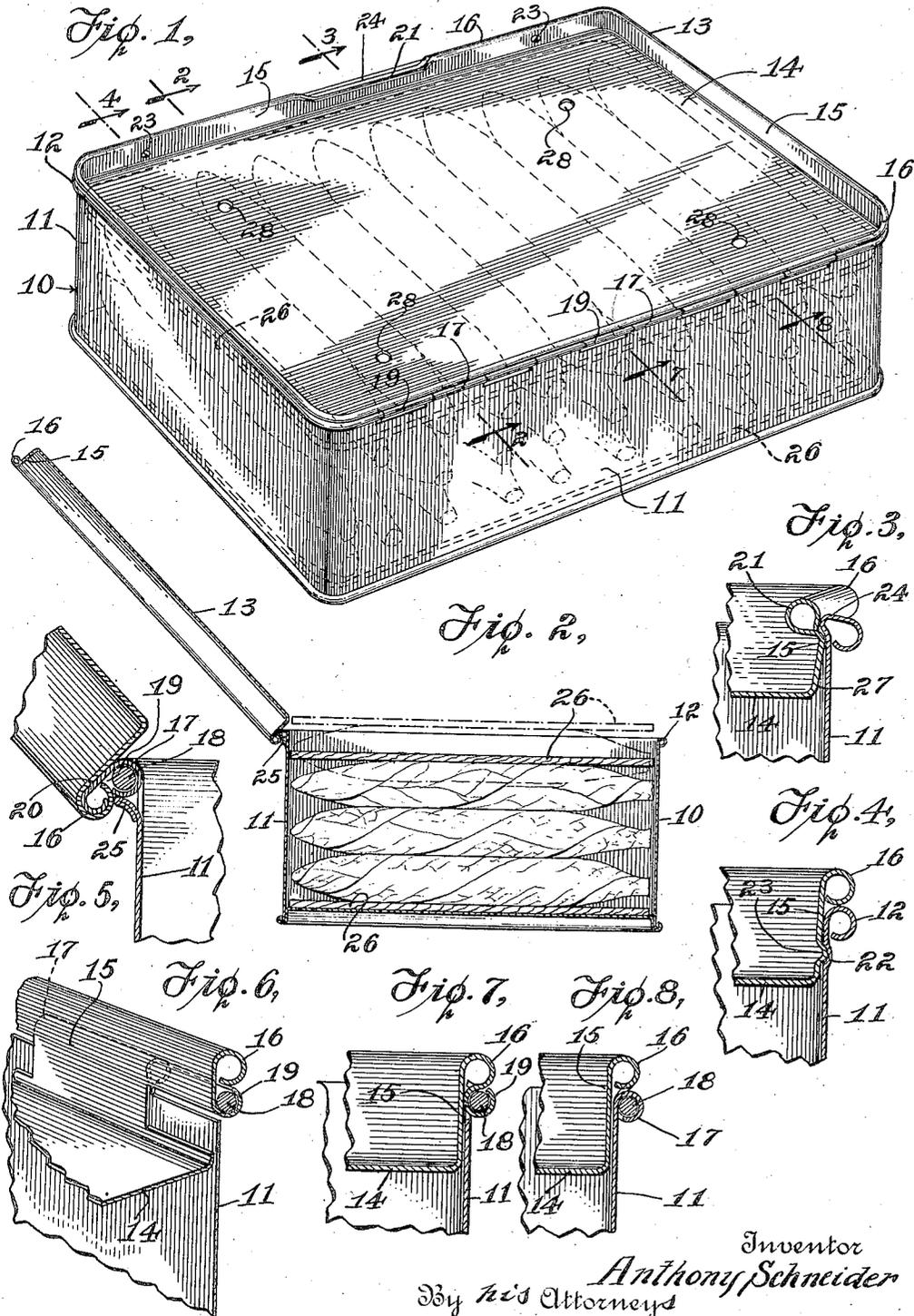


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CIGAR PACKAGE.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CIGAR PACKAGE.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ANTHONY SCHNEIDER, a citizen of the United States, and resident of Whippany, in the county of Morris and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Cigar Packages, of which the following is a specification.

My invention is directed to an improved form of container adapted especially to the packaging of cigars, and includes the provision of a metal construction which will meet the commercial and technical requirements for such a package, and which is intended to replace the wooden cigar box heretofore generally employed.

Owing to various objections to the employment of a wooden box, both because of packing and shipping conditions and because of the high cost of the special wood which must be employed for such boxes, manufacturers of cigars have long endeavored to devise a container made wholly or substantially of metal, which will have the general proportions of the usual wooden box and may be packed the same way, without being subject to the objections thereto.

Such endeavors have heretofore failed in producing a container which would measure up to the technical and commercial requirements peculiar to the packaging of cigars to such an extent that it would replace the usual wooden box. For one thing, such a container must possess considerable rigidity. Cigars, when rolled, are substantially round in cross section; and in order to economize space in packing, they are subjected to relatively great pressure, both before and after being placed in the container. Consequently, the container after being packed is subjected to considerable outward pressure from the compressed cigars, and must therefore be substantially rigid to prevent distortion.

Furthermore, cigars must not only be kept moist, but they must also have a certain amount of ventilation to prevent sweating. Therefore a suitable container must include very carefully devised means for properly regulating the ventilation of the contents.

The almost universal employment of the usual wooden cigar box with a hinged cover has developed a method of merchandizing and use which renders the employment of a similar hinged cover on a metal container highly advantageous, and from a commer-

cial point of view, practically necessary. This is partly due to the facility with which a large and attractive label may be attached to the inside of the cover and readily displayed when the cover is swung open, either for sale or for access to the contents by the consumer. Furthermore, such a cover cannot be lost or mislaid.

One of the main objects of my invention is to provide a container readily constructed of metal, which may have the general form of the usual cigar box, and which combines a hinged cover with a relatively rigid construction sufficient to withstand the outward thrust of compressed cigars. More specifically, I accomplish this object by employing a cover of the inset or dished type, which is adapted to maintain the walls of the container in position when the cover is closed and to prevent bulging thereof.

Another object is to provide such a container which has a tight-fitting cover, and means for readily swinging the cover open despite the engagement of the container body therewith. I have also disclosed an improved form of hinge connection between such cover and the container body.

A further object of my invention is to combine the hinged cover with an easily manufactured support which will hold the cover at a proper display angle when opened.

Other objects and advantages of my invention will be apparent from the following description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a container embodying my invention.

Fig. 2 is a section on line 2—2 of Fig. 1, the cover being in raised display position.

Figs. 3 and 4 are sectional views on lines 3 and 4 of Figure 1 respectively, showing means for retaining the cover in closed position, and means for readily opening the cover.

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary sectional view through a portion of the hinge showing the means for supporting the cover in elevated position.

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary perspective view partly in section taken from the inside of the cover, showing a modified form of hinge, and

Figs. 7 and 8 are fragmentary sections on lines 7—7 and 8—8 respectively of Figure 1, showing another form of hinge.

The container body 10 may be of any desired form, and while I have disclosed it as conforming substantially to the proportions of the usual cigar box, it is to be understood that my invention is not limited thereto, as obviously containers of many other forms may embody my invention. The container body 10 is preferably provided with walls 11 which are relatively flat and unbroken at their inner faces and which terminate in a reinforced portion, such as bead 12.

The container cover 13 is of the dished or inset type, including a relatively flat bottom 14 and side walls 15, preferably at right angles to the bottom 14 and adapted to engage the side walls 11 of the container body to produce a snug, neat fit. The cover also may include an outwardly directed reinforced edge, the form disclosed having a rolled bead 16 adapted to rest on bead 12 of the container body, forming an accurate and tight closure.

The cover 13 is connected to the container body 10 by a suitable hinge connection of any desired type, various forms being well-known and adapted for my purpose. In the form disclosed, I prefer to maintain beads 12 and 16 practically continuous throughout the periphery of the container, and have shown a hinge construction of this type. One form, shown best in Figure 5, includes spaced tongues 17 carried by and preferably integral with a side wall 11 of the container body, and bent about the usual pintle 18 in such a way as to be in alinement with a similar continuation of bead 12. The cover 13 is also provided with a plurality of depending tongues 19 fitting between tongues 17 and similarly bent about pintle 18, so that said tongues 17 and 19 form a continuation of bead 12. Tongues 19 may be formed in various ways, either by providing a hinge strip 20 carrying tongues 19 and attached to the cover 13 in any desired way, as by solder, engagement with bead 16, or both, or by forming such tongues from the adjacent wall 15 of the cover 13, bending them about pintle 18 in a manner shown in Figure 6.

Another construction is shown in Figure 7, in which the edge of cover 13 at the bottom of bead 16 is extended at spaced points to form the tongues 19. It is noted that Figures 5, 6 and 7 are sectional views taken through the variant forms of tongues 17, while Figure 8 is a similar view, but taken through a tongue 17 carried by the container body 10.

The cover 13 is preferably so proportioned and designed that it will have a relatively snug fit in the container body 10. To facilitate the ready and rapid opening of the cover against the resistance necessarily produced by such tight fit, I may provide means to assist the user in raising the cover. One construction suitable for this purpose

is disclosed best in Figures 1 and 3, and consists of an inwardly directed lip 21 which may be formed by forcing the body edge 16 inwardly, the construction being such that the user's fingers may readily be thrust under lip 21, enabling him to grasp the cover firmly and raise it readily against considerable resistance.

I may also employ means for maintaining the cover 13 in closed position, preferably of such a nature that they will yield to the lifting pressure exerted on lip 21. I have illustrated one construction for this purpose, which includes a suitable recess 22 in a wall 11 of the container body, and a corresponding projection or tit 23 on a wall 15 of the cover 13, the tit and recess being normally in engagement when the cover is closed. Tit 23, however, may readily be proportioned so that it will ride up out of recess 22 upon the exertion of moderate effort to raise the cover 13.

I also may turn a portion of bead 12 inwardly over the upper edge of lip 21 to a slight extent, as at 24, this construction offering a slight additional resistance to the raising of the cover, but not enough to prevent the ready opening of the box by the user.

I also may provide means for holding the cover of the container in a rearwardly inclined or display position, shown best in Figure 2, thereby adapting the container for ready display in the usual manner during vending. One convenient construction for this purpose includes a stop 25 located in the path of bead 16 adjacent the hinge. Stop 25 is preferably so proportioned that it will engage bead 16 at such a point that the cover 13 will be inclined slightly rearward from the vertical, the position most suitable for display. While such stop may be constructed in various ways, one convenient arrangement is shown best in Figure 5, and includes the employment of a strip of metal preferably integral with the container body 10 and located between the tongues 17, the strip being bent outwardly into position to engage bead 16 as described. If preferred, such strip may be double as shown in Figure 5, this construction providing a substantially strong, yet simple stop 24. Any number of stops of this type may be employed.

The containers embodied in my invention are readily packed in the same manner as the usual wooden box. For this purpose, I preferably use fillers 26 of cedar or other suitable wood, preferably fitting neatly into the container body 10. After the cigars have been initially packed in the container, they will project above the upper edge thereof, as shown in dotted lines in Figure 2; and on closing the container they are subjected to considerable pressure to force them into the limits indicated in full lines in said figure.

It will be apparent that the cover 13 will swing over and down upon the cigars in substantially the same manner as the wooden cover of the usual container; and the operation of the press is substantially the same in performing this step regardless of which type of container is used. When cover 13 is forced into closed position, the tight engagement thereof with the container body 10, together with the operation of the auxiliary holding devices above described, such as tit 23 and projection 24, serve to maintain the cover in position against the pressure of the cigars.

If desired, I may form all or the lower portion of wall 15 opposite the cover hinge with a rearward inclination or curve, as at 27, (Figure 3) to prevent interference between such walls and the edge of the container body 10. I may also employ suitable ventilating apertures 28, preferably on both the top and bottom of the container. By employing these apertures, preferably in combination with cedar strips overlying such apertures, I have provided for suitable ventilation of the cigars to prevent sweating, and at the same time regulate the ventilation by the size of the holes, the interposition of the wood, or both, so as to prevent the cigars from drying out.

The construction disclosed provides a particularly rigid support for the side walls 11 of the container, preventing them from bulging outwardly. This is primarily produced by the engagement therewith of the cover walls 15, the construction being such that any tendency of a side wall 11 to bulge would necessarily exert a longitudinal compressive strain on the corresponding side wall 15 of the cover. As even relatively light material can stand a very heavy longitudinal pressure, the construction is inherently rigid even though the sheet metal ordinarily employed for containers is used. This construction therefore overcomes the fundamental deficiency in the ordinary type of metal container having a hinged cover, in which the cover is provided with a depending skirt overlying the upper edge of the container body. With such a construction, outward pressure on a side of the container exerts a corresponding pressure on the relatively weak overlapping skirt of the cover, which ordinarily is more or less readily extensible. Furthermore, with this construction the upper edge of the body portion is not strongly reinforced and held in position, since a beaded or multiply arrangement is not practicable. I am aware that others have heretofore attempted to employ this type of container having an overlying cover; but such constructions do not possess the required rigidity.

It will also be evident that the construction disclosed by me is of a type which is

readily manufactured by standard machines having a minimum number of parts and being relatively simple in construction.

While my invention is particularly suitable for packaging cigars, it will be apparent that many features thereof can be employed in containers for other products; and I do not consider my invention to be limited to the exact use set forth herein. Neither do I confine myself to the exact details disclosed, as obviously many changes and variations therein may readily be made without departing from my invention as set forth in this specification.

I claim:

1. A container including a body, said body comprising a bottom and side walls, a dished cover having side walls in continuous frictional engagement with the inner surface of said body side walls when in closed position, a hinge connection between said cover and body side walls and an inwardly turned projecting element on the upper edge of the side wall of said cover opposite the hinge adapted to be engaged for raising said cover.

2. A container including a body, a dished cover having side walls in engagement with the inner surface of said body when in closed position and a bottom projecting below the top of the body when in said closed position, a hinge connection between said cover and body, an inwardly turned projection on the upper edge of the side wall of said cover opposite the hinge, and an element at the upper edge of said body extending over said inwardly projecting member to maintain the cover in closed position.

3. A container including a body having the major portion of its upper edge in a single plane, a dished cover having side walls in continuous frictional engagement with the inner surface of said body when in closed position, a hinge connection between said cover and body having an axis substantially in said plane, an intumed integral portion of said cover located opposite the hinge connection and adapted to be engaged for raising the cover, interengaging outwardly directed beads on said cover and the upper edge of the container body, and an inwardly turned member integral with said upper edge of said body overlying and engaging said intumed integral portion and adapted to form a latch for maintaining the cover in closed position, the construction and proportion of parts being such that an upward pull on the intumed integral portion will force said latch outwardly and permit the cover to be raised.

4. A container including a body provided with an outwardly directed bead along the upper edge thereof, a dished cover having an outwardly directed marginal bead, and

a hinge connection provided by the body and cover beads, located below the cover bead and forming a continuation of the body bead.

5 5. A container including a body, a dished cover having an outwardly directed marginal bead, a hinge connection between the body and cover, and a stop carried by the body projecting outwardly therefrom and adapted to engage the bead to support the cover in a predetermined position when open.

6. A container including a body, a dished cover having an outwardly directed marginal bead, a hinge connection between the cover and body located below said bead, including a pintle, members carried by the cover engaging the pintle, and elements integral with the body engaging the pintle; and a stop carried by the body and projecting outwardly therefrom adapted to engage said bead to support the cover in a predetermined position when open, said stop being integral with the body and located between the hinge elements thereof.

7. A container including a body provided with an outwardly directed bead at its upper edge, a dished cover provided with substantially vertical walls engaging the body walls when the cover is closed, a hinge connection between the cover and body, including a pintle located directly below the cover bead, spaced pintle engaging mem-

bers carried by the cover, and spaced pintle engaging elements carried by the body; a stop carried by the body located between said pintle engaging elements and adapted to engage the cover bead to support the cover in a predetermined position when open, means carried by the cover at a point substantially opposite to the hinge for facilitating the dislodging of the cover in opening, and releasable means for holding the cover in closed position.

8. A container including a body, said body comprising a bottom and side walls, a dished cover having a bottom and side walls, the side walls of the cover being in continuous frictional engagement with the inner surface of said body side walls, the dished cover having an outwardly turned portion forming a marginal bead, the body being also provided with an outwardly turned portion forming a marginal bead, the beads lying in substantially parallel planes when the container is closed; the outwardly turned portions of both cover and body providing tongues having alined channels receiving a hinged pintle, these parts forming a hinge connection between the body and the cover.

Signed at New York city, in the county of and State of New York, this 3rd day of June A. D. 1920.

ANTHONY SCHNEIDER.