

- [54] CREDIT CARD OR CHECK VALIDATOR
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Related U.S. Application Data

- [63] Continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 854,121, Nov. 23, 1977, abandoned.
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- [52] U.S. Cl. 235/380; 340/149 A
- [58] Field of Search 235/380, 382, 379, 381; 340/149 A, 149 R, 152 R

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[57] ABSTRACT

A validator checks the identity of the holder of a credit card or check by comparing a secret code number derived from the holder with a number derived from the serial number of the credit card or check. The basic components of the validator are a keyboard, a scrambler circuit and a comparator circuit. The scrambler circuit is responsive to the keyboard for receiving a serial number or other indicia from the card as punched into the keyboard. Then a key is pressed to signify end of the card indicia and to switch the keyboard output to the comparator circuit. A number offered by the user is punched into the keyboard; and if the number is correct, the comparator circuit is actuated to indicate validity. Such a machine can use any existing credit card, check, or identification card having a serial number; can operate on serial number and letter combinations of any length; and can operate in a way that is undecipherable for practical purposes.

39 Claims, 8 Drawing Figures

