Jan. 31, 1933. P. H. HORWITT 1,895,662

COMBINATION TABLE DISPENSER

Filed May 26, 1930

Fig. 1

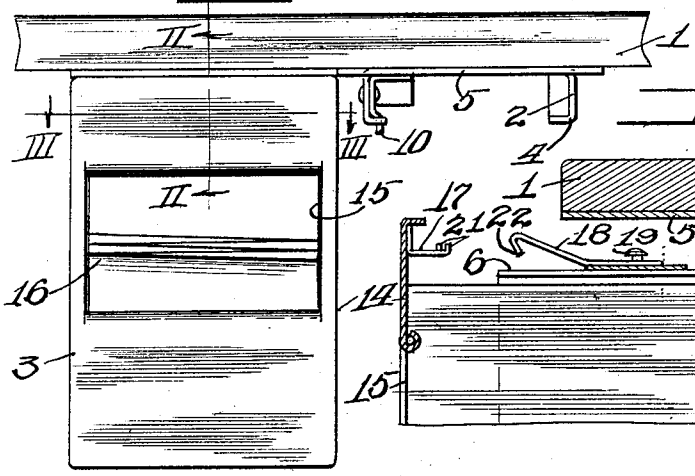



Fig. 2

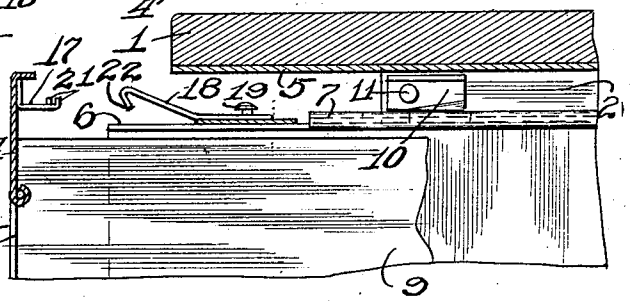



Fig. 4

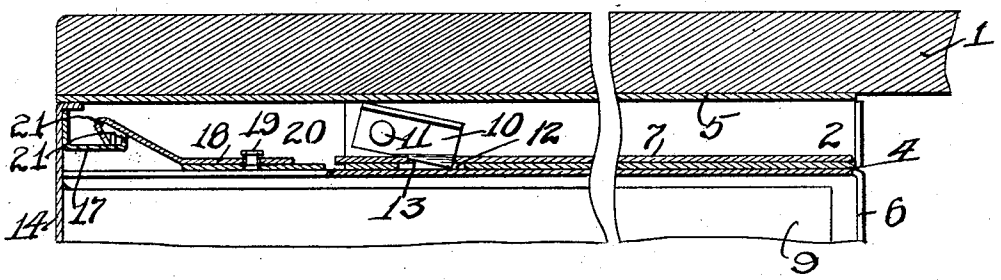
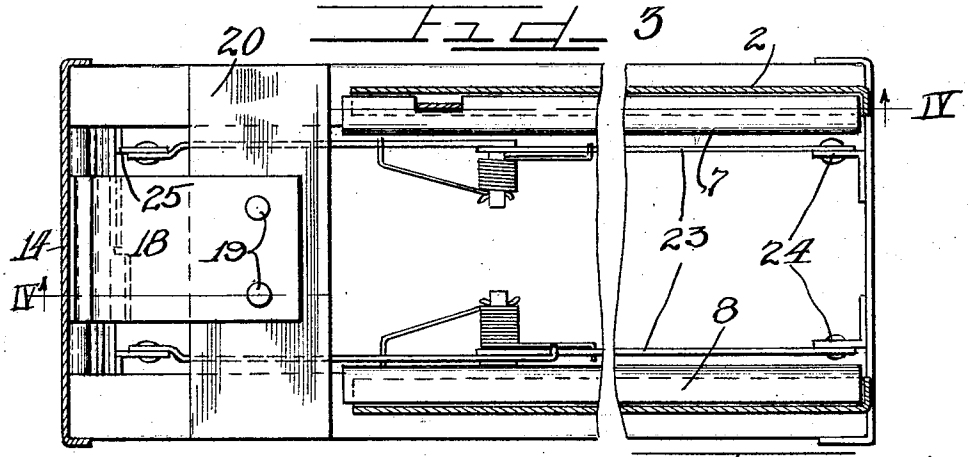



Fig. 3




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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## COMBINATION TABLE DISPENSER

Application filed May 26, 1930. Serial No. 455,578.

This invention relates to a combination table dispenser for folded paper articles, such as paper napkins and the like.

Dispensers for folded paper napkins for use in restaurants are generally of a type adapted to be placed upon the top of a table, counter, or the like. Such cabinet dispensers, while in general satisfactory, are often unsightly in appearance and subject to the disadvantage that they may be easily moved around from their proper position or even knocked off onto the floor.

It is therefore an object of this invention to provide a combination table dispensing device for folded napkins and like articles that may be releasably secured to a table or other supporting structure to form a fixed part thereof so long as the dispenser remains in service.

Other and further important objects of this invention will be apparent from the disclosures in the specification and the accompanying drawing.

This invention (in a preferred form) is illustrated in the drawing and hereinafter more fully described.

On the drawing:

Figure 1 is a front elevational view of a table fitted with a dispensing device in accordance with my invention.

Figure 2 is an enlarged sectional view taken substantially on line II—II of Figure 1, illustrating the operation.

Figure 3 is an enlarged sectional view taken substantially on line III—III of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is an enlarged sectional view taken substantially on the broken line IV—IV of Figure 3.

As shown on the drawing:

The reference numeral 1 indicates a serving top of a table, bench, counter, or the like, provided on its under surface with one or more sets of guides 2 for releasably retaining a dispenser 3 of the type more fully and completely described in my copending application entitled "Dispenser" Serial No. 455,577 filed even date herewith. The guides 2 comprise a pair of channel members having inturned flanges 4, the guides themselves being secured along their upper edge to a plate 5, which in turn is suitably fastened to the under surface of the serving top 1.

In the particular embodiment of dispenser as shown, the dispenser 3 comprises a casing 6 and a drawer 9 removably mounted therein. The casing 6 is preferably formed of sheet metal and is provided with a pair of reversely bent flanges 7 and 8 along the top edges of the side walls thereof to form grooves for receiving the inturned flanges 4 of the guides 2. A catch 10 comprising a rectangularly shaped flanged plate is eccentrically pivoted as at 11 on the inside of one of the guides 2 for engagement in a slot 12 provided in the upper wall of the flange 7. A corresponding slot or opening 13 is formed in the inturned flange 4 in order that the lower end of the plate 10 may extend through the slot 12 into said opening 13 and thereby prevent the removal of the casing so long as the catch is in position. For removal of the casing, the catch 10 may be manually raised and the casing drawn out upon the guides 2.

The drawer 9 comprises a scoop-shaped body portion open at the top and rear end and a front plate 14 having a dispensing window 15 through which folded paper articles, such as a folded paper napkin 16, may be readily removed. A catch member 17 is rigidly secured to the inside of the plate 14 near the top thereof for engagement with a gravity catch member 18 loosely secured as by means of rivets 19 to a plate 20 extending transversely of the casing 6 and secured to the upper edges thereof. Said catch member 17 is provided with one or more upwardly turned flanges 21 for engagement with a downwardly turned flange 22 formed upon the free end of the catch member 18. In order to release the catch members 17 and 18 from engagement for the removal of the drawer from the casing, it is merely necessary to insert a finger through the dispensing window 15 and raise the catch member 18 sufficiently to clear the prongs 21.

Actuating mechanism comprising a pair of jointed levers 23 pivotally connected to the rear wall of the casing as at 24 and to a follower plate 25 serve to maintain the folded articles 16 in proper position for dispensing.

This mechanism is more clearly and completely described in my copending application Serial No. 455,577 above referred to.

In installing a dispenser of my invention, the plate 5 providing the guides 2 is first secured to the underside of the serving top 1 with its front edge flush with the front edge of said top. The casing 6 is then positioned in place upon the guides 2 with the flanges 4 thereof extending within the grooves formed in the corresponding flanges 7 and 8 of the casing. In this position, the catch member 10 drops into the slots 12 and 13 provided for the purpose and the casing is then locked against intentional removal. It should be noted that the catch member 10 is in a concealed position and can only be operated through the dispensing window 15 or through the front end of the casing after the drawer 3 has been removed.

The drawer 3 is then filled with the folded paper articles to be dispensed and inserted in place within the casing 6. To lock the drawer in place, it is merely sufficient to push it into the casing until the catch members 17 and 18 become automatically engaged. In this position of the drawer, the front plate 14 lies flush with the front edge of the serving top 1 and presents a neat and attractive appearance. The catch members 17 and 18 are likewise concealed and operable only through the dispensing window 15 of the front plate 14. In order to refill the drawer 9, it is merely necessary to lift up the catch member 18 from engagement with the prongs 21 and slide the drawer 9 out from the casing. The drawer 9 being in the form of a scoop, may be readily filled with a stack of the paper articles to be dispensed and then reinserted in the casing.

It is thus apparent that I have provided a convenient manner of mounting a dispenser from the under side of a serving top so as to form a permanent and attractive fixture. At the same time, the construction of my dispensers provides for ready removal of the entire dispenser from the guides 2 should that become necessary and also for the easy refilling of the dispenser whenever required.

I am aware that many changes may be made and numerous details of construction may be varied through a wide range without departing from the principles of this invention, and I, therefore, do not purpose limiting the patent granted hereon otherwise than necessitated by the prior art.

I claim as my invention:

1. The combination with a supporting structure having a serving top, of an open front casing, reversibly bent flanges on the sides of said casing near the top thereof, a slot in one of said flanges, spaced parallel channel members on the underside of said supporting structure cooperating with said flanges to support the casing, an eccentrically mounted gravity catch on the inner side of one of said channel members, a slot in said channel member below said gravity catch to allow one end of said catch to drop beyond the channel through the slot in the casing flange, thereby locking the casing into position, a scooped shaped drawer slidable in said casing, a dispensing window in said drawer, means to feed articles to be dispensed toward said window, and a spring catch on top of said casing to retain the drawer in said casing, said drawer and said casing readily detachable from each other and from the supporting structure.

2. A dispenser, comprising a top closure member having opposed depending flanges provided with inturned lips, an elongated casing slidably guided in said closure member, said casing having opposed parallel upstanding walls provided with outturned terminal lips guided slidable on the terminal lips of said closure member, means to lock said casing in assembled relation with said closure member, said locking means comprising a slot formed in a lip of said casing and a gravity latch pivotally mounted on said closure member to enter the slot, and a dispensing drawer slidable longitudinally in said casing.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name at New York, New York County, New York.

PAUL H. HORWITT.