

April 20, 1948.

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2,439,870

BOBBY PIN SPREADER AND DISPENSER

Filed July 24, 1946

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

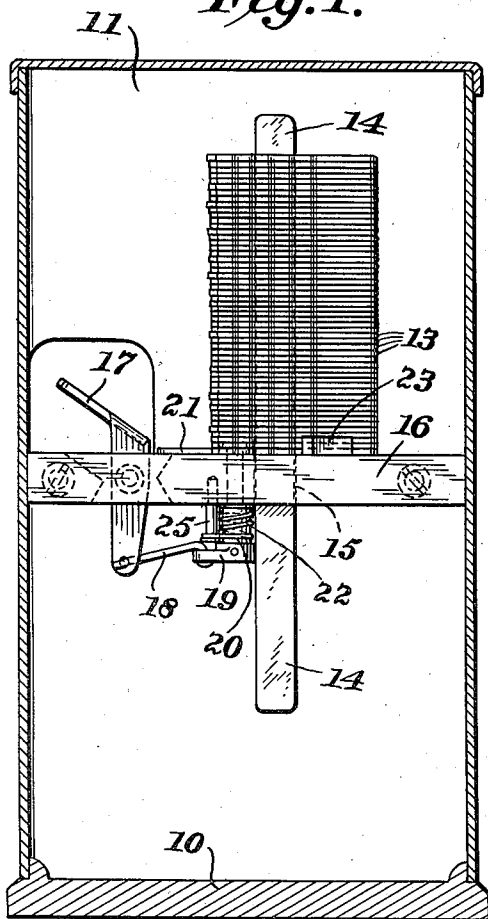


Fig. 2.

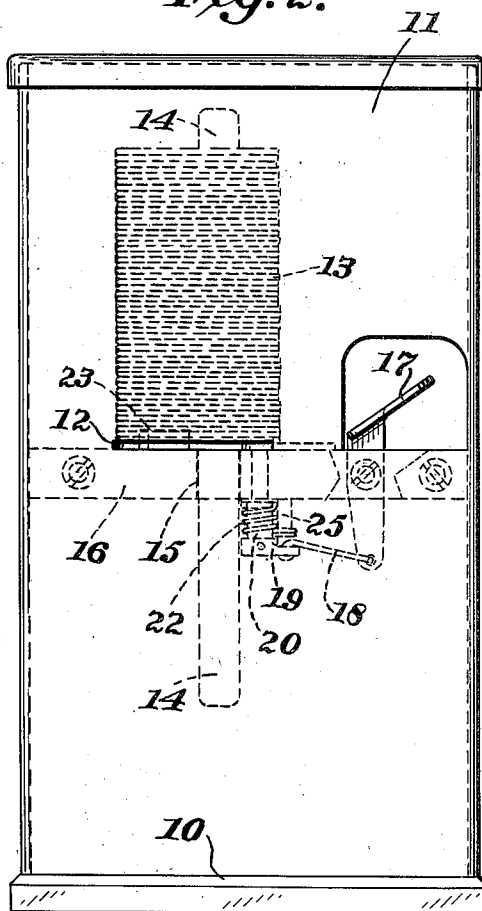
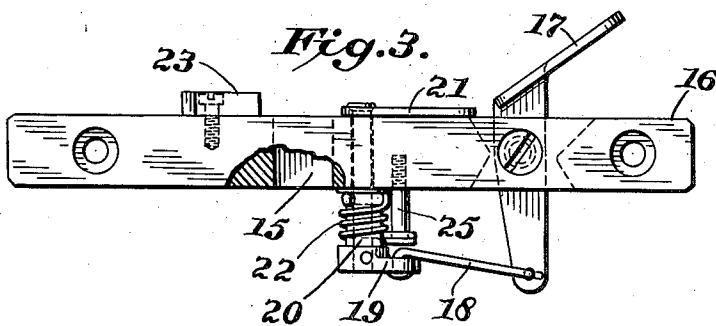


Fig. 3.



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Fig. 4.

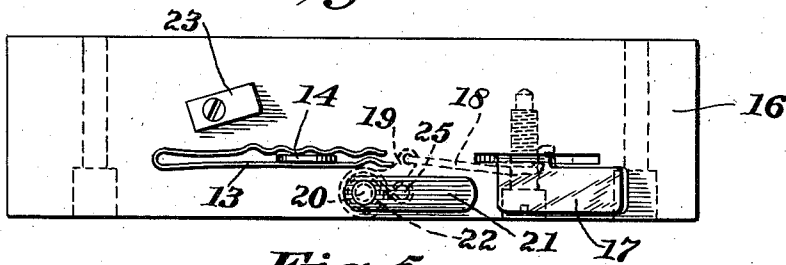


Fig. 5.

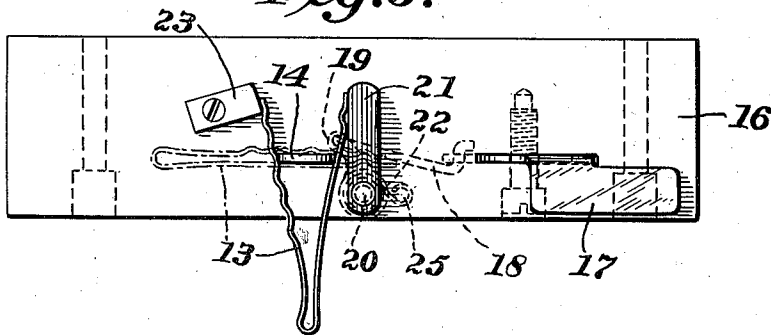
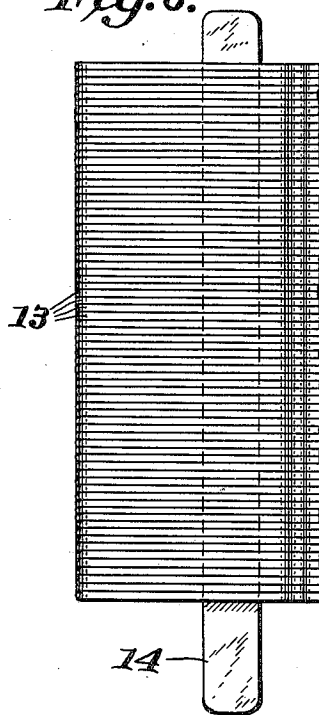


Fig. 6.



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BOBBY PIN SPREADER AND DISPENSER

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8 Claims. (Cl. 132-1)

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This invention relates to a device for dispensing and spreading bobby pins, such as are customarily used to hold hair in place, and is particularly advantageous for use in beauty parlors or other places where a plurality of pins must be rapidly applied.

An object of the invention is to provide a bobby pin dispenser which rapidly dispenses a spread bobby pin to the operator.

A further object of the invention is to provide a device of this character which may be actuated by one hand of the operator, leaving the other hand free to arrange the hair.

Another object of the invention is to provide a dispenser capable of holding a substantial number of bobby pins so that the operator will have sufficient pins to take care of several customers without having to stop and reload the magazine.

An additional object of the invention is to provide a dispenser having a simple and effective combined loading means and magazine, whereby a multiplicity of pins are held in the magazine and a supply of loaded magazines may be available for ready use in the dispenser.

The invention herein disclosed obviates the difficulties encountered in the use of a spring fed magazine, especially its frequent jamming, and is characterized by simplicity of construction and reliability of operation, whereby the bobby pins can be spread quickly and conveniently and be dispensed from a magazine singly, as required by the operator.

This device meets a very urgent need which exists at the present time, especially in beauty parlors, where large numbers of bobby pins are applied daily. It is customary for the operator to pry the legs of the pin apart either with the fingernail or by means of the teeth, and it is well known that such expedients are dangerous and unsanitary. Devices in the nature of spreaders have been proposed, but have been found objectionable, because it is necessary to hold the devices in one hand and to remove the pins with the other, thus requiring both hands of the operator. The present invention comprises a dispensing device which may be mounted in a box or cabinet or attached to a table or wall beside which the operator is working, and merely requires the pressing of a lever with a finger to simultaneously spread and dispense a bobby pin which can be removed when needed by the use of the same hand.

The construction of the present invention includes a magazine in the shape of a long thin blade upon which are carried a large number of

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bobby pins and the bottom pin is continuously placed by gravity in alignment with a finger, which is actuated by a simple lever through a connecting mechanism to turn the said pin through an angle of 90° in a plane perpendicular to the blade, whereby the pin is simultaneously spread and dispensed.

Referring to the drawings:

Figure 1 is a rear view of the device;

Figure 2 is a front view of the device, the parts being concealed by a facing member or cover;

Figure 3 is an enlarged front view of the device with the base and cover removed;

Figure 4 is a top plan view of the device with the mechanism in its normal position;

Figure 5 is a view similar to Figure 4 but showing the actuating lever in a depressed position with the bobby pin spread and dispensed.

Figure 6 is a plan view showing one of the loaded magazines of the invention.

Referring to the drawings, the device shown comprises a supporting base 10, by means of which the device can be fastened to a table or the like, and a front cover 11 attached to one edge of the base and having an intermediate transversely extending slot 12 through which the bobby pins are dispensed one at a time. The bobby pins 13 are strung in a closely aligned row and in superposed relation on a magazine 14 which consists of a long flat blade of steel or other suitable rigid material. The blade is inserted for free movement in a slot 15 in a shelf 16 attached to the rear of cover 11, whereby the top surface of the shelf is level and aligned with the slot 12 in the cover 11. The aligned closed bobby pins are held in place on the blade by their own spring action, the lowermost pin resting on the top surface of the shelf 16 in line with the slot 12 and serves to detachably support the magazine on the shelf. As stated above, the magazine 14 moves freely within the slot 15 in the shelf 16 and as a result, when the lowermost spread bobby pin is dispensed and removed from the magazine 14, the latter with its row of pins drops by gravity so that the succeeding pin is aligned adjacent the slot 12 in position to be spread and dispensed by the mechanism to be described below. This action is repeated until all of the pins have been dispensed and removed, and the magazine entirely depleted, whereupon a new loaded magazine may be readily inserted in the slot 15.

The means for spreading and dispensing the bottom pin comprise a pivoted operating lever 17, connecting link 18, crank 19, vertical rod 20, and

finger or ejector 21. Both the crank 19 and the finger 21 are rigidly fastened to the rod 20 at its top and bottom ends respectively. Upon depressing the lever 17, crank 19, rod 20, and finger 21 are rotated 90° by means of the connecting link 18. Upon releasing lever 17, the crank 19 and finger 21 are returned to their original position by the action of spring 22, surrounding the rod 20, one end of the spring being anchored to a pin 25 projecting from the lower end of the shelf 16, while the other end is attached to the rod 20. The finger 21 in its movement engages the lowermost pin and rotates it through 90° about the stationary flat magazine blade 14, whereby the closed end of the pin is projected through the slot 12 in the cover 11, and the pin is spread by engagement with the longitudinal edges of the blade and held in its spread condition for ready removal.

As is apparent from Figure 5, the movement of the spread pin to dispensing position is limited by means of a stop 23 which projects from the top of shelf 16 and is carried thereby.

The operation of the device is described hereafter.

Bobby pins are placed on the magazine blade 14 with all free ends of the pins pointing in the same direction and the blade near the center of the pins. The closed ends of the pins should all be aligned. The bobby pins are retained in place on the blade by their own spring action. The loaded magazine blade 14 is inserted through the slot 15 in the shelf 16 and, due to the weight of the row of bobby pins and of the blade, the bottom bobby pin on the blade will rest on the shelf 16 in line with the dispensing slot 12. Preferably the pins are mounted on the blade so that the flat side of the pin is adjacent the finger 21. When a bobby pin is needed, the lever 17 is pressed down onto the shelf 16 by a finger of the operator, thereby rotating the ejector 21 through 90° as explained above. The finger or ejector 21, which bears against the bottom bobby pin, will simultaneously rotate the latter 90° about the blade 14, thereby spreading and dispensing the pin through the slot 21 as shown in Figure 5. The bobby pin is held in this position until removed from the device by the operator, by the same hand with which the lever 17 was actuated, for insertion in the hair. As soon as the bobby pin has been removed, the weight of the magazine and of the remaining pins causes it to drop, so that the next pin rests on the shelf and is in position to be spread and dispensed.

As explained above, by using one hand, the device will spread all bobby pins regardless of length or shape, and leave the other hand of the operator to arrange or hold the hair. Each pin is spread a uniform distance without damaging the pins, so that the pins may be used over again without being distorted in any way. The method of feeding the device by gravity eliminates the jamming that is so common in spring loaded magazines. The magazine may be made in lengths to accommodate 200 to 300 pins, which will avoid frequent reloading of the magazine.

It is apparent that the base 10 as well as the front cover 11, can be dispensed with and the device can be suitably supported in operating position by attaching the shelf 16 to a wall as by screws or the like. The inclusion of the base 10 and cover 11 make for a neater and attractive appearing device.

What is claimed is:

1. A bobby pin spreader and dispenser operable

by one hand comprising a thin magazine blade for holding the pins, a support for said blade and pivotal means on said support for turning each pin 90° about the blade whereby said pin is simultaneously spread and dispensed.

2. A mechanism for dispensing and spreading bobby pins comprising a thin blade for receiving the bobby pins in close alignment, a support for said blade and pivotal means on said support for turning a bobby pin on said blade 90° in a plane perpendicular to said blade to spread and dispense the pin.

3. A device for dispensing and spreading bobby pins one at a time comprising the combination of a thin vertical blade holding a number of bobby pins in close superposed alignment, a horizontal support for said blade, and a lever and associated linkage on said support for turning the bottom pin 90° about the thin blade to dispense the pin in a spread position.

4. A device for dispensing and spreading bobby pins one at a time comprising a magazine consisting of a long flat vertical blade of rigid material adapted to carry a number of bobby pins in close superposed alignment, a horizontal support for said blade, said pins being retained in position on the blade by their own spring action, means for displacing the bottom pin in a spread position, and means for slidably supporting said magazine, whereby the entire magazine descends by gravity and the succeeding pin is presented in position for spreading when the spread pin is removed from the magazine.

5. A mechanism for dispensing and spreading bobby pins comprising a thin flat blade upon which the bobby pins are strung, an operating lever, an actuating finger mounted for pivotal movement in a plane parallel to the plane of the bobby pins and adapted to turn a bobby pin approximately 90° about the blade in a plane perpendicular to said blade so as to spread and dispense said bobby pin in a single movement, and a yielding linkage connecting said operating lever and actuating finger.

6. A bobby pin dispenser and spreader comprising a supporting shelf, a slot in said shelf, a magazine consisting of a long, thin blade inserted in said slot and carrying bobby pins in close superposed alignment with the lowermost pin resting upon the shelf, an operating finger mounted on the shelf for pivotal movement in a plane parallel to the plane of the bobby pins and adapted upon actuation to turn the lowermost bobby pin 90° in a plane perpendicular to the plane of the blade to spread and dispense said blade, lever means for operating said finger, said magazine being adapted to move freely within said slot and descend by gravity in the slot upon the removal of the spread pin, thereby causing the succeeding lowermost pin to rest on the shelf in position to be spread upon further operation of said finger.

7. A bobby pin spreader and dispenser comprising a horizontal supporting shelf, a slot in said shelf, a thin vertical magazine blade inserted in said slot and adapted for free sliding movement therein, and adapted to have bobby pins strung in close superposed alignment thereon, the lowermost pin resting on the top surface of said shelf and supporting the magazine thereon, a finger mounted for pivotal movement upon the top surface of said shelf, means for turning said finger to bring it in contact with the lowermost bobby pin resting on said shelf whereby, upon continued movement of said finger, the lowermost

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bobby pin is rotated through approximately 90° upon the magazine blade and is simultaneously spread.

8. A device according to claim 7 provided with a cover, a slot in said cover in proximity to the top surface of the shelf, whereby upon rotation of the finger and the spreading of the pin, the closed end of the pin is fed through said slot in position for ready removal.

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