Aug. 14, 1945. N. TESTI 2,382,350

CIGARETTE DISPENSER

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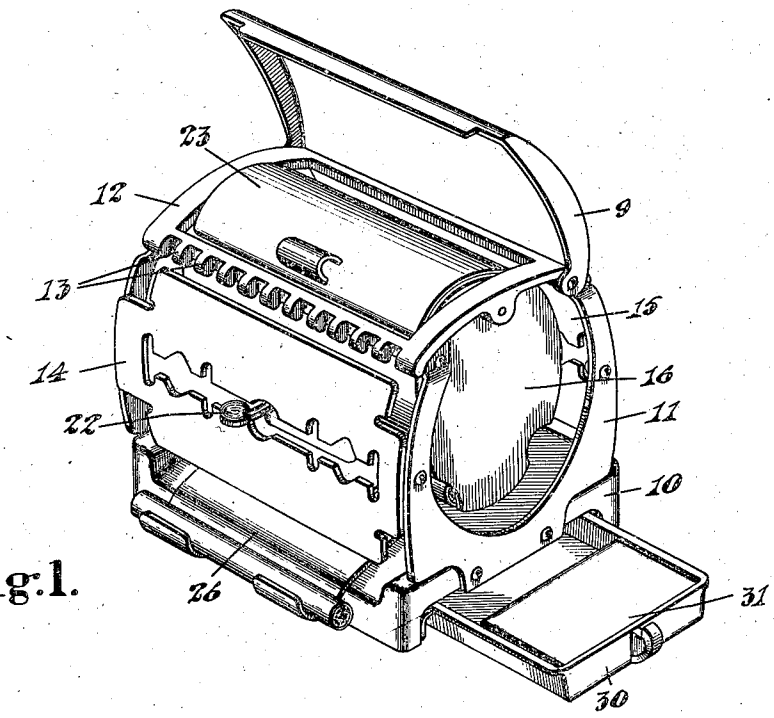


Fig. 1.

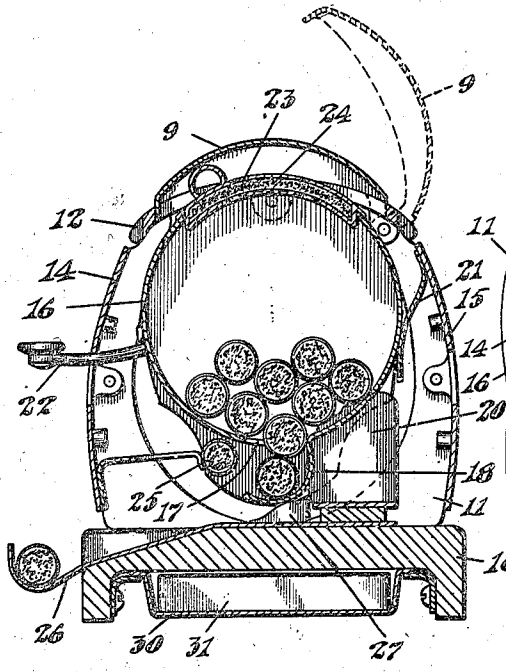


Fig. 2.

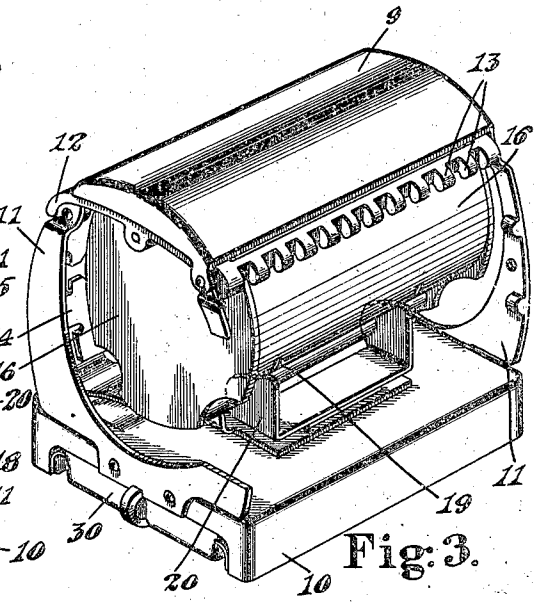


Fig. 3.

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CIGARETTE DISPENSER

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5 Claims. (Cl. 312—77)

This invention relates to cigarette dispensers or humidors of the type adapted to contain a substantial supply of cigarettes properly safeguarded against mechanical damage, subjected to favorable humidity conditions and with convenient provision for discharging a single cigarette at a time as required by the user.

An important object of my invention is to provide a dispenser of compact and stable construction and of such design as to present an attractive appearance as an appointment of a well decorated and furnished room or lounge. With these ends in view an important feature of my invention consists in a dispenser with an elongated magazine movably mounted therein and having its walls shaped to provide an outlet slot and an underlying trough, together with means for rolling cigarettes in the magazine toward the slot and for ejecting from the trough a cigarette which has been advanced to that location in the container.

Preferably and as herein shown the magazine is cylindrical in shape and is provided with a longitudinal outlet slot and with a transverse slot or slots in which may be located a pusher plate having spurs or serrations arranged to engage cigarettes in the magazine when the latter and the pusher plate are moved relatively to each other. Thus the mass of cigarettes in the magazine may be gently agitated and all danger prevented of them bridging the outlet slot and so interfering with the free delivery of individual cigarettes. In the dispenser herein shown the transverse slot or slots are carried into the wall of the trough and the pusher plate, or an extension thereof, may be utilized also to eject a cigarette which has been advanced into the trough from the body of the magazine.

As another feature of my invention a chute is provided of such construction as to receive cigarettes one by one from the trough without the shock of dropping and cause them to roll forwardly into the convenient position for the user.

Another feature of my invention consists in constructing and arranging the elements of my cigarette dispenser to simulate in appearance a safety razor. Thus the cover section may be segmental in shape like the cap of a safety razor, while the exposed portion of the frame below the cover may be formed with teeth like guard teeth. In the illustrated dispenser the suggestion is carried further by shaping the front and rear casing elements as perforated safety razor blades of the well-known "Gillette" design.

These and other features of the invention will be best understood and appreciated from the following description of a preferred embodiment thereof and selected for purposes of illustration and shown in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a view in perspective of a dispenser as seen from the front and its cover lifted;

Fig. 2 is a view in cross-section; and

Fig. 3 is a view in perspective of the dispenser as seen from the rear, a portion of the frame and casing being shown as broken away.

The illustrated dispenser comprises a frame including a flat base 10 of metal or other material having upright members 11 secured to its opposite ends and cut-out internally in circular design to expose the movable magazine of the dispenser as will presently appear. The frame also includes a rectangular top 12 upwardly convex in contour and secured in horizontal position between the ends of the uprights 11. The top has a large rectangular opening therein which is normally closed by a segmental cover 9 hinged at one edge to the top 12 of the frame and, when in closed position as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, simulating the cap of an enlarged safety razor. To heighten this illusion the front and rear members of the top 12 of the frame are serrated to present enlarged guard teeth 13 which project on both sides beyond the edges of the cover. A front casing member 14 and a rear casing member 15 of sheet metal are secured in place between the upright frame members 11. The members 14 and 15 as herein shown are shaped and perforated to represent the configuration of the well-known "Gillette" safety razor blade.

The magazine 16 of the dispenser is herein shown as cylindrical having flat ends and being pivotally suspended to rock transversely on a horizontal axis about pivot pins 28 projecting inwardly from the cross members of the top 12 of the frame, but the magazine may be of any desired elongated shape. In the bottom of its cylindrical body 16 is provided a longitudinal outlet slot 17 and the rear wall of the magazine is extended downwardly and forwardly below the slot 17 to form a forwardly-opening shallow trough 18 adapted to retain a single cigarette when the body of the magazine occupies its normal or initial position as shown in Fig. 2. The rear wall of the magazine 16 and the trough 18 are also provided with parallel transverse slots 19 and into these slots project upright stationary pusher plates 20 mounted on the base of the frame. The upper edge of each pusher plate is serrated and stands normally slightly within or above the lower wall

of the magazine 16 so that when its body is pushed rearwardly the cigarettes therein are engaged by the teeth of the two stationary pusher plates 20 and caused to roll toward the slot 17. This action tends to prevent any possibility of a mass of cigarettes bridging the slot 17 and so failing to be freely discharged therefrom.

The magazine 16 normally hangs vertically in substantially balanced condition below its axis and is yieldingly held in that position by a leaf spring 21 which is secured at its upper end to the casing member 15 in position to bear lightly against the rear wall of the magazine 16. A finger piece 22 projects forwardly from the magazine through the aperture of the casing member 14 and, when depressed, serves as means for swinging the magazine 16 rearwardly against the pressure of the spring 21. The initial position of the magazine is determined by contact of the finger piece 22 with the upper edge of the perforation in the front casing member 14 where it is held by action of the spring 21. The aperture is of sufficient size to permit the full motion required in the finger piece for swinging the magazine. The upper wall of the magazine 16 is cut away to receive a detachable inner cover 23. This is also segmental in shape and provided with an elongated chamber in which is located a wick 24 or other absorbent material. In use the wick 24 is kept saturated and the cigarettes in the container humidified thereby. An elongated cartridge 25 of absorbent material is supported from the front casing member 14 and located at the opening of the trough 18 in position to humidify the cigarettes as they arrive at this part of the dispenser.

The forward edge of the base 10 is bevelled and an outwardly sloping delivery chute 26 is provided which leads from a point beneath the trough 18 forwardly and outwardly beneath the casing member 14 where it is provided with an upturned flange to hold each cigarette as delivered in convenient position for the user to take. The side edges of the chute 26 at its upper end are turned up in the form of flanges 27 whose upper edges are inclined and are located in position to form tracks receiving a cigarette delivered from the trough 18 so that, without the shock of dropping, the cigarette may roll down the chute to the position shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

If desired, the base 10 may be undercut on the lower side and provided with guides for a shallow tray 30 convenient for storage of a razor-blade package 31 or similar articles of toilet or accessories therefor.

In use it may be assumed that the magazine 16 of the container is kept filled with cigarettes and these may be conveniently supplied thereto when the cover 23 is removed. The cigarettes loosely delivered will occupy the position in the magazine substantially shown in Fig. 2, that is to say, one cigarette will be supported on the floor of the trough 18 while the next cigarette is supported thereby in position to block the outlet slot 17 and hold all the other cigarettes piled up within the body of the magazine. The cigarette in the trough 18 initially stands slightly in front of the inner edges of the upright pusher plates 20. When it is desired to deliver a cigarette from the container the operator merely presses down the finger piece 22 and thereby swings the magazine against the pressure of the spring 21 in such a manner that the trough is pulled rearwardly from beneath the cigarette therein while the cigarette is at this time held against rearward movement by the forward edges of the pusher plates 20. Immediately this cigarette is disengaged from the bottom of the trough it rolls down the flanges 27 and then down the chute 26 until it is arrested in delivery position by the upturned flange of the chute. Meanwhile, of course, a second cigarette is held by the plates 20 above the trough 18 and when the finger piece is released the magazine 16 rocks back to its initial position and the second cigarette drops down into the trough.

Having thus disclosed my invention and described in detail an illustrative embodiment thereof, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. A cigarette dispenser having a frame, a magazine pivotally mounted therein and having a concave bottom wall for supporting a plurality of cigarettes and provided with a cigarette outlet and transverse slot, and a serrated agitating device arranged to pass into said transverse slot and to agitate cigarettes within the magazine when the magazine is moved in its frame.

2. A cigarette dispenser comprising a stationary frame, an elongated magazine mounted in the frame for transverse movement and having a longitudinal outlet slot and a transverse slot therein, a trough carried by the magazine below said outlet slot, and a stationary pusher plate mounted on the frame and having a serrated upper edge operable to pass into the transverse slot thereby agitating cigarettes within the magazine when the magazine is moved transversely in the frame, said pusher plate serving simultaneously to eject a previously deposited cigarette from said trough.

3. A cigarette dispenser comprising a frame, an elongated magazine mounted in the frame for transverse movement and having an outlet slot, a trough carried by the magazine at a location below the outlet slot of the magazine and in position to retain a cigarette discharged through said slot, and a pusher having a serrated upper edge mounted on the frame in position to traverse a portion of the magazine and also to traverse the trough when the latter is moved with the magazine transversely in the frame and thus simultaneously to agitate cigarettes in the magazine and to eject a previously deposited cigarette from the trough.

4. A cigarette dispenser comprising a frame, a cylindrical magazine movably mounted therein and having its wall shaped to provide a downwardly opening outlet slot and an underlying trough, together with a single means for both rolling cigarettes in the magazine toward the slot for descent into the trough, and for ejecting from the trough a cigarette previously deposited therein from said magazine.

5. A cigarette dispenser having a stationary frame with a swinging magazine mounted therein, the walls of the magazine forming a bottom longitudinal outlet slot and one wall being extended to provide a shallow trough beneath said slot, a chute beneath the trough, and a stationary pushing device having an upper serrated edge for ejecting a cigarette from the trough, said pushing device concurrently serving to agitate a charge of cigarettes in the magazine.

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