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CIGARETTE PACKAGE HOLDER

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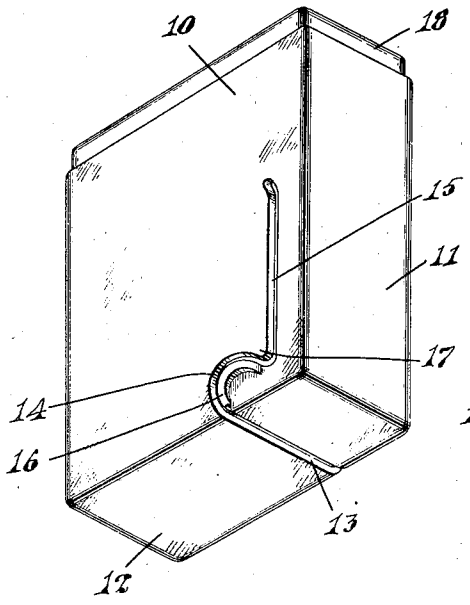


Fig. 1.

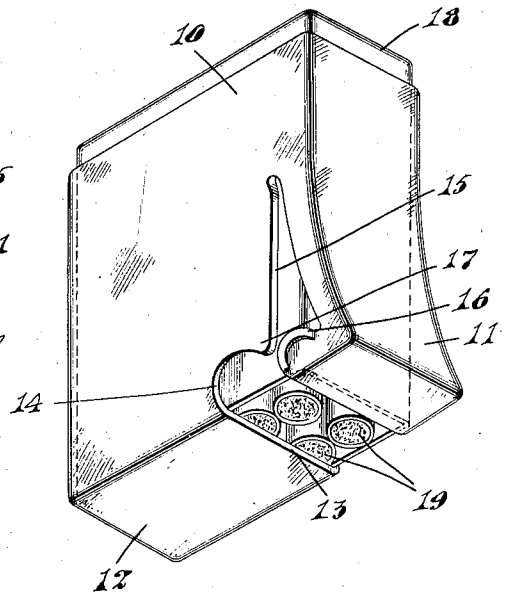


Fig. 2.

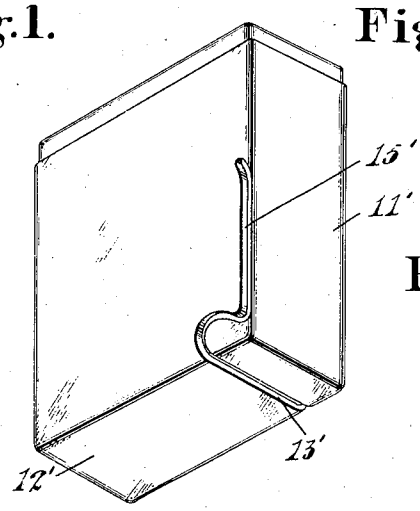


Fig. 3.

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CIGARETTE PACKAGE HOLDER

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4 Claims. (Cl. 206—41)

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This invention comprises a new and improved case for a cigarette package. The object of the invention is to provide a case of attractive and inexpensive construction designed to receive and hold frictionally an individual cigarette package, to protect it and its contents against crushing, to close automatically and to afford convenient access to the cigarettes in the package when the user wishes to extract one.

With these ends in view my invention comprises in one aspect an open ended rectangular body of thin resilient plastic material having wide and narrow side walls and a normally closed end wall transversely slitted by a slit which extends at both ends into the wide side walls of the said body, thereby forming a flexible hinge and permitting a portion of the end wall to be sprung temporarily into open position.

Going more into detail, I may employ a transparent or a colored translucent plastic such as Vinylite or Lucite, and mold it at a single operation into shape to fit and substantially enclose a cigarette package. The package is first opened at one end and then inserted into the open end of the case with its own open end sealed by the normally closed end of the case. The transverse slit in the end of the case sets off a portion somewhat wider than the cross sectional area of the cigarettes at one side of the package and this offset portion serves as a displaceable cover which may be sprung outwardly due to the inherent resiliency of the plastic material.

Preferably and as herein shown the transverse slit is extended into parallel slits in the side walls of the case which slits define rounded projections or catches over which corresponding parts of the cover section must be sprung in opening the case. As an optional feature there is herein shown a projecting flange on each side of the cover portion and these may be engaged by the fingers of the user to facilitate the opening of the case.

These and other features of the invention will be best understood and appreciated from the following description of a preferred embodiment thereof, selected for purposes of illustration and shown in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Fig. 1 is a view in perspective of the closed case containing a cigarette package,

Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the case in open condition, and

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary view in perspective showing a modified construction.

In its illustrated form the case of my invention comprises a rectangular body of thin resilient plastic material molded in sheet form. Any tough, moldable, resilient, resinous product may be used for the material of the case such, for example, as Vinylite or Lucite and these may be employed in transparent or in colored translucent form. The case is open at its upper end as shown in the drawings and is of such dimensions as to receive snugly a single commercial package of cigarettes. The body of the case includes wide side walls 10, narrow side walls 11 and an end wall 12 which, in the position shown in the drawings, forms the bottom of the case and covers the open end of the cigarette package.

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The bottom or end wall 12 has a transverse slit 13 setting off approximately one quarter of the area of this wall adjacent to one of the narrow side walls 11. The slit 13 is extended into the wide side walls 10 of the case, merging in each wall into a short semi-circular slit 14 which defines a convex portion in the cover and in turn merges into a straight slit 15 extending longitudinally more than half way toward the open end of the case. It will thus be seen that the slits set off most of the narrow wall 11 from the body of the case and form a flexible hinge in this offset section which includes also flanges formed in the wide side walls and the outwardly projecting curved flanges 16 and the severed portion of the end wall 12. The convex portions formed by the semi-circular slits 14 in the cover normally lie inside and opposite to rounded projections or catches 17 correspondingly formed in the body of the case.

By reason of the natural resiliency of the material the case tends at all times to remain in the closed position shown in Fig. 1. However, by applying outward pressure to the flanges 16 the hinged portion above defined may be swung outwardly as suggested in Fig. 2 and in this movement the convex side portions of the cover may be snapped past the projecting catches 17 formed at the intersection of the semi-circular and straight slits 14 and 15. The cigarette package 18 is shown in the drawings as containing individual cigarettes 19 of which four are partially exposed when the cover is swung outwardly as in Fig. 2. After a cigarette has been removed, the cover tends to close immediately and automatically and in its closing movement the convex portions of the cover will snap past the catch projections 17 formed in the side walls of the case.

In Fig. 3 is shown a modified construction in which the hinge-forming slits 15' are located in

or very close to the longitudinal edges of the narrow side wall 11'. In this latter construction the resulting hinge is somewhat more flexible than the hinge of the construction of Figs. 1 and 2, wherein the portions of the walls 10 which are included in the section set off by the longitudinal slots constitute flanges that stiffen the hinge.

One satisfactory way of distributing the case of my invention is to provide in each carton one case containing a single cigarette package. The user would then insert successive packages in the case until the carton became exhausted and would then be provided with a brand new case when he opened the next carton.

Having thus disclosed my invention and described in detail an illustrative embodiment thereof, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States:

1. A cigarette case comprising an integral rectangular body of thin, resilient, transparent plastic material, open at one end to receive a cigarette package, and having at its other end a normally closed face intersected near one edge by a transverse slit which is connected by short curved slits in the wide side walls of the said body to longitudinal slits extending more than half way to the open end of the body, thereby forming a resilient hinge in the adjacent narrow wall of the body, and flanges projecting from the walls of the body adjacent to the said short curved slits.

2. A case for a cigarette package, comprising a rectangular body of thin resilient plastic material having two wide side walls, two narrow side walls, one open end and one normally closed end transversely slitted near one end edge thereof, the wide side walls having longitudinal slits therein which are connected to the transverse slit in the end wall by short curved slits, all the slits together setting off an elongated portion in one narrow side wall which is flexible by reason of its resilient material, and the short curved slits forming complementary projections that by reason of their resilient material may be sprung past each other in opening the case.

3. A case for a cigarette package, comprising an open ended rectangular body of thin resilient plastic material having wide and narrow side walls and a normally closed end wall transversely slitted within one edge, the said transverse slit being extended at both ends into semi-circular slits in the wide side walls of the said body and the semi-circular slits merging into straight slits extending for a substantial distance parallel and adjacent to one of the narrow side walls thereby setting off a flexible hinge therein and permitting a portion of the end wall to be sprung temporarily into open position.

4. A case for a cigarette package, comprising an open ended rectangular body of thin resilient plastic material having wide and narrow side walls and a normally closed end wall transversely slitted and providing a cover, the said slit being extended at both ends into short curved slits which merge into longitudinal slits that extend in the wide side walls adjacent to the opposite edges of one of the narrow side walls and set off the major portion of the said side wall from the body of the case, the set-off portion of the narrow side wall carrying with it a portion of the end wall and being flexible as a whole because of its resilient material so that it may be sprung temporarily into open position.

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