

[54] AUTOMATED TRANSACTION SYSTEM WITH MODULAR PRINthead HAVING PRINT AUTHENTICATION FEATURE

4,637,051 1/1987 Clark 380/51
4,757,537 7/1988 Edelman et al. 380/51
4,802,218 1/1989 Wright et al. 380/23

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

0161181 11/1985 European Pat. Off. .

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Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Leighton K. Chong

[21] Appl. No.: 258,395

[57] ABSTRACT

[22] Filed: Oct. 17, 1988

An automated transaction system employs a terminal for printing a value indicia, such as a postmark, on an article. The terminal contains a modular printer unit which has a printhead and a dedicated microprocessor physically permanently bonded together such that the printhead microprocessor cannot be physically tampered with without disabling the printhead. The modular printer unit includes a first supply of visible ink and a second supply of invisible ink, and an internal program for printing the value indicia with visible ink and an authentication code, which uniquely corresponds to the value indicia, with invisible ink. The invisible value indicia can be subsequently verified as authentic by machine reading of said invisible authentication code and comparing the authentication code for correspondence to the value indicia.

Related U.S. Application Data

[62] Division of Ser. No. 935,244, Nov. 26, 1986, Pat. No. 4,802,218.

[51] Int. Cl.4 H04L 9/00

[52] U.S. Cl. 380/51; 380/23; 364/900; 340/825.34

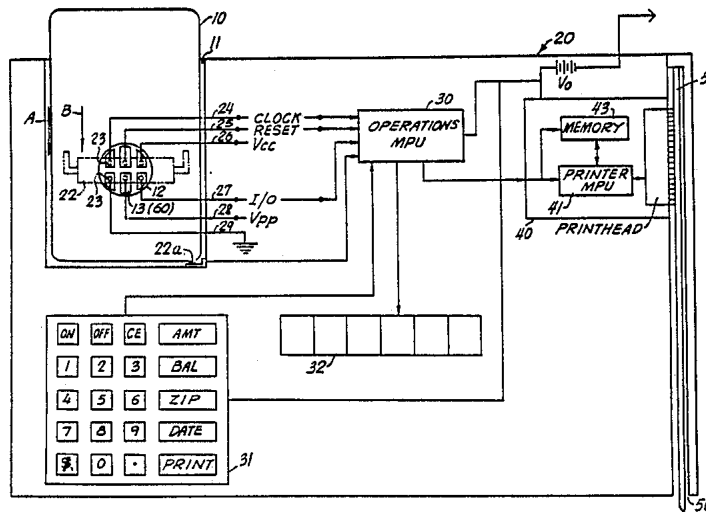
[58] Field of Search 380/23-25, 380/51; 235/379, 380, 487, 488, 492; 364/405, 705, 900; 340/825.34

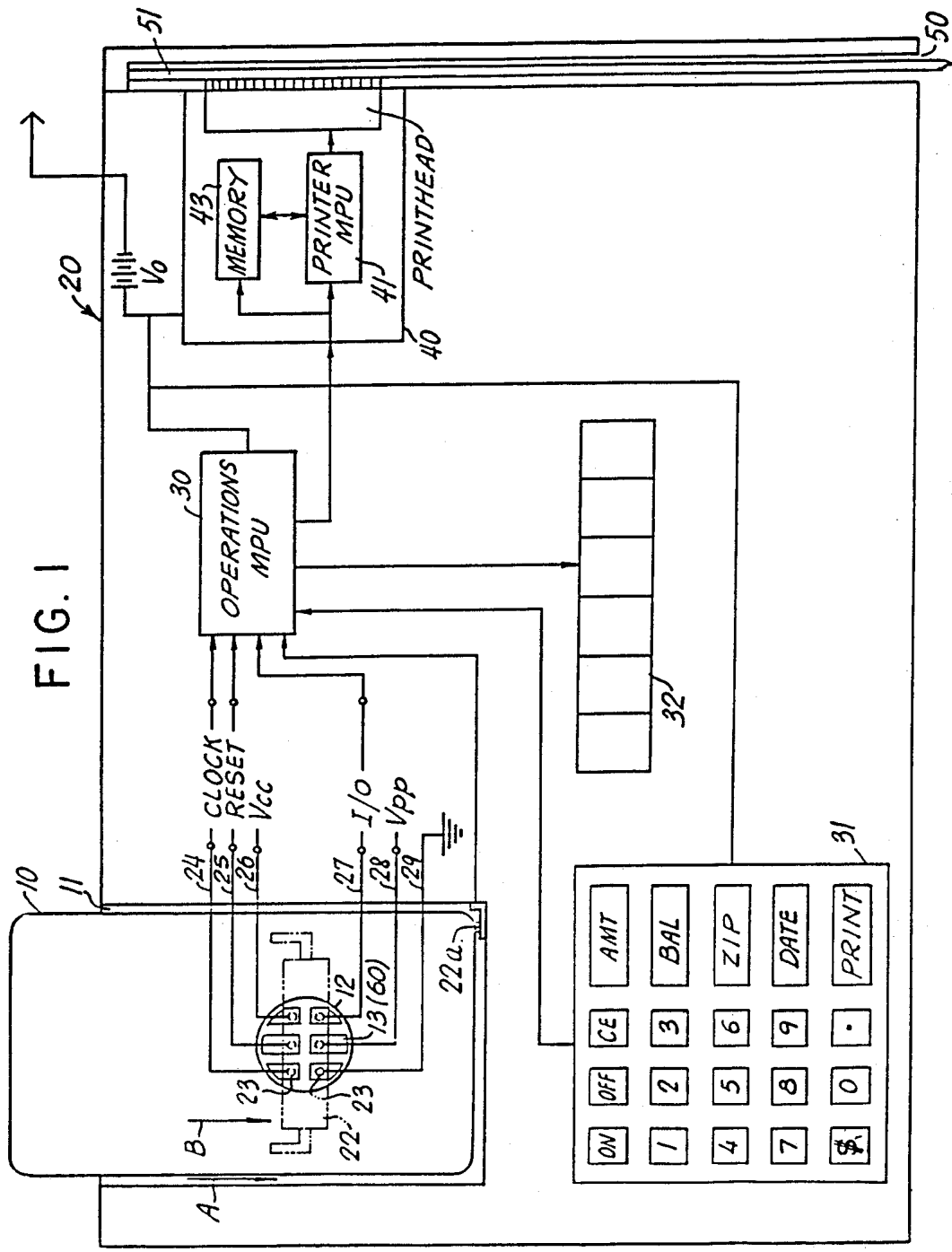
References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,024,380 5/1977 Gunn 235/487
4,168,533 9/1979 Schwartz et al. 364/900

18 Claims, 11 Drawing Sheets





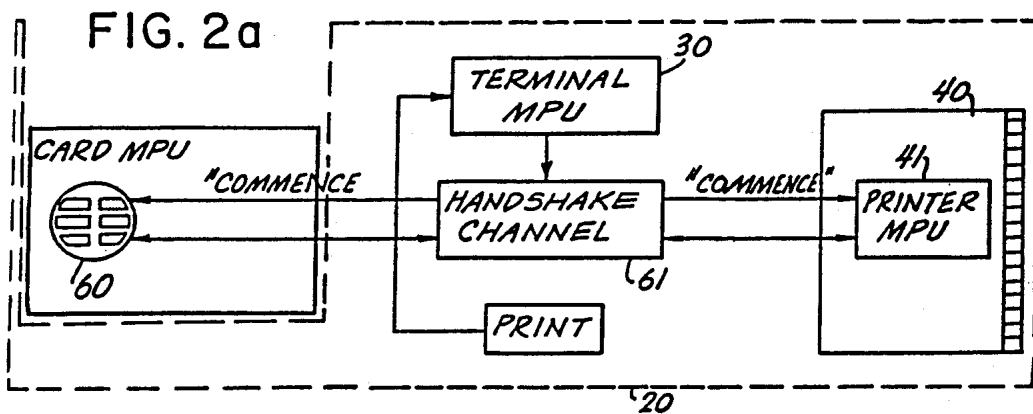
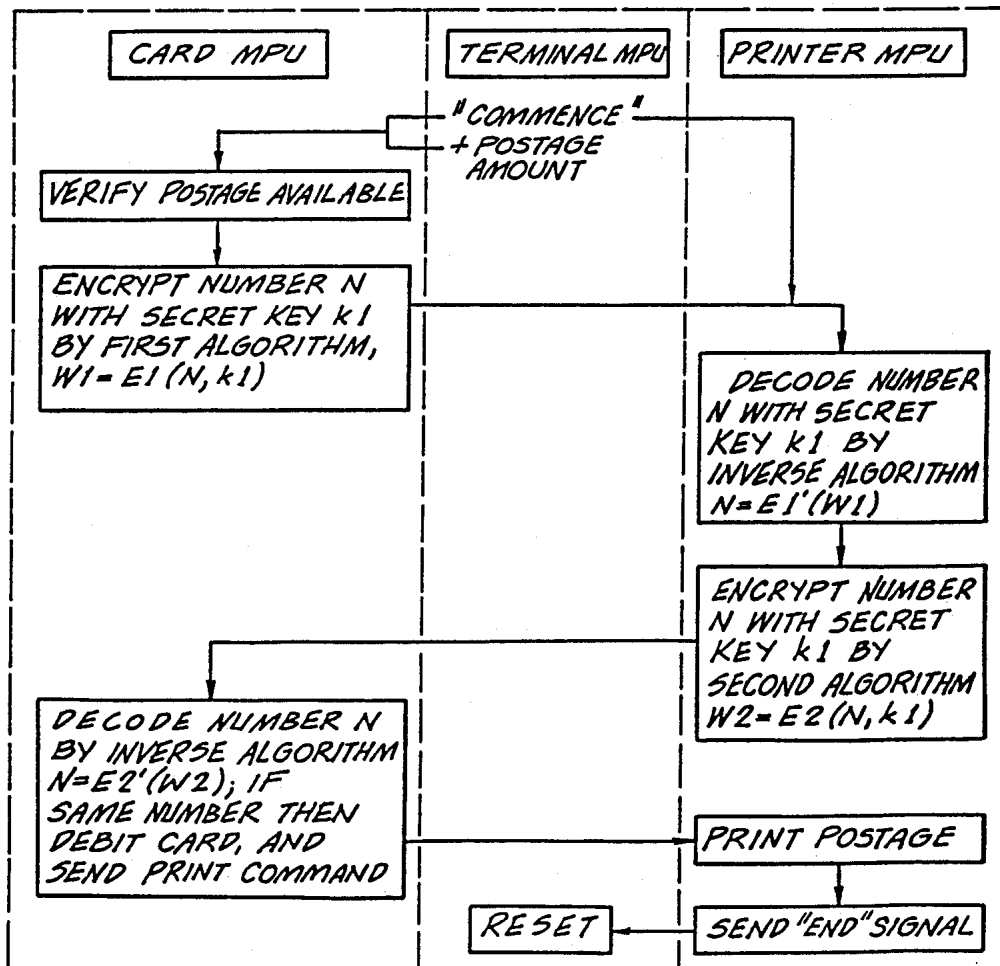


FIG. 2b



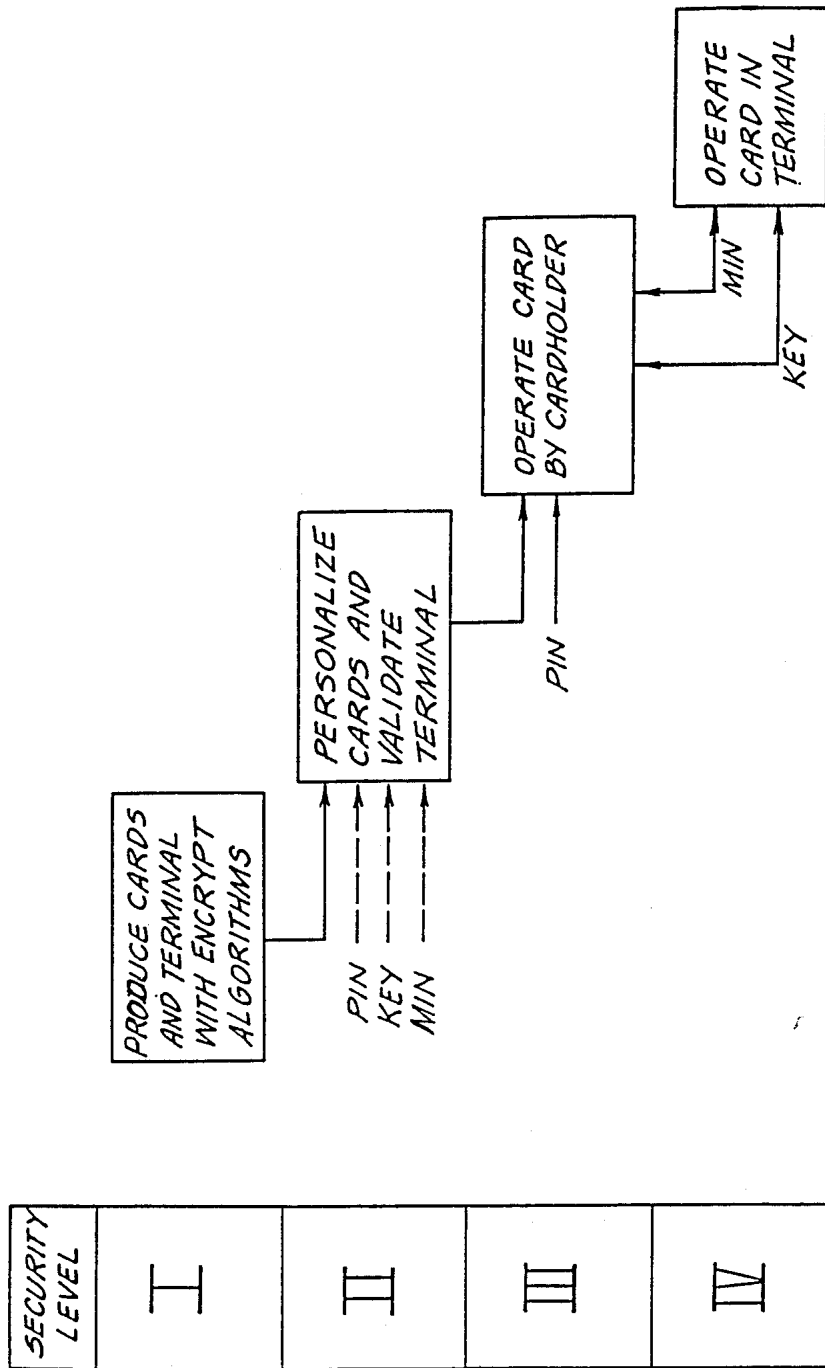


FIG. 3

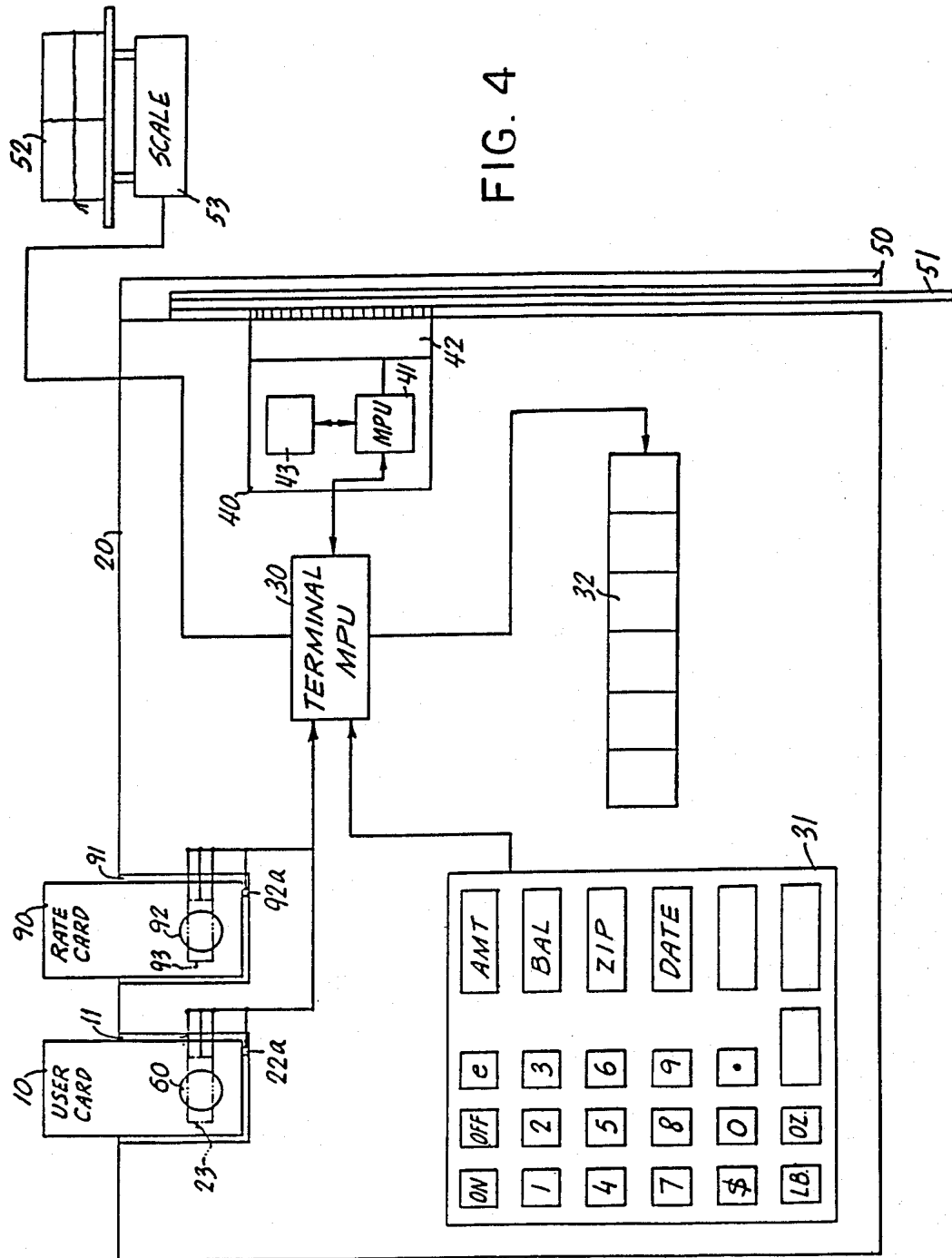


FIG. 4

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