

1,054,979.

Patented Mar. 4, 1913.

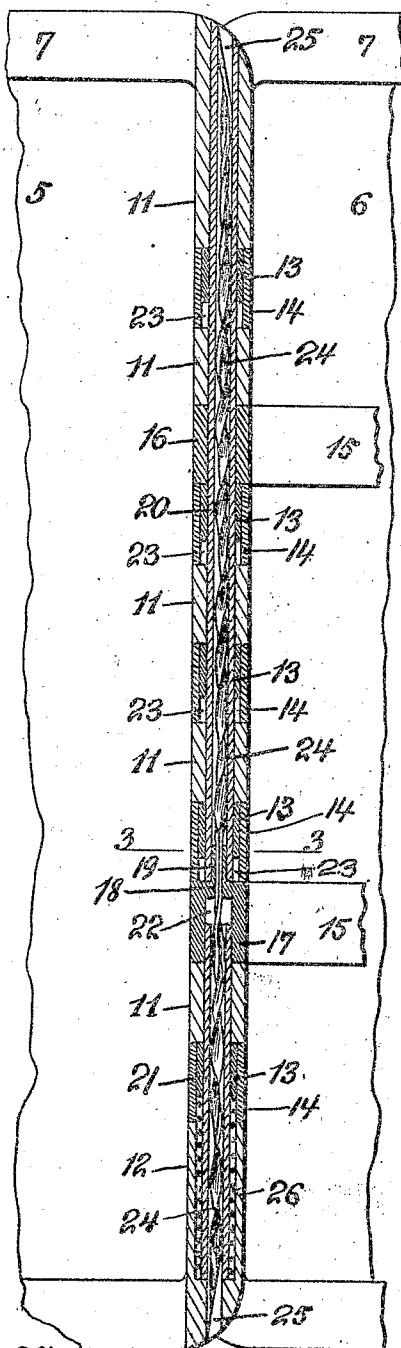


Fig. 2

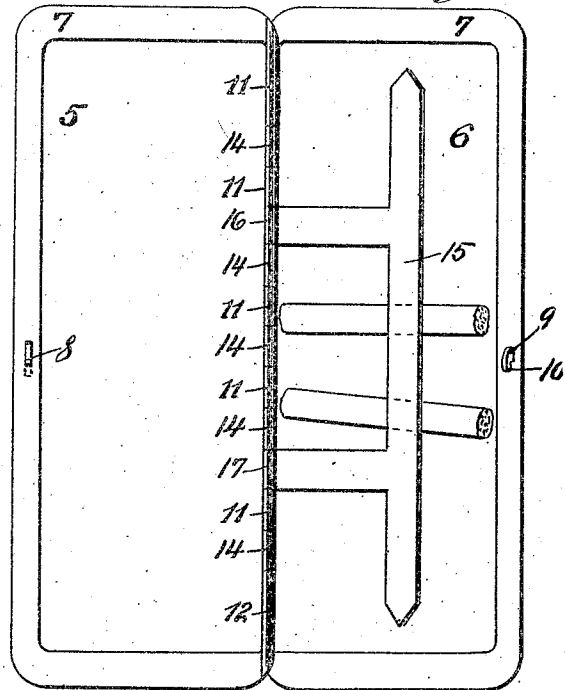


Fig. 1

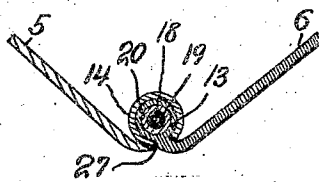


Fig. 3

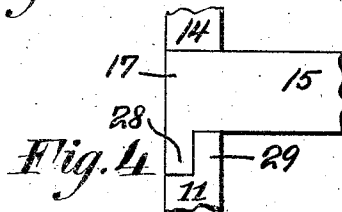


Fig. 4

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By his Attorney
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

AUGUSTIN MITCHELL, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR TO WOODS & CHATELLIER, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., A CORPORATION OF NEW YORK.

CIGARETTE-CASE.

1,054,979.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Mar. 4, 1913.

Application filed August 18, 1911. Serial No. 644,771.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, AUGUSTIN MITCHELL, a citizen of the Russian Empire, and a resident of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Cigarette-Cases, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to cigarette cases and the object of the invention is to provide a novel opening mechanism whereby the case is automatically opened by a sliding movement of the one side of the case relatively to the other side.

Another object is to construct the opening mechanism in such a manner that the same is invisible and the cigarette case as such presents nothing unusual in its appearance.

To this end my invention is embodied in a cigarette case composed of two sides hinged together so as to permit of the one side sliding relatively to the other side and provided with a concealed opening mechanism within the hinge for automatically opening the case after the two sides have been moved in opposite directions parallel to one another.

The invention will be more fully understood in connection with the accompanying drawing in which—

Figure 1 is a view of a cigarette case embodying my invention; Fig. 2 is an enlarged detailed sectional view of the hinge and opening mechanism; Fig. 3 is a sectional view on line 3—3 of Fig. 2; and Fig. 4 is a detail view of the means for lifting the cigarette holder.

In the drawing the numerals 5 and 6 represent the two sides of the case and which are provided with the flat rim 7 to permit the case to be closed tightly and also to facilitate the sliding movement above referred to. Inside the rim the sides are dished to provide space for the cigarettes. The side 5 is provided with a recess 8 and the side 6 has secured thereto a catch 9, the hook 10 of which engages in the recess in an obvious manner. The catch is disengaged from the recess by a sliding movement sufficient to free the hook 10 from the recess.

To the side 5 at the inner edge thereof, there is secured a plurality of hinge ears 11. One of these is marked 12 and is of a greater inside diameter than the others. For purposes of appearance the inner hinge

ears 11 are all of the same length, while the two end ears are of a different length, but alike, as shown. To the other side 6 there is secured a plurality of hinge ears 13 of the same inside diameter as the ears 11 but of a less outside diameter. The ears 13 are shorter than the ears 11 as shown and over the ears 13 are fitted the false ear sleeves 14.

15 is the cigarette holder provided with two hinge ears 16 and 17. The ear 16 is of the same inside and outside diameter as the ears 11. The ear 17 is similarly constructed except that the inside diameter is narrowed as at 18 into a square aperture which is continued through a short shank 19.

20 is a tubular hinge pin which fits inside the several hinge ears as shown and abuts the hinge ear 17 of the holder 15 fitting outside the round shank 19. 21 is a similar shorter hinge pin which extends from the opposite end and into the hinge ear 17, leaving a space 22 inside the latter equal to the spaces 23 inside the sleeves 14, which spaces 23 are formed by the difference in lengths of the sleeves 14 and hinge ears 13.

Through the tubes 20 and 21 and the squared aperture 18 there is passed several long thin steel springs 24. Outside the aperture 18 the springs are twisted as shown and secured at the ends by wedges 25 and solder, but inside the aperture 18 the springs cannot be twisted because of the square cross section, the opening of which is completely filled by the springs.

26 is a coiled spring inside the hinge ear 12 and outside the hinge pin 21. The spring 26 tends to keep the two sides of the case in alinement as it expands between the ear 12 and an ear 13, keeping the parts in the position shown in Figs. 1 and 2. It will further be observed that as the ends of the springs 24 are secured to the hinge pins and are not twisted in the aperture 18, they have a tendency to force the cigarette holder 15 to the right in the drawing and as the holder presses against the side 6, the result is that the springs 24 tend constantly to open the case.

To open the case the sides are moved parallel in opposite directions, a distance the length of the spaces 22 and 23. This movement is enough to free the hook 10 from recess 8 and the case opens under the influence

of the springs 24 to a position indicated in Fig. 3. The opening movement is limited by the meeting of the inner edges of the sides at 27. It will also be noted that the cigarettes are prevented from falling out as the holder 15 is still under pressure by the springs 24. One particular advantage of this construction resides in the fact that the case may be opened by the use of one hand only when the sides may be moved parallel by a slight pressure of the thumb on the one side and the other four fingers on the other side of the case, which then opens gently and lies in the hollow of the hand after which a cigarette may easily be pulled out from under the holder.

If desired the hinge ear 17 may be provided with a lug 28 and the adjacent hinge ear 11 be provided with an abutting lug 29, as shown in Fig. 4. This permits of the side 6 being moved a little away from the holder 15, thus completely freeing the cigarettes from the pressure of the holder. But, of course, the use of both hands is necessary to produce this result.

In assembling the case the following method may be followed: First the holder 15 is placed in its proper position in the side 6 with the sleeves 14 to get the shank 19 inside the one ear 13, and after the coiled spring 26 has been placed, the hinge-ears of the two sides are placed in the position shown. Thereafter the two tubular hinge pins may be slipped into place and finally the steel springs are inserted, twisted and secured.

The above is thought to clearly explain this invention and the construction thereof. It will be seen from Fig. 1 that there is nothing to indicate that the hinge connecting the sides is other than an ordinary hinge. The sliding movement is possible

because of the shorter ears 13 on the one side which may move inside the false hinge ears 14. When once the case is closed the coiled spring keeps the hook 10 within the recess 8 and as soon as the hook is released the springs 24 force the case open. For the purpose of the claims the hinge ears 11 and 12 may be considered as one part of the hinge and the hinge ears 13 as the other part of the hinge, while the tubes 20 and 21 may be read as constituting the hinge pin.

Various changes may, of course, be made within the scope of the claims and the principle of the invention.

What I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. The combination with a casing comprising two sides, hinge ears secured to the latter, the hinge ears on the one side being shorter than those on the other side permitting a movement of the sides relatively to each other, a hinge pin connecting said hinge ears, sleeves concealing the said shorter hinge ears, a member pivoted on said hinge pin and springs within the latter for pressing the said member against the one side to open the said casing.

2. The combination with a casing comprising two sides connected by a hinge and means within the said hinge for permitting a sliding movement of the said sides relatively to each other and in a direction parallel to the axis of said hinge for the purpose of opening the said casing.

In testimony whereof I have signed this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

AUGUSTIN MITCHELL.

Witnesses:

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K. G. LEARD.