Aug. 15, 1950 G. C. SPARKS 2,519,156

ROTARY PILL DISPENSER

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Fig. 1.

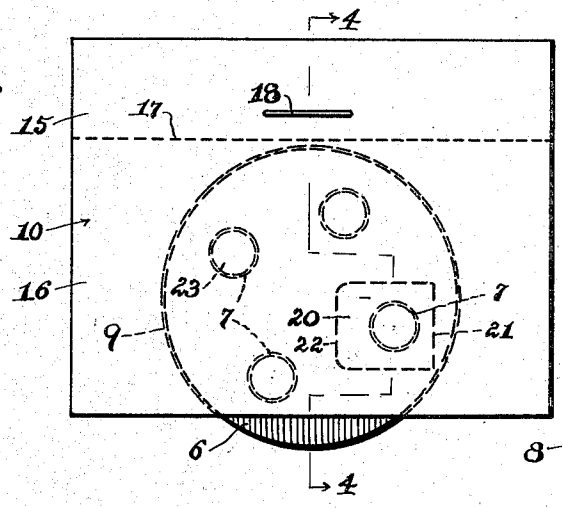


Fig. 5.

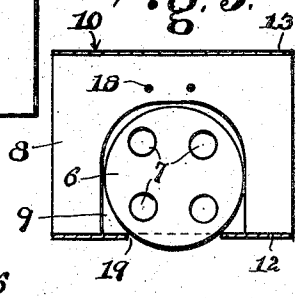


Fig. 2.

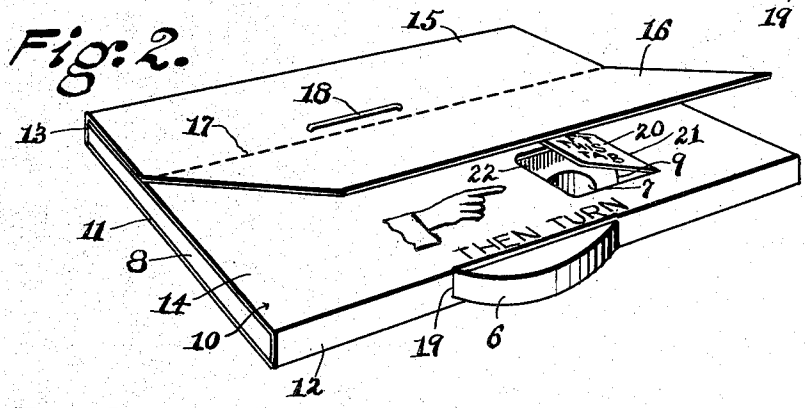


Fig. 3

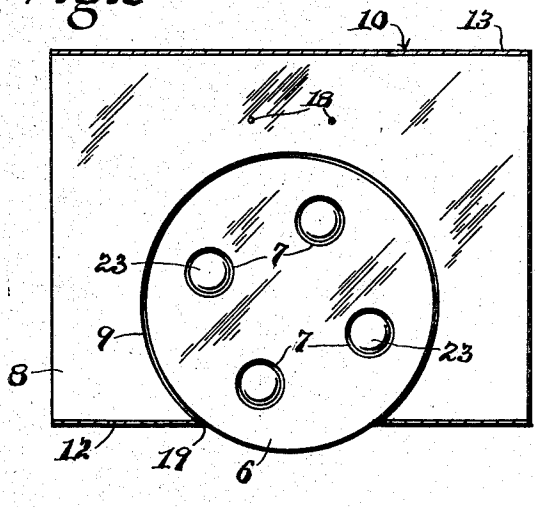
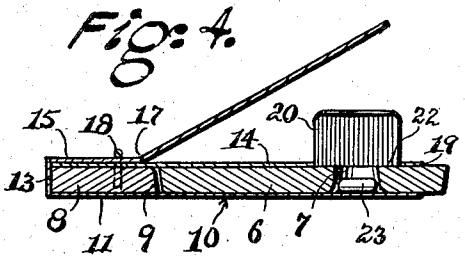


Fig. 4.



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ROTARY PILL DISPENSER

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6 Claims. (Cl. 206—56)

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My invention relates to a new and useful rotary pill dispenser and has for one of its objects to construct such a device consisting of a disc having a plurality of cavities or apertures arranged in a circle concentric with the perimeter of said disc which is rotatably mounted in a collar, said disc and collar being enclosed in a sleeve with a hinged tab and lid to normally cover the apertured portion of the disc while permitting access to the tab and exposure of the cavities, one at a time, as the disc is rotated to allow selective removal of the contents of the cavities.

A device of this kind is particularly useful as a holder for medicinal preparations in pill or lozenge style often distributed by physicians as samples of a new remedy or any remedy in a new form to introduce the remedy to the patients. Therefore, another object of the invention is to provide a convenient type of package that may be easily carried in a person's pocket or purse and which limits the removal of the contents to a single article at one time.

A further object of the invention is to construct a dispenser comprising a collar consisting of a panel having a chamber contiguous one edge opening to the exterior of said panel, said chamber holding a rotatable apertured disc having a portion of its perimeter projecting beyond the edge of the collar for manipulation by the user, and an enclosure for the collar and disc, which enclosure has an access opening normally closed by a hinged tab.

A further object of this invention is to so form the chamber that the periphery of the disc will contact the boundary walls of the panel chamber at only a few restricted points.

With the above and other objects in view, this invention consists of the details of construction and combination of elements hereinafter set forth and then designated by the claims.

In order that those skilled in the art to which this invention appertains may understand how to make and use the same I will describe certain forms thereof in detail, referring by numerals to the accompanying drawing forming a part hereof, in which:

Fig. 1 is a top plan view of the complete package in a closed condition.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view thereof with the hinged lid and tab in partially open positions.

Fig. 3 is a sectional view thereof through the sleeve in a plane parallel with and just above the upper faces of the collar and rotary disc.

Fig. 4 is a section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1 with the parts in the positions shown in Fig. 2.

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Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 3, on a reduced scale showing another and desirable form of disc holding chamber.

In carrying out the invention as herein embodied, 6 represents a disc of fairly thick or heavy cardboard, boxboard or the like, having a plurality of cavities 7 arranged in a circle spaced from and concentric with the perimeter of said disc.

The rotary disc 6 is revolvably mounted in a collar 8 comprised of a boxboard, cardboard or equivalent material panel having a chamber 9 formed therein contiguous one edge, hereinafter referred to as the forward edge, and opening to the exterior of the collar along said edge. The opening of the disc holding chamber permits the imperforate area of the rotary disc surrounding the cavities to project beyond the forward edge of the collar whereby said disc may be readily engaged by a person's fingers to revolve it. The chamber may be of any suitable configuration so long as the disc is confined but loose enough to revolve easily. As shown in Fig. 3, said chamber may be the major segment of a circle although, preferably, it has a number of straight or substantially straight walls, Fig. 5, to provide a small number of contact points between the disc and the walls of the chamber to reduce friction. The same purpose can be accomplished, for example, by making the chamber triangular in shape or forming the walls of the circular chamber with undulations.

The assembled collar and rotary disc are substantially enclosed within a sleeve 10, rectangular in cross section, and composed of a sheet of paper of a width equal to the length of the collar so that the ends of the latter are exposed. The paper sheet is folded with the ends overlapping appreciably and forming a bottom wall 11, front and rear side walls 12 and 13, respectively, a top wall 14, a short or narrow leaf 15 and a free swinging hinged lid 16 defined relative to said leaf by the fold line 17 which may be produced by scoring or otherwise weakening the paper sheet and said fold line constitutes the hinge for the lid.

The sleeve 10 is held in place by a suitable fastening device 18, such as a staple, projected through the leaf 15 and top wall 14 and into the collar 8 to the rear of the fold line 17 and the chamber 9.

In the front side wall 12 of the sleeve 10 is formed a slot 19 which aligns with the opening from the chamber 9 and through which a portion of the disc projects for rotation thereof. The

top wall 14 of the sleeve has a section thereof partially severed therefrom to form a hinged tab 20, the hinge of which is defined by the fold line 21, and an access opening 22 in the circular path of travel of the cavities 7 as the disc is rotated.

The directions for the operation of the dispenser depicted in Fig. 2 may be delineated on the outer face of the top wall of the sleeve.

In actual practice the disc 6 may be partially cut from the material removed from the panel for the formation of the collar chamber 9. As the dispenser is used for holding and dispensing pills or other similar articles, such articles 23 must be of a size to loosely fit in the cavities and since said cavities are preferably formed as through and through holes the bottom wall 11 of the sleeve functions as the bottoms of said cavities.

In operation, when a person desires to remove one of the articles, the lid 16 is swung upward and the tab 20 pulled out of the access opening 22 and lifted sufficiently to expose a cavity moved into alignment with said access opening as the disc 6 is rotated.

Finally, the dispenser is inverted to allow the article to drop from its cavity and since all other cavities are covered, the articles in such other cavities will not be displaced.

Of course I do not wish to be limited to the exact details of construction herein shown and described as these may be varied within the scope of the appended claims without departing from the spirit of my invention.

Having described the invention what I claim as new and useful is:

1. A rotary pill dispenser comprising a sleeve having an access opening normally closed by a hinged tab, a collar within said sleeve, and a disc rotatably mounted in the collar and having a portion projecting beyond an edge of said collar and through a slot in the sleeve, said disc having a number of cavities arranged in a circle, the path of which crosses the access opening.

2. The rotary pill dispenser according to claim 1, in combination with a hinged lid on the sleeve to normally cover the tab closed access opening.

3. A dispenser of the class described comprising a disc having a plurality of cavities arranged in a circle concentric with the perimeter of said disc, a collar in which said disc is rotatably mounted with a portion of said disc projecting beyond an edge of said collar, and a sleeve encircling the collar and fixed to the latter to hold the disc in place, the rim of said disc extending through a slot in the sleeve, said sleeve having an access opening over the path of travel of the cavities.

4. The structure according to claim 3, in combination with a hinged tab to close the access opening, and a hinged lid on the sleeve to cover said access opening, and a hinged lid on the sleeve to cover said access opening and its closure tab.

5. A rotary dispenser comprising a rectangular collar of thick box board having a chamber open at one edge of the collar, a sleeve formed from a paper sheet wrapped about the collar with the ends overlapping and constituting bottom, top and end walls, a narrow leaf and a hinged lid, the hinged lid being defined relative to the leaf by a fold line functioning as the hinge, a hinged tab produced by partially severing a section of the top wall of the sleeve, the formation of the tab providing an access opening overlying the collar chamber adjacent one edge thereof, a disc rotatably mounted in the collar chamber and having a portion of its rim projecting from the chamber beyond the edge of the collar and through a slot in the sleeve, said disc having cavities arranged in a circle, the path of travel of which underlies the access opening, and a fastening means projected through the narrow leaf and top wall and into the collar to secure the parts in place.

6. The rotary dispenser according to claim 5 wherein the walls of the collar have spaced contact points for the disc.

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No references cited.