Nov. 27, 1928. 1,693,231

W. R. GRUBER

SANITARY DISPENSING CONTAINER FOR DINING TABLE WARE

Filed Feb. 5, 1927

Fig. 1.

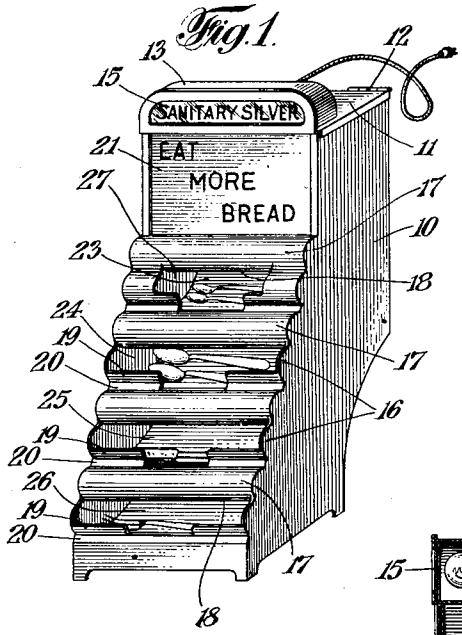


Fig. 3.

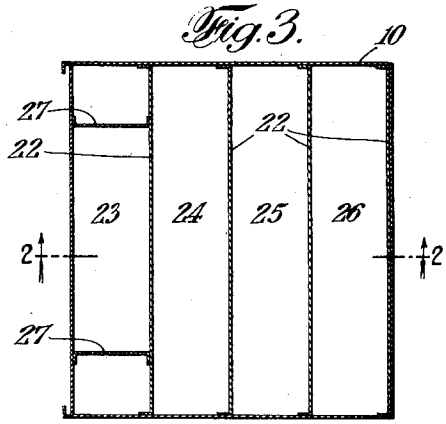
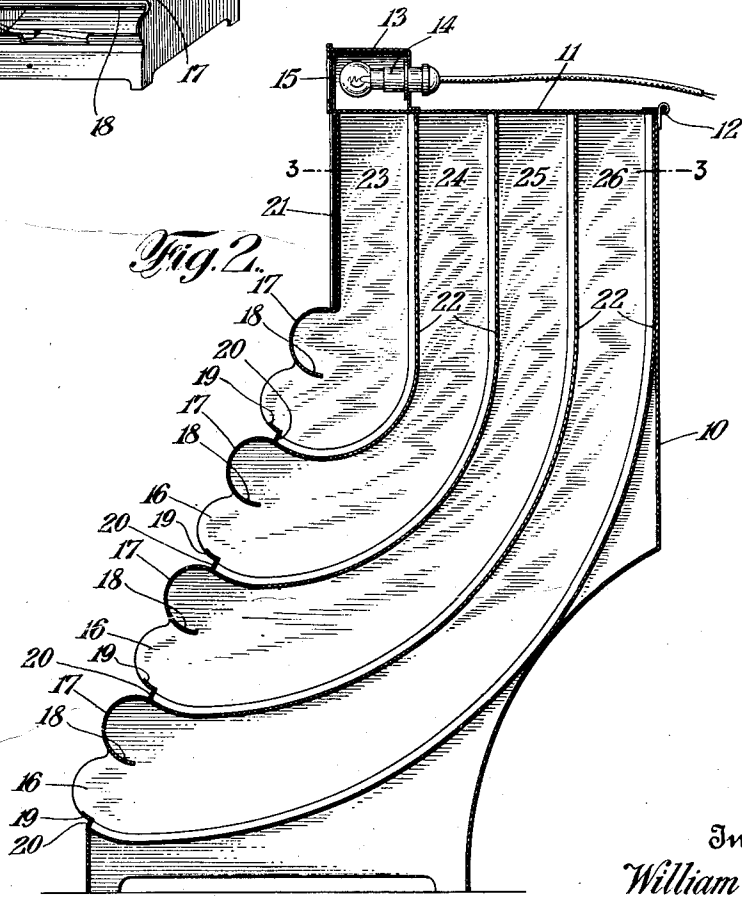


Fig. 2.



Inventor
William R. Gruber
By his Attorney
John E. Prager

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM R. GRUBER, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

SANITARY DISPENSING CONTAINER FOR DINING TABLEWARE.

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This invention relates to containers for dining table cutlery, such as knives, forks and spoons, and more particularly to types of containers in which the several articles housed therein are readily accessible for service, the device being an improvement over my co-pending application entitled "Sanitary eating implement dispensing device", filed March 12, 1926, Serial No. 94,159.

Devices for similar purposes, especially as used in restaurants and like public eating houses, are ordinarily of the tray variety into which the fingers of customers may readily enter, usually grasping the knives by the blades, the forks by their tines and the spoons by their bowls, such handling being highly unsanitary and offensively repugnant to people of discrimination, for not only are the articles selected touched, but those adjacent are subjected to contact with unclean hands.

Another type of container consists of a casing in which the implements are placed upright, with their handle portions at the bottom or lowermost part, compelling the user to grasp the operative parts in the hands and further, the disposition of the knives and forks is such as to be dangerous to persons who inadvertently bring the hand forcibly against the sharp projecting elements of the implements.

Having these disadvantages in view, it is one of the objects of the present invention to devise a hygienic container having compartments for each of the various utensils in which they may be stored in considerable quantities in a sanitary manner and taken, one at a time, in a convenient and easy manner from a shelf-like extension onto which they are automatically and progressively delivered, the device being so arranged as to prevent contamination of the remaining articles.

It is a further feature to provide an attractive and sanitary container for such articles, that can be manufactured at a moderate expense, that occupies no more room than the types now in use, and which presents opportunity for utilization as an advertising medium.

These and other advantageous features which will appear as the description progresses, are accomplished by the novel design, construction and arrangement of parts, hereinafter described and illustrated in the accompanying drawing, forming a material part of this disclosure, and in which:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of an embodiment of the invention.

Figure 2 is a vertical sectional view taken approximately on line 2—2 of Figure 3.

Figure 3 is a transverse sectional view taken on line 3—3 of Figure 2.

In the drawing, the numeral 10 generally designates a sheet metal casing provided with a cover 11 hinged at 12 along the upper rear edge; the cover having, at the front, a housing 13 containing an electric light 14 so that a "legend" on a window 15, in the housing, will readily show through.

The front edges 16 of the side walls of the casing 10 are scalloped so as to conform to the undulating sections 17 of the front wall.

Alternate sections 17 are curved inwardly, as at 18, to present a smoothly rounded surface, while the lower edges 19 of the remaining sections are bent obliquely outward to present ledges 20; the top section 17 connecting with a flat plate 21 which may be used for an advertising display.

Secured intermediate the said walls of the casing are a plurality of vertical partition plates 22 curved forwardly at their lower ends, meeting the ledges 19, to form compartments 23, 24, 25 and 26 in which may be respectively placed, tea spoons, table spoons, knives and forks.

By reason of the fact that the tea spoons are shorter than the other utensils, the compartment 23 is reduced by the insertion therein of a pair of spacers 27 at its ends, to prevent the spoons from moving out of proper position.

Thus, the implements are placed in the compartments through the various top openings so that the lowermost will abut the ledge 19.

To remove the utensils, the fingers may be inserted through the spaces between the lip 20 and the adjacent curved portion 18 of the section 17, the space being of such size as to allow the removal of only one implement at a time.

As the utensils are taken out, the next succeeding one will fall by gravity into an accessible position.

It may thus be seen that a sanitary dispenser has been disclosed capable of containing a very large quantity of table ware

although it requires no more room than the heretofore unsanitary trays.

In addition, its attractive appearance makes it a fine advertising medium.

The foregoing disclosure is to be regarded as descriptive and illustrative and not as restrictive or limitative of the general scope herein indicated and denoted in the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:—

1. A dispensing container comprising a casing having an outwardly inclined front wall containing a series of transverse openings arranged in tiered relation, a plurality of vertical partitions forming compartments parallel with the upper front portion of the casing, said partitions being curved outwardly towards the front at their lower portions to register with the transverse openings, and means above and below the openings at the front edges of the partitions to normally prevent the discharge of articles from said compartments.

2. A dispensing container comprising an upright casing having an undulated, forwardly projecting front wall in its main portion, each alternate undulation being open, a compartment for each type of article in said casing, said compartments being open at their tops and curved at their lower ends to register with openings in the front wall of the casing, the curved portions gradually increasing in area, the openings permitting finger insertion to seize the outermost article, and means to restrain the articles from becoming prematurely discharged.

3. A dispensing container comprising a casing having an offset upper portion and an undulating front wall, the undulations being arranged in parallel paired relation, a plurality of article containing compartments in said casing, said compartments being open at the top and curved at their lower ends to register with openings formed in the front wall of said casing, the curved portions being gradually expanded, a curved element on the lower edge of each closed undulation reaching into the space in the compartments, and a lip at the lower end of each compartment to prevent the discharge of the articles therefrom.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

WILLIAM R. GRUBER.