FLEXIBLE MOISTURE ATTACHMENT FOR CIGARETTE CASES

Filed April 27, 1953

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Application April 27, 1953, Serial No. 351,069
1 Claim. (Cl. 312—31)

This invention relates to new and useful improvements in tobacco products containers such as cigarette cases.

More particularly, the present invention proposes the construction of an improved cigarette case which contains a humidifier member in the form of a flattened hollow tube with a slidable opening in at least one side and at least one open end to receive and hold a moistened or wetted saturated pad.

Another object of the present invention proposes forming the flattened tubular member so that it will slideably receive and hold a moistened blotter strip in a cigarette case adjacent to the cigarettes but with the moistened blotter strip out of direct contact with them.

Still further, the present invention proposes constructing the flattened tubular member of two telescoping sections so that one section can be retracted within the other as the cigarettes are withdrawn from the case. As a further object, the present invention proposes pivotally fastening one of the flattened tubular members in each half of the case with a spring means so that each tubular member removable will overlie and bias or press against the cigarettes in the case to hold them firmly in the case and at the same time prevent them from drying out.

The present invention further proposes various novel arrangements of the tubular humidifier members in the case more firmly to hold the cigarettes without crushing them and to distribute water vapor more uniformly in the case. For further comprehension of the invention and all of the objects and advantages thereof, reference will be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, and to the appended claim in which the various novel features of the invention are more particularly set forth.

In the accompanying drawings forming a material part of this disclosure:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a cigarette case constructed and arranged in accordance with the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary sectional view taken on line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a bottom plan view of the tubular member and moisture pad shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 1 but illustrating a modification of the present invention.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a tubular humidifier member similar to those shown in the several figures but illustrating another modification of the present invention.

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary sectional view taken on line 6—6 of Fig. 5.

Fig. 7 is a sectional view taken on line 7—7 of Fig. 5.

In the form of the invention illustrated in Figs. 1 to 3, inclusive, a cigarette case 15, of metal, plastic, ceramics, wood or other material, has two halves or sections 16 and 17 hinged together by a hinge 18 along one edge of each section. The case sections or halves 16 and 17 are shallow shells adapted to receive a number of cigarettes 19 in a single row. Coating closure elements 20 and 21 provide means removably to hold the sections 16 and 17 together when the case is closed.

Identical flattened tubular humidifier members 22 and 23 are provided in each side or section of the case, tubular member 22 being diagonally disposed in the half 16 of the case and tubular member 23 being similarly disposed in the other half 17 of the case.

Hinge elements 24 and 25 are formed along the upper edge of sections 16 and 17, respectively, of the case and mating hinge elements 26 and 27 are provided on the tubular members 22 and 23, respectively, with pins or pinstiles 28 and 29 holding the hinge elements together. Springs 30 and 31 secured to pins or pinstiles 28 and 29 tend to hold or bias the tubular members 22 and 23 against the cigarettes 19 to hold them in the case. In this manner, spring means are provided pivotally and resiliently to fasten the tubular members 22 and 23 each at one end to the case to remove to overlie and bias or press against cigarettes 19 therein.

Each of the tubular members 22 and 23 has an opening 32 in its lower side which runs its entire length and its free end 33 is an open end.

A water or other fluid moistened or saturable pad 34 is removably insertable in each tubular member 22 and 23 through the open end 33 thereof. The pads 34 preferably are blotter strips moistened with water or other humdifier fluid. Each tubular member 22 and 23 has a finger opening 35 (see Fig. 3) in its flat lower side at its open end 33 for finger purchase on the pad 34 for easy insertion and removal of the pads.

The modified form of the invention illustrated in Fig. 4 is characterized by the provision of tubular members 36 and 37 in section 36 of cigarette case 39 and tubular member 40 in section 41. The two sections of cigarette case 39 are hinged together by hinge 42 along one edge of each section of the case and the tubular members 36, 37 and 40 are fastened to the case 39 in the same manner as tubular members 22 and 23 in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, above described, are fastened to case 15.

Tubular members 36 and 37 are spaced apart and extend straight across section 38 of cigarette case 39. Tubular member 40 is disposed between the tubular members 36 and 37 and extends straight across the other section 41 of the case. Tubular members 36, 37 and 40 are constructed the same as tubular members 22 and 23, above described, except that in their upper flat sides 43, 44 and 45, respectively, are screened vapor openings 46 further to permit moisture to escape from pads 47 in them and keep the cigarettes 48 from drying out.

The modified form of the invention illustrated in Figs. 5, 6 and 7 is characterized by the provision of a flattened tubular member 49 made telescopic with two telescoping sections 50 and 51. Vapor openings 52 and 53 (see Fig. 7) are provided in the flat lower side walls of sections 50 and 51, respectively, of the tubular member 49, these openings 52 and 53 running the length of the sections.

Hinge pin 54 (Fig. 5) and spring 55 provide spring means pivotally and resiliently to fasten one end 56 of section 51 to a case for the telescopic member 49 to overlie and press against cigarettes in the case. The other end 57 of the section 51 and the two ends 58 and 59 of section 50 are open ends. A thumb rest 60 is fixed to the upper flat side of section 50 at its front or free end 50 more easily to telescope the sections and the ends 58 and 57 of sections 58 and 51, respectively, are flanged to prevent the sections from coming apart when fully drawn out.

A water saturable pad 61 is removably insertable in the sections 50 and 51 through the open end 58 of section 50.

While 1 have illustrated and described the preferred embodiments of my invention, it is to be understood that I do not limit myself to the precise constructions herein disclosed and the right is reserved to all changes
and modifications coming within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claim.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by United States Letters Patent is:

In a cigarette case, a flattened tubular telescopic member, said telescopic member having two telescoping sections with vapor openings in the adjacent flat side walls thereof, flanged ends on said telescoping sections to prevent complete withdrawal of one of said sections, spring means pivotally and resiliently fastening one end of one of the sections to the case for the telescopic member removably to overlie and press against cigarettes in the case, the other end of the section fastened to the case and the two ends of the other section being open ends and a water saturable pad removably insertable in the sections of the telescopic member through the open end of one of the sections, said latter section having a finger grip opening in one of its flat sides at the open end through which the pad is insertable for finger purchase on the pad, said finger grip opening having flaring walls for guiding said pad into the section.

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