

Jan. 16, 1940.

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2,187,218

CIGARETTE DISPENSER

Filed Feb. 13, 1939

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

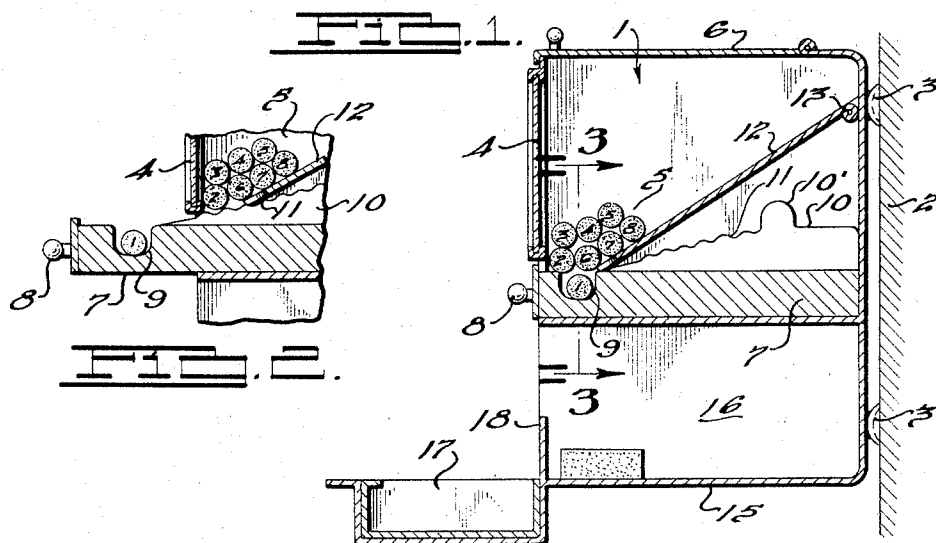


FIG. 4.

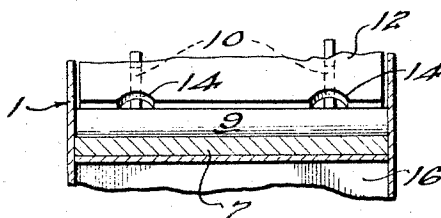
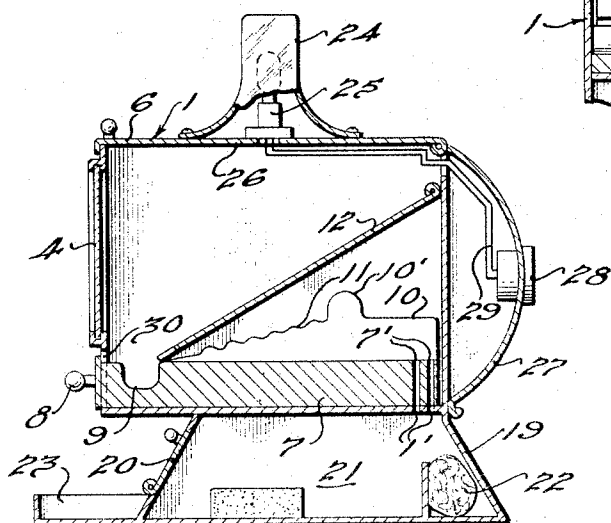


FIG. 3.

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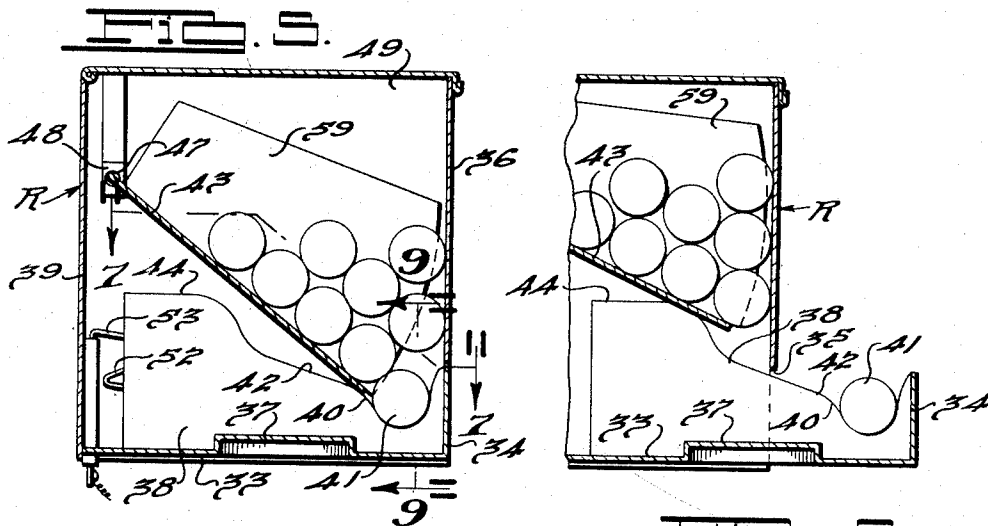


FIG. 6.

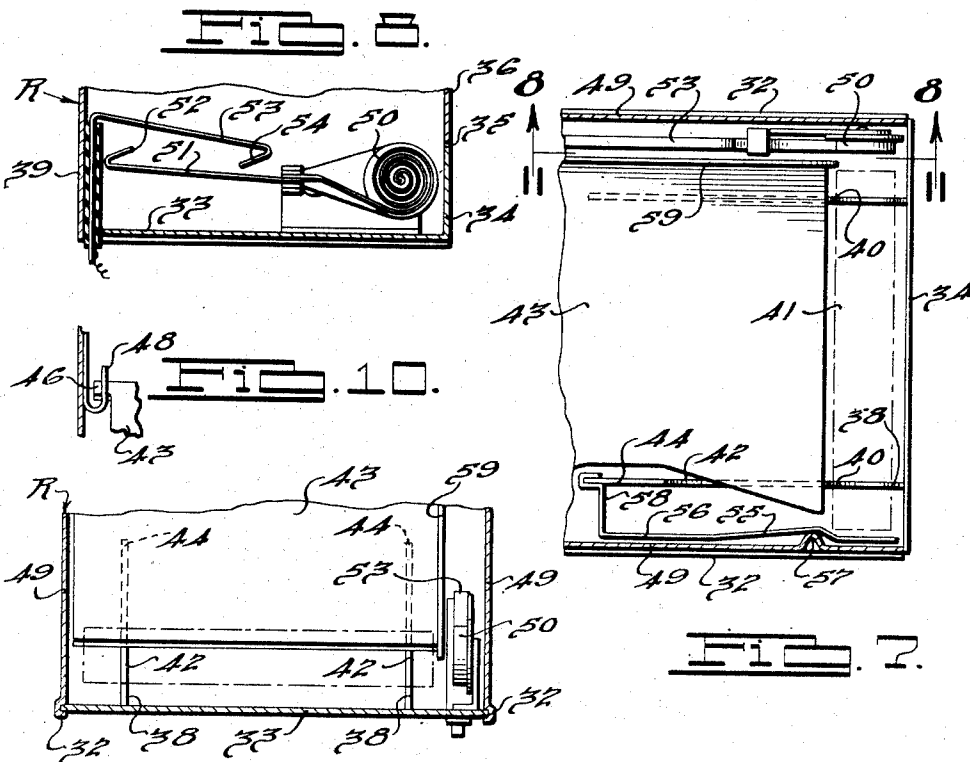


FIG. 9.

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2,187,218

CIGARETTE DISPENSER

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Application February 13, 1939, Serial No. 256,016

6 Claims. (Cl. 312—80)

This invention relates to an improvement in cigarette dispensing receptacles for use in automobiles and households. Such receptacles in use at present have proven unsatisfactory due to a jamming up of the cigarettes when attempting to obtain one from the receptacle.

It is a well-known fact that the ordinary automobile driver, who smokes cigarettes, will often release one hand from the steering wheel while driving and reach over to the receptacle to obtain a cigarette. Often times his efforts to do so will cause the cigarettes to jam up in the receptacle and his continued efforts to release the same may divert his attention from the road long enough to cause an accident. To prevent such a calamity, I have provided a receptacle which functions quickly and easily and insuring the instant withdrawal of a cigarette whenever desired.

A further object of my invention is to provide a receptacle which may be quickly attached to an instrument board of an automobile without the necessity of boring holes in the same.

Another object of my invention is the provision of a receptacle for dispensing cigarettes which is readily adaptable for use in the home, clubs or other dwellings.

It is also an object of the invention to provide a receptacle of this kind with means whereby a cigarette upon being delivered is caused to be lighted together with means to protect the cigarettes within the receptacle against the lighting element.

With these and other objects in view as will be more fully explained as the description proceeds, my invention consists of the certain construction and arrangement of parts as I shall hereinafter describe and claim.

For a complete understanding of the invention, reference is to be had to the description and accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a vertical longitudinal sectional view; Fig. 2 is a fragmentary sectional view with the drawer member partially withdrawn;

Fig. 3 is a detail sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a vertical longitudinal sectional view disclosing a modification of my invention;

Fig. 5 is a vertical sectional view taken through a receptacle constructed in accordance with another embodiment of my invention;

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary vertical sectional view through the receptacle disclosed in Fig. 5 showing certain of the parts thereof in a second position;

Fig. 7 is a sectional view taken substantially on the line 7—7 of Fig. 5;

Fig. 8 is a sectional view taken substantially on the line 8—8 of Fig. 7;

Fig. 9 is a sectional view taken substantially on the line 9—9 of Fig. 5;

Fig. 10 is a fragmentary view partly in section and partly in elevation illustrating one of the mountings for the flap as herein disclosed.

Referring now to the drawings wherein like numerals refer to like and corresponding parts throughout the several views, and in particular to Figs. 1 to 3 inclusive, the numeral 1 designates a receptacle for dispensing cigarettes. This receptacle 1 is attached to the instrument or panel board 2 of an automobile by means of ordinary rubber suction cups or bulbs 3. A glass panel 4 forms the front of the receptacle, permitting a ready view of the interior and its contents. Mounted at the top of the receptacle 1 is a hinged closure or door 6 which may be opened when it is desired to load or reload the dispenser.

Slidably mounted in the lower part of the receptacle 1 is a dispensing drawer 7 adapted to be grasped by the knob 8 for movement out of and into the receptacle. The drawer 7 is provided with a depression 9 in the forward part thereof for the reception of a cigarette, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

A pair of cam members 10 are mounted upon the drawer 7 and may be detachably secured to or form an integral part of the same. These cam members are spaced equi-distantly from the side walls of the receptacle and extend from the back wall thereof to the rear elevation of the depression 9 in the drawer.

The cam members 10 are provided with depressions 11 which are preferably formed in the forward portion of the cam members to present a slanting face to a movable flap member 12 which is swingingly secured to the rear wall of the receptacle 1 by means of a loop hinge 13 or the like.

The flap member 12 rides on the cam members 10 and is provided on the lower end thereof with cutout portions 14, as shown in Fig. 3, to prevent catching in the depressions 11 and thereby arresting movement of the drawer 7 in a rearward direction.

The arrangement of the cam members 10 with the depressions 11 and movable flap 12 is such as to insure a positive coaction between the same and to maintain the cigarettes in position for dispensing at all times. It is believed obvious that this construction also will prevent the withdrawal of more than one cigarette at a time.

Forming a part of the receptacle 1 and in the lower extension thereof, is a second open receptacle

cle 15 comprising compartments 16 and 17. The compartment 16 may be used as a storage space for extra packages of cigarettes and matches, while the compartment 17 is admirably adapted for use as an ash tray. The compartment 17 is divided from the compartment 16 by means of a small partition 18 which lies in the plane of the front face of the receptacle 1. This partition readily permits the insertion of articles in compartment 16 but, at the same time, prevents accidental displacement therefrom.

The compartment 17 to be used as an ash tray is preferably arranged on a lower plane than the compartment 16 so as to present an easily accessible depository for ashes, burnt match sticks and the like, and, at the same time, not interfere with the storing or removing of articles from compartment 16.

Referring now to the modification of my cigarette dispenser disclosed in Fig. 4 it will be seen that this construction is adapted for use in households or the like.

The receptacle 1 in this instance is provided with a hollow base or support 19 having a door closure 20 mounted in the front face thereof. A compartment 21 is provided in the base or support 19 for the storage of extra packs of cigarettes, matches and the like.

Aligned openings 7' and 1' are bored in the drawer 7 and the bottom portion of the receptacle 1 to permit moisture from a sponge 22, placed in the compartment 21 to pass into the receptacle 1 for the purpose of preventing the cigarettes therein from getting dry.

An ash tray 23 forming an integral part of the base or support 19 extends forwardly of the compartment 21 to permit the dropping of ashes, etc. therein.

Mounted on top of the receptacle 1 (Fig. 4) and secured to the door closure 6 by suitable fastening I have provided a light fixture 24, shown as broken away in the drawings, which may take any desired form. This fixture forms a lamp member for the electric light 25 extending through an opening 26 in the door closure 6. Affixed to the rear wall of the receptacle 1 is a support 27 adapted to receive a light plug 28, which provides, through the wires 29, a source of electric current for the electric light 25.

It will be seen that my combination light and cigarette dispenser comprises a small, portable article, compact in structure and neat in appearance and an article which may be readily placed in any suitable position in the home, providing not only a source of light for the smoker but also a convenient cigarette supply, thus insuring to the quiet peace and comfort of those persons in need of relaxation.

In the operation of my invention, and assuming that the receptacle 1 is loaded with cigarettes, when the drawer 7 is moved outwardly, the cigarette already in the depression 9 may be extracted. During this forward movement, the flap member 12 riding on the cam members 10 will move upwardly pressing against the cigarettes 5 and holding them in alignment. The depressions 11 in the cam members 10 coacting with the lower end of flap 12 will turn or rotate the cigarettes contacting therewith. When the drawer is slid backward into the receptacle 1, the pressure is removed and the next cigarette in line will drop into the depression 9.

It will be seen that pressure of the flap member 12 against the cigarettes nearest the front face of receptacle 1 will hold the same clear of

the depressions 11 in the guide members. However, backward movement of the drawer 7 will cause the cigarette nearest the depressions to be engaged thereby, preventing it from moving forward and, as stated, allowing the cigarette first in line to be placed in position for withdrawal.

Preferably the forward ends of the inclined portions or cam members 10 are smooth, as clearly illustrated in Figs. 1, 2 and 4, which will permit the cigarette to drop into place in the depression 9 more quickly than it otherwise would and preferably also the cam members 10 are formed in the rear of the notches or depressions 11 with upstanding lugs 10' that are adapted to engage the flap 12 after the drawer 7 has been partly withdrawn to quickly raise up the flap 12 above the opening 30 in the lower part of the front wall of the receptacle and through which the drawer 7 passes. When so raised by the lugs 10' the lower end portion of the flap 12 is closely adjacent to the front wall of the receptacle and thereby effectually prevents any of the cigarettes remaining in the receptacle above the flap 12 from dropping down upon the drawer 7 or the cam members 10 carried thereby until after the drawer has been returned whereupon a single cigarette will drop within the depression 9.

It is obvious that in this construction there can be no jamming of cigarettes, inasmuch as each part thereof is so arranged as to cooperate in the simple and instant withdrawal of a cigarette.

In the embodiment of the invention disclosed in Figs. 5 to 9 inclusive, the receptacle R has its bottom open and the lower marginal portions of the side walls 49 of the receptacle are formed to provide inwardly facing guideways 32 in which engage the side marginal portions of a sliding drawer 33. The forward edge of this drawer 33 is provided with an upstanding wall 34 which, when the drawer 33 is fully retracted within the receptacle R, closes the opening 35 in the bottom of the front wall 36 of the receptacle R and through which opening 35 the drawer 33 passes. The central portion of the drawer 33 is pressed upwardly, as at 37, to provide a finger hold whereby the drawer 33 may be readily withdrawn or retracted although if preferred other means may be provided for this purpose.

The drawer 33 is provided along its opposite side portions with the upstanding cam members or plates 38. These plates 38 are of duplicate construction and extend rearwardly from the front wall 34 of the drawer to a point closely adjacent to the rear wall 39 of the receptacle R. These plates 38 immediately adjacent to the front wall 34 of the drawer 33 are provided with the depressions or recesses 40 in which are received the extremities of a cigarette 41 to be dispensed. The upper edge of each of the members or plates 38 from the depression or recess 40 therein to a predetermined point inwardly of said depression or recess 40 is disposed, as at 42, on an upward incline providing a cam edge for initially raising the flap 43 as the drawer 33 is pulled outwardly. The plate 38 immediately adjacent to the rear or upper end of the cam edge 42 is provided with an upstanding lug 44 of required height which provides means for abruptly raising the flap 43 to lift the lower portion of the flap 42 above the opening 35 and sufficiently close to the front wall 36 of the receptacle R to prevent a cigarette 45 from dropping down below the raised flap 43 until the drawer 33 has been retracted or returned.

The flap 43 is of a width to extend outwardly beyond the cam members 38 and the upper end of this flap 43 at each corner is formed to provide an outwardly and laterally disposed lug 46 which is freely disposed through an opening 47 provided in a bracket arm 48 carried by an adjacent side wall 49 of the receptacle R. This mounting of the upper end portion of the flap 43 permits the same to freely swing upwardly and downwardly, the downward movement of course being by gravity while the upper movement is under the influence of the cam edges 42 and the lugs 44 of the cam members 38.

The drawer 33 adjacent to its forward end carries an igniting element 50 in the form of a flat spiral. This ignitor is of a conventional type and, therefore, a detailed explanation is not believed to be necessary other than to say that a flat face of this element 50 is substantially in alignment with the depressions or recess 40 in the members 38 so that upon proper endwise movement being given to a cigarette within said depressions or recesses 40 an end thereof will be caused to contact with the element 50 to light said end of the cigarette when, of course, the element 50 is functioning. This element 50 has extending inwardly therefrom an elongated contact arm 51 terminating in an inwardly directed bill 52. This bill 52 upon withdrawal of the drawer 33 comes into contact with a downwardly inclined contact arm 53 carried by the rear wall 39 of the receptacle R and having proper connection with a suitable source of electrical energy. The outer end of this arm 53 is provided with an inwardly and downwardly disposed bill 54 which is adapted to contact with the contact arm 51 which, as illustrated in Fig. 8, is disposed on a slight upward incline. Upon contact between the arms 51 and 53 the element 50 will function but such contact between the arms 51 and 53 will not occur until after the drawer 33 has been pulled out a distance sufficiently to entirely position the cigarette within the depressions or recesses 40 exteriorly of the receptacle.

When the cigarette is initially received within the depressions or recesses 40, as clearly indicated in Fig. 7, said cigarette will be entirely free from the element 50. However, as the drawer 33 is initially withdrawn the cigarette 41 is pushed or shifted into contact with the element 50 as a result of the cam portion 55 of an elongated spring arm 56 contacting with and riding over an inwardly disposed projection 57 carried by the adjacent side wall 49 of the receptacle R. The outer or free end of this arm 56 terminates in a position to have desired shifting contact with the end of the cigarette 41 remote from the element 50 and the inner end portion of this arm 56 is suitably anchored, as at 58, to the inner end portion of the adjacent cam plate 38.

To protect the cigarettes remaining in the receptacle R and retained by the flap 43 against the element 50 and particularly when the drawer 33 is returned or retracted, I provide along the side of the flap 43 adjacent to the element 50 and the arms 51 and 53 an upstanding guard plate 59, said plate being of such dimensions as to afford protection against the element 50 in all positions of the flap 43.

From the foregoing description it is thought to be obvious that a cigarette dispenser for automobiles and household use constructed in accordance with my invention is particularly well adapted for use by reason of the convenience and facility with which it may be assembled and

operated, and it will also be obvious that my invention is susceptible of some change and modification without departing from the principles and spirit thereof and for this reason I do not wish to be understood as limiting myself to the precise arrangement and formation of the several parts herein shown in carrying out my invention in practice except as hereinafter claimed.

I claim:

1. In a cigarette dispenser, a receptacle, a drawer slidably supported by the receptacle, said drawer having means for carrying out a single cigarette upon withdrawal of the drawer, an igniting element carried by the drawer for coaction with the cigarette carried by said drawer, and coacting means carried by the drawer and the receptacle for contact with the cigarette to move the same into contact with the igniting element as the drawer moves outwardly.

2. In a cigarette dispenser, a receptacle, a drawer slidably supported by the receptacle, said drawer having means for carrying out a single cigarette upon withdrawal of the drawer, an igniting element carried by the drawer for coaction with the cigarette carried by said drawer, coacting means carried by the drawer and the receptacle for contact with the cigarette to move the same into contact with the igniting element as the drawer moves outwardly, said igniting element being inoperative when the drawer is in fully closed position within the receptacle, and means for making said igniting element effective upon retraction of the drawer.

3. In a cigarette dispenser, a receptacle, a drawer slidably supported by the receptacle, said drawer having means for carrying out a single cigarette upon withdrawal of the drawer, an igniting element carried by the drawer for coaction with the cigarette carried by said drawer, coacting means carried by the drawer and the receptacle for contact with the cigarette to move the same into contact with the igniting element as the drawer moves outwardly, a flap mounted within the receptacle above the drawer for controlling the delivery of a cigarette to the drawer, and means carried by the flap for protecting the cigarettes within the receptacle against contact with the igniting element.

4. In a cigarette dispenser, a receptacle, a drawer movable outwardly and inwardly of the receptacle, means carried by the forward portion of the drawer to receive a single cigarette, a flap within the receptacle above the drawer and pivoted for vertical swinging movement, said flap permitting only a single cigarette to be delivered to the drawer when the drawer is returned empty, and means carried by the drawer for first slowly raising the flap and then quickly raising the flap as the drawer is moved outwardly.

5. A cigarette dispenser comprising a receptacle, a drawer movable outwardly and inwardly of the receptacle, a plurality of upstanding members carried by the drawer, the forward portions of said members having recesses to receive and support a single cigarette, the upper edges of the members immediately adjacent to said recesses being upwardly inclined, a flap supported within the receptacle above the drawer and for swinging movement in a vertical direction, said flap resting upon the inclined edges of the members and terminating immediately adjacent to the recesses of the members when the drawer is fully closed.

6. A cigarette dispenser comprising a receptacle, a drawer movable outwardly and inwardly of the receptacle, a plurality of upstanding mem-

bers carried by the drawer, the forward portions of said members having recesses to receive and support a single cigarette, the upper edges of the members immediately adjacent to said recesses being upwardly inclined, a flap supported within the receptacle above the drawer and for swinging movement in a vertical direction, said flap resting upon the inclined edges of the members and terminating immediately adjacent to the recesses of the members when the drawer is fully closed, and upstanding lugs carried by the members immediately adjacent to the inclined edges of said members to provide further means for raising the flap as the drawer is withdrawn to deliver a cigarette. 5

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