A. MENDELSON.

CIGARETTE BOX OR CASE.

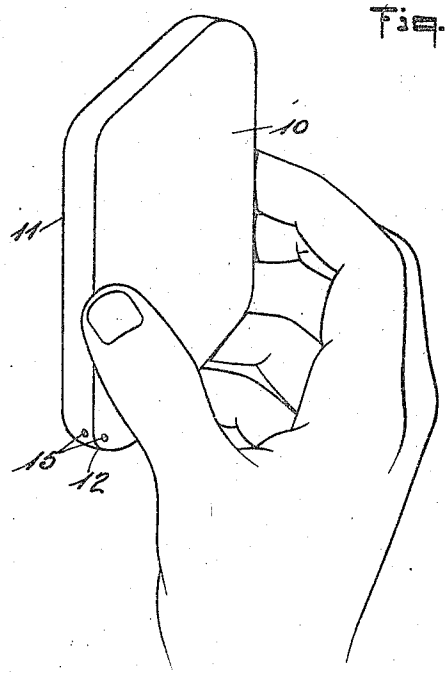
APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 25, 1914.

1,160,931.

Patented Nov. 16, 1915.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.



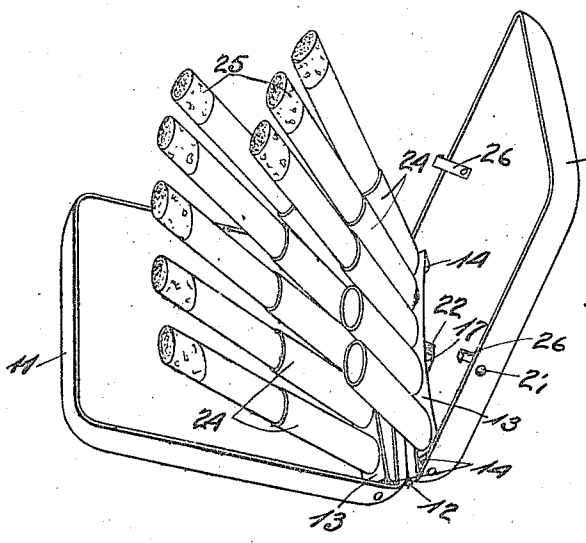


Fig. 2.

WITNESSES

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 3.

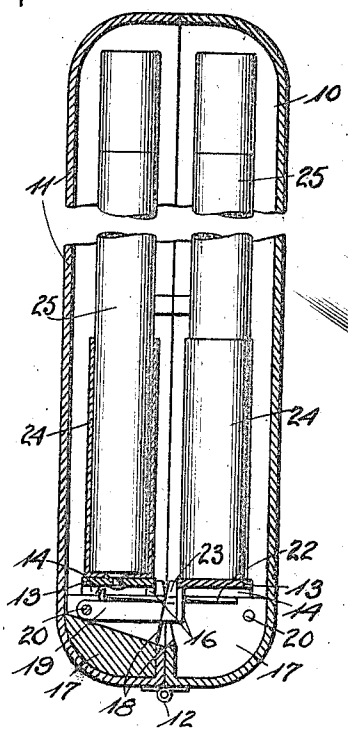


Fig. 5.

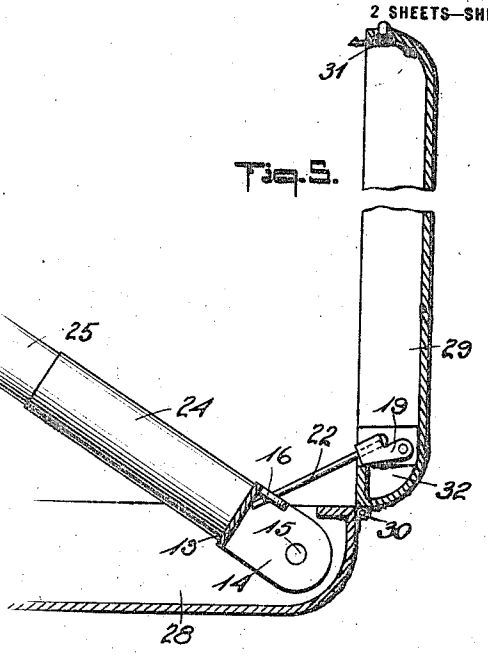
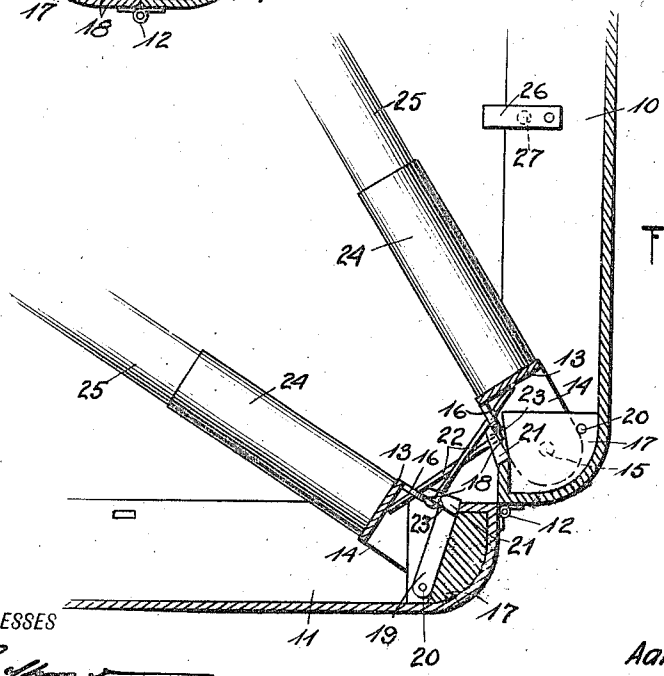


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

AARON MENDELSON, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

CIGARETTE BOX OR CASE.

1,160,931. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Nov. 16, 1915.

Application filed September 25, 1914. Serial No. 863,472.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, AARON MENDELSON, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city of New York, borough of Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Cigarette Box or Case, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention has special reference to improvements in boxes or cases for pocket use and more particularly to a box or case for holding cigarettes or like commodities and to so mount them that upon opening the box the cigarettes are caused to assume positions separate and radiating from each other so as to greatly assist in the removal of the cigarettes singly and obviating the necessity of fumbling over them.

A further object of the invention is to provide an improved cigarette box or case in which the cigarettes can be supported in both sections of a box comprising two hinged sections or in one section only, so that ten or any other number of cigarettes may be carried, while novel means are provided to carry holders for the cigarettes and to cause the same to move into divergent relation when the box is opened.

With the above and other objects in view, the invention resides in the peculiar combination and arrangement of parts to be hereinafter more fully described, illustrated and claimed, it being also an object to provide a device which is simple in construction, durable and efficient.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the views, and in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing the manner of grasping the improved box to open the same; Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the box in an open position; Fig. 3 is a cross sectional view of the box in closed position; Fig. 4 is a similar view but showing the box in an open position; and Fig. 5 is a central sectional view showing a modified form of structure.

As illustrated in the drawings, the preferred embodiment of the improved box or case comprises a pair of hinged box sections 10 and 11, closed on their outer sides and open at their coöperative sides, while the hinged connection is indicated by the numeral 12. Mounted in each section is a supporting member having holders for the cigarettes or commodities carried therein, which are such that when the sections of the box are spread open such holders and the cigarettes carried therein are caused to move in spaced divergent relation to permit them to be readily grasped and removed without necessitating the handling of more than one cigarette or fumbling thereover. For this purpose a resilient spring support 13 is carried in each section adjacent to the pivot end thereof, each spring support being pivotally mounted at its ends to the sides of each section and being preferably provided for this purpose with apertured ears 14 at their ends formed by bending the extremities of the supports at right angles to engage pivots or pintles 15 projecting inwardly from the sides of the box sections in close proximity to the pivoted ends. Each spring support is also provided with a connection to the pivoted box section so as to cause the upward or outward flexing of said supports when the box is open, and for this purpose each support is provided with a depending apertured lug 16 centrally of its inner edge and extending in the direction of the pivoted ends of the box sections, while mounted on said ends are grooved blocks 17 with the grooves thereof communicating with their exposed edges and with their inner edges beveled as shown at 18. Pivoted in each groove is a toggle or compensating member 19, the pivots 20 of which are located near the outer ends thereof and each toggle having an enlarged portion 21 adjacent to the beveled edges to ride in front of the same as the toggles move on their pivots. A connection 22 is provided between each lug and toggle, each connection comprising a pin which extends through an aperture 23 in each toggle and which may be headed at their ends if desired, although they will be held from displacement if headed at their ends engaged with the lugs alone, owing to the adjacent positions of the closed sides of the box sections relative thereto.

Mounted on each spring support are a plurality of holders 24, all of said parts being preferably constructed of metal and the holders 24 comprising members of oval or tubular cross section to receive the cigarettes 25 therein. Fastening means are provided at each side of the box to hold the sections

thereof together, such fastening means preferably comprising spring catches 26 carried by the sides of one section to engage the sides of the opposed sections coöperating therewith to form a box so that the depressible portions 27 for operating the catches to release the same will readily indicate to the user how the box is opened so that the same may be grasped in the manner shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings to simultaneously disengage both catches and permit the sections of the box to move to the open position shown in Fig. 2. As the sections are opened the connections between the lugs or spring supports and the toggles of the opposed sections will swing in opposite arcs to flex the spring supports and by raising the same at the center to cause them to take a bowed shape the holders and cigarettes carried thereby are caused to assume positions in spaced divergent relation to permit convenient and positive withdrawal of the cigarettes singly.

In the form of the invention illustrated in Fig. 5, in lieu of providing a box with holders in each section, the box comprises a body section 28 and a cover section 29 cooperating therewith and hinged together as shown at 30, while a catch 31 is provided for holding the sections together. The support for the cigarettes is the same as heretofore described except that the toggle, in lieu of being mounted in a grooved block, is mounted on an angular block or support 32 forming a bearing member therefor. When the box is open the cigarettes will be similarly moved into spaced relation as just described, the spring supports moving on their pivots at the ends thereof to compensate for the relative movements of the box sections and the pressure exerted against the supports by the connections serving to flex them.

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

1. A cigarette box or casing comprising a pair of sections pivotally connected to swing open in opposite directions, a spring support normally straight and mounted on one of the sections, means on the other section and operatively connected with the support for automatically bowing the same as the box sections are moved to open position, and a plurality of article holders rigidly secured to the support and normally disposed parallel and adapted to assume a diverging position when the support is bowed.

2. A cigarette box comprising a pair of hinged sections, a spring support mounted in one section adjacent to the pivoted end thereof, normally parallel cigarette holding devices rigidly secured at their ends to the support and means to cause the outward bowing of the support upon the box being opened to cause the holders and cigarettes carried thereby to move into spaced divergent relation.

3. In a cigarette box or case comprising a pair of box sections pivotally connected, a spring support carried in one section, means connected with the other section and with the support to cause the bowing of the support when the box is opened, normally parallel socket-like holders carried by and rigid on the support and adapted to assume a divergent position when the support is bowed and means to hold the box sections together.

4. A cigarette box comprising a pair of hinged sections, a spring support mounted in one section adjacent to the pivoted end thereof, cigarette holding devices secured on the ends of the support and connecting means between the spring support and the opposed section to flex the support to a convexly arcuate position toward the free edges of the box section to cause the holders to assume a fan-like shape.

5. A cigarette box comprising a pair of hinged box sections, means for holding the same in closed position, a spring strip pivoted at its ends in one section, holders carried by said strip and extending in the direction of the free edges of the box sections, a toggle member pivoted in the opposed section adjacent to the hinged connection and a rigid connection between the toggle and the spring strip at the central portion thereof, whereby when the first named means are released and the box opened said rigid connection will be moved in an arc to bow the strip outward and cause the holders to branch apart in separated positions.

6. A cigarette case or the like comprising a pair of hinged sections, catch means normally holding the sections closed, spring supports mounted in each section adjacent to their ends which are connected, said supports each comprising a resilient strip with apertured ends directed at right angles to the body thereof, pivots at the sides of the sections engaging said apertures, an apertured lug depending from the central portion of each strip, a supporting block carried by each section centrally beneath said strips, toggles pivoted in said blocks and having apertures, pins loosely passing through the lugs and the toggles of opposed sections in crosswise relation and adapted to swing on the pivots of the toggles and with the latter to exert outward pressure against the central portions of the strips to bow the same and tubular holders fixed at their ends in spaced relation to the strips and moved into spaced divergent relation to extend beyond the sides of the box when the latter is opened.

7. The combination of a box composed of hingedly connected sections, a spring strip mounted in each section and capable of being bowed, means for bowing the strips by

the opening of the box sections, and a plurality of article holders rigidly secured to each strip and adapted to shift from parallel to divergent relation as the strip changes from a straight to a bowed condition.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

AARON MENDELSON.

Witnesses:
JOHN E. BURCH,
GEORGE H. EMSLIE.