C. F. SPERY.

TOOTHPICK, MATCH, AND THE LIKE DISPENSER.

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1,175,386.

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Fig. 1.

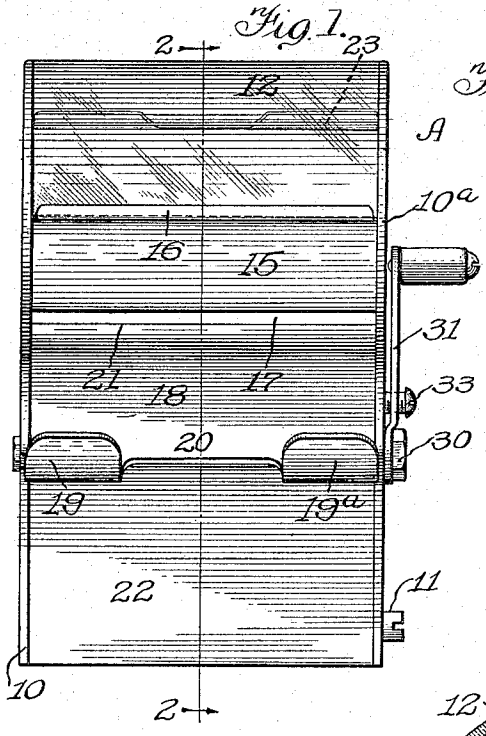


Fig. 3.

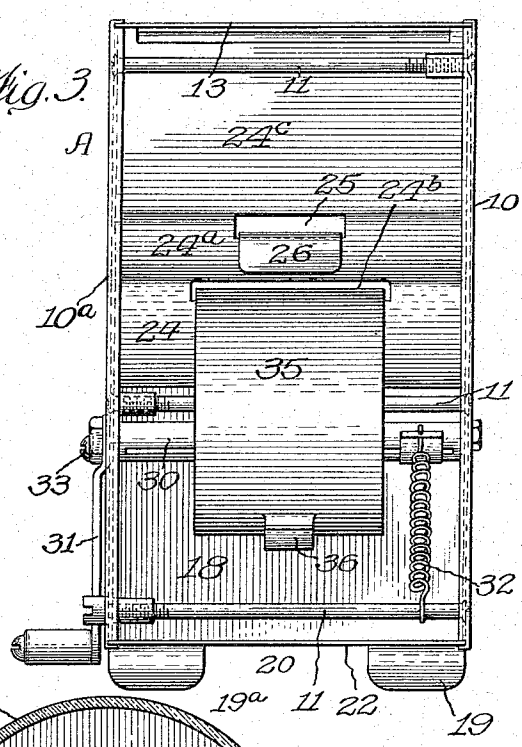
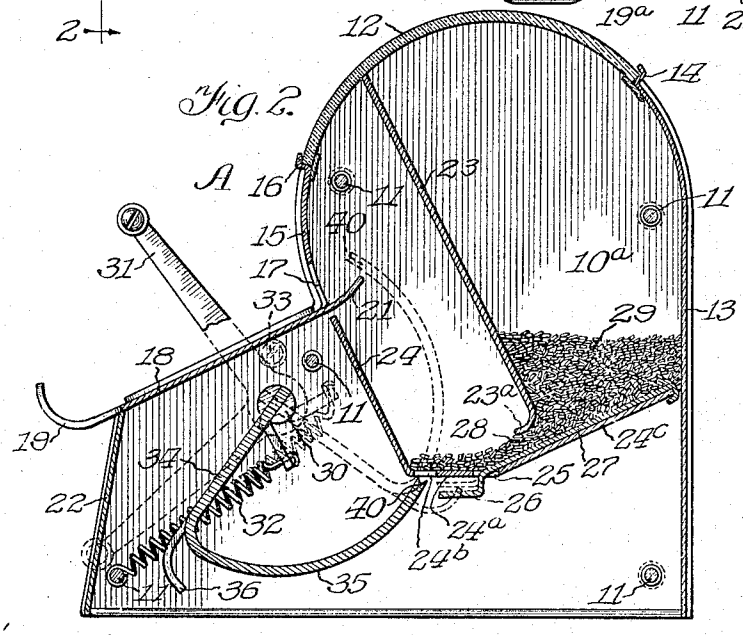


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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TOOTHPICK, MATCH, AND THE LIKE DISPENSER.

1,175,386. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Mar. 14, 1916.

Application filed December 21, 1914. Serial No. 878,293.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES F. SPERY, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city of Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Toothpick, Match, and the like Dispensers; and I do hereby declare that the following description of my said invention, taken in connection with the accompanying sheet of drawings, forms a full, clear, and exact specification, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates generally to improvements in a tooth pick, match, and the like dispenser, and it consists, essentially, in the novel and peculiar combination of parts and details of construction, as hereinafter first duly set forth and described and then pointed out in the claims.

In the drawing already referred to which serves to illustrate my said invention more fully, Figure 1 is a front elevation of my invention. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal, vertical section in line 2—2 of Fig. 1, and Fig. 3 is a bottom plan of my device.

Like parts are indicated by corresponding symbols or characters of reference in all the figures of the drawing.

The essence of my invention resides in the production of a neat and novel containing device for tooth picks, matches, and the like, and means correlated therewith, whereby upon the manipulation of a lever a single tooth pick or match, as the case may be, is permitted to issue from the interior of the device and to be deposited by gravity upon a receiving tray or pan, wherefrom the same may be picked up by the fingers.

To better understand my invention, reference is made to the drawing in which—

A indicates my invention as a whole, the side walls 10 and 10^a of which are arranged in parallel and maintained in spaced apart relationship by the rods 11. The upper portion of these side walls are of arcuate contour, and between said side walls at said arcuate portions is clamped an arcuate shaped glass 12. Between the rear edges of the side walls 10 and 10^a is located a rear wall 13, which rear wall extends upwardly and partially around the arcuate portion to the edge of glass 12, there being an overlap 14, overlapping the rear edge of said glass. An arcuate front wall 15 is likewise maintained between said side walls 10 and 10^a, and at the upper end thereof is arranged an offset overlap 16, embracing the front, lower edge of the arcuate glass 12. Below this front wall 15 there is arranged an open slot 17, extending the full width between the side walls 10 and 10^a. And, projecting through this slot into the interior of the container, there is a flat, forwardly declining plate 18 occupying the full distance between the side walls aforesaid and clamped therebetween and terminating at its lower, outer end in a pair of upturned lips 19 and 19^a, there being a space 20 between said lips whereby a tooth pick or match may be lifted from said lips. The upper or inner end of plate 18 is upturned as at 21 to receive the articles to be dispensed as hereinafter described. The front of the container A is closed by a front wall 22 which is maintained in position between the side walls 10 and 10^a in any desirable manner. Within the container A, extending from the arcuate glass 12 in a downwardly and rearwardly direction is a partition 23, the lower end of which has a rounded lower edge 23^a, approximately as indicated in Fig. 2.

An integrally formed front wall 24 extends tangentially from the slot 17 in a downward and rearward direction substantially parallel to wall 23, but spaced forwardly therefrom. At its lower end said front wall is possessed of a horizontally disposed transverse bottom 24^a, in which bottom there is formed a slot 24^b extending partially of the width of the casing A. This horizontal bottom 24^a terminates in an upwardly inclined bottom 24^c extending to the rear wall 13 and is closely fitted between the side walls 10 and 10^a. At the junction of the bottom 24^a and 24^c there is a slot 25 for the passage therethrough of a forwardly pointing nose 26 of a vibratile plate 27, the rear end of which is attached to the bottom wall 24^c near the rear wall 13 in such a manner as to permit of vibration thereof. It will now be observed that this vibratile plate being provided with the offset nose 26 at its free end, when said nose is impacted a certain amount of vibration of said plate 27 will take place. Attention is now directed to the fact that the rounded lower end 23^a of the partition 23 is located

a short distance above the bottom 24[c] and the vibratile plate 27, so as to form a slot 28 through which tooth picks or matches 29 may gravitate upon the horizontal bottom 24[a], as seen in Fig. 2.

Passing through the casing A and journaled in the side walls 10 and 10[a] thereof, forwardly of the wall 24, there is a shaft 30, having a handle 31 exteriorly of the casing A, whereby said shaft may be partially rotated in one direction, and an interior retractile helical spring 32 to return said shaft to its original position, which position is determined by the engagement of the handle 31 against a stud 33 projecting from the wall 10[a].

Upon shaft 30, intermediate its length, is located a radial blade 34, which blade terminates in an arcuate blade 35, the radius of which blade is such that upon rotation of shaft 30, the same will pass through slot 24[b], pick up a match or tooth-pick in its V-shaped mouth 40 and elevate the same, as indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 2, and discharge said pick or match upon the lip 21, wherefrom it will roll down the inclined plate 18 into the receiving fingers 19 and 19[a], wherefrom the said match or tooth pick may be lifted by the user. It will thus be seen that with every down and up stroke of the handle 31 one tooth pick or match (and no more) will be caused to issue through the opening 17 of the arcuate front 15. To the radial blade 32 and projecting beyond arcuate blade 35, there is fixed an upturned nose 36, which when the lever 31 is rotated to its lowermost point, strikes the nose 26 and causes movement of the vibrating plate 27, which movement assists in the flow of tooth picks or matches through the slot 28 upon the horizontal bottom 24[a].

It will now be observed that this device will be indispensable in bar rooms, hotels, restaurants, cigar and tobacco stores, where a free dispensing of tooth picks and matches has become a matter of course. At present such articles are generally placed in an open tray, and customers permitted to help themselves with the result that many thoughtless people help themselves much more liberally than good ethics would permit. The match and tooth pick waste, therefore, has become quite an important and costly one in such places as already indicated. With the employment of my device, however, this waste is eliminated in a manner readily understood.

While herein I have disclosed the preferred mode of practising my invention, I wish it understood that I may make such changes or alterations therein as might occur to the skilled mechanic or permitted by the doctrine of equivalents.

Having thus fully described my invention I claim as new and desire to secure to myself by Letters Patent of the United States:—

1. In combination, an article of the class described including a casing having a chamber therein adapted for the retention of a mass of matches and the like, a movable pickup member adapted to enter said chamber and to pick up one of the contents therein and elevate the same through said mass, there being an outlet from said chamber and means actuating said pickup.

2. An article of the class described including a casing having a chamber therein adapted for the retention of a mass of matches and the like, there being an outlet from said chamber, a pickup member adapted to move through an upwardly extending arcuate path, constructed to enter said chamber, the end of said pickup bodily picking up one of the contents in said chamber and elevating the same through said mass, and means actuating said pickup whereby the said engaging end thereof is moved into a substantially vertical plane, permitting the gravity discharge of said match and the like, through said outlet.

3. An article of the class described including a casing having a flat bottomed chamber therein adapted for retention of a mass of matches and the like, and an outlet therefrom, there being a slotted opening in said bottom, a pickup member composed of a rotatable shaft in said casing, and a radial arm terminating in an arcuate blade adapted to enter said chamber through said opening, there being means on the end of said blade engaging a single one of the contents of said chamber and elevating the same through said contents to said outlet, and external means actuating said shaft.

4. An article of the class described including a casing having a flat bottomed chamber possessed of an inclined rear wall, a member contacting the upper face of said wall and having one end connected thereto, the other end of said member having a lip projecting through said bottom, an upwardly movable pickup member entering said chamber, a lip on said pickup adapted to impact the lip on said member at the end of the upward movement of said pickup, and means for actuating said pickup.

5. In combination, an article of the class described, including a casing having a storage chamber therein, and an auxiliary chamber in connection therewith, possessed of an outlet, means causing the movement of the contents of said storage chamber into said auxiliary chamber, a member pivoted exteriorly of said auxiliary chamber, constructed to pass through said chamber, through an opening therein, and to pick up a portion of the contents therein and elevate the same to a point where said contents will drop from said member by gravity through said

outlet, and means for actuating said pivoted member.

6. In combination, an article of the class described, including a casing, having a storage chamber therein, and an auxiliary chamber in connection therewith, possessed of an outlet, means causing the movement of the contents of said storage chamber into said auxiliary chamber, a member pivoted exteriorly of said auxiliary chamber, constructed to pass through said chamber, through an opening therein, and to pick up a portion of the contents therein and elevate the same to a point where said contents will drop from said member by gravity through said outlet, and means for actuating said pivoted member, there being a depression in the upper, free edge of the said pivoted member adapted to retain said contents during the period of elevation thereof.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CHARLES F. SPERY.

In the presence of—
M. HARDING,
C. S. STARK.

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