June 8, 1926. 1,588,385

G. F. MILLER

CONTAINER

Filed Oct. 5, 1921

Fig. 1

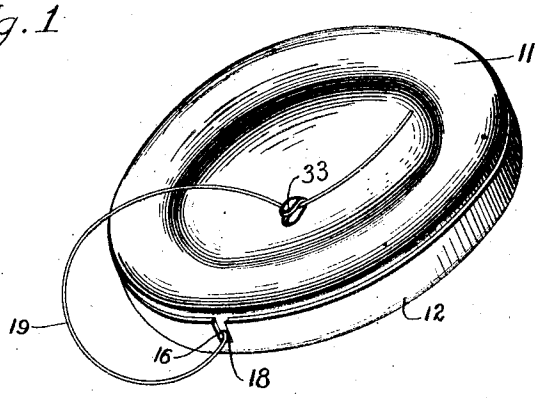


Fig. 2

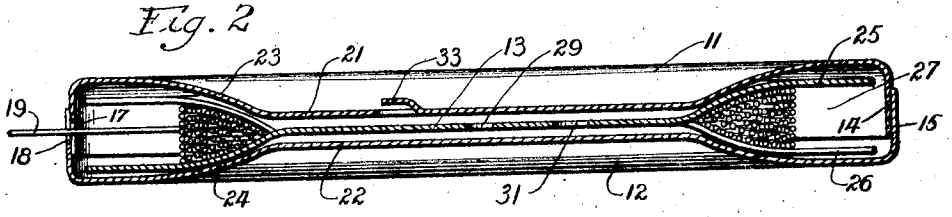
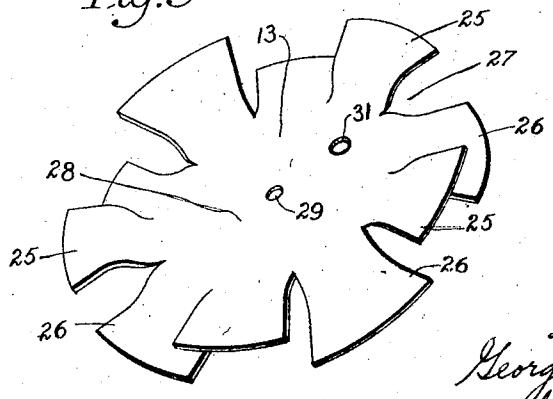


Fig. 3



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE F. MILLER, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR TO AMERICAN CAN COMPANY, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., A CORPORATION OF NEW JERSEY.

CONTAINER.

Application filed October 5, 1921. Serial No. 505,647.

This invention relates in general to containers for dental floss and the like and has more especial reference to such a container of small size adapted to be carried in the pocket, and of particularly economical and practical construction. A principal object of the invention is the provision of a container for the purpose stated in which the reel upon which the floss is wound is formed from a single piece of material requiring no joining of parts and eliminating the necessity for the use of rivets or other delicate or easily broken structural elements.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a container of this type constructed entirely of sheet metal, the parts of which may be formed with the use of the usual and standard machinery employed in operating upon metal articles.

Numerous other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent as it is better understood from the following description, when considered in connection with the accompanying drawings illustrating a preferred embodiment thereof.

Referring to the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a dental floss container embodying the principles of my invention.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged vertical section taken through such a container, and

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the reel upon which the floss is wound.

Upon the drawings, illustrating a preferred exemplification of the invention, it will be noted that the container which I have provided comprises primarily upper and lower holder panels or sides 11 and 12 and a reel 13 secured for rotation therein. The panels are provided with flanges 14 and 15 of different size, the lower flange 15 being adapted to frictionally engage the flange 14 to maintain the holder in closed position. The flanges are recessed at 16 and 17 respectively and when the holder is assembled these recesses are adapted to register to provide an aperture 18 through which the floss 19 may be withdrawn. Each panel is centrally depressed and the depressed portions 21 and 22, with the beveled parts 23 and 24 of the panels, form a bearing for rotation of the reel.

The reel 13 consists of a single sheet of metal appropriately stamped to provide peripheral segments 25 and 26, which segments are oppositely bent or offset to provide jaws 27 for the reception of the floss, thereby forming the metal sheet or disk into a reel or spool, and it will be understood that the capacity of the reel may be varied by varying the length of the slits between the segments and bending them to the offset position desired. The central portion 28 of the reel is held between the depressed parts 21 and 22 of the holder and in this manner the reel is secured in relatively fixed position within the container and adapted for rotation.

In winding the floss upon the reel an end thereof may be passed downwardly through the aperture 29 and upwardly through aperture 31 of the reel and knotted or anchored. The thread may then be wound between the jaws 27 of the reel, the free end being passed through the aperture 18 so that it may be readily grasped and unwound for use.

A lip or lug 33 is struck upwardly from the panel 11 for the purpose of providing means for severing the floss into desired lengths for use, it being evident that the sharp edges of said lip at its point of departure from the panel are particularly adapted for cutting the thread merely by the exertion of slight inward pressure thereon.

It is thought that the invention and many of its attendant advantages will be understood from the foregoing description and it will be apparent that various changes may be made in the form, construction, and arrangement of the parts without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention claimed or sacrificing all of its material advantages, the form hereinbefore described being merely a preferred embodiment thereof.

I claim:

1. A container for dental floss and the like, comprising a two-part holder having an end thereof bent inward, and a spool enclosed in said holder and having parts which extend radially and are bent outwardly so as to have bearing engagement for rotation around said bent inwardly end.

2. A container for dental floss and the like, comprising a two-part holder having opposite ends thereof bent inward, and a spool enclosed in said holder and having parts at each side thereof which extend radially and are bent outwardly so as to have

bearing engagement for rotation around said bent-inward ends.

3. A container for dental floss and the like, comprising a two part holder having opposite ends thereof bent inward, and a spool enclosed in said holder and having segments which are bent outward towards each side of the spool so that said segments have bearing engagement for rotation around said bent-inward ends, between which segments the floss is adapted to be wound.

4. A container for dental floss and the like, comprising a holder composed of two telescoping parts, having the ends thereof bent inward around their centers, and a spool enclosed in said holder and having segments which extend radially and are alternately bent outwardly so as to have bearing engagement for rotation around said bent-inward ends.

5. A container for dental floss and the like, comprising a holder formed of separable centrally depressed panels, said panels terminating in telescoping flanges forming the side walls of the holder, and a one piece reel having a central portion seated between the depressed parts of said panels and spool-like jaws disposed between the outer parts thereof.

6. A container for dental floss and the like, comprising a holder formed of oppositely flanged and frictionally joined panels and a one-piece reel rotatably positioned therebetween, said panel flanges being apertured to permit withdrawal of the floss and apertures being provided in the reel and one of said panels for securing one end of the floss against removal.

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