The operation of this apparatus will be readily understood.
First, the twenty slides 2 coupled together in pairs are pushed into the ten grooves 1 of the base member 1 (Fig. 5) in such a manner that 65 of the order numerals of the head slides and of the tail slides form the sequence of numbers which has previously been agreed upon between the correspondents.

The cryptogram is then produced in the following manner.
Assuming that the text “Cours du 1m” (Fig 6) is to be deciphered, the knurled knobs 4 and 7 are operated in such a manner that in the central part of the reference mark 10, provided for the 75 head slides, there appear successively the letters C for the first slide from the left O for the second and so on to the letter N for the last slide.

By reason of the above-mentioned coupling, the tail slides have also been displaced during the preceding operation and the cryptogram has appeared in the central part of their reference mark 11 in this case “Ksadoronl.” (Fig. 6). Any other cryptograms for the same text could be obtained by modifying the permutation of the 95 slides. The number of different cryptograms which could thus be obtained is equal to the number of simple permutations of twenty numerals, namely

The cryptogram can be deciphered by preparing the apparatus as for ciphering i.e. by producing the same permutation of the slides and then causing the successive letters of the cryptogram to appear in the reference mark 11 of the tail slides.
The deciphered text will then appear in the reference mark 10 of the head slides.
It will be understood that various modifications may be made in the apparatus without departing from the scope of this invention. For example the number of slides employed may be varied and the control knobs with the spindles of the pinions may be otherwise disposed or replaced by other suitable operating gear.

I claim
For use in cryptographic devices exchangeable symbol carrying slides having oppositely directed hooks at opposite ends whereby to permit the slides to be quickly coupled and uncoupled for making up inter-changeable sets and a grooved base part for receiving said slides.

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