Jan. 18, 1938. P. D. PARSONS 2,106,108

TOWEL DISPENSING CABINET

Filed Feb. 25, 1936 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1

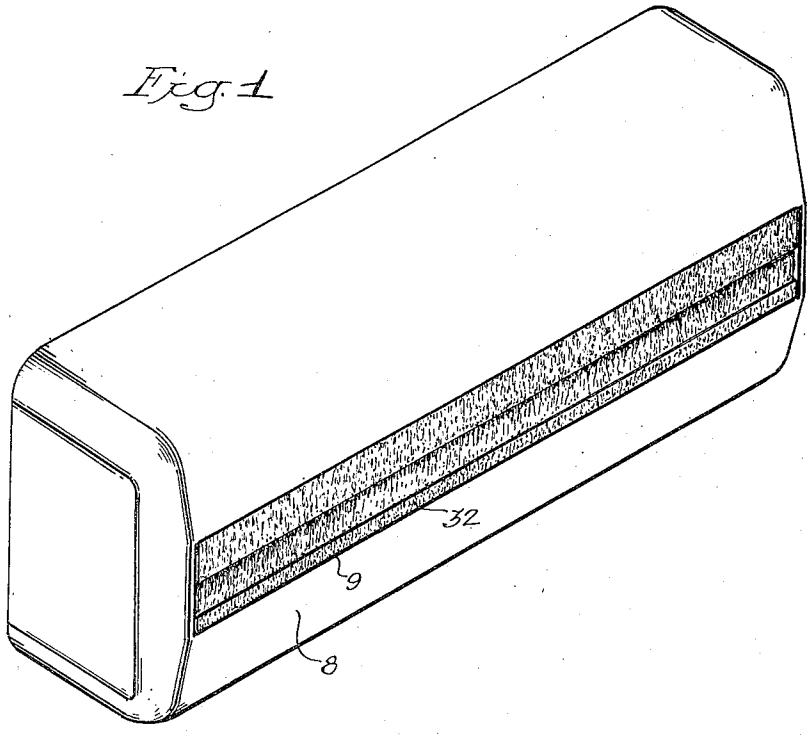
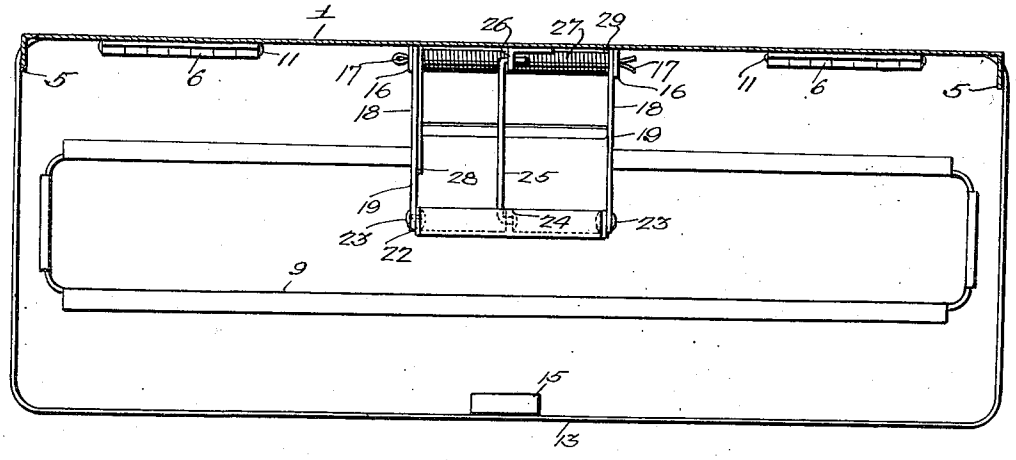


Fig. 3.



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Filed Feb. 25, 1936 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 2.

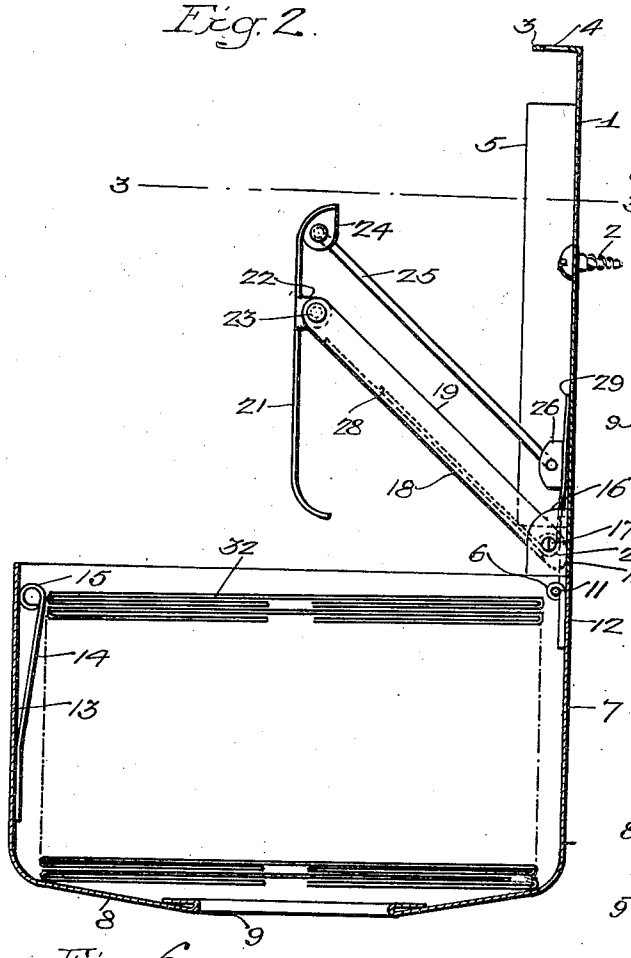


Fig. 4.

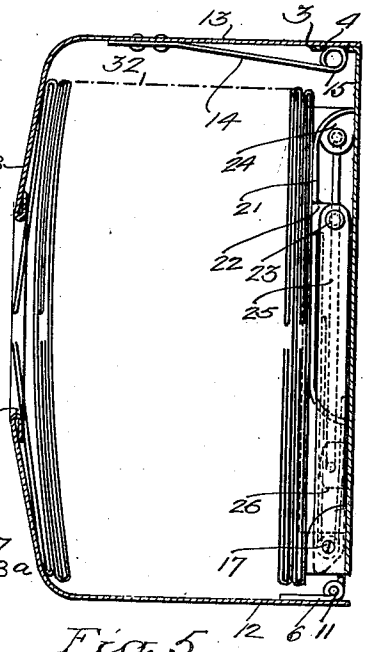


Fig. 5

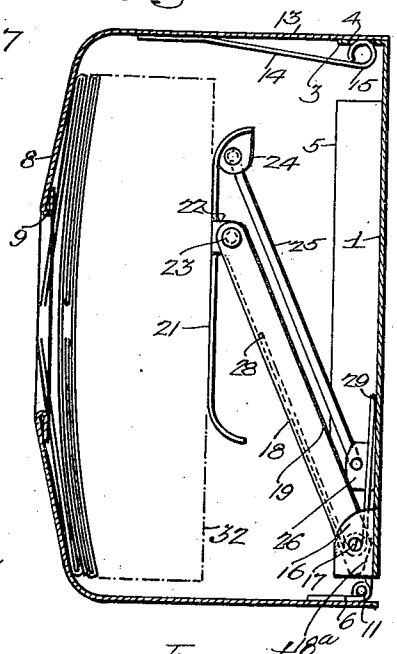


Fig. 6

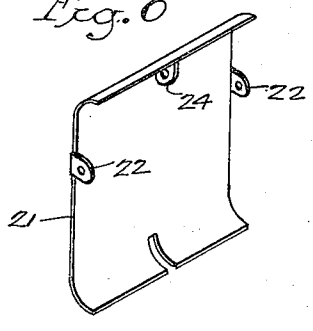
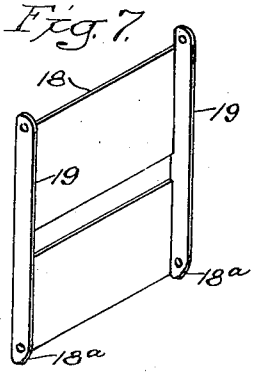


Fig. 7.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,106,108

TOWEL DISPENSING CABINET

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Application February 25, 1936, Serial No. 65,694

1 Claim. (Cl. 312—62)

This invention relates to towel-dispensing cabinets, and a principal object of the invention is to provide a cabinet that shall be characterized by simplicity and compactness of form and lightness of weight, and that shall incorporate highly efficient means for feeding the towels successively into a position from which they may be readily withdrawn from the cabinet.

To this latter end, another object of the invention is to provide a novel and improved device for exerting pressure at the back of the towel pack tending to advance the towels successively into the aforesaid withdrawal position, said device being adapted to exert a unidirectional force insuring maintenance of the towel pack as a whole and of the individual towels in a predetermined normal position within the cabinet.

A further object of the invention is to provide in a cabinet of the stated character a pressure plate device that will fold back without direct hand manipulation into the operative position in the normal loading operation, as hereinafter more fully described.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a cabinet having a novel formation at the delivery end facilitating withdrawal of the towels.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a novel form of locking device for maintaining the parts of the cabinet in the relatively closed positions.

The invention further resides in certain novel structural features and details hereinafter described and illustrated in the attached drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a view in perspective of a cabinet made in accordance with my invention;

Fig. 2 is a transverse sectional view showing the cabinet in the open or loading position;

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary sectional view on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a transverse sectional view of the cabinet in the closed and fully loaded condition;

Fig. 5 is a transverse sectional view showing the cabinet after a majority of the towels have been withdrawn, and

Figs. 6 and 7 are detached views in perspective of elements of the pressure mechanism.

With reference to the drawings, the cabinet comprises a back member 1 in the form of a plate, this back member being adapted to be secured against an upright supporting surface and having apertures therein for reception of securing screws 2 or other suitable fastening elements. The plate 1 comprises at its upper edge a forwardly projecting flange 3 having therein an aperture 4, the function of which will be hereinafter described. The back plate further comprises at the side edges thereof flanges 5, 5 which in the present instance terminate short of the upper and lower edges of the plate.

Secured at the lower edge of the back member 1 by means of hinges 6, 6 is a front member 7 in the form of a receptacle, the front wall 8 of this front member having a longitudinal slotted opening 9, said opening as shown in Fig. 1 extending substantially the full length of the member. It will be noted that the front wall 8 is bowed outwardly from its outer edges toward the edges of the opening 9, this construction having a function hereinafter described. It will be noted further that the pintles 11 of the hinges 6 are arranged inwardly of the rear edges of the bottom wall 12 of the front member 7, and that the front member is so dimensioned that when in the elevated or closed position, as shown for example in Figs. 4 and 5, it will entirely embrace the back member, the location of the pintles 11 being such that the rear edges of the top, bottom and side walls of the front member 7 when in the closed position will lie substantially flush with the rear surface of the back plate 1, and accordingly with the wall or other surface to which the said back plate is secured. At the inside of the top wall 13 of the front member 7 is secured a spring arm 14, this arm being provided at its free end which lies adjacent the rear edge of the said wall 13 with a rounded portion 15, which when the front member 7 is in the elevated or closed position engages in the aperture 4 of the flange 3 of the back member 1 to thereby releasably retain the front member in the elevated position.

At the forward side and adjacent the lower edge of the back member 1 is a pair of forwardly projecting flanges 16, 16, these flanges being spaced laterally and providing a support for a pin 17 which constitutes a pivotal mount for an arm 18, this arm taking the form in the present instance of a plate having at opposite sides rearwardly projecting flanges 19, 19. The flanges 16 are in the present instance formed as integral pressed-out portions of the back plate 1, and the pin 17 which pivotally supports the arm 18 passes through the flanges 19 of the said arm. To the outer end of the arm 18 is pivotally secured a pad 21, this pad in the present instance taking the form of a metal plate the upper and lower edges of which are turned rearwardly as illustrated. Lugs 22 extend rearwardly from the

side edges of the pad 21 and are pivotally connected, by means for example of loose rivets 23, to the flanges 19. The pad 21 has at its rear side and adjacent the upper end thereof a lug 24 which is connected by a rod 25 to a lug 26 on the forward face of the back plate 1. The rod 25 extends in parallel relation to the arm 18 and is in effect pivotally connected to the lugs 24 and 26. The arm 25 accordingly forms with the arm 18 a link connection between the pad 21 and the back member 1 such that in all positions of the arms 18 and 25 with respect to the back plate 1, the pad 21 is maintained in parallel relation with the back plate. Normally the back plate 1 will be secured against a vertical surface so that the pad 21 will also be maintained in a substantially vertical position. The pad 21, which is adapted to move between a fully retracted position, shown in Fig. 4, and an advanced position remote to the back plate and immediately adjoining the front wall 8 of the front member 7, is resiliently urged toward this advance position by means of a coiled spring 27 supported on the pin 17 and having end portions 28 and 29 respectively engaging the arm 18 and the back member 1. The fully advanced position of the pad is determined by the beveled edges 18a of the arm 18 which by engagement with the back member 1 acts as stops to limit the advance movement of the pad. It will be noted that the arm 18 comprises an opening 31 which when the arms and the pad 21 are in the fully retracted position as shown in Fig. 4 receives the lower back-turned edge of the pad 21, thereby permitting the pad to lie flush against the forward face of the arm 18.

The cabinet is adapted to be charged or loaded with a towel pack 32, as shown in Fig. 2, the front member 7 being moved downwardly about the hinges 6 into the substantially horizontal position for the charging operation. The individual towels of the pack are folded in such manner that a free edge is exposed through the slot 9 so that the towels may be readily grasped by the fingers and withdrawn through the slot. In assembly, the towel pack occupies the position shown in Figs. 4 and 5, the individual towels occupying vertical planes with their lower edges resting upon the bottom wall 12 of the front member 7. The towel at the front of the pack is held in engagement at its upper and lower edges with the front wall 8 of the front member, as previously set forth, with the free edges thereof exposed through the slot 9. The outward bowing of the front wall 8 relieves to some extent the pressure at the exposed edges of the towel so that these edges may be readily grasped by the fingers for withdrawing the towel. The pad 21 bears flatly against the rear surface of the pack and exerts a uniform forward pressure, since the positional relation of the pad 21 with respect to the pack 32 does not vary, regardless of the number of towels that may be withdrawn. There is no tendency for the pack or the remnant of the pack after a number of the towels have been withdrawn to move from its normal position, so that the position of the individual towels with respect to the slotted opening 9 is maintained throughout, as shown for example in Fig. 5.

It will be noted that in the normal closed position the cabinet is free from exposed joints, the back member which is secured to the wall as described being entirely embraced by the front member so that only the smooth continuous surfaces of the latter are exposed. The cabinet accordingly presents an extremely desirable neat appearance. The pressure device which forces the towel pack forwardly in the cabinet is efficient in operation and is free from the objections of prior devices of this character which tend, particularly when the towel pack has been reduced to small dimensions, to cause a displacement of the towels in the cabinet preventing ready withdrawal of the towels. Furthermore, this type of pressure plate is readily returned to its rearward position without any direct hand manipulation, since the act of closing the filled or loaded cabinet restores the plate to its original position without fouling the contents. The locking device is simple in form but efficient in operation, and is readily releasable by a forward pull upon the front member 7 to permit this member to drop to the charging position, as shown in Fig. 2.

There may be modifications in the detail structure without departure from the invention as defined in the appended claim.

I claim:

In a towel-dispensing cabinet, a casing having a front wall provided with a delivery opening, and means for feeding the towels forwardly in the casing into position for withdrawal through said opening, said means comprising an arm mounted on a fixed pivot at the back of the casing, a pad element pivotally connected to said arm and flatly engaging the towels at the back, said pad being supported by said arm in spaced relation to and free from frictional engagement with the walls of the casing, a spring arranged to exert pressure tending to force the free end of said arm and the pad toward the said front wall, and a link having a fixed pivotal connection at the back of the casing and to said pad in position paralleling said arm, said link being effective to maintain the pad continuously in substantially parallel relation to said front wall, said arm, link and pad constituting a completely operative spring-actuated unit having engagement with the casing only through the pivotal connections between said casing and said arm and link.

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