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L. PENGILLY

CIGARETTE DISPENSER AND LIGHTER

Filed Feb. 5, 1923

Fig. 1

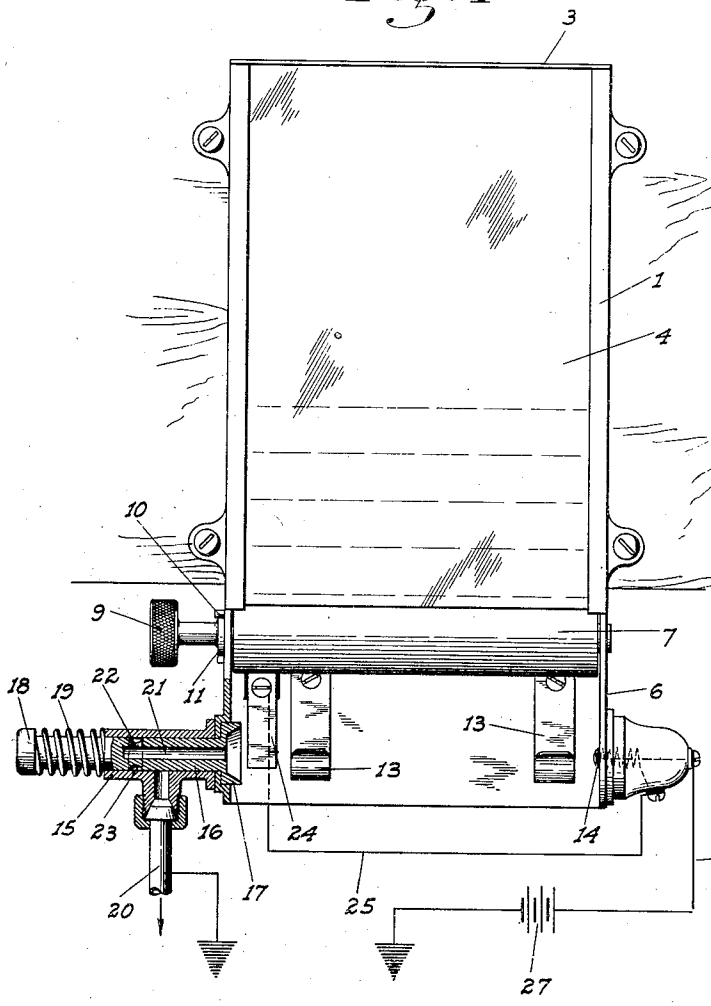


Fig. 2

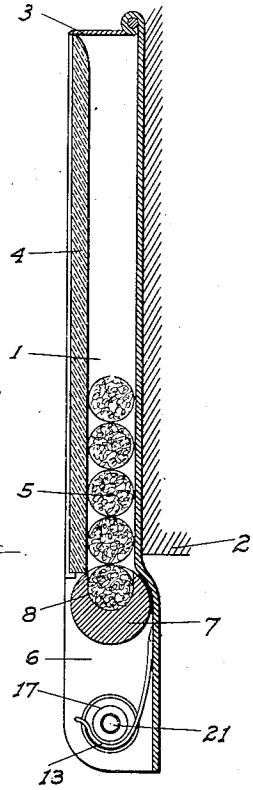


Fig. 3

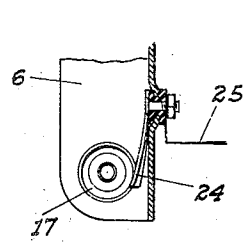
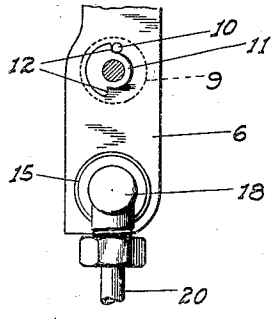


Fig. 4



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CIGARETTE DISPENSER AND LIGHTER.

Application filed February 5, 1923. Serial No. 616,906.

This invention relates to a device for holding, dispensing, and lighting cigarettes or cigars, the principal object being to provide an article for the purpose, by means of which a quantity of cigarettes etc. may be carried, dispensed one by one as wanted, and lighted before being removed from the device, one hand only of the operator being necessary for carrying out the dispensing and lighting operations.

The latter operation however is entirely independent of the former, and the cigarettes may be dispensed and removed without lighting them if desired.

My device is particularly intended to be mounted on an automobile, and will appeal to the large number of drivers who like to smoke while driving.

At present, the driver must fish around in one or the other of his pockets for the necessary article to smoke, and having found it, frequently in a crumpled or broken condition, must repeat the performance to locate a match. This being done, he must almost invariably use both hands while lighting the cigarettes to prevent the ever-present draft from extinguishing the match before it has served its purpose. This necessitates relinquishing hold on the steering wheel, which is an unsafe course to pursue if traveling at any considerable speed, and if the driver wishes to be absolutely safe, he must bring his car nearly or completely to a stop.

With my improved device installed within convenient range of the operator, the above unsafe, or inconvenient procedure is entirely avoided, and with one hand remaining constantly on the steering wheel to guide the vehicle, a cigarette in perfect condition may be dispensed and lighted in a few seconds with the use of the other hand, and without the use of matches.

The cigarette is also lighted or set fire to evenly, so that one side will not be ignited to a greater extent than the other.

A further object of the invention is to produce a simple and inexpensive device and yet one which will be exceedingly effective for the purposes for which it is designed.

These objects I accomplish by means of such structure and relative arrangement of parts as will fully appear by a perusal of the following specification and claims.

In the drawings similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several views.

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of the device.

Fig. 2 is a cross section thereof.

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary cross-section taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary end view of the device.

Referring now more particularly to the characters of reference on the drawings, the numeral 1 denotes a rectangular container adapted to be attached onto the dashboard 2 of a car. This casing is open along the bottom, has a hinged lid 3 on top, and the front is preferably of glass 4.

The cross sectional area of the container shown is such that a horizontally disposed cigarette 5 will fit easily therein, while the height of the container is such as to accommodate a desired number of superimposed cigarettes lying in the above stated position.

Turnably mounted in a framework 6 below the container and preferably formed as an extension thereof is a cylinder 7, positioned to close the lower end of the container and having a longitudinal slot 8 therein of a length and depth sufficient to accommodate one of the cigarettes. This cylinder, which may be termed the dispenser, is provided with a handle 9 on its outer end and is permitted to be turned only a half revolution and back and toward the back of the frame 6, or from a point where the slot 8 is uppermost to the opposite position of the latter.

This limited movement may be arranged for and controlled as desired, as for instance by means of a fixed pin 10 forming a stop for a member 11 fixed to rotate with the cylinder 7, said member having opposed shoulders 12 which abut against the stop 10 and are positioned to limit the travel of the cylinder to a half-turn, and only toward the back of the device, as above stated.

Fastened to the frame 6, and extending below the cylinder 7 are horizontal cradles 13, to support the cigarette dispensed from the cylinder.

At one end of said frame is mounted a small electric heating coil 14, located centrally of the end of a cigarette lying in the cradles, one end of said coil projecting inwardly of the frame a short distance.

In alinement with said coil but at the opposite end of the frame is a cylindrical casing 15 in which is slidably mounted a

plunger 16 having on its inner end, inwardly of the frame, a sloping-sided cup 17 to snugly receive one end of the cigarette in the cradles.

The plunger has a button 18 at its outer end, with a spring 19 between said button and the casing to normally hold the plunger-cup against the frame.

Connected to the casing and communicating with the bore thereof is a pipe 20, adapted to be connected to the intake manifold of the engine of the car on which the device is mounted.

The plunger 16 is blind-bored as at 21 inwardly from the cup to a point normally beyond the pipe 20, from which point a passage or port 22 leads to a peripheral groove 23 in the plunger, said groove being positioned to register with the opening of pipe 20 into the casing only when the plunger is pressed inwardly a certain distance.

Mounted on the frame 6 but insulated therefrom is a contact strip 24 connected by a lead 25 to one of the terminals of the coil 14. The other lead 26 from said coil is connected to the battery 27 of the car, which as usual is ground on the engine or chassis, as is the pipe 20.

The contact 24, while out of the way of a cigarette dropping from the dispenser, projects somewhat into the path of movement of the cup 17 so as to be engaged thereby with the inward movement of the cup and closing the circuit through the heater, as will be evident.

The device, as stated in the preamble, is especially of use when the car is running, and there is consequently a constant suction in the pipe 20.

Therefore when a cigarette is dispensed from the container onto the cradles, and the button 18 pressed in, the adjacent end of the cigarette will be wedged into the cup and the opposite end is forced by the latter into contact with the heating coil, the circuit through which has been already closed, as above described.

At the same time the pipe 20 is then in communication with the bore of the plunger and the suction through the pipe will of course cause a draft to pass through the porous cigarette from end to end, with the natural result that the end thereof, which is in contact with the heating coil will be very quickly and evenly ignited.

The plunger is then released, breaking the heater circuit and the draft, and releasing the cigarette, which may then be withdrawn by the fingers.

While the device has been shown and described in connection with cigarettes, it is evident that it may be made of a size to serve as a cigar dispenser and lighter as well.

From the foregoing description it will be readily seen that I have produced such a device as substantially fulfills the objects of the invention as set forth herein.

While this specification sets forth in detail the present and preferred construction of the device, still in practice such deviations from such detail may be resorted to as do not form a departure from the spirit of the invention, as defined by the appended claims.

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

1. A cigarette lighting device including a normally exposed and open supporting means arranged to allow a cigarette to be placed thereon in a horizontal position or removed therefrom by hand, and igniting means associated with the supporting means, adapted to be engaged at will with one end of the cigarette while the latter is supported on said means.

2. A cigarette lighter comprising a stationary exposed support for a cigarette, a stationary ignition means in alinement with but normally spaced from one end of a cigarette on the support, and means for engaging the cigarette and moving the same along the support into contact with the ignition means at will.

3. A cigarette lighter comprising a stationary exposed support for a cigarette, a stationary ignition means in alinement with but normally spaced from one end of a cigarette on the support, means for engaging the cigarette and moving the same along the support into contact with the ignition means at will, and means whereby with such movement the ignition means will be placed in operation.

4. A lighter for cigarettes and the like comprising supporting means for a cigarette, an ignition means mounted in connection with the supporting means in alinement with but spaced from one end of a cigarette located on said means, and a slidable plunger mounted for movement in alinement with said supported cigarette at the end thereof opposite the igniter and adapted to be moved at will to move the cigarette into engagement with the igniter.

5. A lighter for cigarettes and the like comprising supporting means for a cigarette, an electrical ignition means mounted in connection with the supporting means in alinement with one end of a cigarette located on said means, a slidable plunger mounted for movement in alinement with said supported cigarette at the end thereof opposite the igniter and adapted to be moved at will to move the cigarette into engagement with the igniter, a casing in which the plunger is mounted, a suction pipe connected to the casing, and a bore leading from the inner end of the plunger to the periphery thereof intermediate its end and adapted to

communicate with said pipe only when the plunger is pressed into engagement with the cigarette.

6. A cigarette lighter comprising a support for holding a cigarette in a horizontal position, suction means at one end of the support and an ignition means at the other, said suction and ignition means being normally spaced apart a distance to enable a cigarette being freely placed on or removed from the support without disturbing said means, and means actuable at will for causing the ends of the cigarette to be engaged with the suction and ignition means.

7. A cigarette lighting device including a supporting means for a cigarette, an igniting means with which one end of the cigarette may then be engaged, a suction means engageable with the opposite end of the cigarette and independent of the supporting means, and a common means for actuating the suction and ignition means.

8. A cigarette lighter comprising supporting means for a cigarette, a normally inert ignition means adapted to engage one end of the cigarette, but normally spaced therefrom, a normally inert suction means adapted to engage the opposite end of the cigarette but normally spaced therefrom, means actuated in common for causing the ends of the cigarette to be engaged with the ignition and suction means and for simultaneously rendering said means active, and means whereby the suctional means will not become active until the ends of the cigarette are thus engaged.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

LEWIS PENGILLY.