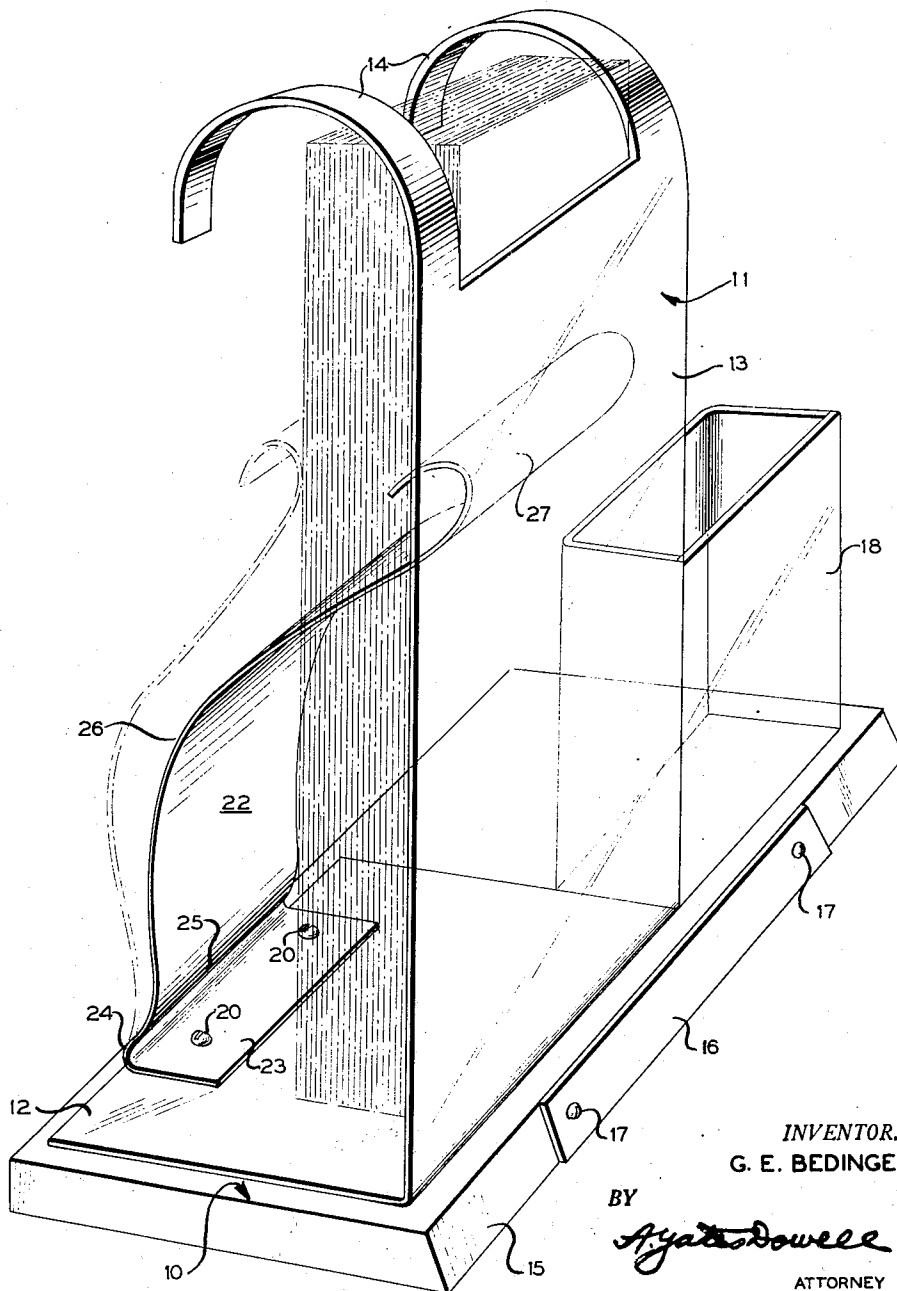


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DISPENSER

2,564,518



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DISPENSER

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2 Claims. (Cl. 211-51)

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This invention relates to a dispensing device for sheet material and more particularly to a device for holding and dispensing time tables, programs or the like in an air or railroad station, hotel, theatre, or other place where it is desired to dispense information.

Numerous types of dispensers have been employed in the past for various products including sheet material with information thereon.

However, the devices of the prior art have had inherent deficiencies such as complexity of structure and unpleasing appearance, and the spring members associated with said devices have often been unsatisfactory in various ways.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a simple and inexpensive dispenser of few parts and requiring a minimum of labor in its manufacture and which is attractive and convenient to use.

Another and more particular object of the invention is the provision of a spring member of improved characteristics designed particularly for use in combination with a relatively inflexible fixed member as a dispenser of sheet material, such as time tables or the like. Although the spring member of the present invention is described in combination with a dispenser, it is obvious that its applications are not limited to this use but that it may be employed in numerous other combinations.

Another object of the present invention is the provision of a spring member, in association with a dispenser or the like, having a relatively wide range of operation in order that the capacity of the device may be relatively large; a further object is the provision of a spring member capable of numerous oscillations without acquiring a fixed set or becoming weakened or otherwise incapable of effective operation.

Another object is the provision of a spring member, for a dispenser or the like, which possesses a flexibility suitable to the material being dispensed in order that too great effort will not have to be expended in removing the sheet material, thus subjecting it to tearing nor will the sheet material be held so loosely that it is easily disorganized or scattered.

Further objects and advantages of this invention will be apparent from the following specification taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

The single figure of the drawing is a perspective view of the dispenser.

With reference to the drawings, the dispenser comprises a base 10 to which is attached an up-

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standing relatively inflexible member or support 11 having a foot 12, a relatively thin upright body portion 13, and a pair of curved arms or guides 14.

Said base 10 has a beveled edge 15 on its forward portion for the reception of a name plate or the like 16 attached by any suitable means, such as screw fasteners 17. Also attached to said base is a receptacle 18 in the form of a hollow sleeve member which may be used to dispense courtesy items, such as cigarettes, chewing gum, toothpicks, or the like, by the users of the dispenser. Said receptacle is positioned adjacent the side edge of the support 11 so as to frictionally engage the same and assists in maintaining the rigidity of said support.

Attached to the base 10 and the support 11 by screw fastenings or other means 20 is a spring member or follower 22. Said spring member has a foot 23, a first curved portion 24, a second curved portion 25, a third curved portion 26 and a fourth curved portion 27.

Said spring is of relatively thin flexible sheet material and is designed to withstand a maximum amount of use through a relatively large range of operation without substantial diminution of strength or failure caused by a relatively large bending moment.

In the spring of the present invention, it is noted that there are three arcs or bends about which bending moments may occur. These arcs extend over substantially all of the free portion of the spring so that the bending stress is not concentrated in any one portion thereof, the arrangement of the arcs resulting in longer life of the spring. Furthermore, because the bending takes place about three arcs of the spring, it is apparent that the flexibility of the spring will be greater and its range of operation and life correspondingly increased. By varying the radius of the arcs of the spring it is possible to vary the force required to produce a movement of the free end of the spring.

The upper curved portion 27 of the spring 22 has no bending moments about it but serves merely as a finger hold for use in grasping the free end of the spring, as when placing a pack of sheet material in the dispenser, and also provides a rounded surface offering little resistance to the passage of sheet material.

The arms 14 on the support 11 in addition to having a pleasing appearance serve as guides between which the sheet material is received, in order to maintain the same in a relatively

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fixed relation to the dispenser and to keep the individual sheets in alignment.

It will be obvious to those skilled in the art that various changes may be made in the invention without departing from the spirit and scope thereof and therefore the invention is not limited by that which is shown in the drawing and described in the specification but only as indicated in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A dispenser for sheet material comprising a base having its forward edge beveled for the reception of a nameplate or the like, a support for the material to be dispensed having a relatively thin upright body portion with a foot portion at the lower end thereof secured to said base and at its upper end arms turned down to form guides, a spring member having its lower extremity attached to said base and to the foot portion of said support, the upper portion of said spring being curved to adapt it to bear against the material to be dispensed, and a hollow sleeve having its lower end attached to the base and with one side in frictional engagement with a side edge of the support to assist in maintaining the rigidity of said support.

2. A dispenser for sheet material comprising a base, an upstanding relatively inflexible member attached thereto, and a spring member attached to the base and the upstanding member,

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said spring member having a first arcuate section of relatively small radius a second arcuate section of a larger radius than said first arcuate section, a third arcuate section having a larger radius than said first and said second arcuate sections, a fourth arcuate section providing a hand hold for the free end of said spring, and a hollow sleeve attached to said base and positioned in frictional engagement with a side edge of said upstanding relatively inflexible member to assist in maintaining the rigidity of said member.

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