

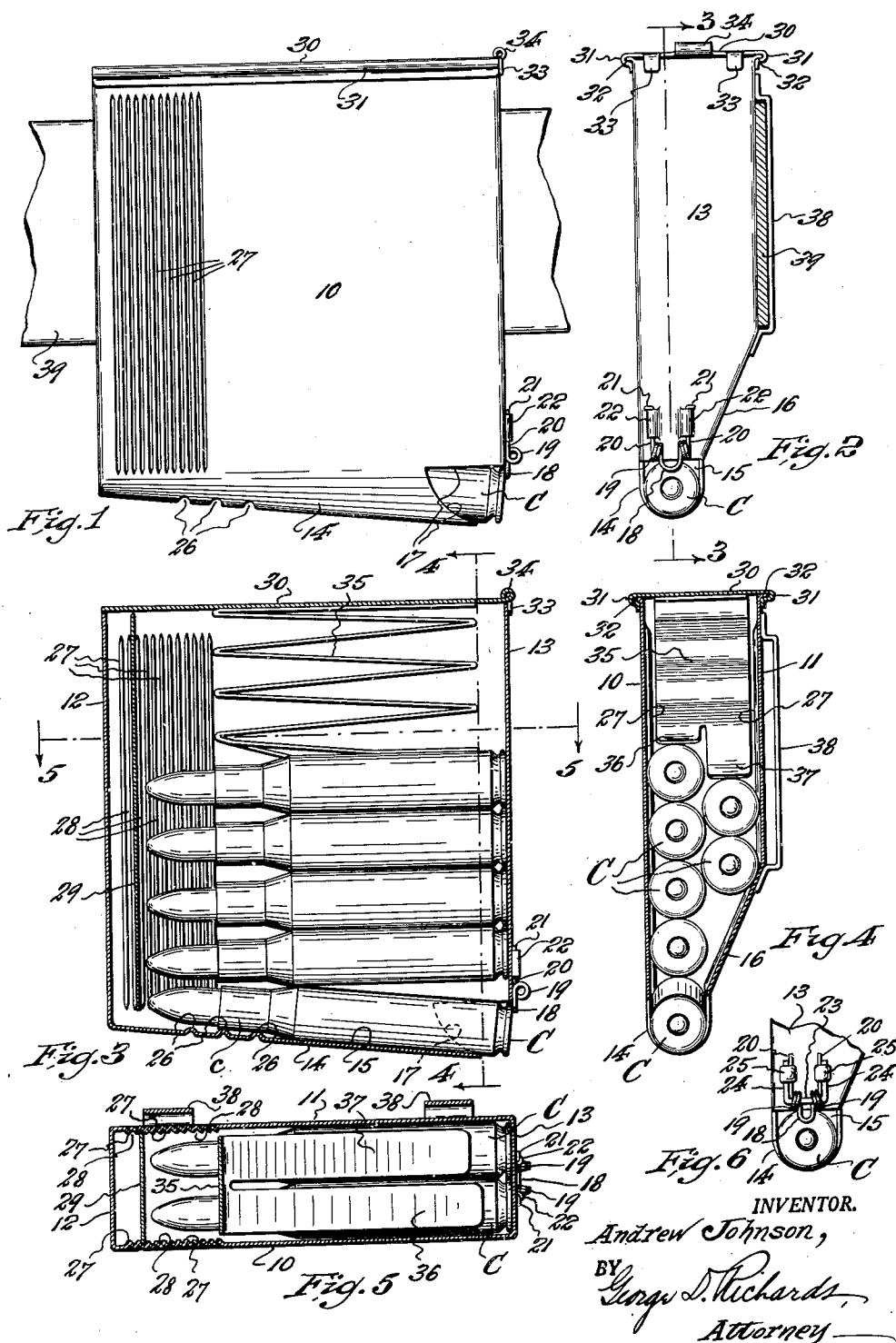
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AMMUNITION DISPENSING DEVICE

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AMMUNITION DISPENSING DEVICE

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This invention relates to improvements in a device for carrying and dispensing fire-arm ammunition, such as cartridges, shells and the like.

The invention has for an object to provide a novel construction of container adapted to hold a plurality of cartridges or the like, said container having novel means at its bottom end for exposing a portion of a bottommost cartridge contained therein accessible to the user's fingers, so that the same may be grasped and withdrawn for use; yieldable means being provided to releasably hold said bottommost cartridge against outward escape from the container until it is desired to be grasped and withdrawn.

The invention has for further objects to provide a novel dispensing container for the above-stated purposes which includes means for feeding its content of cartridges downwardly toward the discharge end of the container; to provide means for adjustably sizing the interior of the container for accommodation of various lengths of cartridges; and to provide the container with means for attaching the same for convenient carriage, to an apparel belt worn by the user.

Other objects of this invention, not at this time more particularly enumerated, will be understood from the following detailed description of the same.

An illustrative embodiment of the invention is shown in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a side elevational view of the ammunition dispensing device; Fig. 2 is an end elevational view, viewed from the right in Fig. 1; Fig. 3 is a longitudinal vertical sectional view, taken on line 3-3 in Fig. 2; Fig. 4 is a transverse vertical sectional view, taken on line 4-4 in Fig. 3; and Fig. 5 is a horizontal sectional view, taken on line 5-5 in Fig. 3.

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary end elevational view, similar to that of Fig. 2, but showing a modified mounting of the yieldable detent means for holding a bottommost cartridge against outward escape from the container.

Similar characters of reference are employed in the hereinabove described views, to indicate corresponding parts.

Referring to the drawings, the ammunition dispensing device comprises an upwardly open container which is formed by a front wall 10, a back wall 11, a rear end wall 12 and a forward end wall 13. The bottom end of the container is closed by a bottom wall 14 which is of transversely curved formation, and which is downwardly inclined from the rear end wall 12 toward the forward end wall 13 of the container. This bot-

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tom wall 14 is thus internally shaped conformably to the cylindrical contour of cartridges C which are to be carried in the container, and, as so shaped, provides a discharge chute 15 in which a bottommost cartridge is supported.

The main body of the container may be of a width adapted to accommodate but a single column or stack of cartridges C, but, preferably, is of a width to accommodate a double column or stack of such cartridges, as shown. In the latter case, the back wall 11 of the container is provided, at its lower portion, with an inwardly and downwardly inclined wall section 16 which is convergent upon the discharge chute 15.

At the forward end of the container, the end, side and bottom walls thereof are cut away to provide an inwardly offset opening or mouth 17 at the forward end of the chute 15, thus exposing an end portion of the bottommost cartridge C which is lodged in said chute, so that said cartridge is accessible and subject to being grasped by the fingers and withdrawn from the container by the user.

Affixed to the forward end wall 13 of the container, so as to overhang the discharge opening or mouth 17 of the chute 15, is a yieldable detent means which is operative to retain the bottommost cartridge C in the chute 15 against accidental outward escape therefrom. This detent means, in one form thereof as shown in Figs. 1, 2, 3 and 5 more particularly, comprises a U-shaped stop member 18, the respective arms of which terminate in helical spring coils 19 which serve as resiliently yieldable hinging members for said stop member. The outer ends of said respective spring coils 19 terminate in upwardly extending supporting legs 20, which are adapted to be affixed to the outer face of the forward end wall 13 of the container, so as to dispose the detent means in such relation to the discharge opening or mouth 17 of the chute 15 that the stop member 18 will overhang said opening or mouth, and thus lap the upper marginal portion of the exposed end of the cartridge C contained in the chute 15, thereby detaining said cartridge against accidental escape from the chute. The legs 20 of the detent means may be affixed to the forward end wall 13 of the container in various ways, as e. g. by soldering or brazing the same thereto. Preferably, however, said legs 20 are secured to said container wall by means of anchor lugs 21, which are struck out from said wall so as to embrace said legs 20. The upper ends of the legs 20, in such case, are preferably provided with out-turned angular keeper

portions 22, which abut the upper sides of said anchor lugs 21, so as to prevent accidental withdrawal of the legs 20 from the embrace thereof.

In Fig. 6 is shown a somewhat modified arrangement for mounting the detent means in supported connection with the forward end wall 13 of the container. In this latter arrangement, the hinging spring coils 19 are mounted on and around the transverse section 23 of a U-shaped supporting member having upwardly extending arms 24, along which the legs 20 of the detent means extend. Said arms 24 and legs 20 are, as shown, together secured to the container end wall 13 by solder 25; although it will be obvious that the same may be secured by anchor lugs in the manner previously described, or in any other suitable manner.

While either of the above described forms of detent means is deemed preferable, it will be understood that other and varied forms thereof may be employed so long as a dependent yieldable stop member is included for overlapping restraining engagement with the exposed end of a cartridge C held in the discharge chute 15 of the container.

The bottom wall 14 of the container, which defines the discharge chute 15, is provided with a plurality of suitably located longitudinally spaced internal cross-ribs 26. These cross-ribs are adapted to support the diametrically reduced nose end portion c of a cartridge C which is lodged in the chute 15, thus balancing the cartridge against tilting away from the floor of said chute, and thereby assuring properly aligned registration of the cap end of the cartridge with the opening or mouth 17 of the chute, for unobstructed outward withdrawing movement through the latter.

The front and back walls 10 and 11 of the container are each provided, adjacent to the rear end wall 12, with a series of vertically extending, spaced apart internal guide ribs 27, thereby providing, between adjacent ribs, a series of opposed vertical guideways 28 for the reception of a partition member 29 in selected spaced disposition relative to the forward end wall 13 of the container. Said partition member 29 may be adjusted toward and from the forward end wall 13 of the container according to the length of the particular cartridges C desired to be carried in and dispensed from the container. It will thus be understood that the partition member 29 may be utilized to size the interior of the container conformably to the cartridges to be carried, so that when said cartridges are deposited in the container, the same are held against undue endwise movement or play, and thus maintained in desired column or stack formation within the container.

A means is provided for closing the upper open end of the container. Such closure means may be variously formed and related to the container, but, preferably, as shown, comprises a slide cover 30 having longitudinally grooved side marginal portions 31 to engage with and slide on outwardly projecting guide lips 32, which extend along the upper margins of the front and back walls 10 and 11 of the container. The forward end of said slide cover 30 is preferably provided with one or more stop lugs 33, which are dependent from the margin thereof, and which, by abutment upon the forward end wall 13 of the container, determine the closed position of said cover. The forward end of said slide cover is also

provided with a finger piece 34 to facilitate manipulation of the cover.

When the container is filled with the content of cartridges C to be carried therein, an accordion or zig-zag type compression spring 35 is arranged between the closed cover 30 and the column or columns of contained cartridges. If the container is of the type adapted to enclose two columns or stacks of cartridges C (as shown), the lower free end portion of the spring 35 is bifurcated to provide two spring tongues 36 and 37, one of which thrusts against one column or stack and the other against the adjoining column or stack, thus accommodating the spring to any relative changes in the heights of said columns or stacks. The said spring 35, in addition to gravitation, urges the cartridges downwardly through the container interior, thereby assuring that a succeeding cartridge will be at once deposited in the discharge chute 15 upon withdrawal of a bottommost cartridge therefrom.

The cartridge carrying and dispensing container is preferably arranged to be mounted upon an apparel belt worn by the user, so that the same is firmly held and conveniently accessible for manipulation of cartridges desired to be withdrawn therefrom. To this end, belt receiving means is provided in connection with the back wall 11 of the container. In an illustrative form of said belt receiving means, as shown, the same comprises a pair of spaced attachment loops 38 through which the apparel belt 39 may be passed.

In the use of the ammunition carrying and dispensing device, to withdraw the bottommost cartridge C from the discharge chute 15 of the container, the user merely grasps the exposed end of said cartridge and pulls the same outward. The stop member 18, being yieldably supported by the hinging spring coils 19, will be swung upwardly by the outwardly pulled cartridge and out of the path of movement thereof. After such removal of the cartridge, the stop member 18 will immediately return to its normal dependent position, whereby to engage and restrain outward escape of a succeeding cartridge, which, in the meantime, has descended and has lodged in the discharge chute 15. These cartridge dispensing operations may be repeated until the entire content of the container has been removed.

Having now described my invention, I claim:

1. A carrying and dispensing device for cartridges or the like comprising an upwardly open container, a removable closure means for the upper open end of said container, the upper portion of said container being of a width between its front and back walls adapted to house a plurality of stacked cartridges in double column disposition, a downwardly inclined cartridge receiving chute, extending from end to end of said container at its bottom and contiguous to its front wall, the back wall of said container having a lower section convergent upon said chute, a compression spring member interposed between the closed upper end of the container and the columns of cartridges therein, said spring member having a bifurcated lower end portion to provide separate spring tongues to respectively thrust against the respective cartridge columns, the walls of said container and chute being cut away at the lower discharge end of said chute, whereby to provide the latter with a discharge mouth adapted to expose an end portion of a cartridge lodged in said chute subject to be grasped.

for withdrawal therefrom and a detent means affixed on the end wall of the container adjacent to the discharge mouth of the chute, said detent means including a dependent yieldable stop member adapted to lap the exposed end of the cartridge contained in said chute.

2. A carrying and dispensing device for cartridges or the like as defined in claim 1, wherein the chute is provided with a series of longitudinally spaced internal cross-ribs adapted to support the nose end portion of a cartridge contained in the chute, whereby to prevent longitudinal tilting of said cartridge.

3. A carrying and dispensing device for cartridges or the like as defined in claim 1, wherein front and back walls of the container are provided with a series of internal perpendicular opposed guideways, and a partition member adapted to be engaged in selected guideways, whereby to conform the interior of the container to the length of a given size of cartridge desired to be carried therein.

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