June 9, 1959 A. G. JANUS 2,889,919

MATCHBOX CONSTRUCTION

Filed Feb. 15, 1956

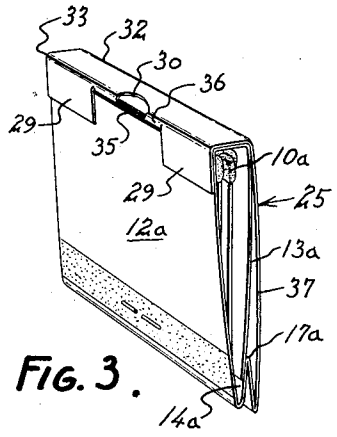


FIG. 3.

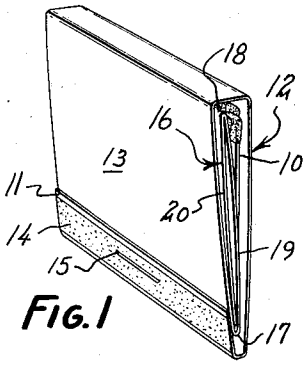


FIG. 1

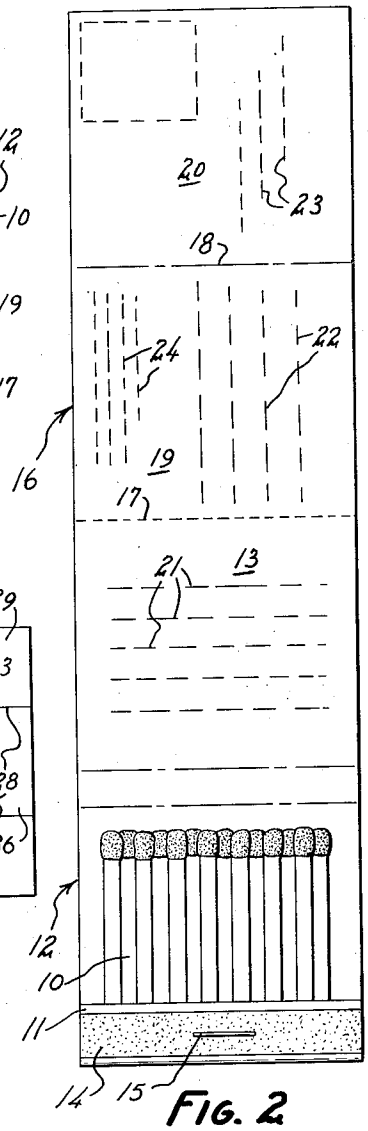


FIG. 2

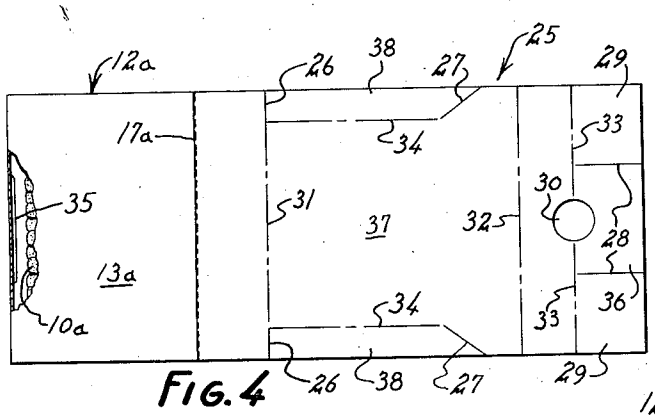


FIG. 4

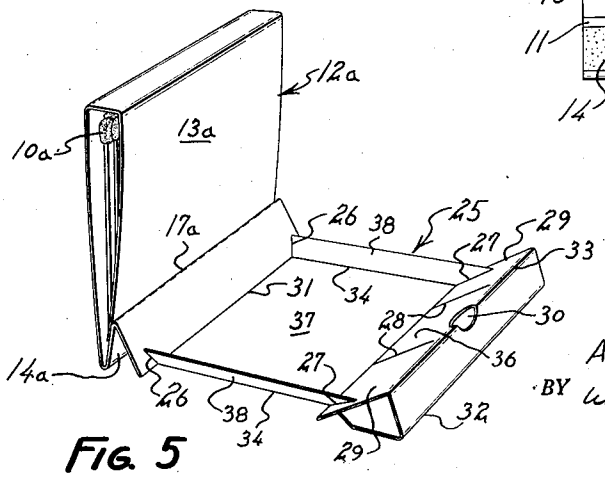


FIG. 5

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United States Patent Office 2,889,919 Patented June 9, 1959

2,889,919

MATCHBOX CONSTRUCTION

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Application February 15, 1956, Serial No. 565,604

1 Claim. (Cl. 206—29)

This invention relates to a matchbox construction and more particularly to a foldable matchbook article.

It is an important object of the invention to provide a novel paper matchbook which has an integrally formed extension cooperating therewith, yet capable of being torn off to leave a properly covered matchbook.

It is another object of the invention to provide a useful combination of elements formed from a single strip of sheet material which constitutes a reinforced matchbook in folded relation and which is capable of multiple functions with the elements in both attached and separated forms.

More specifically, it is an object of the invention to provide a paper matchbook in which the sheath portion thereof is provided at one end with a separable extension, so constructed as to be foldable with the matchbook proper in its manufactured form and unfolded therefrom in its subsequent usable form.

These and other objects and advantages of my invention will more fully appear from the following description, made in connection with the accompanying drawings, wherein like reference characters refer to the same parts throughout the several views and in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of one form of my matchbook construction wherein the sheet extension is folded within the cover portion of the matchbox sheath;

Figure 2 is a front elevation of the matchbook construction shown in Figure 1, the cover and extension being unfolded to flat relation to produce an attached postcard;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of another form of my matchbox construction wherein the sheet extension is folded into engagement with the outer surface of the cover and interlocked with the sheath;

Figure 4 is a front elevation of the form of matchbook construction illustrated in Figure 3, showing the sheet extension folded flat and outwardly, the extension being provided with fold lines and cuts and a portion of the sheath being cut away to expose inner portions of the construction; and

Figure 5 is a perspective view of the alternate form of Figure 3 wherein the sheet extension has been folded angularly with respect to the sheath portion of the matchbook and with the marginal edges of the extension folded and interlocked to form an ashtray.

With continued reference to the drawing, Figure 1 illustrates a form of my matchbox construction in which a portion thereof lies in flat and reinforcing engagement when the matchbox is closed and which may be opened up and unfolded to form a separable postcard for advertising purposes and the like. Figure 2 shows the matchbook in open condition with the sheet extension unfolded. A plurality of matches **10** are disposed in upstanding relation and preferably in row formation as is well known in the art. The base of the matches **11** is secured against a sheath **12** which, in turn, is constructed from an elongated sheet of material such as paper and arranged normally to encircle the upstanding

matches **10** with the end margins in overlapping relation. One end **13** forms the cover of the matchbox and the other end **14** may provide a striking surface and be folded with respect to the back or sheath **12** so as to encompass the base **11** and be fastened thereto by such means as the staple **15**. An extension **16** is formed endwise of the sheath **12** and is preferably formed integral with the sheath **12** being joined thereto in a perforated fold line **17**. The extension **16** is again folded at a transverse and intermediate fold line **18** so as to lie in compact arrangement with the sheath **12**, the attached area being designated as **19** and the outermost area of the extension being designated as **20**. When folded as shown in Figure 1, the entire cover and folded extension may be inserted under the end margin **14** so that the cover is retained in closed condition and the perforated fold line **17** constitutes the lowermost edge of the cover, as viewed in Figure 1.

The form of matchbook construction illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 is such that it may be handled, packaged and utilized in conventional manner except for such times as it is desired to form a postcard which can be separated and sent as a postcard. Thus, advertising indicia **21** may be imprinted on the inside of the cover **13** or on any other convenient area on the sheath element **12** and the sheet extension **16**, when folded out in flat condition, may have imprinted thereon a request for information or other suitable information **22** as well as the name and address of the advertiser imprinted at **23** as shown.

It will be noted that the extension **16** is formed as a part of a continuous strip of material including the sheath **12** so that the preparation of blank material from which the extension and sheet is formed is greatly simplified. Even though the areas **19** and **20** of the sheet extension **16** may be of insufficient area to qualify as a legal postcard, the combined areas may be selected to so qualify, it being merely necessary to flatten out the extension at the fold line **18** to produce the requisite card. The user may then fill in the return information **24** and separate the entire card **16** at the perforated fold line **17** following which he can mail the postcard in the conventional manner. Fold line **17** remains the lowermost edge of cover **13** and the matchbook may continue to be used until the matches **10** are all exhausted.

Another form of the invention is shown in Figures 3, 4 and 5. In the alternate form, sheet extension **25** is joined endwise to the sheath **12***a* at fold line **17***a* defining the outermost edge of margin **14***a* as shown in Figures 3, 4 and 5. The extension sheet **25** may be provided with cut lines **26** and **27** at the respective sides thereof and with cut lines **28** at the outermost margin **29** of sheet **25**, as shown in Figure 4. An opening **30** may be punched in sheet **25** and fold lines **31**, **32** and **33** formed transversely of the sheet in the positions indicated. Fold lines **34** may be formed longitudinally of sheet extension **25** adjacent the side edges so as to interconnect the inner ends of the cut lines **26** and **27**. A cooperating slot **35** may be cut through the sheath **12***a* as shown in Figures 3 and 4. When the sheet extension **25** is folded over against the outer surface of cover **13***a*, it will lie compactly thereagainst with end margin **29** extending over the top and back. The cut lines **28** form a tab **36** which can be inserted into the slot **35** to secure the sheet extension **25** in its compact folded relation.

When it is desired to use the form of invention which I have shown in Figures 3, 4 and 5, the sheet extension can be folded outwardly from the perforated fold line **17***a* and transverse fold line **31** so that the greater portion of the sheet extension **25** represented by the area **37** will lie substantially at right angles with respect to the cover portion **13***a*. The marginal tabs **38** are folded upwardly and

end margin **29** is inserted beneath the angulated end in the folded relation shown in Figure 5. Since fold line **33** intersects the opening **30**, a notched rest is formed thereby upon which a lit cigarette (not shown) may be rested. Tobacco ashes and other bits of refuse may be placed in the tray formed from the sheet extension **25** and, after use, may be separated by tearing the tray portion at perforate fold lines **17***a* and discarding it. The remaining portion of the device may continue to be used in the same manner previously described in connection with the first form of the invention until the matches **10***a* are exhausted.

Here, again, it will be noted that the sheet extension **25** may be conveniently formed as an integral part of the sheath body, having the same width and being constructed of the same material as the sheath proper. The sheet extension is cooperatively interlocked with the sheath to form reinforcement therefor until such time as it is desired to unfold the extension and form it into an ashtray as described.

It will, of course, be understood that various changes may be made in the form, details, arrangement and proportion of the parts without departing from the scope of my invention.

What I claim is:

A matchbook device comprising a match pack, an elongated rectangular strip of flexible sheet material folded in encircling engagement lengthwise about said match pack and secured thereto at the base thereof, the ends of said strip lying in overlapping relation to produce a cover retained at its margin by the overlapping margin of the other end, and an ashtray extension integrally and detachably secured at one of said ends to form a lengthwise continuation thereof having the same width as said strip and folded flatly thereagainst when not in use, said ashtray extension having pre-formed fold lines longitudinally and transversely of the extension defining sides and end panels of the ashtray when folded into operative position, one end of the ashtray extension being provided with fold lines defining a cigarette-supporting platform, said platform having an aperture intersecting a fold line and forming a holding trough when folded into operative position.

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