Aug. 6, 1957 T. WILL 2,801,769

CIGARETTE PULL TAB EJECTOR AND THE LIKE PACKAGES

Filed Sept. 13, 1954 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

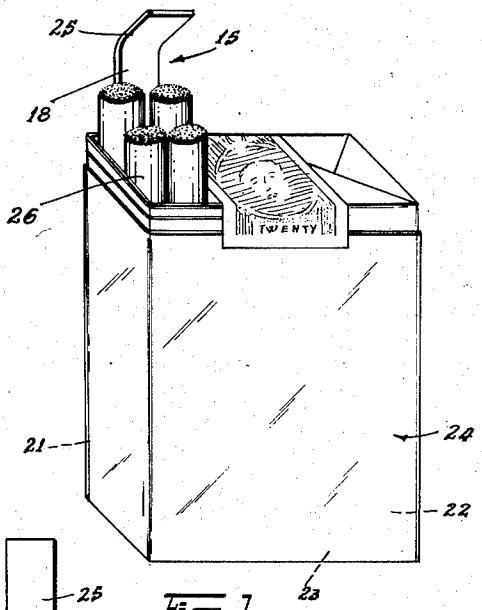


Fig. 1

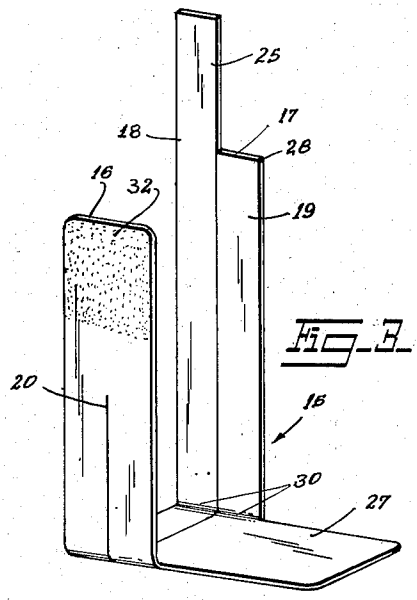


Fig. 3

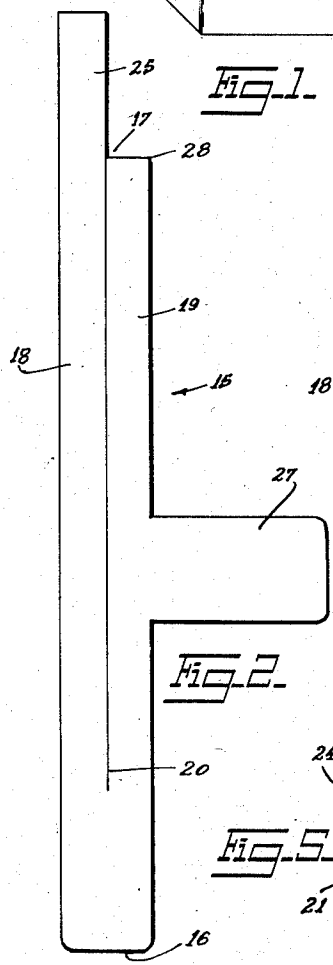


Fig. 2

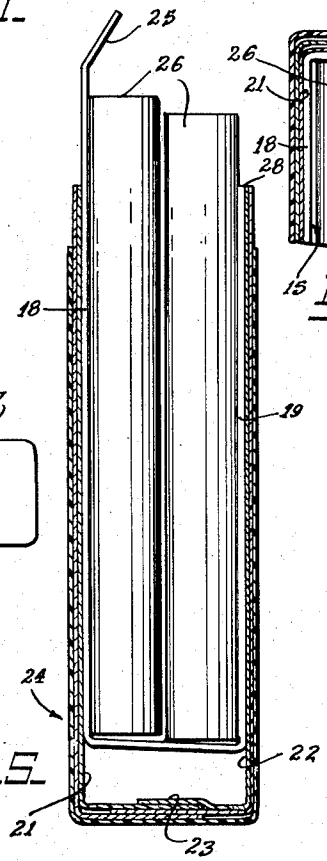


Fig. 5

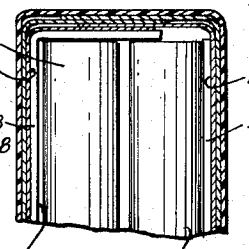


Fig. 6

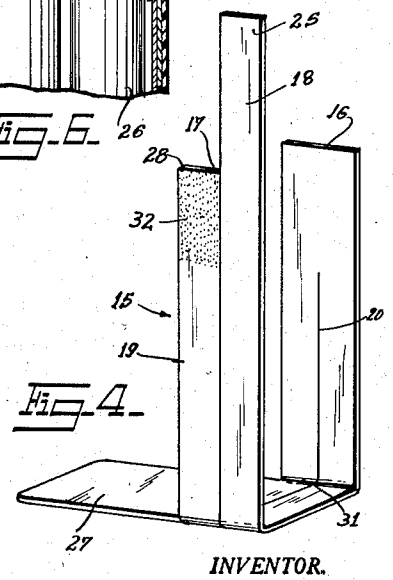


Fig. 4

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CIGARETTE PULL TAB EJECTOR AND THE LIKE PACKAGES

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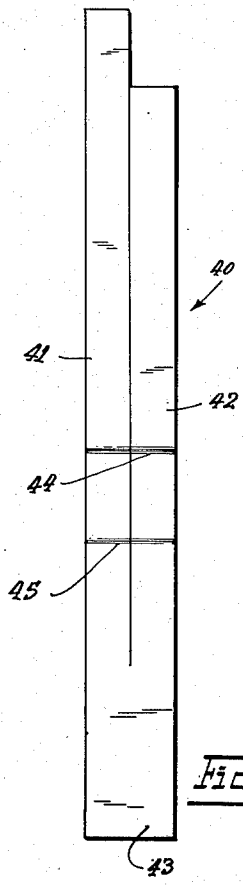


Fig. 7

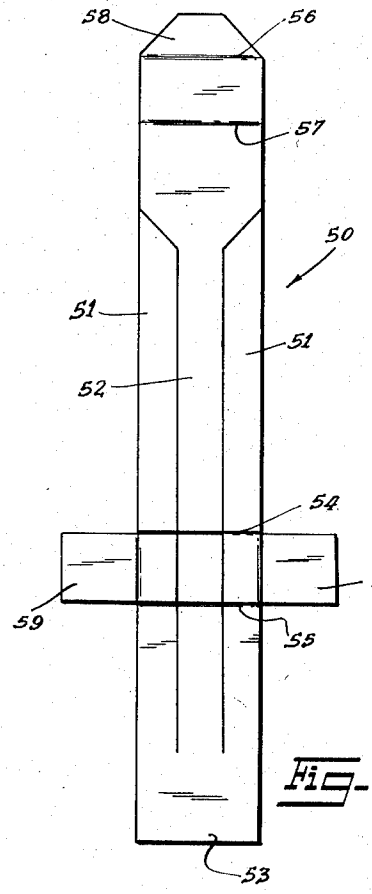


Fig. 8

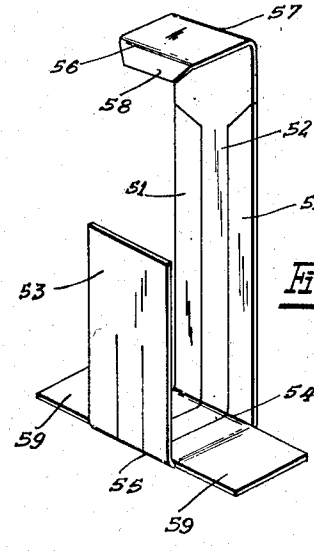


Fig. 9

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United States Patent Office 2,801,769
Patented Aug. 6, 1957

2,801,769

CIGARETTE PULL TAB EJECTOR AND THE LIKE PACKAGES

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Application September 13, 1954, Serial No. 455,422

2 Claims. (Cl. 221—260)

This invention relates to new and useful improvements in cigarette ejector devices for cigarette packs or packages.

More particularly, the present invention proposes the construction of an improved cigarette pull-tab ejector for cigarette packages which can be used in the usual paper package to raise cigarettes from the package after a corner of the package has been opened so that one or more cigarettes can easily be removed from the package.

As a further object, the present invention proposes forming the pull-tab ejector in a thin long strip of inexpensive flexible paper with an anchor leg or legs and a pull-tab ejector leg so that when the latter leg is pulled cigarettes are raised in staggered form from the package.

Still further, the present invention proposes constructing the pull-tab ejector strip with a cross platform member which will underlie the bottom ends of the cigarettes in the pack other than those being raised to anchor the anchor leg in the package.

Another object of the present invention proposes providing adhesive means to hold the anchor leg to the cigarette package in a manner which will not interfere with the operation of the pull-tab ejector leg.

For further comprehension of the invention, and of the objects and advantages thereof, reference will be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, and to the appended claims in which the various novel features of the invention are more particularly set forth.

In the accompanying drawings forming a material part of this disclosure:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of an open cigarette package with a cigarette pull-tab ejector strip constructed and arranged in accordance with the present invention, some cigarettes being shown in raised position.

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the cigarette pull-tab ejector strip flattened out.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the cigarette pull-tab ejector strip in folded position.

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 3 but showing the other side of the folded strip.

Fig. 5 is a sectional view of the package and strip shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary sectional view similar to Fig. 5 but showing the package before it is opened.

Figs. 7 and 8 are views similar to Fig. 2 but illustrating modifications of the present invention.

Fig. 9 is a similar view to Fig. 3 of the modified form of the invention shown in Fig. 8.

The cigarette pull-tab ejector, in accordance with the first form of the invention illustrated in Figs. 1 to 6, inclusive, is a long, thin, flexible strip **15**, preferably of paper but which may be made of plastic, metal or other suitable like material.

Pull-tab ejector strip **15** is split lengthwise substantially its full length either being formed in this fashion or cut. Strip **15** has an undivided end **16** and a split end

17 with two parallel legs **18** and **19** substantially of the same width, such width, preferably, being substantially the diameter of a cigarette.

Legs **18** and **19** run lengthwise of the strip **15** and are joined together at point **20** on the undivided end portion **16** of the strip. Leg **19** is the anchor leg and leg **18** is the pull-tab ejector leg, both legs being adapted to fit along the sides **21** and **22** and across the bottom **23** of a cigarette package **24**. Leg **19** is shorter than leg **18**, the latter leg having a free end portion **25** adapted to fold partly across the top of cigarettes **26** and across the top of cigarette package **24** inside the package and adapted to project outwardly of the package when extended as shown in Fig. 1.

A cross platform member or base member **27** extends from the anchor leg **19** intermediate the free end **28** of such leg and the undivided end **16** of the strip **15**. Member **27** is adapted to fit lengthwise substantially across the bottom **23** of the cigarette package **24**, and together with the leg **19** tends to anchor and steady the ejector in the package.

Spaced fold lines **30** and **31** may be provided across both legs **18** and **19** adjacent the member **27** and intermediate the ends of the strip **15**. Fold lines **30** and **31** are spaced apart substantially the width of a cigarette package.

The leg member **19** guides the leg member **18** in its ejecting and return movements, and base member **27** guides the ejector device to position in the cigarette package.

In addition to anchor member **27**, the undivided end **16** of strip **15** may be coated on one side with an adhesive **32** and the free end **28** on one side of anchor leg **19** may likewise be coated with the adhesive **32** so that these portions may be secured to the package **24** permanently.

To extract cigarettes **26** from the package **24**, the free end portion **25** of leg **18** is extended and pulled outwardly. This raises the leg **18** in the manner shown in Fig. 5 staggering the cigarettes raised.

The modification of the invention illustrated in Fig. 7 is characterized by the provision of a cigarette pull-tab ejector in the form of a strip **40** having two legs **41** and **42** and an undivided end **43**. No anchor member or cross platform member similar to member **27** is provided, but the anchor leg **42** serves to anchor the strip in a cigarette package. Spaced fold lines **44** and **45** may be provided and the anchor leg **42** is formed shorter than the pull-tab ejector leg **41**.

In Figs. 8 and 9, the strip **50** is shown with two outer legs **51** and an inner leg **52** therebetween and an undivided end **53**. Spaced fold lines **54** and **55** are provided. The anchor outer legs **51** are shorter than the inner pull-tab ejector leg **52**. This latter leg may also be provided with fold lines **56** and **57** and with a finger grip extremity **58**.

A pair of cross platform members **59** are also provided in this form of the invention, extending from the anchor outer legs **51** outwardly, between the fold lines **44** and **45**.

It is to be understood that instead of supplying a pair of cross platform members **59**, either one or both of these cross platform members may be eliminated.

The pull-tab ejectors may be of any size, and material and used to eject any kind of merchandise in packages of various types.

While I have illustrated and described the preferred embodiments of my invention, it is to be understood that I do not limit myself to the precise constructions herein disclosed and the right is reserved to all changes and modifications coming within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by United States Letters Patent is:

1. A cigarette pull-tab ejector for cigarette packages comprising a thin flexible strip having two parallel anchor legs and a pull-tab ejector leg parallel thereto and disposed between the two anchor legs, all of said legs running lengthwise of the strip and joined together at one end, said anchor legs being shorter than said pull-tab ejector leg, said pull-tab ejector leg having a finger gripping extremity at its free end and spaced fold lines adapted to provide a fold over the top of cigarettes in a package of cigarettes, both of said anchor legs having base members extending laterally thereof between the ends thereof.

2. The combination with a cigarette package of a cigarette ejecting device, said device comprising an elongated strip of flexible material slitted centrally thereof from one end to a point remote from the other end, forming juxtaposed legs, said strip being folded at spaced intervals therealong to accommodate the strip to the inside of the cigarette package, the portion of the strip between the folds serving as an elevating flap for the cigarettes, one leg at its end remote from the solid end of the strip extending beyond the end of the other leg, forming an extension adapted to be folded over the cigarettes in the cigarette package and serving as a fingerpiece when extended for lifting said lifting flap, the solid end of the strip and the free end of the short leg being attached to the inside surface of the cigarette package, the longer leg being unattached, the attached shorter leg serving to guide the longer leg in its ejecting and return movements, and a base member extending laterally from the shorter attached leg intermediate its ends and overlying the bottom of the cigarette package for substantially the entire area of the bottom for guiding the ejecting device to position inside the package and for steadying and anchoring the device when positioned inside the package.

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