

April 19, 1938.

P. D. PARSONS

2,114,935

TOWEL DISPENSING CABINET

Filed Sept. 12, 1936

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

*Fig. 1.*

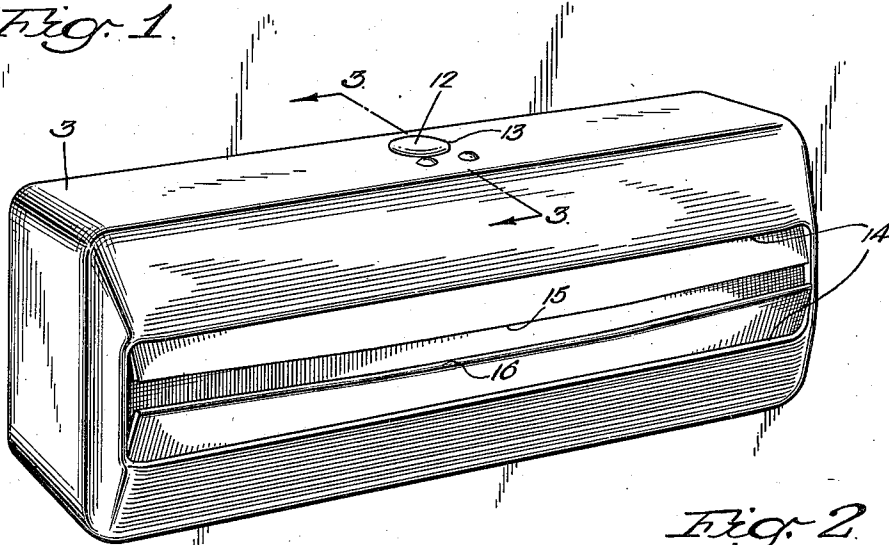
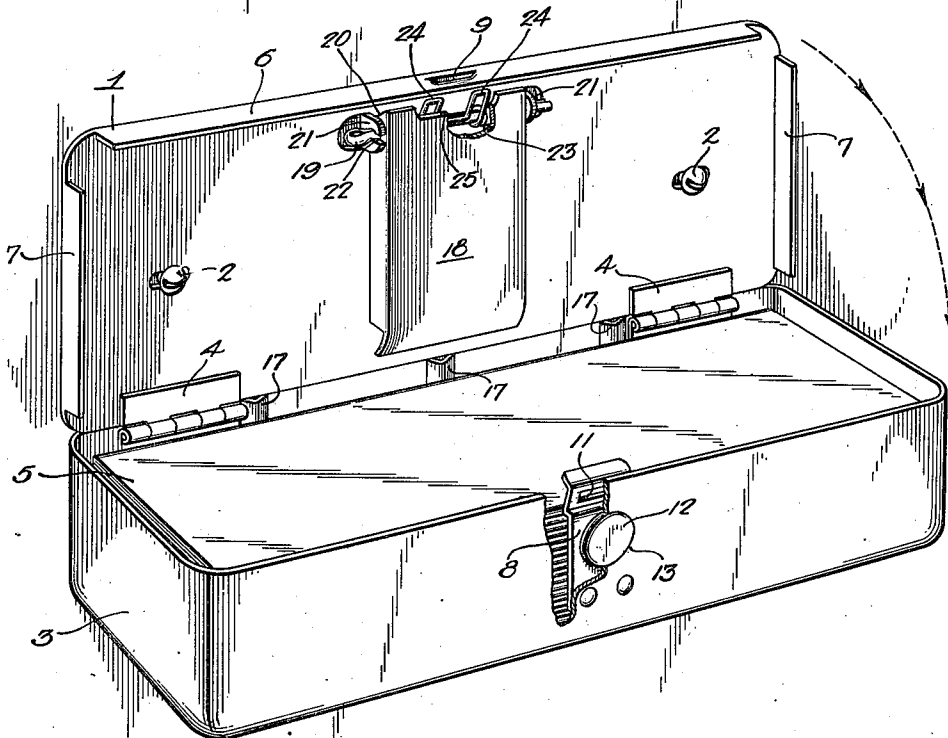


*Fig. 2.*



*Inventor+*  
*Philip D. Parsons*  
*by his Attorneys*  
*Hewson & Hewson*

April 19, 1938.

P. D. PARSONS

2,114,935

TOWEL DISPENSING CABINET

Filed Sept. 12, 1936

2 Sheets-Sheet 2

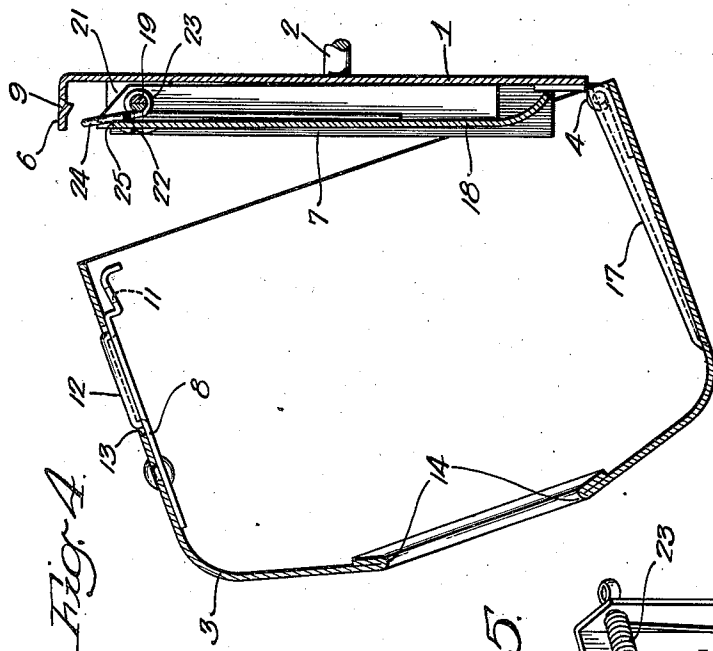


Fig. 4.

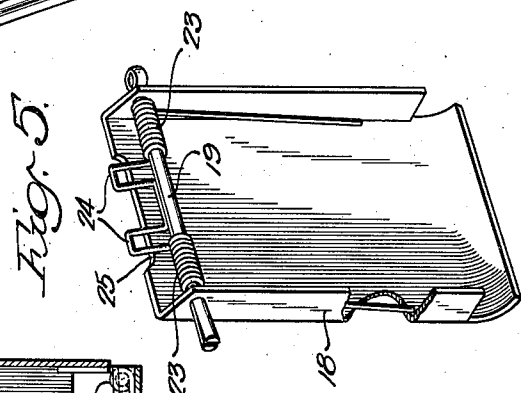


Fig. 5.

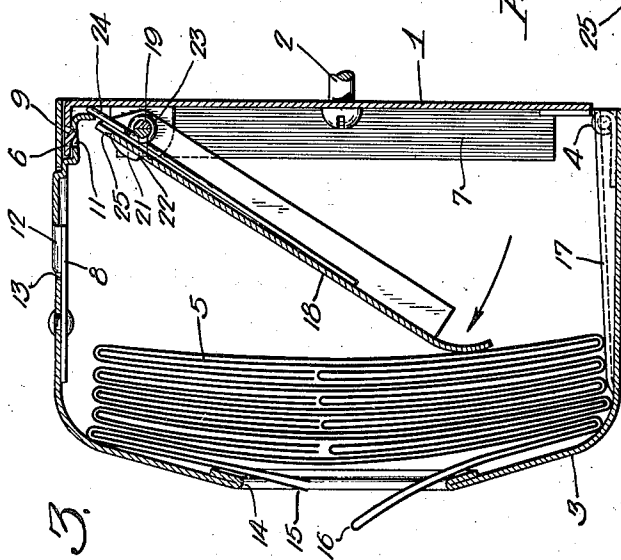


Fig. 3.

Inventor:  
Philip D. Parsons  
by his Attorneys  
Hosson & Hosson

## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,114,935

## TOWEL DISPENSING CABINET

Philip D. Parsons, Swarthmore, Pa., assignor to  
Scott Paper Company, Chester, Pa., a corpora-  
tion of Pennsylvania

Application September 12, 1936, Serial No. 100,563

4 Claims. (Cl. 312-62)

This invention relates to towel cabinets of a type adapted more particularly for paper towels and from which the towels may be individually withdrawn for use. More specifically, the invention relates to a type of cabinet wherein the individual towels are supported in vertical planes and are withdrawn through a suitably formed aperture in the forward face of the cabinet.

A principal object of the invention is to provide a cabinet of this type of generally improved construction, which may be manufactured economically from sheet metal, is efficient in operation, and which presents a desirably neat appearance.

Another object of the invention is to provide in a cabinet of the stated type an improved form of device for exerting pressure at the back of the towel pack required to maintain the pack and the individual towels in position for ready withdrawal from the cabinet.

A more specific object of the present invention is to provide a pressure device that is thrown into operation automatically by the closing of the cabinet and which when the cabinet is opened is permitted to occupy an inoperative position at the back of the cabinet wherein it offers no obstruction to the charging of the cabinet with a fresh supply of towels.

Still another object is to provide a novel and improved form of latching means for normally retaining the cabinet in the closed condition.

Still another object is to combine with this latch the function of actuating the pressure device in the manner set forth above.

The invention further resides in certain novel structural features and details hereinafter described and illustrated in the attached drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a front view in perspective of the cabinet;

Fig. 2 is a front view in perspective showing the cabinet open for charging with a supply of towels;

Fig. 3 is a section on the line 3-3, Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a similar sectional view showing the cabinet partly open and illustrating the operation of the pressure device, and

Fig. 5 is a detached perspective view of the pressure plate assembly.

With reference to the drawings, the cabinet in a preferred embodiment comprises two principal parts or complementary elements consisting respectively of a back plate 1, which is adapted to be secured against a wall surface by means for example of screws 2, and a casing member 3 which is attached by hinges 4, 4 to the lower edge of

the back plate 1 and which is shaped to more or less neatly receive the towel pack indicated in Fig. 2 by the reference numeral 5. In the present instance, the back plate 1 is formed at its upper and side edges with forwardly projecting flanges 6 and 7 which when the cabinet is closed fit into the top and sides of the casing member 3.

Secured to the inside of the top wall of the casing 3 is a spring latch 8 the free end of which when the cabinet is closed slides under the flange 6. The flange 6 has a depressed boss 9 which is adapted to fit into an aperture 11 in the latch 8 to thereby lock the casing 3 in the elevated or closed position. This latch may be released to permit movement of the casing member 3 to the depressed or open position by means of pressure exerted upon a button 12 which projects from the face of the latch and through an aperture 13 in the top wall of the casing 3. As shown in Figs. 1 and 3, the front wall of the casing 3 is provided with an elongated opening 14 through which access may be had to the towels within the cabinet and through which the said towels may be individually withdrawn. The front or apertured wall of the casing 3 is bowed outwardly from the upper and lower edges to the edges of the aperture 14.

The towel pack 5 consists of a number of towels arranged one behind the other and so individually folded that their upper and lower edges 15 and 16 project into the aperture 14, these edges thereby being accessible for withdrawing the towels from the cabinet through said aperture. When the cabinet is open as shown in Fig. 2, this towel pack may be readily dropped into the cavity of the casing 3, and when the cabinet is closed, the towels rest in vertical position upon a plurality of ribs 17, which in the present instance are pressed up from the bottom wall of the casing member 3. In order to maintain the towel pack at the front of the cabinet and against the front wall, particularly after a number of the towels have been withdrawn, it is necessary to provide means for exerting pressure continuously against the back of the pack. To this end, I provide a pressure plate 18 which is secured by means of a hinge pin 19 between lugs 21, 21 projecting inwardly from the back plate 1 adjacent the upper edge of the latter. In the present instance, these lugs 21 are formed integrally with the back plate 1 by pressing out portions of the latter. One of these lugs is formed with a single aperture, while the other lug, shown at the left in Fig. 2, is provided at its forward side with a slot 22 which terminates at its inner end in an aperture of suitable size to

accommodate the pin 19. Originally the slot 22 is sufficiently wide to permit the pin 19 being passed therethrough into the terminal aperture, and in assembling the pressure plate 18 with the back plate 1, one end of the cotter pin 19 is passed through the aperture in the one lug 21, and the other end is passed through the slot 22 in the aperture in the other lug 21, after which the portions of the latter lug at opposite sides of the slot 22 are forced together by pressure sufficiently to retain the pin in position. Subsequently if it is necessary to detach the pressure plate 18, the cotter pin 19 may be withdrawn longitudinally from the apertures of the two lugs. By this means, the pressure plate 18 is suspended from the pin 19 and normally occupies a position substantially flat against the back plate 1, as illustrated in Figs. 1 and 4. It will be noted that the pressure plate 18 is provided at each side with a rearwardly extending flange through which the pivot pin 19 extends, and that the upper end of each of these flanges is beveled, as indicated at 20, to permit the lower end of the pressure plate to swing outwardly away from the back plate 1 and to thereby assume an angular position with respect to the plane of the latter.

The pin 19 supports a coiled spring 23 the extremities of which are extended and lie against the rear face of the pressure plate. Centrally thereof the spring 23 is provided with two upstanding loops 24, 24, and the upper edge of the pressure plate 18 is cut away at 25 to expose the upper ends of the said spring loops 24. The loops 24 are formed at an angle approaching 90° to the extremities of the spring, which as previously described lie at the back of the pressure plate 18, and with the loops 24 engaging the edge of the aperture 25, and the extremities of the spring engaging the back of the plate 18, the spring is thus held normally under tension. Also the loops 24 of the spring project forwardly at an angle away from the plane of the back plate 1.

It is apparent that if under these conditions the upper ends of the loops 24 are forced back towards the back plate 1, the pressure plate 18, by reason of the pressure against the back thereof of the extremities of the spring, will be swung on the pivot pin 19 away from the back plate 1. When the casing 3 is moved up into the closed position, the flanged extremity of the latch 8 passing through the recess 25 of the pressure plate 18 engages the loops 24, 24 of the spring and forces the loops rearwardly toward the back plate 1, and thereby swings the lower end of the pressure plate forwardly against the back of the towel pack 5, and the pressure of the plate 18 against the towel pack is maintained by reason of the resiliency of the spring 23. The pressure plate 18 thus functions to exert resilient pressure against the towel pack forcing the edges forwardly in the cabinet and against the apertured front wall. The forward or outward slant of this front wall, previously described, above and below the aperture 14 permits the free edges 15 and 16 of the towels to project slightly through the aperture so that they may be readily grasped for withdrawal of the towels from the cabinet. The relative positions of the various parts described above are clearly shown in Fig. 3. It will be noted now that the pressure plate 18 is forced away from its normal depending position at the back of the cabinet into an operative position with respect to the towel pack only when the cabinet is closed, and that movement of the casing 3 toward the open position, as shown in

Fig. 4, by releasing the pressure on the loops 24, 24 of the spring permits the plate 18 to assume a normally depending position in the back of the cabinet as illustrated. When, therefore, the cabinet is fully opened as shown in Fig. 2, the pressure plate 18 occupies a position offering no obstruction to the insertion or withdrawal of towels in and from the casing 3. While in the present instance the latch 8 performs the double function of a locking element and a keeper for the spring 23, it is apparent that by slight modification the latter function may be removed from the latch and imposed upon a separate element secured to the casing member. There may be other modifications without departure from the invention.

I claim:

1. A dispensing cabinet for towels comprising a casing having a rear section adapted to be secured against a wall surface, and a forward casing section hinged to the bottom of said rear section and movable on said hinges between an upright closed position and a substantially horizontal open position, said casing section having in its forward wall an aperture affording access for withdrawal of the towels from the cabinet, a pressure member movably mounted on said rear casing section and adapted normally to occupy a retracted position on the latter, a spring also mounted on the rear casing section and operatively associated with said pressure member for resiliently urging said member toward an extended position and against the towels to thereby support the towels in a vertical position in the forward casing section and against said apertured wall, said spring being normally inoperative and permitting said member to assume the retracted position when the casing is open, to thereby permit unobstructed access to the front casing section for replenishing the supply of towels therein and means on said forward casing section automatically operative when the casing is closed to actuate the spring to urge the pressure plate toward an extended position and against the towels.

2. A dispensing cabinet for towels comprising a casing having a rear section adapted to be secured against a wall surface, and a forward casing section movable between open and closed positions with respect to said rear section, said forward casing section having an aperture in its front wall affording access for withdrawal of the towels from the cabinet, means for locking said sections in the closed position, a pivot pin mounted transversely in the upper part of said rear casing section, a pressure member suspended from said pivot pin and normally occupying a retracted position on the said rear section, a spring mounted on said pivot pin and adapted to exert pressure against said pressure member to urge the latter away from the rear casing section and against the towels to urge the latter toward the apertured wall of said casing, said spring being normally inoperative and permitting said pressure member to assume its normal retracted position, and said means having a portion carried by the forward casing section for operatively engaging the spring whereby when the lock is operated to retain the casing sections together the said spring is automatically actuated to resiliently force the pressure member away from the rear section of the casing and into operative engagement with the towels.

3. A dispensing cabinet for towels comprising a casing having complementary front and rear

sections, said rear section being adapted to be secured against a wall surface, and said front section being relatively movable with respect to the rear section to open and close the casing, a flange 5 projecting forwardly from the upper edge of said rear section, a latching element carried by the front section and arranged for engagement with the under side of said flange to lock the sections together in closed position, said front section 10 having in the front wall thereof an aperture affording access for withdrawal of the towels from the casing, a pivot pin supported at the top of said rear section, a pressure plate suspended from said pivot pin, a spring carried by said 15 pivot pin and adapted to exert pressure at the rear of said pressure plate to urge the latter away from the rear casing section and against the towels to force the towels toward the said apertured wall, said spring being normally inoperative and 20 permitting said pressure plate to occupy a normal retracted position on the rear casing section, and said spring having upstanding portions exposed at the top of said plate, which portions when forced rearwardly toward the rear 25 casing section cause the spring to exert pressure against the said plate to urge the latter resiliently away from said rear casing member and against the towels, and said spring portions

being located in the path of said latching element and being forced by the latter rearwardly when the casing sections are brought together in the closed position to thereby actuate the spring to extend the pressure plate. 5

4. A dispensing cabinet for towels comprising rear and front complementary casing sections relatively movable between open and closed positions, the forward casing section having in a wall thereof an aperture affording access for withdrawal of the towels from the cabinet, and means 10 on the rear casing section for exerting pressure against the towels to force the latter toward said apertured wall, said means comprising a pivot pin and a pressure element suspended from said 15 pin, a pair of apertured lugs for reception of said pin, one of said lugs having a slot extending from the edge of the lug inwardly to said aperture and of sufficient width to admit the said pin there-through to the aperture, and the portions of said 20 lug at the opposite sides of the slot being adapted to be forced together after the pin has been introduced into the aperture to thereby prevent retraction of the pin through the slot, and a spring operatively associated with said plate and 25 adapted to resiliently force the said plate against the towels.

PHILIP D. PARSONS.