

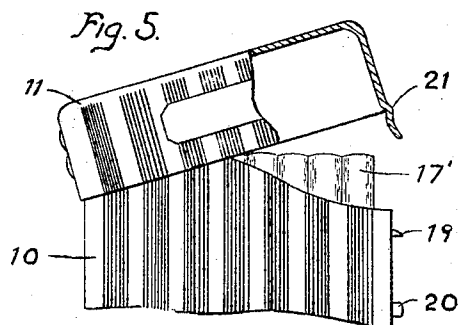
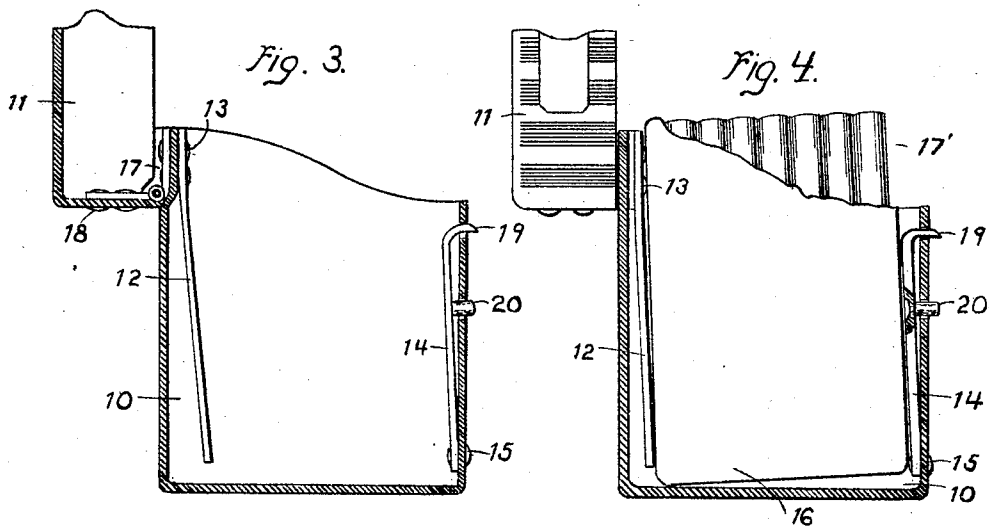
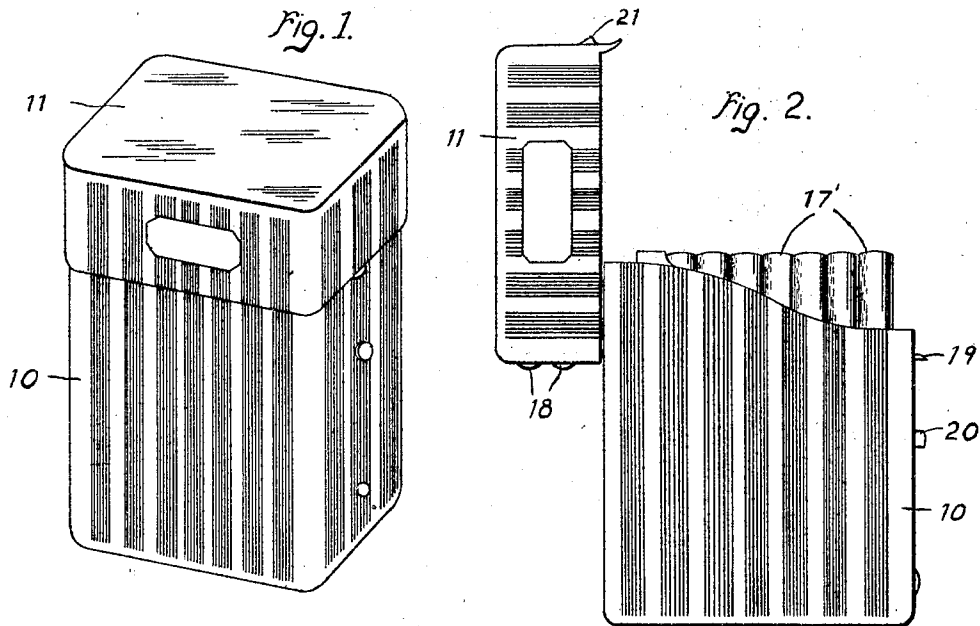
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O. C. RITZ WOLLER

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CIGARETTE CASE

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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CIGARETTE CASE

Application filed January 13, 1928. Serial No. 246,402.

My invention relates to cigarette cases and it has for its object the provision of a new and improved arrangement of parts whereby an attractive case is produced of sufficient strength to afford the protection required and still of very light weight, of such construction as to enable it to be held and opened readily by the action of one hand, and so arranged that the cigarettes retained in the original package shall be held in such position within the case as to prevent injury to the cigarettes upon the opening and closing motions of the lid or cover member. To these ends, it is one of the objects of my invention to provide such an arrangement that the lid or cover in its opened position shall not interfere with the insertion of the package of cigarettes or with the withdrawal of one or more cigarettes from the package. It is another object of my invention to provide a form about the upper end of the package when in position in the case upon which the paper and foil of the package can be torn for making the cigarettes easily accessible. It is another object of my invention to provide an improved arrangement of springs for holding the package in position in the case and for holding the lid or cover releasably in closed position. It is still another object of my invention to arrange the parts in such manner that there shall be substantial reinforcement of the part of the casing upon which the hinge of the lid or cover is mounted, such reinforcement being attained preferably by mounting the hinge in connection with one of the springs which bear on the package of cigarettes.

It is another object of my invention to improve devices of this type in sundry details hereinafter pointed out. The preferred means by which I have accomplished my several objects are illustrated in the drawings and are hereinafter specifically described. What I claim to be new and desire to cover by Letters Patent is set forth in the claims.

In the drawings,—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of my improved case;

Fig. 2 is a side face view of the case, with the lid or cover in its opened position and with a package of cigarettes in position in the case ready for use;

Fig. 3 is a central vertical section through the case as shown in Fig. 2, being partly broken away;

Figure 4 is a view similar to Fig. 3 but showing a package of cigarettes in position with a portion of the wrapper torn away; and

Fig. 5 is a side face view of the upper portion of the case as shown in Fig. 2, but with the lid or cover in changed position and partly broken away.

Referring to the several figures of the drawings in which corresponding parts are indicated by the same reference characters, 10 indicates an open ended casing member formed of sheet metal pressed into shape, the device of the drawings being made of sheet aluminum. 11 indicates a lid or cover member, also in the construction shown made of a piece of sheet aluminum pressed into the form of a cap of such size as to have a working fit upon the upper end of the casing member 10, the cap or lid 11 being hingedly mounted in position upon the member 10 by the means hereinafter described.

The means for holding a package of cigarettes in position within the casing member 10 comprises a leaf spring 12 connected at its upper end by means of rivets 13 with the upper end of the casing member at the rear thereof, such spring 12 extending in diagonal position toward the lower end of the casing, as is clearly shown in Fig. 3. At the front face of the casing member 10, I have provided a second leaf spring 14 which is connected at its lower end by means of a rivet 15 with the casing member near the bottom thereof, such spring 14 extending upwardly

in diagonal position. The arrangement is such that the two springs 12 and 14 by their engagement with a package 16 serve to hold the package tipped backwardly, as is clearly shown in Fig. 4, the spring 12 serving to push the lower end of the package forwardly while the spring 14 serves to push the upper end of the package backwardly.

The means for mounting the lid or cover member 11 pivotally in position upon the casing member 10 comprises a spring hinge 17 of any approved form mounted within an offset pressed in the upper end of the rear face of the member 10, being secured to the cover member 11 by means of rivets 18, and being secured in position upon the casing member by the rivets 13 above referred to. The arrangement is such that the spring hinge serves normally to hold the lid 11 in its upright opened position as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, in which position complete clearance is provided for the insertion of a package of cigarettes into the casing member 10. The arrangement of the hinge and of the lid or cover member with respect to the casing 10 are such that the opening movement of the lid is stopped when the lid reaches the position as illustrated in said Fig. 3. In order to enable the cap form of lid to be hingedly mounted at a point below the upper end of the casing in the manner shown, and to enable the lid to be closed without interference with the upper edge of the casing 10 at the front face thereof, the upper edges of the opposite sides of the casing are cut away along curved lines slanting downwardly toward the front face. The curved upper end portions of the sides of the casing serve normally as forms upon which the paper and foil of the package 16 can be torn for making the cigarettes 17 accessible, as is best shown in Figs. 2 and 4.

The means for holding the lid 11 releasably in closed position comprises a latch 19 carried by the spring 14 at its upper end, the latch 19 in the construction shown being formed integrally with the spring 14. At an intermediate point, the spring 14 is provided with a pin 20 which extends outwardly through a suitable opening in the front face of the casing member 10 for enabling the user to displace the spring 14 backwardly for releasing the latch 19. The front face portion of the cap or lid 11 is provided with an offset portion 21 pressed therein, as is best shown in Fig. 5, adapted by engagement with the latch 19 to hold the lid releasably in closed position. By securing the hinge 17 both to the wall of the casing member 10 and also to the upper end of the spring 12, the construction is very strongly reinforced with respect to the shocks to which the structure is subjected when the lid or cover 11 is permitted to open freely by the action of the spring hinge upon the release of the latch 19. Since

the spring 12 is preferably made of steel as compared with the much softer metal of the casing member 10, the rivets 13 are protected against being torn out by the action of the lid when permitted to open without restriction.

By the provision of the springs 12 and 14 serving to tip the package backwardly as shown in Fig. 4, the upper ends of the cigarettes are fully protected from damage by the lid or cover 11, the front edge of the cover being adapted to move past the cigarettes with ample clearance, as is clearly shown in Fig. 5.

By the use of my construction as illustrated, I have provided a very attractive, light, device which has sufficient strength for protecting the cigarettes and which at the same time is not bulky or awkward to handle. The device can be opened quickly and easily by the action of the hand by which the casing is held, and can very readily be closed again by the action of the one hand. In the device as shown, the aluminum casing is nickel plated and may be ornamented with any appropriate design as may be desired.

While I prefer to employ the construction as illustrated in the drawings, it will be understood that I do not desire to limit the invention with respect to the details of construction except so far as the claims may be limited by the prior art, since it will be understood that changes might well be made in some respects without departing from the spirit of my invention.

I claim:—

1. A cigarette case, comprising in combination an open ended casing member of a size for receiving a package of cigarettes, means for holding a package of cigarettes tipped backwardly slightly in said casing member, and a cover member hingedly mounted on said casing member for closing the upper end thereof about said package.

2. A cigarette case, comprising in combination an open ended casing member of a size for receiving a package of cigarettes, a leaf spring secured at its upper end at the rear of the casing member and extending downwardly in diagonal position for holding the lower end of the package pressed yieldingly forward, means at the front of the casing for holding the upper end of the package pressed yieldingly backward, and a cover member hingedly mounted on said casing member for closing the upper end thereof about said package.

3. A cigarette case, comprising in combination an open ended casing member of a size for receiving a package of cigarettes, a leaf spring secured at its upper end at the rear of the casing member and extending downwardly in diagonal position for holding the lower end of the package pressed yieldingly forward, a second leaf spring secured at its

lower end at the front of the casing member
and extending upwardly in diagonal posi-
tion for holding the upper end of the package
pressed yieldingly backward, a cover mem-
ber for closing the upper end of the casing
member about said package, a spring hinge
for connecting said cover member movably
in position and having one leaf connected
with the casing member by fastening means
passing through the wall of the casing mem-
ber and also through the upper end of the
first named spring, and latch means held
yieldingly in operative position by said sec-
ond spring for holding the cover member
releasably in closed position.

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