72,862

4 Claims. (Cl. 179-6.3)

This invention relates to coin-operated entertainment systems and more particularly to a system in which the customer has a selection of various programs of entertainment such as reproduced music, radio or television after the coin has been collected.

Various coin operated low volume entertainment systems heretofore have been made, wherein the reproducing mechanisms will respond to one or more coins of various sizes and will meter 10 the time interval during which the service is rendered depending upon the value of the coin deposited in their coin collecting mechanisms. For example, the time interval for which service is rendered for a nickel is a unit time interval. 15 The deposit of a plurality of nickels will start the rendition of service for a time interval equal in length to the length of the unit interval multiplied by the number of nickels deposited. Likewise, the time interval for which service is ren- $^{20}\,$ dered for a dime is twice the length of the unit time interval. Generally the systems are used in restaurants, stores or the like and are of the type wherein a low volume speaker is placed in the immediate vicinity of the customer such as 25 on counters or in booths. Each coin collecting mechanism is generally incorporated in a unit together with a timing device and a speaker, while the music or voice reproducer is placed in unit.

In using the early low volume systems the customer had no selection of the type of entertainment provided. In using other systems the customer had a selection of various musical com- 35 positions or of radio programs but the selection must have been made prior to the start of the metered interval.

The present invention concerns a system constructed to provide a selection of any one of a 40 plurality of recordings, or of any one of a plurality of radio or television programs, the selection being made at any time, either before, or during, the metered time interval. Thus it will be observed that as the art has progressed the $_{45}$ customer has received greater value for the money expended in that he has gradually received a greater choice of the form of entertainment and now may change to another selection at any time during the metered interval.

The customers take full advantage of the flexibility of the new system by often changing the selection during the metered interval. The comparatively heavy use of the mechanism increases the wear thereon. It is important that 55 shown partially pulled out on its supporting

the system may be maintained easily and quickly as a defective unit is not only an annoyance to the customer but it is non-revenue producing while it is out of service.

An object of the invention is to provide a coin operated entertainment system of simple and durable construction, efficient and dependable in action and substantially proof against misuse.

Another object of the invention is to provide a device in which the construction of the master entertainer unit is such that various sub-assemblies may be made easily accessible for servicing or replacement with substitute assemblies.

Another object of the invention is to provide a device in which a selector switch may make one or more contacts for initiating the production of various selections without starting the mechanism until a predetermined time interval has passed so that unnecessary wear on the equipment is eliminated.

Another object of the invention is to provide the master entertainer with a monitor speaker and selector means which will enable the installer or service man to select and play at will any of the records on its multiple turntables or to listen to any of the radio channels to which the radio receiving sets are tuned.

A further object of the invention is to provide any convenient location usually remote from said $_{30}$ a playback unit including means whereby its pickup will be immediately returned to the starting position upon the opening of its control cir-

> A still further object of the invention is to provide a system whereby a plurality of isolated reproduction units may be supplied simultaneously from a master unit.

> Other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following description and from the accompanying drawings which show, by way of example, an embodiment of the invention.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of an installation of a system in accordance with the present invention.

Figure 2 is an enlarged view of an individual coin operated sound reproducing unit as shown in each of the booths and on the counter of the $_{50}$ installation shown in Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the master entertainer unit for the installation shown in Figure 1. In this view the doors of the unit are shown open, one of the dual playback units is means, while another dual playback unit is shown completely removed from the master entertainer.

Figure 4 is a fragmentary view of the master entertainer shown in Figure 3 with the upper control panel swung on its pivotal mounting as for inspection of the apparatus upon its rear surface.

Figure 5 is a schematic wiring diagram of one of the radio circuits of the installation.

Figure 6 is a schematic wiring diagram of a power supply unit of the installation.

Figure 7 is a schematic wiring diagram of a dual playback unit of the installation.

Figure 8 is a schematic wiring diagram of a dual playback amplifier unit of the installation.

Figure 9 is a schematic wiring diagram of the 15 connections of the master entertainer unit.

Figure 10 is a schematic wiring diagram of a coin operated sound reproducing unit of the installation.

Figure 11 is an enlarged perspective view of 20 one of the dual playback units of the installation with one turntable removed.

Figure 12 is a fragmentary top view of one of the dual playback units with the turntable removed and showing the resetting mechanism in- 25 cluding the lift and glide bracket assemblies.

Figure 13 is a vertical sectional view taken along the line 13—13 of Figure 12 but showing only the cam follower assembly of the resetting mechanism.

Figure 14 is a side view of the lift assembly of the resetting mechanism.

Figure 15 is a side view of the glide bracket assembly.

Figure 16 is a side view of the cancel switch 35 assembly taken along the line 16-16 of Figure 12.

Referring to the drawing, there is shown in Figure 1 an entertainment system I installed in a store or the like having booths 2 and a counter. 4. An individual coin operated sound reproduc- 40 tion unit or speaker station 5 is in each of the booths, others being placed at spaced intervals along the rear edge of the counter 4. A master entertainer unit 6 for all of the individual units ${f 5}$ is positioned at a convenient location, such as 45at the end of the row of booths 2.

The individual coin actuated sound reproduction unit or speaker station 5 is preferably of artistic design so as to harmonize with the surroundings and has a front grill work 7 conceal- 50 ing, a speaker (not shown). On the front of the coin actuated unit is a selector switch 9 having a variety of positions, some of which may be connected to radio receiving sets while others may be connected to record reproduction units, tele- 55 vision sets or any other similar form of entertainment. Dial 10 of the selector switch may be marked in any suitable manner to indicate the forms of entertainment available and may be bracketed as indicated at 11 and 12 to indicate 60 the division between the forms of the entertainment. A volume control switch 14 is positioned on the front of the coin operated unit under the selector switch 9. The dial 10 may be marked to indicate the various positions of the volume 65 switch. At the top of the coin actuated unit is a nickel slot 15 and a dime slot 16. Of course, it is understood that the device may be adapted to receive coins of other denominations, including pennies and quarters.

The master entertainment unit is shown in Figure 3 and is enclosed in a housing 17 having doors 19 and 20 which may be swung open to expose the mechanism of the unit. In the upper

having various units attached thereto, such as radio receiving units 22 and phonograph amplifier units 24. The panel 21 is pivotably and slideably mounted, as may be seen in Figure 4 wherein the unit is shown turned forward and pulled outwardly such as for an inspection of the back of the panel. Pivotal supporting means are provided at each end of the panel and includes a pivot shaft. 25. extending from each end of the panel 10 21, the pivot shaft slideably mounted in a channel 25 having notches 27 for the removal of the panel from its housing. Each individual radio unit 22 and each phonograph amplifier unit 24 is connected to its circuit by its respective plug connection means 29 or 30. Any of the units may be quickly removed from the panel 21 merely by removing supporting screws 31 attaching the individual units to the front of the panel and by disconnecting the plug connection means 29 or 30.

Underneath the panel 21 in the housing 17 are positioned a plurality of dual playback or record player units: 22, each of which includes a pair of turntables 34 and 35 and pickup units 36 and 37. The turntable and pickup units are positioned side by side on removable shelves 39 slideably supported within channel members: 40 attached to the inner surface of the side walls of the housing 17. The edges of the removable shelves 39 are formed of a thickness so as to permit the shelves to be inserted in and removed from the channel members: 40 with a sliding fit. At the rear of each shelf unit are connection plugs 57, 58 and 59 providing for an easy disconnection of the electrical circuits to the turntable and pickup units, whereupon the removable shelf may be pulled forward and removed from the housing, as indicated at 45 in Figure 3.

The electrical wiring diagram of the installation is shown schematically in Figures 5 through 10 and will not be specifically described as it is believed understandable to one skilled in the art inasmuch as conventional diagram symbols have been used.

A schematic wiring diagram of one of the plurality of radio receiving sets 22 is shown in Figure 5. A connection plug 29a is adapted to cooperate with one of the jacks 29b to make up the connection 29. The plug 29a has a terminal or prong 46 for the B plus, a prong 47 for the audio output and tube heater connection prongs 49 and 59. Each of the other radio receiving sets 22 is likewise connected by a plug 29a to a jack

The wiring diagram of a power supply unit 53 is shown in Figure 6 and includes a connection plug 51a adapted to cooperate with a jack 51b. the plug 51a having prong connections 52 and 54 for direct current and prongs: 55 and 56 for alternating current.

The wiring diagram for the dual pickup or record player unit 32 is shown in Figure 7 and includes a main connection plug 57a connecting to a jack 57b. The plug 57a has prong connections 57c and 57d for connection to a standard current supply, 5% and 5% for connection to the starting relays for the motors, and 57h for connection with a low voltage current supply. The pickup units 36 and 37 have shielded plugs 58a and 59a running directly to jack 53b and 59b of the dual 70 amplifier unit 24 shown schematically in Figure 8.

The circuits to each of the motor starting relays 60 for the motors 61 have a time delay unit 62 in series with the coil 63 of the relay 63. The relay coils 63 are adapted to actuate their armaportion of the housing 17 is mounted a panel 21 75 tures 63a to close contacts 63b to apply current

to the motors 61. While the time delay unit may be of any conventional type, it is preferred to use a "Thermistor," manufactured by the Western Electric Company, New York, N. Y. The "Thermistor" is a circuit element in which the 5 electrical resistance varies with changes in temperature. It is made of a material known as a semi-conductor and which has a resistance coefficient which decreases as its temperature rises. to opposite points of its surface, or it may be placed between two electrical conductors for series connection in the circuit. The element is heated by a small current which passes through it when it is first connected to a source of current. The 15 element passes its rated current in three to seven seconds thereafter, depending somewhat upon its design. In addition to the time delay unit 62, a cancel switch 64 is included in the circuit for the relay 60.

The dual phonograph amplifier unit 24 shown in Figure 8 has its main connection plug 30a provided with audio output prongs 65 and 66, B plus prong 67, and heater prongs 69 and 70, the plug 30a being adapted to cooperate with a jack 30b. 25 Jacks 58b and 59b are provided to receive the output plugs 58a and 59a of the dual pickup units 36 and 37.

In Figure 9 there is shown the main wiring diagram of the master entertainment unit. This 30 circuit includes a monitor speaker 7! and a monitor selector switch 72 corresponding to the selector switch 9 at each of the individual coin operated speaker units, so that tests of the various radio and playback units may be made from the 35 master entertainer unit.

A wiring diagram for the individual coin operated sound reproduction unit 5 is shown in Figure 10. This unit includes a coin collecting mechanism schematically designated by the cred- 40 it wheel 74 and operating a multi-contact switch 75. A speaker 75 is connected in circuit with the volume switch 14 and the selector switch 9. A multi-wire connection cable 77 is connected between the various contacts of the selector switch 9 and contacts on a terminal board 79 of the master entertainer unit. Alternatively, the various individual units 5 may have their connections connected in parallel from the master unit, or the multi-conductor cable 77 may be tapped at each unit, or other equivalent connections used.

The record playback resetting mechanism is shown in detail in Figures 11 through 15. In Figure 11 one of the turntable units 32 is shown removed from the housing 17. One of its turntables 34 is removed while the other turntable 35 is in position. The resetting mechanism includes the relay 60 positioned on the underside of the top 8! of the turntable unit 32, a cam follower assembly 82 having a cam follower stud 84 at its inner end, and a linkage assembly 85 at its outer end connected with a lift assembly 86. Each of the turntables 34 and 35 are rotatably supported on a freely pivoted stud 87 and are rotated by motor drive wheels 89 adapted to contact the inner surface of a downwardly depending flange 90 on each turntable. Each turntable also has a turntable cam 91 positioned on its underside for engagement by its cam follower stud 84 to 70 actuate its lift assembly 86 to reset the pickup units 36 or 37 to the starting position.

The relay 60 is of the conventional type having a coil 63 adapted to be energized to actuate its armature 63a.

The cam follower assembly is shown in detail in Figures 12 and 13 and includes a follower bar 95 having an aperture 96 at its outer end to receive an end of the linkage assembly 85. The follower bar 95 is loosely attached to the top 81 of the turntable unit 32 by a bolt 97 extending through an aperture in the top 81. Spacing means are provided to raise the follower bar 95 above the top 81 by use of washers 99 so that the This element may have a pair of wires soldered 10 follower bar may be tipped to raise and lower the follower stud 84 with respect to the cam 91. The follower bar 95 is secured in position by a nut 100 threadedly engaging with the end of the bolt 97. By reason of its comparatively loose mounting, the follower bar 95 is also free to swing its follower stud 84 towards and away from the turntable cam 91. The swingable movement of the follower bar 95 is restricted by a limiter 181 comprised of a bolt 102 securing a spacer 104 to the underside of the bar and threadedly secured by a nut 105. The limiter 101 engages in an opening 106 in the top surface 81 of the turntable unit, the opening being made of a predetermined size to restrict the swingable movement of the follower bar.

The linkage assembly 85 includes a pair of tension members 107 and 108. Tension member 107 has an angularly positioned eyelet 110 at one end while its other end is bent downwardly to pass through the aperture 96 in the follower bar 95 and through an opening III in the top surface 81 of the turntable unit. Lower end 112 of the tension member 107 is formed with a hook end 114 to pass around the end of the relay armature 63a. The second tension member 108 is formed with a threaded end 115 to extend through the eyelet 110 of the first tension member 107 and is adjustably secured with respect thereto by nuts 116 and 117. The other end of the second tension member 198 is formed with a hook end !i9 to engage the lift assembly 86.

The playback units are moved upwardly and back across to the starting edge of the record by the lift assembly 86, which has a base member 129 at ached to the top 81 of the playback unit 32 by screws 121. The base member 120 has an upwardly extending bracket 122 apertured at its upper end for a bolt 123 or other conventional means providing a pivotal mounting for an Lshaped lift lever 124. The bolt 123 is threadedly engaged by a nut 125 bearing against a washer 126 interposed between the nut and the lift lever 124. Downwardly extending leg 128 of the lift lever 124 is apertured as indicated at 127 to receive the hook end 119 of the second tension member 108.

Forwardly extending leg 129 of the lift lever 124 is apertured to threadedly receive screw bolts 130 and 131 extending through aligning apertures in a lift lever cleat 132. Adjustment means for the position of the lift lever cleat 132 is provided by moving the cleat with respect to the screw bolt (3) as the aperture through which the screw bolt 139 extends is oversized. A washer 134 prevents the head of the screw 130 from slipping into its enlarged aperture.

A lift lever latch 135 is pivotally mounted on the lower portion of the bracket 121 by means of a bolt 136 extending through an aperture in the bracket and secured by a nut 137, a washer 139 permitting freedom of movement. The forward edge of the upper end of the lift lever latch 135 is notched to provide a hook 140 adapted to receive the end of the lift lever cleat 132. The 75 lift lever latch 135 is apertured to receive one end of a tension spring 141 having its other end hooked around the edge of the bracket 122. Suitable spacers 142 are interposed between the various parts to assure freedom of movement therebetween.

Each of the pick-up units 33 and 37 has an extension 144 at its rear end adjacent to the lift assembly, the extension being attached to the playback unit by screws 145 and 146 extending through aligned apertures in the extension and 10 the playback unit and threadedly engaged therewith. The aperture about screw 143 is enlarged to provide adjustment means for forward and rearward movement of its outwardly and downwardly turned lift arm 147. On the side of the 15 downwardly turned lift arm 147 of the extension is an outwardly extending lift spacer 149 attached to the lift arm by a screw bolt 159 extending through the spacer and threadedly engaged in an aperture in the lift arm.

A glide bracket 151 is positioned outwardly of each of the pickup units 35 and 37 to provide an abutment so that the pickup unit will not be moved too far from its turntable and to provide an adjustable guideway so that the pickup arm 25 will be correctly positioned on the record. The glide bracket [5] has a base portion [52 apertured and secured to the top 81 of the turntable unit by a bolt 154 and nut 155. The glide bracket has an upwardly extending arm 153 with slotted 30 openings 157 and 158 near its upper edge to receive screws 160 and 151 threadedly engaged in apertures in an index glide 162. Washers 166 and 165 prevent the screws 138 and 161 from slipping through the slotted openings (57 and 35 158. The angular position of glide edge 166 of the index glide 162 may be varied by adjusting the positions of the screws 199 and 191.

The cancel switch 64 is provided to be actuated when the pickup units 33 or 37 are at the end of 40 the record to reset the pickup units to the starting position. The cancel switch 64 is positioned in an opening 170 in the top 81 of the playback unit and is supported by an angularly shaped base member 171 secured to the top 81 by screws 172. $_{45}$ Contact members 174 and 175 are spaced by an insulating block 176 and insulated from the base member 171 by another insulating block 177. The contact members are attached together and to the base member 177 by suitably insulated screws $_{50}$ Contact member 174 is somewhat longer than the other contact member 175 so as to be urged into the open position by a trip screw 123. Supporting means for the trip screw 100 is provided on the pickup arms 36 and 37 including an $_{55}$ angular bracket 181 attached to the pickup arm by a screw 182 and having its lower end provided with a threaded aperture to receive the screw 189 adjustably locked in position by a nut 184. The adjustment of the screw 189 is made such that the cancel switch 64 will be opened when the pickup unit is at the end of the record.

In the operation of the device a coin, such as a nickel, is placed in the slot 15 of one of the individual coin actuated sound reproducing units 5. The selector switch 9, either before the insertion of the coin, or at any time thereafter during the metered interval, may be turned to the desired contact for any of the plurality of radio receiving sets or phonograph records. As may 70 be seen in Figure 10, the coin actuates the usual mechanism wherein a timer unit T is started and wherein contacts are made connecting the output of the receiving set or phonograph reproduction unit to the speaker 76. The volume con-75

8 trol switch 14 may be adjusted to provide the desired volume for the speaker 76. Depending upon the selection made, the control wire for that circuit is actuated to connect to the speaker one of the radio receiving sets which is continuously energized, and thus will start to play instantly. If a phonograph reproduction is desired the selection is made whereupon current is supplied to the relay coil 63 (Figure 7) through the time delay 62 to start the motor 61. The pickups 36 or 37 are already in position and as the phonograph amplifying unit 24 is continuously energized, the sound reproduction will be started at the individual coin actuated speaker unit 5 as soon as the motor 61 starts. It will be observed that a predetermined time interval must elapse depending upon the setting of the time delay unit 62 before the motor 61 will start. In the event the customer desires to change his selec-20 tion during the metered interval, the selector switch 9 is turned to the desired station or phonograph record, as indicated by the various numbers on the dial of the selector switch and a sequence of operations is started in the same manner as described above to render the new selection, the time delay unit 62 preventing the starting of the motors for the various units as the selector switch is turned so as to make contact with the various control circuits. Upon the changing of the selector switch from the contacts for one selection to the contacts for another selection, the relay coil 63 for the first selection is de-energized, dropping the armature 63a, opening the relay contacts 63b and stopping the motor 61. The dropping of the armature 63a initiates the operation of the resetting mechanism so as te return the playback or pickup unit 36 or 37 to its starting position. By reason of the circuit employed, the pickup units are always returned to the starting position so as to overcome the objectionable "wail" occasioned by starting a record in the middle thereof. The operation of the resetting mechanism may be understood by referring to Figures 11 through 16. While a playback unit is operating, the relay 60 is energized lifting its armature 63a and permitting the follower bar 95 to tip on its mounting bolt 97 so that the follower stud 84 is dropped against the top 81 of the supporting unit and is thereby separated from engagement with the turntable cam 91. Upon the changing of a selection or at the end of the metered interval, the circuit to the relay 60 is de-energized allowing its armature 63a to drop and thereby tip the follower bar 95 on its mounting bolt 37 so that the cam follower stud \$4 is raised to engage with the turntable cam 91 which will continue to rotate by reason of its inertia after the current has been discontinued to its motor 61. The action of the cam 91 causes the cam follower 84 to oscillate in the horizontal plane about its mounting 97 and applies tension to reciprocate the tension members 107 and 108. In order to perform the resetting of the playback arm 36 or 37, only one movement of the resetting mechanism is required. However, by reason of the inertia of the turntable 34 or 35, several operations may be made which have no effect on the pickup arm after it has been returned to its starting position. In the operation of the lift assembly 86, a pull on the tension member 108 causes the partial rotation of the lift lever 124 so that its forwardly extending leg 129 is swung downwardly to engage the lift spacer 149 which is depressed to lift the pickup unit off from the

record and simultaneously swing it into abutment with the index glide 162. The lift lever latch 135 cooperates with the cleat 132 to hold the lift spacer 149 therebetween and thus hold the pickup arm 35 or 37 from sliding down the 5 glide edge 166. The relative positions of the parts may vary somewhat depending upon the position at which the turntable 34 or 35 comes to rest. However, the pickup units 36 or 37 will be either held above the glide edge 166 or some- 10 where along the surface thereof so that as soon as the motor is started and the turntable moves, the lift lever latch 135 will push the spacer 149 so that the pickup arm will slide down the glide edge 166 to the starting groove of the record. 15 The forwardly extending leg 129 of the lift lever will be moved away from contact with the spacer 143 as soon as the cam follower stud 84 has dropped away from engagement with the cam follower 91 by reason of the energization of the 20 relay 69 which allows the cam follower stud to drop away from the cam as the low point of the cam 91 passes its follower stud. In the event a plurality of coins are inserted in one or more of the coin slots 15 or 16 and a continuous 23 metered interval is started so that there will be a repeat play of one of the records, the playback arm will be reset when it has reached the end of the record by the action of the cancel switch 64 in the same manner as when the selector 30 switch 9 is moved to make another selection as the cancel switch contacts are in series with the selector control contacts.

While the invention has been described and illustrated with reference to a specific embodi- 35 ment thereof, it will be understood that other embodiments may be resorted to without departing from the invention. Therefore, the form of the invention set out above should be considered as illustrative and not as limiting the scope of 40 the following claims.

We claim:

1. In combination in a coin operated entertainment system, a main entertainer unit including a plurality of playback units each adapt- 45 ed to provide a selection, a plurality of coin operated sound reproduction units at spaced locations, at least one of the reproduction units including switch means to select any one of the playback units to reproduce a selection at that 50 reproduction unit irrespective of the selection being played at any other reproduction unit, metering means responsive to the insertion of a coin to limit the time during which the selector switch means is operative, and reset 55 means for at least one playback unit to return the playback unit to its starting condition, the reset means operable upon the actuation of the selector switch means away from the operating position of said one playback unit.

2. In combination in a coin operated entertainment system, a main entertainer unit including a plurality of record player units each adapted to provide a selection, a plurality of coin operated speaker stations at spaced locations, at least one of the speaker stations including switch means to selectively operate any

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of the record player units to reproduce a selection at that speaker station irrespective of the selection being played at any other speaker station, metering means responsive to the insertion of a coin to limit the time during which the speaker station is operative, and reset means for at least one record player to return it to its starting condition.

3. In combination in a coin operated entertainment system, a main entertainer unit including a plurality of record player units each adapted to provide a selection, plurality of coin operated speaker stations at spaced locations, at least one of the speaker stations including switch means to selectively operate any of the record player units to reproduce a selection at that speaker station irrespective of the selection being played at any other speaker station, metering means responsive to the insertion of a coin to limit the time during which the speaker station is operative, reset means for at least one record player to return it to its starting condition, and circuit means connecting between the reset means and the selector means, whereby the reset means is held from operation while the selector means is directed to that selection.

4. In combination in a coin operated entertainment system, a main entertainer unit including a plurality of record player units each adapted to provide a selection, a plurality of coin operated speaker stations at spaced locations, at least one of the speaker stations including switch means to selectively operate any of the record player units to reproduce a selection at that speaker station irrespective of the selection being played at any other speaker station, metering means responsive to the insertion of a coin to limit the time during which the speaker station is operative, reset means for at least one record player to return it to its starting condition, and time delay means for at least the one record player, whereby the one record player is prevented from operating for a predetermined time interval after it has been selected.

FORREST E. WILSON. SCOTT E. ALLEN.

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