J. V. WASHBURNE.

OFFICE DESK UTENSIL.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 23, 1915.

1,156,194. Patented Oct. 12, 1915.

Fig. 1.

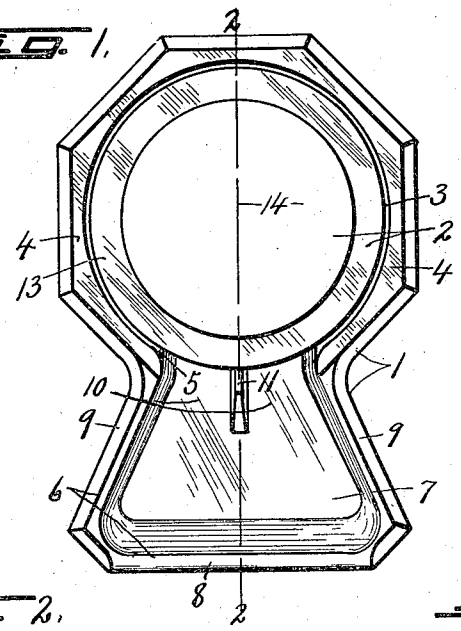


Fig. 2.

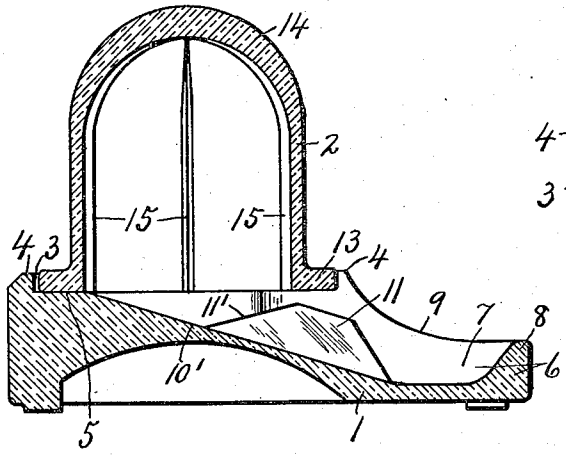


Fig. 3.

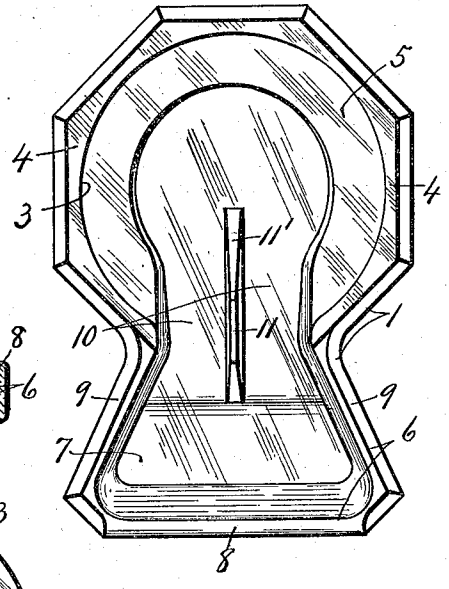
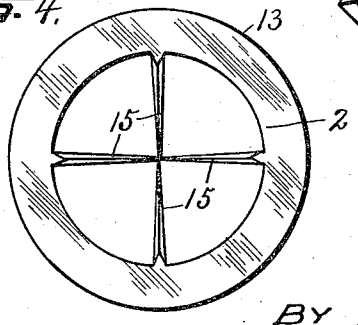


Fig. 4.



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OFFICE-DESK UTENSIL.

1,156,194. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Oct. 12, 1915.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES V. WASHBURNE, a citizen of the United States, and resident of Fulton, in the county of Oswego, in the State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Office-Desk Utensils, of which the following, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to certain improvements in office desk utensils and refers more particularly to a holder for paper clips and similar small articles which are used more or less extensively in office work.

I am aware that devices for holding pins and similar small articles have heretofore been proposed, but in those with which I am familiar it has been necessary to employ an auxiliary support for the magazine resting upon the tray and held in place by movable detents or catches, and that the opening in the auxiliary support was made relatively small for the purpose of preventing an excessive quantity of the articles passing into the tray at one time. Under these conditions, it is necessary to turn the magazine back and forth several times before discharging one or more of the articles, which renders that device objectionable and limits its use to pins or similar straight fasteners.

My main object is to produce a simple, compact and comparatively inexpensive device for holding all kinds of paper fasteners and similar small articles and to render the feeding of a limited number of such articles from the magazine into the underlying tray more certain by a slight turning movement of the magazine upon the tray.

Another object is to obviate the necessity for interposition of any auxiliary magazine support and to mount the magazine directly upon the tray in such manner that it may be rotated freely in either direction without liability of displacing it from the tray.

A further object is to provide the tray with a partition underlying the open lower end of the magazine and arranged in such manner as to retract the discharge of the articles from said magazine into the tray in any considerable quantity, and at the same time separating those which are discharged to cause them to travel to the lower portion of the inclined bottom along different paths.

A still further object is to provide the interior of the magazine with lengthwise ribs or projections capable of engaging and agitating the articles contained therein as the magazine is rotated for the purpose of liberating such articles and allowing them to drop in small quantities into the underlying tray.

Other objects and uses relating to specific parts of the device will be brought out in the following description.

In the drawings—Figure 1 is a top plan of a complete clip holder embodying the features of my invention. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal vertical sectional view of the same taken on line 2—2, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a top plan of a detached base or tray. Fig. 4 is an inverted plan of the detached magazine.

This device is made up of two parts only, a base or tray —1— and a cap or magazine —2—, both of which parts are preferably made of glass or similar non-corrodible and comparatively inexpensive material, although it is evident that it may be made of metal, such as cast iron, or the base of metal and the upper part of glass, as may be desired.

The main body of the base —1— is multi-sided, in this instance octagonal, and is provided in its upper side with a circular recess —3— forming a marginal flange —4— and a substantially flat circular ledge —5— to form a suitable seat and retaining flange for the cap or magazine —2—.

The front side of the main body is provided with a laterally flaring extension —6— gradually decreasing in vertical depth from the main body toward the front and also recessed in the top to form a delivery pocket —7— and front and side marginal flanges —8— and —9—, the rear ends of the flanges —9— merging with the adjacent portions of the marginal flanges —4— surrounding the recess —3—.

The front portion of the marginal flange —4— and corresponding portion of the ledge —5— are cut away to form a delivery passage —10— which extends into and terminates in the main body in the form of a circle concentric with the axis thereof and, therefore, concentric with the recess —3—, thereby forming a continuous passage from a point directly under the rear edge of the magazine —2— to the delivery pocket —7—, the bottom of said passage being inclined downwardly and forwardly to said delivery pocket.

The ledge and bottom of the delivery pocket —7— are disposed in substantially

horizontal planes one above the other a sufficient distance apart so that the inclined bottom as —10′— will have sufficient pitch to cause any articles which may be deposited thereon to gravitate easily into the pocket —7—. This inclined bottom or way —10′— is provided with a raised flange or partition —11— running lengthwise thereof substantially midway between the sides and rising to a point in proximity to the plane of the ledge —5— upon which the lower open end of the magazine —2— rests, the upper edge of said flange or partition being substantially parallel with the inclined bottom —10′—, while its forward edge is also inclined forwardly and downwardly to the rear edge of the pocket —7—.

The rear edge of the flange is inclined slightly at an angle to the horizontal plane of the ledge —5— and lies directly under the lower open end of the magazine and together with the inclined portion of the bottom —10′— at the rear thereof constitutes a bottom support for the articles as a body which may be held in the magazine —2— and serves together with the magazine to prevent the precipitation of the entire collection of such articles from the magazine into the pocket —7—. This temporary retention of the articles as a body in the magazine is aided by the disposition of the rear edge of the flange —11— relatively to the portion of the inclined bottom —10′— at the rear thereof, in that those two parts meet in an obtuse angle almost directly under the center of the open end of the magazine, the rear edge as —11′— being inclined upwardly toward the front edge of the magazine at about the same angle to a horizontal plane as the downward inclination of the bottom —10′—. In addition to this function of the flange —11— just described, it also serves to separate the articles so that when released by the turning of the magazine upon the ledge —5— and relatively to the flange —11—, the articles in the magazine, which are also turned therewith, will be drawn across the underlying edge —11— of the partition, thereby freeing the adjacent articles from the main body and allowing them to pass downwardly along the inclined plane —10′— at either side of the partition, and to gravitate to the corresponding corners of the delivery pocket —7— from which they may be easily selected and drawn out by hand one by one.

The magazine —2— is preferably made in the form of a cup and is inverted so that its lower edge rests upon the ledge —5— within the marginal flange —4—, and therefore, within the recess —3—, the marginal flange —4— serving to hold it against accidental lateral displacement. As illustrated, the lower open end of the magazine is provided with an outwardly projecting annular flange —13— and its upper end —14— is preferably spherical, the sides and top being provided with lengthwise ribs or fins —15— extending from the lower ends to the center of the top, the object of which is to cause the entire body of articles contained therein to turn with the magazine which is rotatable by hand freely upon the ledge —5— in either direction, thereby causing the lowermost articles to be brushed against the rear inclined edge of the flange —11— to loosen them and allow them to gravitate upon the inclined surface —10′— and thence into the pocket —7—, the latter being wholly at the front of the magazine where the articles may be easily withdrawn one by one by the fingers as desired, and in order to facilitate the concentration of the articles within the pocket and to enable them to be easily withdrawn therefrom, the inner sides of the marginal flanges —8— and —9— are preferably beveled as shown.

When the magazine is emptied, it may be readily removed by hand and placed in an upright position and refilled from any source of supply, and while in this position the tray may be placed over and upon the open end of the magazine and then the entire device inverted to the position shown in Fig. 2 of the drawings ready for operation, under which conditions it is evident that the articles as a body will drop slightly until restrained by the underlying inclined bottom —10′— of the tray and adjacent inclined edge —11′— of the partition —11—.

Whenever the articles are exhausted from the pocket —7—, it is simply necessary to turn the magazine —2— a slight distance in either direction by hand, thereby causing the rear edge of the partition —11— to separate one or more of the articles from the main body to allow the separated articles to gravitate into the pocket —7—.

What I claim is:

1. In a holder for paper clips and similar small articles, the combination of a tray having an inclined bottom and a partition lengthwise thereof, and a magazine for the articles rotatably mounted on the tray and having an open bottom directly over a portion of the partition.

2. In a holder for paper clips and similar small articles, the combination of a tray having an inclined bottom and a delivery pocket at the forward end of the incline, a magazine for the articles rotatably mounted directly upon a portion of the tray directly over the inclined bottom, and a flange on the inclined bottom projecting under the open lower end of the magazine in close proximity thereto for engaging and separating the adjacent articles from the main body as the magazine is rotated.

3. In a holder for paper clips and similar small articles, the combination of a tray

having an inclined bottom and a circular recess in its top extending around the sides and rear end of the inclined bottom, and a magazine for the articles having an open lower end seated in said recess and rotatable therein, said magazine being provided with inwardly projecting fins to cause the articles therein to engage adjacent articles and cause the entire body of such articles to rotate with the magazine.

4. In a holder for paper clips and similar small articles, the combination of a tray having an inclined way, a magazine having its lower end open and rotatably mounted on the tray directly above a portion of the inclined way, and an upward projection on the inclined portion of the tray directly under the open end of the magazine for engaging and separating the lowermost articles from the main body thereof.

5. In a holder for paper clips and similar small articles, the combination of a tray having an inclined way, a magazine having its lower end open and rotatably mounted on the tray directly above a portion of the inclined way, and an upward projection on the inclined portion of the tray directly under the open end of the magazine for engaging and separating the lowermost articles from the main body thereof, said magazine being provided with inwardly projecting fins to cause the entire body of articles to be agitated as the magazine is rotated.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 20th day of March, 1915.

JAMES V. WASHBURNE.

Witnesses:

H. E. CHASE,

ALICE M. CANNON.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."