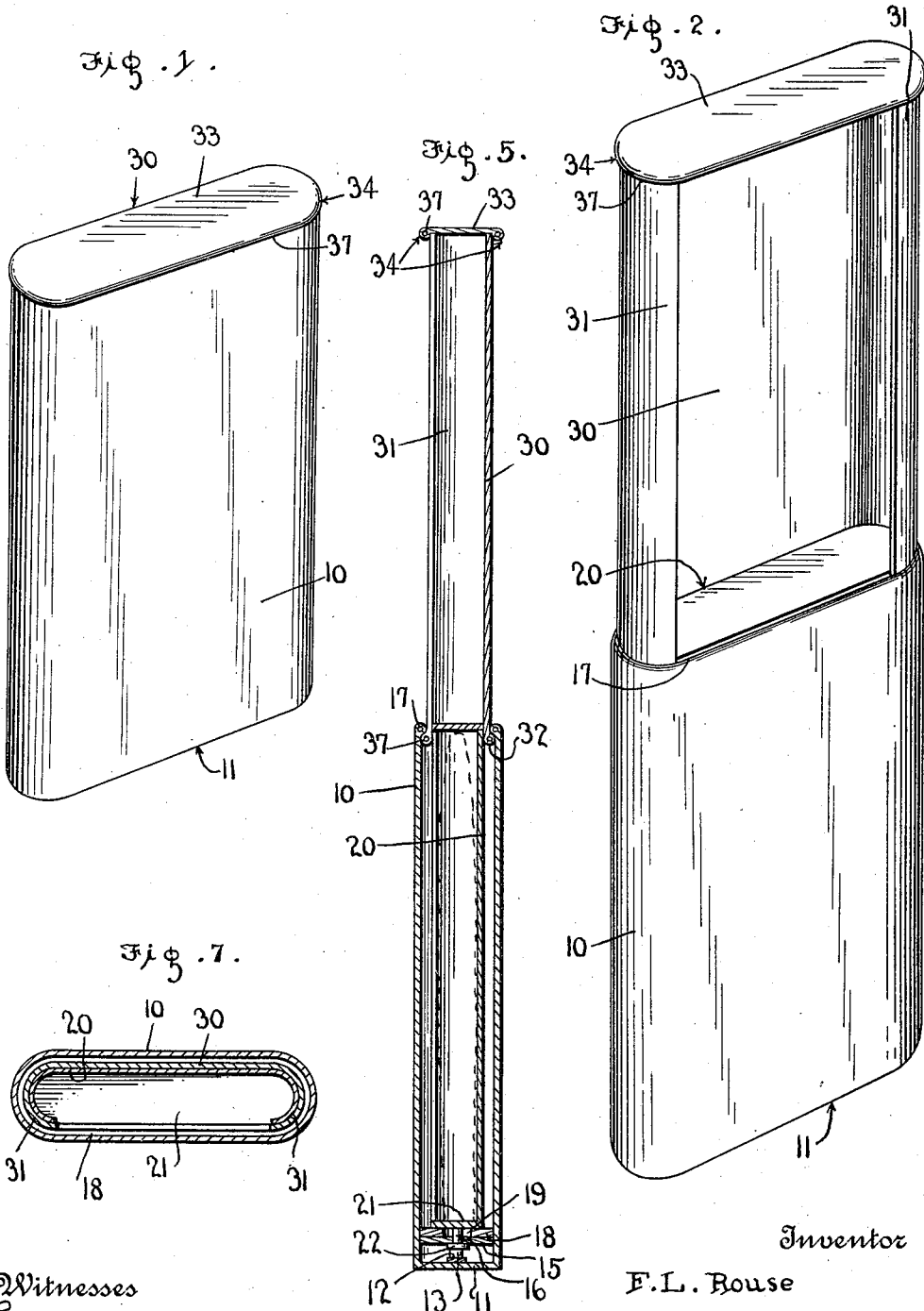


F. L. ROUSE.
TRICK CIGAR CASE.
APPLICATION FILED APR. 24, 1911.

1,023,276.

Patented Apr. 16, 1912.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



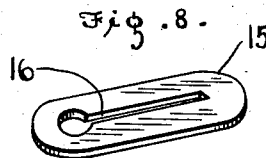
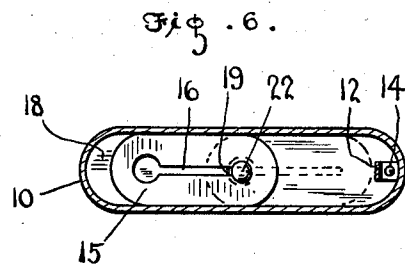
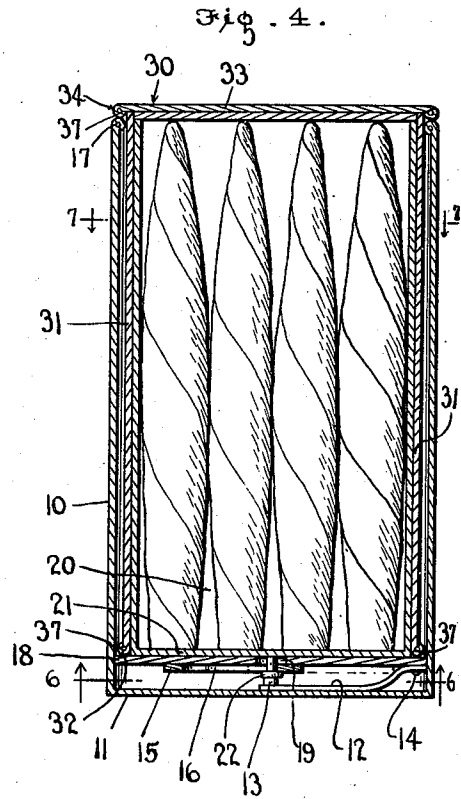
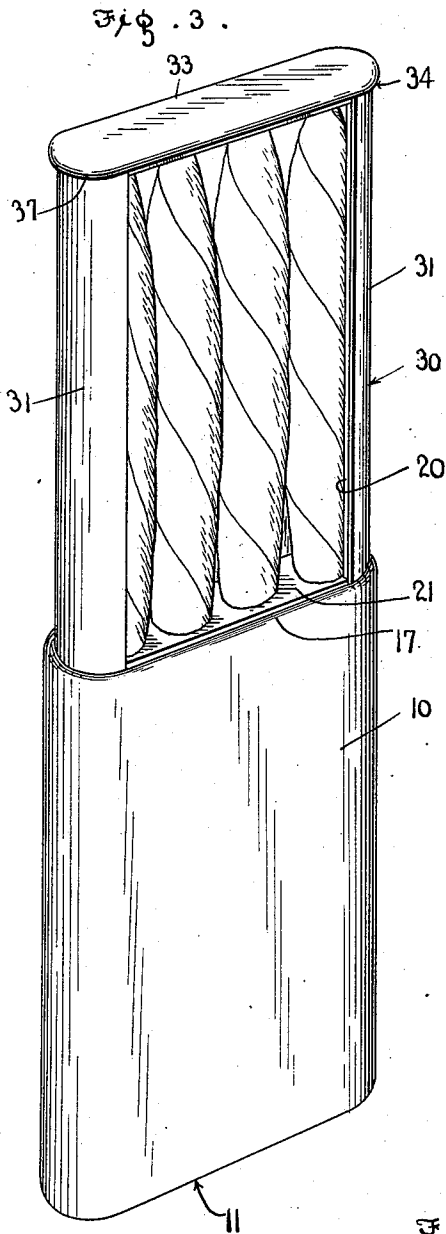
Witnesses
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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK L. ROUSE, OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS.

TRICK CIGAR-CASE.

1,023,276.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Apr. 16, 1912.

Application filed April 24, 1911. Serial No. 623,032.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK L. ROUSE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Somerville, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Trick Cigar-Cases; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to special receptacles, and more particularly to those adapted to contain cigars and cigarettes; and the object of the same is to produce a trick pocket case of this character having a peculiar form of locking device so constructed, that the user may either offer a cigar to a friend or show him that his case is apparently empty. This object is carried out by the construction hereinafter more fully described and claimed and as shown in the drawings wherein—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the device in closed position. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the device with the slide opened. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the case with the drawer opened. Fig. 4 is a longitudinal vertical sectional view of the device in closed position. Fig. 5 is a vertical cross sectional view of the device with the slide opened. Fig. 6 is a cross sectional view on the line 6—6 of Fig. 4. Fig. 7 is a cross sectional view on the line 7—7 of Fig. 4. Fig. 8 is a detail perspective view of the key.

The cigar or cigarette case may be said to comprise three telescoping members or sections which we will distinguish by calling the outermost the jacket which surrounds the other two, the innermost the drawer which contains the cigars, and the intermediate section the slide which moves between the other two sections and is always empty when drawn out. These constitute a cigar or cigarette case (in the drawings I have made it in proportions which will accommodate cigars, but of course it might be larger or smaller) and it is by preference of such size and shape that it can be conveniently carried in the pocket. By preference it is made entirely of metal although it might be of paper stock, or of leather or any other suitable material without departing from the spirit of my invention. Manifestly it could be ornamented on the outside so as to be a neat pocket arti-

cle, or it might be made to carry advertising and thus become a novelty to be given away by store keepers and others.

The numeral 10 designates broadly the jacket, 20 the drawer, and 30 the slide between the other two members or sections, and all these parts have the same general configuration and outline. Herein they are shown as relatively flat and rectangular in plan view with rounded edges and flattened ends whose corners are rounded off so that the whole cigar case will fit into the pocket of the user. All sections have the bottom closed and both sides also closed, what might be called the upper end of the jacket is open to permit the other members or sections to slide out of it, and what might be called its lower end has a true bottom 11 and a false bottom 18 spaced slightly inward from the true bottom and provided with a central hole 19.

So much of the device as has been described above is common in articles of this character, but the details of my invention are amplified in that portion of the specification which follows.

The true bottom 11 is of a material which is slightly yielding or resilient by preference so that if necessary it may be pressed upon by the finger of the operator, and as seen in Fig. 4 there is secured to the inner face of this bottom a spring 12 having a knob or disk 13 at its inner free end. Its point of attachment to the bottom is at 14 by means of rivets or the like, while the disk 13 stands over and opposite the hole 19 in the false bottom 18. These two bottoms are spaced slightly apart, and between them moves a gravity slide or key 15, best seen in Fig. 6, which is of the same general configuration as but less length than the bottom of the jacket and which has in it a key-hole opening 16. The latter is so disposed within the key that when it is moved to one extremity as by tipping up the jacket edgewise the flattened end of the key-hole 16 stands opposite the hole 19, but when the jacket is tipped up on the other edge and the slide is moved to the opposite extremity the larger or rounded end of the key-hole opening stands opposite the hole 19 and in this position it therefore necessarily stands opposite the disk 13 for a purpose which will appear hereinafter.

The drawer 20 is of a size and shape to slide freely within the jacket 10, than which

it is therefore slightly narrower for this purpose, and its top is open so that the cigars will be exposed when the drawer is withdrawn as shown. In length this section is slightly less than that of the jacket so that when housed therein with their upper ends flush the closed lower end 21 of the drawer will just rest upon the false bottom 18. This closed end carries a headed stud 22 which at this time projects through the hole 19 in the false bottom 18, so that when the key 15 moves in one direction the narrower end of the key-hole opening will engage the stem of said stud, but when the key moves in the opposite direction the larger end of said key-hole opening will come over the head of the stud and opposite the hole 19. Therefore it will be clear that at this time the drawer may be withdrawn, whereas at other times the drawer is locked in place.

The slide section 30 is of substantially the same configuration as the other two sections and its sides 31 are by preference curved and made rather thin so that they will move freely between the adjacent sides of the jacket 10 and drawer 20. Its inner end is open as at 32 so that the slide may be withdrawn without necessarily withdrawing the drawer, while its outer or upper end 33 is closed and is surrounded by a flange 34 which complements the upper end of the jacket 10 when all sections are housed together and which may be grasped by the hand of the operator in order to withdraw this slide. Its inner end around its closed sides 31 and closed outer or upper end 33 may have a slight bead 37 projecting outwardly to engage a similar bead 17 projecting inwardly around the open upper end of the jacket 10, the purpose obviously being to prevent the entire withdrawal of the slide from the jacket though this detail is not absolutely essential.

In use the parts are assembled as best seen in Fig. 4 and the drawer is filled with cigars or cigarettes as the case may be, four of the former being stored in this case. If a friend ask the user for a cigar, he can grasp the flange 34 and pull out the slide to convince the friend that he has none in his cigar case, because as it is withdrawn the slide moves outward between the other two sections and discloses its empty interior. The entire device will have been tipped to the left in Fig. 1 so that the key 15 slides downward by its own gravity and the slotted end of its opening 16 engages under the stud 22 and prevents the drawer 20 from being withdrawn along with the slide. The joke having been played upon the friend, suppose the user now desires to offer him a cigar. He closes the slide and tips the entire case with its right side downward so that the key 15 slides by its gravity to the right and the

round end of its opening 16 comes opposite the stud 22; then by pressing on the true bottom 11 if this be of spring material (or by the pressure of the disk 13 at the outer end of the spring 12 if this detail be employed) the drawer 20 is started outward from the jacket 10 until its outer end can be grasped and in its movement it carries the slide 30 with it although the closed upper end of the slide is in contact with the closed upper end of the drawer and the presence of the slide is not discovered. As soon as the drawer is projected slightly from the upper end of the jacket it may be grasped by hand and drawn out to its fullest extent which will of course expose the cigars therein.

It is not absolutely essential to use either a resilient true bottom 11 or a spring 12 unless the drawer has no flange over the end of the jacket, but I consider the use of one of these devices, and possibly both, to be desirable in a trick cigar case of this character. Especially will the disk 13 at the free end of the spring 12 pressing upon the stud 22 prevent any rattling of parts, whereas its presence would not interfere in any way with the gravital movement of the key 15. In fact the disk may be made so small that it will project through the smaller end of the key-hole opening 16 and contact with the stud 22 when the drawer is in place, without at any time making frictional contact with the sliding key 15 which might prevent a free movement of the latter under its own gravity.

What is claimed as new is:

1. In a cigar case, the combination with the inclosing jacket, a false bottom therein having a central hole, and a key slidable by gravity between the true and false bottoms and having through it a key-hole opening whereof the larger end is adapted to register with said hole at one extreme of the movement of the key; of a drawer slidable longitudinally into the jacket, and a headed stud on the lower end of said drawer adapted to pass through said hole and be engaged by the opening in said key.

2. In a cigar case, the combination with the inclosing jacket, a false bottom therein having a hole, and a key slidable by gravity between the true and false bottoms and having through it a key-hole opening whereof the larger end is adapted to register with said hole at one extreme of the movement of the key; of a drawer slidable in the jacket, a headed stud on its closed lower end adapted to pass through said hole and be engaged by said key-hole opening, and a spring secured within the true bottom of the jacket and having its free end engaging said stud when the drawer is in place.

3. In a cigar case, the combination with the inclosing jacket having its true bottom

resilient, a false bottom therein having a central hole, and a key slidable by gravity between the true and false bottoms and having through it a key-hole opening whereof
5 the larger end is adapted to register with said hole at one extreme of the movement of the key; of a drawer slidable within the jacket and having an open top and closed ends, a headed stud projecting from the
10 lower end and adapted to pass through the hole in said false bottom toward the true bottom, a slide having its top and lower end open and its sides movable between the sides

of the drawer and jacket, and a spring within the space between the true and false bottoms having a knob at its free end pressing on the head of said stud when the drawer is in place. 15

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses. 20

FRANK L. ROUSE.

Witnesses:

WILLIAM P. COTHARIN,
WILLIAM J. BREEN.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."