Oct. 26, 1948. H. C. GOULD 2,452,299

TAPE DISPENSER

Filed Nov. 8, 1945 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

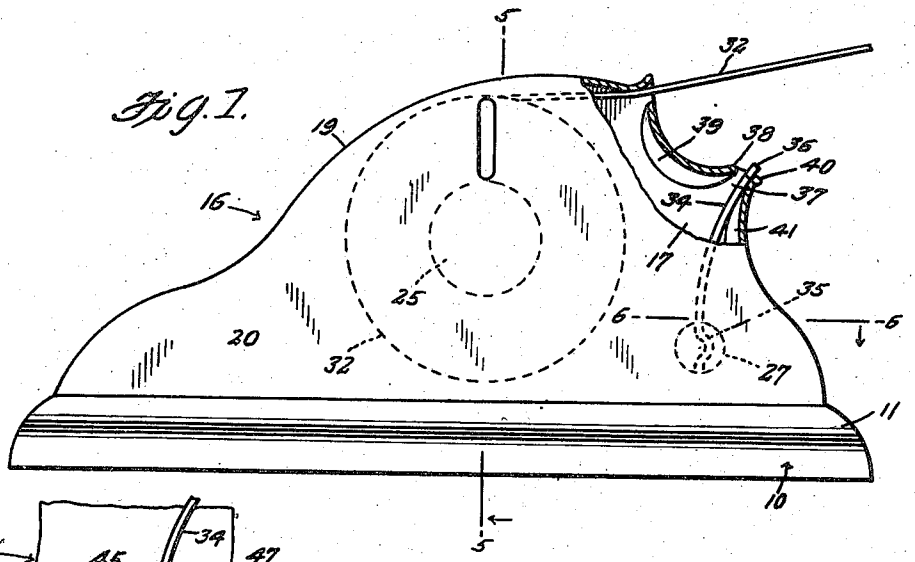


Fig. 2.

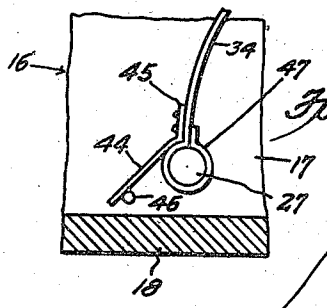
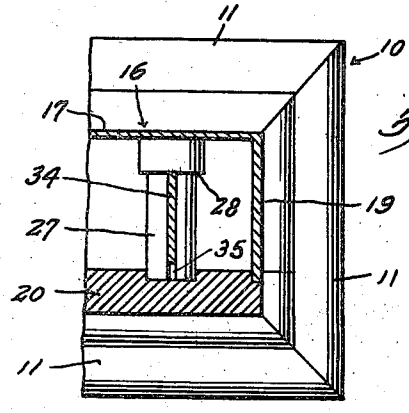


Fig. 3.

Fig. 6.



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TAPE DISPENSER

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Fig. 2.

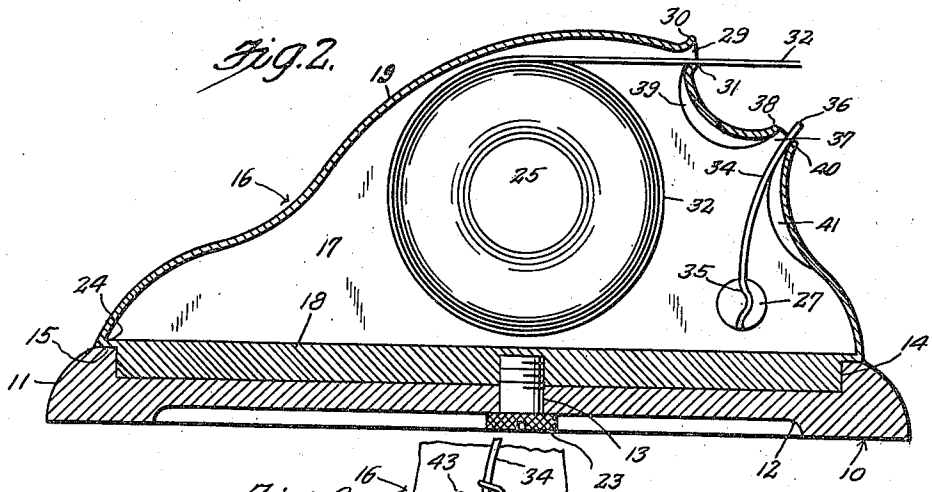
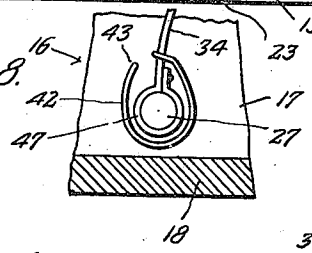


Fig. 8.



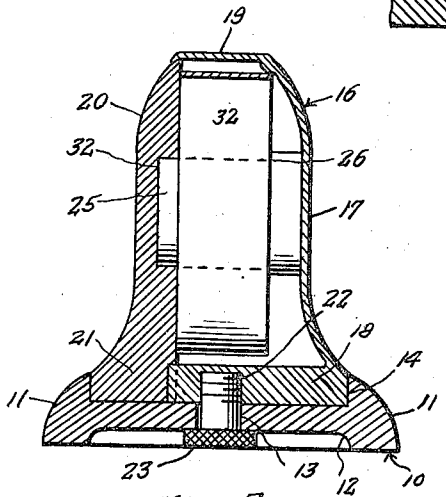


Fig. 5.

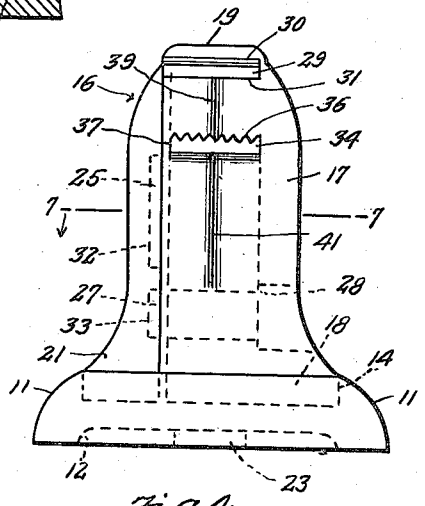


Fig. 4.

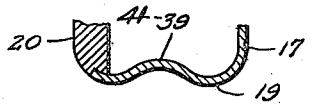


Fig. 7.

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Patented Oct. 26, 1948

2,452,299

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,452,299

TAPE DISPENSER

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Application November 8, 1945, Serial No. 627,444

10 Claims. (Cl. 164—84.5)

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My invention relates to tape dispensers especially for dispensing lengths of adhesive tape to be used for wrapping packages and for other purposes or mending torn papers, documents and the like, such adhesive tape being known as pressure sensitive Cellophane, "Scotch" tape, "Texcel," etc., which may be transparent or opaque and which is generally coated on one surface with an adhesive having a relatively high degree of adhesiveness which renders the tape sticky and difficult to handle without adhering to the fingers or objects other than those on which it is to be used if allowed to come in contact therewith.

It is also pointed out that much of the tape used from a roll of tape or a conventional dispenser is in the form of very short pieces and with currently used dispensers, it is necessary to pick up the tape some distance back from the free end and then shift the hold on the tape as usually grasped between a thumb and fore-finger, to the end in order to cut off a short piece.

The present invention renders it considerably more convenient and economical to handle the tape in this respect as there is no shifting of the hold on the tape required in the use of the device.

It is also an object of the invention to provide a tape dispenser of simple construction comprising a few parts which may be economically produced and assembled, as well as easily taken apart to insert a new roll of tape when a supply roll is exhausted and to provide novel means for cutting off a length of tape in such a manner that it leaves a free end portion of the tape protruding so that it can be conveniently grasped beyond the lips of the opening through which the tape is fed or drawn from the dispenser for more conveniently grasping the same between a thumb and fore-finger and therefore more convenient to use.

It is also an object of the invention to provide a novel cutting device consisting of a blade resiliently held against one side or lip of a slot in the casing through which it projects in a direction away from the tape coil or roll at its free end which is provided with a cutting edge or teeth to sever the tape at the desired point in selected lengths, and which upon the tape being grasped and drawn out the required length and then pressed against the cutting edge in a lowered position, will cause the cutter to be quickly forced against the other side or lip of the slot and upon the tape being cut, severed or torn across the cutting edge while the cutting blade is under tension, where resistance to the pressure of the tape causes the latter to be cut or torn across cleanly and as soon as the tape is cut, the pressure is released so

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that the cutter springs back against the side of the slot which it initially engages to free the end portion of the tape which immediately assumes a position by which it can be conveniently grasped assisted by the adhesion thereof against the lower side or lip of the exit opening through which it is drawn and at the same time is prevented from adhering to the cutter, although it may be pressed down against a fluted or concaved part of the casing below such opening or even below the cutting edge of the cutter to prevent adherence thereof to objects especially where the dispenser is moved about but in such a manner that the thumb or finger may be inserted under the tape to easily grasp the end thereof while dispensing another length of tape.

The invention also embodies an improvement in cutters for tape dispensers which is resiliently held away from the tape roll against one side of the slot through which the free end portion of the cutting blade projects and may be activated by a spring inherent in the blade itself, or and in addition to the resiliency thereof, so pressed by a separate tension member or spring in a direction away from the tape roll so that the cutting edge thereof is moved in a direction toward or near the tape roll after the tape is pulled out and is pressed against the cutting edge in the cutting process, so that when the tape is severed, the cutter is released to allow the cutter to resume its initial position and freeing the same from adhesion to the tape, as well as the end portion of the tape so that the latter assumes a position by which it may be conveniently grasped and pulled out for severing another length thereof.

The invention also proposes a tape dispenser having a base of sufficient weight to give it stability and a two-part casing thereon which may be readily attached to or removed from the base to completely house a tape roll except for the protruding end thereof in position to be conveniently grasped for pulling out and dispensing a length of tape at an exit opening in the casing and also to house the cutter which has its cutting edge projecting from the casing in convenient position for efficiently severing desired lengths of tape in a simple and efficient manner, while the casing is so constructed as to allow excellent streamlining of the dispenser, thus providing an attractive appearance and ease of cleaning thereof, as well as economical use, since the tape is protected and there is no waste.

Other objects and advantages reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference be-

ing had to the accompanying drawings forming part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a tape dispenser in accordance with the invention, partly broken away and in section to show the normal position of the cutter and the position of the tape when being pulled out prior to severing an end portion thereof.

Figure 2 is a central longitudinal vertical sectional view thereof, showing the tape roll and cutter in elevation.

Figure 3 is a view similar to Figure 1 but showing the positions of the cutter and tape in the act of severing or cutting the tape.

Figure 4 is a front elevation or end view of the device.

Figure 5 is a vertical transverse sectional view taken on the line 5—5 of Figure 1.

Figure 6 is a fragmentary horizontal sectional view taken on the line 6—6 of Figure 1.

Figure 7 is a fragmentary horizontal sectional view taken on the line 7—7 of Figure 4.

Figure 8 is a fragmentary sectional elevation showing a spring of the coiled type for additionally activating or pressing the cutter against one side of the slot throught which the cutting end thereof projects in a direction remote or away from the tape roll for operation in freeing the end of the tape in the cutting process as hereinbefore referred to, and

Figure 9 is a view similar to Figure 8 but showing another form of spring for additionally activating or pressing the cutter against one side of the slot through which it projects for the same purpose as set forth in the brief description of Figure 8.

As illustrated in the drawings, the tape dispenser embodying my invention comprises a relatively heavy base 10 of any suitable material, such as metal, cast or otherwise formed into the desired shape shown as elongated rectangular in plan and provided with streamlined convexly curved edges 11 narrowing the rim of the base toward the top. The base is recessed at the bottom as indicated at 12, the wall above which is provided centrally with an unthreaded opening 13. The base is also recessed at the top as indicated at 14 to provide a narrow rim 15 surrounding the recess or depressing which is adapted to removably receive a casing 16. This casing which the top recess takes comprises the upper dispenser case part consisting of one side section 17 suitably streamlined as shown and tapering in curved formation toward the top, while the flared out bottom portion is provided with a laterally extending and relatively heavy bottom wall 18 snugly fitting in the recess 14 at one side. The section 17 has an edge wall 19 which extends laterally or transversely from the top portion contiguous with the bottom wall 18 to a point near the opposite side of the top recess or depression 14 where it may be slightly curved downwardly at its free edge to overlie the upper edge of the relatively thick wall of the other side or section 20 of the casing 16 which has its enlarged or thickened bottom portion 21 designed to snugly fit in the other side of the recess 14 and undercut at the inside and bottom so as to abut or receive and interfit with the adjacent edge of the bottom wall 18 of the section 17 and snugly and completely fill the recess 14 so that the casing is firmly held. The casing may be additionally held in position by providing the bottom wall 18 with a threaded socket or bore 22 and a thumb screw 23 shown as having a knurled and slotted head, is passed up through the opening 13 and screwed into the threaded socket 22 to firmly connect the casing to the base. As shown in Figures 2 and 5 of the drawings, the sides of the bottom portions 18 and 21 terminate at the top edges of the side walls of the recess 14, while the ends of the casing parts or sections 17 and 20 project outwardly as at 24 from the ends of the recess 14 to rest and bear upon the rim 15 to form a streamlined surface to improve the appearance and facilitate cleaning. While the casing parts may be made of any suitable material, it is preferably molded and may be of plastic or otherwise.

The casing section 17 has a laterally projecting spindle 25, which may be attached thereto or formed integral therewith in the molding and may have an enlarged portion or shoulder 26 at its base. This spindle 25 is located substantially intermediate the ends of the casing, while near the front end, the lateral or side wall of the section 17 is similarly formed or provided with a laterally extending stud 27 projecting therefrom in the same manner as the spindle 25, terminating in the same vertical plane as the free end of the spindle 25 if desired and having an enlargement or shoulder 28 at its base, which like the shoulder 26, faces inwardly. The shoulders 26 and 28 serve as stops for engagement by the adjacent edges of the tape 32 and cutter 34 respectively, to keep them in proper alignment, so that the cutting edge 36 will extend entirely across the width of the tape to entirely sever the end portion or desired length thereof as will be later described.

The front of the casing extends upwardly from the base 10 and bottom 18 and slopes rearwardly in angular relation thereto slightly less than a right angle but at an acute angle, while the top and rear portion slopes at a sharper acute angle and at the top and front portion, the section 17 is provided with an exit opening 29 narrowed and elongated horizontally as more particularly shown in Figure 4 with an out-turned or rolled lip 30 at the top upturned and a similar lip 31 at the bottom. The roll or spool or adhesive tape indicated at 32, which may be coiled on itself or upon a core of tubular section, is mounted upon the spindle 25 with the coated side innermost and the non-coated side outermost so that the tape may extend through the opening 29 and pulled or drawn against the lip 30 at the uncoated side as uncoiled from the roll for the desired length to prevent scraping or marring of the adhesive coating of the tape and avoid injury thereto, which in the case of transparent tape, will prevent the transparency thereof from being reduced so that writings or drawings mended by the tape will be clearly visible therethrough. The roll is held at the opposite side when the sections 17 and 20 are fitted together, mounted in and secured to the base 10 as previously described by providing a recess 32 in the inner face of the section 20 to receive the free end of the spindle 25 which firmly fits in the recess since the end of the spindle projects beyond the inner edge of the section 17 as seen in Figure 5 and forms a guide to lock or hold the sections of the casing in alignment and together. A similar but smaller recess 33 is provided in the inner face of the section 20 to receive the inner or free end of the stud 27 which also projects beyond the inner edge of the section 17 and its lateral wall 19 to snugly and firmly fit in the recess 33 and form an additional guide to lock and hold the sections of the casing in alignment and together. To insert the roll of tape in the case initially or to re-

place a supply which has been exhausted, the thumb screw 23 is loosened or removed so that the sections of the casing may be lifted out of the base. The roll is applied to or "slipped over" the spindle 25 after a short length of the tape is unrolled as in Figure 2 with the end of the tape at the same time being slipped sidewise or edgewise into the opening 29 at the open end at the edge of the section 17 and its lateral wall 19 and then the sections of the case are placed together as in Figures 4 and 5 with the spindle 25 and the stud 27 fitting the recesses 32 and 33, respectively. The assembled sections are then placed back as a unit in the recess 14 in the base 10 and the thumb screw 23 inserted through the opening 13 and threaded to the socket 22 to secure the case to the base.

The stud 7 supports the cutter 34 which is shown as a spring or spring strip of correct tension and resilient character for the particular type of tape to be used and as illustrated, the stud is provided with a slot 35 through the stud and shown of sinuous form to firmly anchor the spring therein. It is curved upwardly and forwardly and at its free end, is provided with a cutting edge or knife 36 which may be of the saw tooth variety to readily sever the tape at the desired point or by which it may be cut or torn by pressure thereagainst supplemented by a twisting tearing action. The free end of the cutter extends through an upwardly and forwardly facing slot 37 in the rearwardly sloping front portion of the case which has an upper rolled edge or lip 38 at the top turned upwardly in rounding formation, the same as the lips 30 and 31 and formed at the lower portion of an intervening concaved portion of the case wall indicated at 39 immediately below the opening 29 and lip 31, which may be fluted or provided with a central vertical grooved portion as shown in Figures 2 and 7 so that should the free projecting end of the tape bend down against the case, and the lower coated side adhere thereto, a thumb or finger may be readily inserted in the fluted portion or groove beneath the tape so as to free the latter and permit it to be conveniently grasped for pulling the tape from the roll by unwinding the latter from its coiled position on the roll during which time the latter turns on the spindle 25. At the lower side of the slot 37 which substantially corresponds to the opening 29, the same is provided with a rolled or outturned edge forming a lip 40 against which the cutter 34 is normally pressed. In the form shown in Figures 1 to 6, inclusive, with the cutting teeth along the upper horizontal edge or extremity thereof projecting from the slot 37 and lips 38 and 40, the spring is activated or pressed against the lower lip 40 at the lower side of the slot 37 by reason of its rigid mounting in the stud 27 and its natural resiliency or spring character inherent in the part itself, but may be otherwise activated or urged against said lip in a direction away from the roll of tape in its normal position by other means, as will be hereinafter more fully described in connection with Figures 8 and 9 of the drawings.

In the operation of the device, after the dispenser has been assembled in the manner described, with the free end portion of the tape extending through the exit opening 29 as shown in Figure 2 of the drawings, the said end is grasped between a thumb and forefinger and drawn or pulled outwardly to unroll a desired length of tape from the supply roll 32 in the

manner shown in Figure 1 of the drawings with the upper or uncoated side of the tape pressing against the upper lip 30 at the top of the opening 29. The required length having been drawn out, and the coated side being prevented from being marred or scratched in such manner as to scrape the adhesive therefrom or interfere with the transparency of Cellophane, cellulose, or pressure sensitive adhesive tapes such as "Scotch" tape by reason of the upper uncoated side thereof being against the lip 30 and the lower coated side being spaced from the lip 31, the tape is then lowered and torn across the cutting or toothed cutter edge 36 of the cutter 34. By reason of the pressure thus exerted against the cutter due to the tension as the tape is pressed against it, the cutter is quickly forced or flexed against the upper lip 38 of the slot 37 and away from the lip 40 as seen in Figure 3 of the drawings, from the position shown in Figures 1 and 2. In this position, the cutter is limited in its further movement and the solid resistance to the pressure of the tape causes the latter to be cut or torn across cleanly while still grasping the same between the thumb and forefinger for use. As soon as the tape is cut or severed from the main strip on the roll, the pressure on the cutter is released and it immediately springs back from the upper side 38 of the slot 37 to the lower side 40 thereof in its initial normal position. The cutting edge engages the coated side of the tape and would normally tend to adhere thereto, but when the tape is cut, and the pressure released by severing the end portion thereof, the springing back of the cutter as soon as the tape is cut to the lower side of the opening, frees or springs away from the projecting end of the tape between the opening 29 and the lip 38 or cutting edge 36 where it has been severed so that it immediately assumes the convenient position shown in Figure 2 by which it may be grasped for pulling out and severing another length in the manner described. Also, the tape is held in this position, pressed against the lower lip 31 of the opening 29 by the adhesion of the adhesive coating thereon against said lip so as to prevent the roll from turning or unwinding until an additional length thereof is dispensed. However, should it be desired, the tape may drop down and become anchored to the fluted section 39 or this may be purposely done, or an additional length may be drawn out as in dispensing and severing a length in the manner described in connection with Figures 1 and 3 of the drawings and in the latter position, the end thereof may be fastened to a correspondingly fluted or grooved portion 41 of the case beneath the slot 37 and lip 40 as with portion 39. This is especially desirous where the dispenser is moved about, the fluted sections being located above and below the cutter as above described. Thus, it might be more desirable to pull the end of the tape past the cutter and stick it to the case at the fluted portion 41 which will enable a thumb or finger to be inserted under the tape to facilitate picking up the tape end and grasping the same between the thumb and forefinger for pulling out additional lengths and severing the same at the cutter in the manner previously described herein. This arrangement and construction is much more convenient and expeditious to use than conventional dispensers especially where the tape used is in the form of very short pieces, it being necessary in currently used dispensers to pick up the tape some distance back from the end and then shift the hold on

the tape to the end in order to cut off a short piece, whereas the present device is more convenient and economical to use in this respect, as there is no shifting of the hold on the tape required. The basic novel feature is the movement of the cutter and cutting edge thereof automatically and normally away from the roll of tape and in a direction toward the roll of tape or at the top and back of the slot through which the cutter extends by reason of the pressure of the tape against the cutting edge of the cutter in severing a length of the same in the manner described, from the positions shown in Figures 1 and 2 to the position shown in Figure 3 and the freeing of the end of the tape by the automatic and normal movement of the cutter in a direction away from the roll or toward the bottom lip **40** of the slot **37** after the tape is cut and severed, thus freeing the projecting end of the tape at the opening **29** in convenient position to be grasped for repeating the dispensing and severing process.

In the form of the cutter as previously described, the same is resiliently held toward the lip **40** at the lower side of the slot **37** and in a direction away from the roll of tape by the resiliency or spring inherent in the part or resilient strip forming the cutter **34** itself so that it may flex and be forced against the lip **38** at the upper side of the slot **37** and in a direction toward the roll of tape upon pressure being applied thereto by the tape in cutting or severing the same in a manner shown in Figure 3 of the drawings at the beginning of the cutting process so that upon the tape being cut, and the cutter being released, the cutting edge immediately assumes its former and normal position as the cutter resumes its position at the lower part of the slot **37** against the lip **40** thereby freeing the end of the remaining tape to assume the position shown in Figure 2 which is the same as the initial position of the tape when the three parts of the case are assembled, namely, the base **10** and the case sections **17** and **20** and held in the top recess of the base together with the anchoring or thumb screw **23** in the manner described. In the form shown in Figure 8, the spring is additionally activated or held in its normal position pressed against the lip **40** at the lower side of the slot **37** by a coil spring **42** one end of which is anchored as at **43** to the side wall of the section **17** in a notch therein, while the opposite end presses against the back of the cutter **34** and may engage an opening therein to assist in preventing displacement of the spring. Thus, the expansible spring tending to unwind, exerts pressure against the back of the cutter and holds it down against the lip **40**. Thus, after the severing operation when the cutter is pressed against the upper lip **38** in a direction toward the tape roll, it will automatically spring back immediately after the tape is cut with the cutting edge in its former normal position and freeing the end of the remaining tape.

In Figure 9 of the drawings, cutter **34** has a flat strip of resilient character forming a spring as indicated at **44**, one end portion of which is bent angularly and anchored to the lower portion of the spring strip forming the cutter **34**, as indicated at **45**, while the other end which is free, extends downwardly and rearwardly at an obtuse angle and is held against a pin **46** forming a lug projecting inwardly from the side wall of the section **17**, so as to exert pressure against the cutter **34** to press it against the bottom lip **40** of the slot **37**. This device, as well as the device shown in Figure 8 operate substantially in the same manner as described in connection with the structure shown in Figure 2, except that in this form, as well as in the form shown in Figure 8, the cutter **34** need not possess a necessary resiliency to press it inherently normally toward the lower lip **40** of the slot **37** and also, instead of being rigidly anchored to the stud **27** in any suitable manner as by being passed through a curved or sinuous slot diametrically thereof, is mounted to turn on the spindle by reason of a bearing sleeve **47** at the inner end of the cutter strip formed preferably at the inner end thereof by turning the same in tubular form as shown or otherwise. In other words, the springs of Figures 8 and 9 may be applied to the form shown in Figure 2 to assist the resiliency of the cutter when rigidly attached to the spindle **27**, or to press against the cutter when the latter is adapted to turn by reason of being mounted to freely move on the spindle to the extent required to operate between the lips **38** and **40** of the slot **37** in cutting and releasing the tape.

A narrow vertical window or opening **20'** may be provided on one or both sides of the casing **20** for viewing or observing the amount of tape remaining on the roll **32** so that the same may be replenished by a new roll when necessary.

The advantages of the device are that it is very convenient to use since the tape end is always free to grasp quickly in addition to the greater portion of the tape on the roll being completely enclosed to provide complete protection thereof from dust and foreign matter for the tape, with only the free end exposed and the casing being so constructed that the dispenser is made in three parts consisting of the base and two section case with the base sufficiently heavy to give it weight and stability to maintain its position on a support and streamlined to provide attractive appearance and ease of cleaning as well as economical use since the tape is protected and there is no waste.

Of course, in addition to adhesive tape such as set forth, including "Scotch" tape, paper, or surgical tape, any sort of strip material may be dispensed with the device.

While in the foregoing there has been shown and described the preferred embodiment of this invention it is to be understood that minor changes in the details of construction, combination and arrangement of parts may be resorted to without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as claimed.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. A dispenser for strip material including a case, means within the case for supporting for rotation, a supply of strip material, said case having an opening through which the strip material may be fed, a cutter extending through a slot in the case and spring-pressed against one side thereof away from the supply and adapted to be moved against the other side of the slot when the strip material is fed out and pressed against the projecting edge of the cutter in a direction toward the supply, whereby when the strip is severed, the cutter immediately returns to its initial position to disengage itself from the projecting unsevered end portion of the strip material.

2. A dispenser for strip material including a case, means within the case for supporting for rotation, a supply of strip material, said case having an opening through which the strip material

may be fed, a cutter extending through a slot in the case and normally spring-pressed against one side thereof away from the supply and adapted to be moved against the other side of the slot when the strip material is fed out and pressed against the projecting edge of the cutter in a direction toward the supply downwardly and rearwardly, whereby when the strip is severed, the cutter immediately returns to its initial position to disengage itself from the projecting unsevered end portion of the strip material, the projecting end of the strip material extending from the case for convenient grasping and feeding of additional lengths of strip material to be severed for use.

3. A dispenser for strip material or tape, such as adhesive tape, comprising a case, means within the case for supporting a roll of strip material for rotation, the case having a slot therethrough through which the strip material may be drawn and normally projecting therefrom to be grasped and a cutter projecting from the case and resiliently held in a direction away from the roll and against which the projecting end of the material is adapted to be pressed for severing a length thereof and to flex rearwardly under pressure in severing and spring forwardly after severing to release and spring away from a projecting portion of the strip material whereby the same will assume a position to be conveniently grasped for pulling additional lengths of the strip material from the roll.

4. A tape dispenser comprising a case having a supporting base, means within the case to support a supply of tape, said case having an exit opening through which the tape may be drawn, the case below said opening being provided with a slot, a spring-pressed cutter mounted in the case and having a cutting edge at its free end, said cutter extending through the slot with its cutting edge projecting from the case and normally resiliently held against the lower side of the slot but adapted upon the end portion of the tape projecting from the case being pressed downwardly and rearwardly thereagainst, to be forced rearwardly against the other side of the slot where solid resistance to the pressure of the tape causes the tape to be cut and torn across the cutting edge to automatically release the projecting end of the tape between the opening and the cutting edge for movement to a convenient position to be grasped and immediate automatic return of the cutter to the lower side of the slot to insure release of said projecting end of the tape.

5. A tape dispenser comprising the combination with a casing having a supply holding means and a feed opening through which an end portion of the tape is adapted to normally project, of a cutter mounted within the case and extending upwardly and forwardly with its free end forming a cutting edge projecting from the case through a slot therein, said cutter being normally spring-pressed against the side of the slot remote from the projecting end of the tape and the supply and adapted to be moved toward the opposite side of the slot upon the tape being pulled out and pressed against the cutting edge to sever the same while the further movement of the cutter toward the projecting end portion and supply is resisted and adapted to automatically spring forwardly to the other side of the slot remote from said end portion and supply upon the end portion of the tape being severed to spring away from and free the latter for assumption of a position to be conveniently grasped.

6. The combination with a casing having means for supporting a supply roll of tape and an opening through which an end of the tape may be fed, a cutter projecting from the casing and spring-pressed in one direction whereby it may be forced in the opposite direction upon pressure applied thereto in pressing the tape thereagainst to sever an end portion of the tape so that when the end portion of the tape is severed, said cutter will automatically spring back to its initial position to free itself from the unsevered projecting end portion of the tape for movement of the latter to a position above the cutter in convenient projecting relation to the case to be grasped and pulled out in any desired length.

7. A tape dispenser comprising a base, a sectional case removably mounted on the base, said sections having means cooperating to hold the same in alignment and for supporting a supply of tape and a cutter for the tape, said casing having an opening through which the tape is adapted to project and be drawn, said cutter being resiliently supported and fulcrumed in the case and having a projecting end spaced from the projecting end of the tape extending through an opening in the case and resiliently held at the front of the opening whereby when the latter is drawn out and pressed against the cutter it will be severed against the cutter in spaced relation to its point of projection from the case and the cutter forced against the back of the second opening and when the tape is cut, the cutter will be released and again spring against the front of the second opening free of the tape to leave said end portion projecting for convenient grasping.

8. A tape dispenser comprising a base having a top recess, a case comprising a pair of sections fitted together and seated in the recess, one section overlying the other at the edge and having a bottom portion, means for detachably securing said section to the base through the base at the bottom portion, one section having a spindle and a stud projecting laterally therefrom and the other section having recesses receiving the ends of said spindle and stud, said spindle adapted to support a roll of adhesive tape and the casing having an opening through which the end of the tape is adapted to be drawn, and a slot beneath said opening, a cutter mounted on the stud and having its free end provided with a cutting edge projecting through the slot, said cutter being normally pressed against the front side of the slot and adapted upon pressing the projecting end portion of the tape thereagainst to move to the rear side of the slot to resist the pressure of the tape thereagainst and sever the tape, said cutter adapted to automatically spring against the other side of the slot when the tape is severed to disengage from the tape and release the projecting end of the tape for movement to a position for convenient grasping.

9. A tape dispenser comprising a base having a top recess, a case comprising a pair of sections fitted together and seated in the recess, one section overlying the other at the top and having a bottom portion, means for detachably securing said section to the base through the base at the bottom portion, one section having a spindle and a stud projecting laterally therefrom and the other section having recesses receiving the ends of said spindle and stud, said spindle adapted to support a roll of adhesive tape and the casing having an opening through which the end of the tape is adapted to be drawn, and a slot beneath said opening, a cutter mounted on the stud and having its free end provided with a cutting edge

projecting through the slot, said cutter being normally pressed against the front side of the slot and adapted upon pressing the projecting end portion of the tape thereagainst to move to the rear side of the slot to resist the pressure of the tape thereagainst and sever the tape, said cutter adapted to automatically spring against the other side of the slot when the tape is severed to disengage from the tape and release the projecting end of the tape for movement to a position for convenient grasping, means urging said cutter to its normal position, said case at points beneath the opening and slot being provided with fluted portions forming recesses whereby upon the tape being adhered to the case thereover, a thumb or finger may be readily inserted beneath the tape to free and grasp the same.

10. A tape dispenser comprising a base having a top recess, a case comprising a pair of sections fitted together seated in the recess, one section overlying the other at the top and having a bottom portion, means for detachably securing said section to the base through the base at the bottom portion, one section having a spindle and a stud projecting laterally therefrom and the other section having recesses receiving the ends of said spindle and stud, said spindle adapted to support a roll of adhesive tape and the casing having an opening through which the end of the tape is adapted to be drawn, and a slot beneath said opening, a cutter mounted on the stud and having its free end provided with a cutting edge projecting through the slot, said cutter being normally pressed against the front side of the slot and adapted upon pressing the projecting end

portion of the tape thereagainst to move to the rear side of the slot to resist the pressure of the tape thereagainst and sever the tape, said cutter adapted to automatically spring against the other side of the slot when the tape is severed to disengage from the tape and release the projecting end of the tape for movement to a position for convenient grasping, said opening being vertically disposed and having upper and lower turned lips, said tape when drawn outwardly being engaged against the upper lip at the uncoated side of the adhesive tape and against the lower lip at the coated side when drawn against the cutter to sever the tape to adhere the lower lip and prevent unrolling of the tape when not in use, and means for holding the cutter and tape in alignment so that the cutter will extend entirely across the width of the tape to completely sever the same.

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