

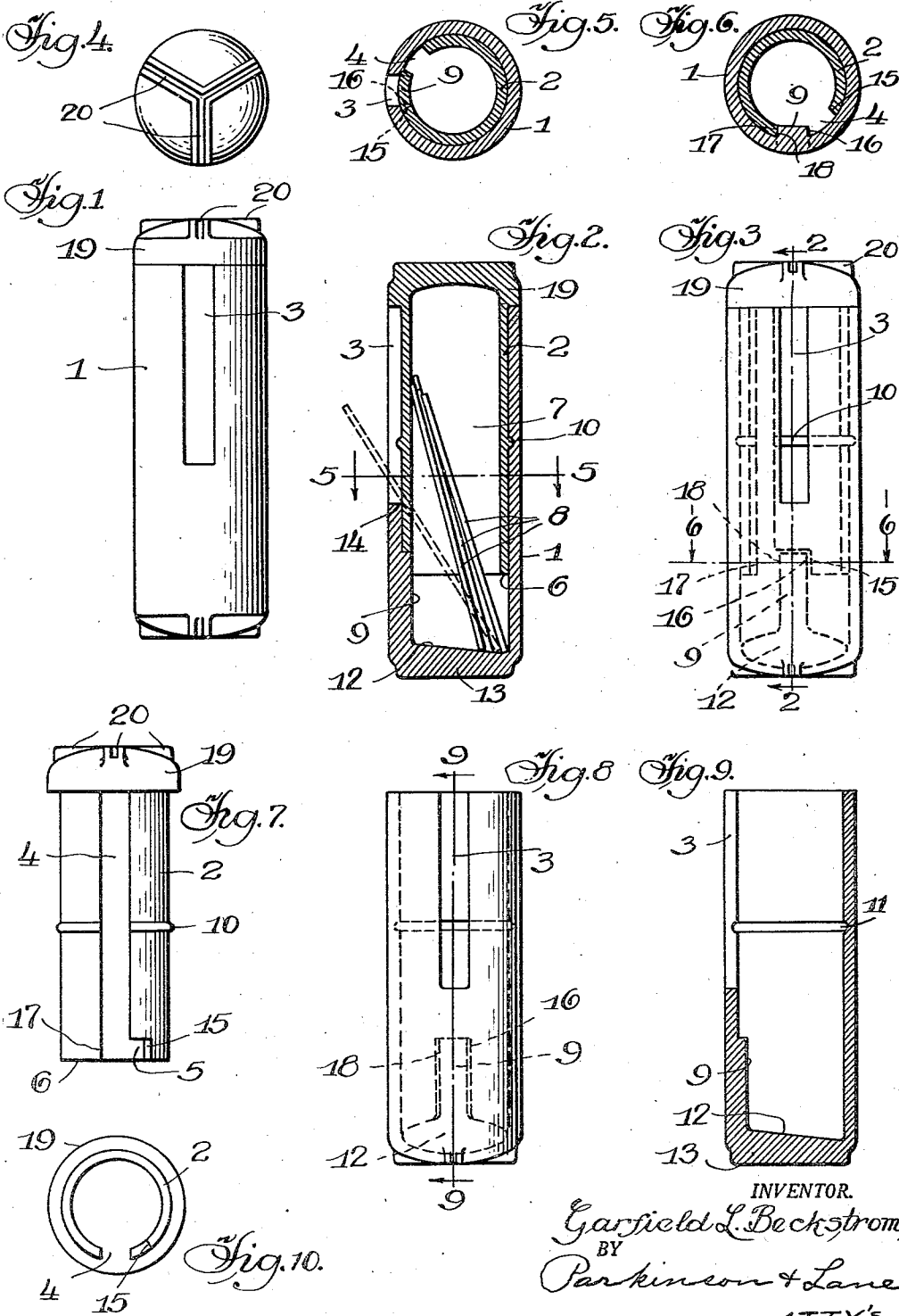
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CONTAINER FOR PENCIL LEADS AND THE LIKE.

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CONTAINER FOR PENCIL LEADS AND
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This invention relates to a container for mechanical pencil leads and the like, and more particularly to such container that is handy to be carried about and from which the leads may, when desired, be quickly and easily dispensed.

Leads for mechanical pencils and the like are small, more or less easily breakable, and somewhat difficult to pick up when dropped on the floor or other surface. Among the objects of this invention is to provide, for such leads, a container that is convenient to carry around, that will prevent the leads from becoming inadvertently spilled, and that may be easily manipulated for tilting one or more leads through a slot into position to be easily grasped when a new lead is desired.

A further object is to provide a lead container having a pair of hollow, relatively rotatable, telescoping members with slots that may be brought into registry for dispensing leads by a simple tilting action, and which slots may be moved out of registry when the dispensing of a lead is not desired.

A still further object is to so construct such container as to increase the tendency of the leads to project at an angle through the registering slots when the container is tilted a small amount from a vertical position, to enable the easy grasping of a lead.

Another object is to provide novel means for limiting the relative movement of the slots into and out of registry with each other.

Still another object is to provide novel means for normally holding the telescoping member against longitudinal separation, and yet permit such separation upon the application of a slight pull of one with relation to the other, for purposes of replenishment and the like.

Other objects, advantages and capabilities, inherently possessed by my invention, will later more fully appear.

My invention further resides in the combination, construction and arrangement of parts illustrated in the accompanying drawing, and while I have shown therein a preferred embodiment I wish it understood that the same is susceptible of modification and change without departing from the spirit of this invention.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of a pencil-lead container embodying my invention and showing the dispensing slots open.

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal vertical section on the line 2-2 of Fig. 3.

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Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 1, but showing the dispensing slot closed.

Fig. 4 is a top plan view of Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is a transverse section on the line 5-5 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 6 is a transverse section on the line 6-6 of Fig. 3 but showing the parts in open-slot position.

Fig. 7 is a side elevation of the inner rotatable hollow member.

Fig. 8 is a side elevation of the outer hollow member of the container.

Fig. 9 is a longitudinal vertical section on the line 9-9 of Fig. 8.

Fig. 10 is a bottom plan view of Fig. 7.

Referring in detail to the drawing my container for mechanical pencil leads and the like comprises an outer hollow member 1 and an inner hollow member 2 rotatably mounted therein. The outer member is formed with an elongated slot 3 and the inner member is formed with an elongated slot 4, these members being so constructed that they can be rotated a limited amount, one with relation to the other, to bring these two slots either into registry with each other to open the slots, or out of registry to close the slots.

As seen in Fig. 7, the slot 4 at its lower end is widened at 5, the bottom 6 of the inner member being open, so that the hollow interior of the inner member is in open communication with the hollow interior of the outer member to form a chamber 7 for containing leads 8. On the interior of the outer member 1, a slight distance below and in alignment with slot 3 is a rib or projection 9 over the upper end of which extends the lower end of the slot 4 of the inner member.

Intermediate of its length the inner member 2 is formed on its outer surface with an annular bead 10 which is seated in the annular groove 11 formed around the inner surface of the outer member 1. By reason of the slot 4 and the resiliency of the material of the walls of the inner member the bead 10 may be caused to seat within the groove 11 or be removed therefrom by a longitudinal pull on the inner member with relation to the outer member, thus normally holding these parts together and permitting their rotation one with relation to the other.

The inner surface 12 of the bottom 13 of the outer member is inclined or beveled outwardly and downwardly away from the side containing the slot 3, so that there is a tendency for the bottom ends of the leads to assume the position shown in solid lines in Fig. 2 when the slots are

out of registry and closed, and to facilitate one or more of the leads assuming the position shown in dotted lines in Fig. 2 when the slots are in registry and open and the container tilted the required amount at the top toward the slots to enable easy grasping of one of such leads. As seen in Fig. 2 the inclined or beveled bottom 12 is such as to cause the lead to lean at an angle across the shoulder or edge 14 at the inside of the bottom end of slot 3 thus throwing the lead (one or more) into an easy position for grasping.

The width of the increased portion 5 of the bottom end of the slot 4 is such that when the inner member 2 is rotated in a clockwise direction (the outer member remaining stationary) to the position shown in Fig. 5, the slots will be both closed, while when rotated as far as it will go in the opposite direction the slots will be in registry and completely open. This limit of movement to closed or open position of the slots is controlled by the striking of one edge or the other of the enlarged bottom end of slot 4 against one side or the other of the projection or rib 9, the slots being shown closed in Figs. 2, 3 and 5, and open in Figs. 1 and 6. In other words when the right hand edge 15 of the enlarged portion 5 of the bottom end of slot 4 (as viewed in Figs. 3 and 5) strikes the adjacent side 16 of rib or projection 9 the slots will be closed, and when the edge 17 of slot 4 strikes side 18 of rib 9 the slots will be open (see Fig. 6). This opening or closing of the slots is effected by partially rotating the inner member in one or the other direction within the outer member, which may be readily accomplished by grasping the top 19 and adjacent gripping ridges 20 of the inner member 2.

The inner and outer members will preferably be made of plastic material although any other suitable material may be used if desired.

It is thus seen that I have provided a container and dispenser for leads for mechanical pencils and the like in which the leads may be stored, and when one is desired the slots can be brought

into registry to open them, and a lead be caused to extend at an angle in easy grasping position by merely tilting the top of the container toward the slots. New leads may be introduced into the container by pulling the inner member out of the outer members to free bead 10 from groove 11.

Having thus disclosed my invention, I claim:

1. A container for leads for mechanical pencils and the like, comprising a pair of hollow telescoping members each closed at one end and each having a longitudinally extending slot extending to the open end thereof, said members being movable with relation to each other to bring the slots into and out of registry to open and close the same, one of said members having a shoulder positioned at the inner closed end of its slot and an inclined bottom slanting away from the slot, said shoulder being spaced from the bottom a distance not less than the width of the container, the slanting bottom tending to cause the leads to assume a tilted position toward the slot when the container is held upright.

2. A container for leads for mechanical pencils and the like, comprising a pair of hollow telescoping members each closed at one end and each having a longitudinally extending slot, said members being rotatable with relation to each other to bring the slots into and out of registry to open and close the same, one of said members having a shoulder positioned at the inner closed end of its slot and an inclined bottom slanting downwardly away from the slot, the slanting bottom tending to cause the leads to assume a tilted position toward the slot and against the shoulder when the container is held upright, and said shoulder being spaced from the lower remote end of the bottom a distance substantially one-half the longitudinal inner dimension of the container to retain the tilted leads against falling through the slots when these slots are in registry.

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