

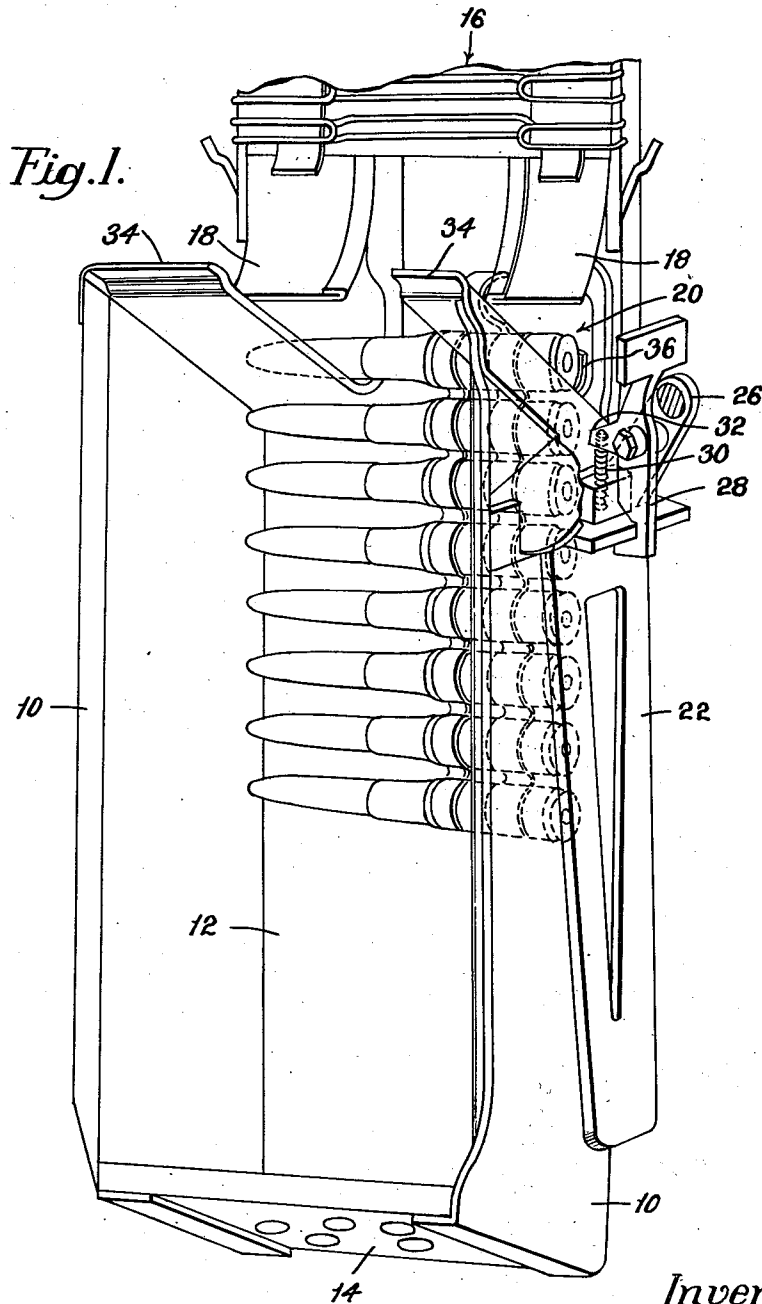
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R. N. SANDBERG
AMMUNITION CONTAINER

2,573,774

Filed Feb. 12, 1948

3 Sheets-Sheet 1



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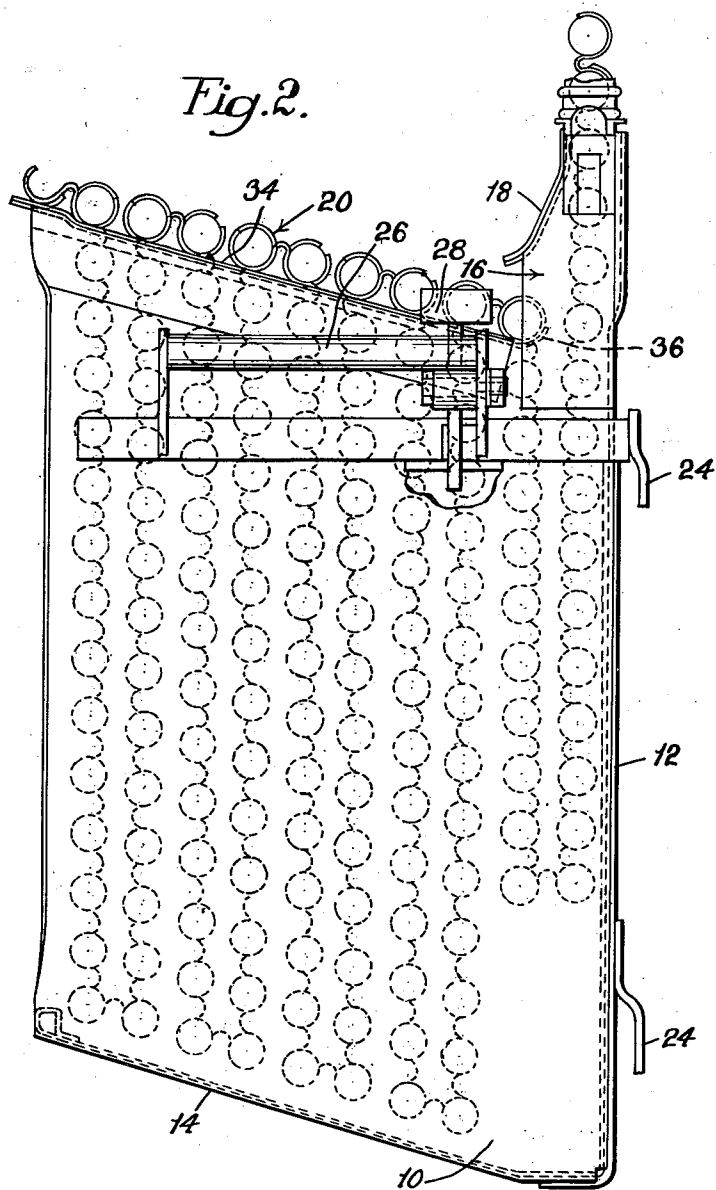
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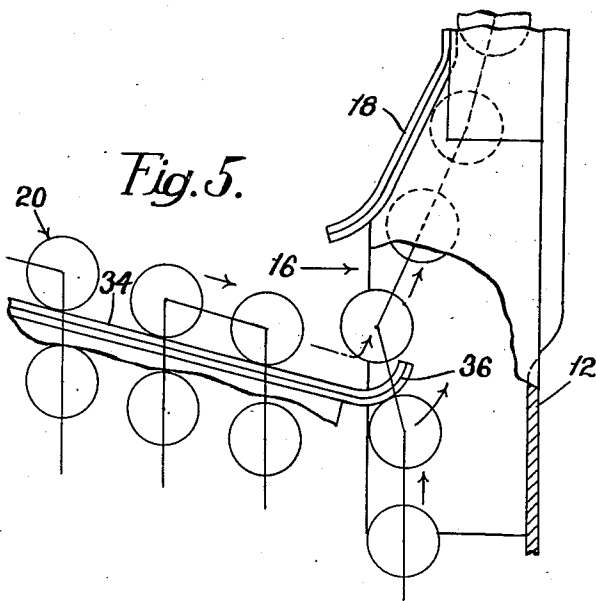
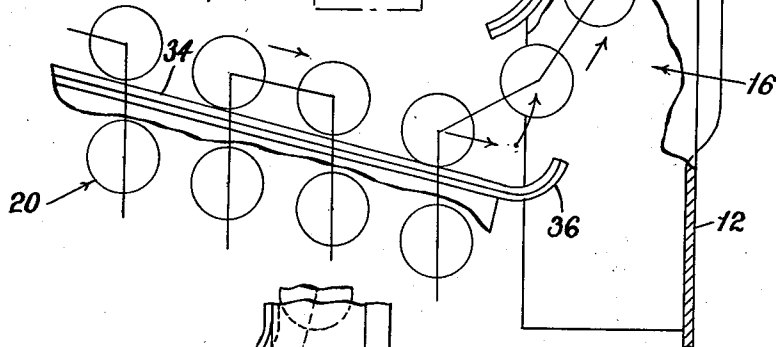
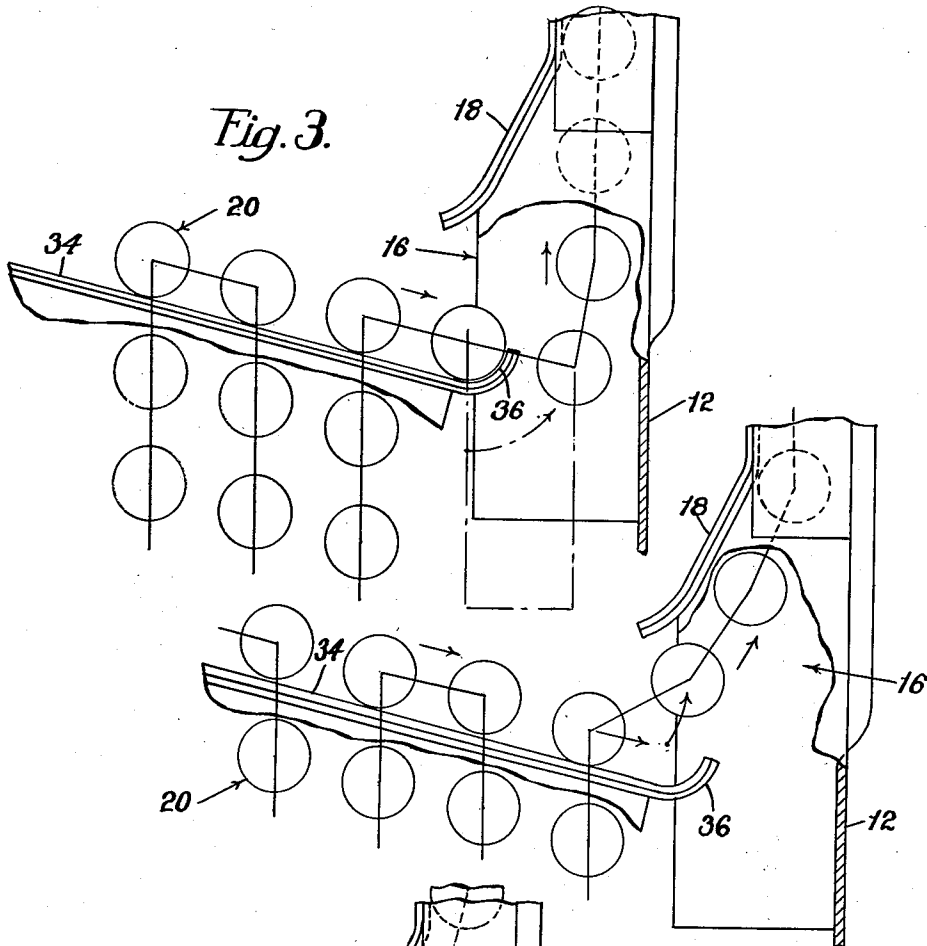
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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AMMUNITION CONTAINER

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2 Claims. (Cl. 89—34)

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This invention relates to a stationary ammunition container for use with machine guns and in particular to a container in which a linked ammunition belt is stored and which is mounted in proximity to a gun, the ammunition belt being moved from the container to the gun, to supply the gun with ammunition, by the cartridge feed mechanism in the gun or by a special cartridge feed device.

Heretofore, a considerable load has been placed on the cartridge feed mechanism in the gun or upon the cartridge feed device associated with the gun to move or lift a long and consequently heavy length of belt, such as is needed to provide a rapidly firing gun with an adequate supply of ammunition, from the container. Moreover, it has been difficult to link additional belt sections to the cartridge belt moving to the gun and thus to insure a continuous supply of ammunition for the gun.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a continuous supply of ammunition to a gun without imposing an undue load on the cartridge feed mechanism. In accordance with a feature of the invention, an ammunition belt is suspended in festoons from spaced shelves of an ammunition container, these shelves being inclined downward in the direction of movement of the belt so that the festoons may slide forward on the shelves under gravity as the belt is fed, without requiring excessive pulling or lifting of all of the belt by the cartridge feed mechanism. In accordance with another feature of the invention, the last cartridge of the belt is so located on the shelves of the container that another belt section may readily be secured thereto before the ammunition supply in the container becomes exhausted.

These and other features of the invention will now be more fully described in the following specification, with reference to the accompanying drawings, and will be pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings,

Fig. 1 is an isometric view of an ammunition container embodying the invention;

Fig. 2 is a side view of the container, showing a linked ammunition belt arranged in festoons in the container; and

Figs. 3, 4, and 5 illustrate various stages in the feeding of the belt.

The ammunition container, as may particularly be seen in Fig. 1, is of boxlike structure and comprises side walls 10, an inner wall 12 and a bottom wall 14. A substantially vertical outlet passage 16 is provided between the upper

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end of the wall 12 and curved guide plates 18 joined to flanges provided on said wall 12. The outer end, i. e., the back portion, of the container is open.

Attached to the container and surrounding the outlet opening of the passage 16 is a flexible ammunition chute through which a disintegrating link cartridge belt 20, supported in the container in a manner described below, passes; i. e., is fed to supply successive cartridges to a machine gun.

The container may be mounted on a fixed support, such as a bracket 22 forming a part of a conventional gun mount (not shown), by means of hooks 24 (Fig. 2) provided on the wall 12. Handles 26, one of which is secured to the outer face of each side wall 10 facilitate the handling of the container and consequently the mounting of the container on the bracket 22 or the removal of the container from the bracket. To hold the container locked in position on the bracket 22 a pawl 28 (Fig. 1) is pivotally mounted on the right-hand handle 26 (as seen in Fig. 1), a spring 30 acting on an arm 32 integral with the pawl 28 to hold the pawl in locking engagement with the bracket. To release the pawl 28 a thumb plate, formed at the upper end of the pawl, may be moved inward toward the wall 10.

Provided at the upper end of each side wall 10 is a shelf 34 which extends inward over the top of the container, the inner or adjacent parallel edges of the shelves being spaced apart sufficiently to permit the links of the belt 20 to pass freely between them. The shelves 34, as is the container bottom 14, are inclined downward from the open end of the container toward the wall 12, as may clearly be seen in Figs. 1 and 2. The inner end of each shelf is curved upward to provide a stop face 36 below the outlet passage 16.

As shown in Fig. 2, the ammunition belt 20 is arranged in the container in festoons with all the cartridges forming the ends of the festoons, except the first cartridge of the leading festoon, resting on the top faces of the shelves 34. The last cartridge of the leading festoon normally is cradled in the curved stop faces 36 during the ammunition feed, as will be described below, and the last cartridge in the belt rests on the shelves in such a manner that another section of belt may easily be attached thereto to replenish the supply of ammunition before it becomes exhausted, thus insuring that a continuous supply of ammunition is available.

In describing the use of the container, it is

to be assumed that the container is filled with ammunition, i. e., a disintegrating link cartridge belt 20 is suspended in festoons from the shelves 34, as shown in Fig. 2, with the leading festoon suspended between the gun and the faces 36 and with cartridges in the leading festoon moving upward through the outlet passage 16. The last cartridge in the belt is supported on the top faces of the shelves near the open end of the container in a position accessible for ready attachment of another section of belt. When the cartridges in the first festoon have been substantially used up so that the last remaining cartridges in this festoon are passing upward through the outlet passage 16 (see Fig. 3), continued feeding of the belt to the gun will lift the last cartridge of this festoon out of engagement with the stop faces 36 (see Fig. 4), permitting the remaining festoons to slide downward along the shelves under gravity until the leading cartridge of the next festoon engages the stop faces 36. This cartridge will then become lifted out of engagement with the faces 36 by the continued feeding of the belt (see Fig. 5) and move upward into the passage 16, the festoons again sliding forward on the shelves until the last cartridge in the leading festoon terminates this movement by engaging the stop faces 36. The same condition as prevailed originally will now again exist (see Fig. 2) and the last cartridge of the leading festoon will remain cradled in the stop faces 36 until the cartridges in the leading festoon, which is suspended between the gun and the faces 36, have been used up. By supplying the gun with ammunition in this fashion, no excessive force or pull is required to move or lift the belt, the maximum force necessary being that needed to lift the cartridges contained in a single festoon. Moreover, it is not necessary to provide any force to move additional festoons forward since the remaining festoons in the container readily slide forward under gravity whenever either the first or the last cartridge in a festoon is lifted out of engagement with the stop faces 36.

Another length or section of belt may be joined to the last cartridge of the belt in the container at any time before that belt is exhausted. The added length of belt is then arranged in festoons which, in turn, are suspended

from the shelves. Thus the gun may continuously be supplied with ammunition and the firing of the gun need not be interrupted at any time to replenish the ammunition supply.

Having described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to be secured by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A stationary ammunition container of box-like structure with an outlet opening, for use with machine guns, comprising, in combination, a plurality of walls, shelves on opposite walls inclined downward to a position below said opening arranged to carry the cartridges of a disintegrating link cartridge belt hung in festoons slidable downward thereon with the last cartridge of the belt resting on the shelves in an easily accessible position for attachment of another belt section thereto, and stop faces at one end of the shelves for supporting in succession the top cartridges of successive festoons as the top cartridges of preceding festoons are lifted from the stop faces to move upward through the outlet opening.

2. In a stationary ammunition container of box-like structure, for use with machine guns, a plurality of walls, spaced shelves on opposite walls inclined sufficiently longitudinally to cause top cartridges in a disintegrating link cartridge belt hung in festoons thereon to slide forward along the shelves under the influence of gravity, and upward curved positions at the forward ends of the shelves providing stops in which the top cartridges of successive festoons are cradled in succession as the top cartridges in preceding festoons are lifted out of engagement with said curved end portions during the movement of the belt.

ROBERT N. SANDBERG.

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