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TISSUE DISPENSING CONTAINER
AND TISSUE PACKS THEREFOR
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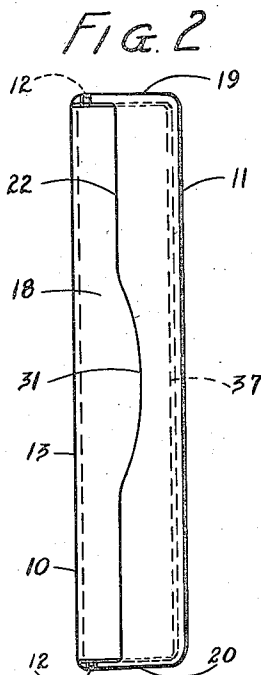
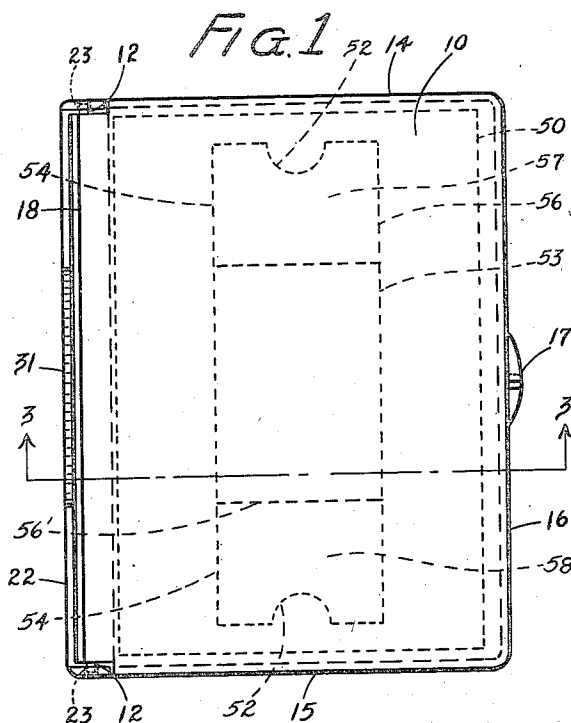


FIG. 5

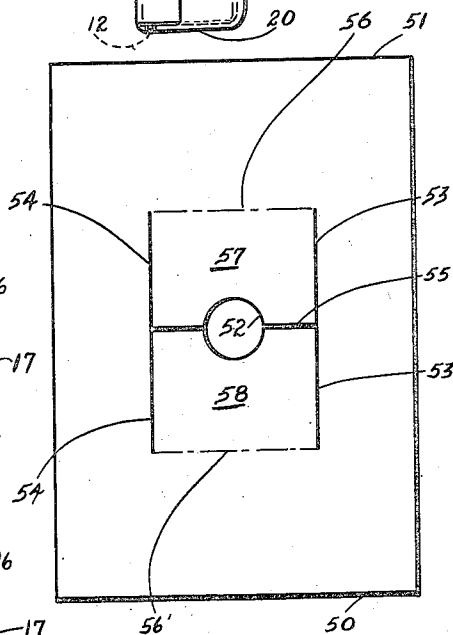


FIG. 3

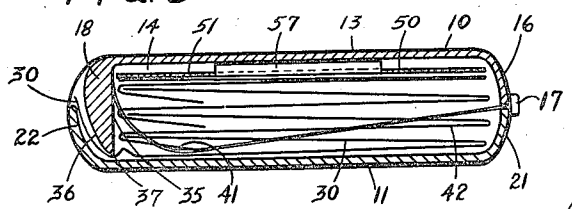
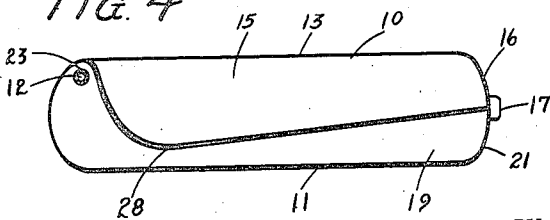


FIG. 4



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TISSUE DISPENSING CONTAINER AND TISSUE PACKS THEREFOR

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10 Claims. (Cl. 206—37)

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My invention pertains to a container for sheets of tissue and to a packet or package of tissue for the container.

An object of my invention is to provide a pocket or purse sized container for dispensing one sheet of tissue at a time.

Another object of my invention is to provide a container for interfolded sheets of tissue which may be carried in a pocket or purse.

Another object of my invention is to provide a container and replaceable packets or packages of interfolded sheets of tissue therefor.

It is also an object of my invention to provide a container for a pocket or purse which is adapted to hold a replaceable package of tissues; the package of tissues including means for assuring that all of the sheets of tissue may be withdrawn.

A further object of my invention is to provide a container for interfolded sheets of tissue which will assure that only one sheet at a time is withdrawn therefrom.

Another object of my invention is to provide a container for dispensing one sheet of tissue at a time from a replaceable packet, the packet cooperating with the container to that end.

Another object of my invention is to provide a pocket or purse container for sheets of tissue wherein the sheet which extends from the container is protected against dirt and damage.

Other objects and a fuller understanding of my invention may be had by referring to the following description and claims taken in conjunction with the drawings wherein,

Figure 1 is a plan view of a container showing in dotted lines therein a package or packet of tissue.

Figure 2 is an end view of the container looking toward the dispensing-end thereof.

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken along line 3—3 of Figure 1, and showing a few interfolded sheets of tissue therein.

Figure 4 is a side view of the container.

Figure 5 is a plan view of a cardboard spring which may be sold as a part of each replaceable package of tissue.

The container comprises a top member 10 hingedly connected to a bottom member 11 by means of pins 12. The top member 10 comprises a top surface 13 and two downwardly extending integrally formed side walls 14 and 15, made from plastic such as methyl methacrylate, cellulose acetate or other such material. The top member 10 also includes an integrally formed downwardly extending catch end side wall 16 which includes half of a catch member 17; and

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also includes a downwardly extending integrally formed dispensing-end side wall 18. The bottom member 11 comprises two upwardly extending side walls 19 and 20, an integral catch end side wall 21, and an integral upwardly extending dispensing-end side wall 22, all integrally formed of the same material as the top member 10. The catch end side wall 21 includes another portion of the catch member 17 which cooperates with the portion on the side wall 16. All walls are formed preferably of the same material. When the container is closed the two portions of the catch member 17 overlap each other and keep the container closed until a skewing motion is applied to slide the top member 10 laterally with respect to the bottom member 11 until the two catch portions no longer overlap each other and the top and bottom members may be then moved with respect to each other. The hinge pins 12 may be molded integral with the top member 10 and snap into corresponding holes 23 in the upwardly extending side walls 19, 20 of the bottom portion 11.

The downwardly extending side wall 15 of the top member 10 and the upwardly extending side wall 19 of the bottom member 11 have conforming edges which engage each other along the line 28 when the container is closed; the opening between the two side walls being sufficiently small that dirt and tobacco particles which are apt to be found in pockets and pocketbooks are kept out of the container; and the side walls 14 and 20 have conforming edge portions which meet along the same type of line. The slot performs the function of permitting a single sheet of tissue to extend from the container yet protecting that extending sheet from dirt and damage due to the container being carried in a pocket or purse. Thus, substantially the entire sheet, when pulled from my container will be clean and sanitary.

The dispensing-end side wall 18, which is integral with and extends downwardly from the top member 10 lies inside the upwardly extending dispensing-end side wall 22, which is integral with the bottom member 11, providing sufficient clearance whereby a sheet of tissue such as illustrated by reference character 30 may be readily withdrawn from within the container. The upwardly extending side wall 22 has a cut-away or relieve portion 34 near its center whereby a person's finger or fingers may more readily grasp the sheet of tissue which is extending between the wall portions 18 and 22.

I have found in order to assure that only one sheet of tissue will be pulled from the container

at a time that the downwardly extending dispensing-end side wall 18 should have its lower edge portion shaped to hold the next successive sheet back. I do this by providing a junction line between the inner face 35 of the side wall 18 and the outer curved face 36 thereof having a very small radius at the point 37 and having a much larger radius around the face 36. By thus shaping the dispensing-end side wall a "snubbing" action is obtained when each sheet of tissue is withdrawn.

When a sheet of tissue, such as 30, is withdrawn from the package, the folded-back portion 41 of the next successive sheet 42 is caused to extend between the wall portions 18 and 22 and the fold line between the portion 41 and the remainder of the sheet lies just inside the junction line which has the small radius 37 and extends upwardly from the bottom of the container to prevent the sheet from sliding out of the container until it is pulled. This assures that even though the container is almost empty the few remaining sheets will not fall out of the slot between the walls 18 and 22. Further, due to the "snubbing" action and due to the frictional resistance exerted on the tissue by the side walls 18 and 22 of the slot the sheet of tissue within the slot usually will not "work" its way back into the container.

When the container is full, the sheet 30 cannot fall back into the container no matter what type of tissue it is made of due to the pressure of the other sheets therein, but when the package has been almost emptied there may be, for some types of paper, a tendency for the sheet 30 to work its way back into the container. In order to prevent this, biasing means 50 may be provided. This biasing means may be a spring or a spring-biased plate built into the container in such a way that the spring or plate is gently pushed toward the bottom of the container. However, this construction adds materially to the cost of the container and I prefer to provide a biasing means with each package of tissue. This biasing means is a sheet of cardboard 51 preferably having a hole 52 cut near the center thereof and which is slotted along lines 53 and 54 parallel to the sides of the cardboard sheet 51. There is also a slot 55 running transversely through the hole 52, to the slotted lines 53, 54, and the cardboard is scored or punched along lines 56, 56' which extend between the slots 53, 54 at the ends thereof. Another biasing means which in some respects is more simple than the one just described may be made from a sheet of cardboard having a main face and a side face. One of these sheets of cardboard is supplied with each replacement pack of tissue. The cardboard lies in the pack with its main face parallel and adjacent to the main face of the stack of tissue sheets, and with its side face in a plane at right angles to the plane of the main face and extending down the end-face of the stack of tissue sheets. When the pack is opened this side face is folded backwards through an arc of about 270 degrees until its plane lies about parallel to the plane of its main face. The pack of tissues and the folded sheet of cardboard are then put into the container with the folded edge of the cardboard at the dispensing-end of the container and the container is then closed. In this position the cardboard exerts a bias tending to push all sheets of tissue toward the slot at the dispensing-end of the container.

When a person desires to fill the container

with tissue, he buys a replacement package at a drugstore or the like. The package may be wrapped in Cellophane or in some other such protective covering, and the package includes on the top face of the interfolded sheets of tissue the cardboard member 51 in its form shown in Figure 5. The person opens the Cellophane wrapping and removes it from the package. He inserts his finger in the hole 52 and folds the flap 57 back along the scored line 56 and then folds the flap 58 back along the scored line 56'.

One method of filling the container is to turn it in its up-side down position and then to place the unwrapped package of tissue into the container with the cardboard biasing member 51 against the inside face of the top surface 13. The folded-back portion 41 of the last sheet in the pack is then inserted between the two dispensing-end side walls 18, 22 and the container is snapped into its closed position.

The sheets of tissue which are within the container may then be withdrawn one-at-a-time while the container is in the user's pocket until all have been used. The container is then opened, the cardboard biasing member 51 is thrown away, and then a new pack of tissues with its new cardboard biasing member 51 is inserted into the container.

While I have described my invention with a certain degree of particularity, it is to be understood that numerous changes may be made in the construction and arrangements of parts without departing from the spirit and scope of my invention as set forth in the claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. In a container of a size to be carried in a pocket or a purse for dispensing one sheet at a time from a pack of interfolded sheets of tissue, a top member having an integral downwardly extending dispensing-end side wall and two integral downwardly extending side walls and an integral downwardly extending catch-end side wall, a bottom member having an integral upwardly extending dispensing-end side wall positioned outside of and spaced away from the downwardly extending dispensing-end side wall, the spacing being sufficient that a sheet of tissue will readily pass between the two said dispensing-end walls when it is withdrawn from the container, said bottom member having two integral upwardly extending side walls having terminal edges which conform with and closely engage the terminal edges of the respective two downwardly extending side walls and also having an integral upwardly extending catch-end side wall having a terminal edge which conforms with and closely engages the terminal edge of the downwardly extending catch-end side wall, catch means on the two catch-end side walls for engaging and holding the container shut, and hinge means on the dispensing-end of said container for hinging the top and bottom members together.

2. In a tissue dispensing container as set forth in claim 1, the further characterization that the downwardly extending dispensing-end side wall has a substantially planar inner face and a rounded outer face, the junction between said two faces defining a sharp edge line spaced from the bottom member a distance only slightly greater than the thickness of two sheets of said tissue for preventing more than one sheet of tissue at a time from being dispensed therefrom.

3. In a tissue dispensing container as set forth in claim 1, the further characterization that a

pack of folded tissues to be dispensed lies within the container with a fold edge adjacent the inner face of the downwardly extending dispensing-end side wall and with a short end portion of tissue extending away therefrom, said short end portion of tissue being interfolded with the next adjacent lower sheet whereby when said next adjacent lower sheet is withdrawn from the container said short end portion of tissue is caused to extend out of the container between the said two spaced apart dispensing-end side walls, and the folded portion of the tissue between the short end portion and the main portion of the sheet of tissue engages the lower portion of the inner face of the downwardly extending dispensing-end side wall to prevent the sheet of tissue from sliding out of the container until it is pulled therefrom.

4. In a tissue dispensing container as set forth in claim 1, the further characterization that the spaced apart upwardly and downwardly extending dispensing-end side walls overlap each other by an amount substantially equal to half the thickness of the container at their side portions, and said upwardly extending dispensing-end side wall has a relieved center portion which overlaps the downwardly extending side wall by an amount substantially equal to one-quarter the thickness of the container whereby an enlarged finger opening is provided for grasping the tissue.

5. A tissue dispensing container comprised of two portions and means hinging said two portions together, each of said two portions including a planar main face and an edge portion extending at an angle to the plane of the main face, said two portions being hinged together by said hinge means at said two angularly extending edge portions, and one of said two edge portions lying inside the other of said two edge portions and in an overlapping position, said two edge portions being spaced from each other for providing clearance for the passage of an individual sheet of tissue therebetween and for providing clearance whereby said two portions can move with respect to each other about said hinge without said two overlapping edge portions engaging each other.

6. A pocket-sized tissue dispensing container comprising, a first portion having a planar major face and at one end thereof an edge face extending substantially at right angles to said planar face, a second portion having a planar major face and at one end thereof an edge face extending at an angle to said planar face which is greater than 90 degrees, hinge means connecting said first and second portions together at said edge faces with said planar faces substantially parallel and with the edge faces overlapping each other and, due to the differences in the angles between the edge faces and the planar faces, spaced from each other a sufficient distance to permit the passage of a sheet of tissue, and other edge faces connected to at least one of said first or second portions for establishing substantially a complete enclosure.

7. As an article of manufacture: a pocket-sized container for a package of interfolded tissue comprising a first major face portion having four edge faces each extending substantially at right angles to plane of the major face, a second major face portion having four edge faces three of which extend substantially at right angles to the plane of the major face and the fourth of which extends at an angle greater than

90 degrees to the plane of the major face, hinge means connecting said two portions together with the major faces extending substantially parallel to each other and the edges of the said three edge faces of the second major face portion substantially in engagement with and conforming to the edges of three of the said four edge faces of the first major portion for establishing three substantially closed side walls of said container, catch means connected to one of said side walls for displaceably holding said two major face portions together, the fourth edge face of said second major face portion lying outside and spaced from the corresponding edge of said first major face portion whereby a sheet of tissue may be drawn between them, and said corresponding edge extending from said first major face portion to a point close to said second major face portion for substantially closing the said container yet permitting withdrawal of sheets of tissue.

8. In a tissue dispensing container, a pocket-sized container having side walls which form substantially an enclosure, one of said side walls being comprised of two spaced apart overlapping wall portions establishing a slot communicating with the interior of said container at a location adjacent one wall of said container and through which tissue sheets stacked with their major faces parallel to the major faces of the said container may be pulled from said container, said space between said two wall portions being substantially uniform and being sufficiently great to accommodate two thicknesses of said tissue without exerting frictional forces sufficient to tear the sheet being pulled through the said slot, the said slot, in cross-section perpendicular to its two defining wall portions, being curved throughout its length and the said space being sufficiently small that frictional forces of sufficient magnitude are exerted on a single sheet of tissue to prevent said single sheet of tissue from slipping back into said container when it is not being pulled out of the container.

9. A tissue dispensing container as set forth in claim 8, further characterized by said slot being of sufficient length to protect substantially the entire area of the end of a sheet of tissue which is in position to be pulled from the container.

10. A tissue dispensing container as set forth in claim 8, further characterized by the said two spaced apart wall portions which form said slot being substantially parallel.

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