T. BARTHOLOMEW.

TOOTHPICK HOLDER.

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1,227,031. Patented May 22, 1917.

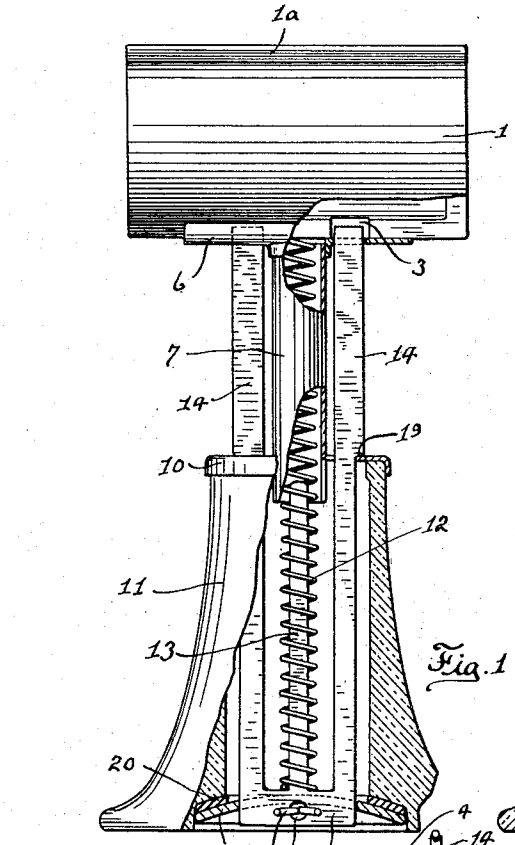


Fig. 1

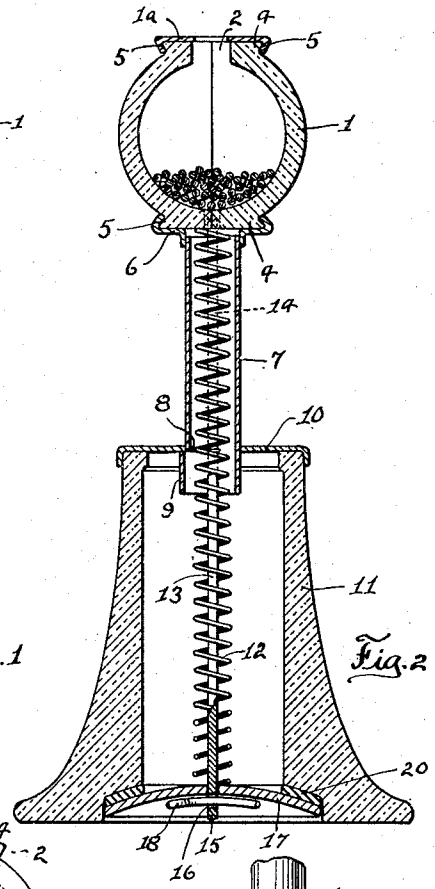


Fig. 2

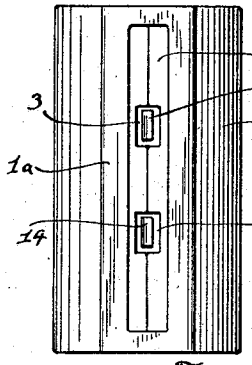


Fig. 4

Fig. 3

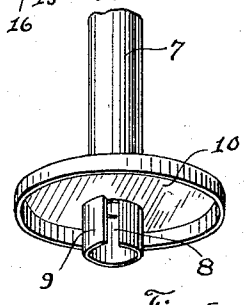


Fig. 5

Witnesses

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TOOTHPICK-HOLDER.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS BARTHOLOMEW, a citizen of the United States, residing at Columbus, in the county of Franklin and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Toothpick-Holders, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to tooth pick holders of the type designed for use principally in public places, such as hotels, restaurants, etc., where tooth picks are dispensed in large numbers among the public. My tooth pick holder is designed particularly to overcome the possibility of one person handling or touching more than one tooth pick during the act of selecting such and in this manner more perfect sanitation is made for.

It is the object of my invention to also construct the tooth pick holder along lines which will present a neat and graceful appearance and to also provide the necessary degree of rigidity, which guards against breakage.

Other objects of my invention will become more apparent as the specific construction is related. This construction is shown in the accompanying sheet of drawings, representing the preferred embodiment of my invention in which similar characters of reference designate corresponding parts and in which:

Figure 1 is a view partially in side elevation and partially in section showing my improvement,

Fig. 2 is a vertical section taken through the structure as shown in Fig. 1, both these views showing the tooth pick receptacle in elevated position,

Fig. 3 is an end view showing the tooth pick receptacle depressed,

Fig. 4 is a top plan view of the tooth pick receptacle showing the relation the selector element occupies, and,

Fig. 5 is a view in perspective of the lower end of the connecting stem for supporting the tooth pick receptacle.

The tooth pick receptacle is designated by the reference numeral 1 and is shown as being of substantially hollow cylindrical form having its ends closed and provided with a restricted longitudinal opening at its top. The receptacle is preferably made cylindrical to insure the proper collection of the tooth picks in proper relation within the base portion and in order to permit of this construction, I have made the receptacle in two halves, the halves being, if desired, then cemented together. This receptacle is preferably made of glass, in order that the using public may be able to determine at a glance the contents of the same. The lower side of each of the halves of the receptacle is further provided with a pair of spaced matched notched-out portions 3, through which the selector prongs are designed to pass and also boss portions 4 having one tapered side wall, as shown at 5. These tapered side walls are designed to form a ready detachable means of attachment to the remaining supporting sturcture and for holding the halves of the receptacle together, the upper slotted plate cover 1^a and the lower plate member 6 having their edges bent to proper form to slide into holding position, as shown in Fig. 3. To the member 6 there is attached a tubular stem 7 whose lower end is provided with a bayonet slot 8 in order that one edge portion 9 may be bent outwardly a slight distance as is shown in Figs. 2 and 5 to engage the underside of a suitably apertured cap portion 10 for the base portion 11. The edge portion 9 is bent out to limit the upward movement of the receptacle 1 under the influence of a spring 12, which spring is guided at its upper end by being confined within the tube 7 and is centered at its lower end by embracing an upstanding stem 13 forming a portion of the selector structure. This selector structure is completed by a pair of spaced selector prongs 14 located on opposite sides of the central stem 13 and tubular stem 7 to slidably pass through the notched-out portions 3 in the receptacle 1, each selector prong having a V-shaped groove in its upper end, whereby the tooth picks may readily seat themselves. Both the prongs 14 and the central stem 13 form an integral part of the selector structure as a whole and are connected by the base portion 15 having an aperture therein shown at 16. The base support 11 is made hollow to accommodate the spring and selector structure and is

closed at its lower end by means of a concaved cap 17 suitably apertured or slotted to permit the passage therethrough of the base portion 15 of the selector structure. After the device has been thus assembled, the cotter pin shown at 18 may be applied. In order to hold the cap closure 10 in position, the selector prongs 14 are cut to present shoulders such as shown at 19, these shoulders being designed to bear on the top side of the cap closure 10 when the cotter pin 18 securely holds the base portion 15 in engagement with the element 17. In order to render this holding more secure and to compensate for such slight variations as may occur in the manufacture of the device, a gasket 20 has been inserted between the element 17 and the countersunk portion of the base support 11, this gasket being either variable as to thickness or slightly compressible, as may be desired.

From the foregoing description, it will appear that depression of the receptacle 1 against the influence of the spring 12 will permit the selector prongs 14 to pass through the notched-out portions 3, whereby the V-shaped ends of said selector prongs will pick up a tooth pick or other article dispensed and elevate it relatively with the receptacle 1 to the position shown in Fig. 3. Release of the receptacle then causes its return to the position shown in Fig. 2, this return movement being limited by engagement of the outwardly bent portion 9 of the tubular stem 7 with the underside of the cap closure 10, all as clearly illustrated in Figs. 2 and 5. Because of the flat shape of the selector structure, the element 17 and the closure 10 must of necessity have slotted openings to permit the mounting of the same and because of this, it is impossible to rotate the receptacle 1 with respect to its base 11. The spring 13 is always held in perfectly centered position by its location within the tube 7 at its upper end and by being centered about the stem 13 at its lower end. If it is desired to clean the glass receptacle, this may be done by withdrawing the selector structure and then removing the plates 1^a and 6 whereby ready access to the interior of the receptacle may be had although, if necessary, this receptacle could be cleaned without removing the plates. This plate structure is desirable, however, as they facilitate to a great extent, the cheap manufacture of the glass or transparent receptacle and permit of ready assembling.

What I claim, is:

1. A tooth pick holder comprising a receptacle, a hollow base structure having an apertured closure at its top, a stem projecting through said aperture and carrying said receptacle at its upper end, spring means interposed between said receptacle and said base structure, means carried by the lower end of said stem and coöperating with said closure for limiting the upward movement of said receptacle, and a selector carried by said base structure and slidable through said receptacle.

2. A tooth pick holder comprising a receptacle, a hollow base structure having an apertured closure at its top, a hollow stem projecting through said aperture and carrying said receptacle at its upper end, a spring bearing at its lower end in said base structure and confined at its upper end within said hollow stem, means carried by the lower end of said stem for engaging said closure to limit the upward movement of said receptacle, and spaced selector prongs extending upward from said base on opposite sides of said stem and slidable through said receptacle.

3. A tooth pick holder comprising a receptacle, a hollow base structure, an apertured cap closure for the top of said base, a hollow stem attached to said receptacle and passing through said apertured cap, a selector structure comprising a pair of spaced prongs located on opposite sides of said stem and an upwardly projecting stem centrally located between said prongs, a spring centered at its lower end around said last named stem and at its upper end within said first named stem, means for limiting the upward movement of said receptacle, and means for attaching said selector structure to said base.

4. In a tooth pick holder, a hollow receptacle having a restricted opening formed in longitudinal halves, a pair of slotted plates shaped to grip the top and bottom of said halves to lock them together, the base of each half having a notched-out portion, and a selector structure movable through said coöperating notched-out portions and the slot in said bottom plate.

5. In a tooth pick holder, a hollow receptacle having a restricted opening and formed in longitudinal halves, the base of each half having a notched-out portion, a boss on the bottom of each half shaped to coöperate to form a lock in holding said halves together, a slotted plate whose edges are shaped to grip said bosses in locking the halves together, a supporting structure attached to said plate, and a selector structure movable through said notched-out portions and the slot in said plate.

6. In a tooth pick holder, a hollow receptacle having a restricted opening and formed in longitudinal halves, the base of each half having a notched-out portion, a boss on the top and bottom of each half having one tapered side wall, a slotted plate for the top of said receptacle whose side edges are shaped to grip the tapered side

walls of the top bosses formed on said receptacle, a securing plate similarly engaging the tapered side walls of the bottom receptacle bosses, a selector structure movable through said coöperating notched-out portions, and a supporting structure attached to said bottom securing plate.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

THOMAS BARTHOLOMEW.

Witnesses:
WALTER E. L. BOCK,
A. L. PHELPS.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."