May 22, 1923. 1,456,060

G. L. JOHNSTONE

CONTAINER FOR CIGARETTES AND THE LIKE

Filed Nov. 5, 1920

Fig. 1.

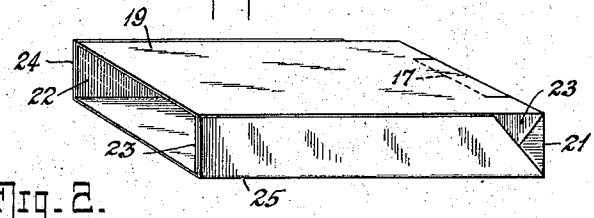


Fig. 2.

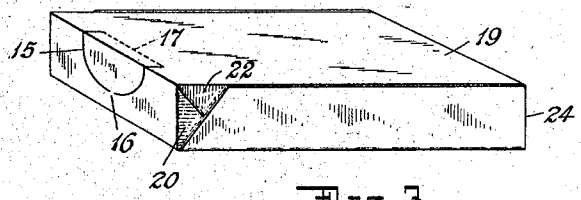


Fig. 3.

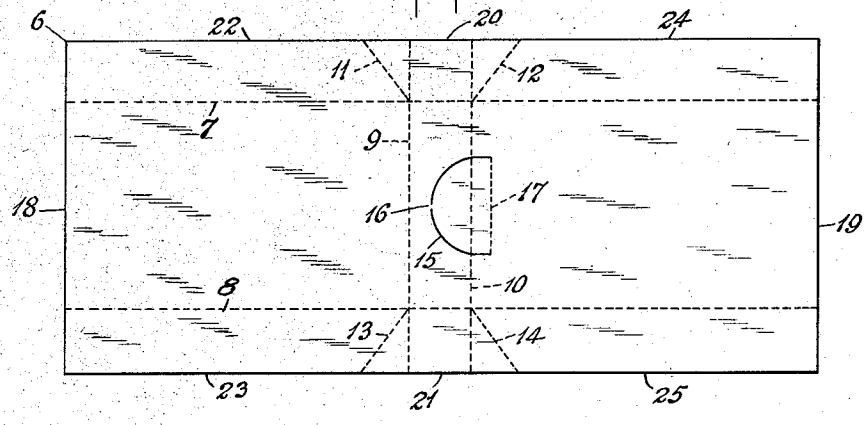


Fig. 4.

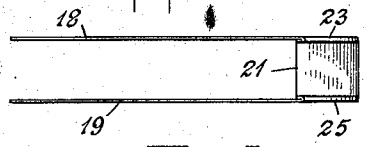


Fig. 5.

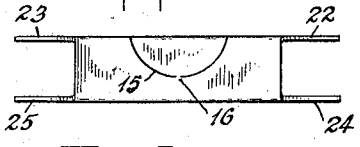


Fig. 6.

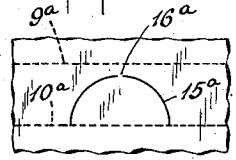
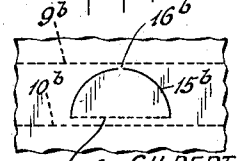


Fig. 7.



WITNESS:

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Patented May 22, 1923. 1,456,060

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CONTAINER FOR CIGARETTES AND THE LIKE.

Application filed November 5, 1920. Serial No. 421,831.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GILBERT L. JOHNSTONE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Manhasset, in the county of Nassau and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Containers for Cigarettes and the like, of which the following is a specification.

My present invention has general reference to containers constructed of flexible or non-rigid material, such as paper, cardboard, or the like, each intended to contain a single article or a plurality of articles; but has more specific reference to containers of this general type which are particularly adapted to serve as receptacles for elongated articles of substantially circular or oval cross-section, such as cigarettes, cigars and the like, and to the blanks from which such containers are made.

In the manufacture of containers such as those to which I now refer, and particularly those of the cup type intended to be associated with either wrappers or linings, or both, of paper, tin foil, or the like, especial difficulties have been experienced heretofore in the efforts that have been made to produce such containers in sizes adapted for a small number of relatively small articles, as, for example ten cigarettes, without too great cost of manufacture, and waste or excessive use of material in the process of manufacture; also in the efforts to devise means for facilitating removal of the contents of the containers for use.

The principal object of my present invention is to overcome the foregoing difficulties, and to provide a container of the type referred to which is formed from a blank that is so designed that there is little or no waste of stock in cutting; which readily may be folded and secured in its finished form by automatic machinery; and which includes special provision for the ready removal of the contents of the container whenever desired.

The foregoing and other objects of the invention disclosed herein will be apparent from the following description of the accompanying drawings, in which—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing the open end of the container after it has been formed by folding the blank;

Fig. 2 is a view similar to Fig. 1, but showing the closed end of the container;

Fig. 3 is a plan view of the blank before being folded;

Fig. 4 is a side elevation of the blank as partly folded, before the longitudinal side flaps have been turned in toward each other;

Fig. 5 is an elevation of the closed end of the partly-folded blank shown in Fig. 4;

Figs. 6 and 7 are fragmentary detail views of the end portion of the blank, each showing a modification of the flap for facilitating removal of the contents of the container.

While I have selected for purposes of illustration a cup-box form of container having only one of its ends closed, it is manifest that any desired form of closure for the other end may be added without affecting the invention intended to be disclosed herein. And it is likewise apparent that, instead of the substantially semi-circular form of tab at the closed end of the container, another shape may be substituted if desired.

In the drawings, the blank 6 is shown as being rectangular in form, and as having impressed therein two longitudinal scores 7 and 8, two transverse scores 9 and 10, and four small diagonal scores 11, 12, 13 and 14. At 15 the blank is cut completely through to form a substantially semicircular tab, which, however, preferably is not cut away from the blank at 16, but the cut is interrupted at that point so as to hold the tab in place and prevent its springing out in either direction when the container is formed, or when it is filled, while at the same time permitting easy rupture of the connection at 16 when it is desired to push the contents from the container. The ends of the cut at 15 preferably extend a short distance beyond the transverse score 10, and said ends are connected by a short transverse score 17. In the modifications illustrated in Figs. 6 and 7, the ends of the cuts 15^a and 15^b do not extend beyond either of the transverse scores, Fig. 6 showing the tab as being hinged at score 10^a only, while in Fig. 7 the score 17^b at which the tab is hinged is located between the transverse scores 9^b and 10^b.

In folding a blank to form a container,

whether the folding be done by hand or by machinery, end portions 18 and 19 are turned toward each other on the lines of the scores 9 and 10, respectively, until they assume the positions indicated in Figs. 4 and 5; the portions 20 and 21 are turned toward each other on the lines of the scores 7, 11 and 12, and 8, 13 and 14, respectively, to positions such as indicated in Fig. 4; marginal flaps 22 and 24, and 23 and 25, are turned on the lines of the scores 7 and 8, respectively, until flaps 22 and 24 overlap, and partly cover the portion 20 of the blank, and flaps 23 and 25 overlap, and partly cover the portion 21, as indicated in Figs. 1 and 2; the operation of forming the container is completed by securing flaps 22 and 24, and 23 and 25, together in any preferred manner, as by the use of an adhesive, such as glue or paste.

The containers thus formed are commonly put into use by inserting in each thereof the intended number of cigarettes or other articles, preferably wrapped in tin foil, prepared paper or the like, to form a package which is closed at both ends by the wrapping material. Ordinarily, any desired printed matter is placed upon the blank before the container is formed therefrom, or labels may be placed upon the containers after they are formed.

When it is desired to remove one of the cigarettes or other articles from the container, the tab at 15 is pressed upon, thereby rupturing the connection at 16, and the tab is pushed inward sufficiently to permit ready access to the contents of the container at its open end. Since, in its preferred form, the tab is movable on the lines of both of the scores 10 and 17, its movement toward the interior of the container and its return to initial position are greatly facilitated, either of said movements resulting in the bending of the tab in opposite directions on the lines of the scores 10 and 17. Manifestly, the movements of the tab thus provided for are quite different, and are appreciably more free from frictional resistance, than is the case if either of said scores is omitted, or if the ends of the cut at 15 do not extend beyond score 10. Also, it will be noted in connection with the preferred form of the tab that the opening formed by the cut at the closed end of the container may be resealed to as great an extent as necessary by pushing the partially-ejected contents partly back into place, without the necessity for returning them all the way to their initial position. This is due to the double hinging of the tab, and is a result that is not secured with the modified arrangements of the tab shown in Figs. 6 and 7.

Various modifications of details of my improved container and of the blank therefor will doubtless suggest themselves to those skilled in this art, and I therefore do not desire to limit myself to the exact construction shown and described.

I claim as my invention, and seek to secure by Letters Patent, the following:

1. A blank for a container comprising a sheet of material having scores formed therein to define an end portion of the container, and a partially detached portion located between said scores in the space defined thereby to serve as a pushing tab, such portion extending outwardly beyond one of said scores.

2. A blank for a container comprising a sheet of material having scores formed therein to define an end portion of the container, and a partially detached portion cut from said end portion and located between said scores in the space defined thereby to form a pushing tab, the cut forming said partially detached portion being interrupted at an intermediate point whereby said tab remains in easily ruptured connection with said end portion.

3. A blank for a container comprising a sheet of material having scores formed therein to define an end portion of the container, a partially detached portion located between said scores in the space defined thereby to serve as a pushing tab, such portion extending beyond one of said scores, and a score located outside the space defined by said other scores on which said tab is movable.

4. A package of cigarettes or the like formed from a sheet of material having scores formed thereon extending between opposite margins thereof to define an end portion of the package, and a partially detached portion located between said scores in the space defined thereby to serve as a pushing tab, whereby when pressure is exerted on the tab the cigarettes or the like whose ends rest on the said tab will be moved longitudinally.

5. A package of cigarettes and the like comprising a body portion and an end portion, said end portion being cut to define a partially detached pushing tab movable inwardly to exert a push upon the ends of the cigarettes to move the same out of said container.

6. A container for cigarettes and the like comprising a body portion and an end portion, said end portion being cut to define a pushing tab movable inwardly to exert a push upon the cigarettes to move the same out of said container, said body portion being cut to define an extension of said tab foldable relatively thereto.

7. A container for cigarettes and the like comprising a body portion and an end portion, said end portion being cut to define a pushing tab movable inwardly to exert a push upon the cigarettes to move the same

out of said container, said body portion being cut to define an extension of said tab foldable relatively thereto and having a score to define one end of said tab and to facilitate the pivotal movements of the combined tab and its extension.

8. A container for cigarettes and the like comprising a body portion and an end portion, said end portion being cut to define a pushing tab movable inwardly to exert a push upon the cigarettes to move the same out of said container, said cut being such as to initially maintain said tab in easily ruptured connection with said end portion, and said body portion being cut to define an extension of said tab foldable relatively thereto.

GILBERT L. JOHNSTONE.