Aug. 18, 1931. E. C. MORRIS 1,819,753

FOLDED PAPER NAPKIN

Filed Feb. 3, 1928 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

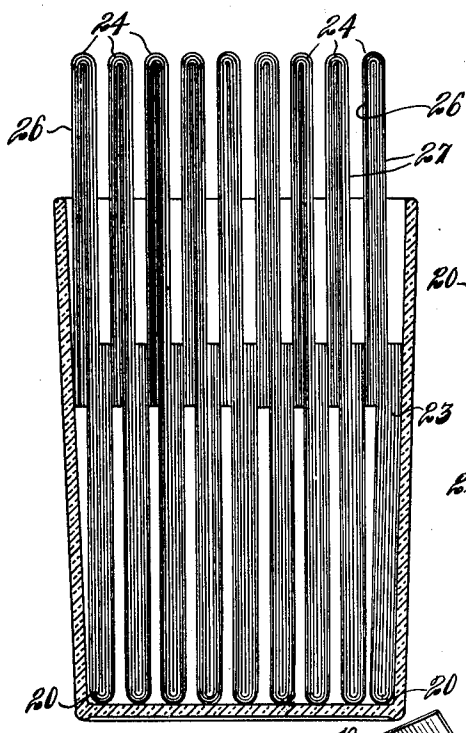


Fig. 4

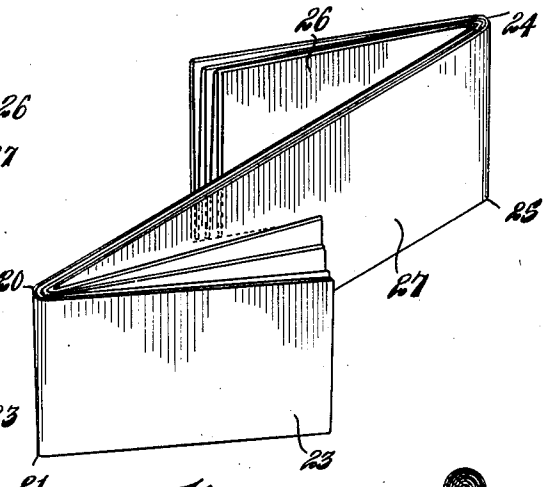


Fig. 2

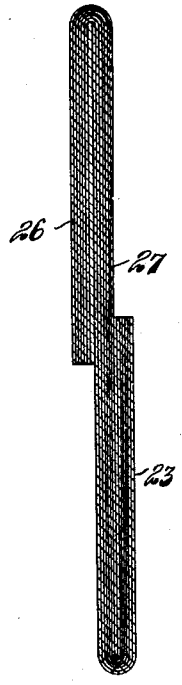


Fig. 3

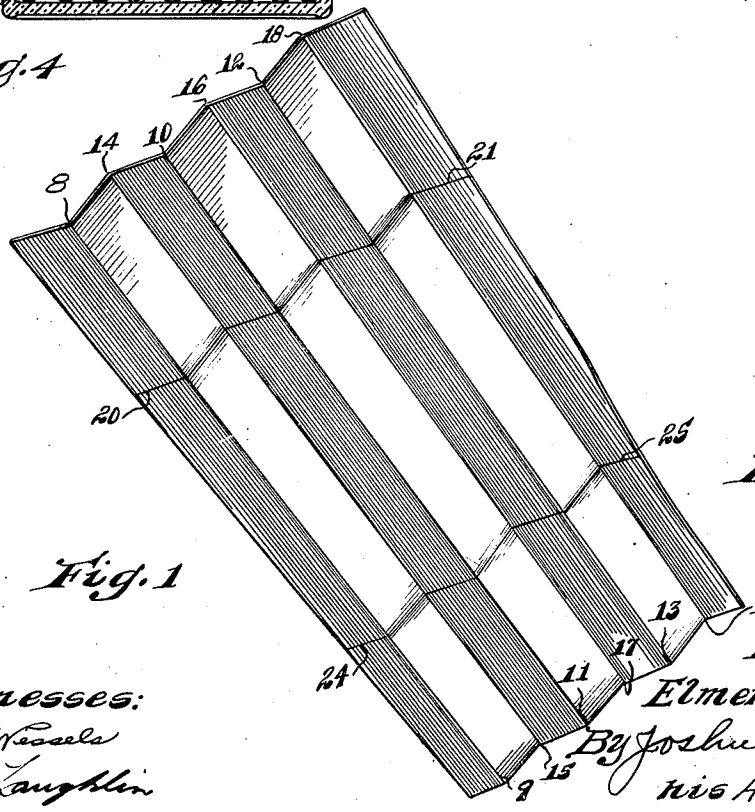


Fig. 1

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Fig. 6

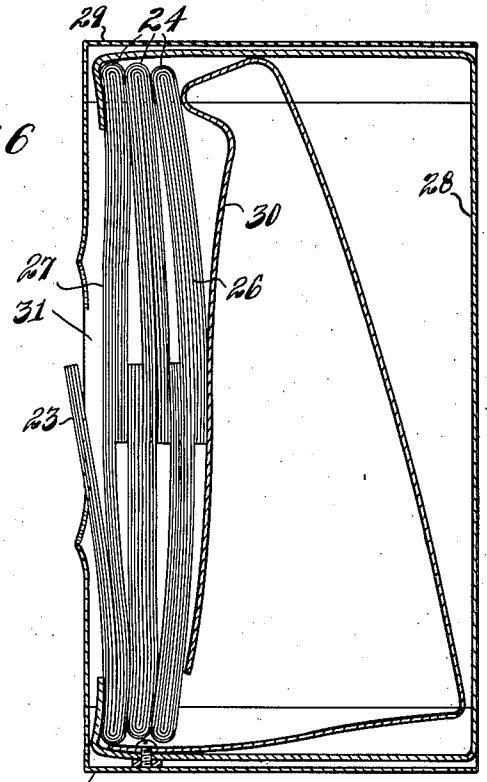


Fig. 5

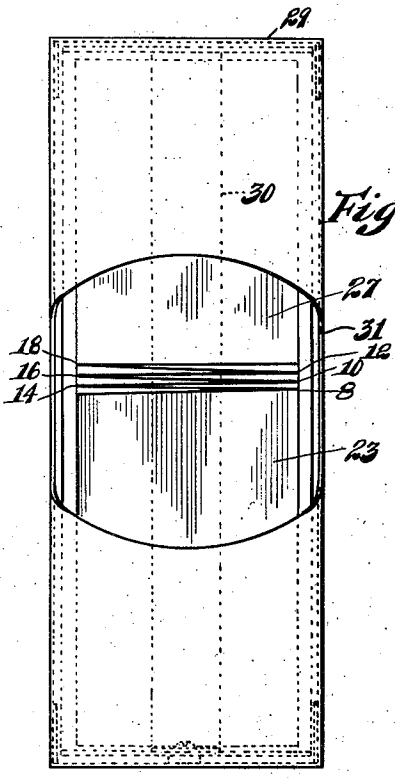
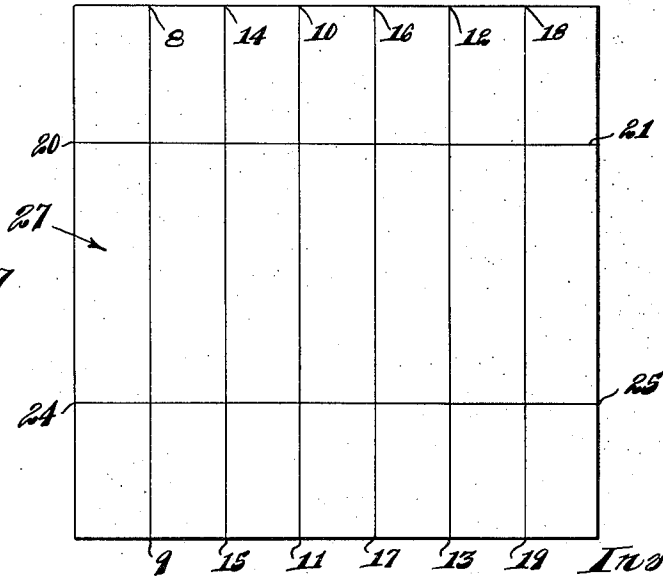


Fig. 7



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

ELMER C. MORRIS, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

FOLDED PAPER NAPKIN

Application filed February 3, 1928. Serial No. 251,499.

My invention relates to a folded paper napkin, and more particularly to a napkin characterized by a novel and improved sequence and arrangement of folds.

The invention has for its object the provision of a napkin which may be produced cheaply by automatic machinery and which possesses many advantages over existing forms of folded napkins, particularly when used in conjunction with dispensing containers in accordance with the prevailing practice.

Other objects will appear hereinafter.

The invention consists in the combinations and arrangements of parts hereinafter described and claimed.

The invention will be best understood by reference to the accompanying drawings forming a part of the specification, and in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view in unfolded form of a napkin embodying the present invention;

Figure 2 is a perspective view showing the preferred completed form of the article with the end tab portions slightly separated from the central body portion of the napkin;

Figure 3 is a longitudinal section of a completed napkin of the form shown in Figure 2, to more clearly illustrate the reinforcement of the central portion;

Figure 4 is a vertical sectional view of a package or plurality of napkins placed upright in a container such as an ordinary glass tumbler;

Figure 5 is a front view of a dispensing container of the type largely employed to render the napkins conveniently accessible to the user;

Figure 6 is a longitudinal sectional view of the container shown in Figure 5, illustrating a package of napkins disposed therein; and

Figure 7 is a plan view of a napkin in flat condition showing the lines of fold.

It is known that, heretofore, paper napkins have been folded in such a manner as to facilitate unfolding and also that folds of various types have been used with a view to rendering the napkins suitable for use in conjunction with a dispensing container. Therefore, briefly stated, the essential object of the present invention is the provision of a neat, compactly folded napkin possessing the advantage of being readily unfolded for use, and in addition thereto, possessing qualities of marked superiority in connection with handling and dispensing preparatory to use.

Referring to the drawings, and particularly Figure 1, the preferred embodiment comprises a sheet of comparatively thin, light paper material in which are formed a series of longitudinal folds in one direction along the lines 8—9, 10—11, and 12—13, alternating with a series of substantially parallel longitudinal folds in the opposite direction along the lines 14—15, 16—17, and 18—19. With the sheet thus folded, there is produced a rectangular strip of material composed of a plurality of superposed sections joined at the crease lines of the alternating folds. In the preferred embodiment, the article is then completed by making two reverse transverse folds of the longitudinal strip, one fold along the line 20—21 of Figure 2 to produce the tab portion 23, and a second reverse fold along the line 24—25 producing the tab portion 26. The positions of the fold lines 20—21, and 24—25 are such that the combined length of the two end tab portions 23 and 26 exceeds the length of the central body portion 27 extending between said fold lines 20—21 and 24—25. In this manner the free end portions of the folded tabs are co-extensive to form an overlap of the tabs in the completed article, and this overlap is preferably disposed centrally of the completed article, as shown in Figure 3.

A typical dispensing container is shown in Figures 5 and 6 and consists of an inner magazine member 28 which telescopes into an outer casing 29. The member 28 is open at either side for loading with a package of napkins and is provided with a leaf spring 30 which is compressed to the right in Figure 6 upon filling the holder with a package of napkins and which is especially

constructed to propel the package toward the front of the container and to maintain a uniform pressure against the napkins as they are successively removed. An opening 31 in front of the casing 29 is of appropriate size and location to permit of the convenient withdrawal of the napkins, one at a time, and in using the plurality of napkins folded in accordance with the present invention, the increased thickness throughout the central portion causes the tab of the foremost napkin to protrude through the opening and thus facilitate withdrawal, as shown in Figure 6.

The service of napkins by means of dispensing containers is rapidly superseding older methods for sanitary and other reasons, and the paper napkins heretofore used had many objectionable features, among which was the tendency to adhere to each other through friction and cause the withdrawal of more than one napkin at a time or cause wrinkling and disarrangement of the napkin next succeeding the one being withdrawn. In the present invention, the resistance to removal has been reduced to a minimum by reason of the fact that each end portion is approximately two-thirds the thickness of the reinforced portion and obviously this same proportion is present when the napkins are in packages. Such friction or adhesion as occurs is confined along the edges of the opening and the folding arrangement facilitates the withdrawal of one napkin at a time with ease and convenience and without disarranging succeeding napkins. Furthermore, an important advantage lies in the fact that it is unnecessary for a package of napkins to be placed in the container in a certain manner. As apparent in Figure 6, the package of napkins may be inverted or reversed in the container without affecting the mode of operation as described.

In lieu of a container of the type referred to, a package of napkins may be placed for convenient service in an ordinary tumbler as shown in Figure 4, and in such use the reinforced central portion of the package tends to maintain the napkins in an upright position and the removal of one napkin at a time is also facilitated by reason of the upper ends being separated as shown, due to the increased thickness at the center of the package.

The distinctive manner of folding is of particular advantage where dispensers of this latter type are used inasmuch as by the reduction in length together with the reinforcement by the triple thickness and overlapping of the central portion, each napkin is rendered more staple and maintains itself against crumpling or sagging and therefore, in an upright position as the napkins are successively removed.

Furthermore, the distinct manner of folding obviates any necessity to maniplate the napkin in unfolding. Simply by grasping an outer layer at either side of a tab and giving the article a flip or jerk, the napkin readily drops into unfolded position similar to that shown in Figure 1.

While I have illustrated and described the preferred form of construction for carrying my invention into effect, this is capable of variation and modification without departing from the spirit of the invention. I, therefore, do not wish to be limited to the precise details of construction set forth, but desire to avail myself of such variation and modifications as come within the scope of the appended claims.

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

1. As an element of a package to be dispensed through a central opening in the face of a dispensing cabinet, a rectangular paper napkin folded along lines parallel with an edge of the napkin to form superposed elongated plies, said plies being folded transversely of their longitudinal dimension to form rectangular tabs with their free ends in overlapping relation at the intermediate part of the element, to provide in a package of stacked elements a thick central part that tends to bulge the free end of the foremost tab through the central opening of the containing cabinet as the package is fed toward said opening.

2. As an element of a package to be dispensed through a central opening in the face of a dispensing cabinet, a rectangular paper napkin folded along lines parallel with an edge of the napkin to form superposed elongated plies, said plies being reversely folded transversely of their longitudinal dimension to form rectangular tabs on opposite sides of the intermediate part of the element with the free ends of the tabs in overlapping relation, the overlapping tabs providing in a package of stacked elements a thick central part that tends to bulge the free end of the foremost tab through the central opening of the containing cabinet as the package is fed toward said opening.

3. As an element of a package to be dispensed through a central opening in the face of a dispensing cabinet, a rectangular paper napkin folded along lines parallel with an edge of the napkin to form superposed elongated plies, said plies being folded transversely of their longitudinal dimension to form rectangular tabs with their free ends in overlapping relation at the intermediate part of the element, the tabs of elements in a package being interspaced with the main parts of the elements to maintain the end parts of the elements in spaced rela-

tion to facilitate the separation of the elements in dispensing the same.

4. As an element of a package to be dispensed through a central opening in the face of a dispensing cabinet, a rectangular paper napkin folded along lines parallel with an edge of the napkin to form superposed elongated plies, said plies being reversely folded transversely of their longitudinal dimension to form rectangular tabs on opposite sides of the element with the free ends of the tabs in overlapping relation on the intermediate part of the element, the tabs of adjacent elements in a package abutting each other and tending to maintain in spaced relation the end parts of the elements to facilitate the separation of the elements in dispensing the same.

5. As an element of a package to be dispensed through a central opening in the face of a dispensing cabinet, a rectangular paper napkin folded along lines parallel with an edge of the napkin to form superposed elongated plies, said plies being folded transversely of their longitudinal dimension to form rectangular tabs on opposite sides of the element with the free ends of the tabs in overlapping relation on the intermediate part of the element, to provide in a package of stacked elements a thick central part that tends to bulge the free end of the foremost tab through the central opening of the containing cabinet as the package is fed toward said opening, the tabs of the adjacent elements abutting each other and tending to maintain in spaced relation the end parts of the elements to facilitate the separation of the elements in dispensing the same.

6. An article adapted to be dispensed from a holder, comprising a sheet of paper folded transversely to form a plurality of transverse sections, the end portions of the folded sheet being folded on lines transverse to said first fold lines in opposite directions upon opposite sides of the sheet, each end section having a length substantially less than the intermediate section of said sheet, the sheet when thus folded being in condition for dispensing from the holder.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification.

ELMER C. MORRIS.