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SANITARY TOOTHPICK HOLDER.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 11, 1917.

1,262,055. Patented Apr. 9, 1918.

Fig. 1.

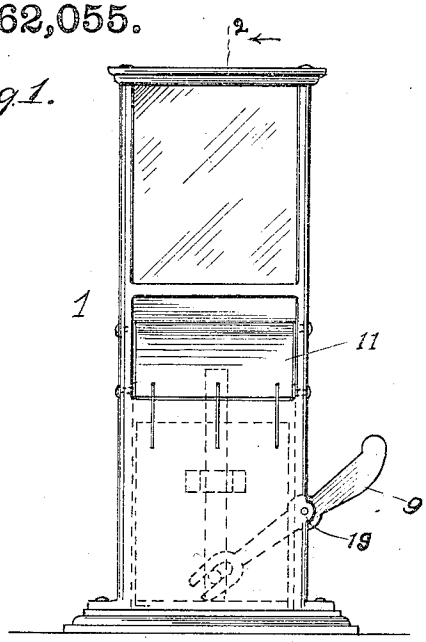


Fig. 2.

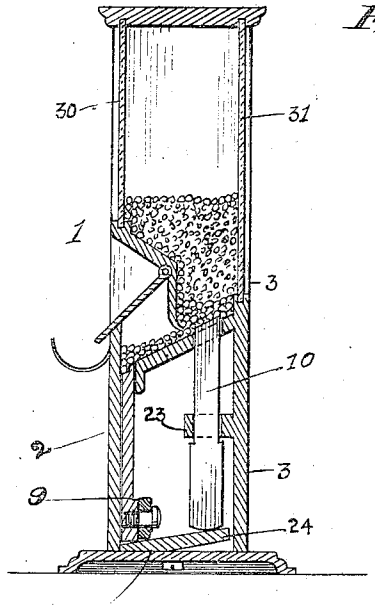


Fig. 3.

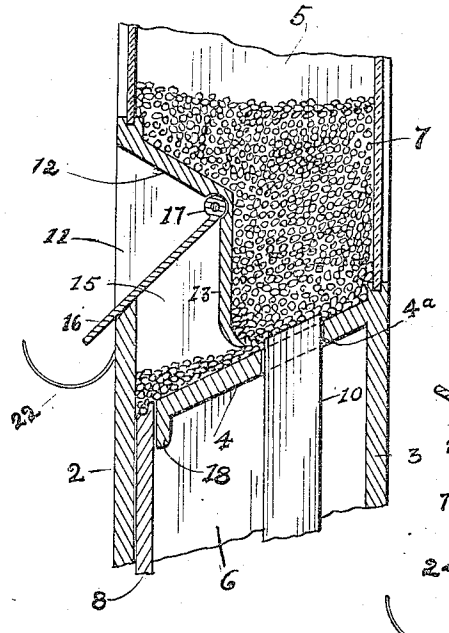


Fig. 5.

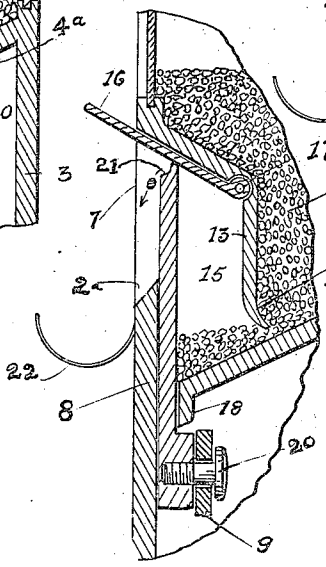
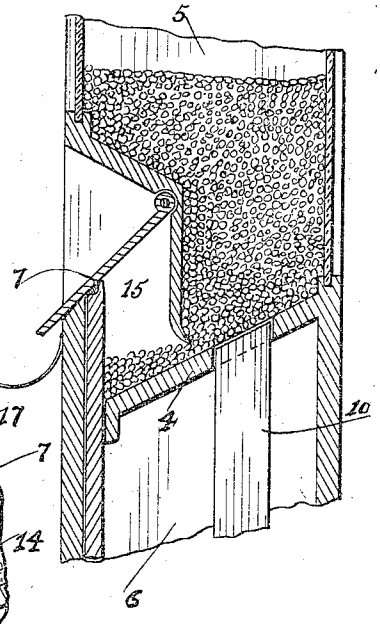


Fig. 4.



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LEWIS JOHNSON, OF WILLMAR, MINNESOTA.

SANITARY TOOTHPICK-HOLDER.

1,262,055. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Apr. 9, 1918.

Application filed June 11, 1917. Serial No. 174,161.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LEWIS JOHNSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at the city of Willmar, in the county of Kandiyohi and State of Minnesota, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Sanitary Toothpick-Holders, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to receptacles for delivering articles, one at a time, and adapted to be manipulated by hand by the person desiring to obtain one of the articles to be dispensed.

Specifically considered the invention provides a holder for toothpicks to prevent waste by delivering one toothpick only at one operation; to guard against contamination by inclosing the toothpick in such a manner as to prevent dust, flies and like insects reaching them, as also to keep persons from touching them with the fingers; to insure positive delivery and ease and convenience of operation.

While the invention is primarily intended to provide a holder for toothpicks, it is to be understood that it is equally well adapted for matches, drinking straws and like articles capable of being dispensed singly, hence in adapting the same to meet special conditions and requirements various changes in the form, proportion and minor details may be resorted to without departing from the nature of the invention.

The invention consists of a casing having a lateral delivery and divided by a partition into upper and lower compartments. The upper compartment constituting a magazine for receiving the toothpicks, or like articles, and the lower compartment containing the operating or dispensing mechanism, embodying a plunger, an agitator and a swinging member forming a cover.

The invention also consists of the novel features, details of construction and combination of parts which hereinafter will be more fully described and claimed.

In the drawings which illustrate an embodiment of the invention.

Figure 1 is a front view of the toothpick holder embodying the invention.

Fig. 2 is a vertical section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1, looking in the direction of the arrow.

Figs. 3, 4 and 5 are detail views of parts on a larger scale, illustrating the different positions of the delivery mechanism.

Corresponding and like parts are referred to in the following description and indicated in the several views of the drawings by like reference characters.

The holder comprises a casing "1" which may be of any design, size, or material and as shown embodies a front "2" and a back "3." A partition "4" subdivides the casing into an upper compartment "5" and a lower compartment "6." The compartment "5" constitutes a magazine for the toothpicks "7" or other articles to be delivered. The compartment "6" receives the operating mechanism, consisting of a plunger "8," a lever "9" and an agitator "10." A delivery opening "11" is formed in the front "2" of the holder or casing "1." The partition "4" inclines forwardly and downwardly from the back "3" and terminates a short distance from the front "2" and below the opening or lateral delivery "11." This partition "4" forms a bottom for the compartment "5" and supports the toothpicks "7."

A ledge "12" is disposed at the top of the opening "11" and inclines inwardly and downwardly. A partition "13" depends from the inner end of the ledge "12" and terminates a short distance from the partition "4" leaving a small space for the passage of the toothpicks. The lower end of the partition "13" curves rearwardly as indicated at "14" to assist in separating the toothpicks. A delivery space "15" is formed forward of the partition "13" and between the partitions "4" and "12" for receiving a few toothpicks so as not to impede the action of the plunger "8."

A plate "16" is disposed in the upper part of the delivery space "15" and is hinged in the angle formed between the partitions "12" and "13" as indicated at "17", so as to swing upward close against the ledge or partition "12". The plate "16" extends across the delivery space "15" and rests on the front "2" at the lower end of the delivery opening "11" and covers the toothpicks in the space "15" and protects them from dust, flies and fingering. The end "2a" of the front "2" at the lower end of the opening "11" inclines outwardly and downwardly to prevent the toothpicks from lodging thereon.

The plunger "8" is disposed against the inner side of the front "2" and is adapted to have a vertical reciprocatory movement imparted thereto. The plunger operates between the front "2" and the partition "4",

the upper end of the plunger being about flush with the partition "4" when at the limit of its downward movement. A lip "18" depends from the front of the partition "4" to present an extended bearing against the plunger. The plunger is operated by means of the lever "9" which is pivoted at "19" to a side of the casing, the inner end of the lever being forked and engaging a pin or screw "20" let into the plunger. The upper end of the plunger is cut away at "21" to provide a seat to receive one toothpick. This seat inclines forwardly to insure outward delivery of the toothpick the instant the latter clears the inclined end "2a" of the front "2". A receptacle "22" is arranged on the front "2" near the opening "11" to receive the toothpick. This receptacle may be of any design and is shown constructed of wires so as not to catch dust or other foreign matter.

The agitator "10" is shown as a bar mounted in a guide "23" and resting on a tilting member "24" supported on the bottom of the holder. The upper end of the bar is inclined to conform to the slant of the partition "4" and passes through an opening "4a" therein and projects slightly above the partition to prevent the toothpicks feeding too freely into the delivery space "15". The member "24" preferably consists of a plate having its lower forward portion "25" cut away to provide for the tilting of the member.

The plunger "8" is superior in weight and when resting on the front end of the member "24" depresses the same and elevates the rear end and the bar "10". When the plunger is elevated the bar "10" drops and tilts the member "24" into horizontal position. The top of the bar "10" comes about flush with the upper side of the partition "4", when the bar is at the limit of its downward movement, thereby permitting the toothpicks to pass over the partition into the delivery space "15". When pressure is removed from the lever "9" the plunger "8" drops and tilts the member "24" suddenly and throws the bar "10" upwardly quickly and jars the toothpicks, thereby preventing them from arching and failing to feed.

The toothpicks may be supplied to the magazine "5" in any manner and a few pass into the delivery space "15" and over the plunger. Upon depressing the outer end of the lever "9" the plunger is elevated and the toothpicks lodged upon the seat "21" are carried upward, the remaining toothpicks being pushed aside. When the plunger reaches the plate "16" any surplus toothpicks carried upward by the plunger are brushed off and said plate is swung upward and the toothpick lodged on the seat "21" may drop therefrom any time after it clears the inclined end "2a" of the front. Fig. 5 shows the toothpick dislodged by the jar incident to the plate "16" striking the partition "12". The toothpick falls into the receptacle "22" from which it is removed in a manner well understood.

In the construction shown the casing has the upper portions of its front and back formed by plates "30" and "31" of glass or other transparent material to admit of the interior being readily observed so that the magazine may be kept supplied and be prevented from becoming empty.

I claim:

1. In a holder for toothpicks and like articles having a lateral delivery, a vertically movable plunger, an agitator, and a tiltable member for transmitting movement from the plunger to the agitator.

2. In a holder for toothpicks and the like, having a lateral delivery, a vertically movable plunger, a vertically movable agitator, and a loose tilting member extending beneath the plunger and agitator and operable by the plunger.

3. A holder having a lateral delivery, a support inclining toward the lateral delivery and disposed below the same, means for restricting the supply to the forward portion of the support, and a vertically movable plunger disposed against the side of the holder having the delivery end forward of the said support.

4. A holder having a delivery opening in its front, a partition dividing the holder into upper and lower compartments, and inclining forwardly and downwardly, means dividing the lower forward portion of the upper compartment to provide a delivery space, and a plunger movable vertically in the delivery space against the inner side of the front, and a plate hinged at the inner upper part of the said delivery space and inclining forwardly and downwardly across the path of the plunger.

5. A holder having a delivery opening in its front, a partition dividing the holder into upper and lower compartments, and inclining forwardly and downwardly, means dividing the lower forward portion of the upper compartment to provide a delivery space, and a plunger movable vertically in the delivery space against the inner side of the front, an agitator operable through the rear portion of the partition, and means for transmitting movement from the plunger to the agitator.

6. A holder having a delivery opening in its front, a partition dividing the holder into upper and lower compartments, and inclining forwardly and downwardly, means dividing the lower forward portion of the upper compartment to provide a delivery space, and a plunger movable vertically in the delivery space against the inner side of the front, an agitator movable vertically

through the rear portion of the partition, and a tiltable member loose on the bottom of the holder and extending beneath the plunger and the agitator.

7. A holder having a lateral delivery, a partition dividing the holder into upper and lower compartments and inclining forwardly and downwardly, a partition extending rearwardly and downwardly from a point above the lateral delivery and having a depending portion at its inner end terminating a short distance from the first mentioned partition to form a delivery space, a plunger operable in the delivery space, and a plate hinged at the inner upper corner of the delivery space and extending forwardly and downwardly across the path of the plunger and through the said lateral delivery.

8. A holder having a lateral delivery, a partition dividing the holder into upper and lower compartments and inclining forwardly and downwardly, a partition extending rearwardly and downwardly from a point above the lateral delivery and having a depending portion at its inner end terminating a short distance from the first mentioned partition to form a delivery space, a plunger operable in the delivery space, and a plate hinged at the inner upper corner of the delivery space and extending forwardly and downwardly across the path of the plunger and through the said lateral delivery, an agitator operable in the rear of the delivery space and a tiltable member extending beneath the plunger and the agitator.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

LEWIS JOHNSON.

Witnesses:

CHARLES JOHNSON,

C. B. CARLSON.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."