

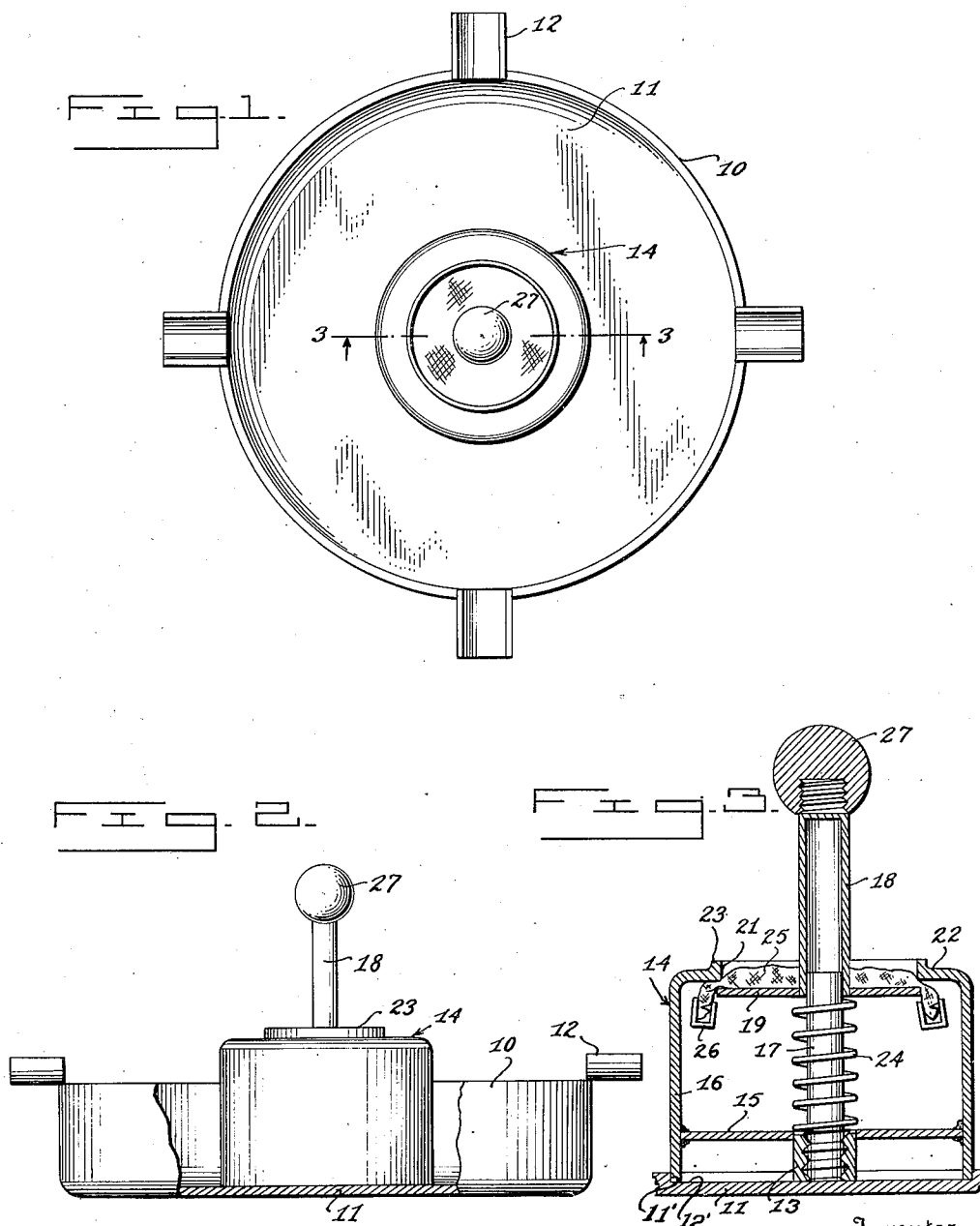
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ASH TRAY

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ASH TRAY

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3 Claims. (Cl. 131-236)

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This invention relates to ash trays, and more particularly to an ash tray which has facilities for extinguishing a cigarette with minimum effort prior to its being deposited upon the tray, so that it is not left to burn and give off objectionable smoke.

It is an important object of the invention to provide a fire-extinguishing device for ash trays in which the water used for the extinguishing purposes is kept confined within a casing and prevented from escaping to the ash tray proper, and wherein the moisture used for extinguishing cigarettes is provided from a pad of absorbent material.

For a better understanding of the invention, reference may be had to the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of an ash tray embodying the features of the present invention.

Figure 2 is a side elevational view of the ash tray with portions broken away to show the cigarette-extinguishing assembly at the center of the tray.

Figure 3 is an enlarged cross-sectional view through the tray and through the water casing of the cigarette extinguishing assembly, taken on the line 3-3 of Figure 1, and looking in the direction of the arrows thereof.

Referring now to the figures, 10 represents an ash tray having a bottom 11, the tray being provided with the usual projections 12 for supporting burning cigarettes, and a depressed central area 12' defining a circular shoulder or boss 11'. At the center of the area 12' there is secured, as by welding or soldering, an internally threaded nut 13. The assembly 14 comprises a cylindrical casing 16 having an upset watertight bottom 15 having an opening adapted to fit over and surround the nut 13, with the lower end of the casing 16 seated within the shoulder 11'. Into the nut 13 there is screwed a guide post 17 on which a sleeve 18 is slidably mounted. The post 17 not only serves as a guide for the sleeve 18 but serves also, in conjunction with the shoulder 11', to secure the assembly 14 against lateral displacement relative to the center of the ash tray 10.

The bottom end of the sleeve 18 carries a plate 19 arranged to be brought up into alignment with the edge 21 of an opening in the top 22 of the casing 16. This edge has a vertically extending flange 23 extending entirely around the opening, whereby to prevent water and ashes from either leaving or entering through the opening.

The sleeve 18 and the plate 19 are normally

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urged upwardly against the top 22 by a helical spring 24 circumposed on the post 17 and compressed between the plate 19 and the casing bottom 15, whereby the plate 19 is urged toward engagement with the casing top 22. Adapted to be brought up against the edge 21 of the opening is a layer or pad 25 of absorbent material adapted to hang down over the edge of the plate 19 so that its edges will not interfere with the operation of the plate 19 and to provide a good sealing engagement of the absorbent material with the casing top 22. In order to be sure that the absorbent pad 25 will overhang the plate 19, the edges of the pad 25 are provided with weights 26 which will hold the edges of the pad downwardly.

In operation, the casing 16, being filled to a sufficient height with water, the sleeve 18 is depressed by means of a suitable handle 27 secured to the upper end of the sleeve 18 so that the absorbent pad 25 will be immersed in the water in the casing 16. It has been found from experiment that the pad 25 when so wetted will remain saturated with water for hours, so as to instantly extinguish dozens of cigarettes as the lighted ends thereof are thrust against the pad 25, before it is necessary to again wet the pad. The water is kept within the casing 16 and prevented from slopping through the opening in the casing top 22 by the sealing action of the pad 25, the spring 24 keeping the pad 25 and plate 19 firmly against the top 22 of the casing 16.

Having now described my invention, I claim:

1. A cigarette-extinguishing device comprising a casing adapted to contain a body of water, said casing having a top opening, a supporting plate carried within the casing for vertical adjustment and adapted to register with the casing opening, a pad of absorbent material supported on said plate, means urging and retaining said plate and its pad in closing registration with the casing top opening, a guide member extending upwardly from the bottom of the casing, on which said plate is slidable toward and away from said opening, said means for urging said plate against the edges of the casing top opening comprising a spring carried on said guide member and compressed between the bottom of said casing and said plate, and a sleeve carried on said plate and arranged in sliding engagement with the guide member, said sleeve being closed at its upper end and serving as a means by which said plate and said pad can be depressed below said opening to submerge said pad in the body of water within the casing.

2. A cigarette-extinguishing device comprising

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a casing adapted to contain a body of water, said casing having a top opening, a supporting plate carried within the casing for vertical adjustment and adapted to register with the casing opening, a pad of absorbent material supported on said plate, and means urging and retaining said plate and its pad in closing registration with the casing top opening, said pad having edges overhanging and depending from the edges of said supporting plate, and weights carried by said pad edges for maintaining the same in their downwardly extending position, whereby the pad edges are positioned for engagement with the edges of the casing top opening.

3. A cigarette extinguisher comprising a water containing casing having a bottom and an upwardly extending annular flange at its upper end defining an access opening, vertical guide means rising above the casing bottom and through said access opening, support means slidably mounted on said guide comprising a plate for registry with the bottom of said access opening, a water absorbent pad on the upper side of said plate against which the burning end of a cigarette can be extinguished by contact, said pad having edge portions overhanging the edges of said plate whereby said overhanging edge portions can form a seal between said plate and the edges of said access

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opening when said plate is in its extreme elevated position with respect to the underside of said annular flange, and downwardly yieldable spring means compressed between said plate and the casing bottom and arranged to restore said plate and said absorbent pad into sealing relation with said access opening whenever said support means has been manually depressed against the compression of said spring means to immerse said absorbent pad in the water in said casing and is released.

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