April 3, 1962 S. T. DUNN 3,027,899

ASHTRAY

Filed Nov. 19, 1958

Fig. 1

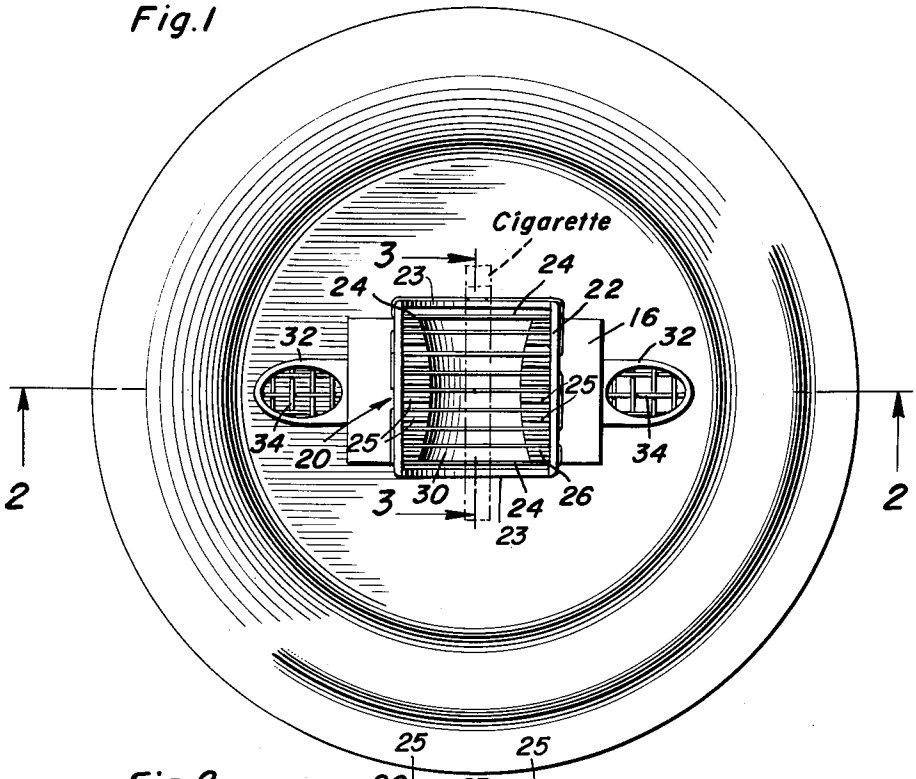


Fig. 2

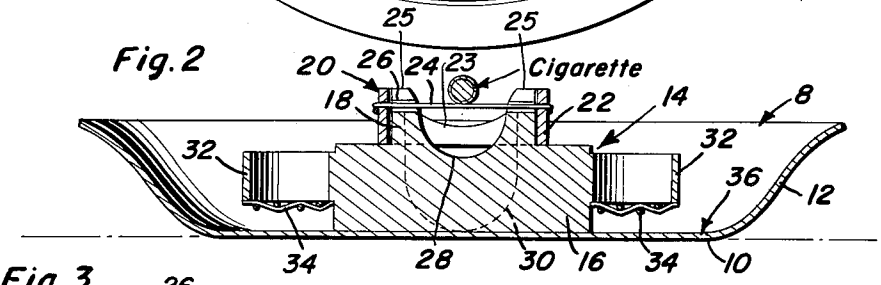


Fig. 3

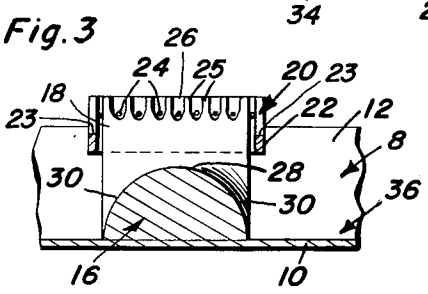


Fig. 4

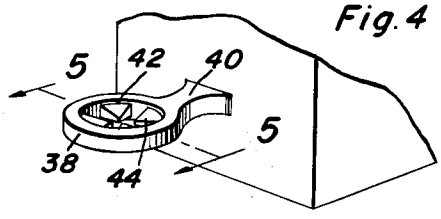
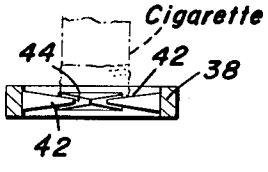


Fig. 5



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ASHTRAY

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The present invention relates to an improved smoker's ashtray or receiver for ashes, cigar and cigarette butts, burnt matches and the like and has reference, more specifically, to a dish-like ashtray the central portion of which is provided with novel safety features.

The improved ashtray features a structurally distinct stand located at the central portion of the ashtray, said stand being characterized by a readily applicable and removable rest for a lighted cigarette or cigar which may be temporarily placed thereon when the smoker finds it necessary to lay the same aside while his hands are being used to attend to and take care of telephone calls, meeting or greeting a visitor, while answering a doorbell, or while dishes are being washed in the kitchen sink.

In carrying out a preferred embodiment of the invention a construction is provided which becomes a valuable timesaver since it enables the smoker to safely and temporarily place a burning cigarette on the rest knowing that the construction is so reliable and safe that he does not have to keep an eye on the cigarette as it is being consumed nor bother having to pick it up for safety within a limited time, as is often the situation.

The invention is also advantageous in that the rest on the stand is effectually centered and the tray or dish is sufficiently large that even if the burning cigarette should topple or tumble from the rest it will be safely trapped in the receptacle portion of the tray whereby to thus provide a construction which promotes carefree use while at all times safe-guarding the user's desk, important papers, tablecloths, furniture and the like.

In addition it is an object of the invention to support burning cigarettes so that uninterrupted air circulation and ventilation is assured, so that fire hazards are reduced to an absolute minimum, so that increased pleasure is accorded smokers and users and so that, despite the presence of the added facilities, the tray and its components may be readily and effectually washed and cleaned.

Numerous other objects, features and advantages will become more readily apparent from the following description and the accompanying drawing:

FIG. 1 is a plan view of a smoker's ashtray and cigarette constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention, showing the cigarette in phantom lines.

FIG. 2 is a section taken on the plane of the line 2—2 of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a detail fragmentary section taken on the line 3—3 of FIG. 1, the cigarette being omitted.

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of fragmentary type showing a slight modification; and

FIG. 5 is a section on the line 5—5 of FIG. 4 showing the cigarette in phantom lines.

Referring now to the drawing the tray, receiver, plate or equivalent receptacle is denoted generally by the numeral 8 and has a flat bottom 10 and an upstanding suitably shaped rim or wall 12. The rest for cigars, cigarettes 14, is shown in the form of a centrally located generally rectangular block or mound 16. Rising from the center of the top portion of the mound is an extension 18 which provides a riser or mount for a readily attachable and detachable grid-like rest 20. This part comprises a frame 22 which removably embraces the flanges of the mount 18. A plurality of spaced parallel transversely extending wires or rods 24 are provided on the frame and these provide the openwork rest for the cigarette. The end portions of the wires are removably seated in keeper notches 26 provided therefor in the upper edges of the

flanges 18 of the mound 16. In addition the stand is formed to provide a free air circulating trough or channel having a rounded or convex portion 28 at the center of the bottom providing deflecting surfaces or chutes 30 which direct falling ashes into the tray. Thus the frame embraces the flanges 18 and rests on the flat elevating surfaces of mound 16. The framed grid with its notched ends provides an effective ventilating type rest for lighted cigarettes and cigars and, since it is removable also makes it practical for one to wash and clean the surfaces thereof and also the readily accessible surfaces of the companion supporting and retaining parts. The mound 16 also serves as a satisfactory support for elevated outstanding rings or the like 32 having wire bottom portions 34 and constituting extinguishers or snuffers for cigarettes. All of these facilities are at the center and surrounded by the receptacle portion 36 which thus provides a convenient and safe trap.

The modified extinguisher seen in FIG. 4 takes the form of a ring 38 attached by a shank 40 and is provided on its inner periphery with circumferentially spaced radial V-shaped projections 42. The tip portions 44 are sufficiently spaced apart that snuffing and extinguishing of cigarette butts is assured.

Referring again to the notches 26, it will be seen that said notches serve to define spaced teeth 25. Stated otherwise, the teeth have notches existing therebetween, there being two rows of teeth, one row to the left and the other to the right of the center of the cigarette rest (FIGS. 1 and 2) and the upper ends of the teeth in each row being flush with each other and also flush with the upper edges of the longitudinal side members of the frame 22.

With further reference to the frame 22 it will be noted that the upper central portions of the transverse or end members of the frame have segmental notches 23 therein which cooperate in promoting a good circulation of air at adjacent ends of the rest.

It will be evident that the receptacle portion 36 should be of sufficient area and depth that it provides an effective receiver not only for the ashes and butts that necessarily accumulate during the course of use but provides a trap for cigarettes that might be substantially if not wholly consumed on the grid or grate and which in the form of ashes will be cammed or shunted over the crest 28 and down the deflecting surfaces or chutes 30 for collection and ultimate dumping. The size or diameter of the receptacle portion is such as to extend well beyond the snuffers or extinguishers 32.

Minor changes in shape, size, materials and rearrangement of components and parts may be resorted to in actual practice without departing from the spirit of the invention or the scope of the invention as claimed.

What is claimed as new is as follows:

1. A portable ashtray comprising a tray having a receptacle portion including a horizontal bottom, a stand embodying a mound fixed in the central portion of said bottom and rising vertically therefrom, the upper portion of said mound being provided with an open-ended air circulating channel, said channel having a central convex crest and downwardly directed surfaces cooperating therewith and providing ash and refuse chutes, said chutes discharging into said receptacle portion, the upper portion of said mound having upstanding extension means, a resilient frame embracing the extension means, said extension means constituting a retainer for the frame, said frame having opposed side members and opposed end members and a plurality of spaced coplanar wires secured at ends thereof to opposed side members of said frame and which, in conjunction with the frame, provide a grid-like rest for lighted cigarettes and cigars, said wires overlying said channel in vertically spaced relation whereby to provide for free circulatory flow of ventilating air and

to permit ashes and refuse to drop into said channel and shunted and discharged into said receptacle portion, said channel being formed in part in the extension, said extension embodying a pair of spaced opposed flanges having a plurality of notches in the upper edge portions, said notches defining keeper seats for removable reception of cooperating end portions of the wires, and also defining a plurality of spaced teeth, said flanges being disposed inwardly and spaced from adjacent vertical surfaces of the body portion of the mound, the horizontal top portion of said mound being flat and defining seating and supporting ledges for the portions of the frame resting thereon, said teeth being of equal height and being located within the confines of the surrounding upper edge portions of the side members of said frame, said upper edge portions and upper ends of said teeth terminating in a common plane, said wires being disposed in a plane below the upper ends of said teeth, the upper portions of the end members of said frame having segmental notches therein, the major portions of said notches being disposed in a plane below the plane of said wires to promote free circulation of air from said channel through said wires.

2. An ashtray comprising a tray having a receptacle portion and a bottom, a centrally disposed upstanding block-like member situated in said receptacle portion and fixedly joined to said bottom and having an open-ended channel for circulatory flow of air, a readily attachable and removable cigarette rest, said rest embodying a plurality of spaced wires secured to a frame, and said frame being removably seated atop said block-like member, said wires being in a plane directly above the bottom of the channel to ventilate the area between the surfaces of the channel and beneath the cigarette so that the ignited cigarette will, if left alone, gradually virtually burn up, extinguish itself, and the ashes and butt will drop and

gravitate into the channel and will be deflected from the channel into the receptacle portion, said frame embodying longitudinal side members and transverse end members, the upper portions of said end members having air circulating notches therein, said wires being coplanar with each other with the ends of the wires secured to said side members in a plane below the upper edges of the side members, a pair of spaced parallel opposed flanges atop said block-like member, said frame surrounding said flanges and being seated atop the block-like member and being held in operating position by said flanges, said flanges having a plurality of notches in the upper edge portions thereof, said notches defining keeper seats for removable reception of cooperating end portions of the wires and also defining a plurality of spaced teeth, said flanges being disposed inwardly of and spaced from adjacent vertical surfaces of the body portion of the block-like member and top portions of said block-like member functioning to seat lower edge portions of the side members of said frame, the teeth of the respective flanges projecting to a plane above the plane of said wires and serving to guard against displacement of a cigarette resting atop the wires.

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