

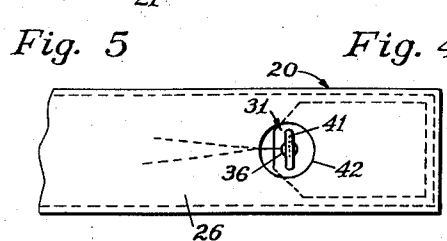
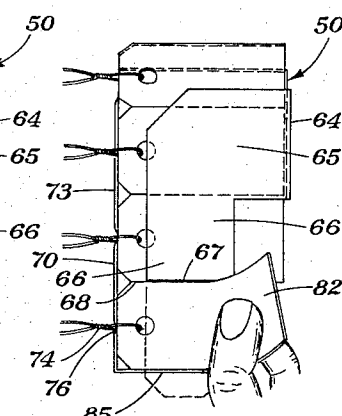
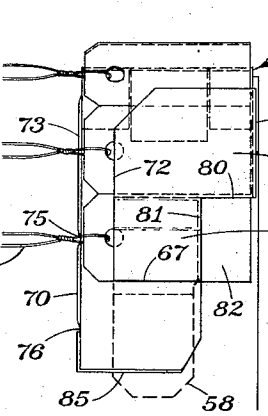
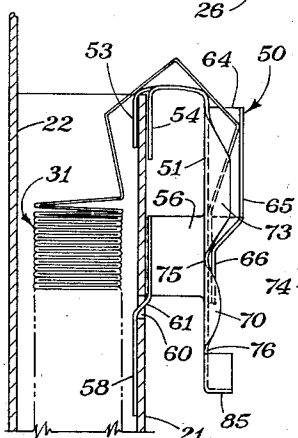
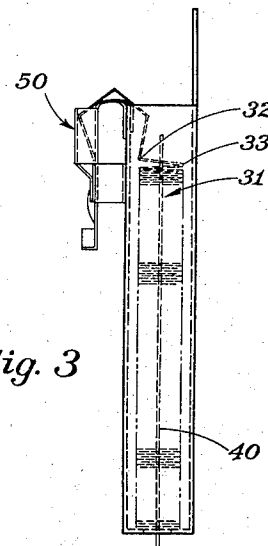
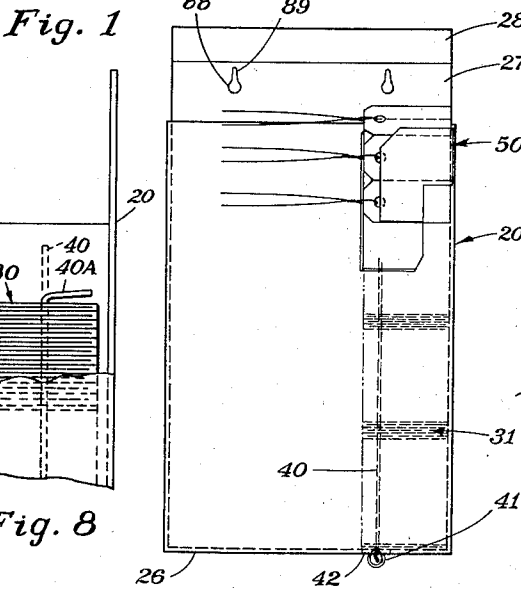
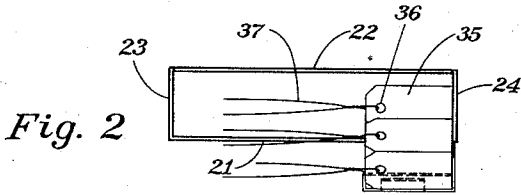
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TAG DISPENSER

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2,908,435

TAG DISPENSER

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The present invention relates to a container for gang tags and to an apparatus for successively dispensing such tags from the container.

The present invention is adapted for use with tags of the type wherein a plurality of such tags are manufactured in a continuous strip with the successive tags being joined edge to edge. In general, the apparatus consists of a novel container means adapted to store a plurality of such tags in an orderly manner, and novel dispensing means removably attachable to said container means and adapted to receive continuously the strip of tags. Such dispensing means includes means for successively detaching tags from such strip.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide apparatus of the type described wherein a container means is adapted to store and continuously release a strip of tags joined edge to edge and wherein such container means is provided with a novel tag removing apparatus disposed along the path of tag release.

It is another object of the present invention to provide apparatus of the type described wherein a container means is adapted to store and release a strip of tags joined edge to edge, and wherein a novel tag dispensing means is removably attached to said container by novel mounting means whereby said tag dispensing means can be readily attached and detached relative to said container.

It is another object of the present invention to provide apparatus of the type described wherein a container is adapted to store and release a strip of tags joined edge to edge, and wherein a novel tag dispensing means is attached to said container, said dispensing means being adapted for rapid and convenient removal of a tag from the supply since such operation requires the use of only one hand of a person engaged in such activity.

It is another object of the present invention to provide apparatus of the type described wherein a novel container is adapted to store and release a strip of tags joined edge to edge, which container is provided with means for retaining said tags in said container in an orderly stacked relationship.

Other objects and advantages of the present invention will be apparent from the following description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings wherein a preferred form of embodiment of the invention is clearly shown.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a front elevational view of an apparatus constructed according to the present invention;

Figure 2 is a top elevational view of the apparatus of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a side elevational view of the apparatus of the preceding figures;

Figure 4 is a front elevational view of a tag dispensing apparatus constructed according to the present invention;

Figure 5 is a side elevational view of the tag dispensing apparatus of Figure 4;

Figure 6 is another front elevational view correspond-

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ing to the tag dispensing apparatus of Figure 4, with such view showing a tag in the process of being removed therefrom;

Figure 7 is a partial bottom view of the container comprising a portion of the present invention;

Figure 8 is a partial side elevational view showing the top end of a tag retaining rod comprising a portion of the present invention, said rod being disposed in a tag retaining configuration.

Referring next to the drawings, and in particular to Figure 1 thereof, an apparatus constructed according to the present invention is illustrated with such apparatus including a container indicated generally at 20. The container 20 includes side walls 21, 22, 23 and 24. Container 20 is also provided with a bottom wall 26 and a closure 27 including a tongue portion 28.

As is best seen in Figure 3, container 20 is adapted to store, in an orderly manner, a vertically disposed stack of gang tags indicated generally at 31. Such gang tags are formed in a strip and secured together at edges 32 and 33 which are alternately disposed when the tags are in the stacked configuration illustrated. As is best seen in Figure 3, the tags are retained in compact compressed relationship whereby a large number of tags are carried in a relatively small container.

Each of the tags, such as the tag 35 of Figure 2, is formed with an eyelet 36 which carries a tie wire 37. A rod member 40 is extended through the eyelets of all of the tags which form a strip, when the tags are disposed in the configuration of stack 31 illustrated in Figure 3. The lower end of the rod 40 is formed with a loop 41 which serves to retain the tags from slipping off the rod 40 during handling. It will be understood that the rod 40 provides means for maintaining a strip of tags in orderly stacked relationship and provides means for conveniently handling same. At this point it should be mentioned that a strip of tags can be folded into the stacked configuration illustrated in Figure 3 by suitable folding apparatus forming a part of the machine for fabricating and wiring such tags. When the tags are arranged in stacked configuration during the manufacture thereof, rod 40 can be readily inserted through the stack of tags to provide means whereby the stack can be quickly removed from the folding apparatus. The stack of tags, including a rod member 40, can then be readily packaged by placing same in a container such as is illustrated at 20 in the drawings.

It will be noted that container 20 is of sufficient width to carry two stacks of tags such as the stack 31 illustrated. For packaging and shipping, the stacks are each provided with a rod member 40 disposed through the eyelets with the looped end 41 at the top of the stack. The other end of the rod member is bent transversely to the axis of the rod member to retain the compressed tags on such member. For dispensing purposes, the two stacks are removed and one of the stacks is replaced with the loop 41 of its rod member 40 at the bottom of the stack.

With reference to Figures 1 and 3, a hole 42 is formed through the bottom 26 of the container such that the rod member 40 can be removed from the stack of tags after the stack has been disposed in a dispensing position in the container as illustrated in Figures 1 and 3, and after the upper end of the rod member 40 is straightened to the configuration illustrated.

Referring next to Figures 4, 5 and 6, a tag dispensing apparatus, constructed according to the present invention, is indicated generally at 50. This apparatus is formed of sheet metal or the like and includes a vertically disposed wall means 51. The apparatus further includes integrally formed flange members 53 and 54, which are

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adapted to engage the container wall 21 in the manner illustrated in Figure 5, and a flange 56 which forms a tongue portion 58. Tongue portion 58 is insertably retained in a hole 60 in the container wall 21 by means of the offset portion 61.

The dispensing apparatus 50 further includes side wall 64 which adjoins a front wall 65. Front wall 65 is provided with a guide portion 66, and a lower edge 67 of such guide portions provides a severing edge for removing tags from the strip. In effecting removal of a tag, such tag is drawn outwardly, in the manner illustrated in Figure 6, whereby the folded edge 68, between successive tags, is cut by the severing edge 67. It will be noted that the dispensing apparatus 50 is also provided with an outwardly extending tab 70 which engages the end of a tag and prevents lateral movement of the tag during the severing action illustrated in Figure 6.

Referring to Figure 4, it is seen that the left edge 72 of the front wall 65, is spaced from the outwardly extending tab 70 and from the outwardly extending tab 73 to provide clearance for tie wires 74 when a strip of tags is advanced through the dispensing apparatus. It will be further noted that a notch 75 is formed intermediate to tabs 70 and 73, and a notch 76 is formed at the lower end of the tab 70. The downward sloping of the tab 73, at the notch 75, provides clearance for the tie wire 74 as the tag, to which such wire is attached, is drawn between the confined slot formed by the walls 51 and 67. At the same time, the tabs 70 and 73 engage an edge of the tab strip and serve to guide same. Moreover, the edges of the tabs 70 and 73, when the strip of tags is advanced, are slideably engaged by the tie wires 74. The tabs 70 and 73 engage wire 74 at the tag edge, and, due to the shape of tabs 70 and 73, as illustrated in Figure 5, the tag edge is cammed outwardly producing a bending of the resilient tag material as it is advanced past the tabs. In this manner, the inherent resiliency of the tags is utilized to provide resistance to undesired shifting of the strip of tags from the desired dispensing position when an end tag is being removed. Moreover, it serves to prevent shaking of the strip out of position if the apparatus is mounted on a cart or the like.

With reference to Figures 4 and 5, it will be seen that edges 80 and 81 form a cut out portion in the front wall of the dispensing apparatus whereby a tag, such as the tag 82, can be grasped and advanced downwardly into the position illustrated in Figure 6. At this position, the tag can be removed. When the tag 82 is drawn downwardly from the position of Figure 4, to the position of Figure 6, the wire 74 will be engaged by the notch 76 and the lower edge of the tag will be arrested by an outwardly extending tab 85. With this arrangement, the end tag 82 will be properly positioned for severing whereby the fold line 68 is aligned with the severing edge 67.

In operation, the container 20 is utilized for packaging a plurality of stacks of tags. For example, two stacks such as the stack 31 are packed in a single container. Each of the two stacks is packed with a rod member 40, with the looped end thereof disposed upwardly against the inner side of the closure 27. The customer need only open the closure member 27, hold the container 20 upside down, and shake out both stacks of tags. One stack of tags is then replaced in the right side of the container 20, in the manner illustrated, with the loop 41 of the rod member 40 extended downwardly through the hole 42. The other end of the rod member 40, which is bent over against the end of the stack, will now be at the top of the stack and accessible through the opening in the container. After a stack of tags has been positioned in the right side of the box as illustrated in Figure 1, with the looped end of the rod member 40 extending downwardly through the hole 42, the customer need then only straighten the upper end of the rod member and pull the rod member out through the hole 42 leaving a few tags

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hanging over the edge of the front wall 21 of the container. The end of the strip of tags is then threaded between the walls 51 and 65 of the dispensing apparatus 50 and the end tags are pulled downwardly to a position for removal illustrated in Figure 6. The apparatus will then be ready to successively dispense tags, and to accomplish this, the customer need only tear the end tag from the strip along the severing edge 67. When another tag is needed, it is only necessary to advance the next tag downwardly in the manner previously described, and repeat the tearing operation. Only one hand is required in performing the advancing and severing operations.

It will be noted, from Figure 1, that the closure 27 may be provided with a plurality of holes 88 having restricted upper portions 89. With this arrangement, the container 20 can readily be mounted to a wall, or other similar surface, at a location handy to the person using the tags.

In summary, it is seen that the present invention provides novel packaging and dispensing means for wired tags which are manufactured in strip form and folded and packaged in a stack. The dispensing apparatus is of simple and inexpensive construction which can be removeably attached to the container whereby a single dispensing apparatus can be repeatedly used with successive containers. Moreover, the invention provides means for compactly packaging the tags, and for successively presenting tags, in an orderly manner, to a position wherein the tags can be rapidly and conveniently removed from the supply.

While the form of embodiment of the present invention as herein disclosed constitutes a preferred form, it is to be understood that other forms might be adopted, all coming within the scope of the claims which follow.

I claim:

1. An apparatus for dispensing gang tags comprising, in combination, a container means including a vertically extending wall and adapted to carry a strip of said tags joined edge to edge, with wires for said tags being secured to eyelets in said tags and extended from a common edge of said strip, said container having an opening formed therein; tag dispensing means removeably attached to said container means adjacent said opening forming a vertically extending guideway along said wall through which the end of said strip of tags from said opening is extended downwardly in unfolded configuration, said guideway including a slot coextensive with the path of said strip through said guideway for receiving said wires extended from the edge of said strip; and tag removing means for successively removing end tags from said strip.

2. An apparatus for dispensing gang tags comprising, in combination, a container means including a vertically extending wall and adapted to carry a strip of said tags joined edge to edge and alternately folded at the junctions to form a stack of tags one above the other, said container having a tag discharging opening and a second opening formed therein; tag dispensing means removeably attached to said container means adjacent said tag discharge opening forming a vertically extending guideway along said wall through which the end of said strip of tags from said opening is extended downwardly in unfolded configuration; and a severing edge at the lower exit edge of said guideway against which the junctions between tags can be severed upon movement of the end of said strip outwardly; and mounting means for securing said dispenser means to said container means, said mounting means including tongue means insertably retained in said second mentioned opening.

3. An apparatus for dispensing gang tags comprising, in combination, a container means including a wall and adapted to carry a strip of said tags joined edge to edge, said container having a tag discharging opening and a second opening formed therein; tag dispensing means including spaced coextensive wall members and removeably attached to said container means adjacent said tag discharge opening forming a vertically extending guideway

along said wall through which the end of said strip of tags from said opening is extended downwardly in unfolded configuration to moveably receive said strip of tags; severing means at an exit end of said guide against which a tag can be severed by moving the end of said strip outwardly from said wall; and mounting means for securing said dispenser means to said container means, said mounting means including a flange portion engageable with a side wall of said container at said first mentioned opening and a tongue portion insertably retained in said second mentioned opening, at least one of said portions being formed integrally with one of said spaced coextensive wall members as a flanged portion thereof.

4. An apparatus for dispensing gang tags comprising, in combination, tag storage means for receiving a strip of tags joined edge to edge in stacked relationship, said storage means including a wall; retaining means removably insertable into said storage means with said stack, said retaining means including a first end in engagement with one end of said stack and a second end in releasable engagement with a second end of said stack to retain said stack in compressed configuration during handling and packaging in storage means, said second end of said retaining means being releaseable from engagement with said second end of said stack after said stack and retaining means have been placed in said storage means, whereby said tags can be successively dispensed from said storage means; means forming a guideway coextensive with said wall through which said strip can be drawn in unfolded configuration after extension of said strip from said container; and severing means at the exit of said guideway against which said tags can be severed from said gang upon movement of said strip outwardly relative to said wall.

5. An apparatus for dispensing gang tags comprising, in combination, tag storage means for receiving a strip of tags joined edge to edge in stacked relationship, each of said tags being formed with an eyelet, said eyelets being aligned when said tags are in said stacked relationship; a guide member extended through said eyelets and removably insertable into said storage means with said stack; stop means on one end of said guide member; and stop means on the other end of said guide member, said stop means serving to retain said tags on said guide member, and at least one of said stop means being formed by an end of said guide member being bent to extend transversely of the longitudinal axis of the portion of said guide member extended through said eyelets.

6. An apparatus for dispensing gang tags comprising, in combination, tag storage means for receiving a strip of tags joined edge to edge in stacked relationship, said tag storage means including a wall, each of said tags being formed with an eyelet, said eyelets being aligned when said tags are in said stacked relationship; a guide member extended through said eyelets and removably insertable into said storage means with said stack; stop means on one end of said guide member; stop means on the other end of said guide member, said stop means serving to retain said tags on said guide member, and at least one of said stop means being formed by an end of said guide member being bent to extend transversely of the longitudinal axis of the portion of said guide member extended through said eyelets; means forming a guideway coextensive with said wall through which said strip can be drawn in unfolded configuration after extension of said strip from said container; and severing means at the exit of said guideway against which said tags can be severed from said gang upon movement of said strip outwardly relative to said wall.

7. An apparatus for dispensing gang tags comprising, in combination, tag storage means for receiving a strip of

tags joined edge to edge in stacked relationship, each of said tags being formed with an eyelet, said eyelets being aligned when said tags are in said stacked relationship; said tag storage means comprising a container including side walls and an end wall having an opening formed therethrough; a guide member extended through said eyelets and removably insertable into said storage means with said stack; stop means on one end of said guide member, the other end of said guide member being bent over to retain said tags on said guide member; said guide member being aligned with said opening in the end wall when a stack of tags is positioned in said container whereby said guide member and said stop means can be withdrawn from said container through said opening upon straightening of said bent end of said guide member.

8. An apparatus for dispensing gang tags comprising, in combination, tag storage means for receiving a strip of tags joined edge to edge in stacked relationship, each of said tags being formed with an eyelet, said eyelets being aligned when said tags are in said stacked relationship, said tag storage means comprising a container including a first end wall having a tag discharge opening and a second end wall having a second opening; a guide member extended through said tag eyelets and axially aligned with said second opening and removably insertable into said storage means with said stack; a first stop means on said guide member at the end thereof adjacent said tag discharge opening, said first stop means being adapted for selective retention or release of the end of said stack of tags whereby said stack is retained on said guide member for packaging and releasable for dispensing tags through said tag discharge opening and a second stop means on said guide member, said second stop means and guide member being removable through said second opening.

9. An apparatus for dispensing gang tags comprising, in combination, tag storage means for receiving a strip of tags joined edge to edge in stacked relationship, each of said tags being formed with an eyelet, said eyelets being aligned when said tags are in said stacked relationship, said tag storage means comprising a container including a side wall, and a first end wall having a tag discharge opening and a second end wall having a second opening; a guide member extended through said tag eyelets and removably insertable into said storage means with said stack; stop means on said guide member at the end thereof of adjacent said tag discharge opening, said stop means being adapted for selective retention or release of the end of said stack of tags whereby said stack is retained on said guide member for packaging and releasable for dispensing tags through said tag discharge opening; a second stop means on said guide member, said second stop means and guide member being removable through said second opening; means forming a guide way coextensive with said side wall through which said strip can be drawn in unfolded configuration after extension of said strip from said container; and severing means at the exit of said guideway against which said tags can be severed from said gang upon movement of said strip outwardly relative to said wall.

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