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PAPER BAG DISTRIBUTOR

Filed March 23, 1937

2. Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 2.

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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

FIG. 3.

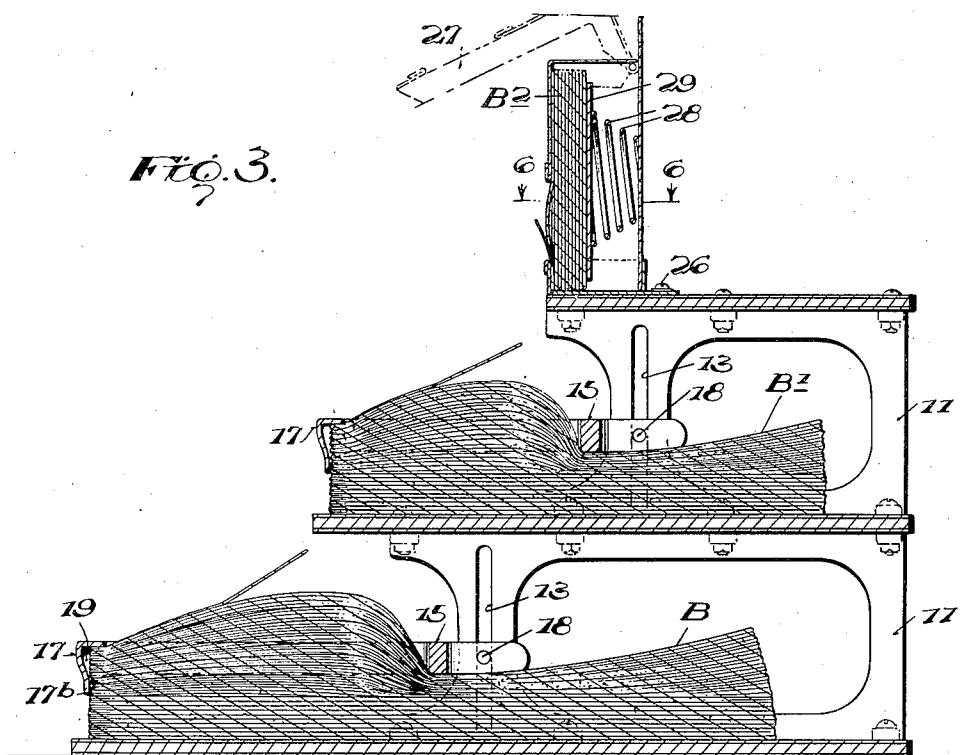


FIG. 4.

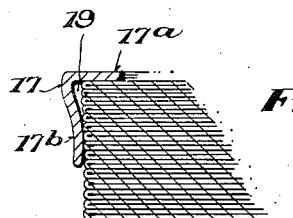


FIG. 5.

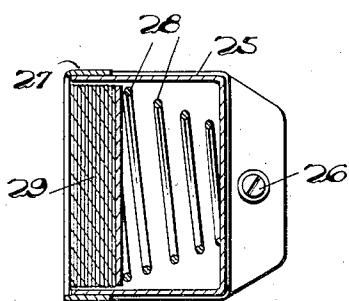
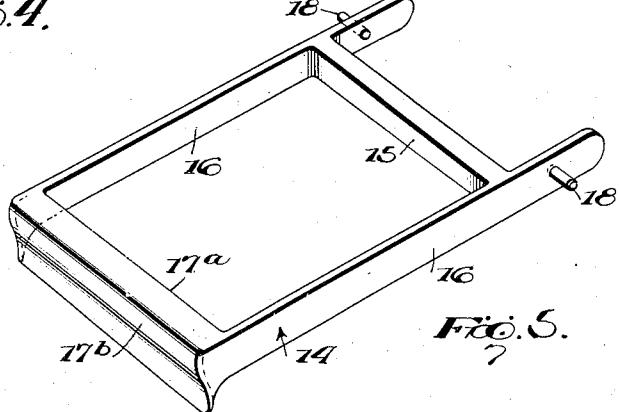


FIG. 6.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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PAPER BAG DISTRIBUTOR

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Application March 23, 1937, Serial No. 132,626

3 Claims. (CL 211—51)

This invention relates to paper bag distributors and among other objects aims to provide a holder for paper bags which is particularly useful in stores or wherever paper bags are constantly used to hold articles and commodities. The present invention increases the speed of handling paper bags, obviates waste and adds to the efficiency of the sales person as it makes possible for a single bag to be picked up with the use of only one hand. Furthermore the device permits bags to be very rapidly dispensed and is so constructed as to make it impossible for the user to pull out more than one bag of any one kind at a time. The invention has other objects which will be clear from the following description of a preferred embodiment of the invention which is shown in the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification.

In said drawings:—

20 Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing the complete device.

Fig. 2 is a horizontal section substantially on line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a vertical section substantially on line 25 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a detailed vertical section.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of one of the cradles which is used to hold down the bags.

Fig. 6 is a horizontal section substantially on 30 line 6—6 of Fig. 3.

Referring particularly to the drawings, there is shown a paper bag distributor comprising a base 10 which may be a flat plate or board well adapted to be set on top of a store counter or in 35 any other convenient location. On the base 10 side plates 11 are fixed, for example by screws 12. The side plates 11 may be provided with openings 11a, as shown, and have vertical slots 13, each plate 11 being so located on opposite sides of the base 10 that the slots 13 are parallel and are the same distance from the front and rear edges of the base 10.

The base 10 provides a convenient support for a package of paper bags B which are held on the 45 base by means of a floating cradle 14, best shown in Fig. 5.

The floating cradle 14 comprises a generally rectangular structure including a weight 15, a pair of parallel side arms 16 and a crossbar 17 which has the function of holding the forward edges of the bags B in proper position, as will be 50 more fully explained. The weight 15 is preferably the heaviest part of the floating cradle 14 so that the bags B are depressed or compacted, 55 as shown in Fig. 3, by the mass of the weight

15. The side arms 16 not only connect the weight 15 with the crossbar 17, but also extend beyond the weight 15 in the opposite direction, as shown, for the purpose of supporting pins 18 which are aligned with each other and which are adapted to project through the vertical slots 13. Thus the cradle is guided by the pair of slots 13 and may move upwardly and downwardly or may be swung about the axis of the pins 18 if the forward end of the cradle is lifted as, for instance, when it is disturbed to insert or remove a package of paper bags B.

The distance between the weight 15 and the crossbar 17 is such as to permit the bottoms of the bags B to rise naturally by the reaction of the weight 15 and the elasticity of the package of bags. This will be best understood by referring to Figs. 1 and 3. As there shown, the bottom of the topmost bag tends to separate itself from the remainder of the bags and thus affords a naturally protruding member which may be easily grasped by the fingers of the person using the device. As each bag is removed from the distributor the next lower bag is exposed and it in turn is somewhat distorted by the weight 15 and 15 by the crossbar 17 so as to lift or bend upwardly a portion of its bottom, thereby to provide another flap which is easily grasped by the user.

Referring to Figs. 3 and 4, it is seen that the crossbar 17 is generally L-shaped, consisting of a flat, horizontal upper member or flange 17a directly engaging the top of the packet of bags at the outer end of the packet, and a slightly curved, generally vertical member 17b, the curvature of the member 17b being such as to provide a pocket 19 on the inside. The depth of the pocket is greatest at the top, directly beneath the flange 17a. Thus when a bag is pulled from a distributor, the weight 15 keeps the package of bags from slipping back, the crossbar 17 stops any movement of the bag immediately beneath and holds it in the pocket 19 so that the top bag may always be pulled from the distributor without disturbing the positions of the remaining bags. The provision of pocket 19 has been found 40 very useful in the operation of the device.

The parts so far described will provide a useful holder and distributor for a single size of paper bags. Usually in stores it is preferable to provide a holder for several different sizes of bags 50 and hence in the present device the holder and distributor already described is substantially duplicated in a smaller device located on top of the one already described. A smaller base 20 is secured to the tops of the side plates 11 in 55

any convenient way, as by screws 21, and a smaller floating cradle 22 is preferably used to hold the smaller bags B'. Otherwise the construction is exactly the same and hence similar reference numerals are used on the upper distributor.

On top of the smaller upper distributor a third base 23 may be mounted, as by screws 24, and on top of the base 23 paper bag distributors of a different type may be mounted, as shown. For 10 handling very small paper bags one or more vertical holders 25 may be secured on the upper base 23, as by screws 26. The holders 25 may have hinged closures 27 to facilitate inserting a supply 15 of paper bags B². The paper bags B² are normally pressed forwardly against the inside of the closure 27 by a coil spring 28 and a follower plate 29. The hinged closure 27 has a plate 30 which preferably extends for at least half the height 20 of the holder or box 25 and has a lower plate 31 which is preferably quite narrow so that a space is provided between the upper edge of the lower plate 31 and the lower edge of the upper plate 30. The bags B² project through said space and their bottoms provide flaps due to the reaction of the 25 springs 28 and the lower plates 31 on the bags B². As each bag is removed the adjacent bag will be pushed forwardly by the follower plate 29 and its bottom will bulge outwardly to provide a convenient flap, as shown in Figs. 1 and 3. This action 30 is the same as that of the weights 15 and cross-bars 17 of the yokes 14 previously described.

The described distributor provides an inexpensive easily manufactured holder for at least four sizes of paper bags which may be mounted almost 35 anywhere in a store to facilitate dispensing of

paper bags rapidly and with a minimum of effort to the sales person.

Obviously the present invention may be embodied in several forms neither described nor shown.

Having described an embodiment of the invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In combination with a substantially horizontal, flat support on which a packet of paper bags may be laid, vertical guides mounted on said support; and a massive yoke having means at one end engaging said vertical guides and having a central opening through which the bag bottoms may project and through which the bags may be withdrawn one at a time; said yoke having at its other end a crossbar with an upper, horizontal member for engaging the top of the packet at the outer end thereof. 10

2. The invention according to claim 1, wherein said crossbar is generally L-shaped with a downwardly extending flange at right angles to the upper, horizontal member to engage the edges of the upper bags of the packet. 20

3. The invention according to claim 1, wherein said crossbar is provided with a pocket on the inside which receives the bag beneath the topmost bag when the first mentioned bag is moved by frictional contact with the topmost bag as it is removed; said pocket being of greatest depth at 25 the top, directly under the upper, horizontal member. 30

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