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CIGARETTE SNUFFER SYSTEM

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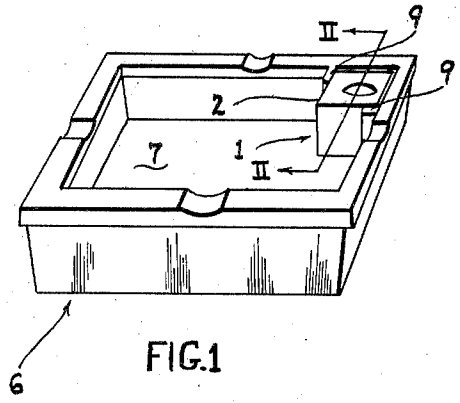


FIG.1

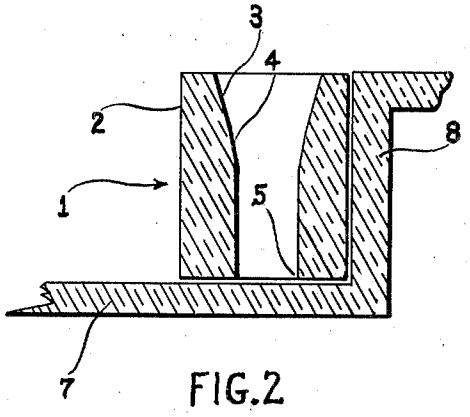


FIG.2

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CIGARETTE SNUFFER SYSTEM

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2 Claims. (Cl. 131—235)

Generally speaking, the present invention relates to an improved cigarette snuffer system, and/or a snuffer adapted for use in such a system adapted for use in a great variety of different locations for the purpose of extinguishing the ignited tip of a cigarette, cigar or other orally smokable object, and for receiving ashes and refuse such as cigarette butts, cigar butts and the like.

I am aware of the fact that several prior art snuffer ash trays have been invented and developed heretofore, as well as several independent snuffers. However, all of such prior art devices known to me have certain disadvantages which are completely overcome through the use of the present invention.

For example, most of such prior art combination snuffer ash trays consist of an ash tray provided with snuffer holes in the rim of the ash tray or in some other convenient location with respect to the ash tray. These snuffers are usually both integral and closed at the bottom, thus leading to considerable difficulty in emptying them of accumulations of ashes, cigarette tips and the like, and making it very difficult to clean and polish the interior of the snuffer holes. This cleansing problem is quite a disadvantage, because, aside from the difficulty of emptying the snuffers, the emptying operation requires that the entire ash tray be removed from its accustomed position, perhaps in a carrying support and inverted. Furthermore, the application of considerable force is usually required to effectively clean out the snuffer holes. This difficulty in cleaning out the snuffer holes is particularly undesirable in glass ash trays where the dirty interiors of the snuffer holes can be seen from practically all positions with respect to the ash tray.

Most prior art individual snuffers have the same disadvantage mentioned above in connection with prior art snuffer ash trays. Furthermore, they provide no region for receiving ashes and cigarette butts and the like. Also, most such prior art snuffers do not provide adequate means for effectively and removably mounting the snuffer in a convenient accessible position for use.

Generally speaking, the basic form of the present system comprises hollow snuffer means provided with an open cigarette tip receiving end adapted to removably receive the ignited tip of a cigarette, and provided with an interior passage that is inwardly tapered extending from the open cigarette tip receiving end into the snuffer means and adapted to effectively extinguish the ignited tip of a cigarette inserted into the hollow snuffer means through said open cigarette tip receiving end. Also included, is underlying carrying means provided with means arranged to engage and cooperate with the hollow snuffer means whereby to removably support and carry said hollow snuffer means with the open cigarette tip receiving end thereof in an accessible position for cigarette snuffing use.

In the preferred general form of the present invention, the inwardly tapered end of the interior passage is provided with a second open end somewhat smaller than the open cigarette tip receiving end.

In the preferred general form of the present invention, the underlying carrying means may comprise an ash tray.

The snuffer of the present invention, because of its removable engaging cooperation with the ash tray, can be employed in association with the ash tray to provide both a convenient snuffer and a convenient ash and cigarette butt receiver, and to do so in a very effective manner, with the snuffer virtually laterally immobilized with respect to the ash tray whereby to facilitate the cigarette snuffing operation. However, whenever desired, the snuffer can be removed from engagement with respect to the ash tray to facilitate emptying.

It should also be noted that the open-bottom form of snuffer of the present invention is particularly advantageous because of the ease with which it can be cleaned. This is so by reason of the fact that it is open at both ends.

It should also be noted that the open-bottom form of snuffer means of the present invention will be effectively closed by the ash tray thus facilitating the cigarette snuffing operation.

With the above points in mind, it is an object of the present invention to provide a novel cigarette snuffer system (and/or cigarette snuffer) arranged for effective supportable and engageable cooperation with respect to an underlying supporting member, usually, an ash tray, whereby to effectively mount the cigarette snuffer in a convenient accessible location for use.

It is the further object of the present invention to provide a system of the character set forth in the preceding object wherein the cigarette snuffer is open at both ends, thus facilitating the cleansing thereof.

To facilitate understanding, reference will be made to the hereinbelow inscribed drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of an illustrative embodiment of the system of the present invention in assembled relationship; and

Fig. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary vertical sectional view of the snuffer means shown in Fig. 1, as seen in direction of the arrows II—II.

In the specific example illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2, the hollow snuffer means is indicated generally at **1**, and comprises a rectangular body **2** with a virtually flat bottom and a virtually flat top. In the specific example illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2, the open cigarette tip receiving end is indicated at **3** and the interior passage is indicated at **4**. The hollow snuffer body **2** is provided with a second open end **5**, which is effectively smaller than the cigarette tip receiving open end **3**, and that the passage **4** therebetween is downwardly and inwardly tapered from **3** to **5**.

Underlying carrying means is provided in the form of an ash tray **6**, having a virtually flat bottom wall **7** and virtually vertical upwardly directed edge wall **8**.

Additional cooperating means are provided and take the form of inwardly projecting ribs **9** carried by the side wall **8** at positions equidistant from the corner of the ash tray **6**, and arranged to laterally immobilize the snuffer means **1** with respect to the ash tray **6** when in the engaged position shown in Fig. 1.

It will be understood that the snuffer means **1** can be removed from the ash tray **6** by merely lifting it vertically out of the position shown in Fig. 1, and it can be replaced in a like manner.

It should be noted that the flat bottom of the snuffer body **2** rests on the flat bottom **7** of the ash tray in a manner such as to effectively close the open bottom end **5** of the snuffer body **2**. This, plus the tapered interior pas-

sage 4 act to effectively and rapidly snuff out the ignited tip of a cigarette inserted downwardly through the open end 3 into the passage 4.

The form of the snuffer means itself whether single or multiple, can also be substantially modified. It may assume a number of different configurations, circular, triangular or otherwise as seen in either plan view or elevation or both. The ash tray can also be modified substantially.

The snuffer means can be made of any suitable material such as plaster, glass, ceramics, metals and the like which have the desired heat resistant characteristics.

The embodiment of the present invention specifically described and illustrated herein is exemplary only, and are not intended to limit the scope of the present invention, which is to be interpreted in the light of the prior art and the appended claims only, with due consideration for the doctrine of equivalents.

I claim:

1. An improved cigarette snuffer apparatus comprising hollow snuffer means provided with an open cigarette tip receiving end cooperable to removably receive the ignited tip of a cigarette and provided with a second effectively smaller open end and further provided with an effectively inwardly tapered interior passage extending from the open cigarette receiving end to the second effectively smaller open end and cooperable to effectively extinguish the ignited tip of a cigarette inserted into the hollow snuffer means through the open cigarette tip receiving end thereof, and an underlying ash tray having upstanding edge walls provided with fixed laterally projecting snuffer engaging means and defining a fixed partial enclosure including an edge wall portion as a part thereof and removably cooperable for abutting and partially surrounding engagement with respect to the exterior of the hollow snuffer means to position it at a selected location with respect to one of said edge walls and in non-symmetrical relationship with respect to the ash tray and only partially coextensive therewith and with the open cigarette tip receiving end thereof in an upwardly directed accessible position for cigarette snuffing use.

2. An improved cigarette snuffer apparatus comprising

hollow snuffer means provided with an open cigarette tip receiving end cooperable to removably receive the ignited tip of a cigarette and provided with a second effectively smaller open end and further provided with an effectively inwardly tapered interior passage extending from the open cigarette receiving end to the second effectively smaller open end and cooperable to effectively extinguish the ignited tip of a cigarette inserted into the hollow snuffer means through the open cigarette tip receiving end thereof, said snuffer means being substantially square in plan view; and an underlying ash tray having upstanding edge walls defining at least one corner which is substantially square in plan view and provided with laterally projecting snuffer engaging means positioned on each side of said substantially square corner and defining a fixed partial enclosure having at least three corners of a substantially square region therein and including two adjacent virtually mutually perpendicular walls on each side of said square corner, said snuffer engaging means being cooperable in a partially encircling manner with respect to the exterior sides of the virtually square hollow snuffer means to position it in said corner with the open cigarette tip receiving end thereof in an upwardly directed accessible position for cigarette snuffing use.

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