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CIGARETTE HOLDER

Filed Sept. 18, 1963

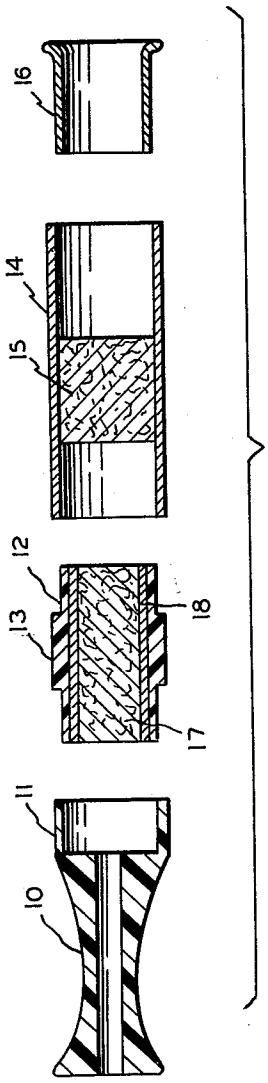


FIG.1

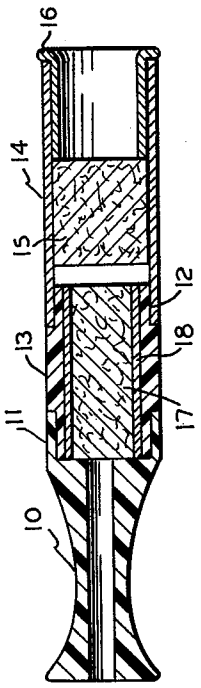


FIG.2

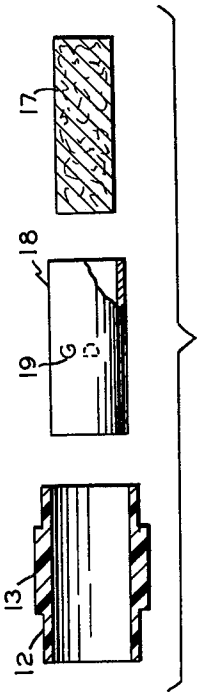


FIG.3

INVENTOR

MARCO IVANOV MANTCHEV

BY Ben Cohen

ATTORNEY

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CIGARETTE HOLDER

Marco Ivanov Mantchev, Rua 13 de Maio, 466 Caixa Postal 8536, Sao Paulo, Brazil

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The present invention relates to a filter for cigarettes and the like and more particularly to a disposable cigarette holder of the filter type.

With the accumulated evidence of the deleterious effect of nicotine and tars in tobacco smoke, there is an increased desire on the part of the public to obtain a more effective filter for cigarettes. One of the earliest filters to appear on the market was incorporated into a cigarette holder. This filter, in the form of a cartridge filled with small crystals, was changed daily and it was also necessary to daily clean the holder of accumulated tar.

Recently, the cigarette industry tried to solve this problem by manufacturing cigarettes with built-in filter tips. These filter tip cigarettes were introduced to the public under various new trade names but the more popular name brands were still manufactured without filter tips. While some smokers switched to the new filter tip cigarettes, many smokers preferred their old, favorite brands and were thus deprived of the advantages and benefits of filtered cigarettes. This is one of the main reasons that filtered cigarettes were not completely accepted by the smoking public.

Accordingly, a primary object of the present invention is the provision of a new and improved cigarette holder which will enable every smoker to smoke any brand of cigarette with or without filter, and be assured the protection afforded by a highly filtered cigarette.

The cigarette holder of the present invention includes a pair of filter elements incorporated therein with means associated with one of the filter elements to indicate that the holder has lost its effectiveness and should be discarded. Thus, a further important object of the invention is to provide a cigarette holder having indicating means provided therein to indicate that same should be discarded when it becomes ineffective.

Further objects of the invention are to provide a cigarette holder which is attractive in appearance, very light in weight and which can be inexpensively manufactured.

The above and other objects of the invention will be more clearly understood from the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, wherein:

FIGURE 1 is an enlarged cross-sectional exploded view of the cigarette holder forming the subject matter of this invention;

FIGURE 2 is a cross-sectional view of the cigarette holder in assembled position; and

FIGURE 3 is an exploded view of one of the elements of the cigarette holder.

Referring to the drawing in detail, numeral **10** designates a mouthpiece formed of any suitable material but preferably formed of smooth flexible material to provide a proper and hygienic grip by the smoker's teeth. A cylindrical portion **11** extends from the mouthpiece and receives therein a portion of a transparent cylindrical sleeve **12**, having a raised central ridge **13** thereon for a purpose to be described.

A second cylindrical sleeve **14**, formed of paper, aluminum laminated paper, plastic material or the like, is adapted to receive a filter element **15** formed of any suitable filtering material such as natural fiber of cotton or wool, synthetic fibers, activated carbon or small crushed crystals of quartz, glass or the like. The filter element is disposed centrally of the sleeve **14** to enable one end of the sleeve to embrace a portion of the transparent sleeve **12**. As seen in FIGURE 2, portions of the sleeve **12** are received within the cylindrical portion **11** of the mouthpiece and one end of the sleeve **14** with a press fit, the ridge **13** serving as a stop for **11** and **14** and forming a smooth continuation of the mouthpiece, the transparent sleeve and the filter sleeve. Received within the outer open end of sleeve **14** is a metallic ring **16** within which the cigarette is received.

A second filter element **17** is received within the transparent sleeve **12** and may be formed of the same filtering material as element **15**. A thin cylindrical tube **18** of blotting material surrounds the filter element **17** and with said filter element are snugly received within said transparent sleeve **12** as seen in FIGURES 1 and 2. Positioned centrally of the tube **18** and circumferentially thereof are indicia characters G and D as indicated in FIGURE 3. Character G which may indicate the word "good" is printed on the blotting paper with dark brown ink or the like. The character D shown in dotted lines is used to indicate the word "discard" and is printed on the blotting paper with any white oil paint. The white oil paint will prevent that portion of the blotting paper from absorbing any tar. Thus, as numerous cigarettes are smoked, the tar passing through the filter member **17** will be absorbed by the blotting paper and gradually turn the same dark brown or black. As a result of this tar-absorbing, the visible character letter G will graually disappear, and the character letter D, being protected from absobing any tar, will become visible and readable. When the letter G is no longer visible, the smoker is warned that the filter is fully saturated with tar and no longer effective as a filter and that the cigarette holder should be discarded. It has been found that the present holder is effective for at least twenty cigarettes and for as many as sixty cigarettes. The cigarette holder is preferably constructed in the size of a cigarette and can be shipped in a cigarette pack by replacement of a single cigarette.

It will be apparent that the present invention is well adapted to accomplish the objects and advantages set forth. Although a preferred embodiment of the invention has been shown and described, minor changes in the details of construction may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention except as may be required by the following claims.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:

1. A cigarette holder comprising a transparent casing, a mouthpiece connected to one end of the casing and a tubular cigarette receiving sleeve connected to the other end of the casing, a filter within the casing having a light colored absorbent wrapper surrounding said filter, dark colored indicia means on the outer surface of said absorbent wrapper and visible through said transparent casing, said indicia means being adapted to be rendered imperceptible when said absorbent wrapper becomes saturated with tar passing through said filter.

2. A cigarette holder as defined in claim 1, and a second indicia means on said absorbent wrapper which is imperceptible before the filter is used and which is adapted to become fully visible when the filter is fully saturated with tar.

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SAMUEL KOREN, *Primary Examiner.*

JOSEPH S. REICH, *Examiner.*