

Jan. 1, 1952

A. C. H. WEISS
TISSUE SHEET DISPENSER

2,580,982

Filed Feb. 7, 1949

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1

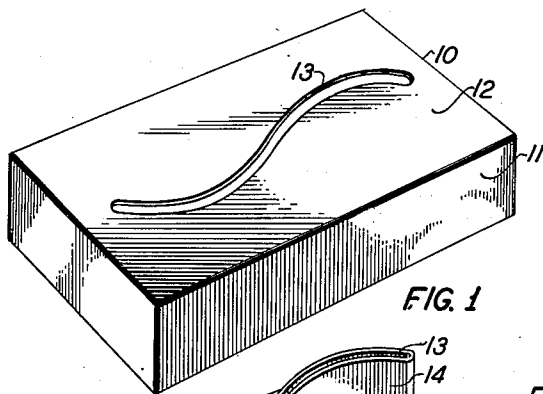


FIG. 1

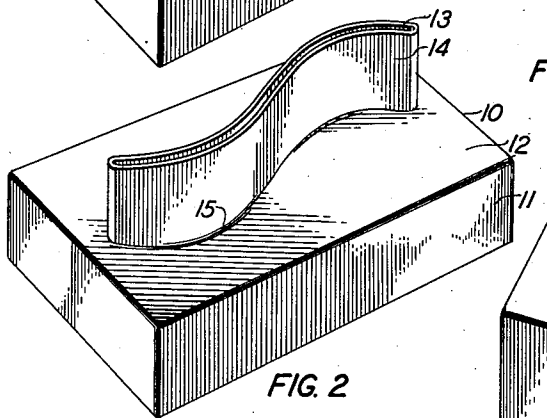


FIG. 2

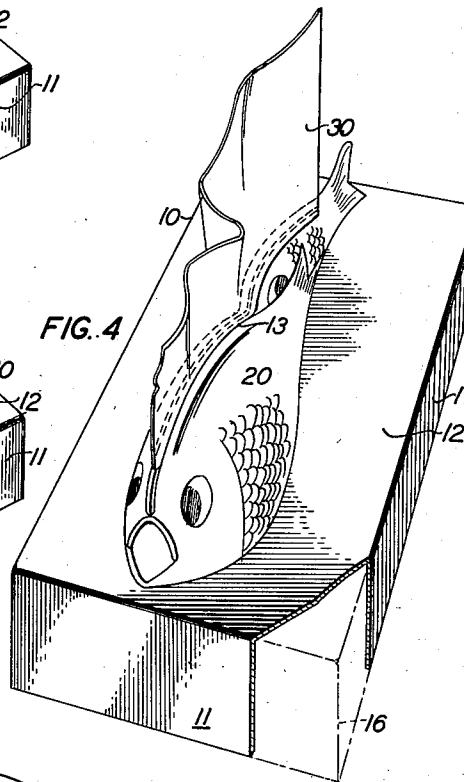


FIG. 4

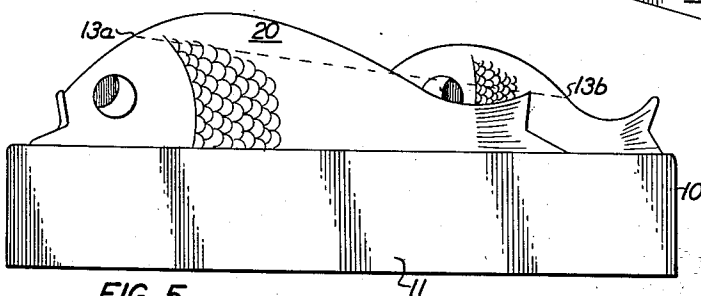


FIG. 5

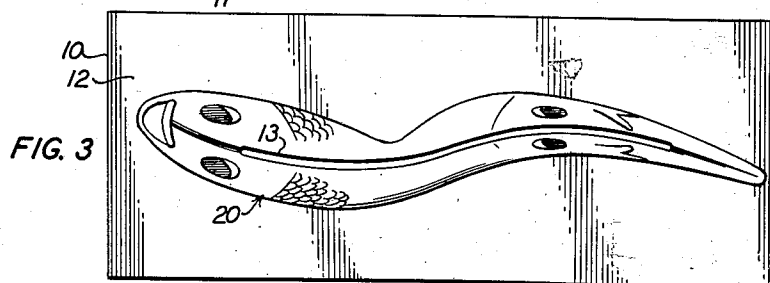


FIG. 3

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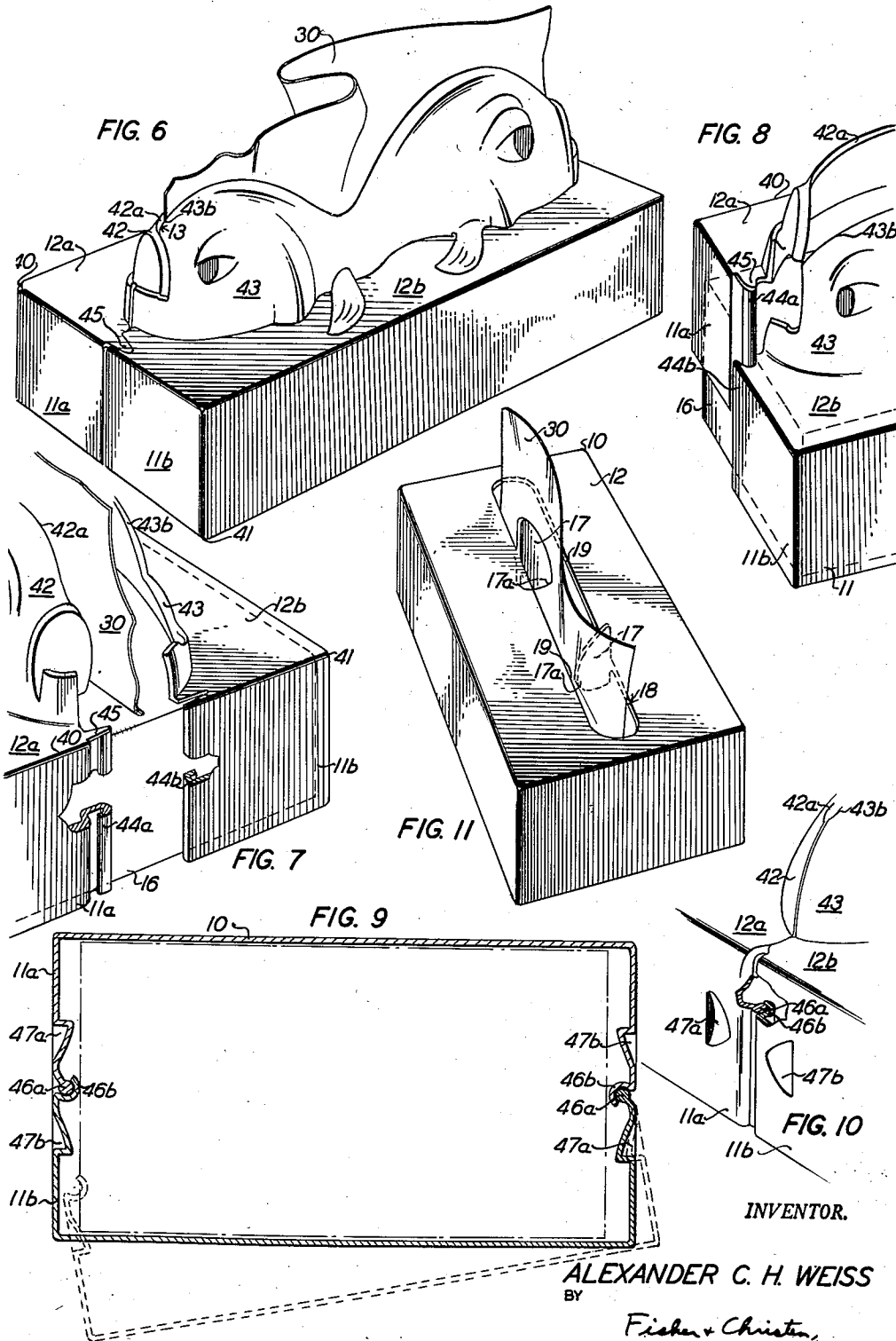
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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,580,982

TISSUE SHEET DISPENSER

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Application February 7, 1949, Serial No. 75,050

3 Claims. (Cl. 312—50)

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This invention relates to dispensers for sheet material, particularly for disposable tissues of the type marketed as interengaged sheets, where withdrawal of one sheet leaves a portion of the next sheet in an accessible position for withdrawal, and has particular relation to a tissue sheet dispenser which leaves a substantial portion of such succeeding sheet in a projected, stiffened position for ready withdrawal.

Existing sheet dispensers have heretofore been so constructed that the sheet accessible for withdrawal is bent laterally adjacent the dispensing slot and lies against the dispensing wall in collapsed position.

The principal object of the present invention is to provide a dispenser for sheet material, where the successively available sheets are held in projected, stiffened position in a curve, preferably a reverse or serpentine curve. This holding of the successive sheets in a curve serves in effect to "stiffen" them against transverse or lateral bending, so that the edge of each sheet is held in a stiffened or projected position, whereby it may be more readily grasped for withdrawal and will present a pleasing appearance and/or form a portion of the body of a figurine, such as a fin for a fish or a wing or tail for a bird or the like.

The dispenser is provided with a dispensing slot or passageway, shaped to bend the sheet and hold the sheet in bent and sufficiently stiffened position so that the outer portion of the sheet projects for a considerable distance upwardly and so can be readily grasped for withdrawal and will present a pleasing appearance which will blend in or form a part of a figurine design forming a part of the dispenser.

The sheet dispensing passageway is preferably shaped exteriorly as an ornamental figurine which may be in the form of an animal, ship or the like.

The dispenser of this invention may be formed as a pair of cooperating cover members, detachably engaged, defining therebetween when engaged a curved passageway, preferably a serpentine passageway, for holding successive sheets therein in projected extended position.

Other features of the invention will be apparent and will be described in connection with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of one of the simpler forms of the dispenser of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of another of the simpler forms of the invention;

Figs. 3, 4 and 5 are plan, perspective and side views respectively of a preferred form of the invention;

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of another modification;

Figs. 7 and 8 are perspective views of showing details of the form of Fig. 6;

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Fig. 9 is a horizontal sectional view of another modification;

Fig. 10 is a perspective view showing a detail of the form of Fig. 9; and

Fig. 11 is a perspective view of still another form of the invention.

Referring now to Figs. 1 to 5 and Fig. 11 of the drawings, there is shown a unitary cover 10 having four lateral sides 11 and supporting a cover or wall 12. A dispenser of this general type may be conveniently molded of plastic material as shown in simple form in Figs. 1, 2 and 11. As shown in Fig. 4, the dispenser 10 is formed to fit over standard sheet tissue cartons, one type being shown in dotted lines at 16. However, the invention may be embodied in the carton itself. In Fig. 1, the cover or wall 12 is provided with a slot 13, which may be curved but is preferably of serpentine form. In the form shown in Fig. 2, a serpentine passageway 14 extending vertically from and mounted on the wall 12 and provided with a serpentine slot 13, is shown. In this form, the slot 13 is parallel to the wall 12 which has a base slot (not shown) at 15. Thus it will be apparent that a pair of slots, namely, the upper slot 13 and the base slot at 15, may be utilized to maintain the available tissue sheet in extended, projected position. The pair of slots 13 and 15 are shown in parallel position, although they may be non-parallel as generally indicated in Fig. 5.

Referring more specifically to Figs. 3, 4 and 5, a figurine 20, in the form of two fish, is mounted on the wall 12. The figurine 20 is provided with a lateral serpentine slot 13, which is shown vertically serpentine in Fig. 5 with one guide edge 13a higher than the other guide 13b and vertically serpentine in Fig. 4. The sheet tissue 30, as shown in Fig. 4 is held in an extended, projected position by virtue of being supported in a "stiffened" position by means of the serpentine slot 13.

In the modification shown in Fig. 11, the tissue sheet 30 is held in extended, projected position by means of a pair of guide support members 17 mounted on opposite sides of and below the rectangular opening 18 in the wall 12 of the dispenser. The members 17 are positioned in such relation to the opposing wall edges 19 and to each other that a serpentine support slot arrangement is provided. As shown, the sheet contact points 17a are in a plane which is non-parallel with normal vertical plane of the tissue sheet portion below the edges 19. The sheet contact points 19a are shown below the level of the edges, thus providing a vertical curved contact and holding slot arrangement which contributes to the stiffening result on the projected and extended tissue sheet.

Referring now to Figs. 6, 7 and 8, there is

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shown a preferred embodiment wherein the dispenser is made of two complementary cover members or halves 40, 41 which may, if desired, be molded from the same mold design. The top walls 12a, 12b are each provided with complementary halves 42, 43 of a figurine in the form of a pair of fish in tail-to-tail position. The top edges 42a, 43b of the figurine halves 42, 43 serve to define between them a dispensing slot 13 which is curved both laterally and vertically so as to hold the tissue sheet 30 in an upright stiffened, projected and curved position.

Complementary fitting members are provided along the inner contacting edges of the sides 11a, 11b, at both ends of the dispenser, as by means of complementary interlocking elements 44a, 44b in the form of a longitudinally slidable, C-shaped tongue and groove locking arrangement, the top 12a being provided with a cover extension 45 to conceal the interlocking members when closed in slidable and locked position.

In the modification shown in Figs. 9 and 10, there is shown a dispenser 10 comprising complementary halves having complementary fitting members provided along the inner contacting edges of the sides 11a, 11b at both ends of the dispenser, as by means of male and female tongue and groove snap elements 46a, 46b. The sides 11a, 11b, as shown, are indented as at 47a, 47b to provide finger grips to assist in separating the halves when in snapped and closed position. As shown in Fig. 10, this form of the dispenser is provided on the wall portions 12a, 12b with a figurine in the form of complementary halves 42, 43 having complementary serpentine guide edges 42a, 43b for maintaining the tissue sheets in stiffened, projected and extended position.

Thus, the present invention enables the provision of a dispenser which will hold tissue sheets, such as facial tissues or paper towels and the like, in interfolded stacked form or in rolled form in the dispenser. The present invention may be embodied in the form of a cover for a tissue carton, or it may be embodied in the carton itself. In either case, an ornamental figurine may be used to provide the curved

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or serpentine slot, and the tissue sheets stiffened, projected and extended thereby may serve as an extension for the configuration and outline of the figurine, such as a sail for a ship, a back fin for a fish, a tail for a peacock, etc., in addition to being readily available in upright position for dispensing by the user.

Although the invention has been disclosed and described in its simplest and preferred embodiments, various modifications and departures will be apparent to those skilled in the art and it is intended that all such modifications be included as coming within the scope and spirit of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A dispenser for flexible sheet material comprising a container including an upper wall provided with a passage having transversely parallel and identical sides, said sides extending generally perpendicularly from said wall, for holding a dispensable sheet perpendicular with respect to said wall, said passage and its walls having serpentine curves between their transverse extremities for holding said sheets in a corrugated position during dispensing.

2. A dispenser as set forth in claim 1, wherein each of said sides has an outer edge substantially parallel with said wall.

3. A dispenser as set forth in claim 1, wherein each of said sides has an outer edge of varying distance from said wall.

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