March 10, 1942. D. P. LEE 2,276,217

MEANS FOR PREVENTING CIGARETTES FROM DRYING OUT

Filed Nov. 13, 1940

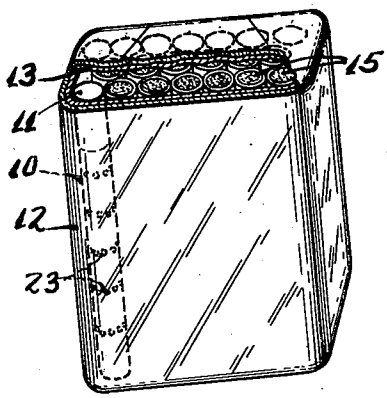


Fig. 1.

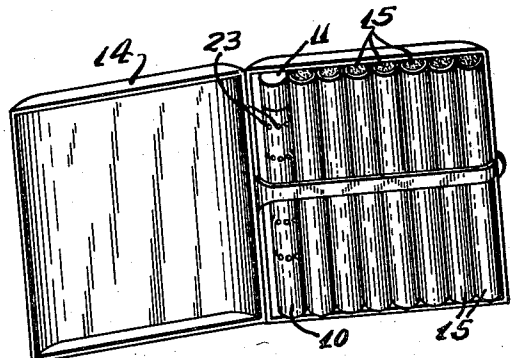


Fig. 2.

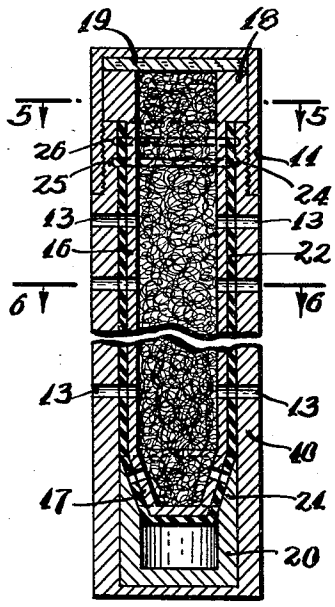


Fig. 4.

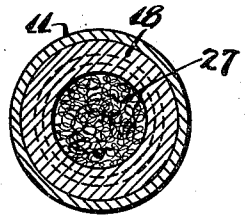


Fig. 5.

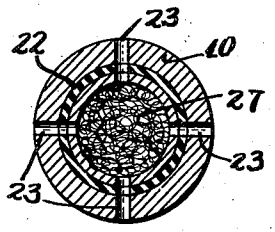


Fig. 6.

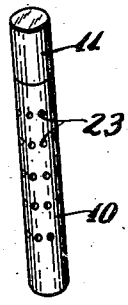


Fig. 3.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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MEANS FOR PREVENTING CIGARETTES FROM DRYING OUT

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Application November 13, 1940, Serial No. 365,405

4 Claims. (Cl. 299—24)

This invention relates to new and useful improvements in means for preventing cigarettes from drying out.

The invention proposes a cylindrical shaped container substantially shaped like a cigarette to be engageable in a cigarette package, or cigarette case, in lieu of one of the cigarettes thereof, and provided with moistening means to prevent the cigarettes from drying out.

More specifically, the invention proposes the provision of a water absorbent substance, such as sponge, to be disposed within the container, and an arrangement whereby moisture therefrom may keep the cigarettes fresh.

Still further the invention proposes a novel arrangement for controlling the discharge of the moisture from said container.

The invention also proposes a novel arrangement for storing liquid in the container which may be used to produce moisture when desired.

For further comprehension of the invention, and of the objects and advantages thereof, reference will be had to the following description and accompanying drawing, and to the appended claims in which the various novel features of the invention are more particularly set forth.

In the accompanying drawing forming a material part of this disclosure:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a cigarette package with the device for preventing the cigarettes from drying out, substituted for one of the cigarettes.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a cigarette case with the means for preventing cigarettes from drying out in the case among the group of cigarettes.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the said means, illustrated per se.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary enlarged vertical sectional view of Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is a horizontal sectional view taken on the line 5—5 of Fig. 4.

Fig. 6 is a horizontal sectional view taken on the line 6—6 of Fig. 4.

The means for preventing cigarettes from drying out, in accordance with this invention, includes a cylindrical shaped container 10 having a removable top cap 11 and shaped substantially like a cigarette, to be engageable in a cigarette package 12, in lieu of one of the cigarettes of the package. It is proposed that the cigarette package 12 be opened in the usual manner, by tearing a corner, or end portion 13 thereof. One cigarette is then slipped from the package and the container 10 together with its contents is inserted into the position which was held by the cigarette just removed. Numerals 10 and 11 generally indicate the device in the cigarette package 12. Fig. 2 illustrates a conventional cigarette case 14 holding a group of cigarettes 15, and also holding the means for preventing the cigarettes from drying out, indicated generally by the reference numerals 10 and 11.

A cylindrical shell 16 is disposed within the container 10 and is removable from the top end of the container. This shell 16 has a tapered bottom end 17. It has an enlarged top end 18 comprising a head by which it may be conveniently gripped and removed from the container 10, when desired. The cap 11 is threadedly mounted on the top end of the container and encases the head end 18 of the shell. A packing washer 19 is disposed within the cap 11 and engages across the end 18 of said shell.

A cup 20 is disposed within the bottom of the container 10 and has a tapered top end portion 21 for receiving the said tapered bottom end 17. Packing material 21 is mounted on the adjacent contacting faces of the container 10, the shell 16 and the cup 20. As illustrated, this packing material comprises a layer, or film 22 of sheet rubber mounted upon the outer surface of the shell 16. The side walls of the shell 16 with the covering 22 and the container 10, are formed with aligned perforations 23 adapted to be moved out of alignment when the shell 16 is shifted, either rotatively or longitudinally.

Means is provided for holding the shell 16 in two longitudinal positions. This means includes a bead 24 formed circumferentially upon the top end of the shell 16 and engaging a circumferential groove 25 formed in the adjacent face of the container 10. This face is provided with another groove 26, at a position slightly above the groove 25 adapted to receive the bead 24 to hold the shell 16 in a longitudinally shifted position.

Water absorbent material 27 is located within the shell 16. This material preferably comprises a sponge, natural or artificial.

The operation of the device is as follows:

The cap 11 is removed. The sponge 27 is then removed and thoroughly moistened. It is replaced in the shell 16. The shell 16 is then shifted up to its raised position by gripping the head 18 and pulling it upwards to cause the bead 24 to engage the recess 26. Liquid from the sponge 27 may now drip through the bottom perforations 23 which are on the tapered portion 17 of the shell 16 and fill the cup 20. The shell 16 is then moved to its bottom position and entraps the liq-

uid in the cup 20. This liquid comprises an auxiliary supply. The cap 11 is then reengaged on the container 10. The perforations 23 are in alignment. This permits moisture from the interior of the shell 16 to pass through the perforations. The outside of the container 10 is then dried with a kerchief and is ready to be used by engaging it in a cigarette package as illustrated in Fig. 1, or in a cigarette case as shown in Fig. 2.

If it is found that there is too much water contained by the sponge 27 which is flowing out of the perforations 23, the condition may be remedied by turning the shell 16 slightly so as to partially close the passages through the perforations 23 by disaligning them. When a large amount of moisture has evaporated from the sponge 27 and the device is not functioning properly to prevent drying of the cigarettes, it is merely necessary that the shell 16 be shifted upwards and the container 10 be turned upside down so that the liquid from the cup 20 may flow through the bottom perforations 23 and remoisten the sponge 27. The shell 10 is then reshifted to its bottom position, the cap 11 is placed on the top of the container 10, and the article is ready to be used again.

It is to be understood that the removable top cap 11 may be securely placed on the cylindrical shaped container 10 without the use of threads, by merely sliding the top cap 11 on the narrow shoulder of the tubular container 10 and keeping the same thereon by frictional engagement.

Instead of the cap, any other means may also be used for keeping the contents of the container 10 therein.

While I have illustrated and described the preferred embodiments of my invention, it is to be understood that I do not limit myself to the precise constructions herein disclosed and the right is reserved to all changes and modifications coming within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

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

1. In a device of the class described, a cylindrically shaped container having a removable top cap and adapted to be engaged in a cigarette package or case, a cylindrically shaped shell slidably engaged partially into said container and containing water absorbing material, said shell and container being formed with aligned openings through which moisture from said material is adapted to pass for humidifying cigarettes, a cup mounted within the bottom of said container acting as a reservoir for water for moistening said material and having a tapered top opening, and a tapered bottom end formed on the bottom of said shell and engaged into the tapered opening of said cup to prevent water from spilling out of said cup, said tapered bottom end of said shell being formed with openings normally closed when said tapered bottom end is engaged into the top opening of said cup, whereby when said material becomes dry said shell may be pulled outwards to disengage its tapered bottom end from the top of said cup to permit said container to be inverted to cause water from said cup to pass through the openings in said tapered bottom end into said shell to remoisten said material.

2. In a device of the class described, a cylindrically shaped container having a removable top cap and adapted to be engaged in a cigarette package or case, a cylindrically shaped shell slidably engaged partially into said container and containing water absorbing material, said shell and container being formed with aligned openings through which moisture from said material is adapted to pass for humidifying cigarettes, a cup mounted within the bottom of said container acting as a reservoir for water for moistening said material and having a tapered top opening, and a tapered bottom end formed on the bottom of said shell and engaged into the tapered top opening of said cup to prevent water from spilling out of said cup, said tapered bottom end of said shell being formed with openings normally closed when said tapered bottom end is engaged into the top opening of said cup, whereby when said material becomes dry said shell may be pulled outwards to disengage its tapered bottom end from the top of said cup to permit said container to be inverted to cause water from said cup to pass through the openings in said tapered bottom end into said shell to remoisten said material, said shell having an enlarged head disposed within said cap and which may be conveniently grasped for moving said shell relative to said container when said cap is moved.

3. In a device of the class described, a cylindrically shaped container having a removable top cap and adapted to be engaged in a cigarette package or case, a cylindrically shaped shell slidably engaged partially into said container and containing water absorbing material, said shell and container being formed with aligned openings through which moisture from said material is adapted to pass for humidifying cigarettes, a cup mounted within the bottom of said container acting as a reservoir for water for moistening said material and having a tapered top opening, and a tapered bottom end formed on the bottom of said shell and engaged into the tapered top opening of said cup to prevent water from spilling out of said cup, said tapered bottom end of said shell being formed with openings normally closed when said tapered bottom end is engaged into the top opening of said cup, whereby when said material becomes dry said shell may be pulled outwards to disengage its tapered bottom end from the top of said cup to permit said container to be inverted to cause water from said cup to pass through the openings in said tapered bottom end into said shell to remoisten said material, and means for holding said shell in a position relative to said container in which its tapered bottom end will be engaged into or out of the tapered top opening of said cup.

4. In a device of the class described, a cylindrically shaped container having a removable top cap and adapted to be engaged in a cigarette package or case, a cylindrically shaped shell slidably engaged partially into said container and containing water absorbing material, said shell and container being formed with aligned openings through which moisture from said material is adapted to pass for humidifying cigarettes, a cup mounted within the bottom of said container acting as a reservoir for water for moistening said material and having a tapered top opening, and a tapered bottom end formed on the bottom of said shell and engaged into the tapered top opening of said cup to prevent water from spilling out of said cup, said tapered bottom end of said shell being formed with openings normally closed when said tapered bottom end is engaged into the top opening of said cup, whereby when said material becomes dry said shell may be pulled outwards

to disengage its tapered bottom end from the top of said cup to permit said container to be inverted to cause water from said cup to pass through the openings in said tapered bottom end into said shell to remoisten said material, and means for holding said shell in a position relative to said container in which its tapered bottom end will be engaged into or out of the tapered top opening of said cup, comprising a head formed on one of these parts and selectively engageable with one of a pair of spaced grooves formed in the other of these parts.

DONHEE P. LEE.