April 5, 1927. 1,623,708

J. J. SEELMAN

DISPENSING DEVICE

Filed Sept. 12, 1923

FIG. 2

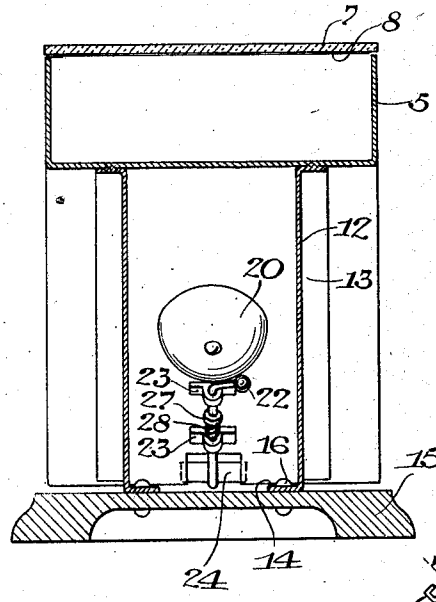


FIG. 1

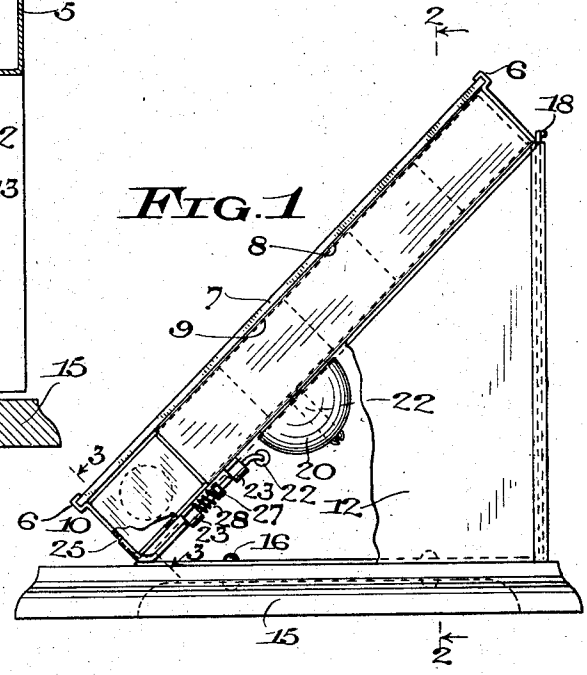


FIG. 3

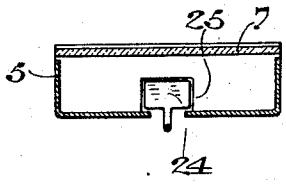
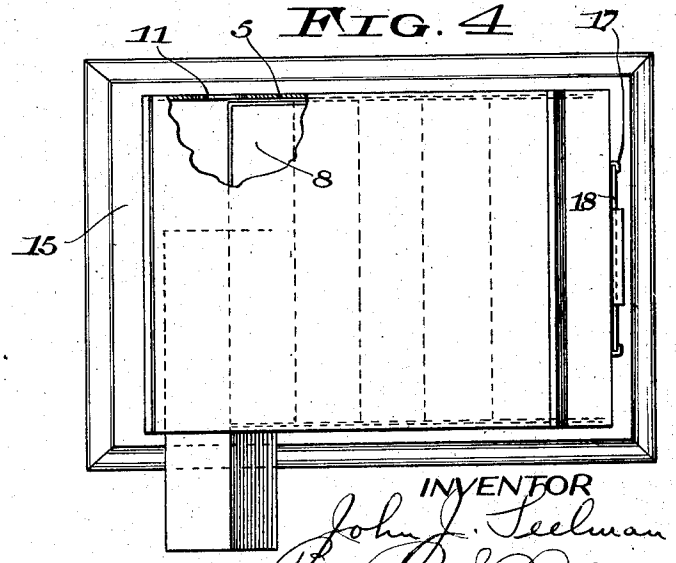


FIG. 4



WITNESSES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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DISPENSING DEVICE.

Application filed September 12, 1923. Serial No. 662,264.

The invention relates to dispensing devices.

In stores, news stands and other places where articles are sold in package form, a saving in the clerk's time is effected if such articles can be so displayed and placed that customers can help themselves. Where, as at present, such articles are spread out on counters and show cases, they take up considerable space, dust accumulates on them and pilfering is invited. In order to overcome these disadvantages I have provided a dispensing device in which the packages are arranged in an inclined stack, thus minimizing space and permitting automatic feed of the articles to a position for removal, the packages being protected from dust and dirt by a suitable cover, and pilfering being prevented by a warning signal operated on the removal of a package.

The invention further consists in the several features hereinafter set forth and more particularly defined by claims at the conclusion hereof.

In the drawings: Fig. 1 is a side elevation view of a device embodying the invention, parts being broken away and parts being shown in section; Fig. 2 is a section taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1; Fig. 3 is a detail sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1; Fig. 4 is a plan view of the device, parts being broken away and parts being shown in section.

The device includes a case supported in an inclined position and preferably adapted to permit the removal of one article at a time. The case includes a sheet metal box body 5 forming a chute or tray having grooves 6 formed at its top and bottom edges to receive a glass plate 7 forming a cover for the case, and a display sheet 8 adapted to have advertising matter placed thereon, or matter which indicates the character of the goods within the casing, is disposed beneath said cover and held therein between said cover and the side edges 9 of the case, said sheet preferably terminating at such a distance from the lower end of the case as to permit of displaying the lowermost article beneath the glass cover plate. At the lower end of the case is a side opening 10 to permit removal of the lowermost article, a smaller opening 11 at the opposite side permits the operator to push the article a short distance through the delivery opening 10 so that it can be readily removed.

The case is mounted on triangular sheet metal plates or standards 12 having flanges 13 welded or otherwise suitably secured to the bottom of the case and bottom flanges 14 secured to a base plate 15 in any suitable manner as by rivets 16. Thus the case is supported above the base in an inclined position so that the articles arranged therein, one above the other in a stack, will automatically feed downwardly as the lowermost articles are removed, one at a time, from the case.

The plates 12 are arranged in spaced relation and have their outer edges each provided with a groove 17 to receive a sheet metal back plate 18 which cooperates with said plates and the back of the casing to form a compartment 19 in which the signal is mounted.

The signal to indicate the removal of a package from the case is preferably an audible signal, such as a bell, including a gong 20 mounted on a stud 21 secured to the bottom of the casing and a striker 22. The striker 22 has its stem slidably mounted in guides 23 secured to the case and carries a trigger 24 in the form of a plate which normally is positioned in a slot 25 in the lower end of the case but may move upwardly therefrom, a slot 26 being provided in the bottom of the case to permit free movement of the stem. A collar 27 is formed or mounted on the stem to present a shoulder between which and the lower guide 23 a spring 28 is disposed. The spring is placed under compression by the weight of the article or articles in the case, and as the lowermost article is removed and is moved off the trigger 24 said spring moves the striker 22 upwardly against the gong 20 to produce a warning signal and thus indicates to the clerk of the store that an article is being removed, and if he is not near the customer at the time it will serve to summon him to receive the purchase price from the person taking the article.

From the foregoing description it will be noted that by arranging the articles in an inclined plane automatic feed of the articles to a display position is obtained, the articles themselves are well displayed and advertised and space is conserved. The packages are protected from dust and dirt and yet are readily removable. The alarm mechanism guards against pilfering.

I desire it to be understood that this in-

vention is not to be limited to any specific form or arrangement of parts except in so far as such limitations are specified in the claims.

What I claim as my invention is:

1. In a dispensing apparatus having a holder in which articles are urged towards dispensing position and removable therefrom one by one, an audible signalling mechanism, and a movable member controlling said signalling mechanism and engageable by the article in dispensing position to hold said member against signal-operating movement, whereby the removal of said article will release said member to cause actuation of said signalling mechanism and the movement of the succeeding article to dispensing position will reset said movable member.

2. In a dispensing apparatus having a holder in which articles are urged towards dispensing position and removable therefrom one by one, an audible signalling mechanism, and a trigger held against signal-actuating movement by the article in dispensing position and releasable to cause actuation of said signalling mechanism as the article in dispensing position is removed.

3. In a dispensing apparatus having a holder in which articles are urged towards dispensing position and removable therefrom one by one, a bell including a striker, a movable member connected to the striker and engageable by the article in dispensing position to prevent striking of the bell, and means for moving said striker against the bell on the release of said movable member during removal of the article in dispensing position.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature.

JOHN J. SEELMAN.