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RAZOR BLADE DISPENSING CONTAINER

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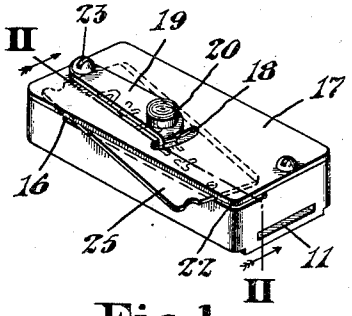


Fig:1.

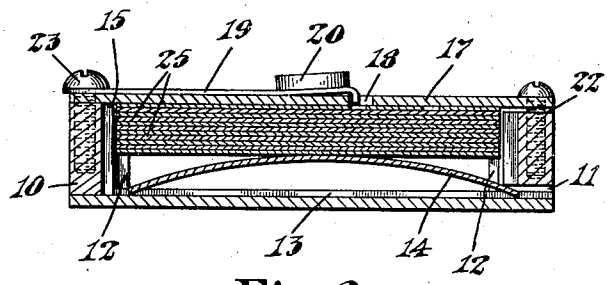


Fig:2.

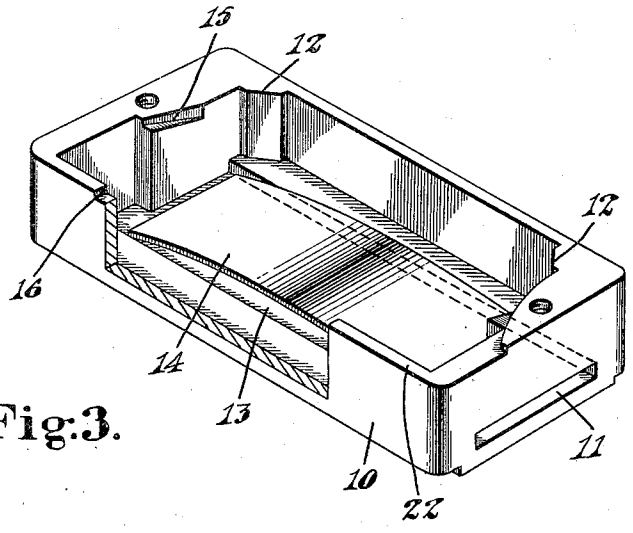


Fig:3.

INVENTOR.

BY Nicholas Testi.

Kenway & Kenway Attys.

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RAZOR BLADE DISPENSING CONTAINER

Nicholas Testi, Boston, Mass., assignor to Gillette Safety Razor Company, Boston, Mass., a corporation of Delaware

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6 Claims. (Cl. 206—16)

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This invention relates to blade-dispensing containers providing a convenient form of packaging razor blades for distribution and furnishing the user with a reserve supply of fresh blades completely protected against damage up to the time of use.

The fine cutting edge of a safety razor blade is so delicate in its structure that it is easily damaged by any chance contact that may occur before actual use. It is desirable that the manufacturer, who is best qualified to produce the fine edge of the blade, should also protect and pack the blades so that they may arrive safely in the user's hands and be maintained at his disposal until he is ready to proceed with the shaving operation. At that time the user should be able safely to draw fresh blades one by one from their container as required.

With these conditions in view an important feature of the present invention consists in an enclosure for containing a stack of blades of any convenient number and having an outlet slot bounded by a fulcrum shoulder in one of its side walls. With this structure is combined means movable into engagement with the uppermost blade in the stack for separating that single blade from the stack and swinging it about the fulcrum shoulder into a position projecting outwardly through the said outlet where the user may conveniently grasp and remove the blade preparatory to inserting it immediately in his razor.

Another feature of the invention consists in blade feeding means which may be moved by the user into engagement with a blade to be removed from the stack, and held in operative engagement therewith during the feeding movement of the blade; then being movable of its own accord to release the blade and permit it to be withdrawn by hand and without dragging over its sharpened edge.

These and other features of the invention will be best understood and appreciated from the following description of a preferred embodiment thereof, selected for purposes of illustration and shown in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a view in perspective of the container showing a blade in position for removal;

Fig. 2 is a view of the container in longitudinal section and on an enlarged scale; and

Fig. 3 is a view in perspective of the body of the container on the same enlarged scale as Fig. 2.

The container is herein shown as adapted for use in connection with a single-edged blade of the well-known "Valet" type, that is to say, a flat blade substantially rectangular in outline,

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sharpened at one edge only and provided with perforations of the shape of the letters of the word "Valet." The blade has also a curved recess in each of its end edges adjacent to its unsharpened rear edge. The container herein shown is of such dimensions and shape as to accommodate the "Valet" blade but it is, of course, not limited in its application to that or to any other particular type of blade but may be substantially modified in these respects, all within the scope of the present invention.

The container comprises a body portion 10 substantially rectangular in outline and having upstanding walls at its sides and ends which form an elongated enclosure of sufficient depth to contain, for example, ten or twelve blades in stack formation. A transverse slot 11 leads through one end wall to the interior of the enclosure. The bottom of the container is provided with a rectangular depression or well 13 bounded on each side by a longitudinal rib and communicates directly with the slot 11. In the well 13 is placed a curved leaf spring 14 which fits between the parallel ribs or shoulders defining the well and has the function of always pressing the stack of blades upwardly so that the uppermost blade is maintained in contact with the cover of the container. The spring 14 may be inserted directly into the well 13 and moved endwise into position beneath the blade stack after the container has been filled and while the stack of blades is resting upon the shoulders in the bottom of the container.

Within the two front corners of the container are disposed pillars having inwardly directed vertical faces 12 disposed at an angle of 45° to the axis of the container. These angular faces are arranged to engage the two front corners of the blades in the stack and position each blade with its rear unsharpened edge against one wall and its sharpened edge out of contact with the other wall of the container. The rear wall and one end wall of the container are cut away at their upper edges to provide a blade exit slot 22 bounded at one end by a shoulder 16 which serves as a fulcrum about which the uppermost blade in the stack may be swung as will be presently explained. The end wall of the container adjacent the shoulder 16 is provided with a recess 15 to afford clearance in which the corner of a blade may swing as the blade moves about the shoulder 16 as a fulcrum.

A flat cover 17 is secured to the walls of the container by screws in its opposite ends. The cover overhangs and forms the upper boundary

of the blade exit slot 22. The cover itself is provided with a curved slot 18, described about the axis of the screw 23 as a center. The screw 23 also forms the pivot of a spring arm 19 having an upwardly inclined portion with an operating knob 20 therein. The arm has a downturned end normally moving in the curved slot 18 of the cover and is shaped to engage an aperture in one of the blades, for example, the elongated perforation forming the back of the "E." Normally the downturned end of the arm 19 moves above the uppermost blade 25 in the stack, but the arm may be depressed easily by the user into feeding engagement with that blade. However, even when the arm 19 is depressed to the limit, its downturned end can engage only the uppermost blade of the stack because it is not long enough to reach through the blade.

The container herein described may be constructed of metal or may be moulded to plastic material. The blade stack may be accurately placed within the container by the manufacturer and then the cover 17 may be secured by screws 23 or by cement or in any other desired manner. The leaf spring 14 may then be slipped into place where it will remain without any danger of displacement and will operate to hold the blade stack up against the cover 17 of the container as shown in Fig. 2.

When the user desires to remove a blade from the container he has only to depress the arm 19 against the cover 17 and swing it toward the exit slot 22. When so moved it engages the uppermost blade in the stack and swings it outwardly about the shoulder 16 as a fulcrum. In this manner an unsharpened portion of the blade is presented in a convenient position to be grasped by the user, as shown in Fig. 1. Since the feeding arm 19 immediately releases the blade when it is itself released from downward pressure, the user is free to draw the projecting blade out of the container and present it to his razor. As soon as the blade is completely withdrawn the spring 14 operates to elevate the remaining blades 25 in the stack so that the withdrawn blade is immediately replaced by another which is held in contact with the cover 17. The whole stack of sharp fresh blades may be in this way withdrawn one by one from the container and the latter may be then thrown away by the user and replaced by the new full container.

Having thus disclosed my invention and described in detail an illustrative embodiment thereof, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. A blade container including walls forming an elongated enclosure having an outlet slot bounded by a fulcrum shoulder in one of its side walls, means for locating a stack of blades in superposed relation within the enclosure, and means movable into engagement with the uppermost blade in the stack for swinging that single blade about said fulcrum shoulder and into angular position projecting outwardly through said outlet slot.

2. A blade container comprising an elongated casing having a cover and an outlet in one side beneath the cover, means within the casing for locating a stack of blades in superposed relation with their edges substantially out of contact with the casing, a shoulder providing a fulcrum adjacent to the blade stack, and means mounted on the cover for swinging a blade from its position in the stack about said fulcrum and out through the outlet of the casing.

3. A blade dispenser comprising an elongated casing having an apertured cover and an outlet in one of its sides, means within the casing for locating a stack of superposed perforated blades therein and for preventing endwise movement thereof, and a spring dog movable downwardly through said cover and then laterally to swing a blade out through said outlet and then retracting automatically to clear the sharp edge of the blade as the blade is drawn by hand through said outlet.

4. A blade dispenser comprising a rectangular casing having an apertured cover and an outlet slot in one of its side walls, means for aligning a stack of single-edge blades by their front corners in the casing, and a spring dog mounted on a pivot on said cover whereby it may be depressed through an aperture in the cover into engagement with the uppermost blade of the stack and then swung about its pivot to move a rear corner of the blade outwardly through said outlet slot.

5. A blade dispensing container comprising an elongated enclosure for a stack of perforated blades, said container having a flat cover and a side outlet slot beneath the cover, the cover having an arc-shaped slot directed toward said outlet slot, and a pivoted spring feeding device mounted on the cover and having a portion extending downwardly into the slot of the cover and movable, when depressed by the user, to engage the uppermost perforated blade of a stack within the said enclosure and swing it outwardly through the said outlet slot, the feeding device being prevented by engagement with the said cover from reaching the second blade in the stack.

6. A blade dispensing container comprising a substantially rectangular casing having a flat cover and a side outlet slot for blades beneath the cover, the cover having a transverse curved slot therein, and a spring arm pivotally mounted to swing in said curved slot, having a downturned blade-engaging end and being itself normally arrange to stand above the surface of the cover.

NICHOLAS TESTI.

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