Dec. 29, 1959 P. S. ALLEN 2,919,018

COMBINED CIGARETTE-PACKAGE, MATCHBOOK AND ASH-TRAY HOLDER

Filed June 10, 1957

Fig. 1.

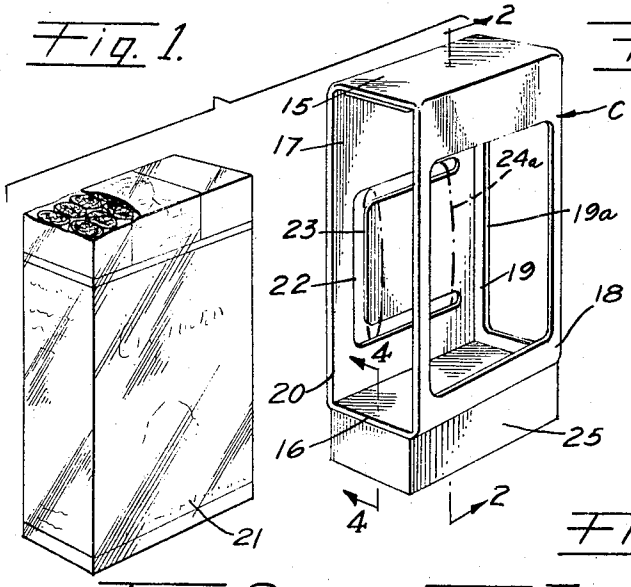


Fig. 6.

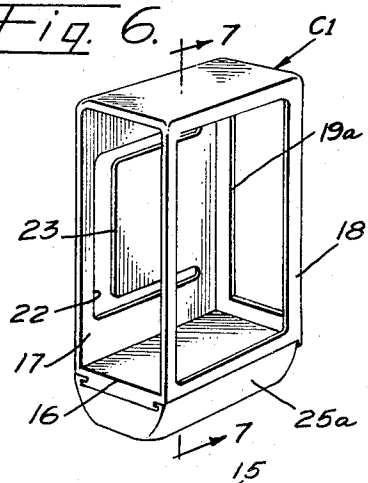


Fig. 2.

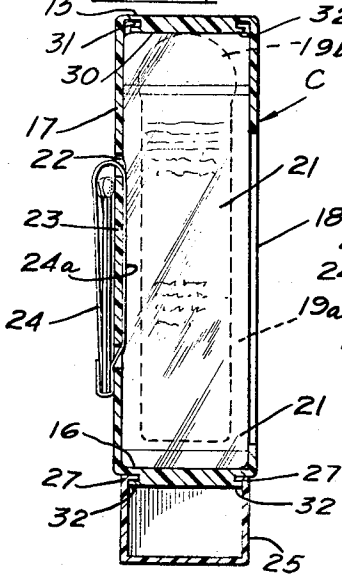


Fig. 3.

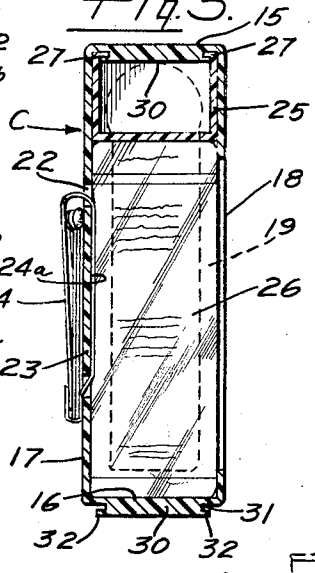


Fig. 7.

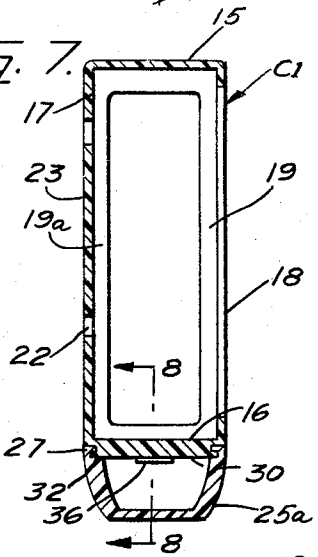


Fig. 4.

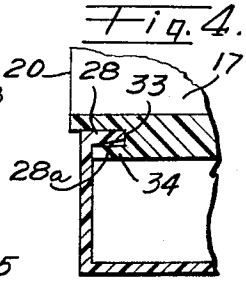
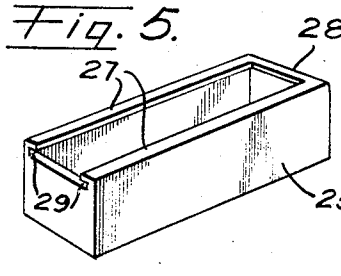


Fig. 5.



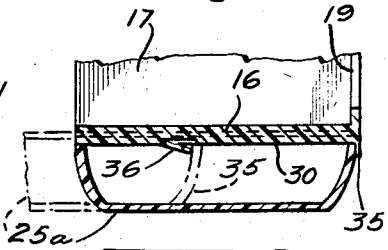


Fig. 8.

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2,919,018

Patented Dec. 29, 1959

2,919,018

COMBINED CIGARETTE-PACKAGE, MATCHBOOK AND ASHTRAY HOLDER

Philip S. Allen, Carlsbad, Calif.

Application June 10, 1957, Serial No. 664,656

4 Claims. (Cl. 206—38)

My invention relates to a holder for a cigarette package of the form adapted to be carried in a person's pocket to prevent the cigarettes from being crushed, and the sifting of tobacco from the cigarettes.

It is a purpose of my invention to provide a holder of the above described character, which includes means for attaching thereto a matchbook and in position thereon convenient for removing a match therefrom to light a cigarette.

It is also a purpose of my invention to provide a cigarette-package holder having embodied therein an ash tray which can be partly extended from the holder for use, or completely removed therefrom both for use and dumping.

A further purpose of my invention is the provision of a cigarette-package holder which is capable of accommodating a regular-size or a king-size package of cigarettes, and an ash tray adapted to be mounted in the holder to coact therewith for retaining therein a regular-size package, or removable therefrom and attachable to one end of the holder so that the latter can now accommodate and retain a king-size package therein.

Another purpose of my invention is to provide means for locking the tray on the casing and yet permitting part extension of the tray from the casing for use.

I will describe only two forms of combined cigarette-package, matchbook and ash-tray holder, each embodying my invention, and will then point out the novel features thereof in claims.

In the accompanying drawings:

Fig. 1 is a view showing in perspective one form of holder embodying my invention, and including an ash tray on the lower end thereof, and a cigarette package of king size in position for insertion into the holder.

Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1, with a king-size cigarette package therein, and a matchbook attached to the holder.

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2 showing the ash tray mounted within the holder as distinguished from Fig. 2, and a regular-size cigarette package in the holder.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is a detail perspective view of the ash tray.

Fig. 6 is a view showing in perspective another form of holder embodying my invention.

Fig. 7 is a vertical sectional view taken on the line 7—7 of Fig. 6.

Fig. 8 is a fragmentary sectional view taken on the line 8—8 of Fig. 7.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, the holder shown in Figs. 1 to 3 comprises a casing C of rectangular

skeleton form which is preferably made of suitable plastic material, and includes an upper end or top wall **15**, a lower end or bottom wall **16**, side walls **17** and **18**, and a rear wall **19**. The side wall **18** may be cut out as shown leaving corner posts connecting the end walls.

The casing C is without a front wall so as to provide a rectangular opening **20** through which a cigarette package **21** of king size can be inserted into the holder or partly or completely removed therefrom as required in the use of the cigarettes therein, as will be understood. Moreover, the spacing of the walls **15** and **16** and that of the walls **17** and **18** are such that the package **21** will be snugly received in the holder to prevent accidental removal thereof and yet it can be readily slid therefrom.

The package **21** is limited in its movement inwardly into the casing by the rear wall **19** which is cut out to leave a rectangular flange **19***a* which provides an abutment for the package so that it cannot be pushed out of that side of the casing.

The side wall **17** of the casing is provided with a U-shaped slot **22** to form between the parallel portions thereof a tongue **23**. The tongue and the slot are employed to mount a matchbook **24** on the casing, and, as will be understood from reference to Figs. 1 and 2, the book is applied to the tongue by extending the back portion **24***a* of the book cover to the inner side of the tongue so that the tongue is disposed between the matches and the cover back as clearly shown in Fig. 2 and in broken lines in Fig. 1, and whereby the matchbook is mounted on the casing against accidental removal even when pulling a match therefrom to light a cigarette.

Provision is made in my invention for mounting a tray **25** for ashes and cigarette butts either on the lower end wall **16** of the casing, or on the lower side of the upper end wall **15**. With the tray mounted on the wall **16**, the interior of the casing can snugly accommodate a cigarette package of king size as will be evident from a consideration of Fig. 2. When the tray **25** is mounted on the lower side of the top wall **15** the interior of the casing is so reduced in length as to accommodate only a cigarette package **26** of regular size, as illustrated in Fig. 3, and snugly so to prevent accidental removal of the package form the casing.

Various means may be employed for mounting the ash try **25** in either of the afore-described positions on the casing, and for this purpose the walls **15** and **16**, and the tray **25** are constructed as follows:

The tray, which is likewise constructed of suitable plastic material, is of rectangular form, and of a length and width corresponding substantially to that of either end wall **15** or **16**, and the top thereof is open. The top longitudinal edges of the tray are formed with inturned flanges **27**, while the upper transverse edge of the tray is formed with an inturned flange **28** which bridges the trailing ends of the flanges **27**. The leading ends of the flanges **27** are coplanar with the leading end wall of the tray, and such wall is reduced in height to form entrance grooves **29** for flanges on the casing which can be extended beneath the flanges **27** to slidably mount the tray either on the lower wall **16** or the upper wall **15** of the casing by constructing these walls as follows:

The lower sides of the casing walls **15** and **16** are each provided with a thickened portion **30** of less width and length than the wall, and which is formed along its longitudinal edges with grooves **31** coextensive in length

therewith, to provide flanges or tongues 32 of corresponding length. Similarly, one end of each portion 30 is formed with a groove 33 coextensive in length therewith to provide a flange 34 of corresponding length.

To apply the tray 25 to the bottom wall 16, the open ends of the flanges 27 are extended into the grooves 31 so that the flanges 27 coact with the flanges 32 to slidably support the tray on the wall. When the tray is pushed home on the wall the sides and ends of the tray are flush with the sides and ends of the casing, and the top of the tray completely closed to confine against escape cigarette ashes or butts that may have been deposited therein. Also, the cigarette package contained in the casing is protected against being ignited by lighted cigarette butts deposited in the tray.

In the closed position of the tray the end flange 28 is extended into the groove 33, where it abuts the adjacent end of the portion 28, thus limiting inward sliding movement of the tray to the flush position above described. In this completely closed position of the tray the flange 28 is disposed to the upper side of the end flange 34.

To releasably retain the tray in closed position so that when not in use it cannot accidentally slide off of the casing or even to open position, parts of the tray and wall may be so constructed that any contacting surfaces of the two will have frictional engagement one with the other when the tray is pushed to closed position on the casing. In the present instance, the tray flange 28 is bevelled on its underside, as indicated at 28*a* in Fig. 4, so that it has binding engagement with the upperside of the flange 34 to a degree such as to retain the tray in closed position and yet permit ready pulling of the tray to open position.

The tray 25 can be mounted on the underside of the wall 15 in the same manner as described in connection with mounting of the tray on the wall 16, since the portion 30 thereon is of the same construction as the portion 30 of the wall 16. In completely closed position of the tray its distal end wall abuts the upper transverse end portion of the flange 19*a*. This flange portion and the adjacent ends of the longitudinal flange portions are shaped to form an opening 19*b*, shown in broken lines in Figs. 2 and 3. Through this opening, one may extend his finger to push the tray partway out of the casing to expose it for use.

From the preceding description of how the tray is applied to either end of the casing, it should be clear that to permit the king-size package 21 to be snugly and yet slidably received in the casing, as shown in Fig. 2, the tray is mounted on the end wall 16, and that to snugly and yet slidably receive the regular-size package 26 in the casing, the tray is detached from the lower end of the casing and mounted on the underside of the wall 15. The height of the tray is such that as so mounted it fills the space between the upper end of the package and the wall 15 so that the package fits snugly in the casing and yet can be readily slid therefrom for access to the cigarettes contained therein.

Referring now to Figs. 6, 7 and 8, I have here shown a form of holder which is especially designed for holding a cigarette package of regular size only. The casing of this holder indicated generally at C^1 is of substantially the same construction as the casing C in the first form of my invention, and, hence, the same reference characters have been employed to designate those parts identical to corresponding parts of the casing C.

The interior dimensions of the casing C^1 are such as to snugly and yet slidably receive the regular-size cigarette package 26, and only the lower end wall 16 is constructed to mount an ash tray thereon, the upper end wall 15 being without the thickened portion 30 and the flanges and grooves. The wall 16 is of the same construction as the wall 16 in the first form, except a lip 35 is formed on one end of the wall which provides an abutment for the tray to limit its sliding movement lengthwise thereon when closed to the flush position shown.

In addition, the portion 30 of the wall 16 is provided with a latch 36 which may be made by cutting out a part of such portion to form a resilient tongue that normally is urged to the extended position shown in Fig. 8, but can be moved to a position flush with the surface of the portion 30 by the tray to allow application of the latter to the wall.

The tray generally indicated at 25*a*, is substantially of the same construction as the tray 25 in Fig. 5, the only difference being it is shorter and has rounded outer sides and ends to eliminate sharp corners and present a tapered form to the lower part of the tray which facilitates insertion of the whole holder into one's pocket, particularly a short pocket. The reason for making the tray shorter is that when the leading end of the tray abuts the inner side of the lip 35, the tray will be completely closed.

From a consideration of Fig. 8, it will be clear that the latch 36 while permitting application of the tray 25*a* to the holder, once applied the latch serves to lock it against complete removal by one end wall of the tray engaging the latch as shown in broken lines, and yet it permits the tray to be slid to a partly open position sufficient to allow ashes and butts to be deposited therein.

Although I have herein shown and described only two forms of combined cigarette-package, matchbook and ash-tray holder, each embodying my invention, it is to be understood that various changes and modifications may be made therein without departing from the spirit of the invention and the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. A cigarette-package holder, including: a casing of rectangular form having an opening therein through which a cigarette package of king-size or regular-size can be inserted edgewise into or removed from the casing; a tray for ashes; means on the tray and means exteriorly on one end of the casing adapted to slidably mount the tray on said casing end; and a second means on the inner side of one end of the casing accessible through said opening, the second means coacting with the means on the tray, thereby slidably mounting the tray within the casing; and the tray of a height slightly less than the difference in length of a king-size package and a regular-size package of cigarettes so that when the tray is mounted within the casing a regular-size cigarette package can be received in the casing between the tray and the remote end of the casing.

2. A cigarette-package holder, including: a casing of rectangular form having an opening in one side wall thereof through which a cigarette package can be extended edgewise into the casing; the inner side of one end wall and the outer side of the other end wall formed on their longitudinal edges with grooves adapted respectively to slidably receive the flanges on the longitudinal edges of a tray for movably mounting it in or on the casing.

3. A cigarette-package holder, including: a casing of rectangular form having an opening therein through which a cigarette package having an open top can be inserted edgewise into the casing leaving the open top spaced from one end wall of the casing; a tray having an open top; and coacting means on the inner side of said wall and on said tray adapted to slidably mount said tray in the casing so that it can be moved into and out of the casing, and when completely within the casing the top thereof is closed by said end wall.

4. A cigarette-package holder, including: a casing of rectangular form having a rectangular opening in one edge wall thereof through which an open top cigarette package can be slid edgewise into the casing leaving the open top spaced from one end wall of the opening; said end wall having in its inner side parallel spaced grooves extending longitudinally thereof and closed at their inner ends by the other edge wall of the casing, and opening at

their outer ends to said opening; an open-top tray in the casing between said end wall and said package and closed by said end wall; and flanges on the upper longitudinal edges of said tray engaging within the grooves for slidably supporting said tray on said end wall so that it can be moved into and out of the casing through said opening.

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