

Sept. 22, 1936.

S. K. WOLFF

2,054,959

CONTAINER

Filed Sept. 19, 1935

Fig. 1.

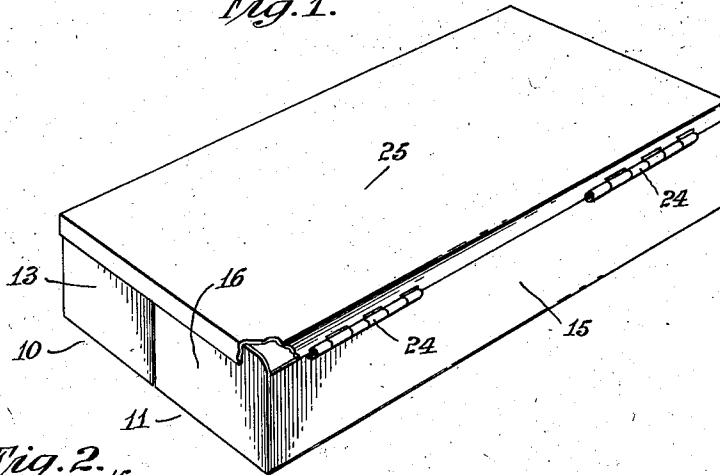


Fig. 2.

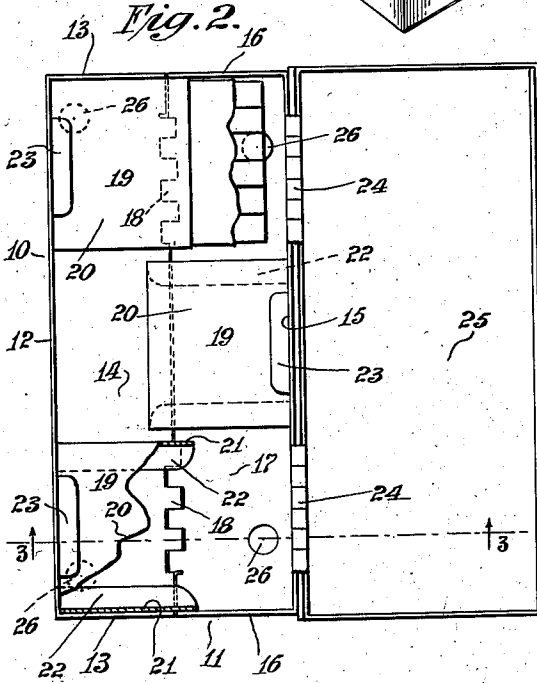


Fig. 3.

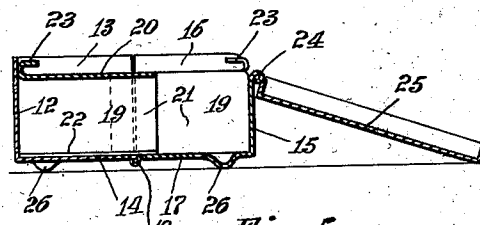


Fig. 5.

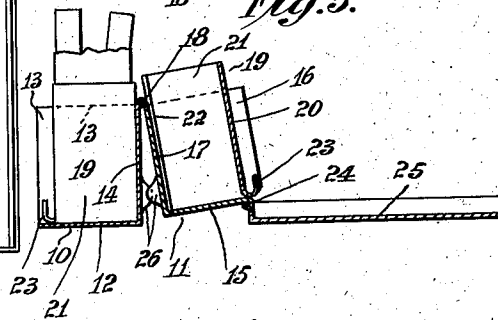
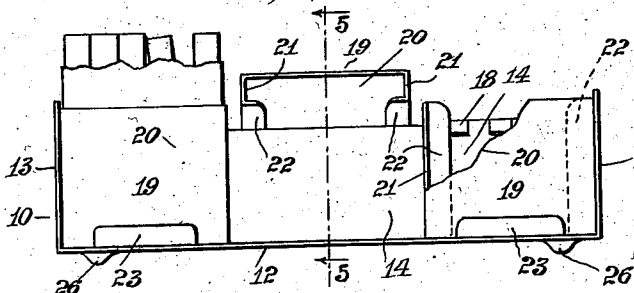


Fig. 4.



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2,054,959

CONTAINER

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Application September 19, 1935, Serial No. 41,245

7 Claims. (Cl. 131—51)

The invention relates to containers, and more particularly to an ornamental guest box for use upon a table, or similar article, so constructed that when opened, cigarettes and other smokers' articles may be conveniently removed therefrom.

Cigarettes are commonly packaged in cellophane covered paper and metal foil wrappers. In handling such packages, the wrappers, after removal of a few cigarettes therefrom, collapse, and the remaining cigarettes are liable to become soft from bending and pressing in handling the package. The appearance of a partially empty package is not attractive, and while this may be a matter of indifference to the individual smoker, a host or hostess prefers to offer an attractive package from which cigarettes may be removed without handling of packages, or of cigarettes other than the one being removed.

Most cigarette smokers have a favorite brand or make of cigarettes, and when entertaining guests, a selection of several of the more popular brands is provided in an attempt to furnish each guest with the brand which he or she prefers.

With the above conditions in mind, I have provided a container consisting of a plurality of separate compartments, each adapted to receive a package of cigarettes, these compartments being of a height to expose a considerable part of the package beyond the top of the compartment. The body of the container is made in two sections, hinged together in a manner to cause the top of each package, when the container is open, to project well above the container so as to permit ready access to any package when removing a cigarette therefrom.

The container is so constructed that when it is closed, no part of the contained cigarette packages can be bent or subjected to a deforming pressure. The container, when closed, has the appearance of an ordinary oblong box having a hinged cover protecting the contained packages from dust and dirt, a construction capable of receiving an attractive or decorative finish permitting its use as a table ornament.

When opening the container, the two hinged body sections have relative movement, and the cover has movement in relation to one of said sections, bringing all three parts of the container into positions in which the long wall of each section and the cover provide an extended base preventing possibility of toppling of the container while cigarettes are being removed from the package in any compartment.

The construction and arrangement of the two

box body sections and their contained compartments or pockets, and the cover therefor, is such that when the box is closed, or being closed, the movement of any of these parts is so limited as to preclude the application of any pressure to any part of the packages of cigarettes in said compartments.

The form of the box body sections and the compartments or pockets is such that space is afforded adjacent each compartment for a clip adapted to hold a package of paper matches in a position conveniently accessible when the container is open, and prevent the escape of the matches when opening or closing the container.

The invention consists primarily in a container embodying therein a body portion consisting of two sections, each having two end walls, one side wall and a bottom, a hinge connection between the bottoms of said sections, a plurality of compartment casings permanently secured within one of said body sections and of a width less than that of the two sections, whereby a space is afforded in the other section for articles projecting from said casing, a flanged cover adapted to close the tops of both of said sections, and a hinge connection between one edge flange of said cover and the top of the side wall of one of said sections, whereby with the raising of said cover, said sections will have pivotal movement in relation to each other so as to form an extended base consisting of the side wall of one of said sections and said cover; and in such other novel features of construction and combination of parts as are hereinafter set forth and described, and more particularly pointed out in the claims hereto appended.

Referring to the drawing,

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a container embodying the invention;

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the container with the cover open, but with the container not in the fully open position;

Fig. 3 is a section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a front view of the container in the fully open position; and

Fig. 5 is a transverse section of the container in the fully open position, on the line 5—5 of Fig. 4.

Like numerals refer to like parts throughout the several views.

As shown in the accompanying drawing, the container embodies therein a body composed of two sections 10 and 11. The front section 10 has a side wall 12, end walls 13 and a bottom 14. The rear section 11 has a side wall 15, end

walls 16 and a bottom 17. The two sections are united by hinges 18 connecting the free edges of the section bottoms 14 and 17 and permitting a free pivotal movement of the two sections when opening the box.

Within the box body, in the form of the invention shown in the drawing, are three compartment casings 19, each of which is identical with the others and is secured within the container body in the same manner, so that a description of but one of these casings, and the manner of assembling same within the container, is necessary.

Each compartment forming casing comprises a strip of material having a front wall 20, side walls 21 and rear flanges 22, by means of which it may be attached to the body of the container. The casing is secured in a position so that the bottom thereof is closed by a side wall of the container which is parallel with the hinges connecting the two sections.

In the form of the invention shown, the container is made of sheet metal throughout, and each casing 19 is secured to the bottom of the body section with which it is associated by being soldered, brazed or welded thereto so as to present a smooth finish exteriorly of the body.

Each casing 19 is of a height to extend beyond the edge of the bottom 14 or 17 of the body, so that when the container is closed, these casings, by engagement with the bottom of the other body section, will stop all pivotal movement of the container sections, thus preventing any possibility of these two sections turning in relation to each other to an extent to bend or crumple the projecting end of packages or other articles stored within the compartments formed by said casings.

While the abutting end walls of the two sections would, if not displaced in relation to each other, have the same effect in limiting the pivotal movement of the two body sections, there is always the possibility that such end walls might become deformed, or might flex in a manner to make their action as stops unreliable. By positioning the flanges 22 so that they will overlay and engage the bottom of the section other than that carrying the casing, positive stops are afforded, and at the same time the bottom of both casings is reinforced to an extent to prevent possible injury to packages contained within the various compartments.

In the form of the invention shown, the container is an oblong container and there are three compartment casings, two carried by the front section adjacent the opposite end walls thereof, and one carried by the rear section substantially centrally thereof so as to be positioned intermediate the end casings carried by the other section.

It will be noted that each casing, while of a height to project beyond the edge of the bottom of the section carrying same and engage the bottom of the other section, is nevertheless much shorter than the distance between the side wall of one section and the side wall of the other section, thus affording ample space for the reception of the projecting ends of packages deposited in each of these sections.

When the container is closed, the effect is the provision of a compartment casing carried by one section and a pocket formed in the other section in alignment therewith, and this condition is true whether the arrangement of the casing is as shown in the drawing, or whether all

of the casings are carried by the one section and project into the other section when the container is closed.

By this construction, when the container is closed, the package in each compartment is protected, as to every part thereof, from dust, dirt and bending stresses, and when the container is open, the upper end of each package projects well above any part of the container so as to be readily accessible for the purpose of removing articles from contained packages without unnecessary handling of the package or of individual articles not being removed.

Hence, it is possible, when packages of cigarettes are placed within the container compartments, to remove not only the top of the cellophane, paper and foil wrapping, but, if desired, to tear away a part of the sides of this wrapping without likelihood of the cigarettes being injured while within the container. At the same time, the container, when closed, acts as effectively to prevent drying out of the cigarettes as an ordinary metal carton.

The compartment casings are spaced apart in relation to each other in order to facilitate assembly of the container by convenient manufacturing methods, and at the same time avoid possible interference in the operation of the device by the compartment casings.

The bottom of each casing is provided with a wide central tongue 23 projecting outwardly of the casing wall and then parallel therewith, so as to provide a clip for the retention of a package of paper matches adjacent each compartment, the height of the side walls being relatively greater than the thickness of the casings 19.

The side wall 15 has hinged thereto, at 24, a flanged cover 25, the dimensions of which are such as to inclose the open tops of both sections 10 and 11 when the container is closed. This cover, in addition to protecting the contents of the container when closed, also serves as a handle for opening the container and a part of an extended base for preventing possibility of overturning of the container while it is open.

While not specifically designed as an ash receiver, the position and construction of the cover is such that it may, and undoubtedly will, be used for this purpose.

The bottoms 14 and 17 of the sections 10—11 have outwardly formed spherical nubs 26 forming rests for supporting the container from any surface to an extent to prevent engagement of the hinges 18 with that surface. These nubs are differentially located adjacent the angle at each end of the side walls 12 and 15 and the adjacent end walls 13 and 16, thus affording divergent supports for the container when it is closed.

Three compartment casings are used merely because, at the present time, there are three of the more popular brands of cigarettes.

When the container is closed, the two body sections 10 and 11 are folded together and the cover is closed upon both sections, the flange of the cover inclosing the top of the side and end walls of both sections since, in forming the sockets of the hinges 24, the material of the side wall 15 and of the adjacent flange of the cover is used, thus locating the axis of these hinges slightly below the top of said side wall. Hence, the flange of the cover adjacent the wall 15 laps upon the exterior of this wall.

As heretofore stated, cigarettes preferably are

placed in the compartment casings while in the original packages, the tops and a portion of the sides of the material of the packages being torn away to expose a short length of the cigarettes beyond the wrapper. The wrapper of the package projects beyond the top of the compartment casing, thus identifying the brand of the cigarettes in that compartment by the exposed portion of the wrapper. A folder of paper matches may be inserted in the clip adjacent each casing.

After filling the various compartments and clips, the container may be closed, and when closed, except for its decorative or ornamental character, does not differ materially from the ordinary tin carton for one hundred cigarettes.

When it is desired to tender a cigarette to a guest, it is merely necessary to grasp the cover 25 in one hand, swing the cover about the hinges 24, raise the container until the side wall 12 rests upon the table and then allow the cover to drop, the weight of the cover turning the section 11 about the hinges 18 and completely opening the container, so that the parts assume the position shown in Fig. 5 of the drawing.

When the container is thus opened, the ends of the packages of cigarettes project for substantially one-half of their length above the end walls 13 and 16 and above the abutting edges of the bottoms 14 and 17, thus avoiding any obstruction which can interfere with the grasping of a cigarette with the nails of the thumb and the forefinger in removing same from the package.

It will be noted that when the container is fully opened, the side wall 15 and the cover 25 engage the same flat surface, thus avoiding any possibility of the toppling of the container while in use. While the side wall 15 has an angular position in relation to the surface upon which the container rests, the portion of the side wall at the juncture with the bottom 17 also rests upon said surface. Notwithstanding that the relation of the container sections 10 and 11 may be disturbed when removing a cigarette therefrom, nevertheless when the container is released, it will immediately reassume the position shown in Fig. 5.

When it is desired to close the container, it is merely necessary to grasp a flange of the cover 25, raise it and the section 11, and turn said section about the hinges 18, thus bringing the two sections 10 and 11 into perfect alinement, so that when both sections topple towards the cover, it may be fitted to both sections as shown in Fig. 1.

In the form of the invention shown in the drawing, the space in the section 10, between the compartment casings 19, receives the projecting end of the package of cigarettes contained in the casing 19 secured to the section 11, and the space upon each side of the casing 19 secured to the section 11 receives the projecting end of the packages of cigarettes contained in the compartments 19 secured to the section 10.

As the two sections 10 and 11 come into register with each other, the portion of the flanges 22 of the casings of each section overlap and engage the bottom of the other section, thus preventing any movement of these two sections excepting about the hinges 18 in a direction to move the projecting ends of the cigarettes carried in the compartment of one section away from the bottom of the other section. With this condition, there can be no bending and resulting mutilation of cigarettes because of the movement of the two sections 10 and 11.

While the construction of container herein described lends itself particularly to the use of sheet

metal in its production, it is obvious that other materials may be used.

I have also described the invention in connection with the convenient presentation of cigarettes to a guest. It is obvious, however, that the articles stored in the various compartments form no part of the invention.

The container of the invention is designed primarily as an ornamental household novelty, the limited capacity of the container making its use as a display box undesirable. The box itself is an article of manufacture to be sold as such and not as a carton to promote the sales of other articles.

It is not my intention to limit the invention to the precise details of construction shown in the accompanying drawing, it being apparent that such may be modified with the use of different materials or different manufacturing methods without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

Having described the invention, what I claim as new and desire to have protected by Letters Patent, is:—

1. A container embodying therein a body portion consisting of two sections, each having two end walls, one side wall and a bottom, a hinge connection between the bottoms of said sections, a plurality of compartment casings permanently secured within one of said body sections and of a width less than that of the two sections, whereby a space is afforded in the other section for articles projecting from said casing, a flanged cover adapted to close the tops of both of said sections, and a hinge connection between one edge flange of said cover and the top of the side wall of one of said sections, whereby with the raising of said cover, said sections will have pivotal movement in relation to each other so as to form an extended base consisting of the side wall of one of said sections and said cover.

2. A container embodying therein a body portion consisting of two sections, each having two end walls, one side wall and a bottom, a hinge connection between the bottoms of said sections, a plurality of compartment casings permanently secured to the bottom of one of said body sections and of a width greater than that of the section to which it is secured but less than that of the two sections, whereby a space is afforded in the other section for articles projecting from said casing, and relative movement of said sections when closing the container is limited, a cover adapted to close the tops of both of said sections, and a hinge connection between one edge of said cover and the top of the side wall of one of said sections, whereby with the raising of said cover, said sections will have pivotal movement in relation to each other so as to form an extended base consisting of the side wall of one of said sections and said cover.

3. A container embodying therein a body portion consisting of two sections, each having two end walls, one side wall and a bottom, a hinge connection between the bottoms of said sections, a plurality of compartment casings, each comprising a strip of material bent to form a front wall, side walls and rear flanges, whereby said casing may be permanently secured to the bottom of one of said body sections and of a width less than that of the two sections, whereby a space is afforded in the other section for articles projecting from said casing, one end of said casing being closed by the side wall of the section with which it is connected, a cover adapted

to close the tops of both of said sections, and a hinge connection between one edge of said cover and the top of the side wall of one of said sections, whereby with the raising of said cover, said sections will have pivotal movement in relation to each other so as to form an extended base consisting of the side wall of one of said sections and said cover.

4. A container embodying therein a body portion consisting of two sections, each having two end walls, one side wall and a bottom, a hinge connection between the bottoms of said sections, a plurality of compartment casings, each comprising a strip of material bent to form a front wall, side walls and rear flanges, whereby said casing may be permanently secured to the bottom of one of said body sections and of a width greater than that of the section to which it is secured but less than that of the two sections, whereby a space is afforded in the other section for articles projecting from said casing, and relative movement of said sections when closing the container is limited, one end of said casing being closed by the side wall of the section with which it is connected, a cover adapted to close the tops of both of said sections, and a hinge connection between one edge of said cover and the top of the side wall of one of said sections, whereby with the raising of said cover, said sections will have pivotal movement in relation to each other so as to form an extended base consisting of the side wall of one of said sections and said cover.

5. A container embodying therein a body portion consisting of two sections, each having two end walls, one side wall and a bottom, a hinge connection between the bottoms of said sections, a plurality of compartment casings, each comprising a strip of material bent to form a front wall, side walls and rear flanges, whereby said casing may be permanently secured to the bottom of one of said body sections and of a width less than that of the two sections, whereby a space is afforded in the other section for articles projecting from said casing, one end of said casing being closed by the side wall of the section with which it is connected, a tongue formed outwardly and upwardly of the end of said casing adjacent the bottom of the section to which it is secured, a cover adapted to close the tops of both of said sections, and a hinge connection between one edge of said cover and the top of the side wall of one of said sections, whereby with the raising of said cover, said sections will have pivotal movement in relation to each other so as to form an extended base consisting of the side wall of one of said sections and said cover.

6. A container embodying therein a body portion consisting of two sections, each having two end walls, one side wall and a bottom, a hinge connection between the bottoms of said sections, a plurality of compartment casings, each comprising a strip of material bent to form a front wall, side walls and rear flanges, whereby said casing may be permanently secured to the bottom of one of said body sections and of a width greater than that of the section to which it is secured but less than that of the two sections, whereby a space is afforded in the other section for articles projecting from said casing, and relative movement of said sections when closing the container is limited, one end of said casing being closed by the side wall of the section with which it is connected, a tongue formed outwardly and upwardly of the end of said casing adjacent the bottom of the section to which it is secured, a cover adapted to close the tops of both of said sections, and a hinge connection between one edge of said cover and the top of the side wall of one of said sections, whereby with the raising of said cover, said sections will have pivotal movement in relation to each other so as to form an extended base consisting of the side wall of one of said sections and said cover.

7. A container embodying therein a body portion consisting of two sections, each having two end walls, one side wall and a bottom, a hinge connection between the bottoms of said sections, two compartment casings secured one adjacent each end wall of one of said sections, a third compartment casing secured to the other section intermediate said two casings, each of said compartment casings comprising a strip of material bent to form a front wall, side walls and rear flanges, whereby said casing may be permanently secured to the bottom of one of said body sections and of a width less than that of the two sections, whereby a space is afforded in the other section for articles projecting from said casing, one end of said casing being closed by the side wall of the section with which it is connected, a cover adapted to close the tops of both of said sections, and a hinge connection between one edge of said cover and the top of the side wall of one of said sections, whereby with the raising of said cover, said sections will have pivotal movement in relation to each other so as to form an extended base consisting of the side wall of one of said sections and said cover.

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