Oct. 28, 1941. J. CAMPBELL 2,260,507

ASH RECEPTACLE

Filed July 10, 1937

FIG. 1

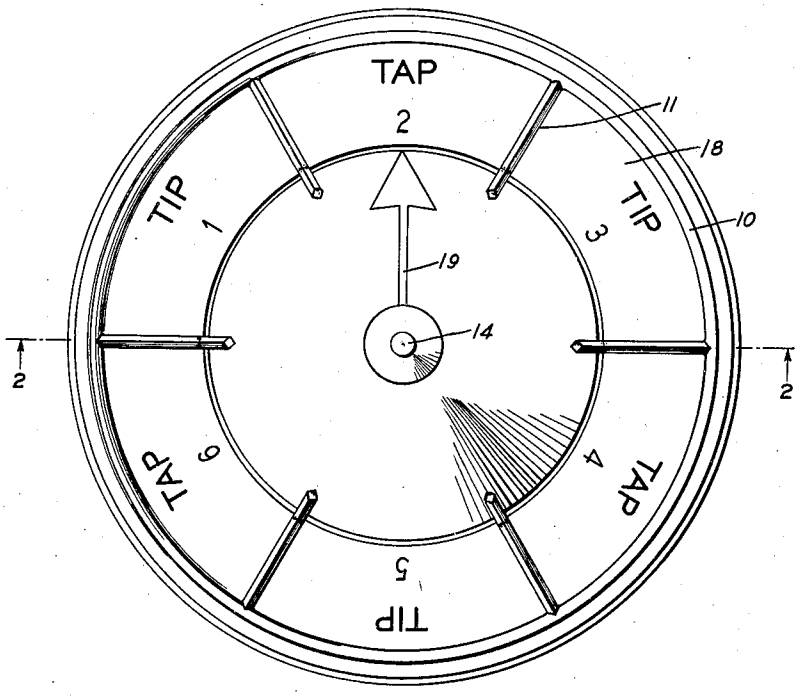
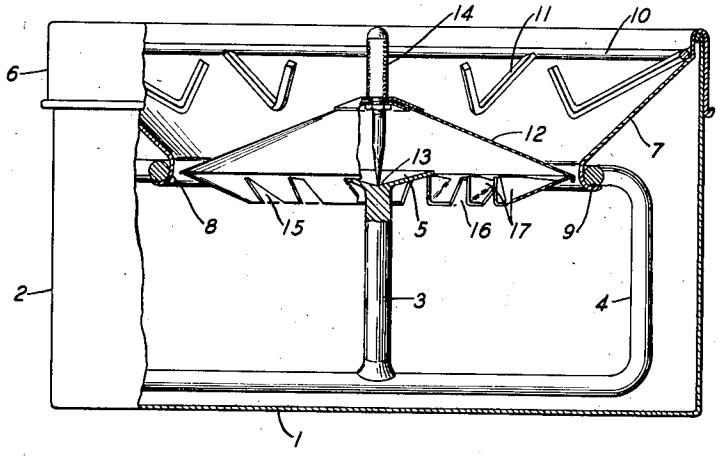


FIG. 2



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ASH RECEPTACLE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 220—20.5)

The present invention relates to ash receptacles in which the discarded cigar or cigarette ends and other smokers' discards drop out of sight.

An object is to provide an ash receptacle with a lower portion which is constantly covered but of which the cover readily swings about a pivot to permit passage of ashes, and discarded cigarettes, cigars, and tobacco into such lower portion.

A further object is to provide means whereby the cover of a lower enclosed portion of the ash receptacle is self-restoring to its covering position after it has been displaced by the passage of tobacco, cigar and cigarette stubs into such lower portion.

A further object is to combine an ash receptacle with a toy thereby enhancing its sales appeal without adding any additional structure or interfering with its function as an ash receptacle.

Still a further object is to provide an ash receptacle which is of simple and inexpensive construction and yet rugged and provided with a self-restoring cover hiding from sight discarded and partially smoked cigars and cigarettes and other smokers' discards.

Still a further object is to provide an ash receptacle with cigar and cigarette supports and an interior covered chamber such that forgotten cigars or cigarettes on such supports either remain thereon or on being air smoked drop into said interior chamber and not off the receptacle onto table and desk tops, etc., thereby causing damage.

Still a further object is to provide an ash receptacle in which continuously sufficient circulating air is kept from discarded but still lit cigar or cigarette ends within the receptacle resulting in insufficient air to support their continued combustion and almost completely preventing objectionable smoke and odor from the receptacle.

Still further and other objects are obvious from the description of my preferred construction and the drawing annexed in which:

Figure 1 is a top view of my preferred form of construction, and

Figure 2 is an elevation, partially sectionalized on 2—2 of Figure 1.

The lower housing of my ash receptacle comprises a bottom 1 and integral side walls 2. The shape of the lower housing may be any convenient form, but for simplicity of illustration I have shown it cylindrical in the drawing. Upper housing 6 fits snugly onto the lower housing and may be readily removed as desired or required for cleaning and to afford a choice of shapes of lower housings. Its upper portion is provided with an integral rim 7 sloping downwardly toward the interior and center of the receptacle. In the construction shown, rim 7 is in the form of a truncated inverted cone with a dependent wall 8 of some height and positioned as hereinafter described. A spider, comprising a ring 9 adapted to fit snugly over wall 8 and one or more U-shaped members 4, the two arms of each of which are rigidly fast on ring 9, is supported from wall 8 by bending over the lowermost portion of the wall under ring 9. Rigidly connected to the midpoint of the horizontal portion of U-support 4, a vertical supporting shaft 3, made of hard metal, such as drill rod, extends upwardly. A conic depression 5, the outside diameter of which is preferably greater than the diameter of shaft 3, is supported by the upper end of shaft 3. The apex of the conic depression 5 is so situate that it is central of the wall 8 and at the height of approximately midway the height of wall 8. On the rim 7, and near its outer edge, a frame 10 carrying a plurality of conveniently spaced L-shaped cigar and cigarette carriers 11 is assembled thereto, although obviously such carriers may be directly affixed to the upper edge of the rim. The carriers 11 are of such section that approximately but a line or knife edge, rather than an area, contact is made with the cigar or cigarette placed thereon and as to which the carrier acts like a fulcrum. Cigars or cigarettes are placed upon the receptacle across a carrier 11 and a portion of the upper edge of rim 7 so that the smoker's article is supported near its lighted end by the carrier and with the axis of said article at approximately right angles to the length of the carrier. Substantially covering the circular opening formed by dependent wall 8, a cover 12 is supported on shaft 3. Cover 12 is cone shaped, its base diameter being approximately that of the diameter of said opening, that is, a minimum of clearance in the covering position is provided. As shown, the apex of the cover lies below the plane enclosing the upper edge of the assembled receptacle. Cover 12 carries integral with its axis a sharply pointed pivot 13 on which the entire cover assembly is supported. Pivot 13 is of such height within the conical cover 12 that the latter's base diameter is approximately in the same plane as the midpoints of depending wall 8 when

pivot 13 is positioned on conic depression 5. Pivot 13 is provided with an extension 14 of a convenient diameter to permit the cover's spinning by rotating the extension between the fingers. A truncated inverted cone 15 is made integral with cover 12 and is so truncated that its opening 16 is substantially larger than the outside diameter of depression 5. Cone 15 acts as a counterweight for cover 12 and on its interior carries a plurality of vanes 17, preferably punched from its surface, for the purpose of offering wind resistance to the spinning of the cover assembly 12. Obviously housings 1 and 6 may be made of any material and of any convenient configuration, with its exposed surfaces finished in any sales attractive manner. The opening formed by dependent wall 8 is, however, always circular, and the cover assembly 12 is preferably made of light material, such as aluminum, except the pivot 13 which is preferably of a hard metal, such as tool steel or drill rod. The surface of rim 7 may conveniently be divided into a series of divisions such as "Tip 1," "Tap 2," etc., as indicated by the reference numeral 18. An arrow, or other indicator, 19, may be applied to the cover 12 as shown. The zones and arrow constitute a convenient spinning toy, while ring 10 with its carriers 11 is readily removable and may be replaced with other rings carrying the indicia of various games.

In operation it will be noted that the ash receptacle can be readily disassembled into essentially three assemblies, the lower housing, the upper housing, and the cover 12. In this manner smokers' refuse, gathered within the lower housing, may be removed, each assembly cleaned, and the ash receptacle reassembled. When a cigarette is placed upon a carrier 11, it will be noted that it is supported near one end, the lit end, by the carrier while the other end of the cigarette rests upon the outer edge portion of rim 7. As the supports 11 are inclined downwardly, but not as much as rim 7, if for any reason the lit end supported on carrier 11 becomes weaker, or the cigarette changes in weight distribution, for example, by air smoking the cigarette, the lit end will fulcrum about the carrier, drop therefrom onto rim 7, and slide down the latter. Cover 12 being, as above stated, of light material, will thereby be tilted so that there is sufficient clearance between dependent wall 8 and cover 12 for the cigarette to drop into lower housing 1. Thus forgotten smoked cigars and cigarettes will disappear from sight and the unsightly appearance thereof, particularly when there is an accumulation, avoided. It will be noted that the interior of the lower housing is completely covered by the upper housing walls 6, rim 7, and cover 12 fitting the opening in rim 7 with a minimum of clearance, as stated. On accidentally upsetting my ash receptacle there is little likelihood that the contents thereof will be dumped out over desks, rugs, etc. Also the entrapped air is limited in such interior, and still lit cigars or cigarettes therein are soon snuffed out, and the smoke and odor is substantially confined therein except for the short intervals when cover 12 is tipped by the passage to the interior of smokers' discards. Immediately on the passage of such discarded material, cover 12 restores itself to its covering position as the weight distribution thereof, aided by lower inverted cone 15, is such that the center of gravity of the cover assembly is axially below the point pivot 13. The conic depression 5 is of such subtended angle as compared to the acute angle of pivot 13 that the latter is always centered, and if for any reason it should not be centered on assembly, it will center itself at the apex of depression 5. The cover assembly is thus self-centering, tiltable and self-restoring, and, as is obvious, rotatable. The rotatable feature is employed to enhance the sales appeal of my ash receptacle by providing the indications 18 and 19, so that the receptacle may be used as a spinner for numerous well known amusement games. Due to the relative light weight of cover assembly 12, necessitated by the small mass of ashes, cigar and cigarette ends, to make an operative ash receptacle, the cover would rotate, on spinning projection 14, for a time perhaps longer than desirable in most amusement games. Hence I provide vanes 17 to dampen such rotation, but they are not wholly based on the amusement feature of my ash receptacle for they also serve the function of weighting the cover to depress its center of gravity. To permit the passage of rather large cigarette and cigar ends the cover is made tiltable to an appreciable angle of tilt by making opening 16 in the base of inverted cone 15 as large as possible consistent with depressing the center of gravity of the cover to produce the self-restoring feature above described. The cover may also be tilted by tapping projection 14 with the fingers. So also, even though my ash receptacle be positioned on not truly horizontal surfaces, cover 12 will not permit smoke or odor to escape from the interior in appreciable amounts due to having the maximum diameter of cover 12, when it is truly horizontal, at about the level of midway the height of dependent wall 8, and in that the axis of the cover always assumes a true vertical position due to pin pivot 13 even though support 3 may be slightly out of the true vertical position.

While I have described my preferred construction, I limit myself only as set forth in the annexed claim. Various modifications may be made in specific details without departing from my invention as defined in such claim.

What I claim is:

An ash receptacle comprising a housing having side walls, a bottom, a top, an annular rim in said top inclined inwardly and extending downwardly from said top a vertical distance and leaving a central opening, a support centrally of the bottom extending upwardly to the region of the lower portion of the annular rim, a flange tapering to a lowermost central point on said support, a closure in said central opening comprising a light weight conical member of a height less than said distance and of a base diameter closely approximating the diameter of said central opening and in substantially the plane thereof and whose center of gravity is below said flange and central of the support when the closure is in the closing position, and a central pivot extending downwardly from the apex region of the closure and terminating in a point support cooperating with the flange permitting tilting said closure and preventing the falling of the closure from said support while providing maximum clearance between the annular rim and the surface of the closure on the tilting of the closure.

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