April 7, 1925. 1,532,602

T. E. RITCHIE

TOBACCO USER'S ARTICLE

Filed Oct. 3, 1922

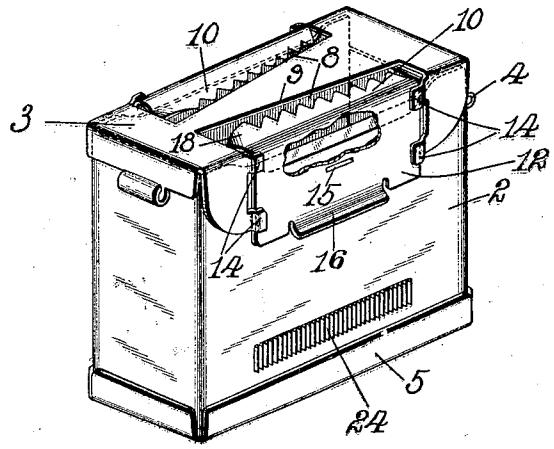


Fig. 1.

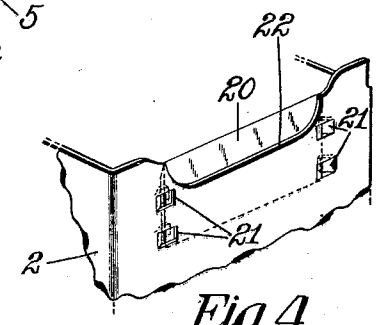


Fig. 4.

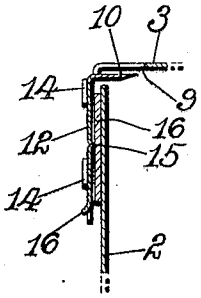


Fig. 3.

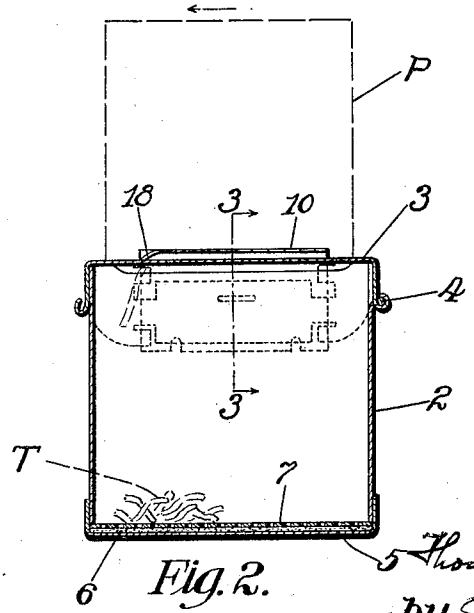


Fig. 2.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS E. RITCHIE, OF BEVERLY, MASSACHUSETTS.

TOBACCO-USER'S ARTICLE.

Application filed October 3, 1922. Serial No. 592,110.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS E. RITCHIE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Beverly, in the county of Essex and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Tobacco-Users' Articles, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a combined container and cutting device for plug tobacco.

A large percentage of pipe smokers find that plug tobacco gives them a sweeter and more satisfying smoke than fine cut tobacco, and they would use plug tobacco if it were not for the inconvenience of cutting the tobacco off the plug. It has not only the advantage over fine cut tobacco of being more mellow, but of holding the moisture more effectively and therefore keeping in better condition.

With these considerations in mind, it is the chief object of the present invention to devise an article which will facilitate the use of plug tobacco and which especially will overcome the objection above mentioned.

The nature of the invention will be readily understood from the following description when read in connection with the accompanying drawings, and the novel features will be particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

Referring now to the drawings,

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a container for a plug of tobacco equipped with cutting devices embodying the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal cross sectional view of the device shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary cross sectional view on the line 3—3, Fig. 2; and

Fig. 4 is a perspective view showing the manner in which one of the cutters is supported in the box.

The construction shown comprises a box 2 preferably made of sheet metal and having an open top. This top normally is closed by a cover 3, hinged to the back of the box at 4, and adapted to telescope the top of the box. The lower end of the box is closed by a telescoping bottom 5. This box is of suitable dimensions to receive comfortably a small size plug of tobacco such as a tobacco user ordinarily carries. In order to keep the tobacco in suitable temper, the bottom of the box preferably contains a sheet of felt, blotting paper, or other absorbent material, indicated at 6, which is supported between the cover 5 and a perforated metal plate 7 which overlies the end of the body 2 of the box. The sheet 6 is moistened and thus prevents evaporation from the plug of tobacco and supplies moisture to it if it is too dry.

For the purpose of cutting a pipeful of tobacco from the plug, the box shown is equipped with two cutters which are exactly alike so that one only need be described in detail. As shown, the cover 3 is provided with a diagonal slot 8, one edge of this slot consisting of the toothed edge of a cutter 10. This cutter is L-shaped in cross section, as clearly shown in Fig. 3, the cutting portion lying horizontally, while its shank 12 is located in a vertical guideway formed in one wall of the cover by punching lugs 14 outwardly from the material of the cover. Normally the edge 10 lies below the edge 9 of the slot 8, as shown in Fig. 3, so that there is no danger of its cutting the pocket or injuring any object with which it comes in contact. When it is to be used, however, it is pushed into an upper position above the edge 9, as shown in Fig. 2. The lowermost position of the cutter is determined by its striking the upper edge of the slot in the cover 3, while its upper position is determined by a lug or indentation 15, struck inwardly from the shank 12, engaging a notch 16 struck inwardly from the side wall of the cover 3. If desired the cutter can be pushed out of the guideway and removed, and for this purpose the lower end of the shank 12 is flared outwardly, as shown at 16, to afford a better hold for the fingers or thumb.

In using this device, the plug of tobacco is placed on the top of the cover 3 and is drawn lengthwise of the cover from right to left, the cutter 10 at this time being in its upper position. Fig. 2 shows this relationship of the parts, the plug of tobacco being indicated in dotted lines at P. The movement of the tobacco against the cutter causes the teeth to cut off an irregular or broken slice from the bottom of the plug, the shavings or cuttings falling through the slot 8 into the box, as shown at T, Fig. 2. These operations are repeated until the desired amount of tobacco has been cut from the plug. This tobacco is then emptied from the box into the pipe and does not need

to be rolled between the hands in the usual manner preparatory to filling the pipe. The plug is replaced in the box with any spare cuttings, the cover is closed, and the cutter 10 pushed into its lowermost position again. The presence of the humidifying element 6 in the box prevents the loose cuttings from drying out. It should be noted that the end of the cutter 10 is turned or bent downwardly, as shown at 18, Figs. 1 and 2, so that it directs the cuttings down into the box 2. Also the teeth of the cutter preferably are bevelled on their lower faces so that the cutter can be sharpened simply by rubbing a stone across its upper face.

As above stated, the box shown is provided with two cutters, as clearly illustrated in Fig. 1, the construction of these two cutters being exactly alike. The slots 8—8, however, for the two cutters are inclined oppositely to each other so that as the plug is drawn longitudinally of the cover 3 both cutters will act simultaneously on it. Usually, however, it is preferable to employ but a single cutter, the cover 3 having but a single slot 8. This construction is more economical to manufacture, and the necessary quantity of tobacco for a pipeful can be cut very quickly with a single cutter.

In order to facilitate the cutting off of a relatively large piece of tobacco for chewing purposes, another cutter or blade 20, Fig. 4, is removably supported in one wall of the body 2 of the box, this wall having lugs 21 struck out therefrom to receive and support the blade. The cutting edge of this blade lies just below the upper edge of the box so that it is enclosed in and protected by the cover when the cover is in its closed position. The side of the box is cut away as shown at 22, Fig. 4, to leave an ample portion of the blade free. With this arrangement the blade may be removed when desired and sharpened or ground.

A part of the wall of the box may be knurled or roughened, as shown at 24, Fig. 1, to facilitate the striking of matches.

It will now be appreciated that this invention provides a convenient container for plug tobacco, in which a suitable quantity of tobacco can be cut from the plug easily, either for the purpose of smoking or chewing, the cutters 10 or 20 being used according to the purpose for which the tobacco is desired. The device can be manufactured economically, the cutters are readily kept sharp, and the cutting edges are so protected that there is no danger of injuring the hands or clothing. Furthermore, the container keeps the tobacco in the proper condition at all times.

While I have herein shown and described the best embodiment of my invention which I have so far devised, it will readily be appreciated that this embodiment may be modified in many particulars without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention.

Having thus described my invention, what I desire to claim as new is:

1. An article of the character described, comprising a box adapted to contain a plug of tobacco, said box having an open end, a blade removably mounted in one side of said box with its edge at the edge of said open end, and a cover for said end protecting the edge of said blade when the cover is in its closed position.

2. An article of the character described, comprising a box adapted to contain a plug of tobacco, said box having an open end, lugs struck out from the side of said box, a blade removably supported in the side of the box by said lugs, and a hinged cover for said box arranged to telescope the end of the box and protecting the edge of said blade when the cover is in its closed position.

3. An article of the character described, comprising a box adapted to contain a plug of tobacco, said box having an open end, a cover for said end having a slot therein, and a toothed cutter forming one edge of said slot, said cutter being supported in the cover for movement into either a position above or below the level of the opposite edge of said slot.

4. An article of the character described, comprising a box adapted to contain a plug of tobacco, said box having an open end, a cover for said end having a slot therein, said cover telescoping the end of the box and having a guideway formed therein, an L-shaped cutter having a shank supported in said guideway and having a toothed cutting edge forming one edge of said slot, said cutter being movable up and down in said guideway, and stops to limit the movement of said cutter in said guideway.

5. An article of the character described, comprising a container for a plug of tobacco, one wall of said container being made of metal and having a slot therein, a toothed cutter located at one edge of said slot whereby tobacco may be cut from said plug by drawing the plug across the teeth of said cutter, and the tobacco so cut off will drop through said slot, and a downwardly directed part at one end of said cutter to deflect the tobacco into the container.

6. An article of the character described, comprising a box adapted to contain a plug of tobacco, said box having an open end, a cover hinged to said box and adapted to telescope the open end of the box, said cover having a slot formed diagonally therein, and a cutter supported in said cover and having its cutting edge forming one edge of said slot, said cutter and cover being relatively movable to expose or protect the cutter.

THOMAS E. RITCHIE.