

Appeal decision

Appeal No. 2020-4894

Appellant GLORY LTD.

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The case of appeal against the examiner's decision of refusal of Japanese Patent Application No. 2015-225498, entitled "MONEY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, MONEY HANDLING APPARATUS AND MONEY MANAGEMENT METHOD" (the application published on June 1, 2017, Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2017-97403) has resulted in the following appeal decision.

Conclusion

The appeal of the case was groundless.

Reason

No. 1 History of the procedures

The present application was filed on November 18, 2015, a notice of reasons for refusal was issued on June 26, 2019, a written opinion and a written amendment were submitted on August 27, 2019, an examiner's decision of refusal (hereinafter referred to as "the Examiner's decision") was issued on January 20, 2020, and an appeal against the Examiner's decision of refusal was requested and a written amendment was submitted on April 10, 2020.

No. 2 Decision to dismiss amendment on the written amendment dated April 10, 2020 [Conclusion of Decision to Dismiss Amendment]

The amendment dated April 10, 2020 shall be dismissed.

[Reason]

1 Details of Amendment

The amendment dated April 10, 2020 (hereinafter referred to as "the Amendment") includes an amendment of the scope of claims. Claim 1 before and after

the amendment are as follows, with underlines denoting amended portions.

(1) Claim 1 before the Amendment

"[Claim 1]

A money management system comprising:

a first money handling apparatus configured to perform money depositing and money dispensing; and

a second money handling apparatus configured to perform at least money dispensing, wherein

a storage cassette which is configured to store money and feed out the stored money is detachably mounted in each of the first money handling apparatus and the second money handling apparatus,

the storage cassette has a recording medium,

the first money handling apparatus has a first write unit configured to write information on the current amount of money in the first money handling apparatus to the recording medium in the storage cassette when the storage cassette is mounted in the first money handling apparatus, and

the second money handling apparatus has a second read unit configured to read information from the recording medium in the storage cassette when the storage cassette is mounted in the second money handling apparatus, and current amount management means configured to manage the current amount of money in the first money handling apparatus based on the information read by the second read unit."

(2) Claim 1 after the Amendment

"[Claim 1]

A money management system comprising:

a first money handling apparatus configured to deposit money as the amount paid for a commodity or dispense money as change, and to store money as a change fund in advance at the start of operation; and

a second money handling apparatus configured to deposit money as proceeds collected from the first money handling apparatus or to dispense money as change replenishment money to be replenished to the first money handling apparatus, wherein

a storage cassette which is configured to store money and feed out the stored money is detachably mounted in each of the first money handling apparatus and the second money handling apparatus,

the storage cassette has a recording medium,

the first money handling apparatus has a first write unit configured to write information on the current amount of money in the first money handling apparatus to the recording medium in the storage cassette when the storage cassette is mounted in the first money handling apparatus, and

the second money handling apparatus has a second read unit configured to read information from the recording medium in the storage cassette when the storage cassette is mounted in the second money handling apparatus, current amount management means configured to manage the current amount of money in the first money handling apparatus based on the information read by the second read unit, a storage unit which stores information on the quantity of money by kind regarding the change fund in the first money handling apparatus, and calculation means which calculates the quantity of money by kind regarding the change replenishment money to be deposited to the first money handling apparatus on the basis of the current amount of money in the first money handling apparatus managed by the current amount management means and the information stored in the storage unit."

2 Propriety of amendment

2-1 Purpose of amendment

The amendment of Claim 1 relating to the Amendment is to add a limitation, "configured to deposit money as the amount paid for a commodity or dispense money as change, and to store money as a change fund in advance at the start of operation", regarding the "first money handling apparatus" recited in Claim 1 before amendment, to add a limitation, "configured to deposit money as proceeds collected from the first money handling apparatus or to dispense money as change replenishment money to be replenished to the first money handling apparatus", regarding the "second money handling apparatus", and to add a matter that "the money management system" includes "a storage unit which stores information on the quantity of money by kind regarding the change fund in the first money handling apparatus, and calculation means which calculates the quantity of money by kind regarding the change replenishment money to be deposited to the first money handling apparatus on the basis of the current amount of money in the first money handling apparatus managed by the current amount management means and the information stored in the storage unit". The invention recited in Claim 1 before amendment and the invention recited in Claim 1 after amendment belong to the same field of industrial application and aim to solve the same problems. Thus, the Amendment is intended for restriction of the scope of claims as stipulated in Article 17-2(5)(ii) of the Patent Act.

The body will examine below as to whether the invention specified by the matters recited in Claim 1 after the amendment (hereinafter referred to as "the Amended Invention") falls under the provisions of Article 126(7) of the Patent Act (whether the invention can be patented independently at the time of filing of the patent application), which is applied mutatis mutandis in the provisions of Article 17-2(6) of the Patent Act.

2-2 Independent requirements for patentability

(1) Described matters in the Cited document, etc.

(1-1) Described matters in Cited Document 1, etc.

(1-1-1) Described matters in Cited Document 1

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2015-92326 (hereinafter referred to as "Cited Document 1") presented as Cited Document 1 in the reasons for refusal stated in the examiner's decision and distributed before the filing of the present application includes the following matters (underlines were added by the body, the same applies hereinafter).

(1a) "[Claim 1]

A currency processing device including:

a reading part for reading information held by an information holding tool conveyed with a currency storage cassette;

an unlocking part for unlocking the currency storage cassette;

a storage part for storing currency put into the machine;

and a control part for controlling the unlocking part to unlock the currency storage cassette by means of the unlocking part on the basis of the information read by the reading part.

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[Claim 6]

The currency processing device recited in any one of Claims 1 to 5, which is configured so that currency in the currency storage cassette unlocked by the unlocking part is automatically put into the machine of the currency processing device and stored in the storage part.

[Claim 7]

The currency processing device recited in any one of Claims 1 to 6, which is configured to dispense the currency stored in the storage part to the outside of the currency processing device, wherein

the information held in the information holding tool includes the current amount of money in a change dispenser which transfers currency to/from the currency

processing device by use of the currency storage cassette,

the control part is configured to dispense currency as a change fund from the storage part to the outside of the machine on the basis of the current amount of money in the change dispenser in the information read by the reading part."

[Claim 8]

The currency processing device recited in any one of Claims 1 to 7, wherein the information holding tool is attached to the currency storage cassette.

[Claim 9]

The currency processing device recited in Claim 8, which further includes a mount part where the currency storage cassette is mounted, wherein the reading part is arranged in the mount part.

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[Claim 11]

A currency processing system including:
a change dispenser arranged in a register; and
a currency processing device having a storage part for storing currency put into the machine,

configured to transfer currency between the change dispenser and the currency processing device by use of the currency storage cassette, wherein

the currency processing device includes: a reading part for reading information held by an information holding tool conveyed with a currency storage cassette; an unlocking part for unlocking the currency storage cassette; and a control part for controlling the unlocking part to unlock the currency storage cassette by means of the unlocking part on the basis of the information read by the reading part."

(1b) "[0001]

This invention relates to a currency processing method and a currency processing system for processing currencies such as bills and coins.

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[0027]

As shown in FIG. 1, in a store 10 in a commercial facility, such as a convenience store or a supermarket, store shelves 14 displaying various commodities are disposed in a front area 12 where a customer can visit, and a register unit 18 is disposed in a check-out place 16 in the front area 12. As described later, the register unit 18 is composed of a coin change dispenser 100, a bill change dispenser 200, a POS register 300, etc. When a customer performs check-out in the check-out place 16, a store clerk deposits

bills or gift certificates for a commodity received from the customer to the coin change dispenser 100 or the bill change dispenser 200 of the register unit 18, or dispenses currency as change from the coin change dispenser 100 or the bill change dispenser 200 to be returned to the customer. In a backyard area 20 where customers are not allowed to enter, a proceeds recharger 22 is disposed to which are deposited currencies as proceeds collected from the coin change dispenser 100 or the bill change dispenser 200. When the proceeds recharger 22 is disposed in a mall, currencies as proceeds received from tenants in the mall are also deposited to the proceeds recharger, in addition to the currencies as proceeds collected from the coin change dispenser 100 or the bill change dispenser 200 disposed in the check-out place 16 in the front area 12. The currencies as proceeds deposited to the proceeds recharger 22 are collected by collecting staff of a security company and transported to a management center of the security company. In this embodiment, a device which processes valuable media including bills, coins, and gift certificates alone is employed as the proceeds recharger 22. In this embodiment, the currency processing system is composed of the register unit 18 and the proceeds recharger 22.

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[0038]

The configuration of the bill change dispenser 200 is described in detail below. As shown in FIG. 2 and FIG. 3, the bill change dispenser 200 includes a housing 210, and an annular circulating conveyance part 203a disposed in a substantially central part in the housing 210. A bill receiving part 214, three bill storage parts 206, a bill discharge part 216, a money-dispensing reject part 204, and a bill collection cassette 207 are arranged to surround the circulating conveyance part 203a.

[0039]

In the housing 210 of the bill change dispenser 200, a plurality of connection conveyance parts 203b are formed to connect the circulating conveyance part 203a to each of the bill receiving part 214, the bill storage parts 206, the bill discharge part 216, the money-dispensing reject part 204, and the bill collection cassette 207. Also, the circulating conveyance part 203a includes a bill identification part 201 configured to identify a bill passing through the bill identification part 201.

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[0041]

As shown in FIG. 1 and FIG. 2, on a front face of the housing 210 there are disposed a bill inlet 214a of the bill receiving part 214 and a bill outlet 216a of the bill discharge part 216. Also, the bill collection cassette 207 is detachable from the housing

210.

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[0044]

The bill collection cassette 207 can be removed to the outside of the housing 210 by being pulled out from the front face of the housing 210. The configuration of the bill collection cassette 207 is shown in FIG. 8 in detail. As shown in FIG. 8, an IC tag 207c is arranged on a bottom face of the bill collection cassette 207. Various pieces of information can be stored in the IC tag 207c (e.g., register number being an identification number of a register, a name of a sales floor where the register is disposed, a name of a store, an identification number of a cashier, proceeds in the register, the current amount of money in the coin change dispenser 100 or the bill change dispenser 200, date of sales, proceeds collection data (specifically, the amount of bills or the number of each kind of bill stored in the bill collection cassette 207), proceeds collection date and time (specifically, a date and time when an operator issues a command for collection processing to the POS register 300)). A locking part (not shown) is arranged in the bill collection cassette 207. When the bill collection cassette 207 is removed to the outside of the housing 210, the locking part locks the bill collection cassette 207 to prevent the operator from taking out bills from the inside of the bill collection cassette 207. The bill collection cassette 207 locked by the locking part is carried to the backyard area 20 by the cashier; afterward, the locked locking part is unlocked by a cassette unlocking mechanism 600 (described later) of the proceeds recharger 22 disposed in the backyard area 20. The method by which the cassette unlocking mechanism 600 unlocks the locked locking part of the bill collection cassette 207 is described later in detail.

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[0053]

As shown in FIG. 5 and FIG. 6, the proceeds recharger 22 has a substantially rectangular parallelepiped housing 512. The housing 512 contains a paper sheet processing mechanism 520 which processes paper sheets such as bills and gift certificates, and a coin processing mechanism 550 which processes coins. As shown in FIG. 5, when viewing the proceeds recharger 22 from the front, a paper sheet slot 522, a paper sheet reject part 530, and a shutter 533 for opening/closing a front opening of a paper sheet accumulation part 532 (described later) are arranged in this order from the top on the right side. When viewing the proceeds recharger 22 from the front, a coin slot 552 is arranged on the left side. When viewing the proceeds recharger 22 from the front, an operation display part 582 composed of a touch panel, for example, is arranged

as a terminal, in an upper right part. Also, when viewing the proceeds recharger 22 from the front, a cassette unlocking mechanism 600 is arranged in an upper left part to unlock the bill collection cassette 207 removed to the outside from the housing 210 of the bill change dispenser 200 of the register unit 18. In a front lower part of the proceeds recharger 22, a lower door 514 is arranged. By opening the lower door 514, paper sheet storage cassettes 538, 540 (described later) housed in the housing 512 and coin storage cassettes 568, 570 (described later) housed in the housing 512 can be drawn forward of the housing 512.

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[0058]

As shown in FIG. 6, a first paper sheet temporary holding part 534 and a second paper sheet temporary holding part 536 are connected to a paper sheet conveyance part 524 to temporarily hold, in the first paper sheet temporary holding part 534 or the second paper sheet temporary holding part 536, paper sheets of a predetermined kind set in advance from among paper sheets identified by a paper sheet identification part 526 and conveyed from the paper sheet conveyance part 524 to the first paper sheet temporary holding part 534 or the second paper sheet temporary holding part 536. The first paper sheet storage cassette 538 is arranged below the first paper sheet temporary holding part 534, and the second paper sheet storage cassette 540 is arranged below the second paper sheet temporary holding part 536. After the paper sheets are held in the first paper sheet temporary holding part 534 or the second paper sheet temporary holding part 536, when a command is issued by an operation display part 582 (described later) to approve deposit to a control part 580 (described later) of the proceeds recharger 22, a bottom face of the first paper sheet temporary holding part 534 or the second paper sheet temporary holding part 536 is opened to store the paper sheets temporarily held in the first paper sheet temporary holding part 534 or the second paper sheet temporary holding part 536 to the first paper sheet storage cassette 538 or the second paper sheet storage cassette 540. The first paper sheet storage cassette 538 and the second paper sheet storage cassette 540 can be removed from the housing 512 of the proceeds recharger 22. By removing the first paper sheet storage cassette 538 or the second paper sheet storage cassette 540 from the housing 512, paper sheets stored in the first paper sheet storage cassette 538 or the second paper sheet storage cassette 540 can be taken out.

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[0083]

The following describes operations of a register unit 18 or the proceeds recharger

22 having the above configuration; specifically, the operation of collecting bills by the bills collection cassette 207 from the bill change dispenser 200 of the register unit 18 and depositing the money to the proceeds recharger 22, with a flowchart shown in FIG. 11.

[0084]

At closing processing after the business hours of the store 10, when a cashier inputs a command for collecting bills or coins through an operation part 304 of the POS register 300, coins stored in a coin storage part 106 are delivered from the coin storage part 106, the coins are conveyed from a dispensed money conveyance part 108 to a coin collection bag (not shown) to be stored in the coin collection bag, and bills stored in the bill storage part 206 are delivered from the bill storage part 206 and conveyed to the bill collection cassette 207 to be stored in the bill collection cassette 207 (STEP 1). An IC reader/writer 218 arranged in the bill change dispenser 200 writes various pieces of information to the IC tag 207c of the bill collection cassette 207, such as a register number, a name of a sales floor where the register is disposed, a name of a store, an identification number of a cashier, proceeds in the register, the current amount of money in the coin change dispenser 100 or the bill change dispenser 200, date of sales, proceeds collection data, and proceeds collection date and time (STEP 2).

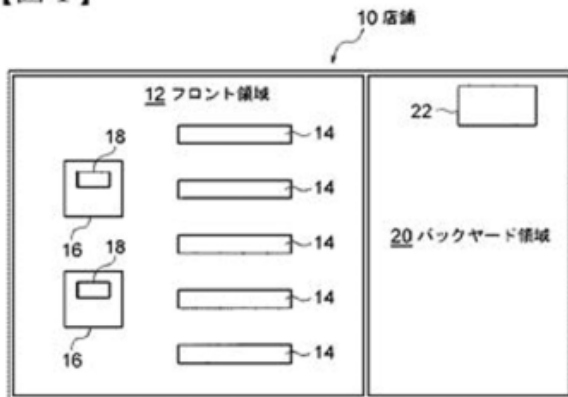
...

[0101]

Replacing the proceeds recharger 22 in the backyard area 20, a money deposit dispenser which performs deposit processing and dispensing processing of currency may be disposed to dispense currency from the money deposit dispenser as a change fund to be used in the coin change dispenser 100 or the bill change dispenser 200 of the register unit 18. In this case, the current amount of money in the coin change dispenser 100 or the bill change dispenser 200 is written to the IC tag 207c in the bill collection cassette 207, and the information in the IC tag 207c is read by an IC reader (not shown) arranged in the backyard area 20, thereby allowing the money deposit dispenser to obtain the shortfall in change in the coin change dispenser 100 or the bill change dispenser 200, and automatically dispensing currency for the shortfall as a change fund in the money deposit dispenser."

(1c) Cited Document 1 presents the following drawings.

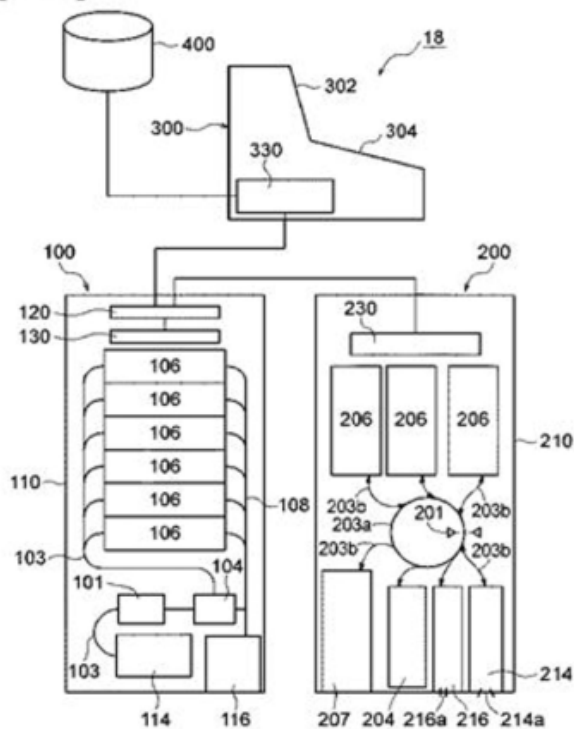
【図 1】



【図 1】 [FIG. 1]

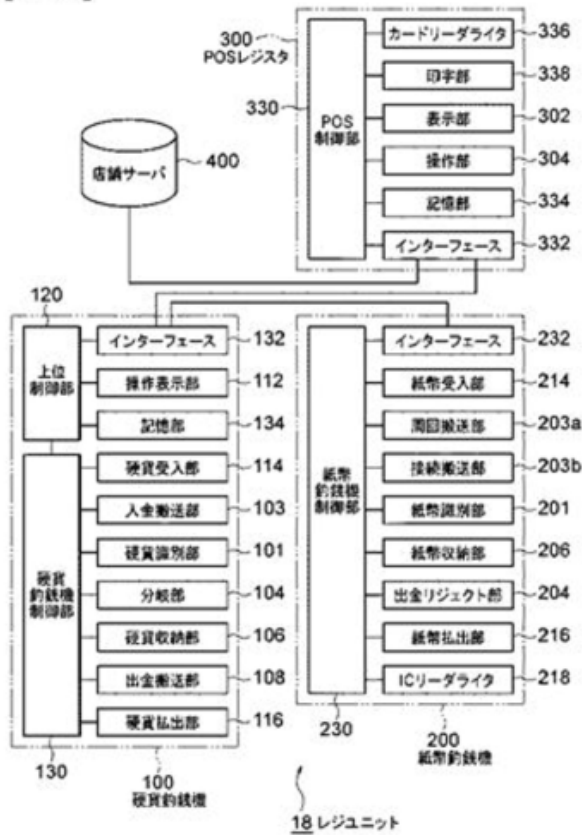
- | | | | |
|----|----------|----|---------------|
| 10 | 店舗 | 10 | Store |
| 12 | フロント領域 | 12 | Front area |
| 20 | バックヤード領域 | 20 | Backyard area |

【図 3】



[FIG. 3]

【図 4】



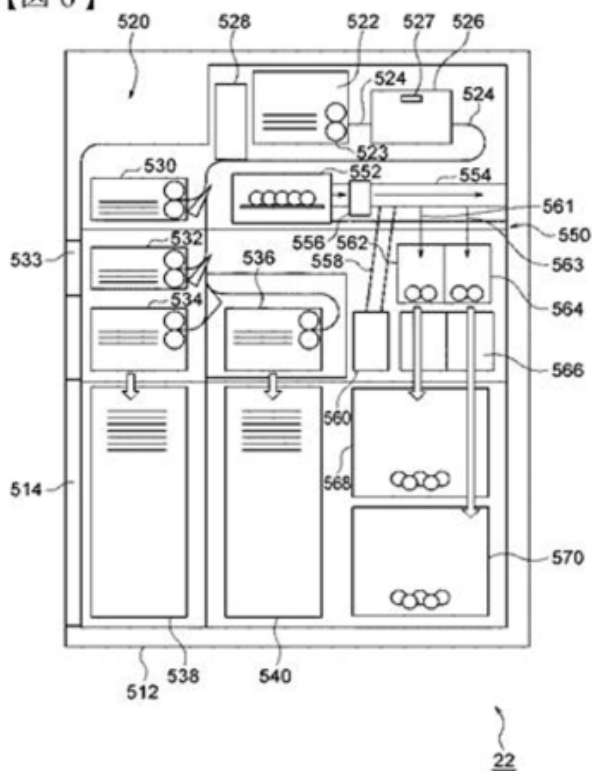
【図 4】

[FIG. 4]

- | | |
|--------------|------------------------------------|
| 店舗サーバ | Store server |
| POSレジスタ | POS register |
| POS制御部 | POS control part |
| カードリーダー/ライター | Card reader/writer |
| 印字部 | Printing part |
| 表示部 | Display part |
| 操作部 | Operation part |
| 記憶部 | Storage part |
| インターフェース | Interface |
| 上位制御部 | Host control part |
| 硬貨釣銭機制御部 | Coin change dispenser control part |
| 操作表示部 | Operation display part |
| 硬貨受入部 | Coin receiving part |
| 入金搬送部 | Deposited money conveyance part |
| 分岐部 | Branch part |
| 硬貨収納部 | Coin storage part |

出金搬送部	Dispensed money conveyance part
硬貨払出部	Coin discharge part
硬貨釣銭機	Coin change dispenser
紙幣釣銭機制御部	Bill change dispenser control part
紙幣受入部	Bill receiving part
周回搬送部	Circulating conveyance part
接続搬送部	Connection conveyance part
紙幣収納部	Bill storage part
紙幣識別部	Bill identification part
紙幣収納部	Bill storage part
出金リジェクト部	Money-dispensing reject part
紙幣払出部	Bill discharge part
ICリーダライタ	IC reader/writer
レジユニット	Register unit
紙幣釣銭機	Bill change dispenser

【図6】



【図6】

[FIG. 6]

(1-1-2) Recognized matters

A Cited Document 1 describes, as recited in [Claim 11] in (1a),

"a currency processing system including:

a change dispenser arranged in a register; and

a currency processing device having a storage part for storing currency put into the machine, configured to transfer currency between the change dispenser and the currency processing device by use of the currency storage cassette, wherein

the currency processing device includes: a reading part for reading information held by an information holding tool conveyed with a currency storage cassette; an unlocking part for unlocking the currency storage cassette; and a control part for controlling the unlocking part to unlock the currency storage cassette by means of the unlocking part on the basis of the information read by the reading part."

B According to [Claim 6] to [Claim 10] in (1a), the following matters can be recognized regarding the "currency processing device", the "change dispenser", and the "currency storage cassette" constituting the "currency processing system" in A.

(A) The currency in the currency storage cassette unlocked by the unlocking part is automatically put into the machine of the currency processing device and stored in the storage part ([Claim 6]).

(B) The currency stored in the storage part can be dispensed to the outside of the currency processing device,

the information held in the information holding tool includes the current amount of money in a change dispenser which transfers currency to/from the currency processing device by use of the currency storage cassette,

the control part is configured to dispense currency as a change fund from the storage part to the outside of the machine on the basis of the current amount of money in the change dispenser in the information read by the reading part ([Claim 7]).

(C) The information holding tool is attached to the currency storage cassette ([Claim 8]).

(D) The currency processing device further includes a mount part where the currency storage cassette is mounted, and the reading part is arranged in the mount part ([Claim 9]).

C According to (1b), the following matters can be recognized regarding the "change dispenser", the "currency storage cassette", and the "information holding tool" in the above A and B.

(A) The change dispenser includes at least a bill change dispenser 200 ([0027]). The bill change dispenser 200 includes a housing 210 ([0038]). In the housing 210, a plurality of connection conveyance parts 203b are formed to connect the circulating

conveyance part 203a to each of the bill receiving part 214, the bill storage parts 206, the bill discharge part 216, the money-dispensing reject part 204, and the bill collection cassette 207 ([0039]).

(B) The currency storage cassette is configured as a currency collection cassette 207 and is detachable from the housing 210 ([0038], [0041]).

(C) The information holding tool is configured as an IC tag 207c ([0044]).

(D) Bills stored in the bill storage part 206 are conveyed to the bill collection cassette 207 to be stored in the bill collection cassette 207. An IC reader/writer 218 arranged in the bill change dispenser 200 writes to the IC tag 207c of the bill collection cassette 207 various pieces of information, such as a register number, a name of a sales floor where the register is disposed, a name of a store, an identification number of a cashier, proceeds in the register, the current amount of money in the coin change dispenser 100 or the bill change dispenser 200, date of sales, proceeds collection data, and proceeds collection date and time ([0084]).

(1-1-3) Invention described in Cited Document 1

According to the above, it is recognized that Cited Document 1 describes the following invention (hereinafter referred to as "the Cited Invention"):

"A currency processing system including:

a change dispenser arranged in a register; and

a currency processing device having a storage part for storing currency put into the machine,

configured to transfer currency between the change dispenser and the currency processing device by use of the currency storage cassette, wherein

the currency processing device includes: a reading part for reading information held by an information holding tool conveyed with a currency storage cassette; an unlocking part for unlocking the currency storage cassette; and a control part for controlling the unlocking part to unlock the currency storage cassette by means of the unlocking part on the basis of the information read by the reading part,

the currency in the currency storage cassette unlocked by the unlocking part is automatically put into the machine of the currency processing device and stored in the storage part,

the currency stored in the storage part can be dispensed to the outside of the currency processing device,

the information held in the information holding tool includes the current amount of money in a change dispenser which transfers currency to/from the currency

processing device by use of the currency storage cassette,

the control part is configured to dispense currency as a change fund from the storage part to the outside of the machine on the basis of the current amount of money in the change dispenser in the information read by the reading part,

the information holding tool is attached to the currency storage cassette,

the currency processing device further includes a mount part where the currency storage cassette is mounted, and the reading part is arranged in the mount part,

the change dispenser includes at least a bill change dispenser 200, the bill change dispenser 200 includes a housing 210, and a plurality of connection conveyance parts 203b are formed in the housing 210 to connect the circulating conveyance part 203a to each of the bill receiving part 214, the bill storage parts 206, the bill discharge part 216, the money-dispensing reject part 204, and the bill collection cassette 207,

the currency storage cassette is configured as a currency collection cassette 207 and is detachable from the housing 210,

the information holding tool is configured as an IC tag 207c,

bills stored in the bill storage part 206 are conveyed to the bill collection cassette 207 to be stored in the bill collection cassette 207, and an IC reader/writer 218 arranged in the bill change dispenser 200 writes to the IC tag 207c of the bill collection cassette 207 various pieces of information, such as a register number, a name of a sales floor where the register is disposed, a name of a store, an identification number of a cashier, proceeds in the register, the current amount of money in the coin change dispenser 100 or the bill change dispenser 200, date of sales, proceeds collection data, and proceeds collection date and time."

(1-2) Described matters in Cited Document 2

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2015-125474 (hereinafter referred to as "Cited Document 2") presented as Cited Document 2 in the reasons for refusal stated in the examiner's decision and distributed before the filing of the present application includes the following matters.

(2a) "[0001]

This invention relates to a cash management device for managing cash in a store, such as a supermarket, a cash management system including the cash management device, and a cash management method.

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[0042]

An optimal set value calculation part (optimal set value calculation means) 54

calculates and decides optimal set values for each change dispenser 14 by using the one or multiple pieces of status data, on the basis of set values regarding cash management (e.g., the amount of money left) for each change dispenser 14, which are set in advance and stored in a storage part 48. The set values on cash management for each change dispenser 14 which may be stored in a storage part 30 of each change dispenser 14 are obtained via a communication part 46. The optimal set value calculation part determines, as described later, that a larger amount of change may be required in the change dispenser 14 when an increase in visitors or sales is expected due to favorable weather in the vicinity of the store 16, for example, and calculates optimal set values so as to increase the amount of money left in prospect of increase in sales or transactions, on the basis of the set values for each change dispenser 14 set in advance. The calculated optimal set values are transmitted to a cash management amount calculation part 58.

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[0058]

In Step S8, the cash management amount calculation part 58 calculates and decides amount-of-money data (the amount to be replenished or collected) to be treated in cash management for each change dispenser 14, on the basis of the optimal set values for each change dispenser 14 calculated in Step S6 and current cash amount information for each change dispenser 14 acquired in Step S7, and transmits the data to each change dispenser 14 (or a money deposit dispenser 18) (cash management amount calculation step). For example, when the current amount of cash in a change dispenser A is 50,000 yen and an optimal amount of money left is 100,000 yen, the amount of money to be replenished is 50,000 yen. For example, when the current amount of cash in a change dispenser A is 100,000 yen and an optimal amount of money left is 50,000 yen, the amount of money to be collected is 50,000 yen."

(1-3) Described matters in Cited Document 3

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2008-197831 (hereinafter referred to as "Cited Document 3") which is newly cited by the body and distributed before the filing of the present application includes the following matters.

(3a) "[0001]

This invention relates to a cash management system including a plurality of POS registers disposed in a store and a cash processor which performs money depositing and dispensing for a change fund to be set in a change dispenser in each POS register and proceeds collected from each POS register.

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[0026]

1,000-yen bills and 5,000-yen bills are used for change, and 2,000-yen bills and 10,000-yen bills are not required for change.

Therefore, when 2,000-yen bills and 10,000-yen bills are stored in a storage part 45, bills are delivered from the storage part 45 and conveyed to a bill collection cassette 26 for storage.

Accordingly, only 5,000-yen bills are always stored in the storage part 45. 5,000-yen bills can be quickly dispensed when money dispensing is requested, thereby reducing waiting time. In addition, since 2,000-yen bills and 10,000-yen bills not required for change are stored in the bill collection cassette 26, the bills not required for change can be collected at any time.

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[0056]

The cash data management device 4 manages a change fund in accordance with the current amount of money (the amount of change stored) in each change dispenser 3, as follows.

FIG. 10 illustrates one example of a change management table set in a storage part of the cash data management device 4. The change management table is composed of date-time condition shown in FIG. 10(a), a list of installed change dispensers shown in FIG. 10(b), a table for setting required change shown in FIG. 10(c), and a table of current amount of change in each change dispenser shown in FIG. 10(d).

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[0060]

For example, the amount of bills corresponding to weekday daytime is selected for "Weekday 12:30, no event" set in the date-time condition in FIG. 10(a).

The number of business conditions may be added arbitrarily.

In the table of current amount of change in each change dispenser shown in FIG. 10(d), the current amount of change fund by kind in each change dispenser 3, the number of bills for alert, the number of bills to be replenished, etc. are set."

(3b) Cited Document 3 presents the following drawings.

【図10】

(a) 日時条件

本日日付	2006年 1月18日	水曜
現在時刻	12:30	
営業時間	10:00	~ 22:00
レジ交代	13:00	16:00 19:00
催事	なし	

(b) 釣銭機設置リスト

号機番号	設置場所	レジ番号
...
...
103	食品売場	7番
...
...

(c) 釣銭必要量設定表

金種	催事なし			単位
	平日日中	土日祝日	平日夜間	
五千	7	16	4	枚
千	20	50	12	枚
五百	10	15	5	枚
百	75	90	39	枚
五十	30	45	20	枚
十	80	95	45	枚
五	30	40	25	枚
一	50	100	25	枚
金額	70,000	150,000	40,000	円

(d) 釣銭機別釣銭有高表

号機番号 103					単位
金種	有高	警報設定	設定一有高	補充枚数	
五千	4	2	3	3	枚
千	50	4	-30	0	枚
五百	7	2	3	3	枚
百	20	15	55	55	枚
五十	13	6	17	17	枚
十	14	16	66	86	枚
五	6	6	24	24	枚
一	53	10	-3	0	枚
金額	76,373	17,000	-6,373	23,630	円
警報禁止時間	10			分	

【図10】
日時条件

[FIG. 10]
Date-time condition

本日付	Today's date	
2006年1月18日 水曜		January 18, 2006 Wed.
現在時刻	Current time	
営業時間	Business hours	
レジ交代	Cashier rotation	
催事 Event		
なし None		
釣銭機設置リスト	List of installed change dispensers	
号機番号	Machine number	
設置場所	Location	
レジ番号	Register number	
食品売り場	Food floor	
7番 No.7		
釣銭必要量設定表	Table for setting required change	
場所 Place		
催事なし	No event	
金種 Kind of currency		
平日日中	Weekday daytime	
土日祝日	Saturday, Sunday, or national holiday	
平日夜間	Weekday nighttime	
単位 Unit		
枚 Quantity		
円 Yen		
五千 5,000		
千 1,000		
五百 500		
百 100		
五十 50		
十 10		
五 5		
一 1		
金額 Amount		
釣銭機別釣銭有高表	Table of current amount of change in each change dispenser	
有高 Current amount		
警報設定	Alert	

設定一有高	Set value - Current amount
補充枚数	Amount of money to be replenished
警報禁止時間	Alert prohibited time
分	Minutes

(2) Comparison

The Amended Invention and the Cited Invention are compared below.

A Cited Document 1 ((1b)) includes the following description about an embodiment relating to the "currency processing system" in the Cited Invention: "the register unit 18 is composed of a coin change dispenser 100, a bill change dispenser 200, a POS register 300, etc. When a customer performs check-out in the check-out place 16, a store clerk deposits bills or gift certificates for a commodity received from the customer to the coin change dispenser 100 or the bill change dispenser 200 of the register unit 18, or dispenses currency as change from the coin change dispenser 100 or the bill change dispenser 200 to be returned to the customer."([0027]) Thus, from the "change dispenser arranged in a register" and "including at least a bill change dispenser 200," it is obvious that the Cited Invention is configured so that currency paid for a commodity is deposited, that currency as change is dispensed, and that currency as change is stored.

In addition, the "change dispenser arranged in a register" is configured to satisfactorily function from the start of operation as a matter of common general technical knowledge. Thus, it is obvious that a change fund as change should be stored in the "change dispenser" from the start of operation.

Therefore, it can be said that the "change dispenser arranged in a register" and "including at least a bill change dispenser 200" in the Cited Invention correspond to the "first money handling apparatus configured to deposit money as the amount paid for a commodity or dispense money as change, and to store money as a change fund in advance at the start of operation" in the Amended Invention.

B Cited Document 1 ((1b)) includes the following descriptions: "In a backyard area 20, a proceeds recharger 22 is disposed to which currencies as proceeds collected from the coin change dispenser 100 or the bill change dispenser 200 are deposited." ([0027]); and "Replacing the proceeds recharger 22 in the backyard area 20, a money deposit dispenser which performs deposit processing and dispensing processing of currency may be disposed to dispense currency from the money deposit dispenser as a change fund to be used in the coin change dispenser 100 or the bill change dispenser 200 of the register unit 18." ([0101]) Thus, it is obvious that the "currency processing device having a storage part for storing currency put into the machine" in the Cited Invention

can be embodied as a money deposit dispenser and that the currency as proceeds collected from the "change dispenser arranged in a register" is deposited.

The Cited Invention is configured to "dispense currency as a change fund from the storage part to the outside of the machine on the basis of the current amount of money in the change dispenser". Cited Document 1 ((1b)) includes the description, "to obtain the shortfall in change in the coin change dispenser 100 or the bill change dispenser 200, and automatically dispensing currency for the shortfall as a change fund in the money deposit dispenser" ([0101]). Accordingly, the "change fund" is shortfall in change in the coin change dispenser 100 or the bill change dispenser 200 and it is identified as change replenishment money to be replenished to the "change dispenser". Thus, it is also technically obvious that the "currency processing device" in the Cited Invention is embodied as a money deposit dispenser and that currency as change replenishment money for replenishing currency to the "change dispenser arranged in a register" is dispensed.

Considering A, it can be said that the "currency processing device" in the Cited Invention corresponds to the "second money handling apparatus configured to deposit money as proceeds collected from the first money handling apparatus or to dispense money as change replenishment money to be replenished to the first money handling apparatus" in the Amended Invention.

C The Cited Invention is "configured to transfer currency between the change dispenser and the currency processing device by use of the currency storage cassette", "configured so that currency in the currency storage cassette unlocked by the unlocking part is automatically put into the machine of the currency processing device and stored in the storage part", configured so that "the currency storage cassette is configured as a currency collection cassette 207 and is detachable from the housing 210", and configured so that "bills stored in the bill storage part 206 are conveyed to the bill collection cassette 207 to be stored in the bill collection cassette 207". Thus, it can be said that the "currency storage cassette" "configured as a currency collection cassette 207" corresponds to the "storage cassette which is configured to store money and feed out the stored money" in the Amended Invention.

D The Cited Invention is configured so that "the change dispenser includes at least a bill change dispenser 200, the bill change dispenser 200 includes a housing 210", and "in the housing, ... a bill collection cassette 207 ... is formed". The "currency storage cassette is configured as a currency collection cassette 207 and is detachable from the housing 210". Thus, it is obvious that the "currency storage cassette" "configured as a currency collection cassette 207" is detachably mounted in the "change dispenser" as

the "bill change dispenser 200".

The "currency processing device" in the Cited Invention includes "a reading part for reading information held by an information holding tool conveyed with a currency storage cassette", "The information holding tool is attached to the currency storage cassette", the "currency processing device" "further includes a mount part where the currency storage cassette is mounted", and "the reading part is arranged in the mount part". Thus, it is obvious that the "currency storage cassette" in the Cited Invention is detachably mounted on the "currency processing device" including the "reading part".

Therefore, in light of the above A to C, the configuration relating to mounting the "currency storage cassette" in the Cited Invention and the configuration of the Amended invention that "a storage cassette which is configured to store money and feed out the stored money is detachably mounted in each of the first money handling apparatus and the second money handling apparatus" are identical in that "a storage cassette which is configured to store money and feed out the stored money is detachably mounted in the first money handling apparatus and on the second money handling apparatus".

E The "information holding tool" "configured as an IC tag 207c" in the Cited Invention corresponds to the "recording medium" in the Amended Invention.

Therefore, in light of the above C, the configuration of the Cited Invention that "the information holding tool is attached to the currency storage cassette" corresponds to the configuration of the Amended Invention that "the storage cassette has a recording medium".

F The "IC reader/writer 218 arranged in the bill change dispenser 200" in the Cited Invention corresponds to the "first write unit" in the Amended Invention.

The Cited Invention is configured so that "bills stored in the bill storage part 206 are conveyed to the bill collection cassette 207 to be stored in the bill collection cassette 207, and an IC reader/writer 218 arranged in the bill change dispenser 200 writes to the IC tag 207c of the bill collection cassette 207 various pieces of information, such as ... the current amount of money in the bill change dispenser 200 ...". Thus, it is also obvious that the bill change dispenser 200 includes the IC reader/writer 218 which writes information relating to the current amount of money in the bill change dispenser 200 to the IC tag 207c of the bill collection cassette 207 when the bill collection cassette 207 is mounted in the bill change dispenser 200.

Therefore, in light of the above A to E, the configuration of the Cited Invention that the "bill change dispenser 200" includes the "IC reader/writer 218" corresponds to the configuration of the Amended Invention that "the first money handling apparatus

has a first write unit configured to write information on the current amount of money in the first money handling apparatus to the recording medium in the storage cassette when the storage cassette is mounted in the first money handling apparatus".

G The "currency processing device" in the Cited Invention includes "a reading part for reading information held by an information holding tool conveyed with a currency storage cassette", and further includes "a mount part where the currency storage cassette is mounted, wherein the reading part is arranged in the mount part", and is configured so that "the information holding tool is attached to the currency storage cassette". Thus, it is obvious that the currency processing device reads information from the information holding tool attached to the currency storage cassette by means of the reading part when the currency storage cassette is mounted on the currency processing device.

Accordingly, it can be said, considering the above B to E, that the "reading part" of the "currency processing device" in the Cited Invention and the "second read unit configured to read information from the recording medium in the storage cassette when the storage cassette is mounted in the second money handling apparatus" in the Amended Invention are identical in being "a second read unit configured to read information from the recording medium in the storage cassette when the storage cassette is mounted on the second money handling apparatus".

H The Cited Invention is configured so that "the information held in the information holding tool includes the current amount of money in a change dispenser which transfers currency to/from the currency processing device by use of the currency storage cassette" and "the information holding tool is configured as an IC tag 207c, bills stored in the bill storage part 206 are conveyed to the bill collection cassette 207 to be stored in the bill collection cassette 207, and an IC reader/writer 218 arranged in the bill change dispenser 200 writes various pieces of information to the IC tag 207c of the bill collection cassette 207, such as ... the current amount of money in the bill change dispenser 200 ...". Thus, it is obvious that the "information holding tool" "configured as an IC tag 207c" holds information relating to "the current amount of money" in the "bill change dispenser 200" constituting the "change dispenser".

The "control part" of the "currency processing device" in the Cited Invention is configured to "dispense currency as a change fund from the storage part to the outside of the machine on the basis of the current amount of money in the change dispenser in the information read by the reading part". Thus, it is obvious that the "control part" can be identified as current amount management means which manages the current amount of money in the "bill change dispenser 200" constituting the "change dispenser" on the basis of the information read by the reading part.

Accordingly, it can be said, considering the above A and G, that the "control part" in the Cited Invention corresponds to the "current amount management means configured to manage the current amount of money in the first money handling apparatus based on the information read by the second read unit" in the Amended Invention.

I The "currency processing system" in the Cited Invention corresponds to the "money management system" in the Amended Invention.

In light of the above, the Amended Invention and the Cited Invention are identical in the following points:

"A money management system comprising:

a first money handling apparatus configured to deposit money as the amount paid for a commodity or dispense money as change, and to store money as a change fund in advance at the start of operation; and

a second money handling apparatus configured to deposit money as proceeds collected from the first money handling apparatus or to dispense money as change replenishment money to be replenished to the first money handling apparatus, wherein

a storage cassette which is configured to store money and feed out the stored money is detachably mounted in the first money handling apparatus and on the second money handling apparatus,

the storage cassette has a recording medium,

the first money handling apparatus has a first write unit configured to write information on the current amount of money in the first money handling apparatus to the recording medium in the storage cassette when the storage cassette is mounted in the first money handling apparatus, and

the second money handling apparatus has a second read unit configured to read information from the recording medium in the storage cassette when the storage cassette is mounted on the second money handling apparatus, and current amount management means configured to manage the current amount of money in the first money handling apparatus based on the information read by the second read unit".

The Amended Invention and the Cited Invention are different in the following points:

<Different Feature 1>

The Amended Invention is configured so that the storage cassette is mounted "in" the second money handling apparatus, while the Cited Invention does not include such specification.

<Different Feature 2>

The Amended Invention is configured so that the second money handling apparatus "includes a storage unit which stores information on the quantity of money by kind regarding the change fund in the first money handling apparatus, and calculation means which calculates the quantity of money by kind regarding the change replenishment money to be deposited to the first money handling apparatus on the basis of the current amount of money in the first money handling apparatus managed by the current amount management means and the information stored in the storage unit", while the Cited Invention does not include such specification.

(3) Judgment

A Regarding Different Feature 1

The Cited Invention is configured so that "the currency in the currency storage cassette unlocked by the unlocking part is automatically put into the machine of the currency processing device and stored in the storage part", while a position (location) with respect to the machine where the "currency storage cassette" is mounted is not specified.

Examining as to where the currency storage cassette is mounted on the machine, the "bill change dispenser 200" in the Cited Invention "includes a housing 210 and in the housing, ... a bill collection cassette 207 ... is formed", "The currency storage cassette is configured as a currency collection cassette 207 and is detachable from the housing 210". Thus, the "currency collection cassette 207" is configured to be detachably mounted "in" the bill change dispenser 200".

Cited Document 1 ((1b)) describes that the proceeds recharger 22 has a housing 512, which stores paper sheet storage cassettes 538, 540 therein ([0053]), and that the "paper sheet storage cassette 538" and the "second paper sheet storage cassette 540" are configured to be detachably mounted "in" the "proceeds recharger 22".

As seen from how the "currency collection cassette 207", the "paper sheet storage cassette 538", and the "second paper sheet storage cassette 540" are mounted, it is technically common practice to mount the currency storage cassette "in" the machine, and this is a well-known and conventional matter of art. Thus, it should be said that the configuration of mounting the "currency storage cassette" "in" the "currency processing device" in the Cited Invention is a design matter which is set by a person skilled in the art accordingly.

Therefore, it can be said that the configuration of the Amended Invention relating to Different Feature 1 could be easily implemented by a person skilled in the art

on the basis of the Cited Invention and a well-known and conventional art.

B Regarding Different Feature 2

(A) The "control part " of the "currency processing device" in the Cited Invention is configured "to dispense currency as a change fund from the storage part to the outside of the machine on the basis of the current amount of money in the change dispenser in the information read by the reading part".

Cited Document 1 ((1b)) describes that "the information in the IC tag 207c is read by an IC reader (not shown) arranged in the backyard area 20, thereby allowing the money deposit dispenser to obtain the shortfall in change in the coin change dispenser 100 or the bill change dispenser 200, and automatically dispensing currency for the shortfall as a change fund in the money deposit dispenser" ([0101]). The "currency as a change fund" in the Cited Invention is identified as shortfall in change in the "bill change dispenser" in the Cited Invention, at least, and is considered as change replenishment money to be replenished as shortfall to the bill change dispenser 200. Thus, it can be said that the "currency as a change fund" in the Cited Invention corresponds to the "money regarding the change replenishment money" in the Amended Invention.

The "bill change dispenser 200" in the Cited Invention is configured as a "change dispenser arranged in a register". In light of commercial customs, it is obvious that 5,000-yen bills and 1,000-yen bills are used as change in such a "register" (see the description in the Cited document 3 (3a) [0026] "1,000-yen bills and 5,000-yen bills are used for change", as necessary). In addition, it is common in the technical field that at least set values (stored as set values in a storage part) for change required in the "bill change dispenser 200" and information on the current amount of money in the "bill change dispenser 200" are required for obtaining shortfall in change, in the "bill change dispenser 200" (see the descriptions in Cited Document 2 (2a) [0042]) "set values regarding cash management (e.g., the amount of money left) for each change dispenser 14, which are stored in a storage part 48", [0058] "optimal set values for each change dispenser 14" and "current cash amount information for each change dispenser 14", the descriptions in Cited Document 3 (3a) [0056] and [0060] "a change management table set in a storage part", "a table for setting required change", and "a table of current amount of change in each change dispenser", FIG. 10 (c) and (d) where "the amount of money to be replenished" is calculated by "Set value - Current amount" for the "kind of money" such as "5,000-yen bill" and "1,000-yen bill", as necessary).

Accordingly, in the Cited Invention, it can be said that a person skilled in the art

could easily implement the following configuration of the Amended Invention relating to Different Feature 2, on the basis of the Cited Invention and common general technical knowledge: in order to "dispense currency as a change fund from the storage part to the outside of the machine on the basis of the current amount of money in the change dispenser in the information read by the reading part", the "control part" of the "currency processing device" causes the storage part to store information on the quantity of money by kind (5,000-yen bill, 1,000-yen bill) regarding a change fund of the bill change dispenser 200, and calculates the quantity of money by kind relating to fund replenishment money to be replenished to the bill change dispenser 200 on the basis of the current amount of money in the bill change dispenser in the information read by the reading part and the information stored in the storage part.

C The effects obtained by the Amended Invention could also have been easily predicted by a person skilled in the art from the Cited Invention, well-known conventional arts, and common general technical knowledge, and those are not remarkable.

D Appellant's allegation

The Appellant alleges in a written request for trial dated April 10, 2020 ("4.") that Cited Document 1 and Cited Document 2 do not include any description or indication about calculating by the second money handling apparatus the amount of money by kind relating to change replenishment money to be replenished to the first money handling apparatus on the basis of information on a change fund of the first money handling apparatus stored in a storage unit of the second money handling apparatus, and a person skilled in the art cannot easily conceive of a configuration of accurately managing both the change fund and the change replenishment money.

However, as indicated in B, it is obvious from commercial customs that 5,000-yen bills and 1,000-yen bills are used as change in the "bill change dispenser 200" in the Cited Invention and it is common practice in the technical field that at least set values (stored as set values in a storage part) for change required in the "bill change dispenser 200" and information on the current amount of money in the "bill change dispenser 200" are required for obtaining shortfall in change. Thus, it is not remarkable for a person skilled in the art to calculate by the second money handling apparatus, the amount of money by kind relating to change replenishment money to be replenished to the first money handling apparatus on the basis of information on a change fund of the first money handling apparatus stored in a storage unit of the second money handling

apparatus.

Therefore, the Appellant's allegation cannot be accepted.

(4) Summary

As above, since the Amended Invention could have been easily made by a person skilled in the art on the basis of the Cited Invention, well-known conventional arts, and common general technical knowledge, the Appellant should not be granted a patent for the invention independently at the time of filing of the patent application.

Therefore, the Amendment violates the provisions of Article 126(7) of the Patent Act which is applied mutatis mutandis in the provisions of Article 17-2 (6) of the Patent Act, and it should be dismissed under the provisions of Article 53(1) of the Patent Act which is applied mutatis mutandis in the provisions of Article 159(1) of the Patent Act.

No. 3 Regarding the Invention

1 The Invention

The Amendment was dismissed as above. The invention according to Claim 1 of the present application is recognized as specified by the matters recited in Claim 1 of the scope of claims amended by the written amendment dated August 27, 2019. The invention according to Claim 1 of the present application (hereinafter referred to as "the Invention") is as described in "No. 2 1(1) Claim 1 before the Amendment".

2 Reasons for refusal stated in the examiner's decision

The reasons for refusal stated in the examiner's decision include the following reasons.

The invention according to Claim 1 of the present application could have been easily made by a person ordinarily skilled in the art of the invention before the filing of the application on the basis of the invention described in Cited Document 1 and well-known technical matters (Cited Document 1 [0053]). Thus, the Appellant should not be granted a patent for the invention under the provisions of Article 29(2) of the Patent Act.

Cited Document 1 is Cited Document 1 presented in "No. 2 2 2-2 (1)".

3 Judgment by the body

The Invention is as indicated in "No. 2 1 (1) Claim 1 before the Amendment"), and it is formed by deleting the underlined portions, which are matters required for specifying the Amended Invention, substantially.

Accordingly, the Amended Invention corresponding to an invention including all the matters specifying the Invention and additional other matters, as indicated in "No. 2 2 2-2 (3)(4)" could have been easily made by a person skilled in the art on the basis of well-known conventional arts and common general technical knowledge. Thus, it can be said that the Invention could also have been easily made by a person skilled in the art on the basis of the Cited Invention and the well-known conventional arts for the same reasons (excluding the judgment on Different Feature 2).

No. 4 Closing

As above, the Invention could have been easily made by a person skilled in the art on the basis of the Cited Invention and the well-known conventional arts. Thus, the Appellant should not be granted a patent for the invention under the provisions of Article 29(2) of the Patent Act.

The present application should be rejected without examining other claims.

Therefore, the appeal decision shall be made as described in the conclusion.

December 15, 2020

Chief administrative judge: ICHINOSE, Satoru
Administrative judge: UJIHARA, Yasuhiro
Administrative judge: SASAKI, Kazuhiro