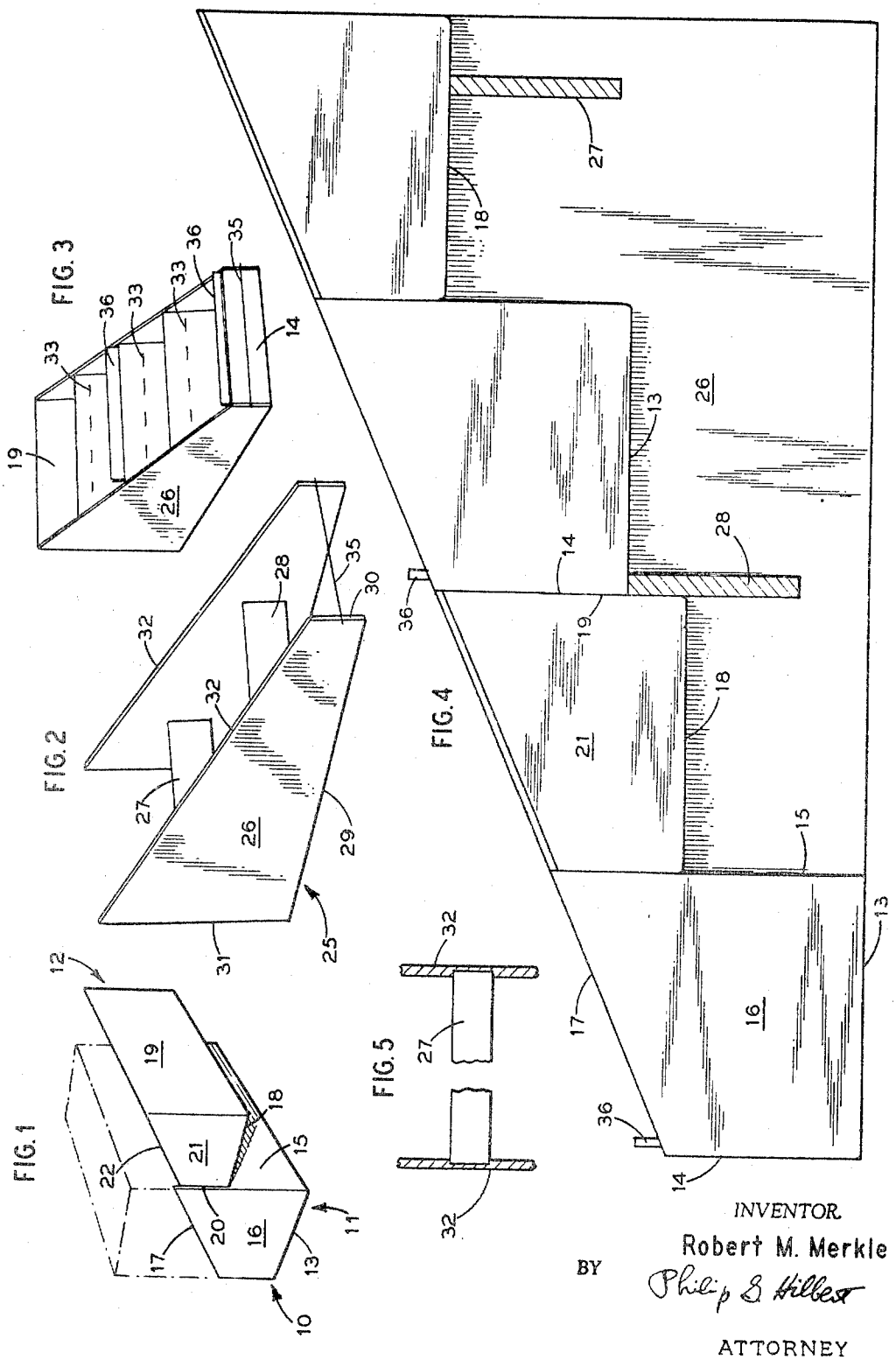
Jan. 6, 1970 R. M. MERKLE 3,487,949

COMBINATION ARTICLE DISPENSING CONTAINER AND STAND THEREFOR

Filed Aug. 18, 1966 2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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FIG. 7

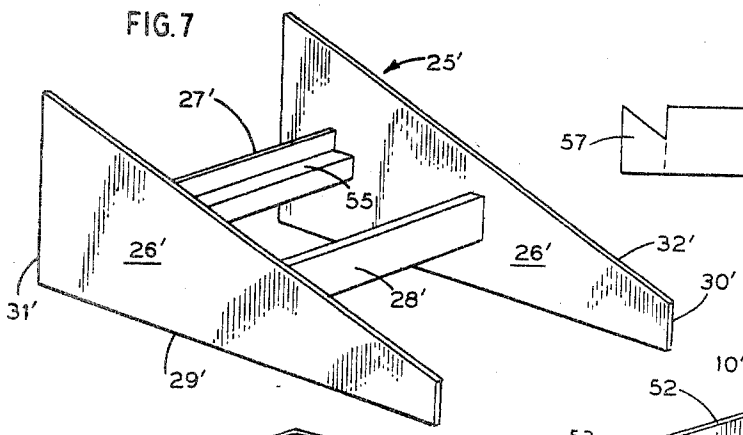


FIG. 10

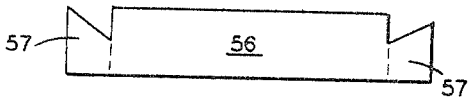


FIG. 6

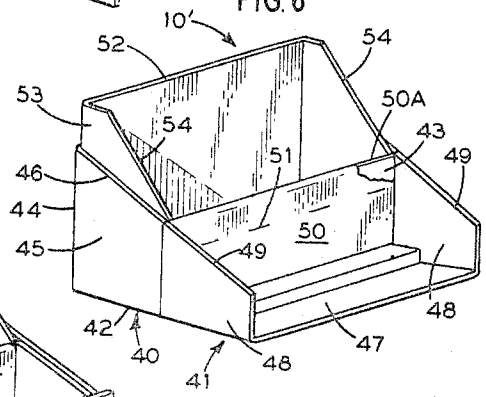


FIG. 8

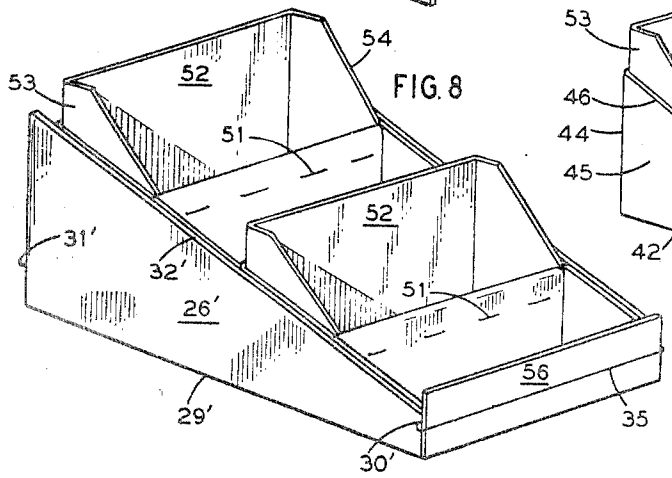
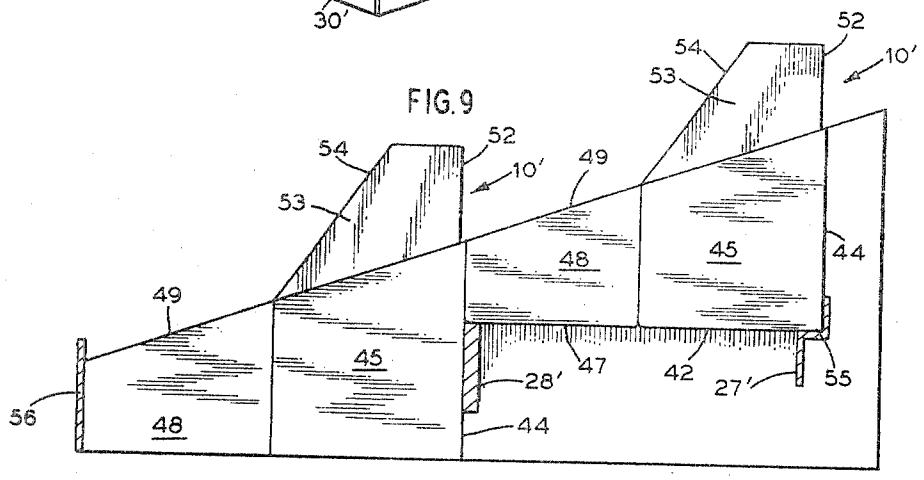


FIG. 9



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COMBINATION ARTICLE DISPENSING CONTAINER AND STAND THEREFOR

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Int. Cl. A47f 3/14, 7/16

U.S. Cl. 211—128 2 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The combination of a hinged top dispensing container and a stand for supporting the container to maintain the stability of the container in its open condition.

Containers of the type which comprise a cover hinged along one edge thereof to a receptacle to allow the cover to be flipped back to expose the contents of the container, are well known, particularly for holding and dispensing marking pens and related devices.

However, such known containers, when in their open condition, are quite unstable due to the overhang of the cover in its open position and tend to tilt and fall over with a consequent scattering of the contents of the containers.

Accordingly, an object of this invention is to provide an improved stand construction adapted to receive therein containers of the hinged cover type, so as to retain the same in a stable, open condition whereby the contents of such containers are kept in the containers for ready availability to the user thereof.

Another object of this invention is to provide a stand construction of the character described, which comprises a minimum number of parts, is readily assembled, is economical to manufacture and is simple to use.

Other objects of this invention will in part be obvious and in part hereinafter pointed out.

In the drawings, FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a container constituting an element of the combination embodying the invention;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of a stand embodying the invention;

FIG. 3 is a perspective view showing the stand with a pair of containers mounted therein;

FIG. 4 is a side elevational view, with parts in section, showing the assembly of stand and containers;

FIG. 5 is a side elevational view, with parts in section, showing a detail of the stand;

FIG. 6 is a perspective view showing an alternative form of container;

FIG. 7 is a perspective view of a stand for the container shown in FIG. 6;

FIG. 8 is a perspective view showing a pair of containers mounted in the stand of FIG. 7;

FIG. 9 is a side elevational view thereof;

FIG. 10 is a plan view of an element of the stand.

Essentially the instant invention concerns a combination of known container constructions distinguished by hinged covers which are flipped back to allow the container to be used as a dispenser of its contents, with stand constructions for mounting the containers therein, in order to stabilize the containers while the same are used as holders and dispensers of their contents.

Thus, as shown in FIGS. 1–5, **10** designates a conventional container formed of cardboard or the like, which includes a receptacle portion **11** and a cover portion **12** hinged thereto. Receptacle portion **11** includes a bottom wall **13**, a front wall **14**, a back wall **15** having a height somewhat greater than that of front wall **14**,

and a pair of end walls **16** which have upwardly inclined edges **17** which connect the top edges of walls **14, 15**.

Cover portion **12** includes a top wall **18**, a front wall **19**, a back wall **20** of a height less than that of wall **19**, and end walls **21** having inclined top edges **22**. When cover portion **12** is in its closed position, edges **22** thereof complement and substantially abut the edges **17** of receptacle portion **11**, as indicated in the dot-dash lines of FIG. 1. The outer surfaces of the several walls of both receptacle portion **11** and cover portion **12** are covered with printed paper, in the usual manner, which covering also provides hinge means for connecting cover portion **12** to receptacle portion **11**.

Thus, with cover portion **12** in its open position, back wall **20** thereof abuts back wall **15** of receptacle portion **11** and the edges **22** of cover portion **12** are a substantial extension of inclined edges **17** of receptacle portion, FIG. 1. Accordingly, the contents of container **10** may be removed and replaced, as desired. However, the cover portion **12** in its open position, renders the container **10** unstable, particularly when items are placed in the open end of cover portion **12**.

Accordingly, there is provided a stand generally indicated at **25** for mounting containers **10** therein. Stand **25** comprises a pair of thin wall members **26** of cardboard, plastic, wood or the like, which are interconnected in parallel relation by a pair of transversely extending members **27, 28**.

Members **26** have a bottom edge **29**, a relatively short front edge **30**, a relatively long back edge **31** and inclined edges **32** joining the upper ends of edges **30, 31**. Cross members **27, 28** are flat strips of plastic, wood or the like, whose opposite ends fit into appropriate recesses **32** on the inner surfaces of members **26** and secured therein by glue or the like.

The size and spacing of members **26** is such as to accommodate therein, a pair of open containers **10**, see FIGS. 3, 4. The cover portions **12** are retained in their open positions by stapling the same by staples **33** passing through abutting wall portions **15, 20**.

Members **27, 28** are located to engage and support the containers **10** mounted in stand **25**. Thus, rear member **27** is positioned so that its top edge abuts and supports wall **18** of the rearmost container **10**; while front member **28** is positioned to snugly fit into the corner formed by wall **19** of cover portion **12** of the foremost container **10** and the wall **13** of the receptacle portion **11** of the rearmost container **10**; the walls **18** and **13** being in stepped relation, FIG. 4.

Thus, the paired containers **10** are snugly received in stand **25**, in an open condition which facilitates the storage removal, and replacement of the items normally carried in such containers, such as pens, pencils and the like. A wire or string **35** stretched between parallel members **26** and secured at their opposite ends to front edges **30** thereof, will restrain the containers **10** from forward movement relative to stand **25**. The receptacle portions **11** of containers **10** include conventional upstanding lip portions **36** abutting the inner surfaces of front walls **14** thereof.

An alternative form of container **10'** is shown in FIG. 6. Container **10'** includes a receptacle portion **40** and cover portion **41** hinged thereto. Receptacle portion **40** comprises a bottom wall **42**, a relatively short front wall **43**, a relatively high back wall **44**, end walls **45** having upwardly inclined top edges **46**. Cover portion **41** includes a top wall **47**, end walls **48** having upwardly inclined edges **49** and a wall **50** interconnecting end walls **48** and wall **47**. Cover portion **41** is open at its forward end.

Cover portion **41** is hinged to receptacle portion **40** at the front thereof along top edge **50A** of wall **43** thereof,

so that with cover portion **41** in its open position, wall **50** thereof abuts wall **43** of receptacle portion **40**. Staples **51** retain cover portion **41** in its open position, the same passing through walls **50, 43.**

Receptacle portion **40** includes an upstanding U-shaped extension including a back wall portion **52** and forwardly projecting end wall portions **53** having downwardly inclined edges **54** terminating at edge **50** of wall **43.** It will be apparent, that with cover portion **41** in its closed position, end walls **48** thereof overlie end wall portions **53** and edges **49** thereof abut edges **46** of receptacle portion **40.**

A stand **25'** somewhat similar to stand **25** is adapted to receive a pair of containers **10'.** Stand **25'** includes parallel side wall members **26'** having bottom edges **29',** forward edges **30',** rear edges **31'** and inclined edges **32'.** Members **26'** are interconnected by transversely disposed members **27'** and **28'.** Member **27'** is of a Z-shaped section, providing a horizontal step **55.**

Cross members **28', 27'** are located so as to support the rearmost container **10',** the rear bottom corner thereof being received on step **55** and the forward edge portion of wall **47** of the cover portion **41** being supported on the top edge of member **28'.** The open front end of cover portion **41** of the foremost container **10'** is closed off by a transverse strip **56** having foldable end portions **57** for mounting the same at the forward edges **30'** of members **26'.** A wire or string **35** holds strip **56** in place.

Alternatively, strip **56** may be adhesively secured to members **26'** at the forward edges **30'** thereof.

It is understood that all matter herein shown or described is illustrative of the herein disclosed invention.

What is claimed is:

1. In combination with a pair of containers comprising an open top receptacle portion and a cover portion hingedly connected thereto for movement between closed and open dispensing positions thereof, said receptacle and cover portions including opposed end walls having complementary inclined edges in abutting relation when the cover portion is in its closed position and in end to end upwardly inclined relation when said cover portion is in its open position, said receptacle and cover portions having their back walls in abutting relation when said cover portion is in its open condition, said containers being in abutting and stepped relation to each other, stand means for supporting said pair of containers in their open position, said stand means comprising a pair of side wall members for receiving said containers therebetween, and a pair of elongated members interconnecting said side wall members, one of said interconnecting members being located to support the bottom wall of the rearmost container, the other of said interconnecting members being located to support the inverted top wall of the rearmost container.

2. The combination as in claim **1** wherein the bottom wall of the receptacle portion of the rearmost container is in stepped relation to the inverted top wall of the cover portion of the foremost container, the interconnecting member supporting the bottom wall of the rearmost container being in abutting relation to the front wall of the cover portion of the foremost container.

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U.S. Cl. X.R.

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