Oct. 30, 1928. 1,689,742

E. C. MORRIS

PAPER NAPKIN OR THE LIKE

Filed Aug. 21, 1925 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

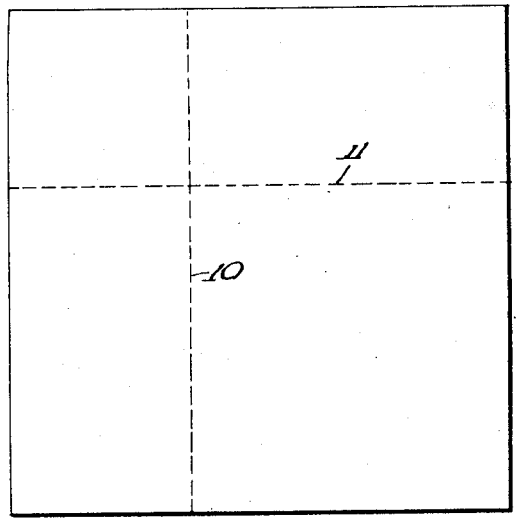


Fig 1

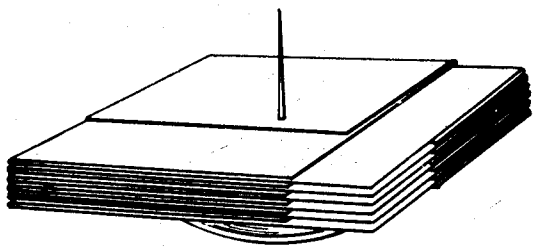


Fig 2.

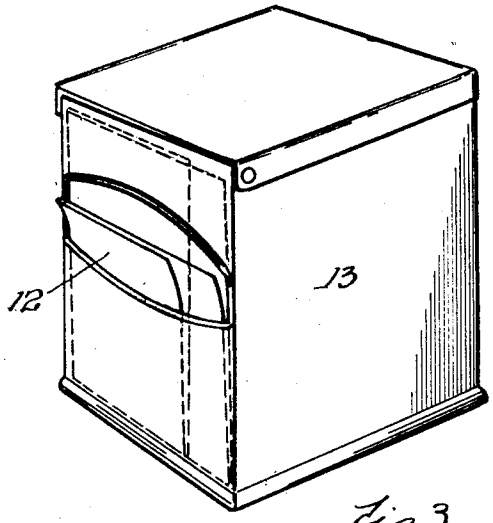


Fig 3.

Witness
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Elmer C. Morris
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PAPER NAPKIN OR THE LIKE

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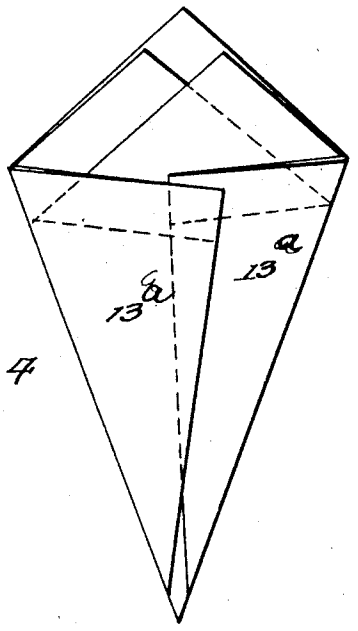


Fig 4

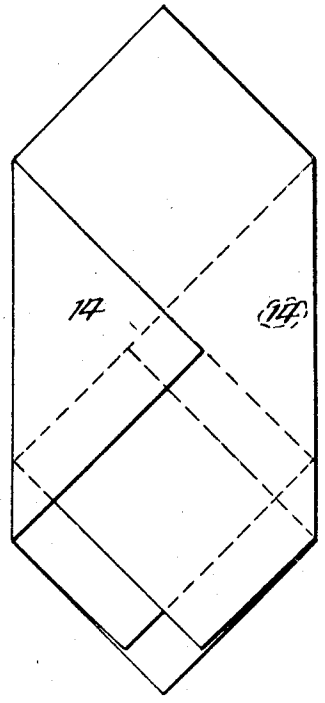


Fig 5

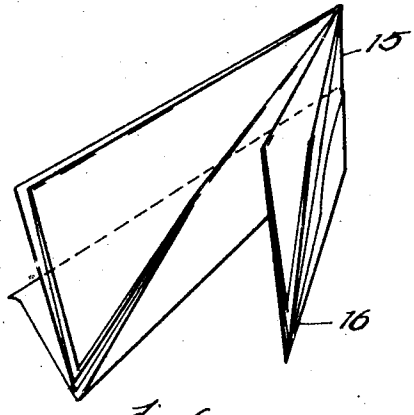


Fig 6.

Witness.

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Patented Oct. 30, 1928. 1,689,742

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ELMER C. MORRIS, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

PAPER NAPKIN OR THE LIKE.

Application filed August 21, 1925. Serial No. 51,571.

It is an object of my invention to provide an article of this class, particularly a folded paper napkin, having numerous non-registering corners or edges which can be easily grasped by the customer not only for removing from a spindle or dispenser, but for readily unfolding the napkin.

It is a further object of my invention to provide a folded napkin that is folded from a rectangular blank with the creases normally disposed to each other and to the edges of the blank so that the plies are given a rectangular shape, but of different areas and variously disposed in the ultimate article so that free corners of the plies, slightly separated but generally grouped, are located on an intermediate part of a face of the napkin. When a stack of such napkins is loaded in a container, they can be positioned so that a plurality of the corners register with the dispensing opening and provide loose corner tabs that normally tend to project through the opening to be readily seized by the user. Furthermore, with the napkins folded as indicated, the plies form in each a thick body part to impart stability to the napkin, so that they can be readily handled. They are stacked with the thick body parts in sequence arrangement, and when loaded into a container and pressure applied to the thick part of the stack, the pressure tends to project the corner tabs through the dispensing opening. Also, the thick body provides a substantial part to be impaled on a spindle without tearing.

In addition to the foregoing, the rectangular shape of the plies and the creases normally disposed to each other and to the edges of the plies, permit a folding operation whereby napkins of various sizes can be folded on the same machine. If the plies and ultimate article were of a shape other than rectangular, the creases could not be made at right angles to each other and to the edges of the plies, a different machine or a complicated adjustment of the same machine, would be required to fold napkins of different sizes.

The above and other features of novelty, advantages and capabilities will become apparent from a detail description of the accompanying drawings, in which I have illustrated certain embodiments of my invention. However, it will be understood that these drawings are illustrative only and do not define the limits of my invention.

In the drawings I have shown folded napkins of different final forms all manufactured from a single sheet, each, however, embodying my invention. Generally stated, so far as my method of forming these napkins is concerned, the invention resides in the initial steps of first forming the napkin off center and subsequently tucking off center.

Figure 1 is a plan view of a blank of material folded in accordance with my invention to form a napkin or similar article;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of a stack of said articles folded and placed on a spindle;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of a dispenser likewise made in accordance with my invention and having therein the form of napkin shown in Figure 2;

Figures 4 and 5 are plan views, and Figure 6 a perspective view of modifications embodying my invention.

Referring to the drawings in detail, the blank sheet of paper or other material to be used as a napkin or other article is of the desired or necessary size, which blank I have illustrated in Figure 1. This blank is first folded substantially off center, for example, on the line 11 with the narrower part of the blank beneath the wider part and then tucked substantially off center on the line 10, thus forming a folded article as shown in Figure 2, which may be described as a quarter fold formed and tucked off center. The advantage of this article or fold is that it provides numerous corners or edges to grasp when reaching for napkins on spindles. In the old type of quarter folded napkins they were not only formed, but tucked at the center, thus resulting in all four corners and edges being in registration and when stacked in a bundle such napkins were compact and great difficulty experienced in separately removing napkins from the spindles for the reason that there were no offset edges or corners for the customer to readily grasp by the thumb or finger, or otherwise, as a result of which in reaching for a napkin he would pick up several, thus resulting in a tremendous waste. Moreover, with the blank formed and tucked off center as illustrated by Figures 1 and 2,

the napkin can be readily dispensed from a dispenser such as illustrated in Figure 3. The offset edge or end 12 when positioned in the dispenser 13 is opposite the oval shaped dispensing opening and with the pressure behind is caused to flip out so as to be readily and quickly grasped by the customer.

Another advantage of forming and tucking a blank off center is that the napkin readily opens up for a customer's use, whereas if folded even with no offset edges to grasp he often uses the napkins without unfolding and in a large percentage of the cases the napkins are used by simply half unfolding, thus resulting in inefficient service as compared with my form of napkin being formed and tucked off center, which can be readily and entirely opened flatwise.

In Figures 4 and 5 the final form of the article differs from that in Figure 2, but these articles embody and contain my invention for they are both made from a single blank such as illustrated in Figure 1 and in forming these folds the initial steps are to first form and tuck the napkin off center as heretofore explained, so that when the side wings 13ª and 14 are unfolded there are various corners and non-registering edges to be easily grasped for completely unfolding the napkin. In Figure 6 the blank is first folded into a plurality of superimposed longitudinal folds and then tucked off center at 15 to provide an offset edge 16, which offset edge is very important in dispensing such napkin from a dispenser such as shown in Figure 3, as it is so positioned in the dispenser to register with the opening and flip out, for example as shown at 12, so as to be readily grasped by the customer.

Another advantage in forming and tucking a napkin off center, such, for example as shown in Figures 1, 2, 4 and 5, the same machine can be used to form and fold a 12 inch napkin as is used to form a 14 inch napkin, thus eliminating the necessity of building different sized machines or adjustable machines for such purposes. Also different sized napkins with this method can be folded so as to be dispensed from the same size dispenser, that is, the same dispenser used to dispense a 14 inch napkin can be used and utilized to dispense a 12 inch napkin where my invention is utilized.

From the foregoing description it will become readily apparent that my invention possesses all the advantages heretofore pointed out, as well as many other inherent features.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. A paper napkin or the like folded into a rectangular form with the upper final fold having one exposed corner lying within the perimeter of the other folds and two edges of said upper final fold spaced away from the perimeter of the other folds by a substantial distance, the folds so disposed providing a thick body part to the folded napkin and also providing a plurality of separated corner tabs to facilitate handling of the napkin.

2. A paper napkin or the like folded in rectangular form in a plurality of folds with the final upper fold narrower in one direction than the next fold and both these folds shorter in the other direction than the third and other folds, the corresponding edges of all the folds being parallel with each other and two edges of the final upper fold being spaced a substantial distance from corresponding edges of the third fold, the folds so disposed providing a thick body part to the folded napkin and also providing a plurality of separated corner tabs to facilitate handling of the napkin

3. A paper napkin or the like folded into more than three folds with a final or upper fold having three edges coinciding with the three edges of a second fold but of unequal areas so that an edge of the second fold extends beyond the corresponding edge of the final or upper fold and a third fold having three edges coinciding with three edges of the second fold with the remaining edge of the third fold extending beyond the corresponding edge of the second fold, the folds so disposed providing a thick body part to the folded napkin and also providing a plurality of separated corner tabs to facilitated handling of the napkins.

4. A folded paper napkin having a crease parallel to one edge of the sheet and off-set from the center of the sheet, the area of the sheet being inwardly divided by the crease with the smaller area bounded on one side by the said edge so that this edge is spaced back from the opposite edge of the sheet and extends across the larger area after the crease is made and the folded form being folded on a second crease extending at right angles to said first crease, the folds so disposed providing a thick body part to the folded napkin and also providing a plurality of separated corner tabs to facilitate the handling of the napkin.

5. A square paper napkin or the like folded into four folds, the upper or final fold having three edges coincident with three edges of the second fold, this fold being of less area than the second fold, the second fold having three edges coinciding with three edges of the third fold but the area of the second fold being less than that of the third fold, the fourth or lowermost fold being coextensive with the upper final fold and extending beyond the same at one side with its farther edge coincident with an edge of the third fold, the corresponding edges of all the folds being parallel, the folds so disposed providing a thick body part to the folded napkin and also providing a plurality of separated corner

tabs to facilitate the handling of the napkin.

6. A paper napkin or the like formed of a rectangular blank first folded off center with a crease extending parallel to an edge of the blank to form plies of the same length but of substantially different widths, and then folded off center with a crease at right angles to the crease of the first folding to form two sets of plies separated by the crease of the second folding, with one set of plies substantially shorter than the other set of plies and with the outer ply of each set formed by the narrower ply of the first folding, the free corner of the outer ply of the shorter set forming a loose tab spaced by a substantial margin from the side edges of the shorter set and from the free end of the longer set, the plies so disposed providing a rectangularly folded napkin having a plurality of separated corner tabs to facilitate the handling of the napkin.

7. A folded napkin comprising two sets of rectangular plies, said sets being folded together from a crease common to both sets and with one set longer than the other, a substantial margin of the longer set separating the free ends of the two sets; the plies of the shorter set, except the outermost ply, being of uniform width; said outermost ply being of a width considerably less than the width of the adjacent ply, providing at an intermediate part of the free end of the shorter set a free corner tab spaced from the free end of the longer set.

In witness whereof, I hereunto subscribe my name to this specification at Chicago, Illinois, this 5th day of August, 1925

ELMER C. MORRIS.