O. W. HARMS.

CIGAR BOX.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 2, 1918.

1,310,949. Patented July 22, 1919.

Fig. 1.

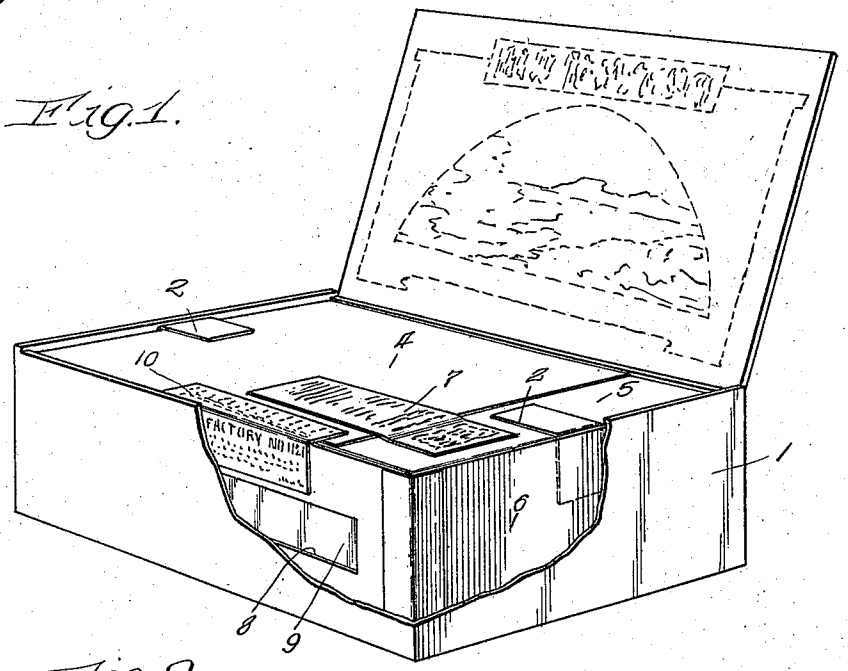
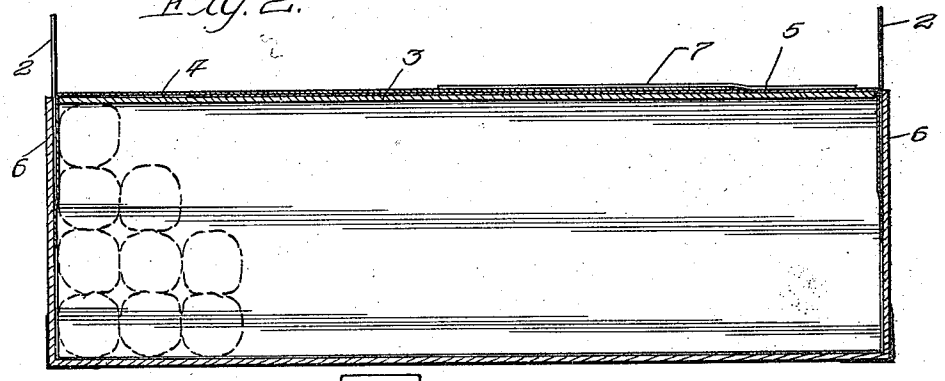


Fig. 2.



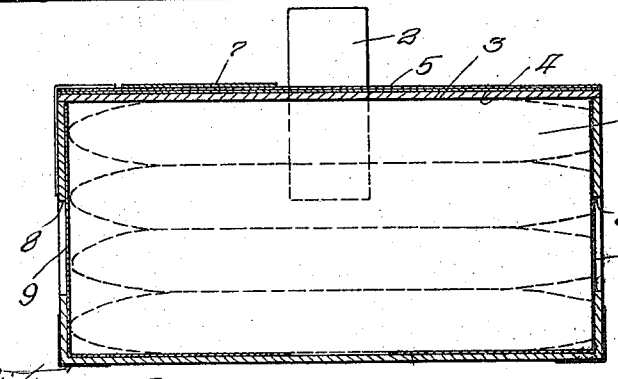


Fig. 3.

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CIGAR-BOX.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, OTTO W. HARMS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Cigar-Boxes; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to containers for cigars, its general object being to provide an inexpensive container which will comply with the internal revenue laws, while still affording the display feature, the protection against the drying out of the cigars, and the flavoring of the cigars by the wood, as are afforded by the more expensive methods of packaging now in common use. More particularly, my invention aims to provide an inner container or box adapted to be inserted in a wooden cigar box of the ordinary type, the inner container being cheaply constructed and arranged in compliance with the internal revenue laws, and being also arranged for permitting the flavor of the wood to penetrate to the cigars, and for permitting a ready removal of the inner container when empty.

Heretofore it has been customary to pack cigars direct into wooden boxes, which boxes were then sealed by affixing the proper revenue stamps in such a manner that the hinged covers could not be swung open without first tearing or cutting the stamps. The revenue laws specifically require the boxes to be so arranged that the stamp cannot be left intact when the box is opened, and these laws also specify that the box in which the cigars are packed must not be used again for the same purpose. Because of this last requirement, it has heretofore been necessary to provide new wooden boxes for each batch of cigars, and with the increase in cost due to war conditions, this has meant a considerable addition to the total cost of the cigars, even when the box was made of cheap wood. Furthermore, this item in cost has been still greater when the boxes were made of the kinds of wood which help to impart the most desirable flavor to the cigars, such as the Spanish cedar. In practice, the flavoring power of the wood of a cigar box is only utilized to a small extent by a single filling of cigars, hence the destroying of the box after each single filling has meant a very inefficient use of the wood and the resulting heavy expense has further been augmented by the cost of the display labels as commonly placed on the inside covers of the wooden boxes.

My invention aims to utilize both the strong flavoring quality of the wood and the durability of the display labels more fully, and to provide an arrangement whereby the wooden box as at present in common use will serve as a flavor-imparting and display-permitting housing for a series of inner containers successively packed into the wooden box and arranged to comply with the internal revenue laws. More particularly, my invention also aims to provide inner containers for this purpose which may be arranged for preventing access to the cigars without a prior rupturing of the revenue-stamp or a damaging of the box; to provide means for readily permitting the flavor of the wood to penetrate the walls of the inner container, and to provide means for readily removing the inner container from the outer box. To illustrate how my invention may be carried out,

Figure 1 of the accompanying drawings shows a cigar box embodying my invention, with a part of the outer container broken away to disclose the inner container.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged longitudinal section taken through the inner container and showing the lifting tabs on this container in their raised positions.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged transverse section taken centrally through the same container.

In the embodiments of the drawings, my invention includes an outer box 1, desirably made of such wood as will impart a pleasing flavor to cigars as for example Spanish cedar. This box desirably has the usual ornamental label on the inside of its cover to aid in identifying and displaying its contents, but the cigars are not packed directly into this box. Instead, the cigars are packed originally into an inner container which fits snugly into the box 1 and which can be lifted out of the latter by lifting tabs or straps 2. This inner container is desirably made of cardboard with the sides and bottom rigidly fastened to each other, but with the top 3 consisting of a sheet of cardboard adapted to rest loosely on the walls

of the container. To hold this top or cover plate 3 in position, wide paper strips 4 and 5 are secured to the ends 6 of the container and are folded over each other, substantially as shown in Fig. 2, after which they are sealed in position by means of the usual revenue stamp 7. The usual "Caution notice" 10 may also be affixed substantially as shown in the drawings, so as to seal one or both of the paper strips to a side of the inner container.

To permit a better penetration of the flavor of the wood to the cigars than would be afforded merely by the imperfect joint between the cover 3 and the walls of the inner container, I equip portions of these walls with perforations 8, which perforations are closed by thin sheets 9 of paper or other flavor-pervious material. These sheets 9 are desirably pasted on the inside of the container, so that the latter presents a substantially smooth interior into which the cigars may readily be packed. When thus filled with cigars and sealed by means of the customary revenue stamp 7, the inner container forms a package which may readily be handled without spilling its contents, and from which the cigars cannot be removed without either damaging this container or rupturing the revenue stamp. Consequently, this inner container complies with the internal revenue laws, and such cigar filled containers can then be displayed interchangeably in one and the same outer box 1. Whenever a new container is set into this outer box, the revenue stamp is torn to permit the tearing off of the covering strips 4 and 5, thus permitting the cover plate 3 to be lifted off and thereby exposing the cigars to view. Consequently, the cigars when thus displayed in the showcase will appear approximately as they would if packed directly into the wooden box. However, when a container is empty, it can readily be lifted out of the wooden box by means of the straps 2, and a filled container can then be substituted for it.

In this manner, I am able to use one and the same wooden box over and over again for the same brand of cigars while complying with the revenue laws, thereby saving both the large difference in cost between the wooden box and the inner cardboard container, and also the cost of the handsome label as desirably used on the inside cover of the box. To allow for the thickness of the inner container, the dimensions of the wooden box may be increased slightly over those of the boxes as ordinarily used for the same size and shape of cigars, but the increased amount of wood required for this purpose is so small that the difference in cost is negligible in practice. I am therefore able to effect a considerable saving, though I do not wish to be limited to the precise shape of parts as illustrated, nor to the particular details of construction and arrangement, it being obvious that these might be modified in many ways without departing from the spirit of my invention as set forth in the appended claim.

I claim as my invention:

In combination with a cigar box made of flavoring wood a package formed to inclose the cigars and to conformably fit within the box and having means whereby the flavor of the wood may have access to the cigars within the package, and means whereby to seal said package so as to require mutilation of the package in order to allow of removal of the cigars from the package, said package being bodily removable from the box so as to allow the latter to be reused with a fresh sealed and stamped package containing cigars.

Signed at Chicago, Illinois, November 29th, 1918.

OTTO W. HARMS.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."