July 11, 1933. H. BRUDNEY 1,917,427

PROTECTIVE DEVICE FOR PACKAGES OF CIGARETTES

Filed Jan. 31, 1930

Fig. 1.

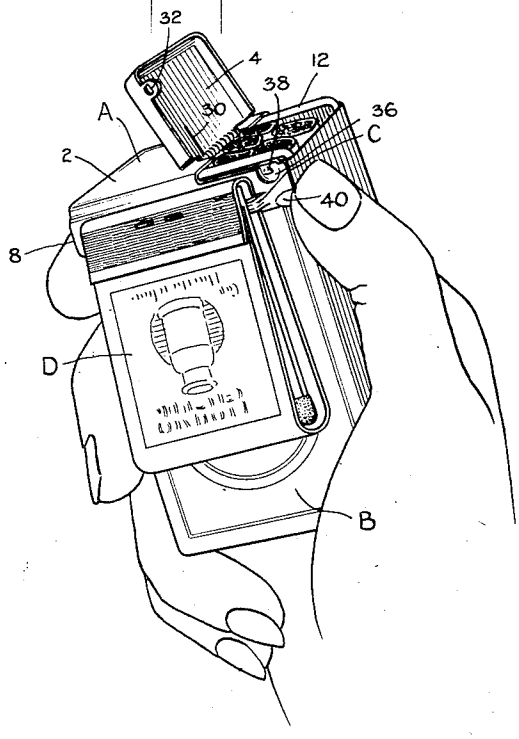


Fig. 3.

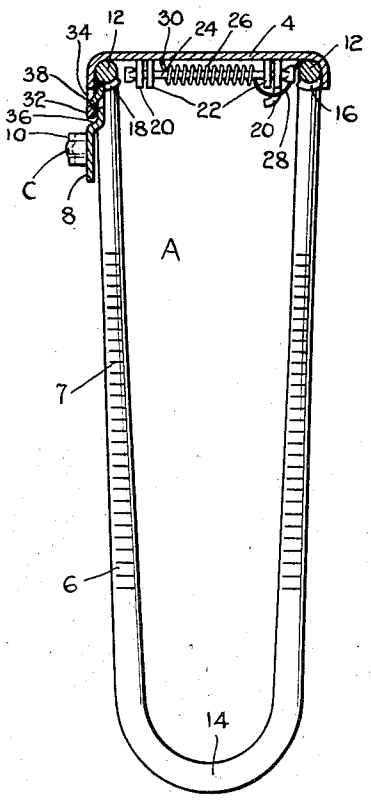


Fig. 2.

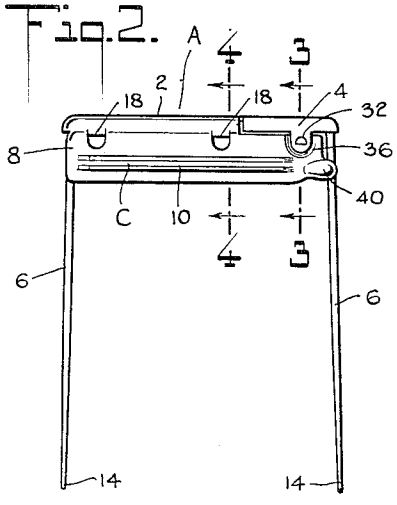
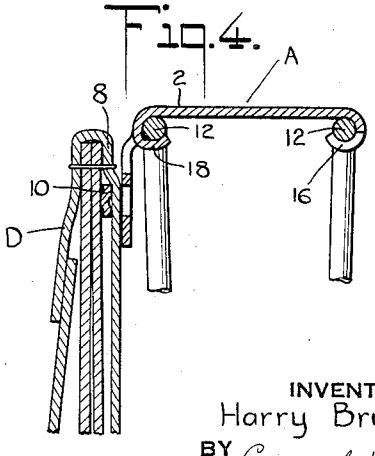


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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PROTECTIVE DEVICE FOR PACKAGES OF CIGARETTES

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This invention relates to protective devices for packages of cigarettes and the like.

Considerable annoyance is sometimes caused to a smoker by misplacing his supply of matches. This is particularly true with the use of the relatively compact packages of paper safety matches now extensively employed. The primary object of the present invention is to overcome the foregoing difficulty in the case of cigarette smokers by providing a protective device for cigarettes including match holding means. More specifically, the protective device is arranged to receive and hold a package of paper matches closely against the side of the protective device loaded with cigarettes, thereby leading to a compact arrangement in which the matches are always available when the cigarettes are being used.

A popular type of protective device for packages of cigarettes is that comprising a top portion including an openable closure and depending leg portions within which a paper package of cigarettes is received. With this type of protective device it is customary to employ resilient means tending to open the closure and trigger means for controlling the opening of the closure. Such trigger means, however, have ordinarily been located inside of the package of cigarettes, or for other reasons is relatively inaccessible and inconvenient to use. One object of the present invention resides in the provision of such a protective device having trigger means located outside of the package of cigarettes and readily accessible and conveniently operable with a very slight pressure and without crumpling the cigarette package.

Still another object of the present invention resides in the provision of a protective device for a package of cigarettes such as has just been described which will further be provided with match holding means. A further object of the present invention is to so combine the aforesaid match holding means and trigger means with a protective device that the resulting arrangement will be exceedingly simple, rugged, compact, and economical to manufacture.

To the accomplishment of the foregoing and such other objects as will hereinafter appear, my invention consists in the elements and their relation one to the other as hereinafter are more particularly described in the specification and sought to be defined in the claims. The specification is accompanied by a drawing in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing my novel protective device in operation;

Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the protective device when removed from the package of cigarettes;

Fig. 3 is a sectional elevation taken in the plane of the line 3—3 in Fig. 2; and

Fig. 4 is a detail section taken in the plane of the line 4—4 in Fig. 2.

Referring to the drawing, and more particularly to Fig. 1 thereof, my arrangement comprises a protective device, generally designated A, for receiving and protecting a package of cigarettes B, and provided with match holding means C, for receiving and holding, in this instance, a package of paper matches D, closely against the side of the package of cigarettes B.

The protective device A comprises generally a top portion 2, an openable closure 4 associated therewith, and depending leg portions 6. The protective device is also provided with a side wall 8 which carries match holding means C.

Considering the disclosed structure more in detail, it will be observed that the depending leg portions 6 may be formed of a single piece of wire bent upward upon itself in hair pin fashion to form each of the leg portions and extending between the upper ends of the leg portions to form the bridge members 12. The wire is preferably made of resilient material, and the leg portions 6 are spread somewhat apart at the bottom thereof, as is indicated in Fig. 2, in order to tend to hold the package of cigarettes in shape. The lower ends of the leg portions 6 are flattened, as by hammering, as is indicated at 14, in order to facilitate insertion of the leg portions within the side edges of the package of cigarettes. A portion of the outer surface of the leg members 6 is roughened, knurled, milled, or corrugated, as is indi-

cated at 7, in order to increase the grip of the device within the package of cigarettes, particularly when the package becomes nearly empty.

The top portion 2 extends across and is supported by the bridge members 12. At one side of the top portion 2 lugs 16 are provided which are bent around the bridge member 12. The opposite side of the top portion is bent downwardly to form the depending side wall 8, and lugs 18 are struck out from the side wall 8 and bent around the adjacent bridge member 12 in a manner similar to that applied to the lugs 16 on the opposite bridge member. The side wall 8 is displaced outwardly from the adjacent sides of the depending leg portions 6 so that when the protective device is applied to a package of cigarettes the side wall 8 will lie outside thereof.

The primary function of the side wall 8 is to serve as match holding means. In the present instance this means is especially adapted to receive and hold a package of paper matches like the package D in Figs. 1 and 4. For this purpose the wall 8 is provided with a rail 10 between which and the wall 8 the back side of the paper package of matches may be slid when the package has been opened widely. In the present case the rail 10 has been provided simply by striking up a longitudinal strip of material from the side wall 8, this strip being beaded or channeled in order to increase its rigidity. It will be obvious that a pair of parallel longitudinal slots in the side wall 8 might equally simply be provided, through which the back of the paper of matches would be threaded, as well as the more expensive expedient of soldering or brazing a rail to the side wall. As will be clear from Figs. 1 and 4, the package of matches may be pushed downwardly until securely fixed in place, and thereafter the package may be opened for the removal of a match and closed before the match is struck, all in the customary manner, and without disturbing the fixation of the package of matches in the match holding means.

Considered in another aspect, my invention consists in the provision of especially accessible and convenient trigger means for controlling the opening of the closure 4 of the protective device A. In the present case the closure 4 is located at one end of the top portion 2 and is hinged thereto by means of bearing lugs 20 on the top portion 2, and mating bearing lugs 22 on the closure 4, and a pin 24 passing through the apertures in the bearing lugs 20 and 22. Resilient means, preferably in the form of a coiled spring 26 one end 28 of which bears against the stationary portion 2, and the other end 30 of which bears against the closure 4, tends always to force the closure 4 to its open position, as illustrated in Fig. 1. The closure 4 is provided with an ear 32 having a semi-circular opening 34 therein. The forward end of the side wall 8 is preferably indented as at 36 so that the ear 32 may be received flush therewith and the indented portion 36 is provided with a protuberance 38 in the form of the upper half of a hemisphere, the lower edge thereof being arranged to engage the lower edge of the semi-circular opening 34 to normally hold the closure 4 in its closed position against the action of the resilient means 26. The lower portion of the forward end of the wall 8 is rounded to form a knob or tab 40. By pressing inwardly on the knob 40 the mating aperture 34 and protuberance 38 are readily disengaged, thereby permitting the closure 4 to open. It will be noted that the wall 8 is free from the bridge member 12 for a considerable portion of its length at the trigger end thereof, that is, even the nearer of the lugs 18 is remotely spaced from the trigger mechanism, so that the sideward movement necessary for releasing the closure 4 is very readily obtained.

It is thought that the operation of my novel protective device will be clear from the foregoing description thereof. Part or all of the top of a package of cigarettes is torn open and the protective device A is then slid within the side walls of the package in the usual manner. The package of matches is opened and slid downwardly through the rail 10 until securely wedged or squeezed in place, whereupon it is again closed in the ordinary manner. When a cigarette is to be smoked the trigger means 40 is pressed lightly, thereby permitting the closure 4 to spring open for the removal of a cigarette, after which it may again be closed. The package of matches D is then opened, a match torn therefrom, and the package closed, preparatory to striking the match on the conventional striking surface painted on the package of matches.

The protective device for cigarettes here disclosed possesses many advantages, among which may be numbered the fact that it is as light and compact as any similar ordinary protective device, and yet is provided with an improved trigger mechanism which is sensitive and certain in action and which does not require distortion or crumpling of the package of cigarettes for its operation. The protective device is also provided with match holding means, thereby enhancing the value and utility of the device. These improvements have been made with but very slight addition to the cost of the device in the way of either material or labor.

It will further be apparent that the protective device as here constructed may be used without taking advantage of the match holding feature. It will also be clear that a protective device may be constructed with any type of trigger mechanism but provided

with the match holding means here disclosed, and further that a protective device may be constructed with the trigger means here disclosed without being provided with the match holding means. Obviously, the combination of both the trigger and match holding means is especially convenient and economical, and is considered the preferred form of the invention.

It will be apparent that while I have shown and described my invention in the preferred form, many changes and modifications may be made in the structure disclosed without departing from the spirit of the invention, defined in the following claims.

I claim:

1. A protective device for a package of cigarettes comprising a top portion, depending leg portions, a single depending side wall located outside of the package of cigarettes on one side only of said protective device, an openable closure, resilient means tending to open said closure, and a relatively freely movable manually operable trigger arm formed by an extension of said side wall outside of the package of cigarettes for controlling the opening of said closure by said resilient means.

2. A protective device for a package of cigarettes comprising a top portion, depending resilient leg portions for insertion inside of the package of cigarettes, a depending side wall located outside of said package of cigarettes, an openable closure, resilient means tending to open said closure, a relatively freely movable manually operable trigger arm formed by an extension of said side wall outside of the package of cigarettes and mating latch means formed on said closure and on the freely movable portion of said trigger arm for controlling the opening of said closure by said resilient means.

3. A protective device for a package of cigarettes comprising a top portion, depending resilient leg portions for insertion within the sides of the package of cigarettes, an openable door at the top of said protective device, resilient means tending to open said door, a side wall depending from the top portion and arranged to lie outside of the package of cigarettes, a longitudinal rail struck up from said side wall for receiving and holding a package of paper matches flat against the side of the package of cigarettes, a relatively freely movable trigger arm formed by an extension of one end of said side wall and mating latch means formed on said closure and on the freely movable portion of said trigger arm for controlling said door.

4. A protective device for a package of cigarettes, comprising a relatively stiff continuous wire element bent to form two generally parallel top rails and two U-shaped depending leg portions, a sheet metal top portion secured to the wire rails, an openable door hinged to said top portion at one end thereof, resilient means tending to open the door, a side wall formed integrally with and depending from the top portion along one side of the protective device and arranged to lie outside of the package of cigarettes, and a relatively freely movable trigger arm formed by an extension of one end of said side wall alongside of the door, said door and trigger arm being provided with mating latch means for holding the door in closed position.

5. A protective device for a package of cigarettes, comprising a relatively stiff continuous wire element bent to form two generally parallel top rails and two U-shaped depending leg portions, the wire of said U-shaped depending leg portions being flattened and being milled or roughened to provide a frictional grip on the package of cigarettes, a sheet metal top portion secured to the wire rails, an openable door hinged to said top portion at one end thereof, resilient means tending to open the door, a side wall formed integrally with and depending from the top portion along one side of the protective device and arranged to lie outside of the package of cigarettes, a longitudinal rail struck up from said side wall for receiving and holding a package of paper matches flat against the side of the package of cigarettes, and a relatively freely movable trigger arm formed by an extension of one end of said wall alongside of the door, said door and trigger arm being provided with mating latch means for holding the door in closed position.

Signed at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York this 24th day of January A. D. 1930.

HARRY BRUDNEY.