Sept. 16, 1941. E. R. CREBBS 2,256,074

LOCKING DISPENSER FOR PACKAGED SHEET MATERIAL

Filed March 25, 1941

Fig. 1.

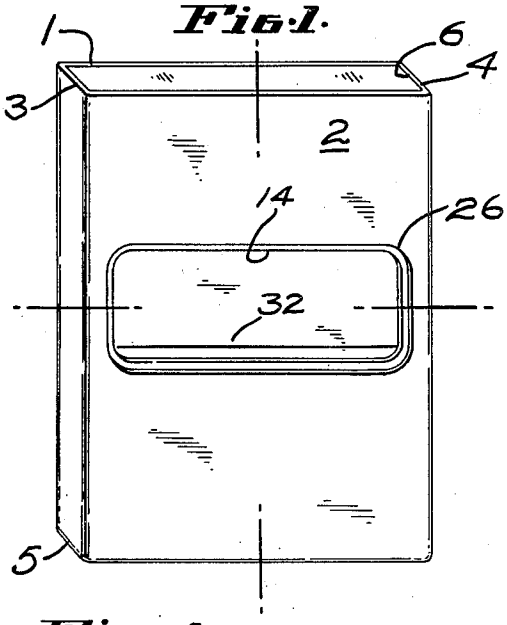


Fig. 2.

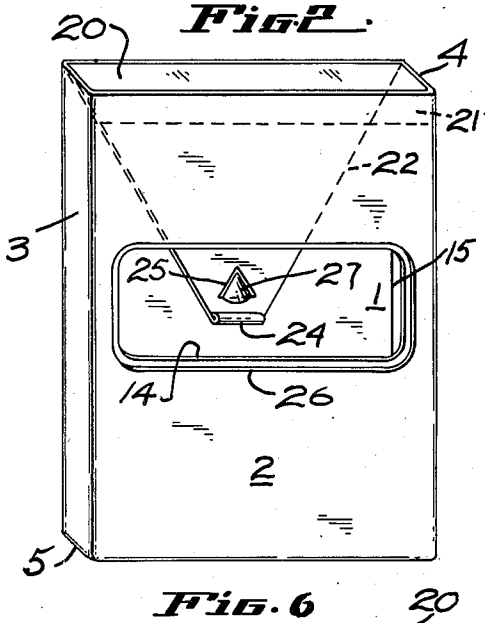


Fig. 4

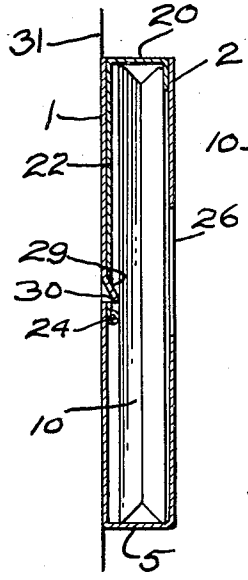


Fig. 3

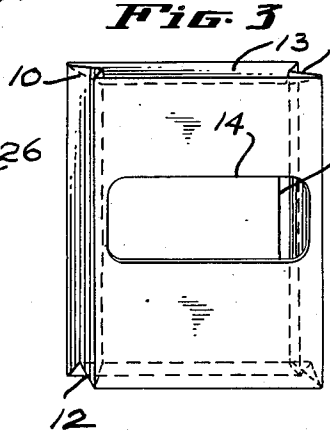


Fig. 6

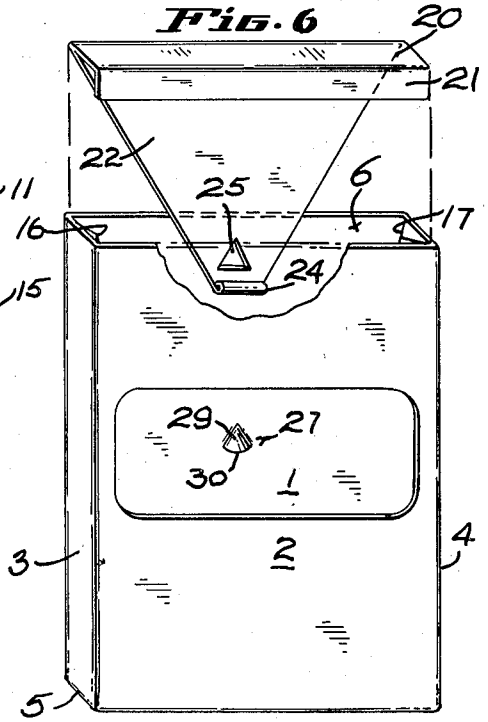
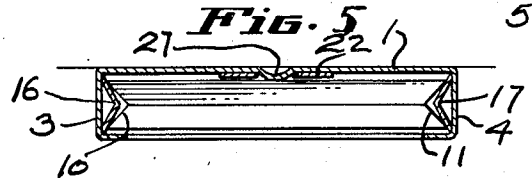


Fig. 5



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Patented Sept. 16, 1941 2,256,074

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,256,074

LOCKING DISPENSER FOR PACKAGED SHEET MATERIAL

Earl R. Crebbs, San Francisco, Calif.

Application March 25, 1941, Serial No. 385,066

7 Claims. (Cl. 312—50)

My invention relates to a locking dispenser for packaged sheet material, such material being exemplified, for example, by folded paper towels, sanitary seat covers, and toilet paper.

The main object of my invention is to provide a dispenser for packaged, disposable paper articles, which can be locked in the dispenser until the packaged material is exhausted and then may be readily unlocked in order that the empty package may be removed and a full package inserted in the dispenser.

The dispenser of my present invention is ideally adapted to receive toilet seat covers and the like, packaged in accordance with the invention shown, described, and claimed in my prior filed application, Serial No. 295,588, filed September 19, 1939, and I will describe the present invention as applied to packaged toilet seat covers.

In my former application referred to above, I have shown, described, and claimed a relatively small and flat paper dispensing package ideally adapted for holding a limited number of toilet seat covers for use in locations such as hotel bathrooms, and the like, where a roll type dispenser is not satisfactory. However, it is difficult to so fasten or restrain a paper package so that it may not be taken by the departing traveler, and the present invention encompasses a metal container, which can be screwed or otherwise applied to a solid wall, which will hold the paper package and which can be locked with a simple locking device until the paper package is empty, whereupon the device may be readily unlocked and a new package placed in the container. My invention utilizes a lock which requires no key, but which may readily be operated manually only after all of the dispenser contents have been removed. I so arrange the openings in both the dispenser and the package with relation to the lock that only after the package is empty is the lock readily accessible for manual unlocking without the use of a key or other separate instrument.

Other objects of my invention will be apparent or will be specifically pointed out in the description forming a part of this specification, but I do not limit myself to the embodiment of the invention herein described, as various forms may be adopted within the scope of the claims.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a front view in perspective of one preferred form of my invention with the filled package in place ready for use.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view similar to that of Fig. 1 showing the lock visible through the front opening of the dispenser after all of the articles have been dispensed from the package.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of one preferred form of package.

Fig. 4 is a longitudinal view, partly in section and partly in elevation, of a filled dispenser.

Fig. 5 is a view, partly in cross-section and partly in elevation, of a filled dispenser.

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of an empty dispenser cut away to show the action of the locking cover.

Referring to the drawing for a more detailed description of my invention, a dispenser body is formed with a rear wall 1 and the front wall 2 connected to the rear wall by side walls 3 and 4 and a bottom 5, thus leaving the dispenser with an opening 6 in the top. The dispenser is shaped to receive a paper package, shown in Fig. 3, this paper package preferably having gussetted side walls 10 and 11, a gusseted bottom 12 and a cover 13. The package is also provided with a front opening 14 through which folded articles such as paper towels, sanitary toilet seat covers, or toilet paper may be dispensed, the articles being folded so that when one article is removed, the leading edge of the next article is presented to opening 14. In Fig. 3 the paper package is shown as being empty and showing a rear opening 15, the use of which will be explained later.

In order that the gusseted paper package may be retained in proper position in the metal dispenser, I prefer to provide the side walls 3 and 4 of the metal dispenser with angular inserts 16 and 17, each having an angle greater than that of the gussets 10 and 11 of the package, thus centering the package and providing a slide for the package gussets. If packages are used without gussets, these inserts may be omitted.

A cover for the dispenser is provided to close the opening 6, this cover being a separate unit as shown in Figs. 2 and 6. The cover is provided with a top portion 20 of a size to completely close opening 6 at the top of the dispenser, a front downwardly extending portion 21 fitting just inside front wall 2 of the dispenser, and a rear downwardly extending portion 22, preferably of triangular shape, and terminating at its lower end in a rolled edge 24. Immediately above rolled edge 24 is a locking aperture 25. When the cover is positioned on the top of the dispenser, the rear downwardly extending portion 22 extends downwardly a sufficient distance to terminate directly behind an opening 26 in the front wall 2 of the dispenser, this opening being located to register with front opening 14 of the inserted package. When the cover is in closed position, as shown in Fig. 2, aperture 25 in the rear downwardly extending portion 22 of the cover, snaps over a projection 27 extended inwardly from the rear wall 1 of the dispenser, this projection preferably having a sloping upper surface 29 and an undercut edge 30. The downwardly extending portions of the cover may, if desired, be slightly sprung outwardly in order that the lock may be kept tight,

but I do not wholly depend upon this springing for locking the two parts together, as will be explained later.

In use, the rear wall 1 of the dispenser is screwed or otherwise affixed to a wall or background 31 and a full package is dropped into the dispenser. When a package such as shown in Fig. 3, filled with the article to be dispensed, is dropped into the dispenser, the front apertures of both package and dispenser register to expose the article to be dispensed, the front edge 32 of which being shown in Fig. 1. The rear downwardly extending portion 22 of the cover is then inserted between the rear wall 1 of the dispenser and the rear wall of the package and pushed downwardly until the front downwardly extending portion 21 of the cover enters behind the front wall 2 of the dispenser, and slides behind it until the top 20 of the cover is flush with the top of the dispenser. During the final motion of cover insertion, the downwardly extending portion 22 will ride up over projection 27 and when the cover is in the proper position, bearing against the tops of angular inserts 16 and 17, aperture 25 will snap around projection 27 and the device is locked.

In order that I may not need to rely wholly upon the spring of the cover to maintain the lock, rolled edge 24 is made of sufficient thickness that it will bear against the rear wall of the package and thus be forced flat against the rear wall of the dispenser. Paper filled packages of this sort are resilient, and an outward force will be given to the rear downwardly extending portion 22 tending to maintain the engagement of the projection 27 and aperture 25. Once the cover is snapped in place, it will be difficult to remove without special tools, until the dispensing package is empty, when it may be easily removed.

As the last article is dispensed from the package, all obstructions are removed between the lock and the front opening 14 of the dispenser, and the lock is exposed to view through the empty package, as shown in Fig. 2. It is very easy, therefore, for an attendant to refill the dispenser by placing his finger under the rolled edge 24 and pulling it outwardly and then pushing the cover upwardly. The empty paper package may then be removed, a new one placed in the dispenser, and the cover again locked in place.

I have found that by using the simple locking cover described above, I have been able to greatly reduce pilferage of filled and partly filled packages. Furthermore, visual inspection of the dispenser discloses no lock whatsoever, while there is anything left in the package, and consequently there is no tendency for anyone to tamper with the dispenser. There is no visual clew as to how the dispenser is locked, and yet the device is easily and quickly refilled when empty.

I claim:

1. In combination with a package of folded articles dispensible through a front opening and having a rear opening therein, a dispenser comprising a body having a rear wall adapted to be fastened to a support, and a front wall connected to said rear portion by bottom and side walls only, said front wall having an aperture therein registering with the front opening of said package when said package is inserted in said dispenser, and a locking cover for said dispenser, said cover being a separate unit having a top portion fitting the opening at the top of said dispenser, a downwardly extending front portion fitting the inside surface of the front wall of the dispenser, and a downwardly extending rear portion fitting the inside surface of the rear wall, said cover being slidably inserted into the top of the dispenser, and means on said rear wall cooperating with means on said downwardly extending rear portion of said cover to lock said rear portion to said rear wall.

2. Apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the recited cooperating locking means comprise a projection on said rear wall entering an aperture in said downwardly extending rear portion of said cover when said cover is inserted in said dispenser in locking position.

3. Apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the recited cooperating locking means comprise a projection on said rear wall entering an aperture in said downwardly extending rear portion of said cover when said cover is inserted in said dispenser in locking position and wherein the end of said rear cover portion below said aperture is provided with an inwardly rolled edge.

4. Apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the recited cooperating locking means comprise a projection on said rear wall entering an aperture in said downwardly extending rear portion of said cover when said cover is inserted in said dispenser in locking position and wherein the end of said rear cover portion below said aperture is provided with a thickened portion extending inwardly to contact said package, thereby causing said package to exert pressure on the rear portion of said cover to maintain locking engagement with said rear wall.

5. Apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the recited cooperating locking means comprise a projection on said rear wall entering an aperture in said downwardly extending rear portion of said cover when said cover is inserted in said dispenser in locking position and wherein the end of said rear cover portion below said aperture is provided with a thickened portion extending inwardly to contact said package, thereby causing said package to exert pressure on the rear portion of said cover to maintain locking engagement with said rear wall, said thickened portion extending inwardly at least as far as the rear wall projection.

6. Apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the recited cooperating locking means comprise a projection on said rear wall entering an aperture in said downwardly extending rear portion of said cover when said cover is inserted in said dispenser in locking position, said projection being provided with an undercut lower surface, disengagement of said projection from said aperture being manually performed through the openings of an empty package locked in said dispenser.

7. Apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the recited cooperating locking means comprise a projection on said rear wall entering an aperture in said downwardly extending rear portion of said cover when said cover is inserted in said dispenser in locking position, said projection being provided with a sloping upper surface for facilitating locking engagement when a full package is in said dispenser and an undercut lower surface, disengagement of said projection from said aperture being manually performed through the openings of an empty package locked in said dispenser.

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