

Oct. 6, 1942.

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2,298,146

ASH TRAY

Filed June 30, 1938

Fig. 1

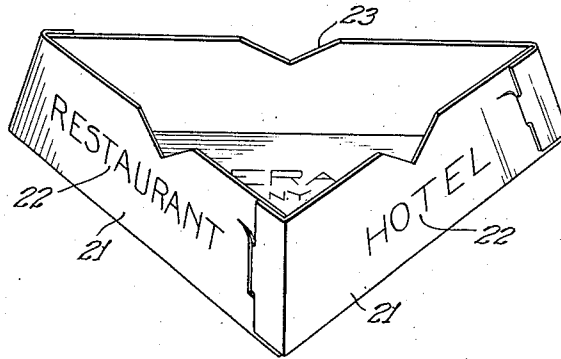
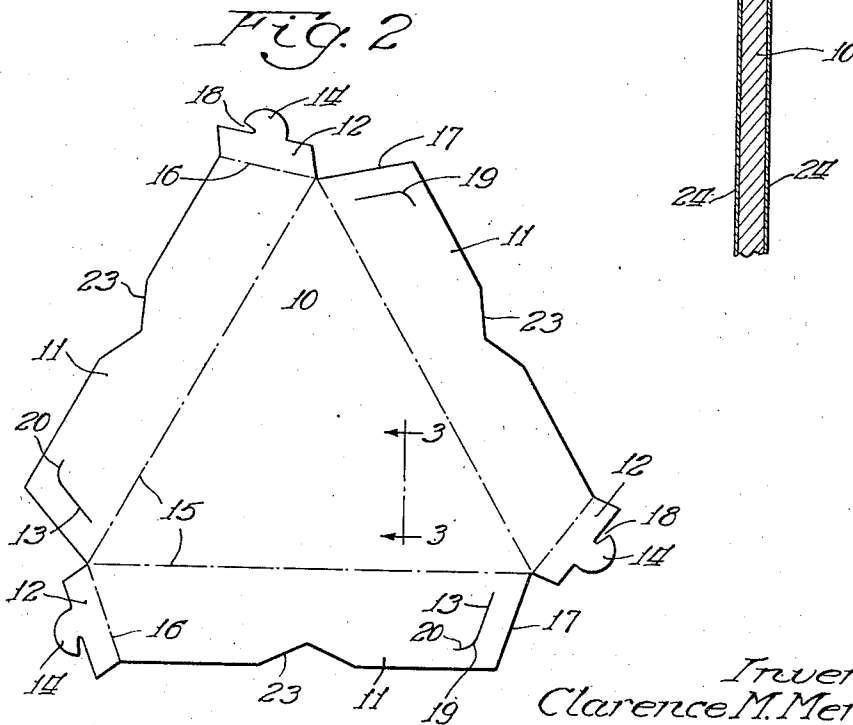


Fig. 3



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,298,146

ASH TRAY

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Application June 30, 1938, Serial No. 216,709

1 Claim. (Cl. 229—32)

This invention relates to ash trays and the like and, among other objects, aims to provide a cheap but distinctive article of this character which may, if desired, be discarded after use.

The nature of the invention may be readily understood by reference to one illustrative device embodying the invention as shown in the accompanying drawing.

In said drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the ash tray;

Fig. 2 is a plan view of a blank from which the ash tray may be formed; and

Fig. 3 is a section taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

The illustrative ash tray is characterized by inwardly inclined sides which very substantially improve the ash retaining capacity of the tray and at the same time present surfaces for advertising matter arranged at an angle for maximum eye appeal.

The tray is advantageously made of materials and in such manner as to permit production at very low cost and thereby make it practicable to discard the same after use. Nevertheless, its character is such as to permit of easy and attractive decoration which may be designed to serve various purposes. Cheapness is attained in the illustrative tray by making it from heavy paper or cardboard on which may be directly printed colors, appropriate designs and advertising messages. To render the tray resistant to hot and burning ashes and particularly to prevent scorching of table linen, etc., by transmission of heat through the tray, the cardboard or paper material from which the tray is made is advantageously faced with thin metal foil 24. Aluminum is a particularly advantageous material because it may be produced in very thin sheets (as thin as .0005 inch) and remains bright, thereby having a high heat reflective efficiency. If desired, both faces of the material may be faced with metal foil, as shown at 24 in Fig. 3, because of its decorative value. For cheaper trays, only the inner face of the tray need be covered with the metal foil. The foil is applied to the paper or cardboard base during manufacture of the stock and may be very firmly cemented thereto so that in subsequent fabrication there is no tendency for the foil to loosen.

In Fig. 2 there is illustrated one form of blank designed for producing a triangular ash tray. The inner triangle 10 represents the base of the ash tray. The margins 11 represent the sides of the ash tray and are provided adjacent their respective ends with tabs 12 and slots 13, the

latter being designed to receive the locking tongues 14 projecting from the tabs. Preferably the blank is provided with score or fold lines 15 for the sides and similar lines 16 to facilitate bending of the tabs 12.

The trays are advantageously shipped flat to permit compact packaging and are assembled by the user when desired. In assembling it is necessary simply to bend the sides into inclined position relative to the base, fold the tabs 12 around the end edges 17 of the sides, and tuck the tongues 14 from the outside into the slots 13. The tongues 14 are advantageously notched as at 18 and catch on the inner face of the side at the corner 19 of the slot. The slots 13 advantageously are provided with an angular extremity 20 which facilitates insertion of the tongue, such insertion occurring with a rotative movement of the sides about the lines 15.

The extremities 17 and the fold lines 16 are so designed as to permit the sides when assembled to incline inwardly at a substantial angle so as inwardly to overhang the interior of the tray and thereby prevent scattering of the light ashes by air currents and gusts of wind. This feature very materially contributes in preventing the highly objectionable nuisance of scattered tobacco ashes. At the same time the inwardly inclined outer faces 21 of the trays are arranged at such angle to the eye of one seated at a table on which the tray rests as to present advertising matter 22 on the exterior face of the sides to maximum advantage. While advertising matter may also be placed on the bottom of the tray or even on the inside faces of the sides, it is obvious that in use such advertising matter will be quickly obscured by ashes and cigarettes.

If a stiffer material, such as sheet metal, be used, it may be possible in some instances to dispense with the interlocking flaps and slots since the material stiffness of the metal will retain the sides in their inwardly inclined position. The inwardly inclined sides may also advantageously be incorporated in stamped or cast ash trays.

The ash tray may be made with three, four or any number of sides. A triangular tray, however, possesses a number of distinct advantages. It may be assembled more quickly since there are but three tabs to interlock. In conjunction with the inwardly inclined sides, it is highly efficient in retaining ashes inasmuch as the corners of the tray, embracing, as they do, an angle of only about 60°, form a sheltered pocket more completely protected against air currents which

may dislodge the ashes than trays having a greater number of sides.

The inwardly inclined sides converging at an acute angle (generally 60° for a triangular shape) are particularly efficient in supporting pipes in the ash tray. The bowl of the pipe, regardless of its shape (and pipe bowls have almost an infinite variety of shapes) is securely held by engagement of the converging upper edges of the tray. The facility with which a pipe is thus supported is in marked contrast to the conventional ash tray with outwardly inclined shallow sides. It is practically impossible to support a lighted pipe upright in the conventional tray. The severe damage to table linen, etc., caused by hot ashes from pipes deposited on their sides is wholly prevented by the present tray.

It has been found also that on crowded tables a triangular tray with inwardly inclined sides can be more easily inserted in odd spaces than a tray of any other shape and particularly trays having outwardly inclined sides.

The sides of the tray may advantageously be provided with relatively shallow notches as at 23 to receive cigarettes and prevent their rolling laterally and also to center pipe stems.

The extremely low cost, however, with which these trays may be produced makes them particularly advantageous for the effective presen-

tation of advertising messages. It should be understood, however, that they may be designed without advertising matter and instead may carry decorations or personal matter, such as monograms, etc.

Obviously the invention is not limited to the details of the illustrative device since these may be variously modified. Moreover it is not indispensable that all features of the invention be used conjointly since various features may be used to advantage in different combinations and sub-combinations.

Having described my invention, I claim:

A discardable ash tray open at the top and formed from a single blank of flexible relatively stiff paper or the like faced on both surfaces with bright heat-reflecting metal foil, said foil functioning to prevent transmission of damaging heat to a surface supporting the tray, said tray having a polygonal bottom and having its side walls inclined inwardly so as to overhang said bottom to form with said bottom acute-angled pockets in the corners of the tray for preventing displacement of ashes by air currents and the like, said inclined walls each lying in a single plane and having adjacent their ends interlocking tabs and slots for holding said walls in inwardly inclined position.

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