This invention relates to dispensers designed for dispensing toothpicks, drinking straws, pencils or the like cylindrical objects.

An important object of the invention is to provide a container which will maintain the objects held therein, in a sanitary condition at all times.

A further important object of the invention is to provide means for preventing the jamming of the cylindrical objects to prevent the delivery of the objects from the container, during the operation of the machine.

Still another object of the invention is to provide means for preventing the operation of the device to deliver an article contained therein, until the preceding article delivered into the rack of the device has been removed, thereby reducing waste of the articles contained in the device to a minimum.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a stationary cylindrical casing with removable ends to permit the positioning of the objects to be dispensed, in the machine.

Other and further objects and advantages of the invention will be hereinafter described and the novel features thereof defined in the appended claim.

Referring to the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a front elevational view of a dispensing device constructed in accordance with the invention.

Fig. 2 is a rear elevational view thereof.

Fig. 3 is a plan view of the device.

Fig. 4 is a bottom plan view of the device, portions thereof being shown in section for the sake of illustration.

Fig. 5 is an end elevational view of the device.

Fig. 6 is a vertical sectional view through the device.

Fig. 7 is a vertical sectional view taken at right angles to Fig. 6 on line 7-7 of Fig. 6.

Fig. 8 is a vertical sectional view through the device showing the position of the delivery rocker or drum moved to a position to receive a cylindrical object from the casing.

Fig. 9 is a vertical sectional view through the device illustrating the position of the delivery rocker or drum after it has deposited a cylindrical object in the rack of the device.

Fig. 10 is an elevational view of the removable bottom of the device.

Fig. 11 is an end elevational view of the device with the bottom and delivery rocker or drum removed.

Fig. 12 is an elevational view illustrating one of the removable end disks of the case.

Referring to the drawings in detail, the device comprises a substantially cylindrical horizontal case 5, which has leg members 6 connected at the ends thereof, the leg members being connected by means of the strip 7 at the rear of the leg members.

As shown, the case 5 is formed with an elongated slot 8 extending transversely through the lower side thereof, the elongated slot constituting the delivery slot, through which cylindrical objects held within the case pass, in being dispensed from the device.

The reference character 9 indicates a guard strip that is mounted within the slot and extends throughout the length thereof, the guard strip being transversely curved as better shown by Fig. 8 of the drawing and disposed within the slot with the longitudinal edges thereof spaced from the longitudinal edges of the slot 8. The space between the forward edge of the guard strip 9 and adjacent edge of the slot 8, is of a width to permit the cylindrical objects contained within the case to pass from the case singly, and drop into the groove 10 formed longitudinally of the delivery rocker or drum 11 which is pivotally mounted within bearings formed in the leg members 6.

The delivery rocker or drum has shafts 12 extending from the ends thereof, which shafts rest in curved bearings 13 formed in the upper ends of the supports 14 that form a part of the bottom 15 that closes the space between the leg members.

A pivoted securing arm 16 is pivotally mounted under the bottom 15, and is of a length so that its ends extend into the recesses 17 and 18 formed in the strip 7 and the forwardly projecting article rack 19, securing the bottom in place.

The forwardly projecting article rack embodies a strip 20 fitted between the leg members 6 adjacent to the forward edge thereof, the arms 21 extending forwardly therefrom as shown by Figs. 8 and 9 of the drawing.

The upper surfaces of these arms are inclined downwardly and cause cylindrical objects delivered by the device, to pass into the notches 22, where they may be removed by the person operating the device.

As shown by Figs. 8 and 9 of the drawings, it will be seen that the delivery rocker or drum 11 is formed with a curved lip 23 that is spaced from the major portion of the delivery rocker or drum, a distance so that the lip 23 will move over the guard strip 9, the free end of the lip 23 engaging a cylindrical member contained in the case, to force the cylindrical member to a position where it will fall onto the surface of the member 11.

With the cylindrical object resting on the surface of the member 11, it is obvious that upon the return movement of the member 11, the groove 10 will fall directly under the cylindrical object so that upon rotation of said member 11 in an anti-clockwise direction, will cause the cylindrical object contained in the groove 10 to be delivered to the inclined surface of the arms 21, where it will fall into the notches 22 of the arms 21 to be removed.

The arms 21 are provided with openings extending longitudinally thereof, in which the lock arms 24 are made at their rear ends, by the bar 25 formed with a slot 26 extending longitudinally thereof, and in which the rod 27 is disposed, the ends 28 of the rod 27 being embedded in the delivery rocker or drum 11, at points adjacent to the ends thereof. Thus it will be seen that when the member 11 is rotated in a clockwise direction the forward ends of said lock arms 24 will be extended through the openings of the arms 21 and pass into the notches 22 of said arms. The lock arms 24 can only move into the openings of the arms 21 and pass through the notches 22, when the notches 22 are clear of a cylindrical object which has been delivered. In the event that a cylindrical object is held in the notches 22 of the arms 21 it is obvious that the arms 24 will be restricted in their forward movement with the result that the delivery rocker or drum 11 will be held against moving to a position where a cylindrical object held within the case 5 can move into the groove 10 to be delivered.

However when the cylindrical object in notches 22 of the rack, has been removed, the member 11 may be rotated to a position as shown by Fig. 9, wherein the tubular...
object contained in the groove 10 will be discharged onto the rack or arms 21.

Thus it will be seen that due to this construction it will be impossible to deliver another cylindrical object from the case 5 if there is a cylindrical object resting in the notches 22 of the arms 21 or rack.

It will further be seen that the guard strip 9 provides means for preventing the wedging of more than one cylindrical object in the groove 10 of the member 11 to prevent the rotation of the member 11 to dispense cylindrical members from the case.

Having thus described the invention:

What is claimed is:

A device for dispensing cylindrical objects, comprising a frame, a case having a delivery slot mounted within said frame, a delivery drum having an article receiving groove formed in the periphery thereof, mounted within the frame under said case into which articles are delivered from said case, a rack onto which articles are delivered from said drum, said rack having horizontal openings and notches, locking arms slidable through said openings, adapted to engage an article resting on said rack restricting movement of said arms in a forward direction, a member connected between said drum and arms adapted to hold said drum against rotation for the reception of an article in said groove to deliver an article to said rack upon contact of said arms with an article deposited in said receiving notches, and a guard strip extending across said case and disposed within said delivery slot, the longitudinal edges of said guard strip being spaced from the longitudinal edges of said slot, controlling the passage of articles from said case into said slot, and a lip carried by said delivery drum movable over said guard adapted to deliver an article to said article receiving groove in said drum.

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