July 25, 1961 H. E. SWEENEY 2,993,658

TOILET PAPER DISPENSER

Filed Oct. 15, 1959

FIG. 1

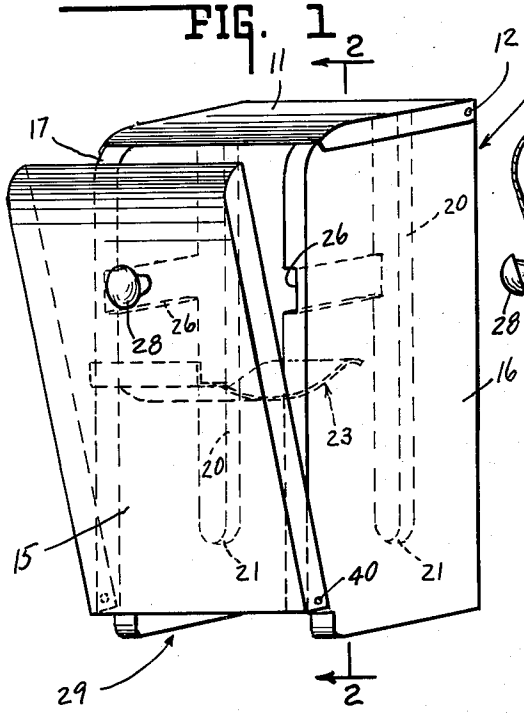


FIG. 2

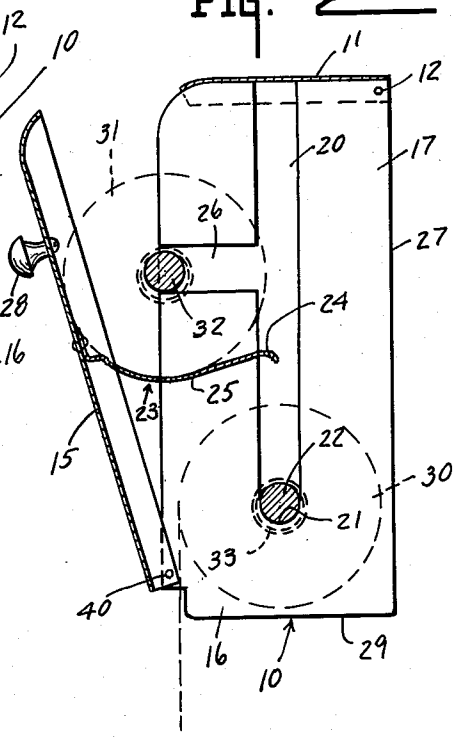
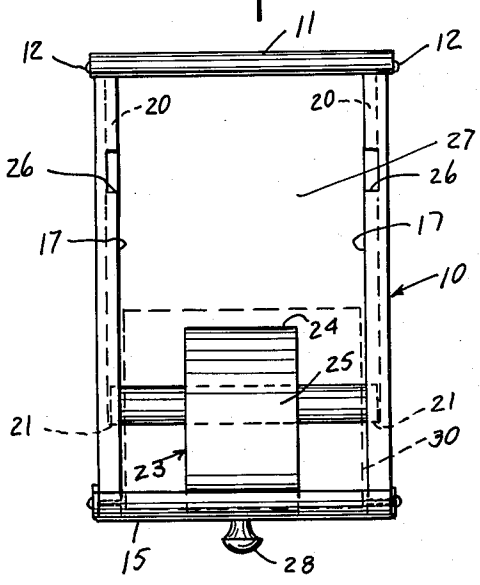


FIG. 3



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TOILET PAPER DISPENSER

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The present invention relates to a dispensing device and more particularly to a device for dispensing toilet paper.

One object of the invention is to provide an improved paper dispenser.

An important object of the present invention is to provide a toilet paper dispenser capable of retaining two rolls of toilet paper so that, when one roll is exhausted, a second will be ready for use.

A further object of the invention is to provide a toilet paper dispenser incorporating means for notifying one viewing the dispenser that there is only one roll of paper in the dispenser so that a second roll may be placed within the dispenser.

Another object of the invention is to provide a toilet paper dispenser which offers little resistance to the paying out of paper therefrom and which may be easily operated to place a second roll of toilet paper in dispensing position when a first roll is exhausted.

Still further objects and advantages will become apparent as the description proceeds.

In accordance with the present invention, there is provided a toilet paper dispenser which includes a container constructed for holding a first roll of paper in position for dispensing the paper. The container has a front wall pivotally mounted at the bottom thereof upon the container for closing the forward end of the container. A bracket is fixed to the front wall for holding a second roll of paper. The front wall is so balanced with respect to its pivotal mounting and the bracket is secured to the front wall in such a manner that the wall is held in container front closing relation by a roll of paper on the bracket and pivots to open the container front when there is no roll of paper on the bracket so as to notify a person viewing the dispenser that an additional roll of paper should be inserted within the container.

The full nature of the invention will be understood from the accompanying drawings and the following description and claims:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a dispensing device constructed according to the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a section taken along the plane 2—2 of FIG. 1 in the direction of the arrows.

FIG. 3 is a front elevation of the dispenser of FIGS. 1 and 2 showing the dispenser with its front wall in a horizontal open position.

Referring now to the drawings, this invention comprises a generally rectangular container **10** having a top **11** pivotally secured thereto at **12** and having a front wall **15** pivotally secured by its lower end to the side walls **16—16** of the container. The side walls **16** are parallel to one another and have in their mutually facing surfaces **17**, a pair of vertically extending slots **20—20** which are directly opposite from one another. The slots **20** extend from the upper edges of the side walls **16** downwardly to points spaced from the bottom of the side walls so as to form ledges **21** for supporting a dowel or axle such as **22** received within the cylindrical central aperture in a roll of toilet paper.

The front wall **15** has fixed thereto a bracket or hook, indicated generally by the numeral **23**, which has a portion **25** which extends generally horizontally between the side walls when the front wall **15** is in a vertical position. The free end **24** of the portion **25** is curved downwardly so as to prevent the bracket from tearing paper rolls passing adjacent thereto. A pair of horizontal slots **26** extend from the forward ends of the side walls **16** to intersect the vertically extending slots **20**. It should be noted that neither the slots **20** nor the slots **26** extend completely through the side walls.

The dispenser may be loaded either from the top or from the front. In order to load from the top, the dispenser must be mounted in such a manner that it is not contained within a recess which might prevent or hinder access to the top of the dispenser. Assuming, for example, that the dispenser is mounted with its back wall **27** fixed to a vertical wall, the top **11** is pivoted upwardly so that a roll of toilet paper may be inserted within the container in such a manner that a dowel or axle extending through the cardboard tube in the center of the roll will be received in the upper ends of the vertically extending slots **20**. By grasping and pulling the handle **28**, the front wall **15** is pivoted outwardly and downwardly to a position wherein the bracket **23** does not interfere with the passage of the roll of toilet paper downwardly within the container. The roll will move downwardly until the dowel within the roll engages the ledges **21** at the lower ends of the vertical slots. The paper roll **30** is shown in such a position. In this position, toilet paper may be drawn from the roll **30** in conventional manner and through the open lower end **29** of the dispenser.

A second roll of paper may then be loaded into the dispenser in the manner illustrated in FIG. 2, wherein the roll **31** is shown upon the bracket **23** with the dowel **32** being received in horizontal slots **26**. Alternatively, the second roll may be loaded within the dispenser by opening the top **11** and dropping the roll downwardly with its dowel passing through the vertical slots **20**. No matter which of these two methods of loading is used, the final position of the second roll will be such that the roll is resting upon the bracket **23**, the front wall **15** is extending vertically and the dowel within the roll is received within the vertical slot **20**.

Assuming now that the roll **30** becomes exhausted, its cardboard core tube **33** and its dowel **22** may be removed from the device by tilting the dowel **22** and by giving it a slight upward and twisting motion whereby the dowel **22** and tube **33** may be withdrawn from the open lower end of the dispenser. The front wall **15** is then opened or pivoted away from the container so that the roll **31** may drop downwardly in the slot **20** to the position formerly occupied by the roll **30**. Because of the fact that the portion **25** of the bracket **23** is generally horizontal and also because of the fact that the dowel **32** will have dropped somewhat downwardly in the slot **20**, the roll **31** will not move any appreciable amount outwardly with the front wall when it is pivoted away from the dispenser but rather will drop downwardly when the bracket **25** is no longer in supporting position, the dowel **32** moving downwardly in the slots **20**. Thus, all that is needed to place the roll **31** in position for dispensing paper is to quickly open the front wall **15** of the dispenser.

The front wall **15** is so balanced with respect to its pivotal mounting **40** that it will not retain a vertical position when the roll **31** is not on the bracket **23**. That is, the center of gravity of the front wall **15** and the bracket **23** is located leftwardly of the pivot point **40** as viewed in FIG. 2. Therefore, when there is no roll of paper upon the bracket **23**, the front wall **15** will move to an open position such as is illustrated in FIG. 3 so as to remind anyone viewing the dispenser that a second roll of paper should be placed therein. As a further reminder, the dowel which has been removed from the roll **30** may be placed upon the top of the dispenser in full view.

From the above description, it will be obvious that the present invention provides a toilet paper dispenser capable of retaining two rolls of toilet paper so that when

one roll is exhausted, a second will be ready for use. It can also be seen that the present invention provides means for notifying an observer that only a single roll of toilet paper is in the dispenser and that a second roll should be placed therein. Furthermore, the present invention provides a toilet paper dispenser which may be easily and quickly operated to place a second roll of paper in dispensing position when a first roll becomes exhausted.

It should be noted that the present device may be modified in such a manner that the top **11** is not pivotal with relation to the side walls **16** but rather is fixed in place. Such an embodiment would probably be somewhat less expensive to manufacture in that it would not be necessary to pivotally mount the top. Furthermore, this modification would be just as useful as the above described embodiment when the dispenser is recessed within a wall.

While the invention has been illustrated and described in detail in the drawings and foregoing description, the same is to be considered as illustrative and not restrictive in character, it being understood that only the preferred embodiment has been shown and described and that all changes and modifications that come within the spirit of the invention and the scope of the claims are also desired to be protected.

I claim:

1. A toilet paper dispenser comprising elongated, vertically extending side walls having mutually facing surfaces, said surfaces having a pair of vertical slots therein located directly oppositely to one another and extending from the top of said walls to points spaced from the bottom of said walls, said surfaces having a pair of horizontal slots therein located directly oppositely to one another and extending from the front of said walls to intersect said vertical slots, said slots extending only partially through said walls, a pair of dowels of a suitable size for passage through said slots with one end of a respective dowel in the slots of one of said side walls and the other end of the dowel in the opposite slots of the other side wall, a front wall pivotally connected at the bottom thereof to the bottoms of said side walls in such a manner that said front wall may be pivoted upwardly and toward said side walls to a vertical position to close the forward end of said dispenser, a bracket adapted to support a roll of paper, said bracket being fixed to said front wall and having a free end arranged to extend generally horizontally between said side walls when said front wall is vertical, said front wall and the bracket secured thereto having their composite center of gravity forwardly of said pivotal connection when the front wall is in a vertical position, said front wall and the bracket secured thereto being so proportioned and arranged that the composite center of gravity of the front wall, bracket and a roll of paper supported on said bracket is rearward of said pivotal connection, and a top wall mounted upon said side walls and pivotal thereupon to allow access to the upper ends of said vertical slots.

2. A toilet paper dispenser comprising a container constructed for holding a first roll of paper in position for dispensing paper, a front wall pivotally mounted at the bottom thereof upon said container and closing the front of said container, a second roll of paper, a bracket fixed to said front wall, located inside of said container and holding said second roll of paper, said front wall and the bracket secured thereto being so balanced wtih respect to the pivotal mounting of the front wall that said front wall is held in container front closing relation by said second roll of paper on said bracket and automatically pivots to maintain the container front open when said second roll of paper is removed from said bracket.

3. A toilet paper dispenser comprising elongated, vertically extending side walls having mutually facing surfaces, said surfaces having a pair of vertical slots therein located directly oppositely to one another, said surfaces having a pair of horizontal slots therein located directly oppositely to one another and extending from the front of said walls to intersect said vertical slots, said slots being adapted for passage of dowels therethrough with one end of a respective dowel in the slots of one of said side walls and the other end of the dowel in the opposite slots of the other side wall, a front wall pivotally connected at the bottom thereof to the bottoms of said side walls in such a manner that said front wall may be pivoted upwardly and toward said side walls to close the forward end of said dispenser and a bracket adapted to support a roll of paper, said bracket being fixed to said front wall in such a manner as to extend between said side walls when said front wall is vertical said front wall and the bracket secured thereto having their composite center of gravity forwardly of said pivotal connection when the front wall is in a vertical position, said front wall and the bracket secured thereto being so proportioned and arranged that the composite center of gravity of the front wall, bracket and a roll of paper supported on said bracket is rearward of said pivotal connection.

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