Oct. 31, 1944. J. SCHUMANN 2,361,879

CIGARETTE PACKAGE

Filed April 28, 1943

Fig. 1.

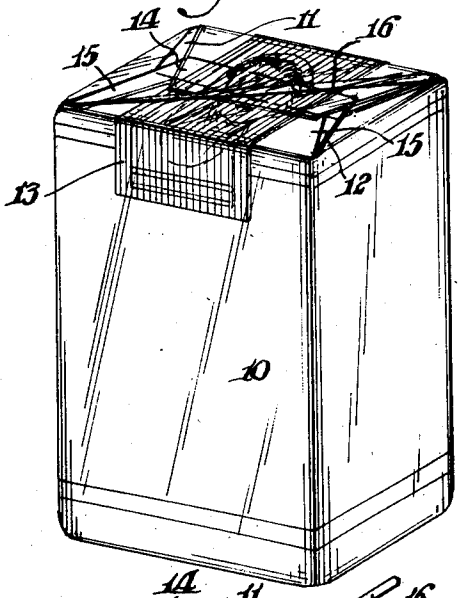


Fig. 2.

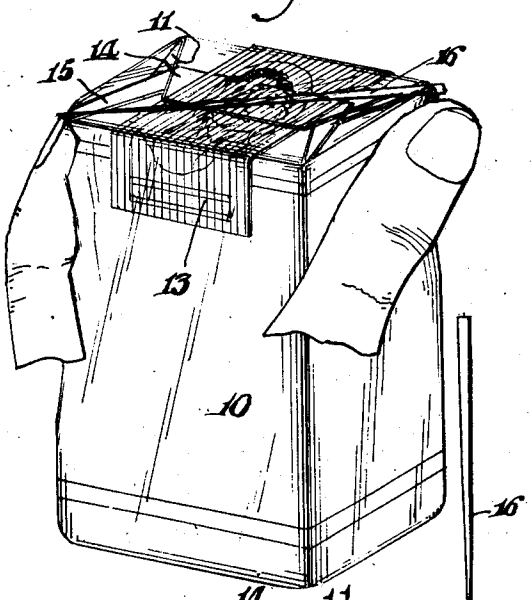


Fig. 3.

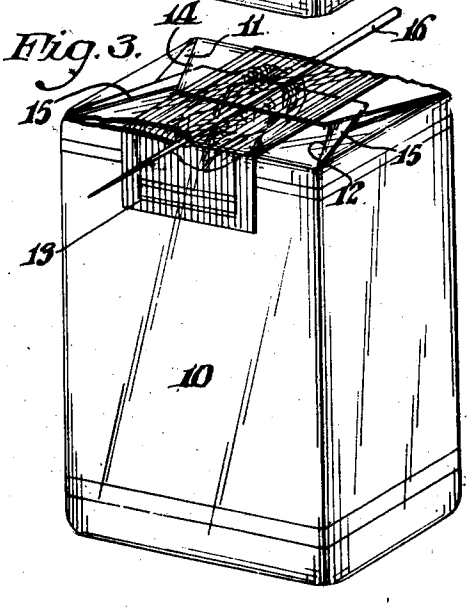


Fig. 4.

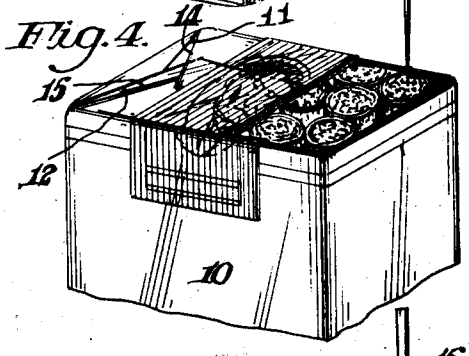


Fig. 6.

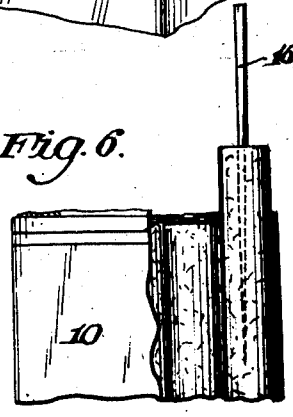
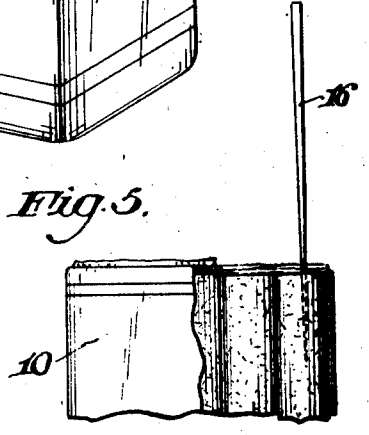


Fig. 5.



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CIGARETTE PACKAGE

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3 Claims. (Cl. 206—41.2)

The present invention relates to the opening of packages of merchandise and the removal of the goods therefrom, and more particularly relates to packages of cigarettes and the like.

In dispensing cigarettes it is the common practice to pack twenty cigarettes under constricting tension in a rectangularly shaped flexible paper container, one end of which exposes overlapping flaps sealed by a revenue stamp. In addition, modern packages are contained within a Cellophane wrapper which has sealing ends lying over the package flaps in position to be broken for access to the aforesaid flaps. In opening such a package, following the breaking of the Cellophane, either the flaps are opened outwardly to expose the entire top of the contents, or a corner may be torn off to expose only a portion of the contents. Whether one or the other of these opening methods is used, the problem of removing a cigarette without damaging its end remains the same. The fact that the cigarettes are packed and held close together with all tops in a common plane prevents the fingers of the user from grasping a cigarette with any degree of assurance, and even if successfully grasped the packing pressure so resists the movement of the cigarette that the lifting effort causes the cigarette paper to be torn away from the cigarette end, so that, at least one cigarette in every package has a broken end to cause uneven burning. It has heretofore been proposed to provide ribbons built into the package around a cigarette as one means of solving the problem, since an end of the ribbon projects from the package and when pulled outwardly causes a cigarette to be partly expelled. The trouble and cost incident to assembly of such a ribbon is prohibitive as a commercial proposition.

Some of the objects of the present invention are to provide a new and novel means for opening a package of cigarettes; to provide means for gaining access to the contents of a cigarette package and withdrawing a cigarette therefrom without damage to the cigarette; to provide a simple, cheap and easily assembled means for breaking the wrapper of a cigarette package; to provide means in association with a package opening means for causing one cigarette to be projected from or removed from its package; and to provide other improvements as will hereinafter appear.

In the accompanying drawing Fig. 1 represents a perspective of a package of cigarettes embodying one form of the present invention; Fig. 2 represents a perspective of the same showing the initial steps in the opening of the package; Fig. 3 represents a perspective of the same showing the package seal broken and the actuating implement ready for removal; Fig. 4 represents a fragmentary detail of the opened pack of cigarettes showing the extracting implement ready to be inserted in a cigarette; Fig. 5 represents a sectional detail showing the extracting implement as partially inserted in a cigarette; and Fig. 6 represents the temporarily coupled implement and cigarette partially withdrawn from the package.

Referring to the drawing, one form of the present invention is shown wherein a cigarette package 10, of usual construction, having package flaps 11 and 12 overlapping across the top of the package and normally sealed by the revenue stamp 13. Ends 14 and 15 of the outer Cellophane wrapper enclose the stamp and flaps in the usual manner.

For the purpose of breaking the bond between the Cellophane ends 14 and 15, an implement 16 is provided having a length substantially equal to the diagonal distance between two corners of the package top, and the same is assembled between the package flaps and the Cellophane folded ends prior to or after the sealing of the latter. While this diagonal positioning of the implement 16 is preferred, the invention is not limited to such position or to such length of implement. Preferably the implement 16 is in the form of an elongated relatively thin member of wood or other material having a substantially effective friction surface such illustratively as a toothpick. In section the implement is preferably circular but diminishing in diameter from at least its middle portion to one end where it terminates in a relatively sharp point. The package with its assembled implement is shown in Fig. 1, and as such will be dispensed over the counter.

To open the package, the purchaser graps it between the thumb and a finger at the corners adjacent the respective ends of the implement and squeezes the corners together. This compresses the package and shortens the diagonal thereof sufficiently to cause the ends of the implement to puncture the Cellophane and protrude therefrom in proximity to the thumb and finger, which latter are now pressed against the implement ends in opposite directions so that the implement in turning quickly breaks the Cellophane ends to expose the package flaps. The implement is now removed, inserted beneath the stamp 13 and by lever action breaks the seal.

The package top can now be opened and access had to the cigarettes.

The user now presses the sharp end of the implement into a cigarette, preferably to depth where the body of the implement is thickest and as a result the already compressed tobacco is further compressed against the relatively inelastic encircling paper wrapper and against the implement to solidly grip the latter. This compression is so tenacious that when the implement is withdrawn from the package, the impaled cigarette is drawn out with it ready for use. This removal leaves a space which allows the user to grasp another cigarette for removal without damage, though if desired, the implement can be used for removing any of the remaining cigarettes.

The implement is preferably unglazed and is non-metallic so that its surface has a relatively high coefficient of friction. The rate of diminishing circumference, or of taper thereof from the thickest portion is relatively slow so that the implement can easily be plunged or forced into the cigarette with a relatively slow increase of pressure and so that a sufficient area of implement is contacted by the compressed tobacco as to anchor the cigarette and implement together. In other words, it is preferable that the point be rather acute, although satisfactory results can be achieved by very obtuse points.

It will be understood that the implement may also be located beneath the tax stamp as well as under the overlapping folds of the Cellophane outer cover, so as simultaneously to secure rupture of the stamp and outer wrap by simple manipulation of the implement in place, or after removal from the package. It may also be located under all of the layers and folds of the package, or may be furnished as a separate item for operating association with the package. However furnished it will be understood that the friction between the tobacco and implement, by reaction against the encircling non-elastic cigarette wrapper need only be greater than that between adjacent cigarettes under lateral compression in the pack.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. In a cigarette package, the combination of a container formed of folded material having a sealed end to be ruptured for access to the contents, a plurality of cigarettes in said container, and a wooden toothpick held by said sealed end in position to be manually operated to rupture said end to release said toothpick and by manipulation to expose the end of at least one cigarette, said toothpick being adapted to axially penetrate the exposed end of said cigarette to a depth necessary to cause said cigarette to adhere by friction to said toothpick, whereby said cigarette can be removed from said package by the withdrawal of said toothpick.

2. In a cigarette package, the combination of a container formed of folded material having a sealed end to be ruptured for access to the contents, said end being rectangular in shape, a plurality of cigarettes in said container, and an elongated rigid implement disposed diagonally of said end and under the folded material, the ends of said implement terminating in close proximity to the respective opposite corners of said package, whereby compression of said corners causes said implement to puncture the material at the two corners to expose the ends of the implement for rotative manipulation to break said material and release said implement.

3. In combination a package of cigarettes the respective cigarettes being maintained under lateral pressure so that friction between contiguous cigarettes and between the walls of the package and adjacent cigarettes is so great as to prevent ready dislodgement of any cigarette, and a pointed implement of varying circumference from the point having a surface with a relatively high coefficient of friction to be used for axial insertion into a selected cigarette until the elastic tobacco of the cigarette has been displaced and compressed against its paper and by reaction of compression against the implement to engender a frictional grip between the said selected cigarette and said cigarette such as to overcome the friction effective on the outer face of the cigarette as to permit axial withdrawal of said selected cigarette with the implement upon which it has been impaled.

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