C. J. GONGOLAS

POCKET TISSUE DISPENSER

Filed Oct. 8, 1954

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

INVENTOR
Constantine John Gongolas,
By Herbert A. Minturn,
ATTORNEY
This invention relates to a dispenser for carrying a plurality of sheets of folded tissue paper of the type generally known as "facial" tissue which may be employed for use in the place of ordinary cloth handkerchiefs and the like. The dispenser embodying my invention can be carried in a flat shape within the coat pocket of a man for example, so that the user of the tissues may reach within the pocket and insert his index finger under an exposed fold of the tissue and withdraw the sheet of tissue from the dispenser without having to take the dispenser out of his pocket or without disturbing other sheets of tissue carried by the dispenser. The same operation may be employed by a woman carrying a dispenser in her purse. In other words, by use of the invention, one does not have to make a show of pulling out a box of tissue sheets and withdrawing one and then having to carry the box around for future use. The entire operation of obtaining a sheet of tissue is had in an extremely unobtrusive manner.

The structure embodied in the dispenser is quite thin and flat in nature so that the dispenser does not have a bulky form even though a comparatively large number of the tissue sheets are carried in it.

There are no parts to be operated in any manner when the tissue is to be dispensed, and the structure may be produced at a relatively low cost.

These and many other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent to those versed in the art in the following description of the invention as illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which

Fig. 1 is a view in top perspective of a single sheet of the tissue paper;

Fig. 2 is a view in perspective of the tissue holder and dispenser

Fig. 3 is a view in perspective of the dispenser in a folded condition such as it would be in normal usage;

Fig. 4 is a view in perspective of the dispenser with a sheet of tissue carried therein in the normal manner before the holder is folded into the position indicated in Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a view of the dispenser carrying a number of the tissue sheets and indicating the manner of dispensing;

Fig. 6 is a view in top plan of a modified form of the tissue holder;

Fig. 7 is a view in perspective of the modified form of Fig. 6 folded into the position to be assumed for dispensing; and

Fig. 8 is a view of the dispenser of Fig. 7 in a further folded condition ready for insertion and carrying in a lady's purse.

The tissue sheets generally designated by the numeral 10, Fig. 1, are folded along lines 11 and 12 to have overturned flaps 13 and 14, the edges of which are spaced apart laterally across the sheet 10.

A holder generally designated by the numeral 15, Fig. 2, is formed to have two overturned flaps 16 and 17 united along their edges 18 and 19 respectively with the generally major and flat portion 20 by any suitable means either by stitching or as herein shown as being an integral part of the portion 20. The material out of which the members 16 and 17 as well as 20 are formed may be any material such as a synthetic plastic or a stiffened fabric having a body in any event such that it will tend to hold its shape. The portion 20 has a slot 21 extending along its central zone from one edge 18 to the other edge 19. Preferably the edges 22 and 23 of this slot 21 are enlarged by arcuate, centrally disposed cut away portions defined by the edges 24 and 25.

One sheet of tissue 10 after another is laid across the central portion 20 with the flaps 13 and 14 turned downward toward the member 20, Fig. 4, and then the holder flaps 16 and 17 are turned over the stack of sheets 10 thus disposed.

Noting first the folded form of the holder 15 as illustrated in Fig. 3, it is to be observed that the normal and final position of the holder when ready for use is as shown wherein the holder flaps 16 and 17 are on the inside when the holder is folded substantially across its central zone midway between the slot edges 22 and 23. This folding causes a folded length of the flaps 16 and 17 to extend upwardly beyond the slot edges 22 and 23. That is, the upper folded line of the flaps 16 and 17 respectively, Fig. 3, is located at a distance above the then disposed slot edges 22 and 23.

The holder is thus folded for use after the tissue sheets 10 have been loaded in the holder as suggested in Fig. 4, to bring the dispenser when loaded into the form as illustrated in Fig. 5. In this form, the tissue sheets 10 are folded over the flaps 16 and 17 across the fold lines 26 and 27 so that there is substantially an equal length of each of the tissues extending downwardly within the dispenser between the flaps 16 and 17 and the portions of the area 20 extending from the slot edges 22 and 23.

With the dispenser in the form shown in Fig. 5, it is to be seen that it assumes a rather flattened shape so that it will readily fit within a man's coat pocket or even his pants pocket, to have the exposed tissue 10 along the relatively upper portion of the dispenser. It is to be noted that in this form of loading, the flaps 13 and 14 of the tissue 10 are exposed.

By reason of this exposure of the flaps 13 and 14, the user of the tissues may insert his index finger 28 into his pocket and allow it to slide down over the uppermost exposed tissue 10 between the flaps 13 and 14 and then bring the end of the finger back under the flap 14 for example, Fig. 5, and pull upwardly so that that uppermost tissue sheet 10 will then be withdrawn from the holder 15. In doing so, the under tissue sheets will remain securely in place without being disturbed as this upper or outermost tissue sheet 10 is pulled out. Thus the user may withdraw a sheet of the tissue 10 from his pocket without having to take the dispenser out and expose it at any time. It would appear to other persons that the tissue sheet had been carried within the pocket without benefit of having been in a dispenser. By reason of the arcuate edges 24 and 25, a slightly greater length of the tissue 10 is exposed below the top fold lines 26 and 27 to permit the index finger 28 to be readily inserted under the flap 14 or 13 as the case may be depending upon which way the holder 15 has been placed in the pocket. By reason of the presence of the arcuate edges 24 and 25, the flap 14 may be readily lifted from the main joining area of the tissue sheet 10 thereunder to facilitate the insertion of the finger 28 under the flap.

When the dispenser is to be carried in a lady's purse, it may be desirable to reduce the over-all area of the dispenser for convenience of carrying. In such cases, the holder 15, Fig. 6, does not have parallel side edges as indicated in Fig. 2, but has sloping edges 29 and 30 between the parallel ends 31 and 32 so that the over-all
shape of the holder when the flaps 13 and 14 are placed thereover is trapezoidal. Otherwise the dispenser 15 is exactly the same having the central slot 21 extending laterally thereacross centrally between the ends 31 and 32 with the arcuate edges 24 and 25 centrally of the slot.

As indicated in Fig. 7, the holder 15 may be folded about a central transverse axis into the form shown in Fig. 7, and then further, the holder may be folded again about a central longitudinal zone A to bring it into the shape as indicated in Fig. 8. This may readily be done after the tissue sheets have been loaded within the holder, and then the tissue sheets may be removed one at a time from the holder with the holder left in the form as shown in Fig. 8 or opened out to the form shown in Fig. 7 simply by inserting the finger under one of the flaps 13 or 14 of the tissue and lifting outwardly so as to pull the sheet from within the holder. The sloped edges 29 and 30 constituting the junctions of the flaps 16 and 17 with the central area of the holder being sloped outwardly one from the other from the edge 32 toward the edge 31 to prevent pinching of the tissues within the holder when it is folded to the position shown in Fig. 8 and accordingly permits the easy removal of the tissues from that holder. Thus it is to be seen that I have provided a very simple and yet most effective structure for ease of dispensing facial tissues. In all cases, the material out of which the holder is made may be flexible so that it will readily conform to the shape of one's pocket if necessary. In any event the material will permit folding as has been indicated so that the holder may be opened out again for loading and then brought back again into its dispensing form. While I have shown and described my invention in the one particular form, it is obvious that structural changes may be employed without departing from the spirit of the invention, and I therefore do not desire to be limited to that precise form beyond the limitations of the claim appended hereto.

I claim:

A dispenser of separate, paper tissue sheets, each sheet having an opposite side portion folded over flat, one portion toward the other, onto a major area of the sheet, said portions terminating thereover along transversely spaced apart lines extending longitudinally of the sheet leaving a central portion of said area exposed between those lines, thereby defining a length of tissue sheet of greater thickness through the folded over areas than through said central portion, comprising two sections of flexible material; a pair of flexible material flaps; said sections being joined by opposite side edge portions respectively to opposite edges of said flaps with said flaps extending from those side edges flat-wise over the sections, one toward the other, said flaps having opposing free longitudinal edges transversely spaced apart one from the other across said sections; said sections being longitudinally spaced apart along said flaps centrally thereof and with spaced apart opposing edges defining an open slot therebetween with said flaps extending across the slot at ends thereof; said flaps being transversely folded along a line centrally between said section opposing edges, one flap flat-wise against itself respectively, presenting said joined sections outwardly of the flaps; said tissue sheets being disposed in a stack between said sections over said flaps across said slot with said folded over portions directed toward said sections; said stack being compressibly and frictionally engaged along its longitudinal edge portions between said section and said flaps, exposing through said slot a central zone of said stack in folded condition with said sheet folded over portions being outwardly presented, between the opposing longitudinally spaced lines of which, an index finger may be inserted over said central area portion and under one of said sections and bent to enter under one of the folded over portions thereby engaging the outermost sheet for pulling from the stack.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,403,898</td>
<td>Eisenstark</td>
<td>Jan. 17, 1922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,653,690</td>
<td>Appelbaum</td>
<td>Dec. 27, 1927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,657,942</td>
<td>Spalio</td>
<td>Jan. 31, 1928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,020,799</td>
<td>Randall</td>
<td>Nov. 12, 1935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,027,258</td>
<td>Winter et al.</td>
<td>Jan. 7, 1936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,085,649</td>
<td></td>
<td>June 29, 1937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,558,920</td>
<td>Baggs</td>
<td>July 2, 1951</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
