J. F. SKIRROW

DRINKING CUP HOLDER

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Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

INVENTOR
JOHN F. SKIRROW

BY

ATTORNEYS
UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

JOHN F. SKIRROW, OF SOUTH ORANGE, NEW JERSEY

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Important objects of the present invention are, to provide a simple, cheap and satisfactory holder for supporting a drinking cup or the like while in use, and to provide such a holder designed for convenient temporary attachment to an automobile window sill.

Other objects of the invention will appear hereinafter.

In the drawing, Fig. 1 is a plan view of the blank for forming the cup holder; Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the cup holder; and Fig. 3 is a sectional view showing the cup holder operatively mounted upon an automobile window sill.

The cup holder is made of an elongated, rectangular strip 1 of suitable sheet material, such as pasteboard, for example, having a required stiffness. At longitudinally spaced points said strip has a plurality of transverse, parallel fold creases or weakened lines 2, 3, 4 and 5, dividing the strip into relatively foldable sections designated 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10. Section 7 is the cup-supporting section and it has a round cup-receiving aperture 11. Said section also has a number of smaller apertures 12 spaced around the cup-receiving aperture to receive spoons, knives, forks, or the like. At a point spaced inward from the crease 2 the section 7 has a transverse slit 13 and the end section 10 of the strip has a dovetailed locking tongue 14 to interlock in said slit, as will be described hereinafter. The section 6 at one side of the cup-holding section is an attaching and supporting section and the section at the opposite side of the cup-holding section and comprising the subsections 8, 9 and 10, is foldable into a form to assist in supporting the cup-holding section and also form a shelf therebeneath.

In forming the holder into operative shape the section 6 is folded down at a right angle to the cup-holding section to form a depending attaching leaf or tongue. Sections 8, 9 and 10 are folded downward, laterally inward and upwardly respectively into approximately U-form beneath the cup-supporting section, and the tongue 14 is interlocked in the slot 13. The sections then form a box-like structure open at opposite sides and the depending leaf 6 is laterally offset from said structure.

The cup holder is designed primarily for mounting upon the sill of an automobile window having a wall pocket below the window aperture and receiving the vertically slidable glass window panel P, said pocket opening upward through the sill and usually there is clearance between the inner face of the panel and the opposed wall of the pocket, forming a crevice. The attaching leaf 6 of the holder is inserted downward into said crevice, until the portion of the cup-holding section 7, between said leaf and the slit 13, rests upon the sill. The adjacent upwardly folded section 10 of the holder is positioned to contact with the wall below the window and the three folded sections 8, 9 and 10 serve to brace the cup-holding section and support it horizontally to form a shelf. Section 9 also forms a shelf spaced below the cup-holding shelf.

Section 6 also has an aperture 15 elongated crosswise and centrally enlarged. This aperture enables the cup holder to be attached to the door handle of an automobile. The handle is insertable through the aperture into the space between the sections 6 and 10 and the latter section may bear against the handle to support the holder in proper position.

When lunching in an automobile it is usually difficult to find a suitable place to rest a drinking cup. This is particularly true when a paper cup is used. Coffee or other fluid in the cup causes the bottom of the cup to bulge and leak. Also, the cup may become too hot to hold comfortably. My improved holder forms a convenient and satisfactory support for such a cup. The cup-receiving aperture is made smaller than the maximum diameter of the tapered cup so that the latter wedges in the aperture with its upper portion protruding for grasping it and the bottom of the cup spaced well above the lower shelf 9. Said lower shelf serves to catch any leakage from the cup. The lower shelf also affords a convenient support for condiments and articles of food. Spoons and the like may also be inserted in the smaller apertures 12 and supported by the holder. The holder may be employed otherwise than by attachment to a window.
sill or to a door handle. It will, for example, stand upright upon a picnic table or other support and hold the cup and other articles. The holder is extremely simple and inexpensive and it is designed to render it easy to fold into shape and easy to mount in place. It may be carried in a flat, collapsed form, either stretched out or compactly folded one or more times.

What I claim is:

1. A collapsible drinking cup holder comprising a strip of sheet material transversely creased for folding at a plurality of longitudinally spaced points, the creases dividing the strip into a plurality of sections including a cup-holding medial section horizontally disposable and having a cup-receiving aperture, an end section foldable downward from one edge of said cup-holding section to form a depending supporting leaf insertable into a crevice, a supporting shelf spaced beneath the cup-holding section and into approximately U-form therebeneath and having a free end formed with a locking tongue, the cup-supporting section having a slit located between the cup-receiving aperture and the juncture of the supporting leaf and the cup-supporting section and spaced materially inward from said juncture and adapted to lockably receive said locking tongue.

2. A collapsible drinking cup holder comprising a single strip of pasteboard having four transverse creases dividing the strip into a plurality of sections including a cup-holding medial section horizontally disposable and having a cup-receiving aperture, a downwardly foldable section at one side of said cup-holding section to form a depending supporting leaf for insertion into a window sill crevice, and three successive sections at the opposite side of the cup-holding section and including a section immediately adjacent the cup-holding section and foldable downward therefrom, a following section materially shorter than the cup-holding section and foldable to a substantially horizontal position to form a drip-receiving and article supporting shelf spaced beneath the cup-holding section, and a following upwardly foldable end section having a locking tongue at its outer end, the cup-holding section having a slit to rockably receive said tongue located between the cup-receiving aperture and the downwardly foldable supporting section and spaced materially inward from the latter to hold the upwardly foldable end section spaced from said supporting leaf for the purpose set forth.

3. A collapsible drinking cup holder mountable upon the handle of a vehicle door and comprising a single strip of sheet material transversely creased for folding at a plurality of longitudinally spaced points, the creases dividing the strip into a plurality of sections including a cup-holding medial section horizontally disposable and having a cup-receiving aperture, an end section foldable downward from one edge of said cup-holding section to form a depending supporting leaf and having an aperture to receive the door handle, and a section foldable downward from the opposite edge of the cup-holding section and into approximately U-form therebeneath to form a bracing structure engageable with the outer face of the door handle to support the cup-holding section and formed at its outer end with a locking tongue, the cup-supporting section having a slit located between the cup-receiving aperture and the juncture of the supporting leaf and the cup-supporting section and spaced materially inward from said juncture and adapted to lockably receive said locking tongue to hold said bracing structure in shape and hold it spaced from the supporting leaf to accommodate the door handle therebetween.

4. A collapsible drinking cup holder comprising a strip of sheet material creased for folding at a plurality of longitudinally spaced points, the creases dividing the strip into a plurality of sections including a cup-holding medial section horizontally disposable, an end section foldable downward at one side of said cup-holding section to form a depending supporting tongue insertable into a crevice in a window sill, and a section at the opposite side of the cup-holding section foldable downward from the latter and engageable with the lower margin of the window to brace the shelf, and releasable fastening means borne by the strip to secure the said bracing section to the cup-holding section to hold the bracing section in bracing position.

5. A collapsible drinking cup holder comprising a strip of sheet material creased for folding on a plurality of lines, the creases dividing the strip into a plurality of sections including a horizontally disposable cup-holding section having a cup-receiving aperture, an end section foldable downward at one side of said cup-holding section to form a depending supporting tongue insertable into a crevice in a window sill, and a section spaced from said tongue-forming section and foldable downward from another side of the cup-holding section into approximately U-form to form a bracing under structure spaced from said tongue-forming section and engageable with the lower margin of the window to brace the cup-holding section, and releasable fastening means borne by the strip to secure said bracing section to the cup-holding section in bracing position.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

JOHN F. SKIRROW.