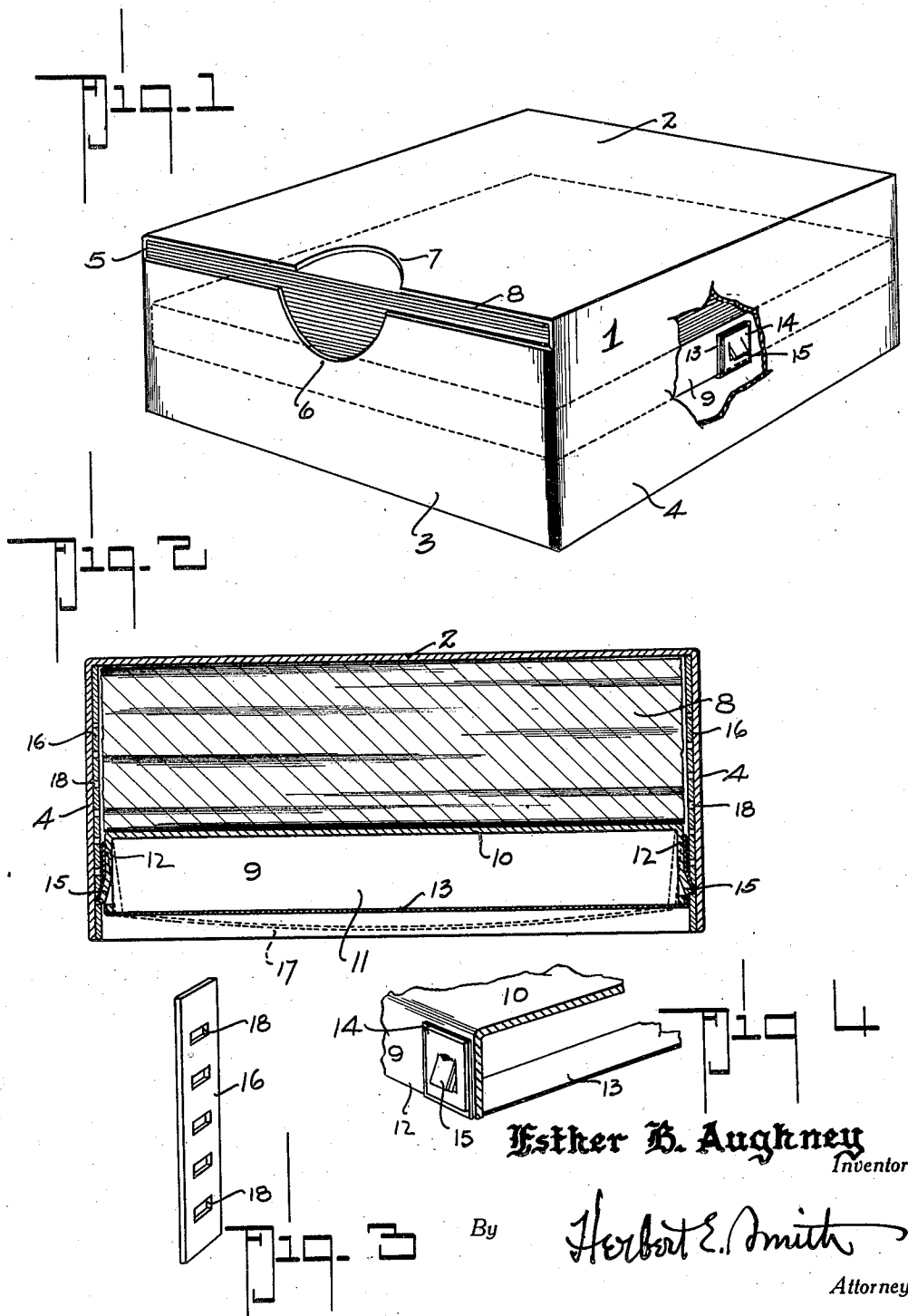


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DISPENSING CONTAINER
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DISPENSING CONTAINER

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2 Claims. (Cl. 206—57)

My present invention relates to improvements in dispensing containers of a type suitable for dispensing paper napkins, paper towels, and the like, and whereby the article within the dispenser will be protected from being soiled and is held in a compact manner until required for use.

An object of the invention is in a dispensing container of extremely simple and inexpensive construction that may be manufactured of any suitable sheet material and especially of cardboard or paper board that will lend itself to printing of ornament or decoration on the exterior surfaces, and which will be primarily useful in a home, dining room, kitchen, or other place where such articles are required.

Another object lies in the provision of a dispenser which may serve as a container or receptacle for paper napkins and paper towels from the manufacturer to the consumer, into which the towels or napkins may be packed at the factory, which allows for necessary adjustment during use and which may be thrown away when empty.

The invention consists in certain novel combinations and arrangements of parts in the construction and for the operation of the dispenser as will hereinafter be more fully set forth and claimed.

In the accompanying drawing I have illustrated one complete example of the physical embodiment of my invention, wherein the parts are combined and arranged according to the best mode I have thus far devised for the practical application of the principles of my invention.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the dispensing container designed for paper napkins and embodying the invention.

Figure 2 is a transverse vertical section of the structure shown in Figure 1 taken at the approximate center of the container.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the locking plate used in connection with my invention and Figure 4 is a fragmentary and sectional view through a portion of the bottom member of the container and disclosing the locking device.

The device illustrated in the drawing is designed primarily as a dispenser for paper napkins as used in a home or on picnics for the purpose of dispensing a napkin that may be thrown away after use. But it will be evident that the principles involved in the invention are equally applicable to the dispensing of other paper articles in folded form.

As shown in Figure 1 the container is in the form of a rectangular box 1 having a top wall 2,

end walls 3, and side walls 4. Along the top edge in one end wall 3 is formed a slot 5 extending entirely across the said wall and to the side walls 4. This slot is provided for the withdrawal of the top one of a stack of napkins which is supported within the container. About central of the end 3 and adjacent thereto on the top wall 2 I provide substantially semi-circular cut-out portions 6 and 7, respectively, to form space for the fingers when the napkin is to be grasped and withdrawn through the slot 5.

For the purpose of illustration, I have shown the napkins 8, each arranged to present a folded face for engagement by the fingers and for the purpose of withdrawal. The pile of napkins 8 within the container is supported by an upwardly movable bottom 9 comprising a lid-like structure closely fitting within the container and having its top wall 10 serving as a floor or bottom for the napkins 8. At the edges the bottom is folded down to form end walls 11 and side walls 12. These side walls at their longitudinal center or approximate thereto are joined by a ribbon or tape 13, the tape 13 being stretched from lower edge to lower edge of the side walls and secured to the side walls of the bottom in any substantial manner, preferably by turning up on the outside of the side walls 12 of the bottom portion 9. Over the upturned edge of the tape 13 is secured a plate 14 having an angularly extending tongue 15 projecting therefrom and cut or formed from the same material. This plate 14 may be of metal or of an especially stiff grade of fiber-board or the like and the purpose of the tongue is to provide a latching or locking means for the bottom to hold the bottom to the side walls of the container. On the interior side walls of the container and about centrally located to register with the tongue 15 a notched or perforated plate 16 is glued or otherwise permanently secured to the inside edges of the container so that the plate will be maintained perpendicular therein and so that the tongue 15 formed on each side of the bottom 9 may engage in the notches to hold the bottom fixed and in a preferred adjustment with the container.

Paper napkins and like articles are subject to considerable expansion in their piled relation. When the container of my invention is to be used, a quantity of napkins is placed within the container while same is in an inverted position and the bottom 9 is placed within the container until the tongues 15 engage the first notch of the locking plates 16, in which event the napkins will all be under a certain compression and

the container is then in condition for wrapping and sale. In use, as the napkins are withdrawn from the container, on account of the resiliency and expansive tendency of the napkins, the topmost napkin will be projected up against the under side of the top 2 of the container. Until this expansive force has exhausted itself, the container may be continued to be used and the napkins taken therefrom. After a quantity has been used the bottom may be moved up a notch or two through the action between the tongue 15 upon the locking plate 16. In this manner compression will again be added to the mass of napkins and the topmost napkin will always be held against the under side of the top of the container where it will be most readily accessible. The procedure thus outlined may be continued until the supply of napkins has been exhausted, in which event the container may be thrown away or refilled.

In case it should be desired to refill the container with a fresh supply of napkins, the ribbon or tape 13 may be grasped at its approximate center and pulled as indicated in the dotted lines at 17, in which action the central portion of the side walls 12 of the bottom will be retracted, causing the tongue 15 to become disengaged from the notches 18 in the locking plate, permitting withdrawal of the bottom for the purpose of adding a new supply of napkins.

From the above description and by inspection of the drawing it will thus be seen that the dispensing container, as set forth, is adaptable for various quantities of napkins or similar articles because of the latitude of movement of the bottom member with respect to the container proper.

The container herein set forth may be made of the usual cardboard or paper construction lending itself to inexpensive manufacture and may

be supplied by the producer as a container for the napkins during storage, shipment, and sale. When the container is received by the householder it is ready and adaptable for immediate use without any manipulation and as the contents are removed the bottom may be adjusted to maintain a proper pressure upon the remaining napkins until all in the container have become exhausted. If a refill is desired, the bottom may be unlocked, removed, and a new supply of napkins placed therein and the operation in connection with the use of the container is repeated.

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

1. A dispenser for paper sheets comprising vertical walls and a top wall, a delivery opening in one of the vertical walls having enlarged cut-out areas on each side of the opening and central therewith, a bottom having depending walls and telescoping in the dispenser, tongue plates mounted on opposed walls of the bottom and having resilient tongues engaging notched plates supported upon two inner walls of the dispenser to hold the bottom in various adjusted positions within the dispenser.

2. A dispenser for paper sheets comprising an inverted receptacle, open at the bottom, a slotted opening in an upper wall of the dispenser and adjacent the top wall thereof to permit withdrawal of sheets therefrom, a telescoping bottom for the receptacle, depending walls from said bottom and tongues on two opposed walls aligned with and engaging notch plates on inside walls of the receptacle, said means forming a lock for the bottom therewith and means for unlocking and withdrawing the bottom.

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