

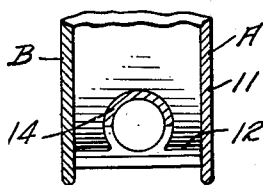
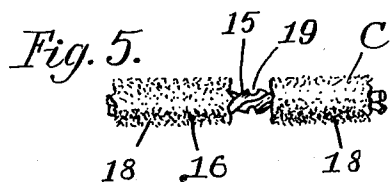
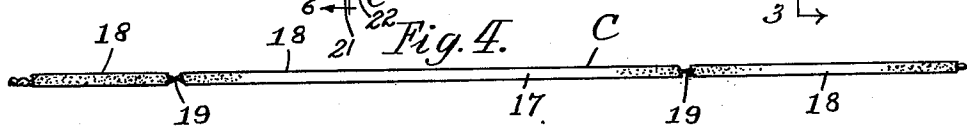
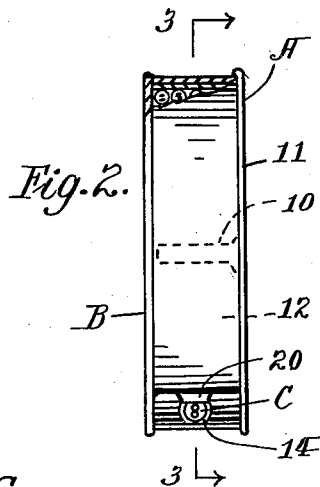
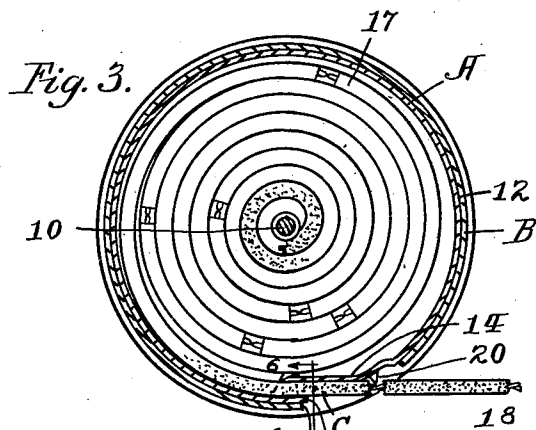
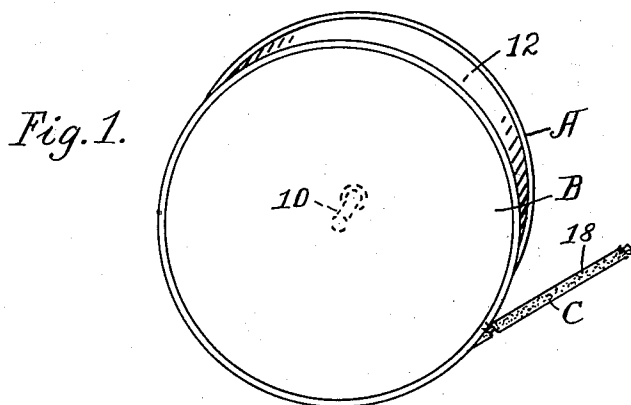
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2,510,345

PIPE STEM CLEANER

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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PIPE STEM CLEANER

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3 Claims. (Cl. 131-245)

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Our invention relates to a pipe stem cleaner which is used for cleaning the stems of tobacco smoking pipes. The primary object of the invention is to provide a strip of pipe stem cleaners in a magazine or carrying case of relatively small size which can be conveniently carried in the pocket of the user and from which they can be easily and quickly dispensed one at a time leaving a supply on hand ready for subsequent use. Among further objects are maximum simplicity and inexpensive construction and increased effectiveness in use.

In the accompanying drawing forming part of this specification, Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing a carrying case or magazine and a portion of a strip of the pipe stem cleaners projecting therefrom; Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the structure shown in Fig. 1, a portion of the carrying case or magazine being broken away to illustrate its construction; Fig. 3 is a central vertical section taken approximately on the line 3-3 of Fig. 2; Fig. 4 is a side view of a portion of the continuous strip of pipe cleaners which is wound in the carrying case or magazine; Fig. 5 is a side view of a detail portion of the strip of pipe stem cleaners enlarged to more clearly show the construction thereof, and Fig. 6 is a vertical section at slightly enlarged scale taken approximately on line 6-6 of Fig. 3, when the strip of pipe stem cleaners is omitted.

In the use of our invention we provide a carrying case or magazine of suitable shape and size which can be easily carried in the pocket of a smoker without objectional protrusion and in which a strip of pipe stem cleaners is retained in readiness for instant use. The carrying case or magazine comprises a substantially circular disk-like container having a base or body or housing member A and a readily removable cover or lid or housing member B, telescoped together. The body A is provided with an axially disposed, inwardly extending pin or spindle or stub shaft 10 which is rigidly mounted upon the floor 11 of base A. The peripheral side wall 12 of base A is provided with an inwardly extending wall portion 14 to form a longitudinally extending orifice channel through which a strip of the pipe stem cleaners is guided outwardly, a portion of the cover or lid B being cut away at 21 on its outer side portion to expose the channel and the emerging strip of pipe stem cleaners. The housing member B and the adjacent wall portion 22 of the housing member A are spaced from the inwardly extending wall portion 14 whereby the pipe cleaner may pass through the channel. The

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longitudinal direction of the channel is substantially tangent to the annular side wall 12 of the body A. The shoulder 20 is far enough in advance of the actual orifice so that when a section of the strip is broken away a short portion is left lying in the channel where it can be easily engaged by hand to subsequently draw a successive section of the strip out of the magazine.

The carrying case or magazine is adapted to hold a strip of pipe stem cleaners C, the cleaners thereof being of any suitable construction, that shown and which is particularly adapted for use in said case being of the usual type having a twisted fine wire core 15 and a brush or jacket 16, the bristles of which are of any suitable material and fastened by the twisted convolutions of the wire core. The wire core imparts stiffness to the pipe stem cleaner while the jacket functions as a swab or brush to clean the pipe stem when a section of the cleaner is reciprocated through said stem. A continuous length 17 of this strip of pipe stem cleaners is coiled freely around the spindle 10 and retained in the carrying case as shown in Fig. 3, with its outer end threaded tangentially through the orifice channel 14.

The strip of pipe stem cleaners is apportioned into a series of even lengths or sections 18 suitable for use by the user in cleaning a pipe stem as shown in Figs. 4 and 5, each node or apportioning means being formed by weakening transverse indentures or grooves such as 19 in the wire core 15 and by separating or removing a portion of the jacket or brush 16 at each junction or node between adjacent sections. The cleaner thus resembles a continuous strip of frangible sections at evenly spaced intervals throughout its length which is condensed by forming into a coil in the carrying case or magazine as shown in Fig. 3, with its outer end threaded and projecting outwardly through the orifice channel 14. In this position the strip of pipe stem cleaners is brought with its outermost weakening junction into registry with a bearing shoulder 20 on the side wall 12 of the base A of the carrying case or magazine.

In use the carrying case is held in one hand with a thumb or finger pressing the strip of pipe stem cleaners with its exposed weakening spot over and against said shoulder and the outer section is then easily broken away and segregated ready for use leaving a portion of the remaining section of the strip resting in the orifice channel where it is exposed in readiness to be engaged and a subsequent section of the cleaner used.

When the continuous strip of pipe stem cleaners is exhausted in the carrying case or magazine

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a fresh strip can be easily replaced by removing the cover B. The structure thus provided is extremely simple and effective in use and provides the pipe smoker with a supply of pipe stem cleaners which is easy and convenient to carry in readiness for instant use.

The strip of pipe stem cleaners can be apportioned in weakened frangible sections as described or divided by merely marking into sections at which points the cleaner is adapted to be segregated into sections without weakening nodes.

While we have described our invention as applied to a "strip of pipe stem cleaners" we wish it understood that the latter is equally applicable for use for cleaning various articles, and that said term is equally applicable in an equivalent sense.

In accordance with the patent statutes we have described the principles of operation of our invention together with the construction thereof which we now consider to represent the best embodiment thereof, but we desire to have it understood that the construction described is only illustrative and that the invention can be carried into practice by other means and applied to uses other than those above set forth within the spirit thereof and within the scope of the following claims.

We claim:

1. A pipe cleaner magazine comprising cylindrical housing members one within the other, one of said members housing a pin adapted to receive a pipe cleaner coiled thereabout, one housing member having an inwardly extending wall portion and the other housing member having an opening therein adjacent the wall portion, said second housing member and an adjacent wall portion of the first housing member being spaced from the inwardly extending wall portion at said opening, whereby one end of the pipe cleaner may pass from the interior of the first housing member to the exterior of the second housing member, and an outwardly extending shoulder on the inwardly extending wall portion adapted to provide a severing edge whereby the pipe cleaner may be divided into short sections.

2. A magazine for holding strips of pipe cleaners having weakened frangible junctions at evenly spaced distances, comprising cylindrical housing members one within the other, a spindle extending inwardly from one of said housing members adapted to receive a strip of pipe cleaner coiled thereabout, one housing member having an inwardly extending wall portion and the other housing member having an opening therein adjacent the wall portion to provide a longitudinal orifice

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channel, said second housing member and an adjacent wall portion of the first housing member being spaced from the inwardly extending wall portion at said opening, whereby one end of the pipe cleaner may pass from the interior of the first housing member to the exterior of said second housing member through said longitudinal orifice channel, said channel being of sufficient length to leave a portion of the pipe cleaner exposed therein, and an outwardly extending shoulder on the inwardly extending wall portion adapted to provide a severing edge, whereby the pipe cleaner may be divided into short sections.

3. A pipe cleaner magazine comprising cylindrical housing members one within the other, one of said members housing a pin adapted to receive a pipe cleaner coiled thereabout, said pipe cleaner comprising a strand which is marked and notched at spaced intervals throughout its length, one housing member having an inwardly extending wall portion and the other housing member having an opening therein adjacent the wall portion, said second housing member and an adjacent wall portion of the first housing member being spaced from the inwardly extending wall portion at said opening, whereby one end of the pipe cleaner may pass from the interior of the first housing member to the exterior of the second housing member, and an outwardly extending shoulder on the inwardly extending wall portion adapted to provide a severing edge whereby said strand may be broken off into short lengths as it is withdrawn from said magazine.

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