

J. LOTKA.  
 CIGARETTE CONTAINER.  
 APPLICATION FILED OCT. 10, 1917.

1,281,607

Patented Oct. 15, 1918.

Fig. 1.

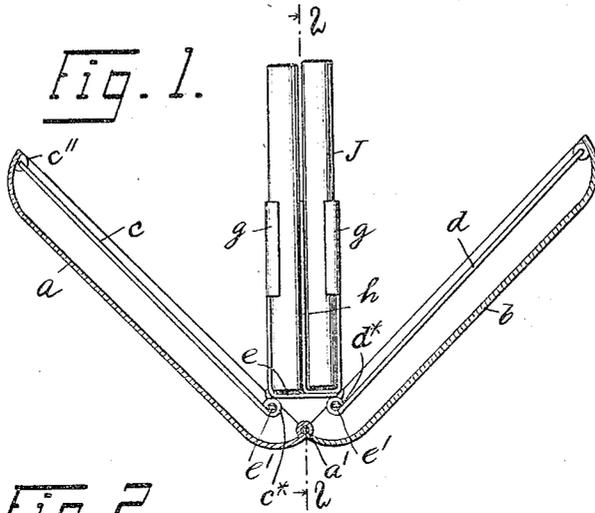


Fig. 2.

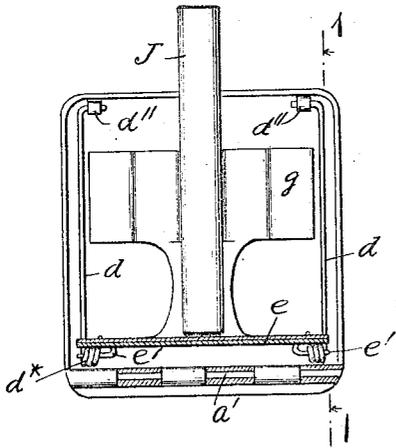


Fig. 3.

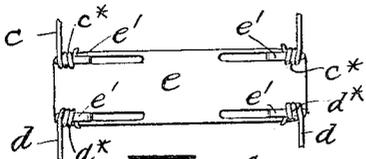
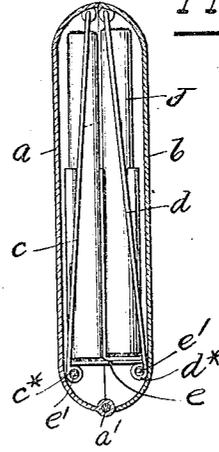


Fig. 4.

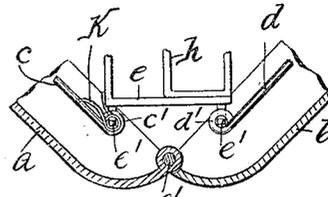


Fig. 5.

Inventor

*John Lotka*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN LOTKA, OF DEMAREST, NEW JERSEY, ASSIGNOR, BY MESNE ASSIGNMENTS,  
TO ILLINOIS WATCH CASE COMPANY, OF ELGIN, ILLINOIS, A CORPORATION OF  
ILLINOIS.

CIGARETTE-CONTAINER.

1,281,607.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 15, 1918.

Original application filed November 15, 1915, Serial No. 61,500. Divided and this application filed October 10, 1917. Serial No. 195,740.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN LOTKA, a citizen of the United States, and resident of Demarest, in the county of Bergen and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Cigarette-Containers, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to containers of the type which comprises two hinged lids and an inner member located between them, with means for keeping such inner member in a central position (equidistant from the lids) when the container or case is open. The object of my invention is to provide a very simple and compact construction of the above-indicated character, which can be manufactured at comparatively low cost.

My present application is a division of another application for Letters Patent of the United States filed by me November 15, 1915, Serial No. 61,500, which application, in addition to the subject-matter of the present division, discloses another species of my invention and contains a claim directed specifically to said species, and a generic claim. The subject-matter of the present application relates to a construction particularly adapted for cigarette cases made of metal.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, in which Figure 1 is a vertical section showing one form of my invention and taken substantially on line 1—1 of Fig. 2, and representing the case or container in the open position; Fig. 2 is a vertical section taken on line 2—2 of Fig. 1; Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 1, but showing the container closed; Fig. 4 is a detail bottom view of the inner member shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 3; and Fig. 5 is a partial vertical section illustrating another form of my present invention. For the sake of clearness, no cigarettes have been shown in Fig. 5.

The container illustrated comprises two lids *a, b* (held in the closed position, Fig. 3, by a catch of any usual or approved construction, not shown), which are hinged together at *a'*, and to their outer portions are secured at *e'', d''*, in any suitable manner, as by hinges or pivots, the outer ends of links or connecting members *c, d* respectively. The inner ends of said links are secured to the inner or central member or

base which is situated between the hinged lids, the particular way of securing these inner link ends shown in the drawings, consisting in forming tongues or pins *e'* on the bottom *e* of the said base or inner member, and coiling one end portion of each link around the corresponding pin, said coiled portions *c\** forming springs and their extremities engaging said base or inner member, and tending to keep it always in a central position, Figs. 1, 2, and 4. This inner member may be of any suitable construction, and if it is intended to form a holder for two rows of cigarettes *J*, as shown, it may comprise a section U-shaped in cross section and another section L-shaped in cross section, to form the partition *h* and the confining members *g*, which latter are preferably corrugated vertically as shown in Fig. 2 to form seats or pockets for the individual cigarettes. This arrangement will also cause those of the other row, as indicated in Figs. 1 and 3.

When the container is in the closed position (Fig. 3), the inner ends of the spring links *c, d* are quite close to the bodies of the respective lids *a, b*, and if the container is held vertical the entire inner member with the cigarettes held therein is virtually suspended by means of said links. As the case or container is opened, the links *c, d* will assume an inwardly-converging or V-shaped position, as shown in Fig. 1, and will keep the inner member, base, or holder in a central position, that is to say, equidistant from the lids *a, b*, or at least approximately so. The cigarettes are thus readily accessible and removable from the base or holder individually. The spring links, by the action of their coiled portions *c\**, also operate to open the container. It will be observed that the links *c, d* are shorter than the distance between the hinges *e'', d''* at their outer ends and the hinge *a'* connecting the pair of lids *a, b*. It will also be seen that the base or holder has no direct connection with the hinge *a'*. Further, the links may at all times remain within the respective lids, as shown in Figs. 1 and 3, thereby protecting the links by the walls or flanges of the lids, and also somewhat concealing the links even when the case is fully open, and thereby improving

the appearance of the case. That is to say, the links *c*, having their inner ends attached to the inner member, base, or holder, will at all times remain within the lid *a*,  
 5 or between the flanges of said lid, throughout the length of the links, and similarly, the link *d* will at all times remain within the lid *b*, or between its flanges.

The construction shown in Fig. 5 differs  
 10 from that of Figs. 1 to 4 only by the fact that the inner ends of the links *c*, *d* are simply formed into eyes *e'* to fit around the pins *e'*, while separate coiled springs *K* are employed to perform the function of the  
 15 coils *c\** and thus give the links the character of spring links. The springs *K* bear with one end against the inner member, base, or holder, and with the other end against the respective link *c* or *d*, to impart  
 20 elasticity thereto. Only one of the springs *K* is shown in Fig. 5, the other spring being omitted from this view for the sake of clearness. The springs *K* may be omitted if desired. The operation of the construc-

tion shown in Fig. 5 is substantially the same as described with reference to Figs. 1 to 4, the springs *K* having the same double function as the coils *c\**.

As stated at the beginning of this specification, the constructions shown herein are  
 30 adapted to be made of metal throughout. While the containers illustrated herein are intended for cigarettes, it will be obvious that by a suitable choice of dimensions the  
 35 container may be adapted to hold other articles, such as matches, cigars, etc.

Various modifications may be made without departing from the nature of my invention as set forth in the appended claim.

I claim:

40 In a cigarette case or the like, a pair of hinged lids; a base; a pair of spring links connecting with and suspending the base between said lids.

In testimony whereof, I have signed this  
 45 specification.

JOHN LOTKA.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."