July 18, 1933. D. ELLIOTT 1,919,099

CIGARETTE PACKAGE HOLDER AND OPENER

Filed Feb. 17, 1932 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

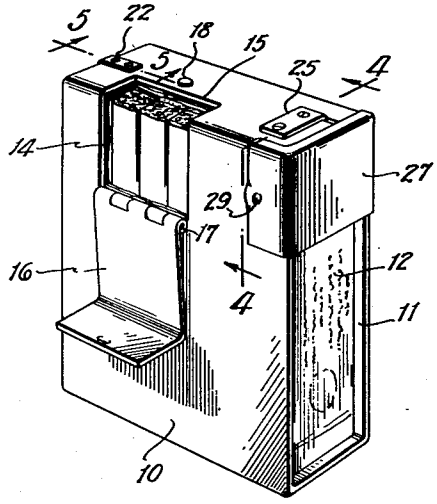


Fig. 2.

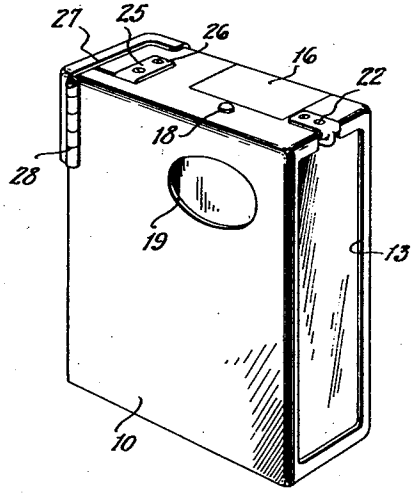


Fig. 3.

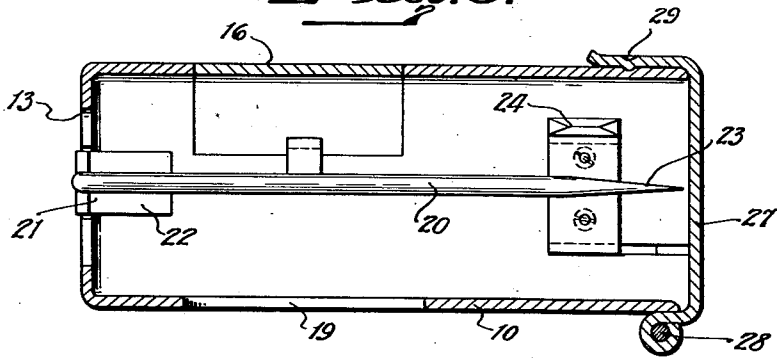


Fig. 5.

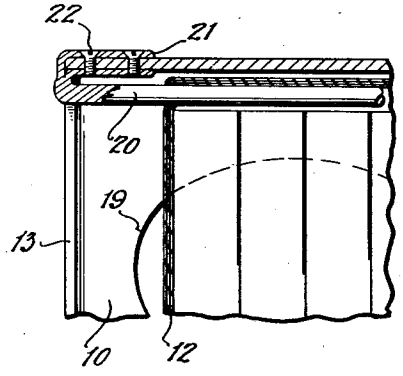
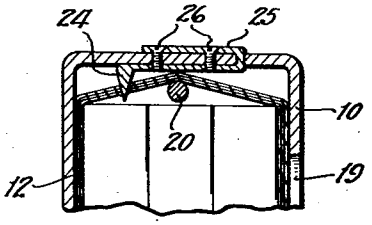


Fig. 4.



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Fig. 6.

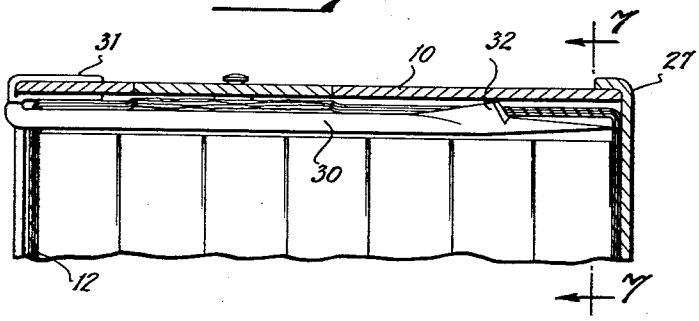


Fig. 7.

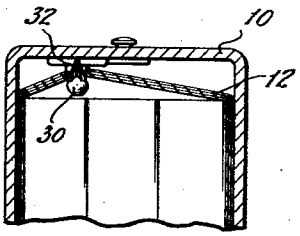


Fig. 8.

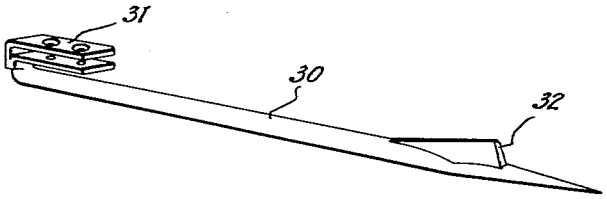


Fig. 9.

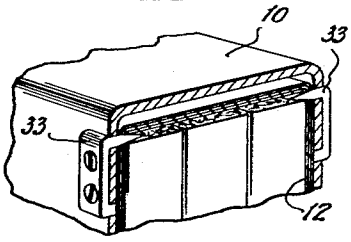


Fig. 10.

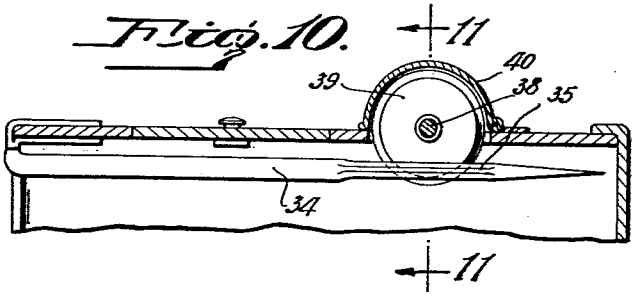


Fig. 11.

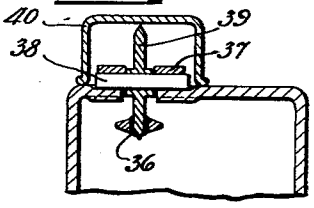


Fig. 12.

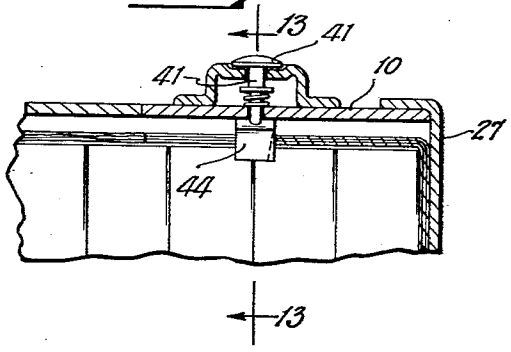
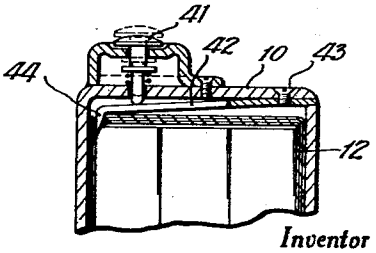


Fig. 13.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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CIGARETTE PACKAGE HOLDER AND OPENER

Application filed February 17, 1932. Serial No. 593,662.

This invention relates to improvements in cigarette package holders, and more particularly to a combination package opener and holder.

The primary object of the invention resides in a holder for slidably receiving a package of cigarettes to preserve the shape of the package and prevent crushing of the contents during carrying of the same in the pocket of the user. Furthermore, means is provided whereby the wrapper of the package may be cut for opening purposes during the sliding of the package into the holder without fear of damaging the cigarettes.

Another feature of the invention is to provide a simple and convenient means for opening a package of cigarettes and for holding the same when opened until the contents of the package have been exhausted whereupon the empty package wrapper may be removed and a fresh package substituted therefor.

With these and other objects in view, the invention resides in the certain novel construction, combination and arrangement of parts, the essential features of which are hereinafter fully described, are particularly pointed out in the appended claims, and are illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the preferred embodiment of my invention looking at one side of the device as showing a package of cigarettes contained therein.

Figure 2 is a similar view but looking at the opposite side of the device.

Figure 3 is a horizontal sectional view looking in the direction of the top end of the casing with the package of cigarettes removed therefrom.

Figure 4 is a detail vertical transverse sectional view on the line 4—4 of Figure 1.

Figure 5 is a detail vertical longitudinal sectional view on the line 5—5 of Figure 1.

Figure 6 is a detail vertical longitudinal sectional view through a modified form of my invention.

Figure 7 is a vertical transverse sectional view on the line 7—7 of Figure 6.

Figure 8 is a detail perspective view of the combination piercing member and knife used in the form of my invention shown in Figures 6 and 7.

Figure 9 is a fragmentary sectional perspective view of a further modified form.

Figure 10 is a fragmentary vertical longitudinal sectional view through a further modification.

Figure 11 is a vertical transverse sectional view on the line 11—11 of Figure 10.

Figure 12 is a fragmentary vertical longitudinal sectional view through a further modified form.

Figure 13 is a detail vertical transverse sectional view on the line 13—13 of Figure 12.

Referring to the drawings by reference characters, the numeral 10 designates a rectangular shaped casing which may be constructed of precious metal or other rigid material and which is provided with an open side wall 11 of a size to slidably permit a standard size cigarette package 12 to be inserted therethrough and into the casing 10. The opposite side wall of the casing is provided with inwardly extending flanges 13 which serve to limit the inward sliding movement of the package 12 into the casing or holder, but if desired, the wall opposite the opening 11 may be fully closed. However, it is preferred to have the same substantially open to reduce the weight of the casing 10.

The front wall of the casing 10 is cut away from the top edge as at 14, while the top wall is cut rearwardly as at 15 whereby the cut out portions 14 and 15 communicate to provide an opening through which the cigarettes contained within the casing 10 may be removed. An L-shaped closure member or door 16 is hinged at the end of the cut away portion 14 as at 17, and is adapted to be swung to a closed position to lie flush with the front and top walls of the casing. A releasable catch 18 is provided for securing the door 16 in a closed position.

The rear wall of the casing 10 is provided with an opening 19 into which the finger or thumb of a person may be inserted for pushing cigarettes forward toward the opening after the first row of cigarettes is removed.

The construction so far described is present in all of the forms of my invention herein shown, and like reference characters refer to similar parts throughout.

In the form of my invention shown in Figures 1 to 5 inclusive, I provide an elongated piercing member 20, which is provided with attaching flanges 21 at one end which are riveted or otherwise secured to the top wall of the casing as at 22. The opposite end of the piercing member 20 is pointed as at 23 and terminates adjacent the open side 11 of the casing 10. The piercing member 20 is

disposed in spaced relation with respect to the top wall of the casing and is located approximately midway between the front and rear sides of the said casing.

Also fixedly supported by the top wall of the casing is a cutting blade or knife 24 which is provided with attaching flanges 25 which are screwed or bolted to the top of the casing as at 26. The knife blade 24 is disposed parallel with respect to the piercing member 20 and is positioned to one side thereof as clearly shown in Figure 4 of the drawings. This knife blade is located adjacent the open side 11 of the casing 10.

From the description of the form of my invention shown in Figures 1 to 5 inclusive, it will be seen that when a package of cigarettes 12 is inserted through the open side 11 of the casing 10, the pointed end 23 of the piercing member 20 will penetrate the end wall of the wrapping of the cigarette package at a point above the top end of the cigarettes contained within the package. The piercing member 20 is threaded through the package for the full length thereof and as the package rides onto the shank of the member 20 after having been pierced by the pointed end 23, the top portion of the wrapper of the package is lifted as clearly shown in Figure 4 of the drawings. With the top of the wrapper lifted away from the cigarettes, the cutting knife 24 will cut or slit the wrapping without coming in contact with the cigarettes which will of course tend to damage the same. When the package 12 has been fully inserted, a slit extends the length of the package on the top wall thereof. After insertion of the package the operator swings the closure member 16 to an open position and proceeds to tear away a portion of the package wrapping of an area equal to the size of the cut away portions 14 and 15. This exposes the cigarettes at the cut away portions 14 and 15 to enable the removal of the same by the user when desired. By swinging the door 16 to a closed position, the contents of the cigarette package may be kept in pressed condition.

Although the friction between the package 12 and the inner walls of the casing 10 may be sufficient to retain the package 12 within the casing, I provide a door 27 for closing a portion of the open side 11 and which door is hinged to the rear wall of the casing as at 28 and is held closed by a catch or teet 29. This door also serves to protect possible injury to the hand of a user as it acts as a guard for the pointed end 23 of the piercing member 20.

In Figures 6 to 8 inclusive, I have shown a slightly modified form of my invention wherein a piercing member 30 is provided and which has attaching flanges 31 at one end thereof for attachment to the top wall of the casing 10. Formed integral with the shank of the piercing member 30 is a cutting knife or blade 32 which rises upwardly therefrom so that after the cigarette package has been pierced in the manner hereinbefore explained, the knife blade 32 will slit the top of the package in the same manner as the knife blade 24 in the preferred form. In this form, however, the piercing member is disposed to one side of the longitudinal center of the top wall of the casing as best seen in Figure 7 of the drawings.

In Figure 9 of the drawings I have illustrated a further modification wherein cutting knives 33 are fixed to the front and rear walls of the casing 10 and which blades extend inwardly from the front and rear walls of the casing 10 and are disposed substantially parallel with respect to the top wall of the casing. These cutting knives are located as to slit opposite sides of the cigarette package above the top ends of the cigarettes during the insertion of the package into the casing. By cutting the top corners of the package, the entire top may be torn free, or only that portion exposed by the cut away portions 14 and 15 of the casing.

In Figures 10 and 11 of the drawings, a still further modified form is shown wherein a piercing member 34 is provided and which is similar to those hereinbefore explained with the exception that it is flattened or widened adjacent the pointed end as at 35, and which portion is provided with a slot 36. Journaled in bearings 37 formed on the top wall of the casing is a stub shaft 38 on which a disc knife 39 is turnably mounted, and which disc extends through the slot 36. A guard casing 40 is fixedly secured to the top of the casing 10 for protecting the knife blade against contact with the hands of the user. The action performed in this instance is the same as that hereinbefore explained, as the piercing member 34 tends to lift the wrapping of the package away from the cigarettes to enable the knife disc 39 to perform the slitting or cutting operation.

In Figures 12 and 13 a still further modified form is shown wherein a spring actuated depressible plunger 41 is mounted on the top of the casing 10 and the lower or inner end of the plunger is engageable with a flat resilient spring 42 which is fixedly secured on the inside of the casing as at 43. The free end of the member 42 is bent downwardly and is formed with a cutting edge or blade 44 which is adapted to penetrate one of the upper corners of the cigarette package during the insertion of the package into the casing 10. The spring pressed plunger 41 is normally held in a retracted position at which time the knife blade 44 assumes an inoperative cutting position, but by depressing the plunger 41 to the position shown in full lines in Figures 12 and 13, the knife blade is disposed within the patch of the cigarette

package 12 during its insertion into the casing.

Although I have shown several forms of my invention, I wish it to be understood that various other modifications and changes may be resorted to if desired, as come within the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described the invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

1. A cigarette package opener and holder comprising a casing having an opening therein through which a package of cigarettes may be inserted, means within said casing for lifting the wrapping of an inserted cigarette package away from the contents thereof, and knife means within said casing adapted to cut the side of a package lifted by said means.

2. A cigarette package holder and opener comprising a casing having an opening therein through which a package of cigarettes is adapted to be slidably inserted, an elongated piercing element carried by said casing in spaced relation to the top wall thereof, and a cutting element carried by said casing and extending inwardly thereof and disposed adjacent said opening.

3. A cigarette package holder and opener comprising a casing having an opening therein through which a package of cigarettes is adapted to be slidably inserted, an elongated piercing element carried by said casing in spaced relation to the top wall thereof, a cutting element carried by said casing and extending inwardly thereof and disposed adjacent said opening, and a door for closing said opening to retain a package of cigarettes in said casing.

4. A cigarette package holder comprising a casing open at one side for facilitating the insertion of a package of cigarettes thereinto, a door for closing a portion of said open side, the top and one of the side walls of said casing being cut away to provide an opening therein for facilitating access to the cigarettes of a package inserted in said casing, and a closure member for closing said last mentioned opening and another opening in the casing for facilitating movement of the cigarettes to the last-mentioned opening.

5. A combination cigarette package opener and holder comprising a casing having an opening therein through which a package of cigarettes may be inserted, a pointed member fixedly secured to said casing and extending parallel and in spaced relation to the top wall thereof with its pointed end terminating adjacent said opening, and a cutting element extending inwardly from said casing and disposed adjacent the open side of said casing.

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