June 20, 1967 R. K. KOCH 3,326,433

POCKET DISPENSER

Filed Nov. 8, 1965 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1

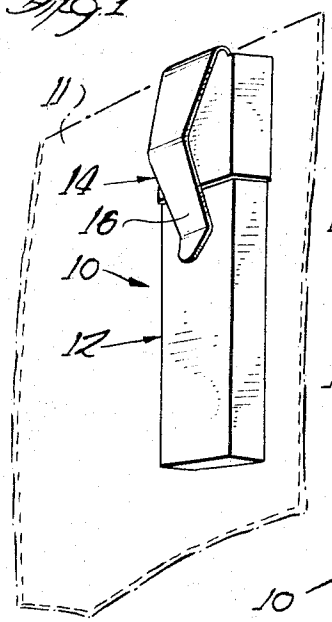


Fig. 2

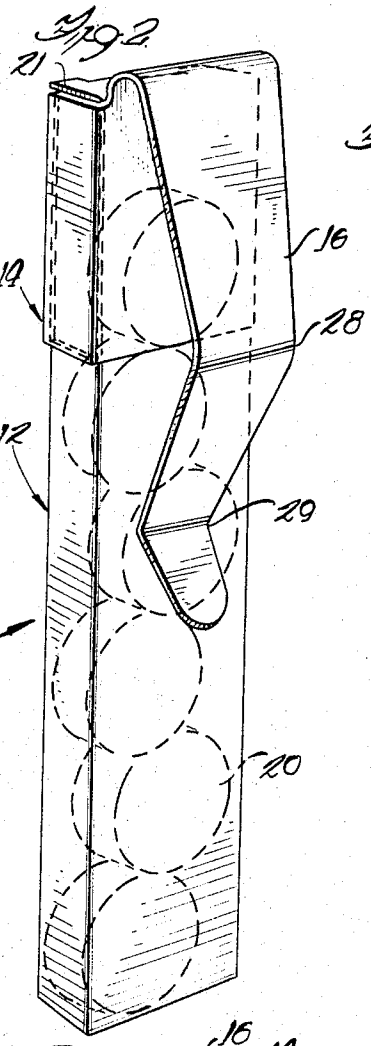


Fig. 3

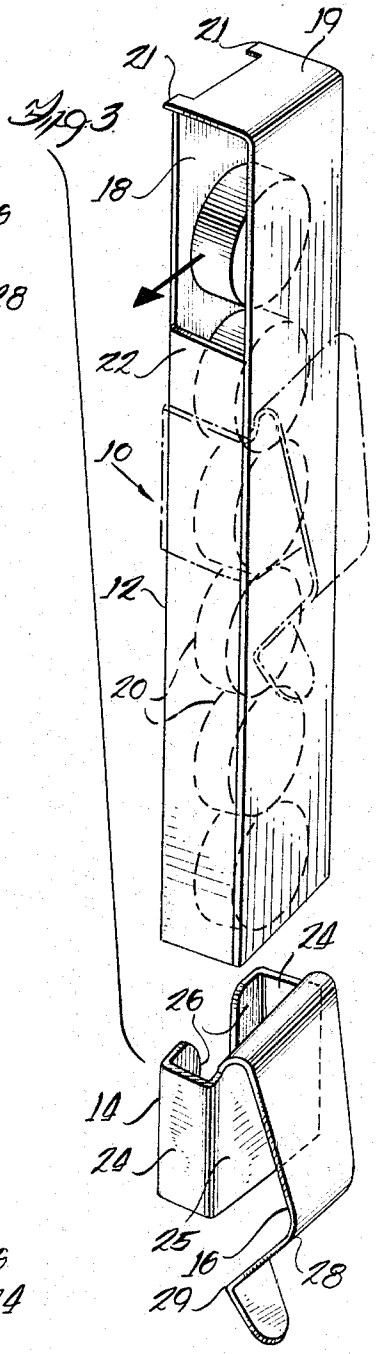


Fig. 4

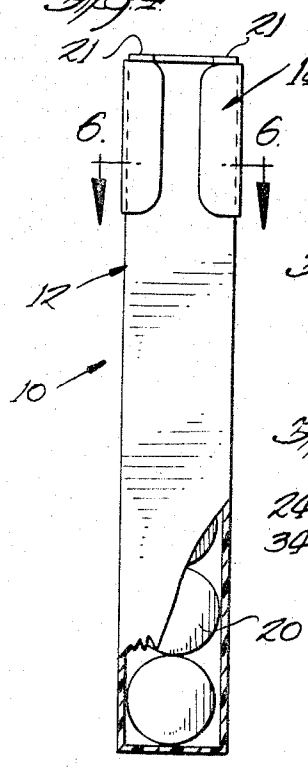


Fig. 5

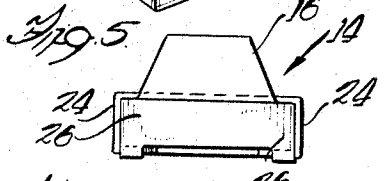
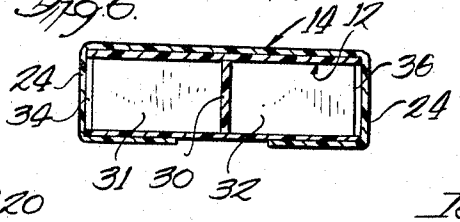


Fig. 6



Inventor
Richard K. Koch
Dominik & Stein
Attorneys

June 20, 1967 R. K. KOCH 3,326,433

POCKET DISPENSER

Filed Nov. 9, 1965 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 7.

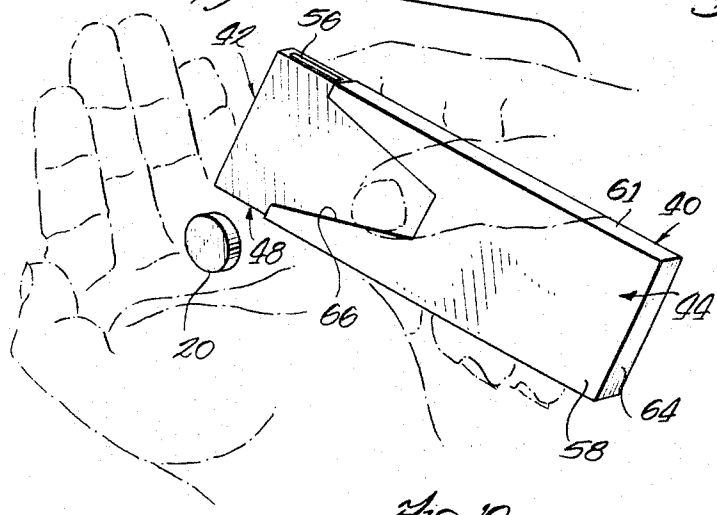


Fig. 8.

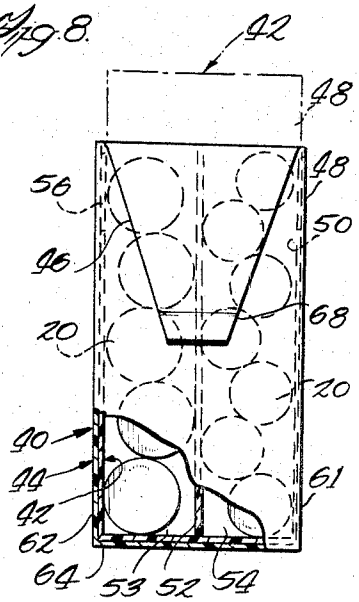


Fig. 9.

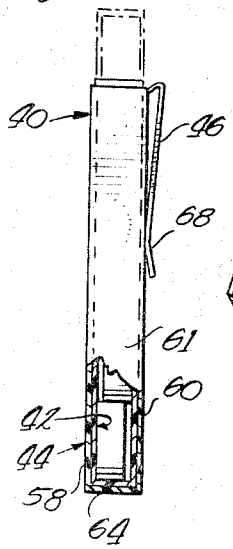


Fig. 10.

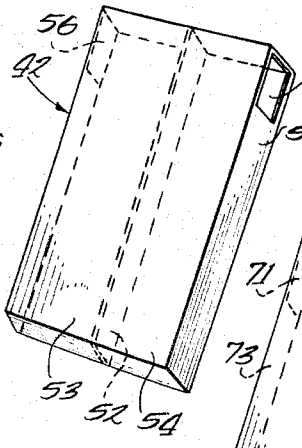


Fig. 11.

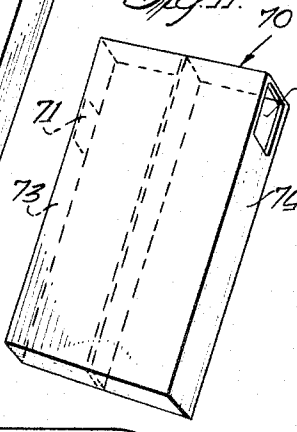


Fig. 12.

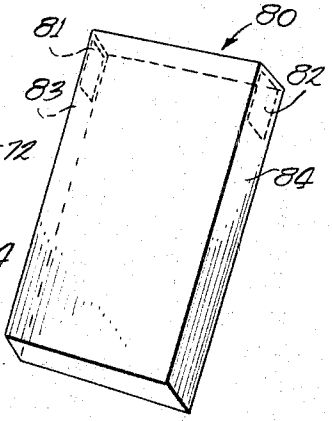


Fig. 13.

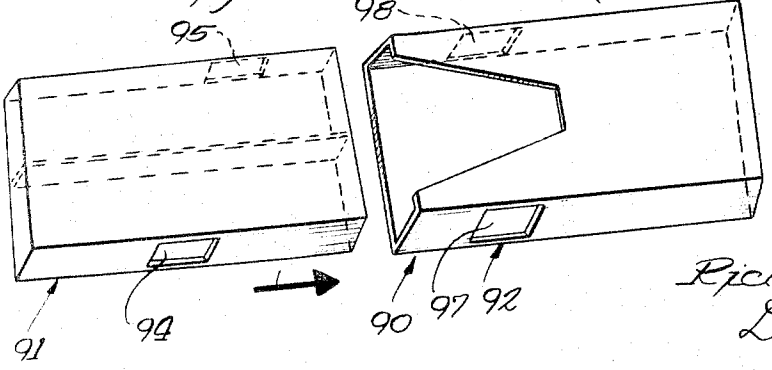
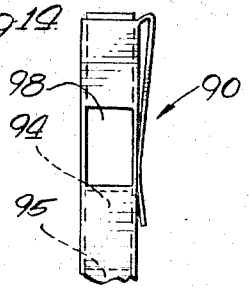


Fig. 14.



Inventor
Richard K. Koch
Dominik & Stein
Attorneys

United States Patent Office 3,326,433 Patented June 20, 1967

3,326,433

POCKET DISPENSER

Richard K. Koch, Champaign, Ill., assignor of one-fourth each to A. D. Van Meter, Jr., and Robert B. Oxtoby, both of Springfield, Ill.

Filed Nov. 8, 1965, Ser. No. 506,653
2 Claims. (Cl. 224—26)

This application is a continuation-in-part application of copending application Ser. No. 451,794, now abandoned, filed Apr. 29, 1965, by Richard K. Koch, entitled, "Pocket Dispenser."

This invention relates to dispensers and in particular to pocket-size dispensers which are adapted to hold a supply of tablet-form products, such as medicants and the like, and to dispense them individually.

Numerous types of dispensers are presently available, for a whole host of various shaped and sized products. Each of these dispensers however, is generally unsatisfactory, for one reason or another. For example, the majority of them are in the form of box-like containers which can be placed in the pocket. With this type of dispenser, the product is usually loosely placed in it so the product is free to be bounced around. By the time the last of the product is to be used, it has usually fallen apart so all there is left is a number of pieces. It also generally is found that this type of dispenser is squeezed to open it, and in doing so it is not infrequent that the product is spilled.

It is therefore an object of this invention to provide a new and improved pocket dispenser.

It is another object to provide a pocket dispenser for holding and individually dispensing a supply of tablet-form products, such as medicants and the like.

It is still another object to provide a pocket dispenser which may be clipped to a shirt pocket, like a mechanical pen or pencil is clipped to a shirt pocket, so that it is always conveniently handy.

It is still another object to provide a pocket dispenser which confines the product, to a degree, so that the product is less likely to be disintegrated before it is to be used.

It is still another object to provide a pocket dispenser which is simple in construction and is relatively inexpensive to manufacture.

It is still another object to provide a pocket dispenser which is easily used to individually dispense the products retained therein.

It is still another object to provide a pocket dispenser which is closed so that dirt and the like is prevented from entering the storage area.

It is still another object to provide a pocket dispenser which is adapted to visually indicate the supply remaining within the dispenser.

It is still another object to provide a pocket dispenser which is adapted to receive and retain the container for a product, so that the container itself may be used for storage and for dispensing the product.

Other objects of the invention will in part be obvious and will in part appear hereinafter.

The above mentioned objectives are accomplished with the pocket dispenser of the present invention which generally comprises an elongated rectangular-shaped container which is closed at both ends and which is of a size such as to hold a supply of tablet-form products, such as the medicants Tums, Rolaids, Creamalin, aspirin and the like. At least one side edges of the container is cut away so as to provide an opening substantially the size of one of the tablet form products. Only one of the tablets can therefore be dispensed at a time. A slider having a pocket clip integrally formed therewith is adapted to slide over the outside of the container, and to close the aforesaid opening in the side edge so that dirt and the like cannot get inside the container when the opening is closed. When

the dispenser is clipped to a shirt pocket, the tablets are vertically aligned, one atop the other, so that they do not bounce around in the container. The container and the slider both may be of a transparent material, so that the supply remaining in the dispenser is readily apparent.

In a first embodiment of the invention, the slider is substantially smaller than the container and is adapted to slidably clamp about it. In a second embodiment, the slider is substantially the same size as the container and is more of a holder which is adapted to receive and retain the container in it, in a slidable fashion.

The invention accordingly comprises the features of construction, combination of elements, and arrangement of parts which will be exemplified in the construction hereinafter set forth, and the scope of the invention will be indicated in the claims.

For a fuller understanding of the nature and objects of the invention, reference should be had to the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a view illustrating how the pocket dispenser of the present invention may be clipped to a shirt pocket or the like;

FIG. 2 is a view illustrating the pocket dispenser of the present invention, with the slider positioned to close the opening in the side wall of the container;

FIG. 3 is a view illustrating the container and the slider before being assembled, and the container with the slider thereon, in dotted lines;

FIG. 4 is a bottom plan view of the pocket dispenser;

FIG. 5 is a top plan view of the slider;

FIG. 6 is a section view taken along line 6—6 of FIG. 4, illustrating a second embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 7 is a perspective view of a pocket dispenser exemplary of a second embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 8 is a rear plan view of the pocket dispenser of FIG. 7, partially broken away;

FIG. 9 is a side plan view of the pocket dispenser of FIG. 7;

FIGS. 10–12 are perspective views illustrating alternative constructions of the container portion;

FIG. 13 is an exploded perspective view of the pocket dispenser of FIG. 10–12; and

FIG. 14 is a partial side plan view of the pocket dispenser of FIG. 13.

Referring now to the drawings, it can be seen that the pocket dispenser **10** is formed of two component parts, an elongated, rectangular shaped closed container **12** and a slider **14** which is adapted to slide over the outside of the container **12** and which has a pocket clip **16** integrally formed therewith. The container **12** is advantageously formed of a translucent or transparent material, such as plastic, so that it can be manufactured relatively inexpensively. Being transparent or translucent, it is readily apparent in looking at the container what supply remains in it.

An opening **18** which substantially corresponds in size with one of the tablet form products **20**, which may be medicants such as Tums, Rolaids, Creamalin, aspirin and the like, held therein is formed at one end of a side wall **22** of the container **12**. The products are both placed in, and dispensed from, the container **12** through the opening **18**.

The slider **14** has two side walls **24**, the ends of which are folded inwardly toward one another so as to form a pair of slots **26** adapted to slidingly receive the container **12** therein. The slider **14** is preferably fabricated from a resilient material, such as plastic or a light gage metal, and is formed so that it grips the container **12** when the latter is received within the slots **26**. The slider **14** will therefore slide on the container **12** but will not accidentally fall off of it.

The clip **16** is formed as an integral part of the slider **14**, by extending and folding the top wall **26** thereof back over itself. The clip **16** is angularly bent at **28** and **29** so that its undersurface engages a wall of the container **12** and its end extends angularly upward so that it can be easily clipped to a shirt pocket or the like.

The slider **14** is made sufficiently large so that when it is assembled on the container **12** it will completely close the opening **18**. The end wall **19** of the container **12** has two outwardly projecting stop tabs **21** formed thereon which are sufficiently large to prevent the slider **14** from sliding off of the end of the container.

To use the pocket dispenser **10**, it is filled with a supply of tablet-form products **20**, such as the medicants previously mentioned, by holding the container **12** at a slight angle, with the opening **18** facing upwardly, and slipping the tablets through the opening **18**. The slider **14** is then slipped over the container **12** until it engages the stop tabs **21**, at which time the opening **18** will be completely closed. Since opening **18** is the only opening in the container **12** and it can be closed with the slider **14**, dirt and the like is prevented from getting into the container **12**. The importance of this feature is apparent.

The pocket dispenser can be clipped to a shirt pocket **11** (partially shown) and carried in the same fashion as a mechanical pencil or fountain pen, as shown in FIG. 1, by means of the clip **16**. It may be noted that when clipped to a pocket in this fashion, the tablets **20** are aligned, one atop the other, so that they are confined, to a degree, and prevented from being bounced around within the container **12**. There is less likelihood that the tablets **20** will be broken up, before they are used.

To dispense one of the tablets **20**, the pocket dispenser **10** is held on its side, with the opening **18** facing upwardly, and the slider **14** slipped down the container **12** a sufficient distance to permit one of the tablets **20** to fall out through the opening **18** when the pocket dispenser is turned over. It can be seen that the opening **18** can be substantially larger than the size of a tablet **20**, and the slider **14** slipped down the container a sufficient distance to permit only one of the tablets to be dispensed. The pocket dispenser is therefore adapted to carry and dispense a supply of tablet-form products of various sizes. After dispensing the tablets desired, opening **18** is again closed with the slider **14**.

The pocket dispenser can also be formed so as to carry and dispense several types of tablet-form products, as shown in FIG. 6, which corresponds to a sectional view taken along line **6—6** of FIG. 4 of the container **12**, if the container **12** is formed as hereinafter described. In this case, it can be seen that the container **12** has a center divider **30** which forms two chambers **31** and **32**, having openings **34** and **36** therein, respectively. The slider is correspondingly formed, to receive the container in the manner described above. With this arrangement, one or the other of the tablets in the chambers **31** or **32** can be dispensed by holding a finger over the opposite opening **34** or **36**, to prevent the tablets from falling out.

The concept can be expanded even further, by providing additional chambers. For example, three chambers can be provided, the outer two of which having openings on the side edge thereof, as descriebd above, and the inner one having an opening formed in the top wall thereof.

In FIGS. 7, 8 and 9 there is shown a pocket dispenser **40**, exemplary of still another embodiment of the invention, formed of two component parts, an elongated, rectangular shaped closed container **42** and a slider or holder **44** which is adapted to slidably receive the container **42** in it. A pocket clip **46** is integrally formed with the slider. The container **42** and the slider **44** also may be formed of a transulcent or transparent material, such as plastic, for the reasons set forth above.

The container **42** can have a single opening **48** which substantially corresponds in size with one of the tablet-form products **20** held therein, formed at one end of one

of its side walls **50**. As in the case of the container **12**, the products are both placed in, and dispensed from, the container **42** through the opening **48**.

Alternatively, the pocket dispenser **40** can be formed so as to carry and dispense several types of tablet-form products, by providing a center divider **52** which forms two chambers **53** and **54**. An additional opening **56** is provided for the second chamber **54**, in this case. With this arrangement, one or the other of the tablets in the chamber **53** or **54** can be dispensed by holding a finger over the opposite opening **48** or **56**, to prevent the tablets from falling out.

The slider **44** is constructed in the form of a sleeve which is adapted to receive and retain the container **42** in it and, accordingly, has a front wall **58**, a back wall **60**, side walls **61** and **62** and a bottom wall **64**. The front wall **58** has a substantially V-shaped cut-out **66** formed in it, extending from the slider's open end approximately one-half the length of the front wall. The cut-out **66** forms a finger slot for sliding the container **42** out of the slider **44**. The slider **44** should grip the container **42** when the latter is received within it so that the container will not easily or accidentally slip out of it, but should not grip it so tightly that it cannot be easily removed with finger pressure.

The clip **46** is formed as an integral part of the slider **44**, by extending and folding the back wall **60** thereof back over itself. The clip **46** is angularly bent at **68** so that its undersurface is urged against the back wall **60** and its end extends angularly upward so that it can be easily and securely clipped to a shirt pocket or the like.

The slider **44** completely closes the opening **48** when the container **42** is all of the way in it, as shown in FIGS. 8 and 9. The bottom wall **64** of the slider prevents the container from sliding through and out of the bottom of the slider. Alternatively, the bottom wall **64** could be eliminated and the container **42** provided with stop tabs, such as the stop tabs **21** provided on the container **12**, which would engage the top edge of the back wall **60** or the side walls **61** and **62** of the slider **44** to prevent the container from sliding through and out of the slider.

The slider **44** can be easily formed as an integral unit, by folding a single sheet of material along appropriate score lines to form the back, front and side walls. The clip and the bottom can be formed by extending the length of the back wall and folding it to form them. Of course, prior to folding the sheet of material it is preferably cut to provide the cut-out in the front wall and the proper shape for the clip.

To use the pocket dispenser **40**, the container **42** is filled with a supply of tablet-form products **20**, in the manner described above. It is then slipped into the open end of the slider **44** until it strikes the bottom wall **64**, at which time the openings, such as the opening **48**, will be completely closed so that dirt and the like is prevented from getting into the container. Again, the importance of this feature is apparent.

The pocket dispenser can be clipped by means of the clip **46** to a shirt pocket and carried in the same fashion as described above, so that the tablets **20** are aligned, one atop the other, and confined, to a degree.

To dispense one of the tablets **20**, the pocket dispenser **40** is held on its side, with the opening **48**, or **56**, facing upwardly, and the container **42** slipped out of the slider **42** a sufficient distance to permit one of the tablets **20** to fall out through the opening when the pocket dispenser is turned over. It can be seen that this can be easily accomplished using only one hand, by placing the thumb in the cut-out **66** and pushing upwardly on the container to slide it out of the slider, as shown in FIG. 7. The opening, or openings, in this case, also can be substantially larger than the size of a tablet **20**, and the container slipped out of the holder a sufficient distance to permit only one of the tablets to be dispensed. The pocket dispenser **40**, like the dispenser **10**, is therefore adapted to carry and dis-

pense a supply of tablet-form products of various sizes. After dispensing the tablets desired, the openings are again closed by sliding the container back into the slider **44**.

In FIGS. 11 and 12 there are illustrated two containers **70** and **80** which also may be used with the slider **44**. In FIG. 11, the container **70** has two openings **71** and **72** formed in its side walls **73** and **74**, respectively, in staggered positions. It can be seen that with this arrangement, the container can be slipped out of the slider only a sufficient distance to permit tablets to be dispensed from the opening **72**, while the opening **71** remains closed. There is little danger then, that tablets will spill out of the opposite side of the dispenser, when it is used.

In FIG. 12, the container **80** has two tear-out tabs **81** and **82** formed in its side walls **83** and **84**, respectively, which are perforated or weakened in some fashion so that they may be easily removed to provide an opening or openings in the container. In this case, the container may be advantageously formed of cardboard or the like so that the tear tabs **81** and **82** can be easily removed. Also, it is contemplated that the tablets **20** can be provided by the producer of them packaged within the container **80** so that the container can be slipped into the slider **44** and it is not necessary to remove and place them in a container, such as the container **42**.

In FIGS. 13 and 14 there is shown another pocket dispenser **90** having a container **91** and a slider or holder **92**. In this case, the container **91** has staggered openings **94** and **95** in its side walls and the slider **92** has oppositely disposed openings **97** and **98** in its side walls. The openings **94** and **95** are positioned so that when the opening **94** in the container is aligned with the opening **97** in the slider, the opening **95** in the container is blocked, and when opening **95** is aligned with the opening **98**, the opening **94** is blocked. With this arrangement, tablets can be dispensed from only one or the other of the two openings, at one time, unless, of course, the container is removed too far out of the slider.

From the above description, it is apparent that the containers **12, 42, 80** and **91** can each be formed of a plastic, cardboard or similar materials and each can be provided with one or more openings for dispensing the product contained therein. If the containers are provided by the producer of the tablets, a strip of tape can be adhesively sealed over the openings to close them prior to use, if the containers are of plastic or if of cardboard, tear tabs or the like can be preformed therein for easy removal. The containers are then merely slipped into the appropriate slider **14, 44** or **92**.

It will thus be seen that the objects set forth above, among those made apparent from the preceding description, are efficiently attained and, since certain changes may be made in the above construction without departing from the scope of the invention, it is intended that all matter contained in the above description or shown in the accompanying drawings shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

It is also to be understood that the following claims are intended to cover all of the generic and specific features of the invention herein described, and all statements of the scope of the invention, which, as a mater of language, might be said to fall therebetween.

Now that the invention has been described, what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Leters Patent is:

1. A pocket dispenser for carrying a supply of a tablet-form product and for individually dispensing them comprising, in combination: a closed container having at least one chamber formed therein for carrying a supply of tablet-form products and an opening formed therein in each of said chambers for dispensing a supply of tablet-form products therefrom, a slider adapted to slidably receive said container therein and to close said openings formed in said container, said slider having a front wall and a pair of end walls which are folded inwardly toward one another so as to form a pair of slots for receiving said container therein, a clip integrally formed with said front wall and resiliently bearing against a wall of said container to co-act with the walls of said slider to slidably grip said container to prevent said slider from freely sliding thereon and to assist in securing said dispenser to a shirt pocket or the like.

2. A pocket dispenser for carrying a supply of a tablet-form product and for individually dispensing them comprising, in combination: a closed container having at least one chamber formed therein for carrying a suply of tablet-form products and an opening formed therein in each of said chambers for dispensing a supply of tablet-form products therefrom, a slider adapted to slidably receive said container therein and to close said openings formed in said container, said slider having a front wall and end walls which are folded to form a slot for receiving said container therein, a clip integrally formed with said front wall and resiliently bearing against a wall of said container to co-act with the walls of said slider to slidably grip said container to prevent said slider from freely sliding thereon and to assist in securing said dispenser to a shirt pocket or the like.

References Cited

UNITED STATES PATENTS

2,377,120	5/1945	Apfelbaum	206—42
2,426,911	9/1947	Williamson	206—42
2,443,861	6/1948	Johnston.	
2,497,455	2/1950	Johnson	206—42
2,702,960	3/1955	Weaver	206—42
2,763,956	9/1956	Olson	206—42
3,091,378	5/1963	O'Dwyer	224—26

FOREIGN PATENTS

1,100,547	2/1961	Germany.

GERALD M. FORLENZA, *Primary Examiner.*

J. E. OLDS, *Assistant Examiner.*