H. HILL.

CUP CONTAINER.

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1,201,963. Patented Oct. 17, 1916.

Fig. 1.

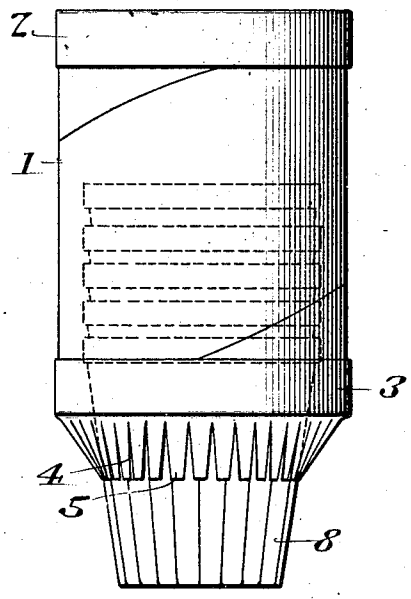
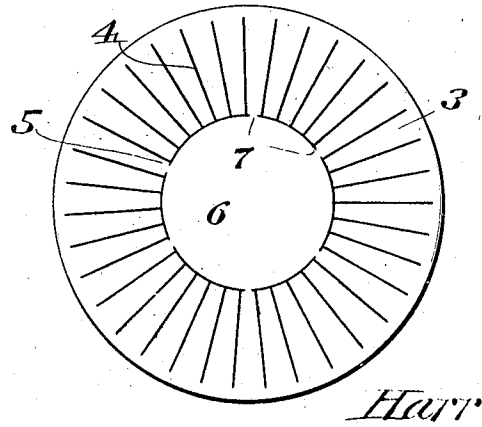


Fig. 2.



Witnesses

M. E. Laughlin

Inventor

Harriet Hill

By Victor J. Evans

Attorney.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HARRIET HILL, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

CUP-CONTAINER.

1,201,963. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Oct. 17, 1916.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HARRIET HILL, a citizen of the United States, residing at New York city, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Cup-Containers, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to containers adapted to receive and hold sanitary drinking cups and it consists in the novel features hereinafter described and claimed.

An object of the invention is to provide a container of the character indicated which may be easily and quickly transformed from the original package in which the cups are packed for shipment as by mail, into a holder from which the cups may be readily dispensed one by one as they are used.

With this object in view the container comprises a cylindrical body, preferably of paper, closed at one end by a cap and having fitted at its other end a head provided at its central portion with a series of radially disposed incisions, the material between which constitute tongues. Some of the said tongues are connected together by the central portion of the head and the said central portion is in the form of a disk which may be detached from the connecting tongues, thereby providing an opening between the inner ends of the tongues. When the container is in use for holding the cups while being dispensed, the lowermost cup of a stack of cups passes between the inner ends of the tongues and the said tongues are deflected or bent in a downward direction. The end portions of the tongues bear against the upper side portion of the lowermost cup and thus the stack of cups is held in the container. When the lowermost cup is removed from the stack by drawing the same in a downward direction from between the tongues, the said tongues engage the next lowermost cup of the stack, and thus the stack is held in position in the container.

In the accompanying drawing:—Figure 1 is a side elevation of the container. Fig. 2 is a bottom plan view of the same.

The container comprises a cylindrical body 1, preferably of paper, formed by winding the strip of paper spirally, as indicated in Fig. 1 of the drawing. A cap 2 closes one end of the body 1 and any suitable supporting means, as for instance a hook, (not shown) may be engaged with the said cap for supporting the container at the side of a wall or other object.

A head 3 of fibrous material, such as pasteboard, is located at the end of the body 1 opposite that end at which the cap 2 is located, and the said head 3 normally serves as a closure for one end of the body. The head 3 is provided at its intermediate portion with a series of radially disposed incisions 4, the material between which constitute resilient tongues 5. At its center and between the inner ends of the tongues 5, the head 3 is provided with a disk 6 which is joined at points 7 with some of the tongues 5. The container is adapted to hold and receive a stack of cups 8 which are nested one in the other as best indicated in Fig. 1 of the drawing. When the container is used merely for inclosing the stack of cups during shipment or at other times, the disk 6 is in position at the lower side of the head 3 and the tongues 5 extend transversely across the lower portion of the body 1. Thus the stack of cups, while in the said body, is completely inclosed and protected against dust and other foreign substances.

When the container is in use for dispensing the cups it is mounted upon a suitable support as hereinbefore described and the disk 6 is removed by tearing the material at the points 7 of those tongues 5 with which the said disk is connected. Thus the inner ends of all of the tongues 5 are disconnected from each other and when the body 1 is positioned as shown in Fig. 1, the stack of cups 8 is supported by the tongues 5. By the act of inserting the thumb and fore-finger of one hand between the ends of opposite tongues and the edges of the bottom of the lowermost cup, and then pressing on the sides of the lowermost cup, the latter may be pulled downwardly to the position shown in Fig. 1. By so pulling the lowermost cup, the stack will move downwardly as indicated in Fig. 1. When the lower portion of the lowermost cup 8 projects below the lower ends of the tongues 5, it is apparent that the projecting portion of the said lowermost cup may be grasped and the cup may be pulled in a downward direction from between the tongues 5 and disengaged from the lower end of the stack of cups. As the upper edge of the lowermost cup 8 passes between the tongues, the said tongues spring in an inward direction and bear frictionally

against the upper portion of the next lowermost cup of the stack of cups, and thus the stack of cups is held in position in the body 1 as each lowermost cup is removed therefrom.

From the above description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, it will be seen that a simple and an efficient container is provided for inclosing a stack of cups and that the said container may be used to advantage during the shipment or storage of the cups, and also at the time that the cups are dispensed when about to be used.

It is further desired to mention that the closure or cap 2 may be initially sealed in any well-known suitable manner to the cylindrical body 1, which, when taken in connection with the normally intact formation of the opposite end of the device, will furnish a means for rendering the device absolutely sanitary and dust-proof. It will avoid tampering with the package which may result in the handling of the cups as will be understood.

As to the formation of the head 3 it is also desired that it be observed that the destructible formation thereof is such that the cups cannot be fraudulently removed or the package tampered with without detection. The design of package herein explained is also such that the cylindrical body is non-reusable after the final cup of the original package or lot is dispensed.

Having described the invention what is claimed is:—

1. A container comprising a body, a cap closing one end thereof, a head applied to the opposite end thereof and having at its intermediate portion radially disposed incisions, the material between which constitute tongues, said head also having at its center a detachable disk which is connected at its periphery with some of the said tongues.

2. A container comprising a body, a head applied to one end thereof and provided at an intermediate portion with a series of radially disposed incisions, the material between which constitutes tongues, the said head having at its center a circular disk the periphery of which is joined at spaced points with some of the said tongues, the said disk being detachable from the tongues thereby disconnecting the inner ends of all of the tongues from each other.

3. A non-reusable container for drinking cups, comprising a body sealed at one end and provided at its opposite end with a plurality of normally flat tongues, and a destructible central portion connecting the tongues and adapted to be disconnected from the tongues so as to permit the latter to be projected at an angle to the axis of the container and to collectively grip the cups and permit of the normal support thereof, whereby they may be singly withdrawn.

4. A device forming the discharge end of an article dispenser, comprising a head having a plurality of normally flat gripping elements forming continuations of the head and disposed in the discharge path of the articles, means serving to normally hold the elements in a common plane with each other and destructible therefrom to effect an active gripping relation of the elements to the articles on the discharge of the same from the dispenser.

5. A device for dispensing articles, including a member having a normally intact weakened discharge portion presenting a multiplicity of substantially symmetrical gripping elements adapted to yieldingly grip the articles on the projection of the same between said elements, and a destructible element normally connected with said gripping elements.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

HARRIET HILL.

Witnesses:
JOHN A. DONEGAN,
GEO. F. BYRNE.