Feb. 16, 1943. R. O. H. HILL 2,311,173

CARD CASE

Filed June 20, 1940

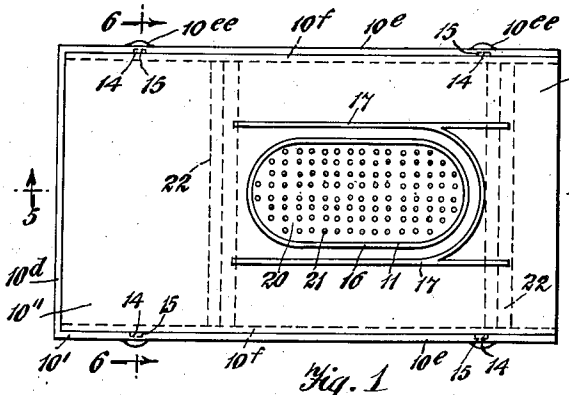


Fig. 1

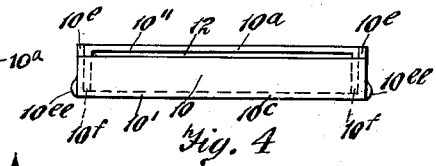


Fig. 4

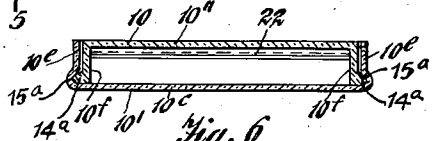


Fig. 6

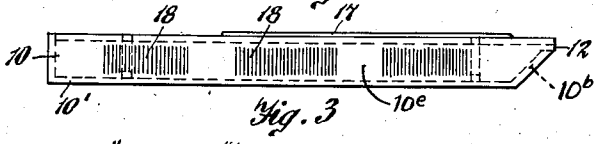


Fig. 3

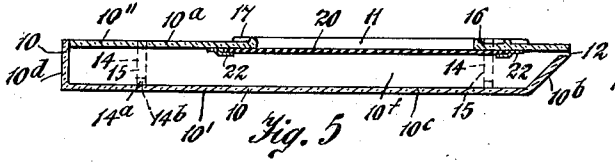


Fig. 5

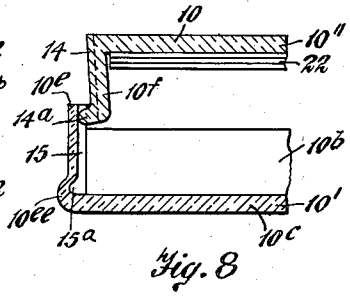


Fig. 8

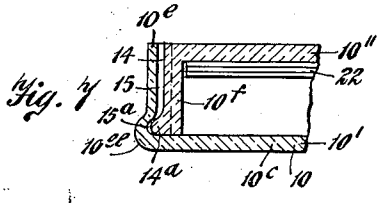


Fig. 7

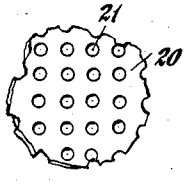


Fig. 9

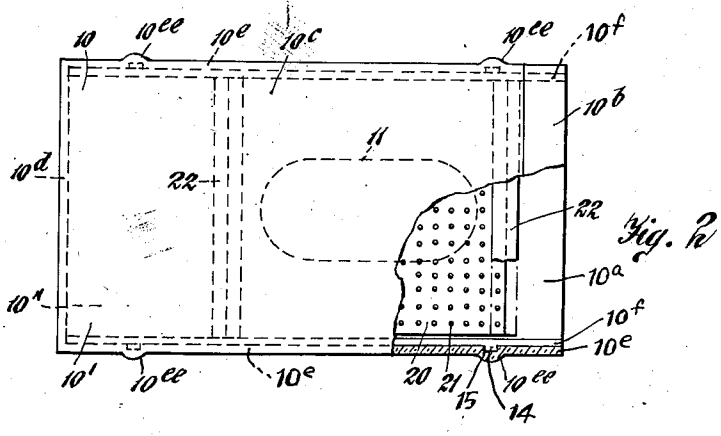


Fig. 2

INVENTOR.

BY RICHARD O. H. HILL

ATTORNEY.

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CARDCASE

Richard O. H. Hill, Larchmont, N. Y.

Application June 20, 1940, Serial No. 341,419

7 Claims. (Cl. 206—40)

This invention relates to new and useful improvements in a card case.

The invention proposes a case for holding a stack of cards and a novel means for dispensing said cards singly from the case.

More specifically, the invention contemplates characterizing the dispensing means by a thin sheet of elastic material having a high coefficient of friction and mounted across an opening on one of the walls of the case whereby an area of the sheet may be pressed down upon the face of one of the cards in the case and then moved forwards to dispense the card.

Still further the invention proposes to provide the case with an end wall inclined outwardly from the bottom to the top and at its top having a slit through which the cards in the case may pass one at a time, and it is further proposed to mount said thin sheet of elastic material having a high coefficient of friction across said opening in one of the walls of the case in a manner so that an area thereof may be pressed down upon the face of one of the cards in the case and then moved forwards to partially project the card through said slit.

More specifically, the invention proposes a novel fashion of constructing the sheet of elastic material to increase its coefficient of friction. An arrangement is also proposed for mounting the elastic sheet in a certain manner in position to facilitate its stretching so that the card may be effectively dispensed.

The invention also contemplates to so arrange the parts that the elastic sheet may be manipulated to replace a partially dispensed card into the case if this is desired.

An important feature of the card case resides in the fact that dirt which may be transferred from one's fingers to the elastic sheet will not in turn be transferred to the cards.

Still further the invention proposes a novel and simple construction of the case to facilitate placing cards therein.

Another object of the invention is the construction of a device as described which is simple and durable and which may be manufactured and sold at a reasonable cost.

For further comprehension of the invention, and of the objects and advantages thereof, reference will be had to the following description and accompanying drawing, and to the appended claims in which the various novel features of the invention are more particularly set forth.

In the accompanying drawing forming a material part of this disclosure:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a card case constructed in accordance with this invention.

Fig. 2 is a bottom view of the card case, with a portion thereof broken away to disclose interior parts.

Fig. 3 is a side elevational view of the card case.

Fig. 4 is an end elevational view of the card case looking from the right hand end of Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is a longitudinal vertical sectional view taken on the line **5—5** of Fig. 1.

Fig. 6 is a vertical transverse sectional view taken on the line **6—6** of Fig. 1.

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary enlarged detailed view of a portion of Fig. 6.

Fig. 8 is a fragmentary view similar to Fig. 7 but showing the parts in a different position.

Fig. 9 is a fragmentary perspective view of a portion of the thin sheet of elastic material used in the card case.

The card case, in accordance with this invention, includes a case **10** for holding a stack of cards not shown on the drawing, and having a top wall **10***a* formed with an opening **11**, and furthermore having an end wall **10***b* inclined outwardly from the bottom to the top and at its top having a slit **12** through which said cards may pass one at a time. It is proposed that the case **10** be constructed of composition material, such as Bakelite, or other hard and rigid materials. The case **10** is formed from two separate sections. There is a body section **10'** and a cover section **10''**. The body section **10'** consists of a bottom wall **10***c*, and rear end wall **10***d*, the front end wall **10***b*, and side walls **10***e*. The cover section **10'** comprises the said top wall **10***a*, and side walls **10***f*. These side walls engage in between the side walls **10***e* of the body section **10'**.

Means is provided for releasably holding the body section **10'** and cover section **10''** together so that these parts may be separated when it is desired to fill the card case with cards. This means includes several vertical ribs **14** on the outer faces of the side walls **10***f* and slidably engaging complementary vertical grooves **15** formed on the inner faces of the side walls **10***e*. A projection **14***a* is arranged on one of these latter mentioned parts and is engageable with a complementary niche **15***a* on the other of these parts for releasably holding the sections of the body closed. More specifically, the projections **14***a* are disposed on the bottom end portions of the vertical ribs **14**. The niches **15***a* are disposed at the bottom portions of the vertical grooves **15**. In Fig. 6 a detail is shown of the

manner in which each pair of projections 14a and niches 15a engage each other.

The side walls 10e and 10f are somewhat resilient so that the projections 14a and niches 15a may disengage each other as illustrated in Fig. 8. Fig. 5 shows the card case closed. To open the case it is merely necessary to engage the finger nail into the slit 12 and pull the cover section 10'' upwards relative to the body section 10'. This opens the body so that additional cards may be inserted therein.

The opening 11 in the top wall 10a is finished with a thickened surrounding bead 16 which is integral with the material of the top wall. Additional beaded portions 17 are formed on the top wall 10a in the vicinity of the opening 11 to reinforce the top wall. The outer faces of the side walls 10e are formed with vertical serrations 18 to facilitate gripping and holding of the body section 10' when the case is opened and when the case is being used. The slit 12 is produced by terminating the end wall 10b a short distance down from the top edges of the side walls 10e so that the top edge of the end wall 10b is slightly spaced from the bottom face of the top wall 10a. This space is quite small, approximately .014'', which is sufficient to permit one of the business cards to pass through. The side walls 10e are formed with slight bulges 10ee outside of the niches 15a to reinforce these points.

A thin sheet of elastic material 20 having a high coefficient of friction is mounted across the opening 11. Preferably, this sheet of elastic material comprises a thin sheet of latex or rubber. This sheet is formed with a plurality of closely spaced small perforations 21 to increase the frictional coefficient thereof. Four hundred perforations per square inch have been found satisfactory. The sheet 20 extends across the entire width of the cover section 10'' and is of a length to extend slightly to the front and slightly to the rear of the ends of the opening 11. Strips of gum tape 22 extend along the front and rear edges of the rubber sheet 20 and attach these edges to the material of the top wall 10a. Preferably, the sheet 20 is mounted upon the bottom face of the top wall 10a. The side edges of the sheet 20 are free to facilitate forward and rearward stretching of the central portion of the sheet. The tape 22 is the sole means for supporting the rubber sheet 20 in position. The opening 11 is elongated and extends longitudinally of the case 10, that is, at right angles to the slit 12 which is transversely of the case.

The case is used in the following manner:

The cover section 10'' may be removed from the body section 10' by engaging one's finger nail into the slit 12 and pulling the cover section 10'' out from the body section 10'. A stack of cards is then placed in the case and the cover section 10'' is remounted on the body section 10'.

When it is desired to dispense one of the cards in the case, the case is held in the palm of one's hand and the thumb is placed through the opening 11 upon a rear area of the elastic sheet 20. The thumb is then pressed down so as to press a portion of the elastic sheet against the top face of the uppermost card in the stack. When the thumb is moved forwards, flexing the rubber sheet 20 forwards, the uppermost card will be moved forwards due to the frictional resistance between the rubber sheet 20 and the card. Thus the card is partially projected from the slit 12. A person to whom the card is offered may grip the extended portion of the card and pull it from the case.

The card may be drawn back into the case by allowing the elastic sheet 20 to move back to its original position while at the same time pressure is maintained between the elastic sheet 20 and the card. If the pressure is released the elastic sheet will assume its normal position while the card remains extended. Then the card may be replaced by engaging the thumb upon a front area of the elastic sheet 20 forcing the elastic sheet 20 downwards against the card and moving the thumb rearwards to draw in the card.

The cards may be dispensed singly until they are all dispensed. Even the last card may be dispensed. To do this the thumb is placed on a rear portion of the elastic sheet 20 and pressed down to engage the elastic sheet against the top face of the card. Then the thumb is moved forward flexing the elastic sheet and forcing the card forward. The front end of the card will ride upward on the inclined wall 10b and then the front end portion of the card will emerge from the slit 12.

While I have illustrated and described the preferred embodiments of my invention, it is to be understood that I do not limit myself to the precise constructions herein disclosed and the right is reserved to all changes and modifications coming within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by United States Letters Patent is:

1. In a card case having a casing for holding a stack of cards which is provided with a top wall having an opening of sufficient length so that one's finger may be placed through said opening and moved forwards and also having an end wall inclined outwardly from the bottom to the top and at its top having a slit disposed transversely of the casing through which said cards may pass one at a time, a thin sheet of elastic material having a high coefficient of friction mounted across said opening in a condition that it may stretch, whereby an area of said sheet may be pressed down upon the face of one of the cards in said case and then moved forwards to stretch said sheet in a plane parallel to said top wall and partially project a card through said slit by frictional engagement.

2. In a card case having a casing for holding a stack of cards which is provided with a top wall having an opening of sufficient length so that one's finger may be placed through said opening and moved forwards and also having an end wall inclined outwardly from the bottom to the top and at its top having a slit disposed transversely of the casing through which said cards may pass one at a time, a thin sheet of elastic material having a high coefficient of friction mounted across said opening in a condition that it may stretch, whereby an area of said sheet may be pressed down upon the face of one of the cards in said case and then moved forwards to stretch said sheet in a plane parallel to said top wall and partially project a card through said slit by frictional engagement, said elastic sheet comprising a sheet of latex or rubber, having a plurality of small perforations to facilitate the elastic sheet frictionally gripping the adjacent card.

3. In a card case having a casing for holding a stack of cards which is provided with a top wall having an opening of sufficient length so

that one's finger may be placed through said opening and moved forwards and also having an end wall inclined outwardly from the bottom to the top and at its top having a slit disposed transversely of the casing through which said cards may pass one at a time, a thin sheet of elastic material having a high coefficient of friction mounted across said opening in a condition that it may stretch, whereby an area of said sheet may be pressed down upon the face of one of the cards in said case and then moved forwards to stretch said sheet in a plane parallel to said top wall and partially project a card through said slit by frictional engagement, said sheet of elastic material being attached to the top wall of the case along its front and rear edges.

4. In a card case having a casing for holding a stack of cards which is provided with a top wall having an opening of sufficient length so that one's finger may be placed through said opening and moved forwards and also having an end wall inclined outwardly from the bottom to the top and at its top having a slit disposed transversely of the casing through which said cards may pass one at a time, a thin sheet of elastic material having a high coefficient of friction mounted across said opening in a condition that it may stretch, whereby an area of said sheet may be pressed down upon the face of one of the cards in said case and then moved forwards to stretch said sheet in a plane parallel to said top wall and partially project a card through said slit by frictional engagement, said sheet of elastic material being attached to the top wall of the case along its front and rear edges, and being free along its sides.

5. In a card case having a casing for holding a stack of cards which is provided with a top wall having an opening of sufficient length so that one's finger may be placed through said opening and moved forwards and also having an end wall inclined outwardly from the bottom to the top and at its top having a slit disposed transversely of the casing through which said cards may pass one at a time, a thin sheet of elastic material having a high coefficient of friction mounted across said opening in a condition that it may stretch, whereby an area of said sheet may be pressed down upon the face of one of the cards in said case and then moved forwards to stretch said sheet in a plane parallel to said top wall and partially project a card through said slit by frictional engagement, said sheet of elastic material being attached to the top wall of the case along its front and rear edges, with adhesive tape.

6. In a card case having a casing for holding a stack of cards which is provided with a top wall having an opening of sufficient length so that one's finger may be placed through said opening and moved forwards and also having end wall inclined outwardly from the bottom to the top and at its top having a slit disposed transversely of the casing through which said cards may pass one at a time, a thin sheet of elastic material having a high coefficient of friction mounted across said opening in a condition that it may stretch, whereby an area of said sheet may be pressed down upon the face of one of the cards in said case and then moved forwards to stretch said sheet in a plane parallel to said top wall and partially project a card through said slit by frictional engagement, said sheet of elastic material being disposed upon and attached to the bottom face of said top wall.

7. A method for ejecting cards from a card case having a wall formed with an opening across which there is mounted a thin sheet of elastic material and beneath which the cards are stacked, said case also being provided with a card discharge slit at one end of said wall, consisting in engaging a finger on said elastic material through said opening and pressing downwards to cause the elastic material to frictionally grip the top card of said stack of cards, and then moving said finger laterally towards said card discharge slit and so flexing said elastic material laterally and thus moving said top card through said discharge opening.

RICHARD O. H. HILL.