

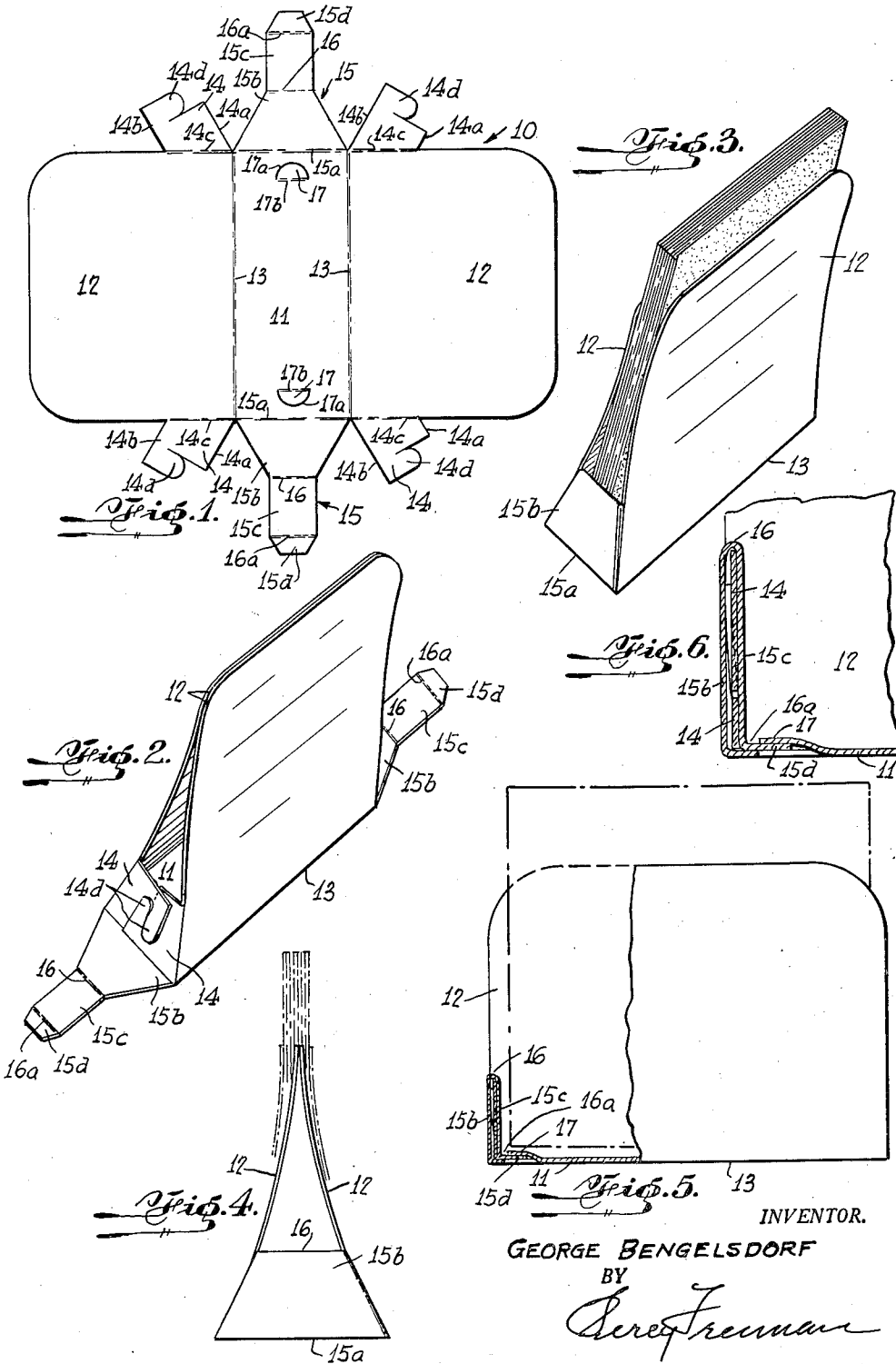
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ARTICLE HOLDER

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ARTICLE HOLDER

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This invention relates to an improved holder for napkins, menus and the like, and more particularly to a holder made from bendable material such as cardboard, fibreboard or similar material.

It is an object of the invention to provide a napkin holder which may be easily set up to operative condition from a simple, flat, integral blank of simple construction without the use of adhesives.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a napkin holder which will hold a large quantity of napkins and which will have good stability when placed on a table or other supporting surface.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a napkin holder having an intermediate base panel and a pair of holding panels integral with the base panel, the holding panels being placed under tension in the operative, set-up condition of the holder in order to serve with equal efficiency in retaining either large or small quantities of napkins.

An additional object of the invention is the provision of a napkin holder of the character indicated which is designed and constructed in such a manner as to eliminate the possibility of accidental collapse while the holder is in use.

The foregoing objects as well as additional objects and advantages of the invention will be readily apparent in the course of the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing which illustrates a preferred embodiment of the invention and wherein:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a blank from which the napkin holder may be set-up to operative condition.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view illustrating the partially set-up napkin holder.

Fig. 3 is a similar view illustrating the holder in completely set-up, operative condition for retaining a quantity of napkins.

Fig. 4 is an end elevational view of the set-up holder.

Fig. 5 is a front elevational view of the set-up napkin holder the front panel being partly broken away to illustrate the manner of assembling the holder to operative condition.

Fig. 6 is an enlarged fragmentary detail view of a portion of Fig. 5.

The napkin holder may be formed from a blank 10 of any suitable bendable material such as fibreboard, cardboard or the like. Blank 10 comprises an intermediate, preferably rectangular base panel 11 and a pair of tensioning or holding

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panels 12, integral with said base panel. A pair of parallel transverse fold lines 13 define the longitudinal edges of base panel 11 and the bottom edge of tensioning panels 12 in the set-up condition of the holder. Tensioning panels 12 are provided adjacent base panel 11 with opposed pairs of oblique connecting flaps 14 defined by parallel sides 14a and 14b and fold line 14c (see Fig. 1). Connecting flaps 14 are further provided with interlocking tabs 14d and side 14a of each flap 14 is shorter than side 14b thereof.

Base panel 11 is provided at each end with an end flap 15 adapted to fold about fold line 15a which is continuous with fold lines 14c of connecting flaps 14, said fold lines 15a defining the side edges of the base panel 11 in the set-up condition of the holder. Each end flap 15 comprises an inner trapezoidal portion 15b, an intermediate rectangular portion 15c, a terminal portion 15d and a pair parallel fold lines 16 and 16a.

A pair of locking tabs 17 is formed centrally adjacent each end of base panel 11 by means of arcuate cut-lines 17a and fold lines 17b to complete the blank. Locking tabs 17 serve to secure the terminal portions 15d of each end flap 15 in setting up the blank to operative condition as will be more fully described hereinbelow.

In forming the holder from blank 10, each tensioning panel 12 is first folded upwardly about intermediate base panel 11 along a respective fold line 13. Each pair of oblique connecting flaps 14 at opposite ends of blank 10, is then interconnected by means of interlocking tabs 14d, thereof as clearly shown in Fig. 2 to place the free ends of panels 12 under tension.

Each end flap 15 is then folded first upwardly about fold line 15a and exteriorly against interlocked connecting flaps 14 and then downwardly about fold line 16 and interiorly against interlocked connecting flaps 14 so that trapezoidal portion 15b becomes the external end wall of the holder and rectangular portion 15c becomes the internal end wall of the holder, as clearly shown in Figs. 5 and 6, portions 15b and 15c both being disposed against interlocked connecting flaps 14.

As the final step in setting up the holder, the terminal portion 15d of each end flap 15 is inserted beneath a respective locking tab 17 of base panel 11, whereupon the holder is firmly secured in operative condition.

An important feature of the invention resides in the tensioning of the upper free ends of panels 12 in the set-up operative condition of the holder by means of the oblique interlocked connecting flaps 14 whereby any desired number of napkins

may be retained between said holding panels 12. Thus as napkins are successively withdrawn from the filled holder (see Fig. 3) there is a tendency for the holding panels 12 to move inwardly toward each other and to retain the remaining napkins therebetween until finally, when all of a given batch of napkins have been withdrawn for use, the inner surfaces of panels 12 will be in contact as illustrated in Fig. 4. The holder may then be reloaded by separating the panels 12 and inserting a fresh supply of napkins.

Suitable advertising matter and any desired workings or indicia may be printed on the outer surfaces of the tensioning side panels 12 for the attention of the consumer when napkins are withdrawn. The holder may be used for menus and the like as well as napkins.

Since certain modifications may be made in the holder of the invention without departing from the scope thereof, it is intended that all matter contained in the foregoing description and shown in the accompanying drawing be interpreted merely as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

What is claimed is:

1. A holder for napkins, menus and the like having a body of foldable, bendable material, said body comprising a base panel, a pair of holding panels integral with said base panel and extending upwardly therefrom at opposite sides of the base panel, opposed pairs of oblique connecting flaps integral with said holding panels on each side thereof and adjacent said base panel, each pair of said connecting flaps having interlocking tabs, respective pairs of said connecting flaps being interlocked to place the free upper ends of said holding panels under tension, said base panel having an integral end flap at each end thereof, said base panel having locking tabs adjacent each end thereof, each of said end flaps being folded over a respective interlocked pair

of connecting flaps, the free end of each end flap being inserted beneath a respective locking tab of said base panel.

2. A holder of the character described having a body of foldable, bendable material, said body comprising a base panel, a pair of holding panels integral with said base panel and extending upwardly therefrom at opposite sides of the base panel, opposed pairs of oblique connecting flaps integral with said holding panels on each side thereof and adjacent said base panel, each pair of said connecting flaps having interlocking tabs, respective pairs of said connecting flaps being interlocked to place the free upper ends of said holding panels under tension, said base panel having an integral end flap at each end thereof, each of said end flaps comprising an inner trapezoidal portion, an intermediate rectangular portion and a terminal portion, said base panel having locking tabs adjacent each end thereof, each of said end flaps being folded over a respective interlocked pair of connecting flaps, said trapezoidal portion being disposed outwardly and said rectangular portion being disposed inwardly of said pair of connecting flaps, said terminal portion being inserted within a respective locking tab of said base panel.

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