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PAPER TOWEL DISPENSER.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 19, 1915

1,184,186

Patented May 23, 1916

Fig. 1.

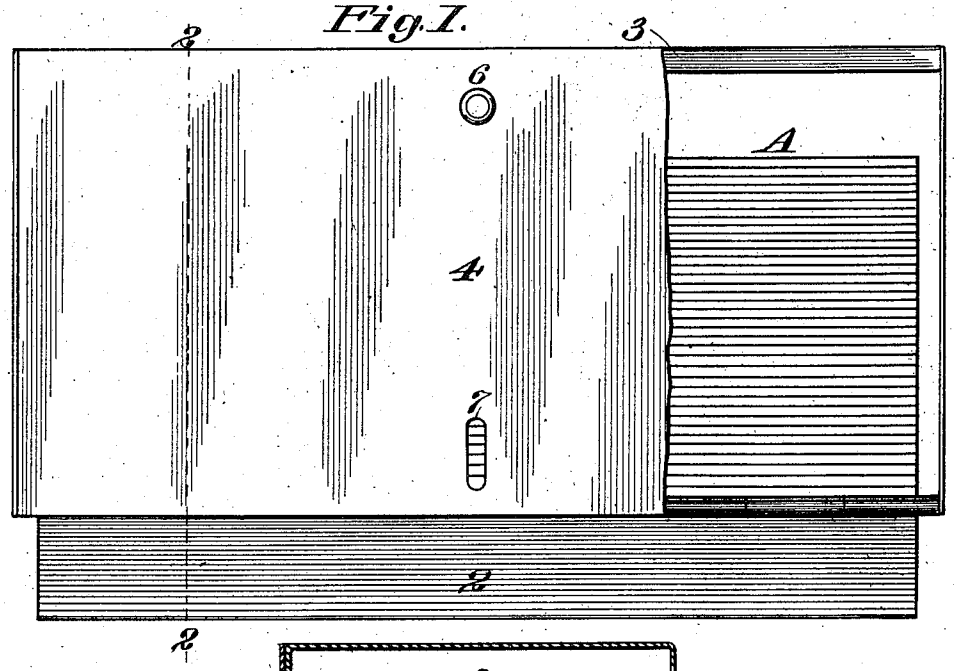


Fig. 2.

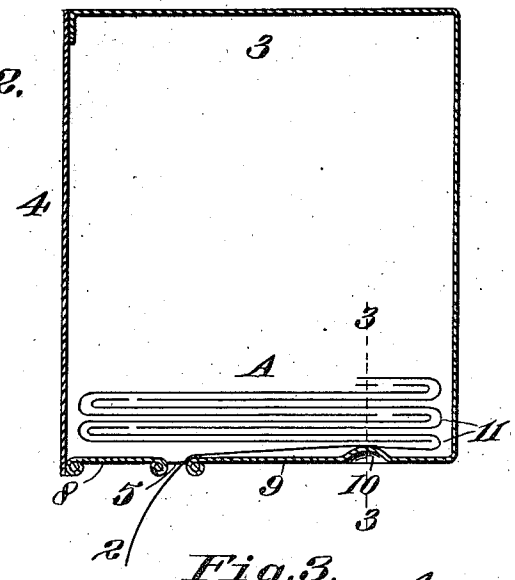
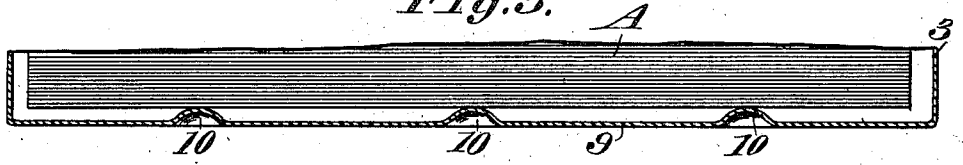


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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PAPER-TOWEL DISPENSER.

1,184,186. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented May 23, 1916.

Application filed January 19, 1915. Serial No. 3,038.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM LAZAR, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city and county of San Francisco and State of California, have invented new and useful Improvements in Paper-Towel Dispensers, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to dispensing apparatus, and pertains especially to a holder and dispenser for paper towels and such articles.

The object of the present invention is to provide a simple, practical, cheaply constructed holder of this sort adapted to contain paper towels, in which the towels consist of a series of interleaved sheets, each sheet being folded approximately centrally upon itself and so interleaved with the next sheet that when the leading end of the bottom-most sheet in the stack is protruded through a slot in the container it will enable each towel to be drawn forth successively; there always being exposed a short portion of the leading end of the bottom-most towel to form a sufficient handhold to allow it to be withdrawn, when desired.

When these towels are folded up once upon themselves they make a stack of considerable width and this, combined with the weight of the stack and the flimsy character of these towels, has made it difficult to make a suitable container which will allow the towels to be drawn out without tearing. In other words, the extended area covered by a wide stack of towels like this causes so much friction between the bottom of the stack and its support that ordinarily a towel will be torn in trying to pull it out from beneath the stack and through a slot. This difficulty is overcome in the present construction as will be seen hereinafter.

The invention consists of the parts and the construction and combination of parts as hereinafter more fully described and claimed, having reference to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a front elevation partly broken away. Fig. 2 is a transverse section on line 2—2, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a detail vertical longitudinal section on line 3—3, Fig. 2.

The stack of towels or other articles to be dispensed is represented at A and consists of a series of separate sheets of suitable cheap, absorbent paper, each sheet being folded approximately centrally upon itself, with the top leaf of the fold interfolded with the underneath leaf of the next succeeding fold; the underneath leaf of the undermost sheet always providing a leading edge 2 for a purpose later to be described. A stack of this sort folded in this manner may be, as a rule, six or seven inches in width and about fifteen inches in length. The special holder which I provide for this special stack comprises a box-like structure 3, of suitable dimensions to receive the stack, having a downwardly folding front cover 4 and a lengthwise extending withdrawing slot 5 in the bottom. Any appropriate means as a lock 6, will retain the cover closed, and a peep slot 7 may be provided to permit observation of the diminution of the contents of the holder.

The present invention resides in the disposition of the slot 5 and the means employed to keep the attack off of the bottom of the container. The slot 5 is positioned well toward the front of the container and at a point about one-third of the way back from the front, thus dividing the bottom of the container into two section 8—9; the rear section 9 being about twice the width of the front section 8.

At suitable points along the length of the rear section 9, and about two-thirds of the way back from the slot, is a series of round knobs 10 which project up into the container just enough to lift the back end of the stack of towels off of the otherwise broad, flat bottom portion 9. The front edge of the stack will be supported on the narrow front panel or ledge 8, the leading end 2 of the bottom-most sheet in the stack projecting through slot 5. The number of these knobs 10 will depend on the size of the container, but in practice I find that three are sufficient for a container of the dimensions mentioned. In addition to forming restricted antifriction elevations whereon to support the stack their position forward of the back edge of the container allows the sheets as they are drawn through the slot to pull in a rounded curve, as illustrated at 11. This conversion to a rounded curve of the otherwise flat angular folding of the sheet very much reduces the tearing tension on a sheet so that the latter may be easily withdrawn without any tearing. From the foregoing it will be seen that these spheroidal elevations sup-

port, at isolated points, the rear side of the stack, while the front side of the stack is supported lightly on the narrow ledge portion 8.

Another object in putting the slot off-center and toward the front is that as the towels are always drawn outwardly and toward the front by an operator more than directly down, so that the portion of the towel in front of the slot is always pulled at an acute angle over the front lip of the slot, Fig. 2; and that portion behind the slot is pulled at a flat obtuse angle, Fig. 2. In other words, the pull is "with the towel" behind the slot and "against the towel" in front of the slot. Hence my purpose in minimizing as much as possible the pull "against the towel."

The edges of the slot 5 are rounded outwardly to provide a smooth surface over which the paper towel is drawn, thereby preventing it being torn by the otherwise rough edges.

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

A paper towel dispenser comprising a container having a flat bottom to directly support a stack of folded towels and formed with a slot arranged forwardly to divide the bottom into a narrow front portion and a broad rear portion lying entirely in the plane of the front portion, and means at a point to the rear of the slot and in advance of the back wall of the container to support the stack of towels over the broad rear portion in front of their rear folded edges whereby the latter are each freely movable in a downward direction to bend gradually on pulling the towel out of the container, said means serving to support the remaining towels off at the bottom of the container and thereby permit of the towel being extracted to pass easily from under the stack and over the broad rear portion of the bottom.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

WILLIAM LAZAR.

Witnesses:
ALEXANDER SUREP,
E. PERKINS.