Oct. 18, 1927. 1,646,348

C. C. CROCKER

PACKAGE OPENER

Filed Aug. 9, 1926

Fig. 1.

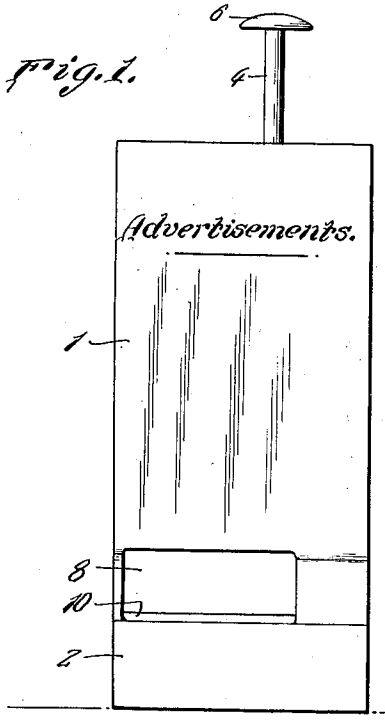


Fig. 2.

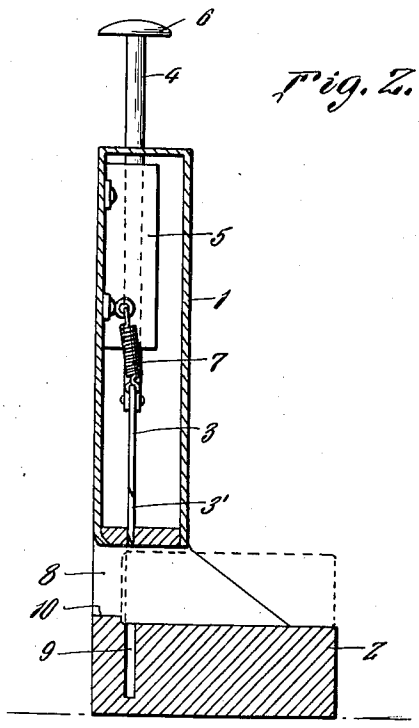


Fig. 3.

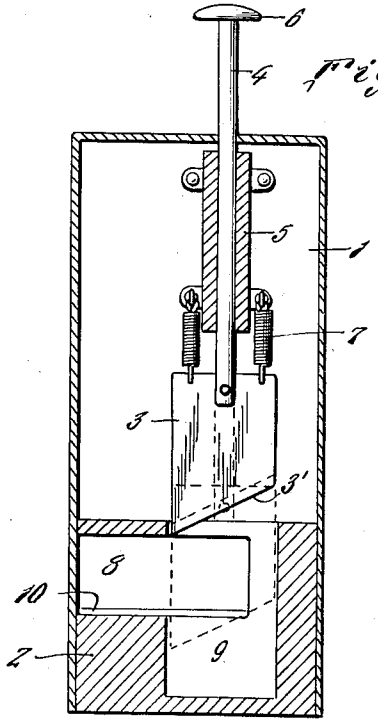
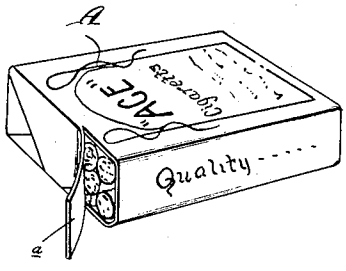


Fig. 4.



INVENTOR

C. C. Crocker

BY Victor J. Evans

ATTORNEY

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES CONRAD CROCKER, OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO SIDNEY J. WOLFF, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

PACKAGE OPENER.

Application filed August 9, 1926. Serial No. 128,208.

This invention relates to a device for opening packages of cigarettes, the general object of the invention being to provide a knife arranged to cut one edge of one end of each package so as to leave a flap at the end of the package which will cover the opening made by the cut, so that cigarettes can be taken from the package and then the flap pressed back into place to close the package and thus prevent the cigarettes remaining in the package from drying out.

Another object of the invention is to provide means which will position a package, placed in the device, under the knife, so that the package will be properly cut by the knife when the knife is manipulated.

This invention also consists in certain other features of construction and in the combination and arrangement of the several parts, to be hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompaning drawings and specifically pointed out in the appended claims.

In describing my invention in detail, reference will be had to the accompanying drawings wherein like characters denote like or corresponding parts throughout the several views, and in which:—

Figure 1 is an elevation of the device.

Figure 2 is a longitudinal sectional view thereof.

Figure 3 is a similar view, but taken at right angles to Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of a cigarette package after the same has been cut by the device.

As is well known, the approved manner of opening a package of cigarettes is to remove a small portion of one end of the package so that a cigarette can be removed while the other cigarettes, or most of them, are covered by that portion of the end which has not been removed. This not only acts to hold the cigarettes in the package, but also acts to keep the tobacco in the cigarettes from drying out. It is more or less difficult to open a package in this way and then it leaves a small opening through which air may enter and from which the cigarettes may fall out of the package when the package is carried in the pocket.

It is the object of my invention to provide means for facilitating the opening, in this manner, of the package, and also to leave a flap which can be pressed back into place and thus seal the package and prevent cigarettes from accidentally falling from the same.

In carrying out my invention, I provide a casing 1 which is formed with a base 2 and in which is arranged a knife 3 having its stem 4 passing through a guideway 5 arranged in the casing and through the top of the casing where it is provided with a head 6. Springs 7, connected with the knife and with the guideway, act to hold the knife in raised position. The casing, at its point of junction with the base, is provided with a horizontal opening 8, the bottom of which is formed by the base and a slot 9 is formed in the base to receive the knife after the same passes through the opening 8. A stop 10 is formed on the bottom wall of the opening 8 and said opening and stop are so formed that when a package of cigarettes such as shown at A is placed in the opening, it will be so positioned that when the knife is depressed, one end part of an end of the package will be severed from the sides and edge of the package to form a flap *a* and an opening through which the cigarettes can be taken from the package. The flap, when pressed back into place, will act to close the package. As shown, the knife is provided with a beveled cutting edge 3′ which is arranged to first pierce the package a distance from one edge thereof and then cut towards the edge in a shearing cut and without cutting the cigarettes. After the hand is removed from the head 6, the spring 7 will raise the knife and its stem, so that the package of cigarettes can be withdrawn from the device.

From the foregoing, it will be seen that I have provided simple and inexpensive means for opening a package of cigarettes in the approved manner and which leaves a flap for enabling the package to be kept closed. The device can be used on counters of stores selling cigarettes and in homes of cigarette users. It can also be used as an advertising medium by placing advertisements on the casing, as shown in Figure 1.

It is thought from the foregoing description that the advantages and novel features of my invention will be readily apparent.

I desire it to be understood that I may make changes in the construction and in the combination and arrangement of the several parts, provided that such changes fall within the scope of the appended claim.

What I claim is:—

A device for opening a package of cigarettes comprising a casing and a base, the casing having a horizontal opening at its junction with the base so that a package of cigarettes can be placed on the base with one end extending into said opening, said base having a vertically arranged slot therein under the casing, a stop on the base a slight distance in rear of the slot for positioning a package of cigarettes on the base with a portion of one end over the slot, a vertically movable knife in the casing and adapted to pass through the opening into the slot for cutting an end part of one end of the package to leave it flat, a stem connected with the knife and projecting from the top of the casing and a spring for normally holding the knife in raised position.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

CHARLES CONRAD CROCKER.