Aug. 9, 1927. 1,638,222

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MATCH RECEPTACLE

Filed Sept. 24, 1925

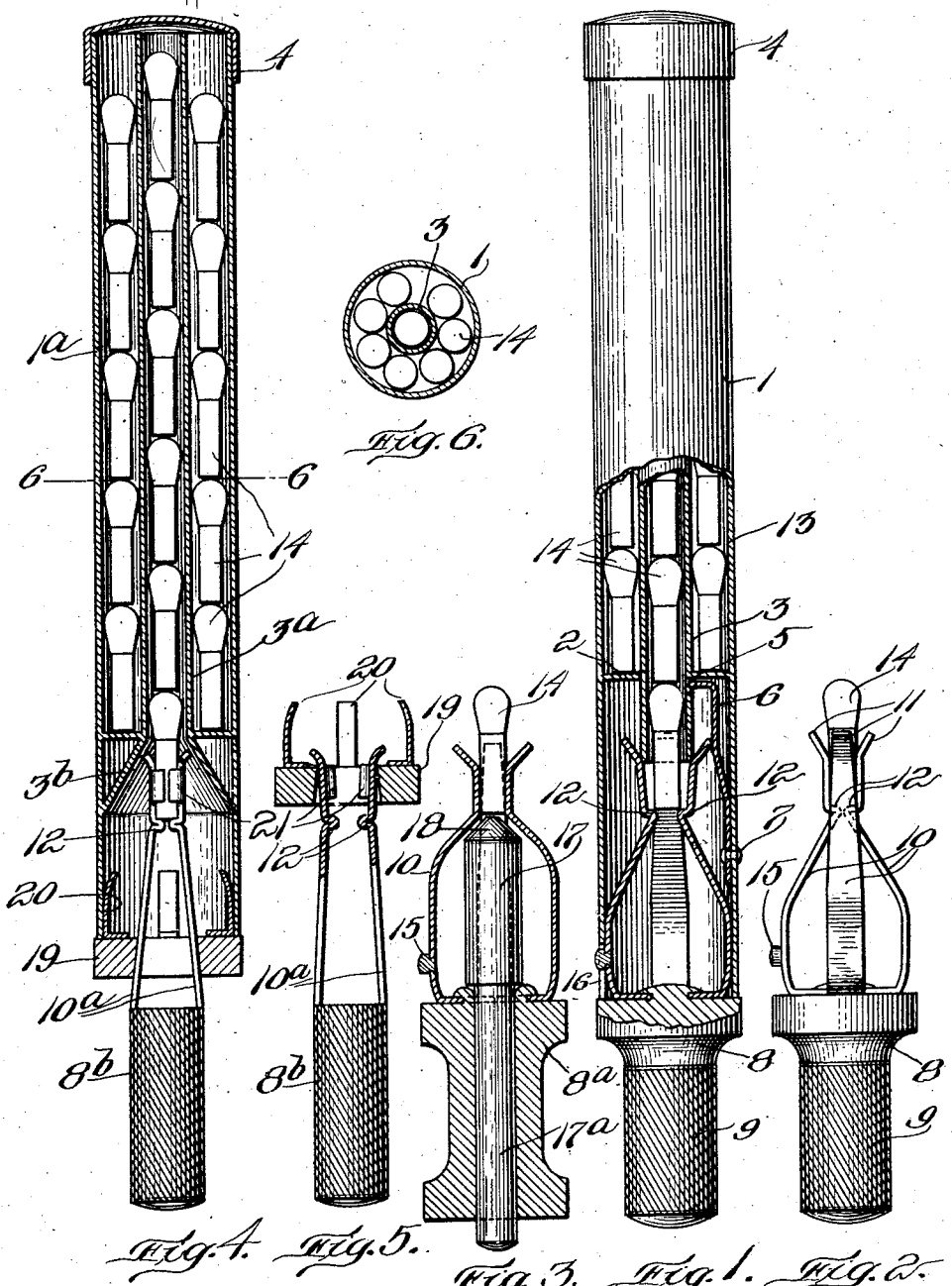


Fig. 6.

Fig. 4. Fig. 5. Fig. 3. Fig. 1. Fig. 2.

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Patented Aug. 9, 1927. 1,638,222

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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MATCH RECEPTACLE.

Application filed September 24, 1925. Serial No. 58,240.

My invention relates to match receptacles and it has for its object to provide an improved article of this kind. It is also an object of my invention to provide a match receptacle for use with matches whose stems are made much shorter, or smaller than is the case with the ordinary match heretofore provided, so that it will hold a much greater number of these smaller matches than of the old style long match, and so that a great saving in the amount of wood required in the manufacture of matches is effected.

To these ends I have provided an improved match receptacle or box having the peculiar features of construction and mode of operation set forth in the following description, the particular novel features of the invention being pointed out and defined in the claims at the close thereof.

In the accompanying drawings:

Figure 1 is an enlarged side elevation, partly in section, of a match receptacle constructed in accordance with my invention.

Figure 2 is a side elevation, also enlarged, of the clutch member hereinafter described.

Figure 3 is a sectional view, also enlarged, of another form of clutch member for use with the box of the receptacle shown in Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a sectional view, on enlarged scale, of a modified form of my invention.

Figure 5 is an elevation, partly in section of the clutch member of the receptacle shown in Figure 4.

Figure 6 is a sectional view taken on the line 6—6 in Figure 4.

My improved match receptacle, as shown in Figures 1, 2, and 3, comprises a hollow sheet metal body 1 within which is fixed near one end thereof, a partition wall 2 carrying at its middle a tube 3. The partition 2 supports the tube 3 at the middle of the hollow body 1 and said tube extends from the partition 2 in one direction as far as the rear end of the body 1. This end of the body is normally closed by a removable cap 4. At the other side of the partition 2 the tube 3 projects from partition 2 for a short distance toward the opposite or delivery end of the body 1 and is formed at one side thereof with a slot or hole 5 into which projects the free end of a spring arm 6. Near its opposite end the arm 6 is secured at 7 upon the inside of body 1.

That portion of the tubular body 1 between the partition 2 and the delivery end of said body serves as a pocket to receive a removable clutch member by means of which the matches are removed one at a time from the receptacle, said clutch member serving also as a means by which each match that is removed is held while it is burning. This clutch member comprises a body 8 provided with a handle 9, said body 8 having secured thereto four spring arms 10 each formed at its free end with an outwardly bent portion 11 which serves as a cam and two of said arms being formed with shoulders 12 which constitutes stops limiting the extent to which a match stem enters between the spring jaw 10.

The annular chamber 13 surrounding the tube 3 serves as a storage space for holding a supply of matches 14, said matches being made with stems about one half inch long. As shown in the drawings, the central tube 3 is loaded with a number of these matches which are placed therein with their stems foremost.

When the spring jaws of the clutch member are shoved into the delivery end of body 1 the cam ends 11 of said jaws engage the end of the tube 3 and are spread apart or opened so that, with the body 1 held perpendicular, the lower-most match will fall by gravity into position between the spring jaws with the lower end of its stem against the shoulders 12. When the clutch member is thus shoved into the body 1, one of the jaws 10 also engages the spring detent 6 and bends it laterally thereby withdrawing its free end from the interior of tube 3 and allowing the lower-most match to fall into the clutch member as described. Now, when the clutch member is pulled downwardly out of the body 1 the spring jaws 10 close against and grip the match which moves down with them, and at the same time the spring detent 6 moves inwardly and prevents the other matches within the tube 3 from following the first match. When the clutch member is removed from the body 1 it serves as a holder by means of which the match can be ignited and held while being used. In order that the clutch member shall be properly positioned when inserted in the body 1 so that one of the spring jaws 10 will always engage the spring detent 6, a pin or stud 15 is provided on one of said jaws to enter a positioning slot 16 formed in body 1 at the delivery end thereof.

Figure 3 shows another form of clutch

member in which the shoulders 12 of Figure 2 are absent, the bottom of the match stem pocket at the free ends of the spring jaws 10 being constituted by the end of a plunger 17 made with a stem 17^a extending loosely through the body 8^a of the clutch member. The inner end of the plunger 17 is made conical, or frustro-conical, as shown at 18 so that when the outer end of stem 17^a is shoved inwardly by finger or thumb pressure, the end portion 18 wedges in between the tines or jaws 10 spreading them apart and at the same time ejecting the used match. When the pressure on the stem 17^a is removed the jaws 10 move inwardly and, in doing so, act upon the end 18 to restore the plunger to its normal position.

In the form of my invention shown in Figures 4 and 5 the delivery end of the match holding tube 3^a is flared as at 3^b so that when the jaws 10^a of the clutch member 8^b are shoved into the body 1, said flared portion serves to centralize them opposite the delivery end of tube 3^a. The jaws 10^a are spring arms tending to spread apart and have mounted upon them a sliding collar 19 which, when moved toward the handle end of the clutch, forces the two jaws 10^a together against the stem of the match.

Flexible tines 20 secured to collar 19 are adapted to enter the end of body 1 to frictionally hold the clutch in position within the latter when the device is not in use.

When operating the form of my invention shown in Figures 4 and 5 the collar 19 of the clutch member is positioned near the extremities of the jaws 10^a and the latter shoved into body 1. During this movement of the jaws 10^a into body 1 the latter serves as an abutment to hold the collar 19 against movement with the jaws with the result that the latter are forced together against the stem of the lowermost match. This form of my invention is not provided with a detent corresponding with the detent 6 of Figure 1 and therefore during the process of removing a match from body 1^a of Figure 4, said body will be positioned so as to prevent discharge of matches by gravity from tube 3^a while the clutch is removed and until it has been partly inserted within the body and the match pocket at the free ends of the jaws 10^a is in position to receive the stem of the lowermost match. Only two jaws 10^a are provided and for this reason each is made upon opposite sides thereof, just above the shoulders 12 of said jaws, with wings 21 which serve to hold the match stem in position between the jaws.

What I claim is:

1. In combination a tubular container for holding a plurality of matches end to end in a row, and a clutch adapted to be manipulated to grip and remove the match at one end of said container and to serve as a holder for said match while it is being used.

2. In combination, a tubular container for holding a plurality of matches end to end in a row, with provision for feeding movement of the row lengthwise of the tube by gravity and a clutch adapted to be manipulated to grip and remove the match at one end of said container and to serve as a holder for said match while it is being used.

3. In combination, a tubular container for holding a plurality of matches end to end in a row, and a separable clutch member removably fitted to said container and occupying a position to serve as a closure for the delivery end thereof and adapted to be manipulated to grip and remove the match at said delivery end and to serve as a holder for said match while it is being used.

4. In combination, a tubular container for holding a plurality of matches end to end in a row; a removable cap closing one end of said tube, and a separable clutch member removably fitted to said container and occupying a position at the opposite outlet end thereof so as to serve as a closure for the same, and adapted to be manipulated to grip and remove the match at said outlet or delivery end and to serve as a holder for said match while it is being used.

5. In combination, a tubular body; a delivery tube centrally supported within said tubular body so as to provide a storage space for matches between said tube and the wall of said body; a removable cap normally closing the inlet ends of said body and tube; a partition within said body connecting the latter and the tube near their delivery ends, and a clutch member removably mounted within the delivery end of said body and adapted to be manipulated to grip and remove the match at the delivery end of said tube and to serve as a holder for said match while it is being used.

6. In combination, a tubular body; a delivery tube centrally supported within said tubular body so as to provide a storage space for matches between said tube and the wall of said body; a removable cap normally closing the inlet ends of said body and tube; a partition within said body connecting the latter and the tube near their delivery ends, and a clutch member removably mounted within the delivery end of said body so as to serve as a closure for the delivery end of said tube and adapted to be manipulated to grip and remove the match at said delivery end and to serve as a holder for said match while it is being used.

7. In combination, a tubular body; a delivery tube centrally supported within said tubular body so as to provide a storage space for matches between said tube and the wall of said body; a removable cap normally closing the inlet ends of said body and tube; a partition within said body connecting the

latter and the tube near their delivery ends, and a clutch member removably mounted within the delivery end of said body so as to serve as a closure for the delivery end of said tube and adapted to be manipulated to grip and remove the match at said delivery end and to serve as a holder for said match while it is being used, said clutch member comprising a body and a plurality of resilient match gripping jaws occupying a position within said body when said member is in its normal position within the end of the latter.

8. In combination, a tubular body; a delivery tube centrally supported within said tubular body so as to provide a storage space for matches between said tube and the wall of said body; a removable cap normally closing the inlet ends of said body and tube; a partition within said body connecting the latter and the tube near their delivery ends; a clutch member removably mounted within the delivery end of said body and adapted to be manipulated to grip and remove the match at the delivery end of said tube and to serve as a holder for said match while it is being used, and a detent normally preventing the exit of matches from the delivery end of said tube, said clutch member comprising a plurality of spring match-engaging jaws that are operated automatically by the delivery end of said tube and one of which serves to retract said detent when said member is inserted within said body.

9. In combination, a tubular body; a delivery tube centrally supported within said tubular body so as to provide a storage space for matches between said tube and the wall of said body; a removable closure for the inlet ends of said body and tube; a clutch member removably mounted within the delivery end of said body and adapted to be manipulated to grip and remove the match at the delivery end of said tube and to serve as a holder for said match while it is being used, and a detent adjacent the delivery end of the tube and normally preventing the discharge of matches therefrom, said detent being automatically operated by said clutch member to free the matches when said clutch member is inserted within said body.

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