Feb. 6, 1934. C. O. PARMLEY 1,945,911

NAPKIN DISPENSING CABINET

Filed April 12, 1933 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

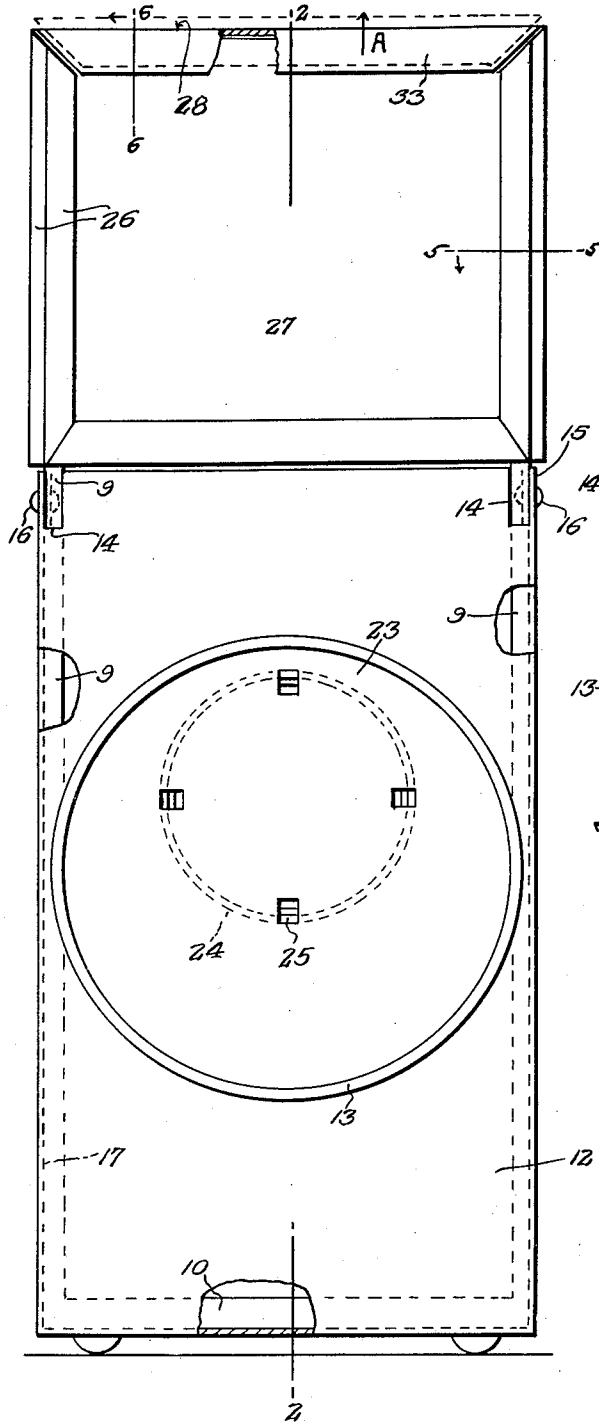


Fig. 1.

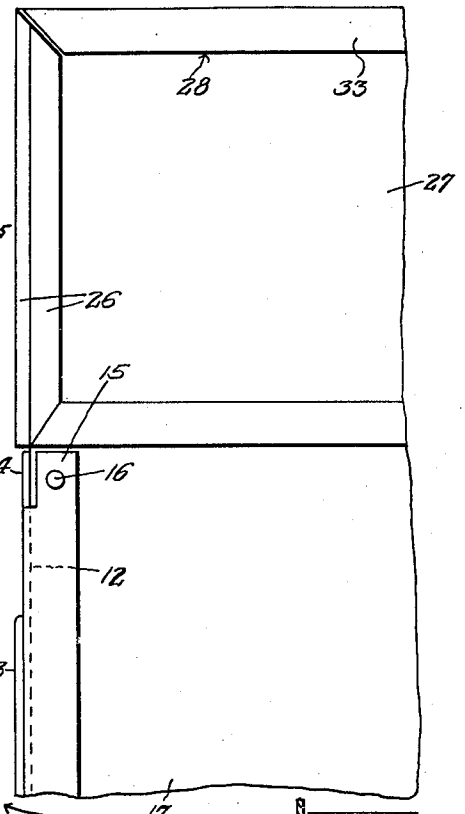


Fig. 4.

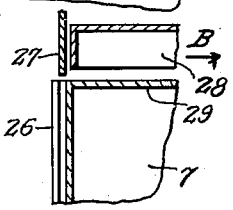


Fig. 6.

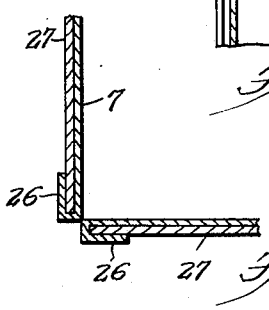


Fig. 5.

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NAPKIN DISPENSING CABINET

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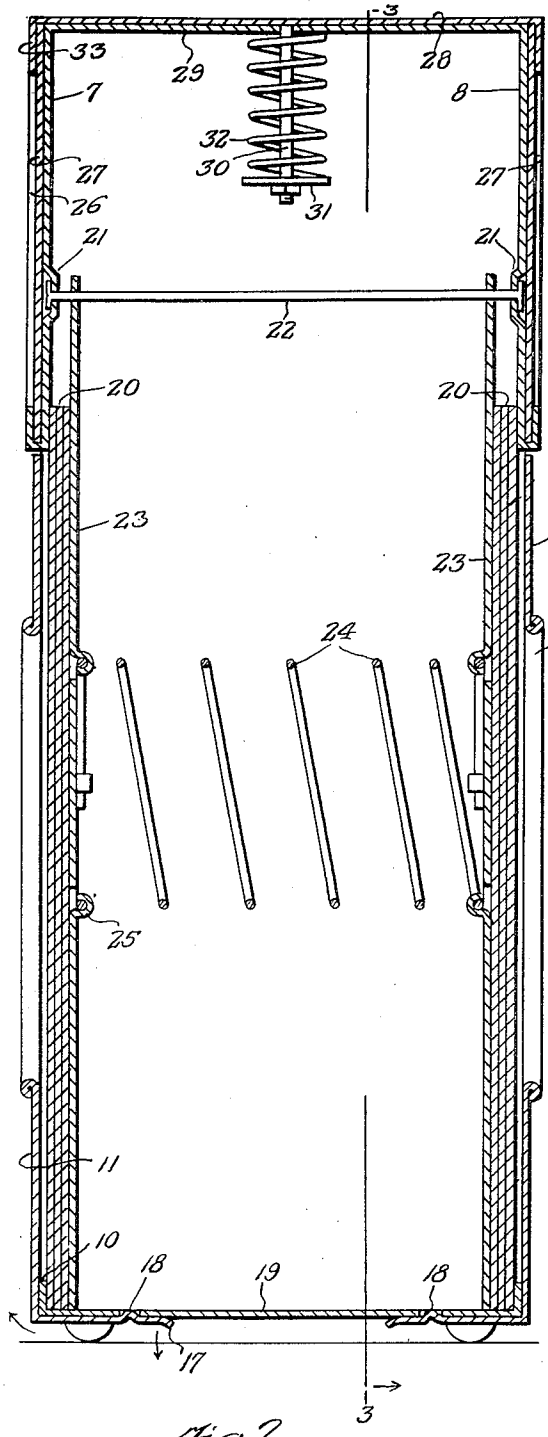


Fig. 2.

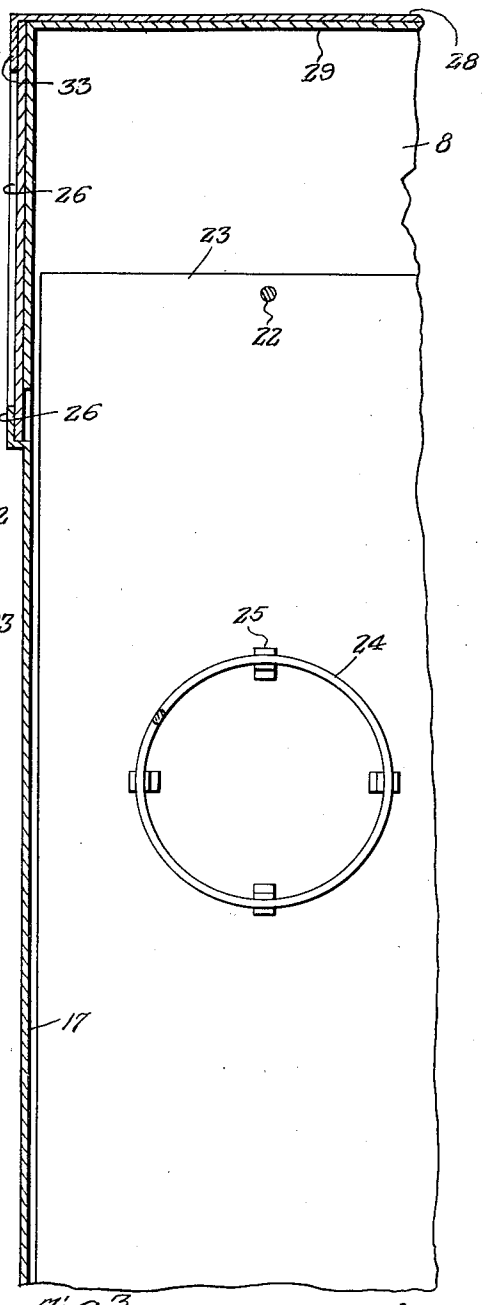


Fig. 3.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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NAPKIN DISPENSING CABINET

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Application April 12, 1933. Serial No. 665,806

3 Claims. (Cl. 312—61)

This invention relates to a paper napkin holder of the dispensing cabinet type used in lunchrooms, restaurants, and similar service establishments.

Broadly stated, napkin holders of this type now generally in use, are in the form of properly proportioned vertically elongated ornamental cabinet-like casings having one or more open sides through which the napkins are selectively withdrawn by the customer, means being provided on the interior to facilitate dispensing by feeding the stack of napkins toward the hand opening.

Fundamentally, my invention is of the same general character and is regarded as an improvement in that it embodies the following structural refinements and characteristics.

First, opposed sides of the cabinet-like casing are provided with hingedly mounted plates or doors held in closed position by suitable retaining means, each door being formed with a substantially circular hand hole beaded around its perimeter to facilitate withdrawal and to avoid tearing of napkins.

Secondly, novelty is predicated upon a simple and economical suspension rod on the interior on which spring pressed follower plates are slidably hung and automatically actuated by the spring means in a direction towards the hand holes to render the napkins readily accessible for withdrawal purposes.

Third, novelty is predicated upon the upper end construction of the four walls or sides of the cabinet, each of which is formed with channel-like retention guides to accommodate advertising and menu cards, etc., a special spring-retained lid being provided for co-operation with these features to hold the cards in place and to facilitate periodical exchange thereof.

Other features and advantages will become more readily apparent from the following description and drawings.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is what may be designated as a front elevational view showing one of the hinged closures with a substantially circular hand hole covered by an interiorly arranged follower plate, the napkins being omitted.

Figure 2 is a central vertical sectional view through the assembly shown in Figure 1, with the napkins in dispensing or withdrawal position.

Figure 3 is a section at right angles to Figure 2, the section being taken approximately on the plane of the line 3—3 of Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a fragmentary side elevational view of the upper portion of the structure.

Figure 5 is a horizontal section taken approximately on the plane of the line 5—5 of Figure 1.

Figure 6 is a fragmentary detail sectional view taken approximately on the plane of the line 6—6 of Figure 1, showing the manner in which the lid is shifted over to facilitate application and removal of a display or menu card.

Attention is first invited to Figure 2, wherein it will be observed that the cabinet is of substantially rectangular vertically elongated form, of appropriate dimensions and preferably constructed of light-weight metal. It comprises a pair of front and rear walls 7 and 8 having their major lower portions cut away to permit access to be had to the interior. As shown in Figure 1, the open lower portions of the front and rear walls are surrounded by three marginal flanges 9 and 10 which serve as stop elements for the hingedly mounted closing plates or doors 11 and 12. Each door is of duplicate construction and formed with a substantially circular hand hole surrounded by a marginal rounded bead 13 designed to facilitate withdrawal of the napkins one-by-one, and to prevent injury or cutting of the patron's hands. Incidently, the hand hole 13 is sufficiently large to permit the napkin to be pulled out easily but not so large as to permit several napkins to be accidently withdrawn as is the case when relatively large rectangular withdrawal or hand openings are provided.

As shown in Figure 1, the upper end portion of the closing plates are provided with clearance notches 14 which clear adjacent portions of the flanges 9. Also, the upper flanged edge portion of the plate is reduced as indicated at 15 to provide what may be designated as an attaching ear, this being pivoted as at 16 to the side walls 17 of the casing.

The lower free swingable end portions of the doors are provided with resilient retaining latches 17 constructed with detents 18 which snap into keeper openings formed in the bottom 19 as shown in Figure 2. This serves to hold the two doors in closed position. It also permits the doors to be swung outwardly to permit access to be had to the interior for placing the paper napkins 20 in place.

It is further shown in Figure 2 that the walls 7 and 8 are provided with countersunk recesses 21 which serve to accommodate the end portions of a centralized horizontally disposed suspension rod 22.

The numeral 23 in Figure 2 designates a ver-

tical napkin follower and presser plate whose upper end portions are apertured and slidably suspended from the rod 22. These plates are of an area commensurate with the proportions of the walls 7 and 8 with which they co-operate. They serve to uniformly back up the stack of napkins 20 to force them outwardly within convenient reach of the hand holes 13. The follower plates are pressed outwardly through the instrumentality of a properly arranged and tensioned coil spring 24 whose end coils are fastened as at 25 to the follower plate.

I next call attention to the advertising card, menu, and display means, intended to add greater utility and ornamentation to the structure. This means is located at the upper portion of the cabinet above the hinged ends of the doors. The means on each face or side of the cabinet is exactly the same, and a description of one will suffice for all. The means may be said to comprise three inbent flanges 26 of cross sectional shape as shown in Figure 5, which flanges serve to function as channel-shaped guides or receptacles for the removable menu card or the like 27 (see Figure 5).

In order to finish off the construction and to securely maintain the cards in place, I provide a special lid or cap 28. This is in the form of a plate which corresponds in shape and proportions to the top 29 of the cabinet as shown in Figure 2. Incidently, this top 29 is provided with a central opening and the cap plate is provided with a depending pin or stud 30 which extends down through the opening into the interior of the cabinet. It is provided on its lower end with a washer 31 held in place by a nut and the washer serves to hold the coiled closing spring 32 in position. The spring obviously surrounds the pin and bears at its upper end against the underside of the top 29.

The cap plate is provided around its four edges with depending flanges 33 which more or less match the aforesaid flanges 26. In other words, these flanges 26 and 33 co-operate in forming a display panel surrounded by a marginal channel-shaped frame. The cap can be lifted upwardly in the direction of the arrow A in Figure 1 and then raised sufficiently and shifted over in the direction of the arrow B as shown in Figure 6 to uncover the upper open ends of the vertical guide channels 26 to permit withdrawal and insertion of the cards 27.

Specifically summarized, it will be observed that the principal feature of construction is predicated upon the horizontal suspension rod 22 on the interior of the cabinet carrying the rectangular spring-pressed follower plate 23 co-operating with the hinged plates or doors 12 to force the napkins out against the doors and within convenient reach, access being had through the hand hole 13.

An equal degree of novelty is thought to reside in the centrally apertured flat top 29, the correspondingly shaped square plate forming the body of the lid or cap 28 wherein said plate has marginal depending flanges 33 to engage and hold the cards 27 securely in place in the channels 26. Stated more explicitly, emphasis is placed on the depending pin 30 carried by the lid and extending down through the central opening in the top 29 with the associated washer and spring 31 and 32 providing spring retaining means for holding the top down in card clamping position.

It is to be observed however that there is sufficient looseness of action in this spring and pin arrangement as to permit the entire cap to be raised up and then shifted over laterally as shown in Figure 6 so as to uncover the channel-shaped guides 26 and to allow insertion and removal of display cards. This arrangement is not only useful, but believed to be ornamental.

A careful consideration of the foregoing description in conjunction with the illustrative drawings will enable the reader to obtain a clear understanding of the purpose, features and advantages, the explicit construction, and the invention as hereinafter claimed.

It is to be understood that minor changes in shape, size, relative proportions, and materials may be resorted to in practice without departing from the spirit of the invention or the scope of the invention as now claimed.

I claim:

1. A napkin holder and dispensing device comprising a vertically elongated casing constituting a container for a stack of napkins, at least one wall of said container embodying an opening permitting access to be had to the interior for placing the napkins in position for subsequent withdrawal, said opening being surrounded by inturned marginal stop flanges, a hinged door for closing said opening, said door comprising a plate hingedly connected at its upper end portion to the exterior of the casing and having its lower swingable end portion movable outwardly and upwardly, said lower end portion being provided with an inturned resilient retaining latch, the bottom of the casing having an opening constituting a keeper for said latch, said door plate having a circular hand hole surrounded by a protective marginal bead, and means on the interior of the casing for automatically feeding the napkins into easily grasped position, said means comprising a horizontal suspension rod, a follower-plate slidably mounted on said rod, and spring means for exerting pressure against said plate to press the napkins against the inner side of the aforesaid door.

2. In a napkin holding and dispensing device of the class described, a vertically elongated substantially rectangular box-like casing, the front and rear walls thereof having their lower end portions formed with openings permitting access to be had to the interior for placing the napkins therein for subsequent withdrawal purposes, said openings being surrounded by marginal stop flanges, a pair of duplicate closing doors for said openings, each door comprising a plate of a size commensurate with the openings, the plate having longitudinal side flanges swingable into overlapping relationship with the side walls of the casing, the upper end portions of the plates being notched and formed with attaching ears pivotally connected with the side walls, the notches bridging the adjacent portions of the stop flanges to provide for clearance and to permit free swinging of the hinged ends of the plates, each plate being formed at its lower end with an inturned resilient retaining latch cooperable with the bottom of the casing, each plate being further formed with a relatively small centralized circular hole through which the napkin is withdrawn, said hole being surrounded by a marginal reinforcing and protective bead, a horizontal suspension rod on the interior of the casing, a pair of duplicate follower and napkin presser plates slidably suspended from said rod to press the napkins against the inner sides of the doors, and a coil spring interposed between said follower plates and connected thereto for the purpose described.

3. A napkin holder and dispensing device comprising a casing constituting a container for a stack of napkins, at least one wall of said container embodying an opening permitting access to be had to the interior for placing the napkins in position for subsequent withdrawal, said opening being surrounded by inturned marginal stop flanges, a door for closing said opening, said door comprising a plate hingedly connected at its upper end portion to the exterior of the casing and having its lower swingable end portion movable outwardly and upwardly, said lower end portion being provided with a retaining latch, the bottom of the casing having an opening constituting a keeper for said latch, said door plate having a hand hole surrounded by a protective marginal bead, and means on the interior of the casing for feeding the napkins into easily grasped position, said means comprising a horizontal suspension rod, a follower plate slidably mounted on said rod, and means for exerting pressure against said plate to press the napkins against the inner side of the aforesaid door.

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