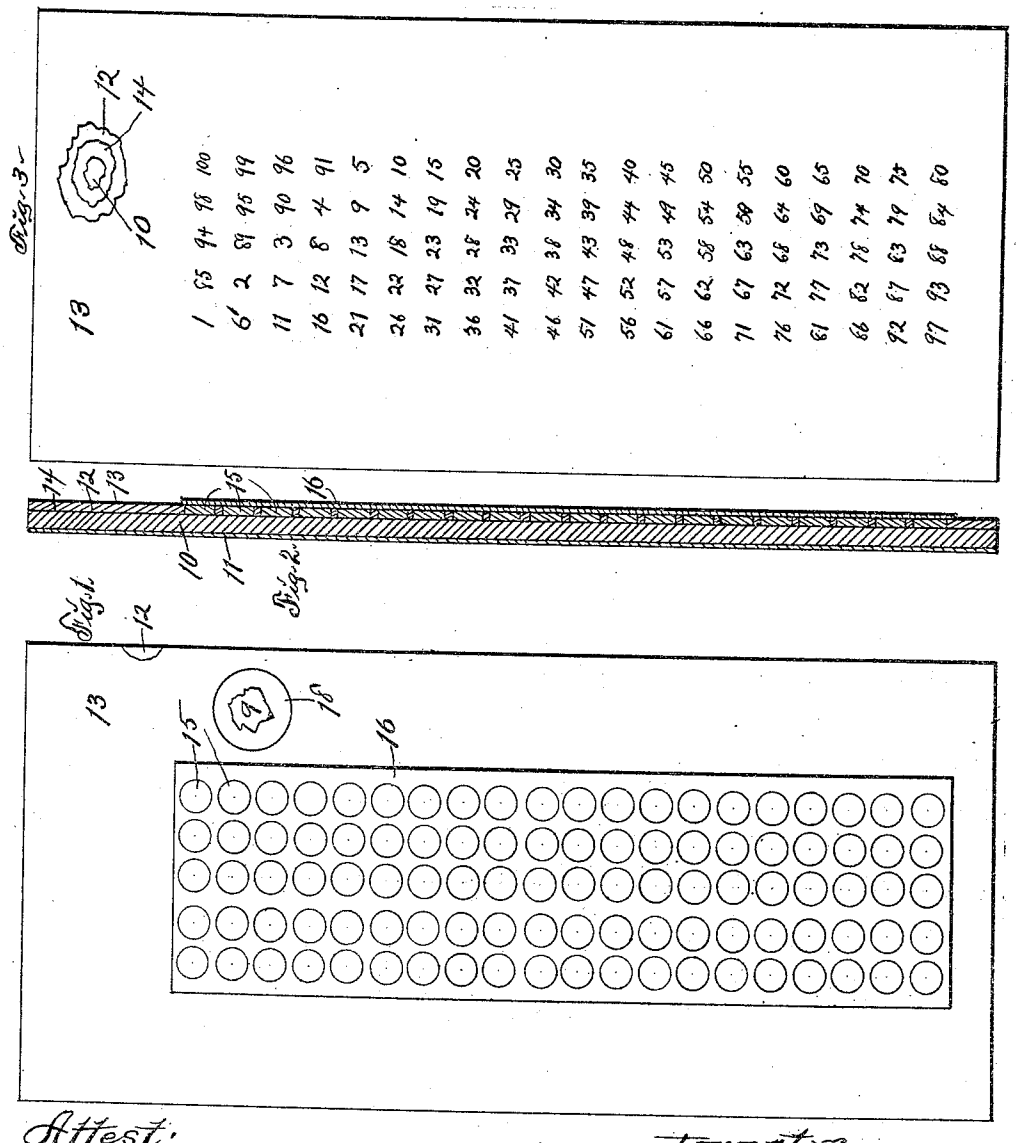
C. C. DONNELL.

VENDING DEVICE.

APPLICATION FILED AUG. 19, 1907.

915,279.

Patented Mar. 16, 1909.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CASSIUS C. DONNELL, OF DES MOINES, IOWA.

VENDING DEVICE

No. 915,279. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented March 16, 1909.

Application filed August 19, 1907. Serial No. 389,745.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CASSIUS C. DONNELL, a citizen of the United States of America, and resident of Des Moines, Polk county, Iowa, have invented a new and useful Vending Device, of which the following is a specification.

The object of this invention is to provide improved means for promoting the sale of merchandise.

My invention consists in the construction, arrangement and combination of elements hereinafter set forth, pointed out in my claims and illustrated by the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of the complete device. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section of the device. Fig. 3 is a face view of one part of the device at one point in its construction.

In the construction of the device as shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, the numeral 10 designates a base plate, preferably formed of wood and covered on its rear face by a lining sheet 11. A plate 12 is mounted on the front face of the plate 10. The plate 12 preferably is formed of card board, tag board, straw board or similar material and is lined on opposite faces with sheets of different color, which sheets are shown by single lines in Fig. 3, the lining 13 of the front face preferably being yellow and the lining 14 of the rear face preferably being red. On the central portion of the front face lining 13 of the board 12 are printed a plurality of numbers, symbols or indices, preferably arranged in horizontal rows and vertical columns as illustrated in Fig. 3 and preferably composed of numerals ranging from 1 to 100 inclusive. The numerals imprinted on the front lining of the board 12 preferably are printed in black and are promiscuously arranged or mixed without any regard to order, sequence or progression whatever. The lined board or plate 12 is perforated by cutting out plugs 15 preferably on circular lines surrounding the numerals, indices or symbols on the front lining 13. Each plug 15 is of a size to carry a symbol, index or numeral, primarily printed on the front lining 13, and the plugs are cut from the plate 12 before said plate is mounted on the plate 10. The plate 12 is then mounted on and cemented to the front face of the plate 10. The plugs 15 are then reversed and inserted in the holes or perforations in the plate 12. The plugs preferably are of the same diameter and can be inserted interchangeably and promiscuously in the apertures in the plate. The plugs 15 are inserted in the apertures of the plate with the faces thereof bearing the numbers, symbols or indices to the rear and in contact with the front face of the plate 10. This brings the red rear faces of the plugs to the front so that they will contrast with the yellow front lining of the plate 12 and conceals the numbers, indices or symbols from view. Then a transparent sheet 16 preferably of very thin paper, is mounted on and cemented to the front face of the lining 13 and extends over and entirely covers all of the plugs 15. The sheet 16 preferably is comparatively colorless and of white tissue paper and is of such character that the red faced plugs show clearly, brightly and prominently through it. The blank space surrounding the transparent sheet 16 on the lining 13 may be employed to display advertising of any character, such as reading matter descriptive of the goods vended by this device and the directions for operating the same. The device may be supported in any desired manner and as the supporting means forms no part of my present invention, I have not illustrated the same.

The device above described is used as follows: A customer makes a selection blindly without any guide or suggestion whatever and then by means of an edge tool, such as a pocket knife, cuts the transparent sheet 16 on a circular line at the rim of a plug and pries out said plug from its seat. The customer then reads the number on the back of the plug which he has removed and pays to the merchant an amount indicated, represented or designated by such number and receives for such payment a portion of merchandise. For instance, it may be determined that this device be employed to sell cigars of a retail value of ten cents each. In that event, should a customer remove the plug bearing the numeral 43, he would pay to the merchant 43¢ and in return therefor would receive one cigar of unitary value. Should he remove the plug containing the numeral one, the customer would pay to the merchant one cent and receive therefor a cigar of the same unitary value. These two instances may serve as illustrations of the general operation of the device. In addition provision is made for giving premiums in addition to the unitary device either by marking the hidden face of a plug in such a manner as to indicate that the customer removing such plug is en-

titled to the premium, as shown by the numeral "6" in Fig. 3 or in any desired manner. Sometimes a duplicate number is marked on the lining 13 and covered by a gummed seal 18 until such time as the entire number of plugs have been removed from the device, after which the seal is broken and the holder of the plug numbered to correspond to the number beneath the seal receives a single premium of material and considerable value.

I claim as my invention—

1. In a device of the class described, an imperforate base plate, a perforated plate mounted thereon, plugs removably mounted in and corresponding in material and thickness with the perforated plate, the faces of said plugs adjacent the imperforate plate bearing symbols, the symbols normally concealed from front view by the plugs and from rear view by the imperforate plate, and a transparent sheet overlying said plugs and secured to the perforated plate, said sheet adapted to be cut coincident with the margins of the plugs.

2. In a device of the class described, an imperforate base plate, a perforated plate mounted thereon, perforated lining sheets on opposite faces of said perforated plate, plugs removably mounted in and corresponding in material and thickness with the perforated plate, lining sheets on opposite faces of said plugs, and a transparent sheet overlying said plugs and secured to the perforated plate, thereby confining said plugs, said sheet adapted to be cut coincident with the margins of said plugs in order that the plugs may be removed singly.

3. In a device of the class described, an imperforate base plate, a perforated plate mounted thereon, plugs corresponding in material and thickness with the perforated plate and removably mounted in the perforations thereof and filling said perforations, and a transparent sheet overlying said plugs and fixed to the perforated plate, said sheet adapted to be cut for the removal of individual plugs.

4. In a device of the class described, an imperforate base plate, a perforated plate mounted thereon, the perforations in the latter plate being circular, circular plugs removably mounted in perforations of and corresponding in thickness with said perforated plate, said plugs corresponding in diameter with the perforations in which they are mounted, opposite faces of the perforated plate and plugs lined with sheets, the front face of the plugs and the front face of the perforated plate contrasting as to color, and a transparent sheet overlying said plugs and fixed to said perforated plate, said sheet adapted to be cut for the removal of individual plugs.

Signed by me at Des Moines, Iowa, this twenty first day of May, 1907.

CASSIUS C. DONNELL

Witnesses:
THOMAS G. ORWIG,
SILAS C. SWEET.