Jan. 26, 1943. C. S. JACKSON 2,309,396

TAPE DISPENSING DEVICE

Filed Dec. 6, 1940

Fig. 1.

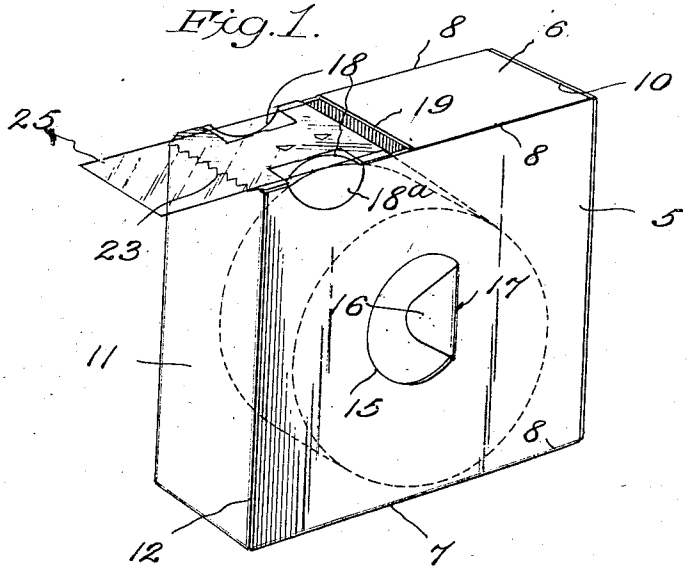


Fig. 2.

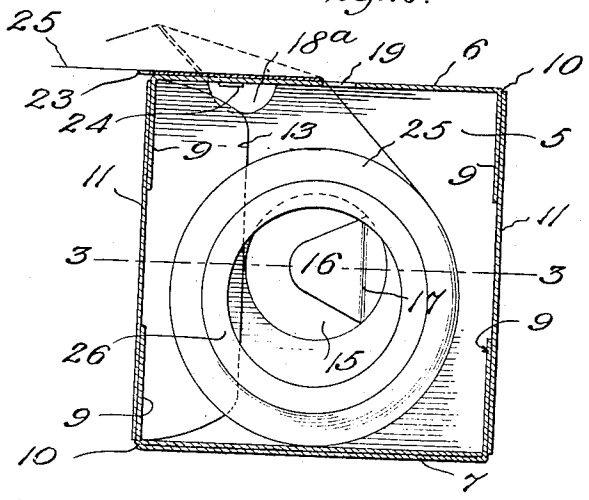


Fig. 4.

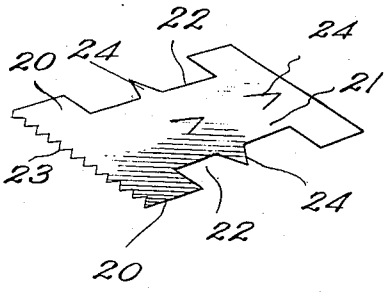
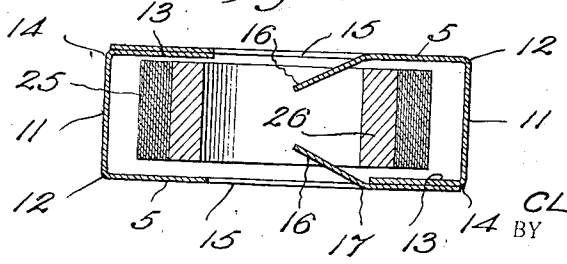


Fig. 3.



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TAPE DISPENSING DEVICE

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3 Claims. (Cl. 206—52)

The invention relates to tape dispensing devices and more particularly to devices for dispensing adhesive tape especially of the type known as transparent pressure sensitive adhesive tape sometimes referred to as "Scotch" tape and commonly used as a mending tape for mending torn papers, documents and the like, and for other purposes. Because of the relatively high degree of adhesiveness inherent in the adhesive coating applied to one surface of said tape, the latter is of maximum efficiency in use but at the same time is somewhat troublesome to handle.

The object of the invention is to provide a dispensing device constructed in a novel manner to overcome difficulties and objections heretofore existing and to facilitate the handling and dispensing of the adhesive tape and the severing thereof into selective lengths or sections for use as desired.

The invention contemplates further the provision of a dispensing device of the indicated type constructed and designed to constitute a merchandising package in which a roll of adhesive tape may be sold to the purchasing public and which may be conveniently utilized as a dispensing device at will.

Other objects will appear from the description hereinafter and the features of novelty will be pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawing, which illustrates an example of the invention without defining its limits, Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the novel dispensing device; Fig. 2 is a sectional elevation thereof; Fig. 3 is a horizontal section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2, and Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a severing or tearing member embodied in the dispensing device.

In its illustrated form the dispensing device comprises a preferably foldable container made of suitable material such as cardboard or its equivalent, and consisting of parallel side walls or panels 5, a top wall or panel 6 and a bottom wall or panel 7. The top and bottom walls or panels 6 and 7 generally constitute integral parts of the side walls or panels 5 and are foldable relatively thereto for instance on score lines 8 extending along opposed corresponding edges of said side walls 5. For convenience in construction one of the walls, for instance the wall 7, may consist of two panels each foldably connected with one of the side walls 5 and arranged in overlying surface engagement with each other and fastened together by adhesive or in any other convenient manner. The walls or panels 5, 6 and 7 in the unfolded operative condition provide the hollow body of the container as shown in Fig. 2.

At its opposite open ends the hollow body of the container may be provided with tongues 9 foldable relatively to the walls or panels 6 and 7 respectively, in any conventional manner as for instance on score lines 10, said tongues 9 in such case comprising integral parts of the respective panels 6 and 7. In addition closures in the form of panels 11 are foldably associated with the side panels 5 at opposite ends of the container body, for instance along score lines 12 and at one free edge are provided with locking flaps 13. The latter are foldable relatively to the closure panels 11 for instance on score lines 14 and in such arrangement are integral parts of said panels 11. In the preferred form the panels 11 are each foldably connected with one of the side walls 5 and in practice are therefore foldable in opposite directions relatively to the body of the container as illustrated in Fig. 3. In its completely set up condition the tongues 9 are folded inwardly toward each other in cooperating pairs at opposite ends of the container body and the closure panels 11 are folded over said tongues 9 so as to overlie the same, while the locking flaps 13 are tucked into said body so as to project between the tongues 9 and the inner surfaces of the side walls 5 to thereby lock said closure panels 11 in position to close the opposite ends of said container. To facilitate the insertion of the locking flaps 13 the free edge thereof may be rounded and the tongues 9 may be of tapering form.

Each of the side walls or panels 5 is provided with an opening 15 of generally circular form, and a tab 16 which extends into the associated opening 15 and is foldable, for instance on a score line 17 for the purpose to be more fully set forth hereinafter. The top wall or panel 6 is provided with finger recesses 18 which extend into the side walls or panels 5 in the form of preferably curved recesses 18a located in registry with each other and interrupting the continuity of the upper edges of said side panels 5 to co-operate with the recesses 18 in providing finger openings for the purpose to be more fully described hereinafter. In addition the top wall or panel 6 is cut away to provide a slot 19 preferably extending transversely across the top panel 6 for the withdrawal of the tape from the dispensing device at will and in such lengths as may be desired.

To facilitate the severing of the tape into selec-

tive individual sections as the requirements incidental to its many uses may dictate, the novel dispensing device includes tearing or cutting means comprising a metallic severing member arranged in any convenient manner for operative combination with the dispensing device. In its illustrated form the metallic severing member consists of spaced parallel end sections 20 at opposite ends of a connecting section 21 in transverse relation thereto. The sections 20 and 21 preferably are stamped or otherwise produced from sheet metal or other suitable material as integral parts of each other, the end sections 20 preferably corresponding in transverse dimensions approximately to the width of the end wall or panel 6. The connecting section 21 is relatively narrow or otherwise shaped to provide oppositely directed open recesses 22 between said end sections 20 which in the operative position of the severing member register with the recesses 18 of the side walls or panels 5. To increase the severing action of the severing member the free transverse edge of the one end section 20 is preferably provided with teeth or serrations 23. A plurality of prongs 24 may be stamped or cut from the material of which the severing member is made, to constitute means whereby the latter is fixed in place on the wall or panel 6 of the dispensing device. The parts preferably are dimensioned and arranged so that the severing member when secured to the wall or panel 6 by means of the prongs 24 or in any other way, will have the free transverse edge of one end section 20 in approximate registry with one edge of the slot 19 and the teeth or serrations 23 of the other end section 20 projecting beyond the adjacent edge of the container to a slight extent as for instance $\frac{1}{32}$'', while the relatively narrow connecting section 21 extends between the finger recesses 18.

Adhesive tape 25 of the kind for which the dispensing device is specially adapted is generally coiled in rolls upon tubular cores 26 of any suitable material in the well-known and conventional manner. In practice a roll of tape 25 is placed within the container and the free end of said tape 25 is passed outwardly through the slot 19; in the preferred arrangement the roll of tape 25 is positioned in the container and the tape is threaded through the slot 19 and drawn over the severing member in a direction toward the teeth or serrations 23 with the adhesive coated surface of said tape as the lower one. Under such conditions the free end portion of the tape 25 may be adhesively attached to the sections 20 and 21 of the severing member in surface contact therewith when the dispensing device is not in use. During such inactive periods, the free end of the tape 25 will project transversely in opposite direction beyond the connecting section 21 and will lie over the recesses 22 in registry with the recesses 18 of the side walls of panels 5. At the same time the tabs 16 may be pressed inwardly into the container so as to project into the opposite ends of the tubular core 26 to thereby rotatably position the roll of tape 25 in the container. It will of course be understood that the tongues 9, closure panels 11 and the locking flaps 13 are in operative positions to close the open ends of the container and retain the roll of tape 25 therein.

When it is desired to obtain a section or length of tape from the dispensing device, the free end of the tape 25 is released from the adhesive attachment with the sections 20 and 21 of the tearing or severing member, such removal being facilitated because of the easy accessibility of those portions of the tape 25 which lie over the recesses 22 and 18. When the free end of the tape 25 has thus been released the tape may be easily withdrawn through the slot 19 to whatever extent is required in order to provide the length or section of tape desired. At this stage the withdrawn tape is brought into surface contact with the tearing or severing member and is torn across the teeth or serrations 24 thereof. This operation of tearing or severing the tape automatically adhesively attaches the resulting free end of the tape 25 remaining on the roll in adhesive surface engagement with the sections 20 and 21 of the tearing or severing member. During the operation of withdrawing the tape 25 from the dispensing device the latter may be held between the thumb and a finger of the human hand, with said thumb and finger engaging the tabs 16 and exerting an inward pressure thereon to cause said tabs to function efficiently as supports on which the roll of tape 25 is easily rotatable as the withdrawing of the tape from the dispensing device proceeds. From the aforesaid description it is clearly apparent that the novel dispensing device enables the tape 25 to be readily handled without messiness when lengths or sections of said tape are desired for use. During inactive periods, the dispensing device adequately protects the roll of tape 25 contained therein and at the same time always maintains the free end of said tape in a position of ready accessibility for releasing and withdrawing selective sections or lengths of said tape when desired. The provision of the recesses 18 and 22 whereby portions of the free end of the tape 25 are made easily and freely accessible makes the disconnection of said free end of the tape 25 from the severing member easily possible without messiness. In addition to the above, the novel dispensing device also constitutes an efficient package in which the tape may be displayed for sale and sold to the purchasing public. While the container itself has been described in specific form, it will be understood that the construction and arrangement thereof may be changed to meet any conditions which may develop.

Although the present invention has been described in conjunction with a preferred embodiment, it is to be understood that modifications and variations may be resorted to without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention, as those skilled in the art will readily understand. Thus it will be observed that in place of the dispensing device specifically illustrated and described said dispensing device may be otherwise constructed and arranged for instance as set forth hereinbefore. Such variations and modifications are considered to be within the purview and scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A dispensing device for adhesive tape comprising a substantially rectangular hollow container provided with finger recesses in one of its transverse walls extending into its side walls, and having a transverse slot in said transverse wall through which adhesive tape may be withdrawn from a roll of tape in said container, and severed into selective lengths, the free end portion of the tape remaining on the roll being fixed in temporary adhesive attachment on said container and overlying said finger recesses whereby said free end portion of said tape is readily accessible for detachment at will prior

to the withdrawal of additional tape through said slot.

2. A dispensing device for adhesive tape comprising a substantially rectangular hollow container provided with finger recesses in one of its transverse walls extending into its side walls, said transverse wall having a transverse slot through which adhesive tape may be withdrawn from a roll of tape in said container and said side walls having registering openings, tabs integral with said side walls located in said openings and depressible inwardly to rotatably position said roll of tape in said container, and tearing means on said container in cooperative relation to said slot whereby the tape withdrawn therethrough from said roll may be transversely torn into selective lengths, the free end portion of the tape remaining on the roll being fixed in temporary adhesive attachment with said tearing means in overlying relation to said finger recesses whereby said free end portion of said tape is readily accessible for detachment at will prior to the withdrawal of additional tape through said slot.

3. A dispensing device for adhesive tape comprising a substantially rectangular hollow container having a transverse slot in one of its transverse walls through which tape from a roll within said container may be withdrawn, said transverse wall being further provided with finger recesses extending into the side walls of said container, and a severing member fixed in surface engagement with said transverse wall and extending between said finger recesses from said slot toward an adjacent edge of said container and having a serrated edge projecting beyond said adjacent edge whereby the tape withdrawn through said slot from said roll may be severed into selective lengths, the free end portion of the tape remaining on the roll being fixed in temporary adhesive attachment with said severing member in external overlying relation to said finger recesses whereby said free end portion of the tape is readily accessible for detachment at will prior to the withdrawal of additional tape through said slot.

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