This invention relates to chance and dispensing devices and has for an object to provide a device of this character of the "punch board" type wherein there is provided a board having concealed detents which may be punched loose or dislodged to eventually release a merchandise or other character of prize when the key detent is dislodged.

A further object is to provide a device of the nature indicated which may be used as a medium for stimulating sales in stores and which will be formed of a few, inexpensive parts so constructed that after each dispensing operation the device may be discarded if desired or may be reloaded.

A further object is to provide a novel bolt for releasing the prize carrier and which may be located at any predetermined position within the area covered by the detents so that the detents may not be released in any regular order to free the bolt and allow the dispensing carrier to operate, thus providing the element of chance.

With the above and other objects in view the invention consists of certain novel details of construction and combinations of parts hereinafter fully described and claimed, it being understood that various modifications may be resorted to within the scope of the appended claims without departing from spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

In the accompanying drawings forming part of this specification,

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a chance and dispensing device constructed in accordance with the invention.

Figure 2 is a cross sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1 looking in the direction of the arrows.

Figure 3 is a longitudinal sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 2 looking in the direction of the arrows.

Figure 4 is a cross sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of Figure 3.

Figure 5 is an edge elevation of the prize carrier.

Figure 6 is a detail perspective view of the latch.

Referring now to the drawings in which like characters or reference designate similar parts in the various views, the frame or body of the device is shown to comprise a back wall 10 upon the front face of which are formed a chamber 11 and a slot 12 disposed at a right angle to the chamber and communicating with the chamber. The chamber is formed with an extension 13 at the upper end and with a substantially rectangular depression 14 in the bottom near the upper end as shown in Figure 2. Also a guide rib 15 extends upwardly from the lower end wall 16 of the chamber to guide the prize carrier 17 and also provide a space 18 through which the prize winner may remove the merchandise or other prize article when the carrier is in dispensing position.

The carrier 17 is preferably formed of thin sheet metal provided at the top with a rearwardly extending guide lip 19 which is adapted to fit in the depression 14 and coat with the guide rib 15 in directing sliding movement of the carrier. The carrier is provided with a forwardly extending ledge 20 at the bottom to support the article of merchandise or other prize package. A substantially U-shaped leaf spring 21 is mounted in the chamber 11 above the carrier and exerts downward pressure upon the carrier to push the carrier to dispensing position. A pair of staples 22 secure the spring to the wall of the chamber and in the present embodiment of the invention the stationary leg of the spring is provided with a terminal prong 23 which is driven into the wall of the chamber and coacts with the staples in mounting the spring.

The carrier is provided in one edge with a plurality of semicircular notches 24 to interchangeably receive the substantially circular terminal 25 of a latch 26 which is pivoted intermediate the ends as shown at 27 to the bottom wall of the chamber. A leaf spring 28 is fixed at one end to the bottom wall of the chamber by a staple 29 or other connector and the free end of the leaf spring engages in rear of a terminal finger 30 formed on the latch adjacent to the circular terminal 25 and exerts outward pressure on the latch tending to disengage the terminal 25 from the notch 24 and free the carrier to be pushed downward by its spring 21. The latch 24 is held in locking position against the tension of its controlling spring 28 by means of a bolt 31.

The bolt 31 is slidable fitted in the above mentioned slot 12 and is provided in the upper edge with a notch 32 which provides a finger 33 at the end of the bolt. The finger 33 overlaps a similar finger 34 formed on the latch 26, and holds the latch locked to the carrier. When the bolt is freed the finger 34 of the latch shoves the bolt 31 laterally toward the carrier until it abuts a stop 35 disposed between the carrier and the bolt. The bolt is held withdrawn into the slot 12 to hold the latch in locking position by means of a plurality of detents 36.

The detents 36 may be in the nature of pins, sales tickets or other elements carried in open-
Apparatus of the class described comprising a frame having a chamber and a slot extending transversely to the chamber, a spring pressed dispensing carrier slidably longitudinally in the chamber, a locking bolt slidably fitted in the slot, a spring pressed latch in the chamber engaging the bolt and the carrier and normally holding the carrier at one limit of its movement in the chamber, and a plurality of manually releasable detents locking the bolt at one limit of its movement in the slot.

2. Apparatus of the class described comprising a frame having a chamber and a transverse slot entering the chamber, a carrier disposed at one end of the chamber, a spring tending to push the carrier to the opposite end of the chamber, a locking bolt in said slot, a pivoted latch in the chamber operatively connected to the bolt and interlockingly engaging said carrier, a spring tending to swing the latch out of engagement with the carrier and to move the bolt endwise, and a manually releasable detent locking the bolt stationarily on the frame against the tension of the latch controlling the bolt.

3. Apparatus of the class described comprising a frame having a chamber and a transverse slot entering the chamber, a carrier disposed at one end of the chamber and spring pressed to move bodily to the opposite end of the chamber, a transparent closure for the chamber operatively engaging the carrier and terminating short of the lower end of the chamber to permit access to the carrier when the carrier is moved by its spring beyond the closure, a pivoted latch engaging said carrier, a bolt in said slot engaging the latch, a manually releasable detent holding the bolt in position to engage the latch with the carrier, and a spring for removing the latch from engagement with the carrier upon release of the bolt by displacement of said detent.

4. Apparatus of the class described comprising a frame, a spring pressed carrier on the frame, a locking latch for the carrier, a bolt normally holding the latch engaged with the carrier, a manually releasable detent normally holding the bolt at one limit of its movement, a spring operatively engaging the latch to disengage the latch from the carrier upon removal of said detent, a closure concealing the carrier, and guides between the carrier and the frame for directing sliding movement of the carrier under pressure of its controlling spring to a position beyond the closure.

5. A device of the class described comprising a frame having a plurality of transverse openings, detents in said openings, a locking bolt engaged by certain of the detents, a carrier on the frame for dispensing an article, and means between the bolt and the carrier and operatively connected to the bolt and the carrier for moving the carrier bodily on the frame to dispensing position when certain of said detents are removed from said openings.

6. A device of the class described comprising a frame, a spring pressed carrier on the frame, a transparent closure on the frame in registration with the carrier, means for sliding the carrier bodily beyond the closure to dispensing position, a plurality of pins removable in said frame laterally of the carrier, and means energized by displacement of certain of the pins to move the carrier to dispensing position.

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